

WNTI RTKBRT2008 Crooked Creek Stream Habitat Improvement, Oregon for redband trout

State(s): Oregon

Managing Agency/Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Type of Organization: Federal Government

Project Status: Completed

Project type: WNTI Project

Project action(s): Water quality, In-stream and riparian habitat

Trout species benefitted: Redband Trout

Population: Crooked Creek Upper Klamath Basin

I. Project Summary - The proposed project aims to improve habitat conditions and stabilize eroded banks on Crooked Creek, which is a primary tributary to the upper Klamath Lake. The project will protect an additional 2 miles of stream with riparian fencing, off-stream stock watering, stabilizing 300 feet of severely eroded banks, add spawning gravel to appropriate areas, and add woody debris habitat features.

The Upper Klamath Lake watershed is known for fisheries and water use issues. The lake and its tributaries are faced with high nutrient, temperature, and water quantity concerns. Agricultural practices are often identified as the root cause of many of these issues. Crooked Creek flows through the Wood River Valley in the Upper Klamath Basin and is an important fishery and primary tributary to Upper Klamath Lake. For the past century the Wood River Valley floor has been used for highly productive cattle grazing on flood irrigated pastures. To facilitate grazing, both waterways and wetlands have been extensively modified. Numerous fish species, including redband rainbow trout, Chinook salmon, shortnose and Lost River suckers, and bull trout once productive in this area have dramatically declined due to the draining of waterways, structures blocking fish passage, and poor water quality and habitat conditions.

Objectives:

- 1. Protect 4.42 stream miles by fencing riparian area and planting more than 1,000 locally grown tree seedlings. 2. Stabilize 300 feet of severely eroding bank with wood features. 3. Add 25 large wood features to improve habitat and decrease streambed deposition in critical areas. 4. Add spawning gravel in appropriate locations. 5. Establish an off-stream stockwater delivery system.

Partners:

- US FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife
- JWTR, LLC
- Natural Resource Conservation Service

Funding Source(s):

- National Fish Habitat Action Plan
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Project cost: \$89,742.00

Start Date: 07/01/2008 **Completion Date:** 10/30/2009