

NEHALEM RIVER/TILLAMOOK BAY

Oregon

THE WATERSHEDS

Size: 1,065,417 acres

Tillamook Basin: 553,781 acres

Nehalem Basin: 511,636

CURRENT STATUS

Protected:

None

Diversity:

chum coho, chinook, steelhead/rainbow, cutthroat

Abundance:

Major southern stronghold for native fall chinook salmon and winter steelhead and chum salmon.

Nehalem Bay Watershed average escapement for salmon and steelhead is 30,309.

Tillamook Bay Watershed average escapement for salmon and steelhead is 37,021

Threats:

Industrial logging and road building on public and private forestlands, poor agricultural practices affecting riparian complexity and water quality, gravel mining

GOALS

1. Create regional stronghold for salmon and steelhead and trout stocks by protecting 250,000 acres of public forestland and 8,000 acres of private lower river floodplain lands. Secure permanent headwaters to the ocean protection of key habitat in at least one river system in each watershed.
2. Improve the riparian protection and stewardship for lower river floodplain reaches, as well as improved habitat conditions and complexity within riparian and wetland areas.
3. Increase local support for wild salmonid conservation, as well as increase local institutional capacity and long term funding to sustain salmon refuges in perpetuity while assisting local and regional communities to capture the economic and cultural benefits of wild salmon.

PROPOSALS

1. Secure adoption of salmon "anchor habitat" (refuge) strategy by Oregon Depart. of Forestry (ODF) in 2004.
2. Land acquisition campaigns to protect lower Kilchis and Miami River watersheds are launched in 2003.



3. Create forestland investment fund to implement acquisition and exchange programs between private and state forestlands.
4. Campaign to protect key habitat on lower river private lands in Nehalem Basin launched in 2004.

INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Key Partnerships:

Wild Salmon Center, Ecotrust, Oregon Trout

Coalitions:

Wild Salmon Center is a coalition leader and fiscal agent for Tillamook Rain Forest Coalition (6 local and national conservation organizations).

Collaborative Relationships:

Oregon Departments of Forestry, Fish and Wildlife, and Agriculture, Tillamook Creamery Association, Tillamook Bay Watershed Resource Center, Tillamook County Performance Partnership, Nehalem Watershed Council, Tillamook Bay Watershed Council, Port of Tillamook, Federal Emergency Management Agency, US Army Corps of Engineers, Tillamook County Soil and Water Conservation District, North Coast Land Conservancy, Oregon State University Extension, Shorebank Enterprise Group, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB).