

Photo courtesy of Barte Starker

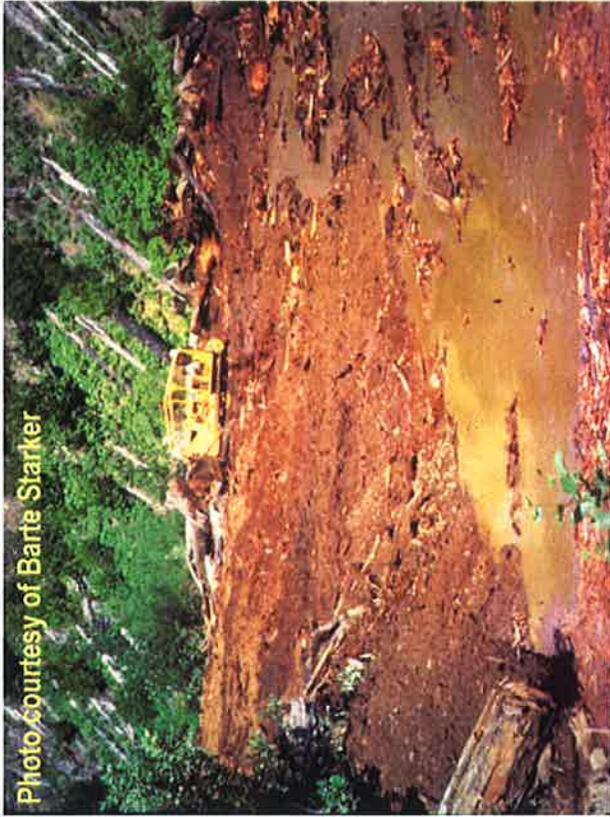


Photo courtesy of Barte Starker

Effects of historical land & resource use...

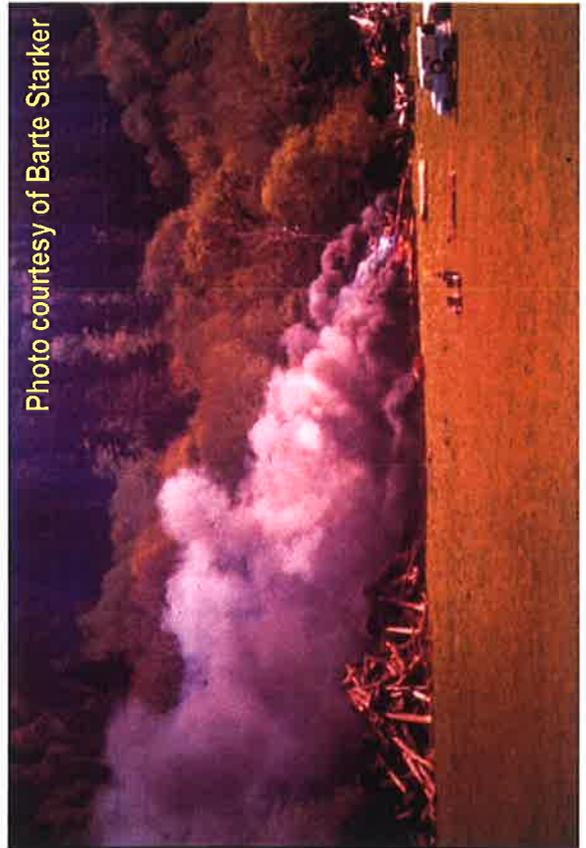


Photo courtesy of Barte Starker



Needle Branch, 1967

Effects of historical land & resource use...

From 1964
 ← HOW TIMES CHANGE!

Page 4B KUGENE REGISTER-GUARD, Sunday, June 7, 1964

Paths Cleared to Spawning Beds

By PETE CORNACCHIA
 Of the Register-Guard

Last summer in this hole up in the headwaters of the Siuslaw, muddy water ran deep and sluggishly into a massive tangle of grey logs and snags that piled there for nearly half a century.

Now the jam was gone. The charred skeletons of fir and cedar were stacked back in the brush. And instead of the still hole up to the top of the banks, water riffled into a shallow pool shaded by overhanging willow and alder.

Several small fish glided and darted over a carpet of pebbles BLM had contributed.

near the edge of the sparkling clear water.

"Silvers — steelhead, too — couldn't ask for a spawning bed much more suitable than that," remarked Bill Saltzman, the State Game Commission's fisheries agent in the Siuslaw country.

His comment brought appreciating nods again from two foresters out of the Bureau of Land Management office at Eugene. Karl Rymter, assistant resource management specialist, and John Robinson, timber manager, were there to see what was being done with some money that BLM had contributed.

On a tour along numerous streams in the upper Siuslaw system, we saw many such indications of brighter hopes for future generations of anadromous fish which will come up from the sea to perpetuate their race in some small creek.

On Nelson, Douglas and Smith creeks we watched well-kept and muddy choker settlers slip steel neoses around big logs, which then were pulled out of the water by cats. Farther up Nelson, we saw a beaver dam go up in a geyser of mud, silt and water after Woody Holderman had set a charge of dynamite.

It's been obvious for some time now that salmon and steelhead are losing ground in many of our inland streams, where runs are dwindling below dams and in polluted water. But they and cutthroat trout are gaining many miles of spawning beds in the Siuslaw drainage.

Log jams, beaver dams and other debris that have blocked the upstream travel of migrating fish for decades are being removed from the main river and several dozen tributaries. In the most intensive and thorough clearance program ever attempted on any coastal stream in Oregon, the game commission is doing the job with help from several other agencies and firms.

Since the Siuslaw project started in 1952, more than \$90,000 has been spent on jobs awarded on bids to heavy equipment contractors and supervised by game commission employees. In addition to the BLM, among others that have contributed funds are the federal government through Dingo-Johnson money, Lane County Forest Service, International Paper and Weyerhaeuser.

And in line with this effort, Rymter pointed out, the BLM is including stipulations for stream clearance in timber sales contracts on the considerable amount of land it has in this region.

On the main Siuslaw, according to Saltzman, about 20 log jams have been removed by cut, crane or blasting powder in the similar number of miles from Loretto down to Haight Creek. Size of the jams has ranged

from a few logs to tremendous piles up to 400 feet long.

Twenty-five creeks which empty directly into the main stem also have been cleared and four more are due for clearance this summer. Work also is scheduled this year on several of the Siuslaw's larger tributaries and their feeder streams.

About a dozen jams have been cleared in Wolf Creek and more spawning territory has been opened in several of its tributaries. More work is slated for upper Wolf Creek and another tributary, Panther Creek.

In the Latta Creek vicinity, stream improvement work is underway on Fish and Nelson creeks. And activity will start this month on upper Willard and two of its tributaries.

As Saltzman pointed out, benefits will have to be assessed on a long range basis. But an increase in salmon and steelhead use of several cleared tributaries was noted last fall and there can be little doubt that the opening of additional spawning grounds is bound to be beneficial.

Success of the program is being measured in several ways, he noted. Spawning ground surveys units have been established for silvers on several of the Siuslaw and Wolf Creek tributaries which have been cleared. Periodic collections of fish in the tributaries will be made to determine the relative numbers of small salmon and steelhead using these streams. Clearance activities and the rate of recovery in these waters will be evaluated through constant spot observations.



Register-Guard photo

Woody Holderman Jabs Holes for Dynamite...

Landowner Action Timeline

- * Mid 1980's: Quit stream cleaning, begin enhancement projects**
- * 1991 Hampton and GP begin Stream Enhancement Initiative**
- * 1993-1997 Landowner funded stream surveys with ODFW**
- * 1994 OWHF/landowners fund first habitat biologists in Tillamook**
- * 1995 Implementation of voluntary measures, including road surveys**
- * 1997 Agree to 10 year window for road fixes**
- * 1998 Begin Oregon Plan reporting**

Stream Enhancement Timeline

- * 1987 Legislature creates GWEB
- * 1995 Establish watershed councils
- * 1997 Legislature approves Oregon Plan funding, including up to \$15 million in Harvest Tax
- * 1997 NMFS concludes coho does not need to be listed
- * 1998 Measure 66 passes
- * 1999 OWEB created



Forest Practices Timeline

- * 1987 Changes to riparian protection rules
- * 1994 Implement current riparian protections
- * 1999 MOA Committee
- * 2001 "FPAC" Committee generates recommendations
- * 2003 ODF/DEQ Sufficiency Analysis
- * 2004-2009 ODF staff resolve recommendations

Killam Creek project initiates SEI program

A pilot project of the Stream Enhancement Initiative (SEI) got underway early Monday morning, Aug. 12, with the placement of boulders in Killam Creek, just south of Tillamook.

The SEI program is a new, cooperative program of the Oregon Board of Forestry, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, and the Oregon Forest Industries Council. It is designed to improve fish habitat and fish production on forest land.

This initial enhancement project features a series of four boulder rows placed across the stream. As the water flows over the boulders, rearing and holding pools are scoured out, while spawning gravel is trapped behind the boulders.

Tillamook District biologists John Casteel and Keith Braun directed the placement of the boulders into Killam Creek. The crane was donated by Braxling & Braxling Construction, out of McMinnville, and operated by Stuart Hoefl.

On hand to view the project first hand were John Hampton, president of Hampton Tree Farms Incorporated and chairman of the Oregon Forest Industries Council; Dick Nyseth, forester for Hampton Tree Farms; and Mark Labhart, Tillamook District Forester.

The idea for the SEI stems from the Forestry Program for Oregon prepared by the Oregon Board of Forestry in October 1990. One of the objectives of the program is to encourage opportunities for other forest uses, such as fish and wildlife habitat, recreation and scenic values on all forest lands.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the three agencies, the SEI program will provide more opportunities for enhancement of our fishery resource while managing forest lands, increase the level of efficiency in enhancing fisheries habitat through a coordinated approach, provide greater educational opportunities in fisheries habitat and forest management, and increase voluntary commitment to fisheries enhancement projects on forest lands.

The Killam Creek project is one of two SEI pilot projects being done. The other is on Wildcat Creek in Coos County. These two projects will serve as a test of the SEI process. They will be evaluated and revisions will be made to the process as necessary.

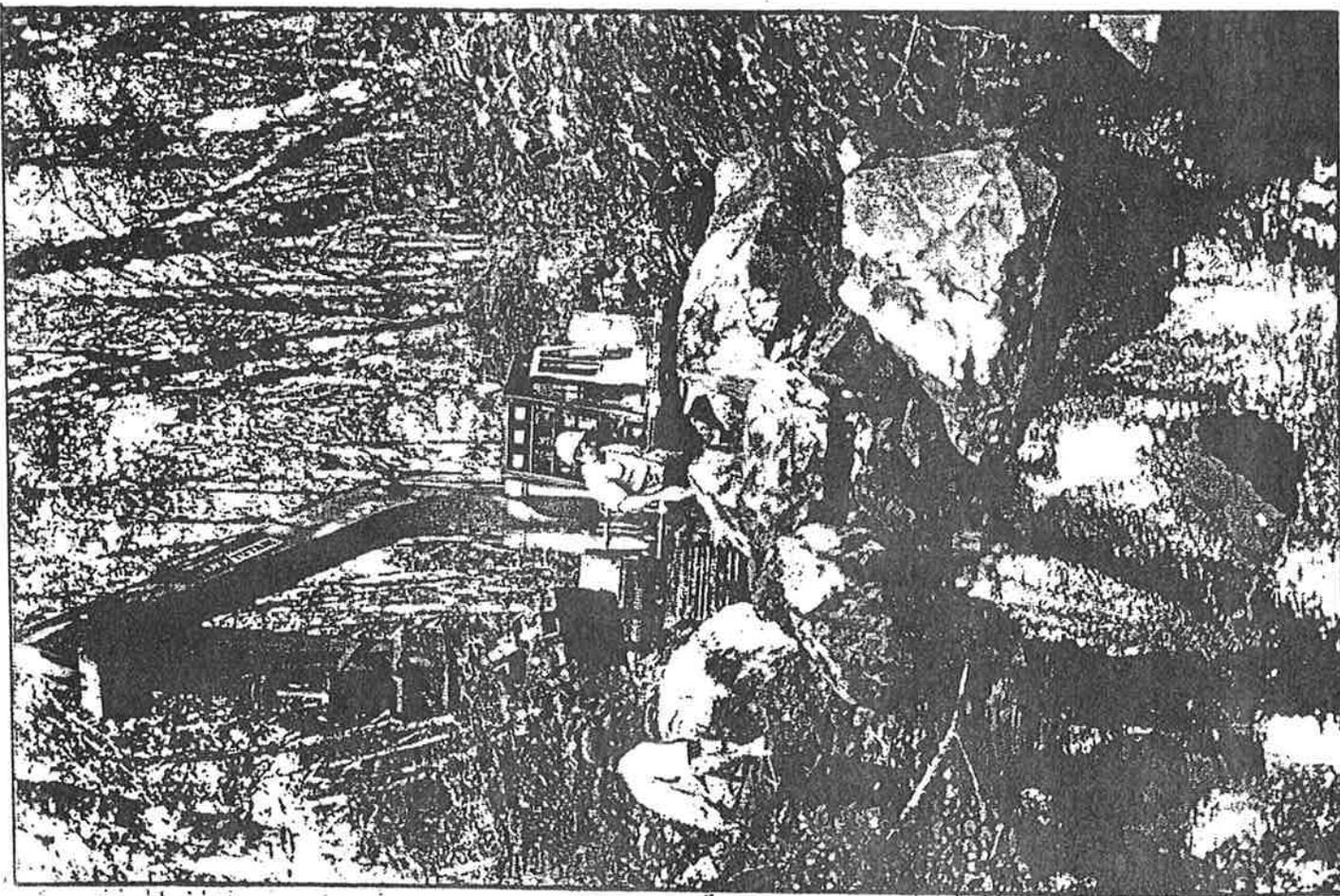
The SEI process involves five steps. -Winter meetings are held between the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Oregon Forest Industries Council to share plans and projects for the upcoming year.

-The three parties reach consensus on the SEI project(s) to be accomplished and the parties involved commit their resources to seeing the project(s) through.

-Each group begins the pre-planning process internally to see that their portion of the project is planned.

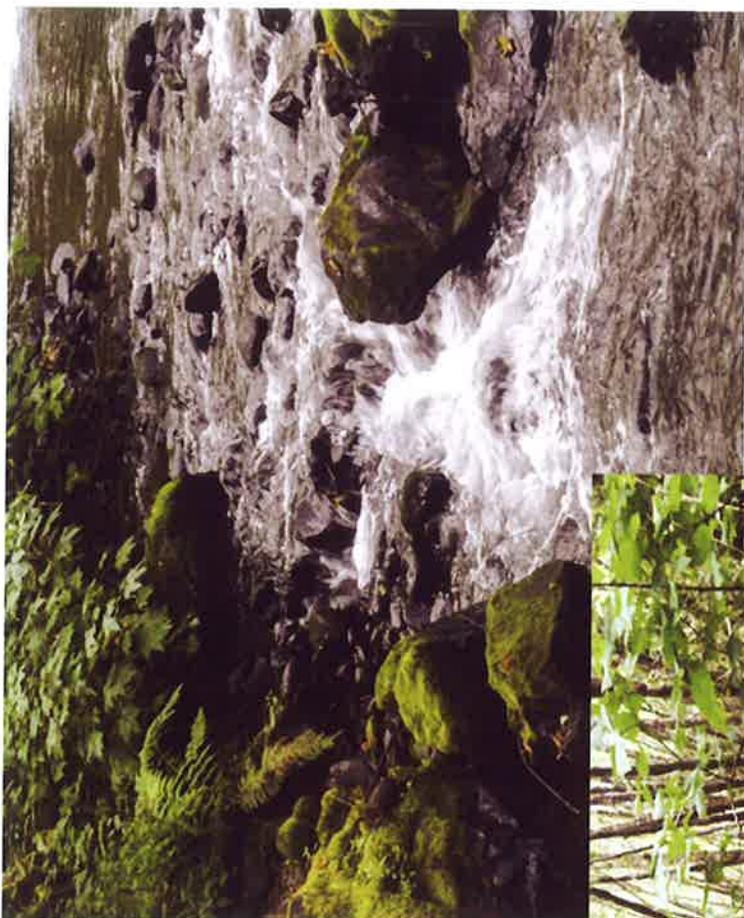
-The habitat improvement projects are completed during the field season. Documentation and recognition is carried out.

-A winter meeting is held to evaluate the work accomplished. Changes in the program are made as needed and planning begins for the next year.



UP A CREEK - the pilot project of the Stream Enhancement Initiative got underway Monday morning on Killam Creek in Tillamook County, Tillamook District ODFW biologists John Casteel and Keith Braun direct the placement of boulders in the stream (H-H photo by Terry Hendrickson)

Tillamook Headlight Herald 8/19/91



Stream Enhancement Initiative
Killam Creek

Photos taken 7/25/2012

Habitat improvement structures
placed 1991