

Native Plant Restoration on the Former Condit Reservoir, White Salmon River

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Abstract:

After the decommissioning of Condit Dam, the Yakama Nation, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group and PacifiCorp are collaborating to restore native riparian and upland plant communities on 2.8 acres in the former reservoir footprint near Northwestern Park on the White Salmon River. Project goals are to improve ecological function through reintroduction of diverse native plant communities; to reintroduce culturally important plant species; and to involve community members in the restoration of the undammed White Salmon River. Challenging soil conditions included 10-20 ft. depth of residual accumulated sediments and unusual soil chemistry. We will present our revegetation approach and learning opportunities from the first season of revegetation efforts. The project is funded by Ecotrust's Whole Watershed Restoration Initiative, the Yakama Nation, and countless donated volunteer hours.