Low-Cost Wood Replenishment in Taneum Creek: Results from the January 2009 Flood

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Instream restoration involving large woody material has been utilized in many habitat projects in the Pacific Northwest. Because of restrictions on material availability and heavy equipment requirements for transportation and placement, large wood projects are expensive, resulting in lost opportunities for additional restoration. This presentation describes a wood replenishment project on Taneum Creek along state-owned land that began in April, 2008. The approach involves thinning overstocked stands adjacent to the stream channel, and dragging the full-length trees into the stream channel with manual tools. Trees placed in the channel are not anchored, thus movement via stream hydraulics is anticipated. Following the January 2009 flood, over 70% of placed trees remained within the ordinary high water mark. This approach is extremely low cost and meets multiple objectives, including improved instream complexity, improved forest stand conditions and carbon sequestration.