

# FCRPS BiOp Implementation

2008 - 2018

## Location

Taneum Creek, Washington

## Biological Objective

Increase spawning and rearing habitat for listed and non-listed fish

## Species

- Middle Columbia Steelhead

## Partners

- Kittitas Conservation Trust
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington Department of Transportation
- Yakama Nation
- Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
- Bonneville Power Administration
- Washington Water Trust
- Kittitas Reclamation District
- Kittitas County Public Works
- MRM Construction, Inc.
- Fisheries Consultants, Inc.

## References

- Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) 2008 Biological Opinion
- Middle Columbia Salmon & Steelhead Recovery Plan

## FCRPS RPA #34

## For more information:

[www.SalmonRecovery.gov](http://www.SalmonRecovery.gov)

## For more information on the Bureau of Reclamation's Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project:

<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/>

## Salmon Enter Taneum Creek for First Time in More Than a Century

Salmon will be able to reach 30 miles of premier habitat in Yakima River tributaries in Kittitas County thanks to the removal of the Bruton Dam on Taneum Creek.

Six years in the making, the project restores unrestricted fish passage to habitat that largely has been inaccessible since the late 1800s when Bruton Dam was built to divert water from Taneum Creek into irrigation ditches. Kittitas Conservation Trust sponsored the deconstruction and removal of the dam in late October and restored the creek using a state-of-the-art technique called a roughened channel that was pioneered by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. A roughened channel is designed to mimic a natural creek or river with pools and riffles that promote salmon spawning and rearing.

“This is a unique project because of the large amount of habitat being opened and the diverse groups that came together to make it a success,” said David Gerth, executive director of the Kittitas Conservation Trust. “A wide variety of people found common ground for this project. Opening up this habitat in the Taneum Creek watershed will help restore salmon species in the upper Yakima River basin.”

The Bureau of Reclamation's Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project provided Bruton Ditch water users with a reliable alternative source of irrigation water without depending on Taneum Creek diversions.

The project is the largest, single re-connection of habitat for migrating fish in Washington this year, and will improve habitat for coho salmon and steelhead. Middle Columbia steelhead are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The project will benefit all of Taneum Creek's resident and migratory fish and aquatic species.

The Kittitas Conservation Trust received grants from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, the Department of Ecology's Water Infrastructure program, the Community Salmon Fund program, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat program.



Taneum Creek before project



Dam deconstruction



Taneum Creek with roughened channel