



Rogue River Restoration



COASTAL RESTORATION *at work*

In February 2009, NOAA received \$167 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to restore coastal habitat and help jump-start the nation's economy by supporting thousands of jobs.

Now, after a rigorous selection process and review of more than 800 proposals, the agency is funding 50 high-quality, high-priority coastal restoration projects — spanning the country from New England's salt marshes, to the shores of the Great Lakes, to the coral reefs of the Pacific Islands. One of these is the Rogue River Restoration.

Restoring the Rogue River

The Rogue River of southwestern Oregon is one of the nation's most beloved rivers. Known for its scenic beauty, world-class whitewater, and famed salmon and steelhead fishery, it was designated as one of the original "Wild and Scenic Rivers" with passage of the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. The Rogue is the second largest producer of salmon in Oregon outside of the Columbia Basin and one of the few remaining salmon strongholds in the Pacific Northwest.

Over the course of the last 100 years, the Rogue River, its tributaries, and its fish have suffered from a series of dams that inhibit or completely block fish migrations and degrade



The Gold Ray Dam removal began in July 2010 and was completed in October 2010, representing the final dam to be removed on the mainstem of the Rogue River, opening more than 300 miles of salmon habitat.

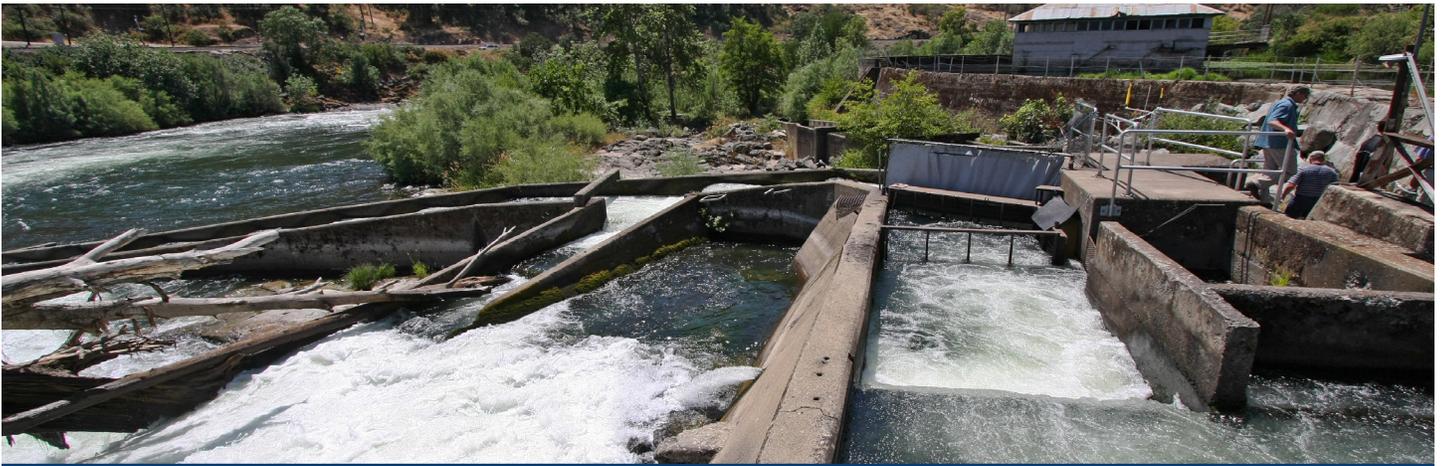
water quality and habitat. However, as one of the nation's most significant river restoration projects, Gold Ray Dam was recently removed, the last of four significant dams to be removed from the Rogue mainstem in recent years. In 2008, the Gold Hill Diversion Dam was removed and Elk Creek Dam was notched. Savage Rapids Dam removal was completed in 2009, and Gold Ray Dam removal has just been completed this fall. With the completion of Gold Ray, fish now have access to 333 miles of high quality salmon and steelhead spawning habitat upstream of the dam and reclaims approximately 1.5 miles of spawning habitat that was previously inundated by the dam's reservoir.

Gold Ray Dam Removal

Before its recent removal, using \$5 million of NOAA Recovery Act funding, along with a \$1,000,000 from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Gold Ray was a 38-



Chinook salmon, as viewed in an observation window at the old Gold Ray Dam. Aging fish ladders at Gold Ray allowed only a few salmon to spawn each year.



“These Recovery Act projects will put Americans to work while restoring our coasts and combating climate change.”
- Secretary of Commerce, Gary Locke

Above: The Gold Ray Dam prior to removal.



The Gold Ray Dam was constructed in 1904 to generate power. By 2010, it was no longer useful and posed a safety threat to the nearby community.

foot high, 360-foot long defunct hydropower dam located in Jackson County, Oregon. Its removal represents one of the largest dam removals ever completed in the United States. The removal will soon provide a boost to the Rogue’s coho salmon listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, and augment runs of spring and fall Chinook salmon, summer and winter steelhead, resident cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey.

Gold Ray Dam was constructed in 1904 to generate power. The original dam was a wood crib dam of about 33 feet in height. In 1941 a concrete dam constructed immediately downstream replaced the original crib dam. This wood crib dam was also removed as part of the project to remove Gold Ray Dam. Until the NOAA Recovery Act funds, the United States lacked the funding to resolve liability and public safety concerns associated with the dam. The structure also blocked boat traffic and was a maintenance burden for Jackson County taxpayers.

Construction and demolition activities began in July 2010 and ended in October 2010. You can watch a time-lapse video of this removal at www.habitat.noaa.gov. Jackson County estimates that the removal project employed some 54 people at various times over the 18-month course of work.

Coastal Restoration and Recovery Nationwide

Since June 2009, more than 30 of the 50 coastal restoration Recovery Act projects have broken ground, with the rest preparing to start and finish throughout the next year and a half. The 50 projects are supporting thousands of short-term and long-term jobs. They support the equivalent of more than 250 full-time jobs as of the latest report and are expected to support the equivalent of an additional 1,000 full-time jobs before they are completed.

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