

FALL EXPEDITION

Featuring the work of the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council



The OSU Hydrophiles with Mathias Perle

On October 24th, the OSU Hydrophiles piled into university vans, made possible by the Institute for Water and Watersheds, and headed over the Western Cascades to Bend, Oregon for a weekend. Surrounded by ponderosa pines and a much drier landscape than that which they left, the group of 11 students enjoyed beautiful fall weather Saturday where they explored the area on mountain bike, taking on the well known Peterson Ridge Trail outside of Sisters, OR. The night brought a well earned dinner in Bend and a roof over everyone's head, graciously provided by a fellow Hydrophiles member.

The following morning, the Hydrophiles were joined by Mathias Perle, Project Manager with the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, to take an in-depth look at restoration work being done on Whychus Creek, tributary to the Deschutes River, to improve fish habitat and passage for redband trout, spring Chinook and summer steelhead salmon and restore what was historically one of the most important spawning areas upstream of the Pelton Round Butte complex.

The three restoration projects toured included the [Three Sisters Irrigation District Fish Passage, Screening, and Restoration Project](#), the [Pine Meadow Dam Removal and Floodplain Restoration](#), and the [Camp Polk Meadow Preserve Restoration Project](#). These efforts have seen a state-of-the-art fish screen and channel modification return fish passage to the largest diversion on Whychus Creek, the removal of a diversion dam reconnecting approximately 13 miles of spawning habitat, and the reconnection of a historic channel restoring natural hydrologic conditions to 1.5 miles of stream. Discussion brought new insights on the triumphs and challenges of collaborating through partnerships, engaging diverse stakeholders, designing and implementing large scale stream and habitat modifications, monitoring ecosystem health and resiliency of restoration projects, and always learning and adapting restoration technique, strategy, and design to continue working towards whole watershed scale restoration.

The OSU Hydrophiles returned home safely Sunday evening just in time for rain in Corvallis to bring a great weekend to a close.

PHOTOSTREAM



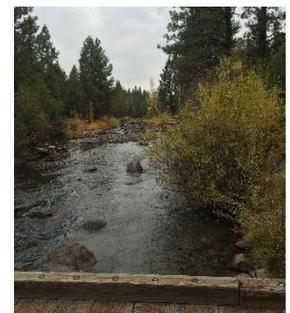
Happy after a day of riding over 20 miles on mountain bikes!



Comradery around the table at the food carts at The Lot in Bend



Mathias explaining the state-of-the-art fish passage



Fall on Whychus Creek

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

