Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project

Relicensing Agreement: Aquatics

The Eugene Water & Electric Board will improve and protect fish, river health and other aquatic species as part of relicensing its Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project. Here are the highlights:

TRAIL BRIDGE DAM AND RESERVOIR

- Construct a fish ladder at Trail Bridge Dam.
- Improve the spawning channel below Trail Bridge.
- Construct a downstream fish passage system at Trail Bridge Dam (fish screen and bypass pipe).
- Enhance spawning and rearing habitat in two side channels below Trail Bridge Dam.
- Modify reservoir banks where juvenile fish tend to get "stranded" by low water. This includes changing some of the "contours" of the reservoir.
- Add brush, large logs, and other habitat-improvement measures in the reservoir.
- Adjust reservoir elevations to maintain bull trout access to Sweetwater Creek.

SMITH RIVER (Below Dam)

- Year-round water release of between 10 and 35 cubic feet per second (cfs).
- Plant shade trees, place and maintain at least 80 pieces per mile of large, woody debris, and add spawning gravel to Smith River.
- Periodic "flushes" of up to 500 cfs of water to mimic natural flooding events.
- Remove unofficial "dispersed" camping sites along river.
- Construct a high-flow bypass valve at Carmen Power Plant to protect in-stream improvements from flood events.

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SMITH DAM AND RESERVOIR

- Improve habitat (large logs and brush bundles) for native cutthroat and whitefish in the reservoir.

CARMEN BYPASS REACH (McKenzie River between Carmen and Trail Bridge)

- Year-round release of 30 cfs of water below Carmen Diversion Dam to encourage development of cutthroat trout habitat.
- Control brook trout population and support reintroduction of native cutthroat trout.
- Release additional water to maintain 160 cfs minimum stream flow below Tamolitch Falls and Blue Pool.
- Place spawning gravel and maintain 80 pieces per mile of large woody debris.

CARMEN DIVERSION DAM AND RESERVOIR

- Build a fish ladder and downstream passage at Carmen Dam 10 years after license is issued, if cutthroat trout reintroduction and brook trout control efforts are successful.