

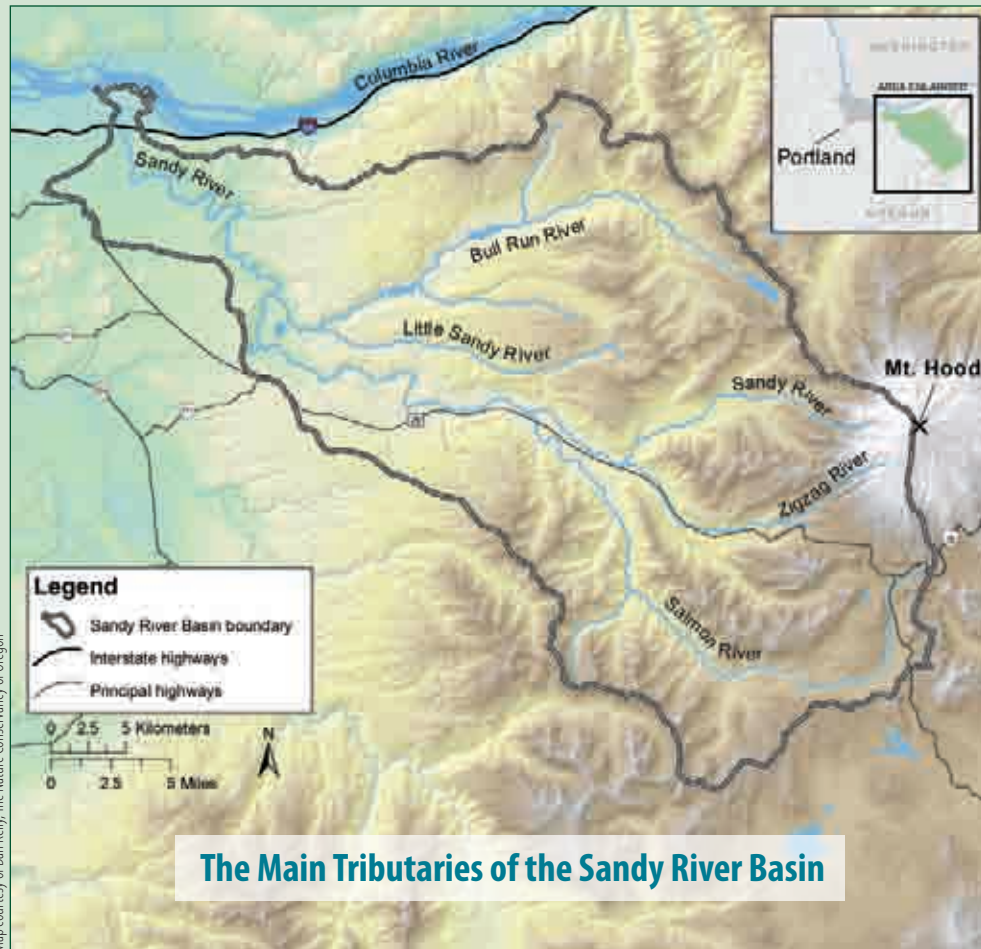


Photo courtesy of Ethan Jewett, Oregon Trout

## RECLAIMING THE LEGACY

The Partners are implementing an integrated plan, but the work of restoring and conserving vital habitat for fish has just begun. The priority projects may take several years and cost nearly \$100 million.

The Partners invite you to join them in reclaiming the legacy of the Sandy River Basin.



Map courtesy of Dan Kelly, The Nature Conservancy of Oregon

## Participating Organizations in the SANDY RIVER BASIN PARTNERS

*The Sandy River Basin Partners is a coalition of federal, state, local government, nonprofit, and private organizations dedicated to the recovery of fish habitat in the Sandy River Basin.*

Association of Northwest Steelheaders

Clackamas County

East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

Metro Regional Government

Multnomah County

The Nature Conservancy

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Oregon Trout

Portland General Electric

Portland Water Bureau

Sandy River Basin Watershed Council

USDA Forest Service, Mt. Hood National Forest

USDC National Marine Fisheries Service

USDI Bureau of Land Management

USDI Fish and Wildlife Service

Western Rivers Conservancy

To make a contribution or learn more about the activities of the Sandy River Basin Partners, please visit our website at [www.sandyriverpartners.org](http://www.sandyriverpartners.org).

[www.sandyriverbasinpartners.org](http://www.sandyriverbasinpartners.org)

This brochure was produced by the Sandy River Basin Partners.

## The Wild Legacy of the SANDY RIVER BASIN



Photo courtesy of the Portland Water Bureau

*The waters of the Sandy River Basin rush from the forested slopes of Mt. Hood to the shores of the Columbia River. Within this network of swift streams are slow spots, riffles and pools that create spawning grounds for salmon and steelhead. Each year, wild fish return to the Sandy River Basin to spawn in the rivers of their birth.*



# THE SANDY RIVER BASIN PARTNERS

The listing of salmon and steelhead as threatened species and PGE's decision to remove two dams united federal, state, local government, nonprofit, and private organizations in recovering fish habitat in the Basin. This coalition became the Sandy River Basin Partners (the Partners). Participating organizations have decision makers with expertise in fish biology, water quality, hydrology, and forestry. The mission of the Partners is to improve fish habitat to ensure healthy salmon and steelhead populations for future generations to enjoy.

## Strategic Actions Guided by Science

Using state-of-the-art methods and tools, the Sandy River Basin Partners have developed a science-based strategy for the basin. The Partners have identified actions and priorities based on an analysis of the spawning and rearing patterns of the fish species listed under the ESA. The strategy reflects the goals and objectives of all Partner organizations.



## A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Located minutes from Oregon's largest population center, the Sandy River Basin has undergone changes in the past century. People have used the Basin's rivers for municipal water supplies, hydroelectric power generation, agriculture, and logging. These human uses have altered the waterways and degraded habitat for fish. Each year, fewer fish return to spawn. Four fish species—Chinook, coho, and chum salmon, and steelhead trout—have been listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Despite these challenges, much of the Sandy River Basin remains vital to wild fish. In 2008, the mainstem Sandy River will become one of the few unobstructed rivers flowing into the lower Columbia River. The Basin is also one of two on the lower Columbia with spawning grounds for wild fall Chinook and coho salmon. Restoring and conserving this habitat is crucial for improving fish populations.

More than a dozen public and private organizations have joined in restoring and conserving habitat in the Sandy River Basin. The timeline below highlights some of the major efforts. One of the biggest changes involves Portland General Electric's (PGE's) removal of two hydroelectric dams in 2007 and 2008.



## Top Priorities for Restoration and Conservation

The Partners' plan focuses on projects and river reaches with the greatest potential to benefit the threatened fish. The top priorities for restoration and conservation include

- removing barriers that impede fish migration
- re-introducing logs, gravel, and natural nutrients in historic spawning areas
- restoring healthy native vegetation on stream banks for shading
- coordinating outreach to, and working with, private landowners
- acquiring, conserving, and restoring key riverfront land to improve fish habitat

The Partners have already begun restoration and conservation work throughout the Basin.

