

Latah Soil and Water Conservation District  
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**Project Title:** Corral Creek Wetland and Riparian Restoration  
Avulsion / Round Meadow Reach

**Project Type:** Fisheries / Steelhead Habitat Restoration, Threatened Ecosystems / Wetlands Restoration [see Latah Soil and Water Conservation District's Five-Year Plan]

**Location:** Corral Creek, a tributary of the Potlatch River, in Latah County, Idaho, Northern Rockies Ecosystem [see Latah SWCD Potlatch River Watershed Management Plan, under Plans & Reports, at [www.latahswcd.org](http://www.latahswcd.org)]

**Ownership:** Private land

**Sponsor:** Latah Soil and Water Conservation District

**Supporters:** Landowner  
Idaho Office of Species Conservation / Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund [link]  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality / EPA Clean Water Act Funding  
Bonneville Power Administration / NOAA Fisheries Funding [link]

**Project Description:** Problem: Legacy effects of logging, with associated construction of railroad spur lines, and livestock grazing, had degraded water quality and fish habitat. After a passage barrier downstream was removed in 2007, spawning steelhead (ESA listed threatened) regained access to the upper Corral Creek watershed, including this reach [link to Clearwater Subbasin Plan, link to Idaho Department of Fish and Game annual Potlatch River fish inventories]. Between 2005 and 2008, Corral Creek in the Avulsion Reach experienced erosion events that allowed the flow to be diverted from the narrow, sinuous, well-vegetated historic channel in to the ditch of an old road bed associated with early 20<sup>th</sup> century logging. In Round Meadow, upstream of the Avulsion location, the flow had already been captured in borrow ditches associated with the temporary rail lines known as shay lines, which were used to transport logs. The straight, wide ditch sections enabled higher flow velocities, causing ongoing bank and bed erosion, adding sediment and degrading downstream water quality, and allowing the flow to exit the system more rapidly than historic conditions.

Solution: In 2008 we began construction of channel plugs to divert the flow back into the shallower, more sinuous historic channel to slow the flow through the meadow, increase hydration of the meadow, decrease erosion, create more pool habitat for juvenile steelhead, and improve wetland habitat. In order to reduce erosion pressure on the main diversion channel plug, we diverted flow of a minor tributary northward by cutting in a new channel. Following the instream construction the site was seeded with a mix of native grasses and forbs, and planted with native grasses, forbs, sedges, rushes, bulrushes, and woody species. All bare areas were stabilized following seeding, using sedge mats, mulch, or erosion control material. Livestock fencing installed in 2009 excludes cattle from the restoration area to allow establishment of the native vegetation and recovery of the meadow vegetation. A livestock water pond was constructed in late 2011 to provide alternative water for the cattle and to draw them upslope and away from the creek and the meadow. Photo points were established to document changes in vegetation.

**Status:** Complete: Instream construction was completed in 2008. Minor repair work and revegetation were completed in 2009 and 2012. The solar-powered watering system for the livestock pond was installed in June 2013. Other than minor additional revegetation, the project work is complete.



Site photo 1



Site photo 4



Site photo 2



Site photo 5



Site photo 3



Site photo 6

Avulsion Reach: Avulsed channel (ditch) repaired by diverting flow back into historic channel and converting ditch to wetland cells in order to reduce erosion and improve meadow hydrology by prolonging infiltration. Added roughness features and revegetated.





Site photo 1

Avulsion Reach: Diversion ditch plug, used to divert flow out of ditch, back into historic channel vegetate with sedge sod mats.



Site photo 1

Horse Shoe Bend: install structures and roughness features to reduce erosion; revegetate and exclude cattle.



Site photo 2



Site photo 2



Site photo 3



Site photo 3