

FINN ROCK REACH FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION

- Finn Rock Reach was purchased by McKenzie River Trust (MRT) in 2016 from a private timber company, who had disconnected the floodplain, logged extensively, and ran a gravel mining operation for decades. The gravel pit turned into a pond that housed non-native predatory fish and amphibians that impacted native turtle populations.
- MRT asked USFS staff to design and implement a restoration project that would maximize ecological benefits and ecosystem services (clean drinking water, fire and climate resilience), modeled off previous "Stage 0" restoration on the South Fork McKenzie River.
- Completed August 2023, the project greatly improved floodplain connectivity, natural river process and function, and fish/wildlife habitat, while not impeding boating in the mainstem McKenzie - a win-win for the community!

PROJECT CORE TEAM - McKenzie River Trust, USFS (Willamette NF & Enterprise), McKenzie Watershed Council, Eugene Water & Electric Board

PROJECT BUDGET by FUNDING SOURCE

Legislative Earmarks (Merkley, DeFazio)	OWEB Fire Recovery	Eugene Water & Electric Board	Private Donors	BPA	USFS (DWPP, Secure Rural Schools, Stewardship, In-kind)	Other	Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative	TOTAL
\$2.15 mil	\$869 k	\$500 k	\$500 k	\$449 k	\$335 k	\$282 k	\$25 k	\$5.1 mil

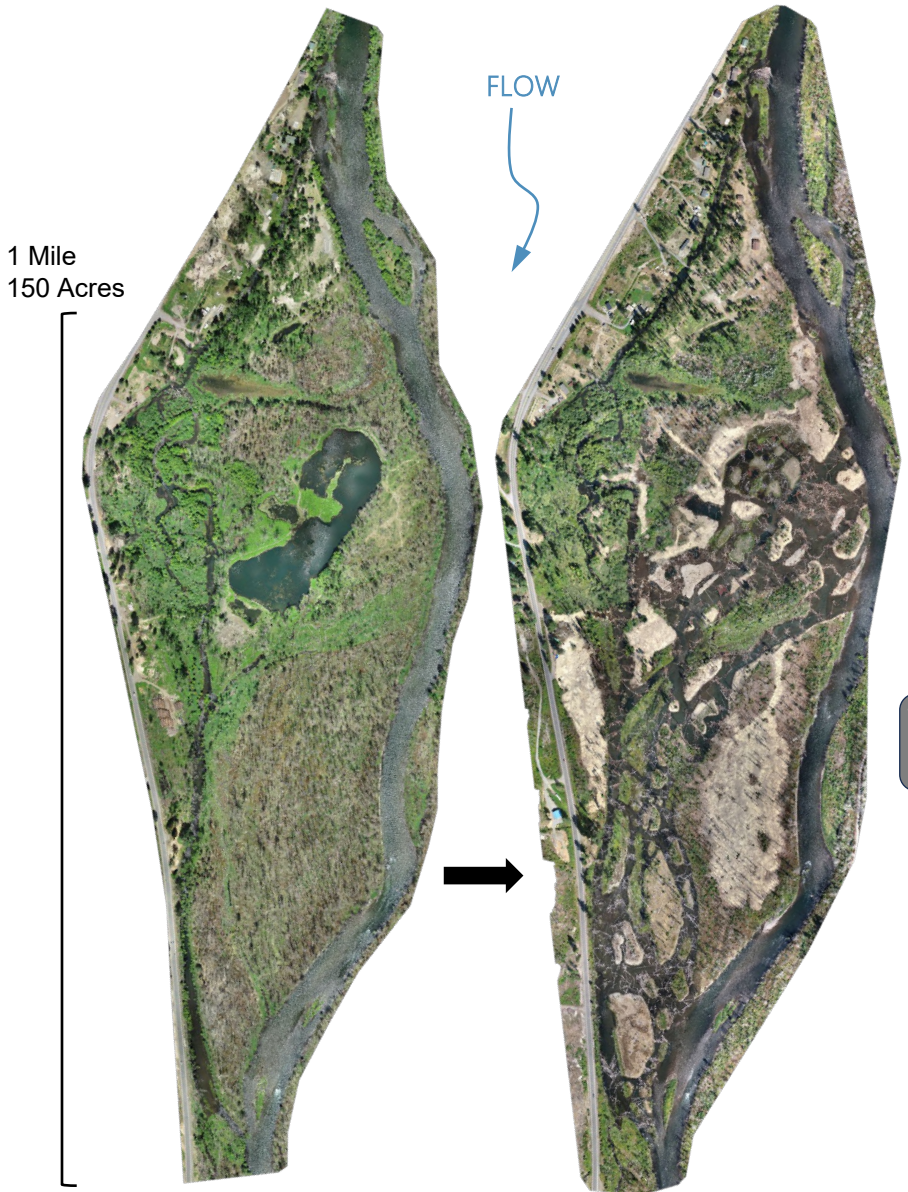
"This partnership is especially unique, with Forest Service technical experts working on private land owned by the McKenzie River Trust. Without their technical expertise and leadership, the project would not have been possible." - Eli Tome, Director of Conservation, McKenzie River Trust

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- **Post-fire and future fire resilience** (flood attenuation, sediment storage, solute/nutrient filtering, refuge for fish/wildlife, extensive fire break to reduce fire risk)
- **Climate resilience** (carbon sequestration, drought resilience)
- **Maintain clean drinking water for nearly 200,000 residents**
- **>100 new acres of high-quality habitat for ESA-listed fish**



Photos: Brent Ross



Pre-Project June 2021

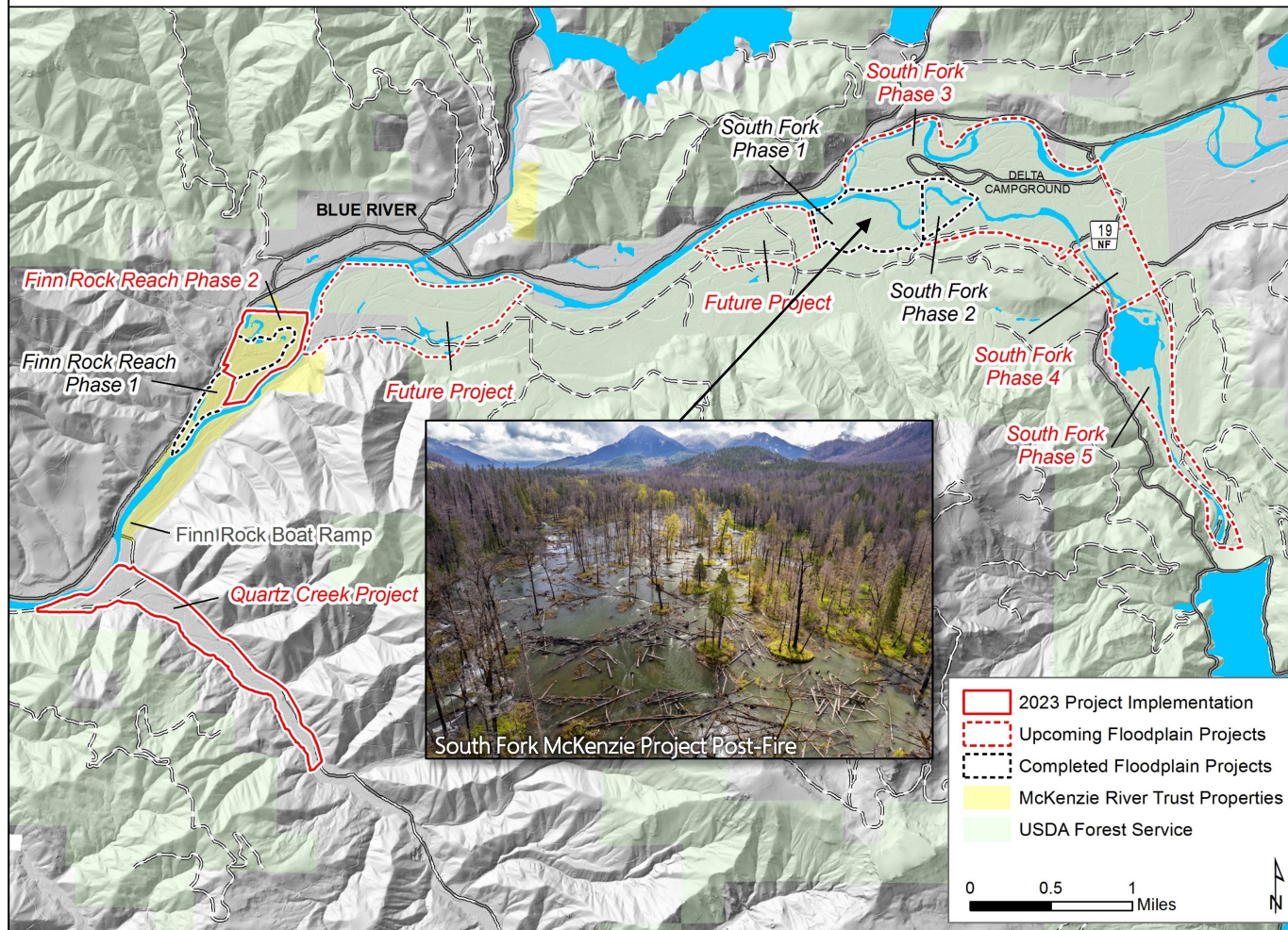
Post-Project September 2023

LANDSCAPE SCALE FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION and CLIMATE RESILIENCE

McKenzie River Restoration Partnership



Middle McKenzie River Restoration Projects (~1,750 total acres)



- The McKenzie River Restoration Partnership has a common vision for restoring 1,750 acres of the Middle McKenzie Valley over the next 8-10 years for fire and climate resilience, drinking water quality, and recovery of ESA-Threatened spring Chinook salmon and bull trout and Species of Concern Pacific lamprey.
- Over 350 acres have been restored to date, on and off NFS lands.
- Over \$19 million has been invested and secured for these projects
- As part of this high-functioning partnership, the USFS plays a lead role in project design, wood sourcing, implementation, and monitoring.
- The momentum of this important work is so strong that the WNE created a new restoration position to fulfill the need.
- 1,750 acres of a well-hydrated fire break will significantly increase fire resilience and reduce fire risk to McKenzie communities, primary objectives of the Wildfire Crisis Strategy.
- The South Fork McKenzie Restoration Project, burned over by the Holiday Farm Fire in 2020, is being studied as an example of fire resilience and refugia for flora and fauna.