

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Tour

Lower Bear Creek Rehabilitation Project – City of Redmond

- The project is being implemented by the City of Redmond in partnership with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) with funding from WSDOT, Redmond, the King County Flood Control District, Conservation Futures, and King Conservation District (through WRIA 8).
- Project is a high priority for Chinook salmon recovery in the *Lake Washington / Cedar / Sammamish (WRIA 8) Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan* and also benefits Coho and sockeye salmon and other wildlife.
- Bear Creek supports the largest wild Chinook salmon runs in the Sammamish population.
- This project will rehabilitate the lower 3,500 feet of Bear Creek, adding meanders to the straightened channel to increase and enhance in-stream habitat. The resulting lower gradient will restore fish passage for all salmon life stages.
- Relocating the channel to the north of the present alignment will increase setbacks from State Route 520 and enlarge the riparian buffer. Portions of the existing channel will remain in place as backwater areas for off-channel habitat.
- An earlier phase of this project immediately upstream, completed by WSDOT in 1999, is functioning well and provides a template for this phase of the project.
- Enhancing the mouth of Bear Creek is a key component of restoring Chinook and other salmon runs to the entire Bear Creek system.
- Construction began in 2013 and will continue for the next two construction seasons. Full completion is expected in 2015.



Pre-project straightened channel



Completed Phase I project upstream



Lower Bear Creek Rehabilitation

