

**LOWER LIMBER JIM CREEK  
RESTORATION PROJECT**

**Project #: 1992-026-01**

**Contract #: 84585**

**Habitat Completion Report**

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**United States Forest Service  
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest**

**LaGrande Ranger District  
LaGrande, OR**

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# LOWER LIMBER JIM RESTORATION PROJECT

## Location

The Lower Limber Jim Creek Restoration Project is located on Limber Jim Creek, tributary to the Grande Ronde River. The project is located on .6 mile of Limber Jim Creek (starting at approximate RM 0) within Upper Grande Ronde River (1706010401); Limber Jim Creek (170601040102) watersheds. Limber Jim Creek is spawning and rearing habitat for Snake River Basin summer steelhead, Snake River Basin spring Chinook salmon, bull trout and redband trout. Project partners include Grande Ronde Mode Watershed, Bonneville Power Administration, and the US Forest Service.

## Introduction

Lower Limber Jim Creek is all on private land and is currently grazed by livestock. Historic beaver trapping, grazing, and roading created a laterally confined channel, with limited floodplain interaction and diminished deciduous vegetation. Currently, the stream channel is simplified with low levels of large wood and lack of quality pool habitat. Floodplain inundation and function is limited.

## Objectives

To achieve proper ecological form and function of the Lower Fly Creek Reach and thereby restore habitat for the imperiled Snake River Basin Spring/Summer Chinook, Snake River Basin Steelhead, and bull trout. Objectives are as follows.

### 1: Activate Side Channel Scrolls

Encourage and create perennial side channels through channel spanning log jam construction.

### 2: Restore Hydrologic Function

Increase hydration of a laterally confined channel to improve groundwater retention through channel spanning log jam construction.

### 3: Improve Fish Habitat

Restore habitat complexity. Existing LWD structures will be modified and additional whole trees will be placed. These structures will encourage scour pool habitat, spawning gravel recruitment and fish cover.

## Project Accomplishments

The project constructed channel spanning debris jams at 6 sites and habitat structures at 24 sites within the lower .6 mile of Lower Limber Jim Creek (RM 0 – RM .6). This included approximately 216 pieces of large wood (~ 7 pieces of large wood per structure and 30' long) and 720 yards of racking material. An additional 73 whole trees were placed within the stream and 100 pieces of wood were placed in side/overflow channels. All of the wood was placed with excavators/log loaders.

- The channel spanning debris jam structures (Type 1 Limber Jim structures) consisted of 2: 13-18" logs with rootwads, 3: 10 – 13" logs with rootwads, 2 : 8" – 15" diameter tops or small rootwads and 4: ten yard loads of racking material.
- The habitat structures (Type II Limber Jim Structures) consisted of 1: 13-20" logs with rootwads, 3: 10 – 13" logs with rootwads, 3 : 8" – 15" diameter tops or small rootwads and 2: ten yard loads of racking material.

All of the disturbed areas will be seeded and mulched, where applicable.

## Results

The project created out of channel flooding that affected approximately 25 acres of floodplain, improved habitat complexity, pool formation and fish cover. The private landowner was impressed with what the out of channel flooding accomplished on their property. The out of channel flooding created the most productive piece of ground on their property during last years drought. Because of this, they are willing to complete additional restoration projects on their property.



AFTER



BEFORE



Shovel loader placing trees into Limber Jim Creek.



Shovel loader placing racking material into Limber Jim Creek



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE