

Planning and Cooperation Restore Salmon Habitat

As part of the \$1.3 billion OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program, ODOT is repairing or replacing hundreds of bridges around the state. On Oregon Highway 38 near Cottage Grove, the replacement of five bridges requires removing approximately 300 trees. But they won't go to waste. After the trees are cut down or uprooted, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will transport them to the Umpqua River basin to improve the river's ability to host salmon.

The project will benefit not only fish but the businesses around the Umpqua River basin. ODFW contracts with logging companies to haul and place the felled trees and with landowners to stockpile those that are awaiting placement.

Improved habitat means healthy runs of fish, which in turn result in greater opportunities for commercial and sport fishing and more money in the local economy. ■



Contractors on the OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program have reused about 300 trees that needed to be removed from five bridge sites to enhance salmon habitat in other parts of the state. The arrangement required coordination of several state and federal agencies, contractors and planners, but in the end will greatly benefit the environment.