

Home Again to Lakes and Creeks

Salmon have returned to the Metolius River watershed after a 50-year absence.

Salmon Return

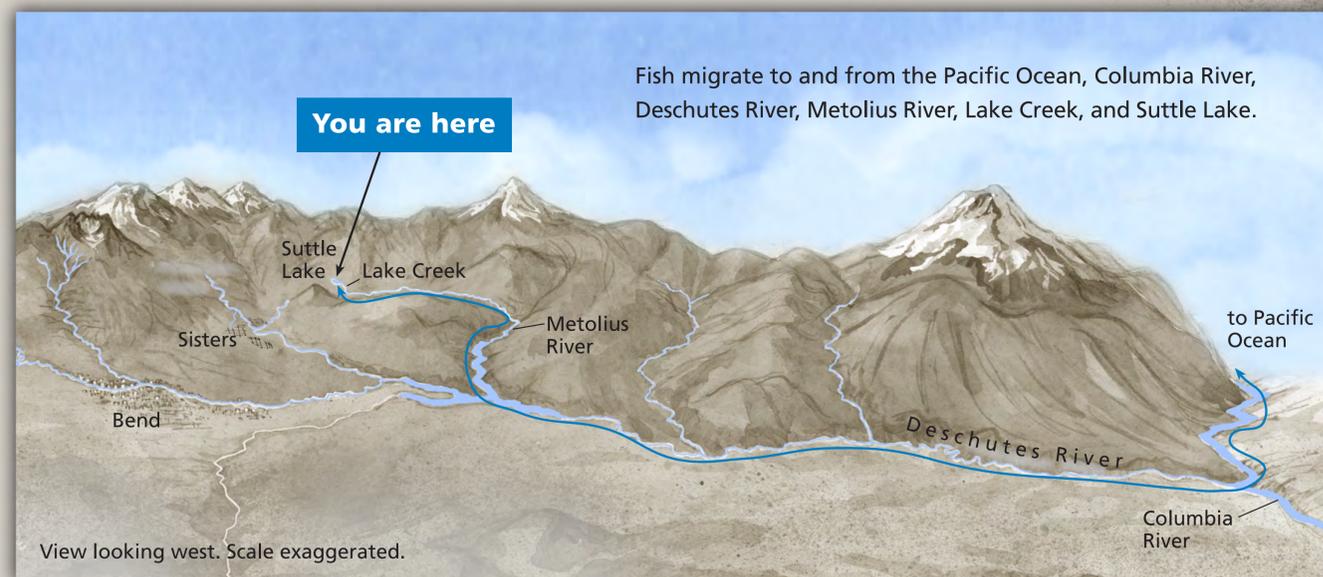
Chinook and sockeye salmon were abundant in Lake Creek and Suttle Lake until the mid 20th century when their migration was blocked by dams. Now, reintroduction efforts and fish passage projects like the one completed here in 2013 allow migrating fish to reach their ancestral spawning grounds once again.

Lake and Creek Habitats

Freshwater lakes are essential habitats for sockeye salmon, where they live for a few years before migrating to the ocean. Sockeye that historically inhabited Suttle Lake were one of only two populations in Oregon. Lake Creek has some of the best habitat for Chinook salmon as well as resident trout in the Metolius River watershed.



Adult sockeye return to Link Creek, a tributary of Suttle Lake, to spawn. Their young will find rearing habitat in Suttle Lake.



People Working Together

Government agencies, Tribes, water right holders, non-profits, funders and local community members collaborated in restoring fish habitat in the Metolius River watershed. Fish passage, fish screening, and habitat projects will help sustain fish populations for many years to come.