



Johnson Creek
Watershed Council

Presentation to Multnomah County
Board of Commissioners
March 11, 2014

JCWC Overview

Oregon Watershed Council (formed 1995)

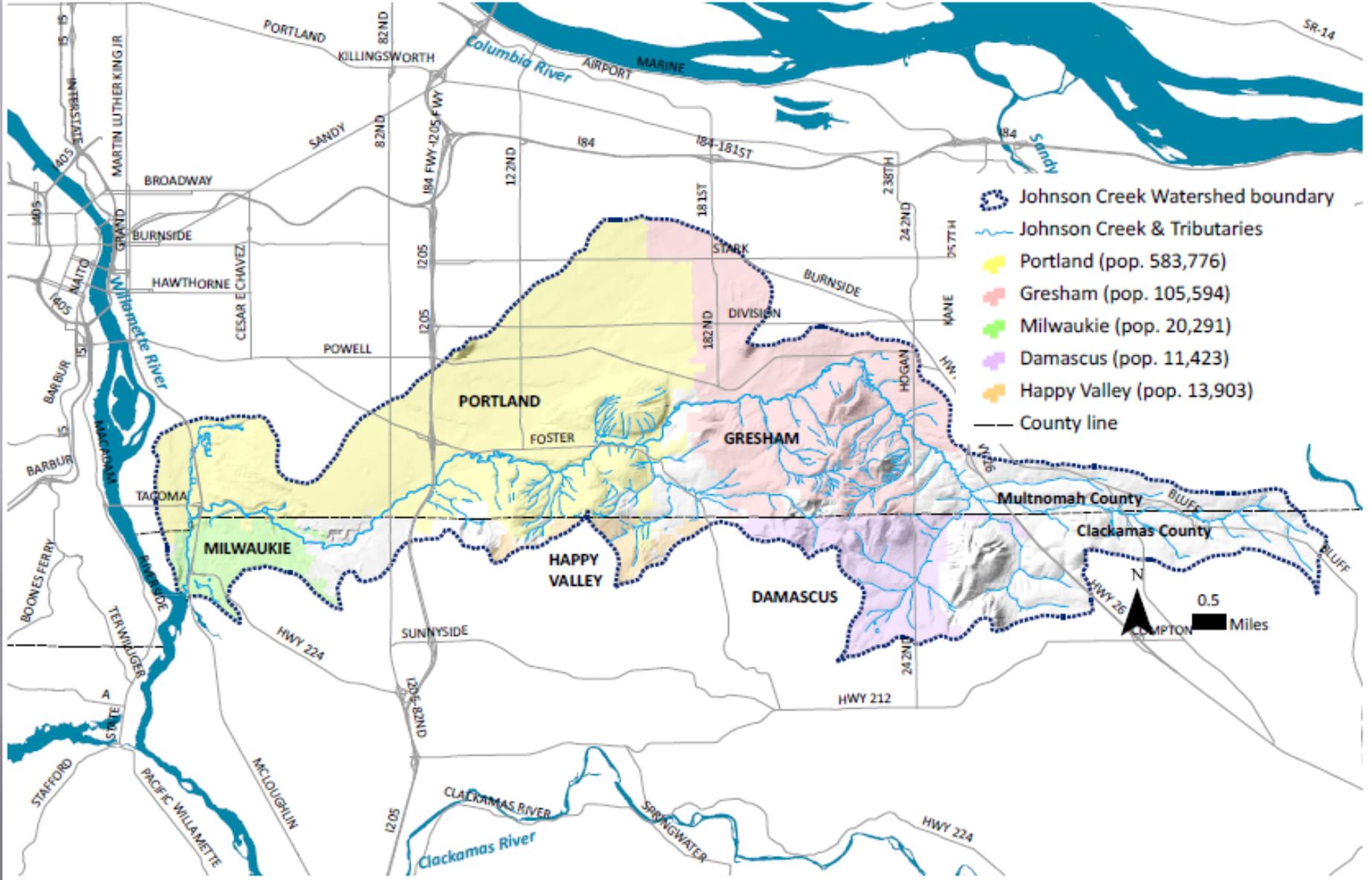
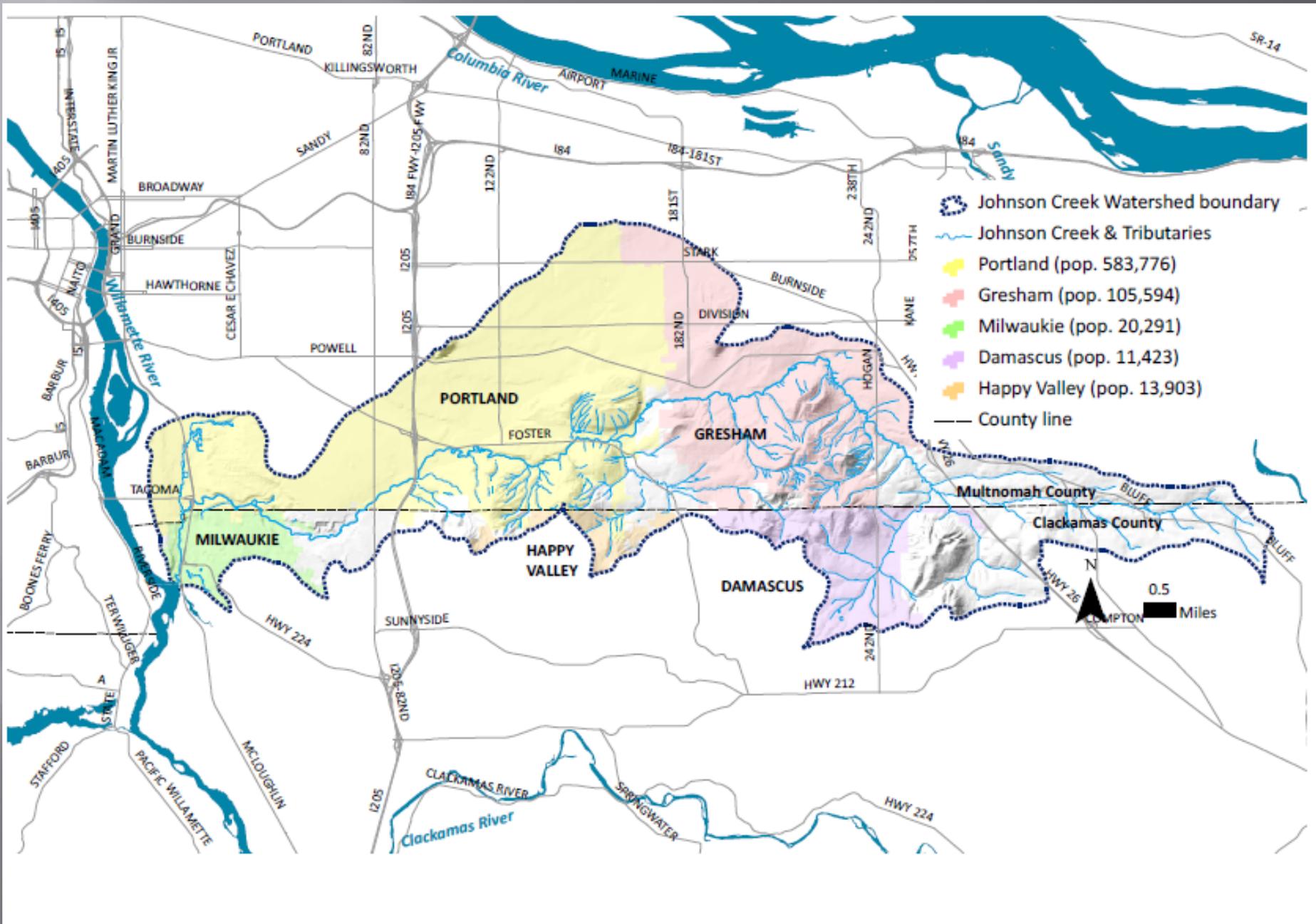
- Community-based
- Broadly representative
- Non-regulatory

Non-profit

- Tax-exempt

Our Mission

To promote restoration and stewardship of a healthy Johnson Creek Watershed through sound science and community engagement



EXAMPLE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Restoration (i.e. instream habitat, streamside reforestation)

Outreach / Education

Collaborative Monitoring & Restoration Planning

Instream Salmon Habitat @ Johnson Creek Light Rail Station

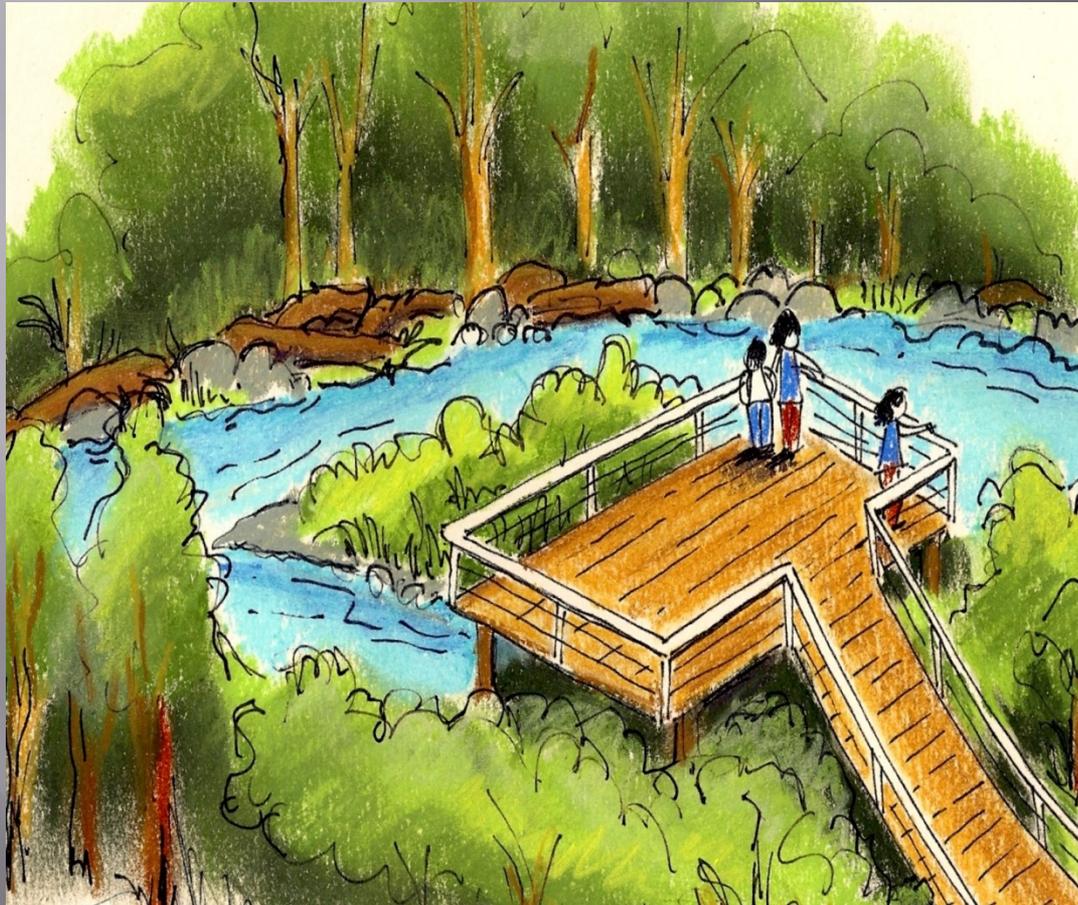








Interpretive Boardwalk @ MAX Station



ROY T. BISHOP INTERPRETIVE WALK

CONNECTION TO LAND



Members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde still live in the area, and are directly descended from the Clackamas people who lived around Johnson Creek. This is their oldest homelands.

Pioneers Arrive

Johnson Creek was named after William Johnson, who came to Oregon from Maryland in 1847. He built a sawmill on the creek several miles east of here.

Circle of Life

Many groups of people have lived close to Johnson Creek over the centuries, and each used the land and the creek in different ways. The local Clackamas Chinook people of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde fished for cutthroat trout, steelhead, and salmon and hunted black-tailed deer. They gathered many kinds of native plants, including wapato and camas for food and others for medicines.

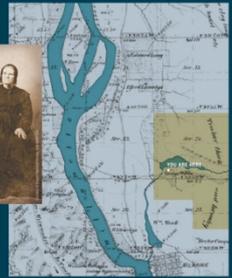
Over the years, the members of many different communities have gathered around Johnson Creek. Its water carries the memory of generations.

George and Jacob Wills and their families arrived on the Oregon Trail that same year. You're now standing on their original Donation Land Claim. They chose land with a creek running through it, lined on each side with old growth trees.

Jacob Wills built a 10-foot dam and a sawmill on the creek just north of here. By the time the Gold Rush came in 1849, Wills lumber was being shipped to San Francisco by way of a wharf on the Willamette River.

(Below) George and Sarah Wills settled on their land with son Jacob and daughter Martha.

In this 1852 land claim map, you can see that the Wills' Donation Land Claims were near the junction of Johnson Creek and Crystal Springs Creek. "Timber thick and brushy" was identified as a prominent feature.



Johnson Creek
Clackamas County

Incorporate environmental education into restoration projects (another example)



ROY T. BISHOP INTERPRETIVE WALK

RESTORED HABITAT



The beavers are back! These shrews gnawed down trees of their own along the creek and built dams that provide healthy habitat for every season.

This stretch of Johnson Creek was restored when the light rail line was built. Using boulders as anchors, logs were inserted into the stream channel to provide shelter for native fish. The logs also serve as hosts for insects and other microorganisms that salmon and trout like to eat.



Downy Woodpecker

An excavated side channel offers more fish habitat when the creek is running high in the winter. The replanted streamside forest shades the creek and keeps it cool while providing habitat for birds and other animals.



Townsend's Warbler

From great blue herons to songbirds and woodpeckers, you'll hear and see many kinds of birds along the creek. Come at dawn to see black-tailed deer and at dusk to see little brown bats in summer. And if you're especially patient, you may catch a glimpse of spawning coho salmon in autumn, and Chinook salmon and steelhead trout in spring.



Salmon Life Cycle
The health of migrating fish is based on cool, clear water, places to hide, and access to spawning grounds. Wild Cakes Salmon are spawning further upstream than they have in many years thanks to ongoing restoration projects.



Red Flowering Currant



Great Blue Heron

Johnson Creek

Streamside Reforestation



- ▣ Upper watershed partnerships with East Multnomah and Clackamas SWCDs
- ▣ Stream shading to achieve temperatures that support salmon
- ▣ More than six stream miles / 100 acres planted with native trees and shrubs

Rain Garden St. Mary Ethiopian Church









Engaging Volunteers

1,200 JCWC volunteers in 2013

Estimated 5,000 to 6,000 total volunteer hours

- ▣ Eight volunteers with 100 hours or more
- ▣ 45 volunteers with 25 hours or more

16th Annual Watershed Wide Event Volunteer stewardship



2014 Watershed Wide Statistics

- ▣ Ten restoration sites, 250 volunteers
- ▣ 8,000 native trees & shrubs planted
- ▣ Example partners:
 - Non-profit: Friends of Trees
 - Jurisdictions: City of Gresham, East Multnomah SWCD
 - Community groups: Boy Scout Troop 740, Crystal Springs Partnership, Friends of Tideman Johnson
 - Businesses: REI, Freeway Lands, Brown and Caldwell
 - Schools: Dexter McCarty Middle School, Reynolds High School, Gresham High School

COLLABORATIVE MONITORING

A partnership between Multnomah
County, JCWC, and other entities and
jurisdictions

Multnomah County Fish Surveys

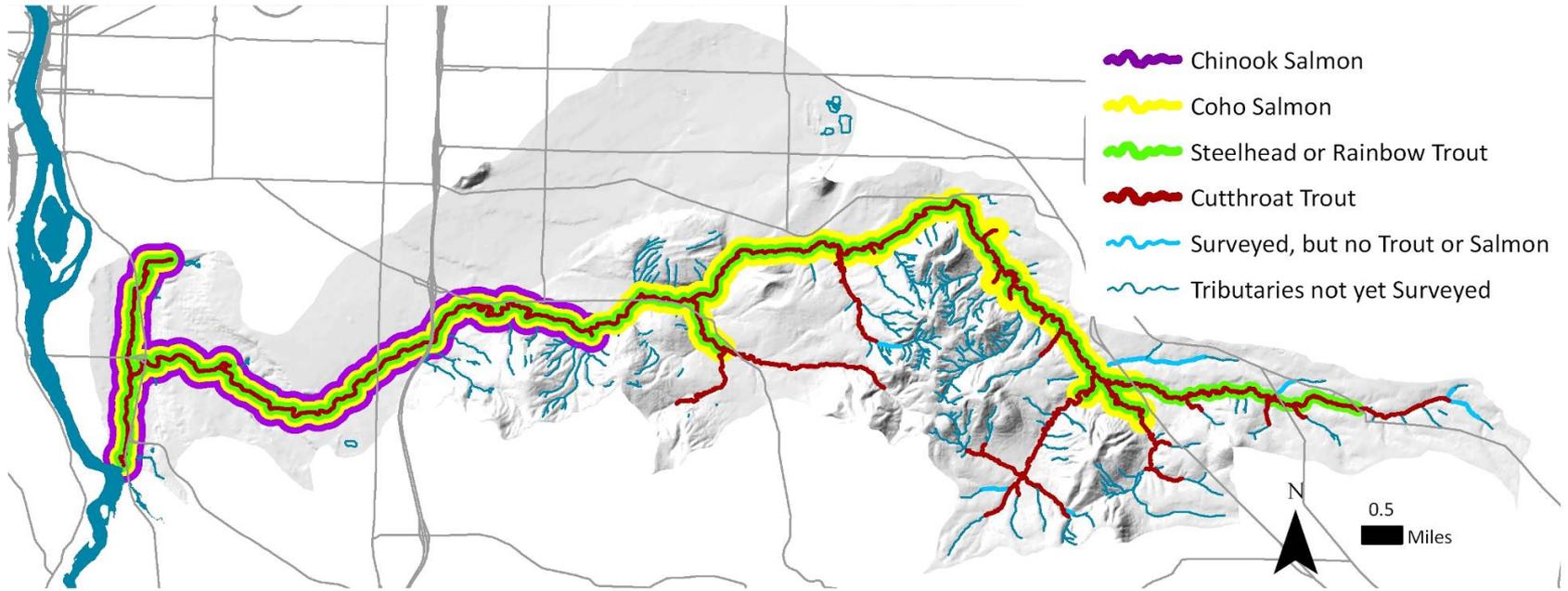
Upper Johnson Creek and Tributaries





Photo courtesy of Roy Iwai
Multnomah County Road Services

Field-documented Extent of Salmon & Trout in Johnson Creek



Additional fish data from Coho spawning surveys



Fish Passage Assessment

Multnomah County and JCWC's complementary work



2015-2025
WATERSHED ACTION PLAN

Long-term Vision

- ▣ Healthy natural areas are protected and expanded throughout the watershed.
- ▣ Johnson Creek and tributaries are green corridors of tree canopy, extending to forested uplands.
- ▣ Pollution sources are addressed so that it's safe for children to swim and wade in Johnson Creek.
- ▣ Native fish species thrive and anadromous salmon and trout return in greater numbers each year.
- ▣ Johnson Creek becomes a regional icon for how people, fish, and wildlife can thrive together.

You're invited



May 22nd JCWC Annual Celebration
4:30pm – 8:30pm, Kaul Auditorium, Reed College

Save the Date



May 10th Rain Garden Inauguration & Celebration Lunch

12pm, St. Mary Ethiopian Orthodox Church (SE 92nd and Flavel)
Hosted by St. Mary Church, Depave, Green Lents, and JCWC

Questions? Comments?

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