

# Salmon Watch®

## GREENLEAF CREEK SALMON WATCH SITE

### **DIRECTIONS:**

Travel west on Highway 36 (just south of Junction City) past Triangle Lake. Continue approximately 3 miles past Triangle Lake, past Fish Creek Road. Take Greenleaf Creek Road west. Go approximately ½ mile to the second cattle guard. Access is along a rough road along the fence line from the paved Greenleaf Creek Road to the creek. From there, flagged trails will be available to viewing areas. NOTE: THERE IS A GATE ON THE GREENLEAF CREEK ROAD AT THE HIGHWAY THAT MAY BE LOCKED; CONTACT THE BLM FOR A KEY.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Greenleaf Creek arises on the hills dividing the Siuslaw River from the Alsea River. Greenleaf Creek has a large drainage area but is in a geologically active area so that its valley floors are not well developed. Anadromous fish can use the first three miles of Greenleaf Creek, but the rest of the watershed is blocked to migrating fish by several falls.

Greenleaf Creek has runs of chinook, coho and steelhead. Its steelhead run is one of the best native steelhead runs in the mid-coast. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife maintains a trap at the mouth to capture the steelhead as brood stock. While chinook and coho can migrate to the first fall, most of them spawn in the lower 1.5 miles of Greenleaf Creek where it crosses a delta associated with the Lake Creek floodplain. Here the gradients are more suitable for chinook and coho.

### **SALMON VIEWING:**

Chinook enter Greenleaf Creek to spawn time after the first part of October. Timing of the runs depends on rainfall, and occurs when sufficient rains fall to raise stream levels and cool water temperatures, some time between the first part of October and the middle of November. Coho are found beginning in the first part of November to middle of December, depending on stream flows.

### **MACROINVERTEBRATES SAMPLING:**

Several riffles are present where macroinvertebrates can be sampled. Be careful not to disturb spawning fish. Access to some areas away from the brushed trail can be difficult because of the luxuriant blackberry growth.

### **NATURE HIKE/RIPARIAN STUDY:**

Part of the riparian area is in young second growth forest, but older riparian areas are present along the creek.

### **FACILITIES:**

The roads are all paved to and including the Greenleaf Creek Road. A wide area near the rough road/trail access permits bus turn-around. The closest toilet facilities are the county

boat landing in Triangle Lake (near the store) and at the Blackly-Lane Campground. Recently, a pit toilet has been installed at the mouth of Greenleaf (near the boat ramp) for fishermen, but may or may not be present.

**MEDICAL FACILITIES IN THE AREA:**

The closest hospital is in Eugene. There are medical facilities in Junction City, about the same distance as Eugene. The Triangle Lake rural fire department offers emergency services.

**REFERENCES:**

Leo Poole, Fish Biologist Bureau of Land Management, Eugene