

Salmon Watch[®]

SOUTH SANTIAM RIVER (SANTIAM BASIN) SALMON WATCH SITE

DIRECTIONS:

The South Santiam River site is located at the mouth of Wiley Creek, just downstream from the Foster Reservoir dam. To get there from Corvallis, head east on Highway 34, passing over Interstate 5 and into Lebanon. In Lebanon, you will connect with Highway 20. Turn right onto Highway 20 and continue east into Sweet Home. As Highway 20 leaves the east end of Sweet Home, you will pass over Wiley Creek then under a railroad trestle. A short distance further will bring you to the turnoff to Foster Dam. Turn left toward the reservoir and dam, then take the first left. Stay to the right and this road will lead you down to the base of Foster Dam. Continue straight into the parking lot of Wiley Creek Park. The field trip site will be in lower Wiley Creek or along the shore of the South Santiam River depending upon flow conditions and where the fish are.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The South Santiam joins the North Santiam near Jefferson, about 5 miles north of Albany, just 12 miles from the Willamette confluence. It flows about 80 miles from its headwaters in the Cascades of Willamette National Forest, interrupted by two dams, one at Lebanon and the other near Sweet Home. The lower dam creates Foster Reservoir. The second dam, a few miles upstream, forms Green Peter Reservoir.

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Foster Dam and the fish ladder with trap can be reached by turning right into the Army Corps of Engineers facility, just before the entrance into Wiley Creek Park and South Santiam Fish hatchery located just across the river. South Santiam hatchery is a facility intended to mitigate for the loss of wild production of spring chinook due to the construction of Foster and Green Peter Dam.

REFERENCES:

Gary Galovich, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife