Effective Use of Wood in River Restoration

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What is wood effective at?



- Pools
- Cover
- Bars and islands
- Trapping (alluvium)
- Trapping small wood
- Decreasing substrate grain size
- (Water)retention
- Hyporheic exchange
- Floodplain connectivity

What do fish need?

Starting with the basics

More than any other variables, fish need <u>water</u> and alluvium

Water in the right places at the right times and right temperatures

Sediment that provides spawning habitat (right grain sizes and not subject to excess scour)



Given these basics, we can start prioritizing projects

Trapping the desired sediment converting bedrock or boulder substrates to gravel

Increasing wetted channel area activating multiple channels, increasing sinuosity

Slowing the flow of water, raising water tables channel spanning logjams, beaver dams

Start with why wood, then proceed to where, how, and how much

Set Goals

Is it possible to restore the large wood cycle? (Collins et al. 2012)

Historical Context:



Clearing
Dredging
Deforestation
Confinement
Splash damming

Millions of pieces of wood removed from North American Streams

Notes on wood function

Wood increases bed complexity and pool frequency by introducing large roughness elements

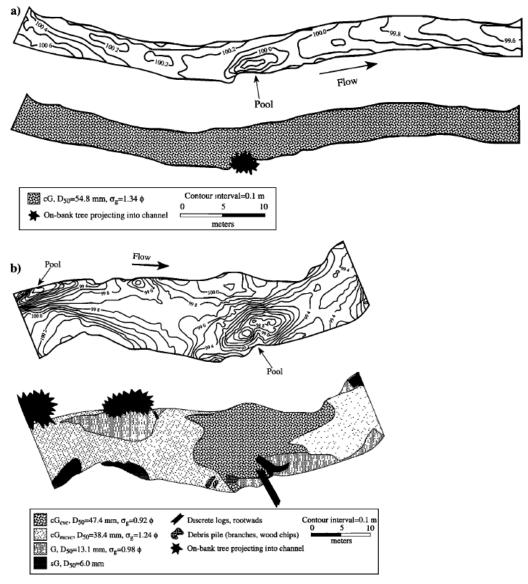


Figure 8. Morphologic and textural plan maps of typical (a) plane-bed (Hoko River 2), (b) wood-poor pool-riffle (Hoko River 1), and (c) wood-rich pool-riffle (Mill Creek) channels studied on the Olympic Peninsula [from *Buffington and Montgomery*, 1999]. See Table 3 for texture definitions. Boundary between channel bed and walls defines the lateral margin of the maps.

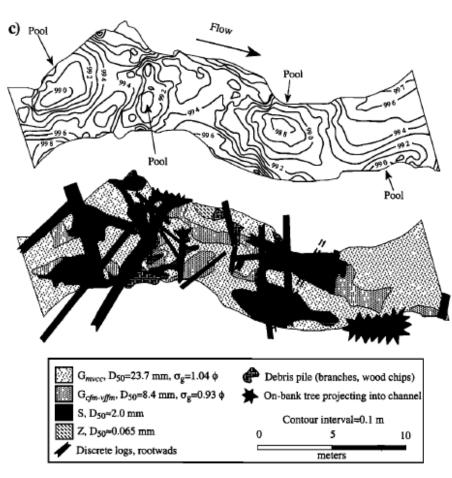
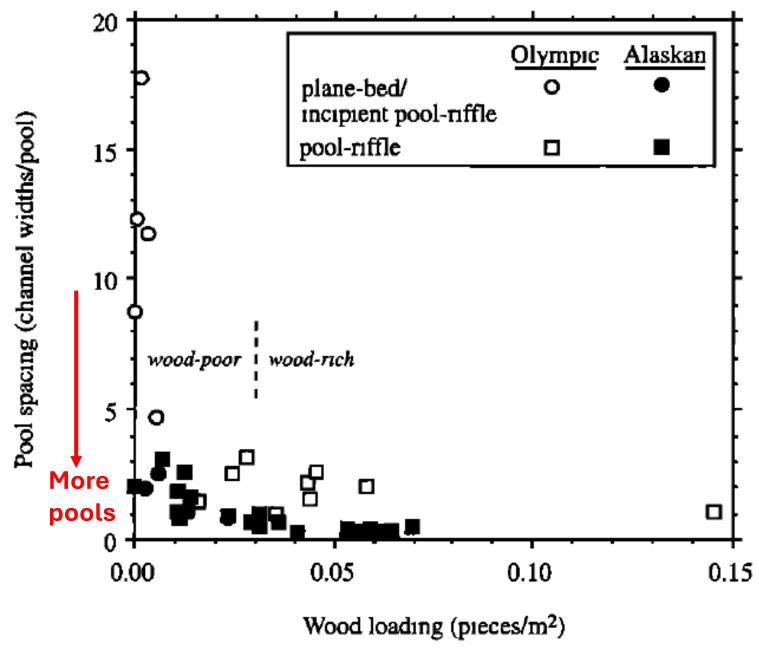


Figure 8c. (continued)



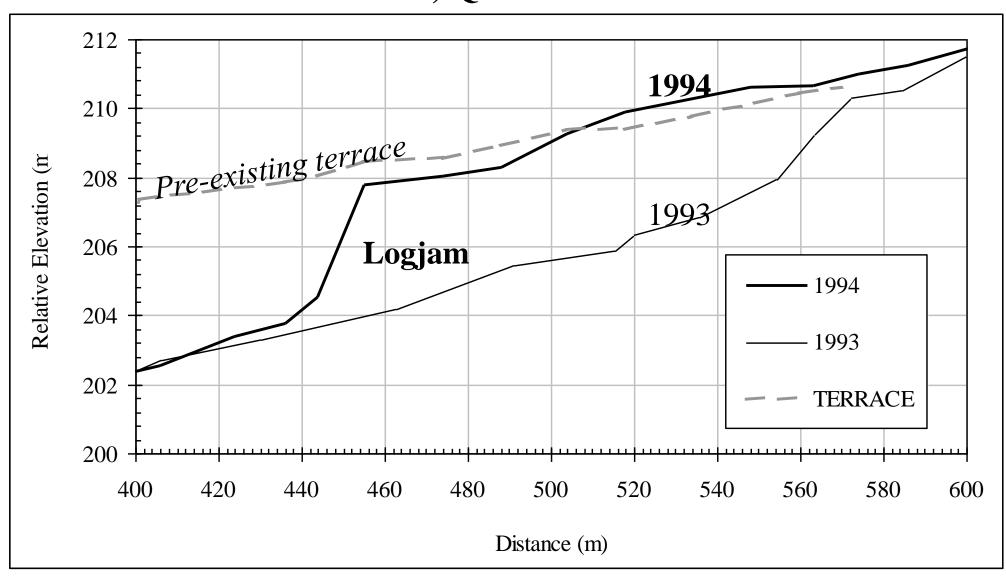
Wood rich streams have pool spacings ranging from 0.2 to 3 channel widths.

Wood poor streams have pool spacings from 1 to 17 channel widths

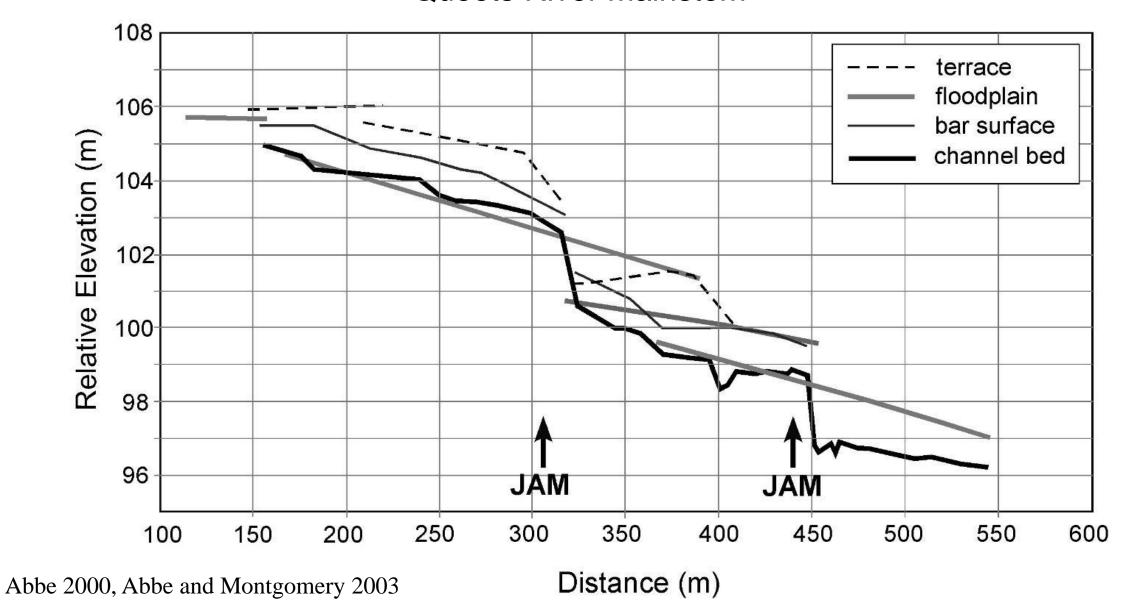
Buffington, J. and Montgomery, D. 1999



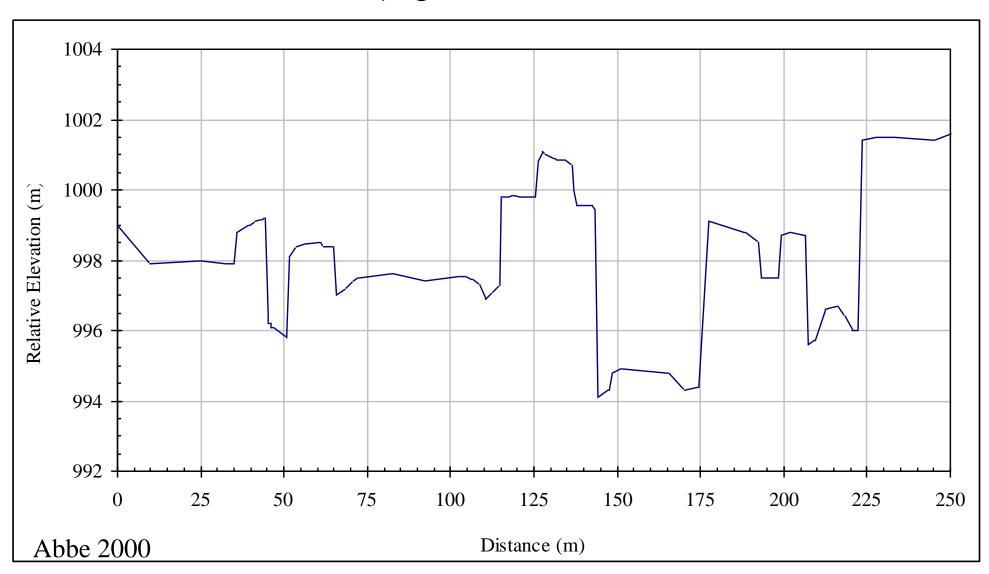
Bed aggradation associated with logjams: Alta Creek, Queets River Basin



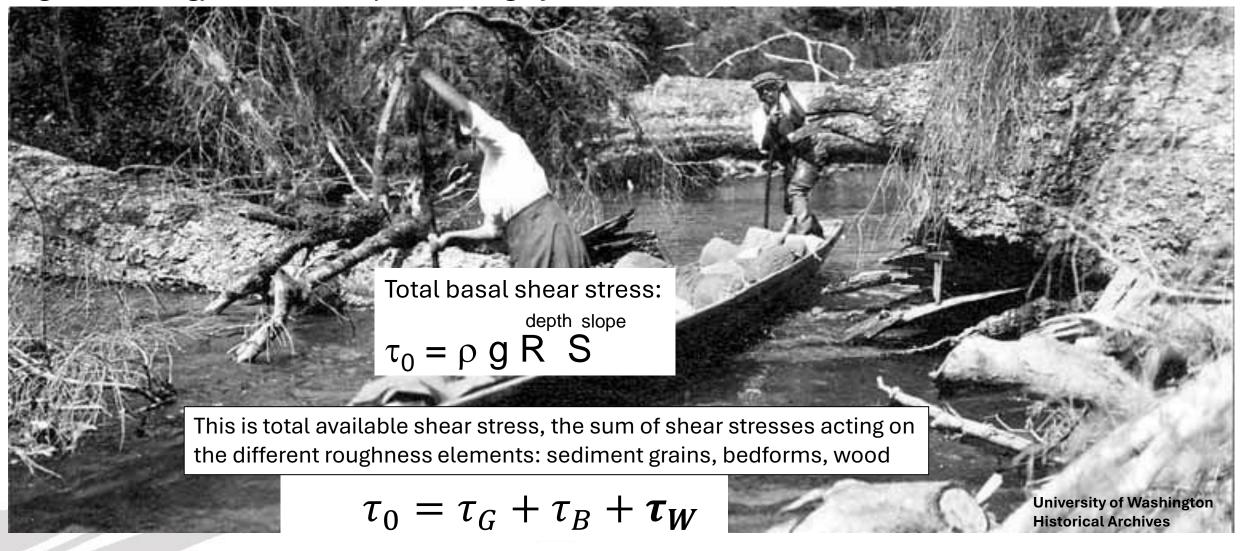
Discontinuous, oblique alluvial surfaces create complex floodplains, Queets River mainstem



Wood creates more complex valley bottoms Alta Creek, Queets River Basin



Engineered Logjams: Stress partitioning by wood



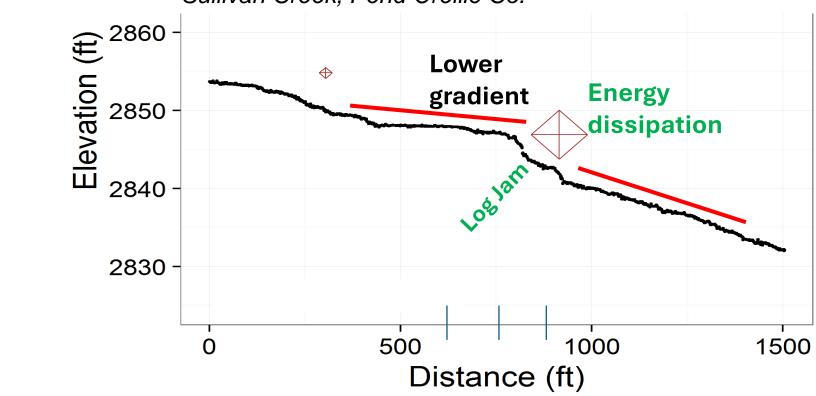
 T_G = grain shear stress (responsible for sediment transport)

 $T_B = bedform shear stress$

 T_W = wood shear stress

Engineered Logjams: Stress partitioning by wood

Sullivan Creek, Pend Oreille Co.



By reducing channel slope wood reduces grain shear stress, captures bed material and reduces ${\bf D}_{50}$

$$\tau_0 = 140 \text{ Pa}$$

$$\tau_{\rm w}$$
 = 105 Pa

 τ_{gr} = 35 Pa a 4-fold reduction in sediment transport capacity

Engineered Logjams: Stress partitioning by wood



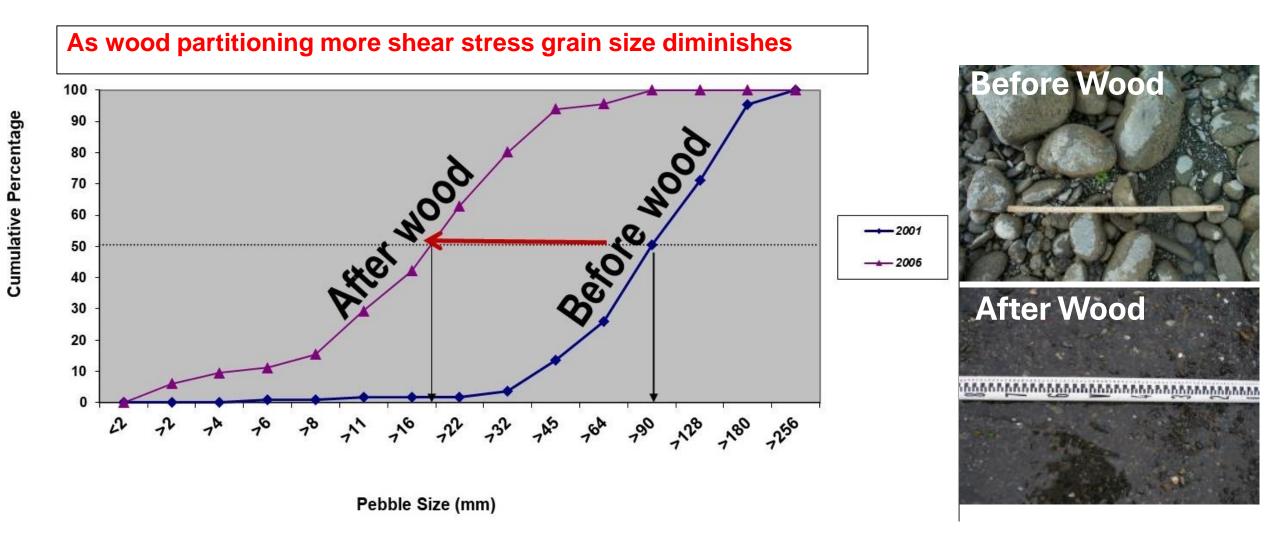
Sullivan Creek, WA 2018 PRE-PROJECT

Engineered Logjams: Stress partitioning by wood



Sullivan Creek, WA 2020 - TWO YEARS POST PROJECT

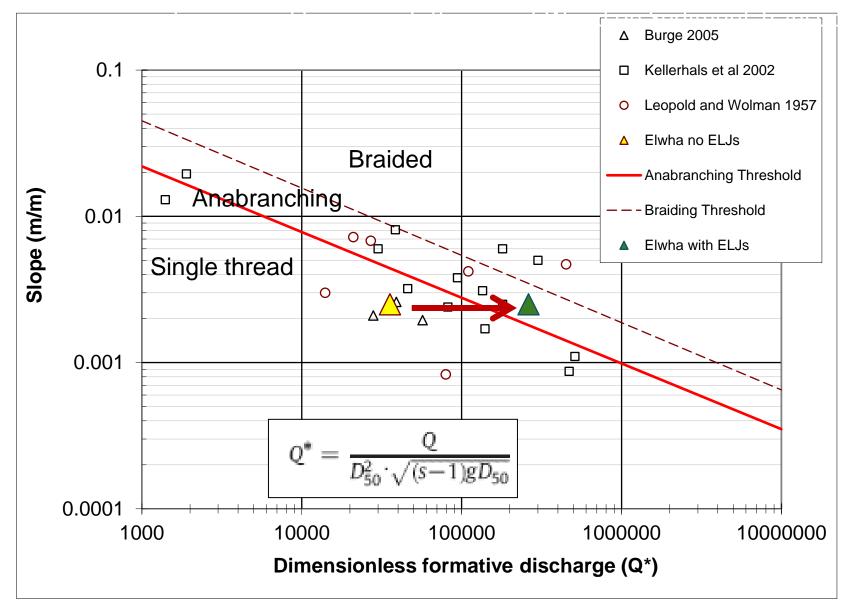
Lower Elwha River response to engineered logjams



D50 of bed decreased almost 5 fold after ELJs were installed.

D50(before) = 90 mm, D50 (after) = 19 mm

Engineered Logjams: Influence of Channel Form





Reducing substrate grain size can change channel planform

(adapted from Eaton et al. 2010)

Process Based Restoration

Is wood influencing the processes driving physical parameters of the stream and its floodplain?

e.g., wood alters hydraulics which alters channel morphology

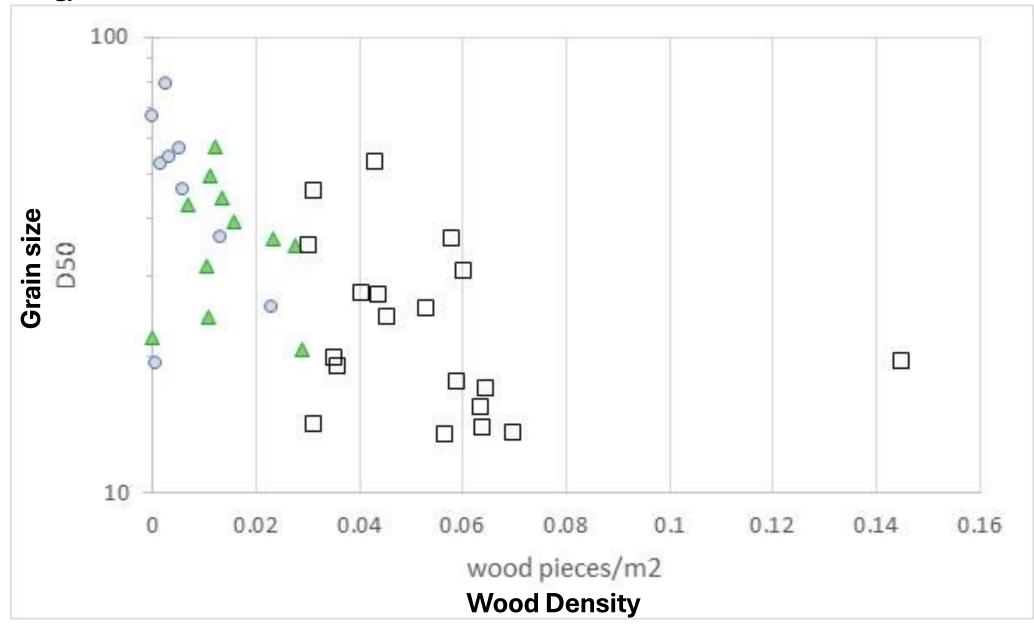
Engineered Logjams: Process influence of wood

Assani and Petit 1995 study of wood and bed mobility					
	with logjams	no logjams	units	logjams/ no logjams	no logjams/ logjams
Q _{im}	35	25	l/s		
Frequency of Q _{im}	1.7	4.7	times/yr	36%	3
Duration of Q _{im}	2	10	hours/event	20%	5
Duration of Q _{im}	3.4	47	hours/yr	7%	14
D50 mobilized	9.7	12.5	mm	78%	29%
D90 mobilized	32	66	mm	48%	106%

 $Q_{im} = Q$ at initiation of bed load motion (~50% of marked pebbles in motion)

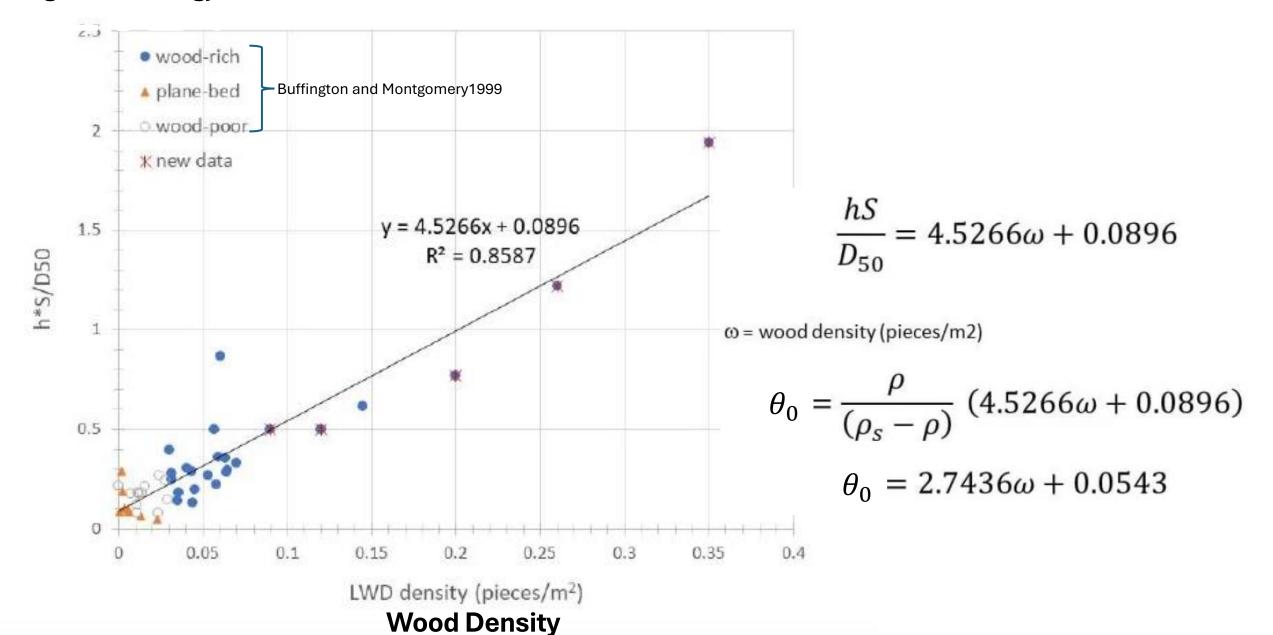
Bedload Mobilization	Effect of wood removal		
Frequency	3x increase		
Duration	14x increase		
D50	1.3x increase in size		
D90	2.1x increase in size		

Engineered Logjams: Process influence of wood



Buffington, J. and Montgomery, D. 1999

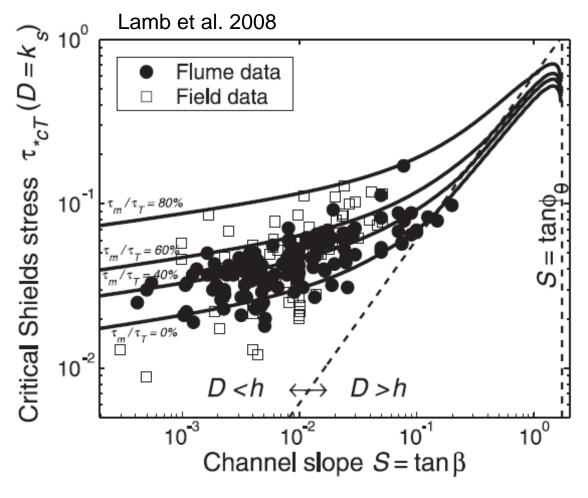
Engineered Logjams: Process influence of wood



Engineered Logjams: Influence of Wood on Scour

Scour depth derivation of Haschenburger (1999):

$$d_{s} = \frac{1}{3.33^{-1.52} \frac{\theta_{0}/\theta_{c}}{\theta_{c}}}$$



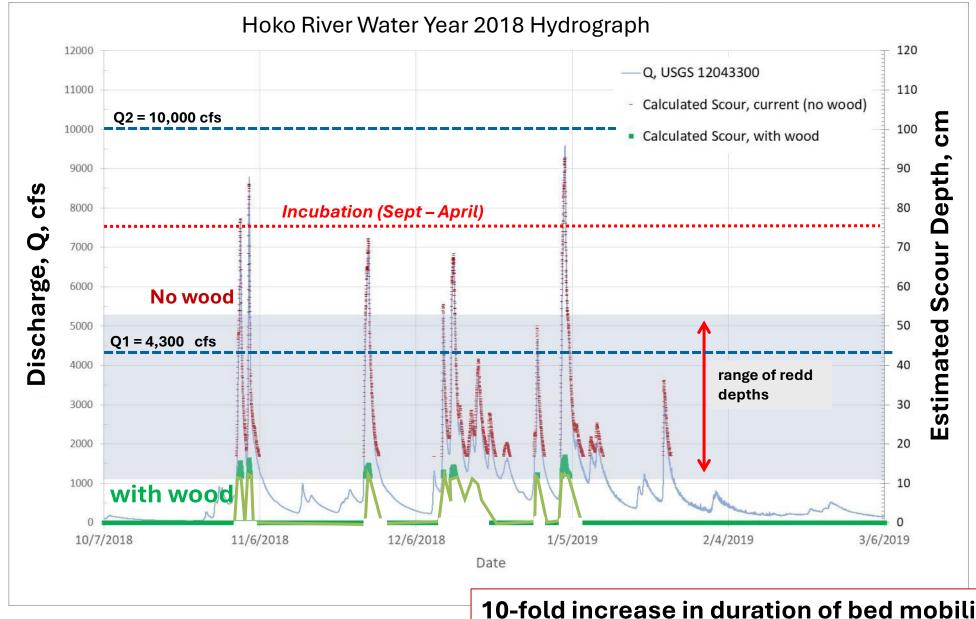
$$\theta_0 = \frac{\tau_o}{(\rho_s - \rho) g D_{50}}$$

$$\theta_c = 0.15 S^{0.25}$$

Critical Shields stress increases with morphologic drag

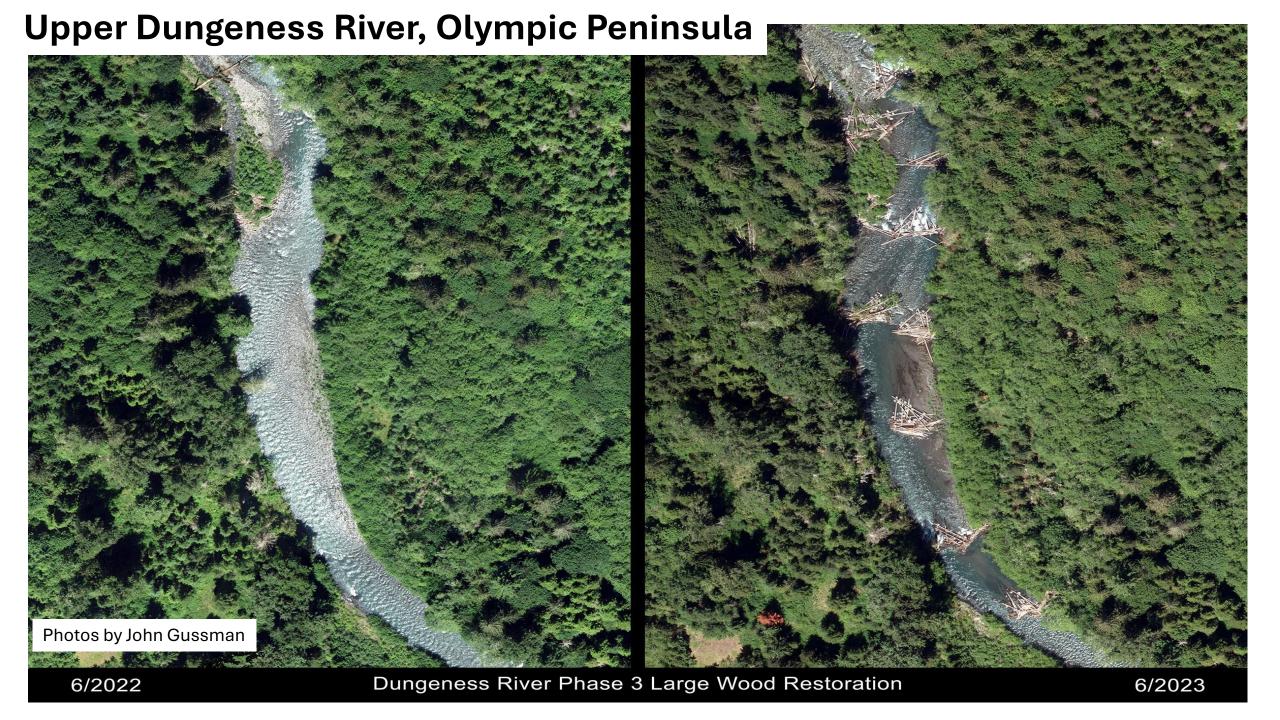
 $\tau_{\rm m}$ / $\tau_{\rm T}$ = shear stress associated with morphologic structures / total stress

Scour modeling example, Lower Hoko River, WA



10-fold increase in duration of bed mobilization5-fold increase in magnitude of scour





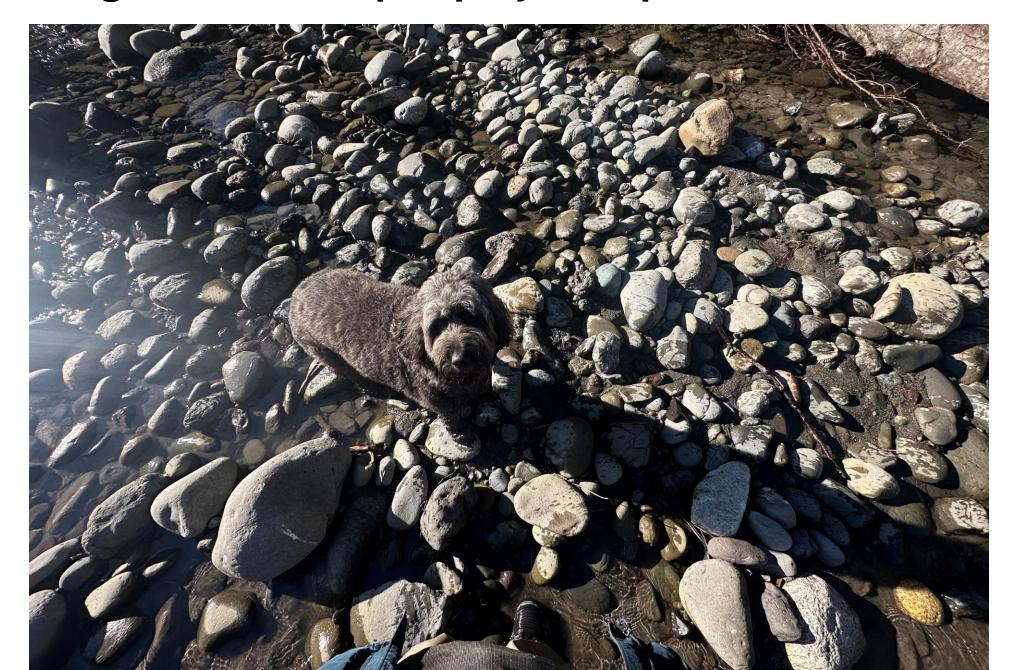
Upper Dungeness River



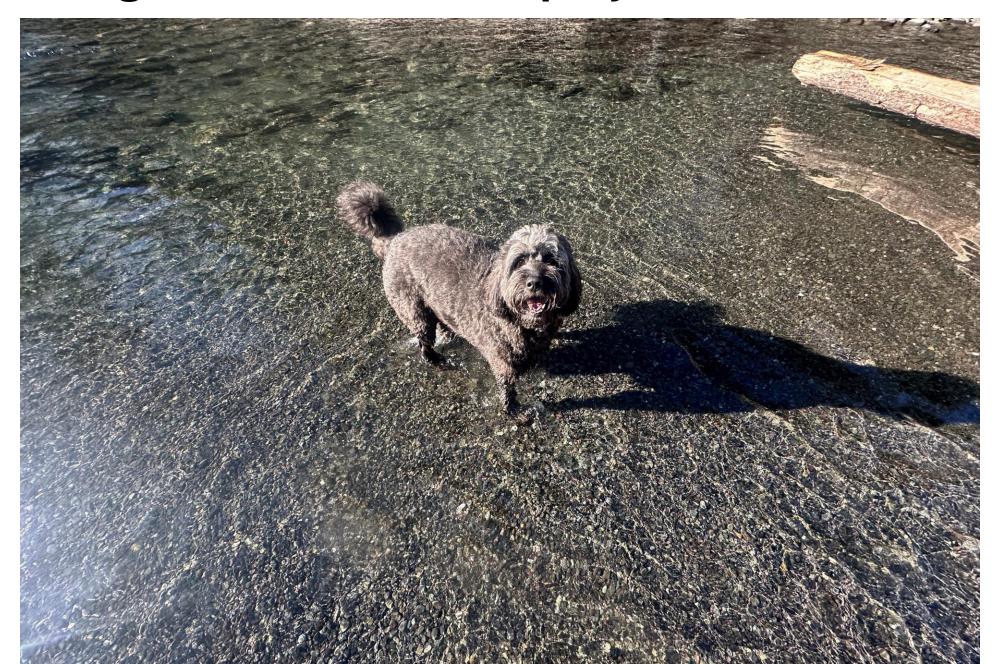
Upper Dungeness River



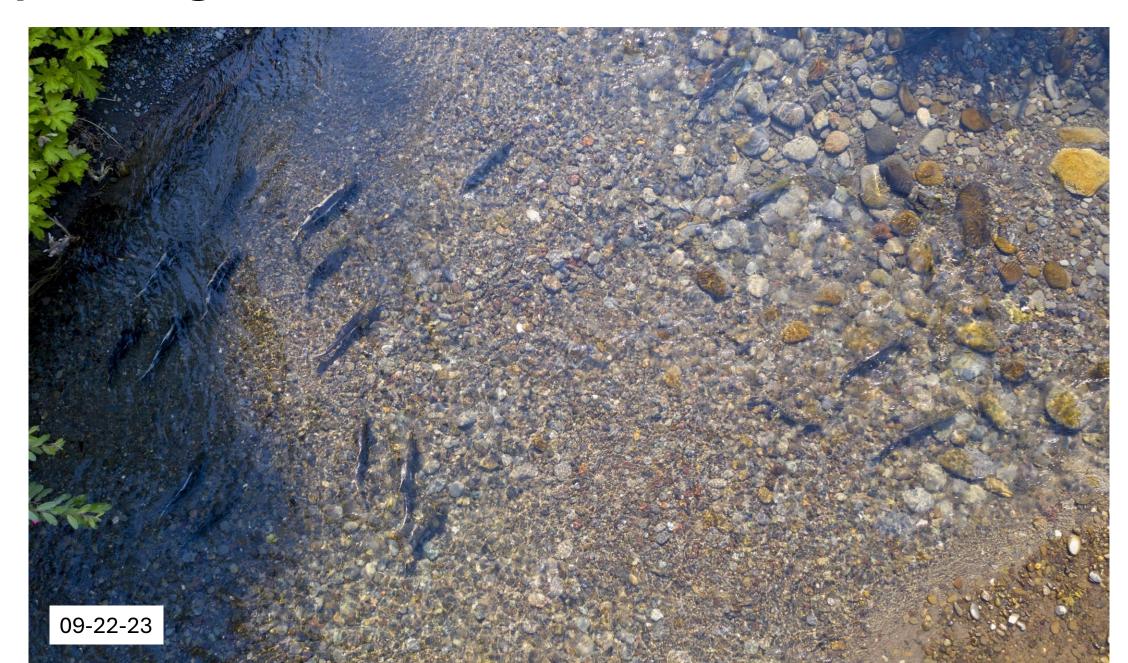
Upper Dungeness River: pre-project representative substrate



Upper Dungeness River: Post-project substrate

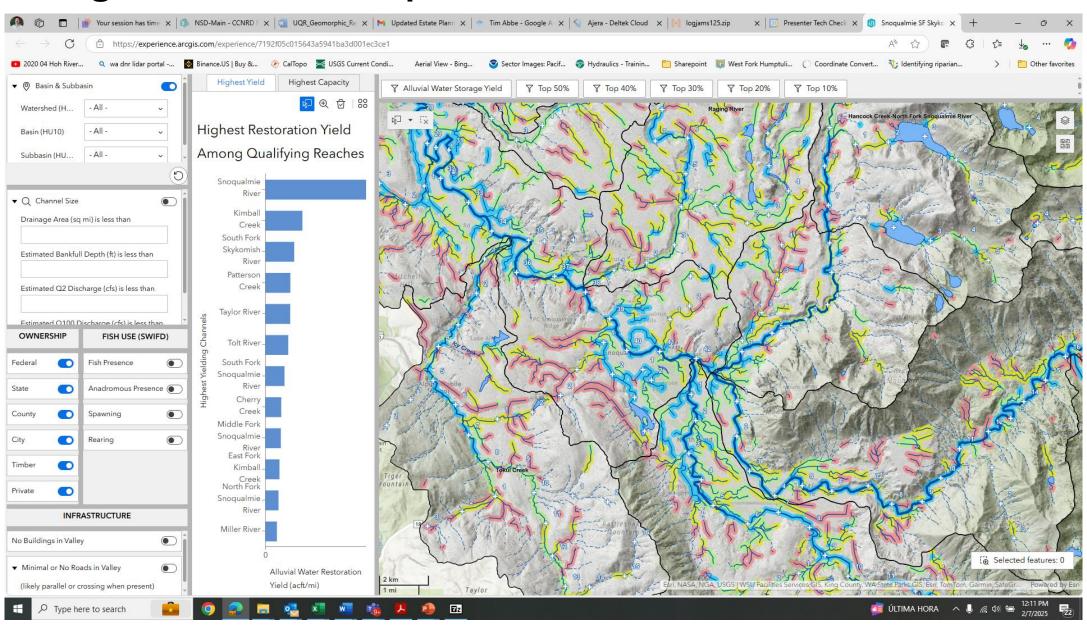


Upper Dungeness River



Restoring Incised Channels

Development of New Tools: DEM models for alluvial water storage and restoration potential



Shale Creek Olympic Peninsula



Shale Creek



Shale CreekStructure 2



Shale CreekStructure 12



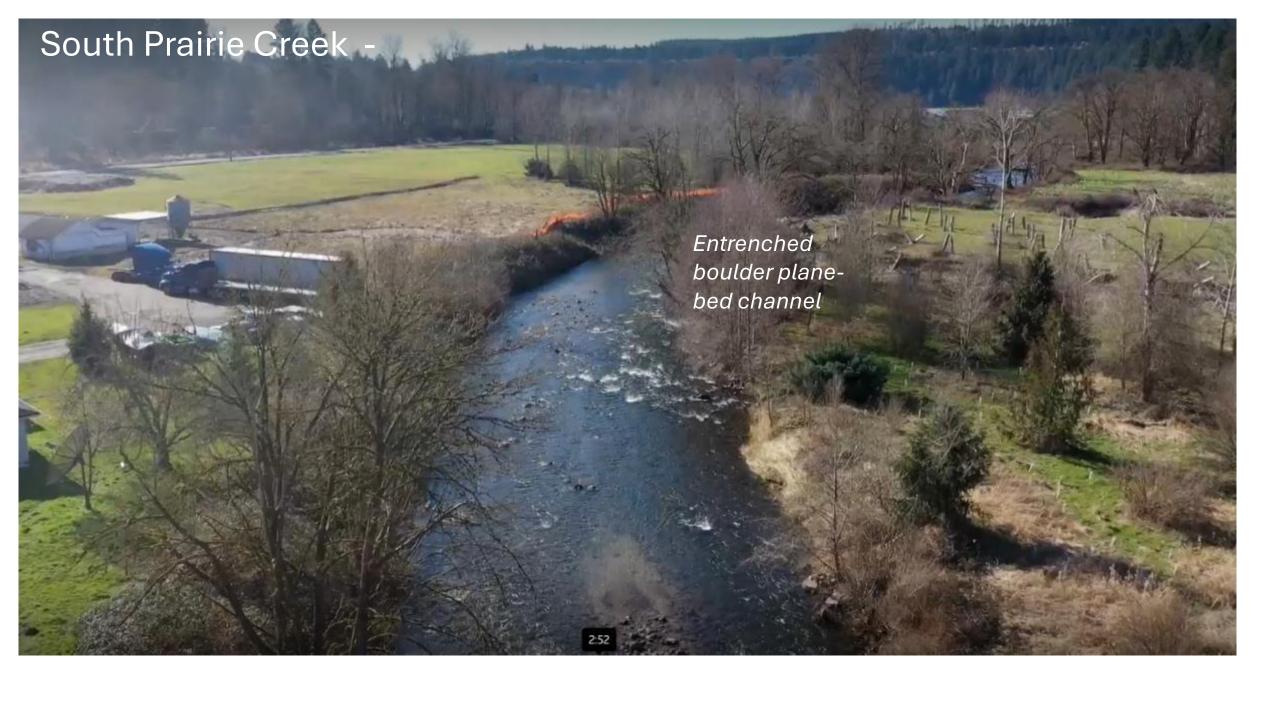
Shale Creek Structure 13 (looking downstream)



Shale CreekStructure 15



South Prairie Creek Puget Sound



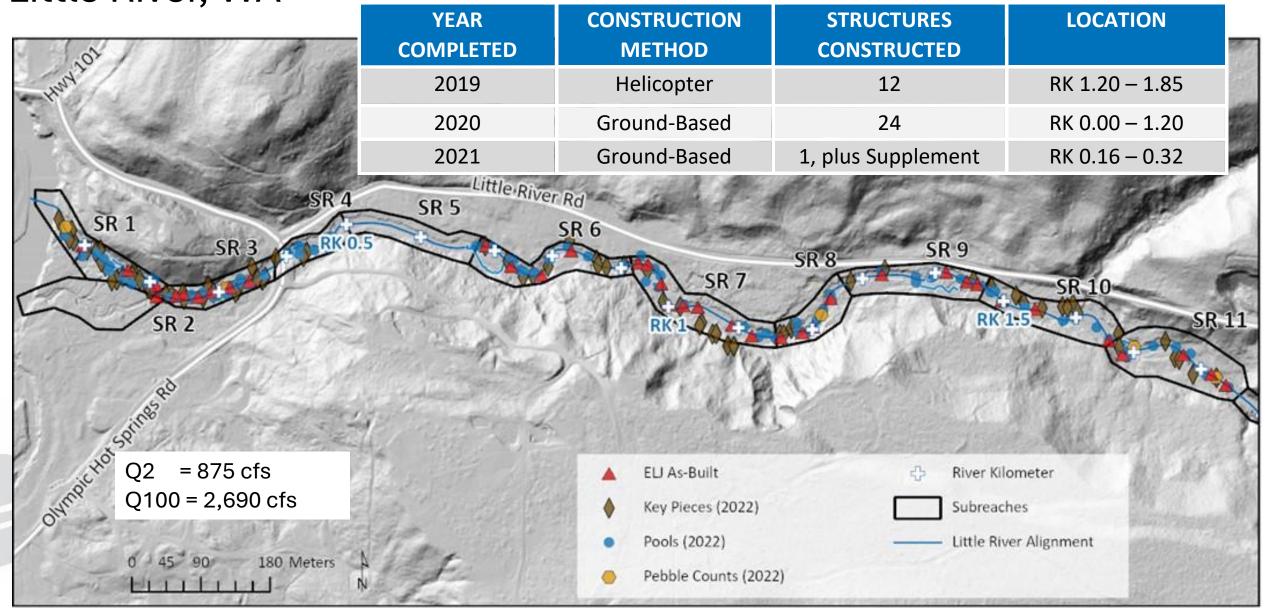




Little River North Olympic Peninsula

Restoration of an incised channel

Little River, WA



River Kilometer: 1.68

Pre-Restoration (8/7/2019)



Post-Restoration (8/10/2022)



View: Upstream View: Upstream

High-velocity riffle, cobble-boulder substrate plane bed channel.

Reduced flow velocity due to ELJ backwater, deposition of spawning gravels, pool-riffle channel

River Kilometer: 1.13

Pre-Restoration (7/10/2020)



Post-Restoration (8/10/2022)



View: Downstream

View: Downstream

High-velocity riffle, cobble-boulder substrate.

Reduced flow velocity, increase in wetted width, deposition of gravels throughout, cobbles partially buried.

Low flow, 07-05-23

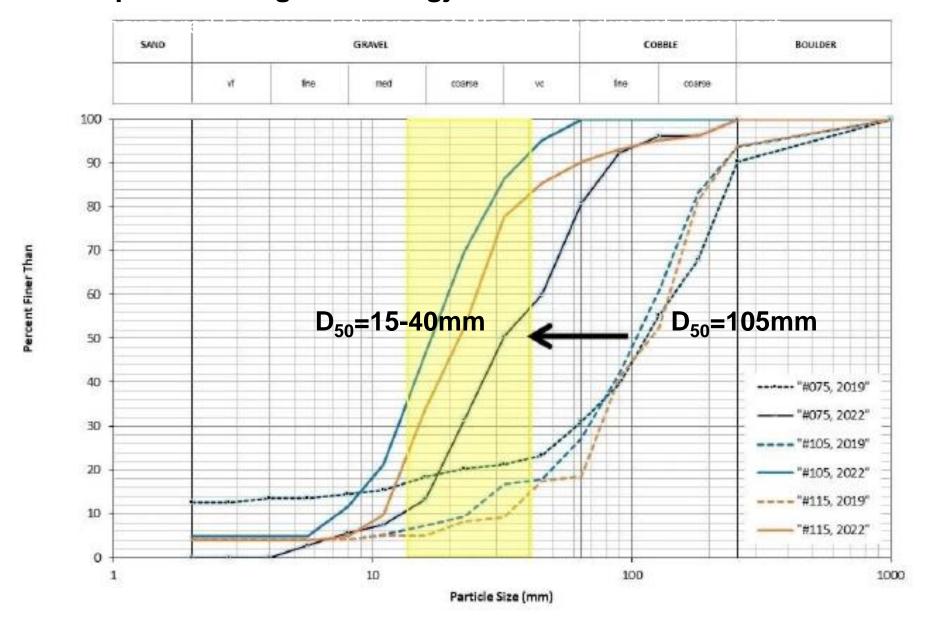
~Bankfull flow, 01-11-22



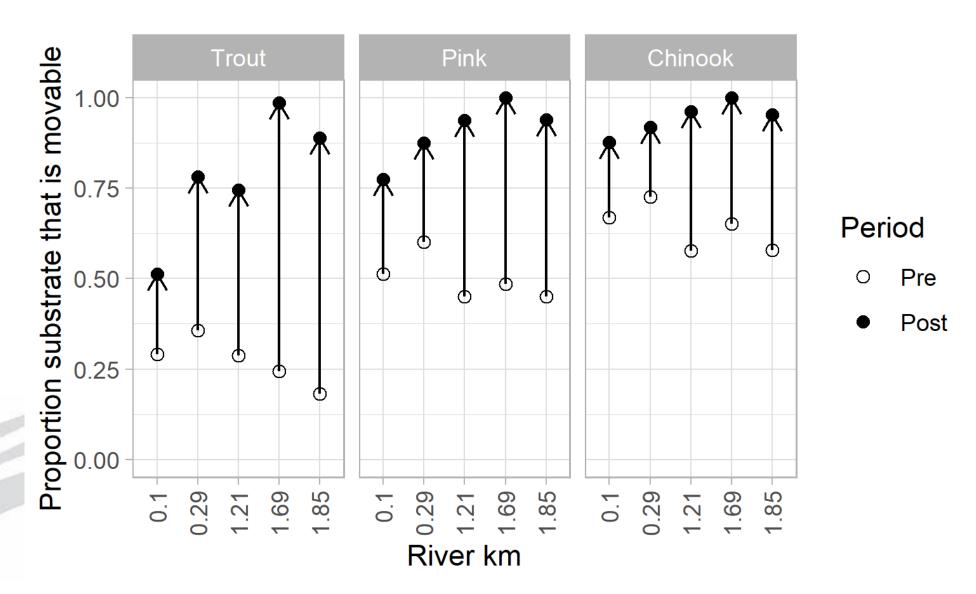


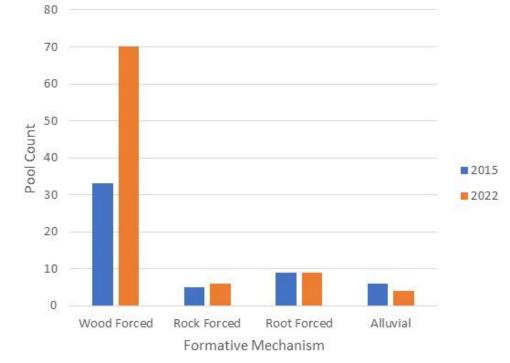
Five layer log and rock-collar design

Little River response to engineered logjams



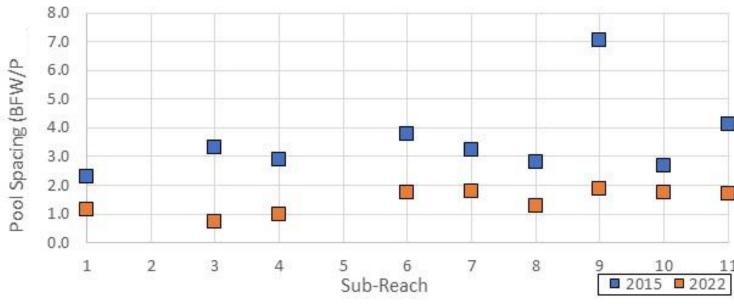
Fish and Substrate





of wood forced pools more than doubled

Spacing between pools diminished



Little River Summary

- > 2-fold increase in pool frequency
- Stabilization of previously incising channel profile
- 60-80% reduction in substrate grain size
- Total side channel length increased from 82 to 331 m
- Six of nine treatment reaches gained a new side channel



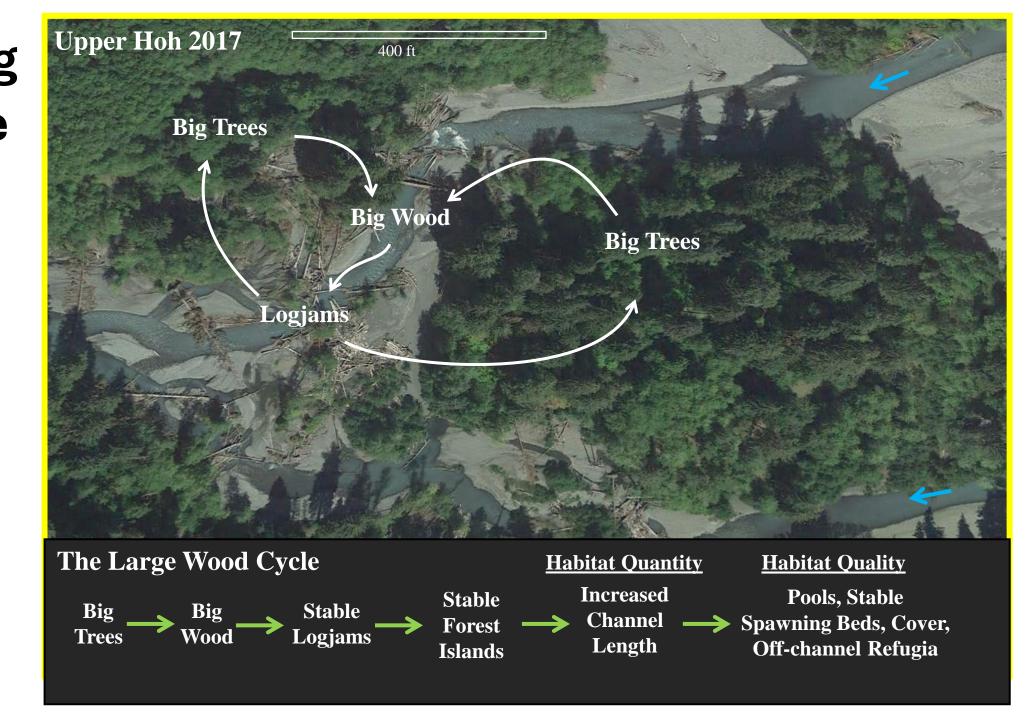
- 2023 1,000 Pink spawners
- Spawned on sediment accumulated upstream of structures
- Spring 2024 captured 45,000 out-migrating spring smolts
 - Capture is approximately 10-15% of total smolts

Take Home: high numbers attributed to low mortality of eggs and high survival rates of emerging fish due to habitat improvements

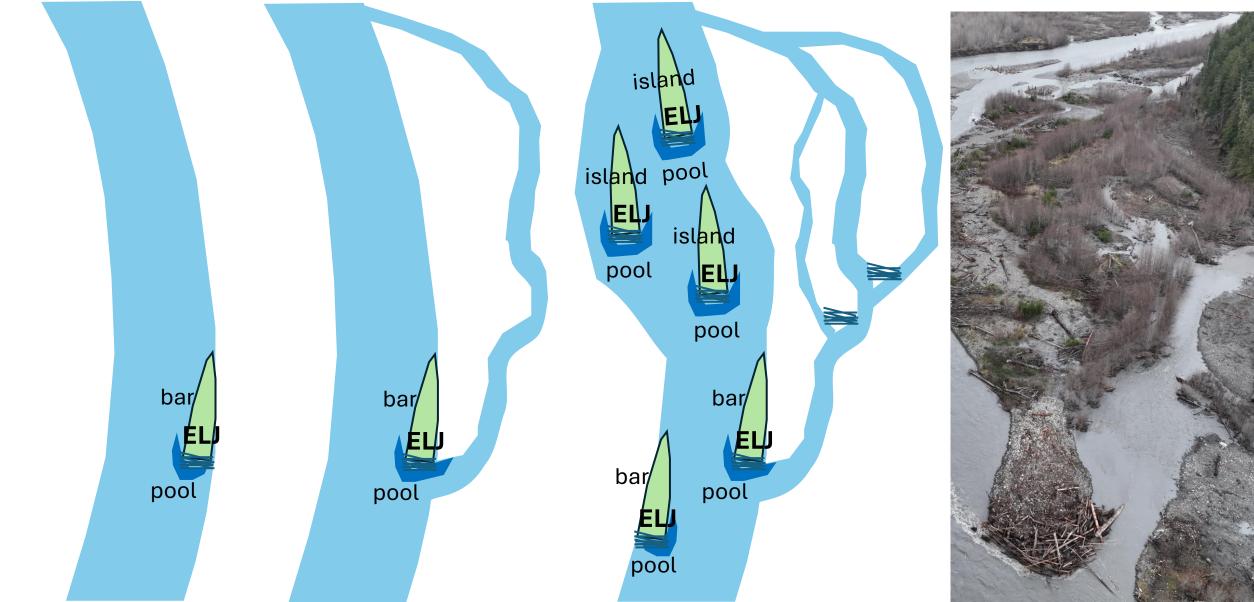




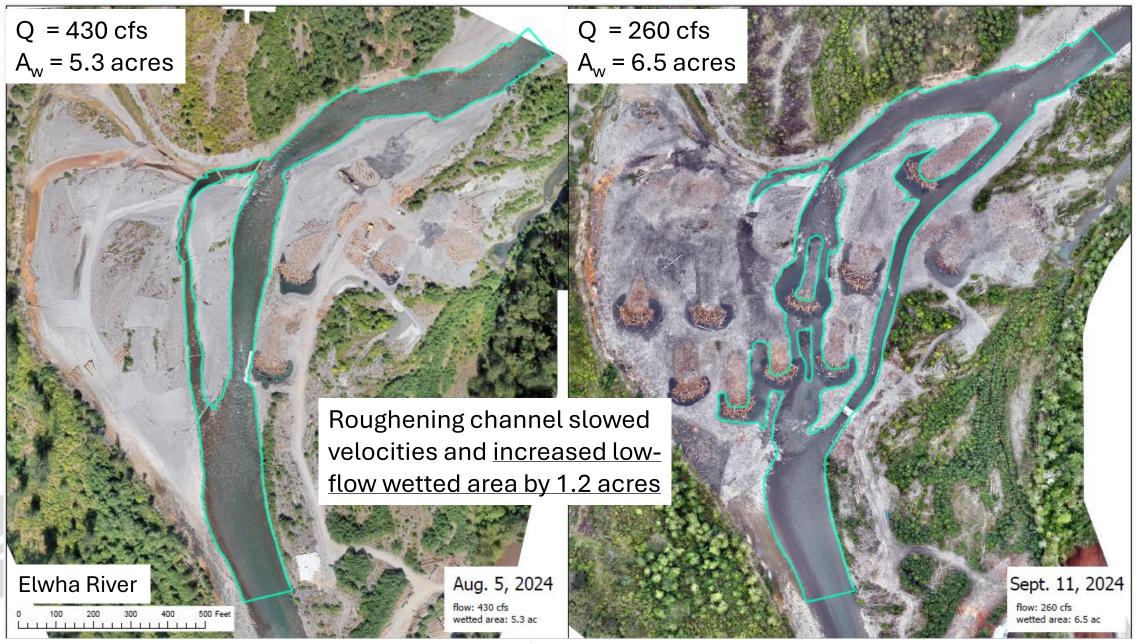
Restoring the Large Wood Cycle in large rivers



MinimalHighVery HighHabitat BenefitLowModerateHighBenefit/Cost

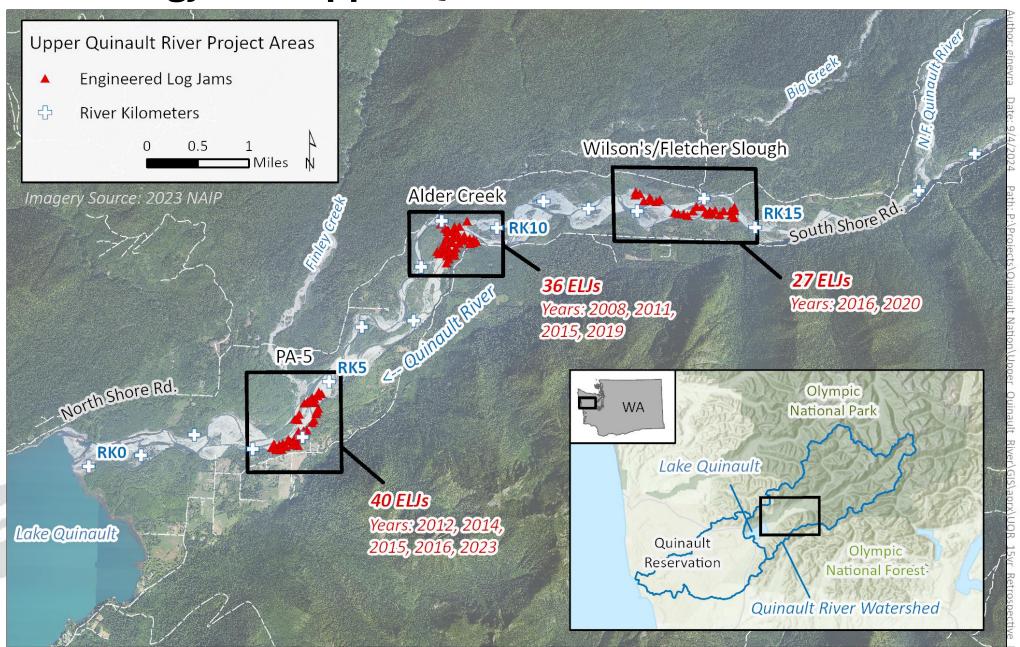


Large River Engineered Logjam Design: Wetted Area



NSD Brownbag 11/20/24





Upper Quinault River Valley Restoration

Goals:

- Restore Large Wood Cycle
 - Protect existing forested floodplain and side channels
 - Restore an anabranching channel system
 - Create stable forested islands
- Protect infrastructure and property

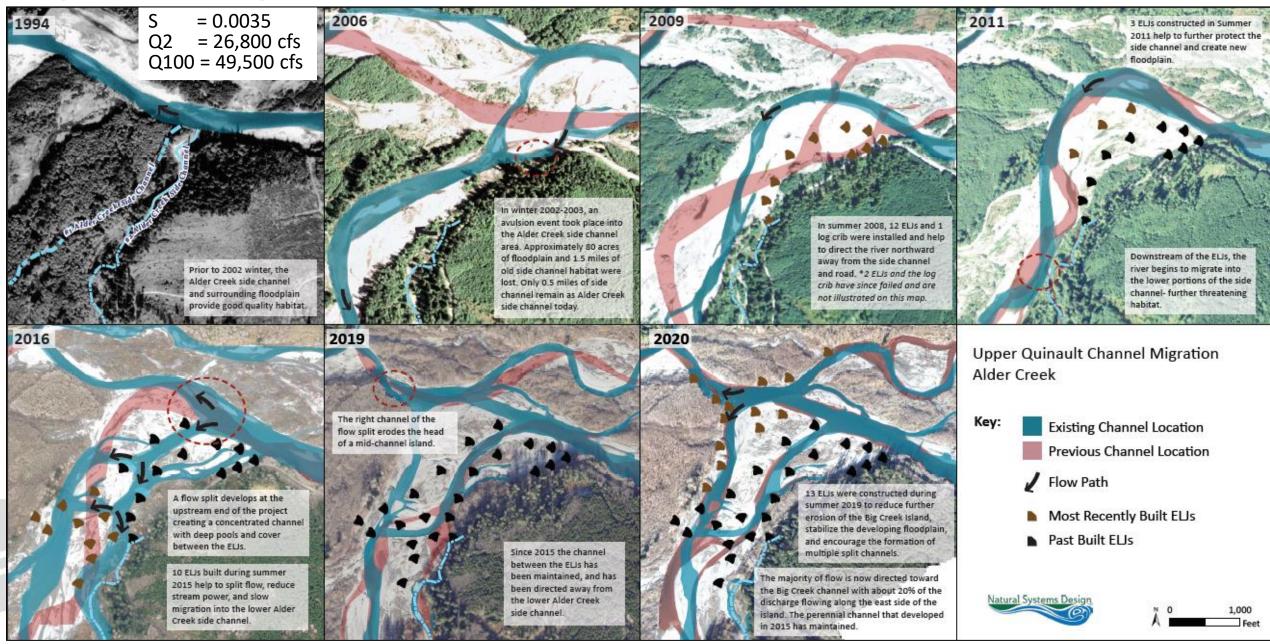
103 ELJs have been constructed in the Upper Quinault from 2008 to 2023. **94% remaining** (6 ELJs failed).

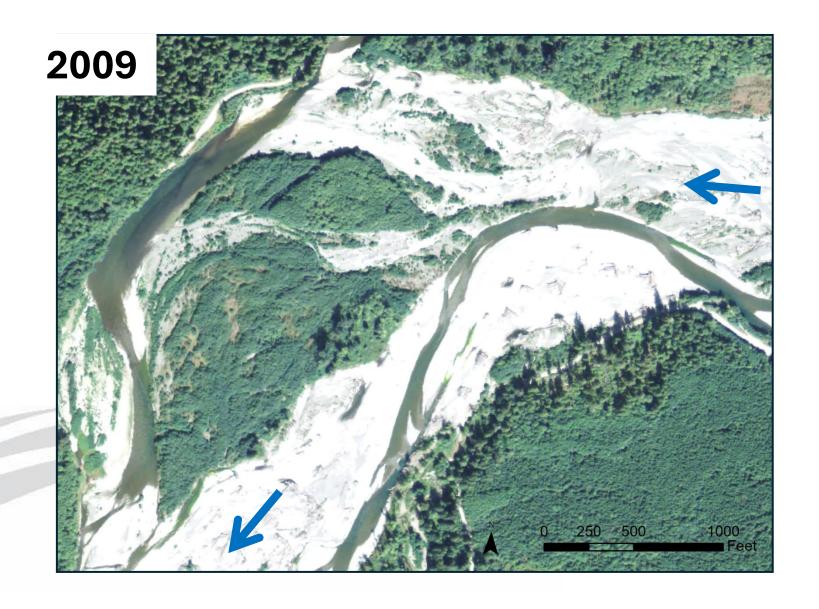
Six different types of ELJs constructed between 2008 and 2023.

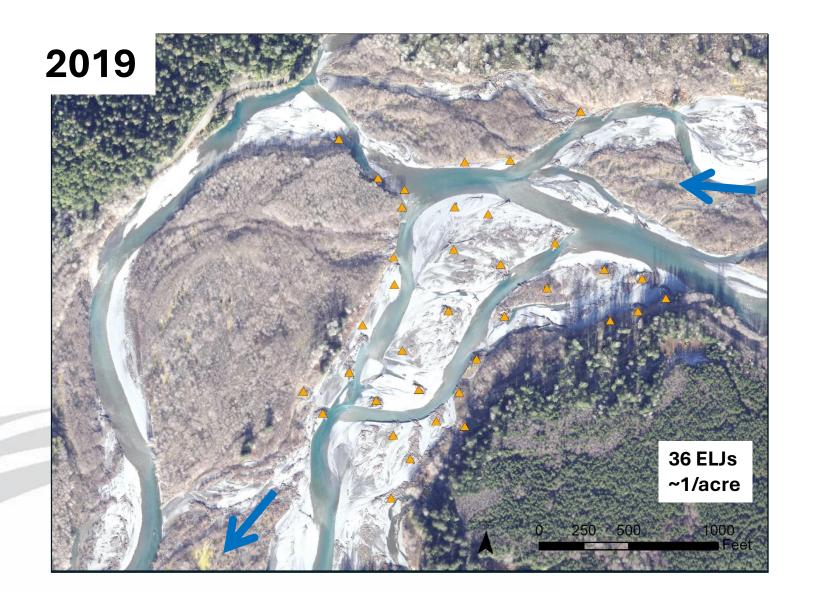
Large River Engineered Logjam Performance

Upper Quinault River Valley Restoration 2008-2023

PROJECT AREA	CONSTRUCTION YEAR	ELJS	STABILIZED WOOD	TIMBER REVETMENT
Alder Creek	2008	10	0	0
	2011	3	0	0
	2015	10	0	0
	2019	13	5	0
	Total Installed	36	5	0
PA-5	2012	6	2	0
	2014	13	5	0
	2015	2	0	0
	2016	9	4	1
	2023	10	1	0
	Total Installed	40	12	1
litter.	2	/		
Fletcher and Wilson's	2016	8	10	0
	2020	19	8	0
	Total Installed	27	18	0
All	Total Installed	103	38	1

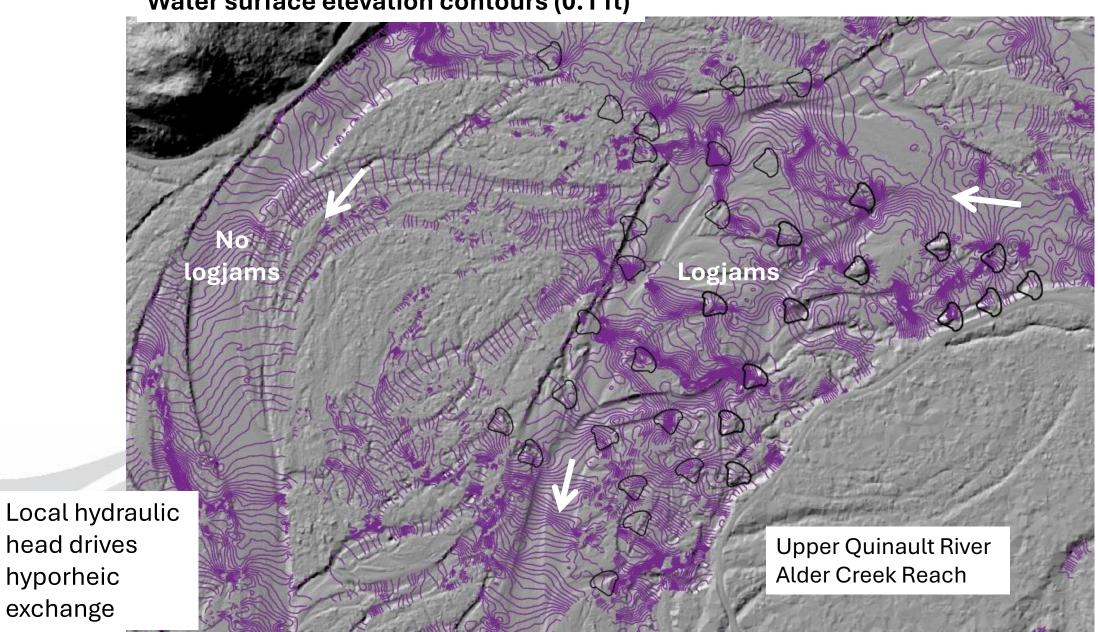


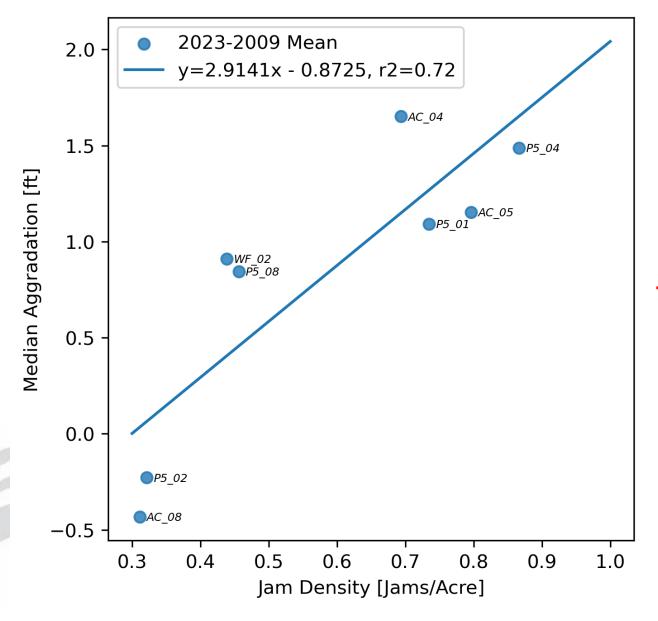




Engineered Logjams: Influence on water surface elevations

Water surface elevation contours (0.1 ft)

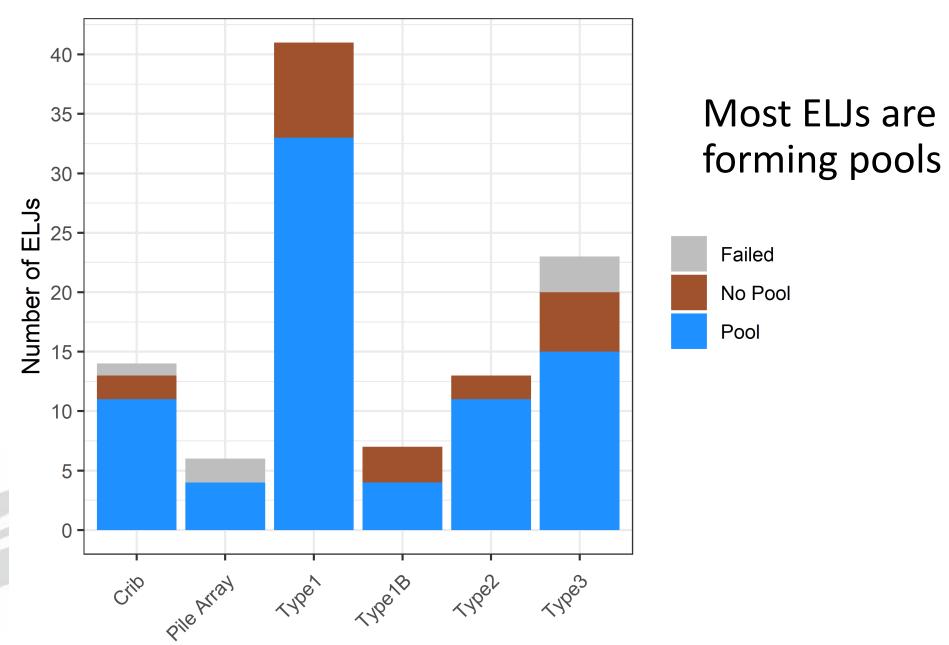


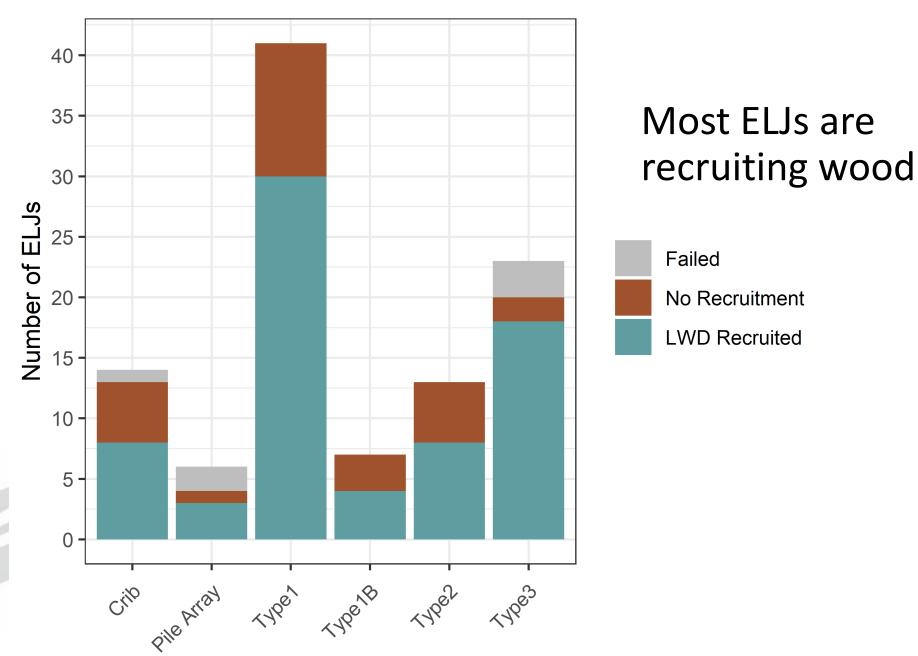


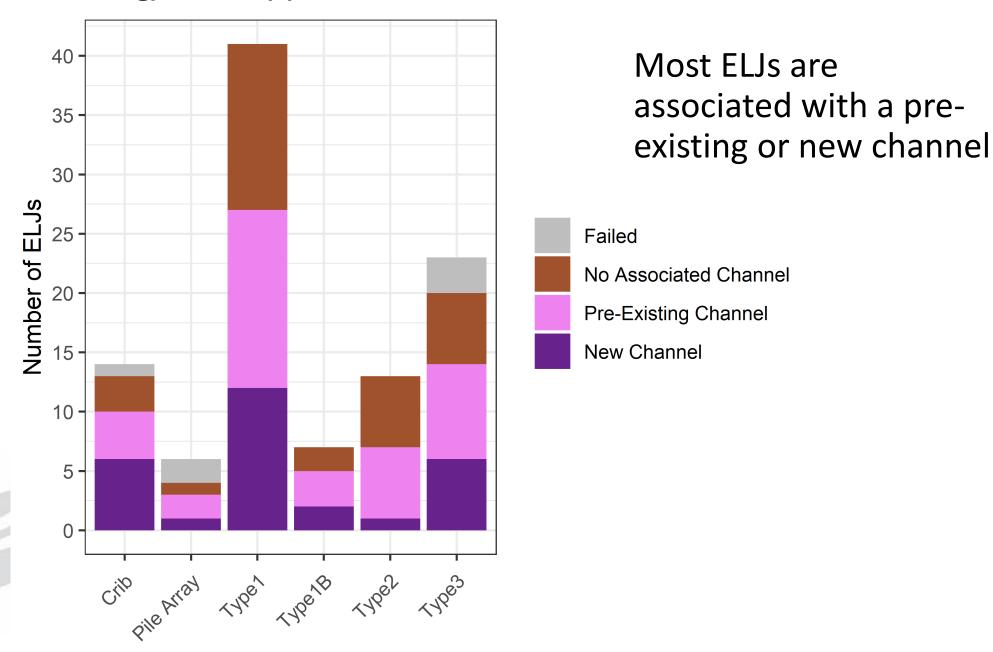
Preliminary landform analysis showing a possible trend between jam density and gravel bar aggradation (floodplain development)

Large River Engineered Logjam Design: Forest Islands

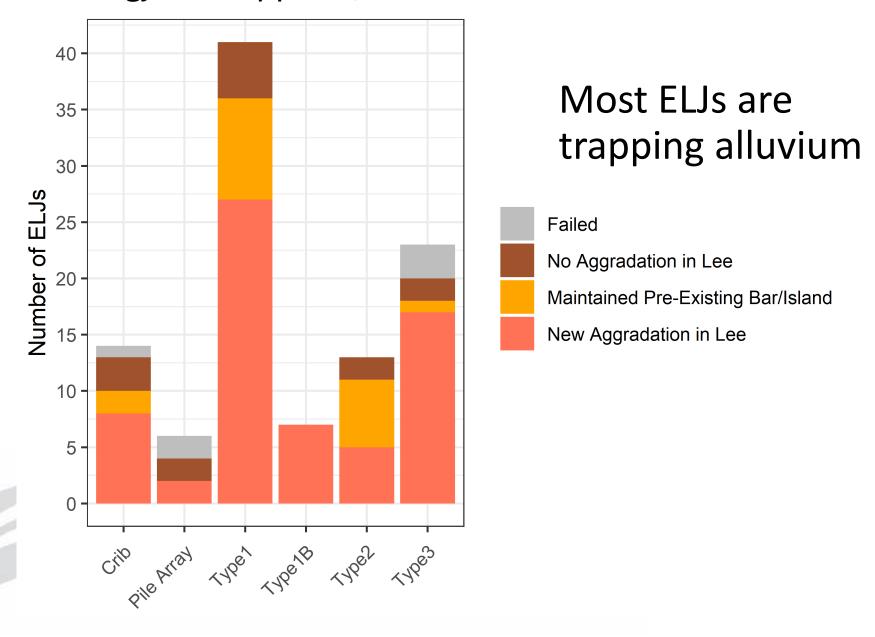




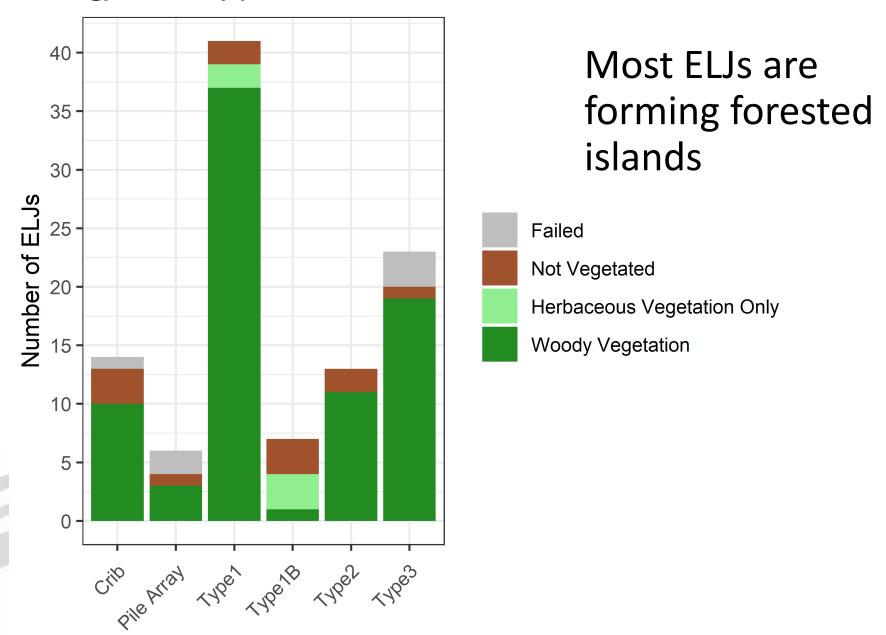


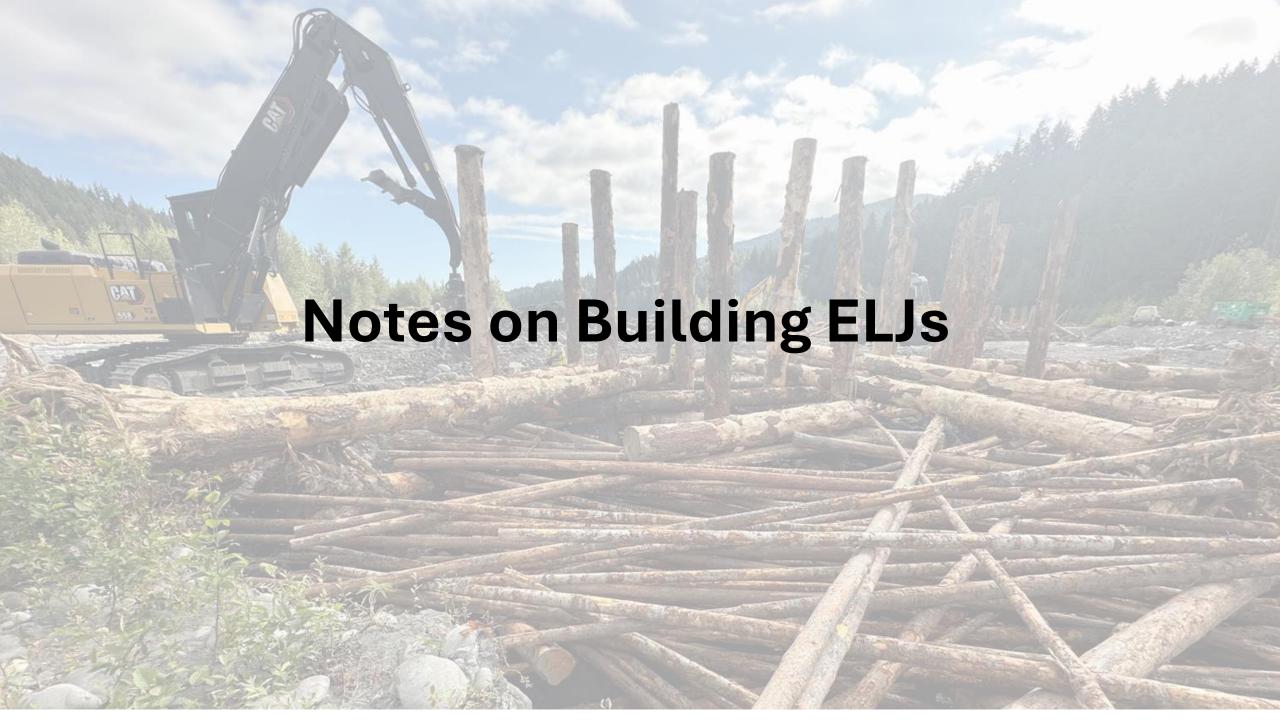


Engineered Logjams: Upper Quinault River



Engineered Logjams: Upper Quinault River





All forest products are valuable in restoration

- Rootwad and bole
 - Key pieces
 - Buried posts
 - Beams in ELJ core
 - Racking wood retention
- Tree boles
 - Beams in ELJ core
 - Racking wood
- Slash
 - Soil amendment when backfilling
 - Erosion control on finished grades
 - Supplement to slash
- Secondary Species (Cottonwood, alder, hemlock)
 - Racking wood and slash

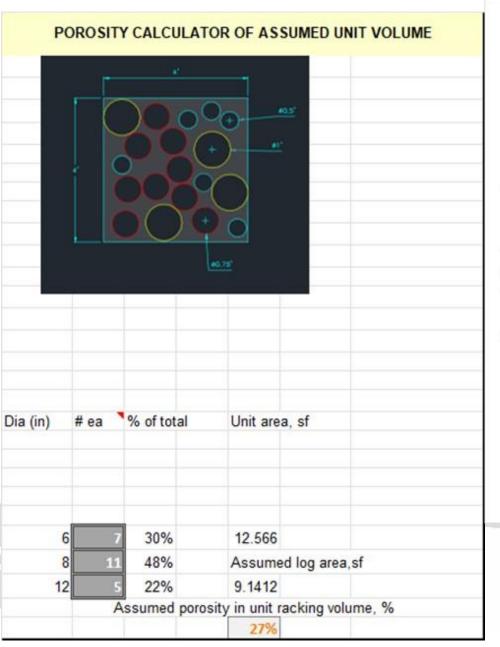
Large River Engineered Logjam Design: Structure Core

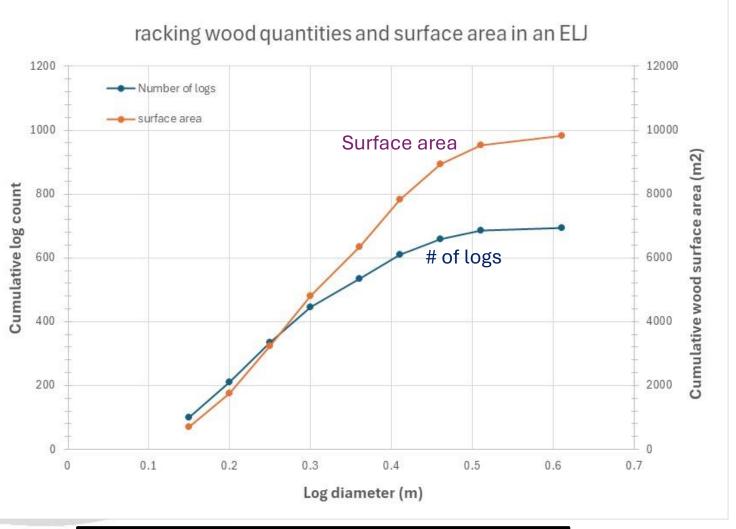


Large River Engineered Logjam Design: Structure Core



Large River Engineered Logjam Design: Racking Wood



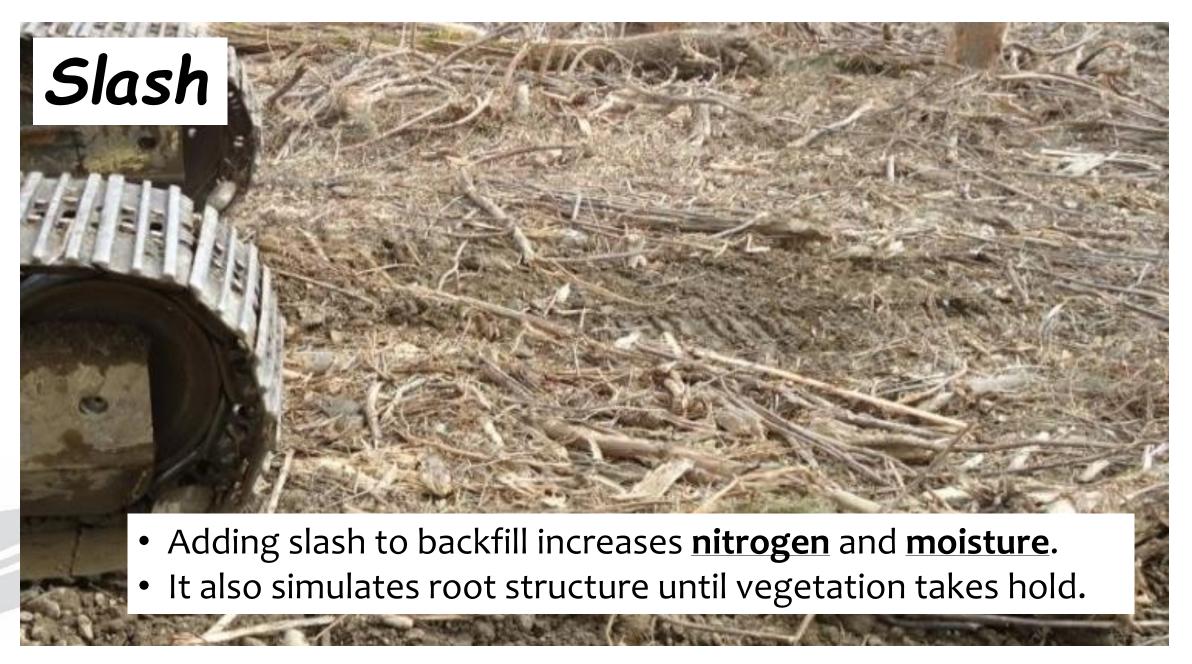


17 Elwha Ranney Reach ELJs introduced ~170,000 m² of wood surface area to the river – not including added slash

Large River Engineered Logjam Design: Slash



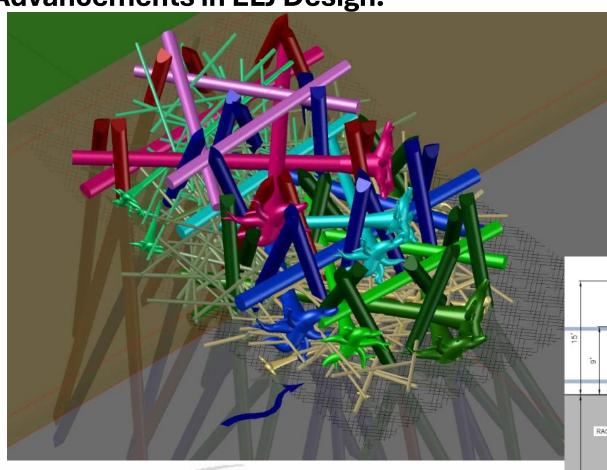
Large River Engineered Logjam Design: Slash



Hardware

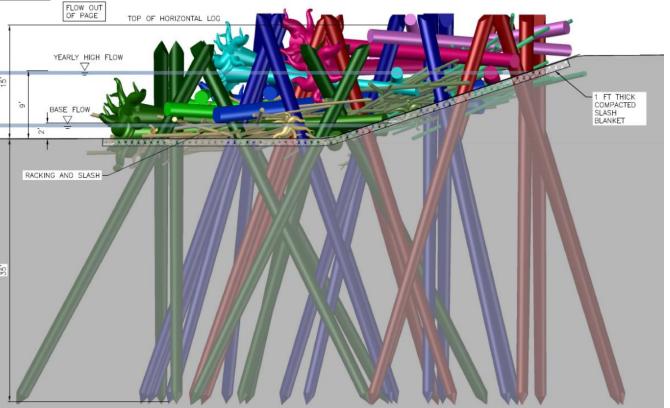
- Restoring wood in fluvial environments is challenging.
- Ensuring stability should consider as many options as possible – including the use of hardware (e.g.,chain, cable, rock).
- Prohibiting the use of these materials will increase expense of project
- Rules should focus on minimizing hardware, not prohibiting it.

Advancements in ELJ Design:



Batter pile structures

- Don't need hardware
- Require adequate excavation for scour
- Geotech analysis essential to ensure pile driving



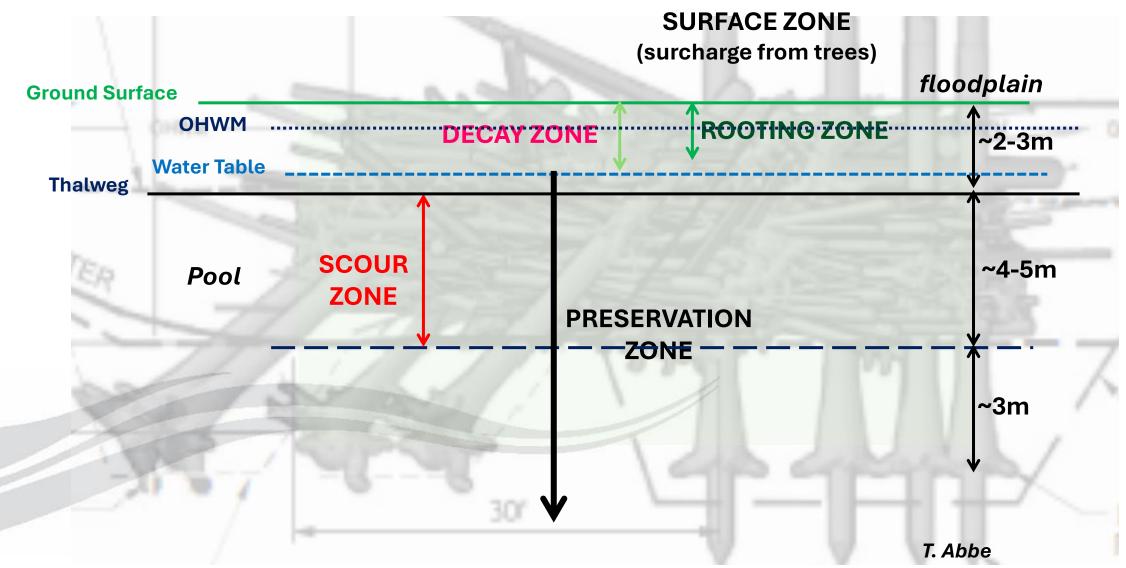
Large River Engineered Logjam Design: Batter Piles



Lower White prototype structure City of Sumner, WA

Large River Engineered Logjam Design: Structural Elements

Design life should be sufficient to restore key sized wood for large wood cycle



Engineered Logjams: Structure Failure

Failure Mechanisms

- 1. Undermining (scour)
- 2. Pile collapse (scour)
- 3. Pile rupture

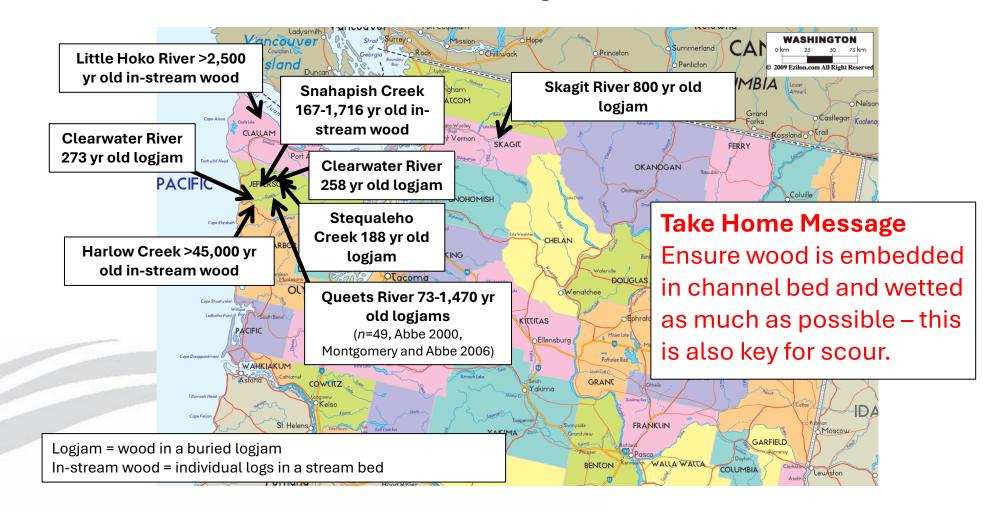
All these are exasperated by lack of racking wood

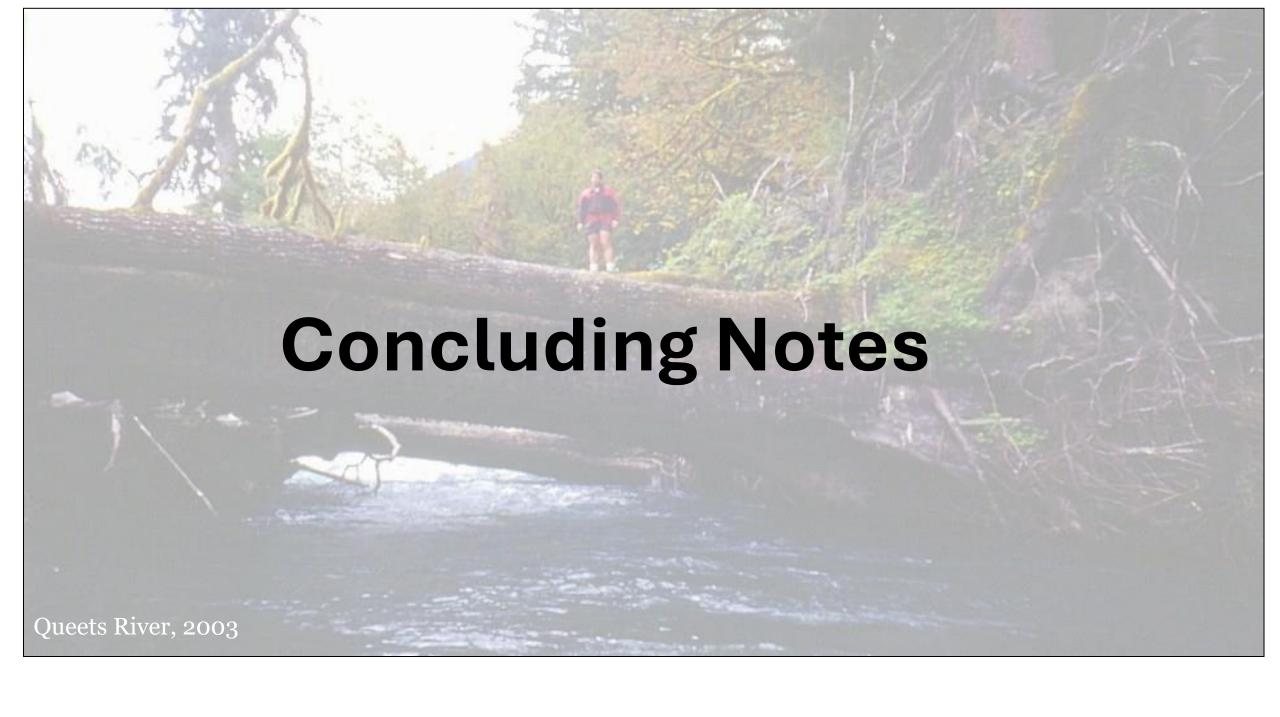




Engineered Logjams: Wood Longevity

NSD fluvial wood ¹⁴C radiocarbon dates in Washington State





Ecosystem Benefits



Habitat response necessitates stable flow obstructions

Stability is essential to influence hydraulics and trap mobile wood

Obstructions don't necessarily need to be wood

Functions and Guidelines of Unanchored Wood Placements in Stream Restoration

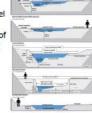
Ryan DeKnikker, Davey French, Tim Abbe

Historic management practices and human disturbances led to a widespread loss of large wood in rivers and have driven restoration projects to re-introduce large wood throughout the Pacific Northwest There are many benefits that large wood provides in fluvial systems. Wood can be the primary element responsible for pool formation, channel anabranching and planform, channel grade and

- Stream Order is lowest in headwater streams and highest in larger rivers. In general, higher stream orders have greater stream power.
- Channel Planform is an indicator of gradient and sediment supply, which are important factors in determining log stability and log embedment.

ers predominantly to the bed form of a stream channel, dicator of gradient and sediment supply

plain geometry are shaped by logy over time. Facets of channel ators of flood magnitude and ns that affect log stability. Many of measured in the field and others rom geospatial data.







obstructions can enlarge the obstruction and thus increase benefits, but may also increase risk. All wood placements increase woody substrate in the channel which directly benefits invertebrate populations and fish.

Unanchored wood is important

"Wood that is periodically mobilized is important for: replacina stationary large wood that performs diverse physical and ecological functions: contributing to the disturbance regime of the river corridor; diversifying wood decay states; dispersing organisms and propagules; providing refugia during floodplain inundation and in-mobile-bed channels; dissipating flow energy; and supplying wood to downstream environments including lakes, coastlines, the open ocean, and the deep sea." -Wohl and Iskin, 2022

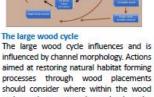
Acknowledgement:

But another talk ©



The large wood cycle

influenced by channel morphology. Actions aimed at restoring natural habitat forming processes through wood placements should consider where within the wood cycle a river system is, and what the restoration objectives are.

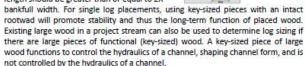




Strategy Depends on Risk Tolerance, Budget, & Geomorphic Considerations

Available Log Dimensions

Large wood stability is largely a function of key-sized log dimensions and channel morphology. For streams with bankfull width < 150 ft. a kev- sized log should have DBH greater than half the bankfull depth and bole length of at least half the bankfull width (Abbe & Montgomery, 2003). For small streams (bankfull width < 30 ft), key sized log length should be greater than or equal to 2X

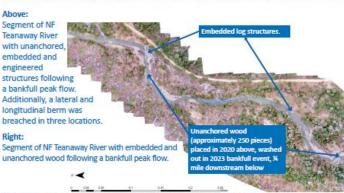


Incoming Sediment Supply and Bed Aggradation

Sediment supply at a site influences log embedment and thus log stability. The size class of this incoming sediment supply is also important. Fine silts and sands are unlikely to be retained in a gravel-cobble or cobble-boulder channel and have little influence on log stability, whereas sands and gravel in a finer-bedded stream channel have greater influence on log stability. Whether a site is aggrading, degrading, or 'balanced' indicates sediment supply and local geomorphic and hydraulic characteristics that influence wood stability.

Degrading sites are actively incising (down-cutting). As a site incises, bank height increases, often reducing bank stability. Over time, the bank erodes and the channel widens, reducing stream power and leading to aggradation. Some low gradient sites with ample sediment supply are aggradational, while sites with incoming sediment supply and hydraulic conditions to mobilize sediment at higher flows are 'balanced.'

ballasting, and wood racking on embedded and engineered structures. Placed wood subjected to bankfull flow (2500 cfs) in 2023. NF Teanaway River, WA. Photo taken Fall 2023



Yakama Nation's Unanchored Wood, Site Feasibility/Screening Tool



Considering site characteristics and risks, a practitioner may produce an informed decision on the feasibility of unanchored wood additions and level of design to consider.

Yakama Nation's Unanchored Wood, Site Feasibility/Screening Tool compiles all this information into an automated Excel format that may be used in the field on a portable device.

TEST DRIVE THE SITE FEASIBILITY/SCREENING TOOL!

Questions for Rvan DeKnikker: rvan@naturaldes.com

Presence of alluvium is important not only to fish but to the stability and function of wood

Wood stability increases with embedment

In case of bedrock channels, capturing alluvium is not only an essential restoration goal, but critical to stabilizing wood

If a rock structure captures sediment it can help with getting more wood in channel

- Physical complexity is good more is better
- Most projects <u>underestimate</u> amount <u>of wood</u> needed
- Where constrained by reducing conveyance consider new side channels
- To reduce grain size and induce anabranching, obstruct more than 50% of channel and channel migration zone
- Avoid simple individual log placements, focus on multi-log placements
- Embed wood in channel bed
- Lots of racking wood in ELJs

Wood placement is best low in channel

- most effective stress partitioning
- greatest longevity
- highest engagement with fish

Identifying Wood Treatments



Channel incision

Bank erosion

Lack of pools

Lack of spawning gravel (cobble/bedrock substrate)

Lack of High side temperature channels

Poor floodplain connectivity

Channel overwidening

Lack of cover

Disturbance Process Increased basal shear stress

Lack of stable in-stream wood

Lack of shade (wide channels, immature riparian trees), lack of deep pools

Lack of stable in-stream wood

Lack of stable in-stream wood

Loss of shear strength of bank material, high nearbank shear stress, elevated sediment supply Simplification of stress partitioning (lack of roughness elements in channel)

Lack of stable in-stream wood

Loss of shear strength of bank material, high nearbank shear stress, elevated sediment supply

Treatments

Wood and/or rock grade control, ELJ arrays Stable toe roughness, ELJ flow deflectors or complex timber revetments along bank, ELJ arrays to dissipate flow before reaching sensitive areas

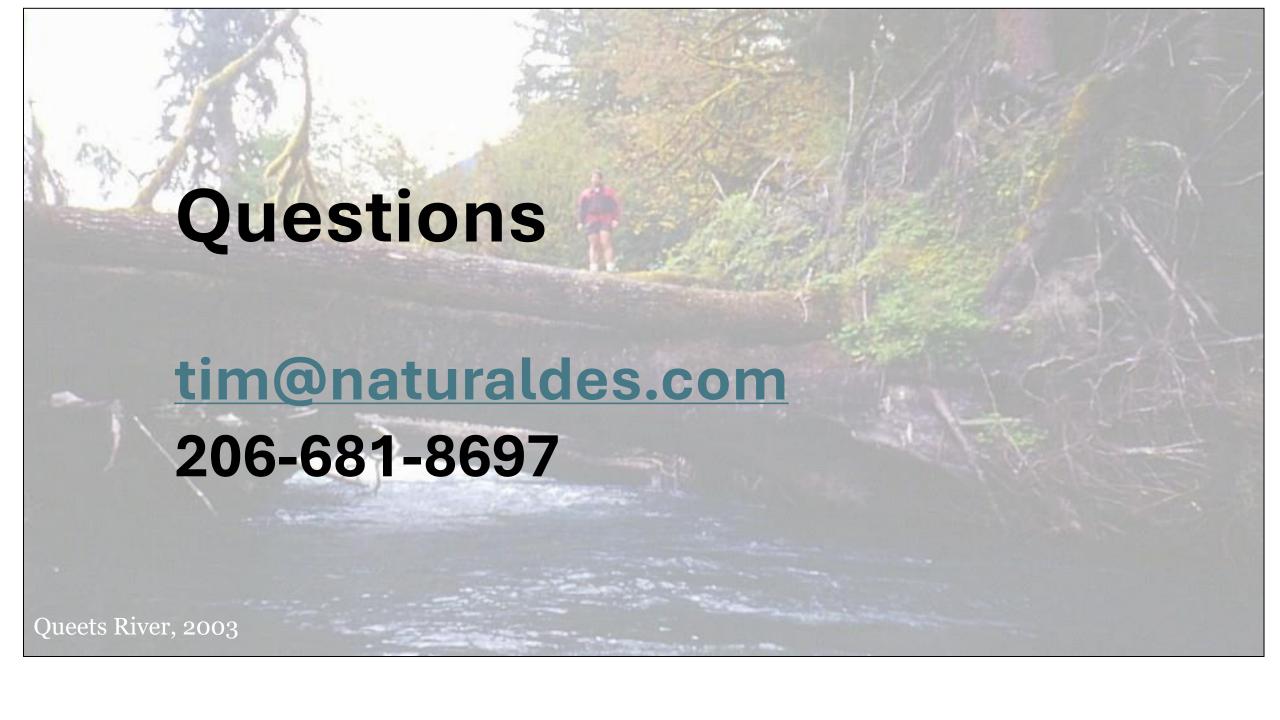
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ELJs with abundant racking wood Riparian reforestation



Engineered Logjams: References

Some ELJ references can be found on our website:

https://naturaldes.com/resources/

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Extras

Working with Constraints

Large River Engineered Logjam Design: Structure Layout



Elwha River Ranney Reach 2023 NAIP Aerial Image (USGS)

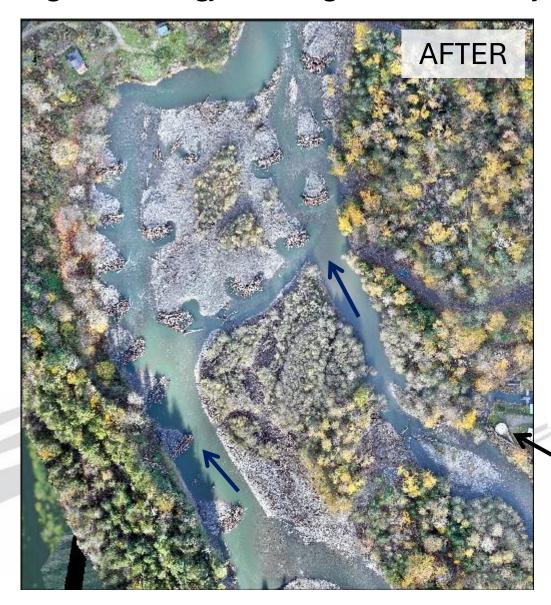
Project Goals

- Increase pool frequency & cover
- Increase retention of spawning gravels
- Create stable forested island and anabranching channel
- Benefit municipal water source by limiting westward migration of river channel

Port Angeles municipal water supply

Working with Constraints

Large River Engineered Logjam Design: Structure Layout

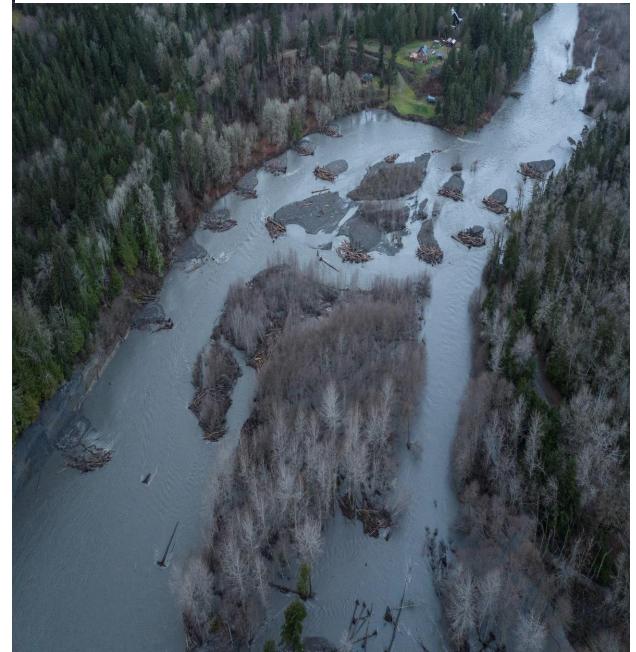


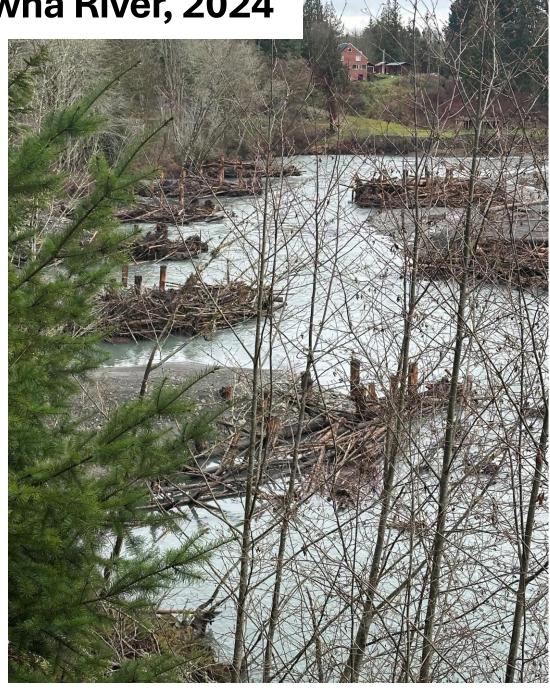
Elwha River Ranney Reach 2024 Drone image just after restoration (NSD)

Project Goals

- Increase pool frequency & cover
- Increase retention of spawning gravels
- Create stable forested island and anabranching channel
- Benefit municipal water source by limiting westward migration of river channel

Port Angeles municipal water supply





Bank Erosion

Erosion is a natural and beneficial process where mature riparian forests are present.

Restoration actions should accommodate erosion in these situations

Erosion can be problematic where it occurs into immature forests, pastures, fields or developed areas

Erosion results in no recruitment of functional wood

Erosion can lead to over-widened channels and elevated solar radiation (higher temperatures).

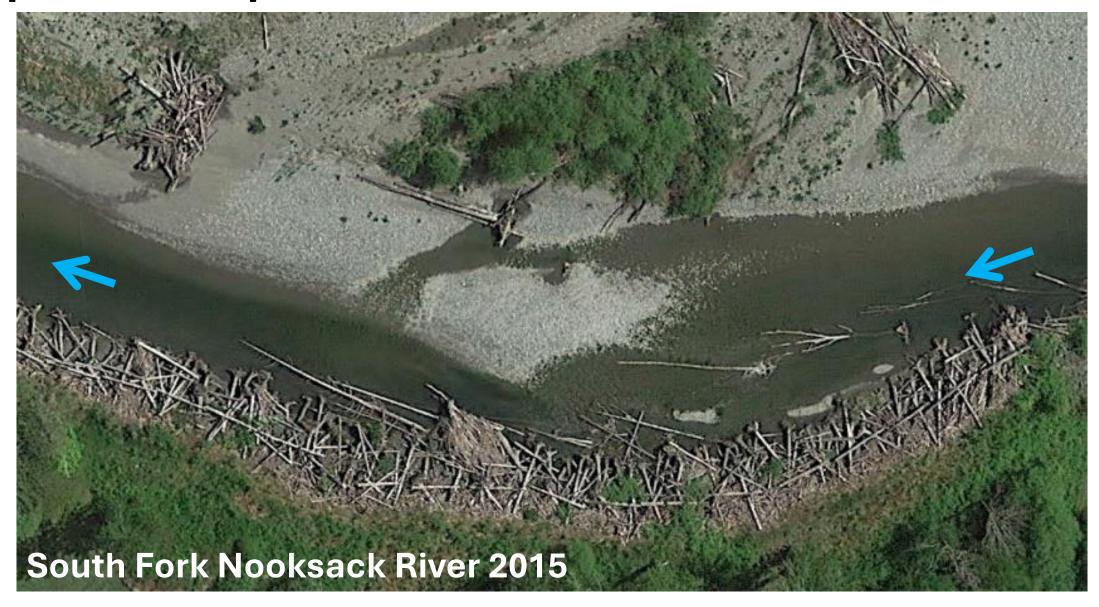
Erosion can deliver elevated supply of fine sediment

Erosion can deliver undesired materials into channel

Simple vs Complex Banks



Simple vs Complex Banks



Simple vs Complex Banks

