

What's New?

Wicks Water Treatment Plant Fish Screen Project

The City of The Dalles receives about 90% of its annual supply of drinking water from the Wicks Water Treatment Plant located on South Fork Mill Creek. This creek is home to native winter steelhead which have been listed as "Threatened" under the Endangered Species Act by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Under the listing, activities which harm these fish or their habitat are illegal and activities which promote the recovery of the species are encouraged.

Prior to the listing, the Department of Public Works approached the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) about partnering on a project to install fish screens at the water treatment plant intake on South Fork Mill Creek. These screens would provide for the safe downstream passage of all fish, including juvenile steelhead, past the plant's intake. Under the partnership that was formed, the City received a grant from ODFW whereby ODFW would design the fish screen, pay for 60% of the construction costs incurred by the City, and fabricate and install the screens.

The project was contracted in phases. Phase 1 was the installation of a bypass water line which would provide water to the plant while the fish screen was being constructed. This phase was completed in the summer of 2001. Phase 2 was the construction of the fish screen vault and was completed in March 2002. The final tasks to be completed include the installation of a control system for the automated cleaning of the screens. The project is expected to be completed and the new screens operational in May 2002.



