

Millstone River Coho Spawning Run 2015 Update

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Background:

Several years ago, IWFF got quite involved with John Morgan and his students to buy some tags to place in coho to determine where they spawn in Millstone River.

The bypass channel was a project IWFF took on in 2007. This channel starts at the large waterfalls in Bowen Park and has a great trail for walking and observing spawning salmon this time of year. The BCFFF and IWFF helped install a camera on this channel the following year. We also assisted John Morgan's students from VIU to tag and track spawning coho.

From: John Morgan

A few of you were interested in keeping up to date on how the Millstone coho run is proceeding this fall. RMOT students are counting fish on a motion capture camera that is installed in the upper section of the Bowen Park bypass channel.

As of Nov 11, 86 coho were counted moving upstream of the camera. They like to move during rain events, and typically at night.

These fish will spawn in tributaries and the mainstem upstream of Bowen Park, and previous radio-tagging has shown preference for a section between the bridges across Newfield and Durnin Roads.

A few redds have also been observed in the Bowen Park side channel this year, indicating spawning in the channel. There have not been reports yet of large numbers holding in the Duck Pond, as has happened in the past. It appears that with recent rains that there is sufficient flow to encourage them to move upstream.

By Nov 21, **117 coho** have been counted moving upstream of the Millstone camera. On Nov 21, 4 coho were observed spawning in the side-channel, immediately upstream and downstream of the Duck Pond; 3 redds were also counted in the same area.

The next update will be sent in a week.

Cheers,

John