REGENERATING PACIFIC NORTHWEST SALMON HABITAT THROUGH RIPARIAN RESTORATION

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BACKGROUND
- Humans are reducing river riparian zones through urbanization and developmental activities.
- And riparian restoration efforts are taking place to revitalize salmon habitat.
- But monitoring how the riparian vegetation is maturing in salmon habitats is important for understanding the benefits of riparian restoration to salmon.
- Therefore, riparian restoration analysis can be used to demonstrate the effects of riparian regeneration on salmon habitat.

RESEARCH QUESTION
How does riparian vegetation affect the habitat of Pacific Northwest salmon?

INTERNET MEMORIES & METHODS
- Riparian restoration on Bear Creek (fig. 5) and the Sammamish River (fig. 4).
- Literature review on riparian ecosystems.
- Vegetation monitoring to test riparian restoration effectiveness on salmon habitat.

RESULTS
- As riparian vegetation increases in height, it creates more canopy cover over salmon habitat (fig. 2 and 3).
- Riparian vegetation improves woody debris and litter mass in salmon habitat (fig. 4 and 5).
- Riparian vegetation provides a natural barrier to protect salmon habitat (fig. 4 and 5).

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KEY TAKEAWAYS
- Canopy cover from riparian vegetation adds shade to the riverside which cools water for salmon.
- Woody debris increases the availability of insects for juveniles.
- Litter mass from riparian vegetation provides a natural filtering mechanism against toxins that seep into rivers.

BROADER SIGNIFICANCE
- Riparian restoration can help control the emergence and spread of invasive species in salmon river habitats.
- Planting of native species along salmon rivers and streams can improve salmon spawning, rearing and migrating in developed areas.
- Riparian vegetation monitoring and analysis enables a better understanding of how to use the riparian restoration technique to strengthen salmon populations.