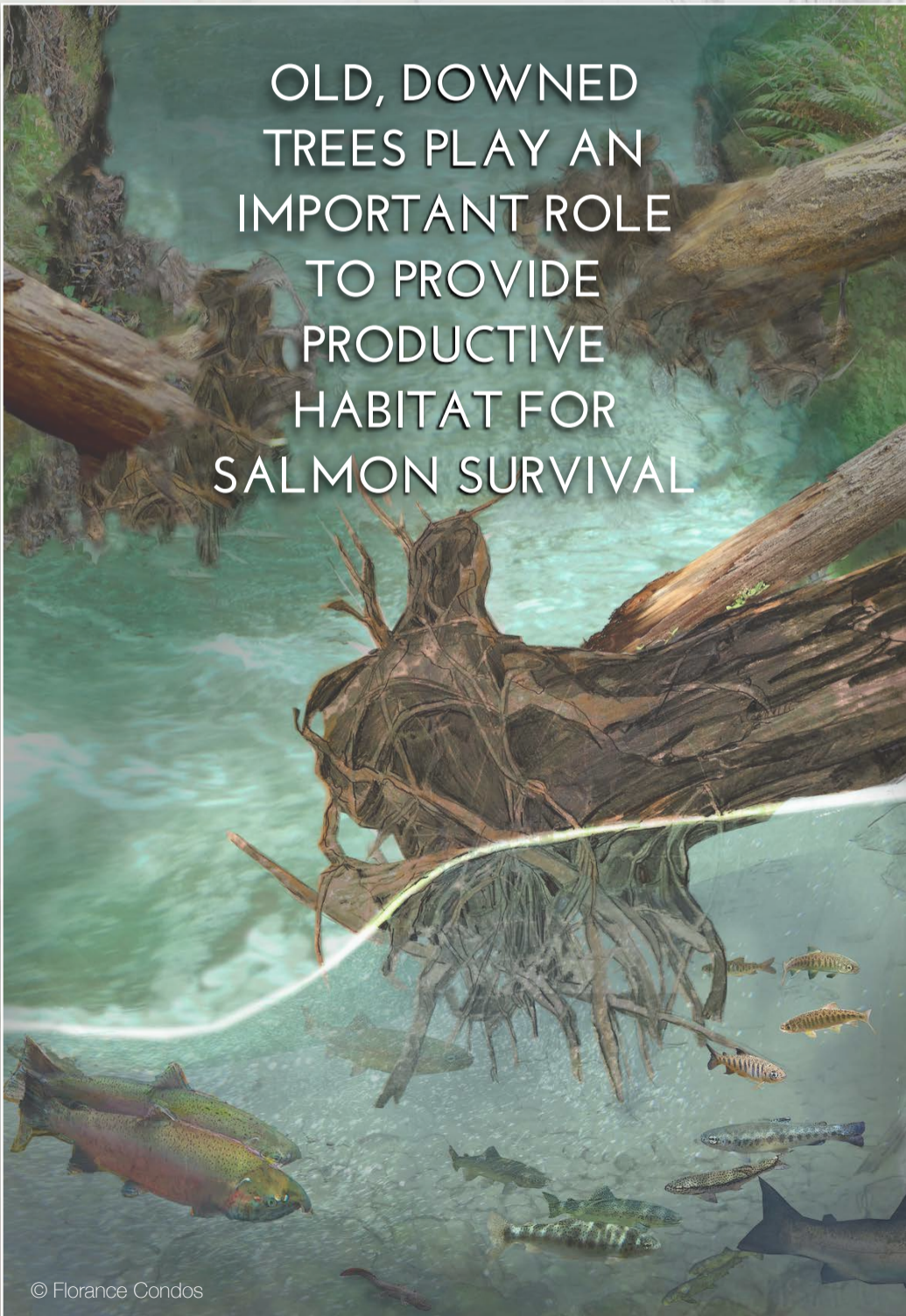




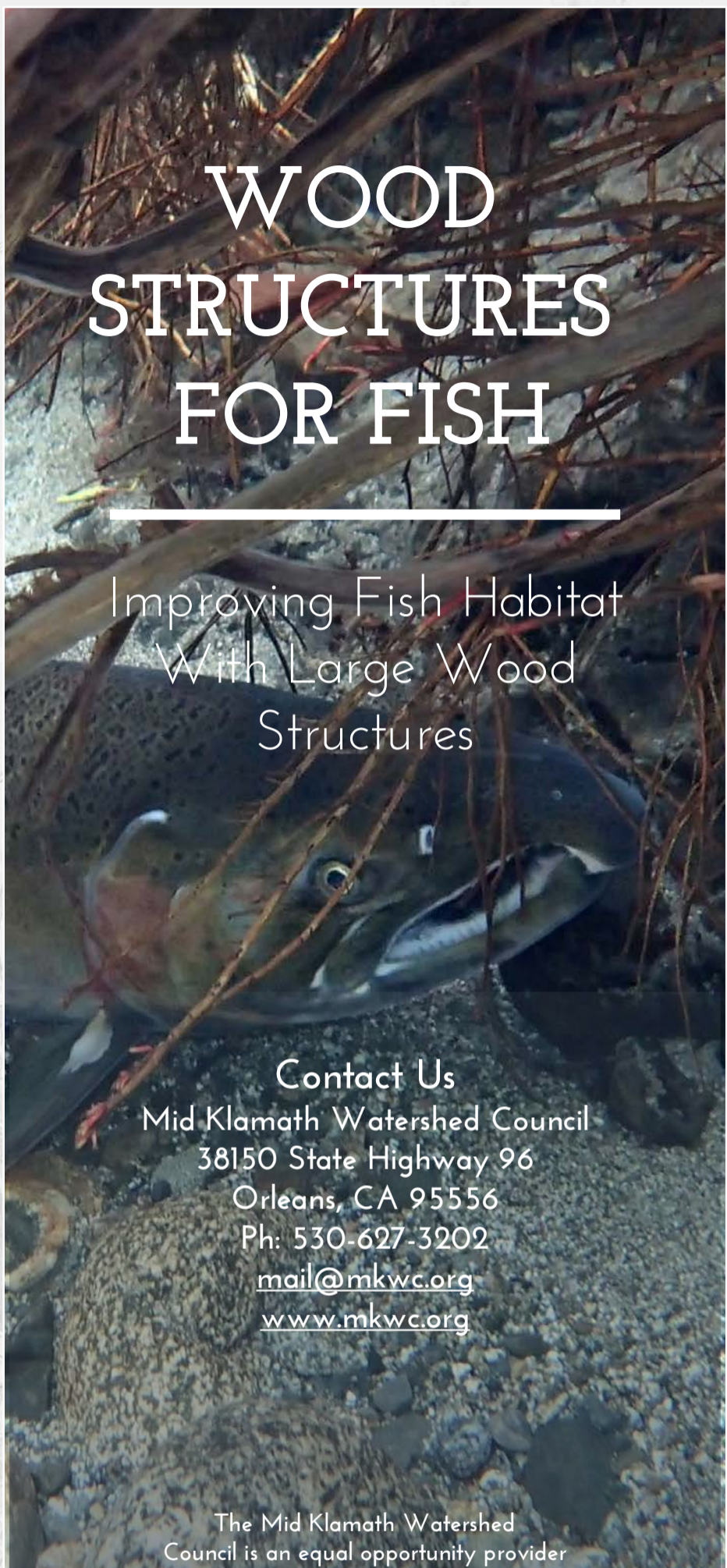
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We have learned that adding large logs back into the stream channel restores stream complexity, creates places for fish to rest, hide from predators and search for food, as well as creates deep pool habitats for productive nurseries and rearing salmonids.



# OLD, DOWNED TREES PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PROVIDE PRODUCTIVE HABITAT FOR SALMON SURVIVAL

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# WOOD STRUCTURES FOR FISH

## Improving Fish Habitat With Large Wood Structures

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The Mid Klamath Watershed Council is an equal opportunity provider

The MKWC FISHERIES PROGRAM advocates for the health of our diverse river communities with a focus on the conservation and sustainable use of our aquatic resources, fish health and abundance, and the understanding, application, and propagation of the best available science, including traditional knowledge, where appropriate.

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Photo by Will Harling

# OFF-CHANNEL PONDS AND SIDE CHANNELS

Low Velocity and Cool Water Refuge for Juvenile Salmonids and Other Aquatic Species

“Off-channel ponds are important for juvenile salmon growth and survival especially during winter months where they provide refuge habitat during high flows”

Toz Soto, Karuk Fisheries Program Manager

Off-channel wetlands, ponds, and side channels provide slow water habitat where juvenile salmonids can find refuge during high winter flows. These refugia are particularly important to Coho Salmon. These slow water habitats can also offer rich invertebrate food resources, which in combination with reduced metabolic demand can result in high fish growth rates.

Restoring these critically important habitats is a currently a major focus of fisheries restoration, with techniques including reconnection of existing (but disconnected) ponds/wetlands, excavation of new ponds, and construction of channel-spanning structures such as large wood and beaver-dam analogs. Natural forces contributing to formation, maintenance, and complexity of slow water habitats include large wood, beavers, and channel migration.

Eli Asarian, Riverbend Sciences- SRF Conference Shelter in the Slow Lane: Off Channel Ponds and Beaver Influenced Habitats



Photo by Will Harling

Ponds add to temperature diversity in the floodplain habitat.

Off-channel ponds are crucial rearing habitat for the threatened Coho Salmon. Coho prefer slow, low-gradient streams and pools.

