The Sandy River Basin is one of many watersheds in the Pacific Northwest that is experiencing the adverse effects of climate change and human impacts. The quality and availability of fish habitat are rapidly declining as the miles of degraded and polluted streams continue to rise. Of the fish species living in the basin, Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, and Steelhead are listed under the Endangered Species Act as threatened at the federal level, and Coho Salmon are endangered in Oregon. A majority of streams that provide suitable habitat for these fish are listed as impaired for at least one water quality standard under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Restoration efforts aim to improve the overall health and function of these streams, and are often targeted to improve the habitat for specific fish species. In order to assess if the location and type of restoration activities are appropriately applied, it is important to compare the restoration projects to the distribution of threatened fish species and impaired streams.

Restoration activities include:
- Riparian: planting, invasive species removal, and riparian fencing
- Instream: large wood placement and channel alteration
- Combined: multiple activities, including road and wetland improvement
- Upland: grazing, irrigation, and invasive plant control
- Fish Passage: culvert replacement
- City

The fish species distribution includes suitable habitat used by the basin’s threatened fish populations. Habitat is suitable habitat that fish can no longer access now or in the foreseeable future without significant intervention. Habitat can be suitable for more than one fish species.

High temperature has significant and taxing effects on coldwater fish ranging from decreased spawning success to respiratory stress, and even death. Elevated stream temperature and other poor water quality criteria reduce the amount of stream habitat available to fish.

A total of 80 restoration projects have been completed since 1995, of which 66 were targeted towards at least one threatened fish species.

Note: One project can occur in multiple locations on the map.