

Fins in our Forests

Salmon are a keystone species in the Pacific Northwest.

A keystone species is important to many organisms in their ecosystem including wildlife, plants, and even trees!

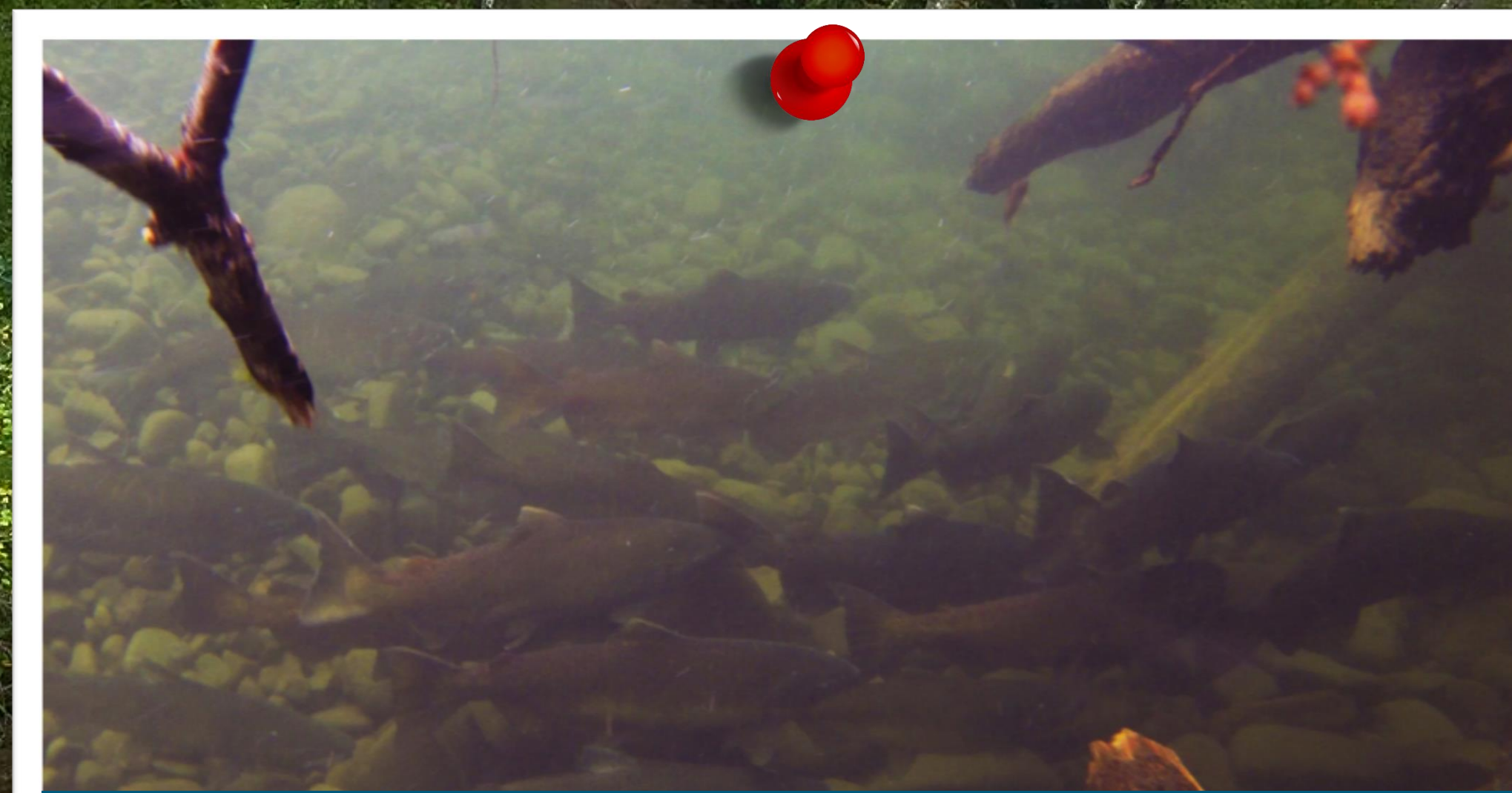
Do you think trees are important to salmon?



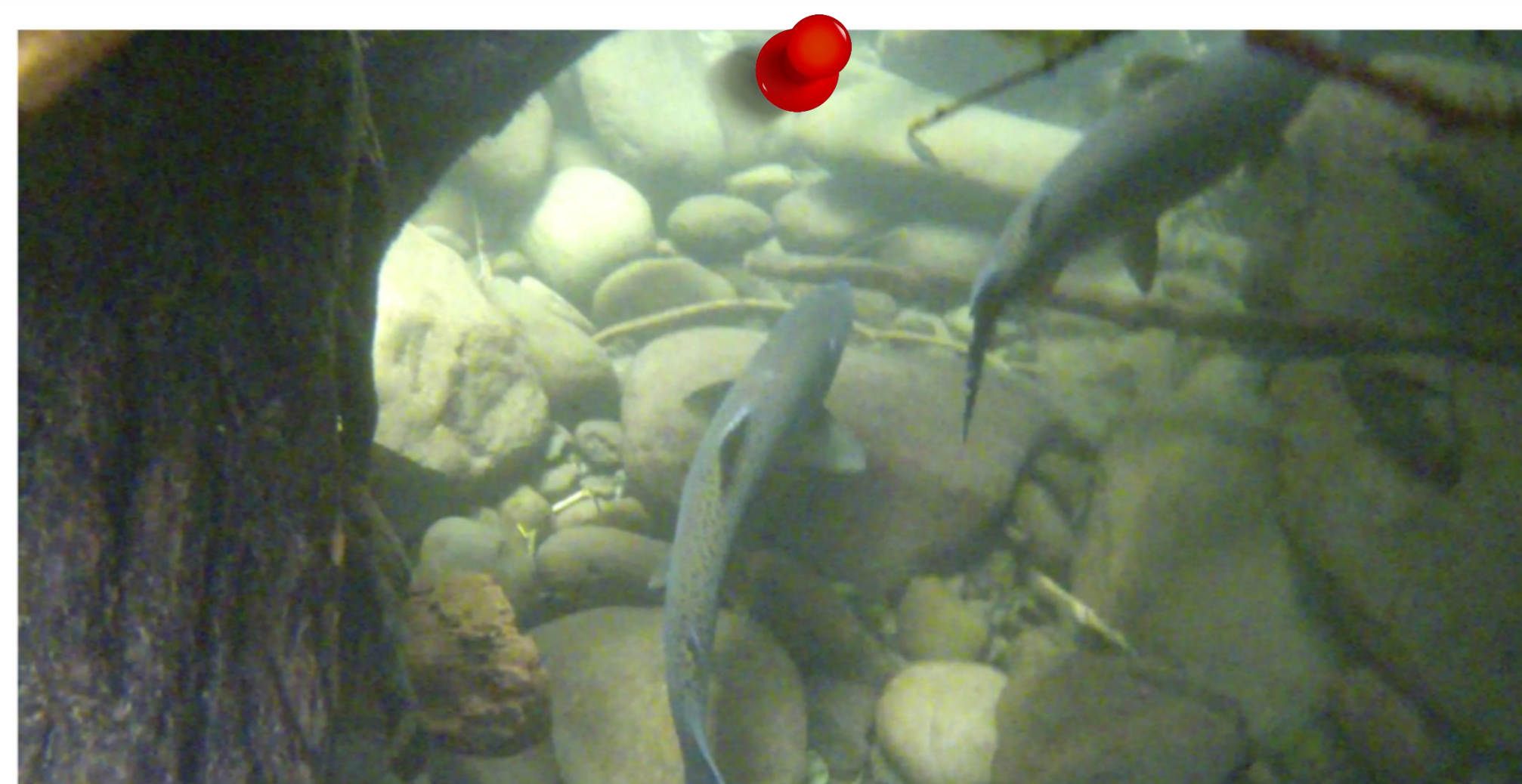
After spawning, the salmon die in the river, providing valuable nutrients to the local ecosystem.



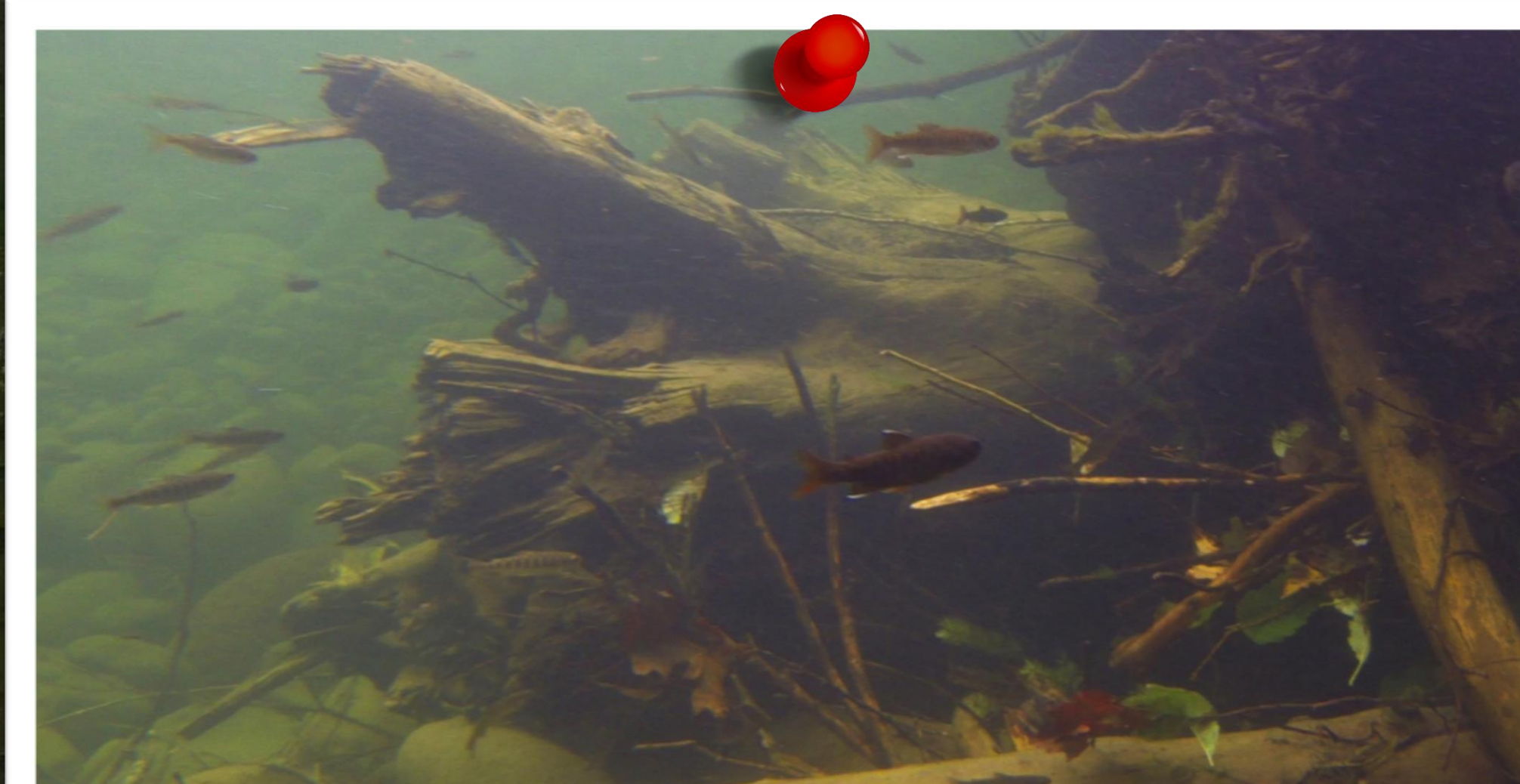
Carcasses provide food for insects and other invertebrates as well as fertilizer for trees to grow.



As trees grow larger, they improve and provide habitat for salmon of all ages.



Adult salmon use sunken trees to hide from large predators and to rest during their migration to spawn.



Young salmon look for food (invertebrates) and shelter in submerged roots, logs, and branches in the river.