

Pacific Coast Watershed Project Annual Report

Overview



“What is noteworthy here is the way we’re all building on each other’s work. In an area where there are so many different landowners, it’s essential that we work together and that we focus on what’s most ecologically significant.”

*Bob Carey, The Nature Conservancy,
Partner: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
National Forest*

Our Place

The Pacific Coast Watershed Partnership is located in the coastal watersheds and estuaries of western Oregon and Washington. The region boasts outstanding, internationally important natural features and resources, including waters and habitats to support wild Pacific salmon and significant congregations of migratory birds.

More than 7 million people live, work, and recreate in the Pacific Coast region of the United States from the pristine wilderness watersheds of its coastal mountain range, to productive agricultural and rural lands, to the major metropolitan areas of Seattle, Washington, and Portland, Oregon. Across the border, another 2 million people inhabit the greater Vancouver, B.C. area.

The convergence of rich natural resources and rapidly growing urban areas means not only an extraordinary living environment for people, but also increasing pressures and conflicting demands on natural resources. This unique combination of place and people also fosters abundant opportunities



for developing partnerships to conserve, restore, and enhance our water quality and aquatic and estuarine habitats.

The Pacific Coast Watershed Partnership was formed to save wild salmon and the international flyway of migratory birds. We are linking key estuaries, wetlands, and uplands to restore the habitat necessary for the survival of these special resources.

Our restoration efforts are designed to recover and protect salmon and other aquatic species, migratory birds, and water quality to contribute to the livable environment that has been the hallmark of the Pacific Northwest. More than 40 federal, state, and private partners are working together across five watersheds to tackle the complex challenges facing our dynamic and invaluable coastal ecosystems.

Our Vision

- Healthy and diverse salmon populations premier fishing opportunities.
- Rivers run clear and cold and support people and wildlife.
- We live in balance with ecosystem potential.
- Livability ranking is the highest in the nation.
- We are a highly sought ecotourism destination.
- Waterfowl and wildlife abound.

The Issues

Balancing social, economic, and environmental needs will be the key to restoration and protection of habitats for salmon, waterfowl, and other wildlife in this region.

Wild Salmon and Trout

Wild Pacific salmon and trout have disappeared from some 40 percent of the Pacific Northwest rivers in which they historically spawned. Salmon populations in 44 percent of the remaining streams are at risk; 26 distinct populations of Pacific salmon and steelhead are now listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Many factors have contributed to salmon decline, including dams, hatcheries, habitat loss, and water diversions.

Migratory Waterfowl

The diverse wetlands of the Oregon and Washington coast support more than 30 species of waterfowl. Hundreds of thousands of ducks, geese, scoters, swans, cranes, loons, shorebirds, and neotropical migratory birds use the tidal marshes, estuaries, and other coastal habitats, mostly during migration or in winter. Human population growth and development have significantly affected wetland and estuarine habitats; in Oregon alone, 50 to 80 percent of intertidal marsh habitats have been diked for farmland conversion. Overall along the Pacific Coast in Oregon and Washington, wetlands have been reduced by 30 percent.

Pacific Coast Watershed Project



Partners

Projects in the Pacific Coast Watershed Partnership are intended to achieve:

- Restoration: Restore water quality and aquatic habitat across whole watersheds in both the long and short terms. The focus is on threatened and endangered species of salmon and trout, and on waterfowl.
- Assessment: Use watershed analysis or other rigorous assessment processes to address environmental conditions that limit attainment of the restoration goals identified by local groups.
- Prioritization: Focus restoration practice in high priority areas, using the best science and yielding the highest return for investment dollars.
- Partnership: Show integration of restoration projects across ownership boundaries. Build or sustain partner commitment.
- Resource Improvement: Facilitate or contribute to significant improvement of resource conditions, enough to show a perceptible positive change through an effectiveness monitoring plan.
- Education: Enhance agency personnel or resident understanding of watershed and aquatic ecological processes.



Our Strategy

Focus on the critical few.

We aim to group watersheds with the highest potential for recovery into a refuge system to restore habitat effectively. Our efforts are designed to restore estuarine habitat to protect important life phases of salmon and migratory waterfowl.

Our Strengths

- Focus action on critical areas.
- Promote sustainable community land use.
- Protect and restore natural processes.
- Support collaborative processes.
- Focus on relationships, shared problem recognition, and joint problem solving.
- Leverage funds to accomplish more than any single entity can.

“Partnerships can help accomplish work, but partnering is as much about building relationships as it is about outcomes. Working in partnership is a way of thinking and engaging with others. It is a way of building trust and facilitating the process of joint problem-solving.”

-- excerpted from *Beyond Boundaries: Resource Stewardship on the Skagit River*, produced by the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, PCWP partner, October 2000 Pacific Coast Watershed Partnership

“When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” *Aldo Leopold*



Partners

The following are the major partners who make up the Pacific Coast Watershed Partnership. Each of these has its own extensive network of partners, creating a partnership network of extraordinary depth and breadth, working in various ways to achieve common or compatible goals.

National Audubon Society, several chapters
Bonneville Power Administration
Columbia Gorge National Scenic Recreation Area
Coquille Watershed Council
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Dungeness River Management Team
Environmental Protection Agency
Farm Service Agency
Local Landowners, too many to name
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Native American Tribes in Washington and Oregon
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Olympic National Forest
Pacific Coast Joint Venture
Rogue/Siskiyou National Forest
Siuslaw National Forest
Siuslaw Watershed Council
Skagit Watershed Council
Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Sport Fishermen
State of Oregon
State of Washington
USDC National Marine Fisheries Service
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service

Pacific Coast Watershed Project



Challenge, Change, and the Future

Restoration Over the Next Decade

Goals for the Pacific Coast Watershed Partnership for the future include:

- Restore
 - 20,000 acres of wetlands,
 - 45,000 acres of riparian habitat,
 - 3,000 miles of streams,
 - 15,000 miles of roads.
- Improve livability in the Pacific Northwest.
- Recover internationally acclaimed and imperiled fish, such as salmon.
- Create and protect an intact migratory bird flyway.
- Improve water quality.
- Enhance biodiversity.
- Involve others in restoration choices.

Specific projects are already lined up to move us toward our goals. Among the activities planned: dikes will be breached, culverts installed or retrofitted, riparian areas planted, interpretive nature trails created, noxious weeds removed, roads decommissioned, and fish-friendly water control structures built.

Pacific Coast Watershed Project



Budget and Costs

PCWP Grants	\$ 350,000	Ducks Unlimited Grant
	\$ 165,000	State of Oregon
	\$ 85,000	Olympic NF
	\$ 55,000	MBS NF
	\$ 30,000	CRGNSA
	\$ 440,000	Siuslaw NF
	\$ 135,000	Siskiyou NF
Total Forest Service funds:	\$ 1,360,000	

PCWP Partnership Projects, FY01

The Pacific Coast Watershed Project is proud to have funded or facilitated nearly 100 projects in five watersheds in Oregon and Washington in FY01. Some of our partners reported only on projects directly or fully funded by PCWP grant monies; others told us of their whole watershed restoration programs, whose budgets for new and ongoing activities were augmented by PCWP assistance.

Dozens of public and private partners contributed to projects focused on restoration, assessment, prioritization, partnership, resource improvement, and education. In addition to the following PCWP-influenced projects, a tremendous amount of additional watershed restoration work was accomplished by all the national forests in the partnership.

Pacific Coast Watershed Project



Skagit River Bald Eagles

Spawning salmon draw hungry bald eagles.

Skagit River Bald Eagles

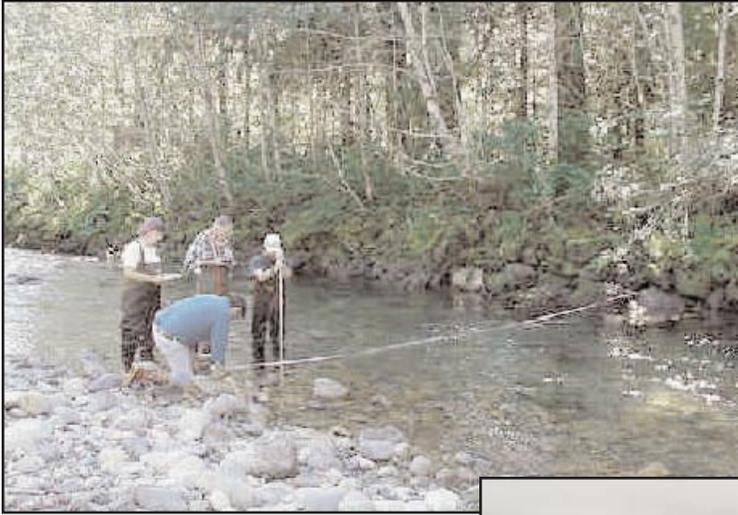
Each November, a remarkable interaction plays out on the forested riverbanks of the upper Skagit River in northwest Washington State: the return of spawning runs of salmon and hundreds of hungry bald eagles. The primary setting for this natural drama: an 8,000-acre natural area created by a unique partnership between a private nonprofit conservation organization (The Nature Conservancy) and several cooperating local, state, and federal agencies.

The Skagit River Bald Eagle Natural Area (SRBENA) protects habitat for one of the largest wintering populations of bald eagles in the lower 48 states, and serves as a hub



for conducting critical scientific and educational activities involving local communities. Thanks to the SRBENA, land is protected for eagle roosting in winter, participation of community members in volunteer programs is on the rise, and thousands of people attending the annual Upper Skagit Bald Eagle Festival are learning about bald eagle habitat needs. The Forest Service and the North Cascades Institute have since

1993 conducted an innovative Eagle Watchers program to help manage this convergence of wintering bald eagles and the tourists who flock to watch the birds along the Skagit. Volunteers inform thousands of visitors about bald eagles, salmon, and related habitat and management issues.



PCWP Partner: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

Beyond Boundaries: Resource Stewardship on the Skagit River.

- Produced a 28-page full-color booklet describing Forest partnership activities in the Skagit River Basin. To be distributed electronically and posted on the internet.

Skagit Watershed Council

- Provided support for the development of a restoration and protection monitoring program.



Pacific Coast Watershed Project



Dungeness River Watershed

Road Decommissioning and Stabilization.

Dungeness River Watershed

From its origins near Mystery Mountain in Washington State, the Dungeness River and its major tributary, the Gray Wolf, drain 172,500 acres of tall mountains, lush foothills, and fertile plains. The river is home to a diverse array of birds, mammals, shellfish, insects, amphibians, and plants and of course, the wild salmon.

The overall health of the watershed, its wildlife, and its 16,000 human inhabitants, depends on the quality and quantity of this water. Human impacts are numerous, and sediment levels have risen, diminishing the river's ability to accommodate floodwaters or migrating salmon.

The process of restoring the Dungeness River watershed is a key effort for the Olympic National Forest. From citizen committees in the early 1980s, to a river restoration work group in 1994, to the Dungeness River Management Team today, individuals and stakeholders across this watershed have long been working together to develop and implement locally based, long-term solutions to watershed management issues.



Highest priority strategic elements for restoration of wild salmon stocks include restoration of the lower river floodplain and delta, protection of existing functional

habitat upriver, and floodplain restoration/constriction abatement. A major step toward these goals in FY01 was the decommissioning and stabilization of roads on the Olympic National Forest, accomplished with the help of a PCWP grant.

Drainage improvements, rock surfacing, and unstable fillslope pullback were completed on 7 miles; a half-mile of stream crossings were removed; and contracts were awarded to begin sediment reduction, storm damage repair, and other work in FY02.

PCWP: Olympic National Forest

FS Road 2860

- Contract awarded, road decommissioning. Work begins 2002.

Dungeness Road

- Completed stabilization for sediment reduction: 7 miles drainage improvement, rock surfacing and unstable fillslope pullback.

Dungeness ERFO Road

- Contract awarded, road stabilization and repair: 5 miles (7 sites) storm damage repair, drainage improvement. Work begins 2002.

Restoration Monitoring Contract

- To decommission 8 sites on FS Road 2860.

Dungeness Watershed Analysis, 2nd Iteration

- Contract awarded. Completion 2002.



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Sandy River Delta Riparian Restoration

Sandy River Delta Riparian Restoration

In the lower Columbia River estuary, the Sandy River delta represents one of the very best opportunities in the Portland, Oregon, area to re-establish a large block of “gallery” Columbia River bottomland riparian forest of dense, unbroken stands of black cotton wood, willow, and ash.

The goal of the Sandy River Delta Riparian Restoration project is to restore 600 acres of this riparian forest. Under the guidance of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, and with the help of partners and grant funding in every phase, the project this year planted 25 acres of bottomland forest, prepared sites on 210 additional acres, maintained 30 acres, purchased planting materials for FY02 planting, and monitored neotropical bird occurrence and planting success. The cost: \$76,500, 47% of which was provided by partners.

PCWP Partner: Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

Sandy River Delta Riparian Restoration

- Planted 25 acres of bottomland forest; prepared 210 acres; maintained 30 acres; purchased planting materials; monitored neotropical birds and planting success.

Sandy River Delta Wetland Restoration

- Deepened 55 acres to enhance wetlands; monitored wildlife use and vegetation response.

Pacific Coast Watershed Project



Siuslaw Accomplishments

Siuslaw Demo: Large-scale Watershed Restoration through Partnerships

The partnership efforts of the Siuslaw National Forest - involving nearly 30 federal, state, and local public and private partners - integrate dozens of large-scale watershed restoration projects across ownership boundaries to get a big bang for every buck invested.

Take the basin-wide riparian planting and release project: Partners: Siuslaw Watershed Council, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development District, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and Roseburg Forest Products. Products: 17,000 trees planted, 5,000 trees tubed, 50 acres of trees released, involving 100 landowners, 200 volunteers, and 33 riparian sites. Leveraging: \$25,000 of Forest Service dollars to \$55,230 partner contributions.

Or take the Rapid Bio assessment: Partners: Siuslaw Watershed Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Pacific Rivers Council. Products: 500 miles of stream surveyed. Leveraging: \$800 Forest Service dollars to \$25,000 partner contributions.

Not to mention the Waite/Wilbur coastal estuary acquisition: Partners: Ducks Unlimited, Siuslaw Watershed Council, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District, South Slough landowners, and Oregon Wetlands Enhancement Board. Products: acquisition of a major coastal wetlands grant, ongoing negotiations with private landowners. Leveraging: \$600 Forest Service dollars to a million dollars of partner contributions.

PCWP Partner: Siuslaw National Forest

Fiddle Creek

- Enhanced 2 miles of instream and riparian habitats; replaced 2 culverts.

Deadwood

- EA completed, contract developed, funds available for road decommissioning and restoration of 20 miles of instream and riparian areas.

Green Creek Road

- Designed and awarded contract for road decommissioning.

Condon Creek Road

- Removed 2 culverts, decommissioned 1 mile of road.

No. Fork Siuslaw R.

- Planted 2 acres of riparian area, enhanced 1/4 mile of stream habitat, relocated 1/4 mile of road.

Gibson Fish Passage

- Awarded contract for 1/2 mile of road decommissioning, replacing 2 culverts, upgrading 1 culvert for fish passage.

Riparian planting and release, basin-wide

- Planted 17,000 trees; tubed 5,000 trees; released 50 acres of trees; included 100 landowners, 200 volunteers, 33 riparian sites

Mapleton Schools Native Plant Nursery

- Purchased equipment to start 5,000-seedling nursery run by student business.

Siuslaw Stream Gauge

- Maintained stream gauge to monitor flows.

Maple-Fiddle Outreach Coordinator

- Established landowner database and conducted initial outreach.

Lake Creek

- Conducted water quality monitoring; clarified toxicity of lead from sinkers in aquatic organisms.

Knowles Creek Fish Trap

- Conducted population monitoring at smolt trap; 9th year of operation.

Rapid Bio Assessment

- Surveyed 50 miles of stream to monitor coho summer rearing population.

Culvert replacements, basin-wide

- Designed and developed contract specifications to allow fish passage on 3 culverts; installed 6 new and retrofitted 5 culverts.

Lower Siuslaw Environmental Assessment

- Assessed 70,000 acres and developed EA for project to conduct thinning, planting, and release on upland and riparian areas; decommission road; and enhance aquatic habitat.

Karnowsky Creek Restoration

- Designed 1,800-acre watershed restoration plan.

Waite/Wilbur coastal estuary acquisition

- Acquired \$1,000,000 Coastal Wetlands Grant. Negotiations with private landowners on-going.

Bailey Creek

- Removed 3 culverts.

Enchanted Valley

- Education and outreach: involved student volunteers on projects, graphic display of restoration project history, development of a powerpoint program, and development of a traveling poster board presentation. Riparian planting and release: planted and released 12 acres.

Siuslaw Basin Watershed Assessment

- Completed 500,000-acre assessment of conditions with sub-basin recommendations of limiting factors and restoration needs.

Siuslaw Poaching Patrol

- Obtained initial agreement to hire a retired officer to patrol known poaching sites.

Mapleton School

- Developed curriculum for students to meet their certificate of mastery in Natural Resources Education.

Sandy Creek

- Instream restoration; 1 mile of stream habitat restored, involving 13 structures.

Grant preparation

- 15 grants submitted, 9 funded.

Noxious weed removal

- Removed 55 acres of gorse, 3.5 miles of Scotch Broom, 1 acre of English ivy, 2.5 miles of knapweed. Surveyed ivy.

Siuslaw Middle School Stream Team

- Purchased waders and monitoring equipment; 110 children participate in the program.

Siuslaw Watershed Council

- Helped with newsletter production; 200 residents on the mailing list.

Plover Habitat Reclamation

- Removed 75 acres of beach grass.

Fairs and exhibitions

- Participated in Lane County Fair, Mapleton Salmon Festival.

Siuslaw Youth STEP

- 20 youths participate in habitat restoration work.

Whitaker Creek Fish Trap

- Monitored fish populations at adult trap.

Restoration materials

- Acquired and distributed logs and rocks for use in restoration projects.

Wildcat Instream Restoration Project

- Enhanced 1/2 mile of stream.

Forest stewardship

- Conducted initial outreach to inform basin landowners of program's potential to fund projects.

Lorane Valley Sub-basin

- Outreach: 25 residents attended meetings.

Wolf Creek Smolt Trap

- Monitored fish populations; 6th year of operations.

Bierce Creek

- Restored 1 mile of habitat, removed 1 culvert.

North and Pugh Creek

- Restored 1.5 miles of stream habitat, removed 1 culvert, prepared site for riparian planting.

Road 20-07-4

- Decommissioned 1 mile of road.

Deer Creek Road

- Replaced 1 culvert.

Oxbow/Smith River

- Replaced 2 culverts.

Esmond Creek

- Restored 2 miles of stream habitat.

Upland thinning.

- Thinned areas to accelerate old-growth habitat. LSR plan in development.

North Fork Siuslaw Sinuosity Study

- Conducted analysis of historical photos on 20 miles of stream, highlighting migration and riparian vegetation changes over time.

Estegaard Dike

- Coordinated volunteers to breach dike in 2 places to allow tidal flow on 50 acres of wetland.

Duncan Island Wetland

- Placed logs in estuary, developed interpretive nature trail, breached dike.

Wildcat Creek Environmental Quality Incentive Program

- Planted riparian areas.

Pacific Coast Watershed Project



Coquille

An Integrated Watershed-scale Assessment on the Coquille

The Foggy/Eden Planning area of the Rogue/Siskiyou National Forest undertook an integrated watershed scale assessment of the 6th field scale (9,000 acres). This is an innovative approach to holistic interdisciplinary restoration. It has received regional recognition and will become a template for future restoration in the Coquille basin. The Integrated Resource Plan is complete, and the associated NEPA document is nearing completion.

PCWP Partner: Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest

Riparian planting

- Inter-planted 2.5 miles of riparian area, monitored first-year survival (>95%).

Nursery stock

- Re-planted surplus conifer stock into larger containers for out-year riparian planting.

Culvert armor

- Armored a recently installed culvert, to reduce likelihood of a large fill failure.

Ditch relief culverts

- Designed for replacement, 5 ditch relief culverts that had been identified as “high risk” for failure; new culverts will accommodate a 100-year flow.

Foggy/Eden Planning Area

- Undertook an integrated watershed scale assessment. Integrated Resource Plan completed; NEPA document nearing completion.





Corridor Project

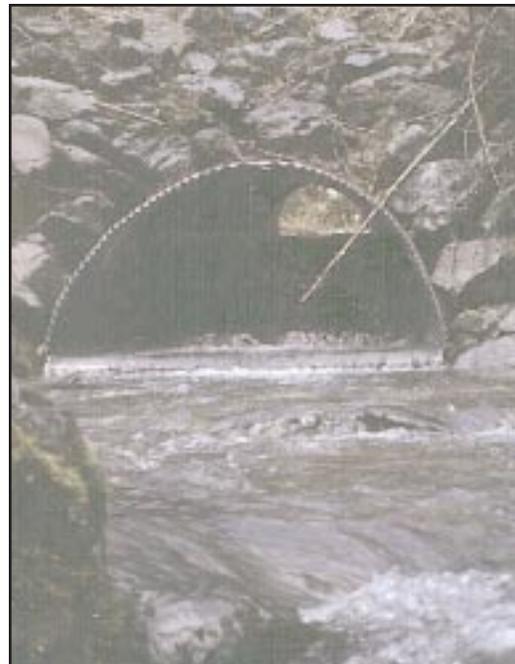
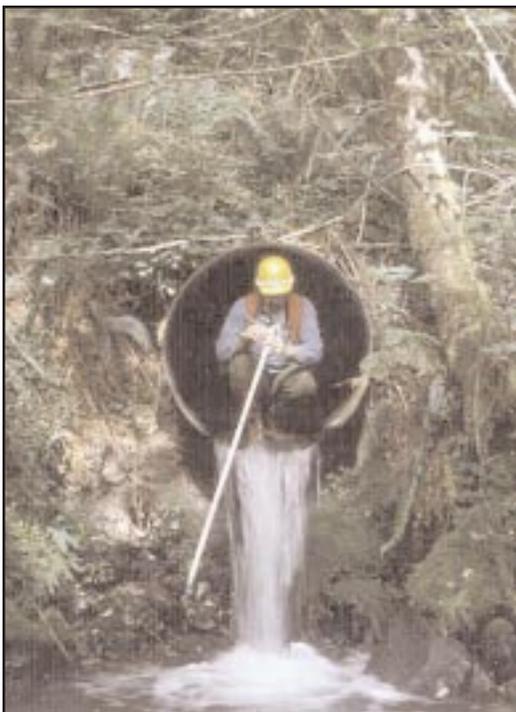
- Funded salaries for project, which includes unique approaches combining scenic qualities, riparian health, riparian diversity, instream restoration, and interpretive opportunities while maintaining public safety along heavily traveled river bottom roads. NEPA document nearing completion.

Buck Creek

- Replaced fish barrier with new pipe to accommodate 100-year flood, provide for both juvenile and adult fish passage, and allow for passage of amphibians and aquatic insects. Over 1/2 mile of historical resident trout habitat restored.

Clear Creek

- Contract awarded to replace culvert with new pipe to accommodate 100-year flow and provide passage for fish, amphibians, and aquatic insects. Will restore about 1/2 mile of historical resident trout habitat.



Pacific Coast Watershed Project



Premier Partner Ducks Unlimited

Ducks Unlimited

Philpot Ranch

- Completed topographic survey, restoration of 600-acre former dairy farm (dike breaching and ditch filling); USFWS land. Additional property to be acquired 2002-2003.

Allen (Gomes)

- Completed design and permitting, restoration of 60-acre pasture (dike breaching); private land. Restoration 2002.

Cowan

- Completed design and permitting, restoration of 80-acre diked pasture (excavating swales, installing fishway water control structure); private land. Restoration 2002.

Nix

- In design phase, restoration of 120-acre diked pasture (dike breaching); private land. Restoration 2002-2003.

Leeds Island

- In design phase, restoration of 300-acre former island (deleveling, dike breaching, new tidegate system); private land. Restoration 2002 and 2003.

Dean Creek

- In engineering and design phase, restoration of 250-acre estuary/wetlands; BLM-administered land.



Dawson

- Completed restoration of 50-acre diked pasture (dike breached, setback levee installed).

Smith River

- In design phase, restoration of 150-acre wetlands (installing water control structures in ditches); private land. Restoration 2002.

Siuslaw River

- In preliminary phases, restoration of 350-acre diked pasture (dike breaching); private land. Restoration 2003.

Lint Slough

- 80% complete, restoration of historical estuary (dike breaching); ODFW land.

Salmon River

- In design phase, restoration of 40-acre diked wetlands and 1/2 mile of creek (dike breaching, wetland enhancement); Forest Service-administered land. Restoration 2002.

Sand Lake

- In design phase, restoration of 120-acre diked estuary (dike breaching, installing setback levee); private land.

Sharnell Fee

- In design/permitting phase, restoration of 100-acre wetlands (dike breaching, ditch plugs); private land. Restoration 2002.



Sauvie Island

- In design phase, restoration of 300-acre wetlands (installing water control structures); state land. Restoration 2002.

Smith and Bybee lakes

- In design phase, restoration of 1,800-acre wetlands (removing dam, installing fish-friendly water control structure). Restoration 2002.

Sandy River Delta

- Restoration underway, 120-acre floodplain (deleveling, installing water management system); Forest Service-administered land.

Tide Creek Ranch

- Completed design and permitting, restoration of 50-acre seasonal wetlands (deleveling, installing water control structures); private land. Restoration in 2002.

Vancouver Lake

- In permitting phase, restoration of 200-acre wetland (deleveling, installing water control structures, planting trees). Restoration in 2002.

Swan Marsh

- Completed restoration, 200-acre wetland (replaced failing structure with fish-friendly water control structure).

Bend, Washington

- In design phase, restoration of 3-miles of dike and several tidegate systems; private and state lands. Restoration 2003.

Partnership Goals and Priorities

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