

## central coast

**Y**aquina Bay has lost approximately 70 percent of its historic estuarine marshes. The remaining tidal marshes provide critical habitat for species listed on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) including coho salmon, brown pelicans, bald eagles, and marbled murrelets, as well as for sea-run cutthroat and steelhead trout which are ESA candidate species. In addition, the remaining marshes protect key habitat for state sensitive anadromous species such as chum salmon and Pacific lamprey, while supporting a high use by waterfowl. They also contain high numbers and diversity of migratory shorebirds.

**Project Goals**

- Conservation of intact salt and brackish marsh.
- Restoration of marsh areas and adjacent timber lands.
- Expansion of partnerships and conservation opportunities to the Alsea and Beaver Creek watersheds to the south.

**Project Partners**

## NON-GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORTERS

- The MidCoast Watersheds Council
- Green Diamond Resource Company
- The Central Coast Land Conservancy

- American Bird Conservancy
- Oregon Habitat Joint Venture
- The Nature Conservancy
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- Private Landowners

## GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORTERS

- Lincoln County
- Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

- Natural Resource Conservation Service

- Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District

- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

**Tasks Completed**

- Appraisals have been completed on 10 properties within the Yaquina estuary.
- Negotiations for acquisitions and conservation easements with landowners will begin in November 2004.
- Creation of a plan that identifies properties for acquisition, conservation and restoration opportunities in Alsea and Beaver Creek.

**Next Steps**

- Additional land acquisitions and conservation easements in Yaquina, Alsea and Beaver Creek. (some discussions have already begun)
- Provide restoration and conservation technical assistance to private landowners.
- Host a workshop for real estate agents on wetland conservation and restoration needs and opportunities.

# Deschutes Basin

**T**he Deschutes Basin lies just east of the Cascade Range and at 10,000 square miles, it is the second largest river basin in Oregon. It is also one of the most diverse in the State, encompassing portions of five ecoregions: Cascades, Eastern Cascades, Northern Basin and Range, Blue Mountain and Columbia Plateau. While portions of the Basin receive large amounts of snow, the landscape is generally defined by its arid nature. Wetlands account for less than 2 percent of the Basin, most of which are associated with riparian corridors along rivers. The relative scarcity of wetlands makes their protection and restoration important to watershed restoration efforts.

The Deschutes Basin contains some of the fastest growing counties in Oregon, including Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook. A rapid transition is currently taking place, from an agricultural economy to one based on tourism and goods and services. The agricultural development of the past 100 years combined with the current urbanization of the Deschutes Basin has had, and will continue to have, a substantial impact on wetland resources.

## Project Goals

- Identify highest priority wetland conservation and restoration opportunities.
- Determine the viability of using market based mechanisms, to fund restoration of critical habitats.
- Begin developing consensus on conservation and restoration priori-

ties among agencies and other community interests within the Deschutes Basin.

## Project Partners

- Deschutes Resources Conservancy
- Upper Deschutes Basin Watershed Council
- Deschutes Basin Land Trust



- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Private Landowners
- Deschutes County
- Oregon Habitat Joint Venture
- Vigil-Agrimis

- Implement large parcel wetland restoration projects with private landowners in the Little Deschutes Basin.
- Explore wetland restoration and conservation opportunities with Cross Water Golf Course.
- Link wetland conservation and restoration opportunities to Eastside Bird Plan.

## Tasks Completed

- Publication of Deschutes Wetland Inventory Atlas.
- Prioritization of projects and next steps with local partners.

## Next Steps

- Develop and implement tools for conservation of “Red Line Lot” wetlands in La Pine.



# scappoose bottomlands

**T**he Scappoose Bay watershed historically supported four of six species of salmon and a large proportion of waterfowl, riparian, and shorebird species found in the Pacific Northwest. It has long been identified as an important habitat area in a variety of fish and wildlife habitat assessments and plans written by federal, state, local and non-profit agencies and organizations. Located along the eastern flanks of the Tualatin Mountains and the floodplain of Multnomah Channel, the watershed contains a broad diversity of habitats, ranging from small, steep mountain streams to extended low-gradient stream valleys to the lowland floodplain of the Columbia River estuary.

Early settlers and trappers described the area as abundant with deer, elk, fish, ducks, geese, swans and water. Over the past 150 years, the watershed has been impacted by a broad range of uses: agriculture, forestry, surface mining, and residential and industrial development. Fur trapping, logging, gravel mining, dairy and small farming, residential and commercial development, water withdrawal, introduction of exotic species and major flood control efforts have changed the historical habitats and effected the fish and wildlife presence and use of the watershed.

## Project Goal

- Create a Conservation and Restoration Plan that can be used as a community based roadmap for prioritizing lands for conservation and restoration and opportunities for future partnerships and funding.

## Project Partners

- The Nature Conservancy
- Oregon State University Natural Heritage Information Center
- LCREP (Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership)



- Scappoose Bay Watershed Council
- Ducks Unlimited
- Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Private Landowners

## Tasks Completed

- Characterization of the remaining higher quality wetlands in the Bottomlands .
- Publication of Scappoose Bay Conservation and Restoration Plan
- Conservation easement and fee title appraisals for four priority properties
- Outreach to landowners

## Next Steps

- Work with watershed council and other partners to find funding to implement the plan.
- Host discussions and design charette with the mineral and aggregate industry on wetland conservation and restoration after mining.
- Provide restoration and conservation technical assistance to private landowners.

# education

**T**he Wetlands Conservancy has worked in partnership with Open Meadow Corps Restoring the Urban Environment (CRUE) since 1995. CRUE is a fully-accredited alternative high school program for former dropouts that have an interest in natural sciences. The collaboration has allowed students in CRUE to explore and obtain job skills in the fields of landscape design, wildlife ecology, watershed planning, GIS, and stream and wetland restoration.

Over the past five years, balancing urban growth issues with protection of water, air, endangered species has created many new job opportunities and markets. There is a need for young people trained at both the entry technician level as well as more advanced positions in ecology, engineering, geography, and landscape design and planning. The CRUE program has given students the opportunity to work with professionals in these fields, develop their own skills, and experience the value of inter disciplinary approaches and multi-partner collaborations.



## Goal

- To teach students to be stewards of their landscape and communities.

## Projects Completed

- Water quality, wildlife and invasive plant research at Cedar Mill, Knez and Pascuzzi Pond Wetland Preserves.
- Management and maintenance at Knez and Cedar Mill wetland preserves.
- Design of bioswales and wetland and stream restoration project at Norm Thompson Outfitters.
- Design of a concept restoration plan for Nyberg Creek wetland.

## Next Steps

- Holiday gift basket collaboration
- Restoration and management plan design for property adjacent to Knez Wetland Preserve

- On-going research and maintenance at Knez and Cedar Mill wetland preserves.

## Other School Partnerships

- Merlo Station High School
- Native American Youth Association
- Cascade Pacific Boy Scouts of America
- Portland State University
- Oregon Graduate Institute

## wetland research

**H**ow can we enhance our wetlands conservation efforts? Where should TWC purchase or conserve land? How can we better assist others to protect and value Oregon's Greatest Wetlands? TWC has initiated a research program to answer these questions. Current projects include: evaluating invasive plant control and management; the role of beaver in urban wetlands; expanding our OGW database; and developing evaluation criteria for success of our wetland acquisitions and restorations based on a larger biodiversity scale.

### INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

#### Project Goal

- To understand how to conserve and enhance biodiversity in urban wetlands.
- To test alternative reed canary grass control techniques in urban wetlands.

#### Project Research

The project focuses on an investigation of alternative reed canary-grass control techniques, as this invasive species poses one of the most prominent threats to the resource values of Cedar Mill Wetland. The project initiates an

adaptive management plan and research for reduction of reed canary-grass in Cedar Mill Wetland. Cedar Mill wetland is a 16-acre remnant wetland within a rapidly developing landscape of Washington County.

It provides a mosaic of palustrine emergent-open water wetland with small fringes of mudflat and scrub shrub vegetation, with an important hydrologic and habitat linkage to the other natural areas within the Johnson Creek watershed.

In the Summer of 2003 nine sites within Cedar Mill Wetland were selected. Experimental test plots and line transects were established, baseline data were collected and the alternative reed canarygrass control tech-



niques were applied. Analysis of results is pending, as the final data collection period will be in the Fall of 2004.

#### Project Partners

- Portland State University
- The Nature Conservancy
- Jackson Bottom Wetland Preserve
- Clean Water Services
- Volunteers

### BEAVER

#### Project Goal

Document the role beaver play in restoration and management of urban streams and connected wetland systems.

#### Project Research

Beavers numbered from 60-400 million prior to European colonization. By the early 1900s, the beaver population had dropped to as few as 100,000 due to overtrapping and land clearing,

# wetland research

which largely destroyed their wetlands habitat. Beaver have recovered from near extinction. Today, as their population is rebounding, conflicts with humans are also increasing.

This study will help define the effects beaver alterations have on aquatic ecosystems in the metro region. The research will define the role beavers play in restoration and management of urban stream and connected wetland systems. Results from this study will also offer metro-area land managers new insights and strategies on working with beaver on improving watershed, stream and wetland health and function.

### Project Partners

- Metro Parks and Greenspaces
- Oregon Graduate Institute
- Clean Water Services
- Metro area high school students

### COASTAL ECOSYSTEM CHANGE ANALYSIS

#### Project Goal

To develop a program to monitor key wildlife and fish species in Yaquina estuary to assess the success of the conservation and restoration efforts. This program may be expanded to include sites in the Siletz and New River estuaries.

#### Project Research

The Wetlands Conservancy is buying property within Yaquina estuary. The purchases, easements and restoration projects will put upward of 75 percent of McCaffery Slough and a large portion of Boone/Nute Slough in a conservation status. This offers an opportunity to monitor both the success



of individual projects, but also the long term changes in fish and wildlife use and diversity changes in the whole watershed. It also offers an opportunity to ask questions and evaluate the success of our acquisition and restoration assumptions and priorities.

#### Project Partners

- The Nature Conservancy
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- Oregon Habitat Joint Venture
- Defenders of Wildlife
- USFWS Coastal Refuge
- American Bird Conservancy
- Siletz Tribe

### EXPANDING OREGON'S WETLAND DATABASE

#### Project Goal

To update, combine and expand The Wetlands Conservancy's Oregon's Greatest Wetlands and the Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center wetlands databases

to an Internet based statewide wetland restoration, and conservation project identification, assessment and response system .

#### Project Description

The system will consist of an online database, mapserver and opportunity for community information sharing. The system will be used by the public, government, and nongovernmental organizations to research and share specific and non-specific wetland information and wetland conservation, restoration and mitigation project needs, successes and lessons learned.

#### Project Partners

- Oregon State University Natural Heritage Institute
- Portland State University
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Oregon Division of State Lands

## business partnerships

**W**etlands play a key role in the health of the environment and communities. Vital natural links to clean water for fish, wildlife and people, these lands are among the world's most biologically productive natural ecosystems, essential to water quality and healthy fish and wildlife habitat. Yet, Oregon has already lost more than half of these critical areas to agriculture, commercial and residential development.

Wetlands also exist within a web of community demands. Whether in private or public ownership, their value includes economic, aesthetic and environmental elements. Traditional strategies that focus solely on acquiring property or regulating behavior often do not effectively resolve such dynamics. Long-term solutions must recognize and balance these disparate demands. The opportunities lay with sustained local partnerships that leverage community values.

### Project Goal

To build on existing relationships with small landowners, ranchers, food producers, and industrial forest users to leverage financial and community interests of private landowners, incorporate new constituencies, and strengthen community-based responses to promote protection and conservation of Oregon's Greatest Wetlands.

### Project Description

■ Established Oregon Wetlands Partnership Endowment Fund to provide technical assistance and materials to small farmers and producers around the state whose operations are adjacent to wetlands and stream corridors. Endowment funds will be used to provide on-going one-on-one restoration and conservation consultations with TWC staff.



### Next Steps

■ Host a workshop for real estate agents on wetland conservation and restoration needs and opportunities.

■ Green Diamond Resources

■ Three Oaks Development

■ PGE

■ Bullivant Houser Bailey PC Development

■ WRG Design Inc.

■ Pacific Habitat Services

■ Tonkon Torp LLP

■ Pacific Foods of Oregon, Inc.

■ Vigil-Agrimis

### Project Partners

■ New Seasons Markets

■ Kettle Foods

■ Tyee Vineyards

■ Organic Valley Coop

■ Oregon Country Beef

■ Norm Thompson Outfitters

■ Atlas Copco Wagner Mining

## TWC partners

**T**he Wetlands Conservancy's success is built on two central attributes: an approach that is balanced and non-ideological; and a commitment to working in partnership with other organizations to advance wetlands protection. Over the past five years The Wetlands Conservancy has expanded significantly its stewardship and acquisition programs and been a key source of assistance and information to community organizations, governments and private landowners throughout the state.

### Nonprofits

American Bird Conservancy  
 Central Coast Land Conservancy  
 Columbia Land Trust  
 Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission  
 Coos Watershed Association  
 Defenders of Wildlife  
 Deschutes Basin Land Trust  
 Deschutes Resources Conservancy  
 Ducks Unlimited  
 Grand Ronde Model Watershed  
 Greenbelt Land Trust  
 Jackson Bottom Wetland Preserve  
 Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership  
 McKenzie River Trust  
 North Coast Land Conservancy  
 Oregon Habitat Joint Venture  
 Pacific Habitat Joint Venture

Scappoose Bay Watershed Council  
 Siletz Tribe  
 SOLV  
 South Coast Land Conservancy  
 South Coast Watershed Council  
 The MidCoast Watersheds Council  
 The Nature Conservancy  
 Upper Deschutes Basin Watershed Council  
 Wildlife Conservation Society

### Governmental Partners

City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services  
 City of Tualatin  
 Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District  
 Clean Water Services  
 Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District  
 Deschutes County

Lincoln County  
 Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District  
 Metro  
 National Marine Fisheries Service  
 Natural Resource Conservation Service  
 Oregon Department of Transportation  
 Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife  
 Oregon Division of State Lands  
 Oregon State University Natural Heritage Information Center  
 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
 Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission  
 TriMet  
 Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation  
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
 US Fish and Wildlife Service  
 Washington County  
 Water Environment Service

### Schools

Cascade Pacific Boy Scouts of America  
 Merlo Station High School  
 Native American Youth Association  
 Open Meadow Alternative Schools



Oregon Graduate Institute  
 Portland State University  
 Student Watershed Research Program

### Businesses

Bullivant Houser Bailey, PC  
 Green Diamond Resource Company  
 Hahn & Associates  
 HomeStreet Bank  
 Kettle Foods  
 Laurie Causgrove Design  
 New Seasons Markets  
 Norm Thompson Outfitters  
 Oregon Country Beef  
 Organic Valley Coop  
 Pacific Foods  
 Pacific Habitat Services  
 PGE  
 Tonkon Torp LLP  
 Tye Vineyards  
 WRG Design Inc