

Participants' worksheet and question sheet

Tidal Wetland Restoration Tips: From Planning to Post-project Evaluation

Author and Presenter: Laura Brophy, Green Point Consulting/Oregon State University

Contact information: (541) 752-7671, Laura@GreenPointConsulting.com

This worksheet provides hints for successful tidal wetland restoration, but it is **not** a complete planning guide to tidal wetland restoration. For more complete guidance, consult the resources and literature cited in the Oregon Watershed Assessment Manual, Component XII, "Estuary Assessment," available on the OWEB website at:

http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/docs/pubs/OR_wsassess_manuals.shtml

Please use Page 3 of this handout to list your questions, issues and topics for further discussion. We will try to address all questions and topics either after the presentation in this workshop, or during the wrap-up at 10am on Friday morning.

Use the **OWEB Estuary Assessment method** to locate potential restoration sites (link above). Focus on re-establishing the "chain of habitats" including low salt marsh, high brackish marsh, and shrub and forested tidal wetlands.

Assemble an **advisory team** of experts to help you plan and design your project.

Do some reading to learn about tidal wetland ecology, restoration methods and principles. For key resources, see the OWEB Estuary Assessment guide (link above).

Use **reference sites** or published reference data to choose appropriate restoration sites, predict results, build your restoration design, and evaluate effectiveness.

Include **funds for monitoring** in your initial project proposals -- don't wait until you've implemented your project to look for monitoring funds and start monitoring.

Use a simple "**conceptual model**" to guide you in developing project goals, objectives, design, monitoring, and evaluation methods.

Get expert help to develop an **efficient, focused monitoring** program. Collect data that will answer key questions about your site and its development. Measure structural and controlling factors for efficiency (see your conceptual model), and address your performance criteria.

Don't neglect **baseline monitoring**: begin monitoring before you finalize your restoration design. Baseline monitoring allows you to build a good design and to document the changes you achieve through restoration.

Design your restoration to take advantage of **natural processes** to recreate desired habitats; these should be identified in your conceptual model. Avoid artificial structures and highly engineered solutions; these are generally less successful and require more maintenance.

- Provide continuous **onsite supervision** by a knowledgeable wetland scientist during implementation.
- Conduct **implementation monitoring** during construction as well as afterwards, so you can detect problems and make corrections while your contractor is still onsite.
- After restoration is completed, begin **effectiveness monitoring**. Use the same methods you used for baseline monitoring, so you can compare “before and after” conditions and document your achievements.
- Conduct **rapid assessment** (HGM, ORWAP or other methods) to help track wetland functions as your restoration site develops, but remember that rapid assessment does not substitute for effectiveness monitoring.
- Keep track of your “**lessons learned**” and share them with other restoration practitioners.

Questions/issues for further discussion

If you have questions for the presenter, further issues or topics for discussion, please describe them below and give this page to the presenter at the end of her talk. We will try to address all questions and topics in the Q&A after the presentation, or in the wrap-up (Session 8) at 10am on Friday morning.

Questions:

Issues for discussion:

Further topics and suggestions:
