

## South Coast Basin

### Description

This basin is characterized by two types of drainages. To the north, the Coos and Coquille rivers flow from headwaters in the Coast Range across the Coos Bay dunes and marine terraces to the ocean. In the south, several smaller streams (the Floras and Hunters creeks, and Sixes, Elk, Winchuck, Chetco, and Pistol rivers) flow from the steeper headwaters in the Klamath Mountains.

Habitats in the South Coast Basin are particularly diverse. It includes grasslands and shrublands typical of the central and northern California coast, as well as habitats more similar to those in the Willamette and Umpqua Valleys. It includes Oregon's only Coast Redwood forests, and most of the world's habitat for Port Orford cedar, another giant conifer that was formerly widespread, but is declining due to an introduced root-rot. The terraces from Bandon south to Cape Blanco support unique shorepine forests, wetlands and cranberry bogs. Further south, the coastal headlands and off-shore rocks are among the most spectacular and pristine in Oregon.

This basin contains several areas identified as "core areas" for the recovery of coastal salmon and as important genetic refuges for aquatic species (American Fisheries Society). The Oregon Biodiversity Project identified native sand dune systems, estuaries and headlands and old-growth conifer forests as priority habitats in this basin, and identified the Cape Blanco area as a good place to address biodiversity conservation because of its at-risk species and unique coastal habitats. Coho salmon in this basin are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The South Coast Watershed Council is one of the oldest in Oregon. It serves as the coordinating council and "umbrella" for a number of watershed councils operating in Curry County. These organizations and their partners have focused salmon recovery efforts on riparian restoration and management, improved estuarine and wetland productivity, increased stream complexity and overwintering habitat, removing barriers to passage, and improved range and forest health.

### Priority Ecological Systems

California-Southern Oregon coastal bluffs and headlands  
Deciduous swamp  
Freshwater emergent marsh  
Intertidal freshwater wetland  
Intertidal mudflat  
Klamath ponderosa pine  
Lowland riparian woodland and shrubland  
Lowland riparian woodland and shrubland  
Montane riparian woodland and shrubland  
Oak woodland

Sitka spruce forest  
South coast grassland  
Tidal salt marsh  
Western Oregon upland prairie and oak savanna  
Western Oregon wet prairie

Rare or At-Risk Plant Communities

Buckbrush / Lemmon needlegrass  
Darlingtonia ultramafic fen  
Grand fir - Douglas - fir / tanoak / sword fern  
Port Orford cedar - Sitka spruce / evergreen huckleberry - western rhododendron  
Red fescue - California oatgrass south coast headland or hillslope grassland  
Sitka spruce - grand fir / salal / sword fern  
South coast herb dunes  
Western hemlock / western Labrador tea / slough sedge - skunk cabbage swamp  
Western Labrador tea / burnet / sphagnum bog  
Western Labrador tea / darlingtonia / sphagnum bog

South Coast – Priority Species

<i>Fish</i>	<i>Birds</i>	<i>Mammals</i>	<i>Amphibians and Reptiles</i>	<i>Invertebrates</i>	<i>Plants</i>
Coho Salmon Chinook Salmon (fall run)	Band-Tailed Pigeon Black Oystercatcher Black-Throated Gray Warbler Brant Green Heron Marbled Murrelet Olive-Sided Flycatcher Peregrine Falcon (known and potential nest sites) Purple Finch Rufous Hummingbird (natural habitat only) Short-Billed Dowitcher Snowy Plover	Red Tree Vole	Del Norte Salamander Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog Northwestern Pond Turtle Red-Legged Frog	<i>Algamorda Newcombiana subrotunda</i> (Newcomb's Littorine Snail) <i>Anodonta californiensis</i> (California Floater/Mussel) <i>Callophrys johnsoni</i> (Johnson's Mistletoe Hairstreak) <i>Plebeius saepiolus</i> (All ssp In Area) (Greenish Blue Butterfly) <i>Pomatiopsis binneyi</i> (Robust Walker) <i>Saldula villosa</i> (Hairy Shore Bug)	<i>Castilleja mendocinensis</i> (Mendocino Coast Indian Paintbrush) <i>Lilium occidentale</i> (Western Lily) <i>Sidalcea malviflora</i> ssp. <i>patula</i> (Coast Checker Bloom)

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