



WILLAMETTE
SPECIAL INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP
**ACCOMPLISHMENTS
SUMMARY REPORT**



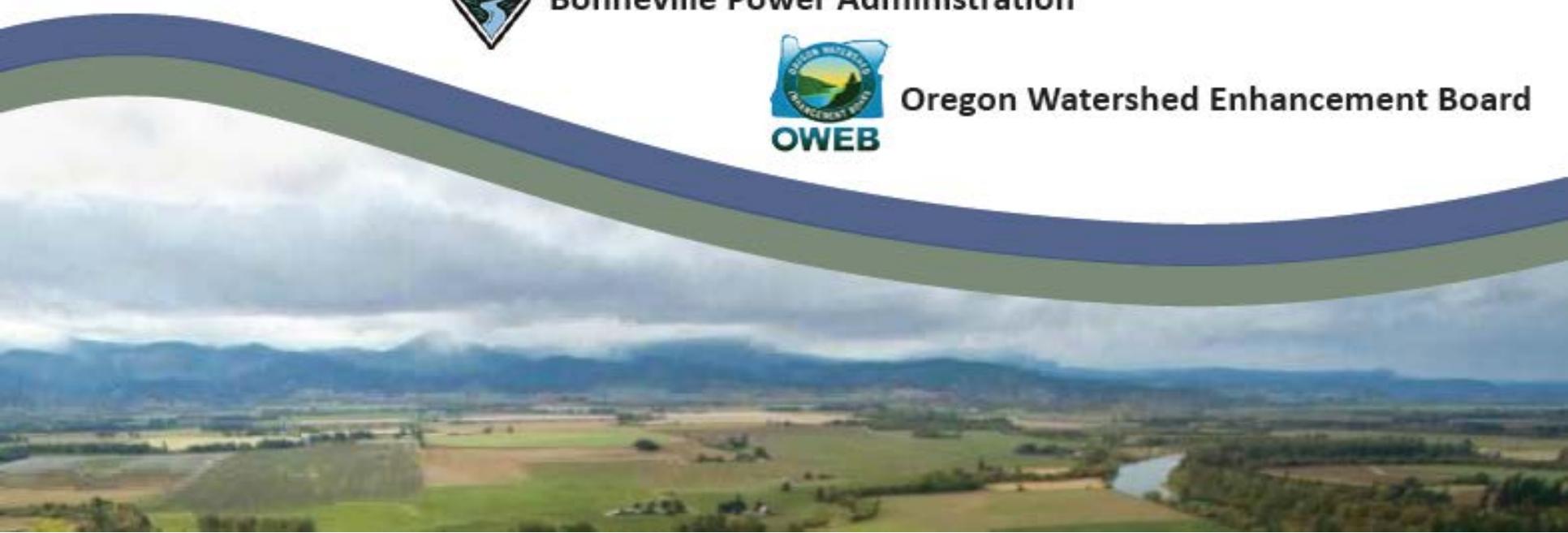
Meyer Memorial Trust



Bonneville Power Administration



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

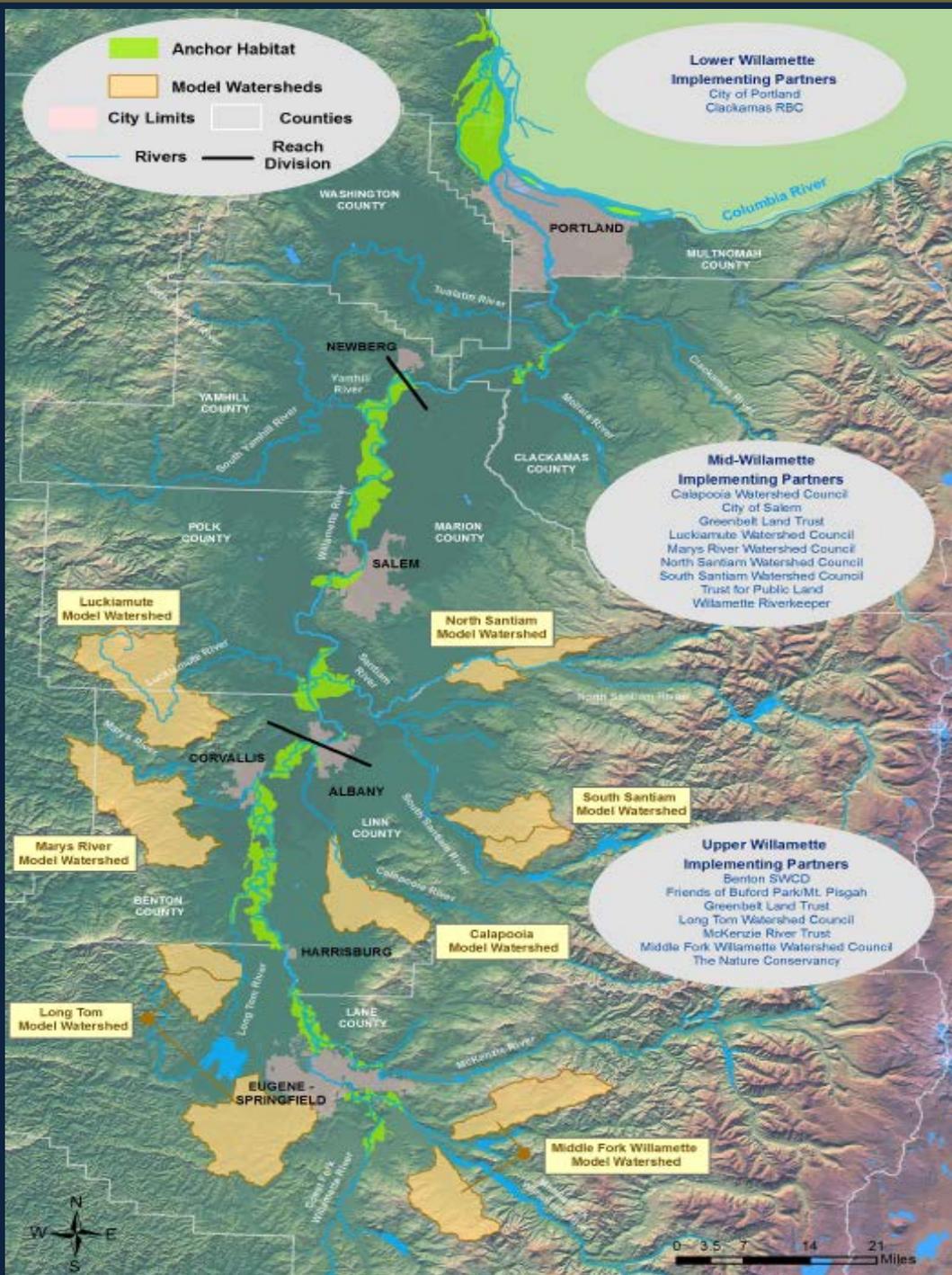




Partnership Summary

Willamette SIP initiated January 2008

- OWEB
- MMT
- BPA
- Technical Partners
- Mainstem River Implementing Partners
- Tributary Streams Model Watersheds





Goals

Mainstem River: Establish a network of anchor habitats in the historic meander corridor of the river that supports improved habitat conditions for aquatic and riparian species.

Tributary Streams: Demonstrate how sustained, long-term funding can revitalize a watershed.



Desired Ecological Outcomes

Mainstem River:

- Protect a network of floodplain habitats
- Restore floodplain habitats and side channels
- Restore floodplain and riparian forests

River and floodplain responses to human activities

Vegetation pattern and changes over time (succession)
Aquatic community composition and distribution
Channel and floodplain structure (morphology) and dynamics
Changes in water quality and quantity

Careful observation of natural and human influences on the river system and floodplain improves understanding of floodplain process and function. This, in turn, informs decisions about what is most important to protect and restore.

Program Goals

Desired ecological outcomes

Floodplain
habitat
protection

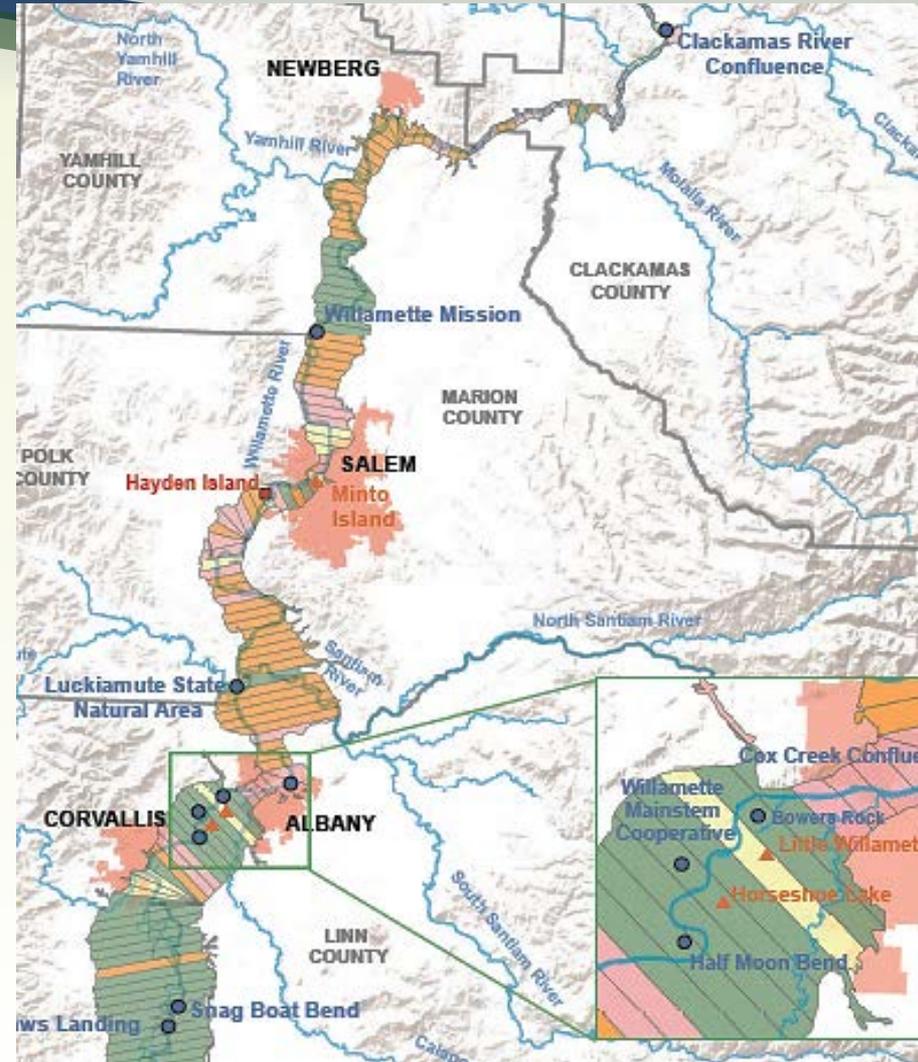
Floodplain
habitat
restoration

Floodplain
forest
restoration

Applying a Scientific Framework

Mainstem River:

- Anchor Habitats as stepping stones
- Slices can be used to prioritize projects and to evaluate changes





Desired Ecological Outcomes

Tributary Streams:

- Protect and restore riparian/aquatic corridors
- Enhance and restore habitat for native fish and wildlife*
- Enhance flow and improve water quality*

* Not eligible for WSIP funds



Floodplain Habitat Protection: Mainstem

Limiting Factors

- Majority of Willamette floodplain is privately owned
- Agriculture and urban development

Actions Taken

- Developed conservation easements and purchased land

Outputs

- 10 acquisitions in anchor habitats
- 2,880 acres total



Highlight: Coburg Aggregate Reclamation Project (CARP)





Floodplain Habitat Restoration: Mainstem

Limiting Factors

- Loss of habitat associated with development (e.g., dams and revetments)
- High water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen

Actions Taken

- Excavate and enhance new/existing side channels
- Remove/upgrade existing culverts and breach levees
- Grade/excavate/contour former gravel pits and floodplains

Outputs

- Connected over 15 miles of side channels to the river
- Restored 9 stream miles
- Removed 17 fish barriers
- Restored 6 acres of wetlands



Highlight: Willamette Confluence





Floodplain and Riparian Forest Restoration: Mainstem and Tributaries

Limiting Factors

- Agriculture conversions and urban development
- Invasive plants
- Gravel extraction
- Channel straightening
- Regulated streamflows

Actions Taken

- Removed invasive species
- Planted native trees and shrubs, seeded grasses
- Livestock exclusion



Floodplain and Riparian Forest Restoration Outputs

Mainstem River

- Mid and Upper Willamette River emphasis
- 3,121 total acres restored

Tributary Streams

- Contacted more than 1,135 landowners
- 978 acres of riparian/floodplain forest restored
- Treated invasive plants along 60 stream miles
- Installed 24.2 miles of riparian fencing



Mainstem River Highlight: Luckiamute State Natural Area

- Partnership between LWC and OPRD
- Rapid Riparian Revegetation method
- Restored 251 acres of former ag. Lands
- Enhanced 285 acres of existing riparian forest





Tributary Streams Highlight: Calapooia–Santiam

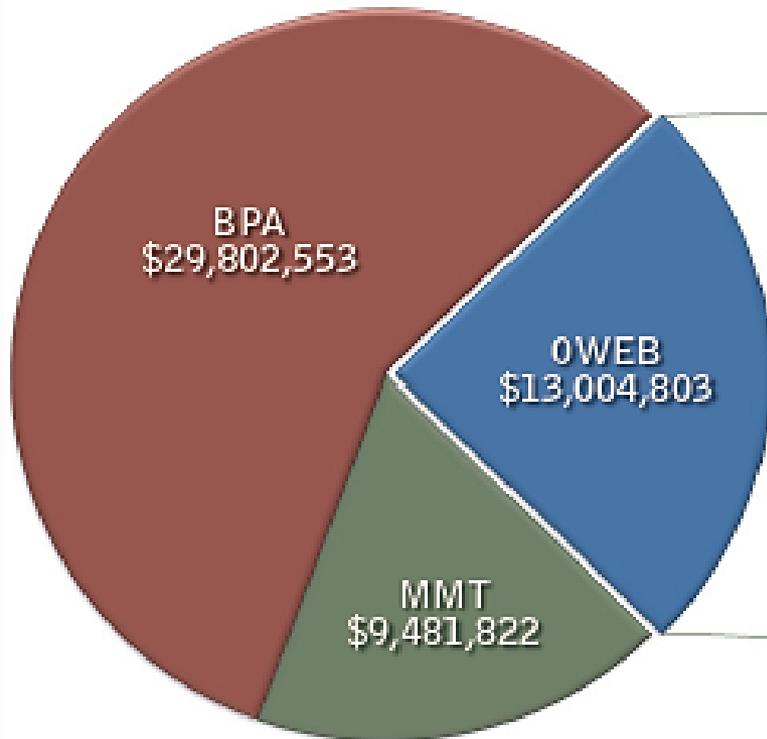
- Shared staff
- Restored 349 acres
- Planted over >715,000 plants
- Installed 8.6 miles of fencing



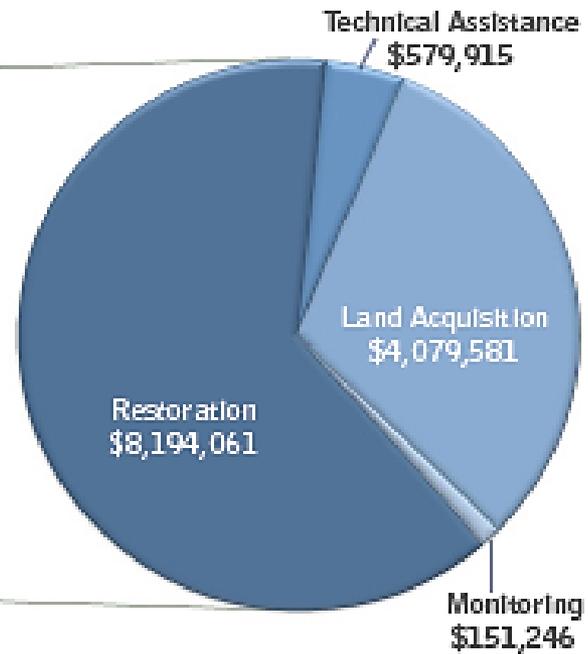


Summary of Contributions

Total WSIP Investment by Funder



Breakdown of OWEB's Investment in WSIP





Local Economy/Community Outcomes

Restoration Economy:

- Labor-intensive actions
- Machine-intensive actions
- Engineered designs

Community Outcomes:

- Organizational development
- Landowner stewardship/engagement
- Basin wide awareness and participation





Funders' Reflections

Lessons Learned:

- Challenge of mainstem target establishment
- Learning curve was steep for mainstem restoration
- Need for adequate capacity
- Initial efforts took time to build base for restoration



Implementing Partners' Reflections

Lessons Learned:

- Communication and outreach are integral to success
- Partnerships and technical support expand scope, scale and effectiveness

Recommendations for the Board:

- Keep in mind that restoration takes time
- Need for ongoing and consistent monitoring



Looking Ahead



- Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group
- Model Watershed Tributary Streams Program