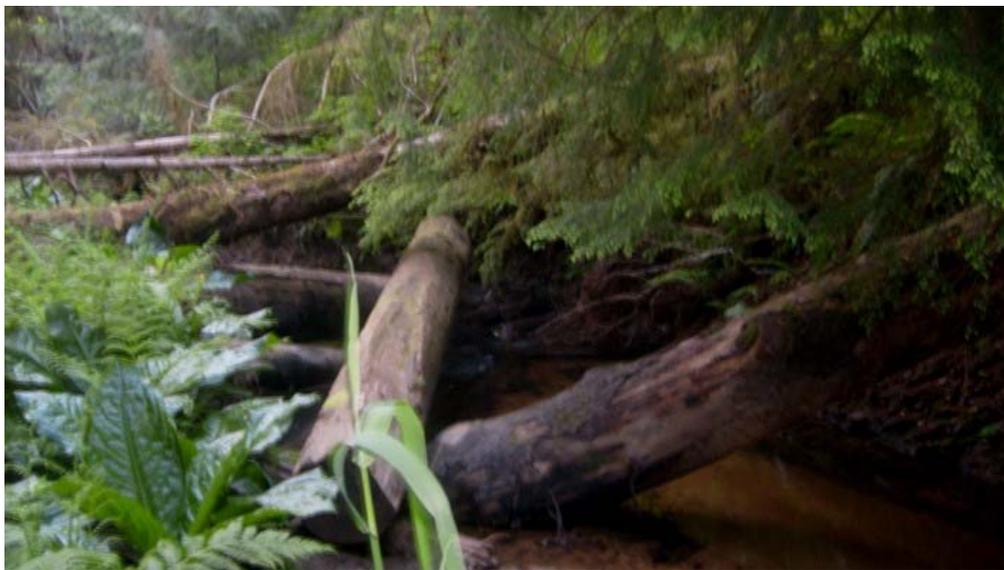




Small Grant Program



2005-2007 Biennial Report

September 2008





Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

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OWEB Mission Statement

To help create and maintain healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies.

September 2008

A message from Executive Director Tom Byler

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is a state agency charged by the Legislature with promoting and funding voluntary actions to enhance Oregon's diverse watersheds by providing grants to local communities to improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat.

Through its competitive grant programs, OWEB awarded nearly \$41.6 million for voluntary restoration projects during the 2005-2007 biennium. A part of that funding included the agency's Small Grant Program which funded over \$2.5 million in projects of \$10,000 or less statewide.

The Small Grant Program offers numerous benefits. It fosters a unique team of watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts and tribes. Together, as teams, they establish local watershed priorities and recommend appropriate restoration projects for funding in their local areas. Small Grant projects create "win-win" scenarios where restoration activities provide on-the-ground benefits to watersheds and on-the-ground benefits for landowners. Additionally, the program provides local watershed education and a sense of accomplishment by involving local citizens in restoration activities while bringing employment opportunities to local contractors.

Since its establishment in 2002, the Small Grant Program has provided more than \$7.4 million to fund over 1,160 projects. Overall, Small Grants have averaged \$6,400 per grant, with most projects implemented on private lands across the state.

The pages that follow describe the Small Grant Program in general and highlight projects that were implemented during the 2005-2007 biennium. While local watershed priorities may vary, there are consistent and significant benefits to watersheds and fish and wildlife habitat and to the communities implementing the projects across the state.

Cover Photo: This photo shows a large wood debris structure placed in Mill Creek by the Siletz Watershed Group in consultation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists. The OWEB funded project (through the Mid-Coast Small Grant Team) was designed to capture and sort gravel, develop complexity in the pool habitat and develop off channel rearing habitat for native salmonids.

Introduction

In 1997, the Oregon Legislature adopted the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds in partnership with Governor John Kitzhaber to support state-led salmon recovery efforts. Adoption of the Oregon Plan emphasized the role of local citizens as resource stewards on privately owned lands.

In 1998, Oregon citizens passed Ballot Measure 66, which amended the Oregon Constitution to set aside 7.5 percent of Oregon State Lottery's net proceeds to fund restoration and protection of native salmonid populations, watersheds, fish and wildlife habitats and water quality in Oregon. In 1999, the Oregon Legislature designated the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to administer Measure 66 funds to finance salmon restoration and watershed enhancement grants.

The OWEB-administered grant program awarded about \$41.6 million toward watershed protection and restoration activities across Oregon in the 2005-07 biennium. Such actions continue to be undertaken daily by dedicated citizens and community groups. Three groups figure prominently in these actions:

1. **Watershed councils:** Local, voluntary, non-regulatory groups organized by area citizens to improve the ecological and economic condition of their watershed as a whole;
2. **Soil and water conservation districts:** Local government agencies that plan and implement conservation measures and watershed improvements on agricultural, forest, urban, and small rural acreages;
3. **Tribes:** Independent government entities that provide similar conservation services on tribal and ceded lands.

Small Grant Program

In 2002, OWEB created the Small Grant Program to provide a quick and flexible mechanism to support locally developed priorities. The program is an easy-to-engage-in, competitive grant program that awards funds of up to \$10,000 for on-the-ground restoration projects.

The Small Grant Program builds strong relationships between local program representatives and landowners wishing to contribute to watershed protection and enhancement. The program creates many "win-win" opportunities because watershed and wildlife habitat restoration and landowner property improvement often go hand-in-hand.

Since its inception, the Small Grant Program has funded over 1,167 Small Grant projects on principally private lands across Oregon. Project awards for the past three biennia are listed by Small Grant team in the tables on page 4.

Small Grants per Biennium

Biennium	# of Grants	Funding*
2001-2003	405	\$2.4 Million
2003-2005	384	\$2.5 Million
2005-2007	378	\$2.5 Million
Totals	1,167	\$7.4 Million

*Figures rounded

How the Program Works

The Small Grant Program treats the source of watershed health problems through technically sound projects that use proven techniques.

OWEB has divided the state into 28 areas, each represented by a Small Grant team (see map on last page). Teams are comprised of representatives from watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and tribes. Local teams develop watershed priorities for use in making funding recommendations in their unique geographic area. Teams also prioritize project types based on local restoration goals.

The OWEB Board has awarded each team \$100,000 for each of the past four biennia to fund eligible Small Grant projects in their area.

Teams solicit applications through local outreach methods including publications, newsletters and meeting announcements. An applicant may be any Oregon tribe, watershed council or soil and water conservation district. These entities submit applications on behalf of private landowners, independent not-for-profit institutions, schools, community colleges, state institutions of higher education, or local, state or federal agencies.

Teams meet periodically to review and discuss applications, and to recommend them for funding to OWEB. OWEB staff review the applications for compliance with state administrative rules. The entire process — from the time an application is submitted to the time it is funded by OWEB — takes an average of less than 60 days. Funded projects must be completed within two years.

Program Goals

The goals of the Small Grant Program are to:

- Support implementation of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.
- Support projects designed to improve water quality, water quantity, and fish and wildlife habitat.
- Make funds available to local Small Grant teams to address local priority resource concerns, habitat values and watershed functions.
- Encourage landowner participation in watershed improvement by making funds readily available.
- Treat the source of watershed health problems through technically sound projects that use proven techniques and that demonstrate benefits to watershed health across all land uses.
- Encourage partnerships among watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), and tribes.

Small Grants Support Agricultural Water Quality Management Program

The Federal Clean Water Act was developed to clean up water pollution from human activities including forestry, wastewater treatment plants, stormwater runoff, and runoff from agriculture.

In 1993 the Oregon Legislature passed the Agricultural Water Quality Management Act, also known as Senate Bill 1010 (SB 1010), to help reduce water pollution from agricultural sources.

Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans and rules have been adopted throughout Oregon to protect water quality. In the 2005-07 biennium, over 88 percent of Small Grant projects involved improvements that were consistent with the relevant local Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan.

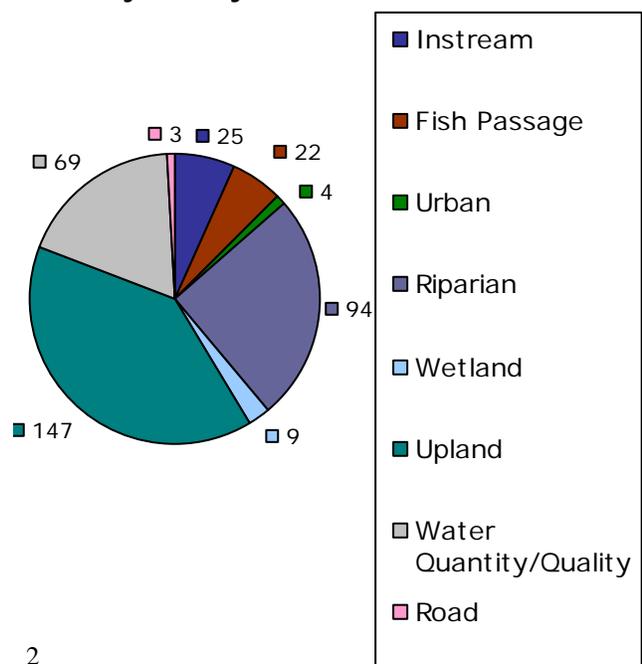
The 2005-07 Biennium

In the 2005-07 biennium, OWEB funded 378 Small Grant projects for a total of \$2,537,225. The table on page 3 shows the number of projects funded for each of the eight priority watershed concerns for each team.

West of the Cascades, projects tended to focus on riparian priorities, with upland projects second and fish passage and instream process projects almost tied for third. Altogether, Small Grant teams west of the Cascades funded 162 projects for a total of \$1,166,880.

Projects east of the Cascades occurred primarily in upland areas. Water quantity and quality/irrigation efficiency projects were the next most frequent, followed by riparian projects. Altogether, Small Grant teams east of the Cascades funded 211 watershed restoration projects for a total of \$1,408,115.

2005-07 Total Number of Projects by Priority Watershed Concern



OWEB Small Grant Program
Number of Projects by Priority Watershed Concern
2005-07 Biennium

Teams		Instream Process	Fish Passage	Urban Impact Reduction	Riparian Process	Wetland Process	Upland Process	Water Quantity & Quality	Road Impact Reduction
North Coast									
01	Lower Columbia	2	3	0	5	1	1	0	0
02	North Coast	3	1	0	9	0	0	0	0
03	Mid Coast	5	3	0	2	0	0	0	0
Subtotals		10	7	0	16	1	1	0	0
Southwest Oregon									
04	Coos-Coquille	0	4	1	1	0	1	0	0
05	South Coast	3	4	0	3	1	1	0	0
06	Rogue Basin	0	0	0	3	0	2	5	0
07	Umpqua	2	0	0	6	1	0	0	0
Subtotals		5	8	1	13	2	4	5	0
Willamette Basin									
08	Upper Willamette East	0	0	0	13	0	1	0	0
09	Upper Willamette West	1	0	0	6	2	4	2	0
10	Mid Willamette East	0	0	0	4	0	9	0	0
11	Mid Willamette West	2	3	0	3	2	5	2	0
12	Lower Willamette East	0	1	1	8	0	7	0	0
13	Lower Willamette West	0	0	1	6	0	5	1	0
Subtotals		3	4	2	40	4	31	5	0
Central Oregon									
14	Hood River	1	0	1	3	0	2	6	0
15	Lower Deschutes	0	0	0	2	0	17	2	0
16	Lower John Day	0	0	0	0	0	23	1	0
17	Mid Deschutes	0	0	0	1	1	0	8	1
18	Crook	0	0	0	4	0	8	2	0
19	Upper Deschutes	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
20	Lake	1	1	0	1	1	5	1	1
21	Klamath Basin	2	0	0	0	0	3	10	0
Subtotals		5	2	1	12	2	58	31	2
Eastern Oregon									
22	Harney Basin	0	0	0	3	0	7	0	0
23	Owyhee	1	0	0	2	0	0	9	0
24	Malheur	0	0	0	1	0	1	11	0
25	John Day	0	0	0	3	0	18	0	0
26	Umatilla-Walla Walla-Willow	0	1	0	0	0	13	1	0
27	Grande Ronde	0	0	0	1	0	11	2	1
28	Powder Basin	1	0	0	3	0	3	5	0
Subtotals		2	1	0	13	0	53	28	1
Grand Totals		25	22	4	94	9	147	69	3

OWEB Small Grant Program
Biennial Award amounts by Small Grant Team
2001-07

	2001-03	2003-05	2005-07
<u>North Coast—Region 1</u>			
01 Lower Columbia	90,165	82,063	98,717
02 North Coast	87,907	78,093	98,323
03 Mid Coast	68,400	90,300	62,850
Subtotal	\$246,472	\$250,456	\$259,890
<u>Southwestern—Region 2</u>			
04 Coos-Coquille	97,923	54,650	63,165
05 South Coast	81,878	96,979	95,420
06 Rogue Basin	80,648	90,422	61,413
07 Umpqua	75,962	76,796	96,847
Subtotal	\$336,411	\$318,847	\$316,845
<u>Willamette Basin—Region 3</u>			
08 Upper Willamette East	90,924	96,667	87,786
09 Upper Willamette West	69,108	86,876	98,008
10 Mid Willamette East	85,018	96,708	99,999
11 Mid Willamette West	90,847	87,145	99,026
12 Lower Willamette East	74,626	98,330	99,617
13 Lower Willamette West	75,373	91,323	98,652
Subtotal	\$485,896	\$557,049	\$583,088
<u>Central Oregon—Region 4</u>			
14 Hood River	87,407	99,751	99,664
15 Lower Deschutes	97,648	73,881	98,150
16 Lower John Day	92,085	69,505	88,207
17 Mid Deschutes	82,308	75,648	90,902
18 Crook	88,056	96,037	100,000
19 Upper Deschutes	57,352	92,511	35,860
20 Lake	87,152	98,021	99,545
21 Klamath Basin	77,931	97,065	95,341
Subtotal	\$669,939	\$702,419	\$707,669
<u>Eastern Oregon—Region 5</u>			
22 Harney Basin	95,400	99,436	85,916
23 Owyhee	100,000	92,568	100,000
24 Malheur	99,998	100,000	99,998
25 John Day	96,617	99,649	99,808
26 Umatilla-Walla Walla-Willow	80,665	95,802	94,691
27 Grande Ronde	50,219	85,412	89,320
28 Powder Basin	97,705	94,544	100,000
Subtotal	\$620,604	\$667,411	\$669,733
TOTAL STATEWIDE	\$2,359,322	\$2,496,182	\$2,537,225

Project Example: Instream Process and Function

Reducing Soil Erosion and Sedimentation

Hughey Creek, a tributary of the Wilson River near Tillamook, provides habitat for sea-run and resident cutthroat, coho salmon and winter steelhead. Hughey Creek provides refugia habitat for juvenile salmonids. Working in consultation with Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department, **Tillamook Bay Watershed Council** removed concrete and metal remnants of a dam to remediate severe bank erosion and sedimentation during high flow events. This project, together with prior riparian plantings, works to restore natural stream functions to Hughey Creek and improve its capacity to support aquatic life.



Hughey Creek before work began.



Concrete removed from the creek.



Remnants of an old dam contributing to bank erosion are removed from the creek.



Hughey Creek after debris removal.

Project Example: Fish Passage

Removing Barriers to Improve Fish Passage

The **Tualatin River Watershed Council** identified culverts as fish passage barriers in their Gales Creek Watershed Assessment. The Gales Creek system has been identified as important for native cutthroat trout and federally listed winter steelhead. An OWEB Small Grant helped fund the removal of two culverts that had been identified by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) as fish passage barriers. A bridge that would allow fish passage and allow the landowner continued road access was installed to replace them. ODFW biologists provided fish protection, netting 22 cutthroat trout at the site before work began. This project, coupled with a concurrent Highway 6 bridge replacement by the Oregon Department of Transportation about a mile downstream, greatly extended fish passage.



Undersized, crushed and rusting culverts that prevented fish passage were removed from the creek.

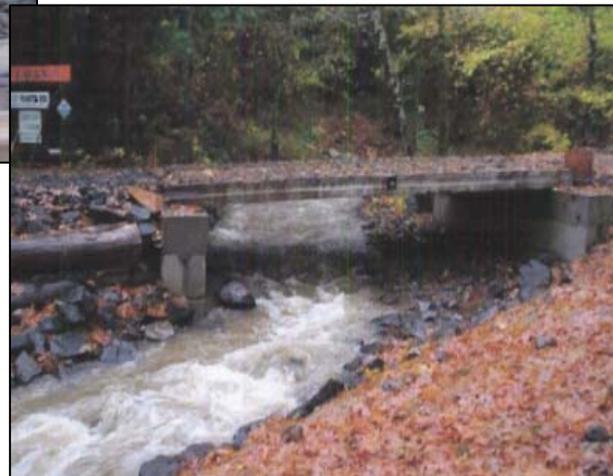


Bateman Creek diverted through a temporary culvert in work area.



Forms await cement delivery as bridge is built.

Bateman Creek flows under new fish friendly bridge.

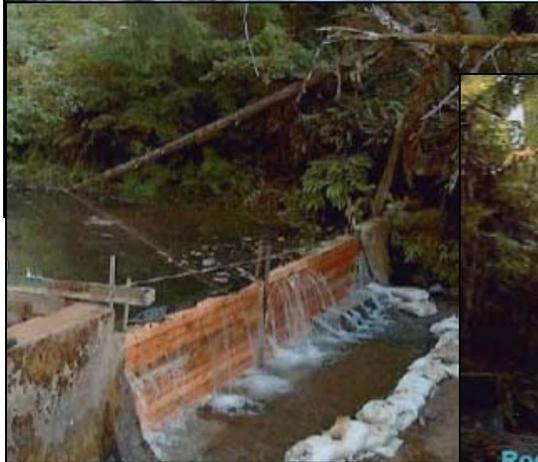


Project Example: Fish Passage



THE PROCESS: Water is temporarily diverted around the dam before concrete is cut.

BEFORE: Fish passage barrier at Rock Creek.



Temporary flash boards in place.



AFTER: Rock Creek after dam modification.

Removal of Fish Passage Barrier

Rock Creek is the only major tributary to Devils Lake and the only productive stream in the North Coast basin for native coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout. A 42 inch high channel spanning water diversion dam on the creek impeded adult salmonid upstream migration and completely blocked all juvenile upstream migration. The dam also retained gravels that could be utilized by spawning adult salmonids in downstream reaches. With technical guidance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the **Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council** worked with Devils Lake Water Improvement District and the landowner (Lincoln City) to modify the dam in such a way that flash boards could easily be placed in the structure to facilitate water diversion. The result is a dam that can be managed for both fish passage and for water use by the city.

Project Example: Urban Impact Reduction

Reducing Storm Water Pollution

The **Upper Willamette (formerly East Lane) Soil and Water Conservation District**, partnering with a local engineering firm who provided the design, used Small Grant funds to build this collection basin and bioswale. The basin captures stormwater runoff carrying antifreeze, motor oils and other contaminants from the BRING Recycling Inc. parking lot and roofs and channels it to a vegetated swale and filtration pond designed to slow the water velocity and filter out suspended solids and pollutants. By filtering the water through permeable soils and vegetative uptake, this bioswale keeps pollution from entering directly into the Willamette River.



Project Example: Wetland Process and Function

Restoring Wetland Vegetation

Trout Creek Swamp is a unique 28-acre brown moss fen located west of Sisters in Deschutes County near the Three Sisters Wilderness. The wetland has historically been home to insect eating plants and rare brown mosses. Although the site currently supports patches of these plant communities, ditches built in the 1930s changed the hydrology of the site by draining the wetlands. Additionally there has been encroachment by lodgepole pine and the invasive weed, reed canary grass. Because it had been a primary source of flows in Trout Creek, draining the wetland resulted in a decrease in late season flows in the creek. Reduced flows have contributed to increased water temperature and a loss of available habitat for U.S. Forest Service (USFS) designated "sensitive" redband trout.

With OWEB Small Grant funding assistance, **Upper Deschutes Watershed Council** partnered with the USFS to implement a project to restore site hydrology by reversing the effects of historic ditching. They worked to fill in nearly one mile of ditches and created 30 debris plugs designed to mimic beaver dams to prevent the further artificial drainage of the wetland. The project goal was to improve downstream habitat conditions for redband trout, control invasive weeds and enhance available habitat for wildlife and rare wetland plants.



Native redband trout in Trout Creek.



Trout Creek Swamp.



Volunteer members of the Sisters' Middle School Science Club assisted with the rehabilitation of the wetland.



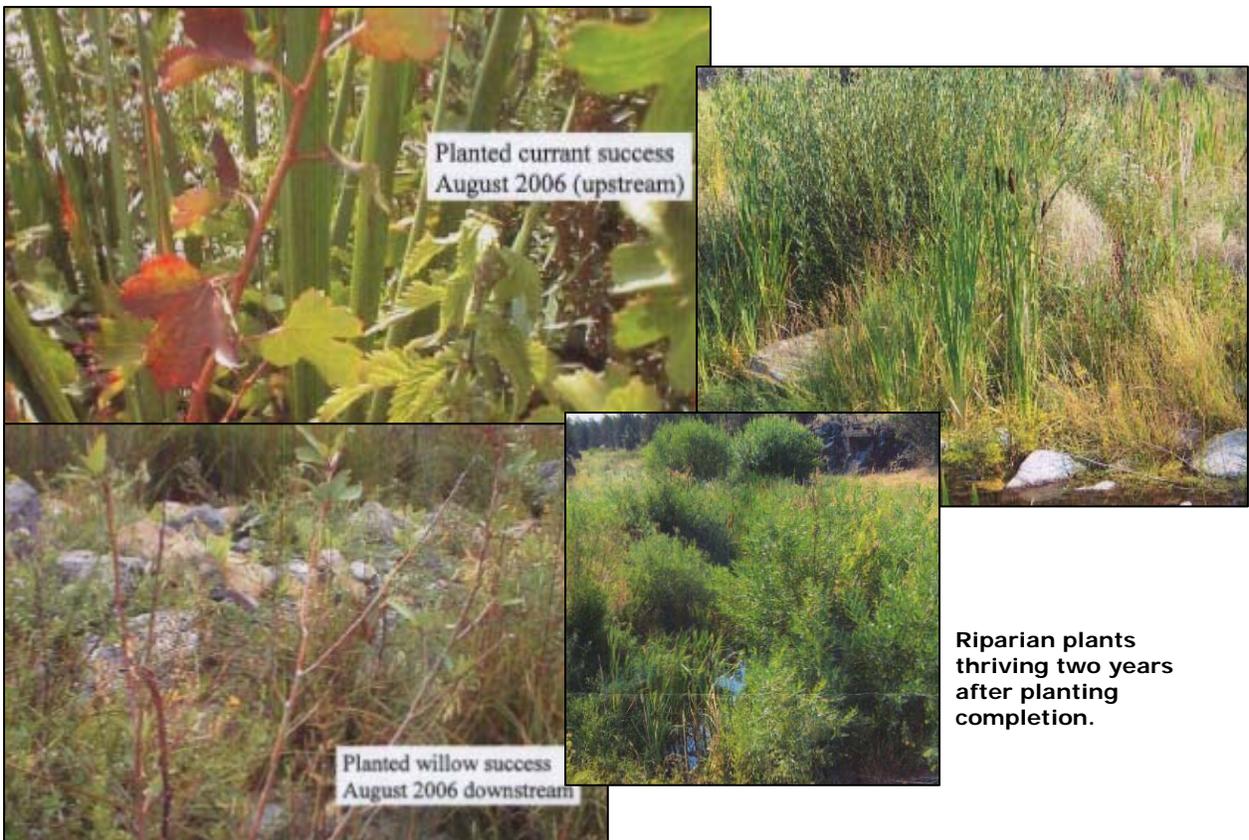
Sundew—a carnivorous plant.

Project Example: Riparian Process and Function

During a 50-year flood event, an undersized culvert on Willow Creek was blown out, scouring the floodplain of vegetation upstream and downstream of the road crossing. Jefferson County repaired the stream crossing with the installation of a three culvert system to facilitate future flood-stage flows. Following the road and culvert repair, the **Willow Creek Watershed Council** planted 1,050 native trees and shrubs to speed recovery of the riparian buffer. Along with subsequent natural growth the plantings will serve to trap sediment and slow stream velocity in future high flow events and benefit water quality and wildlife and aquatic habitat.



Willow Creek after a flood event blew out an undersized culvert and scoured the floodplain.



Riparian plants thriving two years after planting completion.

Project Example: Upland Process and Function



Old growth juniper left standing provides habitat for tree and cavity nesting birds.



Invasive juniper before thinning.



Thinned juniper left on the ground where native grass, forbs and shrubs are beginning to re-emerge.

Juniper Management

The expansion of western juniper in the last 130 years (since European settlement) throughout central and eastern Oregon is generally believed to be influenced by such events as increased fire suppression, poor rangeland management and climate change. Encroaching juniper out-competes other native species for water resulting in soil erosion, loss of ground cover and a decline of other native plants that provide habitat for wildlife. Old growth trees should be retained as they provide habitat for tree and cavity nesting birds and have aesthetic and historic value. As Hugh Barrett explains in the 2007 Western Juniper Management: A Field Guide, "Juniper management is not juniper eradication." With OWEB Small Grant funding, **Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District** worked with several adjacent landowners to strategically thin juniper in the Johnson Creek watershed to help increase stream and spring flows. Downed trees were left on the ground to capture sediment from run-off and flash flood events to aid recovery of native grasses, forbs and shrubs.

Project Example: Upland Process and Function

Reducing Erosion and Sedimentation

Large inputs of sediment to a stream can degrade aquatic invertebrate and fish habitat and alter stream channels and adjacent riparian zones. This ditch was covered in with invasive reed canary grass which restricted the water in high flow events, causing severe erosion, eventually pushing the sediment into the Calapooia River. Partnering with the landowners, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Linn County (OSU) Extension Service, **Linn Soil and Water Conservation District** used Small Grant funds to reshape the ditch (from a v-shape to a flat bottom), line it with coconut fiber mats, and plant it with grass to slow the velocity of water, thus slowing erosion and filtering the water after a heavy rainfall.



Reed canary grass in drainage ditch.



Work to reshape the ditch.



Water flowing through new ditch.



Ditch with planted grass slows water velocity and prevents severe erosion.

Wildlife Watering Facilities

Morrow County receives from 9-14 inches of annual precipitation. Using Small Grant funding, **Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District** worked with landowners to install 13 wildlife watering facilities (guzzlers) to provide a source of water for birds and wildlife. As programs such as Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provide more cover and food for wildlife there is an increased need for available water. Guzzlers generally consist of a metal roof to catch precipitation which is then stored in troughs for birds and wildlife to drink. A recent inspection of each guzzler showed them to be heavily used, given the amount of tracks leading to and from the water source.



Landowner (and "helper" with his tractor) work to install a wildlife watering facility.



Fully installed guzzler.

Project Example: Water Quantity and Quality/Irrigation

Irrigation Improvements

Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District received Small Grant funding to install a drip irrigation system on 42 acres on Fox Hollow Ranch near Madras. Tests conducted on drip system technology by Oregon State University Agricultural Research Station each season since 2002 showed drip irrigation decreased water usage by as much as 65% while seed yields increased 22% over sprinkler irrigated fields. Additionally, fertilizers and pesticides can be delivered directly through the drip system. Due to the uniformity of the water delivery, the products can be precisely applied in smaller amounts because they go directly to the root system of the plants for immediate use.



Carrot seed plants flourish with new drip irrigation system on Fox Hollow Ranch.

Drip irrigation installed in carrot seed field.



Project Example: Water Quantity and Quality/Irrigation

Water Conservation

Historically, irrigation water was diverted from Clear Creek via an open ditch and a wooden flume that crosses an old channel. Over time the leaky flume and hillside ditch have become the source of a large amount of water loss and erosion. Working with the landowner and NRCS, the **Eagle Valley SWCD** used Small Grant funding toward piping both the flume and the ditch. This will allow the use of a gravity flow system to convert flood irrigation to sprinkler irrigation. It was determined by the Baker County Watermaster that there would be measurable reduction in the water diverted from Clear Creek. Additionally, a flow meter was installed to monitor water use and the results will be reported in the Year-Two Status report.



Leaky wooden flume transported irrigation water from Clear Creek.



Pipeline installed to replace flume.



Open irrigation ditch.



Ditch replaced with buried pipeline to conserve water.

Project Example: Road Impact Reduction

Reducing Road Erosion

Draining groundwater and off-road vehicular traffic had caused degradation of the road, springs and creeks in Bullard Canyon. "Mudding" had contributed to 2-4 foot holes and ruts. Also of concern was the road's erosion into Bullard Creek, a tributary to Thomas Creek which drains into Goose Lake. These issues were addressed by **Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District** using OWEB Small Grant funding. Through this project a system was developed to collect and channel water away from the road. The road was graded and rocked and gates were installed to exclude off-road vehicles during the winter and spring seasons. The goals of the project included better fish and wildlife habitat by protecting the springs and creeks from vehicle traffic and by reducing the impacts of sedimentation in the creeks on seven native fish species including Goose Lake red band trout, Goose Lake tui chub, Goose Lake sucker and Goose Lake Lamprey.



Bullard Canyon Road degraded by off-road vehicles.



Rock was applied to prevent erosion.



Lakeview High School students work to repair road.



Seasonal gate installed to prevent off-road vehicle traffic during wet seasons.

Small Grant Team Contacts

For general information on OWEB's Small Grant Program, call 503-986-0187 or visit the OWEB Web site at http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/GRANTS/smgrant_main.shtml. For Small Grant opportunities in your area (see map), and for assistance with submitting an application, contact the appropriate person listed below.

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Grande Ronde 27

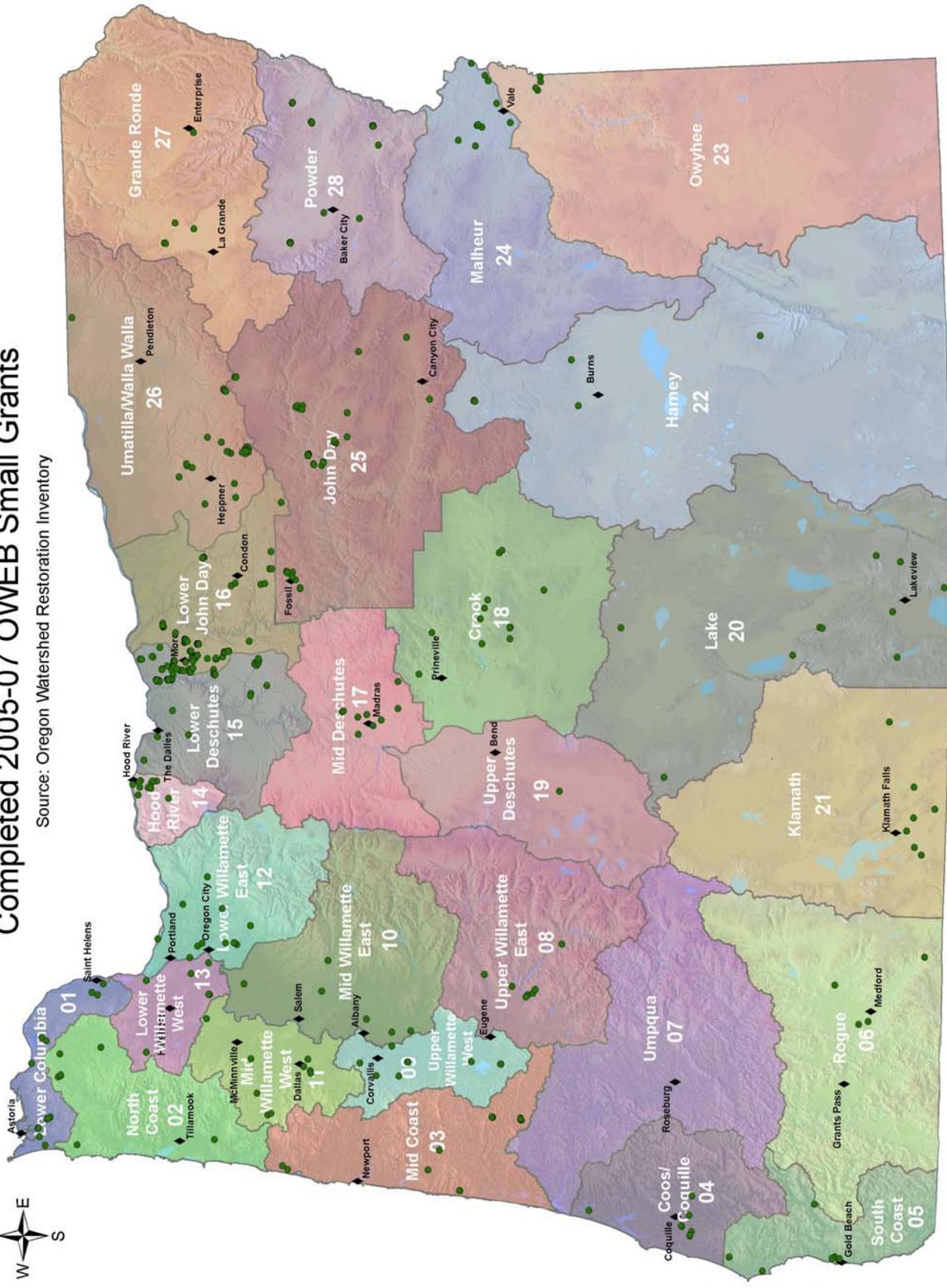
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Completed 2005-07 OWEB Small Grants

Source: Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory





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