



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of State Lands

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301-1279
(503) 986-5200
FAX (503) 378-4844
www.oregon.gov/dsl

State Land Board

State Land Board

April 11, 2023
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Meeting Agenda

Public Wi-Fi login: LandsDSL

*This is a hybrid meeting that can be attended in-person at **775 Summer St. NE, Suite 100, Salem, OR 97301-1279** or online through the Department of State Lands' livestream video:
www.youtube.com/@oregonstatelands*

Tina Kotek
Governor

Shemia Fagan
Secretary of State

Tobias Read
State Treasurer

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Request for approval of the minutes of the February 07, 2023, State Land Board Meeting

ACTION ITEMS

2. Abandoned and Derelict Vessels Program Workgroup
Public testimony will be accepted on this item.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

3. South Slough Annual Report
No public testimony will be taken on this item.
4. Legislative Update
No public testimony will be taken on this item.
5. Other
No public testimony will be taken on this item.

Continued on the next page

WATCH THE MEETING ONLINE

Meeting video and audio will be livestreamed, and the recording available after the meeting, on the DSL YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/@oregonstatelands

ATTEND IN-PERSON

This meeting will be held in a facility that is accessible for persons with disabilities. If you need assistance to participate in this meeting due to a disability, please notify Arin Smith at arin.n.smith@dsl.oregon.gov at least two working days prior to the meeting.

Visitors are **NOT permitted to bring backpacks, bags, or large purses** into the State Lands building prior to, during, or following Land Board meetings. Purses, medical bags, and diaper bags are permitted, but may be subject to inspection by the Oregon State Police.

PROVIDE PUBLIC TESTIMONY

The State Land Board places great value on information received from the public. The public may provide written or spoken (online or in-person) testimony regarding consent and action agenda items, time permitting and at the discretion of the Chair.

- **Providing Written Testimony:** Testimony received by 10 a.m. on the Monday before the meeting will be provided to the Land Board in advance and posted on the meeting website. Submit your input in writing to: landboard.testimony@dsl.oregon.gov. Testimony received after this deadline may not be provided to the Land Board prior to a vote. Please indicate the agenda item your testimony relates to.
- **Providing Spoken Testimony by Video/Phone or In Person:** Advanced sign-up is required for the public to provide spoken testimony (in-person or by Zoom). The sign-up deadline is 10 a.m. the day before the meeting.

Please note: When the number of people interested in speaking exceeds the time allotted for an agenda item, speakers are randomly selected for testimony slots to ensure all have an equal opportunity to testify. Speakers have the same chance of being randomly selected whether they plan to testify in person or by Zoom. The testimony order will be posted to the State Land Board Meetings webpage the day before the meeting, and everyone who signed up to testify will be notified of the testimony order via email. Be aware there may not be time for everyone who signs up to speak.

Additional Testimony Information

- Testimony on action items is taken during the item's presentation, before the Land Board votes. Please review the meeting agenda and be present and prepared to provide testimony at the appropriate time.
- The Board typically accepts testimony on consent and action items only.
- The standard time limit is three minutes for each individual; the actual time available for testimony during Land Board meetings is at the discretion of the Chair.
- The Board may not be able to accept testimony on items for which a formal comment period has closed, such as a rulemaking comment period. The meeting agenda indicates whether testimony will be accepted on an item.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of State Lands

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301-1279
(503) 986-5200
FAX (503) 378-4844
www.oregon.gov/dsl

State Land Board

The State Land Board (Land Board or Board) met in regular session on February 7, 2023, in the Land Board Room at the Department of State Lands (DSL), 775 Summer Street NE, Salem, Oregon. The meeting audio and video was livestreamed on the DSL YouTube channel.

Tina Kotek
Governor

Shemia Fagan
Secretary of State

Present were:

Tina Kotek
Tobias Read

Governor
State Treasurer

Tobias Read
State Treasurer

Land Board Assistants

Geoff Huntington
Molly Woon – via Zoom
Ryan Mann

Governor's Office
Secretary of State's Office
State Treasurer's Office

Department Staff

Vicki Walker	Bill Ryan	Cait McCusker	Ted Bright
Arin Smith	Jean Straight	Ali Ryan Hansen	Linda Safina-Massey

Department of Justice

Matt DeVore

Governor Kotek called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The topics discussed and the results of those discussions are listed below. To view the Land Board (Board) meeting in its entirety, please visit our YouTube page: [February 7, 2023 Land Board Meeting](#)

Consent Items

1. Minutes

Treasurer Read made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 13, 2022, Land Board meeting.
Governor Kotek seconded the motion.
The item was approved at 10:01 a.m.

Action Items

2. Request for approval of a permanent easement for an access road, waterline and holding tanks for the city of Prineville in Crook County

The Department of State Lands recommended the State Land Board approve a permanent easement for 7.1 acres of school lands located at Township 15 South, Range

15 East Section 10, Tax Lot 1100, in Crook County, to the city of Prineville under 63947-EA to construct, maintain and operate an access road, waterline and water holding tanks. The easement will be issued for market value per OAR 141-122-0060(1)(a)(B).

Treasurer Read made a motion to approve the action item.
Governor Kotek seconded the motion.
The item was approved at 10:05 a.m.

3. Request for approval of permanent easement for a bridge crossing over the Clatskanie River in Columbia County

The Department of State Lands recommended the State Land Board approve the permanent easement to the Oregon Department of Transportation, easement number 63960-EA, to maintain and operate a bridge on, over, under or across the Clatskanie River.

Treasurer Read made a motion to approve the action item.
Governor Kotek seconded the motion.
The item was approved at 10:08 a.m.

4. Request for approval of permanent easement for a bridge across Illingsworth Creek in Clatsop County

The Department of State Lands recommended the State Land Board approve the issuance of a permanent easement to Tillamook County Public Works, easement number 63873-EA, to maintain and operate a bridge on, over, under or across the Illingsworth Creek.

Treasurer Read made a motion to approve the action item.
Governor Kotek seconded the motion.
The item was approved at 10:12 a.m.

5. Request for approval for the sale of 123.54 acres of subsurface minerals and geothermal rights located in Yamhill County

The Department of State Lands recommended the State Land Board release and sell 123.54 acres of mineral and geothermal rights located at Township 05 South, Range 06 West, Section 25, Tax Lot 900, to the Yamhill SWCD

Treasurer Read made a motion to approve the consent item.
Governor Kotek seconded the motion.
The item was approved at 10:15 a.m.

6. Request for approval to initiate rulemaking to restrict public use of state lands in and around Crump Lake, in Lake County, Oregon

The Department of State Lands recommended the State Land Board authorize the Department to initiate rulemaking within OAR 141-088 to impose permanent restrictions

on public use of State-owned lands during low water conditions in and around Crump Lake located in Lake County as illustrated on Appendix A

Comments were taken from Treasurer Read.

Treasurer Read made a motion to approve the action item.

Governor Kotek seconded the motion.

The item was approved at 10:24 a.m.

Informational Item

7. Annual Common School Fund Audit Report

Director Walker introduced Lealan Miller with audit firm Ide Bailey to give an overview of the Common School Fund Audit for FY 2022.

8. Oregon Department of Forestry Annual Report on Common School Forest Lands

10:33 a.m.

Director Walker invited ODF State Forester, Cal Mukumoto and Division Chief Mike Wilson, to give an overview of their report for FY 2022

Questions were taken from Treasurer Read.

9. Real Property Program Annual Report

10:44 a.m.

Director Walker invited Deputy Director Bill Ryan to the table to present the report.

The primary purpose of this report was to provide the State Land Board a year-end summary of the financial performance of the Common School Fund (CSF) trust lands under the Department of State Lands' oversight. Included in the summary were the overall revenues and expenditures associated with these lands, which were the result of a broad range of real property management activities including leases, easements, licenses, special uses, and land sales and exchanges. This annual report presented outcomes from the 2022 fiscal year (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022) and included discussion of future real property management direction and priorities.

Questions were taken from the Board.

10. Strategic Plan Year One Results Report

11:14 a.m.

Director Walker invited Ali Ryan Hansen, DSL's Communications Director, to the table to present the report.

11. Other

- Overview of the Environmental Justice Report submitted to the Environmental Justice Council
- Elliott State Research Forest Perspective Board Update
- Comments regarding the Governor's Request Budget, Abandoned and Derelict Vessels and fee changes
- Welcome to the new State Land Board Chair, Governor Kotek

Comments were taken from the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Tina Kotek, Governor

Vicki L. Walker, Director



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of State Lands

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100

Salem, OR 97301-1279

(503) 986-5200

FAX (503) 378-4844

www.oregon.gov/dsl

State Land Board

State Land Board

Regular Meeting

April 11, 2023

Agenda Item 2

Tina Kotek

Governor

Shemia Fagan

Secretary of State

Tobias Read

State Treasurer

SUBJECT

The ongoing impacts of abandoned and derelict vessels on the Common School Fund and Oregon's public waterways.

ISSUE

Whether the State Land Board should direct the Department of State Lands to convene a workgroup charged with proposing a comprehensive abandoned and derelict vessel program for Oregon, including funding needs and sources, and recommending necessary legislative actions to implement such a program.

AUTHORITY

ORS 273 – State Lands Generally

ORS 274 – Submersible and Submerged Lands

ORS 830.908-830.948 – Abandoned and Derelict Vessels

BACKGROUND

The people of Oregon own the beds and banks of all navigable and tidally influenced waterways throughout the state. On behalf of the State Land Board, the Department of State Lands manages Oregon's public waterways to ensure use for recreation, navigation, fishing, commerce and more.

Abandoned and derelict vessels (ADVs) seriously affect the health and safety of our public waterways by creating both environmental and navigational hazards. These vessels also seriously affect the Common School Fund, which since 2017 has expended more than \$18 million removing commercial and recreational vessels from public waterways.

The 2023-2025 Governor's Recommended Budget includes \$18.76 million to remove ADVs accumulated in public waterways, as detailed in Policy Option Package 113, Healthy and Safe Waterways. Removing those vessels will address current risks, but removal must also be accompanied by long-term solutions – specifically, collaboratively creating a statewide abandoned and derelict vessel program.

State Land Board members have called for the Department to take immediate action by leading development of an Oregon ADV program. Letters from Governor Kotek, Treasurer Read, and Secretary Fagan are attached as Appendix A. Land Board concerns regarding ADV impacts on our waterways and schoolkids are being echoed by many, including the public, legislators, local governments, community organizations, ports, marinas, federal agencies, and other state agencies.

PROPOSED WORKGROUP

Should the State Land Board provide direction today to do so, the Department will convene a workgroup charged with proposing a comprehensive statewide ADV program for Oregon.

The Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Program Workgroup would consider all elements of a statewide ADV program, with work culminating in a report to the State Land Board. The report would include a program framework addressing prevention, response, enforcement, education and outreach, and potential long-term funding needs and sources, as well as recommendations for legislative action in the 2025 session.

The overall ADV Program Workgroup scope of work would include, but is not limited to:

- Creating a program framework that addresses the above elements and considers needs related to vessel removal, destruction, disposal, and recycling.
- Developing an expeditious timeline to staff a program that can receive federal funds and coordinate further implementation.
- Examining legal authorities and identifying options for addressing legal barriers.
- Exploring a vessel insurance requirement.
- Assessing operational needs such as an ADV database.

The Department would convene the ADV Program Workgroup as soon as possible to ensure work aligns with the development of Department legislative concepts and policy option packages for the 2025 legislative session. The Land Board would be provided with regular progress updates; the final report would be provided no later than the April 2024 State Land Board meeting.

The Department's existing ADV removal plan, as outlined in the August 2022 Land Board memo attached as Appendix B, would be updated to incorporate the workgroup's efforts.

WORKGROUP PARTICIPATION AND PLANNED ENGAGEMENT

Working with partners and stakeholders has been essential to the Department's ADV efforts to-date. Continued collaboration will be critical to the success of the ADV Program Workgroup and, ultimately, to implementation of a statewide ADV program.

The Department will seek and support Workgroup participation from a variety of stakeholders with varying perspectives, interests, and expertise, such as local governments, ports, marinas, nongovernmental organizations, waterway user groups, environmental protection, homeless services and response, vessel insurance, vessel salvage, public safety, recreation, relevant federal agencies, and other coastal states; as well as Oregon agencies including the State Marine Board, Department of Environmental Quality, and Parks and Recreation Department.

Meetings of the Workgroup will be publicly noticed and open to the public and include time for public comment. The Department and the Workgroup will also seek to broadly engage the public and other stakeholders, providing opportunities for input and participation throughout the process.

The Department is already in communication with Tribal governments regarding ADV efforts and will immediately extend a formal invitation to ensure continued engagement with Tribes through Workgroup participation, conversations with staff, formal consultation, or other interaction as desired.

RECOMMENDATION

The State Land Board should direct the Department to convene an Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Program Workgroup, with scope of work and membership as outlined in this agenda item, to propose a comprehensive program framework and recommend legislative action to address this issue long-term. The Department should immediately commence this work to ensure efforts align with 2025 legislative session deadlines, and provide a final report to the Land Board in April 2024 or earlier.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Letters from State Land Board members

Appendix B: August 2022 Memo to the State Land Board: Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removal Plan



TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

March 21, 2023

Vicki Walker, Director
Department of State Lands
775 Summer St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Director Walker,

The problems posed by abandoned and derelict vessels (ADV) in public waterways has come to the forefront of the Department of State Lands' work over the last several years. While much has been done within the existing authorities and funding structure of the Department, I think you agree there is much more to accomplish, and a long-term, programmatic approach for addressing the challenge is needed.

While my recommended budget includes approximately \$18.7 million in one-time funding to stand up an ADV program, we know funding alone is just part of what needs to be addressed if we are to make successful progress in reducing the long-term inventory and expense of ADVs to the people of Oregon. Furthermore, the historical use of the Common School Fund to address the remediation and removal costs of abandoned and derelict vessels needs to end.

I believe the Department has the ability to lead a work group comprised of government and non-government stakeholders and agency representatives who have the perspective and expertise to collaborate in developing a sustainable, programmatic framework for addressing this challenge into the future. While the Legislature could establish a task force aimed at the same objective, you are well equipped to move effectively and efficiently to bring this discussion and work product to the Land Board in time for us to then work with our counterparts in the Legislature to refine a package for consideration in the 2025 session. From my perspective, this package should, at a minimum, include a framework for program authority to address prevention, response, enforcement, and education and outreach as well as identifying a suite of potential funding sources needed to ensure effective implementation of the program over time.

In addition to providing regular updates to the Land Board on your progress, please align timelines for recommendations that will correspond with the development of agency legislative concepts and policy option packages for the intended target of bill introduction in the 2025 legislative session.

Thank you for taking on this charge and know you have the full support of my Natural Resources policy team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina Kotek".

Governor Tina Kotek

cc: Secretary of State Shemia Fagan, State Treasurer Tobias Read



Tobias Read
Oregon State Treasurer

Michael Kaplan
Deputy State Treasurer

March 1, 2023

Director Vicki Walker
Department of State Lands
775 Summer St. NE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Director Walker,

Abandoned and derelict vessels (ADV) in Oregon's public waterways create environmental and public health hazards, and the vessel cleanups are paid for by the Common School Fund. Current and future schoolchildren are directly paying for the irresponsibility of adults. This is unacceptable. We must have a sustainable funding source for ADV cleanup to ensure navigability and health of our waterways. That funding source cannot continue to be the Common School Fund.

I am pleased the Governor's Budget includes \$18.76 million to remove ADVs accumulated in public waterways, as detailed in the Healthy and Safe Waterways Policy Package (POP 113). Removing those vessels is critical to addressing current risks – but removal must be accompanied by collaborative development of comprehensive, long-term solutions for addressing ADVs.

POP 113 would prompt a collaborative effort, involving the Department of State Lands (DSL), but more immediate action is necessary. The complex and challenging problem of ADVs is seriously affecting our waterways, to the great concern of the public, legislators, local governments, community organizations, ports, marinas, federal agencies, and other state agencies, including the Oregon State Marine Board and Department of Environmental Quality.

DSL should convene a Task Force to propose a comprehensive statewide ADV program for Oregon. The Task Force should consider all elements of a statewide ADV program, with work culminating in a report to the State Land Board that includes a program framework and recommendations for legislative action. The most urgent tasks should be identifying sustainable program funding and an expeditious timeline to staff a program that can receive federal funds and coordinate further implementation. The secondary tasks should include, but are not limited to addressing legal authority, exploring a boat owner insurance requirement, assessing operational needs such as an ADV database,



Director Vicki Walker
March 1, 2023
Page Two

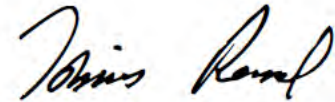
and program elements such as prevention, response, enforcement, removal and deconstruction, disposal and recycling, and education and outreach.

Working with partners and stakeholders has been essential to the Department's work on ADVs to-date. Continued collaboration will be critical to the success of the Task Force and ultimately, to implementation of a statewide ADV program. The Department should seek and support Task Force participation from a wide variety of stakeholders with varying perspectives, interests, and expertise, such as local governments, ports, marinas, environmental protection, homeless services and response, vessel insurance, vessel salvage, public safety, recreation, relevant federal agencies, and other coastal states, as well as your fellow Oregon agencies.

The Department should prepare an agenda item for the April 11, 2023, Land Board meeting, that outlines the framework of a Task Force that can begin work as soon as possible. I'm hopeful that my fellow Land Board members will join me in supporting the work of a Task Force. The Task Force should convene as soon as possible and should provide regular updates to the Land Board.

Thank you and the dedicated DSL staff for addressing this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tobias Read", with a stylized, cursive script.

Tobias Read

CC:

Governor Tina Kotek
Secretary of State Shemia Fagan

APPENDIX A

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SHEMIA FAGAN

SECRETARY OF STATE

CHERYL MYERS

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE

TRIBAL LIAISON



State of Oregon
900 Court Street NE #136
Salem, Oregon 97301
503-986-1500

<http://sos.oregon.gov>

March 30, 2023

Vicki Walker, Director
Oregon Department of State Lands
775 Summer Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Director Walker:

I greatly appreciate the Department of State Lands' efforts to reduce the impacts of abandoned and derelict vessels on Oregon's waterways and the Common School Fund. By removing three hazardous vessels from the Columbia River in 2022 – and seeking General Fund reimbursement for associated costs – your team has protected both the river and the Common School Fund. The Governor's Budget includes \$18.7 million in Monsanto settlement funds to remove even more abandoned and derelict vessels from public waterways in 2023-25.

Securing this funding will be an important and exciting step toward safer, healthier public waterways. But I also encourage the Department to begin working on an equally important step in addressing abandoned and derelict vessels – creating a statewide abandoned and derelict vessel program.

I fully support the Department creating a workgroup to develop an abandoned and derelict vessel program framework, including recommendations for funding such a program, and bringing the proposed framework to the State Land Board for consideration. Because legislative action is likely necessary to establish and fund such a program, I encourage the Department to align the workgroup's efforts with timelines for developing 2025 legislative concepts and policy option packages.

I thank you for your leadership on this issue and look forward to hearing regular updates on the Department's progress.

Sincerely,

Shemia Fagan
Oregon Secretary of State



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

APPENDIX B

Department of State Lands

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100

Salem, OR 97301-1279

(503) 986-5200

FAX (503) 378-4844

www.oregon.gov/dsl

State Land Board

Kate Brown

Governor

Shemia Fagan

Secretary of State

Tobias Read

State Treasurer

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: August 9, 2022

To: Governor Kate Brown
Secretary of State Shemia Fagan
State Treasurer Tobias Read

From: Vicki L. Walker
Director, Department of State Lands

Subject: Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removal Plan

OVERVIEW

The people of Oregon own the beds and banks of all navigable and tidally influenced waterways throughout the state. On behalf of the State Land Board, the Department of State Lands manages Oregon's public waterways to ensure use for recreation, navigation, fishing, commerce and more.

Abandoned and derelict vessels seriously threaten the health and safety of Oregon's waterways by creating both environmental and navigational hazards. Threats include water contamination, habitat degradation, public and private property damage, and impacts on recreational and commercial use and enjoyment of waterways.

For years, the Department has been working with state, federal, and local partners to clean up and remove abandoned and derelict recreational and commercial vessels. These collaborative efforts have resulted in removing hazardous vessels from waterways, but lack of a statewide abandoned and derelict vessel program with dedicated funding has created two major problems:

- **Oregon's schoolkids foot the bill for cleaning up abandoned and derelict vessels.** Since 2017, the Common School Fund has expended

\$12.9 million removing commercial and recreational vessels from public waterways.

- **Hundreds of abandoned and derelict vessels currently need to be removed from Oregon’s waterways – but removal must be accompanied by comprehensive, collaborative solutions to address perpetual risks.** Removing the vessel backlog is critical to addressing current risks. Creation of a statewide program is critical to addressing perpetual risks. In 2018, Oregon joined west coast states and British Columbia in developing a white paper examining abandoned and derelict vessel issues, as well as a model blue-ribbon program to effectively address those issues. *See Appendix A for an overview.* This work provides a foundation for Oregon to develop a program that aligns with existing regulatory frameworks and agency roles while also meeting the specific needs of our state.

At the State Land Board’s direction, the Department has developed a 2023-25 policy option package request for \$40 million in general funds. The requested resources will:

- **Remove the abandoned and derelict vessels currently in Oregon waterways.** The Department will launch an initiative to accelerate removing the vessel backlog in the next biennium. Though the Department anticipates making significant progress, expending the entire requested amount in a single biennium is unlikely. The Department is requesting funding be continuously appropriated so remaining funds may be carried over to the next biennium.
- **Support Department participation in collaborative efforts to address abandoned and derelict vessels long-term.** The Department recognizes the complex nature of this work and the importance of ongoing collaboration to identify problems, priorities, and solutions. Extensive discussion of this issue is likely in coming months and during the legislative session. The Department remains committed to working with legislators, state and federal agencies, local governments, ports, and other partners to develop long-term comprehensive solutions for addressing abandoned and derelict vessels.

The three-year plan outlined below captures the Department’s work over the next year – which includes working with partners and stakeholders to ensure successful outcomes during the 2023 legislative session – as well as work planned with resources being requested for the 2023-25 biennium.

The Department will provide the State Land Board with regular updates, including presenting a detailed plan for 2024 following the conclusion of the 2023 legislative session.

FY 2023-2025 ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSEL (ADV) REMOVAL PLAN

Phase One – August 2022-July 2023

Engaging Widely and Updating Cost and Vessel Information

Phase Overview

Work during the first phase will build on and expand existing relationships and information, preparing the Department to act quickly when resources are provided in the next biennium. This work includes:

Continuing Collaboration to Remove Vessels without Cost to the Common School Fund. The Department is moving forward with removal of the Alert, Sakarissa, and Tiffany vessels and will request general funds to cover costs as directed by the State Land Board in June 2022.

Engaging Partners and Stakeholders. The Department will engage widely with the many partners and stakeholders who are essential to vessel removal, including the Oregon State Marine Board, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Coast Guard, local governments, ports, community organizations, waterway user groups, and businesses. These conversations will further shape and refine the resource request as challenges and opportunities associated with removal are discussed and additional perspectives gathered.

Updating Cost Information and Vessel List. The existing cost estimate of \$39 million was developed largely with the blue-ribbon report's general formula for approximating removal costs. Cost estimates will be updated as possible using information gained during removal of the Alert, Sakarissa, and Tiffany. However, the Department recognizes professional inspection of commercial ADVs is needed to evaluate condition, contamination levels, environmental and physical hazards, and other vessel-specific factors that affect removal cost.

Additionally, Oregon does not have a comprehensive or current list of abandoned and derelict vessels. The Department works with state and federal partners to track vessels of concern, inputting information reported to agencies and evaluating vessels for their potential threat to humans and the environment. This evaluation helps prioritize removal resources and is based on factors like vessel condition and size; condition of anchorage or mooring; proximity to navigation channels, recreational areas, or environmentally sensitive areas; and general potential for harm to people or property.

However, due to changing conditions and vessel movement as well as lack of agency capacity, keeping a current list is extremely difficult. In consultation with partners, DSL will update the ADV list to better capture the extent of known ADV removal needs and better estimate the resources needed.

Identifying Priorities with Partners. The Department will engage partners and stakeholders in initial prioritization of vessels for removal when funding is approved, and anticipates hiring a consultant with expertise in ADV removal to inform the prioritization process and further improve understanding of costs. This prioritization will guide removal work, with awareness that flexibility will always be needed to address emergency situations. Existing Department resources will also be used to gather in-depth information about priority commercial vessels to support expedited procurement of cleanup services.

Phase Outcomes – by July 1, 2023

- Removal of Alert, Sakarissa, and Tiffany vessels
- Updated cost information and vessel list
- Initial identification of ADV removal priorities
- Oregon Legislature provides resources and/or direction to address ADVs

Phase Two: July to December 2023

Staff and Launch Vessel Removal Initiative

Phase Overview

With resources secured during the legislative session, the Department will launch the vessel removal initiative. Focus in this six-month second phase is quickly mobilizing to remove vessels, with an emphasis on:

Hiring Staff. The Department is requesting five new positions to support ADV removal projects across the state. These positions include a manager to oversee the removal initiative and statewide collaboration, a natural resource specialist to provide technical expertise on vessel removal and act as a liaison for communities and contractors, a project manager to coordinate, track and report on removals, a procurement specialist to manage delegated authority and ensure efficient procurement and contracting processes, and an office specialist to support administration of the removal initiative. Ideally, other state agencies involved in this work will be given their own appropriations to have at least one staff person dedicated to work in coordination with the DSL team.

Streamlining Processes and Developing Work Plan. With new staff adding capacity and expertise, the Department will design and implement a streamlined procurement process for ADV removal, including solicitation, contracting, and scheduling for collection, dismantling and disposal. The Department in July 2022 received delegated authority from the Department of Administrative Services to execute contracts of up to \$10 million for ADV removal; securing that authority was a critical first step in expediting procurement of removal services. Increased capacity will also allow for development of a work plan for priority removals as identified in phase one, with continued flexibility to address emergency situations or changing needs. The Department will also perform in-depth assessment of

additional commercial vessels and incorporate their removal into the work plan.

Exploring ADV Removal Barriers. Working collaboratively with partners, the Department anticipates exploring known barriers to efficient and cost-effective removal of ADVs, including lack of disposal sites and absence of a statewide ADV tracking system. These conversations may help identify needs and potential projects to accelerate removal work and ensure maximum efficiency in expending resources.

Additionally, the Department anticipates supporting efforts to develop a statewide ADV program during this phase, as additional staffing will ensure capacity for participating in collaborative work.

Phase Outcomes – by December 31, 2023

- Five new ADV team members hired
- Streamlined procurement process and workplan in place
- Begin exploration of ADV removal barriers

Phase Three – January 2024 to June 2025

Removing Abandoned and Derelict Vessels

Phase Overview

Work in the third phase of the plan focuses on removing abandoned and derelict vessels from Oregon's waterways, using the processes and plans established in previous phases to:

Remove commercial vessels. There are 19 known commercial vessels of concern statewide; that number includes the Sakarissa, Alert and Tiffany vessels anticipated to be removed in FY 2023. Removal projects will be prioritized as identified in earlier phases, with consideration of flexibility necessary to address emerging issues or opportunities.

Remove recreational vessels. There are an estimated 175 recreational ADVs in the Portland metro area; no statewide recreational ADV information is currently available. As with commercial vessels, recreational removal projects will be prioritized as identified in earlier phases, with consideration of flexibility necessary to address emerging issues or opportunities.

Set removal targets for the 23-25 biennium. The information gathering and planning work of earlier phases will allow the Department to set realistic targets for removing both commercial and recreational vessels, and to report on ADV removal initiative progress.

Department participation in any statewide program development efforts will continue during this phase as well.

The third phase also includes looking ahead to the work of the 25-27 biennium by developing removal plans for remaining ADV initiative dollars, as well as collaborating with partners and stakeholders to identify policy and budget needs and priorities for the 2025 legislative session.

Phase Outcomes – by June 30, 2025

- Establish and meet removal targets
- Develop removal plans for remaining fund dollars
- Identify 2025-27 legislative needs and priorities

APPENDIX A – BLUE RIBBON MODEL PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Oregon participated in the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force's Abandoned and Derelict Vessel (ADV) Workgroup, which developed a white paper examining ADV issues as well as a model blue-ribbon program with recommendations for addressing those issues.

The recommendations focus on five key elements identified as important for a successful ADV program: authority; prevention; public outreach and education; removal and deconstruction; and funding.

An overview of each of the five elements, including brief report excerpts, is below. The model program provides a foundation for Oregon to develop an ADV program that aligns with the existing regulatory framework and agency roles, but also meets the state's unique challenges and opportunities.

Authority

"Authority refers to the legal ability of a governing agency to declare a vessel 'abandoned' and thus remove and dispose of it. The issue of authority regarding ADVs is complex, with multiple federal, state, and local agencies involved, as well as private landowners."

Recommendations for this program element include ensuring authority to remove hazardous vessels while protecting due process, empowering local governments and private property owners to play a role in ADV identification and removal, and ensuring vessels can be disposed of in publicly beneficial ways.

Considerations for exploring this program element:

- Identifying authority-related issues and priorities requires a collaborative process.
- Legislative action will be necessary to resolve authority-related issues.

Prevention

"There are many reasons vessels become abandoned or derelict, all of which should be factored into a comprehensive and effective prevention program."

Recommendations for this program element include establishing a comprehensive database for tracking ADVs, establishing a vessel turn-in program, and ensuring appropriate insurance and/or financial assurances to reduce or limit the risk of ADVs.

Considerations for exploring this program element:

- Some recommendations could be piloted in Oregon using existing authority, for example a program for owners to turn in vessels.
- Other recommendations, including those related to registration, enforcement, insurance monitoring, and claims, would require legislative action.

Public Outreach and Education

“Effective outreach and education can help reduce and prevent ADVs by raising awareness, encouraging compliance and preventive behaviors, and engaging the public with the issue at the local level.”

Recommendations for this program element include developing a comprehensive, strategic ADV stakeholder outreach and engagement plan.

Considerations for exploring this program element:

- Development of such a plan requires a collaborative process.
- ADV cleanup activities provide an opportunity to expand engagement efforts to reach current and new partners and stakeholders.

Removal and Deconstruction

“Properly removing and disposing of ADVs is the most resource-intensive aspect of addressing them. A large number of complicated, expensive, and carefully orchestrated steps must come together for a vessel to be prepared for removal, removed, and then disposed of.”

Recommendations for this program element include establishment of permitted vessel deconstruction facilities and coordinated ADV disposal events.

Considerations for exploring this program element:

- Identifying Oregon removal and deconstruction-related issues and priorities requires a collaborative process.
- Work within this program element has potential to accelerate removal of the vessel backlog.
- Cleanup funding has potential to support implementation of recommendations within this program element.

Funding

“In summary, large initial sums of money are needed to address the backlog of legacy ADVs, and smaller sums will be needed to address new ADVs on an annual basis. The need for ongoing funding could be minimized with effective vessel turn-in programs and other preventative measures.”

The blue-ribbon report indicates approximately \$1 to \$5 million will be needed annually to remove new ADVs after the existing vessel backlog is addressed.

Recommendations for this program element include establishing sufficient funds to address both recreational and commercial ADVs, both existing and new vessels, as well as a reliable annual funding mechanism.

Considerations for exploring this program element:

- Collaboration is needed to explore mechanisms for reliable annual funding while developing programs that keep ongoing funding needs contained.
- Ongoing costs have the potential to be reduced through prevention and other initiatives outlined in the blue-ribbon report’s model program recommendations.

Full Blue-Ribbon Program Report and Other Resources

[Abandoned and Derelict Vessel \(ADV\) Blue-Ribbon Program for Western U.S. States](#)

[Blue Ribbon Program Report Executive Summary](#)

[The Current State of Abandoned and Derelict Vessels on the West Coast – White Paper](#)

[ADV Workgroup Website](#)



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of State Lands

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100

Salem, OR 97301-1279

(503) 986-5200

FAX (503) 378-4844

www.oregon.gov/dsl

State Land Board

M E M O R A N D U M

Tina Kotek

Governor

Shemia Fagan

Secretary of State

Tobias Read

State Treasurer

Date April 11, 2023

To: Governor Tina Kotek
Secretary of State Shemia Fagan
State Treasurer Tobias Read

From: Vicki L. Walker
Director

Subject: South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Annual Report

The Department of State Lands oversees the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve on the Southern Oregon coast and reports annually on management and performance of the Reserve. The Reserve manages nearly 7,000 acres of natural habitat which include open water channels, tidal and freshwater wetlands, riparian areas, and forested lands.

The South Slough Reserve: Annual Report for January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022, reviews the Reserve's operations and management priorities; highlights its recent federal evaluation; discusses accomplishments and impacts of its education, coastal training, research and monitoring, and stewardship programs; and analyzes visitor use and revenue.

The purpose of the report is to provide current information about South Slough Reserve's programs, including how they address the coastal management and education needs of Oregonians. The report can be measured against previous performance and used to identify and address factors affecting performance.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – South Slough Reserve: Annual Report



FY 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS



3

Report At-A-Glance

4

Reserve Overview

7

Strategic Plans & Priorities

9

Reserve Program: Education

12

Reserve Program: Coastal Training

13

Reserve Program: Research & Monitoring

17

Reserve Program: Stewardship

19

Projects for a Thriving Reserve

20

Revenue & Spending

21

Appendix A

22

Appendix B

REPORT

AT-A-GLANCE

The Department of State Lands oversees South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve on the Southern Oregon coast. The Reserve manages nearly 7,000 acres of natural habitat which includes open water channels, tidal and freshwater wetlands, riparian areas, and forested lands.

South Slough Reserve is a cornerstone of recreation, education, science, and coastal training, providing rich opportunities for the local community and visitors alike to learn about and explore estuaries. Reserve lands and waters are used by visiting researchers, teachers and students, and other members of the public who come to the Reserve to hike or paddle, view wildlife, and participate in community classes. The Reserve Visitor Center offers interpretive exhibits as well as meeting spaces for the public.

This **South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve 2022 Annual Report** provides an overview of the Reserve's day-to-day operations and strategic aims; highlights accomplishments in education, research, stewardship, and management during the 2022 calendar year; and reviews revenue and spending.

2022 Key Achievements

\$1.179 million in funds leveraged to support research and monitoring, education programs, and facility maintenance and upgrades. This is 20 percent more funding than leveraged in fiscal year 2021 (\$975,337).

4,883 hours of learning offered to the public and schools via interpretive programming, field trips, summer camps, and teacher professional development.

2,700 native plants planted, including culturally important plants such as willow, red-osier dogwood, twinberry, and rose spiraea.

5.5 acres managed for removal of invasive plants, including gorse, jubata grass, Scotch broom, biddy-biddy, purple loosestrife, ivy, and cotoneaster.

1,035 invasive five-spined green crab (also known as European green crab) removed from the Coos estuary.


10 college and 7 high school interns contributed 4,750 hours of service in the areas of research, education, communications, and stewardship.

1,500 linear feet of boardwalk were replaced by staff and 15 volunteers on the Hidden Creek Trail as part of the Reserve's continued maintenance of 5.5 miles of public trails.

30 volunteers contributed over 500 hours valued at \$14,710 in stewardship, research, and education programs.



RESERVE OVERVIEW



Located on the South Slough inlet of the Coos estuary, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve manages nearly 7,000 acres of open water, wetlands, rivers, and forests as an essential resource for learning and exploration. South Slough Reserve is a living laboratory for scientists, an outdoor classroom for people of all ages, and a destination for paddlers, hikers, and birdwatchers.

The Reserve was designated in 1974 as the first unit of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, which has since grown to a network of 30 reserves that protect more than 1.3 million acres of coastal areas across the country for long-term research, education, stewardship, and recreation. Each reserve is managed in partnership by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and coastal states. The Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) partners with NOAA to oversee the Reserve.

Reserve programs include education, coastal training, research and monitoring, and stewardship. These programs help people of all ages learn about estuaries and coastal watersheds; provide scientific information for coastal planning, resource management, and decision-making; conduct research and monitor ecological change over time; and manage and maintain Reserve land and facilities. These efforts collectively enhance scientific and public understanding of estuaries and contribute to improved estuarine management.

The Reserve's immediate governing body is the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Commission, which includes nine governor-appointed members and the DSL director, who serves as chair. The Commission establishes the Reserve's operating policies and administrative rules.

Tribal Partnerships

The Reserve recognizes its location on the traditional lands of the Miluk Coos people who have managed this area for abundance since time immemorial. To ensure ongoing and sound stewardship of this special place and protection of its cultural resources, the Reserve relies on regular consultation and partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI); Coquille Indian Tribe; and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

Reserve staff regularly partner with Tribal staff on education and training programs, research and monitoring projects, and stewardship work. The Reserve values regular input from Tribal staff participating on the Reserve Management Commission and serving on technical advisory groups. Staff also work closely with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers to assess potential impacts of Reserve projects on cultural resources and take measures to avoid or mitigate any negative impacts.



Men's paddle race at the 2022 Salmon Festival.

Connecting with Community

Welcoming Visitors. The Reserve Visitor Center reopened to the public on May 3, 2022. Between May and December, 2,512 people visited the center, which is around 19 visitors a day. As direct counts, these numbers do not capture the many additional visitors that are known to access the Reserve's lands and waters every day, all of which remained open from dawn to dusk throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff at the Visitor Center were happy to have guests return and continue learning about the natural and cultural history from the interpretive exhibits.

While the building was closed, education, science and operations staff worked to install a new water quality exhibit in the entry lobby. The exhibit is a model of one of the System-Wide Monitoring Program (SWMP) stations that collect near real-time data about water conditions in the estuary. Visitors can get a close-up view of the equipment and interact with information about the SWMP program on an adjacent touchscreen panel.

In addition to the visitors who enter the visitor center, Reserve staff continued to observe regular use of trails and waterways. Reopening the center has also enabled staff to increase access to the lower trail system for people with limited mobility. During regular hours, visitors with mobility issues may request a gate key at the front desk allowing them to drive to the Big Cedar Trailhead and access the mostly flat and wide trail that leads to the South Slough marsh observation deck.

Brochure and trail maps are provided at the Visitor Center and Reserve staff frequently answer questions from guests.

Working with Volunteers. The Reserve hosted 30 volunteers who collectively spent over 500 hours valued at \$14,710 monitoring invasive crabs, gathering lamprey eDNA samples, removing weeds, building trails, monitoring plant and animal species, and assisting with education and outreach programs. Community partners assist the Reserve with volunteer efforts and projects. Trailkeepers of Oregon helped with the lower trail boardwalk replacement, on-site training, and community trail maintenance events. The local US Coast Guard crew contributed to willow plantings at the Wasson restoration project site and with live lamprey surveys. Four Reserve volunteers assist the local Surfrider chapter with collection and analysis of water samples for their Blue Water Task Force program, which uses Reserve laboratory facilities for processing.

Mentoring Interns. The Reserve hosted 10 college and seven high school interns who provided 4,750 hours of service in the areas of research, education, communications, and stewardship. These internships were made possible through valuable partnerships with the Friends of the South Slough Reserve, Inc., the Oregon Coast STEM Hub, NOAA, Oregon Sea Grant, the National Science Foundation, and the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology. In 2022, Reserve and DSL staff collaborated to establish processes for intern stipend awards, ensuring efficient administration of these valuable educational experiences.

Reaching the Community. In 2022, the Reserve partnered with the following organizations to participate in a variety of local festivals and events: Coos Bay Downtown Association, the Mill Casino Hotel, Coquille Tribe Canoe Families, Coos Bay Surfrider, Southwestern Oregon Community College Associated Student Government, The Fisherman's Memorial Committee, Coos Watershed Association, South Coast Food Co-op, the Egyptian Theater, Coos Health & Wellness, and the Coos Hispanic Allies.

Fostering Collaboration. All programs at the Reserve are enhanced and strengthened by effective collaborative partnerships with Tribes, federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations, and local and regional governments. Appendix A provides a list of Reserve partners in 2022.



STRATEGIC PLANS & PRIORITIES

South Slough Reserve's programming and decision-making is guided by two key planning documents: [DSL's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan](#) and the [Reserve's 2017-2022 Management Plan](#), which outlines a Reserve-specific vision, mission, and overarching goals as well as a detailed strategic planning framework linked to the Reserve's Priority Focus Areas. In 2022, staff began the NOAA process to update the Reserve management plan and will continue this work in 2023.

Key Elements: 2017-2022 Reserve Management Plan

VISION

Resources developed at the South Slough Reserve will support the informed management of the Coos estuary and watershed, providing a model for regional, national, and global coastal management.

MISSION

To improve the understanding and stewardship of Pacific Northwest estuaries and coastal watersheds.

Overarching Reserve Goals

Advance scientific understanding of the South Slough, Coos estuary, and coastal areas and watersheds.

Provide technical assistance for the management of estuaries.

Improve understanding of estuaries and coastal areas through innovative programming.

Evaluate, manage, restore habitats.

Maintain public access to the Reserve facilities and trails, while minimizing environmental impacts.

Evaluate education program effectiveness.

Priority Focus Areas

CLIMATE CHANGE

Increasing understanding of sea level rise, ocean acidification, impacts on ecosystem function, and communication with the community.

HABITAT PROTECTION

Monitoring habitat change, implementing ridgetop-to-estuary habitat restoration, and increasing public awareness.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Tracing invasive species, monitoring and reducing impacts, and distributing information about invasive species to audiences.

Examining Progress: 2022 Evaluation of Operations and Work on Climate Change

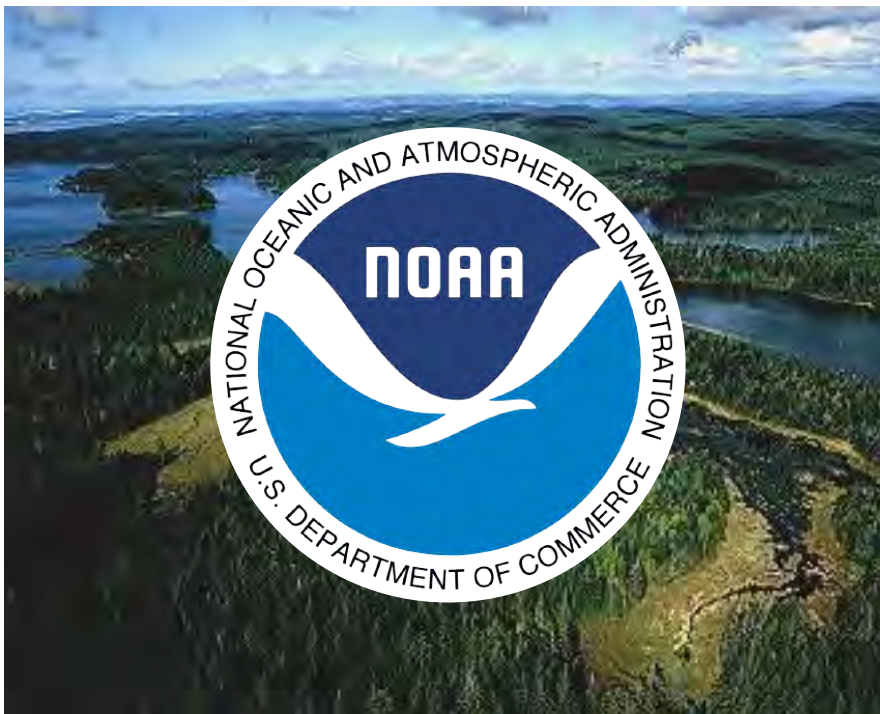
During 2022, NOAA performed a formal evaluation of South Slough Reserve's general operations since 2015 and work related to climate resilience.

Findings highlighted the Reserve's:

- Work with DSL, Tribes, and stakeholders to evaluate potential alternative state partners. DSL was reaffirmed as the best choice to serve as the lead agency for the Reserve.
- Partnerships to advance coastal resiliency and habitat restoration, such as the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds and the Eelgrass Recovery Advisory Committee, which are addressing critical needs in the region, including the development of a new hydrodynamic model of Coos Bay, providing data and support to update of the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan, and identifying a shared list of research and restoration priorities along the West Coast for eelgrass.
- Visitor Center Forest Enhancement Demonstration Project to protect facilities from wildfire and educate others on defensible spaces. This included clearing dense understory; planting native and culturally important plant species; developing a rain garden; and coordinating with the CTCLUSI and Coquille Indian Tribe to donate Port-Orford-cedar logs to tribal members for traditional uses such as plank house repairs and canoe paddles.

About the Evaluation. NOAA is required to periodically evaluate national estuarine research reserves, focusing on areas that can include operation and management, research, or adherence to requirements of the Coastal Zone Management Act.

The extensive evaluation included a review of relevant documents and a survey of stakeholders, which helped identify climate resilience as a target area through the lens of training, partnerships, community engagement, and restoration. The stakeholder survey captured 63 responses, with a 98.3 percent overall satisfaction rating.



A virtual public meeting was held to provide an opportunity for members of the public to express their opinions; written comments were also accepted and considered in the evaluation findings. The evaluation also included a week-long series of staff-led stakeholder meetings for the evaluation team to learn about the Reserve's work related to its internship program, education and outreach, tribal engagement, and partnership efforts led by the Reserve to address coastal resilience.

Appendix B contains the report's Summary of Findings as well as a link to the full report.

RESERVE PROGRAM: EDUCATION

The South Slough Reserve Education Program serves a variety of audiences in our region and across Oregon. During 2022, the Reserve returned to a more typical programming schedule after two years of limited offerings. Engaging education opportunities were provided to children, teachers, families, and life-long learners throughout the year

Summer Science Camps

Reserve summer science camps returned to full capacity in 2022, as COVID-19 restrictions lifted and guidelines about distancing changed. Education staff, volunteers and interns continued to maintain sanitation and all appropriate measures to ensure the health and safety of campers and themselves. Five in-person summer science camps hosted by the Reserve served 86 children between the ages of 5 -17 years. Camp activities are designed to help children increase Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) skills through fun, outdoor, hands-on activities. In 2022, kids spent time hiking, playing games, creating art, conducting experiments, and more. The older camp kids participated in hands-on science projects and met with high school and college students conducting research.

The Reserve provided field trip days for summer camps led by other local organizations, including Southern Oregon University and the Coquille Indian Tribe. Education staff also worked with the Coos Bay School District to offer free sessions of middle school science camps.

Three full-time staff, an AmeriCorps member, an undergraduate intern, and a high school intern worked with the camps to provide 1,945 hours of fun and learning. Interns from the science and stewardship program also assisted with camp presentations and activities throughout the summer, increasing awareness about science and stewardship careers.

Community Classes

Education programs also provide learning for general audiences through a variety of classes and activities held at sites within the



Interns Nick Summerlin and Sophie Relitz guiding young science campers in a game.

Reserve, at partner sites, and in outdoor locations around the community. These programs were also able to increase capacity during 2022. Additionally, the Reserve was able to resume some pre-pandemic favorites like “Tide of the Toddlers,” which serves children 0-5 years old, “Mushroom Identification,” and return to estuary paddle trips that include a group shuttle, allowing participants to experience over five miles of estuarine habitats in the Reserve.



Family members build a bat box together at the Coos Bay Public Library.

In January 2022, the Reserve partnered with the Coos Bay Public Library to sponsor a community education program about bats. The library provided the financial assistance to purchase materials to build 25 large bat boxes and Reserve staff and volunteers built the structures. During the program at the library over 60 people (families and individuals) learned about the important ecological niche bats play in our environment and completed the construction of a free bat box to take home. Outreach at events within the community recommenced during this period as well, providing the Reserve even more opportunity to teach people about estuaries and coastal watersheds.

Over the 12-month period, 3,283 people were able to engage through 124 Reserve community classes, outreach events and summer camps.

Classroom Learning and Field Trips

Formal education audiences served by the Reserve include K-12 students, undergraduate students, classroom teachers, and informal educators. Field trip and classroom learning aims to engage students at their learning levels, align with curriculum and standards, and use Reserve topics to provide place-based examples. Students from throughout Oregon visit the Reserve with their teachers to hike through the watershed from the ridgetops to the estuary, explore the mudflats during low tides, investigate the community of organisms growing along the docks, or head out into the marsh with Reserve scientists. Reserve staff visit classrooms, virtual classrooms, school yards, and nearby natural areas to extend student learning and bring the estuary to the students.

During the spring, summer, and fall 1,952 students participated in 64 school programs that delivered 2,405 learning hours. Students as young as kindergarten through college participated in programs.

Workshops for Educators

Professional development opportunities for educators were offered in person and virtually, with other education partners near and far. Topics for teacher training often focus on Reserve priority issues, research, and monitoring. During 2022, workshops provided information and training about climate change, stewardship, and cross-disciplinary outdoor learning. Facilitation and training partners included the Coos Bay School District, the Oregon Natural Resources Education Program, the NOAA Planet Stewards Program, and the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Forty-six teachers participated in one or more workshops, achieving 533 professional development hours.

Afterschool Explorers

The Reserve redesigned the Estuary Explorers afterschool program with the help of a United Communities AmeriCorps member, local teachers and four high school interns. The program launched at the Millicoma School, which has a natural area with hiking trails adjacent to the Coos estuary. Sixty students in grades 3 through 6 participated in a four-week afterschool program to extend learning in STEAM. Classroom teachers helped to identify students who would benefit most from this experience. Each week the students explored a new habitat type around the estuary. Each session wrapped up with a “Families in the Field” hike through the Reserve, where students had the opportunity to invite their family and share what they learned.

Four high school interns aged 15-19 years were paid stipends through a partnership with the Oregon Coast STEM Hub. Under the professional mentorship of Reserve staff, the students helped to plan and run the afterschool programs, where they gained career and leadership experience over the course of four months.



Estuarine Monitoring Coordinator Alicia Helms explains the suite of ecosystem boosts provided by eelgrass in a workshop for educators.

Besides improving water quality and providing nursery habitat for sealife, eelgrass brings unique value in the changing climate by sequestering carbon and buffering the coastline from erosion, storms, and flooding.

RESERVE PROGRAM: COASTAL TRAINING

South Slough Reserve's Coastal Training Program provides training and technical assistance to coastal decision makers, natural resource managers, and restoration practitioners to support science-based coastal and estuarine management. Trainings also help participants identify useful tools and datasets.

During 2022, the Coastal Training Program offered six trainings attended by a total of 172 participants. Training topics included Port-Orford-cedar restoration, estuary mapping tools, lamprey identification, creating defensible space for wildfires, using biochar for climate-smart forest management by sequestering carbon, facilitation skills, and navigating complex land management relationships between government agencies and Tribal governments/indigenous communities.

Trainings were hosted in partnership with NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the Bureau of Land Management, Coos Watershed Association, Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership, the Coquille Indian Tribe, NOAA's Digital Coast, OSU Extension Fire Program, Wilson Biochar LLC, Parks Canada, U.S. State Department, U.S. National Parks Service, the George Wright Society, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe.

Juvenile Lamprey Identification

The Coastal Training Program partnered with the Coquille Indian Tribe to host a Juvenile Lamprey Identification Workshop just before the beginning of the peak field season for field biologists (the first full season since COVID-19). The workshop grant was jointly funded through the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative and the American Fisheries Society to bring a lamprey expert to the Reserve as well as travel scholarships for staff from several Oregon Tribes. Participants included biologists and managers from Southern and Central Oregon. Lamprey, being an endemic and culturally important species, is of particular interest to the Reserve. Skills obtained through the workshop have and will continue to support key research projects across Oregon.



Participants in the Juvenile Lamprey Identification Workshop

RESERVE PROGRAM: **RESEARCH & MONITORING**

As part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS), South Slough Reserve serves as a dedicated site for scientific investigations and long-term monitoring that contribute data to enhance worldwide knowledge of estuary systems.

The Research and Monitoring Program at South Slough Reserve is focused on understanding estuarine and forest functions, processes, and ecological communities, as well links between watersheds, estuaries, and nearshore marine environments. The program's goal is to provide science-based information that improves coastal zone and watershed management. The Reserve monitors and reports on long-term water quality and weather data. Additionally, visiting researchers and students work closely with staff to conduct applied research on climate change, invasive species, and restoration of habitats and native species.

Environmental Monitoring

The Reserve is a System-Wide Monitoring Program (SWMP) site, part of a nationally coordinated effort throughout the NERRS to track estuarine conditions within estuaries over time. SWMP monitoring sites measure water quality at four locations and meteorological conditions at a fifth site in the South Slough. Additional water quality stations in the Coos estuary are managed by Reserve staff and in partnership with the CTCLUSI. Data are made available to the public, often in real-time, through collaboration with the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems.

Multiple projects and partners use the Reserve's monitoring data every year, including city and county land-use planners, Tribes, and state partners. For example, the Reserve coordinates the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds (PCW), which is working with researchers at University of Oregon using SWMP data to build a hydrodynamic model to simulate the flow of water in the Coos and South Slough estuaries. The model is providing information about the temperature, salinity, sediment, and movement of water through the bay.


Monitoring Technician Adam Demarzo dropping a sampling device into Coos Bay to measure nutrient levels as part of the System-Wide Monitoring Program (SWMP).



Climate Change Monitoring & Research

The Reserve has continued to track the effects of climate change and understand factors that may affect the rate of change in estuarine environments. Eight monitoring sites within the South Slough monitor the impacts of sea-level rise and environmental stressors on wetland elevation, groundwater elevation and salinity, and the resulting changes to vegetation in tidal and freshwater marshes, eelgrass beds, and Sitka spruce swamps as part of a NERRS-wide Sentinel Site program. Additionally, SWMP monitoring sites measure and report on changes in water temperature, air temperature, salinity, turbidity, and pH levels.

The Reserve continues to be a partner in the Pacific Northwest Blue Carbon Working Group and serves as a research site for collaborative research projects with scientists to examine the capacity of estuaries to store carbon. Research partners include the University of Oregon and Oregon State University. In 2022, blue carbon research in the Reserve expanded efforts to measure greenhouse gas fluxes in wetlands. Additionally, Research staff contributed to assessments of local coastal hazards and climate change vulnerabilities to predict which buildings and public services are at risk from flooding as sea levels rise and storms become increasingly severe.



Watershed Monitoring Coordinator Jenni Schmitt and intern Alissa Richardson collecting data at a NERRS Sentinel Site within South Slough.

This monitoring is part of a nationwide effort to provide early detection of environmental change and enable timely management responses.

Invasive Species Monitoring

Reserve staff continue to monitor invasive crab populations with a focus on impacts and management. Since 2002, staff have studied the distribution and recruitment patterns of the invasive 5-spine green crab (also called the European green crab) in the Coos estuary with the goal of understanding trends in abundance as part of a long-term research project led by Dr. Sylvia Yamada of Oregon State University. Annual surveys indicate that 5-spine green crabs have been increasing in abundance since 2016 and are now at densities that are negatively affecting our native crab, clam, and oyster populations. These results have spurred additional research initiatives to study the behavior and ecology of these crabs and develop management options, including promoting recreational consumption. The monitoring efforts remove over 1,000 green crabs per year from the South Slough and Coos estuaries. In addition, South Slough Science staff are coordinating 5-spine green crab surveys in other Oregon estuaries including Yaquina, Salmon River, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coquille, Netarts, and Tillamook, and are maintaining a publicly accessible database with the results.



Intern Sebastian Velazquez traps 5-spine green crabs at Coos estuary.

Species Restoration Monitoring & Research

Research and Stewardship staff are involved in multiple efforts to restore native species to the area.

Eelgrass beds are keystone habitats—providing food and shelter to fish, improving water quality, storing carbon, and helping protect coastal systems and shorelines from storms. Volunteers, graduate students, and interns have assisted Reserve staff with efforts to understand factors contributing to the 2016 decline in eelgrass in South Slough and begin mapping remaining eelgrass around the Reserve using drone technology. Since 2020, Reserve staff have been monitoring experimental eelgrass transplant sites in the South Slough estuary, testing whether planting season and elevation of plantings have any bearing on transplant success. Preliminary trends suggest eelgrass planted at lower elevations and during the summer season have higher density and cover.

In 2022, the Reserve completed a grant-funded project with partners at Portland State University and the Wetlands Conservancy that compares the public perception of marsh restoration success with actual ecological success. Outputs of this project include a public brochure describing the importance of tidal marshes and benefits of estuaries. Results of the project are helping Reserve staff and partners design more effective restoration plans, collect more impactful data, and improve public outreach by better understanding what people value most about marsh restoration projects.

In 2022, staff also made progress on a mapping project to assess the potential to restore wetlands throughout the Coos estuary. The project identified least-disturbed wetlands, restored wetlands, and wetlands that could benefit from restoration for use in land-use planning.

Finally, work is being done to protect and restore culturally important species, such as lamprey. The Reserve is leading a four-year project funded by the U.S. Forest Service that trains volunteers to collect water samples for environmental DNA (eDNA) analysis and map distributions of Pacific and western brook lamprey in watersheds along the southern coast of Oregon. Partners will use the resulting data to prioritize land for acquisition and restoration and to assess potential lamprey migration barriers. A University of Oregon Clark Honors College student is currently analyzing these data for her honors thesis.



Volunteer collects water sample for eDNA lamprey analysis and mapping.



Estuarine Monitoring Coordinator Alicia Helms and intern Chloe Cummins monitor eelgrass.

Graduate Student and Internship Projects

In 2022, Reserve staff mentored two overlapping graduate students supported through the NERRS-based NOAA Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship Program. One fellow from Portland State University examined harmful algal blooms in freshwater and marine sites and conducted surveys of recreational shellfish harvesters to understand their knowledge and perception of harmful algal blooms. The second fellow from Oregon State University is studying the viability of eelgrass seedlings under potential climate change scenarios.

In 2022, Reserve staff continued to collaborate with three graduate students from University of Oregon and Oregon State University studying the environmental drivers of eelgrass loss. Their results indicated the recent die-off of eelgrass in South Slough was related to increasing temperatures from marine heat waves, along with increases in turbidity and watershed disturbance. In addition, six science interns assisted staff with ongoing projects related to invasive crabs, eelgrass restoration, wetland monitoring, wildlife distribution, and upland forest habitat assessments.

RESERVE PROGRAM: STEWARDSHIP

While the entire South Slough Reserve team has the responsibility, duty, and obligation to be good stewards of Oregon's coastal watersheds, the Reserve Stewardship Program works with community members, partner organizations, and Tribes to actively protect, restore and manage our coastal lands and waters. Habitat restoration has long been and remains an important focus area of the program.

Restoring Watersheds

Since 1996, the Winchester Tidelands Restoration Project has restored 55 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands in the Reserve. The underway Wasson Creek Watershed Ridgetop-to-Estuary Restoration Project is the final piece of the project and aims to restore the ecological health of, and cultural connections with, the Wasson Creek watershed in the Reserve.

Forest Spotlight. Funds provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the Friends of South Slough has enabled the Reserve to start restoration thinning of the dense upland forests. In early 2022, a contractor completed 45 acres of variable density thinning. This thinning was designed to increase forest complexity (benefitting wildlife and ecosystem function), rate of tree growth, and tree limb development (an important nesting feature for the endangered marbled murrelet). In summer 2022, two NOAA undergraduate scholars from the Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions (EPP/MSI) and the Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program worked with Reserve staff on the Wasson Creek Restoration Project. The EPP/MSI student came to the Reserve from University of Hawaii and worked with tribal biologists from the CTCLUSI on a project identifying suitable habitat for planting culturally important species in the Wasson watershed. The Hollings Scholar came from Colorado State University and monitored environmental conditions in recently thinned areas to better understand how the project is influencing microclimate.

Lowlands Spotlight. In partnership with Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA), and funded by Coquille Tribal Community Fund, native shrubs were planted along the upper reaches of the Wasson Creek. In November 2022, Reserve staff, interns, and volunteers, along with the U.S. Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team, worked with CoosWA to plant 2,700 live willow stakes. These plantings will improve stream health, increase the diversity of resources for wildlife and birds, and manage the invasive species reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*).

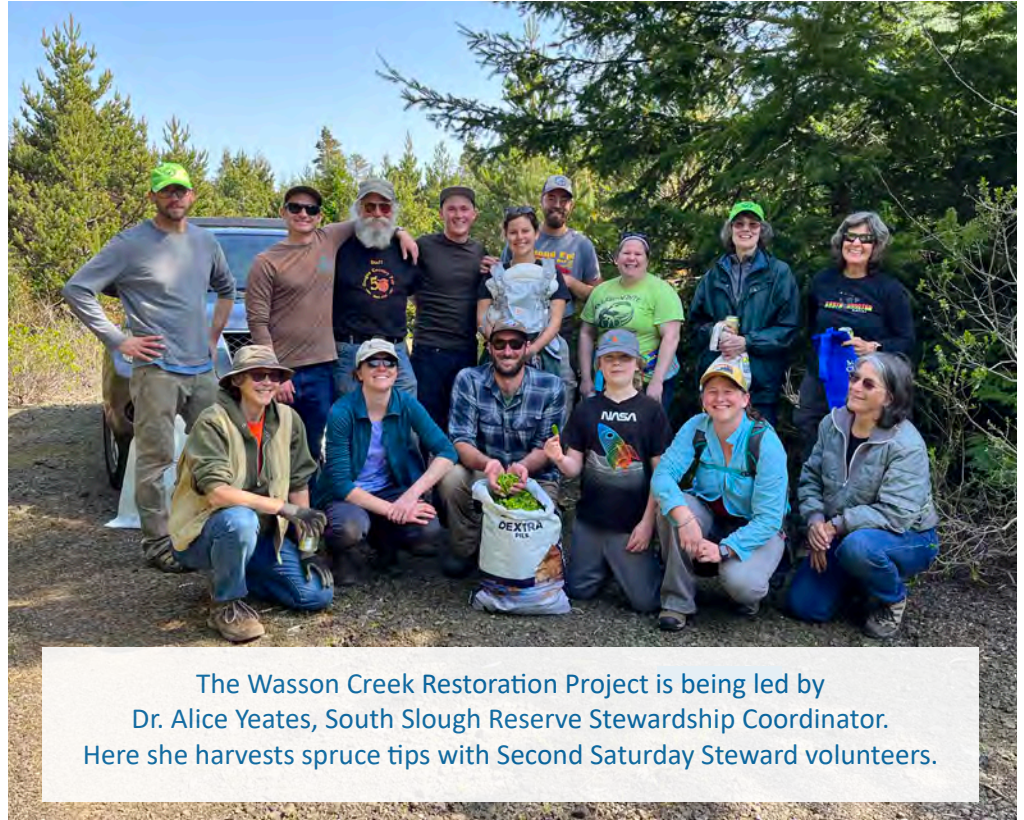


Willow stakes await planting by staff, interns, volunteers, U.S. Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team, and Coos Watershed Association

Promoting Good Stewardship with Community Involvement

Two stewardship-focused volunteer programs, Second Saturday Stewards and Trail Stewards, enabled the Reserve to maintain high stewardship standards in 2022. These programs contributed 395 volunteer hours, valued at \$11,620, to stewardship projects throughout the Reserve.

The Second Saturday Stewards join monthly events to control invasive species and restore native habitats. The Trail Stewards are trained volunteers, 14 individuals in 2022, who assist staff in keeping the five miles of public trails safe, welcoming, and trash free. In addition to Trail Stewards, South Slough Reserve has partnered with Trailkeepers of Oregon to host regular trail maintenance days and trainings. In 2022, Trailkeepers of Oregon worked with staff and 15 volunteers to replace 1,500 linear feet of boardwalk on the Hidden Creek Trail.



The Wasson Creek Restoration Project is being led by Dr. Alice Yeates, South Slough Reserve Stewardship Coordinator. Here she harvests spruce tips with Second Saturday Steward volunteers.



Trailkeepers of Oregon working on a section of boardwalk on the Hidden Creek Trail.



PROJECTS

FOR A THRIVING RESERVE

Creating a Welcoming Entryway

Since July of 2020, Reserve staff have been working towards the goal of acquiring approximately 1.73 acres at the entrance of the Visitor Center. Staff worked to purchase a 1.17-acre parcel with grant funding from NOAA in October 2021. The Friends of South Slough provided funds for the Reserve to purchase the final piece of property, a 0.56-acre parcel, in August 2022. Together these properties will be used to enhance existing infrastructure at the Visitor Center and provide a welcoming entrance at the Reserve's primary public access point.

Updating the Reserve Boundary

In 2021, the passage of Senate Bill 126 by the Oregon Legislature allowed for adjustment of the administrative boundary of South Slough Reserve. The bill was signed into law by Governor Brown on June 1 and took effect in January 2022. Prior to Senate Bill 126, ORS 273.553 defined Valino Island as the northern extent of the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. This language prevented the Reserve from adjusting its boundary to include lands it had acquired north of Valino Island, impeding access to federal funding to manage those lands. Now that the statute has been amended, Reserve staff began work with NOAA in 2022 to update the boundary to include all lands acquired by the Reserve since 2008. The process will continue in the coming year and involve engagement with the local community, stakeholders, and Tribes.

Enhancing the Reserve with Expansion, Renovation, and Trail Projects

The Reserve applies for NOAA Procurement, Acquisition and Construction grants as needed for Reserve-wide projects. During 2022, the Reserve had multiple projects underway: completing the expansion of the maintenance compound to include additional storage for the Reserve's paddle fleet of kayaks and tribal-style canoes, trail upgrades, and renovation of our public restrooms and visitor center exhibits. The maintenance compound project was completed, and the grant closed out in the fall of 2022. Trail upgrades and renovation of our exhibits and public restrooms began in 2022 but cover multiple years and will be finished in 2023 and 2024.



REVENUE & SPENDING

State funding for South Slough Reserve comes from the Common School Fund, which provides stable support for Reserve operations, programs, and services provided to Oregonians as envisioned by the Legislature. This funding provides two critical benefits. First, it enables the Reserve to provide high-quality programming and services to diverse audiences at no cost. Second, the Reserve leverages Common School Fund dollars to bring in a significant amount of additional revenue: the Fund provides match for its annual operations award from NOAA and for various competitive grants each year. In 2022, the Reserve leveraged a total of \$1,179,249 in non-Common School Fund funds to support its water quality monitoring program, trail improvement projects, the acquisition of a key property at the entrance to the Visitor Center, renovation and upgrades to public restrooms and exhibits, and general operations. The Reserve also brings in revenue every year from facility rentals and lodging, with its fee schedule designed to offset operation and maintenance costs for use of the facilities.

The percentage of funding leveraged by the Reserve varies from year to year depending on project needs, the federal budget, and grant opportunities. In calendar year 2022, Reserve revenue included \$1,179,249 of leveraged funds, which accounted for 45.72 percent of its total revenue. This was a 4.66 percent increase from Fiscal Year 2021.

REVENUE	2022
Common School Fund	\$1,400,000
Leveraged funds*	\$1,179,249
Total Revenue	\$2,579,249
% Leveraged Funds	45.72%

** Leveraged funds include the operations award received from NOAA, competitive grants, funding from the Friends of South Slough, Inc. and fees charged for rentals and permits.*

SPENDING	2022
Salaries and Wages	\$2,014,706
Services and Supplies	\$363,930
Capital Outlay	\$192,481
Total Spending	\$2,571,117

APPENDIX A

RESERVE PARTNERS

Tribal Partners

- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
- Coquille Indian Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

City and County Partners

- City and county land-use planners
- Coos County
- Coos Health & Wellness
- All Coos County school districts

State Partners

- Oregon Department of State Lands
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon Department of Transportation
- Oregon Coast STEM Hub
- Oregon Sea Grant
- Oregon Natural Resources Education Program

Federal Partners

- U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Coast Guard
- U.S. State Department
- U.S. National Parks Service

University Partners

- University of Oregon
- University of Oregon, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology
- University of Oregon, Institute for Policy Research and Engagement
- Oregon State University
- Portland State University
- University of California, Davis
- Southern Oregon University

Additional Partners

- Friends of South Slough, Inc.
- Partnership for Coastal Watersheds
- Coos Watershed Association
- Wetlands Conservancy
- The PEW Charitable Trusts
- National Estuarine Research Reserve System Science Collaborative
- National Estuarine Research Reserve Association
- Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership
- Wild Rivers Land Trusts
- Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership
- Trailkeepers of Oregon
- National Science Foundation
- Wilson Biochar, LLC
- Parks Canada
- George Wright Society
- Coos Bay Downtown Association
- Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative
- South Coast Food Co-op
- The Egyptian Theater
- American Fisheries Society

APPENDIX B

NOAA SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The Coastal Zone Management Act requires the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management to conduct periodic evaluations of the operation and management of each national estuarine reserve participating in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. This evaluation examined the operation and management of the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve in Oregon by the Oregon Department of State Lands, the designated lead agency, for the period from September 2015 to April 2022. The evaluation focused on climate resilience through the lens of Training, Partnerships, Community Engagement, and Restoration.

The findings in this evaluation document will be considered by the NOAA Office for Coastal Management in making future financial award decisions concerning the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. The evaluation came to these conclusions:

Accomplishment: The South Slough Reserve worked closely with the Oregon Department of State Lands, tribal partners, and other stakeholders to complete a thorough and comprehensive evaluation of Oregon agencies and organizations that might serve as the reserve's state lead agency. The evaluation found that the Department of State Lands continued to remain the best choice to serve as the lead agency.

Accomplishment: The South Slough Reserve and Oregon Department of State Lands worked closely with the Oregon legislature to obtain approval for two new positions, a GIS specialist and seasonal education position, and the passage of Senate Bill 126. The bill allows the reserve to expand its boundary to include other lands acquired by the department connected to the Coos Bay estuary, including lands acquired with NOAA funding over the past decade.

Accomplishment: The South Slough Reserve has continued to build and expand a strong volunteer program, averaging 4,600 volunteer hours a year! Volunteers shared how meaningful working at the reserve was, with one volunteer stating it "really embellished my life." The reserve provides a welcoming community and an opportunity to learn about the area's resources. The addition of the trail stewards program has allowed a more diverse group of people to volunteer during hours that work with their schedule, while also adding critical capacity of the reserve to protect and manage their lands.

Accomplishment: The South Slough Reserve successfully acquired a key land parcel at the entrance to the Visitor Center and initiated and completed large facilities projects. Facility projects completed include infrastructure investments in trails, the Visitor Center, and storage facilities, and making the reserve facilities more sustainable and inclusive by improving observation decks and initiating a construction project to make bathrooms wheelchair accessible and gender neutral.

Accomplishment: The South Slough Reserve developed and started implementing a Visitor Center Forest Enhancement Plan to help protect facilities from wildfire. Through

implementation they have increased fire resilience; planted native and culturally important plant species; developed a rain garden; and coordinated with the Coquille Indian Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians resulting in the donation of 60 thinned Port Orford cedar logs to tribal members for traditional uses (e.g. plank house repairs, canoe paddles). The plan and associated on-the-ground projects were also used as a powerful outreach tool to educate others on defensible spaces.

Accomplishment: The South Slough Reserve has established strong partnerships with local tribal nations to ensure that management of the reserve is informed by tribal knowledge and expertise. The Reserve and Tribes regularly collaborate on shared priorities across the sectors including research, monitoring, conservation, restoration, outreach and training. For example, working through a relationship of trust and at the request of the tribes, the reserve and tribes are developing an exhibit to display the culturally significant canoe fragment, so that the canoe can remain close to where it was found and accessible to Tribal members and visitors.

Accomplishment: The South Slough Reserve, worked with the Friends of South Slough and Department of State Lands, to develop a process for the Friends group to provide funds to the department to hire interns and provide a higher level of compensation. This supports a more inclusive internship program that can provide valuable career-building opportunities for low-income students.

Accomplishment: The South Slough Reserve is to be commended for its leadership convening groups such as the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds and the Eelgrass Partnership. Through partnerships and collaboration, these groups are addressing critical needs in the region. The Partnership for Coastal Watersheds collaborated on the development of a new hydrodynamic model of Coos Bay and are supporting the update of the 1970s Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan, which will serve as a model for the state. The Eelgrass Partnership is bringing together experts to address the decline in eelgrass from California to Canada and they have identified a shared list of research priorities that are now being addressed.

Recommendation: The NOAA Office for Coastal Management encourages the South Slough Reserve to continue to invest in maintaining the strong connections and collaboration with other divisions and leadership within the Department of State Lands to provide contributions to the strategic direction of the department, promote professional development opportunities for the staff, and build support for reserve initiatives.

Recommendation: The NOAA Office for Coastal Management strongly encourages South Slough Reserve and the Department of State Lands to explore and pursue opportunities to expand management capacity. For example, the reserve could increase the number of positions with supervisory authority so that the management team is not overburdened with supervisory responsibilities. Alternatively, if the reserve is unable to increase the number of positions with supervisory authority, the management team is encouraged to explore opportunities to shift some non-supervisory responsibilities to other department or reserve staff to ensure that the management team has the necessary time to focus on effectively managing staff and interns and leading the reserve in carrying out its mission. Expanding management capacity will

enhance the ability and effectiveness of the reserve to carry out its mission and allow for the expansion of staff to meet any new needs such as managing restoration funding; help build the next generation of coastal managers; and provide support for existing employees.

Recommendation: The NOAA Office for Coastal Management encourages the South Slough Reserve to look for opportunities to expand stewardship capacity to support wetland restoration efforts, management of reserve lands, and implementation of the Fire Resiliency and Management Plan. The reserve might consider looking at funding opportunities through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding to support additional positions.

Recommendation: The NOAA Office for Coastal Management encourages the South Slough Reserve to explore opportunities to work across sectors to implement coastal trainings that support cross-reserve initiatives and the Coastal Training Program.

Recommendation: The NOAA Office for Coastal Management encourages the South Slough Reserve to explore and pursue strategies for ongoing challenges of reducing public use impacts and illegal activities. For example, explore the possibility of taking ownership and maintenance responsibility for Hinch Road and Bridge; installing automated gates and surveillance equipment; and continued collaboration and coordination with the law enforcement community.

Recommendation: The NOAA Office for Coastal Management encourages South Slough Reserve to explore investing in replacement housing (for yurts nearing end of life) to increase capacity for visiting researchers and interns, potentially with coordinated planning and cost-sharing with local partners such as the University of Oregon-Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, Oregon State University, or other state agencies like the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Recommendation: The NOAA Office for Coastal Management encourages the South Slough Reserve to build on successful programs and continue working towards increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion through staff and manager trainings, outreach efforts to underserved audiences, improving accessibility on reserve trails, and exploring solutions for transportation limitations.

Recommendation: The NOAA Office for Coastal Management encourages the South Slough Reserve to explore collaborative strategic planning between the Friends group and the reserve to clarify roles and processes that are best done by the Friends group versus the reserve/Department of State Lands. For example, the Friends group and the reserve could work together to develop a process to identify locally relevant issues and projects and recruit interns.

This evaluation concludes that the Oregon Department of State Lands is adhering to the programmatic requirements of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System in the operation and management of the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of State Lands

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100

Salem, OR 97301-1279

(503) 986-5200

FAX (503) 378-4844

www.oregon.gov/dsl

State Land Board

M E M O R A N D U M

Tina Kotek

Governor

Shemia Fagan

Secretary of State

Tobias Read

State Treasurer

Date: April 11, 2023

To: Governor Tina Kotek
Secretary of State Shemia Fagan
State Treasurer Tobias Read

From: Chris Castelli
Interim Legislative & Government Affairs Coordinator

Subject: Legislative Update

The Department of State Lands is tracking the below priority bills for the 2023 Legislative Session and will provide an update on current status during today's State Land Board meeting.

- **HB 5037: The Department's budget bill.** This bill establishes a Department budget of \$78.9 million and provides 116 positions for the 2023-25 biennium, including funding and positions for 13 requested policy option packages. A budget overview [is available here](#).
- **HB 2238: Addresses the Common School Fund's ongoing subsidy of removal-fill and waterway programs by allowing removal-fill fees to be set via rulemaking and modifying personal property holding requirements.** This Department bill would allow DSL to work collaboratively with stakeholders to examine and propose updated removal-fill program fees via a rulemaking process, and ultimately allow the DSL Director to adopt rules establishing fees. This bill would also allow DSL to remove, store, or dispose of personal property after 30 days in specific cases, to reduce the cost and risk associated with waterway cleanups.
- **SB 161-2: Ensures the Elliott State Research Forest will be established on January 1, 2024, by adjusting requirements of previous legislation.** This bill makes the following three adjustments to SB 1546 (2022) to ensure remaining

Elliott State Research Forest work can be completed collaboratively and with current and updated data and information:

- 1) Adjusts the deadline for completing actions to November 1, 2023.
 - 2) Adjusts the deadline for reporting back to the Legislature on action completion from September 15, 2023, to February 15, 2024.
 - 3) Aligns the habitat conservation plan action to a step in the federal process the state can control and assures the next step toward approval. With this change, DSL must submit an HCP for the forest, and federal agencies must initiate preparation of a final environmental impact statement.
- **HB 2914-2: Establishes an Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Program at the Department, and an Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Fund at the State Treasury.** This bill ensures the State Land Board and the Department will be able to quickly act on the recommendations of the proposed Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Program Workgroup and bring forward an Oregon ADV program for legislative consideration in the 2025 session.