



PACIFIC COAST WATERSHED PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT FY02

“What’s noteworthy here is the way we’re all building on each other’s work. In an area where there are so many different landowners, it’s essential that we work together and that we focus on what’s most ecologically significant.”

—Bob Carey, The Nature Conservancy, Partner: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

Overview

Landscape

The coastal watersheds and estuaries of western Oregon and Washington boast outstanding natural features and resources, including waters and habitats to support wild Pacific salmon and significant congregations of migratory birds. More than seven million people live, work, and recreate in the Pacific Coast region of the United States—from the pristine wilderness watersheds of its coastal mountain range, to productive agricultural and rural lands, to the major metropolitan areas of Seattle and Portland. Across the border, another two million people inhabit greater Vancouver, British Columbia.

A Natural for Partnerships

The convergence of rich natural resources and rapidly growing urban areas means not only an extraordinary living environment for people, but also increasing pressures and conflicting demands on natural resources. This unique combination of place and people also fosters abundant opportunities for developing partnerships to conserve, restore, and enhance our water quality and aquatic and estuarine habitats.

The Pacific Coast Watershed Partnership (PCWP) was formed to recover and protect wild salmon and other aquatic species and migratory birds. We are linking

key estuaries, wetlands, and uplands to restore the habitat and water quality necessary for the survival of these internationally important resources and to contribute to the livable environment that is the hallmark of the Pacific Northwest.

Balancing social, economic, and environmental needs in this diverse region is the key to our restoration and protection efforts. More than 40 federal, state, and private partners are working together across five watersheds to tackle the complex challenges facing our dynamic and invaluable coastal ecosystems.

The Issues

- Disappeared:
- At risk:
- Threatened or Endangered:
- Contributing factors:

Wild Salmon and Trout

From 40% of the Pacific Northwest rivers in which they historically spawned. Populations in 44% of the remaining streams. 26 populations of Pacific salmon and steelhead. Dams, hatcheries, habitat loss, and water diversions.

Migratory Waterfowl

- Disappeared: 50–80% of intertidal marsh habitats; 30% of wetlands.
- At risk: More than 30 species of waterfowl—hundreds of thousands of ducks, geese, scoters, swans, cranes, loons, shorebirds, and neotropical migratory birds—that use the tidal marshes, estuaries, and other coastal habitats, especially during migration or in winter.
- Contributing factors: Human population growth and development, diking of marshes to create farms, other alterations of wetland and estuarine habitats.



Partners

PCWP projects are built on layers of partnerships: with the people whose livelihoods depend on their watersheds, with those who simply cherish the land, and with organizations striving to create vigorous self-sustaining landscapes. Our partnerships are as diverse as our place. Some are large, formal, long-term collaborative programs, while others are

small, informal, project-specific efforts. In some cases the same partner is involved in several projects. Major PCWP partners are listed in the box. Many have their own extensive circles of partners, creating a network of extraordinary depth and breadth, working together in various ways to achieve common or compatible goals.

Sampler of Partners

Americorps
Ash Creek Restoration
Bonneville Power Administration
Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development District
Columbia Gorge NSRA
Coquille Watershed Council
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Dungeness River Management Team
Environmental Protection Agency
Farm Service Agency
Girl Scouts
Local Landowners
McKenzie River Trust
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Nat'l. Forest
National Audubon Society
Native American Tribes in Washington and Oregon
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Olympic National Forest
Oregon Dept. of Agriculture
Oregon Dept. Environmental Quality
Oregon Dept of Forestry
Oregon State University
Oregon Water Enhancement Board
Pacific Coast Joint Venture
Pacific Rivers Council
Rogue/Siskiyou National Forest
Roseburg Forest Products
Salmon Recovery Board
Salmon Trout Enhancement Program
Siuslaw Institute
Siuslaw National Forest
Skagit Land Trust
Siuslaw & Mapleton School Districts
Siuslaw Soil & Water Conservation District
Siuslaw Watershed Council
Skagit Watershed Council
SOLV
Sport Fishermen
State of Oregon
State of Washington
The Nature Conservancy
University of Oregon
USDA Forest Service, PNW Research Station
USDI Bureau of Land Management
USDC National Marine Fisheries Service
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey

Goals and Priorities

Our initial strategy was to restore vital habitats in key focus areas and to link those watersheds through our intense estuary restoration efforts with Ducks Unlimited. Within the selected watersheds, the focus has been on demonstrating improved watershed health by integrating upland, riparian, wetland, in-stream and estuary habitats. The partnership has an array of conservation tools including acquisition of habitat and purchase of conservation easements that accompany restoration and enhancement efforts.

PCWP projects to date have aimed to achieve resource improvement through:

- ❑ **Restoration** of water quality and aquatic habitat across whole watersheds.
- ❑ **Assessment and monitoring**, using watershed analysis or other rigorous assessment processes.
- ❑ **Prioritization** of restoration practices to focus the best science on the highest priority areas.

- ❑ **Partnerships** that integrate restoration projects across ownership boundaries.
- ❑ **Education** that enhances understanding of watershed and aquatic ecological processes.

For the past several years, our approach has been to work with partners at the local level. Five key areas were funded at nearly a million dollars, and one regional partner, Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU), leveraged this at a 10-to-1 ratio. Work in these focus watersheds has been complemented by estuary and wetland restoration efforts led by DU in neighboring watersheds, with the expectation that these efforts will attract new partners to the table, thus expanding the overall project.

Change is in the air for the PCWP, as discussed later in this document. Our specific goals and priorities will evolve, as will the partnership's needs and players. What will remain constant is our commitment to the wild salmon, the international flyway of birds, and the communities that make the Pacific Northwest and our partnership unique.

Accomplishments

In fiscal year 2002 (FY02), a major limiting factor to achievement of partnership goals was the withdrawal of Forest Service funds for the partnership coordinator and for many individual projects because of the serious fire season. In spite of limited funds, we have achieved an

impressive amount of restoration, monitoring, partnership, and education work this year. We engaged in nearly 100 projects through coastal Oregon and Washington, emphasizing collaboration in our restoration actions.

Comparison of Accomplishments: FY01 and FY02

	FY01	FY02
Funds leveraged with partners	At a 10-to-1 ratio	At a 10-to-1 ratio
Planned, designed, or awarded contracts for restoration	5,420 acres	8,120 acres
Completed restoration of key wetlands, estuaries, riparian areas, and upland habit	935 acres	4,650 acres
Awarded grants to PCWP partners	Nearly \$700,000	Nearly \$700,000
Funded or facilitated watershed restoration projects	84 projects in 5 watersheds	89 projects in 5 watersheds



before



after

PCWP accomplishments in FY02 included restoration of Stapert Pond, Beaver Creek, Oregon.

Sampler of Project Accomplishments, FY02

Actions	Outcomes	Goals Addressed*			
		R	M	E	P
Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area					
Cleared unwanted vegetation, prepared planting sites, planted bottomland forest, maintained plants, monitored sites.	230 acres riparian forest restored or prepared for restoration. Planting ready for fall/winter FY03.	✓	✓		
55 wetland acres deepened, 80 wetland acres treated for invasive vegetation, vegetation response monitored.	Vegetation on 125 acres of wetland and adjacent upland being converted from invasive species to more native plant community, including open water and palustrine emergent wetlands.	✓	✓		
Applied for water right to augment surface water.	Ready to obligate funds pending funding.	✓			
Ducks Unlimited					
Began project to install 3 fish-friendly water control structures and to revegetate channelized creek.	400 acres of drained wetlands will be restored, creek will be reconnected with 6 large wetland complexes. Due for completion: FY03/04.	✓			
Began dike breaching, ditch filling, building a setback levee, and replanting.	600 acres of diked wetlands will be restored. Due for completion: FY03.	✓			
Did shallow excavations, created low berms, installed water control structures, planted trees.	390 acres of diked pasture restored (2 projects).	✓			
Mt. Baker–Snoqualmie National Forest					
Management plan planned and negotiated for the Middle Skagit.	Habitat improvement for waterfowl is addressed, acquisitions prioritized, monitoring strategies developed.	✓	✓		✓
Agreement negotiated for restoration of riparian habitat on 300-acre acquisition.	Signed agreement for \$254,000 worth of restoration: winter waterfowl habitat will be enhanced; riverbottom hardwood forest will be restored. Relationships built. FS funding lost to fire.	✓	✓		✓
Participated on Skagit Watershed Council monitoring subcommittee.	FS input into design and implementation of monitoring plan.		✓		✓
Hired intern to complete draft Implementation Monitoring Plan for watershed restoration, for SWC.	Draft monitoring plan produced. Revision and publication delayed because of loss of FS funding for fire.		✓		
Olympic National Forest					
Decommissioned or repaired roads, removed fish barrier.	5.4 miles either ready for contract or under contract; >1 miles completed.	✓			
Stabilized and repaired roads (7 sites).	5.0 miles storm damage repaired, roads improved.	✓			
Awarded monitoring contact.	8 sites on decommissioned road established for baseline monitoring.		✓		
Completed watershed analysis.	Rigorous assessment of area ready for restoration.		✓		
Planned for estuary and river restoration project.	Grant received for private land purchase and dike setback in estuary.	✓			
Conducted Chinook redd GPS tracking project.	Identification of historical redd location.	✓	✓		
Rogue–Siskiyou National Forest					
Conducted population estimates for fall Chinook.	Knowledge of escapement (16,000 fish).	✓	✓		
Constructed fall Chinook acclimatization facility.	90,000 fall Chinook smolts acclimated at the site.	✓			

Sampler of Project Accomplishments, FY02 (continued)

Actions	Outcomes	Goals Addressed*			
		R	M	E	P
Reconstructed fish trap.	90 fish trapped, have better assessment of fish survival and return.	✓	✓		
Designed fishway.	Construction underway; juvenals will benefit.	✓			
Released 30,000 coho fry into areas above artificial barriers.	Stream habitat is seeded to speed re-establishment of population.	✓	✓		
Installed fencing, planted riparian areas (7 projects).	Approximately 5 miles completed, with planting this winter or next spring; another 1.2 miles ready for fencing and planting this fall/winter.	✓			
Began blackberry test plot project.	3,000 feet of fence to be completed; testing begun on 10–12 treatments for blackberry eradication. Cost analysis and effectiveness monitoring to be done.	✓	✓		
Conducted in-stream projects: log placement, boulder weirs, veins, bridges.	Nearly 8,000 feet of stream (about 30 sites) enhanced and restored.	✓			
Surveyed 70 miles of roads and landings.	Knowledge of what areas need fixing, what type of repairs needed; ready for work to begin next year.	✓			
Installed bat boxes.	Wildlife habitat enhancements.	✓			
Siuslaw National Forest					
Surveyed 250 miles of streams.	Rapid bio-assessment completed on coho summer rearing population.	✓	✓		
Decommissioned or removed culverts on 27 miles of road (or contracts awarded).	Habitat restoration on 27 miles of road completed or under contract.	✓			
Conducted 2 in-stream projects on private lands.	Habitat enhancement.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Installed or replaced 16 fish-friendly culverts (numerous projects).	>0.5 miles of fish habitat opened.	✓			
Developed strategy to tackle problems with fish passage culvert.	300 feet of culverts will be fixed.	✓			
Conducted festivals (several) and community meetings (3); produced and mailed newsletters, presented 3 public programs; other outreach (numerous projects).	>200 landowners learn to identify problems and understand appropriate solutions, >200 people reached with other outreach efforts.			✓	✓
Led 24 Stream Team trips with 7 th graders.	Restoration and monitoring work completed; students learned about techniques, issues.	✓	✓	✓	
Conducted Water Quality Monitoring Project.	Clarified toxicity of lead from sinkers in aquatic organisms. Identified problems with freshwater mussel population deterioration.		✓		
Treated stream vegetation: thinning, weed removal, seedlings prepared, trees gathered (numerous projects).	3,135 acres, 0.7 miles of aquatic and riparian habitat enhanced, water quality restored (both federal and private lands).	✓			
Recruited and trained >150 student volunteers.	Water quality, fish use, smolt traps monitored.		✓	✓	
Developed estuary monitoring plan.	Plan in place for monitoring activities.		✓		
Awarded forest stewardship grants to 10 landowners.	Partnerships enhanced, restoration and monitoring work begins.	✓	✓		✓
Worked with Siuslaw Youth STEP Group: 20 kids.	Kids help in habitat restoration work.	✓		✓	
Established innovative program to trade goods for services in holistic watershed restoration	More watershed restoration took place.	✓			✓

*R = Restoration; M = Monitoring & Assessment; E = Education; P = Partnership Development



Case Study

Every River Has Its People

SO BEGINS A NATIVE AMERICAN PROVERB, suggesting that life along each waterway is unique. Indeed, to the people of the Dungeness River, on the northeast Olympic Peninsula in Washington State, their landscape and lifestyles are unlike any others in the world.

The Dungeness and its major tributary drain 172,500 acres of tall mountains, lush foothills, and fertile plains. The river is home to a diverse array of birds, mammals, shellfish, insects, amphibians, and plants... and, of course, the wild salmon. The overall health of the watershed, its wildlife, and its 16,000 human inhabitants depends on the quality and quantity of this water. However, human impacts are numerous, and sediment levels are rising, changing the river's channels and diminishing its ability to accommodate floodwaters and provide hospitable habitat to migrating salmon.

The process of restoring the Dungeness watershed has begun, building on the decades-old efforts of citizen committees, which have evolved into the Dungeness Watershed Management Team (DRMT). This partnership of stakeholders, including PCWP partner the Olympic National Forest, works to develop and implement locally based, long-term solutions to problems such as degraded fish habitat, flooding, bank erosion, sedimentation, water conservation, and water quality and quantity.

Highest priority elements for the restoration of Dungeness River wild salmon stocks include floodplain and delta restoration, and protection of existing functional habitat—primarily through land acquisition, bridge expansion, and dike removal/setback. While great progress has been made (see Accomplishments Sampler), efforts in FY02 were set back because of the intense fire season, which resulted in withdrawal of Forest Service funds that had been earmarked for these partnership restoration projects.

Although the Dungeness is a place like no other, other Pacific Coast waterways—each unique in its own way—share common restoration lessons, needs, and roadblocks. On the South Fork Coquille River, Oregon, for example, a restoration priority is to develop old-growth characteristics, enhance future down woody material and snag development, and provide future shade for critical riparian areas. This year, thinning projects were underway and rock bridges were planned on private lands to reduce sediment from entering an important anadromous spawning tributary of the river. Unfortunately, projects on the South Fork Coquille, as on the Dungeness, were left on the drawing board in FY02 because funds were withheld for the fire emergency.



Proposed work to rock three bridge approaches on private lands—to keep sediment from entering an important anadromous spawning tributary of the South Fork Coquille River, Oregon—had to be postponed because funds were needed for the FY02 fire emergency.

The need to share scarce resources among many competing needs is a thread that connects public-private partnerships everywhere, and underscores the value of the holistic, large-scale watershed restoration partnerships emphasized in the PCWP. Even when anticipated funds disappeared, the breadth and depth of our partnerships facilitated impressive accomplishments.

At a Crossroad: Challenge, Change, and The Future

We are at a critical juncture. The PCWP needs a private, non-government entity to assist regional and state partners at the landscape scale. The goal is to expand the PCWP to include regional partners who are interested in a strategic approach to restoration, including identifying areas of greatest need, ensuring that we are working on interest-based funding and resources, and sharing knowledge

and skills across watersheds. We want to build on or weave together existing efforts in key areas.

Can our partners build on existing coordination and network roles, such as the Pacific Coast Joint Venture, to market and share information, develop projects, and attract funding? The answer is a resounding, “YES!” We have recognized that there are tremendous opportunities to enhance the sharing of resources

and leveraging of funds to maximize the goals of all. At the time of this report, PCWP federal and state partners are poised to issue an agreement with a nonprofit organization, pending release of funds embargoed for firefighting. Ultimately we will be able to energize the regional scale of the partnership, building on programs with similar efforts and adding value to restoration efforts throughout the region.

Budget and Costs

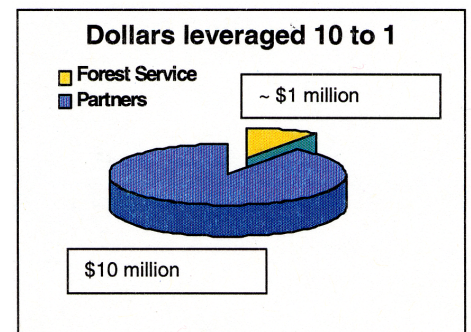
The complexity of PCWP partnerships creates a challenge for tracking and segregating specific project dollars and their matches. For example, the MBS National Forest received \$80,000 from PCWP to complete restoration and

monitoring in the Skagit Basin, where people have long worked together on a wide range of resource management issues. In FY02 the Skagit received \$3.9 million in state Salmon Recovery Funding Board money, a result of the extensive

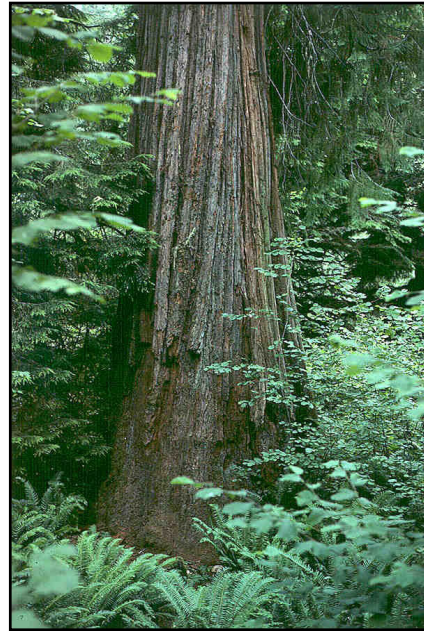
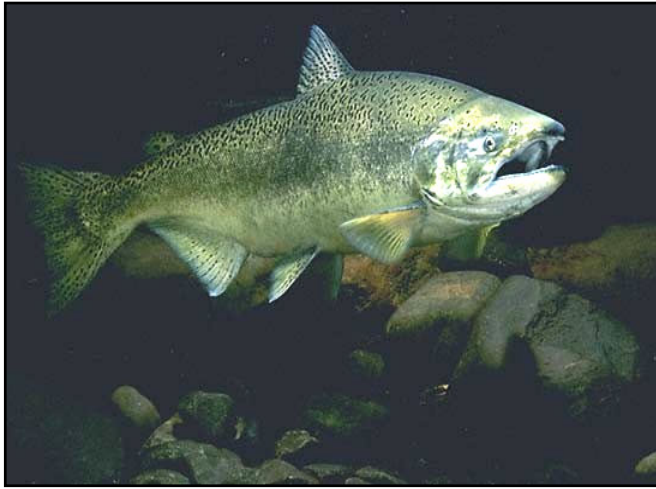
efforts by all the partners in the Skagit Watershed Council to put forward sound, defensible projects. Their positive outcomes are due, in no small measure, to the contribution of several Forest Service staff members.

Comparison of Costs: FY01 and FY02

	FY01		FY02
Forest Service funds:	\$ 1.36 million		\$ 933,000
Partnership match:	\$ 9.87 million	approx.	\$10,000,000
PCWP Grants:	\$ 350,000	Ducks Unlimited	\$ 150,000
	\$ 165,000	State of Oregon	\$ 82,500
	\$ N/A	State of Washington	\$ 82,500
	\$ 85,000	Olympic NF	\$ 110,000
	\$ 55,000	MBS NF	\$ 80,000
	\$ 30,000	CRGNSA	\$ 30,000
	\$ N/A	Siuslaw	\$ 219,000
	\$ N/A	Rogue-Siskiyou	\$ 79,000
		Funding held for coordinator	\$ 100,000



Pacific Coast Watershed Partnership



“Partnerships can help accomplish work, but partnering is as much about building relationships as it is about outcomes. Working in partnership is a way of thinking and engaging with others. It is a way of building trust and facilitating the process of joint problem-solving.”

—excerpted from *Beyond Boundaries: Resource Stewardship on the Skagit River*, produced by the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, PCWP partner, October 2000.

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