

Project Description

Three Rivers hired a staff position to implement its Conservation Strategies Plan. This position recruited private landowners for conservation easement and land donations pursuant to geographic areas identified in the Conservation Strategies Plan adopted in 2002.

Actual Work Tasks Implement and Project Timeline

May 2002 – December 2002

- ≈ Hired Property Specialist.
- ≈ Property Specialist received training in Conservation Easements.
- ≈ Completed one conservation easement: Smith/Tryon Creek Trib.
- ≈ Began West Willamette Corridor focus area conservation plan by supervising AmeriCorps for 160 acre invasive plant mapping project and gathering public and private landowners for meetings to discuss joint management.
- ≈ Began gathering data in each of our 5 focus areas and identifying key properties with partners.
- ≈ Contacted 10 landowners in Balch Creek for easement. Visited with three landowners.

2003

- ≈ Completed three conservation easements: Neal on Rock Creek, Rambo on Abernethy Creek and Marquard on Saltzman Creek/Forest Park.
- ≈ Contacted 5 landowners along Johnson Creek for conservation easement tool with help from Johnson Creek Watershed Council. Negotiations with one landowner.
- ≈ Developed outreach tools for Damascus area: Product: Completed three easement brochures for Sunshine, Rock and Richardson Creek and distributed to 300 landowners.
- ≈ Educated landowners and professionals about conservation easement too. Product: Conservation Easement Workshop with 35 attendees.
- ≈ Provided conservation planning assistance to Damascus area residents. Product: Series of three meetings with citizens and partner groups, inventory of natural and cultural resources and list of conservation tools available.
- ≈ Developed management partnership in West Willamette Corridor. Product: 160 acres invasive plant species mapped with assistance from partners.
- ≈ Contacted over 200 private landowners with phone calls to solicit conservation donations.

- ≈ Responded to 25 phone calls from landowners interested in conserving their land.
- ≈ Met with 10 landowners individually to review conservation options on land.
- ≈ Secured Landowner Incentive Program Grants totaling \$90,000 to facilitate three conservation easements in three different focus areas.

2004 - Current

- ≈ Completed 1 Conservation Easement: Lorenz: McFee Creek.
- ≈ Completed conservation easement brochure for Sherwood area.
- ≈ Completed West Willamette Corridor Invasive Plant Baseline Inventory and Cost Estimate report and distributed 75 copies.
- ≈ Held landowner workshop in Johnson Creek area.
- ≈ Currently in negotiation with three conservation easement landowners: Chicken Creek, Johnson Creek and lower Richardson/Mainstem Clackamas River.
- ≈ Negotiating contract with Clean Water Services to pursue easements in Chicken, lower Gales, and upper Rock Creek in Washington County.
- ≈ Landowner workshop planned for Sherwood area this fall.

Project Staff Partners and their roles

See below for a list of partner activities and roles in the budget narrative.

Description of Project Area

The Conservation Strategies Plan identified 11 Level 1 priority areas for conservation and another 10 in Level 2. These focus areas are spread throughout greater Portland. They encompass lands inside and right next to the Urban Growth Boundary. These lands were evaluated based on: natural resource values, degree of threat to the resource and the existence of partners to assist with projects and landowner outreach.

Description of Methods used to implement the project

Three Rivers Land Conservancy contacted private landowners and informed them of the conservation easement tool. Three Rivers then negotiated conservation easement transactions to acquire conservation easements conserving key natural resources. In addition, Three Rivers used The Nature Conservancy's site conservation planning in the West Willamette Corridor to identify the key threat to the natural resources in the area. Then, Three Rivers used The Nature Conservancy's Weeds Database to quantify the invasive plant threat in this focus area and develop cost estimates for removal.

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On-going tasks that continue beyond the term of the agreement

This program lies at the core of Three Rivers mission to conserve land. This conservation program will most definitely continue beyond the term of the agreement. Many more landowners remain to be contacted. Three specific conservation easements have yet to be negotiated. Three Rivers must continue building relationships with key landowners and develop incentives for private landowners to continue to conserve their land.

Summary of Expenditures and project costs

Please see below.

Summary and Conclusions

US Fish and Wildlife's \$22,000 helped Three Rivers leverage over \$100,000 of cash and in-kind match as well as another \$1.5 million in donations of land via conservation easement.

Three Rivers is very proud of its conservation program. We are the only one in the region that is available to work with private landowners to conserve, using conservation easements, and protect key natural resources in greater Portland. Incentives for private landowners is absolutely crucial to achieving greater conservation on the ground. Regulations cannot get landowners to manage their property for wildlife habitat. Only by building consensual relationships with private landowners, can we begin to permanently protect and enhance the quality of wildlife habitat on the ground.

Supplemental Information

Please see attached articles and brochures.

Partner	Estimated Time Spent	Project
Johnson Creek Watershed Council	150 hours x 40 = \$6,000	Conservation easements in Johnson Creek and Sunshine Creek
Friends of Forest Park	100 hours x \$40 = \$4,000	Assistance recruiting conservation easements in Balch Creek and developing Habitat Conservation Plan on the Marquard Property
Clackamas River Basin Council	Council Coordinator hours \$5,000	Identifying areas for conservation easements in Clackamas River Basin
Damascus Planning Committee	10 people at 4 hours per person 40 x \$40 = \$1,600	Inventorizing greenspaces in Damascus area and identifying tools for conservation of key resources, educating citizens about these tools including conservation easement.
Raindrops to Refuge	100 hours x \$40 = \$4,000	Inventorizing areas for conservation easements and development of conservation easement brochure.
OHSU and City of Portland	50 hours x \$40 = \$2,000	Working to develop West Willamette Corridor Baseline Invasive Plant Species Inventory
Real Estate, Tax Donation and Wildlife Plan Professionals	Estimated Value \$250 per speaker \$750 - \$150 = \$600	The conservation easement workshop
Estimate Value	\$17,200	

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Other Match – Not specifically listed in grant but still an outcome.

Conservation Easement Donation	Estimated Match
Balch Creek – 26 acres	\$55,000
Rambo Conservation Easements – Total of 85 acres in Abernethy Creek	\$1,000,000
Neal Conservation Easement – 5 acres in Rock Creek	\$25,000
Smith Conservation Easement – 4.5 acres along tributary of Tryon Creek	\$150,000
Lorenz Conservation Easement – 38 acres in McFee Creek	\$300,000
TOTAL VALUE	\$1,530,000