

Washington Fish and Wildlife Office Restoration Programs Funded Projects Summary – Fiscal Year 2014

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) restoration programs work with partners to achieve voluntary habitat restoration through financial and technical assistance. In fiscal year 2014 (FY14), the Washington Fish and Wildlife Office (WFWO) provided over \$730,000 in cost share funding to our partners to support environmental restoration and other conservation activities. USFWS funds leveraged approximately \$1.7M in partner contributions to these projects. Conservation partners included Tribal entities, state and local governments, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners. Funded projects will conserve and restore wetland, riparian, prairie, shrub-steppe, and forested ecosystems. These habitats support a diversity of fish, wildlife, and plant species, including many listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Chehalis Fisheries Restoration Program

Project: Chehalis Basin Education Consortium Project

Cooperator: Capital Region Educational Service District 113

Project Type: Outreach and Education

Conservation Benefit: Supports stewardship of the Chehalis river basin by engaging high need and underserved school and community teams in the study, investigation, protection and restoration of the Chehalis basin. Through water quality monitoring, a Student Congress, field studies, riparian restoration work, and other watershed protection action projects, youth will gain a sense of belonging and ownership with the Chehalis basin.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$25,000

Project: Stevens Creek Fish Barrier Culvert Correction

Cooperator: Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force

Project Type: Aquatic/Riparian Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Removes the only fish passage barrier in Stevens Creek to restore access to 3¼ miles of upstream habitat. The creek supports a diverse population of salmonids and other fish, including coho, Chinook, and chum salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout, as well as brook lamprey.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$25,000

Project: Delezenne Creek Fish Passage Restoration

Cooperator: Grays Harbor Conservation District

Project Type: Aquatic/Riparian Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Removes 2 fish passage barriers and restores 600 feet of oxbow channel around a derelict water retention dam. Restores fish passage to 7 miles of upstream spawning and rearing habitat for coho salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$40,000

Project: Upper Chehalis Irrigation and Fish Screen Education

Cooperator: Lewis County Conservation District

Project Type: Outreach and Education

Conservation Benefit: Provides support to the Conservation District to hold a minimum of 5 workshops for irrigators in the Chehalis Basin. The workshops will provide information and opportunity for technical assistance on irrigation systems, fish screens, and efficient water use. Interested agricultural landowners will receive individual technical assistance to evaluate fish screens on water intakes, identifying opportunities to improve these structures to better protect fish and reduce water use.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$30,000

Project: Satsop River Riparian Restoration and Conifer Establishment

Cooperator: Center for Natural Lands Management

Project Type: Aquatic/Riparian Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Improve riparian habitat conditions in the Satsop River sub-basin by conducting replanting and restoration work in areas previously treated to control knotweed. The Satsop River provides spawning and rearing habitat to healthy populations of Chinook, chum, coho salmon and steelhead. Although none of these stocks are currently protected by the ESA, there is evidence that degraded riparian habitat threaten the long-term health of all current stocks.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$50,000 (co-funded by Chehalis Fisheries Restoration Program/Partners for Fish and Wildlife, \$25,000 from each program)

Chehalis Fisheries Restoration Program WFWO FY14 Total: \$145,000

National Fish Passage Program

Project: Greenhead Slough Fish Passage Correction (tidegate removal) project

Cooperator: Willapa NWR

Project Type: Fish Passage

Conservation Benefit: Design, engineer, and construction for the Greenhead Slough (aka Pickering Slough) fish passage project, which will restore fish passage to approximately 10 miles of habitat. This project is within the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge and is a part of their overall 15 year restoration plan. This area historically supported large numbers of chum, coho, and Chinook salmon, cutthroat trout and steelhead, which have declined dramatically due degraded watershed conditions and fish passage barriers.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$50,600

Project: West Beach Creek fish passage project

Cooperator: Northwest Straits Foundation

Project Type: Fish passage

Conservation Benefit: Restore connectivity for native fish passage at West Beach Creek, Orcas Island, Washington, by removing a fish passage barrier and restoring natural stream function and approximately 1.3 acres of stream and riparian habitat. Recent studies of nearshore waters in the project area confirm Chinook, chum, pink, coho, and sockeye salmon using the area for weeks and months, feeding and growing.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$62,800

National Fish Passage Program WFWO FY14 Total : \$113,400

Pacific Marine Estuarine Partnership

Project: Dabob Bay (Restoration of Salt Marsh Shoreline)

Cooperator: Northwest Watershed Institute

Project Type: Aquatic/Riparian Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Restore 1,200 feet of saltmarsh and forest shoreline critical for juvenile Hood Canal summer chum salmon and Puget Sound Chinook salmon rearing by removal of a residential site, including complete removal of a bulkhead and fill.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$30,000

Project: Collier Boat Ramp and Jetty Removal

Cooperator: Squaxin Island Tribe

Project Type: Aquatic/Riparian Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Restore 5.7 mile beach sediment drift cell by removal of the final two sediment barriers currently blocking lateral net shore drift, enhancing spawning habitat for sand lance and Pacific herring.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$20,975

Pacific Marine Estuarine Partnership WFWO FY14 Total: \$50,975

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Project: Fisher Ranch

Cooperator: Center for Natural Lands Management

Project Type: Upland Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Install fencing to assist with implementation of the grazing management plan for the site, conduct an additional prescribed burn followed by treatment of invasives, followed by reseeding with native prairie species. Project is intended to enhance prairie habitat and benefit Mazama pocket gopher which inhabit the site.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$15,000

Project: Ebright Creek Riparian Restoration

Cooperator: Mid Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group

Project Type: Aquatic/Riparian Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Enhance riparian buffer in approximately 1.24 acres along Ebright Creek by invasive species management and riparian revegetation. Project is intended to benefit Lake Sammamish Kokanee salmon which spawn and rear within and upstream of the project area.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$25,000

Project: Mt. Rainier Gateway Forest Reserve Habitat Enhancements

Cooperator: Nisqually Land Trust

Project Type: Upland Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Improve approximately 400 acres of forested habitat through decommissioning 2 miles of unneeded forest road and applying silvicultural treatments to enhance forest health and stand complexity. This project compliments conservation land acquisitions by the Nisqually Land Trust, with benefits to protect and improve habitat for northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$25,000

Project: Expanding and Enhancing Prairie Habitat in North Puget Sound

Cooperator: Pacific Rim Institute for Environmental Stewardship

Project Type: Upland Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Restore approximately 0.5 acres of prairie and increase the diversity of prairie habitats on 11 acres. Support future restoration work by seeding and planting of prairie plant species, seed collection and propagation, and establishment of seed production beds. Project supports the recovery of *Castilleja levisecta* (golden paintbrush), a federally threatened plant and restores rare prairie habitat.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$20,000

Project: Shrub-Steppe Restoration on Deep Creek Watershed

Cooperator: Pheasants Forever Inc.

Project Type: Upland Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Restore and enhance upland and wet meadow habitat to ensure the presence of high quality nesting and brood rearing cover for sage grouse near two active leks. Project focuses on three wet meadow areas totaling approximately 35 acres.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$25,000

Project: Turtleback Mountain Garry Oak

Cooperator: San Juan County Land Bank

Project Type: Upland Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Restore and enhance 8 acres native oak and grassland habitat by establishing native forbs and grasses in heavily disturbed areas in oak release zones. Provides a local genetic source of golden paintbrush and other native plants by establishing a native seed nursery.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$2,000

Project: Upper Skagit Knotweed Control Project

Cooperator: Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

Project Type: Aquatic/Riparian Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Control knotweed infestations on over 175 miles of rivers and streams in upper Skagit River basin by completing survey and eradication activities. The floodplains in the upper Skagit watershed (including the Sauk, Suiattle and Cascade Rivers) are a high priority area for protection and restoration actions in order to recover critical habitat for threatened Chinook salmon, steelhead trout and bull trout in Puget Sound.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$25,000

Project: Wildrose Orchards Garry Oak Recovery and Savannah Restoration

Cooperator: Wildrose Orchards, LLC

Project Type: Upland Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Restore 10 acres of rare Garry oak savannah habitat on Orcas Island by releasing oak from encroachment by Douglas fir and Rocky Mountain juniper.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$7,400

Project: Shrub-steppe Species Restoration

Cooperator: Yakama Nation Wildlife Resource Management Program

Project Type: Upland Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Repair 3.5 miles of range fencing to diminish impacts from wild horses on over 27,000 acres of shrub-steppe habitat within the Yakama Nation. Fencing will also protect approximately 6 miles of riparian habitat and streams supporting Middle Columbia River steelhead

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$24,955

Partners for Fish and Wildlife WFWO FY14 Total: \$194,255

Puget Sound Coastal Program

Project: Brown Island Historic Feeder Bluff Restoration

Cooperator: FRIENDS of the San Juans

Project Type: Aquatic/Riparian Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Remove 285 feet of shoreline armoring along a residential beach and revegetate the upland shoreline on Brown Island, in San Juan County, Washington. Along with the long-term ecological benefits, complete removal of the bulkheads along these residential parcels provides high value as a demonstration project to the local community.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$29,950

Project: Smuggler's Slough Riparian Restoration

Cooperator: Lummi Indian Business Council

Project Type: Aquatic/Riparian Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Enhance over 80 acres of riparian/wetland habitat and nearly 3 miles of intertidal slough by planting native trees and shrubs at four sites in the Nooksack River delta. Lack of riparian shading and low flow on floodplain tributaries and sloughs contributes to elevated water temperature in these critical rearing habitats for outmigrating juvenile salmon, including Chinook.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$34,246

Project: Washington Maritime NWR Dawley Shoreline Property Restoration Design and Feasibility Project

Cooperators: North Olympic Salmon Coalition and Washington Maritime NWR

Project Type: Aquatic/Riparian Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Initiate planning and assessment for 2000 foot shoreline restoration project on property managed by Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Restoration will involve removal of an abandoned house, including associated infrastructure (septic system, shoreline armoring, outbuildings) and the access road. The house and associated shoreline concrete and tire bulkhead currently cover potential forage fish spawning habitat.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$74,604

Project: Cornet Bay Shoreline Restoration, Areas 1 and 3

Cooperator: Northwest Straits Foundation

Project Type: Aquatic/Riparian Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Restore 0.1 mile and 0.4 acre of nearshore habitat at the Cornet Bay day use area of Deception Pass State Park in Island County, Washington. The project will improve spawning habitat for forage fish and nearshore habitat for salmon and forage fish by eliminating a source of beach scouring, expanding intertidal habitat, improving beach composition and improving riparian vegetation.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$42,716

Project: Burfoot Park and Case Inlet

Cooperator: South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group

Project Type: Aquatic/Riparian Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Implement two shoreline restoration projects in south Puget Sound at Burfoot Park and Case Inlet. Projects involve removal of over water structures, shoreline armoring, and fill to restore intertidal habitat, providing direct habitat for juvenile salmonids, including Chinook and beach-dependent bird species.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$20,000

Project: Admiralty Inlet Preserve Heritage Forest Unit Prairie Restoration: Phase 1

Cooperator: Whidbey Camano Land Trust

Project Type: Upland Restoration

Conservation Benefit: Restore 1 acre of prairie habitat through planting and seeding. Active site management (mowing, burning, and weed control) will provide periodic disturbances that maintain open grasslands and improve favorable conditions for natural regeneration of the federally threatened golden paintbrush.

USFWS FY14 Funding: \$25,000

Puget Sound Coastal Program WFWO FY14 Total: \$226,516