

November 2013 Tualatin River Watershed Council project updates Lower Gales Creek Habitat Enhancement Plan

Overview: The Lower Gales Creek Habitat Enhancement Plan evaluated a four mile stream reach of Gales Creek and identified potential restoration projects, such as in-stream complexity, floodplain connection and riparian within the reach. Activities and projects are funded in part by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Projects and Activities:

A. Riparian and Uplands Invasive Weed Removal and Planting Project on Washington County owned property (Rippling Waters)

Project Description: The Council and partners have worked on this 20 acre Washington County owned demonstration site since 2004 with community volunteers and Council partner focusing on invasive weed treatment/removal and planting native trees and shrubs.

No November 2013 activities.

B. Student Watershed Research Project – Water Quality Monitoring.

- 1) Forest Grove High School students and the Student Watershed Research Project performed water quality parameter activities Gales Creek twice year for trends monitoring.

No November 2013 activities.

C. Spawning Surveys

- 1) Spawning survey training is held each fall in partnership with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; an October 19 date has been set.

November 2013 activities include volunteers and landowners performing spawning surveys.

D. Invasive Plant Species Survey and Treatment

- 1) Council member Clean Water Services' contracted crews continue to treated and re-treated knotweed and garlic mustard in the Gales Creek sub-basin.

No November 2013 activities.

E. Projects within the Lower Gales Creek Habitat Enhancement Plan reach

- 1) Council partners met with a landowner within the stream reach to discuss a project that will include large wood placement, secondary channel and floodplain connections, invasive weed treatment and riparian planting. A 2011 OWEB grant application was submitted and ranked 11 of 12, resulted in the project not being funded.

No November 2013 activities: The Council will later this fall begin permitting for the road decommissioning portion of the project.

- 2) The Plan's oversight committee met on November 14, 2011 to discuss projects for current and future Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) funding beyond the Lower Gales Creek Habitat Enhancement Plan. Projects include Gales Creek Restoration Action Planning and Rapid-Bio-Assessments for rural upper sub-basin areas, which are funded through a BOR grant awarded in July 2013.

November 2013 activities include continued transmittal of Gales Creek data to Cascade Environmental Group.

Other Gales Creek Projects and Activities

- 1) *North Fork Gales Creek LWD placement project.* Partnering with landowners Oregon Department of Forestry and Stimson Lumber Co. and partner Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Council was awarded an OWEB restoration grant application that funded placement of 100 logs on a one mile stream reach in the North Fork Gales Creek watershed during Sept 2009. The project is in a monitoring phase.

November 2013 activities continue writing up year 3 post-project results and compiling photo-point pictures.

- 2) *Upper Gales Creek LWD placement project.* Partnering with landowners Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Department of Transportation and partner Oregon

Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Council was awarded an OWEB restoration grant application that funded placement of large wood in a one mile stream in upper Gales Creek. Two Large Wood Placement projects were completed: A) During Sept 2010, 106 whole trees were placed in a 0.75 mile stream reach with 600 conifers planted in disturbed areas. B) Sept 2011, 67 whole trees/logs were placed in a 0.5 mile main stem upper Gales Creek stream reach (above ODF Gales Creek campground) with 300 conifers planted in disturbed areas during March 2012. The project is in a monitoring phase.

No November 2013 activities.

- 3) *Bateman Creek stream crossing designs.* Partnering with a private landowner and OWEB, the Council secured funding for design and implementation of a project that would remove three Bateman Creek road crossings and replace with bridges or culverts. Opportunities for funding will be investigated.
- 4) *Clear Creek LWD placement project.* Partnering with the City of Forest Grove, the Council was awarded an OWEB restoration grant for a Clear Creek restoration project located on city-owned property. During mid-September 2012, 86 log to form structures were placed an include placement of large wood structures in a one mile stream reach, an obsolete weir from the stream channel blocking juvenile fish passage was removed, and a small graded riffle was implemented to improve migratory adult fish access to a fish ladder at an intake structure. Additional project activities include obtaining a partner project sign and posting the sign; Fall 2014 post-project rapid bio-assessment and ongoing monitoring.

No November 2013 activities.

Other Projects

- 1) **Dairy-McKay sub-basin.** The Council applied for and received Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Regional Area Committee (RAC) funding for identification, assessment and prioritization of fish passage barrier culverts located on private lands. During July 2012, selected landowners were contacted by letter and phone, with Pacific University students performing field work; BLM funding has been extended.

November 2013 activities include compilation of summer 2013 data and return of field equipment to TRWC office.

OWEB Small Grant program

The OWEB Small Grant program provides funds for on the ground restoration projects, usually small in scope. The Lower Willamette West (LWW) OWEB Small Grant team reviews and recommends submitted grant applications for funding, based on watershed priorities it has established. The Lower Willamette West area is located west of the Willamette River, from Wilsonville to its confluence with the Tualatin River, west to the Tualatin Basin watershed boundaries and north to and including Sauvie Island.

The LWW team is composed of Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Oswego Lake Watershed Council, Tryon Creek Watershed Council and Tualatin River Watershed Council. Soil and water conservation districts and watershed councils act as applicants and fiscal agents for landowners who seek funding for restoration projects. New funding has been authorized for the 2013-15 biennium; grant with applications accepted during September 1- 15, 2013. Grant funding for 2013-15 was exhausted in the September 2013 cycle. Funding will become available in July 2015.

November activities included obtaining signed secured match forms for the new projects and local government land use form; coordinating planting activities for Waverly Meadows/Bonita Fir project (grant ends Dec 12, 2013, and Bonita Firs II (grant ends December 2014).

Coordinator Activities.

Lower Gales Creek Projects:

A-Rippling Waters work; no November 2013 activities.

B- SWRP; Oct 14 sampling.

C- Spawning Survey training held October 19 in Gales Creek sub-basin; landowners and volunteers conducting spawning surveys during November 2013.

E –Contact with BOR regarding grant award; provide billings and update on work to BOR. Obtain reimbursement for TRWC on monies expended on projects.

Other projects:

1) Upper Fanno Creek technical assistance. Through a partnership with the Southwest Water Resource Center, Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc, TRWC and the Hayhurst neighbors, funding from a two year FISH grant fund is used to treat invasive plants with volunteers and neighbors planting native plants on a Pendleton Creek stream reach

No November 2013 activities.

2) Watershed Councils located wholly or partially in Clackamas County meet quarterly with Clackamas County SWCD staff and explored coordinated opportunities to work together in the future. The Council was awarded \$3000 for 2013. The Council is look to partner on restoration projects with Clackamas county agencies and private landowners in the lower Tualatin Basin.

TRWC was awarded \$3500 for 2014 funding. .

3) West Fork Dairy Creek tributaries within Stub Stewart State Park, re: fish presence and passage barriers surveys; TRWC is providing past information gathered from fish passage barrier surveys and being a partner with OPRD, which is heading up the project. The survey work began in March 2013 and is currently finishing up.

No November 2013 activities

4) Dairy-McKay watershed fish passage barrier surveys on private lands. *November 2013 activities include compilation of 2013 field data and return of field survey equipment to TRWC office.*

8) West Fork Dairy Creek Restoration Project:

No November 2013 activities.

9) Murtaugh Creek Fish Passage Project: monitoring.

No November 2013 activities.

Funding Council projects and capacity. Reviewed and researched various restoration resources and funding sources for Council and other basin projects.

Meetings, outreach and other tasks:

- Prepare for and facilitate November TRWC Steering committee meeting and provide update on TRWC Restoration & Enhancement activities (11/20)
- Submit OWEB council support ninth quarter billing.
- Coordinate on signature on OWEB small grant project forms.
- Responded to inquiries and requests, office and fiscal management, etc.
- Coordinator surgery recovery: November 1- 30.