

## **February 2017 Tualatin River Watershed Council project updates Gales Creek Sub-basin Restoration Action Plan**

**Overview:** Over the last several years, TRWC worked with partners to evaluate data, evaluate limiting factors and prioritize culvert replacement and with landowners to suggest restoration action in Gales Creek sub-basins that resulted in a Gales Creek Restoration Action Plan that was completed in April 2015. This document is used to guide future enhancement, outreach and education activities. 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 21 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 February 2017 activities.*

#### **B. Spawning Surveys**

Spawning survey training is held in October each fall in partnership with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Community volunteers and landowners perform surveys.

*No February 2017 activities.*

#### **C. Invasive Plant Species Survey and Treatment**

Contracted crews funded through Tualatin SWCD weed board grant continue to treated and re-treated knotweed and garlic mustard in the Gales Creek sub-basin.

*No February 2017 activities.*

#### **D. Projects located within the Lower Gales Creek Habitat Enhancement Plan reach (previous guidance document)**

- 1) Decommission a 0.4 acre road adjacent to Gales Creek in March 2015 with partnership between landowner and TRWC; Tualatin SWCD planted the decommissioned area with native plants and continues to monitor and maintain planted areas.
  - 2) Monitoring of 2009 implemented large wood/boulder structures and planting project on main stem Gales Creek privately owned land for OWEB year, monitoring report submitted April 2016.
- No February 2017 activities.*

#### **E. Projects identified by the Gales Creek sub-basin restoration plan and 2013-4 rapid bio-assessment reports (current guidance documents)**

1) 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. The committee has focused on the completion of a Gales Creek Restoration Action Plan which incorporated information from 2013 Rapid-Bio-Assessments for rural upper sub-basin areas.

a) Fish passage on Gales Creek tributaries. TRWC is working with landowners in identifying funding to assist with damaged culvert replacements on Trib C (West Fork) of Beaver Creek that will assist with fish passage and replacement of damaged culverts on Beaver Creek. Little Beaver Creek damaged culverts were replaced in September 2017.

*February 2017 activities included coordinating March planting in areas disturbed by the culvert.*

b) Gales Creek/Clear Creek confluence project. The project would reconnect an extensive side channel habitat on a floodplain adjacent to the confluence by modifying an existing upstream dike and place large wood structures to reintroduce peak winter flows into the floodplain and restore fluvial scouring. The outcome will result in open side channels cooled by hyporheic flow that will provide juvenile salmon and trout needed cold water rearing habitat in this stream reach.

*February 2017 activities included a pre-app meeting Washington County land use personnel, drafting of landowner agreements and beginning drafting of Washington County land use permit applications; checking with Washington County Building Departments re: needed permits; review Bureau of Reclamation regarding grant/fiscal assistance agreement and obligation of*

*funds to this final phase; coordinating with CWS and Stillwater Science regarding pre-project monitoring. Confirm requirements for Joint Permit for Division of State Lands and Army Corp of Engineers and begin draft of permit application.*

### **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. No required OWEB monitoring (5 yrs. complete), but TRWC will continue monitoring the project. *No February 2017 monitoring activities.*
- 2) *Upper Gales Creek LWD placement project.* Partnering with landowners Oregon Department of Forestry 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 with the next monitoring report due September 30, 2017. *No February 2017 monitoring 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. *No February 2017 activities.*
- 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 2016 post-project rapid bio-assessment and ongoing monitoring. The year 2 report is due September 30, 2017. *No February 2017 monitoring 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. *February 2017 activities included coordination with TRWC members regarding review and editing of draft "final report" and data.*

### **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 Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, 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 are the applicants and fiscal agents for landowners who seek funding for restoration projects.

*February 2017 activities included coordination of planting materials for 2017 spring planting activities.*

### **Coordinator Activities.**

*Lower Gales Creek Projects:* Gales Creek/Clear Creek confluence project. Meetings with contractors and permitting personnel. Draft landowner agreements. Review BOR grant/assistance agreement for monies for final phase of project. Confirm permit requirements and being draft of permits.

*Other projects:*

1) 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 continues to look to partner on restoration projects with Clackamas county agencies and private landowners in the lower Tualatin Basin.

*February 2017 activities including coordination of native plants for 2017 spring planting.*

2) Little Beaver Creek culvert replacements. *February 2017 activities include coordinating March plantings.*

3) Beaver Creek, Tributary C (West Fork) culvert replacement. *No February 2017 activities.*

4) Dairy-McKay watershed fish passage barrier surveys on private lands. *February 2017 activities included coordinating with TRWC members on review and editing of draft of "final report".*

5) West Fork Dairy Creek Restoration Project: monitoring  
*No February 2017 monitoring activities.*

6) Murtaugh Creek Fish Passage Project: monitoring.  
*No February 2017 monitoring activities.*

7) Friend of Bull Mountain Park project; TRWC serves as fiscal sponsor for the project. *February 2017 activities included submitting reimbursement request #4 - fiscal agent activities.*

8) Neighbors for Smart Growth North Johnson Creek trail and stream enhancement activities grant; TRWC will serve as fiscal agent and participate in educational activities. *No February 2017 fiscal agent activities.*

9) Upper McKay Watershed Forest Restoration proposal (BLM RAC Title II funding) that targets working with upland owners in partnership with West Multnomah SWCD. Grant funding would assist landowners with removal of invasive plant species and planting of natives in upland areas. *February 2017 activities included coordination with BLM and West Multnomah SWCD on documentation needed for Upper McKay Creek Watershed Forest Restoration project.*

*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:*

- Schedule and prepare for February TRWC committee meetings (2/02, 2/03, 2/08, 2/15, 2/21).
- Participate in Portland Feb 6 Urban Ecology & Conservation Symposium (2/06)
- Participate in Tualatin Basin Partners for Clean Water meeting (2/02)
- Coordinate on plant materials for grant projects
- Coordinate with landowners regarding site visits
- Work with TRWC members on proposed 2017-19 TRWC work plan
- Review federal requirements for procurement policy and draft TRWC procurement policy
- Respond to inquiries and requests, office and fiscal management, etc.