

May 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.

Spring 2017 activities included spraying and mowing for weed control.

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 May 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.

Spring 2017 activities included garlic mustard treatments by a contracted crew.

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 May 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 activities 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 and large wood placement on this Beaver Creek tributary. *May 2017 activities included i) meeting with adjacent streamside landowners regarding native plantings for bank stabilization and erosion control and ii) submittal of a Joint Water Commission grant application to provide partial funding for project.*
- Little Beaver Creek damaged culverts were replaced in September 2017 and disturbed areas were planted in February 2017. Funding for the replacement of these culverts came from an OWEB small grant award and a 2016 Joint Water Commission grant.
No May 2017 activities.

- 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. *May 2017 activities included posting of a required affidavit for the Washington County floodplain alteration permit application. Other activities included contacting archaeological consultants and requesting proposals in order to meet Section 106 historic/cultural consultation and conferring with Bureau of Reclamation personnel regarding preparing NEPA documentation and Section 106 historic/cultural consultation.*

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 May 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. *May 2017 monitoring activities performed.*
- 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 May 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 and 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 May 2017 monitoring activities.*

Other Projects

- 1) **Dairy-McKay sub-basin private lands culvert surveys.** 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. *No May 2017 activities.*
- 2) **Upper McKay Watershed Forest Restoration project.** TRWC and West Multnomah SWCD are partnering in a joint project in which both organization will work with upland owners in implementing practices to improve water quality. Funding is being provided through BLM RAC Title II funds. Each organization applied separately for funding but decided to combine the project into a single Assistance Agreement. *No May 2017 activities; BLM is currently processing received documentation in order to modify an existing Assistance Agreement for this project.*

- 3) **Lower Tualatin Basin project.** A private landowner is working with Clackamas SWCD, ODFW and TRWC on enhancement of a 2.1 acre wetland and riparian areas located on the main stem Tualatin River. Clackamas SWCD is providing funding for contractors to assist with invasive weed control and planting with TRWC furnishing approximately 370 and 300 native plants for 2017 and 2018 respectively (through Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership). The TRWC native plant contribution provides match for the Clackamas SWCD funding.
No May 2017 activities.

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.

During the 2015-17 biennium, TRWC is working with partners on five OWEB small grants projects. These include: a) Carter Creek (enhancing 1.7 acre property that includes riparian, uplands and wetland areas); b) Bonita Townhomes HOA (enhancing 2.4 riparian property); c) Murrayhill Owners Association (16.5 acre uplands and riparian property); d) Our Table (biodynamic farm – enhancing 1 acre riparian area); and e) Little Beaver Creek culvert replacement (with JWC funding, replacing damaged culvert on private landowner property). *May 2017 activities included coordinating maintenance spray activities.*

Other Activities

- 1) Friend of Bull Mountain Park project; TRWC serves as fiscal sponsor for the project.
May 2017 fiscal agent included receiving and acknowledging contributions and paying FBMP invoices.
- 2) Neighbors for Smart Growth North Johnson Creek trail and stream enhancement activities grant; TRWC serves Neighbors for Smart Growth fiscal agent and participates in educational activities such as a May 7 Beaverton Eco School work day (30 participants). *No May 2017 fiscal agent 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:

- Schedule and prepare for May TRWC committee meetings (5/10, 5/16)
- Participate in Dairy-McKay CEP partner conversations regarding outcomes, monitoring sites
- Participate in TBPAC quarterly meeting (5/16)
- Attend USFWS Wapato Lake environmental assessment open house (5/15) and METRO East Cornelius Creek natural area open house (5/17)
- Participate in and coordinate native plant focused outreach activities with Tualatin SWCD at Tualatin National Wildlife Refuge Bird Festival (5/21)
- Participate in Collaborative Planning for Our Water Future workshop (5/25)
- Coordinate native plant material deliveries for Tualatin Basin enhancement projects
- Respond to inquiries and requests, project and fiscal management, etc.