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## Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council

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March 3, 2015

### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Council members**

**FROM: Karl Weist**  
**Fish and Wildlife Policy Analyst, Oregon**

**SUBJECT: Update on the Willamette Wildlife Settlement Agreement**

**PROPOSED ACTION: No Committee action required**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Bernadette Graham-Hudson, Fish and Wildlife Operations Policy Analyst for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will provide the Committee with an update of the Willamette Wildlife Settlement Agreement and its progress to date.

In 2010, the Bonneville Power Administration and the State of Oregon signed the Willamette River Basin Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Wildlife Habitat Protection and Enhancement. The Agreement established goals for mitigating the effects of the construction, inundation and operation of the Willamette River Basin Flood Control Projects in the Willamette Valley. Under the terms of the Agreement, Oregon and the BPA agreed to acquire at least an additional 16,880 acres of wildlife mitigation property to protect 26,537 acres (or more) by the end of 2025.

To accomplish this mitigation objective the parties established the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Agreement also provides for the implementation of a long-term account to fund habitat maintenance for the program when the agreement expires.

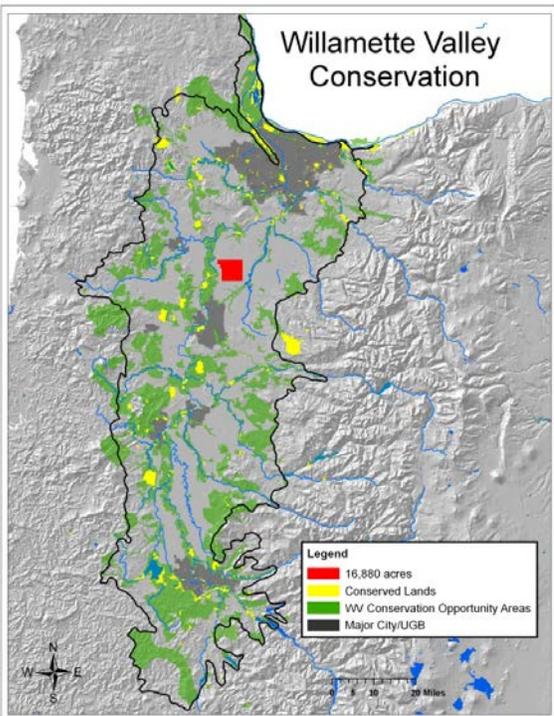
Please see the attachment for more information.

# The Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program



## Background:

In 2010, the State of Oregon and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) entered into a fifteen year agreement to permanently settle wildlife mitigation responsibilities for the federal Willamette River Basin Flood Control and Hydroelectric Project in the Willamette subbasin. The Willamette Project includes 13 multi-purpose dams and reservoirs as part of the Federal Columbia River Power System. The Parties to the Willamette River Basin Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Wildlife Protection and Enhancement (MOA) determined that settlement would be accomplished through the protection of an agreed number of acres that, once protected, would permanently settle the federal mitigation requirement. BPA agreed to provide specific funding amounts for the purchase of lands in fee title or conservation easement, as well as the protection and maintenance of this acreage.



The MOA established goals for mitigating the effects of the construction, inundation and operation of the Willamette River Basin Flood Control and Hydroelectric Projects. Under the terms of the MOA, Oregon and the BPA agreed to acquire at least an additional 16,880 acres of wildlife mitigation property to protect 26,537 acres (or more) by the end of 2025. To accomplish this mitigation objective the parties established the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP), managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

## Program Priorities:

The cumulative effect of the loss and degradation of wildlife habitat in the Willamette has included the loss of abundance and diversity of many species, culminating in severe cases in the listings of plant, wildlife, and aquatic species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Willamette Subbasin supports 31 fish, 18 amphibian, 15 reptile, 154 bird, and 69 mammal native species. Currently, 36 of these species are listed as threatened, endangered, or as a species of significant conservation concern. The primary cause of these declines is the loss of critical habitat.

Conceptual view showing the scale of land acquisition area potential under the BPA-ODFW Agreement.

The WWMP prioritizes efforts to protect and restore wildlife habitat in the Willamette basin. ODFW will use the Oregon Conservation Strategy to form the basis for the program. Other priorities for the program include those identified in the Willamette Basin Biological Opinions, the Willamette Subbasin Plan, and also Recovery Plans for terrestrial and aquatic Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species.

Projects funded through the WWMP should include the following goals:

- Protecting wildlife habitats with significant cultural values;
- Cost-sharing to ensure the WWMP can meet or exceed acreage objectives;
- Partnerships to enhance the likelihood of successful project completion;
- Providing public access on properties, consistent with conservation values of the property; and
- Encouraging the use of Ecosystem Services Markets.

## Funding information:

BPA has agreed to fund acquisition through a set schedule of funding, totaling \$117,864,424 from 2011-2025. Program partners will also pursue cost sharing and other efficiencies so that the funds provided under the MOA could result in acquiring more than 16,880 additional acres during the project term. Any non-BPA funding that contributes to implementation of a project funded by BPA under this Agreement is in addition to (and not a substitute for) the funding from BPA by this Agreement.

Additional funding of \$26,226,440 is provided over the course of the MOA and devoted to development and implementation of an operations and monitoring program within ODFW, which will focus on the long term protection of habitat and habitat function and will develop programs to monitor habitat and species response on properties protected.

## Project development:

ODFW will solicit project proposals on an annual basis. Projects should meet identified WWMP priorities. Once submitted, projects will be reviewed by a technical review team to be scored and ranked according to the WWMP's Project Selection Criteria, available on the website below. Following the technical review, proposed projects are reviewed by a stakeholder group, the Willamette Advisory Group. Following their review, the ODFW Director recommends a final project list to BPA for funding.



ODFW staff will assist sponsors with project identification and development. Please contact any of the WWMP staff or other key ODFW staff listed below for assistance with project development or questions about the WWMP.

## For more information:

Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program website: [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/willamette\\_wmp/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/willamette_wmp/index.asp)

Oregon Conservation Strategy website: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/index.asp>

## ODFW contacts:

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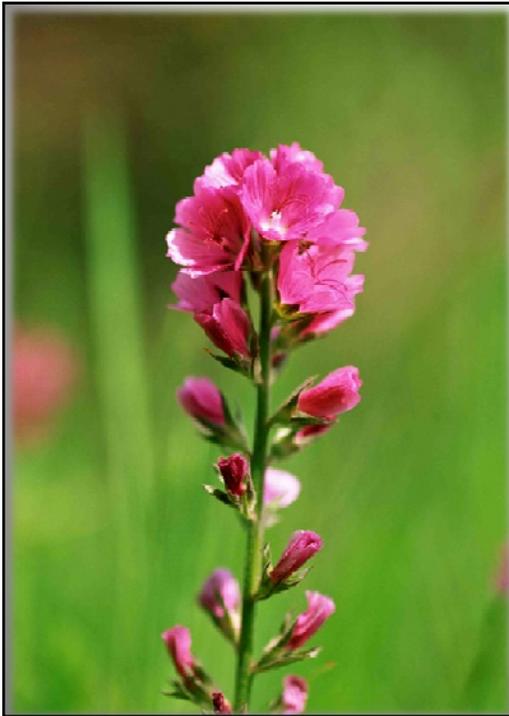
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# Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program

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## Overview and Progress Summary

Northwest Power and Conservation Council  
March 10, 2015



## Program Background

- Agreement between BPA and State of Oregon signed October 2010
- Permanently settles wildlife mitigation responsibilities for the federal Willamette River Basin Flood Control and Hydroelectric Project
- Through the Agreement, BPA contributes approximately \$117 million to protect 16,880 acres of wildlife habitat in the Willamette Basin over 15 years
- With funding from BPA, ODFW agrees to manage the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program, including the solicitation and recommendation of projects for funding
- Agreement encourages participation by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Grand Ronde, and Siletz
- Habitat priorities are based on the Oregon Conservation Strategy and consistent with the NW Power and Conservation Council's subbasin plans
- Includes dual credit project provisions related to fish habitat benefits through the Willamette Project Biological Opinion



## Working WWMP Vision Statement:

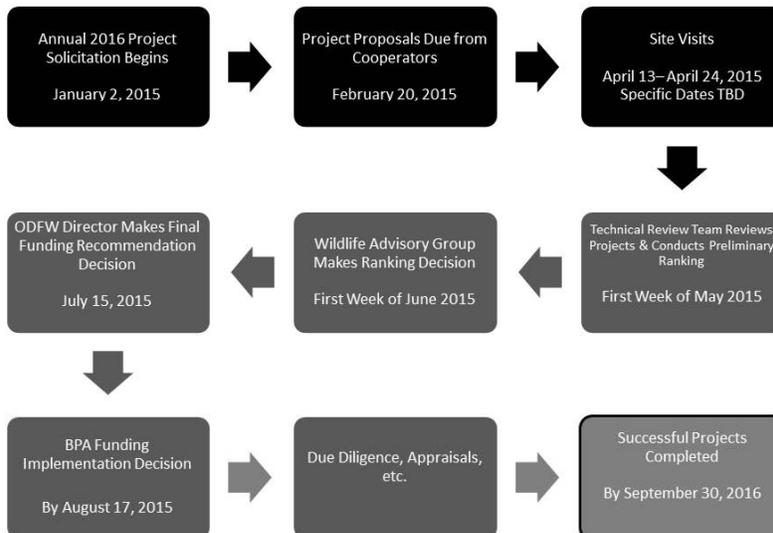
The Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program contributes to Oregon's natural resource legacy by conserving important wildlife habitat in the Willamette Basin.

**Goal:**

Protect at least 16,880 acres of wildlife habitat by 2025, including a diverse assemblage of habitats distributed throughout the Willamette Basin; focusing on Conservation Opportunity Areas and Strategy Habitats in support of the Oregon Conservation Strategy; and supporting Strategy Species and ESA-listed species.

- Strategy 1: Place priority on and value projects that protect high quality wildlife habitat, provide habitat connectivity, and protect significant cultural values
- Strategy 2: Consider the value of degraded habitats and corridors in restoring larger or connected habitats
- Strategy 3: Encourage cost-sharing to allow the Program to go beyond the minimum target acreage
- Strategy 4: Enhance the likelihood of success by encouraging partnerships among implementing organizations
- Strategy 5: Build support for long term conservation of Willamette wildlife habitat through projects that provide public access consistent with the conservation values of each property
- Strategy 6: Ensure at least 10% of acquisition funding is spent on projects that have dual purposes of protecting riparian or aquatic habitat that will benefit ESA-listed anadromous fish
- Strategy 7: Project selection criteria will be managed adaptively over time to respond to new information and focus conservation efforts on areas with the greatest benefit and chance of success.

## Project Review Process



## Project Selection Criteria

### Ecological and Cultural Considerations

- Cultural Significance
- Degree and Timing of Risk
- Habitat Type
- Habitat Condition
- Project Context
- Habitat Restoration Likelihood and Sustainability

### Operational and Administrative Considerations

- Acquisition Type
- Public Access
- Long Term O&M
- Conservation Owner/Manager Capability and Project Readiness
- Cost



## Overall Project Summary

- Mitigation obligation = 26,537 acres
- 23 Legacy Properties
  - 9,657 acres
  - \$59,051,886
  - Average \$6,115 /acre
- 19 Agreement Properties completed
  - 4,197 acres
  - \$20,881,718
  - Average \$4,976/acre



## Legacy Projects- prior to 2010 Agreement

Project	Sponsor	Acreage	CE/FTA	Cost (\$)	Cost /Acre (\$)
Willow Creek	TNC	329	FTA	1,058,000	3,216
Cuddeback	TNC	165	FTA	1,394,695	8,453
Watson	TNC	10	FTA	750,000	75,000
Coburg Ridge	TNC	1244	CE	4,900,500	3,939
Yamhill Oaks	TNC	272	CE	1,000,000	3,676
Baskett Butte	TNC	150	CE	480,000	3,200
John R. Palensky	BPA	417	FTA	700,000	1,679
Big Island	MRT	108	FTA	242,955	2,250
Willamette Bluffs	GLT	118	CE	720,000	6,102
Canby Landing	ODFW/ City of Canby	23	FTA	250,000	10,870
Green Island	MRT	856	FTA	1,052,826	1,230
Little Willamette	GLT	198	CE	1,000,000	5,051
Lonestar	GLT	199	CE	2,414,000	12,131
Muddy Creek/Mary's River	ODFW/City of Corvallis	222	FTA	387,500	1,745
Sorenson	BPA	42	FTA	172,955	4,118
Zena Ranch	BPA	1797	CE	6,485,000	3,609
Tualatin NWR	USFWS	227	FTA	1,437,118	6,331
Tualatin Additions 2010	USFWS	230	FTA	1,005,967	4,374
Berggren WCA	MRT	92	FTA	777,000	8,446
Yamhill Oaks II	TNC	319	CE	1,030,000	3,229
Wildish (The Confluence)	TNC	1271	FTA	20,843,370	16,399
Trappist Abbey	BPA	1310	CE	9,750,000	7,443
CARP	MRT	58	FTA	1,200,000	20,690
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>9,657</b>		<b>\$59,051,886</b>	<b>\$6,115</b>

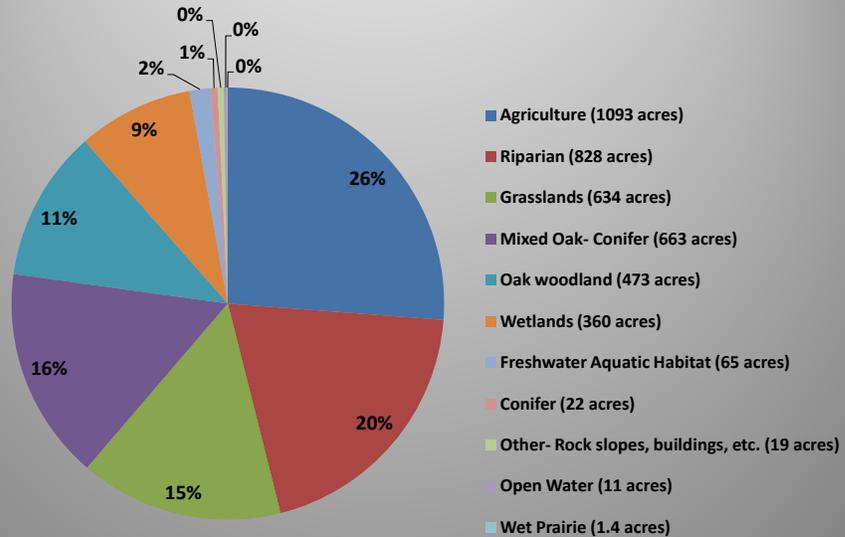
## WWMP Completed Agreement Projects

Year	Project	Sponsor	CE/FTA	Acreage	Cost to WWMP (\$)	Cost /Acre (\$)
2011	South Eugene Meadows	City of Eugene	FTA	193.7	1,075,000	5,541
2011	Harkens Lake	Greenbelt Land Trust	CE	371.4	520,500	1,401
2011	Horseshoe Lake	Greenbelt Land Trust	CE	175.1	252,000	1,440
2012	Rattlesnake Butte	Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	FTA	97	212,259	2,188
2012	Railroad Island	Mckenzie River Trust	FTA	63	52,986	841
2013	Mt. Richmond	Yamhill SWCD	CE	285	983,699	3,452
2013	Chahalpam	Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	FTA	338	3,400,794	10,062
2013	Bald Hill Farm	Greenbelt Land Trust	FTA	482.8	1,500,000	3,107
2013	Coyote Creek Acquisition	ODFW	FTA	309	1,308,310	4,234
2013	Thurston Hills Nature Park (I)	Willamalane Parks & Recreation District	FTA	106	500,509	4,722
2013	Minto Island Conservation Area	City of Salem	FTA	310	1,212,330	3,911
2013	South Yamhill River Floodplain	Ducks Unlimited	CE	91	520,081	5,779
2013	Flight's End	ODFW	FTA	100	1,030,501	10,305
2014	Luckiamute Meadows	Greenbelt Land Trust	CE	73.6	244,082	3,316
2014	Thurston Hills Nature Park (II)	Willamalane Parks & Recreation District	FTA	209.9	741,501	3,532
2014	Coyote Oaks	McKenzie River Trust	CE	151.7	318,372	2,099
2014	Noble Oaks	The Nature Conservancy	FTA	471.3	2,268,978	4,814
2014	Red Hills	Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	FTA	277.3	6,632,833	13,101
2015	Chahalpam- Phase II	Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	FTA	91	1,107,120	12,166
	<b>Total</b>			<b>4,196.8</b>	<b>\$20,881,718</b>	<b>\$4,976</b>

## Projects in Progress

Project	Sponsor	CE/FTA	Acreage	Cost to WWMP (\$)	Cost/Acre (\$)
Hayden Island	TPL/ODFW	FTA	270	1,670,000	6,185
Rattlesnake Three	Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	FTA	172.6	876,158	5,076
Turtle Flats	Friends of Buford Park	FTA	63	467,588	7,422
Mulkey Ridge	Greenbelt Land Trust	FTA	170	945,000	5,559
Yamhela Oak C.O.	Yamhill SWCD	FTA	173	1,705,434	9,858
Spencer Creek	McKenzie River Trust	FTA	86	850,542	9,890
Coyote Creek NE	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	FTA	225	994,388	4,420
Andrew Reasoner	McKenzie River Trust	CE	293	267,500	913
Apsukh-Ichalkham	Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	FTA	17.5	117,000	6,686
North Santiam Conservation Area	Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	FTA	410.7	1,983,000	4,828
Atfalati Prairie	Columbia Land Trust	FTA	213	1,389,000	6,521
Rainbow Farms	Columbia Land Trust	FTA	79	529,000	6,696
<b>Total</b>			<b>2172.8</b>	<b>\$11,680,610</b>	<b>\$5,376</b>

## Acres of Habitat Type





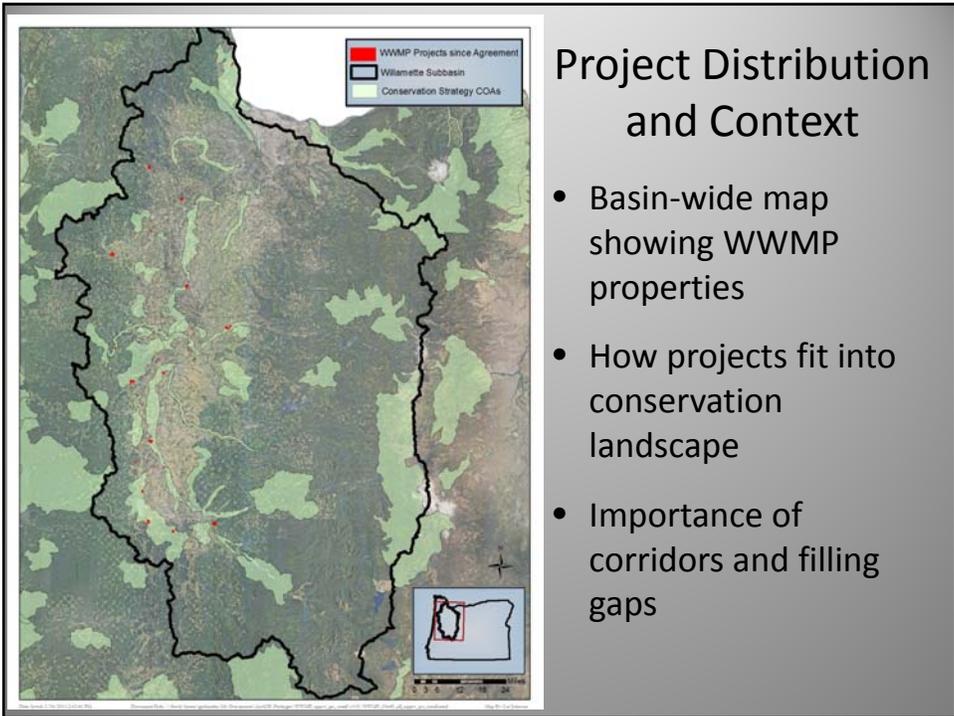
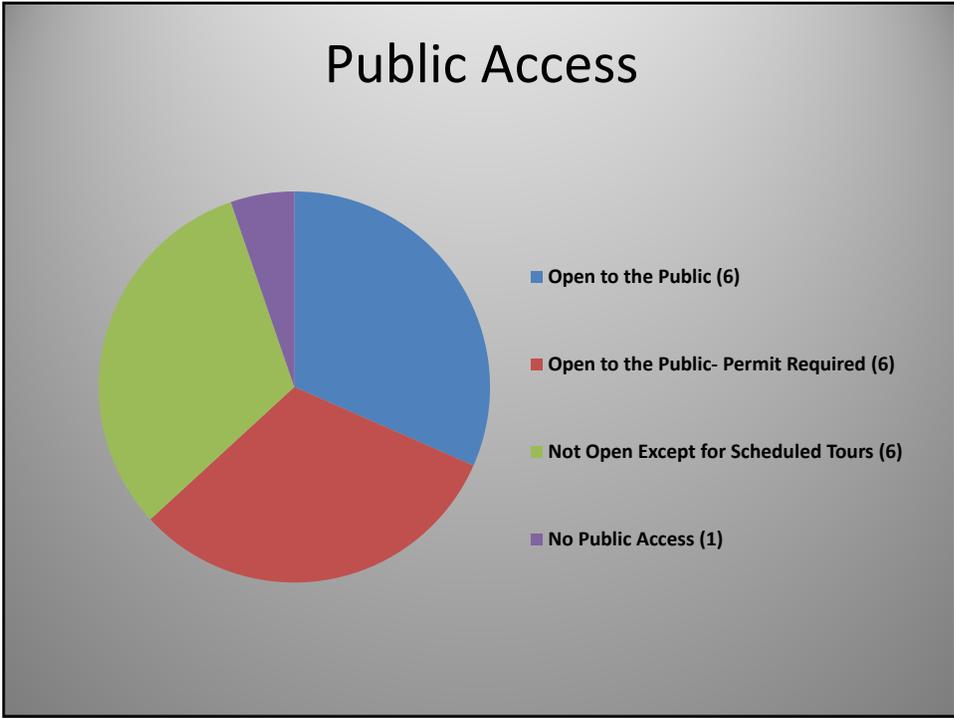
## Cost Share

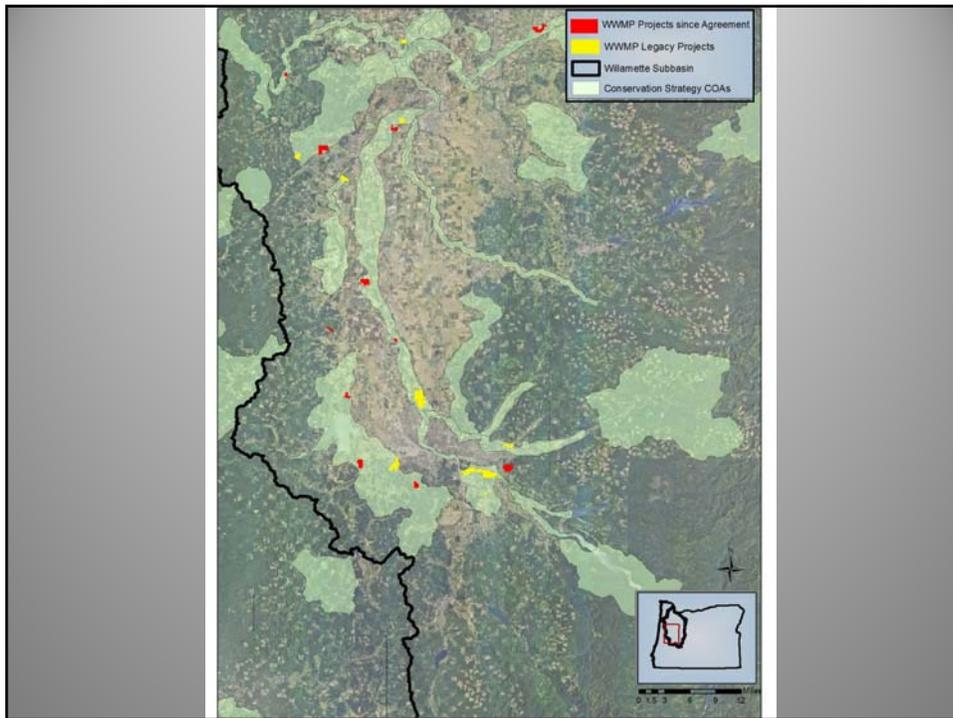
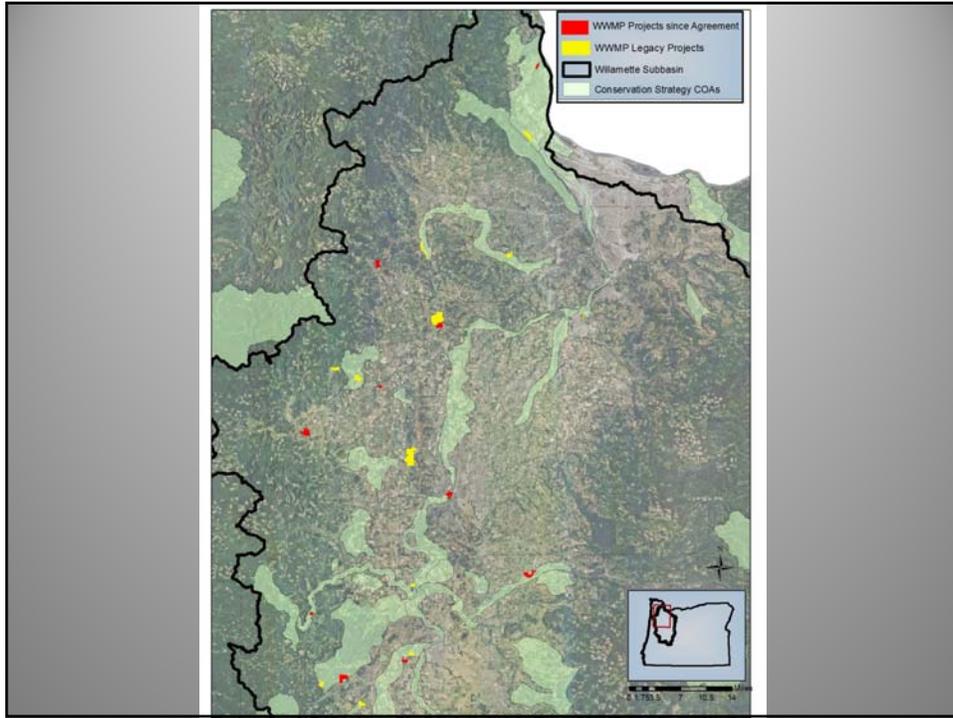
- Of all closed projects, \$8,465,300 was provided
- Types of cost share included:
  - In-kind
  - Cash
  - Grants
  - Fundraising campaigns
  - Landowner contributions
- Match sources included:
  - OWEB
  - Meyer Memorial Trust
  - Landowners (bargain sales and endowments)
  - Habitat Technical Team

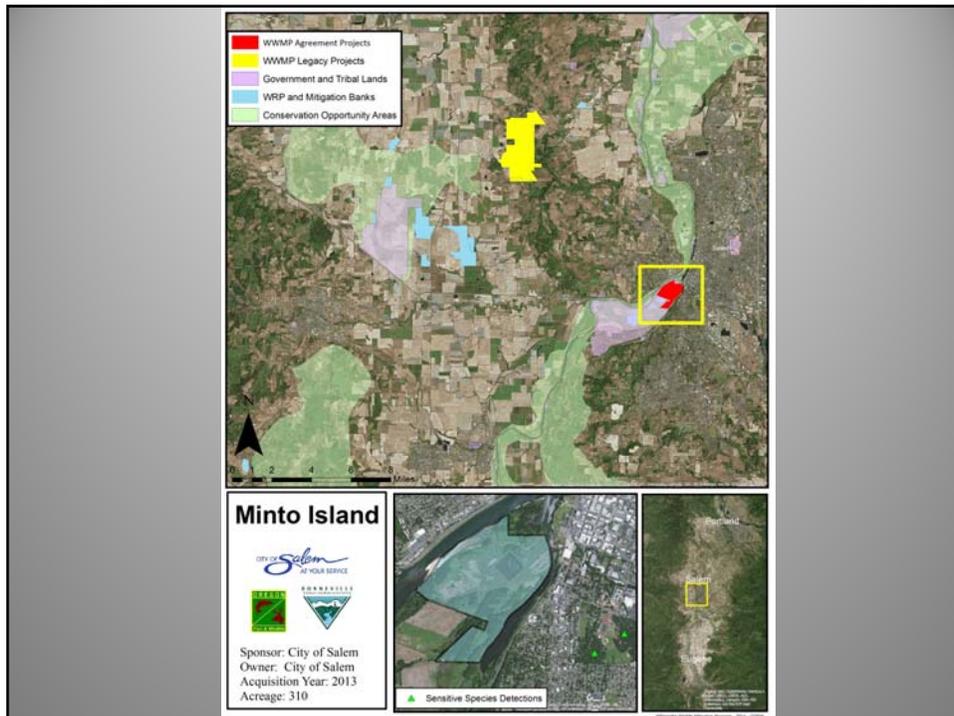
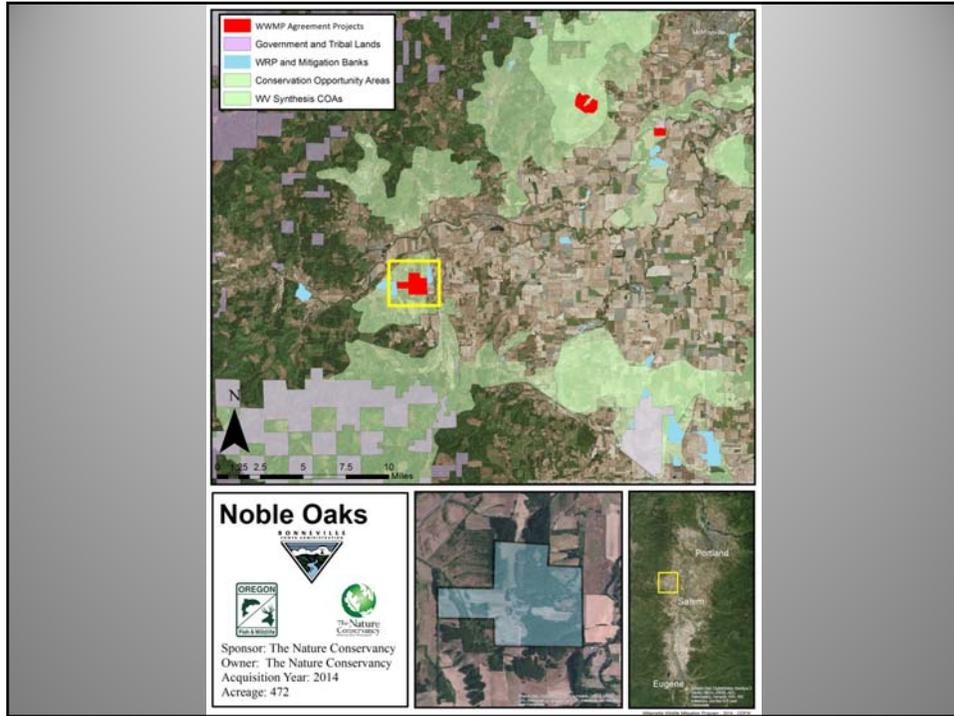


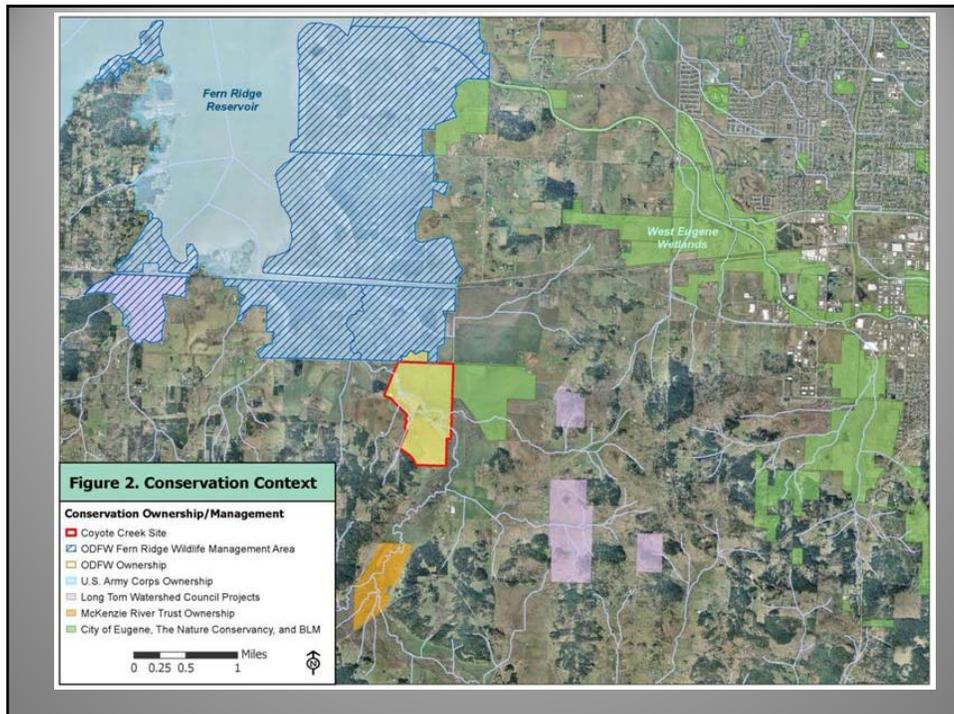
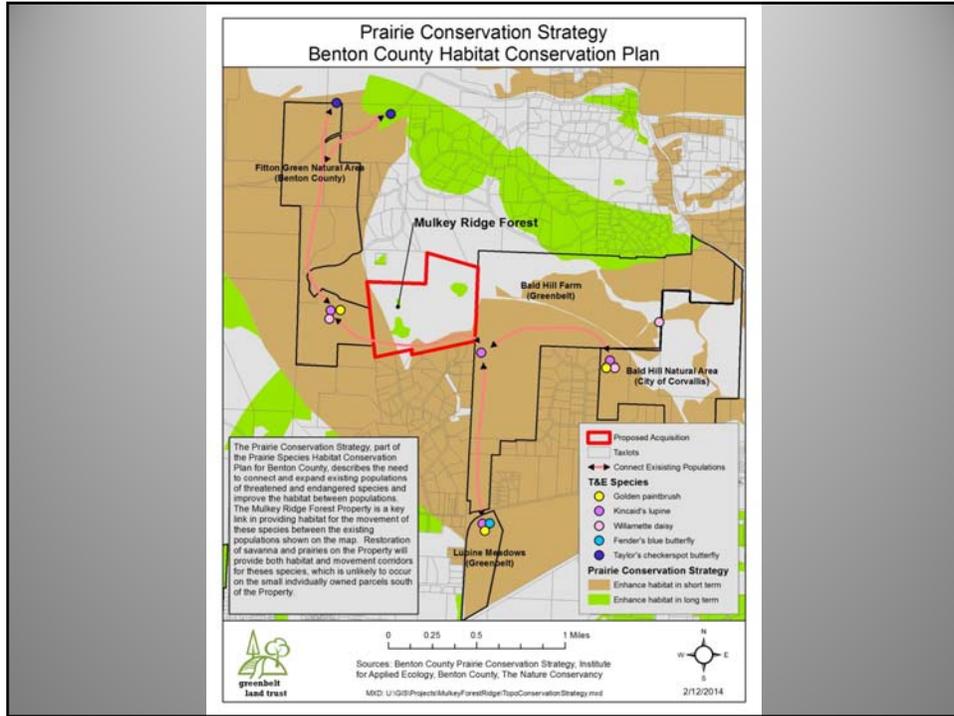
## Cultural Significance

- 7 of 19 closed projects were determined to be culturally significant
- Projects are designated by at least one of the three tribes named in the Agreement
- 2 of 3 FY2014 carryover projects are designated as culturally significant
- All projects that are recommended for 2015 are designated as culturally significant









## Dual Benefit Projects

- Agreement requires that at least 10% of funding goes to projects that provide

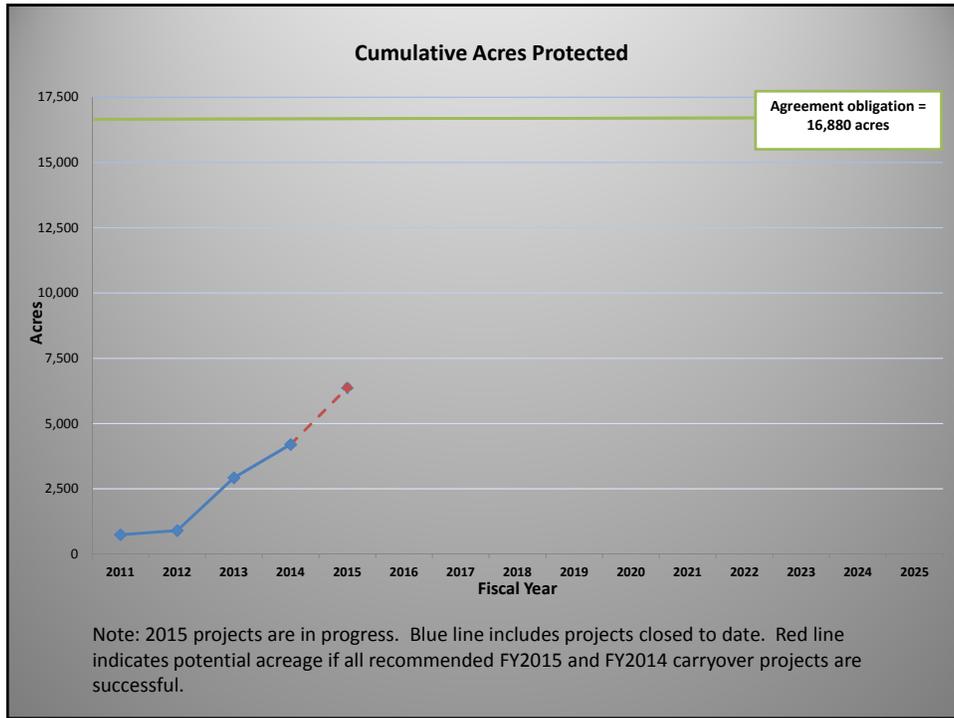
*...habitat protection or restoration with significant fish benefits, i.e., dual benefits, for both wildlife and ESA-listed anadromous fish species under the NMFS Willamette Biological Opinion.*

- Projects are reviewed for dual benefit potential by the Habitat Technical Team



## HTT Dual Benefit Projects to Date

FY Acquired	Project	Proponent	Total Acreage	WWMP Cost
2011	Harkens Lake	GLT	371.43	\$ 520,500
2011	Horseshoe Lake	GLT	175.06	\$ 252,000
2012	Railroad Island	MRT	63	\$ 52,986
2013	Chahalpam	WRC/CTGR	338	\$ 3,400,794
2013	Minto Island Conservation Area	City of Salem	310	\$ 1,212,330
2013	Flight's End	ODFW	100	\$ 1,030,501
2015	Chahalpam Phase 2	WRC/CTGR	91	\$ 1,083,000
in progress 2014/2015	Hayden Island	TPL/ODFW	174.2	\$ 1,670,000
in progress 2014/2015	Turtle Flats	FOBP	63	\$ 467,588
in progress 2015	North Santiam Habitat Conservation Project	WRC/CTGR	410.7	\$ 1,983,000



## Summary of Adaptive Management

- Formalized two step review process
- Criteria refinements
  - Context
  - Cost
  - Other minor adjustments
- Cultural significance process improvements
- Readiness assessment
- Improved program documentation

## Looking Forward

- Continued effort to improve program documentation
- Increase focus on management plans
- Monitoring program development
- Oregon Conservation Strategy update
- Willamette Valley Conservation Study

