

**Oregon Governor's Fund for the Environment
2005 Awards**

Project Title: Yamhill Riparian Restoration Partnership Phase II

Recipient: Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District

Foundation Non-Federal Funds:	\$47,423
<u>Matching Funds:</u>	<u>\$120,585</u>
Total Project Costs:	\$168,008

Project Area: Yamhill Basin Watershed, Yamhill County, Oregon

The Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District (YSWCD) will establish over 15 miles of riparian buffer on private lands to provide water quality protection and wildlife habitat for cutthroat trout, steelhead salmon, coho salmon, bald eagles, blue butterfly, and red-legged frog. YSWCD will hire a riparian specialist to work with at least 80 new landowners to establish 20 Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Programs (CREP). The CREPs will create a buffer from 35 to 180 feet in width in the lowlands of the watershed, where the landowners will be responsible for maintaining the buffers for 10-15 years. The project will contribute to the existing 22 CREP projects, putting 17 miles of buffer stream in place. Once the CREPs are in place YSWCD will create a GIS map to demonstrate the buffer boundaries.

The Yamhill Basin Watershed Council completed watershed assessments indicating that nearly one third of all riparian areas in the basin have inadequate riparian buffers. Of the 1,122 stream miles in the watershed, 350 miles were determined to have inadequate buffer widths or composition. Previous monitoring data conducted by the Watershed Council concluded that temperature and turbidity were water quality parameters most often not meeting state water quality standards.

Project Title: Willamette Floodplain Workshops and CREP Plans

Recipient: Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development Council

Foundation Non-Federal Funds:	\$34,830
<u>Matching Funds:</u>	<u>\$15,000</u>
Total Project Costs:	\$49,830

Project Area: Salem to Eugene, Benton County, Oregon

The Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development Council (CPRCDC) will hold eight workshops to inform farmers of the importance of riparian areas and gain their participation in Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Programs (CREP). Nine CREP plans will be completed to improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat along the Willamette River from Albany to Eugene. Working with the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the

Oregon Department of Agriculture, and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, CPRCDC will provide additional outreach to agricultural landowners in an effort to improve the streamside riparian habitats in the Willamette Basin.

The project will benefit upper Willamette River threatened chinook salmon populations and other salmonid populations. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has identified agricultural areas as especially needing riparian enhancement to meet state water quality standards for temperature.

Project Title: Pilot Training Program for Small Farm Stewardship

Recipient: Oregon State University

Foundation Non-Federal Funds:	\$16,737
<u>Matching Funds:</u>	<u>\$9,881</u>
Total Project Costs:	\$26,618

Project Area: Calapooia, Long Tom, and Mary’s River Watershed in Linn, Benton, and Lane Counties, Oregon

Oregon State University will hold conservation training for 120 small acreage landowners in three Willamette Basin Watersheds (Calapooia, Long Tom, and Mary’s River) to empower landowners to implement management practices on their land to improve water quality. Recruitment of the landowners will be completed through the use of direct mailings and advertisement in community based media. The training will include field tours where the participants will gain first hand experience from neighboring agricultural farmers who implement conservation practices. There will be pre- and post-project evaluations to document gained knowledge and understanding and anticipated management or behavior changes. Small acreage landowners are, for the most part, not aware of these government initiatives to improve water quality and the impacts they will have on their operations.

The three watersheds proposed for the pilot Living on the Land intensive training series are listed on Oregon’s 303(d) list of impaired and threatened water bodies. Oregon’s 2002 Census of Agriculture reports that 62 percent of all commercial farms in the state are less than 50 acres, and the small farms are increasing in numbers and eager to implement conservation practices and show willingness to change their management strategy.

Project Title: Salmon-Safe Willamette

Recipient: Salmon Safe

Foundation Non-Federal Funds:	\$37,000
<u>Matching Funds:</u>	<u>\$31,400</u>
Total Project Costs:	\$68,400

Project Area: Yamhill, Lane, Washington, Polk, and Marion Counties, Oregon

Salmon Safe will transform the management of 50 Willamette Valley vineyards to fish friendly practices, implementing water quality and biodiversity protection and enhancement while building consumer awareness of ecologically sustainable Oregon wine. Wineries that focus their process on riparian and wetlands management, water use management, erosion and sediment control, chemical use management, and landscape level biodiversity protection will be promoted by Salmon Safe and U.S. Department of Agriculture organic labels. Salmon Safe will partner with the wine industry's Low Input Viticulture and Enology (LIVE) program, which will expand to reduce run-off from the valley's steep hillside vineyards through a series of landowner site visits, fields tours, and fish friendly workshops. Economic benefits of program participation will be quantified through grower surveys and retail sales data analysis from participating supermarkets.

The Willamette Valley supports more than 150 vineyards and presents an opportunity to reduce run-off impacting six native runs of imperiled salmon species throughout the Basin. The project would add to the 85 existing certified vineyard sites statewide, representing a third of Oregon's wine production and promoting a market-based strategy to restore aquatic habitat and water quality.

Project Title: Agricultural Chemical Removal From Critical Watersheds (OR)

Recipient: Eugene Water and Electric Board

Foundation Non-Federal Funds:	\$40,220
<u>Matching Funds:</u>	<u>\$53,283</u>
Total Project Costs:	\$93,503

Project Area: McKenzie and Middle Fork Willamette Watersheds in Lane County, Oregon

The Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) will remove old agricultural chemicals in McKenzie and Middle Fork Willamette watersheds to protect drinking water resources. Four outreach efforts will be conducted to initialize awareness of the project, conduct a grower chemical volume survey, explain removal procedures, and gain post-project survey/evaluation feedback. Existing partnerships will help conduct outreach, and collect and dispose of chemicals. During the chemical collection, the levels of participation and quantity and types of waste will be documented.

The project will remove a significant risk from obsolete agricultural chemicals in the McKenzie and Middle Fork Willamette Watersheds to protect drinking water resources for Oregon's second largest population center and critical Endangered Species Act fish habitat. Landowners are unaware of how to dispose of the unsecured chemicals or do not have the resources, which creates a large potential for undetected leaks into rivers and streams that feed municipal water supplies.

Project Title: Riparian Restoration and Enhancement Planning

Recipient: East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District

Foundation Non-Federal Funds:	\$20,000
<u>Matching Funds:</u>	<u>\$36,215</u>
Total Project Costs:	\$56,215

Project Area: Mohawk River in Lane County, Oregon

The East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District (ELSWCD) will provide a technician to do outreach and restoration planning on landowner properties for replanting native riparian species on 1.8 miles of the Mohawk River previously treated for Japanese knotweed. A mailing will go out to residents along the Mohawk River and ELSWCD will hold an annual workshop in the Mohawk watershed on riparian restoration and water quality protection. Results will be disseminated regarding riparian habitat conservation, water quality issues, and increased awareness about the importance of riparian restoration activities.

Four landowner properties along the Mohawk River, a tributary to the McKenzie River, were previously treated for knotweed and need riparian restoration planning assistance to benefit migration, spawning and rearing habitat for threatened and endangered salmonids. The Mohawk River is listed on the Department of Environmental Quality 303(d) list for temperature, bacteria, nutrient, pH, sedimentation, and other water quality concerns. Agricultural, commercial, and private residential lands in the watershed are potential contributors to these problems.

Project Title: Willamette Ecosystem Marketplace

Recipient: Willamette Partnership

Foundation Non-Federal Funds:	\$50,000
<u>Matching Funds:</u>	<u>\$20,000</u>
Total Project Costs:	\$70,000

Project Area: Willamette River Watershed, Oregon

The Willamette Partnership (WP) will communicate with buyers and sellers of conservation credits to initiate a Willamette Ecosystem Marketplace and launch a regional Roundtable to lend credibility and guidance to market development. Viable market-driven tools will be identified in the Willamette River Basin to assist private landowners, municipalities, industry, and others to comply with regulations more efficiently and cost effectively while generating better environmental outcomes. WP will engage local and regional organization, agency, and business leaders in developing strategies for applying market-driven conservation tools to critical natural resource issues.

This project will advance learning, awareness, and knowledge of viable, voluntary market-driven tools in the Willamette Basin to enable collective, strategic investment in ecosystem services that support the communities, economy, and fish and wildlife. A great example is a sewer district using ratepayer dollars to pay landowners to protect and restore riparian shade, cooling river water more effectively and cost efficiently than would be possible using technology alone.

Project Title: Mid-Willamette Watershed Councils Project Planning

Recipient: Mary's River Watershed Council

Foundation Non-Federal Funds:	\$50,000
<u>Matching Funds:</u>	<u>\$66,000</u>
Total Project Costs:	\$116,000

Project Area: Benton, Linn, Marion, and Yamhill Counties, Oregon

The Mary's River Watershed Council will provide eight Mid-Willamette Valley watershed councils technical assistance to identify, develop, and implement restoration and protection projects to restore and conserve fish, wildlife, and plant resources. The councils will partner with landowners through direct meetings or community meetings to recruit participation in priority restoration projects. Meetings will include teaching landowners about applicable landowner incentive programs, such as Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program and Wetlands Reserve Program. Two to three projects will be identified per watershed council where restoration strategies will be designed. Out of the total 16-24 projects, eight (one for each council) will be submitted for restoration grants and/or implementation of on-the-ground work.

In order for watershed councils to increase their capacity to fulfill their role in the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds and work with local landowners to complete on-the-ground projects that conserve the natural resources, councils need technical assistance to identify specific projects, create the design, and plan implementation. Technical assistance for the early project development leading up to restoration projects is one of the factors limiting the number of projects that councils can complete.

Project Title: Oregon Sustainable Agriculture Resource Center

Recipient: Policy Consensus Initiative

Foundation Non-Federal Funds:	\$50,000
<u>Matching Funds:</u>	<u>\$109,000</u>
Total Project Costs:	\$159,000

Project Area: Willamette River Watershed, Oregon

The Policy Consensus Initiative will build capacity to assist growers with sustainable agriculture practices and goals by creating the Oregon Sustainable Agriculture Resource Center (OSARC) at Oregon State University. The project will lead growers to existing certification programs to adopt and demonstrate habitat enhancement, erosion control, pest management, and irrigation efficiency. Several OSARC pilot projects will be launched and partnered with NORPAC Food, Inc. to demonstrate the adopted sustainable management practices. The long-term conservation need is for OSARC to provide a reliable delivery system and a one stop information area and assistance so that farmers and ranchers can understand, assess, and implement sustainable management of their water, soil, fish and wildlife, and human resources.

The impact of having the OSARC outreach program at Oregon State University has potential to reach many farmers and result in sustainability on a wide scale. The project will directly respond to the significant conservation needs in the Willamette Basin, including loss of aquatic habitat (wetlands, in-stream, off-channel, riparian, and floodplain), loss of upland habitat (oak woodlands, savannas, and prairie), at-risk aquatic and upland species, impaired water quality, lack of stream flows, and invasive species.