2021 Drinking Water Providers Partnership

Left: South Fork McKenzie Stage 0 Restoration Project, a riparian wetland refuge for wildlife during the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire (Credit: Kate Meyer) / Right: Wetland delineation training for the Clackamas Wetland Project with BARK (Credit: Michael Krochta);

Funded Projects

These projects will enhance habitat for coho, Chinook, steelhead, lamprey, bull trout, and cutthroat trout as well as water quality for the 1.14 million people who rely on these streams and rivers for their drinking water.

Upper Green River

Location: Tacoma. Washington

Description: Tacoma Water and Conservation Northwest will restore four acres along the Upper Green River by removing invasive species, planting native plants, and engaging the local community. This project will improve water quality and restore habitat for aquatic species such as rainbow and cutthroat trout.

Copeland Creek - North Umpqua River

Location: Glide, Oregon

Description: The National Forest Foundation will decommission two miles of Copeland Creek Road 2801 and place 2.4 miles of East Copeland Creek Road 2801-300 into long-term storage. This will reduce the input of road-derived sediments to the streams and improve water quality to benefit fish habitat and drinking water for the Glide Water Association and the City of Roseburg. These roads were identified as high risk for delivering sediment to the stream by the Umpqua National Forest using the Geomorphic Roads Analysis and Inventory Package (GRAIP) Lite.

Schooner Creek

Location: Lincoln City, Oregon

Description: The Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council and Lincoln City Water District will alleviate stream sediment risks from culverts prone to plugging, road cut bank failures, and muddy road turnouts. Activities include replacing one culvert, installing two new culverts and adding dissipaters at several culverts. This is Phase III of implementing actions identified from the 2017 Sediment Reduction Project report, previously supported by the DWPP .

South Fork Little Butte Creek

Location: Medford, Oregon

Description: The Rogue River Watershed Council and Medford Water Commission will enhance secondary stream channels; place large wood in strategic locations, rehabilitate riparian vegetation, and construct a wildlife-friendly livestock exclusion fence near river mile 7.6. These actions will restore stream processes and floodplain interaction that improve water quality, stream temperature and fish habitat.

Learn More

Visit our website:
geosinstitute.org/initiatives/dwpp/

Clackamas River Basin

Location: Clackamas River, Oregon

Description: This project is a partnership between Bark, Clackamas River Water Providers and Mt. Hood National Forest to evaluate the capacity of individual wetlands to influence water quantity upstream of the City of Estacada drinking water intake within the Clackamas River Basin; and monitor the impacts of the 2020 Riverside Fire on local wetland characteristics relevant to water quantity (including post-fire beaver habitat suitability). These efforts will inform implementation of high-impact aquatic restoration activities on the Clackamas River Ranger District of Mt. Hood National Forest. The Clackamas River Water Providers includes the Cities of Estacada, Gladstone, Oregon City, West Linn, Lake Oswego, Tigard, Happy Valley and unincorporated portions of Clackamas County, Oregon.

McKenzie River Finn Rock Reach

Location: Eugene, Oregon

Description: The McKenzie River Trust, Eugene Water and Electric Board, USFS and McKenzie Watershed Council are partnering to restore this river section to be hydrologically connected series of channels and wetlands to restore floodplain function. Phase I will remove barriers, regrade areas, install large woody debris, replant and reseed areas impacted by the 2020 Holiday Fire, and create island habitat. Reconnected wetlands and floodplains will help filter fire-ash and sediment, improve water quality and provide juvenile fish rearing habitat.

East Fork Mission Creek

Location: Cashmere, Washington

Description: The Chelan County Natural Resource Department is focused on restoring 3 miles of floodplain by removing an old road, re-routing a trail and converting part of the roadbed to a trail. These actions will improve the watershed by reducing sediment delivery, improving water retention and improving spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead trout.

North Umpqua River

Location: Glide, Oregon

Description: The US Forest Service will improve water quality for the town of Glide and habitat for steelhead, Chinook salmon and coho salmon by placing logs within the channels of Fish Creek and Copeland Creek. The logs already have been hauled and stockpiled. These log jams will provide complex habitat for fish and retain fine sediments, especially important after the 2020 Archie Creek fire.

Flood Creek

Location: USFS Tiller Ranger Station

Description: The South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership will replace two undersized and failing culverts that are currently blocking adult and juvenile fish on Flood Creek, a tributary to the South Umpqua River. Replacing the culverts removes the risk of 400 cubic yards of road fill being washed out downstream impacting water quality and opens 0.8 miles of aquatic habitat for salmon, trout and lamprey. This project benefits drinking water quality for the USFS Tiller Ranger Station as well as downstream water systems.

Lower North Fork Coquille

Location: Myrtle Point, Oregon

Description: The Coquille Watershed Association is working to restore ecosystem processes by reestablishing riparian vegetation – particularly large riparian conifers. Grant funding will support fencing and planting materials in order to protect riparian corridors and native plants from livestock. Reducing nutrient inputs is important to improve drinking water for 2,500 residents of Myrtle Point and also supports clean drinking water for the City of Coquille. This project is also supported by an Oregon State Source Protection Fund grant.

Big and Little Quilcene Rivers

Location: Port Townsend, Washington

Description: The US Forest Service is partnering with Olympia Mountaineers in an ongoing education and pollution reduction effort to reduce human waste disposal and trash in a drinking water source watershed. Backcountry wilderness rangers will share information with recreators while kiosks and trailheads will contain additional information focused on Leave No Trace practices. Waste and garbage removal will also be completed.

Floras Creek

Location: Langlois, Oregon

Description: Curry Soil and Water Conservation District and multiple partners have engaged in a multi-year effort to improve watershed conditions. In this phase, sediment delivery to the creek will be abated by treating gullies, including plantings. Riparian habitat will also be restored and invasive weeds such as English ivy, Himalaya blackberry, and reed canary grass will be treated to allow native trees and shrubs to grow freely. This project benefits the drinking water for Langlois Water District.

East Fork Coquille River

Location: Myrtle Point, Oregon

Description: The Coquille Watershed Association, Bureau of Land Management and Forest Investment Associates are working to reduce sediment from entering streams by improving road drainage and infrastructure. Four undersized and failing culverts will be removed and replaced with larger culverts that are properly aligned. Road fill will be removed to reduce the risk of sediment delivery to Steel Creek. Work in these tributaries to Coquille River enhances drinking water quality for the Cities of Myrtle Point and Coquille.

DRINKING WATER PROVIDERS PARTNERSHIP