

CLACKAMAS RESTORATION FOR NATIVE FISH RECOVERY



Photo by Ris Bradshaw



Partnership Overview

Over a dozen organizations in the eastern Portland metropolitan region have committed to work together towards watershed health. The Clackamas Native Fish Initiative aims for sustainable native fish populations as well as ongoing economic and social vitality in the region. The Initiative builds on the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan, and includes the Clackamas River from its headwaters to the confluence with the Willamette River with tributaries and confluences of the lower Clackamas River (e.g., Clear, Deep, Rock and Eagle Creeks); a portion of the Willamette River and its floodplain; and watersheds flowing into the east side of the Willamette River, including Abernethy, Kellogg, and Johnson Creeks.

Quick Facts

OWEB Investment: \$8.74 million

Estimated Leverage: \$7.32 million

Goals by 2025:

- Control invasives and plant native floodplain vegetation on over 25 acres
- Place large wood in over 10,000 feet of tributary channels and floodplain
- Increase off channel wetland area and access by at least 3 acres

In January 2019, the Clackamas Initiative was awarded funding through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's (OWEB) Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program. A FIP is an OWEB investment that addresses a board-identified priority of significance to the state, achieves clear and measurable ecological outcomes, uses integrated and results-oriented approaches as identified through a Strategic Action Plan, and is implemented by a high-performing partnership.

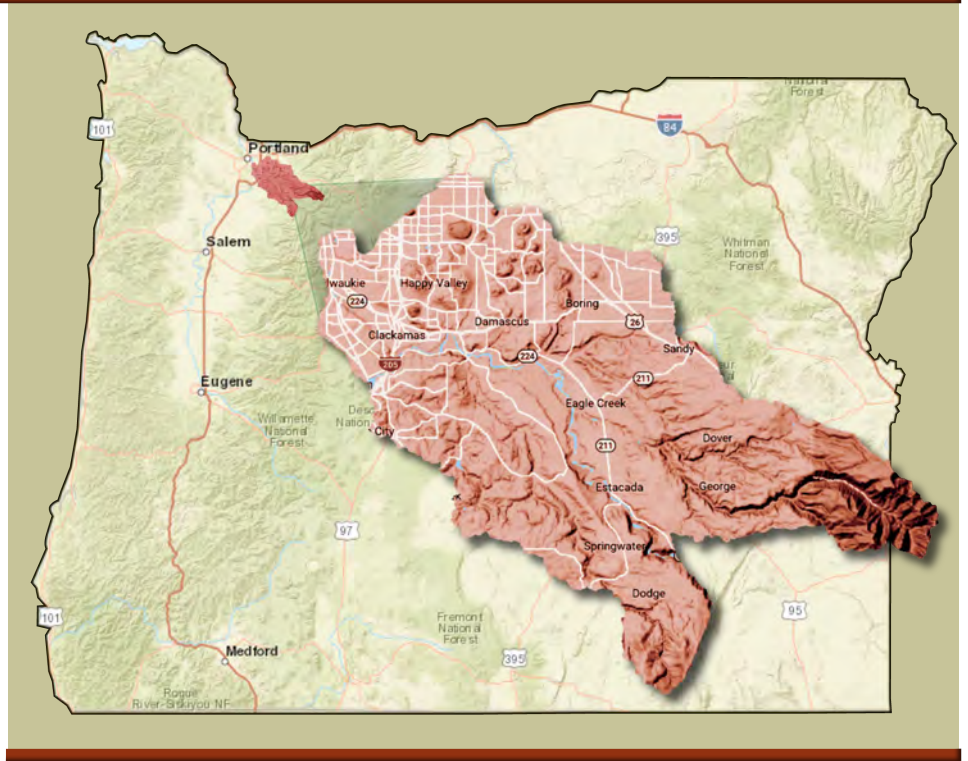
Initiatives are eligible for up to six years of OWEB funding. For the 2019-2021 biennium, OWEB awarded \$3,454,580. When combined with investments from 2017 to 2025, the anticipated total investment is approximately \$8,477,795.

Core Implementing Partners

- Clackamas River Basin Council
- Greater Oregon City Watershed Council
- North Clackamas Urban Watersheds Council
- Johnson Creek Watershed Council
- Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District
- Portland Metro Regional Government
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- US Forest Service, Mt Hood National Forest, Clackamas Ranger District
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District

Ecological Outcomes

The Initiative focuses on restoring river, stream, floodplain, and riparian habitat to enhance watershed health and long-term ecological function. The Initiative also works to improve side channel habitat and identifies areas where there is high potential to restore habitat complexity, as well as areas where fish passage and impacts from impervious surfaces need to be considered. The geographic emphasis is on tributary habitats, including the channel and floodplains of the Clackamas and Willamette Rivers. Outcomes will support the recovery of Clackamas fish populations, including ESA-listed salmon, steelhead, bull trout, and other native fish and wildlife species, such as Pacific lamprey.



Strategies and anticipated results from the Clackamas Initiative include:

Strategy

Work throughout the Clackamas River and tributaries to improve water quality and restore native fish habitat complexity. Outcomes will enhance watershed processes and protect high quality areas.

Conservation Action

- Increase the extent and quality of side-channel habitat for juvenile salmon and steelhead
- Enhance off-channel wetland habitat
- Place large wood in streams and floodplains
- Remove invasive vegetation in floodplains and other important areas
- Plant native trees and other vegetation to restore floodplain and riparian habitats.
- Remove fish passage barriers and work to alleviate impacts from impervious surfaces

Intermediate Ecological Outcome

- Increase fish rearing and migratory habitat complexity and water quality in channel, floodplain, off-channel, and tributary junctions
- Increase fish population productivity

Long-Term Ecological Outcome

- Enhanced ecological processes and functions
- Enhanced resiliency under climate change and urbanization anticipated in the region

Strategy

Continue to maintain a high profile for sustainability in the region. Work with stakeholders to enhance water quality and natural hydrology, addressing stormwater runoff and other impacts from impervious surfaces in the growing metropolitan region.

Conservation Action

Landowners and municipalities throughout the region apply Best Management Practices in support of improved water quality and enhanced riparian and aquatic habitats

Intermediate Ecological Outcome

- Increased resiliency to water temperature spikes
- Decrease in runoff and sedimentation in streams, enhancing juvenile fish habitat

Long-Term Ecological Outcome

- Continued watershed resiliency and high water quality
- Enhanced awareness and engagement throughout the stakeholder community



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