



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

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State Land Board

Theodore R. Kulongoski
Governor

To: Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski
Secretary of State Kate Brown
State Treasurer Ted Wheeler

Kate Brown
Secretary of State

From: Louise Solliday
Director

Ted Wheeler
State Treasurer

Subject: State Land Board Awards - 2009

This is the sixth year of presenting the State Land Board Awards. We are giving awards in three categories for 2009 projects: **Wetland Project Award**, **Stream Project Award** and **Partnership Award**. Three review committees composed of DSL staff, Ken Bierly of OWEB, and Land Board Assistant Barry Pack selected this year's award winners.

WETLAND PROJECT AWARD (2)

Munger Farm Restoration, a project coordinated by Tualatin Riverkeepers on Metro-owned land adjacent to the Tualatin River. Approximately 40 acres of riparian forest and wetland scrub were restored using funds from the Department of State Lands' Payment in Lieu mitigation fund, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Clean Water Services. The objectives of the project were to: 1) restore plant communities that were most likely present at the site before European settlement; and 2) provide critical habitat enhancement and protection for a variety of federal and state plant and animal species of concern. The benefits of the project include improved water quality and fish habitat along the Tualatin River; greater plant diversity through restoration of rare and previously eliminated species; improved wildlife habitat; and public educational and recreational opportunities.

Neitzel Farm Habitat Restoration, a small project to turn a family-owned farm in the Necanicum River watershed into active wetlands. The Neitzel farm is the last historic farm in the area that has not been subdivided. The owners – Ernestine Neitzel and her son Les – wanted to ensure the property would be preserved in a natural state in perpetuity. The Neitzels worked with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of State Lands (resource coordinator Sarah Kelly) and Doug Ray of Carex Consulting to construct .61 acres of wetland, which involved reconnecting disjointed wetlands on the property and creating improved habitat for Coho salmon and other species. The project involved a wide variety of partners, including OWEB, the North Coast Land Conservancy, Longview Timber Company, State Rep. Debbie Boone, the Necanicum Watershed Council, Trout Unlimited, Brims Farm & Garden, and many more public and private entities.



STREAM PROJECT AWARD

Upper John Day Watershed Restoration Program, a 16-year effort to improve fish passage in the watershed, which culminated with the 100th irrigation diversion replacement project in 2009. The John Day River system is the second-longest undammed tributary in the western United States, and is unique in that it is exclusively managed for wild steelhead and salmon production with no hatchery-stocking program. The Grant Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has been working with landowners along the John Day to replace the historic use of gravel pushup dams, which number in the hundreds. The dams become barriers to fish passage during the summer months, and the use of heavy equipment to create the dams each year contribute to reduced water quality and damage to riparian vegetation. The Grant SWCD has implemented new irrigation structures that provide for fish passage and require virtually no maintenance with excavation equipment. SWCD staff have effectively worked with private landowners, who were initially skeptical of the idea of replacing the diversion dams, and have involved a wide variety of partners, including OWEB, ODFW, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon Department of Agriculture, the federal Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration. The district plans to tackle another 60 projects over the next seven to 10 years.

PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Deschutes County Juvenile Community Justice Department, for providing trash cleanup on state lands in the county since 2007. Juvenile offenders, ages 12 to 18, are led by program manager Jim Smith, who organizes the cleanups in coordination with and at no cost to DSL's Eastern Region Office. The three Common School Fund properties the group has helped with include:

- Stevens Road tract – removing vegetation and trash from 12.5 acres of land within the Bend urban growth boundary on the property, as part of the required fire-break maintenance. The juvenile crew also has removed trash on the entire 640-acre parcel several times over the last three years.
- South Redmond parcel – removing 12 cubic yards of household trash on the property near the fairgrounds in Redmond.
- Knoblock Property – removing trash and large household appliances from a makeshift ATV track on the parcel.

As a result of this assistance, state lands in Deschutes County are free from litter and potentially hazardous trash, and can be better enjoyed by the public. DSL's Eastern Region Office has established a good working relationship with the juvenile program that we hope will continue for many years.