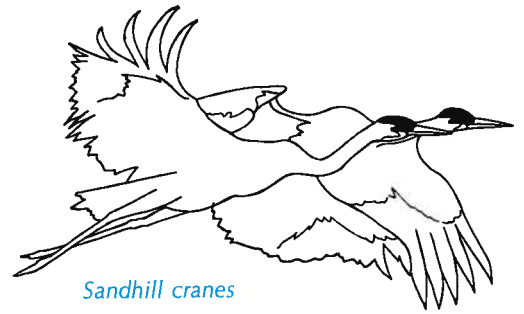




STURGEON LAKE RESTORATION PROJECT

A Clean Lakes Legacy

Sturgeon Lake: A Success Story



Sandhill cranes

The Problems

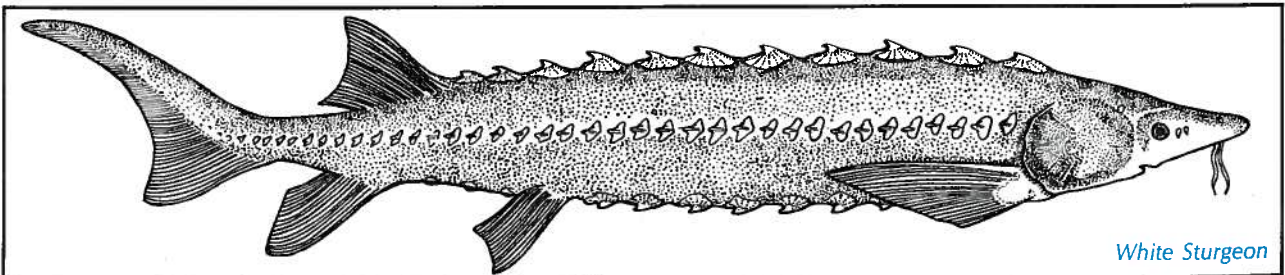
Sturgeon Lake had two problems. First, flood control dikes were built near Sturgeon Lake in the 1940s, and they helped to allow the area's original wetlands to be drained and then farmed with hay and row crops. Second, when the ship channel in the Columbia River was dredged to deepen it, the dredged material blocked flows into Dairy Creek, the lake's natural inflow from the Columbia. Since then, only tidal flows from the Gilbert River, heavy with silt, have entered Sturgeon Lake; it was this silt which was filling in the bottom. Every year, the lake became a little more shallow. From its original depth of about five to six feet, it had filled in to become less than three feet deep in many places.

The Solution

To save the lake, flows through Dairy Creek had to be restored to flush out the silt. The dredging, and other restoration work such as adding a new segment to the original channel, cost approximately one million dollars.

The Project

From 1984 – 89, work crews removed the dredged material, debris, and other obstructions to allow the waters of Dairy Creek to flow once again into Sturgeon Lake. In December, 1989, the first fresh water in over forty years flowed into the lake and began to flush it out and reverse the problem of siltation. We expect that it will be many years before the lake returns to its original depth, but the process to restore the lake's water quality is now underway.



White Sturgeon



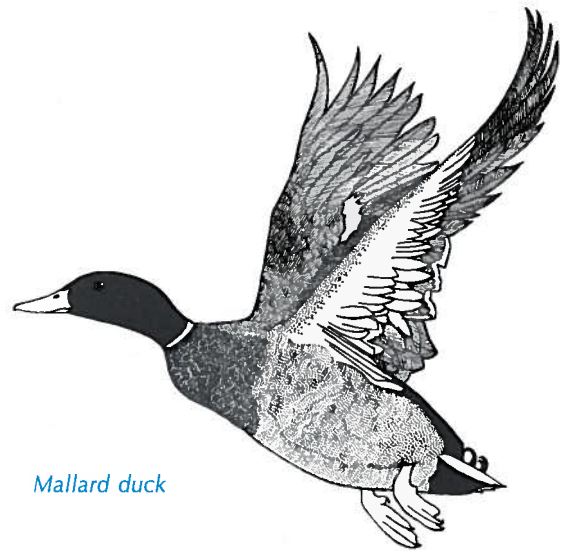
Canada geese



Bald eagle

A Haven For Birds

Sauvie Island is a major stopover and wintering area for birds migrating along the Pacific Coast. Waterfowl populations average 250,000 ducks and geese during peak winter months. Since the first written record by the Lewis & Clark Expedition (1804-06), waterfowl have been observed to use Sturgeon Lake in great numbers. The 3,000 acre lake is the island's principal attraction to water birds including ducks, geese, cranes, and swans, plus bald eagles and many other animals. It is also a popular warm-water fishing site and supports a diverse fish community including the fish for which it is named.



Mallard duck



Beaver

People Love It, Too

Sturgeon Lake provides a sanctuary for people as well as for wildlife. Hundreds of thousands of people each year visit this area to fish, hunt, bike, sail, swim, canoe, photograph, watch birds and just relax. Portland can consider itself fortunate since few large cities in the world have such a large and diverse wildlife are so close.



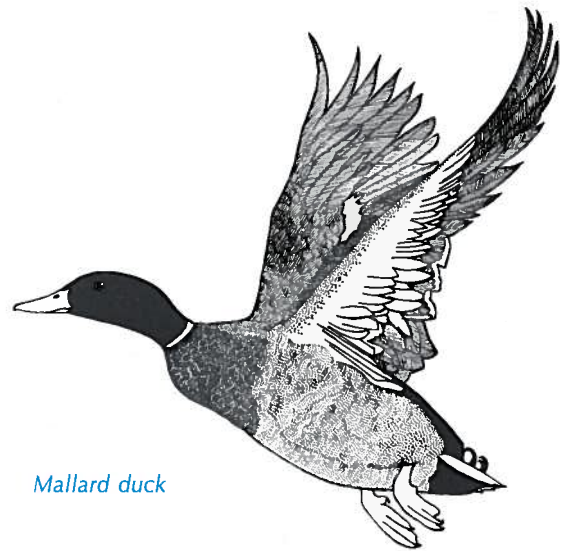
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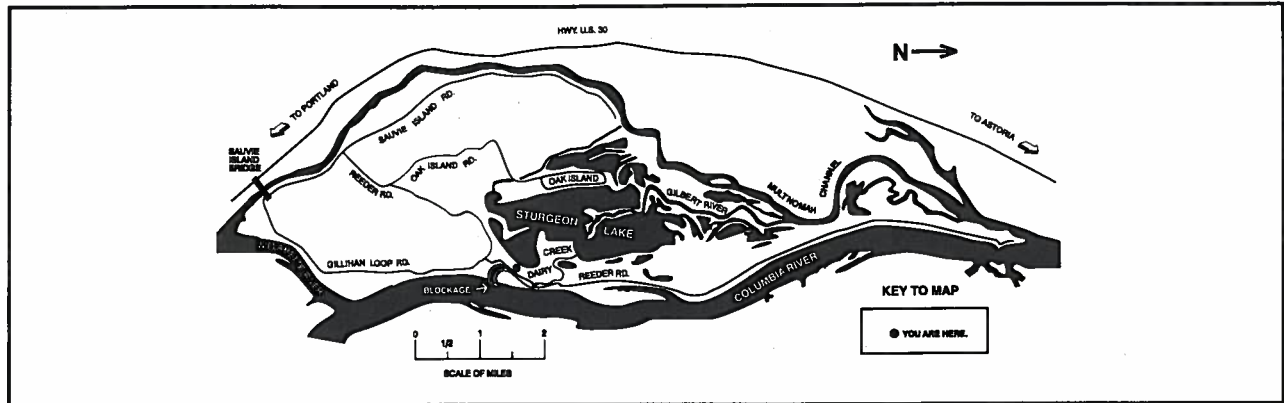
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Project Coordination

Acting independently at first and then together, these agencies and organizations cooperated to make this project a reality:

- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District
- USDA Soil Conservation Service
- The Coalition for Sturgeon Lake Restoration

Funding and Services

This was a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Clean Lakes Restoration Project. Additional funds and/or assistance were provided by:

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congressman Les AuCoin and his staff • Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife • Oregon Duck Hunters Association • Oregon Department of Environmental Quality: Clean Lakes Program • Oregon State Marine Board • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Federal Aid Program • National Wildlife Federation • ARCO Foundation • National Fish and Wildlife Federation • Ducks Unlimited • Sauvie Island residents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District • USDA Soil Conservation Service • Oregon Department of Agriculture • Union Pacific Railroad • Image Graphics and Litho, Inc. • Oregon Ocean Paddling Society • Oregon State University • Multnomah County • U.S. Army Corps of Engineers • . . . and many other concerned citizens and groups |
|--|---|

Land Owners:

The following land owners cooperated to allow this project to happen:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Cereghino • Ken Ellison | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodger Taber • Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife |
|---|--|

Contractors:

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blickle and Co. • Clearwater Construction Co. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hagedorn, Inc. (surveyors) |
|--|--|



Before. . . .

Dairy Creek channel, blocked by dikes for fifty years, was full of debris.



After. . . .

After channel dredging and re-opening the mouth of Dairy Creek, the flows have been restored to flush sediments from Sturgeon Lake.



What you can do . . .

Photo by Geoff Pampush

Support Restoring Sturgeon Lake's Clean Water Legacy

Even though this phase of the Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project is completed, the work to restore the lake's water quality is not done. Additional shoreline and land management planning is underway to further clean up the lake.

This planning, along with the dredging maintenance that will be needed by the Dairy Creek project, is part of the long-term commitment by many individuals, organizations, and agencies to restore Sturgeon Lake's clean water legacy. To voice your support for Sturgeon Lake's clean water programs or for more information on the restoration project, contact your local office of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality or Department of Fish and Wildlife.

STURGEON LAKE
RESTORATION PROJECT