HEALTHY STREAMS PROGRAM

Annual Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019
About the Healthy Streams program

The Healthy Streams Program provides funding, project planning, and technical assistance for streamside restoration to manage erosion and to improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and the condition of the land.

Our focus areas include McCarthy, Abbey, and Rock creeks in the West Hills, and canals and ditches on Sauvie Island.

On McCarthy, Abbey, and Rock creeks, we are restoring habitat for salmonid fish, enhancing wildlife corridors, and improving water quality.

On Sauvie Island agricultural land, we are protecting canal banks and improving water quality. We are also reducing invasive plant species, tillage, and livestock use adjacent to waterways to limit erosion and sedimentation.

27 projects were active during fiscal year 2018-2019

2018-2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• 10,800 native plants installed (107,587 native plants since 2009)
• 42 different native woody plant species planted or nurtured at our project sites
• 3,400 feet of stream planted (35,462 feet/6.7 miles planted since 2009)
• 7.1 acres planted with native vegetation (42.7 acres planted since 2009)
• All 27 active sites monitored for data & trends, or for maintenance & progress
• 33 total participating landowners & sites monitored since 2009

Cover photo: Pacific tree (chorus) frog on nodding beggarstick
Successful site highlight

This project runs along 315 feet of stream on both sides of middle McCarthy Creek, on 0.6 acre of private, rural residential land. The goal was to replace non-native lawn and weeds along the stream with a native riparian forest. It was planted 7 years ago and now has 45% native tree and shrub canopy and only 13% invasive weed cover. We continue to monitor the site and control weeds, and re-plant natives, as needed.

Before, 2012: Field with non-native grass and few native plants.

After, 2019: A native riparian forest is established. Note barn in upper left.

Some of the wildlife found at our Healthy Streams sites

Beaver, rabbit, coyote sign, raccoon sign, deer, Red-legged frog, Pacific tree (chorus) frog, Northwestern salamander, turtle, Garter snake, Chinook salmon, Cutthroat trout, Red-tail hawk, Osprey, Great blue heron, Kingfisher, hummingbird, Northern flicker, Sap sucker, other woodpecker, Spotted towhee, Scrub jay, Redwing blackbird, ducks, swallows, Song sparrow, Gold finch, Black-capped chickadee, many other birds, pollinators, including bumblebees, Honey bees, and sweat bees, dragonflies, Praying mantis, numerous other insects and spiders.
These charts show average data from 23 of the 27 active program sites monitored between 2010 and 2019.

This graph shows the **average percent cover of invasive weeds** over the course of revegetation across our project sites, based on the age of the projects, beginning where possible with the year before planting (Year 0).

**Our management has resulted in an overall decline in invasive weeds over time across our projects, the first of which was planted in 2010.**

By the middle of each project’s lifespan (around year 4-5), our goal is to see less than 40% non-native / weed cover.

This graph shows the **average percent cover of woody native plants** over the course of revegetation across our project sites, based on the age of the projects, beginning where possible with the year before planting (Year 0).

**Our management has resulted in an overall increase in native plants over time across our projects, the first of which was planted in 2010.**

By the middle of each project’s lifespan (around year 4-5), our goal is to see more than 60% native woody cover. Percent cover above 100% represents conditions where multiple layers of vegetation overlap.

*Note: Years 8 and 10 represent only one project each.*