



RIPARIAN AND WETLAND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT AT HUNTONS' FARM

PROJECT BACKGROUND

This project site contains 30 acres of forested wetlands which drain into two seasonal streams that flow through 600 acres of perennial and annual ryegrass before converging into lower Amazon Creek. The forested wetlands, which have never been cleared or cultivated, are dominated by ash and slough sedge. These wetlands provide an oasis of habitat for the red-legged frog, salamanders, and other native amphibians, as well as nesting and forage habitat for neotropical migrant and resident songbirds. The wetlands also provide water quality benefits by increasing flood storage capacity and potentially re-charging ground water, filtering out sediment and nutrients from upstream sources, and cooling the water.

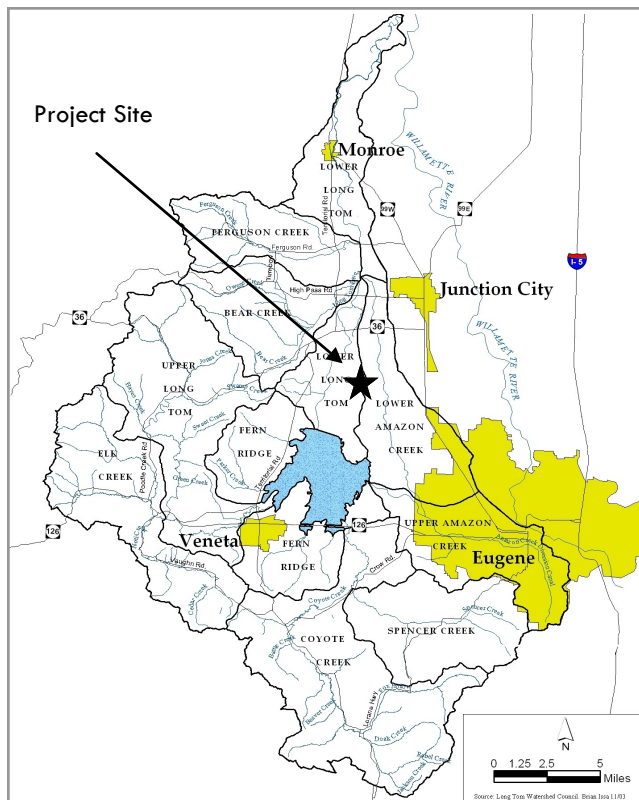
Also on-site is a pond created 40 years ago by the construction of a four-foot berm. Before the project it was dominated by Reed canary grass, which degraded its value for migrating waterfowl and Western pond turtles. Our goal for the pond was to improve waterfowl, turtle, and native amphibian habitat by replacing the Reed canary grass with native plants, shrubs and trees.



Pre-project (2005): The pond was dominated by invasive Reed canary grass.



Post-project (2010): After Reed canary grass removal and shrub planting.



Canary grass also dominated the seasonal streams. These had been deepened and straightened in the past to accelerate drainage of the adjacent fields. The down-side of deepening and straightening these streams was that they were too deep for many plant species and created barriers to farming equipment access.

Our objective for these waterways was to re-grade the grass field drainages to a gentler slope that would allow us to establish a native grassed waterway. In agricultural areas, grassed waterways and vegetated filter strips reduce erosion and filter nutrients before they drain into streams. They also improve access for farm equipment.

RESTORATION TECHNIQUES

- ◆ Removed Reed canary grass from the pond, streams, and riparian areas with an excavator and bull dozer.
- ◆ Spot sprayed re-growth of Reed canary grass.
- ◆ Increased the berm height on the pond outlet by one foot, raising the water level to further control canary grass re-growth and enhance habitat for Western pond turtles.
- ◆ Graded the banks of the seasonal streams to a 1:8 gradient.
- ◆ Seeded the pond and re-graded streams with a native wetland plant mix.
- ◆ Planted native trees and shrubs around the pond.

PROJECT BENEFITS

- ◆ Re-grading and seeding the seasonal streams with native grasses and sedges will improve water quality and instream habitat.
- ◆ Shallower side slopes allow farm equipment to cross the streams when needed and facilitates mowing of the riparian area
- ◆ Improving the diversity of native plants in the pond will provide breeding habitat for amphibians; shrubs will provide wildlife habitat and shade.
- ◆ The deeper, open water of the pond attracts Western pond turtle, waterfowl, and other wildlife.



Implementation: An excavator scraped Reed canarygrass from the pond & its banks. The cleared area was replanted with native plants.



Before the project (2005): East tributary before project. The drainage was posing an access issue for farming equipment.



After the project (2010): East tributary after bank grading and seeding. Work was done in September 2008, hence grass is not well established yet. Note the much shallower slopes that allow for easy mowing in the summer and slower velocities in the winter.

PROJECT FUNDING & PARTNERS

Project Cost: **\$28,835**

Funding:

OWEB Grant: \$ 17,732
Cash / In-kind Match: \$ 11,103

Partners

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Tom Hunton, *Landowner*
Steve Smith, *US Fish & Wildlife Service*

The Long Tom Watershed Council thanks our partners and funders!