

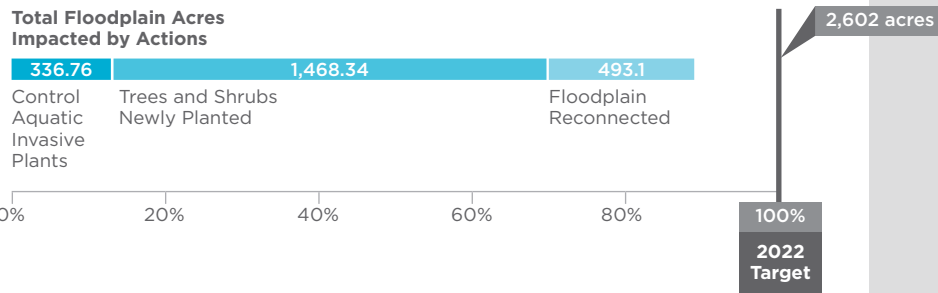
2017-2020 Implementation Reporting

A snapshot of partner efforts to protect and enhance the Willamette River for people and wildlife.

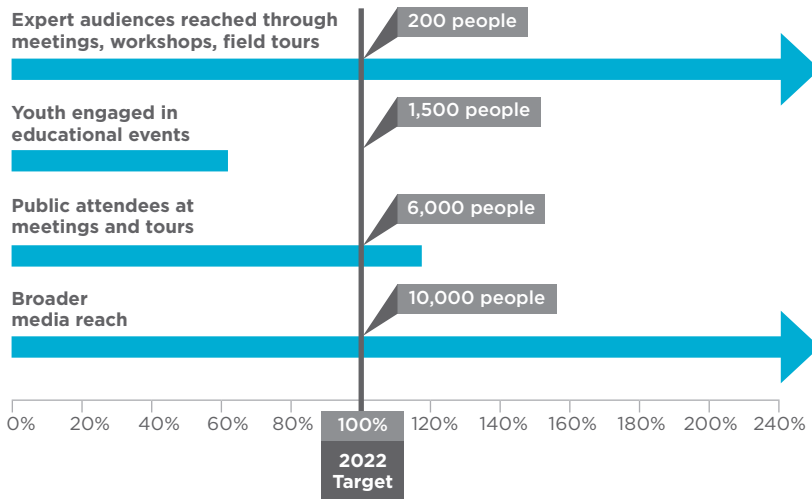
Progress Towards 2022 Targets (%)



Ecological Target



Outreach Targets



Anchor Habitats Where Work is Underway



In 2020...

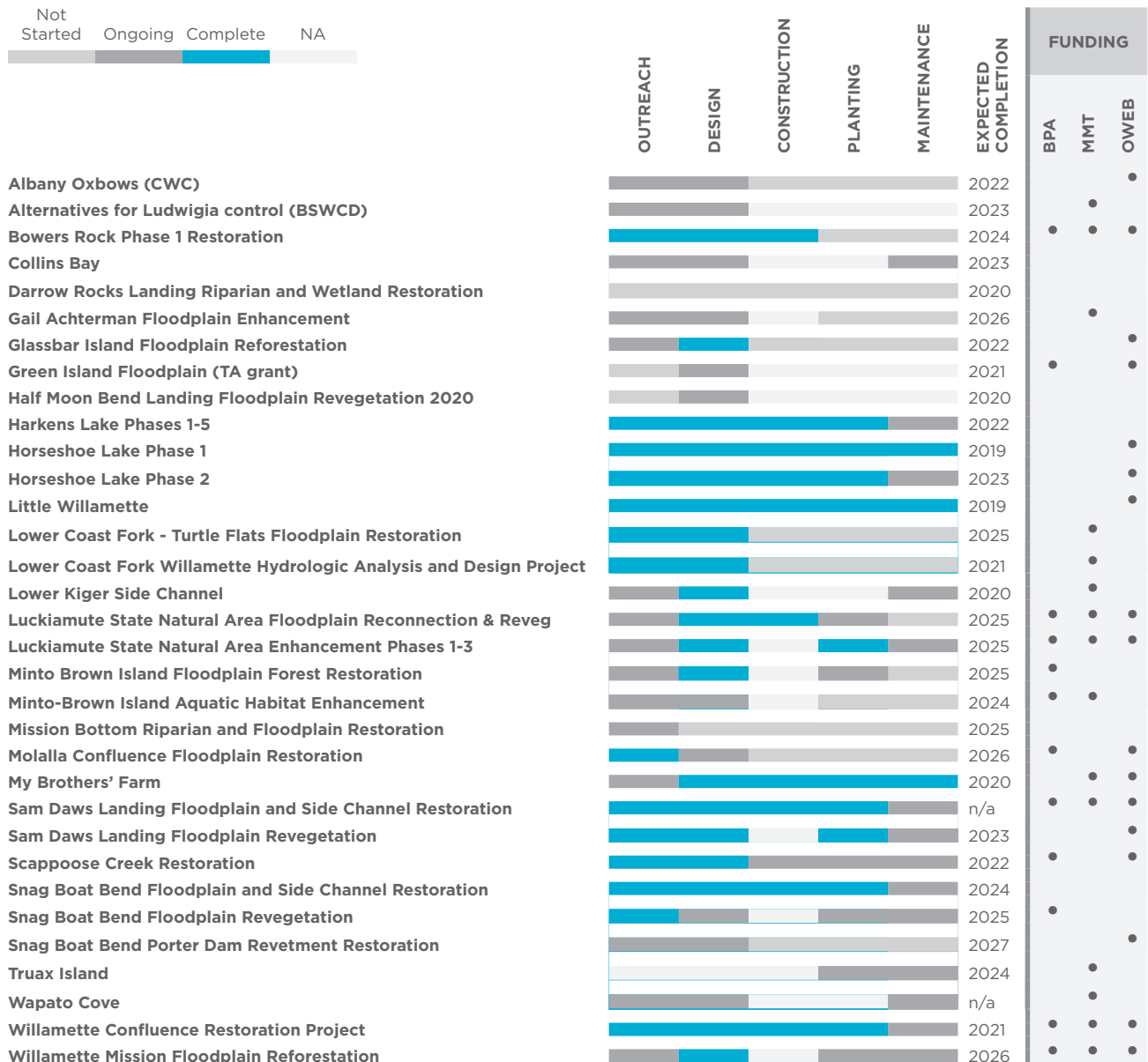
40

Private Landowners Engaged
in Restoration Actions

46

Public Properties Enhanced
by Restoration Actions

2019-2020 Project Performance



Primary Actions Projects Advanced in 2017-2020



Increase and enhance floodplain plant communities through planting and invasive species control: **23 Projects**



Plant riparian vegetation along sloughs and side channels to provide shade and support fish rearing habitat: **16 Projects**



Increase native fish access to floodplains by modifying floodplain topography to increase the extent and duration of floodplain inundation: **5 Projects**



Enhance former gravel pits and alleviate stranding by re-connecting shallow pits, regrading pond boundaries and filling ponds: **5 projects**



Treat invasive aquatic weeds that degrade water quality and biodiversity: **18 Projects**



Construct lateral channels or sloughs in areas with a high likelihood of hyporheic flow: **4 projects**



Remove revetments and levees in reaches likely to experience channel changes: **4 projects**

The Effects of the Pandemic

Usual tours and activities decreased because of public access to project sites primarily in the Middle Fork-Coast Fork Confluence Anchor Habitat zone, effecting engagement at the **Willamette Confluence Restoration Project** and **My Brothers' Farm**.

Contractors and practitioners faced staffing challenges because of the pandemic and the ongoing threat of wildfires. In the highly visible area of the **Minto-Brown Island Aquatic Habitat Enhancement** site in Salem, OR, the crews overcame staffing obstacles and were able to tackle two projects in this Anchor Habitat.

Adaptive Management in the Field

The Luckiamute State Natural Area Floodplain Reconnection and Reforestation project implemented the floodplain reconnection piece, expanding the area and duration of inundation by enhancing connection points to the lower Luckiamute River and regrading swales. Volunteers spread native grass seed in disturbed areas and contractors installed 9,000 live cuttings. Over 55,000 native bare root trees and shrubs were installed in January 2021.

At the **Minto-Brown Island Floodplain Forest Restoration** site, the City of Salem is working to keep visitors on trail and off of the conservation area. They are purposefully leaving blackberry bushes along the boundary to avoid the creation of new paths and entries into the protected zone.

The Molalla River Watch removed an old rip-rap from the middle of the river that used to be on the bank to allow for increased flow at the **Molalla Confluence Floodplain Restoration** site.

Anchor Habitat Highlights



Willamette Mission State Park

Restoration of Willamette Mission is important because land conversion and development in the early 20th century cleared native vegetation and opened the site to noxious weeds, which inhibit natural regeneration of these important forests. Restoration is improving habitat complexity, water quality through flood interaction with the restored forest, and reducing habitat fragmentation. Benefit will accrue to ESA listed Chinook and steelhead and a multitude of important and at-risk wildlife species that occupy the park. There were 33 newly planted acres in 2020.



Harkens Lake, Horseshoe Lake and Little Willamette

The work at Harkens Lake, Horseshoe Lake and Little Willamette by the Greenbelt Land Trust created over 800 acres of floodplain habitat on the Willamette River on former agricultural land. The projects have successfully reconnected the historic floodplain to the Willamette River, thus creating a nursery for juvenile fish while simultaneously reducing downstream flooding on populated areas. Nearly 500,000 trees and shrubs have been planted in order to shade the river, sequester carbon, and provide refuge for countless species of wildlife.



Gail Achterman Wildlife Area

Formerly recognized as Hayden Island, the Gail Achterman Wildlife Area (GAWA) is one of the largest and most intact riparian forests remaining between the Willamette River's confluence with the Santiam River and Willamette Mission State Park. The vision for preservation of this site is credited to the late Gail Achterman, a conservation leader, lawyer and policy expert who inspired many to preserve natural resources throughout Oregon.



Bowers Rock

The efforts at Bowers Rock aim to recapture the signature braided river that the Willamette River once held. The primary actions include, a connection of a 40-acre gravel pit during winter flows, the removal and replacement of culverts that restrict egress of water after high water events, and the treatment of invasive *Ludwigia* in the area.



My Brothers' Farm

A diverse selection of native trees and shrubs were planted to increase plant diversity at My Brothers' Farm. Re-establishing a native riparian buffer and fencing off the waterways in this lower reach of the Coast Fork Willamette will benefit fish and wildlife habitat and improve water quality. The riparian buffer and fencing will shade the water in the river and filter out fine sediments and nutrients in order to foster a more resilient habitat in the face of climate change.



Albany Oxbows

The Calapooya Watershed Council is currently working with River Design Group to assess restoration actions that could include log placements, turtle nesting/basking structures, connection augmentation and native vegetation planting at the Albany Oxbows.

Other Achievements: Mission Lake is now accessible due to low *Ludwigia* densities in the Willamette Mission State Park.



Reflections from the Coordinator

Taylor Larson is the coordinator for the AHWG, the Working Lands Project Manager at the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council and a Farmer at My Brothers' Farm

“ Stewarding a river as dynamic and complex as the Willamette is a challenging task. Luckily for all of us that live here, we have a community of habitat restoration professionals dedicated to improving the health of our river for generations to come. Coordination and collaboration at a watershed scale is critical to the success of ecosystems that can support thriving populations of fish, wildlife and humans inhabitants. **The Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group is a vital forum for our collective efforts to live in harmony with this place we call home.** ”

Thanks to our long term funders:



watersheds
program

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Thanks to Kira Waldman for diligence in aggregating and confirming information in this report.