

Willamette Water Supply Program's Habitat Restoration Projects

The Willamette Water Supply Program is providing funding for two local habitat restoration projects. These projects compliment the additional mitigation required by federal and state regulations to offset water temperature impacts associated with withdrawals from the Willamette River when the Willamette Water Supply System is in service in 2026. These projects improve habitat conditions for a variety of species and promote lasting partnerships with area stakeholders.

Chicken Creek Restoration Project

The [project](#) is located within the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) near Sherwood. Partners include the Refuge, Clean Water Services (CWS), and Ducks Unlimited.

For nearly 100 years, this site was used for agricultural purposes. When the Refuge purchased the property, they built a water diversion structure and converted the property to wetlands. Although this helped create habitat for birds, it did not restore the creek's connection to its floodplains.

The project will return approximately 1.5-miles of Chicken Creek to its historic channel and floodplains. This restoration project will benefit steelhead trout, lamprey, and cutthroat trout, as well as migratory and native birds. Beaver habitat will also be established as part of this long-term restoration effort.

Molalla Confluence Project

The [project](#) is located within Molalla River State Park at the confluence of the Molalla, Pudding, and Willamette rivers and is just downstream from the Supply System's intake on the Willamette River. Project partners include Oregon State Parks, Molalla River Watch, and Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development.

Covering 450 acres of floodplain forest and channels the project: increases and enhances instream and riparian habitat, reconnects side channel and off-channel habitats, and protects existing high-quality aquatic and riparian habitats that benefit the quality of the surrounding watersheds.

The Molalla River supports native winter steelhead, spring Chinook salmon, coho salmon, Pacific and Western brook lamprey, Oregon chub, bald eagle, heron, pond turtle, beaver, waterfowl, migratory songbirds, elk, deer, and cougar populations.



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