



2013

Accomplishments

Planning

The Restoration Partnership spent most of Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) kick-starting the process of developing a Restoration Plan (Plan). The Restoration Team gathered and analyzed data related to injured natural resources in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. Once this information was collected, the Partnership then conducted a public scoping period from June 13, 2013 to August 27, 2013 for the purpose of gathering input from stakeholders and the public. Scoping was the first step in the

process of developing the Plan. Scoping is a period of time designed to get initial feedback from stakeholders regarding a proposed action. The purpose of scoping is to help identify any issues that might exist so they can be considered in the planning process. The Coeur d'Alene Basin Natural Resource Trustees (Partnership) are proposing to use settlement funds to return natural resources in the Coeur d'Alene Basin to a healthy

See "Planning" pg. 2

Inside

- Planning
 - Pine Creek
 - Wetland
- Restoration



Planning

(Continued from pg. 1)

condition. This is the intent of restoration.

Developing the Plan in a basin-wide, programmatic fashion will maximize the impacts the limited funds will have on the injured natural resources. It is an essential step in the big picture of restoration. The Partnership's planning process is set to engage the public to help shape the Plan as well as provide alternatives to it. Scoping is a practice that supports these purposes.

The scoping period was initiated by the publication of a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register (78 Federal Register 35602-03). It was initially intended to end on August 12, but due to an increased amount of interest and comments, it was extended to August 27.

The Partnership engaged in a wide-range of activities during the scoping period designed to reach out to the public and solicit their input on restoration in the Basin. These activities



Set up for public open house in Kellogg, Idaho.

included a series of meetings and presentations with policy makers and many other stakeholder groups, a series of four public open house meetings, a mail/email campaign, the development of a website, press releases, newspaper and community calendar advertisements, and brochures and fliers. The Partnership also participated in a restoration public forum hosted by the Shoshone County Commissioners in Kellogg, Idaho. The public was encouraged to submit their comments verbally at public events/presentations,

in writing through mail or on a comment card (developed by the Partnership), electronically through email, or by using the form available on the Partnership's website.

When the scoping period had finished, there were 229 comments submitted by just over 100 individuals. These comments were wide-ranging focusing on a number of different geographic

See "Planning" pg. 4



Left: Digging a trench at Pine Creek for riparian plants. Right: Camas plant often seen in wetland areas.

Wetland Restoration

The Wetland Restoration Project is located in the lower Coeur d'Alene Basin. It includes nearly 400 acres of privately-owned farmland that have been transformed into wetlands. The purpose of establishing this conservation easement was to provide safe waterfowl feeding habitat. By 2007, 95% of wetland habitat in the Lower Basin contained surface lead levels that were toxic to Tundra swans. Hundreds of swans were dying each year. And though lead is toxic to other wildlife as well, tundra swans quickly became a symbol of the need for restoration in the

Basin. However, wetlands provide habitat for many other species of waterfowl and wildlife that are also affected by lead. Restoration of this wetland was intended to benefit many of these species.

The Wetland Restoration conversion has been completed and waterfowl and other wildlife have been documented using the See "Wetland" pg. 4

stability and improved habitats for fish species. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the Lead Trustee on this project which targets 13.6 stream miles.

Additional details can be found in the IRP. FY13 is the 6th year of implementation of the Pine Creek Restoration Project for the Partnership, though the BLM has done restoration work there since the 1990s. Accomplishments in FY13 for this project include:

- Ongoing monitoring of 21,000 riparian plantings.
- 4,800 additional riparian plantings.
- Ongoing monitoring of previous trench planting sites.

Once established, riparian vegetation improves bank stabilization and reduces erosion and sediment runoff. The plants provide shade for cool water while the flow deflectors provide pools and riffles. All three effects are important characteristics of quality fish habitat.

FY14 will see continued monitoring for success of restoration activities.

Pine Creek

The Pine Creek watershed covers approximately 79 square miles in the St. Joe Mountains and feeds the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River at Pinehurst. Since the end of the 19th Century increased bedload, due in part, to hard rock mining and the removal of large cedar trees has led to channel instability. This instability is not beneficial to the variety of fish species that are supported here. Pine Creek has been a Trustee project and is listed in the 2007 Coeur d'Alene Basin Interim Restoration Plan (IRP). The Pine Creek project was designed to complement remedial and restoration activities already finished in an effort to allow for channel



About Us

The Restoration Partnership is comprised of the Coeur d'Alene Basin Natural Resource Trustees. Our mission is to return the Basin's natural resources that have been harmed by mine-waste contamination to a healthy condition. Public participation is important to us and we encourage you to be involved. If you have any questions about us or about this report please contact us at:

424 Sherman Avenue, Suite 306
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
www.restorationpartnership.org
info@restorationpartnership.org

Trustees

U.S. Department of Interior

Bureau of Land Management



Fish and Wildlife Service



U.S. Department of Agriculture

Forest Service



Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Lake Management Department



State of Idaho

Department of Environmental Quality



Department of Fish and Game



Background kiosk at open house meetings.

Planning (Continued from pg. 2)

areas, specific natural resources, human services, and much more. Most of the comments were submitted through the Partnership's website, though many people used other mechanisms as well. The Partnership issued a Preliminary

Scoping Report on October 4, 2013. In Fiscal Year 2014, the Partnership will use the information obtained from scoping along with the best available science to continue to develop the Plan and identify issues to be analyzed. Once the draft Plan is finished it will be released to the public for review.

Wetland (Continued from pg. 3)

area. This project is an example of collaborative efforts between the Trustees and private land-owners and how these efforts can work toward restoration.

In FY13, Trustees enhanced the 400 acres of wetland by providing:

- Ongoing monitoring of wetland plant growth.
- Vegetative and weed management.
- Vegetation plantings (in particular buckwheat as a food source for waterfowl).

- Water level management (i.e. maintenance of water pump and repair of dikes).
 - Island habitat construction.
 - Ongoing soil improvements.
- Plantings enhance the wetland property by providing food and cover for waterfowl. The island habitat construction provides additional habitat for loafing, while management efforts, in general, provide protection. FY14 activities will consist of ongoing monitoring and water level management.