

# SIUSLAW COHO PARTNERSHIP



Credit all photos: Siuslaw Coho Partnership.



## Partnership Overview

The Siuslaw Coho Partnership (SCP) builds from over two decades of collaboration among the core partners. The Siuslaw Coho Partnership (SCP) will (1) implement projects outlined in their initiative to promote the conservation and recovery of Oregon Coast coho through voluntary habitat protection and restoration efforts; (2) build the capacity of the partnership; (3) provide technical assistance for project development; (4) allow engagement for watershed restoration initiatives; and (5) allow effectiveness monitoring of project implementation efforts.

In July 2022, the SCP was awarded funding through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program. A FIP is an OWEB investment that addresses a Board-identified

## Goals by 2027

- Restore and protect instream, riparian, and floodplain habitats on 17.8 miles within the Fiddle Creek 6th Field HUC.
- Restore and protect instream, riparian, and floodplain habitats on 8.8 miles within the Maple Creek 6th Field HUC.
- Restore and protect instream, riparian, floodplain and estuarine habitats on 101.2 (+) miles within the Siltcoos Lake Frontal Pacific 6th Field HUC4.
- Restore and protect instream, riparian, floodplain and estuarine habitats on 100 (+) miles within the Tahkenitch Lake Frontal Pacific 6th Field HUC.

priority of significance to the state; achieves clear and measurable ecological outcomes; uses integrated and results – oriented approaches as identified through a strategic action plan; and is implemented by a high-performing partnership.

Initiatives are eligible for up to six years of OWEB funding. For the 2021-23 biennium, OWEB awarded \$4,000,000. When combined with investments from 2021 to 2027, the anticipated total investment is approximately \$12,000,000.



## Core Implementing Partners

- Bureau of Land Management – Siuslaw Field Office, Northwest Oregon District
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians
- McKenzie River Trust
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District
- Siuslaw Watershed Council
- US Forest Service – Siuslaw National Forest



## Ecological Outcomes

Increase in the quantity and quality of summer and winter rearing habitats in the initiative geography sufficient to anchor population resilience.

Connected assemblage of diverse habitats sufficient to foster a broad expression of life-history strategies in the Siuslaw and Coastal Lakes Oregon Coast coho populations.

## Strategies

1. Add Large Woody Debris (LWD) to identified anchor habitats and other reaches to increase instream complexity and restore stream interaction with off-channel habitats.
2. Plant riparian vegetation to reduce stream temperatures and/or ensure future LWD recruitment into anchor habitats.
3. Reconnect and protect disconnected floodplains to promote the availability of off-channel rearing habitats.
4. Reconnect tidal channels to promote the availability of estuarine rearing habitats.
5. Upgrade tidegates, culverts, roads and other working lands infrastructure to increase longitudinal connectivity of instream habitat, while improving water quality.
6. Engage public and private forest landowners to identify opportunities to protect standing timber within non-fish bearing, debris-flow prone tributary corridors that can deliver large wood into identified anchor habitats.

## Conservation Actions

- Install large wood and facilitate the role of beaver in habitat restoration.
- Increase extent and diversity of riparian vegetation communities through removal of nonnative species, planting native species, and plant maintenance and protection.
- Reconnect incised or constrained streams and adjacent floodplains and tidal wetlands.
- Upgrade infrastructure: Remove and/or replace barriers to fish passage using a prioritized approach.
- Engage local landowners to help protect high quality upland, floodplain and aquatic habitats.

## Near-term Ecological Outcomes

- Reduced sedimentation.
- Increased water table, instream complexity, and connectivity.
- Increased availability of floodplain habitat.
- Increased thermal refugia and migration opportunities for coho.

## Longer-term Ecological Outcomes

- Increased quality and quantity of rearing habitats, contributing to anchor population resilience.
- Connected assemblage of diverse habitats, sufficient to foster a broad expression of life-history strategies in the Coastal Lakes coho population.
- A healthy watershed restoration economy that is viewed as an important source of income in the Coastal Lakes watershed.

