United States Environmental Protection Agency

This document is one of the project summaries from the EPA's Targeted Watershed Grants 2005 Annual Report published in December 2005. The reference number is EPA 840-R-06-001. You can find the entire document at **http://www.epa.gov/twg**.

EPA'S TARGETED WATERSHED GRANTS 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

December 2005

2003 Grantee

UPDATE

Lower Columbia Estuary

OR, WA

"In our collaboration with the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, Targeted Watersheds funding has been critical to accomplish significant restoration work in the Columbia River estuary. It has been thrilling to see the water flowing on the land, the fish returning to the tidal channels, and the return of native wetland vegetation (and many other species of wildlife) to sites that have been disconnected from the river and the estuary for over 100 years. We cannot wait to see what the future holds for these habitat areas."

– Ian Sinks
Stewardship Coordinator, Columbia Land Trust

MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

- Threatened and endangered species
- Loss of wetlands and habitat
- Rapid development
- Runoff of toxic and conventional pollutants
- Excess sediments

Volunteers with the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council use trap nets to assess fish populations in Scappoose, Oregon.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership is protecting and restoring the river and its critical ecosystems through collaborative projects emphasizing on-the-ground restoration, monitoring, and education. To date, the partnership has:

- Leveraged funding for restoration and protection of more than 2,000 acres
- Leveraged $3.8 million dollars in cost-share funds to complete four restoration projects
- Completed restoration on 1,265 acres
- Completed all phases of a multi-site project, including the reconnection of 555 acres of floodplain, removal of four tidegates, and two culverts
- Conserved 173 acres of land and developed a cattle grazing management plan for 300 additional acres

Ian Sinks of the Columbia Land Trust leads a stakeholder tour of the Grays River Conservation and Restoration project in Washington.

- Removed invasive plants and planted native species on 22 acres of wildlife refuge
- Established a long-term restoration site maintenance agreement with new partners