



The Freshwater Trust®

Changing the course of conservation.

Pacific Power has selected The Freshwater Trust as its partner for their Blue Sky Habitat Fund. Four restoration projects were chosen for funding in 2011 through this program. Learn more about each project below.



Whychus Creek By the Numbers:

- **200,000** native plants restored
- **35** acres of wetland and streamside vegetation restored
- **500** percent increase in pool habitat
- **2,500**-foot increase in channel length
- **200** volunteers and students accounting for more than **1,600** volunteer hours
- **16** technical advisors from local, state and federal partners

Support from the Pacific Power Blue Sky Habitat Fund will improve habitat on Whychus Creek to benefit spring Chinook salmon and redband and steelhead trout.

Whychus Creek in Central Oregon

Project description: Whychus Creek was once home to some of the most important spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead trout and spring Chinook. Some estimates attribute nearly 40 percent of all steelhead spawning in the Upper Deschutes to the Whychus Creek watershed. But because of more than 100

habitat complexity, floodplain connectivity and water quality. In fact, some reaches of Whychus Creek no longer support any streamside vegetation, pool habitat or floodplain function at all. As a result, local conservation organizations have taken action to address these considerable problems in this extremely important watershed, and have entered into a multi-year, multi-partner restoration project that engages the local community.

Funds raised through the Pacific Power's Blue Sky Habitat Fund will support an ecologically-significant portion of the ongoing restoration of Whychus Creek. The project will restore approximately 1.7 miles of Whychus Creek at the Camp Polk Meadow Preserve by relocating the creek channel to its historic condition. In the 1960s, the creek was straightened and deepened almost completely destroying spawning and rearing habitat. This project will return the creek to its naturally-occurring meander resulting in a channel length increase, improvements to native spawning and rearing habitat, reduction in stream temperature and restoration of both wetlands and streamside vegetation.

“This project is an integral component of a watershed-wide, public-private effort to restore habitat for endangered steelhead trout and Chinook salmon to the Upper Deschutes basin.”

– **Ryan Houston, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council**

years of channelization, water diversions and streamside development, Whychus Creek has experienced losses in streamside vegetation,

PROJECT PARTNERS

Pacific Power's Blue Sky Habitat Fund, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, Deschutes Land Trust, Deschutes National Forest



Shotpouch Creek By the Numbers:

- **200** feet of streamside fencing
- **6** culverts replaced to improve fish passage
- **18** private landowners
- Place log structures along **4** stream miles
- **9** livestock crossings installed
- **4** educational signs installed
- Survey of cutthroat trout on **7** stream miles
- **2** flow meters installed

Support from the Pacific Power Blue Sky Habitat Fund will improve habitat on Shotpouch Creek to benefit Pacific lamprey and cutthroat and steelhead trout.

Shotpouch Creek in Mid-Willamette Valley

Project description: The Marys River watershed is home to important runs of cutthroat trout, Pacific lamprey, brook lamprey and steelhead trout. In 2008, the Marys River Council conducted a study to determine limiting factors on habitat for these native species. The study

the basis for a long-term, multi-landowner restoration plan developed collaboratively with local conservation organizations, restoration professionals, landowners in the community and local, state and federal agencies.

Pacific Power's Blue Sky Habitat Fund will directly support several components of the plan that fully addresses the limiting factors for cutthroat trout. As the lead, Marys River Watershed Council will engage 18 landowners to replace culverts that will improve fish passage and build fencing to keep livestock out of the streams along Shotpouch Creek in the Marys River watershed. Additionally, off-channel livestock watering and crossings will be constructed, invasive Japanese knotweed will be removed. Native plant species like willow and Western redcedar will be planted instead to create streambank stability and habitat for beavers and provide streamside shade to reduce water temperature. Furthermore, habitat funds will support outreach materials to demonstrate the ecological significance of these important restoration actions.

"We are working to restore watershed function, engaging full participation from streamside landowners in a series of concerted neighborhood efforts."

– **Karen Fleck-Harding, Marys River Watershed Council**

identified temperature, fish passage and winter refuge as the top priorities in improving habitat in the Marys River watershed. This provided

PROJECT PARTNERS

Pacific Power's Blue Sky Habitat Fund, Marys River Watershed Council, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, U.S. Fish & Wild Service Partners Program, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Department of Environmental Quality, Lincoln County, Benton County, Pacific Forest Trust, Shotpouch Foundation and numerous private landowners.



Rudio Creek By the Numbers:

- **10,300** feet of channel and floodplain connectivity restored
- **795** pieces of large wood placed instream
- **3.5** miles of streamside fencing installed

Support from the Pacific Power Blue Sky Habitat Fund will improve habitat on Rudio Creek to benefit spring Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

Rudio Creek in the John Day Basin

Project description: Originating in the Blue Mountains, the North Fork John Day flows 107 miles, supporting some of the largest salmon runs of the entire Columbia River system. An important tributary of the North Fork John Day River, Rudio Creek provides 14.3 miles of important spawning and rearing

habitat for summer steelhead and rearing habitat for spring Chinook. However during the early and mid-1900s, parts of Rudio Creek were straightened and channelized to create livestock pasture, which led to the loss of beaver dam complexes, streamside vegetation and wild fish habitat.



The re-establishment of persistent beaver dam complexes will also be an integral part of the Rudio Creek restoration project

"Myself and the ranch owners share a vision of managing the ranch to maximize ecological benefits for wildlife, salmon and steelhead."

– **Ranch Manager Thom Bruce, Rudio Creek Ranch**

In 2009, The Freshwater Trust and its local partners engaged in a long-term project to fully restore the entire Rudio Creek Basin. Pacific Power's Blue Sky Habitat Fund will help support this effort through a significant restoration project on Rudio Creek Ranch with the full support of the landowners. The restoration project will restore approximately 2.1 miles of Rudio Creek by relocating the creek channel to its historic alignment, restoring streamside vegetation by planting native plant along the project site and placing almost 800 pieces of large wood to create pools and habitat for aquatic species.



Pacific Power's Blue Sky Habitat

option not only provides residential and small non-residential customers the opportunity to support renewable energy production and development in the region, but also helps preserve and restore native fish habitats throughout Oregon through a fixed \$2.50

monthly donation, directed to The Freshwater Trust, a nonprofit organization that restores rivers and streams. The Freshwater Trust identifies projects, coordinates the use of the habitat funds and matches them with grant dollars, making more habitat projects happen in Oregon's communities.

Learn more at: pacificpower.net/blueskyhabitat or call 1-800-769-3717.



Let's turn the answers on.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Pacific Power's Blue Sky Habitat Fund, The Freshwater Trust, Ecotrust, Bella Vista Foundation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, U.S. Forest Service, North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center and private landowners.



Larson Creek By the Numbers:

- **1,800** feet of streamside vegetation restored
- **2** culverts replaced or repaired
- **13,000** native trees planted

Support from the Pacific Power Blue Sky Habitat Fund will improve habitat on Larson Creek to benefit steelhead trout and coho and spring Chinook salmon.

Larson Creek in the Rogue Basin

Project Description: Larson Creek flows into Bear Creek near the I-5 South Medford Interchange. In the last few years, a massive interchange reconstruction was completed in the area, and though care was taken to minimize the disturbance to both Larson and Bear Creeks, restoration actions in the area are still necessary to improve habitat conditions for steelhead, spring Chinook and coho salmon.

The projects will be completed on private land, and the landowners will use this project as a community service opportunity for their employees. Local schools will also participate.

“This project builds on a recently-completed project that returned Larson Creek to its natural flow condition.”

– *Craig Harper, Rogue Valley Council of Governments*

Building on several restoration projects, the Pacific Power Blue Sky Habitat Fund will help restore fish passage and streamside vegetation on Larson Creek. The project includes replacing or repairing two culverts that currently impede fish passage. Additionally, trees will be planted along Larson Creek to improve fish habitat by creating stream bank stability and shade to reduce the creek’s temperature, as well as benefit other wildlife like birds and amphibians. And since the project is in an urban area, the trees will increase the aesthetics for the local community.



Larson Creek is a tributary of Bear Creek in the Rogue River Basin.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Pacific Power’s Blue Sky Habitat Fund, Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Bear Creek Watershed Council, City of Medford, Oregon Department of Transportation, Jackson County and private landowners