

Featured Restoration Project – Linn County

M-DAC Farms Wetland Restoration

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

OWEB Funds: \$219,274.00

Total Cost: \$2,483,957.00

This project spans 580 acres of historic marshland east of Harrisburg in Linn County. This effort permanently protects the land and will restore over 100 acres of seasonal wetland, over 100 acres of bottomland hardwood forest, and over 300 acres of wet prairie habitat on former agricultural lands. Partners include NRCS, USFWS, ODFW, Cascade Pacific RC&D, and the landowner. OWEB funds are being used for re-contouring the land to repair agricultural drainage, non-native vegetation treatment, and seeding and planting of native plants and trees.

The annual ryegrass and tall fescue that were present at the site were burned in June of 2007 to prepare the site for re-contouring during August and September. The restoration of the onsite hydrology has already improved habitat conditions for numerous species of wildlife including ducks, geese and shorebirds, as well as predators that feed on them such as eagles and falcons. Some rarities that have been reported at the site include Sandhill cranes, long-billed curlew, Wilson's phalarope, mountain plover and white-faced ibis. Site preparation during the summer and fall of 2007 has made the site suitable for the streaked horned lark, a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The project site has now become home to the second largest breeding population for the bird. Early in 2008, approximately 23,000 willow, ash, alder, cottonwood and pine were planted on over 100 acres as the initial phase of riparian restoration began. Restoration of native prairie will begin in the fall of 2008.

Photos:



First burn. 6/2007. Photo courtesy of USFWS.



Aerial photo. 6/13/2008. Photo courtesy of USFWS.



First flood. 11/2007. Photo courtesy of USFWS.

Links:

OWEB Press Release announcing award.

http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/news/news_awards_0607.shtml

NRCS Oregon Wetlands Reserve Program

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/states/or.html>

USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

<http://www.fws.gov/partners/>