

News Release

Contact: Lisa Romano, Imromano@fs.fed.us, 541-750-7075 Dec. 21, 2016

Siuslaw National Forest, partners receive two restoration grants

Corvallis, OR – Just in time for the holidays, Siuslaw National Forest officials received good news this week of two large grants to be awarded to the forest and its partners for restoration efforts spanning much of the Oregon coast. A total of \$495,000 in federal funds will support invasive species management and ecological restoration on the Oregon dunes, as well as stream and forest restoration on and off Forest Service land on the north Oregon coast.

The Salmon SuperHwy Basin Management Project was selected for a highly competitive <u>Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership</u> award by the heads of the US Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Funds totaling \$413,000 will be shared among the Siuslaw National Forest and the NRCS Oregon state office to restore and improve habitat for the endangered coho salmon; protect water quality; increase forest health; and support local communities through economic development, increasing infrastructure resiliency, and reducing fire risk. It builds on the existing Salmon SuperHwy initiative that aims to fully address fish passage and habitat needs on federal and private lands in the Nestucca and Tillamook Bay watersheds through a partnership of Forest Service, NRCS, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited, private landowners, and others.

Oregon dunes restoration efforts will benefit from the <u>Pulling Together Initiative</u> grant that is being awarded to Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD) by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This grant will support an effort with the Siuslaw National Forest, CPRCD, Save the Riders Dunes, and other local partners to identify and eradicate invasive species on the Oregon dunes and build capacity for broad scale dunes ecosystem restoration projects into the future. This \$82,000 grant will support restoration of 200 acres of sand dunes within the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, protect critical habitat for threatened and endangered species, provide trainings for coastal communities to learn how to detect and control invasive species on the dunes, and establish a network of partners all working towards the mutual goal of dunes restoration.

"We're so thrilled about the opportunities these grants will provide to work with our partners to address critical restoration needs up and down the Oregon coast," said Jerry

for the greatest good

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(continued)

Ingersoll, Siuslaw forest supervisor. "We have some big challenges out there. By joining forces with our partners to tackle them, we have the ability to make great strides in improving outcomes for fish and wildlife, and people who live, work, and play on the Oregon coast."

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The Siuslaw National Forest manages more than 630,000 acres of temperate rainforest along the Oregon Coast Range, from Tillamook to the end of the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area in Coos Bay. Additional information is available online at www.fs.usda.qov/siuslaw, www.twitter.com/SiuslawNF and www.facebook.com/DiscoverSiuslawNF.