Habitat Restoration in the Columbia River Estuary

Caitlin Alcott

December 10, 2018
Overview

1. Columbia River Estuary Restoration
2. Examples from our work
3. Next steps
1. Columbia River Estuary Restoration
Map: MF Ramirez and CA Simenstad
Hydrology: NOAA Tides and Currents, NAVD88
Columbia Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Program

Action agencies:
- Bonneville Power Administration
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District

Program driver:
Estuary restoration is mitigation to help avoid jeopardizing 13 ESA-listed populations of Pacific salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River basin
Primary strategy for restoring ecosystems supporting juvenile salmon and steelhead is hydrologic reconnection of tidal floodplain wetlands to the mainstem Lower Columbia River Estuary.
From 2004 through 2017:
• 58 restoration projects
• 5,412 acres of tidal floodplain habitat
• Including 2,555 acres of wetland habitats
2. Examples from our work
Site Description
Site Description

Approx inundation at MHHW:
9.4' NAVD88

Kerry Island
Westport Unit

Johnson 2010
Kerry Island
- 99 Acres
- Leveed & ditched
- Ongoing ag use
- Low marsh
- Purchased by Columbia Land Trust in 2013

Westport Unit
- 147 acres
- Leveed, one breach
- Passive revegetation
- High marsh
- Owned/managed by USFWS
Habitat Restoration Design
Habitat Restoration Design

Kerry Island

Westport Unit
Habitat Restoration Design

Kerry Island

Westport Unit
3. Next steps
Thank you

Caitlin Alcott
calcott@interfluve.com