

Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative Charter

Our Mission

We are a network of estuary conservation and restoration practitioners collaborating to improve the health and resilience of estuaries on Oregon's central coast.

Our Vision

Our vision is a network of healthy and resilient estuaries on Oregon's central coast that sustain a full complement of thriving native fish and wildlife populations, and support economically and socially vibrant communities.

Our Goals

- Gain an understanding of conditions and threats to estuaries on the central Oregon coast.
- Develop priorities for conservation and restoration activities within our geographic scope.
- Improve knowledge, effectiveness, efficiency, and capacity for participating organizations to do estuary conservation and restoration.
- Engage in conservation and restoration efforts at a larger scale than members could do individually.
- Improve capacity to monitor the effectiveness of restoration and conservation actions.
- Analyze the effectiveness of the Collaborative and continually seek to improve.
- Share accomplishments, results, and knowledge gained as a result of our activities.

Roles and Responsibilities

Participation will be at two levels: a Core Group and Other Partners

Core Group is:

- practitioners of estuary conservation/restoration;
- representative of the central coast geographic area (Siuslaw Estuary to Nehalem Bay);
- non-profit organizations, not individuals;
- actively involved in the organizational work of the collaborative;
- empowered to vote;
- initially composed of the non-profits who crafted this charter: Siuslaw Watershed Council, MidCoast Watersheds Council, Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council, Nestucca Neskowin Watershed Council, Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, The Nature Conservancy, Institute for Applied Ecology, and The Wetlands Conservancy. The Core Group may be expanded in the future to include others by a vote of the Core Group;
- initially facilitated by The Nature Conservancy;
- future or substitute facilitators can be designated by a vote of the Core Group

Other Partners are:

- those who are willing to constructively engage in/support estuary conservation/restoration, either on specific projects and/or more broadly;
- agency representatives, funders, academics, and others who can help advance the mission of the Collaborative;
- able to fill a technical advisory role including: scientific input, funding advice, consultation and permitting guidance, resource management, land-use planning, outreach/communication

Time Commitment & Participation

Expectations for Core Group

- Attend at least 60% of meetings/field trips a year (expected to be 3-4/yr.)
- Organizations will sign the charter
- Provide input on the majority of documents circulated between meetings
- Contribute bulleted list of relevant activities &/or documents to the group annually

- Commit to sharing expertise
- Assist with meeting logistics and administrative needs (on a rotating basis)
- Participate in network projects e.g.:
 - Be open to activities beyond their boundaries
 - Shared grant writing
 - Joint permit applications
 - Research
 - Hosting site visits
- In general, the individual costs of participating in the collaborative will be covered by each participant's organization
- However, as funding is available:
 - Organizations wishing to request reimbursement must submit a written request to the facilitator;
 - Travel costs for Core Group representatives to attend collaborative activities may be reimbursed (within agreed upon limits) with appropriate documentation;
 - Annual stipends to help cover Core Group representatives' labor costs to participate may be available on a pro-rated basis to be divided evenly among requesting groups.

Expectations for Other Partners:

- Commit to sharing expertise
- Be open to activities beyond their boundaries
- Share information of potential interest to the collaborative
- Cover their own costs for participating

Coordination, Communication, and Decision-making

Decision-Making

- Each Core Group organization will have one vote
- A quorum will consist of 50% of the Core Groups plus 1
- Those voting will disclose any potential conflicts of interest
- E-mail notice will be sent to all participants prior to votes
- The facilitator may set up an e-mail vote if a decision needs to be made before the next meeting
- For any given vote, participants must be either all participating in the meeting (in person or by phone) or all voting via e-mail
- Decisions will be made by a simple majority vote of the quorum except in the case of e-mail votes, which must be a unanimous vote of the quorum to pass
- The outcome of votes will be documented in the meeting notes and minority opinions can also be reflected in the notes at the request of those in opposition to a particular outcome

Coordination & Communication

- No individual participant shall represent the whole group without delegation from the group to do so
- Meetings, other than field trips or special events, will be centrally located within our region (e.g., Newport)

Our expectations for how the group works together

- Have clearly defined roles and expectations for participants.
- Work together for success. Celebrate and communicate successes.
- Communicate effectively and respectfully with one another.
- Assist one another with solving problems and brainstorming solutions.
- Continuously learn and adapt.
- Fulfill our stated commitments to projects and to one another. We recognize the value of accountability.
- Use people's time wisely.
- Share our knowledge with others.
- Come to meetings prepared and engaged.

Signature of Core Groups

On behalf of _____, I agree to the terms of this Charter:
(name of organization)

Print Name

Signature

Date