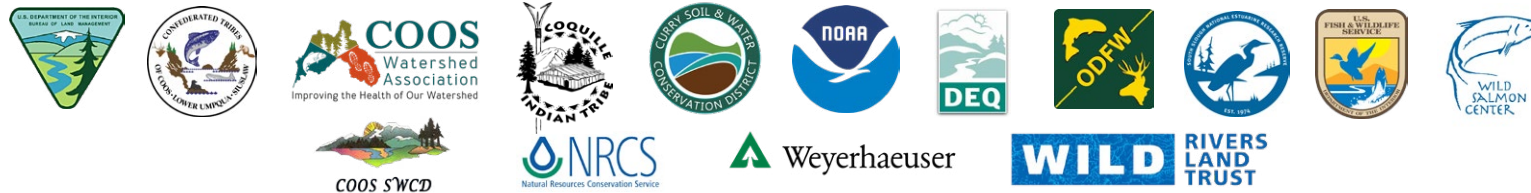


# COOS BASIN COHO PARTNERSHIP



Credit: Jim Yuskavitch, Wild Salmon Center



## Partnership Overview

Partners have been working together to successfully implement high priority restoration, protection, monitoring, and engagement activities in the Coos Basin for over 25 years. Efforts have been guided by subbasin scale watershed assessments and federal and state conservation plans focused on restoring Coho habitats and the watershed processes that generate them. In 2017, the group formally established a watershed scale planning effort in partnership with NOAA and Wild Salmon Center as part of the broader Coho Business Plan approach. The Coos Basin Coho Strategic Action Plan (SAP) was finalized in 2021 and formalized the partners' commitment to determine specific locations where protection and restoration strategies would have the greatest impact on coho recovery, and to coordinate project implementation and leverage funding in the Coos Basin.

In July 2022, the Coos Basin Coho Partnership (CBCP) was awarded funding through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program. A FIP is an OWEB investment that addresses a Board-identified priority of significance to the state; achieves clear and measurable ecological outcomes; uses integrated and results –

### Goals by 2027:

- Enhance at least 27 miles of riparian function.
- Install at least 30 miles of large wood.
- Open at least 38 miles above fish passage barriers.
- Replace at least 3 fish passage barriers and 8 tide gates.
- Reconnect at least 80 acres of tidal wetlands.

oriented approaches as identified through a strategic action plan; and is implemented by a high-performing partnership.

Initiatives are eligible for up to six years of OWEB funding. For the 2021-23 biennium, OWEB awarded \$3,469,614.00 to the Coos Basin Coho Partnership. When combined with investments from 2021 to 2027, the anticipated total investment is approximately \$11,075,993.

## Core Implementing Partners

- Bureau of Land Management – Coos Bay District
- Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
- Coos Soil and Water Conservation District
- Coos Watershed Association
- Coquille Indian Tribe
- Curry Soil and Water Conservation District – Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Restoration Center
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Private Landowners
- South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
- United States Fish & Wildlife Service – Coastal Program
- Weyerhaeuser
- Wild Rivers Land Trust
- Wild Salmon Center



Photos credit: Coos Basin Coho Partnership

## Ecological Outcomes

- Increase in Adult Coho Spawner Abundance
- Functional Adult Migratory Connectivity
- Increased Juvenile Coho Production
- Functional Juvenile Migratory Connectivity
- Improved Mainstem Water Quality
- Increased Mainstem Habitat Complexity
- Increased Tributary Habitat Complexity
- Increase in High Quality Estuarine Habitat (fresh or salt)
- Increase in Juvenile Coho Over-Winter Survival

## Strategies and 25-Year Strategic Action Plan (SAP) Goals

1. Increase instream complexity and lateral connectivity in tributaries, restoring 63.5 miles of tributaries by 2045.
2. Increase instream complexity in mainstems, restoring 89.7 miles by 2045.
3. Enhance riparian function in mainstem and tributary stream reaches along 81.3 miles by 2045.
4. Reconnect tidal wetland and slough habitats (permanent and seasonal) in estuary and lower mainstems, reconnecting 93.4 acres of marsh by 2045.
5. Increase longitudinal connectivity in tributaries and sloughs, reconnecting 67.5 miles of tributary habitats for Coho spawning and rearing.

### Conservation Actions

- Establish fencing and riparian setbacks / other exclusions or establishment of riparian reserves.
- Culvert, Dam, Levee and Tide gate upgrades and/or removal.
- Place Large Woody Debris, boulders and Beaver Dam Analogues in streams.
- Reintroduce beavers.
- Plant natives to reduce thermal loading / barriers and provide terrestrial sources of forage.
- Manage for late successional reserves in riparian zones and upslope of tributary anchor habitats.

### Near-term Ecological Outcomes

- Upstream miles re-connected.
- Permanent and seasonal tidal floodplains are re-connected.
- Riparian function is enhanced.

### Longer-term Ecological Outcomes

- Sub-watersheds in the upper basins produce Coho in greater abundance.
- The amount of high-quality estuarine habitat available to Coho doubles at three critical locations.
- Outcomes are on a trajectory to meet the 25-year SAP Goals.