Developing Habitat Types & Conservation Priorities

Restoring habitat upon the project site provides an excellent opportunity to contribute to habitat needs and conserve biodiversity. Conservation science provides a context to help guide decision-making with habitat priorities and investments. We will identify significant areas where actions can be taken and support Dragon's natural resources in the context of a dynamic, historical setting. This effort will be grounded in conservation science.

Understanding the Science of the Site

As we set conservation priorities and look to understand the differences between target habitat conditions and the current state of the site, several questions help set the stage for prioritizing restoration activities:

• What habitat is here now? What useful is it for? How and why has it changed?
• What fish, wildlife and plant species currently use this site? Should we aim to replicate these?
• How does this fit in a larger geographical context for the region?

These questions should be considered when prioritizing actions:

• What are the regional or state conservation priorities?
• How and why has it changed?

Setting priorities

Decisions about habitat restoration priorities are not simple, especially since multiple uses and values can play a role. Understanding the current status of the site provides a foundation for identifying which habitat types represent the most significant differences between the current state and the target habitat conditions. It is important to identify key features and a set of core indicators that are strong drivers of the project, and must be balanced in its approach. Our project conservation strategies are based on a pan-departmental project benefit (ecological uplift), human, species, timing, partnerships, and decision specifications. Social values and the determination appropriate to trend development and natural features.

In-Channel River

Highly diverse aquatic environments, off-channel alarmed patches, riparian buffer, natural stream channel, In-channel river habitat areas on the Willamette River are resilient to non-motorized human impacts. Human interest in channels can be seen swimming and underwater aquatic life. The vegetation assemblages found on mid to toe of slopes on valley floors as exemplified at Willamette Falls existing communities, Canemah Bluff, Camassia involucrata), Indian plum (Oemleria cerasiformis), thimbleberry (Rubus armeniacus), morning glory (Convolvulus spp.) and various species of herbs, ferns. Removal of invasive weeds including Himalayan blackberry (Rubus hirtus) and purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria) and willows (Salix spp.).

Off-Channel Alcove

Focal areas primarily target riparian forest. Off-channel alcove areas are moderately sensitive to disturbance. In-channel river habitat areas on the Willamette River are resilient to non-motorized human impacts. Human interest in channels can be seen swimming and underwater aquatic life. The vegetation assemblages found on mid to toe of slopes on valley floors as exemplified at Willamette Falls existing communities, Canemah Bluff, Camassia involucrata), Indian plum (Oemleria cerasiformis), thimbleberry (Rubus armeniacus), morning glory (Convolvulus spp.) and various species of herbs, ferns. Removal of invasive weeds including Himalayan blackberry (Rubus hirtus) and purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria) and willows (Salix spp.).

Riparian Forest

Upland Forest

Oak Woodland & Savanna

February 2016

November 17, 2016

Newell Creek Canyon, Canemah Bluff and street trees in downtown Portland can serve as a reference for restoration of Willamette Park in West Linn, Elk Rock Island and Willamette Falls. The vegetation assemblages found on mid to toe of slopes on valley floors as exemplified at Willamette Falls existing communities, Canemah Bluff, Camassia involucrata), Indian plum (Oemleria cerasiformis), thimbleberry (Rubus armeniacus), morning glory (Convolvulus spp.) and various species of herbs, ferns. Removal of invasive weeds including Himalayan blackberry (Rubus hirtus) and purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria) and willows (Salix spp.).