

Oregon Conservation Strategy

From Vision to On-the-Ground Action

Monitoring efforts in Oregon paid off with the early detection and quarantine of a boat infested with invasive quagga mussels. Prevention, early detection and swift action will help protect native fish and wildlife from invasive species, before more costly measures are needed.

The Oregon Conservation Strategy provides a long-term blueprint for all Oregonians to use to help maintain and improve the state's natural resources today and for future generations. It is a non-regulatory, statewide conservation approach that identifies species and habitats most in need of conservation, the issues and problems affecting them, and key conservation actions, research, and monitoring needed to address those issues.

Proactive Efforts that Benefit Wildlife and People

Holding the Line on Invasive Mussels

The Oregon Conservation Strategy identifies invasive species as a key issue of concern. Today, Oregon is attempting to hold the line against destructive quagga mussels that are spreading across the country. States infested with invasive mussels spend millions of dollars each year to keep water systems unclogged and ecosystems balanced. Experts believe if quaggas enter Oregon, it will be by boat or houseboat so the Marine Board, Department of Fish and Wildlife, invasive species groups, and others are mobilizing resources to protect Oregon's freshwaters from what would be a costly management effort. Workshops, boat washing demonstrations, and media events are being used to spread the word. Recently, monitoring efforts paid off with the early detection and quarantine of a quagga-infested boat. Prevention, early detection and swift action will help protect native fish and wildlife from invasive species, before more costly measures are needed.

Gathering Information to Take Action Involving Students in Bobolink Surveys

Bobolink Surveys

Often, in order to determine what conservation actions are needed for a priority species, more information is needed. In Oregon, the bright and bubbly call of the bobolink is rarely heard – due to land use change and other factors, this grassland species is declining. To get a population estimate and determine what habitats the birds use, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff are working with a local high school biology teacher to gather data. Over the next two summers, teachers and students will trap and band bobolinks. This collaborative research will help conserve the bobolink before it becomes rare and costly to protect.



An invasive quagga mussel/California Department of Fish and Game



Bobolink habitat in eastern Oregon/Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Protecting Imperiled land, Water,
and Wildlife**

Restoring a Rich Coastal Estuary

Estuaries, where freshwater rivers meet the salty ocean, are a priority habitat in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. In a landmark project to restore a slough to its natural state, concrete dikes were removed from Alsea Bay to restore natural processes that create and maintain estuarine habitats. For the first time in 40 years, tidal waters from the estuary of Alsea Bay reached what was once – and will be again – marshland habitat. Priority species in the area include bald eagles, band-tailed pigeons, California brown pelicans, Caspian terns, shorebirds, chum salmon, coho salmon, and winter steelhead. Restoring important wetland habitat for wildlife means cleaner waters overall, benefiting people as well.

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Marshland restoration/Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

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