

The Oregon Coast Coho Partnership

A Public-Private Partnership to Recover Coast Coho in Oregon



The watersheds that drain the 300-mile Oregon coast contain some of the most intact and diverse salmon ecosystems south of British Columbia. However, the federal listings of the state's two coast coho runs indicate that more than a century of resource extraction has come with a cost. Additionally, projected changes in stream flows and temperatures resulting from

climate change threaten all of Oregon's coastal salmon populations, and call into question whether watershed restoration is occurring at a pace sufficient to both recover coho and prevent declines in strong populations.

To address these challenges, public and private partners convened to support local partnerships working to recover coast coho.



By providing technical and financial support to local groups the Coast Coho Partnership seeks to:

- *create a long-term watershed restoration strategy for every independent coast coho population in Oregon, and*
- *leverage funding to support locally-led, voluntary implementation of high priority projects.*

Science Based Restoration Priorities

With technical support provided by the Partnership, Wild Salmon Center facilitates an 18-24 month process to craft a watershed restoration plan for each coho population. Called Strategic Action Plans (SAPs), each plan is generated through a science based process that combines cutting edge modeling with the expertise of local scientists, managers, and landowners. The final plans provide both a long term strategic path to population resilience, and a short term (~5 year) workplan to coordinate projects and leverage funding.

Funding for Locally-led Projects

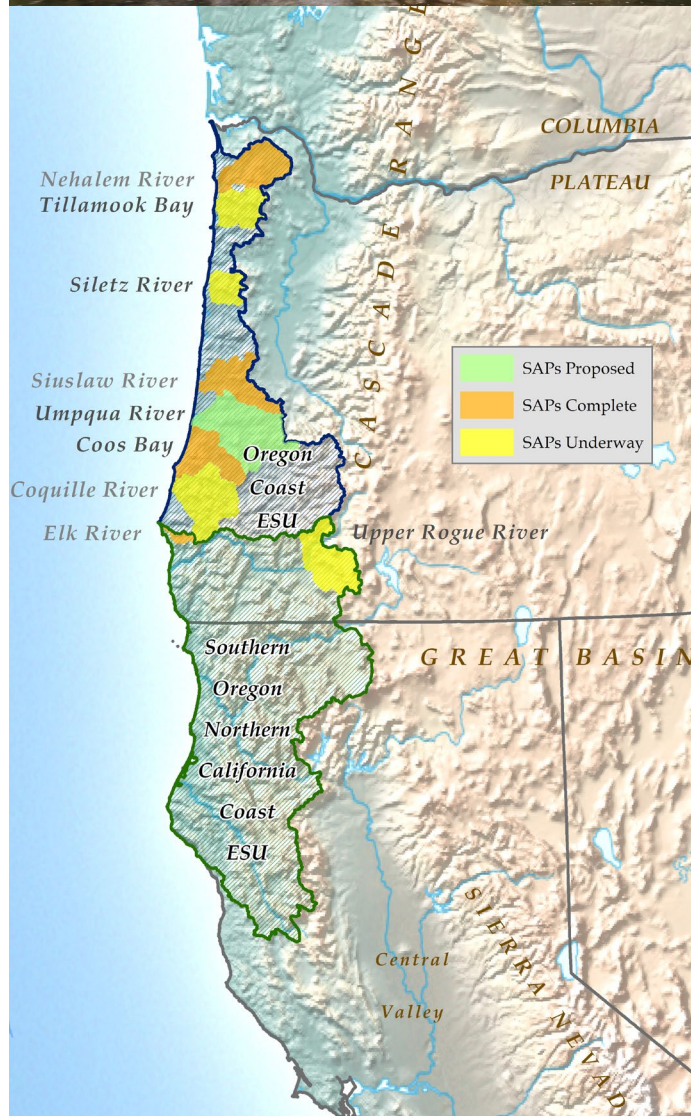
Since 2017, the Partnership has provided almost \$11 million to local groups implementing SAP priorities. As SAPs are completed, the highest priority projects will be collected in a “Coast Coho Business Plan,” which the Partnership will use to leverage additional public and private funding.

Community Benefits

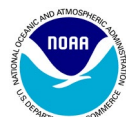
In addition to accelerating coast coho conservation, the SAPs support other coastal priorities; most notably, maintaining clean drinking water, reducing flooding, protecting working lands, and promoting community resilience to climate change.

Participating Watersheds

In 2015, the Partnership initiated pilot SAPs in the Nehalem, Siuslaw, and Elk River watersheds. Additional plans have been completed or are underway in the Tillamook Bay, Siletz, Coos Bay, Coquille, and Upper Rogue River basins. Participation in the SAP process is entirely voluntary. A coastal watershed group (“the convenor”) assembles the planning team and serves as the local project manager.



Coast Coho Partnership



coastcoho.org