

**TIMBER RIDGE RANCH
WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT PROJECT #201-597**

by
COQUILLE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

MONITORING REPORT
May 2006



Twomile Creek- Photo of Sloped Bank
April 2006

**PREPARED BY
Heather Lilienthal**

Additional copies of this report can be obtained from the Coquille Watershed Association at 450 Highway 42 East, Coquille, OR 97423.
Phone (541) 396-2229 for more information.

Background Information/ Project Purpose

The Timber Ridge Ranch project is an extensive project consisting of fencing, planting, bank sloping, bridge installation, and wetland enhancement. The project work was done primarily throughout 2003 and 2004. The project began with planting and wetland work, followed by fencing to complete it in 2004. The primary goals were to redirect the stream flow to a meandering, habitat-rich network of channels with wetlands throughout, restore floodplain connectivity and healthy riparian terraces along the banks, minimize grazing pressures along the banks, and increase salmonid habitat.

Project Discussion

The fencing portion of this project is in excellent condition. We are pleased with the landowners' commitment to keep the livestock out of the riparian and keep up with the fence maintenance. Although there may still be wildlife browsing, the riparian is allowed to grow without livestock damage.

Two Mile Creek still has fairly good survival of the trees. This portion of the project is tracked closely by the Coos Soil and Water Conservation District as it has been turned into a CREP project since our initial work. The landowner had purchased trees and was interested in paying our crew to plant along Twomile Creek this year until SWCD site visits yielded a sufficient tree survival. The landowners have obligations to maintain this portion of the project so our main focus is Timber Ridge Creek and the pond. We did a replant along the middle and upper portions of Timberridge Creek, as well as the pond, this year. Although we weren't completely dissatisfied with the survival in the section, it definitely had lower survival than the areas with higher banks. We changed the species in hopes of seeing better success here. As mentioned in last year's report, this section of the project has very gently sloping banks or no bank at all. In this area, we planted mostly alder. It seems alder is doing the best in this wetland area, even though alder had the lowest survival overall last year. Also, this portion has many natural alder recruits.

The cedar and spruce that were part of the original planting are still hanging in there, although they aren't the healthiest. One more year of monitoring should show whether or not we will need to interplant areas of cedar and spruce plantings. If so, we may take another look at the species and re-adjust the planting prescription.

It doesn't appear that wildlife is creating much of a problem with tree survival, although the landowner did notice 3 spruce chopped down by beaver. This is the first we've seen of beaver attacking spruce trees. It is yet another issue to be aware of and watch for in the future. Due to the beaver, we did use supertubes on all trees we planted this year.



Photo from access road along Timber Ridge Creek
April 2006



Photo of tubed trees and sloped bank along lower Timber Ridge Creek
April 2006



Photo of tubed trees and sloped bank along Twomile Creek
Highway 101 is shown in background
April 2006



Pond area showing large wood
April 2006



Versa-deck bridge just below pond
April 2006



Middle Reach just below pond
April 2006

Maintenance Performed/Costs Associated with Maintenance& Monitoring

This year, maintenance totals \$1600, which consists of 2 days of replanting. Monitoring costs total approximately \$400 and includes surveys, photo taking, and report writing. Total expenses come to about \$2000.

Project Assessment

As mentioned last year, the fencing and bank sloping portions of the project are doing very well. The landowners maintain the fence on their own and have proven to be very cooperative and committed to the success of the project. We would like to see better survival of the trees around the pond area and downstream in the wetland area. It seems that the planting prescription needs to be adjusted a little bit to achieve higher planting success in the wet areas. We hope to have accomplished this with the recent plantings. The logs that were placed in the pond and the downstream channel are staying in place and seem to provide good cover and habitat for aquatic species. Like last year, we have been struggling with funding to do more intense monitoring on projects such as this. Ideally, we could seine for fish periodically throughout the year to document fish use.

Public Awareness

We haven't held a group tour of Timber Ridge for quite a while. Our public awareness activities over the past year have not outlined this project specifically, although our display boards show photos of wetland projects. We will participate in the Powers Fishing Derby again, which will be held in June. Recently, two staff members ran a booth at the Gold Beach Science Fair. Other public awareness activities we participate in are the Fly-Fishing Expo, the Coos County Fair, school presentations. We publish a quarterly newsletter, outlining specific activities or interesting information regarding our projects or our monitoring. We hold monthly committee and council meetings which are open to the public. Our annual meeting, normally held in May, will be in June this year. This meeting is attended by many landowners we've worked with over the years, as well as public we haven't worked with.

Expected Outcome / Results

We feel we are reaching our expected results with the fencing as well as the planting if the majority of the recently planted trees survive and grow well. We may not have created quite as much wetland area as originally designed, but we can still have good results with the area we did create. With further funding we could monitor to a higher degree and have a much better idea of fish use results.