February 23, 2024

Coos County Planning Department
2250 North Baxter
Coquille, Oregon 97423
Emailed to: planning@co.coos.or.us

RE: File # ACU-23-074/FP-23-012: Winter Lake Phase III

Dear Coos County Planning Department and Coos County Board of Commissioners:

We have a house on North Bank Lane and property in the Coaledo Drainage District. Thank you for the public meeting notice and the opportunity to comment on the proposed Winter Lake Phase III.

After reviewing the application, it makes me wonder if this is all pre-wetland work under the guise of irrigation, water quality and fish habitat. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife already is moving forward with acquisition of the Bridges Foundation property. The attached "Attachment A, Figure 12b" shows, in black and white, a considerable amount of grazing land will be removed from production to build channels but it does not show the fence and planting buffers which take up more grazing land in the project area. What agriculture producer can afford such a loss of forage land if your heart is truly for agriculture?

Since I have a rental house near the proposed project, my major concern is mosquitos. The numerous "hydrologic bulbs" being built throughout the project area are concerning. "At the endpoints of selected channels, the project will construct 'hydrologic bulbs'. These habitat improvement actions will: a). Provide areas of greater depth long distances within the pasture networks where native fish, e.g. coho can shelter and feed during winter months prior to floodwaters rising and allowing fish to feed on pastures; b). These habitat improvement structures will provide volumetric areas at endpoints where the hydraulic forces of inflow/outflow will flush minor sediment accumulations from the length of the channel network downstream." "Hydrologic bulbs at the terminus of larger channel networks that provide a small basinal low area excavated to provide fish habitat in winter and channel flushing to move any accumulation of sediments from the channel network." These excavated "bulbs" (approximately 22 of them) will be filled with water during irrigation and rain events (Figure 12 & page 45 of 81). The concern is that the bulbs will retain water during hot summer weather especially after irrigation events and the water pools (bulbs) will enhance mosquito habitat. **No one wants more mosquitos.**

It has been mentioned that "parrot feather" is choking the waterways in the wetland. Its dense growth provides a breeding ground for mosquitos and it can degrade both water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife. There is concern with the potential for spread of this invasive on

lands adjacent to the CVWA wetland. Where did the parrot feather come from? Could it have been brought in on the equipment used for the Unit 2 restoration or could it have been planted in the wetland?

My recommendation is the Board of Commissioners and/or Coos County Planning require the following "conditions" on this Application:

1) ODFW should be required to utilize their CVWA Management Plan (mosquito section) and Vector Control Guidance for Sensitive Areas policy to treat the mosquitos in the existing wetland. BTI is one tool.

2) BSDD landowners, Bridges Foundation, and ODFW should also be required to ensure all hydrologic bulbs have connectivity to the channels. The hydrologic bulbs should be designed to drain completely after each irrigation event to reduce the creation of more mosquito habitat.

3) Invasive species (parrot feather and others) in the project area need to be eradicated prior to the beginning of the work. All equipment must be thoroughly cleaned and free from invasive species prior to entering the site.

Who wants to rent a house or live in an area where mosquitos are creating such a huge issue? No one wants a rerun of the Bandon Marsh which was a concern of many when the ODFW presented the CVWA wetland to the public. These mosquito outbreaks have the potential to reduce the property value in the area. They have a huge impact on the lives of the people who actually live in the area. I have attached the article on the West Nile Virus which was news during the mosquito outbreak in Bandon. Wetlands are not compatible with rural residential and ranching community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Sharon Waterman

Sharon Waterman, Landowner

Attachments: A, Figures 12b and 12 from DSL Joint Permit
Hydrologic Bulb Layout Cross-Section
Winter Lake Phase III; Tidal Restoration Project, TARP, Page 1
West Nile Virus article
Table I: Fish sampling summary

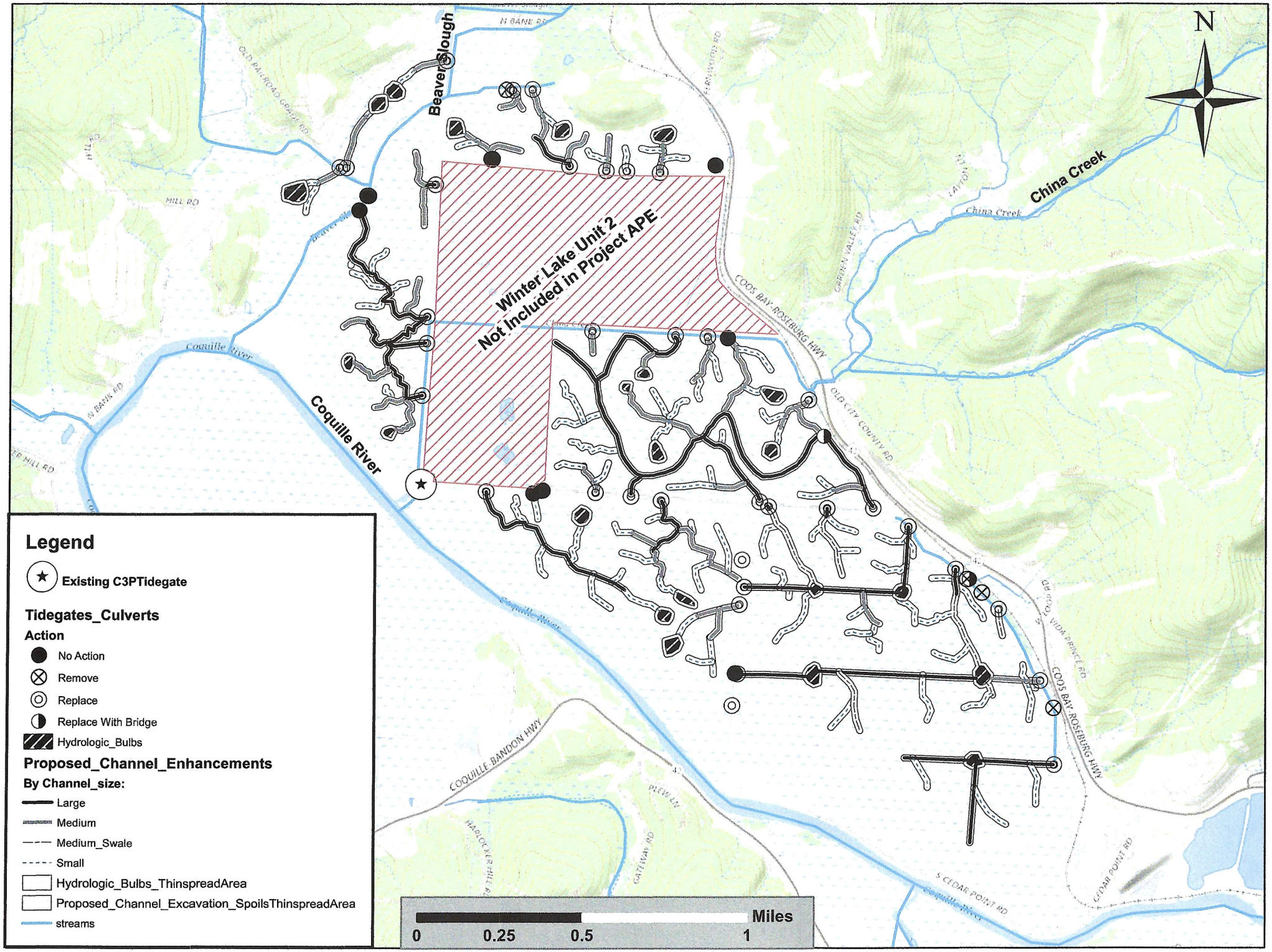


Figure 12.b Geographic Extent of Excavated Spoils

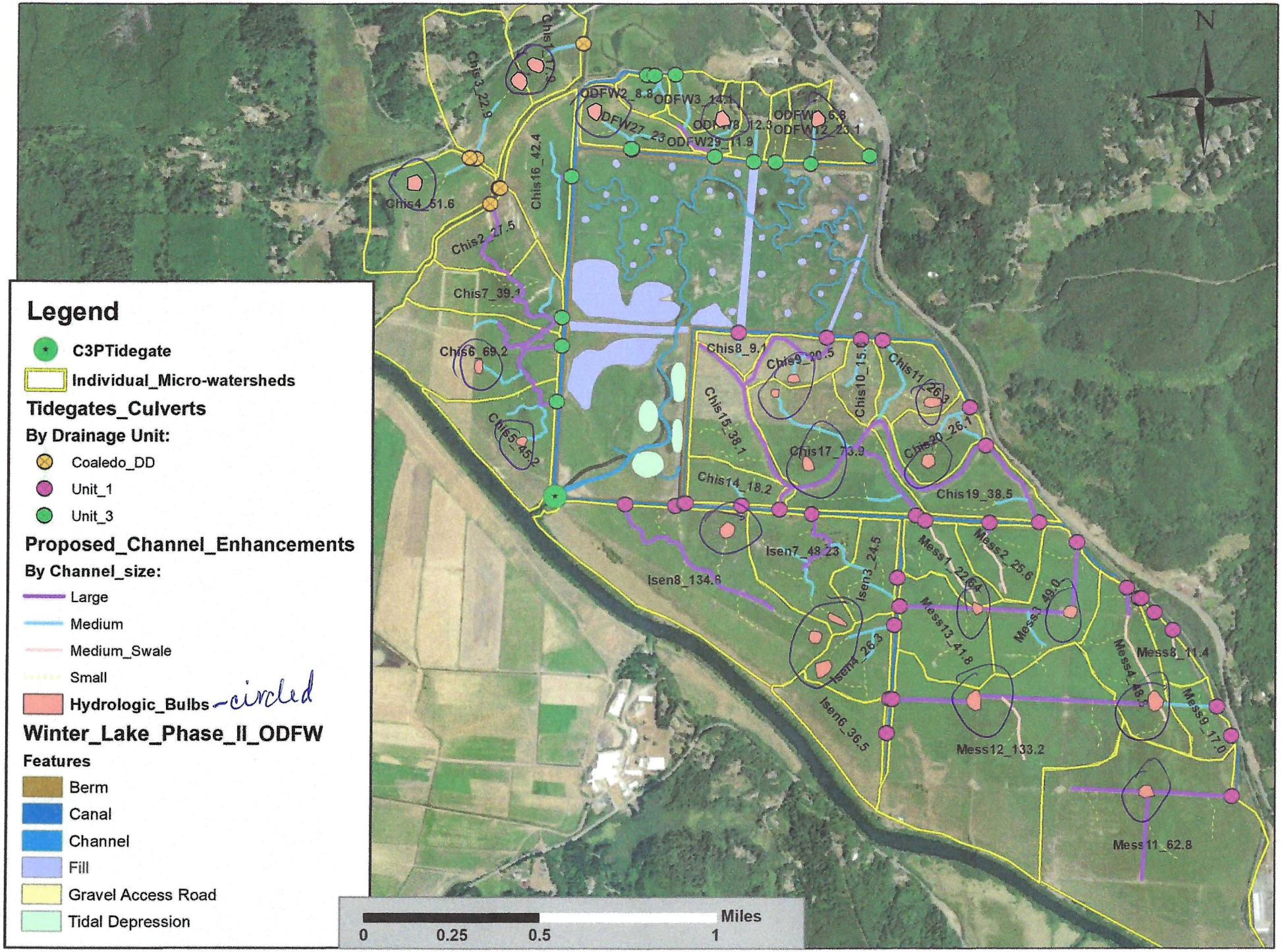
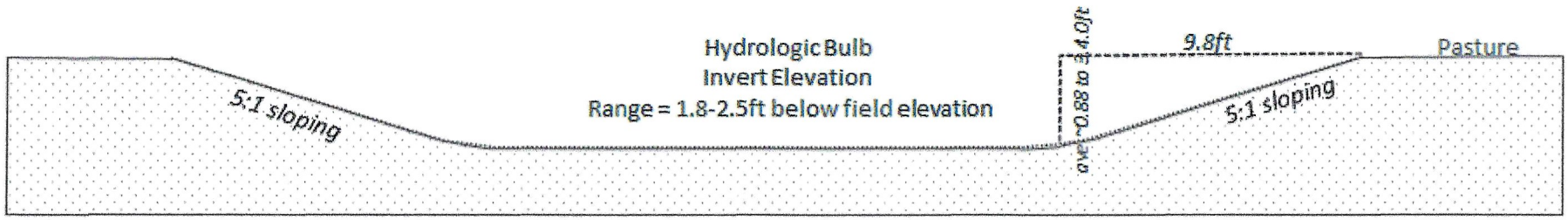


Figure 12. Individual micro-watersheds associated with culverts and proposed channel enhancements

Hydrologic Bulb Layout Cross-Section

Hydro Bulb I.D.	Channel Connect Size	Distance frm Connect Chan (ft)	NAVDD88 Invert (ft)	Field Elevation (ft)	Excavate Depth (ft)	Acres	Sq ft	Excavate Volume CY
Isen8a2	Small	3,995	2.5	3.85	1.35	0.73	31,799	1,827
Mess1a2	Medium-S	1,571	1.8	4.35	2.55	0.7	30,492	3,112
Mess11d	Large	1,250	2.5	4.67	2.17	0.74	32,234	2,841
Mess1c2	Large	1,075	2.5	3.84	1.34	1.19	51,836	2,883
Isen7a3	Small	2,137	2.0	4.27	2.27	0.61	26,572	2,511
Mess2a	Large	1,215	1.8	2.99	1.19	0.46	20,038	1,081
Chis5b	Medium	837	2.1	3.74	1.64	0.43	18,731	1,331
Chis19c3	Small	688	1.8	2.88	1.12	0.8	34,848	1,686
Chis20c	Small	1,130	1.8	2.91	1.11	0.76	33,106	1,604
Chis5d	Medium	895	2.0	5.39	3.39	0.39	16,988	2,311
Chis19c	Small	1,500	2.3	4.33	2.03	0.28	12,197	1,071
Chis7c	Medium	902	3.5	4.79	1.28	0.47	20,473	1,172
Chis12b	Small	550	1.8	3.14	1.34	1.12	48,787	2,675
Mess1e	Small	880	2.5	3.96	1.46	1.14	49,658	2,990
Isen4a2	Small	1,333	2.0	4.62	2.62	1.05	45,738	4,631
Isen8d	Small	732	2.5	3.65	1.15	0.92	40,075	1,972
ODFW12a	Medium	655	1.0	2.71	1.71	1.2	52,272	3,627
ODFW3a	Small	422	1.0	2.89	1.89	0.94	40,946	2,866
ODFW27a1	Small	230	1.0	3.23	2.23	0.941	40,990	3,666
Chis1b	Small	377	1.5	3.82	2.32	0.94	40,946	3,790
Chis4b	Small	338	1.5	4.18	2.68	0.85	37,026	3,939
Chis3c	Small	516	1.5	4.94	3.44	1.9	82,764	10,921
				Totals		*18.56*	*808,517*	*64,505*



Prepared by Winter Lake Phase III Team
ODFW, BSDD, and Coos SWCD

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Winter Lake Phase III
Tidal Restoration Project

Tidal Area Restoration Programmatic
(TARP)
Project Design Criteria - General Construction Measures Assessment

Christopher W. Claire; Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
and
Caley Sowers; Coos SWCD
02/03/23

Project Summary
The Winter Lake Phase III Tidal Restoration project developed by the Coos Soil and Water District has been specifically designed tomaximize ecological uplift while retaining early summer/summer/fall pasture grass farming operations. The site located at RM 20.5 in the Coquille River estuary. The project area is upstream of the C3P tidegates and C3P provides the overarching water control under the Beaver Slough Drainage District (BSDD) NMFS/ODFW water management plan. The land area, 1,290 acres below elevation 8.0ft and two pastures comprising 99 acres) within the Coaledo Drainage District (CDD) were historically a tidal forested freshwater complex with elevations that were predominantly below elevation 8.0ft. The project area has complex hydrology dominated by tidal amplitudes in dryer months, however, heavily influenced by rising river levels and floodwater in winter. The site plant species historically included red alder (Alnus rubra), however, predominantly Oregon ash (Fraxinus latifolia) and willow (Salix spp.). Vegetative species typified by slough sedge (Carex obnupta), small fruited bullrush (Scirpus microcarpus), and bur reed (Sparganium Americanum). This vegetative community would have in turn provided a strong detrital macroinvertebrate energy source. The site conditions as examined by LiDAR imagery indicate that there were substantial tidal channels penetrating the project area from the mainstem Coquille Riverprior to human alteration. These channels would have provided the rearing habitat for native salmonid and estuarine fish to feed within the marsh plain on the heavy loading of macroinvertebrate food items that were produced. In 1907-1908 pathways were cleared through the wetland forest, a new exit location was excavated through the Coquille River natural levee, tidegates were installed, the land area was drained during dry months and burned to create grazing land pastures.

The Project Team has proposed installing over 90,000ft of new/reconstructed channel. The project will address 42 aging culverts with fish passage obstructive top-hinged tidegates. These culverts are placed to provide for individual water management precision through interior low elevation berms. Culverts will be upsized to appropriately meet the site hydrology (see Hydrologic Assessment). Tidegates will be replaced with side-hinged aluminum tidegates fitted with devices to allow doors to be held open in the fall/winter/early spring allowing for maximization of fish passage into reconstructed channels. The full network of channels upstream of C3P main tidegates is under the BSDD Water Management Plan. Overall the project is anticipated to have a substantive ability to increase access for juvenile coho production and other native fish compared to the current conditions.

West Nile infects Bandon man

■ Health officials urge protection, not panic

BY DANIEL SIMMONS-RITCHIE
The World

NORTH BEND – An elderly Bandon man has become the first person in Coos County history to be infected with West Nile virus.

The man, and a woman in Malheur County, each were confirmed to have the illness Tuesday by health officials. The pair are Oregon's first human cases since 2009.

Lena Hawtin, Coos County's communicable disease co-ordinator, said the Bandon man was bitten by a mosquito near his home last month. He later experienced muscle weakness and was diagnosed at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland.

Hawtin said he is expected to fully recover.

"I talked to him yesterday," she said.

"He seemed like he was doing better. He was able to talk, and it seems like he's doing pretty good."

County first

Oregon joins a national surge in infections of the mosquito-borne virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says this year's outbreak is on track to be America's worst.

Hawtin said, with only one reported case in Coos County, it is unclear how pervasive West Nile virus is among local mosquitoes.

Although human infections in Oregon are rare, the virus is found each year in a small number of

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WEST NILE

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birds and mammals.

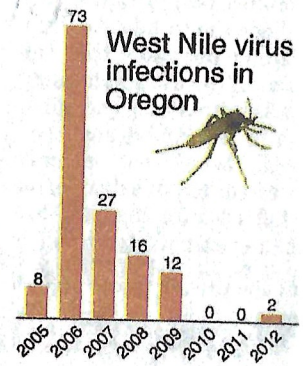
Hawtin said residents should remain cautious but calm. Eighty percent of those infected show no symptoms. Others experience only mild fever, headaches, or nausea.

In less than 1 percent of cases, the disease can cause convulsions, disorientation, and affect the central nervous system.

Elders at risk

Hawtin said the Bandon man and the Malheur County woman were more likely to experience severe symptoms because they were older than 49. Elderly people generally have higher blood pressure and weaker immune systems than the general population.

Frances Smith, the county's public health director, says the virus would likely have spread to Coos County mosquitoes through migrat-



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
By Jeff Trionfante, The World

How to protect against mosquitoes

■ Eliminate sources of standing water that are a breeding grounds for mosquitoes, including watering troughs, bird baths, clogged gutters and old tires.

■ When outdoors at dusk or dawn when mosquitoes are most active, protect yourself by using mosquito repellents that contain DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide), oil of lemon eucalyptus, or picaridin, and follow the directions on the container.

Table 1. Fish sampling summary from the Dec 2020-May 2021 sampling season.

	Mainstem Sampling	Cochran[1]	Seestrom	Beaver Creek	Beaver Creek Captured, Transferred to Unit 2	Winter Lake, Unit 1[2]	Winter Lake, Unit 2[3]	Winter Lake, Unit 3
# of Sampling Events[4]	9	6	7	11	4	0	19	6
Total coho caught	54	502	570	1045	137	0	67	1
Total coho tagged	54	139	271	428	137	0	62	1
Total Chinook caught	5	20	34	0	n/a	0	41	0

1 - The first sampling event (12/11) caught 0 coho, the 4th sampling event (2/25) caught few coho because a nutria had chewed a hole through the hoop trap

2 - No trapping was completed in Unit 1 and no detections were made by the PIT array on the tide gate for tagged fish entering the site

3 - Water levels were high during trapping events, causing low densities of coho and low trapping efficiency. See ODFW Winter Lake Volume Analysis for further information.

4 - Sampling events consisted of seining (beach or purse) and hoop traps. The number of hoop traps varied between 1 and 5, CPUE was not calculated for this chart.

A total of 21 other species of fish and aquatic organisms were captured in addition to coho, listed in Table 2. Winter Lake Unit 2 had the highest number of non-native fish species, a total of 1,051 bullhead catfish *(Ameiurus nebulosus)*, 3,287 bluegill *(Lepomis macrochirus)*, 283 yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*), and 269 largemouth bass *(Micropterus salmoides)*. All are competing for food with coho juveniles while the large non-native fish are considered a potential predator on coho juveniles. Pacific lamprey *(Entosphenus tridentata)* were captured in all Units of Winter Lake, including flooded pastures of southern Unit 1 (Cedar Pt 2). All Pacific lamprey caught, a total of 6, were ammocoetes.

A surprisingly high number of juvenile fall Chinook salmon were caught at all three tide gated project sites starting in April. During the planning phase of these restoration projects it was hypothesized juvenile fall Chinook would not use these restoration sites heavily, because they typically reside in larger channels. During the last sampling event at each project site only Chinook were captured using a beach seine and they were also the last PIT tagged salmonids to leave Winter Lake.