

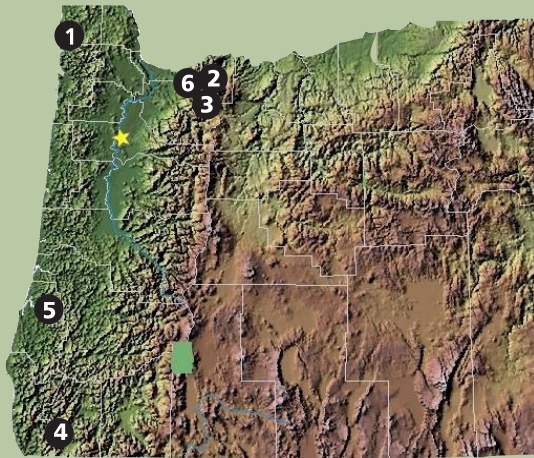


Oregon News



Sixth grade students navigate the obstacle course at the Wings of the Warners Migratory Bird Festival, a weekend-long event in September. Photo: The River Center

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012



- 1. Greater Ecola Conservation Area
City of Cannon Beach
- 2. Intertwine Regional Conservation Strategy
Urban Greenspaces Institute
- 3. Iron Mountain Park Resource Management Plan
Lake Oswego Parks & Recreation Department
- 4. Rogue River Recreation and Access Plan
Jackson County and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- 5. Umpqua Water Trail
Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers
- 6. Vancouver-Portland Metro Regional Youth Action Plan
SW Washington Boys and Girls Club and Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

★ State Capital
■ NPS Unit

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Birds Bring Home the Bacon

RTCA helped two teams, one in Lake County, Oregon, and another in Modoc County, California, develop the 450-mile, 35-site Basin & Range Birding Trail. Trail partners have leveraged more than \$180,000 to produce maps, tour routes, signs, and a great

website (www.basinrangebirdingtrail.com). Lake County Chamber of Commerce is partnering next spring with Elderhostel's Road Scholar program to host an educational tour dubbed "Bird's-Eye View of the West."

The six-day tour features site visits in all directions along the birding trail, bringing everyone back to

Lakeview in the evenings for meals and lodging. In Alturas, California, The River Center and its partners took two dozen kids through the obstacle course this year at the Wings of the Warners Migratory Bird Festival. The Center is a hub for school kids and visitors, providing interpretive displays, custom tours, maps, and birding kits. Valerie Lanz, the Center's director, sees a constant stream of people, and hears a lot of excitement about the birding trail. She estimates that 1,000 people used the map in 2010 to follow birding routes.

"Taking students into the field is a great way to learn. The kids are very impressed that this is all in their own backyard."

—Mrs. Chandler
K-3, Arlington Elementary School



The Intertwine Alliance was launched in 2007 to coordinate efforts of local businesses, non-profit organizations, government agencies and citizens to build a world-class network of parks, trails, and natural areas in Portland-Vancouver. RTCA is helping Intertwine partners develop a regional conservation strategy. Photos: Mike Houck

Current Projects

1. Greater Ecola Conservation Area

Lead Partner: City of Cannon Beach

The City of Cannon Beach and partners envision a protected area along this portion of the northern Oregon coastline. RTCA will provide guidance to the City and partners to collaboratively develop a conservation area plan for the region to tie together local, state, and federally protected lands and make recommendations for increased resource protection and outdoor recreation opportunities.

2. Intertwine Regional Conservation Strategy

Lead Partner: Urban Greenspaces Institute

RTCA is providing assistance to Urban Greenspaces Institute, Columbia Land Trust, Metro, City of Portland, and other Intertwine partners to develop a regional conservation strategy. This plan will detail current conditions, on-going conservation efforts, and strategies to maintain and improve the natural resources of the Intertwine region.

3. Iron Mountain Park Resource Management Plan

Lead Partners: Lake Oswego Parks & Recreation Department

Lake Oswego received a land donation in 1963 and has been adding land to Iron Mountain ever since. Today it owns 18 parcels of over 50 acres of natural open space with a diversity of natural resources and rich mining history. RTCA will work with project partners to develop a management plan that is sensitive to natural resources but allows for trail recreation.



The Oregon coastline looking south from Ecola State Park. Photo: Cacaphony

Current Projects cont.



Kids help make Groundwork Portland's Emerson Garden grow. Groundwork is one of many organizations helping to shape the Vancouver-Portland Metro Regional Youth Action Plan to increase participation of area youth in urban greening projects and outdoor recreation. Photo: Groundwork Portland

4. Rogue River Recreation Management & Access Plan

Lead Partners: Jackson County; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

RTCA will help create a plan for river access development needs and management strategies for a

13-mile stretch of the Upper Rogue River. The recent removal of Gold Ray Dam has opened up this previously inaccessible stretch of water. The plan will address increased recreation use and access needs that are compatible with the environmental goals for the river.



Junior Ranger Program reenactment at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. Photo: NPS

5. Umpqua River Water Trail

Lead Partner: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

RTCA is working with project partners to provide a low-impact recreational and educational experience for paddlers through the development of a water trail for a 127-mile-long corridor along the Smith and Umpqua Rivers.

6. Vancouver-Portland Metro Regional Youth Action Plan

Lead Partners: SW Washington Boys and Girls Club; Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

RTCA is helping coordinate a youth action plan for the Vancouver-Portland Metro region. Partners will work together to discuss how the youth oriented organizations and agencies can collectively address issues such as nature deficit disorder and childhood obesity.



The Umpqua River Water Trail provides access to both estuary and river environments from the Cascades to the coast (left and center; Photos: NPS). RTCA is helping project partners develop a management and access plan for 13 miles of the Rogue River that were previously inaccessible (right; Photo: Jackson County Parks).

We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit
from RTCA Staff Assistance?
Contact us to find out.

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2011 Nationwide Partnership Success

- 1,991 Miles of Trail Developed
- 1,925 Miles of River Conserved
- 33,230 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected
- 94% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

About Us

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

www.nps.gov/rtca

Recent Successes cont.



Irrigon students stand with the sign they dedicated to the Columbia River Heritage Trail. Photo: NPS

High School Class Turns Trail into an Outdoor Lab

Ten years ago, the RTCA program helped communities develop a plan for the 30-mile Columbia River Heritage Trail in north-central Oregon. The Science Inquiry class at Irrigon High School sparked renewed awareness and appreciation of this trail when they recently unveiled a new interpretive panel

describing the surrounding shrub-steppe ecosystem. The class was the first to use the heritage trail as an outdoor classroom—just a 10-minute walk from their school. “It really is exciting to see how the class and this sign support the vision and goals established for the heritage trail,” remarked Carla McLane, Morrow County’s Planning Director, at the unveiling of the sign. “The students’ work documents nature along the trail, promotes stewardship, and demonstrates community involvement.”



Ridgeline Corridor Vision Clears the Way for Acquisition

The 25-mile Ridgeline Corridor in the Eugene-Springfield area is part of a community-wide vision for open space that includes landmarks such as Mt. Pisgah, Spencer Butte, the South Hills, West Eugene Wetlands, and Fern Ridge Reservoir. RTCA helped the City of Eugene, Lane Council of Governments, and their partners organize a visioning effort that has garnered a whopping \$38 million for acquisition of more than 3,000 acres of land. This huge success is a testament to the diverse groups that came together to create the vision, as well as grassroots organizations, like Friends of the Ridgeline, who are working to support acquisition, restoration, and recreation along the entire open space corridor.



Eugene's Open Space Vision pictures a 25-mile corridor of wetlands, river shoreline, buttes, and ridgelines. Photos: Lane Council of Governments