

SPECULATION

Is this really about conservation or is the Federal Government now in the lucrative land-banking and mitigation business?

- 3 Mitigation Banks in OR Presently
- Mitigation Credits can sell for as much as \$43K per acre and it's a growing industry.¹
- The recession and low property values have created opportunities for Land Trusts throughout the US.²

Conservation banks are permanently protected lands that contain natural resource values. These lands are conserved and permanently managed for species that are endangered, threatened, candidates for listing, or are otherwise species-at-risk. Conservation banks function to offset adverse impacts to these species that occurred elsewhere, sometimes referred to as off-site mitigation. In exchange for permanently protecting the land and managing it for these species, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) approves a specified number of habitat or species credits that bank owners may sell. Developers or other project proponents who need to compensate for the unavoidable adverse impacts their projects have on species may purchase the credits from conservation bank owners to mitigate their impacts.

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¹ Based on conversations with local conservation groups and environmental consultants

² <http://www.cp-dr.com/node/3061>

³ USFWS Conservation Banking, Incentives For Stewardship, April 2011

The bottom-land pastures in the Coquille River valley are already, in large part, freshwater wetlands that can be enhanced without a significant loss in agricultural production.⁴

- There are several options associated with altering pasture topography and use patterns that can be undertaken to reduce coliform bacteria levels associated with livestock waste getting into waterways.
- Dike/levee heights can be lowered to allow the Coquille River to more frequently overtop these structures during periods of high winter flow. This will allow the sediment in these turbid waters to settle out on your pastures thereby reducing the sediment load in the river at the same time it counteracts the subsidence of these bottom lands.
- Migrating/wintering waterfowl, especially certain species of puddle ducks (e.g. Pintails) will be more abundant in relatively open waters than in reestablished marshes with thick plant cover.
- To increase salmonid production, we can go back to putting hatch-box operations on every secondary waterway.

ACTION NEEDED

GO TO or E-mail:

www.cooscountywatchdog.com

BandonMarshExpansion@gmail.com

Facebook: Bandon-Marsh-Expansion

541-347-9942 or 541-329-2020

⁴ Daniel H. Varoujean II, MARZET: Marine and Estuarine Research Co.

BAD FOR BANDON, COQUILLE, MYRTLE POINT AND COOS COUNTY



If 1.6% of the State of Oregon's population (Coos County, 63,040 people) comprising the 2nd to lowest density in the State (1 to 5 persons per mile and an estimated 15,000 people between Bandon and Myrtle Point), who are living low-impact-lives and running low-impact agricultural businesses can't continue to actively manage and utilize local natural resources without a Federal-take-over-of-lands, then the Planet and her almost 7 billion people and estimated 8.7 million species are doomed.

FACTS

USFWS sent letters and “OFFER TO PURCHASE” to 67 landowners within Proposed Bandon Marsh Expansion Area “Preferred Alternative C”

EXPANSION AREA (Phase I)⁵:

- 67 Landowners
- 154 distinct parcels
- 4,567.67 acres
- Real Market Value of property is \$24.5 million (\$24,524,243)
- Total Assessed Value of the property is \$9.7 million (\$9,729,043)
- Gross Annual Property Tax to County is \$101,508

PRIORITY AREAS FOR CONSERVATION & RESTORATION⁶

- Part of a larger effort encompassing an estimated 10,000 acres including:
 - **Foster Dairy** – Priority 1
 - **Winter Lake** – Priority 2
 - **Beaver Slough** – Priority 3
 - **Iowa Slough** – Priority 4
 - **Hatchet Creek** – Priority 5
 - **Alder Creek** – Priority 6
 - **Fat Elk Creek** – Priority 7

⁵ USFWS Expansion Plan Alternative C and Coos County Assessors Office.

⁶ ODFW Map Priority Areas 1 through 7.

EFFORTS HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY SINCE AT LEAST 2008⁷

- 622 acres: “...first phase of larger initiative by ODFW to conserve and restore approximately 3,000 acres in lowlands along the lower Coquille River...”
- Pg. 24 (9.) **Catalyst for future conservation**... “Phase 4 involves, several years down the line, acquiring and restoring additional properties in the valley, including a working dairy. The initiative is a landscape-level effort to protect and restore the entire wetland ecosystem in the Coquille Valley.”

HISTORY OF BANDON MARSH⁸

- Congress established the Bandon Marsh as a National Wildlife Refuge IN 1983.
- Over a decade later, Congressman Peter DeFazio led effort to pass refuge expansion to include Ni-les'tun Unit completed in September 2011.
- **Currently Refuge encompasses 889 acres.**
- BM National Wildlife Refuge is **largest tidal salt marsh restoration project in Oregon; doubles** acreage of tidal marsh habitat in Coquille estuary.
- Creates habitat for young salmon and shorebirds and over 5 miles of new tidal channels.

⁷ See Page 7 “Public Involvement or interagency Coordination”: Coquille Valley, Oregon Wetland Conservation and Restoration: A Proposal to The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program; Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

⁸ USFWS: http://www.fws.gov/oregoncoast/bandonmarsh/restoration/partners_supporters.htm

FEDERAL LAND OWNERSHIP IN OREGON

- **26.7% all land in U.S. is Federally owned⁹**
- **53.1% of all land in Oregon is Government owned or controlled¹⁰**
 - **Oregon is 4th on the list of “States with the Most Land Owned by the Federal Government”**
 - 32.7 Million Acres Federally Owned
 - 61.5 Million Acres State Owned
 - Of the nearly 60% of state land owned and managed by the federal government, most of it falls under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management, with smaller portions controlled by the Fish and Wildlife Service.
- **USFWS Controls 582,058.53 acres of Land in the State of Oregon¹¹**
 - **Incl. 229,274.20 acres purchased and valued at \$57 million**
 - **Only 1,106 acres held as agreements or leases**
 - **Oregon is 10th on the list of all US States just behind Minnesota and Kentucky of USFWS controlled lands**

⁹ Congressional Research Service report for Congress: *Wilderness Overview and Statistics* 2010;

¹⁰ May 16, 2011: <http://247wallst.com/2011/05/16/the-states-with-the-most-land-owned-by-the-federal-government/>

¹¹ USFWS Annual Report of Land Under Control of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, As of September 30, 2009.