

Friday September 10, 2010

CREST Quarterly Newsletter

Greetings CREST Members and Partners:

It has been a while since our last email newsletter. CREST completed its Strategic Plan and has been very busy reorganizing to accommodate an expanding habitat restoration program. While we are constructing some exciting projects this fall, we are also putting new funding from Bonneville Power Administration and the Estuary Partnership to good use by pro-actively investigating and developing new tidal habitat restoration projects in the Columbia River estuary.



Projects being implemented this fall include:

- **Chinook River Diversion:** replacement of a hatchery water diversion structure to pass all salmon species and life stages;
- **Otter Point Phase I:** preparations for recovering tidal floodplain salmon habitat on 33 acres of National Park Land adjacent to the Lewis and Clark River by breaching dikes (recent aerial photo above courtesy of US Coast Guard and Clatsop Soil & Water Conservation District);
- **Elk Flats:** creating tidal off-channel habitat along Ecola Creek in Cannon Beach; and,
- **Fort Columbia:** replacing a culvert to allow full tidal exchange between the Columbia River and a 96 acre wetland.

Personnel Changes

To oversee the growing restoration department and ensure top-notch project implementation, **we have recently hired Matt Van Ess as CREST Habitat Restoration Program Manager** . Many of you may remember Matt from his previous work with CREST as both Planner and Director between 1998 and 2004. During that time he was instrumental in implementing some of the first tidal habitat restoration projects in the estuary. He then went on to work as a County Land Steward for Monroe County in Florida, followed by directing the Pacific Marine Conservation Council. Matt is excited to return to CREST in a new role. His extensive local knowledge and experience, and enthusiasm for the estuary, will serve the region well.



CREST would also like to announce a job opening for Habitat Restoration Project Manager (closes at 5pm on October 1st, 2010). . This position may be based in either the Astoria or Portland. Please see www.columbiaestuary.org for the full job description and application instructions, and forward this announcement to anyone you know who might be interested.

New Conference Room

Finally, **CREST has a new conference room available for meetings or workshops in Astoria.**

Please contact me if you are interested in reserving the space.

I will be sending out these updates on a quarterly basis. In the meantime, please get in touch if you want to learn more or need assistance. We continue to provide services related to: community and environmental planning, habitat restoration, research and monitoring, GIS mapping and wetland delineation. Stay in touch and have a wonderful fall!



Micah Russell, Director