

Sustainable Rivers Project

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The Nature
Conservancy 

SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

The Nature Conservancy's Mission

*To preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the **diversity of life on Earth** by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.*



The Nature Conservancy and US Army Corps of Engineers Partnership Sites

Peget Sound Nearshore Marine Habitat Restoration Study, WA • Gen. Investigation
 Continuation of feasibility phase of the Peget Sound Nearshore Restoration Project General Investigation. Understanding the influence of physical and biological processes in the nearshore system. Provide an ecosystem response to ESA and other species-specific restoration and recovery initiatives. Potential projects such as the beaching and soft armoring have been identified, with federal, state, local governmental, port, shellfish industry, private owner, and NGO partnerships.

Came Creek Wetland Prairie Preserve, OR • Sec.206
 Restore 700 acres in Willamette County, OR. The largest and highest quality expanse of forest-dominated prairie in North America. Restore creek to functional, free-flowing condition, reestablish native vegetation, remove pathway dams and channel reconfiguration where necessary, install stream structures and livestock controls.

Hamilton City Flood Control Study/Multipurpose Project, CA • Comprehensive Study
 Formulate and implement a multiple purpose flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration project. Recommendations plan include constructing a 4.5-mile wetland levee, removing most of an existing prairie levee, actively reconnecting and restoring 1,475 acres of native vegetation watershed of the River. Reduce economic damages from flooding by \$506,000 annually, reduce the risk of flooding, and provide up to a 30% confidence of passing the 75-year flood event, with federal, state, local, and NGO partners.

Truckee Meadows Flood Control Project, NV • Gen. Investigation
 Flood control strategy for Reno, NV, that restores basic river functions and creates floodplain for flood storage. River restoration, including increasing natural meanders and reconnecting the river to the floodplain, is proposed in lieu of traditional mitigation measures. Will improve habitat for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and other critical species over 80 miles of the Truckee River in Nevada.

McCorm Ranch-Truckee River Project, NV • Sec.1135
 Restore 5 miles of Truckee River and riparian aquatic, wetland, and terrestrial habitats in Washoe County, Nevada. Improved habitat will support threatened and endangered species, including Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and Northern Spotted Owl, enhance water quality, and increase flood protection on lower Truckee.

San Wilfrido River, Sustainable Rivers Project, AZ • Sustainable Rivers
 Restore ecologically appropriate flows to the San Wilfrido River downstream of Alamo Dam in Mohave and La Paz Counties, AZ. Develop and implement an integrated monitoring and adaptive management strategy, conduct predictive hydrologic and ecosystem modeling to determine whether the revised dam operations will achieve long term ecological restoration goals for the last remaining native woodland habitat along the lower Colorado river drainage.

Legend

- Section 1135
- Section 206
- Section 22
- General Investigations
- Independent Programs
- Comprehensive Studies
- Sustainable Rivers
- Division Boundaries (US Army Corps of Engineers)
- District Boundaries (US Army Corps of Engineers)
- US States Boundaries
- USGS 8-Digit Hydrological Units
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Cities/Towns
- Project Locations

Map produced by: L. Lewish, Conservation Systems Office 08/13/2004
 Data Sources: Division and District Boundaries - US Army Corps of Engineers; 8-Digit Hydrological Units - Natural Resources Conservation Service National Headquarters - Resource Assessment Division (based on USGS data layer) (2007); State Boundaries, Cities, Rivers - ESRI (2002)



Upper Mississippi River System Environmental Mgmt. Program, IA, IL, MN, MO, WI
 Ensure the continued development and enhancement of the Upper Mississippi River system with primary emphasis on habitat restoration and enhancement projects and ecosystem resource monitoring. Completion of projects will restore thousands of acres of aquatic and floodplain habitat across five states, with federal, state, private and local group partnerships.

Spunky Bottoms, IL • Sec.1135
 Complete restoration projects of natural habitat on 2,520 acres in Brown County, IL, along the Illinois River to provide a managed aquatic connection between tall grass prairie, wetland, wet prairie, etc. habitats to the River. Restore ecological processes, including more natural water regime, and provide aquatic organisms with access to restored habitats.

Ensign Preserve, IL • Sec.206
 Restore ecological processes and habitat connectivity of aquatic ecosystem on 8,000 acres along the Illinois River in Fulton County, IL, with federal, state, local, and NGO partnerships.

Lower Cache River/Buttland Swamp, IL • Sec.206
 Draining in Buttland Swamp on the Lower Cache River, IL. Draining will remove silt-and sediment in the swamp that has reduced the function of the wetlands, thereby eliminating the deeper aquatic habitat, with state, local, citizen, and NGO partnerships.

Lower Cache River and Big Creek Watershed, IL • Sec.206
 Restore 1,134 acres in Union and Jackson Counties in Southern Illinois. Area is home to riparian, upland swamps with 1,200 year old cypress trees. Restore and protect 80,000-acre wetland corridor along the River Cache River, create low elevation swamps on private land, install stream bank structures that aid restoration of hydrological processes, reduce streambank erosion, with state, local, citizen, and NGO partnerships.

Kankakee Sandbar, IL • Sec.206

Mississippi Valley Division

Northwestern Division

Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration

South Pacific Division

Southwestern Division

South Atlantic Division

North Atlantic Division

Great Lakes & Ohio River Division

Moss Lake Shoreline Restoration, TX • Sec.206
 Protect 2,400 feet of shoreline and restore 3 acres in Galveston Co., TX, on the Conservancy-owned Texas City Prairie Preserve. Create valuable intertidal marshland. Protects habitat of federally endangered Abert's Prairie Chicken, with federal, state, county, and city partnerships.

Marland Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration, TX • Sec.206
 Restore and impact 6,000 acres of coastal marsh and emergent wetlands in Matagorda County, TX. Protects federal investments made through several programs, including North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Protects some of the best known brackish coastal prairie in this region, an important habitat for many species, including migratory birds and endangered and threatened species, with local, private, federal, state, and university partnerships.

Green River, KY • Sustainable Rivers
 The Green River restoration is in its 3rd year of an initial 3-year experimental plan designed to restore more natural flows and temperatures to the Green River. Highlights include raising water table to allow for a delayed fall drawdown and the use of higher releases in winter and early spring.

Green River Handy Project, KY • Sec.1135
 The Handy 1135 Project is situated on the Green River immediately below the mouth of a 5th order tributary. The restoration consisted of the placement of two upstream bar/dam weirs and regrading of the bank for ~800 feet. The bank had protected what rock placed to the ordinary high water mark and the remainder of the slope was planted to a diversity of native shrubs, grasses and forbs.

White River, AR • Sustainable Rivers

Louisiana Coastal Area Restoration, LA

Mobile Bay / ACT, AL

Apalachicola River, FL

Roanoke River, NC • Sustainable Rivers

Choptank River, VA • Gen. Investigation

Savannah River Project, GA, SC • Sustainable Rivers

Booth Creek Project, FL • Sec.206

Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements, FL • Independent Program

Marion Slab Lowhead Dam Removal, AL • Sec.206

Chesapeake Bay Oyster Recovery, MD, VA • Independent Program

Chain Bridge Park Restoration, MD • Sec.1135

Middle Potomac River Watershed, MD, VA • Gen. Investigation

Fin Island to Montauk Reformation Plan (RIP), NY • Gen. Investigation

Cuddebackville Dam Removal Project, NY • Sec.206

Adaklet River, NH (West River), VT • Sustainable Rivers

Delaware Basin Ecologically Sustainable Water Management, NY • Sec.22

Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence Water Management, NY • Gen. Investigation

Delaware Basin Ecologically Sustainable Water Management, NY • Sec.22
 Define human and ecosystem flow needs and ensure basin-wide sustainable water management practices to protect NYC's primary source of drinking water, the health of the Delaware's valuable trout fisheries, the native biodiversity of the river and the economic health of communities that depend on the river, with multiple federal, state, city, local, and NGO partners.

Adaklet River, NH (West River), VT • Sustainable Rivers
 Assessments and studies should be implemented to restore river flow, natural water regime, associated riparian, aquatic, and floodplain related communities in southwestern New Hampshire and southeastern Vermont, that contain critical habitats for many rare species, as well as multiple recreational areas. Aided by federal, state, and NGO participation, in addition to local citizens and federal and state agency staffs.

Cuddebackville Dam Removal Project, NY • Sec.206
 Narrow a low head dam on the Neversink River in New York's portion of the Delaware River Basin. The removal will provide full fish passage for anadromous and native fish species and may allow upstream expansion of a high quality federally-endangered dwarf perch (percid) population in the lower Neversink.

Fin Island to Montauk Reformation Plan (RIP), NY • Gen. Investigation
 Design of a plan aimed at reducing risk to human life and property while maintaining, enhancing, and restoring ecosystem integrity and coastal biodiversity for the 10 island New York state along Long Island Sound, NY, with multiple federal, state, local, and NGO partners.

Middle Potomac River Watershed, MD, VA • Gen. Investigation
 Conserve, restore, and reconfigure the Potomac River basin, develop sustainable watershed management plans, with state, local, regional and private non-profit supporters.

Chain Bridge Park Restoration, MD • Sec.1135
 Within C&O Canal National Historical Park in Washington, D.C., conduct study to find restoration alternative that preserves Corps' access to infrastructure, while achieving critical ecological restoration objectives. Reduce sediment loads, high flow scouring from natural hydro dam will raise ditch, protect tremendous plant diversity, rare species, maintain recreational river access, with multiple federal, state, city, local, community and NGO partners.

Chesapeake Bay Oyster Recovery, MD, VA • Independent Program
 Restore native oyster populations in the Chesapeake Bay. Construct three, three-dimensional sanctuary reefs and a 100-acre two-dimensional softing harvest area in lower Rappahannock River. Continue oyster restoration activities in the Lynnhaven and Pamlico River basins. That improve ecological conditions and habitats, and contribute to local jobs and shellfish economy, with several federal, state, city, local, private and NGO partnerships.

Roanoke River Kerr Dam, NC • Sustainable Rivers

Choptank Valley Program, VA • Gen. Investigation
 Initiation of an Ecological Restoration Feasibility Study in the Choptank River Basin of southwestern Virginia, so that a sustainable restoration project can be implemented. Restoration practices would lead to improved aquatic habitat and water quality, enhanced riparian areas, and reduced sediment and toxic inputs into the Choptank, the most biologically diverse river in North America. Aided by federal, state, and local partnerships.

Savannah River Project, GA, SC • Sustainable Rivers
 Continuation of the feasibility phase of the Savannah River Basin Comprehensive Study. Gaining better understanding of influence of hydrologic processes such as timing, duration, frequency, magnitude and rate of change of river flows, on the river's ecology. Developing set of ecosystem flow recommendations to meet human needs and Corps demands, while protecting native species and habitats. Diverse array of participants including state and local agencies and NGOs.

Booth Creek Project, FL • Sec.206
 Restore degraded ecosystem on 1,100 acres of wetland and depression marsh habitat of Booth Creek and its headwaters in Highlands County, FL, that is impounded by an earthdam and gated subinlet system. Restoration will encourage biodiversity, ecosystem conditions, improve natural water storage capacity and flood buffers, recharge the aquifer and absorb nutrients. Restore a more natural hydroperiod to the creek and headwaters.

Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements, FL • Independent Program
 Restore coastal water quality in Monroe County, FL. Improve quality of water and aquatic ecosystems in the Florida Keys that are damaged from lack of waste and storm water treatment infrastructure, fishing practices, and tourism. Aided by federal, state, city, and local partnerships.

Marion Slab Lowhead Dam Removal, AL • Sec.206
 Remove the Marion Slab Dam on the Cahaba River in Bibb County, near West Union, Alabama, to re-establish connectivity between populations, easy migration to restored spawning habitat for species of fish. Benefits for aquatic species, overall ecosystem, and human use of the area.

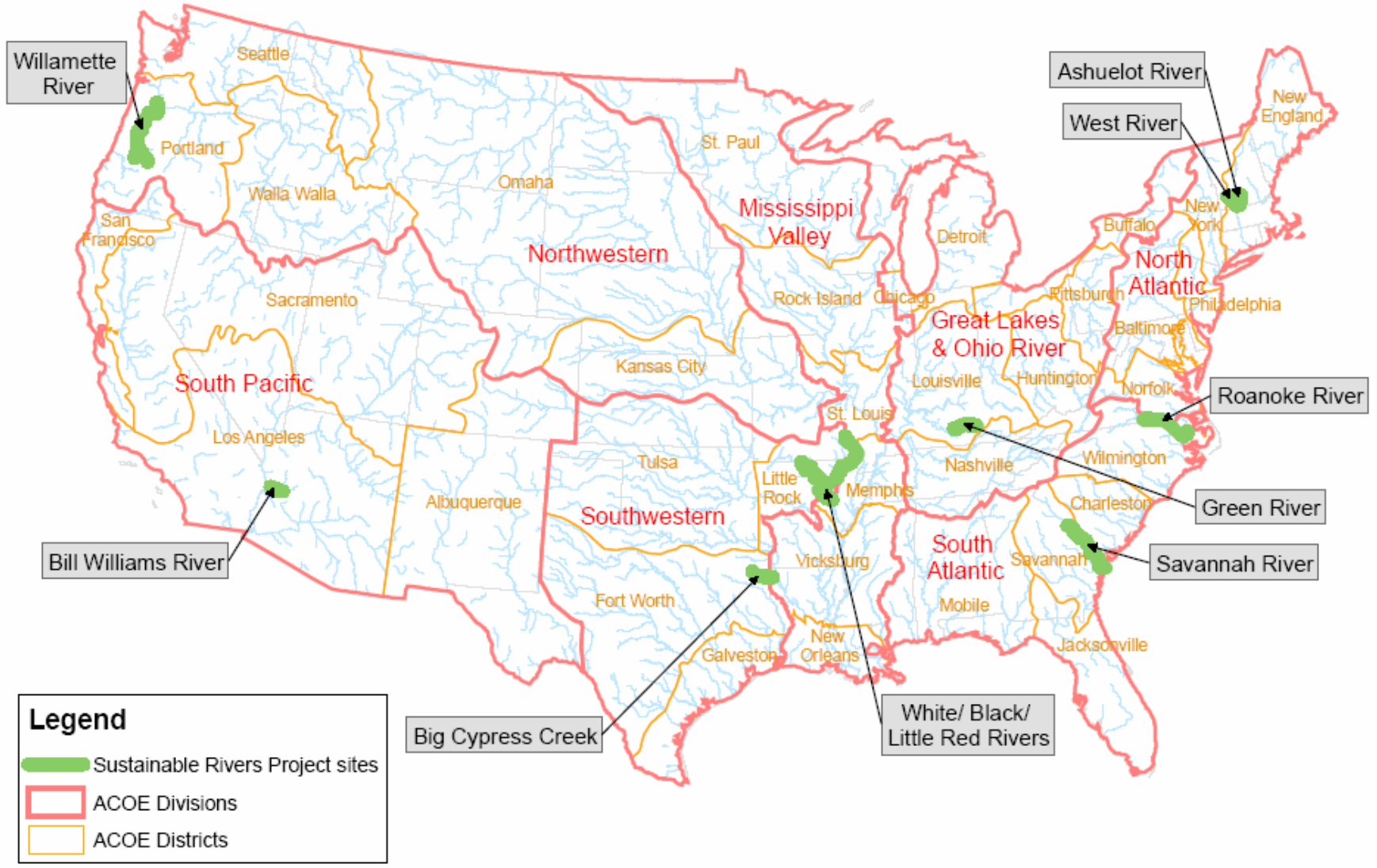
Sustainable Rivers Project

Success through...

- ↳ **Demonstration Sites**
- ↳ Staff sharing
- ↳ Joint training
- ↳ Joint software development
- ↳ Annual meetings
- ↳ Coordinated communications and joint publications

Sustainable Rivers Project

Current Sites



Legend

- Sustainable Rivers Project sites
- ACOE Divisions
- ACOE Districts

Sustainable Rivers Project

Outline of Tasks:

- Define environmental flows
- Modeling
- Monitoring & research
- Flow implementation
- Support



Sustainable Rivers Project

- Supporting ecologically sustainable management of the nation's water resources
- Restoring critical ecosystems
- Advancing river science
- Facilitating coordinated resource allocation (public & private)



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