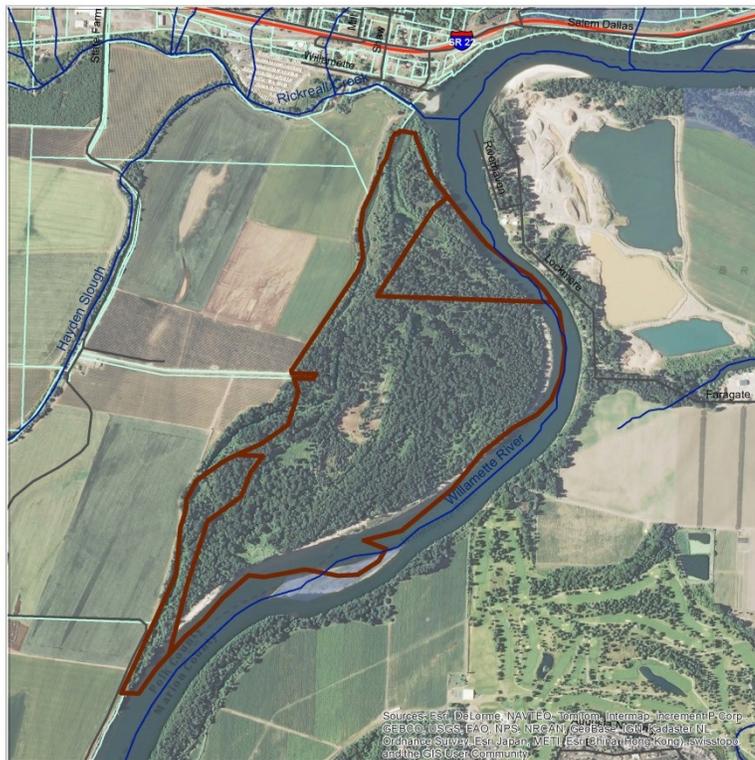


Gail Achterman Wildlife Area

About the property:

The Gail Achterman Wildlife Area (also known as Hayden Island) is a 270-acre property located on the Willamette River near Independence. The property contains 258 acres of high quality riparian forest with a 12-acre remediated gravel quarry. The property was purchased by ODFW in 2016 with funding from the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program. The funding for this program is provided by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) through a 15-year agreement



Polk County
T4W R7S Sec 36 Tax Lots 600, 601, 602
265 Acres

0.5 Miles

between ODFW and BPA to settle federal wildlife habitat mitigation obligations in the Willamette Valley. Additional funding was provided from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), the Trust for Public Land, and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

The Gail Achterman Wildlife Area (GAWA) is one of the largest and most intact riparian forest habitats remaining along the Willamette mainstem below Harrisburg, and one of the only significant riparian forests in the 34-mile stretch between the Santiam River confluence and Willamette Mission State Park. By purchasing the property, ODFW removed the imminent threat of gravel mining which the property was zoned and permitted for.

It consists entirely of Oregon Conservation Strategy priority habitats such as riparian habitat; wetlands; off-channel habitat; and freshwater aquatic habitats that include Willamette River shoreline, backwater sloughs, and side channels.

The property has potential habitat for ESA-listed Chinook salmon and winter steelhead, Western pond turtle, Northern red-legged frog, Oregon chub, Willamette floater mussel, and Pacific

lamprey. Avian species include bald eagles, sharp-shinned and Cooper’s hawks, great blue herons, red-eyed vireo, great horned owls, and red-tailed hawks. Many other neotropical birds and waterfowl also use this site. Other species that may occur in the future include Western screech owls, Northern pygmy owls, bats, black-tailed deer, river otter, and beaver.

Long-term restoration and management:

ODFW will control invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry and reed canary grass in the riparian forest areas, and will investigate reconnecting side channels to provide more fish habitat benefits. A large backwater slough is present in the northern portion of the site, and side channels extend along the entire western side of Hayden Island. These habitats provide habitat for amphibians, waterfowl, and are important refugia for salmonids during high flow events. Overall benefits to fish and wildlife are expected to increase substantially through a suite of suggested restoration efforts at Hayden Island.

ODFW will develop a management plan specific to the property that will detail ODFW's planned management and restoration actions, and the public will have an opportunity to review and provide comments.

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