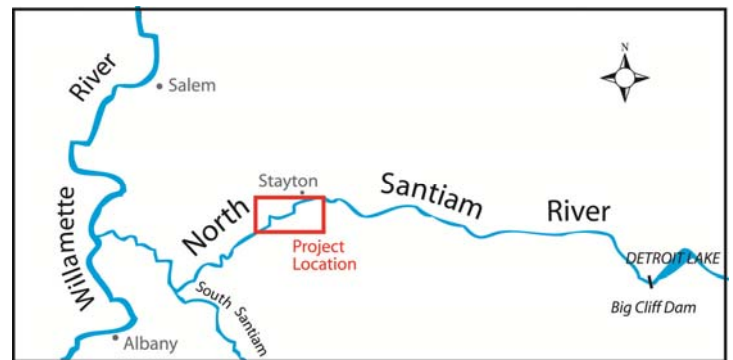




North Santiam River: *Conserving critical salmonid habitat*

WRC is buying a 338-acre property along the North Santiam River, an important Willamette River tributary. The property WRC is purchasing is located near the town of Stayton and has two miles of North Santiam frontage, seven side channels and frontage on the smaller Dieckman Creek. The North Santiam is designated as a salmon stronghold for its high level of winter steelhead production. Historically, it was the largest producer of winter steelhead in the basin and the source of approximately one-third of spring Chinook salmon for the entire Willamette Basin. Besides the large number of aquatic species, four wildlife species of concern also call this property home: pileated woodpecker, hooded merganser, western pond turtle and red-legged frog.

Peter Marbach Photo



Alsea River and Drift Creek: *Protecting 287 acres of prime estuarine habitat*

Capping more than a decade of efforts, a life-sustaining nursery for threatened Oregon coho salmon is being permanently protected. This autumn, Western Rivers Conservancy is conveying 287 acres of prime estuarine lands on Alsea River Bay to the Siuslaw National Forest. This property is the missing link adjacent to 1,400 acres WRC protected in 2002, extending five miles up Drift Creek through moss-draped forests and to a waterfall. WRC negotiated with two forest products companies to buy the lands, enabling a large-scale coho restoration effort by the U.S. Forest Service and partners. Now each year when the salmon return — not just coho, but also some of the state’s healthiest runs of Chinook, steelhead and sea-run cutthroat trout — this restored habitat will be waiting for them.

Russ Schmitzer Photo

