



WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

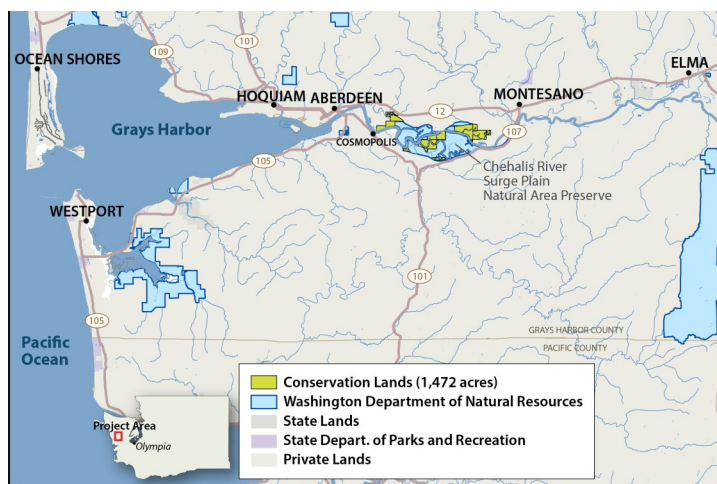
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Project Report Photos
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Chehalis River, Washington: Completing Preservation of an Important Ecosystem

Fed by rivers and streams that flow from the Cascade foot-hills, Willapa Hills and Olympic Mountains, the Chehalis River eventually drains into Grays Harbor on the Pacific, where it forms the largest, highest-quality tidal surge plain in Washington. Here, a diverse and highly productive wetland ecosystem is formed. In 1989, Washington Department of Natural Resources created the Chehalis River Surge Plain Natural Area Preserve to protect this important ecosystem. Yet, for nearly 30 years, the preserve has been incomplete, with 1,500 acres at the heart of it privately owned and unprotected. WRC, in partnership with Weyerhaeuser, has taken the first steps toward completing the preserve and ensuring the lasting integrity of this extraordinary place. This summer, WRC signed an agreement to purchase 1,472 acres of Weyerhaeuser forestlands, which will be permanently protected when conveyed to WDNR to complete the Natural Area Preserve.

Nick Hall Photo



Sandy River, Oregon: Delivering More Riverland Conservation and Outdoor Adventure

Western Rivers Conservancy's most recent victory on Oregon's Sandy River has delivered more riverland conservation and outdoor adventure on the flanks of Mount Hood. Near the town of Brightwood, we preserved 186 acres along North Boulder Creek, including some of the most important habitat in the entire basin for coho salmon and winter steelhead. Both coho and steelhead are threatened species, and habitat preservation is vital to their long-term survival. The property also features the only public access to the Sandy Ridge Trail System, one of the best mountain biking trail systems ever designed on public lands. The project will ensure upwards of 150,000 annual visitors can continue to enjoy this "roller coaster in the woods," which has become a model for ecosystem-compatible mountain biking trail design.

Steve Terrill Photos

