



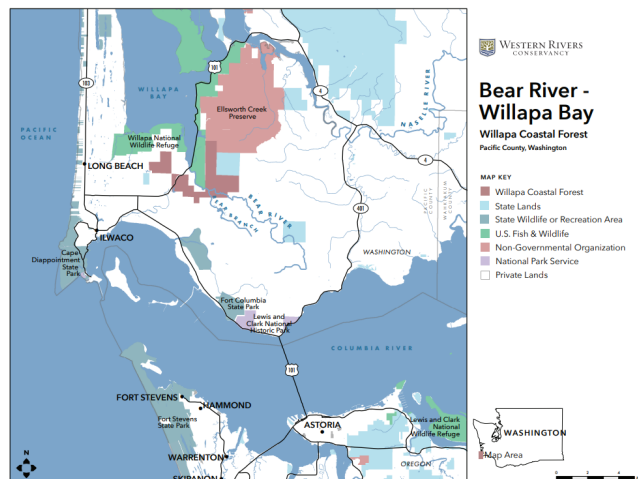
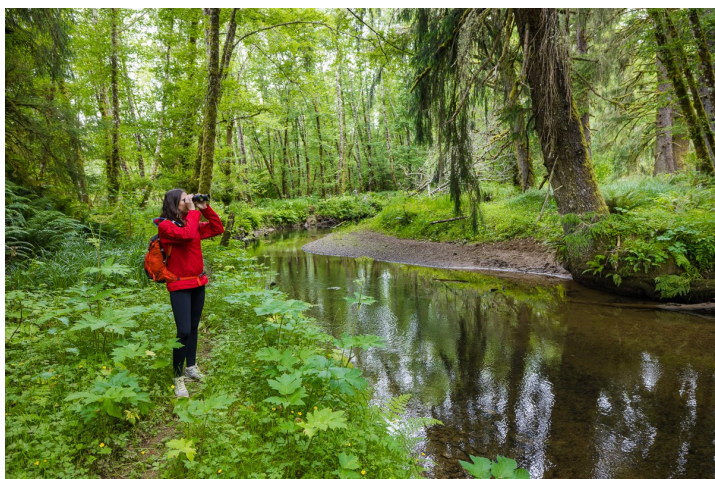
WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

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Project Report Photos
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Washington's Bear River: Conserving a Life Source for Washington's Willapa Bay

The second largest estuary on the West Coast, Willapa Bay is one of the Pacific Northwest's lesser-known treasures. The Willapa NWR was created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1937 to protect Willapa Bay's fragile estuarine habitat, but nearly a century later, there's important work to do to protect the lifeblood of the bay: the rivers that feed it. On that front, Western Rivers Conservancy has signed an agreement to purchase the 2,366-acre Willapa Coastal Forest property, a privately owned parcel within the boundaries of the refuge that includes three miles of the Bear River and over 30 miles of perennial and intermittent streams. Now that we've signed an agreement to purchase the property, the hard work of buying it, securing funding and transferring the property to the US Fish and Wildlife Service begins. With this first step complete, we are on our way toward improving the health, resiliency and accessibility of one of Washington's great natural treasures. *Tyler Roemer photo*



Montana's Big Hole River: Saving Meadows, Creeks and Cold Water

In Montana's upper Big Hole Valley, WRC purchased a rare private inholding within the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. The 317-acre property, called Clemow Cow Camp, is a beautiful expanse of wetlands graced by two high-mountain streams, Cox and Old Tim creeks, which flow into Warm Springs Creek, a tributary to the Big Hole. Remote and pristine, Clemow Cow Camp includes 154 acres of riparian wetlands that waterfowl and shorebirds depend on, as well as top-notch habitat for grizzly bear and Canada lynx (both threatened species). Our efforts will secure 2.77 CFS of water rights, which the Forest Service will use to reinvigorate the property's critically important meadows. This builds on WRC's work on the Wise River, a major Big Hole tributary, where we are also using water rights to irrigate wet meadows and place water in-stream, an innovative two-pronged approach that ensures fish have cold water when they need it most. *Jordan Siemens photo*

