

## Oregon Division of State Lands, Carrie Landrum

Permit No: 58812-RF Renewal

Dates of Project: August 4, 2016-August 4, 2017  
June 22, 2017-August 4, 2018

Applicant: Kathy Bridges

Project Name: Western Pond Turtle Habitat Creation

Permit Holder: Kathy Bridges & Luke Fitzpatrick

Submitted July 26, 2022

From: Kathy Bridges

[kathlynnbridges@gmail.com](mailto:kathlynnbridges@gmail.com)

503-569-3568

and

Luke Fitzpatrick

[lfitzpatrick1515@gmail.com](mailto:lfitzpatrick1515@gmail.com)

503-930-9431

## Annual Monitoring Report #4

Cover Sheet: Mitigation Monitoring Report Cover Sheet is attached.

Summary Data: The wetland restoration surrounding the turtle ponds continues to develop. Vegetative management is handled by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The one large and five smaller ponds, located on property held by Kathy Bridges, maintains fluctuating water levels during the summer of 2022 through the addition of irrigation water. The three middle sized ponds, located on property held by Luke Fitzpatrick, will experience seasonal drying during the summer of 2022.

Vegetation Sampling Plots: Please see attached information.

Photo Points: Photographs were taken on January 1, 2022. Photo points, required by Marion Soil & Water Conservation District and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and were provided to them on January 6, 2022 via email with Jenny Meisel.

Maps: A copy of the site via Google Earth map is noted in Figure 1. Pond 1 GPS: 44°47'12"N, 122°55'51"W; Pond 2 GPS: 44°47'17"N, 122°55'51"W.



*Figure 1. Google Earth map of project site.*

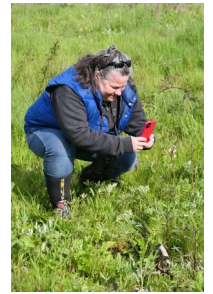
*Red—notes location of ponds (1 large pond and 5 smaller ponds) situated on the property owned by Kathy Bridges.*

*Blue— notes location of ponds (3 medium sized ponds) situated on the property owned by Luke Fitzpatrick.*

Interest in Wetland Reserve Program: April 26, 2022. The 2022 Wetlands Tour was led by Chris Seal and Jon Campbell, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Guests included: Sierra McClain, Capital Press; Dani Aleshire, NRCS Basin Wetland Specialist; Chris Chapa, NRCS State Easement Specialist; Laura Tesler, OR Dept of Fish & Wildlife, Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program; Ray Temple, retired from ODFW and USFWS, active in Salem Audubon Society; Stephanie Hazen, retired veterinarian, active in bee identification and research, photographer; Rosario Franco, Franco Restoration; Lynda Boyer, Heritage Seeds; Joy Jensen, OSU Center for the Humanities & OSU Master Naturalist Program; and Peter and Alana Kenagy, Kenagy Farm. Regrettably, because of the late rains and cool conditions, the wetland plants were experiencing a 4-6 week delay.



*Photos provided by Stephanie Hazen.*



Folks excited about the NRCS-WRP Wetland Project!





**Conclusions & Recommendations:** The ponds were evaluated in July of 2022. Since water in the turtle ponds fluctuates during the summer depending on the application of irrigation water, the extent of vegetation cover varies along the pond perimeters. By and large, the wetland restoration is 99% native species. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service continues to monitor and eradicate invasive species. Around the turtle pond area, there were three small sites identified with Reed canary grass which were eliminated by the landowner.

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service hopes to do fire control, burning the overall wetland area. This will be needed, especially with the wet spring in 2022 and the explosive growth of Velvet grass.

The wetland has emerged to become a major resting area for migrating waterfowl during the fall, winter and spring months and a welcome summer location for nesting birds. The amount of geese have dwindled as compared with prior years. With the absence of lush green grasses, the geese are less apt to use the wetland area for feed and rest.

As noted previously, after the turtle project was reviewed and approved, NRCS later decided not to allow the planting of riparian vegetation next to the turtle ponds. As the wetland has become more established, several trees and shrubs have found home along the banks of the turtle ponds. They primarily include cottonwood and willow. Their addition will help to create the turtle habitat that was first envisioned. In the meantime, there are wildlife trails to the ponds. A trail camera would provide a useful tool to analyze the importance of the ponds to the wildlife in the area.

**Attachments:**

*Photo Points, January 1, 2022*

*Mitigation Monitoring Report Cover Sheet, July 26, 2022*

Following the wetland tour, Luke Fitzpatrick took a few guests to visit the adjoining wetland landscapes not included in the turtle pond area. Enjoy the photos from Stephanie Hazen taken on this rainy and cold day, April 26, 2022.



Top left: Red-winged blackbird and immature Bald eagle. Middle: Cinnamon teal. Right: Black-necked Stilt.  
 2nd Row left: Lesser Yellowlegs. Middle: Red-winged blackbird. Middle: Yellow-headed blackbird. Right: Barn swallow.

Since the wetland plants had not sprouted as one would expect, the area was photographed by Kathy Bridges on June 1.



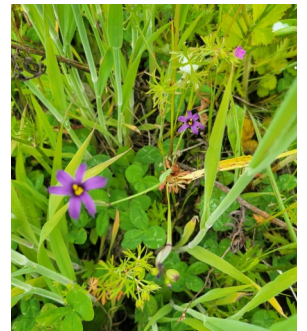
Photos left to right:

Camas (*Camassia quamash*)

Large-leaved avens  
(*Geum macrophyllum*)

Rosy plectritis  
(*Plectritis congesta*)

Blue-eyed grass  
(*Sisyrinchium idahoense*)



Photos left to right:

Meadow checkermallow  
(*Sidalcea campestris*)

Large-leaf lupine,  
(*Lupinus polyphyllus*)  
with Large-leaved avens  
(*Geum macrophyllum*)



Monitoring of turtle ponds, July 13, 2022

Pond 1— one large pond



Turtle pond areas have been restored into natural habitat. The ponds provide summer water, especially during excessive heat due to climate change. (June 26-28, 2021, 108° –116°; another heatwave is expected July 31-August 3, 2022 above 100°.)



Monitoring of turtle ponds, July 13, 2022

Pond 2 (five connected smaller ponds)



Top left: Wood debris was incorporated into design and provides resting habitat for Red-winged blackbirds.



Woody riparian vegetation is naturally occurring on site.

