

# Conservation Success: Delisting the Oregon Chub



On Feb. 17, 2015, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and other conservation partners celebrated a milestone in conservation: delisting the Oregon Chub from the federal Endangered Species List.

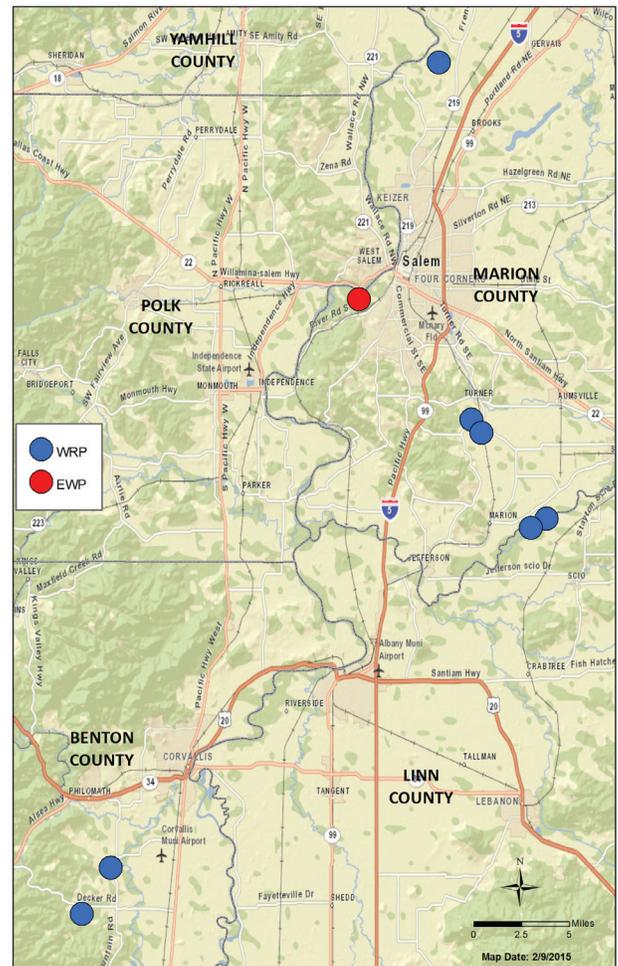
- The Oregon Chub is the first fish in U.S. history to be removed from the Endangered Species List without going extinct. This historic milestone is directly attributable to decades of conservation work from public and private conservation partners.
- The Oregon Chub is native to the Willamette River Valley. When it was listed as endangered in 1993, there were only 8 known populations. Now 22 years later, there are 80 known populations throughout the Willamette River basin and its tributaries (source: FWS). The recovery of the population is due largely in part to habitat improvement projects and introducing the Chub to new locations in its historical range.
- NRCS plays an important role in creating, restoring and protecting habitat for the Oregon Chub. Over the last 15 years, NRCS has worked with private landowners to restore wetlands and secure conservation easements to protect Chub habitat in Oregon.

#### **NRCS Investments in Chub Habitat:**

- **\$4 million in financial assistance**
- **8 wetland restoration projects**
- **8 conservation easements**
- **823 acres protected**
- **5,000 hours in-house technical assistance**

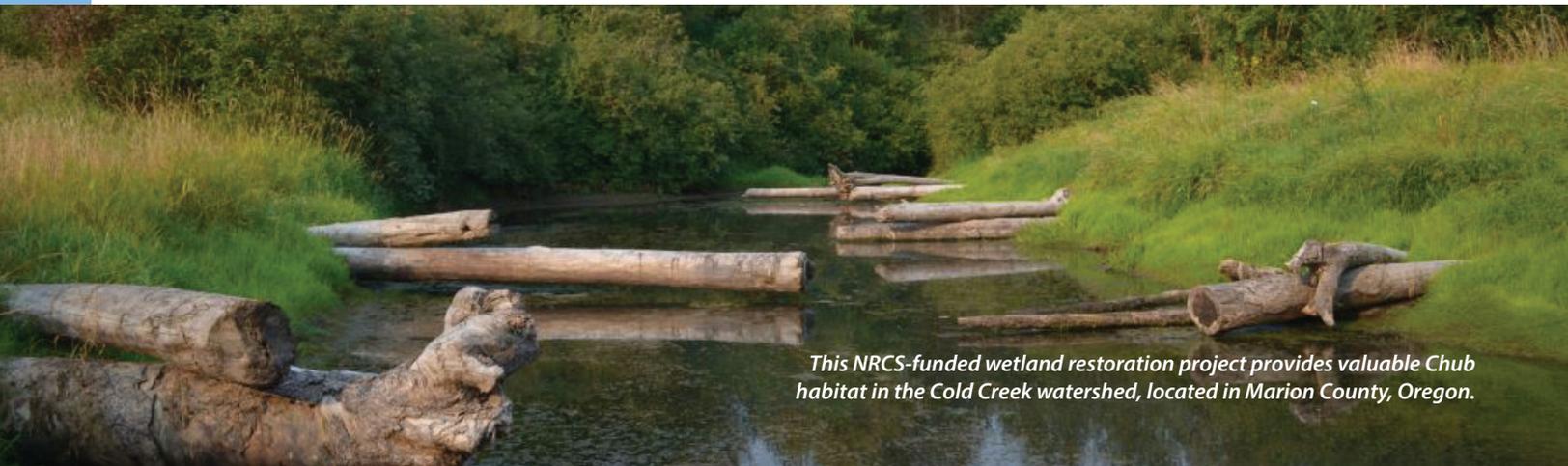
## Wetland Reserve Program

- Most of this work was achieved through the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)—a program funded by the Farm Bill. WRP helps private landowners restore, protect and enhance wetlands to benefit migratory birds and other plants and wildlife, including species of concern and those that are state and federally listed.
- Under the WRP, Oregon NRCS worked with private landowners to secure **7 conservation easements** in the Willamette Valley. Five of those easements are in Marion County, and two are located in Benton County. Those easements cover **623 acres** that provide long-term protection for chub habitat.
- NRCS Oregon invested a total of **\$2.6 million** under the Wetland Reserve Program to enhance, restore and protect wetland habitat for the Oregon Chub and other species.
- Four of the WRP easements are permanent easements—meaning the land will be protected indefinitely. The other three are 30-year easements. These easements represent a significant commitment by private landowners to protect their land and natural resources for future generations. NRCS is fortunate to have strong relationships with landowners in the Willamette Valley.
- NRCS funded 100% of the restoration work and land value for the permanent easements. The 30-year easements were performed under a cost-share between NRCS and the landowner. These are powerful investments that yield longterm conservation results.
- NRCS and our partners continue to protect wetlands today through the 2014 Farm Bill. The wetland component of our program now falls under a new Farm Bill program, the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.



## Emergency Watershed Protection Program

- NRCS secured an easement for **197 acres of floodplain** in Marion County, with a total investment of **\$1.4 million**, under the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program. The easement also includes Chub habitat. The EWP program responds to emergencies created by natural disasters, and helps recover and conserve natural resources in response to floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural events.



*This NRCS-funded wetland restoration project provides valuable Chub habitat in the Cold Creek watershed, located in Marion County, Oregon.*