

**Request for Proposal (RFP)**  
**Estuary Restoration-Design Services**  
**Project Name:** Rogue Estuary Habitat Enhancement  
**Project Location:** Gold Beach, OR

**ISSUE DATE:** 4/24/2023

**PROJECT SPONSOR**

Lower Rogue Watershed Council & Curry Soil & Water Conservation District  
Kelly Timchak – Project Manager  
29286 Ellensburg Avenue  
PO BOX 666  
Gold Beach, OR 97444  
Telephone: 541-373-0057  
Email: [kelly@currywatersheds.org](mailto:kelly@currywatersheds.org)

**PROJECT LOCATION**

Rogue River Estuary, Gold Beach, OR  
Elephant Bar: Township 36S, Range 14W, Section 29 (-124.3857, 42.4359)  
Saunders Slough: Township 36S, Range 14W, Section 21 (-124.372342.4454)

\*There is no site visit scheduled at this time. A map is included for your reference. Contact the Project Sponsor if you have questions.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

Received on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 by 5:00 PM

**AWARD DATE**

Project will be awarded no later than May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

**PROJECT COMPLETION**

Completion of Scope of Work is expected no later than April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## INTRODUCTION

The Lower Rogue Watershed Council (LRWC) works to restore instream and streamside habitat, improve water quality, and encourage community members to become stewards of the Rogue River and its tributaries. To achieve our restoration goals, we partner with landowners, municipalities, and agencies to design, permit, implement, and monitor projects that improve water quality and native fish habitat. More information about our projects and programs can be found at [www.currywatersheds.org](http://www.currywatersheds.org).

The LRWC has received funding to complete two restoration designs in the lower Rogue River estuary. This request and associated contracted work will be used to seek additional funding for project implementation in summer 2025. Both projects are on private land.

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Lower Rogue basin is 226,668 acres and empties into the Pacific Ocean at Gold Beach, Oregon. The basin lies entirely within the Klamath Mountains Physiographic province, an area noted for steep, rugged terrain, narrow valleys, and sharp divides. The estuary is river flow dominated. The mean high tide on the Rogue River is at 4.9 ft, and these tides extend approximately 3 miles upstream. The mean higher high water is 6.7 ft and many summer tides extend to river mile 4.5, near the Ferry Hole boat ramp. Salinity intrusion in the estuary is limited due to the steep river gradient and the high volume of river discharge. The upstream extent of saltwater intrusion (and tidal influence) was usually around river mile 3, near Ferry Hole boat ramp. This area includes Elephant Bar and Saunders Slough.

On the south shore at river mile 2.6, Elephant Bar is a fairly stable river bar, where Freeman Rock, LLC is located. This area is an active gravel operation and we have been working with both the landowner and the business owner (land lessee) over the last 10 years to begin developing a symbiotic project to add additional rearing habitat into the Rogue estuary by further excavating an existing gravel pit, and adding in features that increase habitat complexity. The plan is to place this area into a conservation easement following implementation.

Just above Elephant Bar is at river mile 3.1, Saunders Slough enters the estuary and is fed by Saunders Creek and hyporheic flow of the Rogue River. The slough is connected at the downstream end to the Rogue River Estuary and is tidally influenced. There is a chronic sedimentation issue on the south bank of Saunders Slough, where the bank has been failing for many years. The slough provides an important over-wintering habitat for coho salmon and critical summer rearing habitat for steelhead, cutthroat, Pacific lamprey, and Chinook salmon. Due to the high intrinsic potential of the area for anadromous fish production and the need to improve stream complexity, the slough has been identified as high priority for instream restoration and conservation.

Lack of instream complexity and floodplain connectivity is highlighted as a key stressor for all coho populations in the Rogue. This limiting factor also impacts suitable habitat for steelhead, Chinook, amphibians, reptiles, and beaver in the Basin. These project designs propose to improve the quality and quantity of rearing and refugia habitats within the Rogue River Estuary.

## PROJECT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The goal of the project is to create two estuary restoration designs:

1. Elephant Bar Off-Channel Expansion: Increase suitable year-round habitat for all freshwater life stages of coho and other native salmonids by approximately eight acres, while also supporting channel/floodplain processes that will benefit other native aquatic species. We want to achieve a design that also includes habitat that can be

extensively used by migratory waterfowl, red-legged frogs, beaver, and other aquatic species. We will be working with Freeman Rock, LLC. to integrate habitat creation in conjunction with gravel extraction and to identify sensitive areas on their properties for restoration or avoidance.

2. Saunders Slough Sediment Reduction: An existing slough that is overly simplified and contains no real instream structures (lack of cover). The slough suffers from chronic erosion issues on the south bank and there is a need to investigate the root of the sedimentation issue. We want to create a design that will support channel/floodplain processes that will benefit other native aquatic species by increasing habitat complexity.

Goals of the both designs are to increase access and complexity of habitat, and to reduce sedimentation into important off-channel habitats to ultimately increase the number of smolts present, improve condition factor of smolts present, and to improve salmonid habitat. Designs should include process-based restoration features so that the land itself will continue to be restored beyond our work. These goals should be achieved through the following objectives:

1. Provide access from estuary to newly created juvenile rearing habitat on Elephant Bar
2. Increase habitat complexity and structure through bank stabilization methods in Saunders Slough
3. Increase floodplain connection and function in both locations
4. Return process and function to the estuary to provide the best summer cool-water refugia, and winter off-channel access for fish and wildlife in both locations

#### **POTENTIAL CONCERNS**

1. The Rogue River generally overtops the upper gravel bar leading into Saunders Slough, and the entirety of Elephant Bar 1-2 times a year (when flows are over 100,000 cfs). How will we ensure participating landowners that any structures will stay in place and not cause additional issues for Saunders Slough and Elephant Bar?
2. Several homes are located on the south side, and due to steep banks are approximately 40 feet above the project location. There is a possibility that not all landowners will sign an agreement. We have begun outreach and wanted to make note of it for the project.

#### **SCOPE OF WORK**

1. REVIEW STAGE (summer 2023)
  - 1.1. Review all available reference material, and if useful, conduct a search for additional information pertaining to the project area.
  - 1.2. Consult with Project Manager to discuss any questions about the desired outcomes
2. EARLY CONCEPTUAL DESIGNS (summer 2023)
  - 2.1. Develop conceptual design for the Technical Review Team, according to the project's boundaries, constraints, design considerations, and detailed objectives. Bring to the review team upon completion.
  - 2.2. Designs should consider alternative recommendations for Saunders Slough if we are unable to set back landowner banks any further than currently positioned.
  - 2.3. Designs should include key considerations for the rearing stage, where fry are vulnerable to predators and must endure high stream flows and food shortages. They need pools for rearing, temperature regulation, and cover. Good juvenile-rearing habitat exhibits the following characteristics:
    - a. Low to moderate stream gradient (slope) and velocity (hydrologic refuge)
    - b. A good mix of pool and riffle habitats
    - c. Clean, oxygenated water and cool stream temperatures
    - d. A variety of bottom types to provide habitat for juvenile fish and food organisms
    - e. Overhanging vegetation and large woody material, which provide protection for juvenile fish and leaf litter for aquatic insect food
3. TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEYS (summer/fall 2023)
  - 3.1. Conduct any additional topographic survey of the project area (if necessary) to assist in further evaluating channel hydraulics or conceptual design choice. We are interested in possibly running a hydro-morphodynamic model to simulate erosion (or filling) scenarios in both project areas.
4. PRELIMINARY DESIGN (winter 2024)

- 4.1. Design the preferred conceptual design to 30% completion.
- 4.2. Work with the Project Manager to evaluate preliminary design to ensure it is feasible (i.e. cost effective to implement and able to permit).
5. CONSTRUCTION READY DESIGN (spring 2024)
  - 5.1. Prepare a Design Report which includes the following:
    - a. Summary of design methodology used to create projects
    - b. Typical design drawings of large wood structures and off-channel features
    - c. Planview maps of the proposed large wood placements and/or other instream features imposed on the following baselayers: ortho-imagery, topography, and shaded relief (LIDAR)
    - d. Longitudinal and cross-sectional profiles of the existing Saunders Slough and Elephant Bar project locations
    - e. Coordinate files with sufficient spatial control for project stakeout and implementation.
    - f. Excavation and fill volumes
    - g. Quantity and size of desired large wood and any ballast rock needed for the projects
    - h. Construction specifications – (type of equipment, construction methodology/approach/technique, completed site conditions)
    - i. Estimated Construction Costs

#### ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE

Date	Activity
4/24/2023	Request for Proposal distributed
5/15/2023; 5:00 PM	Proposals due
5/31/2023	Contractor selection: Project awarded
3/29/2024	Preliminary design due (30-60% complete)
9/30/2024	Construction-ready design due (90% complete)

#### AVAILABLE REFERENCE MATERIALS

The following data and documents are available for reference:

- a. Digital Terrain Model of the estuary created from 2021 LiDAR and 2021 sonar bathymetric data
- b. Estimated main-stem and tributary inflows
- c. Measured water level data at five locations in the estuary (2020-2022)
- d. Simulated water depths and velocities for a range of winter flow conditions
- e. Habitat suitability maps for juvenile coho and chinook for a range of winter flow conditions
- f. Elevation change maps indicating erosion/deposition occurring between 2008 and 2020
- g. Sediment transport mode and mobility maps for a range of winter flow conditions
- h. *Rogue River Estuary Assessment & Enhancement Plan, 2023. Prepared by O'Connor Environmental, Inc., River Docs, LLC, Oregon State University Extension Service/Oregon Sea Grant, & River Research & Design, Inc., 127 pgs (\*available May 5, 2023)*
- i. *Preliminary Assessment of Channel Stability and Bed-Material Transport in the Rogue River Basin, Southwestern Oregon* (USGS, 2011)
- j. *Timchak, K.L. and C.R. Myers. 2015 (unpublished). Rogue River Estuary Strategic Plan. Lower Rogue Watershed Council.*

#### PROJECT BIDS

Bids must be submitted to the **Curry Soil & Water Conservation District office by 5pm, Monday, May 15, 2023.** The office is located at 29286 Ellensburg Ave., Gold Beach, OR.

You may also **email your bids by 5pm, May 15, 2023** to [kelly@currywatersheds.org](mailto:kelly@currywatersheds.org) (please put *Rogue Estuary RFP* in the subject line). Bids should be structured as follows:

- Submit the bid for the Total Project Cost. If you are awarded the job, your bid will become binding, and will be the basis for the contract amount
- Staff Qualifications
- List the hourly rates of the personnel involved with the project
- Describe your experience designing juvenile salmonid rearing habitat and bank stabilization projects in tidally influenced areas
- Provide the name and summary of two projects that your design team have worked together to implement, and the agency/organization/company that contracted for the work
- If you are unable to meet the above timeline, please suggest an alternative for completion of design

## CONTRACTOR SELECTION

The LRWC Coordinator and a technical review team will evaluate the proposals with the criteria outlined below. Bidders shall address these criteria based on the proposal instructions. The selection will not be based solely on lowest bid. Award will be made to the highest score. The total score is 100.

Selection Criteria	Points
Experience and understanding of designing instream restoration designs in tidally influenced areas and in small streams (i.e. experience designing similar projects in high gradient systems)	35
Staff Qualifications and Team Experience (i.e. competent staff/subcontractors)	25
Project costs – This project is entirely grant-funded	25
Timeline – Completion on or before April 26th, 2024 due to grant deadlines	15

## CONTRACT AWARD

If awarded the contract, the Contractor must meet the following stipulation:

- The Contractor must be able to legally carry out project activities in the state of Oregon.
- The Contractor must hold their own insurance for themselves and their employees. Professional Liability must be at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence with \$2,000,000 aggregate. If driving for contractual work, then Auto Liability must be at least \$1,000,000 combined single limit.

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The Contractor is responsible for determining the appropriate means and manner of performing the Work; however, any modifications to original Scope of Work must be first approved by the Project Manager. The District reserves the right to cancel the solicitation if all bids are unsatisfactory.

## NEGOTIATION TERMS

LRWC retains the right to select, request further information, and negotiate terms with the Contractor who is awarded the bid based on the above selection criteria. LRWC also reserves the right to reject any and all proposals submitted, and to terminate negotiations with any party at any time without incurring liability. This RFP gives rise to no contractual obligations.

## RFP TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLIED TO FINAL CONTRACT

All terms and conditions outlined in this RFP, including the specifications and the bidder's completed proposal, will become, at LRWC's sole discretion, part of the final contract (the "Agreement") between Curry SWCD (our fiscal sponsor) and the selected Contractor.



Proposals must be received before 5:00 PM on 5/15/2023

**SUBMIT DIGITAL or HARD COPY PROPOSAL TO:**

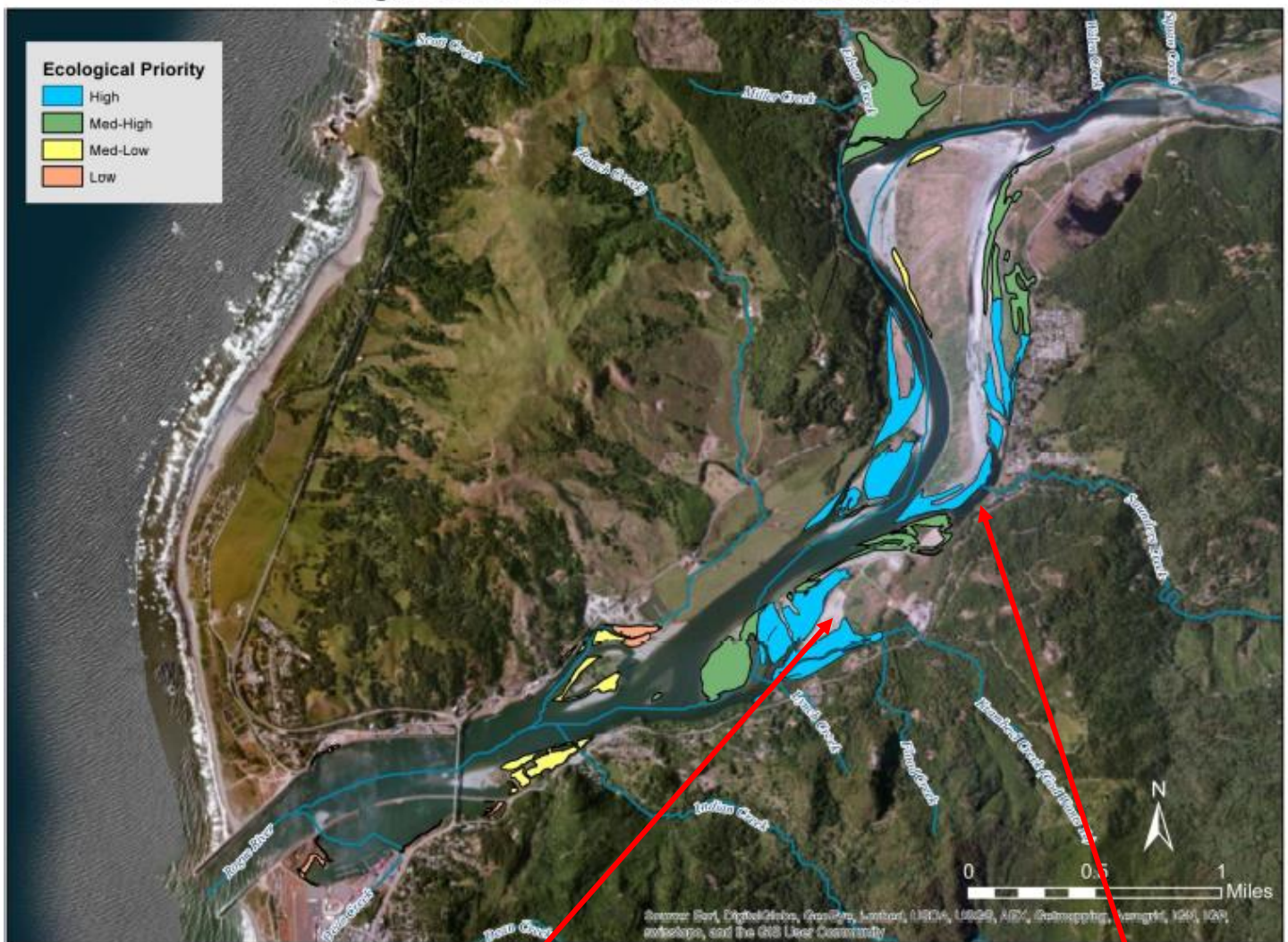
The Lower Rogue Watershed Council  
Attn: Kelly Timchak, Project Manager  
PO BOX 666  
29286 Ellensburg Avenue  
Gold Beach, OR 97444

Email: [kelly@currywatersheds.org](mailto:kelly@currywatersheds.org)

Phone: 541-373-0057

Fax: 541-247-0408

### Rogue River Tidal Wetlands Assessment

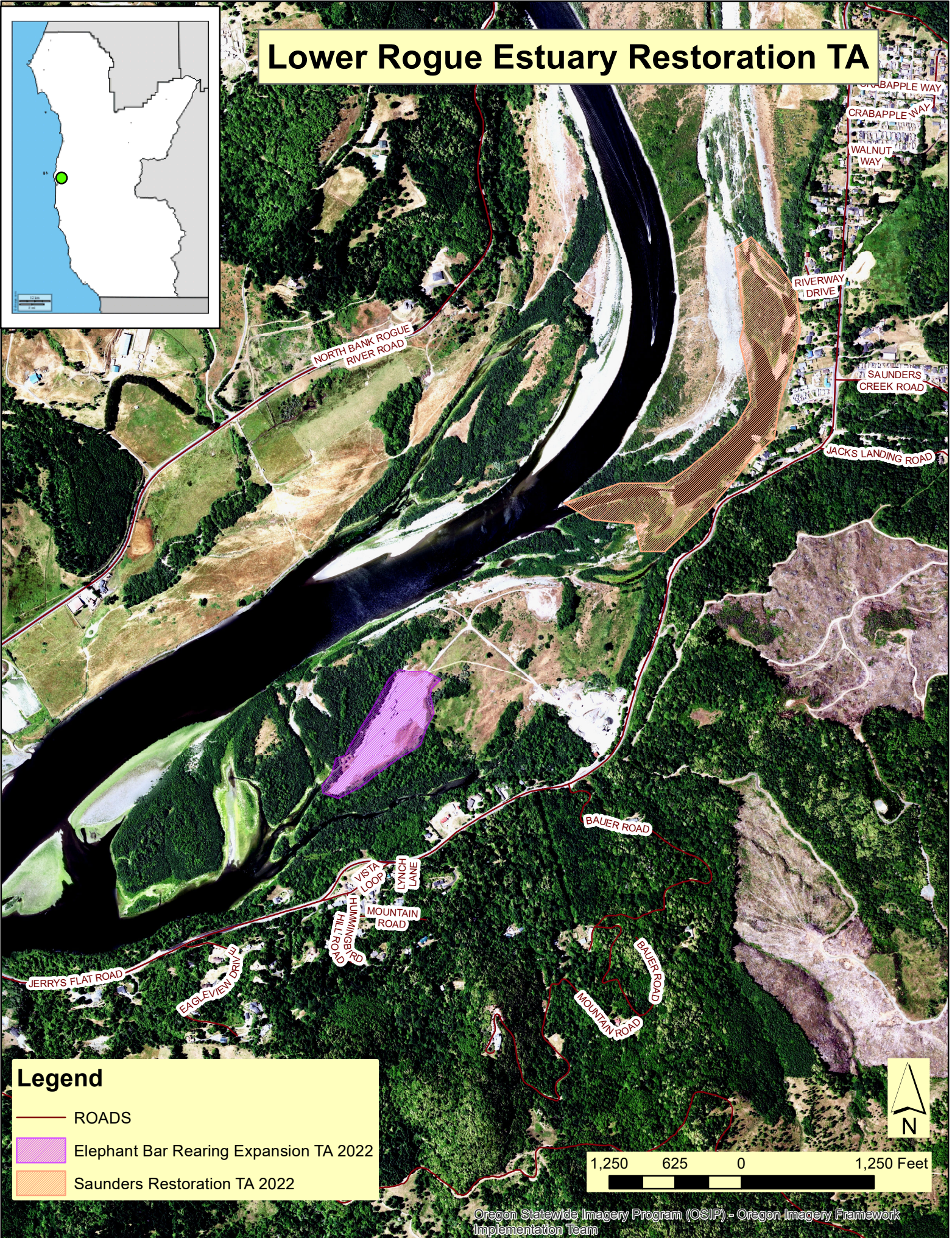
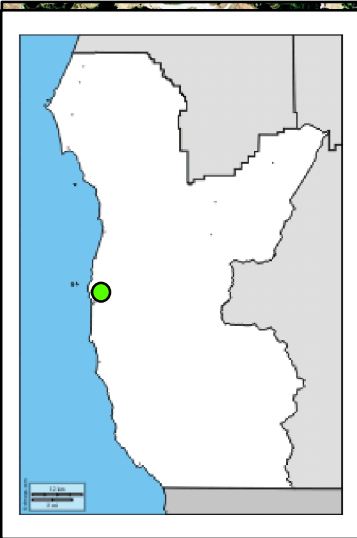


Site 1: Elephant Bar Habitat Enhancement

Site 2: Saunders Slough Sediment Reduction



# Lower Rogue Estuary Restoration TA



## Legend

- ROADS
- Elephant Bar Rearing Expansion TA 2022
- Saunders Restoration TA 2022