

Update on M-DAC Farms Wetland Restoration *Rare Wildlife Species Flock to Restored Habitat*

The M-DAC Farms Wetland Restoration Project spans 580 acres of historic marshland east of Harrisburg in Linn County.

This effort permanently protects the land and will restore over 100 acres of seasonal wetland, over 100 acres of bottomland hardwood forest, and over 300 acres of wet prairie habitat on former agricultural lands.

Partners include the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Cascade Pacific RC&D, and landowners Pat and Stephanie Hagerty.

OWEB funds of \$219,274 are being used for re-contouring the land to repair agricultural drainage, non-native vegetation treatment, and seeding and planting of native plants and trees. The total project cost is \$2.484 million.

"We could not be happier with the help and true partnership." - Stephanie Glacier Hagerty

A conservation easement that protects the wetland in perpetuity was purchased by NRCS through the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP).

Annual ryegrass and tall fescue at the site were burned in June 2007 to prepare for re-contouring during August and September. The restoration of the onsite hydrology improved the habitat for numerous wildlife species, including ducks,



Aerial view, June 13, 2008

Photo courtesy of USFWS

geese and shorebirds, as well as predators that feed on them, like eagles and falcons. Some rarities reported at the site include Sandhill cranes, long-billed curlew, Wilson's phalarope, mountain plover and white-faced ibis.

Site preparation during the summer and fall of 2007 also made the site suitable for the streaked horned lark, a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The site has now become home to the second-largest breeding population of the bird.

Early in 2008, during the initial phase of riparian restoration, approximately 23,000 willow, ash, alder, cottonwood and pine were planted on over 100 acres. Restoration of the native prairie will begin in fall 2008.



First flood, November 2007

Photo courtesy of USFWS