

Reecer Creek Floodplain Restoration Project





Floods,
Fish
&
Forbs...

Lessons Learned

Presented by

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Numerous Partners

~\$1.2M
by
Multiple
Entities



Kittitas County
Water Purveyors

Yakima Tributary Access
& Habitat Program



Washington
Conservation Corps
www.wccy.wa.gov/wcc



Reecer Creek Overview

- Habitat Enhancement
 - Instream & Riparian Elements
- Flood Management
 - Floodplain Capacity & Function
- Community Asset
 - Recreation & Education

Plans & Processes



- Project addresses:
 - LFA
 - Steelhead
 - Yakima Watershed
- Supports
 - Process Restoration
 - > 100 years
 - Goal is self-sustaining

Our “As-Built”



For Today

- General Review in Pictures
- Revegetation, 2011-2012
 - Site Management
 - Weeds & Water
- Floods & Floodplain Function
- Lessons Learned

Pre-Project Conditions

Reecer Creek

Levee

I-90



Notice they are all
Straight Lines!

Post Project 2011

Reecer
Creek

Levee


I-90





Revegetation

- Native Trees, Shrubs, Grasses
 - ~5,200 plants (potted by volunteer Mar 2011)
 - ~4,400 live stakes (cut and soaked)
 - ~28 acres drill seeded to grass
- Augered Holes & Ripped Lines
- Weed Management
- Temporary Irrigation

Planting Zones:

 **Near Riparian**
Native shrubs, trees

 **Far Riparian**
Native shrubs, trees
(drought tolerant)

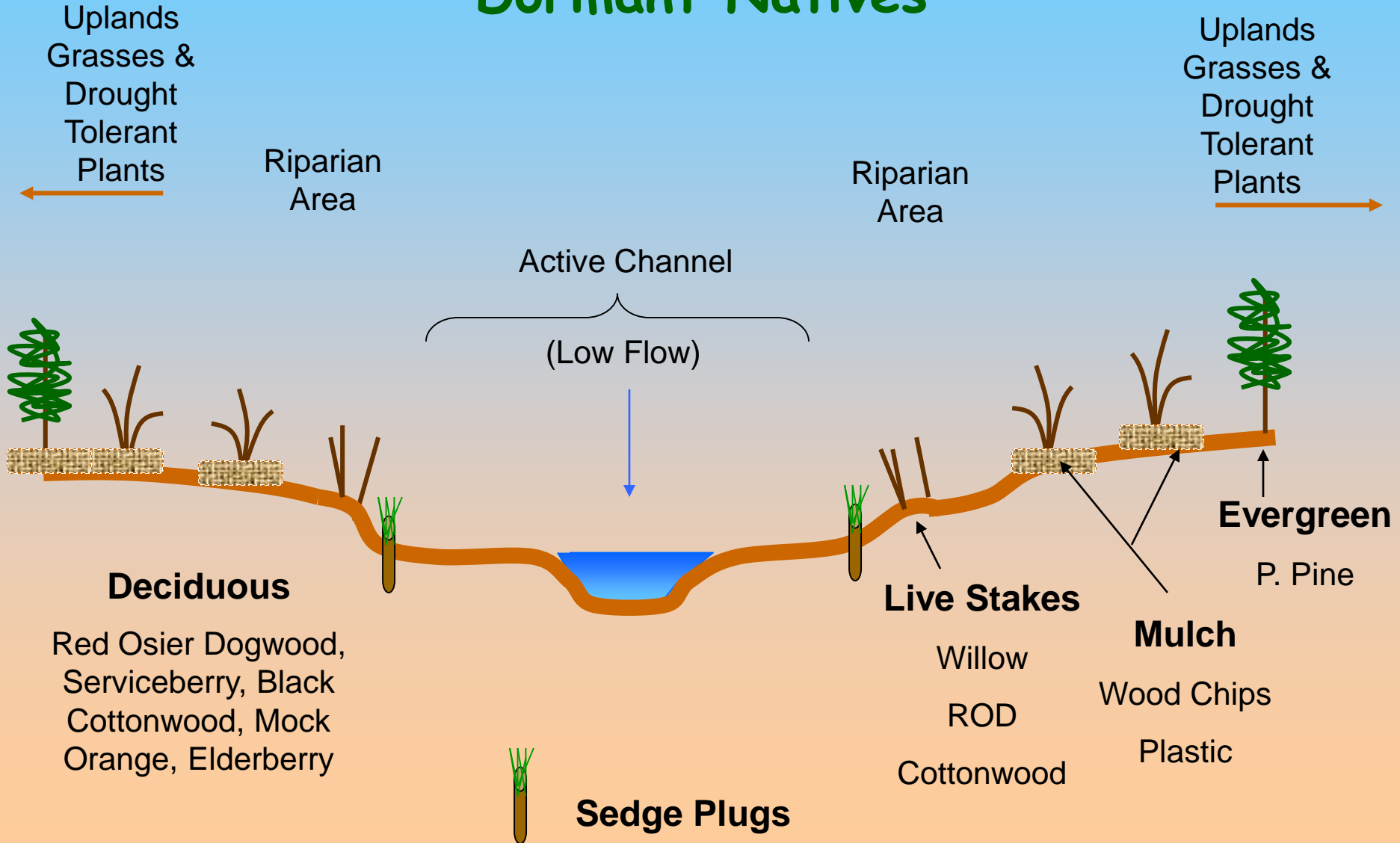
 **Upland**
Native grasses

Entire site drill seeded
with native grasses



Oct-Nov 2011 Planting

Dormant Natives



Copses, Linear Arrays & Live Stakes

271 copses
3,598 plants

~5,400 linear ft
~1,400 plants

876 LS holes
4,380 livestakes





Auger
&
Holes



Ripper & Linear Arrays







✓ WCC !!!



For Cold Fall Nights!

Live Stakes



Black Cottonwood, ROD,
Coyote Willow at top of
bank and in wetland

Sedge & Rush Plugs



Irrigation

Well, 2" Mainline,
Spigots, Hand watering



Weed Management



Chemical, Mechanical &
Competition





Drill Seeded Grasses



Volunteer
Plants

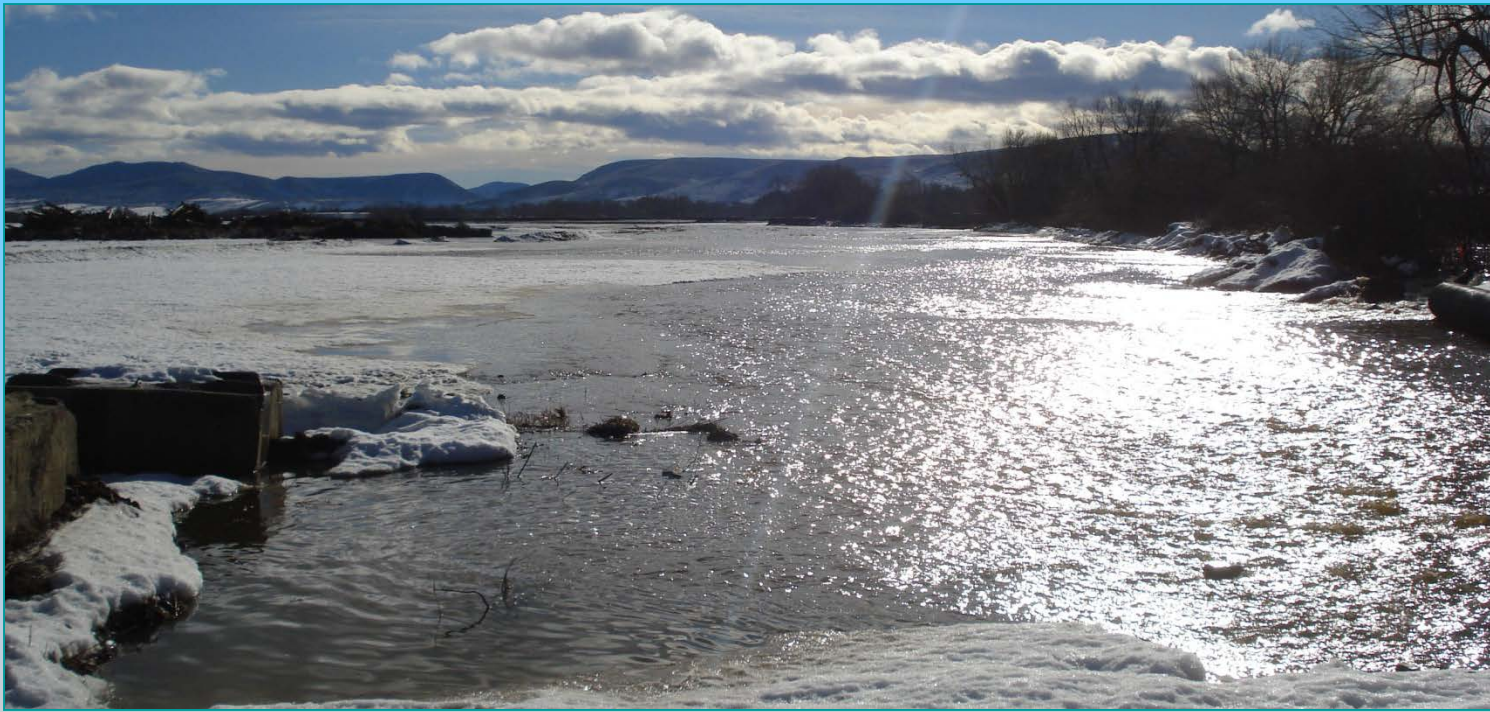


Volunteer People!



Flow, Channel Formation & FP Function





Flood

**Jan
17,
2011**



Sediment Cycling: Energy, Objects & Substrate





Roughness



Channel Forming

Undersized, low-banked by design



Erosion Potential: Rock vs Silt Banks



Signage

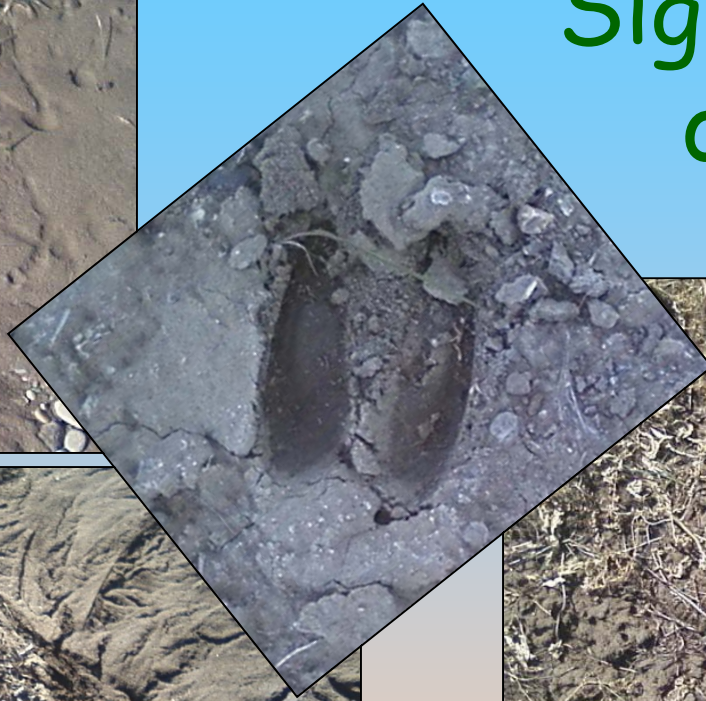




Public Interest



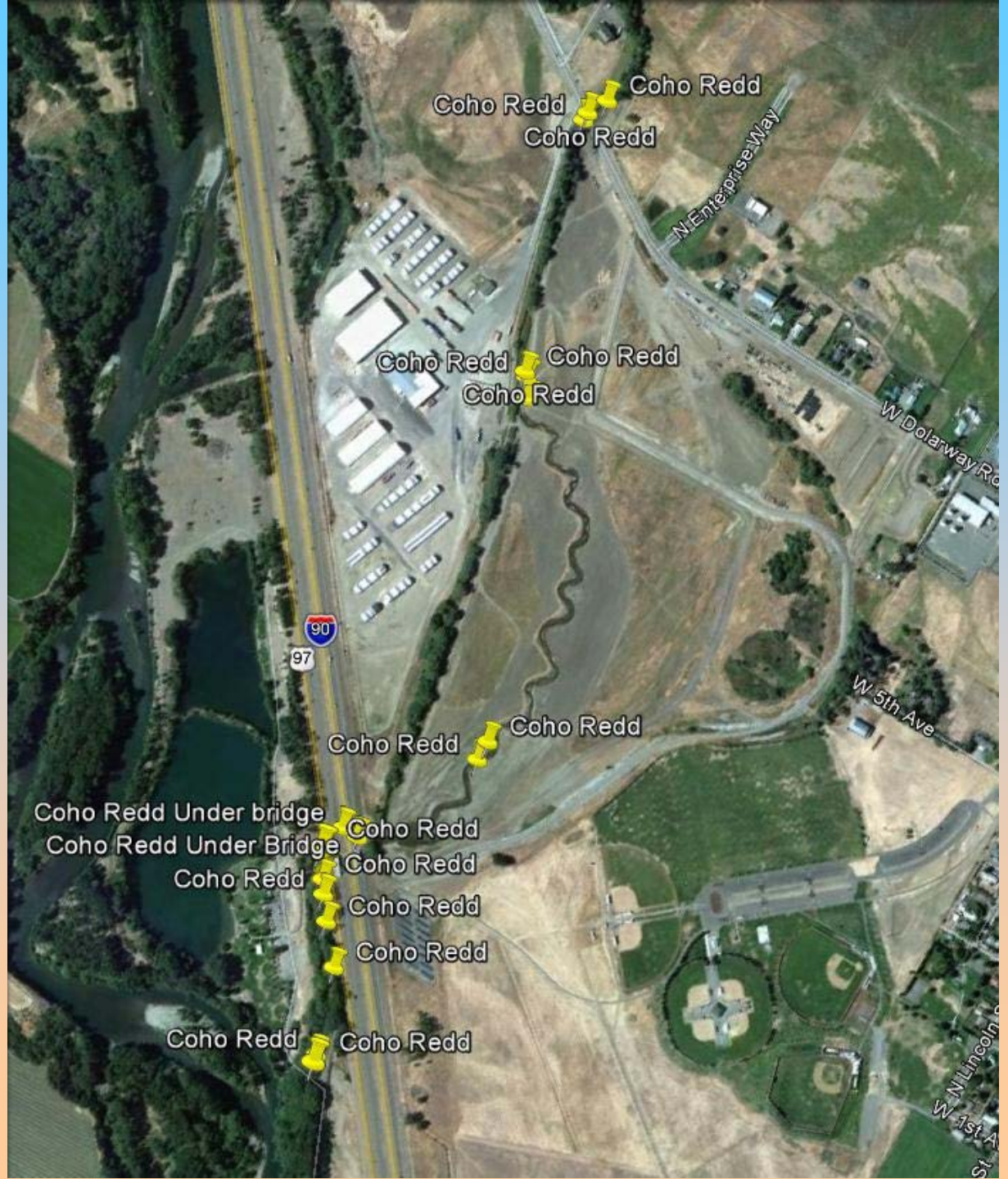
Signs of Life... or Death



Coho Redds

25 !

Todd Newsome



✓ Lesson Learned:

- Think efficiency... equipment, people.
- Large site - Truck or ATV on-site.
- Problematic Ponderosa Pine.
- Keep your people happy!
 - Treats & accommodations
- Ripping soils affected erosion.

✓ Lessons Learned:

- **Inexpensive, small wood looks really small when installed.**
- **Survey elevations are really important. *Accurate* survey elevations are even more important.**
- **Working with a local contractor was critical to the project's success.**
- **Floods bring Volunteer Plants (+/-).**

✓ **Lessons Learned:**

- **It's easy to underestimate how long it takes to complete tasks. Keep your WCC Crews Busy!**
- **Pre-drilling the holes was critical, but we have had feedback that it's best to do that the day of planting.**
- **It would have been great to plant in straight rows for mowing down the mustard. To heck with natural-looking.**

Lessons Learned: ✓

- Ripping was a fast, efficient way to prepare for planting.
- For some things, there's no right answer:
 - Bareroot vs potted,
 - Copses vs rows,
 - Spring vs fall planting
- Communication is key. Obviously.



Questions?