

North Coast Basin

Rocky coastal headlands; tidal rivers, estuaries and floodplains; relatively flat stretches of coastal plain and the steep-sloped ridges and hills of the Coast Range characterize the North Coast Basin. The vegetation in this heavily forested region is dominated by Sitka spruce, western hemlock, and Douglas fir, with stands of alder in disturbed areas. The major land use is commercial timber production, with agriculture confined largely to coastal lowlands and river valleys. Roughly half of the basin is in public ownership.

Eight unobstructed tributaries to the Pacific Ocean drain the North Coast Basin, including some of the most diverse and healthiest aquatic systems in the state. The basin is a stronghold for coho, chum, and chinook salmon, cutthroat trout, and steelhead.

Major conservation issues in the North Coast Basin include conversion and fragmentation of tidal and floodplain wetlands, loss and degradation of sand dune systems and riparian areas and loss of old-growth forests.

Priority acquisition project attributes focus primarily on ecological systems and species associated with wetlands and riparian areas. Many other species and habitats of concern are found in the North Coast Basin, but existing public land ownership patterns and regulatory processes make these lands a lower priority for OWEB acquisition funding. (One exception is the marbled murrelet, which is included on the list of priority bird species because much of its remaining habitat is on unprotected private lands in this basin.) Some at-risk species found in the basin do not appear on the priority list because their core habitat requirements are not served or benefited by land acquisition (e.g. marine mammals, pelagic birds).

Priority Ecological Systems

Chaparral and north coast shrublands
Eelgrass beds
Fens
Floodplain/outwash lowland riparian, linear, wetlands
Freshwater marsh and aquatic beds
Intertidal mudflats
Intertidal salt marsh
Lowland depressional shrub wetlands and wet prairies
Lowland non-linear forested wetlands (swamps)
Lowland riparian woodland and shrubland
Mesic herbaceous wetlands
Montane non-linear forested depressional wetlands (swamps)
Montane riparian
Mudflats
Noble fir
Oak woodlands

Sitka spruce forest
Tidally-influenced freshwater wetlands
Western Oregon upland prairie and oak savanna

Rare or At-Risk Plant Communities

Black cottonwood / creek dogwood / touch - me - not
Creeping spikerush - water purslane marsh
Crowberry - salal oceanfront shrubland
Douglas spiraea - bog blueberry / slough sedge / sphagnum
Martindale lomatium rock garden
Pacific reedgrass - blue wildrye
Western Labrador tea - salal / slough sedge bog
Western Labrador tea - sweet gale heath
Western Labrador tea / burnet / sphagnum bog
Western Labrador tea / darlingtonia / sphagnum bog
Western Labrador tea / slough sedge / sphagnum bog
White oak / Idaho fescue savanna

North Coast Basin – Priority Species

<i>Fish</i>	<i>Birds</i>	<i>Mammals</i>	<i>Amphibians and Reptiles</i>	<i>Invertebrates</i>	<i>Plants</i>
Chinook Salmon (spring run) Chum Salmon Coho Salmon Steelhead	Aleutian Canada Goose Bald Eagle (known and potential nest sites) Band-tailed Pigeon Black Oystercatcher Dunlin Great-blue Heron (nest/roost sites only) Marbled Murrelet Olive-sided Flycatcher Pacific-slope Flycatcher Peregrine Falcon (known and potential nest sites) Ruffed Grouse Rufous Hummingbird (natural habitat only) Willow Flycatcher	American Martin Red Tree Vole Townsend's Big-Eared Bat White-Footed Vole	Clouded Salamander Coastal Tailed Frog Columbia Torrent Salamander Red-Legged Frog Southern Torrent Salamander	<i>Deroceras hesperium</i> (Evening Fieldslug) <i>Derephysia foliacea</i> (Foliaceous Lace Bug) <i>Hesperarion mariae</i> (Tillamook Westernslug) <i>Lygus oregonae</i> (Oregon Plant Bug) <i>Plebeius saepiolus littoralis</i> (Greenish Blue (Butterfly)) <i>Pristiloma pilsbryi</i> (Crowned Tightcoil (Snail)) <i>Prophysaon pardalis</i> (Spotted Taildropper (Slug)) <i>Pterostichus rothi</i> (Bellers Ground Beetle) <i>Speyeria zerene hippolyta</i> (Oregon Silverspot Butterfly)	<i>Erythronium elegans</i> (Coast Range Fawn-lily) <i>Sidalcea hirtipes</i> (Bristly-stemmed Sidalcea) <i>Sidalcea nelsoniana</i> (Nelson's Sidalcea)