

## South Coast Basin

### Description

This basin is characterized by two types of drainages. To the north, the Coos and Coquille rivers flow from headwaters in the Coast Range across the Coos Bay dunes and marine terraces to the ocean. In the south, several smaller streams (the Floras and Hunters creeks, and Sixes, Elk, Winchuck, Chetco, and Pistol rivers) flow from the steeper headwaters in the Klamath Mountains.

Habitats in the South Coast Basin are particularly diverse. It includes grasslands and shrublands typical of the central and northern California coast, as well as habitats more similar to those in the Willamette and Umpqua Valleys. It includes Oregon's only Coast Redwood forests, and most of the world's habitat for Port Orford cedar, another giant conifer that was formerly widespread, but is declining due to an introduced root-rot. The terraces from Bandon south to Cape Blanco support unique shorepine forests, wetlands and cranberry bogs. Further south, the coastal headlands and off-shore rocks are among the most spectacular and pristine in Oregon.

This basin contains several areas identified as "core areas" for the recovery of coastal salmon and as important genetic refuges for aquatic species (American Fisheries Society). The Oregon Biodiversity Project identified native sand dune systems, estuaries and headlands and old-growth conifer forests as priority habitats in this basin, and identified the Cape Blanco area as a good place to address biodiversity conservation because of its at-risk species and unique coastal habitats. Coho salmon in this basin are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The South Coast Watershed Council is one of the oldest in Oregon. It serves as the coordinating council and "umbrella" for a number of watershed councils operating in Curry County. These organizations and their partners have focused salmon recovery efforts on riparian restoration and management, improved estuarine and wetland productivity, increased stream complexity and overwintering habitat, removing barriers to passage, and improved range and forest health.

### Priority Ecological Systems

California-Southern Oregon coastal bluffs and headlands  
Deciduous swamp  
Freshwater emergent marsh  
Intertidal freshwater wetland  
Intertidal mudflat  
Klamath ponderosa pine  
Lowland riparian woodland and shrubland  
Lowland riparian woodland and shrubland  
Montane riparian woodland and shrubland  
Oak woodland

Sitka spruce forest  
South coast grassland  
Tidal salt marsh  
Western Oregon upland prairie and oak savanna  
Western Oregon wet prairie

Rare or At-Risk Plant Communities

Buckbrush / Lemmon needlegrass  
Darlingtonia ultramafic fen  
Grand fir - Douglas - fir / tanoak / sword fern  
Port Orford cedar - Sitka spruce / evergreen huckleberry - western rhododendron  
Red fescue - California oatgrass south coast headland or hillslope grassland  
Sitka spruce - grand fir / salal / sword fern  
South coast herb dunes  
Western hemlock / western Labrador tea / slough sedge - skunk cabbage swamp  
Western Labrador tea / burnet / sphagnum bog  
Western Labrador tea / darlingtonia / sphagnum bog

DRAFT – South Coast – Priority Species

<i>Fish</i>	<i>Birds</i>	<i>Mammals</i>	<i>Amphibians and Reptiles</i>	<i>Invertebrates</i>	<i>Plants</i>
Coho Salmon Chinook Salmon (fall run)	Band-Tailed Pigeon Black Oystercatcher Black-Throated Gray Warbler Brant Green Heron Marbled Murrelet Olive-Sided Flycatcher Peregrine Falcon (known and potential nest sites) Purple Finch Rufous Hummingbird (natural habitat only) Short-Billed Dowitcher Snowy Plover	Red Tree Vole	Del Norte Salamander Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog Northwestern Pond Turtle Red-Legged Frog	<i>Algamorda Newcombiana subrotunda</i> (Newcomb's Littorine Snail) <i>Anodonta californiensis</i> (California Floater/Mussel) <i>Callophrys johnsoni</i> (Johnson's Mistletoe Hairstreak) <i>Plebeius saepiolus</i> (All ssp In Area) (Greenish Blue Butterfly) <i>Pomatiopsis binneyi</i> (Robust Walker) <i>Saldula villosa</i> (Hairy Shore Bug)	<i>Castilleja mendocinensis</i> (Mendocino Coast Indian Paintbrush) <i>Lilium occidentale</i> (Western Lily) <i>Sidalcea malviflora</i> ssp. <i>patula</i> (Coast Checker Bloom)

South Coast Basin Priority Ecological Systems								
Ecological System Name	Existing (Ha)	Historic (Ha)	Protected (Ha)	Private (Ha)	% Loss (+/- =gain/loss)	% Public	Index	Comments
Western Oregon Wet Prairie		90.45			-98.9%	0.0%	-98.91	Historically along Coquille, may no longer exist in this basin.
Oak Woodland	288.36	11263.77	94.68	139.86	-97.4%	51.3%	-64.71	Included as state and ecoregional priority
Sitka Spruce Forest	2814.12	7170.03	319.95	2366.01	-60.7%	15.9%	-49.38	
Klamath Ponderosa Pine	4.68	543.06	2.88	1.71	-99.0%	52.3%	-48.25	Almost none remaining in Basin, remaining on public ownership
Western Oregon Upland Prairie and Oak Savanna	349.38	688.95	6.48	312.21	-49.2%	10.6%	-47.37	
Freshwater Emergent Marsh	2.70	1893.78	2.70		-99.8%	73.0%	-26.83	Wetland / Riparian priority not well mapped
Lowland Riparian Woodland and Shrubland	2651.04	2049.66	553.68	2036.16	29.3%	23.2%	50.20	Wetland / Riparian priority not well mapped
Deciduous Swamp								Wetland / Riparian priority unmapped
Montane Riparian Woodland and Shrubland								Wetland / Riparian priority unmapped
Lowland Riparian Woodland and Shrubland								Wetland / Riparian priority unmapped
Intertidal Freshwater Wetland								Wetland / Riparian priority unmapped
Intertidal Mudflat								Wetland / Riparian priority unmapped
Tidal Salt Marsh								Wetland / Riparian priority unmapped
CA-Southern Oregon Coastal Bluffs and Headlands								Wetland / Riparian priority unmapped
South Coast Grassland								Ecoregional priority, not well mapped

## Priority Species in South Coast Basin

Common Name	Scientific Name	Lists on Which Species Appears	Rationale for Identifying as Priority	Additional Comments
<b>BIRDS</b>				
Band-tailed Pigeon		BCR priority, GAP priority, TNC ecoregional target, PIF focal species	State Sensitive; good basin to emphasize key habitat components (red elderberry and cascara) within low-mid elevation private forest lands plus highly sig declining trend and opportunity for unique site protection (mineral sites)	
Black Oystercatcher		TNC ecoregional target	State Sensitive; although limited opportunities for acquisition of rocky shoreline; acquisition of adjacent habitat critical to access issues key to addressing species low tolerance to human disturbance	
Black-throated Gray Warbler		TNC ecoregional target, PIF focal species	Good basin to emphasize opportunities on private forest land for this relatively low elevation mixed forest species	
Brant		TNC ecoregional target	Significant population declines recent and long-term; opportunities for acquisition of estuarine wetlands and eelgrass beds should be encouraged	
Green Heron		GAP priority	Good basin to emphasize for this high quality wetland/riparian specialist that is sensitive to disturbance	
Marbled Murrelet		BCR priority, GAP priority, TNC ecoregional target, Listed species	Listed Species; good basin to emphasize based on populations; plus some non-public opportunities in Sitka Spruce and other private lands	
Olive-sided Flycatcher		BCR priority, TNC ecoregional target, PIF focal species	State Sensitive; significantly declining population trends at regional and w. OR and WA levels (4-5%/year); good basin to emphasize its forest edge and opening habitat on private forest land	
Peregrine Falcon (known and potential nest sites)		BCR priority, GAP priority, TNC ecoregional target, Listed species	Listed Species: good basin to emphasize because of extensive shoreline foraging and potential cliff nesting habitat off public lands	
Purple Finch		BCR priority, GAP priority	Significantly declining populations at regional, western OR and WA and western OR levels (1-3%/year); perception of more common due to feeder associations; good basin to emphasize because of private forest land opportunities for this species relatively low elevation, mixed forest associations	

Rufous Hummingbird (natural habitat only)		BCR priority, TNC ecoregional target, PIF focal species	Highly significant declining population trends at regional and w. OR levels (4-5%/year); good basin to emphasize private forest land especially mostly private Doug-fir and madrone forest and early shrub tree and several mixed forest types and riparian habitat opportunities	
Short-billed Dowitcher		Regional shorebird priority	High prioritization scores; specialist on estuarine mudflats; good coastal wetland species for this basin	
Snowy Plover		BCR priority, Regional shorebird priority, GAP priority, TNC ecoregional priority, Listed species	Listed Species; nearly all the OR population of this species occurs in this basin so any opportunities for private land acquisition that supports conservation of this species in any manner (direct or indirect such as access) should be pursued	
<b>MAMMALS</b>				
Red tree vole		TNC ecoregional target	Declining	
<b>HERPS</b>				
Del norte salamander		TNC ecoregional target	Best basin to capture this species	
Foothill yellow-legged frog		TNC ecoregional target; GAP priority	Declining	
Red-legged frog		TNC ecoregional target, GAP priority	Declining	
Northwestern pond turtle		TNC ecoregional target; State sensitive-critical species; GAP priority	Declining	
<b>FISH</b>				
Coho salmon		G1/G2 species; Federal T/E species; TNC ecoregional target	Declining	
Chinook Salmon (fall run)		G1/G2 species; State sensitive-critical species; TNC ecoregional target	Declining	
<b>INVERTEBRATES</b>				
Newcomb's littorine snail (periwinkle)	<i>Algamorda newcombiana (subrotunda?)</i>	TNC ecoregional target; G1/G2 species	Rare - only known from this basin in OR	Very little information available

California floater (mussel)	<i>Anodonta californiensis</i>	TNC ecoregional target	Rare - some taxonomic questions	
Johnson's (mistletoe) hairstreak	<i>Callophrys johnsoni</i> ( <i>Mitoura johnsoni</i> )	TNC ecoregional target; G1/G2 species	Rare; old growth obligate	
Greenish blue	<i>Plebeius saepiolus</i> (all ssp in area)	TNC ecoregional target	Rare	
Robust walker	<i>Pomatiopsis binneyi</i>	TNC ecoregional target	Rare - only known from this basin in OR	
Hairy shore bug	<i>Saldula villosa</i>	TNC ecoregional target	Rare	
<b>PLANTS</b>				
Mendocino Coast Indian Paintbrush	<i>Castilleja mendocinensis</i>	G1G2 taxa	Rare and Endangered, mostly on private land	
Western Lily	<i>Lilium occidentale</i>	Federal, State Listed, G1G2 taxa	Rare and Endangered, mostly on private land	
Coast Checker Bloom	<i>Sidalcea malviflora ssp. patula</i>	G1G2 taxa	Rare and Endangered, mostly on private land	





### South Coast Basin Priority Rare Communities

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Abies grandis</i> - <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Lithocarpus densiflorus</i> / <i>Polystichum munitum</i>	grand fir - Douglas - fir / tanoak / sword fern
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> / <i>Artemisia pycnocephala</i> - <i>Scrophularia californica</i>	south coast herb dunes
<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i> - <i>Picea sitchensis</i> / <i>Vaccinium ovatum</i> - <i>Rhododendron macrophyllum</i>	Port Orford cedar - Sitka spruce / evergreen huckleberry - western rhododendron
<i>Festuca rubra</i> - <i>Danthonia californica</i>	red fescue - California oatgrass south coast headland or hillslope grassland
<i>Ledum glandulosum</i> / <i>Darlingtonia californica</i> / <i>Sphagnum</i>	western Labrador tea / darlingtonia / sphagnum bog
<i>Ledum glandulosum</i> / <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> / <i>Sphagnum</i>	western Labrador tea / burnet / sphagnum bog
<i>Picea sitchensis</i> - <i>Abies grandis</i> / <i>Gaultheria shallon</i> / <i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Sitka spruce - grand fir / salal / sword fern
<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i> / <i>Ledum glandulosum</i> / <i>Carex obnupta</i> - <i>Lysichiton americanum</i>	western hemlock / western Labrador tea / slough sedge - skunk cabbage swamp
<i>Ceanothus cuneatus</i> / <i>Stipa lemmonii</i>	buckbrush / Lemmon needlegrass
<i>Darlingtonia californica</i> ultramafic fen	Darlingtonia ultramafic fen