



(DRAFT 2010-05-18) FACT SHEET: Economic Uses of Habitat Restoration Areas

In addition to typical agriculture and business activities occurring on adjacent lands, some economic uses can be done in habitat areas without degrading habitat value – if done with sensitivity to those values. Many of these may require some initial investment, and not all are possible on every patch of habitat. Call the Long Tom Watershed Council for more information.

1. **Grow and harvest native plants for the botanicals industry:** fernleaf lomatium (*Lomatium dissectum*), lovage (*Ligusticum apiifolium*), dwarf Oregongrape (*Berberis nervosa*) or others.
2. **Grow and harvest native plants and/or seed** for local restoration projects or local nurseries.
3. **Harvest native truffles** (uncommon) using a trained dog or contract with someone using a trained dog. **European truffles may be** planted on inoculated European hazelnut trees, however, hazelnut orchards are not considered as habitat restoration areas. But their potentially lucrative return could subsidize an adjacent habitat project.
4. **Grow and harvest firewood** in rotation from Oregon white oak (or madrone) trees for personal use or commercial sale.
5. **Capture economic return from thinning conifers** which are encroaching oak and prairie habitats. In general, one entry causes less disturbance than multiple entries. Larger trees may have lumber value, whereas smaller trees may have commercial chip or biofuel value.
6. **Host group rental events** (weddings, reunions, etc.) at scenic sites.
7. **Conduct flash or rotational grazing** with goats, sheep, cattle or other livestock, and minimize soil impacts. Usually it should occur after the growing season and should annually impact no more than 50% of a habitat patch. This would allow for native plants and wildlife to complete their annual cycles.
8. **Set-asides for wildlife habitat** may help qualify an operation on the remainder of a site for sustainability certification for farming or forestry.
9. **Conservation easements** can produce cash income and conservation easement tax deferral. But these need to be discussed thoroughly with the easement holder (such as the McKenzie River Trust or the Bonneville Power Administration).
10. **Property sale** of sites with outstanding resources may be feasible in some instances, producing income.

We also would like to hear your ideas, so please send them along!