

## Benton County Riparian and Wetlands Project Ponds and Lakes Inventory

**Ponds and Lakes Inventory Background:** Open water supports thriving ecosystems. The Willamette River's channels, ponds and lakes are home to over 60 species of fish, half of which are exotic or have been introduced. Riparian bottomland forest is found alongside the Willamette Basin's rivers, streams, ponds and lakes (from Stewardship Principles for Benton County Landowners (OSU College of Forestry)—a planning guide). Using best existing data for ‘ponds’ and ‘lakes’ during the Riparian and Wetland Project period is a priority. This is a requirement under Statewide Planning goals, and is important for supporting and improving stream and wetland function in Benton County.

**Ponds and Lakes Inventory Goal:** Identify the location, size and other best existing data to determine planning requirements and outreach/education information for the identified resources.

### **Ponds and Lakes Inventory Objectives:**

- Research pond and lake functions—specifically how they affect adjacent/down gradient streams and riparian areas, and the functions/values they provide directly.
- Determine Pond vs. Lake Definitions—does this division need to occur?
- Identify stillwater bodies that have characteristics found to be priority under first bullet, based on best available data
- Review National Wetland Index Maps to determine overlap
- Analyze location and general functions of resources in relation to inventoried stream/riparian areas
- Determine next steps: protection, outreach education, etc.