

Lev, Esther. *Heroic Tales of Wetland Restoration*. The Wetlands Conservancy, Tualatin OR. 2001.
(Reviewed by Charles Bosse)

The title for this book sums it up well. It is a colorful and inspiring book, full of pictures and personal stories about people who have restored wetlands throughout Oregon. Two of the projects are within the Willamette Valley itself, and all 12 projects, plus the additional information in the back, talk about important things for any private landowners interested in restoring wetlands on their property.

This book talks some about the ecology of wetlands, but mostly, it is full of inspiration and advice on accomplishing wetland restoration projects. The advice extends beyond the “how to” and goes into details on who is likely to be willing to help. It talks a lot about making the project include a lot of organizations and how to make up for some of the red tape.

In addition to the tales of success restoring wetland habitat, the book has a large section dealing with “quick tips” for figuring out what is right for an individual wishing to carry out a similar project. The tips are project management oriented, but they include a conservation angle that talks about the relationship of the owners to the environment they are trying to restore, and pulls out the line of separation between owner and land.

Critique

This book is refreshing in not being a doomsayer's book. It takes the view that it is possible for people who wish to put the work into managing and rebuilding wetlands to obtain both funding and help from the government and from companies who believe in the value of the project. The book is recent, so it is applicable, and it is written by a member of the Eugene wetlands restoration project group, published by The Wetland Conservancy, and was supported by numerous state and federal wildlife regulating agencies, so the book is well done and has accurate, useful and up to date information.

However, the book is more of an inspiration to start a project and some good pointers than an in-depth guide with large amounts of facts and statistics, or even in-depth ecological advice. The book takes the attitude that it is better to talk to an ecologist for each project, and provides information on from whom and where to seek information, but it lacks scientific detail or precise biology. However, the writing is inspiring, the pictures are spectacular, and the resources referenced are good.

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