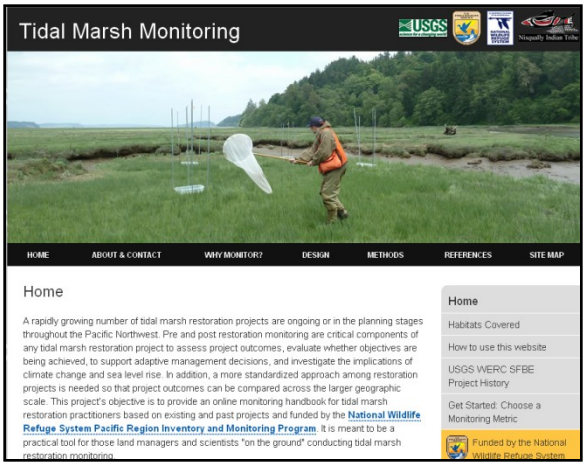
Announcing the launch of TidalMarshMonitoring.org –
an online tool for tidal marsh restoration monitoring



We are pleased to announce the launch of TidalMarshMonitoring.org, an online tool for tidal marsh restoration monitoring. This new website was created out of the growing need for a more standardized monitoring approach among restoration projects throughout the Western United States.

Monitoring ecosystem response is essential in documenting the effectiveness of restoration actions. Evaluating restoration performance depends on systematic and consistent data collection as well as the development and application of proven and repeatable monitoring methods. In addition, each tidal marsh restoration project represents opportunities to advance restoration and monitoring science through the communication of lessons learned and shared experiences.

Here we've developed a "one-stop" website to provide an online monitoring handbook for tidal marsh restoration practitioners that are "on the ground" conducting tidal marsh restoration monitoring. TidalMarshMonitoring.org offers information on tidal marsh monitoring design, selection of appropriate methods, and downloadable standard operating procedures, datasheets and database templates, and a restoration forum for restoration practitioners, managers, scientists, and the interested public.

The main features of www.tidalmarshmonitoring.org are:
- steps on designing a monitoring plan with downloadable examples
- details on over 40 physical, biological, and ecological monitoring methods
- method comparisons by monitoring group (e.g. hydrology, sedimentation, birds, vegetation)
- slideshow summaries of monitoring methods
- downloadable, step-by-step SOPs, datasheets, database templates, and manuals
- monitoring discussion forum
- over 100 downloadable references

Tidalmarshmonitoring.org is a "living" document that will incorporate improved and new methods as they are developed by the restoration science community.

This website was developed in partnership by U.S. Geological Survey, Western Ecological Research Center, San Francisco Bay Estuary Field Station; Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge; and Nisqually Indian Tribe. The National Wildlife Refuge System Pacific Region Inventory and Monitoring Program provided initial funds to develop and launch TidalMarshMonitoring.org and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) contributed funds for the maintenance of the site.