

4Cast Project: In the Cascade Head Biosphere Reserve

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The 4Cast Project is about bringing Science, Art, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge together in a viable and useful way. To do this we are looking at four habitats in the Cascade Biosphere Reserve and spending time learning how they are affected by the thermal effects of climate change.

Uplands

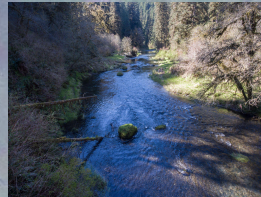
In the Uplands habitat the 4Cast Project is focusing on Pheno Cams. A Pheno Cam is a camera that is set to take pictures of a plant in a specific time frame such as every hour. By looking at the plants over years we can learn how certain plants are being affected by Thermal Climate Change.



We are looking at how the timing of specific attributes such as when the plant blooms or drops its seeds change as the climate changes.

Estuary/Riverine

Still unknown other than we are likely to look at salmon.



Intertidal

In the Intertidal the 4Cast Project is looking for the effects Sea Star Wasting Disease had on the sea star population during the wasting events in past years. By counting sea stars in five marked out transects and comparing the results from previous years we are able to understand what the future might hold for sea stars on the Oregon coast.



We are also looking at how the different species of sea stars are recovering since these wasting events occurred.

Open Ocean

For the Open Ocean habitat the 4Cast Project is observing the Wrack Line. We are inviting volunteers to join the project through Inaturalist, a social online network designed to share observations of the natural world. In this way we are gathering and recording results for future study.



The Wrack Line is the line of debris the tides leave behind when they recede each tide cycle. Letting the tide bring us objects such as seaweeds, animals, as well as plastic debris, we are able to learn what is happening in the open ocean since it is difficult to access.