

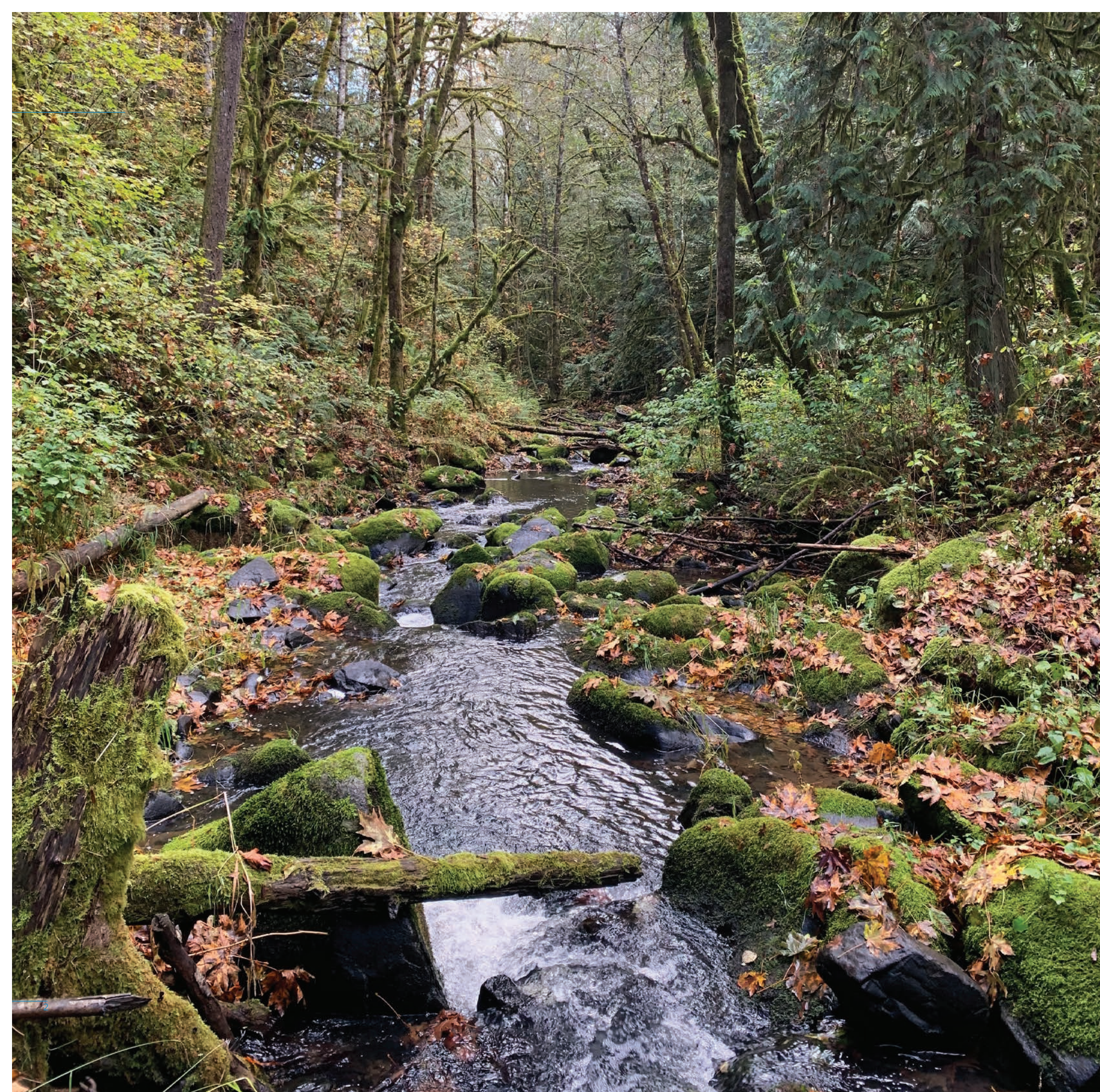


COLUMBIA
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Report



2020
-
2021



COLUMBIA SWCD

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MESSAGE FROM **THE MANAGER**


Nathan Herr

It has once again been an atypical year at the District as a whole. I really think the main lesson we all have learned in the past year is that there are so many things that are out of our control, and the best thing to do is adapt and move forward. There's definitely one thing I can confidently say about our staff here: We know how to adapt and get the job done.

We hired a new Riparian Specialist this year. Amber has been a great addition to our team. She brings a fire and passion to the position that elevates everyone's work passion. With her addition to the District, she has been able to bring that passion to our landowners looking for assistance with any of their resource concerns. She has taken on several projects since starting, and has absolutely filled a hole that we've needed at the office.

Our partnerships have helped us during this time to be able to still complete programs that provide a benefit to the county. Partnerships like the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP), where in conjunction with them we have been implementing our water quality monitoring program, give us the ability to leverage our dollars more efficiently and provide water quality data to help determine if our water quality is within the recommended standards for ideal water quality. Without partners like LCEP, programs like this wouldn't be possible in the county.

As we look to planning for the foreseeable future, we are looking to bring back programs that have been put on hold during the pandemic. Our education program which provided materials to study natural resources to the community's grade schools will hopefully soon return to a more normalized situation to where we can continue to provide these materials for the schools. Programs and projects that provide education to landowners and students on how to address natural resource concerns while still providing a benefit to both the landowner and the land are imperative in a county like ours. Our population is booming in this county and it is our job at the District to provide assistance to landowners, new or experienced, to address these concerns, and provide them with solutions. Like most other programs, projects, and assistance that has happened over the past year: We will adapt and get the job done.


 District Manager
 nathan.herr@columbiaswcd.com



COLUMBIA SWCD **AT A GLANCE**

WHO WE ARE

The Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District is a special district that offers free services to the local residents and landowners in Columbia County. Our focus is to help you with land and water issues you may have on your property or simply help you prevent potential issues. We do this through free technical assistance and sometimes cost-share may be available for certain practices.

Offering People of our Community Assistance to Sustain Local Natural Resources

The Columbia SWCD was created in 1946 and has been serving the citizens of Columbia County ever since. The SWCDs of Oregon were created gradually starting in 1939. To date, there are 45 districts serving Oregon. They are considered subdivisions of state government, but function as local units led by a locally elected board of directors. District directors are elected on Oregon's general election ballot and serve terms of four years without pay. Directors are members of business, professional and agricultural communities who understand the ecological relationships of soil, water, plant, and animals.

GET INVOLVED

- If you are interested in issues involving restoration, land management, and conservation, consider running for one of our Board positions. More information is available on our website: www.columbiaswcd.com
- Volunteer or be an Associate Director. Whether you have a special skill set to offer, are studying to go into the field of natural resources, or are just generally looking to help out, volunteers are always greatly appreciated.
- Implement conservation practices on your land. Call our office or the NRCS to get more information about what you can do to improve soil health, water quality, and habitat on your land.
- Start a community work group. Identify common interests or concerns among friends/neighbors and rally for the cause. Check out SOLVE's website for volunteer opportunities across the state and to learn how to become an Event Coordinator.

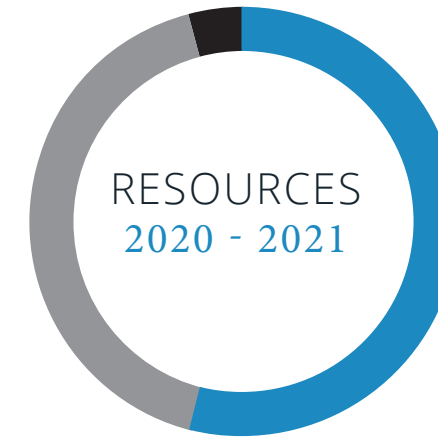
FINANCIAL REPORT BREAKDOWN

Annual Accounts

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COLUMBIA SWCD

Consolidated Balance Sheet		2021	2020	2019
Assets	Current Assets			
	Checking/Savings	204,228.56	143,478.26	69,447.95
	Accounts Receivable	23,932.53	6,399.24	23,094.54
	Other Current Assets	23,468.44	39,524.91	28,479.75
	Total Current Assets	251,629.53	189,402.41	121,022.24
	Fixed Assets	1,163,547.26	1,198,560.26	1,233,572.26
	Other Assets	6,669.95	7,785.52	-
	Total Assets	1,421,846.74	1,395,748.19	1,354,594.50
Liabilities & Equity	Current Liabilities			
	Accounts Payable	89,836.70	11,084.48	2,091.43
	Credit Cards	2,644.71	3,251.85	2,895.15
	Other Current Liabilities	88,513.04	76,867.89	102,787.91
	Total Current Liabilities	180,994.45	91,204.22	107,774.49
	Long Term Liabilities	51,042.75	149,137.70	245,085.33
	Total Liabilities	232,037.20	240,341.92	352,859.82
	Equity	1,189,809.54	1,155,406.27	1,001,734.68
Total Liabilities & Equity	1,421,846.74	1,395,748.19	1,354,594.50	

Balance sheets presented for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2021, 2020, and 2019.



56%: Tax Levy \$0.10/\$1,000
41%: Grants
3%: Other

YOUR TAX
DOLLARS **\$554,683**

GRANT
DOLLARS **\$412,842**

OTHER
DOLLARS **\$32,281**

Your tax dollars have allowed the Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District to increase our capacity to address client inquiries, conduct numerous site visits, develop projects, and provide technical assistance to the citizens of Columbia County. The SWCD has also had the ability to develop comprehensive restoration plans and partnerships, as well as focus more on our noxious weed and education programs, outreach, and building our volunteer program. If you're interested in volunteering with us, please call our office or email information@columbiaswcd.com.

OUR SERVICES

- Project Implementation
- Permitting Assistance
- Site Visits
- Conservation Planning
- Pasture Management
- Erosion Issues
- Small Market Gardens
- Rainwater Harvesting & Rain Gardens
- Community Outreach & Presentations
- Fish & Wildlife Habitat Assistance
- Mud & Manure Management
- Noxious Weeds & Native Plantings
- Soil Information
- Stormwater Management
- Water Quality
- Much more! Call for more information: 503-433-3205

The 2021 audit will be available for review at the District office after December 31, 2021.

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Columbia SWCD

The Columbia SWCD Board of Directors is made up of citizens and landowners within Columbia County who are members of business, professional and agricultural communities who understand the ecological relationships of soil, water, plant, and animals. The county is broken up into five zones, of which there are representatives for each. Directors must own at least 10 acres of land to qualify. In addition, the Board has two “at large” positions. These can come from anywhere in the county and there is NO land requirement. Directors serve four year terms and are elected just like any other governmental official. If you are interested in becoming a CSWCD Director please visit our website for more information, or email information@columbiaswcd.com



JASON BUSCH
Chairman, Zone 2



DEBI BRIMACOMBE
Vice Chair, At Large 2



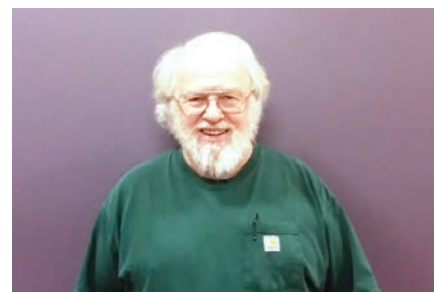
JEFF VANNATTA
Treasurer, Zone 3



BILL EAGLE
Secretary, At Large 1



SONIA REAGAN
Director, Zone 1



DAVE FREYTAG
Director, Zone 4



VACANT
Director, Zone 5

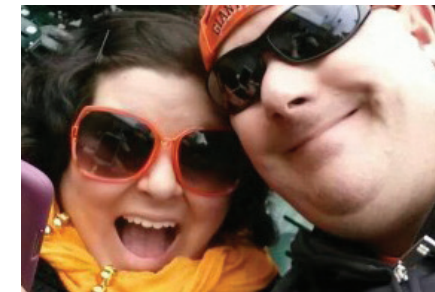
The Board of Directors meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 4:00 PM in the Columbia SWCD Meeting room: 35285 Millard Road, St. Helens, OR 97051.

CURRENT OFFICE STAFF

Columbia SWCD & NRCS



NATHAN HERR
District Manager



MALYSSA LEGG
Financial Manager



JENNIFER CHAVEZ
Outreach Coordinator



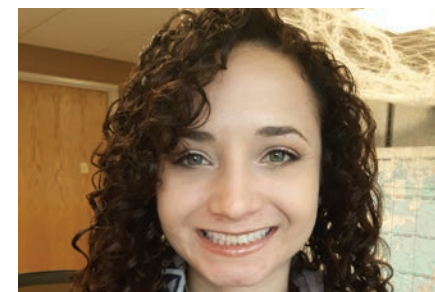
SELENE KEENEY
Senior Resource Conservationist



CRYSTALYN BUSH
Resource Conservationist



AMBER KESTER
Riparian Specialist



HANNAH ISAACS
NRCS District Conservationist



STACEY COOPER
NRCS Organic and Small Farms Specialist



DEE ROBINSON
NRCS Program Support Tech

The Columbia SWCD office is shared with the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture.



Photo top left

Selene with staff from Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership collecting samples at Milton Creek.

Photo bottom left

Staff from LCEP and Department of Environmental Quality collecting samples at Milton Creek.

Photo right

Riparian Specialist, Crystalyn Bush, at Milton Creek with LCEP staff.



WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM



2017 - 2020

In 2017 the Columbia SWCD, with grant funding from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and in collaboration with the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, established the Columbia County water quality monitoring program to track and characterize long-term watershed water quality trends. To provide a comprehensive overview of the health of Columbia County watersheds, the monitoring program was established in accordance with the methods and quality assurance protocols laid out by DEQ for measuring water temperature, turbidity, E. coli bacteria, and conductivity in Clatskanie River, Beaver Creek, Milton Creek, North Scappoose Creek, and South Scappoose Creek watersheds.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) grant funds have since allowed the continuation of the water quality monitoring program up to this year and for the foreseeable future.

With three years of data now, the water quality monitoring program is now able to provide an overview of emerging watershed health trends. The Water Quality Monitoring Report for Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District Water Quality Trends Monitoring Program 2017-2020 prepared by the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership summarizes and compares the three years of water quality data against standard parameter ranges for ideal salmonid habitat as defined by the DEQ, OWEB, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It is intended that the DEQ will now use the summarized data to assess whether the Clatskanie River, Beaver Creek, Milton Creek, and Scappoose River watersheds are meeting water quality criteria for beneficial uses.

The Columbia SWCD and partners also intend to use the data as a baseline watershed condition for water quality and to target stream and riparian habitat restoration efforts. If you'd like to learn more about the program and emerging Columbia County watershed water quality trends you can find the Water Quality Monitoring Report for Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District Water Quality Trends Monitoring Program 2017-2020 (Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership 2020) on the Columbia SWCDs website.

SELENE KEENEY

Senior Resource Conservationist
selene.keeney@columbiaswcd.com



COLUMBIA SWCD SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM



In October 2020, I was hired by the Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District to fill the role of Riparian Specialist. Part of my job includes overseeing our small grants program. Through this program, the SWCD works with Columbia County residents to obtain funding for and implement smaller scale restoration projects that yield benefits for water quality and wildlife habitat. Over the last year I have attended dozens of site visits with property owners seeking advice on how to be the best stewards for their land and I have had the privilege to work with several amazing people who are currently engaged in small grant projects. For some folks, undertaking one of these projects can be a true journey of stewardship, transformation, and love. I asked one of our current grant participants if he would write something for our annual report about their project. Being a writer, I knew he would write something good, but I never expected to be so moved. Please take a moment to read what Danner Christensen wrote about the project that he and his wife, Annie, have undertaken on their beautiful property along McNulty Creek. If you are interested in learning about our small grant program or in scheduling a site visit, please contact me at amber.kester@columbiaswcd.com or call my extension at 503-433-3205 X109.

AMBER KESTER

Riparian Specialist
amber.kester@columbiaswcd.com



" We first saw a pair of spawning salmon in the Fall 9 years ago shortly after moving to our retirement home on .8 acre adjacent to McNulty Creek in St. Helens. The male was turning dark red, accompanied by a smaller gun-metal colored female. They laid and fertilized the eggs in a small gravel bar and after a few days they disappeared to complete their life cycle, their decaying bodies contributing nutrients to all life in and along the stream.

We were delighted and amazed to see them as this small creek had been much abused by humans over the years. After heavy rains we would sometimes see plastic bottles and other human generated-debris coming from upstream, flowing eastward to the nearby Columbia River and inevitably out to the Pacific Ocean, there to degrade into micro-plastic pieces that poison and kill animals and plants in that vast marvel of water.

Over the years some residents along McNulty Creek (including the prior owner of our home) had cleared the creek bank of most vegetation and cut down large alders and other trees very close to the stream that had provided shade and cover for fish as well as bank erosion protection. The creek bank had become fertile growing ground for non-native invasive plants and we could see the bank erosion in areas that had been stripped of most native vegetation.

Photo top and bottom

*Coho Salmon captured
by Annie Christensen*



Like many over the years, we watched the scientific evidence of the warming planet and felt a sense of powerlessness and despair to do anything to help reverse it. We heard about the Creekside reclamation grants available through CC Water and Soil Conservation Office. We applied for and received a grant for our project. We killed invasive ivy growing on the stream bank as well as blackberries and dozens of other invasive non-native plants replacing them with hundreds of native species such as Oregon Grape, salal, oceanspray, kinnick-kinnick, osoberry, and ferns among many others. Throughout this unusually hot dry summer we have fed thousands of gallons of water to these trees and plants to give them a chance to survive.

We are like old people planting trees they will never see grow to maturity. We will likely not live to see this small stretch of creek completely restored to its mature native state. But just like other aged tree planters, we do it because we owe something to this planet and human generations to come. When we are gone from this earth, we like to imagine that new stewards of this small stretch of the creek will stand on the bank of a healthier section of stream surrounded by native plants and trees. We hope they will see a pair of thriving salmon spawning in that same small gravel bar and they will whisper the same greeting we do now whenever we see them return.

'Welcome Home'. "

-Danner Christensen



TREATING COLUMBIA COUNTY'S NOXIOUS WEEDS



In late February 2020, the Columbia SWCD received two grant awards from the Oregon State Weed Board totaling the largest annual award the SWCD has ever received from OSWB. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, both of these projects were implemented and completed on time, allowing us to continue making gains in the battle against Garlic mustard and other noxious weeds.

The first project was based on discovery of Giant hogweed on Milton Creek in the spring of 2019. The SWCD alerted the Oregon Department of Agriculture of this report and they sent a staff person out in June 2019 to treat this site. The purpose of this grant was to survey for any

additional spots of Giant hogweed along Milton Creek. A hired crew surveyed approximately 9 miles of Milton Creek and found no hogweed. The SWCD and partners also monitored historical hogweed sites throughout the County and found no new plants, which was great news! This grant also provided funds to treat other priority invasive species in the County including infestations of Spotted knapweed, Spurge laurel, and isolated spots of Knotweed along Milton Creek. As part of this grant, many of our partner agencies received Greelyman bootbrushes, which connect to a water source to effectively remove mud, plant fragments, and seeds from boots, in an effort to prevent the spread of noxious weeds.

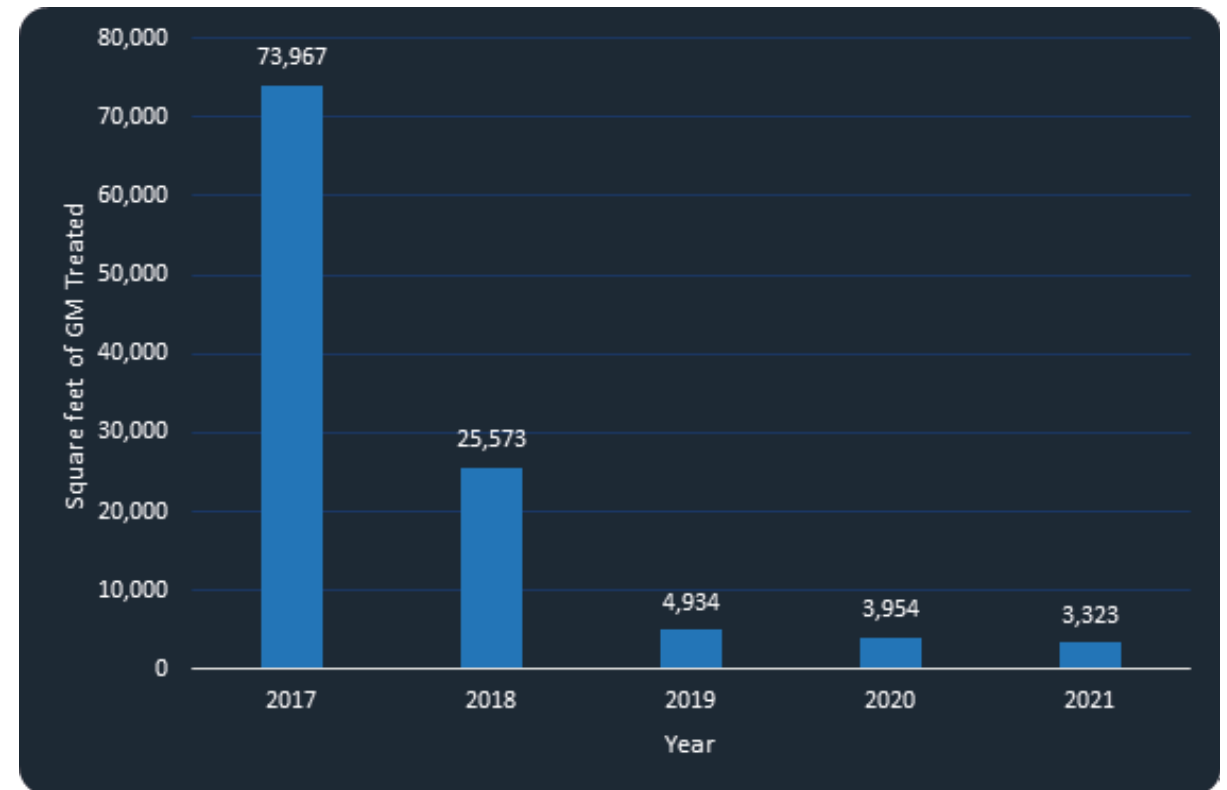
Photo left page

Riparian Specialist, Amber Kester, pulling Spotted knapweed from a site on Crown Zellerbach trail in August 2020



Graph right page

Total Square feet of Garlic Mustard Treated on North Scappoose Creek 2017 - 2021



The second project was a continuation of ongoing efforts to control and eradicate Garlic mustard from affected areas around N. Scappoose and mainstem Scappoose Creeks. This grant provided funds for two seasons of spring treatment on Garlic mustard as well as a small amount of seed to help suppress Garlic mustard growth in forested areas along W. Lane Road. New spots of Garlic mustard were identified along S. Scappoose Creek in Veterans Park by the staff of the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council. Thanks to their keen observation and early reporting, we were able to include Veterans Park in our 2021 treatment. Partnerships around Garlic mustard continue to grow and strengthen and we are looking forward to seeing how this evolves in the coming years.

This year's grant for Garlic mustard treatment also contained a small budget for Knotweed treatment based on conditions at County-owned, Fisher's Park. Given the budget, we were able to pay for treatment of Knotweed along significant sections of S. Scappoose Creek and Raymond Creek. These are crucial areas to focus control given that the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council currently has designs for extensive restoration actions along Raymond Creek, with future plans

to engage in restoration along S. Scappoose Creek.

Small victories mean a lot when you are dealing with invasive species. Often these fights can feel like a losing battle. However, there is hope. After many years of consistent treatment on N. Scappoose Creek, infestations of Garlic mustard show a dramatic decrease. The chart above is a representation of how many square feet of treatment was reported around N. Scappoose Creek by our treatment crews over the last 5 years. If you are battling noxious weeds on your property – don't give up! Contact us for any questions about how to deal with noxious weeds, our noxious weeds program, or plant identification at weeds@columbiaswcd.com.

CRYSTALYN BUSH
Resource Conservationist
crystalyn.bush@columbiaswcd.com



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE



New and Old Staffing

After 30 plus years of service, Don Mehlhoff retired from his position as the District Conservationist for Columbia County at the end of December 2020. As a true champion of conservation Don spearheaded numerous conservation programs and assisted an insurmountable number of landowners within the community. As the new District Conservationist I, Hannah Isaacs, hope to follow the passion Don has for helping the community and being a positive influence the world needs. Don has made many meaningful connections in his years of service and will be deeply missed by all his clients, staff, and partners.

With a sad loss the NRCS also had an amazing gain. Columbia County had the honor to recruit Stacey Cooper on the Saint Helens field office team as the Organics and Small Farm Specialist. Stacey started with the NRCS 4 years ago in New Hampshire as a Soil Conservationist. She joined the Saint Helens office in August of 2020 and has been a force to be reckoned with ever since. Not only is Stacey an incredibly hard worker for the NRCS, but was a producer herself. While living in the East Coast she worked as an Organics Farm Manager for over a decade. Her experience makes her a valuable resource to producers in Columbia County and a wealth of knowledge for the NRCS staff and partners. The Columbia County community is very lucky to have her as a new member.

I, Hannah Isaacs, started as the new District Conservationist in Columbia County April of 2021. From a young age in Oakland, CA I have volunteered to do restoration work in urban settings and ultimately pursuing a degree in Restoration Ecology from Humboldt State University. My degree has led me to careers with the National Park Service in the South and with the Forest Service in Montana. Through my experience I decided to pursue working with the public in sustainable agriculture. I joined the NRCS in 2015 in Montana and followed my career to Tillamook and now Saint Helens, OR. In my short time being here I've been impressed with the motivation and work the county puts towards sustainable practices. I look forward to working and growing roots in Columbia County for many years to come.

Program Activity

It goes without saying that the past year has been a chaotic and exhausting experience for many. With increased risk of wildfires, impacts from drought, and economic stress from the global pandemic the NRCS has restructured the way we work with the community. In the past the NRCS would react to existing environmental concerns, but through our focused approach to conservation we have been able to help landowners take preventative measures to combat climate unpredictability as well as treat existing issues.

This year Oregon NRCS had the privilege to participate in a pilot program meant to address drought conditions plaguing agricultural industries across the state. Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program-Conservation Incentive Contract (EQIP-CIC) the NRCS was able to assist timber producers, livestock owners, and crop growers technically and financially with the hardships they are facing due to frequent drought years.

Program	Number of Applications	Number of Contracts	Total Funding
EQIP CIC	5	3	\$24,737
Forestry	4	2	\$16,093
Livestock	2	1	\$8,179
Floodplain	1	1	\$3,532
Soil Health	6	2	\$19,025
High Tunnel	2	2	\$15,819
Totals	20	11	\$87,385



Practices Contracted in 2021

- Roof runoff structure (clean water diversion/catchment)
- Forage and biomass planting
- Livestock pipeline
- Watering facility (livestock/wildlife troughs)
- Cover crop
- Conservation crop rotation
- Mulching
- Reduced tillage
- Soil health testing
- Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan
- Forest Management Plan
- Fence
- Tree and shrub site prep and establishment
- Herbaceous weed treatment
- Brush management and removal
- High Tunnel
- Hedgerow planting
- Pre-commercial thinning and tree release



In response to declining health in our forest the NRCS released the Structural Diversity in Forest focus, which has assisted timber owners with making their land more resilient to climatic stresses. This Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) addresses stand diversity, wildlife habitat, brush and weed pressure, and wildfire risk.

To protect water quality and improve best management practices within livestock operations, the NRCS put fourth the Animal Feeding Operations focus. This CIS focuses on keeping livestock away from waterbodies, preventing sediment and other pollutants from entering the water system, and diverting clean water away from manure sources.

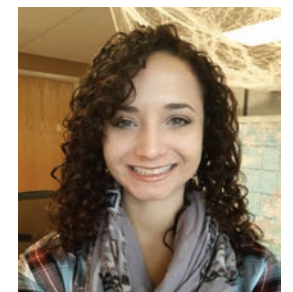
There are two programs specifically designed to treat concerns within Columbia County. One program, The Columbia County Soil Health focus, addresses declining

soil health in pasture and crop land along the Columbia River. This strategy intends to improve soil quality through better management practices, provide better forage for livestock and wildlife, increase productivity for agricultural operations, and improve water quality and aquatic habitat through riparian improvements. The other program is the Upper Nehalem Floodplain Recovery which aims to improve soil health of the Nehalem Valley grasslands and encourage improvements to the adjacent riparian areas for Coastal Coho Salmon.

A national program utilized within Columbia County is the High Tunnel Initiative. High Tunnels extend the growing season in areas with short growth seasons. The High Tunnel Initiative has the potential to assist producer by improving plant and soil quality and prevent nutrients from entering waterbodies.



STACEY COOPER
Organic & Small Farms Specialist
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HANNAH ISAACS
District Conservationist
hannah.isaacs@usda.gov

SCAPPOOSE BAY WATERSHED COUNCIL



2021 was a year of change and renovation for the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council.

We welcomed new staff member, Emily Martin, as the Restoration Projects Manager. She manages the Native Plant Nursery as well as overseeing our invasive species program and habitat restoration projects to ensure their success. Emily is a plant whiz so if you want help identifying plants on your property or need advice on how to control those pesky invasive weeds, please give her a call. Dana Pricher, our Coordinator, announced her departure from the Council in August and we are currently in the midst of the hiring process for her replacement. Dana brought wonderful ideas and energy to the Council during her two years as Coordinator, in addition to steering us through the uncertainty of Covid. We thank her for her service and look forward to seeing her amongst the volunteers in the future.

“

NATIVE PLANTS PLANTED	9977
MILES OF STREAM HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	2.1
ACRES TREATED FOR INVASIVE SPECIES	33.6

In addition to staffing changes, we have been busy revamping our website to offer better digital resources, getting projects on the ground, renovating our native plant nursery, and working with our partners to improve water quality and stream habitat throughout the watershed.

This year, our Invasive Species program targeted weeds in over 33 acres of riparian and upland habitat and planted close to 10,000 plants! We completed one project on private property along Milton Creek with 2060 plants installed on 3.2 acres. This project targeted Yellow Archangel, holly, vinca, and ivy that had blanketed the forest understory. Along the Multnomah Channel, two moorages worked with SBWC and West Multnomah SWCD to develop management plans for their property, remove invasive vegetation, install pollinator plants and native species. The City of St Helens, Friends of Nob Hill Nature Park, and SBWC have been working on invasive plant removal within the Park with plans to install native plants this fall with help from volunteers. In Scappoose, the City has partnered with SBWC to manage the City-owned stream and watershed properties, resulting in new native plants along one mile of stream in addition to invasive plant control efforts. We have worked with several local volunteer groups to maintain and improve the stream plantings and plan to continue the efforts in years to come, so please contact the Council if you are interested in volunteering!

In our Habitat Restoration program, we have two projects nearing completion. On Brush Creek, a tributary of North Scappoose, a culvert was replaced with a bridge crossing and 180 logs were placed over one mile of stream. The Brush Creek project was a partnership with Weyerhaeuser Timber Company to open up new fish habitat in a valuable cold-water stream. Also in the works this fall is a side channel reconnection project on Milton Creek that will reconnect 600 ft of a historic oxbow to the mainstem to provide valuable off-channel habitat for fish refuge during high flow events.

Looking ahead, we have received funding to continue stream restoration along South Scappoose Creek on the new Scappoose Park property. This project is slated for construction in 2022. In addition, SBWC has been working with Columbia County, NRCS, and local



Photo left
Before: Brush Creek barrier

Photo bottom
After: Brush Creek bridge



landowners along Raymond Creek, a tributary to South Scappoose Creek, to complete designs for stream and floodplain enhancement with hopes of receiving funding for construction in 2022 and beyond.

All of these projects are supported through our Native Plant Nursery, located at Scappoose High School. The nursery not only supplies plants for our projects but also offers plants for landowners wanting to improve their land through our Plant Sales in April and October. We have had well over 200 hours of volunteer time from a dedicated group of individuals. Volunteers completed much needed renovation to the nursery including building new tables, laying new gravel, and moving plant boxes to expand the nursery capacity in addition to caring for plants during record heat waves. We are extremely grateful for the folks who continue to come every Thursday rain, shine, or pandemic!

In our Water Quality program, we have been working with our partners at Columbia SWCD and Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership to interpret the results of a 5-year water quality monitoring study completed on our local streams. The study monitored levels of E.coli, stream temperature, and turbidity and will provide useful data on how we can improve water quality for both wildlife and people in the watershed.

The full report can be viewed on our website as well as the Columbia SWCD website.

It has been a wild and wonderful year and we look forward to continuing to work with our community and partners to preserve the amazing place we all call home.

For more information about our projects, resources to manage your land, information about our nursery or plant sales, donations, and volunteer events, please visit our NEW website at <http://www.scappoosebay-wc.org>.

DANA PRICHER
Council Coordinator
dana@scappoosebay-wc.org

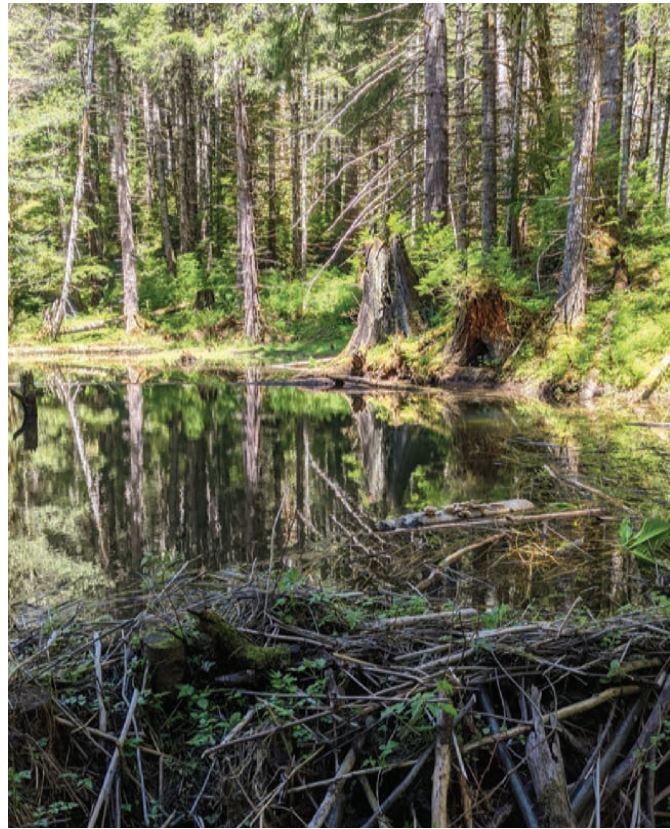


UPPER NEHALEM WATERSHED COUNCIL



The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council is engaged with the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council in the formation of the Nehalem Basin Partnership (NBP) in order to implement the Nehalem Strategic Action Plan (NSAP).

The knowledge, experience, understanding and practical skills gained over the years led the Councils in 2015, to form a partnership with their watershed restoration partners, facilitated by the Wild Salmon Center, to develop the Coho Salmon specific NSAP. With the support of a team of public and private agencies and organizations working to accelerate native Coho Salmon recovery, the Partnership used Coho Salmon specific biological data, Nehalem Rapid Bio-Assessments, Nehalem watershed geomorphic



data, modeling and mapping tools, and local expertise to inform the development of the NSAP. The NSAP was created to identify specific locations where protection and restoration strategies should be targeted to promote natural watershed processes and increase Coho Salmon high-quality habitat productivity over the long-term using the most current biological data available; and to coordinate partners on project implementation and leverage partner funding in the short-term.

Nehalem Basin Partnership

The Nehalem Basin Partnership is the formalization of the stakeholder and advisor partnership that collaborated to compose the NSAP, as well as the various partnerships between organizations implementing Coho Salmon habitat restoration in the Nehalem watershed. It is now the responsibility of the watershed councils to implement the NSAP in coordination with this partnership.

The NBP's goal is to implement the NSAP and through collaboration with stakeholders and advisors to increase coordination across the basin's geography, leveraging the strengths and resources of each organization to restore the physical and biological conditions necessary to support and promote the long-term viability of the native Nehalem Coho population.

The NBP seeks to engage the entire set of stakeholders in the Nehalem watershed in implementation of the NSAP. Through implementation of the NSAP, the NBP hopes to achieve two long term outcomes.

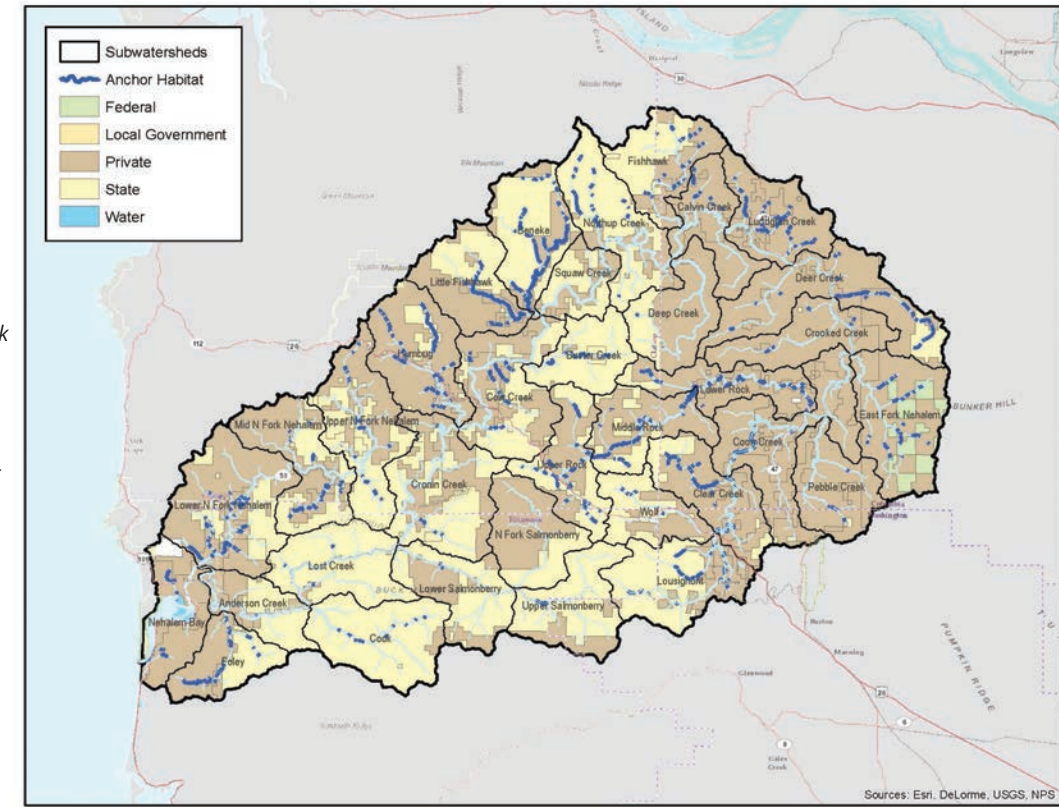
1. Protect and restore seasonal habitats important for spawning, incubation, and rearing to produce a detectable change in coho productivity in high priority 6th field watersheds, continue to prioritize the protection and recovery of unique coho life-history strategies, and promote the long-term

Photo left page

Constructed Beaver Dam Analogues at upper Rock Creek 2021

Map right page

Nehalem Anchor Land Ownership



viability of the Nehalem coho population throughout the basin.

2. Protect and restore natural watershed processes, including expanding beaver colonization and delivery systems of large wood and cool water, to ensure sufficient habitat diversity and quality for the expression of multiple life-history strategies within the Nehalem coho population.

To achieve these outcomes, the SAP emphasizes the restoration of critical coho habitats by repairing watershed processes that generate and maintain them. This process-based approach relies heavily on an anchor habitat strategy, which seeks to identify, protect, restore and expand the stream reaches and their upslope linkages most capable of supporting the full spectrum of freshwater habitat requirements for coho.

Partnership Purpose and Scope

The collaborative efforts of the Partnership to implement the work plan in the NSAP will increase coordination across the geography and leverage the strengths and resources of each organization

to restore the physical and biological conditions necessary to support and promote the long-term viability of the native Nehalem Coho population.

The Partnership will exist as a coordination platform from which to engage emerging watershed health and salmon population recovery initiatives that present viable opportunities for support in the future.

The NSAP advances the Oregon Coast Coho Conservation Plan (ODFW, 2007) and the federal ESA Recovery Plan for Oregon Coast Coho Salmon (NOAA, 2016) by identifying priority locations where habitat protection and restoration would have the greatest benefit to watershed function and Coho Salmon conservation and recovery.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL



The Lower Columbia River Watershed Council (LCRWC) continues to expand its capacity through increased funding for habitat restoration projects and organizational development. Thanks to the LCRWC Board and staff efforts, the Watershed Council has re-instated from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board full funding that will contribute more staff time to organizational development, fund-raising, and habitat restoration project implementation. This year we welcomed additional board members that will leverage additional talent and perspectives to Council's future direction. Board representation includes City of Clatskanie and Columbia County Public Works. With its increased funding, will continue to recruit other voices to our meetings and shared vision with all stakeholders.

On the project front, LCRWC and SWCD secured funding for a scale project to place large wood in over 1.5 miles in high value tributary of the Clatskanie watershed starting this fall. Grant awards have also been awarded to conduct wetland enhancement and design work in the Conyers creek area this fall. The Council is working with SWCD, LCEP, and ODFW to expand monitoring in Clatskanie and Beaver Creek. This will help address key uncertainties about water quality and flooding patterns. Council continues to lead a regional effort to prioritize barrier removal opportunities that benefit needs of culturally important Pacific Lamprey.

Covid 19 has compelled us more than ever to appreciate the importance of trust and relationships to our watershed community partners. The strong ties to local timber companies, local municipalities, natural resource agencies and private landowners bolsters LCRWC resiliency during these uncertain times. At our regular Council Zoom meeting, we enjoyed discussions of our rich shared history that will also serve as backbone for informing our future together. Please visit our website and social media outlets for regular updates on our activities and ways to plug in.



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THANK YOU COLUMBIA COUNTY, PARTNERS, & CONTRACTORS

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|--|---|--|
| Aquatic Contracting, LLC | Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership | Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board |
| Army Corps. of Engineers | Lower Columbia River Watershed Council | Port of Columbia County |
| Ash Creek Forest Management | National Fish and Wildlife Foundation | Portland General Electric |
| Bemis Printing | National Marine Fisheries Service | Scappoose Bay Watershed Council |
| Bureau of Land Management | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | Special Districts Association of Oregon |
| Clatskanie PUD | Native Plantscapes NW | Upper Nehalem Watershed Council |
| Columbia County | Natural Resources Conservation Service | United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service |
| Columbia County Fairgrounds | North Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area | United States Fish and Wildlife Service |
| Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce | Oregon Department of Agriculture | Waterways Consulting, Inc. |
| Deer Island Nursery | Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife | Weyerhaeuser |
| Department of Environmental Quality | Oregon Department of Forestry | Wild Salmon Center |
| Department of State Lands | Oregon State University Extension Service | Wolf Water Resources, Inc. |
| Evenson Logging Co. | | |
| Hancock Forest Management | | |
| Local Cities and Municipalities | | |
| Local School Districts | | |

Our achievements have been made possible thanks to the many partners we have worked with over the last year. As we look forward to the year ahead, we would like to thank everyone who has been part of our journey so far.

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