



Calapooia Watershed Council

FY2015 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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Now entering the fourth year of our strategic plan I am so excited to report that all of our programs are on track and some are even exceeding our expectations causing us to revisit our original strategies this year to shoot higher!

The Youth Watershed Education and Community Engagement programs are in full throttle in FY2015 introducing watershed restoration to new audiences across the mid-Valley in partnership with other organizations and watershed councils. Our new signature event, Willamette River Relay, is engaging hundreds of athletes, their families, and new corporate friends. High school students in South Albany and Central Linn are forming youth watershed council clubs and planning sophisticated restoration projects for FY2016. Salmon Watch is engaging and captivating several hundred students who are learning about the fish's life-cycle, water quality, riparian zones, and stream bugs.

We continue to broaden our definition of membership, trying to touch more lives with watershed health education, all the while trying to better "define" what it means to be a member of our organization. We have supporters near and dear as well as local and distant partners throughout the Valley. With this diversity of committed Calapooia enthusiasts, we will continue to share our stories, our thoughts, and our laughter with you via our monthly e-Update as well as our website and Facebook page.

We invite you to join us at our Fall Celebration on October 14th at Thompson's Mills, the Willamette River Relay next summer at the mouth of the Calapooia River in Bryant Park, or one of our frequent watershed council presentations. As always, we look forward to your volunteer help, your interests in what we do for our community, and catching up with you at the local Brownsville café. While we will continue to engage broader audiences; we love our local connection and open door presence in the center of Linn County.

It is with great pleasure that we share with you our FY2015 annual report. Please share it with other watershed enthusiasts!

A handwritten signature of Tara Davis in black ink, written in a cursive style.

Tara Davis
Executive Director

PROJECT UPDATES

Building off of the cooperation from landowners in FY2014, the Council is continuing to improve fish and wildlife habitat along two miles of the Calapooia River, located just upstream of Brownsville to the former Brownsville Dam site.

In FY2015, even more landowners are working with the Council along this stretch. Another side channel enhancement project was completed for fish habitat by constructing large wood structures. The footprint of the project covered 0.2 miles, using 30 logs as key pieces to build three structures. Side channels are an important type of habitat for fish and wildlife. Many fish and amphibian species use side channels as breeding grounds, nurseries for the young, and refuge from high water during floods. Beavers often times build dams in side channels of large rivers like the Calapooia, which also helps to improve fish habitat.

The Council has also taken to improving native turtle habitat within the floodplain by placing 15 logs in a ponded area. Next to the pond on higher ground, additional turtle nesting habitat was created by importing and mounding a gravel and sand mix. Both of these projects are located across the river from each other and are part of stream side forest improvements that were treated to remove noxious weeds and planted last winter, which increased the effectiveness of the Council's and landowners' efforts.

Additionally, 180 acres of wet prairie habitat is being enhanced and 220 acres of streamside forest is being restored.



ACRES
RESTORED
400

WATERSHED EDUCATION

Vision: "A Youth Watershed Education Program that fosters stewardship among the citizens of our region and grows future leaders in our communities while contributing to watershed health, with strong support from schools, parents and the community, and recognition for outstanding program merit."

The CWC Youth Watershed Education Program has expanded and evolved over the past year. Staff spent 155 hours directly engaging with 785 youth from 13 schools either teaching or leading stewardship activities.

Salmon Watch Field Trips

Eight schools and 586 students came out to learn about watershed health and see salmon spawning at the North and South Santiam Rivers. Teacher evaluations came back with positive feedback and enthusiasm for the program. Our Youth Program Coordinator is now the chair of the Linn Benton Salmon Watch steering committee and gearing up for a whole new season. See www.lbsw.org for more information.

Education Program Strategic Planning

The CWC board of directors developed a new program mission statement, goals and opportunities for expanding the CWC education program.

Watershed Connections Class

CWC staff visited five schools, and 220 students, to deliver a Watershed Connections class linking our fall and spring field programs.

Timber Ridge Field Days

CWC worked with City of Albany and Oregon Sea Grant to deliver a week of classroom lessons and activities followed by two field days with 108 8th graders from Timber Ridge School in Albany.

Albany Spring Field Days

CWC worked closely with City of Albany staff to plan a new field trip program focused on urban watershed issues and located at city parks. CWC recruited and scheduled five schools and 220 students to participate in the Albany Spring Field Days field trips. Six OSU student interns earned credit for leading the learning stations. In the process a new OSU Wildlife and Fisheries course was created to serve this community partnership and help make the field trips possible.

Watershed Model Trailer

CWC designed a mobile, interactive watershed model for education. The model demonstrates the downstream effects of non-point source pollution, erosion control mechanisms, and the sponge effect of wetlands.

Outdoor School Planning and Implementation

CWC coordinated the education components of the Central Linn Outdoor School. CWC provided five watershed education classroom and field sessions for 48 students during the spring season leading up to camp.

Youth Watershed Councils

Two new Youth Watershed Councils were formed at Central Linn High School and South Albany High School. Each group met for classroom sessions in preparation for field days at Thompson's Mills State Park and Bryant Park.



STUDENTS
REACHED
785

WILLAMETTE RIVER RELAY



"To have this kind of event out here and celebrate the river and the place you love with a good sweat — I mean, rock on. It's excellent."



On August 15th, 2015, the Calapooia Watershed Council, The Nature Conservancy, the City of Albany, and the Calapooia Brewing Company teamed up for the second annual Willamette River Relay. The relay brings a unique, multi-sport, river-centric race event to downtown Albany.

The Willamette River Relay attracted nearly 130 race participants along with their friends and families as well as 60 volunteers and staff to Monteith Riverpark where racers competed in paddling, bicycling, and running. This year saw the addition of a longer course with an 11.4 mile paddle starting from Corvallis. Both the regular and long courses were purposefully designed to showcase a number of restoration projects from the Calapooia Watershed Council, Greenbelt Land Trust, the City of Albany, and other race partners. Signs were strategically placed along the course to highlight watershed restoration efforts.

Following the race, CWC was joined by several partner watershed councils, land trusts, soil and water conservation districts, as well as city, state, and federal agencies for a post-race celebration in Monteith Riverpark.

Participants and spectators alike were encouraged to stay in the park and enjoy live music, local food, and a beer garden featuring Calapooia Brewing Company and 2 Towns Ciderhouse. Rounding out the celebration and enclosing the grounds were booths from partner watershed councils vendors including Tec Labs, Oregon Paddle Sports, Peak Sports, Vertebrata Chiropractic, Nevado Mountain, Adventures, and Tried & True Coffee.

WE ARE GRATEFUL

FOR THE INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES WHOSE
GENEROSITY MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE.

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Calapooia Brewing Company
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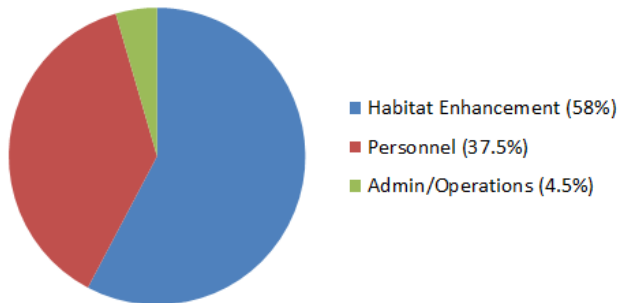
We would like to thank our grantors and project partners for contributing to the success of our projects and the ongoing fulfillment of our mission!

Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Bonneville Power Administration
Bureau of Land Management
City of Albany Public Works Department
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, USDA
The Freshwater Trust
Gray Family Foundation
Meyer Memorial Trust
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
Oregon Community Foundation
Oregon Parks & Recreation Department
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Salmon Watch Volunteers
Sea Grant
Trout Unlimited - Bluebacks
Weyerhaeuser Timber Company
World Salmon Council

FY2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

JULY 1 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

Expenditures

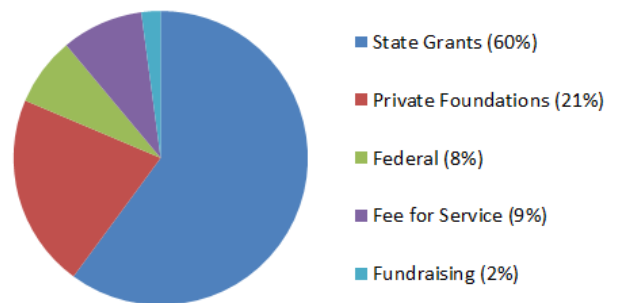


Habitat Enhancement \$492,457

Personnel \$322,142

Admin/Operations \$38,402

Revenue



State Grants \$505,062

Private Foundations \$178,969

Federal \$63,265

Fee for Service \$75,394

Fundraising \$17,786

CALAPOOIA WATERSHED COUNCIL

PO BOX 844 / 136 SPAULDING AVE

BROWNSVILLE, OR, 97327



It is our pleasure to announce that by renewing your Friends of the Calapooia membership or becoming a new Friend this autumn before 2016 ALL of your donation will go directly to Youth Watershed Education!