



2020-2021 Annual Report

CALAPOOIA WATERSHED COUNCIL

Calapooia Watershed Council

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Calapooia Watershed Council (CWC), continues to grow in our understanding of the land that we are here to serve. Our Watershed Council is named after the Calapooia River. The Calapooia River is named for the people that have tended this land since time immemorial. It is important for us to Acknowledge that we are on the stolen land of the Kalapuya peoples who were forcibly removed from their land to the Grande Ronde and Siletz Reservations after the Treaty of Dayton, 1855.



Collin McCandless

Along with the rest of the world, we continued to find new ways to navigate the unprecedented spread of Covid-19 and the outbreak of the Delta variant. In some ways, things have become normal. We are used to: working from a distance, wearing masks, interacting mostly outside, and lots of (sometimes too many) Zoom meetings. What has not become normal and what we still miss are the thousands of interactions and outdoor learning experiences that we have with students every year! The CWC education team has made the best with what was dealt by providing an outdoor school experience on campus and online for as many students as we could while still following protocol and keeping students, staff and volunteers safe. Our Snorkeling program has really shined by not only receiving two prestigious awards, but doubling down to provide as many outdoor learning experiences as possible.

Restoration at the CWC has not skipped a beat! Although 2020 brought us historic wildfires and the continued spread of a global pandemic, we were able to accomplish the ***largest restoration effort since the removal of the Calapooia river dams*** back in 2010/11. The ***Bowers Rock State Park floodplain restoration*** project is one that has been in the making for over 10 years, and has been a focal point of mine for the past 5 years. It has been a fascinating process watching this project unfold and it was amazing to finally wrap up the construction of this project over the fall. Cris (CWC Habitat Restoration Program Manager) has kept himself busy as usual. Not only did he have his hands full with Bowers Rock, he started new projects as well! The design phase of ***Albany Oxbows floodplain restoration, the beginning of a 100 acre Streaked Horned Lark project, the planting of 28 acres of floodplain, and active management of roughly 312 acres...*** are some but not all of our current restoration efforts.

I am continually amazed by the wonderful people that I have the pleasure to work with. Despite the challenges that 2020 has thrown at us, the ability to adapt and move with the changes brings me hope and excitement. Despite difficulty, 2020 will always hold a special place in my heart. My wife and I were blessed with a daughter, Edith, who is a joy that I truly cannot explain.



At the Calapooia Watershed Council, we recognize that we live, recreate, and work on land that was stolen from the Kalapuya People. The Kalapuya have lived on this land since time immemorial, and have endured enormous changes to their traditional ways of life during the past 200 years. Today, The Kalapuya People are members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz. The Kalapuya People continue their relationship with the land today, and are important members of the communities of the Calapooia Watershed.



“The beauty of anti-racism is that you don’t have to pretend to be free of racism to be anti-racist. Anti-racism is the commitment to fight racism wherever you find it, including in yourself. And it’s the only way forward.” - Ijeoma Oluo, Writer, Speaker, and Author of So You Want to Talk About Race.

The Calapooia Watershed Council (CWC) stands in solidarity with Black, Indigenous, & People of Color (BIPOC) in the fight for justice against abuses of power, police brutality and systemic racism.



The summer of 2020 brought historic wildfire activity to Oregon, which blackened more than 1 million acres.



Upper Calapooia - Sept 2020

Areas of the upper Calapooia River were impacted by the Holiday Farm Fire of 2020. Having started near the city of Blue River, the fire moved north into the forests surrounding the upper Calapooia River; properties owned and managed by the US. Forest Service and Weyerhaeuser Company. Long-term impacts on fish and wildlife are largely unknown and will require ongoing monitoring.

A huge thanks to all those involved with fighting the Holiday Farm fire, and those continuing to combat fires across the west.



Upper Calapooia - May 2021

HABITAT RESTORATION



Above - CWC Habitat Restoration Program Manager, Cris Salazar conducting temperature monitoring

In addition to planting and managing our reforestation projects, the Habitat Restoration Program spent much of late 2020 and early 2021 busy with grant writing, project outreach, and the implementation of large-scale restoration projects in the Muddy Creek basin, south of Brownsville, and Willamette River, near Albany.

While some may forget the Calapooia Watershed Council covers more than just the Calapooia River, these large-scale projects will benefit local fish and wildlife in areas where restoration is much needed.

BY THE NUMBERS:

22,100

NATIVE TREES & SHRUBS PLANTED

375

POUNDS OF NATIVE GRASS AND WILDFLOWER SEED PLANTED

312

ACRES OF HABITAT MANAGED

1.3

MILES OF INSTREAM HABITAT ENHANCED

4

FISH PASSAGE BARRIERS REMOVED



BOWERS ROCK STATE PARK

An aerial photograph showing a wide, calm river with a muddy-brown hue. The river flows from the top left towards the bottom right. On the left bank, there is a large, rectangular agricultural field with distinct rows of crops. The right bank is densely lined with trees and shrubs, some of which are reflected in the water. The overall scene is a natural landscape with human agricultural activity.

Bowers Rock State Park is a 568-acre area located on the upper reach of the mainstem Willamette River near its confluence with the Calapooia River, west of Albany. The Willamette Atlas depicts this section of the river as experiencing loss of channel complexity and floodplain function as measured by reduced channel length and simplified channel type (i.e. alcoves, side channels, islands.) From 1850 to 1995, 70-80% of the islands and alcoves have been lost in this reach. In addition, flood control reservoirs and channel modifications (i.e. revetments, dredging) have limited the river's habitat forming processes. Cumulatively these impacts affect off-channel habitat function for migrating juvenile salmonids, especially smaller size classes (60-200mm) who preferentially seek out these quieter areas for forage and refuge.



The restoration at Bowers Rock State Park got underway in August 2020.

The project had to be halted for a week due to the unprecedented wildfires that our state experienced. The work commenced once the rains had fallen and the air quality improved.

The main goal of this project is to allow the Willamette River to access its banks during high water times as it would have before the introduction of dam structures over the last century. These off-channel habitats during high water are very important for our native fish which include both Winter Steelhead and Chinook Salmon. Photos show the first stages of channel and engineered log jam construction.



Activated channel Jan 2021

At Bowers Rock State Park, the natural hydrology has been compromised by the development, then abandonment of a gravel pit along the southwest corner of the park. Human-made barriers and embankments have disconnected side channels, sloughs and alcoves, resulting in compromised flow to the park's floodplains. Native riparian plant communities have also been impacted by introduced species colonization. In particular, pasture grasses, reed canary grass, and aquatic weeds such as water primrose have shifted historic food web productivity for prey resources important to juvenile salmonids (i.e. invertebrates). The Council has worked with a regional expert in managing water primrose.

TUB RUN

Update on Tub Run - Oregon's Willamette Valley once held a mosaic of prairie and wetlands supporting exceptionally high species diversity with many dependent on these complex habitats. With less than 1% of prairie and wetland habitats remaining in the valley, and many associated species imperiled, it is vital to slow the rapid decline of these species by restoring large portions of habitat.

*Wetland Prairie
Restoration
expands to help
protect
Endangered
grassland bird*

*Streaked
Horned Lark*



A Streaked Horned Lark nestling born at the Tub Run project site in 2019. Banding and other monitoring help to monitor their recovery.

The Tub Run Phase II: Horned Lark Prairie and Wetland Restoration project will transform a 119-acre grass seed field into a complex of native prairie and wetland habitats. Located at the base of the Coburg Hills in the Muddy Creek watershed, this privately owned property was in agricultural production for nearly a century prior to 2020. It is in an area identified for its high potential for aiding in the recovery of native wetland and grassland species including the ESA-listed Streaked Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris strigata*).

The Tub Run Phase II project will establish 92 acres of wet and dry prairie and 27 acres of vernal pool and emergent wetlands. This will be accomplished by *constructing pools and berms to increase hydrologic diversity, controlling and eliminating the existing ryegrass crop, and establishing and maintaining native wetland and prairie plant communities.*

This project was made possible by support from a diverse group of partners including the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture, Calapooia Watershed Council and the landowners, Scott and Janice Erion.

TRUAX ISLAND HABITAT RESTORATION

Over 28 acres along the mid-Willamette River have been transformed from a sea of noxious weeds into the beginning of a healthy, riparian forest. With the bigleaf maple, cottonwood, ash, willows and variety of flowering plants, the project will benefit local fish and wildlife for many years to come.

Thank you to project partners at Meyer Memorial Trust, Blue Sky Habitat Fund, One Tree Planted, R. Franco Restoration, and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department



ALBANY OXBOWS



The Albany Oxbow Lakes are located in the Corvallis - Albany reach of the Willamette River northeast of the city of Albany. This 438-acre site consists of a complex of four oxbow lakes, four tributary confluences, and the surrounding floodplain and riparian habitat with a diverse assemblage of land ownership. The Oxbows are positioned in an area of the Willamette River that offers significant potential for increasing salmonid rearing potential during the cool season. The goal of this technical assistance grant is to streamline the later implementation phase of the project by completing all preparations needed to carry out the chosen restoration alternative. We are in the process of obtaining complete engineering design, project permits, bid documents, restoration agreements, and a cultural resource assessment. Stay Tuned!



YOUTH EDUCATION

Since its inception, the Calapooia Watershed Council's education program has strived to educate and inspire local communities about our watershed and local environment.



Above - Our Outdoor School Education Team letting loose! This year we were able to hire 2 outdoor school educators, and we also recruited 2 OSU interns to work with our education staff and to help teach at our ODS programs.

Over the past ten years, CWC's education team has developed and provided unique and hands-on educational programming for students. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our education staff crafted creative and adaptable programming to fit the needs of the schools and students we serve.

BY THE NUMBERS:

1,395

STUDENTS SERVED

507

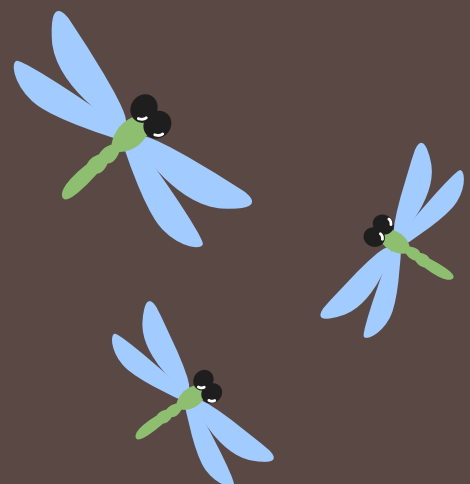
EDUCATION KITS

10

EDUCATIONAL FILMS

8

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS



OUTDOOR SCHOOL



18 Lessons
5 Schools
Online programming

19 Days of ODS Programming
758 6th Graders
In-person programming

2 School Districts
Take Home Kits
Spanish Translations

The 2020 – 2021 outdoor school (ODS) program served **758 sixth grade students** in Linn County, offering in-person programming on school grounds, online asynchronous lessons, and comprehensive distance learning lessons for students at home. Residential programming was cancelled this spring due to Covid-19.

The CWC continued working with Central Linn Elementary for the 9th year, and this was the 3rd year serving all four middle schools in the Greater Albany Public School District. In total, CWC was able to provide **5 outdoor school programs** in-person at each school's courtyard or school yard.



"Thank you so much for coming to our school and teaching us! My favorite lesson was about wetlands! This was one of the best classes I've ever had!" - 6th Grader, North Albany MS

OUTDOOR SCHOOL

This year, our education team had to be creative and flexible when it came to planning and running outdoor school programs that aligned with Covid-19 regulations for students who were online and at school. Below are some of the highlights from our outdoor school programs for spring 2021:

The Great GAPS Bird Count

6th graders from the Greater Albany School District participated in a community science project to identify and record bird species observed in Albany, OR. This was the first year of the project, and will be an annual part of future outdoor school programs.



ODS Videos & Kits

All students participating in outdoor school at home received kits containing all activity materials they would need to follow along on Zoom with a teacher or to work on independently at home with videos created by the CWC staff. All kits and videos were also available in Spanish.

A Deeper Land Acknowledgement

6th graders from GAPS and the Central Linn school district participated in daily discussions during outdoor school about the Kalapuya people, the meaning of time immemorial, sovereignty, and where the Kalapuya people are today.



YOUTH SNORKELING

Due to Covid-19, all snorkeling programs were cancelled for the summer and fall of 2020.

Fortunately, our education team was able to offer snorkeling programs for Greater Albany Public Schools students in the early summer of 2021. While snorkeling, the youth from Memorial Middle School's Green Team learned about native fish, land use management, and careers in Natural Resources. Representatives from the USFS and ODFW attended this event and shared their experiences with snorkeling and information on their careers. The CWC is partnering with GAPS to provide several days of snorkeling with students through the summer of 2021.

This year also saw the start of a new and exciting partnership with Jackson Street Youth Services, the local shelter for youth in the Albany and Corvallis communities. The CWC held a snorkel trip at Pioneer Park in Brownsville where the youth explored the Calapooia River, learned about native and non-native fish species, and collected macroinvertebrates. More trips were scheduled throughout the summer at different locations on the South Santiam River.

The CWC is proud to announce that in 2019 and 2020, our youth snorkeling program received two prestigious awards from the US Forest Service:



2019: Regional Rise to the Future Award

For excellence and leadership in fisheries, hydrology, soil science, and air programs.

2020: National Rise to the Future Award: Public Awareness Award

The public awareness award recognizes significant contributions in communicating the aquatic resource or watershed stewardship management story.



SALMONWATCH

The Salmon Watch program was not offered this year due to COVID-19 restrictions for in-person programs. To still provide Salmon-centered experiences for students at home, the CWC education team created and distributed **Watershed Discovery Kits** which provided students with all the materials they needed to conduct salmon watch activities at home or at a local park or waterbody. This was made possible through a donation from the Oregon Community Foundation and a grant from the Mid-Valley STEM-CTE Hub.



Fifth grade students from North Albany, Oak Grove, and Tangent Elementary schools received these kits. Additional kids were distributed to the Albany Boys & Girls Club and the Albany Public Library for distribution to students through their various programs.



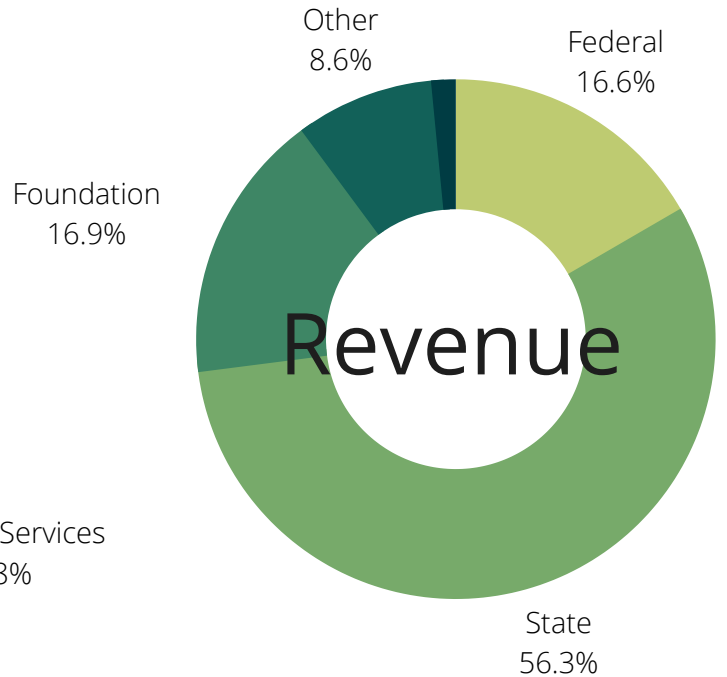
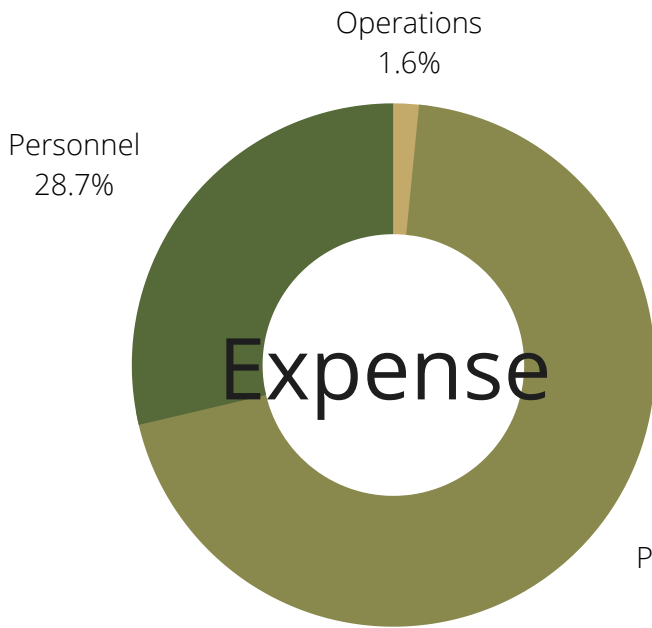
Watershed Discovery Kit Activities:

Each kit contained all materials needed for activities provided, along with videos filmed by the CWC education team. Watershed Discovery Kits were also made available in Spanish.

- Salmon Biology
- Water Quality Testing
- Macroinvertebrate Collection
- Riparian Health Study
- Native Plant I.D. and Plant Press



FINANCIAL STATEMENT



FEDERAL GRANTS	\$156,984
FOUNDATION GRANTS	\$159,350
STATE GRANTS	\$531,949
DONATIONS	\$14,420
MISC INCOME	\$74,956
MUNICIPAL GRANTS	\$6,400
	<hr/>
	\$944,101

PROGRAM SERVICES	\$772,712
OPERATIONS	\$17,349,
PERSONNEL	\$317,645
	<hr/>
	\$1,109,999

20-21 Net Income (\$165,899)

20-21 FYE Total Liabilities & Equity
\$311,585

PARTNERS & DONORS

DONORS

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD
 THE NATURE CONSERVENCY
 BENTON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 TROUT UNLIMITED, BLUEBACKS CHAPTER
 GRAY FAMILY FOUNDATION
 CITY OF ALBANY
 LINN-BENTON CC STEM-HUB
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 DAVID & MADYSON LAWLOR
 JIM & KAREN MERZENICH
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 VERLA MORRIS
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 JESSICA MORAN
 HEATHER MEDINA & JUAN MARTIN SAUCEDA
 JULIA PETERSON
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 MARY OLERI
 SUSAN WILD NEVIN
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 TIMOTHY FOELKER
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PROGRAM PARTNERS

GREATER ALBANY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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 INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
 OREGON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPT
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 JACKSON STREET YOUTH SERVICES

