ANNUAL Report 2022-2023



CALAPOOIA.ORG

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2023 was another great year for the Calapooia Watershed Council. We have settled well into our hybrid work environment that reflects the changes in so many of our professional lives. A lot more Zoom meetings, but much less driving. Our programs are in an advancing process where we are striving to make improvements and changes to reflect what we learn, in addition to the changing landscape of restoration initiatives.

The Habitat Restoration Program has taken on new challenges by increasing our focus on projects in Albany as well as the continuation of some of our larger restoration efforts along the Willamette river including Albany Oxbows and Truax Island. The Youth Education program continues to impress me every year. Environmental education is so fulfilling in that there is an instant gratification after an event. This feeling always encourages me to add more to what we already provide. Over the last vear. I have come to learn that sometimes more is achieved by digging deeper into understanding what we provide, how we provide it, and to whom. I hope to continue to grow a deeper understanding and focus in our youth education.

In the spring we were sad to say goodbye to our Habitat Restoration Program Manager, Cris Salazar. Cris accepted another habitat restoration position in his home town. We are very grateful to Cris, for the dedication and success he contributed to our restoration program. We wish him great success in his future endeavors!

Collin McCandless

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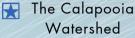
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CALAPOOIA WATERSHED COUNCIL

The Calapooia River is an 80-mile tributary that flows out of the western Cascade Mountains to join the Willamette River at the City of Albany in western Oregon. The watershed encompasses about 234,000 acres of land and supports a variety of land uses and fish and wildlife habitat.

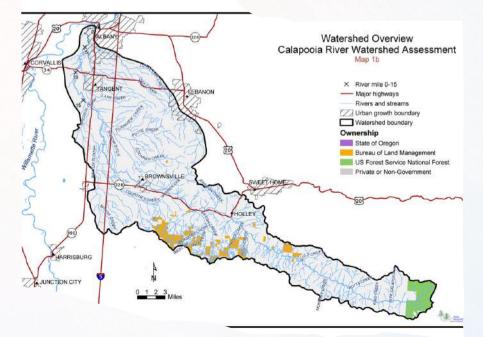
The Calapooia Watershed Council (CWC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose focus is habitat restoration, and environmental science education to restore and improve river conditions for ESA-listed salmonids and other native species to the Calapooia River watershed.





Formed in 1999, the council is steered by a committed Board of Directors and staff who develop, design, coordinate and implement habitat restoration projects, surveying and monitoring, and acclaimed youth education programs

> We are located in Brownsville, Oregon in the traditional territory of the Tsankupi ("Calapooia River") band of the Kalapuya. After the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855, Kalapuya people were forcibly removed to what are now the Grand Ronde and Siletz reservations, and are now members of Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.



Staff



HABITAT RESTORATION PROGRAM MANAGER

Cris Salazar left June 9th 2023

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Collin McCandless





OPERATIONS COORDINATOR Fiona Julian YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGER Kristen Daly



Seasonal Educators

Alex Shoulders Juliana Meyner Kelcey Yeager Andie Kolasinski Sam York Alyssa Broaddus

Board



Matt Mellenthin Board Co-Chair



Joe Deardorff Board Co-Chair



Dee Swayze Board Secretary



Sharon Crowley Board Treaurer



Mark Running Board Member



James Wagner Board Member



Jim Merzenich Board Member



John Joiner Board Member



Shannon Richardson Board Member

Habitat Restoration

and the section of

UPPER CALAPOOIA

One of the CWC's biggest projects of 2022 was the Upper Calapooia Steelhead Habitat Enhancement.

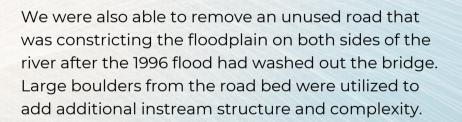
A legacy of habitat degradation and simplification, including nearly a century of instream wood removal, has left the upper Calapooia River with a large wood deficit.

The lack of instream structure has greatly reduced the level of habitat complexity and resulting steelhead spawning and rearing habitat.

In Summer 2022, CWC in Partnership with USFS full sized trees with rootwads attached were successfully placed into the upper Calapooia River to improve habitat conditions for ESA-listed winter steelhead.. These trees will act as the backbone for further wood accumulation, trap spawning gravel and provide juvenile steelhead refuge during both high winter flows and low water periods during the summer.



This accumulation will follow natural processes that will lead to increased habitat complexity, rearing potential, and the accumulation of organic material important to the aquatic food web.





MIDDLE CALAPOOIA



WESTERN REDCEDAR

> PONDEROSA PINE

PACIFIC CRABAPPLE

CASCADE

BARBERRY



Landowner partnerships are at the core of restoration projects such as this, with long-reaching benefits for the entire watershed and its communities!



Truax Island continues to be an important project for the Calapooia Watershed Council. We look to expand upon this restoration even further as there is a new opportunity to enhance habitat for native salmonids, by increasing flow to off channel habitat during winter flows, and reduce stranding in summer flows in Dead river. This will be accomplished by removing an undersized and failed culver that is impeding water flow. The council has received design and is in the process of securing funding!

TRUAX ISLAND

20+ ACRES OF NOXIOUS WEEDS HAVE BEEN REPLACED WITH OVER THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS AND HUNDREDS OF POUNDS OF NATIVE GRASS AND WILDFLOWER SEED.

PERIWINKLE CREEK

Since site preparations began in Fall 2022 followed by the installment of hundreds of native shrubs and trees, the Council has followed up with additional noxious weed treatments, live stake & bare root plantings. The Council has partnered closely with the City of Albany Parks and Phoenix Habitats to develop a vision for a space that can serve as a park as well as a native plant and pollinator habitat.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the City of Albany and growing to include community participation in the coming years.

> South Albany Youth Activism students planted 125 native plants along Periwinkle Creek

TUB RUN RIPARIAN & WETLAND PRAIRIE RESTORATION AND STREAK-HORNED LARK HABITAT



The Calapooia Watershed Council is happy to continue our partnership with Land Owner & Conservationist Scott Erion, as well as the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to continue to create productive Streak-Horned Lark Habitat. The transformation of this 193 acre property started as one project and became two as it was such a success. The council will continue to treat noxious weeds and seed the property. We look forward to more opportunities to partner with landowners who would like to convert land to wetland prairie habitat!

BOWERS ROCK STATE

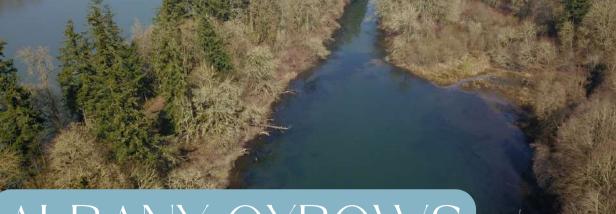
Spring 2023 we had crews replanting Pacific willow, red osier dogwood and Douglas spires in areas that were disturbed during the floodplain connection work in 2020.



Thanks to last minute plants that were available, we planted an additional 300 Black Cottonwood, 50 Twinberry, and 50 Red Flowering Currants! Summer 2023 we completed another Ludwigia treatment focusing on the gravel pit, outlet channel and sloughs.

Ludwigia (aka creeping water primrose) is considered the worst invasive plant in Oregon and can quickly take over aquatic habitats, crowding out native plants and animals. It can also block sunlight and oxygen from reaching the water, making it difficult for fish and other aquatic organisms to survive.





ALBANY OXBOWS

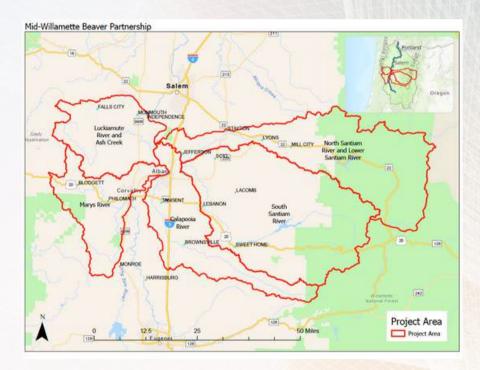


The Albany Oxbow Lakes are located along the Willamette River northeast of the city of Albany. This 438-acre site consists of a complex of four oxbow lakes, four tributary confluences, and the surrounding floodplain and riparian habitat with a diverse assemblage of land ownership. The Oxbows are positioned in an area of the Willamette River that offers significant potential for increasing salmonid rearing potential during the cool season. The project will consist of replacing four culverts that are either undersized or failed, and restricting flow. Additionally, the Council plans to grade a system of berms to further improve salmonid rearing habitat on site.

MID-WILLAMETTE BEAVER PARTNERSHIP

The Calapooia Watershed Council is excited to be a member of the Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership (MWBP). The MWBP is a multi-basin group of partners that is exploring where and how beaver-based restoration would make the most sense - both ecologically and sociologically.





The MWBP is working with a team of researchers and seasonal staff to conduct an extensive beaver habitat assessment of all year-round waterways in the five basins represented by the partnership. We look forward to sharing more information with you as we learn more about beaver in our watersheds.

The MWBP includes: Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Luckiamute Watershed Council, Marys River Watershed Council, South Santiam Watershed Council, North Santiam Watershed Council & the Calapooia Watershed Council. The MWBP includes partners from the natural resource departments of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians.





Youth Education

All programs resumed this year with pre-pandemic participation levels!

We were able to expand and build upon our programs and relationships with partner agencies to offer additional activities and field trips, and hired Seasonal Educators who completed program training, which supported our goal to increase accessibility and a more tailored experience for all the youth we served.

for the 2022-2023 fiscal year the cwc youth education program served:

2200 youth & educators

06 hours of in-person instruction

different schools

summer camps

64 boy scouts & many albany community members

SALMON WATCH

Salmon Watch returned to the river for the 2022-23 school year!

224 students from 5 schools participated at River Bend Park this year. The students spent the day exploring the South Santiam River, discovering macroinvertebrates, and studying salmon, their habitat, and their role in PNW ecosystems.

An additional 193 students from 2 schools participated in a Salmon Watch program at their school campus.

Our work to center students and equity provides students with the opportunity to follow their curiosities and connect with the environment on their own terms.



417 students from 7 different schools participated in Salmon Watch 2022! Students spent 50 minutes diving deep into the experiences and subject matter on macroinvertebrates and salmon biology and life history. Students worked together to discover, collect, identify, and discuss the creatures that live in the shallows of the South Santiam River.

A salmon life cycle game was introduced to engage students with the life cycle of salmon, and the challenges they face, both historically and present-day.



NEWBUC



A total of 401 fifth grade students from 7 Albany schools participated

An additional 54 students from Harrisburg participated on-campus programs!

Urban Ecology returned to Simpson Park and Talking Water Gardens in the spring of 2023 with pre-pandemic participation levels.

We added a theme for the program to connect all aspects to a larger idea; our connection to all living things, through the universal need for clean water. This is a theme into which we can dive deeper in the years to come as we continue to improve and update the program.

URBAN ECOLOGY FIELD TRIPS





Urban Ecology begins with an introduction to watersheds and small group watershed model construction, followed by a nature observation activity, a Talking Water Gardens tour and then a wetland filtration activity which rounds out the day.

Students spent most of the day exploring Simpson Park and Talking Water Gardens, learning about what lives there, and letting their curiosity guide their explorations.

Students also used materials provided by the council to build a wetland model and filter water through it to test whether their constructed wetland could remove sediment and other matter from a water sample.

Discussions throughout the day included how all living things can share the water we have, what causes water shortages and pollution, and the role wetlands play in maintaining healthy waterbodies.





OUTDOOR SCHOOL

CWC Education staff assisted the South Santiam Watershed Council with their Outdoor School program this year, leading learning stations for 200 students.





200 students participated in Outdoor School in the Spring of 2023!



YOUTH WATERSHED SOUTH ALBANY YOUTH ACTIVISM COUNCILS (SAYA)

South Albany Youth Activism students continued their work to improve habitat diversity along Periwinkle Creek. In their third year working at this site, students planted 125 plants and some native wildflowers, and will be ready to take on a new stretch of the creek for the 2023-24 school year.

Students also realized their vision of creating a native edible shrub garden on the SAHS campus. Garden beds were built by the woodworking class and SAYA students filled the beds and planted thimbleberry, salmonberry, camas, and wood sorrel in the planters.



South Albany Youth Activism students planted 125 native plants and wildflowers along Periwinkle creek! The social justice project for the year involved working with SAHS administration to

find ways to educate their fellow students about the harm of racism and racist comments, and to develop new pathways to address acts of racism and racial injustice issues on their campus.

SAYA seniors also planted a live oak sapling on campus to commemorate their time with the Club.

YOUTH WATERSHED COUNCILS

WEST ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

West Albany Environmental Club members conducted several cleanups around Albany, including at Monteith, Grand Prairie, and Kinder parks, and on the WAHS campus. They also met with City of Albany Naturalist Jay Sharpe to learn about the invasive Emerald Ash Borer, how to identify the insect, and how to identify the signs of an infested tree. In the 2023-24 school year, these students plan to teach what they learned to new club members, and begin inventory of trees around Albany for the pest.

> West Albany club students planted over 100 native shrubs along the Calapooia River at Bryant Park, & Periwinkle Creek at Bowman Park!





The CWC Education Program Manager also accompanied a group of 16 students from both HS clubs to Hatfield Marine Science Day in Newport. The students spent several hours learning about the research being done at Hatfield, and listening to researchers and the Keynote speaker.

Afterwards, the students cleaned up the picnic area and beach at Yaquina Bay State Recreation Site. CWC provided lunch for all students and reimbursed those who drove a carpool for their mileage. CWC also provided snacks or lunch at all planting and cleanup events, as well as some important meetings.



FRESHWATER SNORKELING

After a rainy June, the snorkeling program resumed in July of 2022. 65 youth from Jackson Street Youth Services participated in snorkeling events at Cascadia County Park, Trout Creek, Yukwah, and House Rock campgrounds on the South Santiam.

20 youth from the Linn County Detention Enrichment Program participated in two days of snorkeling at Yukwah and House Rock campgrounds.

A mixed-grade group of students from Baker Academy Online School participated in a snorkeling field trip in the fall to build community before the school year began. Timber Ridge Middle School students from the Titan Research & Eco Expedition (TREE) class snorkeled at River Bend County Park in October 2022, and again at Moonshine County Park in May of 2022. The students explored the river with their teachers, finding fish, seeing different habitats, and following their curiosity.



SPRING SNORKELING 2023

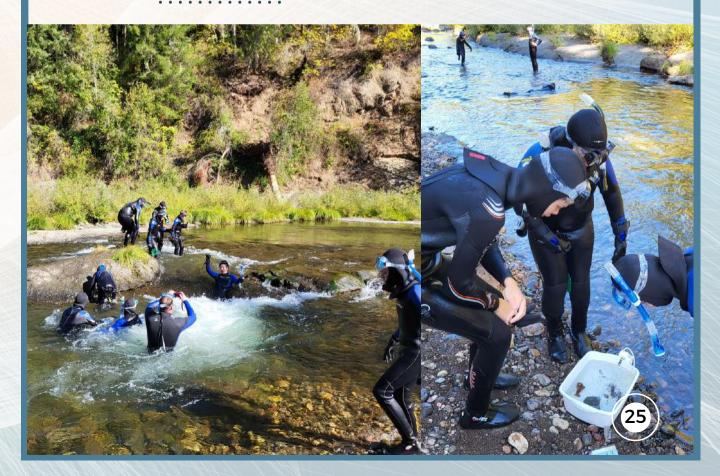




204 youth participated in our Snorkeling <u>Program thi</u>s year!

They spent several hours following fish, snorkeling under the waterfall, playing in the river, and eating lunch on the river bank.

The CWC also provided art supplies so youth could paint or draw by the river if they chose.



Snorkeling

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP FOR YOUTH (ELY) & NEW BEGINNINGS FOR TRIBAL YOUTH



The ELY program returned in the summer of 2022. 36 youth from Migrant families participated in a snorkel and macroinvertebrate lesson as part of their week-long introduction to Fisheries and Wildlife research and careers at Oregon State University.

In addition, there is now a second OSU camp for Tribal Youth for whom we provide a snorkeling experience.

24 youth from local Tribes, including the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians participated in an afternoon of snorkeling with Tribal mentors and OSU faculty and Grad students. To continue our engagement with youth in the Jackson Street Residential program, we worked with their Positive Youth Engagement Coordinator to set up a series of hikes throughout the school year.



One weekend per month, and on out-of-school days, CWC Education Program Manager led a group from Jackson Street on a hike at a local natural area. This year, we visited Peavy Arboretum, McDonald-Dunn Forest, Lewisburg Saddle, McDowell Creek Falls, the South Santiam Fish Hatchery, Ankeny Hill Nature Center, and Cascadia County Park. Youth spent 1-2 hours exploring, ate lunch on site, and created art when time allowed.

PROGRAMS WITH PARTNERS JACKSON ST PARTNERSH

JACKSON STREET OUT-OF-SCHOOL DAYS PARTNERSHIP



PROGRAMS WITH PARTNERS

ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP (SPLASHY SCIENCE)

by the numb

The CWC continued the partnership with the Albany Library in the summer of 2022. Together, we provided engaging, fun activities for youth to do outdoors with their grown-ups.

Families were invited to join the CWC and Albany Public Library at Bryant Park to take part in one of several activities; meet a tree, aquatic macroinvertebrate hunt, owl pellet dissection, nature art, or a combination of two or more of these activities. The children spend about 1.5 hours exploring the natural areas of Bryant Park, learning how to engage with the natural world in new ways. 149 youth participated in "Splashy Science" with CWC & Albany Public Library at Bryant Park for environmental science activities!

PROGRAMS WITH PARTNERS



Environmental Education Goal as:

· The goal of environmental education is to develop a citizenry in Oregon that is aware of, and concerned about, natural systems and the associated effects of human activity. Oregonians need the knowledge, skills, attitudes, motivations, and commitment to work idually and collectively toward solutions of current s and the prevention of new ones.



CUB SCOUT PACK 100

While attending a "Splashy Science" session, a Cub Scout leader asked the CWC present salmon-based activities for their pack. The youth rotated through a salmon dissection, fish printing, and salmon life cycle activities during their October meetina.

65 youth attended this event.

MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL AVID CLASSES

The CWC met with the AVID (Advancement through Individual Determination) to discuss college and career paths in the Environmental field. As part of this program, students take part in community service projects. To assist one class with this, the CWC and students removed ivy and blackberry from Bryant Park in Albany.

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FAMILY NIGHTS

The Calapooia was invited to Lincoln Elementary STEAM night, hosted in part by Benton Soil & Water Conservation District.. Students made fish prints, sun print art, and wood cookies. Later in the year, the Art teacher invited the CWC back for Fine Arts nights. Students created nature art with their families.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2022-2023

gross revenue grants, donations, in-kind \$ 708,365

\$705,815

total expenses program services, operations

net income

assets balance june 2023

\$ 2,550

\$ 386,925

DONATIONS \$12,288

expense

revenue

OPERATIONS \$117,105

FOUNDATION GRANTS \$141,144

EDUCATION PROGRAMS \$180,126 STATE GRANTS \$527,204

HABITAT RESTORATION \$398,830

DONORS & GRANTORS

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board The Nature Conservancy Oregon State Weed Board City of Albany The Freshwater Trust Pacific Power **United States Forest Service** Pacific Gas & Electric Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District City of Brownsville **American Fisheries Society Oregon Association** of Education Service District **Bonneville Environmental Foundation Oregon Statue University** One Tree Planted Block 15 Brewery Cyndi Anderson George & Cheryl Pugh Patricia Benner and Tony Howell Mark and Joey Running **River Design Group** Virgil Morris **BCI** Contracting Jessica Moran

























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