



Middle Fork Willamette



**WATERSHED**  
C O U N C I L

P E O P L E

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L A N D

A N N U A L

W A T E R

R E P O R T

Middle Fork Willamette



WATERSHED  
C O U N C I L

*“Working together as a community to restore and sustain the ecological integrity and economic viability of the watershed, and to promote local control of our future by providing effective voluntary solutions to watershed issues”*



## Who We Are

### Board of Directors

**Chandra LeGue** | PRESIDENT  
Environmental Representative

**Chuck Davis** | VICE PRESIDENT  
Retired Water Quality Manager

**Kevin Tuers** | TREASURER  
Timber Representative

**Barbara Hazen** | SECRETARY  
Watershed Recreation

**Pat Burns**  
City of Oakridge

**Julie Whalen**  
Oregon State Parks

**Jesse Jones**  
City of Springfield, Civil Engineer,  
Landowner

**Erik Petersen**  
USACE Willamette Valley Operations  
Manager (Advisory)

**Duane Bishop**  
USFS Willamette Nat'l Forest District  
Ranger (Advisory)

**Kristine Struck**  
BLM NEPA Specialist (Advisory)

MIDDLE FORK WILLAMETTE WATERSHED COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT 2014:

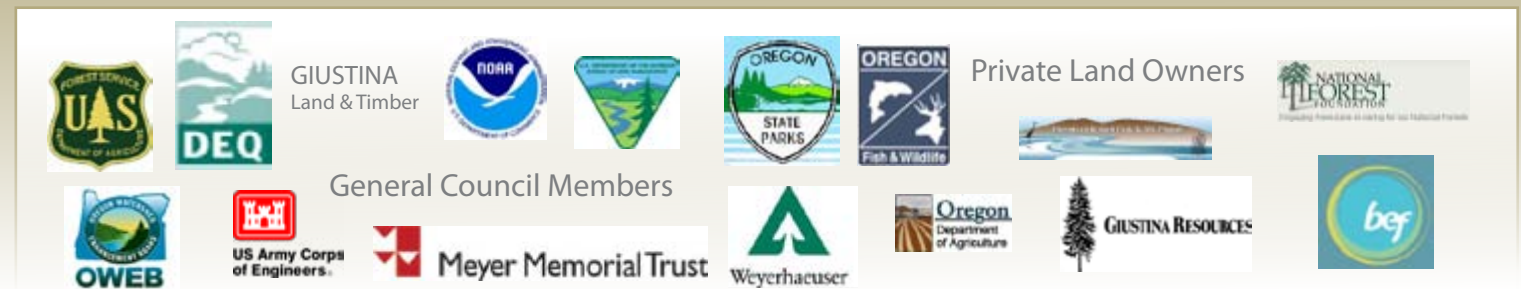
LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

What illustrates the concept of resilience better than a river? Every day events – from major flooding to a few fallen trees – are constantly changing its shape, moving its rocks, shifting its course. Overall, though, the river continues on its course – often through new obstacles, but ultimately continuing to provide a system for water filtration and delivery, habitat for aquatic creatures, and actively participating in geomorphic processes. Change is the norm for a river system, and establishing a resilient system, through both process and function, is a constant.

Lucky for the Watershed Council that we have the Middle Fork as our model of a resilient river. Though stretched and challenged in 2014, the Council has looked to our watershed to understand the importance of resilience. For while resilience requires that a system be flexible and adapt to forces that change and challenge it, it also means bouncing back – not necessarily in the same form, but certainly in the same function and spirit. Our ability as a Council to absorb challenges and changes and emerge on-course means optimism for 2015 as we develop a new strategic plan to guide our goals and growth, and as we continue to offer restoration and education to benefit the resilient rivers and streams at the heart of our watershed.

Chandra LeGue, BOARD PRESIDENT  
Eve Montanaro, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*The strength of a watershed council is a direct result of the cooperation, collaboration and diversity of its stakeholders, partners and supporters.*





## Restoration Program

### Little Fall Creek Channel Enhancement Project

Our comprehensive assessment of the Little Fall Creek basin by a multi-stakeholder team of specialists in 2012 resulted in the identification of priority locations for habitat enhancement activities to address key limiting factors for spring Chinook salmon. These projects are aimed at improving spawning and juvenile rearing conditions for spring Chinook, summer and winter steelhead, and cutthroat trout. In 2013 we worked in partnership with the Weyerhaeuser Company and the US Forest Service to implement Phase I of the project, which took place along about 1.5 miles of stream at four locations and consisted of reconnecting side channels and building boulder and wood structures within the channel.

In 2014, we built on the momentum of Phase I and worked with our project partners to develop the design work for Phase II of the project. The focus of Phase II was to build large wood jams and boulder structures to improve habitat along about 5.5 miles of the system. The project design team consisted of fisheries biologist from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and US Forest Service, Geomorphologist and Hydrologist from Weyerhaeuser Company, MFWWC staff and service providers. The multi-disciplinary team worked through elements of the design to come to consensus on the design method and approach for implementation of channel enhancement efforts. In summer of 2014, implemented projects treated 5.1 miles of channel by installing 80 log jams and a series of four boulder structures to improve aquatic habitat complexity through pool formation, trapping and sorting spawning gravels and providing complex cover to support spring Chinook and winter steelhead habitat.

The upcoming year will focus on outreach to the private landowners at the confluence of Little Fall Creek and the Middle Fork Willamette River to increase awareness of the benefits of channel enhancement within the system and the opportunities to achieve potential benefits for spring Chinook and water quality. We hope to enhance the area at the confluence to complete enhancement efforts for this important river system within our watershed.

### Lost Creek Riparian Corridor Project

This project aims to provide shade to address temperature issues, improve bank stability without the use of hard engineering, improve future large wood recruitment into the stream system, increase plant species diversity within the riparian zone, increase riparian buffer widths, and provide habitat for native species. During 2014, the MFWWC continued to work with private landowners in the Lost Creek basin to create or enhance riparian forest on 14 acres in the Lost Creek basin. With the planting of this 14 acres, the MFWWC and private landowners in the Lost Creek basin will have enhanced a total of 53 acres of riparian habitat since 2013. In 2015, we will conduct maintenance on the 53 acres of planted riparian habitat to ensure maximum survivability for the established native trees and shrubs. The Council will continue to reach out to additional landowners interested in enhancing our drinking water, fish and wildlife habitat through the creation of a healthy biodiverse riparian corridor. Planting in Lost Creek will resume in 2016.

### Lost Creek and Rattlesnake Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement

Data from our fish passage assessment work conducted from 2010-12 indicated there are eight high-priority culverts that need to be replaced along Lost and Rattlesnake Creeks. These two creeks are important areas for fish passage and habitat enhancement because they are situated below all of the major flood control dams within the Middle Fork Willamette watershed. In 2013, we worked in partnership with the Eugene BLM, Giustina Resources, two private landowners, River Design Group, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to begin the process for replacement of the eight high-priority culverts in this system. All of the sites were professionally surveyed and designs have been provided by engineers. We have also surveyed all of the sites for fish, assessed fish habitat enhancement potential and identified areas where the placement of large wood within the stream will provide benefits for aquatic species and minimize risk to infrastructure. In 2014, the Council worked with Giustina Resources to replace one of these high-priority passage barriers on Lost Creek. The passage barrier was removed and replaced with a bridge to open access to approximately 3 miles of essential habitat for spring Chinook and cutthroat.

In summer of 2015, we will work with the Eugene BLM to replace a passage barrier along Eagle Creek road to open access to another 2 miles of habitat in the Lost Creek basin. The Council submitted a grant proposal to request funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to replace 3 passage barriers in summer of 2015. If funded, the project would provide another 8 miles of stream habitat in Lost Creek to complete 5 of the 8 priority passage barriers and open access to 13 miles of habitat for spring Chinook. (PHOTOS BELOW: CARR CREEK BEFORE AND AFTER TREATMENT.)



## Monitoring Program

### Temperature Monitoring

We have been conducting temperature monitoring throughout the summer months in Lost Creek and Little Fall Creek since 2010. We are using this data to examine trends in water temperature, determine rates of warming in different reaches, and investigate the influence of tributaries on mainstem temperatures. The data we are collecting will also serve as a baseline to measure the outcomes of current and future restoration activities. This year we deployed a total of four loggers in Little Fall Creek, and 6 loggers in Lost Creek. Temperature was recorded every hour from June through October.

### Lost Creek Riparian Surveys

In 2013 and 2014 we conducted effectiveness monitoring at all of our Little Fall Creek Channel Enhancement Project Phase I sites. The goal of this monitoring effort is to assess the effectiveness of our restoration actions in terms of meeting project objectives. The monitoring plan we used was designed specifically for the partnership of watershed councils participating in the Willamette Model Watershed Program with input from leading scientists in the field of stream ecology and restoration. We are collecting data relating to stream channel morphology, sediment and substrate characteristics, riparian habitat condition, shade, and macroinvertebrate communities.

### Lost Creek Riparian Surveys

The goal of this surveying effort is to determine the effectiveness of our riparian planting projects at improving shade conditions, species diversity, and reducing invasive species cover and erosion. This year we surveyed a subset of our Lost Creek Riparian Corridor Enhancement sites prior to initiating any restoration activities there. We collected data on shade, plant communities, erosion, and invasive species. We will revisit these survey sites 2, 5, and 10 years after we complete our restoration efforts to determine the effectiveness of our actions. This monitoring effort is guided by the monitoring framework developed as a regional collaborative effort through the Model Watershed Program. Funds to support the monitoring are provided by Meyer Memorial Trust.



# Education & Outreach

The Education and Outreach Program aims to promote increased awareness, communication, education and participation among all people and interests within the watershed. Through these efforts we strive to create a culture of stewardship throughout the Middle Fork Willamette watershed.

## Watershed Rangers

The most significant accomplishment in the 2014 WEP was increasing the number of Service Learning Project opportunities to achieve a 61.54% increase in student participation and a 93% increase in community service hours!

The Council and partners achieved 1944 student contacts through the following efforts:

- 655 students in the Springfield, Pleasant Hill, Lowell and Oakridge school districts participated in 72 watershed science-themed classroom lessons, field trips and service learning activities.
- 35 classroom lessons, resulted in 1067 student contacts
- 37 watershed science-themed field trips and service learning experiences to local natural areas, resulted in 877 student contacts.
- 523 students produced 10,983 volunteer hours on local public land through service learning projects.



## Community Involvement

In 2014, the MFWWC:

- Published the 2013 Annual Report and held the 2014 Annual Celebration Raindrops to Rivers.
- Participated in the annual Living River Celebration a partner with McKenzie River Trust.
- Hosted Discover Your Watershed tour to celebrate the opening of the new Middle Fork Willamette Loop Path in partnership with the City of Springfield and ODFW.
- Attended Team Lowell meetings to coordinate public awareness events and communications with other partners throughout the watershed.
- Published two print newsletters and developed the first MFWWC e-newsletter through Constant Contact.

PRIORITIES IN 2015 WILL INCLUDE DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY, GENERAL COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP, AND STAKEHOLDER EVENTS.



Partnerships play a key role in the success of the Watershed Education and Outreach Program. A special thanks to the Willamette National Forest, Oregon State Parks, Springfield Utility Board, Lowell, Oakridge and Pleasant Hill School Districts, Bureau of Land Management and US Army Corps of Engineers.



# Financial Pulse

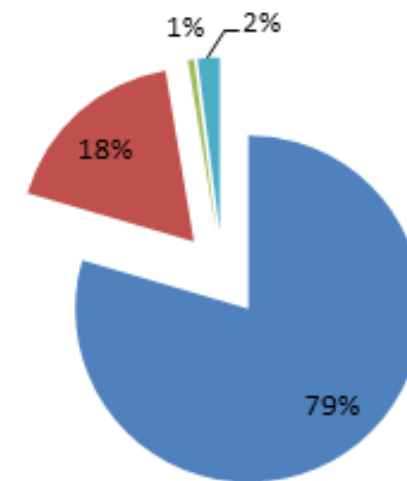
2014 Partner Contributions \$450,000

Community Members	Municipalities
Federal Agencies	Private Landowners
Lane County	State Agencies
Local Businesses	

REVENUE	
State and Federal Grants	\$ 414,562
Private Foundations	\$ 93,000
Contributions and Events	\$ 10,700
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 518,262</b>

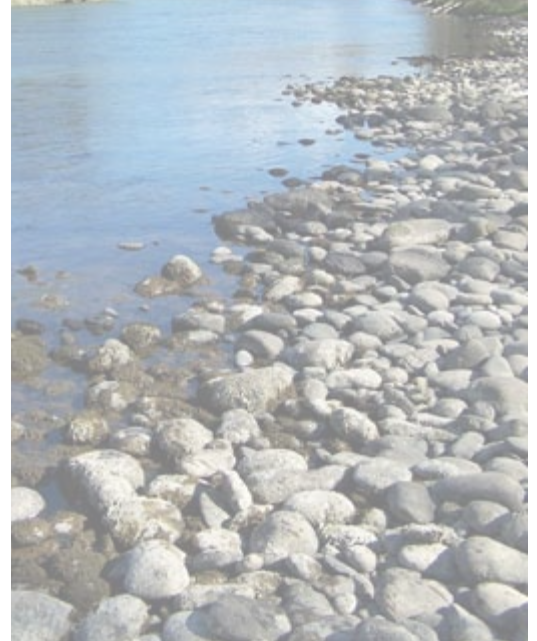
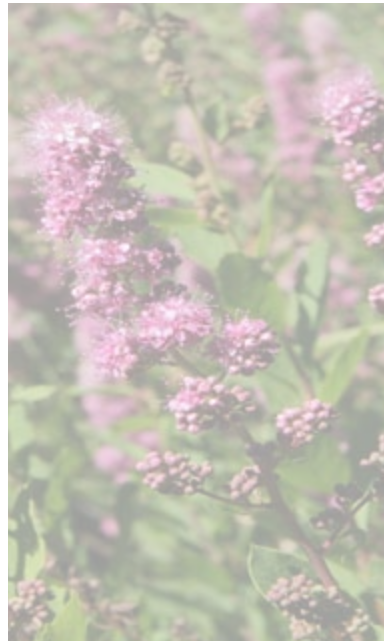
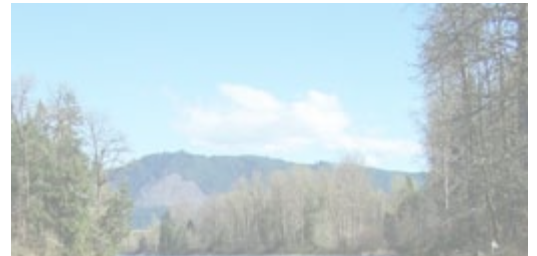
EXPENSES	
Personnel & Contract Services	\$ 449,462
Operations	\$ 23,000
Occupancy & Utilities	\$ 10,500
Insurance	\$ 3,021
Legal & Accounting	\$ 5,527
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 491,510</b>

## Major Funders



- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Meyer Memorial Trust
- BLM
- Other Sources





To learn more about the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council, find us:

ONLINE | [www.mfwwc.org](http://www.mfwwc.org)

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IN PERSON | 38259 Wheeler Rd, Dexter OR 97431

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FACEBOOK | Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council

Middle Fork Willamette



WATERSHED  
COUNCIL

***Working to make  
the Middle Fork  
Willamette watershed  
a better place to live,  
work, and recreate.***

