



Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council 2017 Annual Report

2017 was another year of growth for the Council with new staff, new projects, and new connections to our community. While we are still a small staff, the addition of two more staff members means we're much better equipped to develop and deliver the programs our community has requested.

This was one of our biggest restoration years in some time. We tackled our boldest floodplain restoration project to date at Staley Creek along with our US Forest Service partners and we expanded our restoration portfolio to include upland habitats at Dorris Ranch, targeting Oregon white oak and prairie habitat with Willamalane Park and Recreation District.

Our Youth Education Program continued to evolve with new programs throughout the year. A partnership with Lane Arts Council provided funding for a program that brought professional artists into the classroom to help interpret our watershed-themed curriculum through ceramics and other media. For the first time we offered the Eggs-to-Fry program, where students raise salmon in classroom tanks before releasing the fry into a stream or river near their classroom. And lastly, we welcomed three high school interns for the summer. They spent eight weeks of their summer slogging through streams – from salvaging fish at Staley Creek to conducting genetic research of lamprey species on the Willamette National Forest – an experience we hope will help to shape and refine their budding career interests in natural resources.

Also new in 2017 is a fresh website – www.middleforkwillamette.org, a heightened social media presence, and community events that aim to connect people to our work and to the very special place that is the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed. Another important milestone was the completion of a timely fundraising plan, which has already proven effective at helping us develop the tools necessary to engage individuals and businesses in supporting community-based restoration, access to the outdoors, and youth watershed education.

2018 marks our 20th anniversary of community service. As we expand and adapt our programs to meet the needs of our diverse and evolving communities, we encourage you to become involved – attend an event, volunteer, make a donation to support our work – there are many opportunities to be a part of your watershed community. Be part of making our 20th year our best year yet!

--Sarah Dyrdaahl
Executive Director

Middle Fork Willamette
WATERSHED
C O U N C I L



A look back at 2017

This year brought people and the environment together across the watershed. The Council worked at the intersection of nature and people - helping them find a mutually beneficial balance. These are just a few examples of those intersections.

(1) Education Coordinator, Erika Coyer, inspires the next generation of stewards at our annual planting celebration. Together we planted more than 600 trees and helped improve our backyard at Elijah Bristow State Park. Photo courtesy of Tim Giraudier. (beautifuloregon.com)

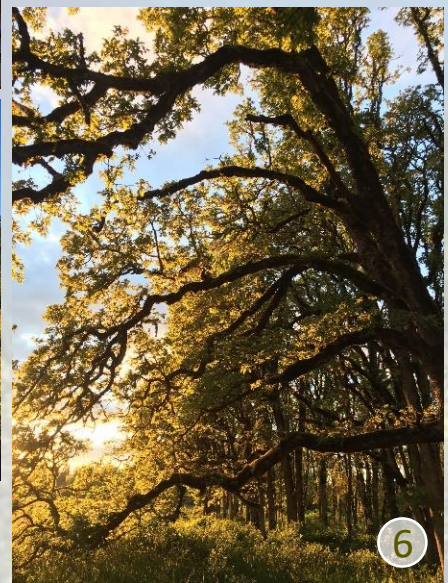


(2) Our contractors from Haley Construction Co. helped us to restore 45 acres of floodplain and over a mile of river at Staley Creek along with our partners from the US Forest Service Middle Fork Ranger District. Our partners make this work happen, check out the next page for the full list!



(3) UO Education Intern, Haley Faringer, gains valuable teaching experience by helping deliver one of our classroom lessons. Our education program serves both elementary and high school students through classroom lessons, field trips, and service learning projects.

(4) Volunteers worked hard to salvage fish before we diverted water at our Staley Creek project. Volunteers supported us with 1,220 hours of their time throughout the watershed in 2017. Photo courtesy of Tim Giraudier.



(5) Community members bike the new Mill Race path and learn about the great restoration work being done there. Other tours included an Oregon white oak walk at Dorris Ranch and a float into the heart of Elijah Bristow State Park to help maintain turtle habitat.

(6) Oaks stretch out at Dorris Ranch where we worked with Willamalane to restore 55 acres of Oregon white oak. In total we restored 73 acres of oak habitat this year. 2018 is bringing another oak restoration project; stay tuned for more info on Thurston Hills!



(7) A big THANK YOU to all our wonderful volunteers. Several are pictured here helping out at our annual planting celebration. See the back page for a special shout out to a few exemplary volunteers.



(8) Our partners and restoration practitioners gather to hear about our lessons learned at Staley Creek through a tour with the Rivers to Ridges Partnership.

We couldn't do it without you...

Our accomplishments are testament to the incredible support from our communities. A huge thanks to our partners, donors, and funders. Without you, this work wouldn't be possible. Just as this is your watershed, these are your accomplishments. Thank you for your generous support!

Donors

Barb Hazen
Chandra LeGue
Edward Alverson
Gnarled Oak Farm LLC
Jesse Jones
Karen Sarno and Theo Kowalczyk
Kevin Tuers
Michelle Emmons
Mountain Rose Herbs
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Funders

Arbor Day Foundation
Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Bureau of Land Management
Meyer Memorial Trust
One Tree Planted
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Springfield Utility Board
The Nature Conservancy
US Forest Service
Willamalane Park and Recreation District

In-Kind Donations

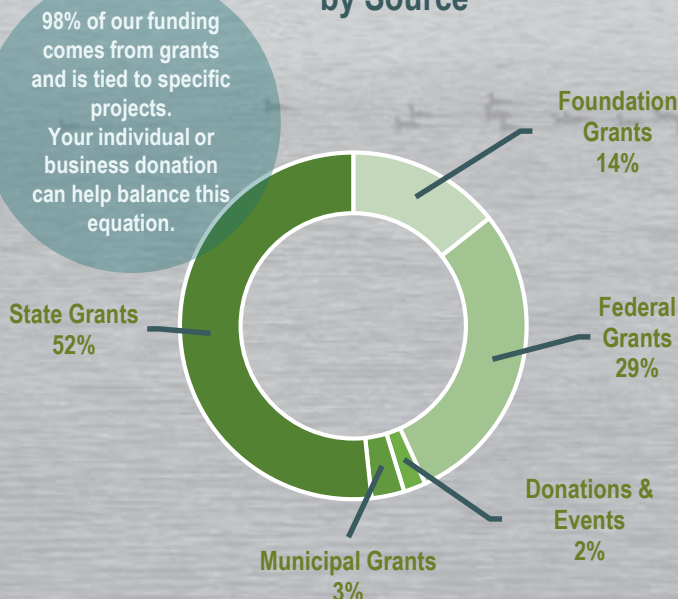
100 Mile Bakery
Beautiful Oregon Photography
Brewer's Union Local 180
Café Mam
Elegant Elephant Bakery
Gatehouse Pizza
Global Delights Roasters
Hilltop Bar and Grill
Hop Valley Brewing Co
Mountain Rose Herbs
Plank Town Brewing
Springfield Creamery
Sweet Life Patisserie
Toby's Family Foods

Partners

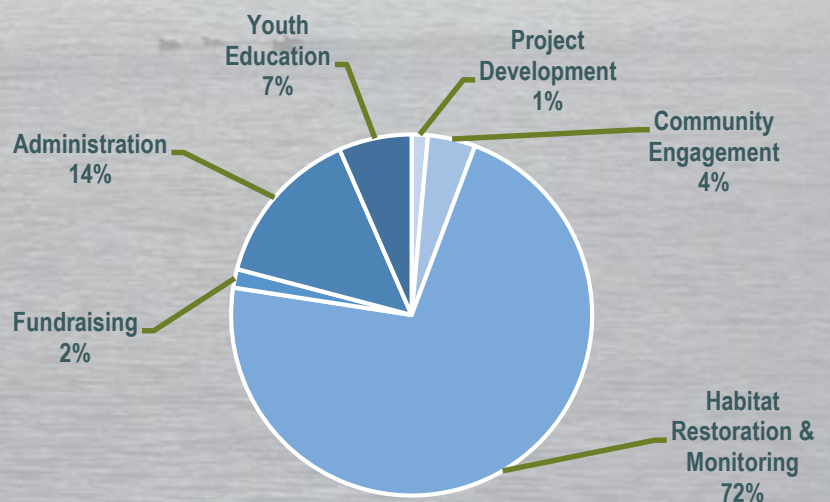
Bridgeway House School
Bureau of Land Management
Calapooia Watershed Council
City of Lowell
City of Oakridge
Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah
Forests Today & Forever
Freshwaters Illustrated

Giustina Land & Timber
Giustina Resources
Jasper Mountain
Kat Beal
Lane Arts Council
Long Tom Watershed Council
Lundy Elementary School
McKenzie River Trust
Mountain View Academy
Oakridge Elementary School
Oakridge High School
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon State Parks
Pleasant Hill Elementary School
Rivers to Ridges Partnership
Seneca Family of Companies
Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative
Springfield Utility Board
Upstream Adventures
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Forest Service
US Geological Survey
Weyerhaeuser
Willamalane Park and Recreation District
Willamette Riverkeeper
The 8 fantastic private landowners who partnered with us to do habitat restoration on their land

Percentage of Total Funding
by Source



Percentage of Total Expenses
by Program



A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped make 2017 the amazing year it was. We would like to highlight a few volunteers who really made a difference and bid a fond farewell to a staff member.



Jenessa Dragovich

Jenessa was an invaluable part of our team in 2017 acting as our Youth Education Assistant. Not only was she Michelle's right-hand-woman in everything education, but she was also a star photographer who helped us make the good things we do look great!

Middle Fork Willamette



WATERSHED
COUNCIL

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John DeLuca • Advisory
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Erik Petersen • Advisory
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STAFF

Sarah Dyrda
Executive Director

Audrey Squires
Restoration Projects Manager

Karen Sarno
Operations Manager

Erika Coyer
Education Coordinator

Gale Orcutt
Community Engagement Coordinator

Doug Lee

Doug lent us his skill, knowledge, and boat for our Paddle and Pull event. We literally could not have pulled this off without him. His enthusiasm for our river is such an asset to our team!



Leslie Dietz

A million thanks to Leslie Dietz for cleaning our garage and seeding our riparian restoration projects on private lands!

Curtis Phillips

Whether he is pouring beer for volunteers or helping kids release salmon into the river he loves, Curtis is always there with a smile and a helping hand. Thank you everything you do for the Middle Fork Willamette!



Michelle Emmons

For three years Michelle was the face of education and outreach for the Watershed Council. Her tireless good attitude and amazing community connections helped make these programs what they are today. We all want to say thank you and best of luck on your new adventures in Oakridge and beyond!