

MIDDLE FORK WILLAMETTE WATERSHED COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT



2018

A Year in Review

We celebrated our 20th anniversary this year! Over the course of 20 years, this organization has continued to adapt and change, just like a river does as it flows downstream. One of the most exciting changes in 2018 was the launch of the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network. We are partnering with five other local conservation nonprofits to create a network that aims to work more effectively across geographic boundaries to better help our communities care for land and water in the Upper Willamette. Visit our Watershed Stories blog to read the whole story.

Here at the Watershed Council, we added several new faces to our Board of Directors. These talented and energetic folks will carry us through 2019 with added enthusiasm, new skill sets and perspectives, and more bandwidth to lead this ever-evolving organization.

The primary constants over the course of 20 years are our shared love of this beautiful place and the tremendous impact individuals and partners bring to our work. We invite you to join us in our 21st year. Become a member, join a committee, volunteer at one of our many events, attend a science pub or restoration tour. There are many ways to engage. Together we can accomplish great things for our watersheds and our communities. We look forward to co-creating the future with you!

Native plants re-colonize Staley Creek

After our floodplain restoration project with the Middle Fork Ranger District at Staley Creek the look of the landscape was shocking. Large machines had removed berms and filled channels. Newly tipped trees were scattered and buried across the landscape ready to provide habitat for wildlife. But we trusted in the science and waited for the wet season. This winter our staff were elated when they toured the restoration site and found native species, like the sedges & rushes pictured

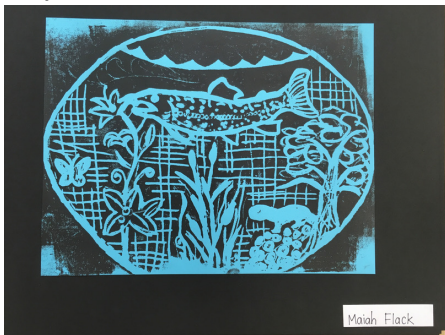
had volunteered themselves across the floodplain. 2018 also brought the news that bull trout were spotted in our restoration site for the first time since the Forest Service started tracking them. Seeing Staley Creek thrive after restoration is exactly what we hoped for!



The science of art and Native Lifeways

Last spring a classroom of high school marine biology students in Oakridge put away their textbooks and broke out the art supplies. Our education coordinator worked to bring David Lewis, Native American researcher and educator, into the classroom to talk about Native Lifeways and local ecosystems. Lewis shared topics like plant harvest, fishing, and weaving materials. Students translated the lesson into art

through a block printing project. This innovative project not only helped students understand how native peoples use the land, but also helped them engage with science in a new way.



A Watershed Story from the field

"At our Dorris Ranch planting I teamed up with a dad who brought his daughter and new foster daughter, who had previously only bonded through video games. They weren't an outdoorsy family, but the daughters were planting trees together, getting muddy, and laughing. I loved it."

--Nathan Keffer,
Board Member



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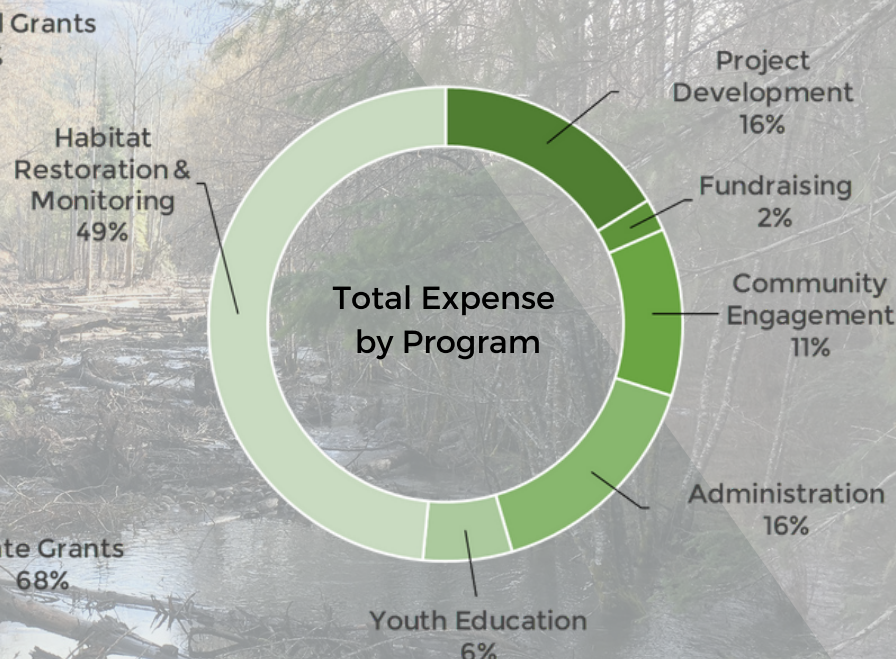
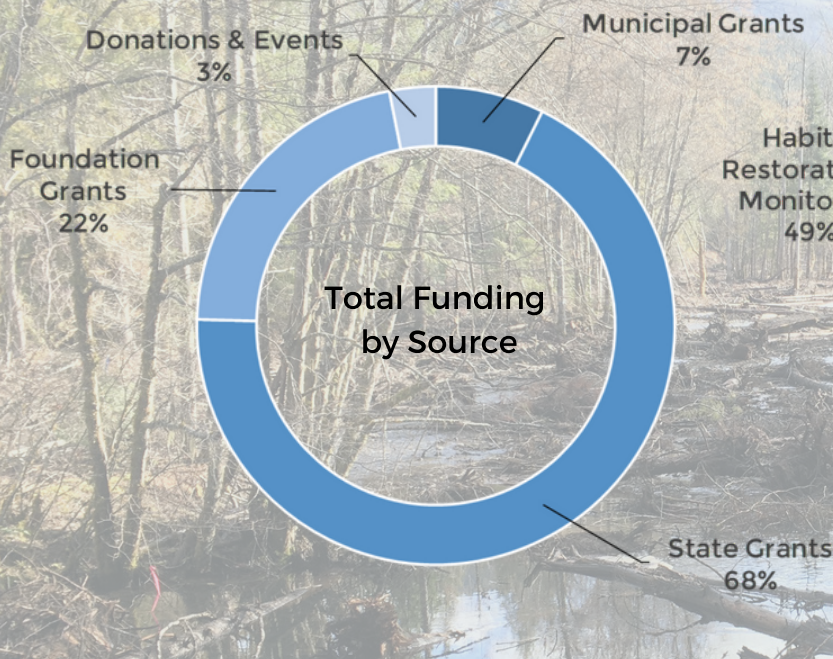
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Our Mission

Working with communities for a healthy Middle Fork Willamette Watershed



A Big Thanks



Kevin Tuers

Retiring Board Member

This spring Kevin will be stepping down from the board after five years serving as our timber representative. We will miss his leadership, technical skills, and knack for party planning but we know we will still see him around. If you see him raise a glass and thank him for all his hard work!



Sean Stewart

Oregon State Park Ranger

There isn't a single element of our work that Sean hasn't touched and made better. From mentoring kids in the field to connecting volunteers to our public lands, Sean is always eager to lend a helping hand. It's not an exaggeration to say we couldn't do this work without him.



Amy Chinitz

SUB Drinking Water Source

Protection Coordinator

Amy's ties with the Watershed Council run deep having once served as the council coordinator. Her passion for clean drinking water and the Middle Fork have never wavered. She is always looking for ways to help connect us to our drinking water, like our volunteer events, bike tours, and youth field trips. It makes our work so much easier when we have partners like Amy!



Brian Bangs

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Project Lead

Brian's passion for our local native critters and habitat and his enthusiasm for sharing it is infectious. Whenever he brings his nets and fish tank to an event, you know it is going to be good. If you have been lucky enough to join us at an event with Brian you know that feeling of excitement and wonder for all the neat things under the water's surface.

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