



ANNUAL REPORT



2020

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES FOR A HEALTHY MIDDLE FORK
WILLAMETTE WATERSHED THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND
HABITAT RESTORATION

WWW.MIDDLEFORKWILLAMETTE.ORG

This has been a memorable year for our watershed and one marked with many transitions. While it has been challenging, it has also reinforced how strong our partnerships are and what an amazing community we are surrounded by. We want to take a moment to honor some of those transitions that helped make this year so memorable. First, we want to wish a fond farewell to Sarah Dyrda. Her leadership as executive director helped our nonprofit to grow, strengthen, and define its role in the conservation community. We wish her well on her next adventure and will proudly carry on her legacy. We also want to thank Audrey Squires and Molly Shea who moved on from their roles as Restoration Projects Manager and Education Coordinator this year. Their hard work, commitment to collaboration, and dedication to diversity left our work better and more welcoming to our whole community. Our board also saw transitions as folks followed their dreams of relocation and retirement. A big thank you to Nate Keffer, John DeLuca, and Greg Barrowcliff. And last, but not least, we want to say goodbye to our office of 10 years at Elijah Bristow State Park. We couldn't have asked for a better place to hold backyard parties, visit llamas, and work with our partners for a healthy Middle Fork Willamette watershed.

These transitions have also brought new growth. We are thrilled to welcome new staff and new board members who bring with them fresh ideas and perspectives. We are also looking back and celebrating the projects that were completed this year. We want to highlight two projects that speak to our commitment to long-term improvement. Both of the following projects completed in 2020 and will continue to have an impact on our watershed for years to come. Thank you to everyone who helped make 2020 so memorable and we are excited to create more memories together in 2021.



The Middle Fork Trail rises above the floodplain. Photo by Kevin Rowell.



Students lead a tour at Log Jam State Park.

CREATING TRAILS

In 2020, contractors finished work on the new section of the Middle Fork Trail at Coal Creek. This collaborative partnership with ourselves, the Middle Fork Ranger District, and community groups brought together restoration and recreation in a way like never before. The completed trail was the last element of the Coal Creek Floodplain restoration work - a project that benefits water quality, habitat, and people. The trail rises above the restored floodplain, adds more than two miles to the previous distance, and removes the necessity to connect trail segments via the road. This multi-faceted project highlights our change of focus from viewing nature in a vacuum to considering people as part of nature. We want to make sure that people have access to these restored areas and can safely enjoy incredible outdoor experiences. This work would not be possible without our partners at the US Forest Service, our contractor Dirt Mechanics, and volunteers from the Alpine Trail Crew, Disciples of Dirt, Transcascadia, GOATS, and students at the Twin Rivers Charter School.

CREATING LEADERS

This connection of people with nature was also fostered a little closer to home last year. As part of an ongoing partnership with Eugene's Twin Rivers Charter School and Oregon State Parks, our Education Coordinator and Restoration Projects Manager helped students to develop a conservation plan for Log Jam State Park near Jasper. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the students engaged with members of the Rivers to Ridges Partnership (rivers2ridges.org) at the park to draw upon their professional knowledge and get advice. The students led the tour and presented all their plans to the group for feedback. This partnership began with a simple weed pulling event and has blossomed into so much more! And it's not done yet. We all will continue working together to turn their plans into practice and find even more ways for the students at Twin Rivers to put their learning into action.

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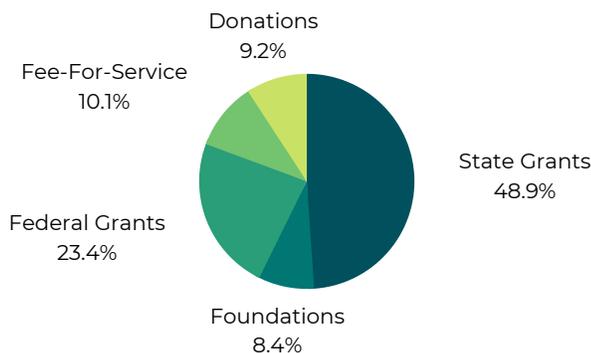
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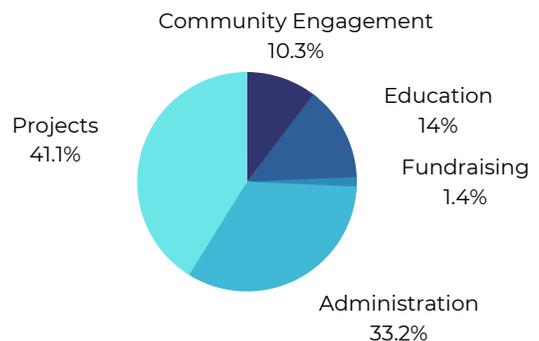
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Bonneville Environmental Foundation	One Tree Planted	US Forest Service
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We are guests on this land and acknowledge that our work in the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed spans Kalapuya, Molalla, Klamath and Tenino lands. We are committed to listening to, learning from, and supporting indigenous peoples, exploring the decolonization of our restoration work, and re-thinking how we engage with community members on traditional lands.

Income by Source



Expenses by Program





Partners

Alpine Trail Crew Association
Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Bureau of Land Management
Calapooia Watershed Council
Cascade Family Flyfishers
Center for Diversity & the Environment
City of Lowell
City of Oakridge
City of Springfield
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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
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Oregon State University Extension
Oregon Wild
Pleasant Hill Elementary School
Rivers to Ridges Partnership
Seneca Family of Companies
Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative
Springfield Utility Board
The Nature Conservancy
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