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## ANNUAL REPORT



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

[WWW.MIDDLEFORKWILLAMETTE.ORG](http://WWW.MIDDLEFORKWILLAMETTE.ORG)

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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In recent years our communities have lived through strange and dangerous changes. Similarly, our staff and Board of Directors at the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council have operated with a changing baseline. Stewardship of forests and watersheds has always been a moving target, but in recent years we've experienced dramatic shifts in temperatures, fires, cultural understanding, and even the ways in which we communicate with each other. Amidst these unprecedented challenges, we want to acknowledge the close relationship of challenge and opportunity and also celebrate the many small and large victories that are often overlooked.

Through numerous staff changes over the past two years, our rock-steady Board of Directors has demonstrated effective and organized leadership for our Council and Middle Fork Willamette community. Two pillars of our staff, Community Engagement Coordinator Gale Darling and Operations Manager Karen Sarno, provided critical continuity and ongoing stability during a time of transition. Our Restoration Projects Manager, Ka-Voka Jackson, demonstrated leadership in numerous collaborations with partners and agencies and continues to provide inspired expertise for upcoming habitat restoration for 2022. Emma Garner joined our team in August as the Youth Education Coordinator, and has quickly stepped into a complex and relationship-driven program that encourages stewardship through place-based environmental education.

Through our daily work we are so often focused on the small tasks and moving parts that we seldom take the time to reflect on the parts of our work that move us. After my first year as Executive Director I have a better understanding of the numerous challenges of conserving and restoring critical habitat, protecting wildlife and native species, ensuring clean water, and enhancing resilience in our communities. I'm also in awe of our passionate staff, our dedicated Board of Directors, and our supportive partners and community members. In spite of all the challenges, I've entered 2022 more hopeful, and more committed, than before.

Dov Weinman,  
Executive Director

## BUILDING A FUTURE TOGETHER

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In the past year we've laid strong foundations for long term, community-based projects that will have significant positive impacts within the watershed. We embarked on a novel and intentional stakeholder engagement process that continues to bring together Tribes, community members, landowners, and partners to help envision the future of floodplain restoration at Elijah Bristow State Park. This multi-year process weaves together youth and adult education, expert advice, and community input that will result in transparent and informed designs and planning for large scale restoration at the park. We are prioritizing community input throughout the planning process to create a project that results in a better park for habitat and people.

We also built upon our work with students and future watershed stewards across the Upper Willamette watershed. With focuses on exploring their landscape, cultural inclusivity, and growth of technical fieldwork, our education program goes beyond what students can experience in the classroom. In 2021 that meant working with students to create and undertake monitoring programs to help better understand the habitat and wildlife at Elijah Bristow State Park and Log Jam State Park. Students experienced field-based learning while monitoring water quality and beaver habitat. These students not only grew their own knowledge and skills, but their work contributed to our scientific understanding about our state parks and helped to inform future management and restoration plans.

At our core, we are a community-based organization. Involving community members in planning habitat restoration and empowering students to learn about and care for their landscape contribute to creating a healthier watershed and more vibrant communities. We are committed to building on the foundations of the past year and to continue deepening our relationships and creating new partnerships for a healthy Middle Fork Willamette watershed.

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*Front Image created by students at Briggs Middle School during our 2021 summer camp.*



# 2021 Financials

## Donors

Alisha Moore  
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Austin Larson  
Barb Hazen  
Barbara & James Orcutt  
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## In Memorial

Vera Obermeyer

## Corporate Donors

Amazon Smile  
Café Mam  
Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program

Lane Forest Products  
Weyerhaeuser Company  
Wolf Water Resources

## Funders & Grantors

Bonneville Environmental Foundation  
Chambers Family Foundation  
Collins Foundation

Environmental Protection Agency  
Eugene Water and Electric Board  
Meyer Memorial Trust

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
Springfield Utility Board  
US Forest Service



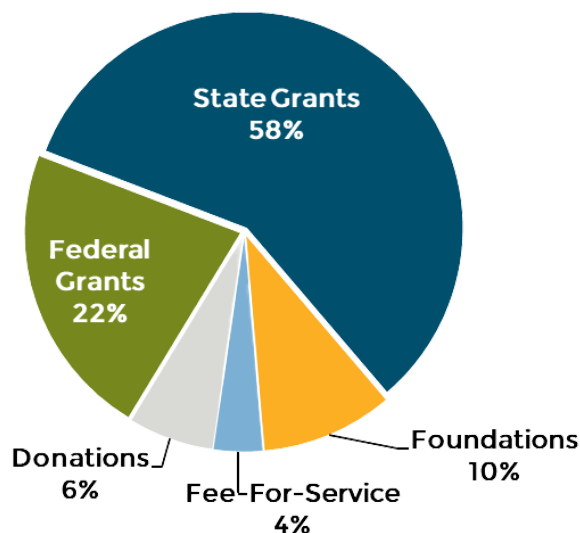
The Middle Fork Willamette River as it passes through Elijah Bristow State Park.



Students survey the waters at Elijah Bristow.

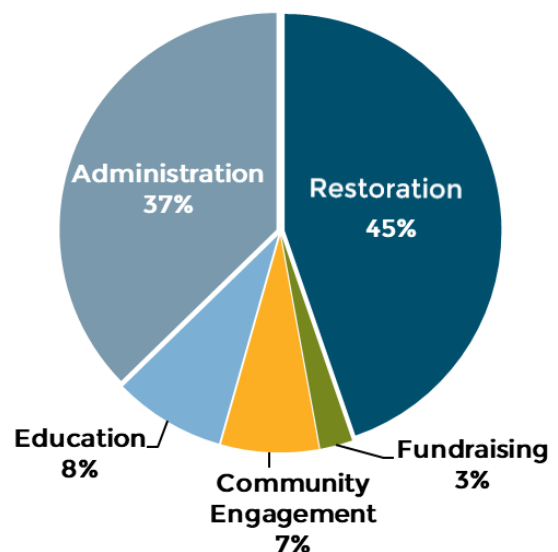
## Income by Source

\$334,133



## Expenses by Program

\$361,884







## Partners

The Avarna Group  
 Bonneville Environmental Foundation  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 City of Lowell  
 City of Oakridge  
 City of Springfield  
 City of Westfir  
 Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council  
 Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
 Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians  
 Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs  
 David Lewis  
 Eugene Water and Electric Board  
 Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah  
 Forests Today & Forever  
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 Good Company  
 Joe Scott  
 Lane Arts Council  
 Lane County Parks  
 Lane Education Service District  
 Lane Regional Air Pollution Agency  
 Live Oak Consulting  
 Long Tom Watershed Council  
 McKenzie River Trust  
 McKenzie Watershed Council  
 Mount Pisgah Arboretum  
 NAACP Lane County  
 Network of Oregon Watershed Councils  
 Oakridge Air  
 Oakridge Elementary & High Schools  
 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 Oregon Department of Forestry  
 Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
 Oregon State University Extension  
 Oregon Wild  
 Pleasant Hill Elementary School  
 R. Franco Restoration  
 Rivers to Ridges Partnership  
 Salix Associates  
 Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative  
 Springfield Utility Board  
 Thurston High School  
 Twin Rivers Charter School  
 Upper Willamette Soil and Water  
 Conservation District  
 Upper Willamette Stewardship Network  
 US Army Corps of Engineers  
 US Fish and Wildlife Service  
 US Forest Service Middle Fork Ranger District  
 US Geological Survey  
 Weyerhaeuser Company  
 Willamalane Park and Recreation District  
 Willamette Riverkeeper  
 Wolf Water Resources  
 Xerces Society

## Staff

Dov Weinman  
Executive Director

Emma Garner  
Youth Education Coordinator

Gale Darling  
Community Engagement Coordinator

Karen Sarno  
Operations Manager

Ka-Voka Jackson  
Restoration Projects Manager

## Board Of Directors

Jeff Malik  
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