



ANNUAL REPORT



2019

A Year in Review

Last year marked our 20th year and one of great growth and partnership. This year we focused on program integration to marry floodplain restoration at Coal Creek with the re-route and expansion of the Middle Fork Trail. This project brought together an amazing team of restoration partners, students, trail users, and members of our outdoor community. Visit our highlights to the right to learn more.

At the watershed council, we have long considered community involvement core to the success of our work. This year we dedicated time to consider the history of our organization and our community in order to better understand who we are and who might be left out of the conversation. Our goal is to create a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization that is strengthened by the fabric of our community. Our staff and board worked together to create our diversity, equity, and inclusion statement, which you can read on our website at middleforkwillamette.org/about. We believe diversity, equity, and inclusion are critical to the success of our organization. We also believe that working toward these goals doesn't represent a new table to sit at, but rather will create a larger, more inclusive table at which all can participate and all can benefit.

We're pleased to share a snapshot of the wonderful work and accomplishments your support helped make possible in 2019. We couldn't have done it without you! Thank you for your contributions and love for your Middle Fork.

--Sarah Dyrda
Executive Director

Collaboration at Coal Creek

Partnerships – both within our own organization and with other organizations – are key to the success of our work. We fuse our restoration, community engagement, and youth education programs to broaden our reach and improve our work, which was on display at our Coal Creek floodplain restoration project. Working with multiple Forest Service departments, local trail building groups, students, and volunteers, we have engaged the community in both restoration and recreation work. At the

confluence of Coal Creek with the Middle Fork, you'll now find a healthy, connected floodplain. And thanks to our great contractors, the Middle Fork Trail has been re-routed out of the floodplain. Stay tuned as the trail work gets completed in 2020!



Students and Volunteers Make a Difference

In addition to our Forest Service partners, our community and student volunteers were critical to the success of the Coal Creek restoration work. We'd like to specifically thank the students and staff at Twin Rivers Charter School. These students are amazing young people who give back to their community and know how to work in the woods. They got their hands dirty building new trail and helped design interpretive signage to share our work with the public. Community volunteers also

made a huge impact helping at our fish salvage volunteer day (photo at bottom). Without volunteers, our work wouldn't be possible, or as much fun! We hope you can join us for a volunteer event this year.



Donors

Alisha Moore
Amanda Gilbert
Amazon Smile
American Fisheries Society
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Barbara & Jim Orcutt
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Stanley Funkhouser
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Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Calapooia Watershed Council
Chambers Family Foundation
Long Tom Watershed Council
Lowell School District
McKenzie River Trust
McKenzie Watershed Council
Meyer Memorial Trust
National Forest Foundation
One Tree Planted
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Oregon State University
Pleasant Hill School District
Springfield School District
Springfield Utility Board
Siuslaw Watershed Council
The Nature Conservancy
Travel Oregon
US Forest Service
Weyerhaeuser Company
Willamalane Park & Recreation District

In-Kind Donors

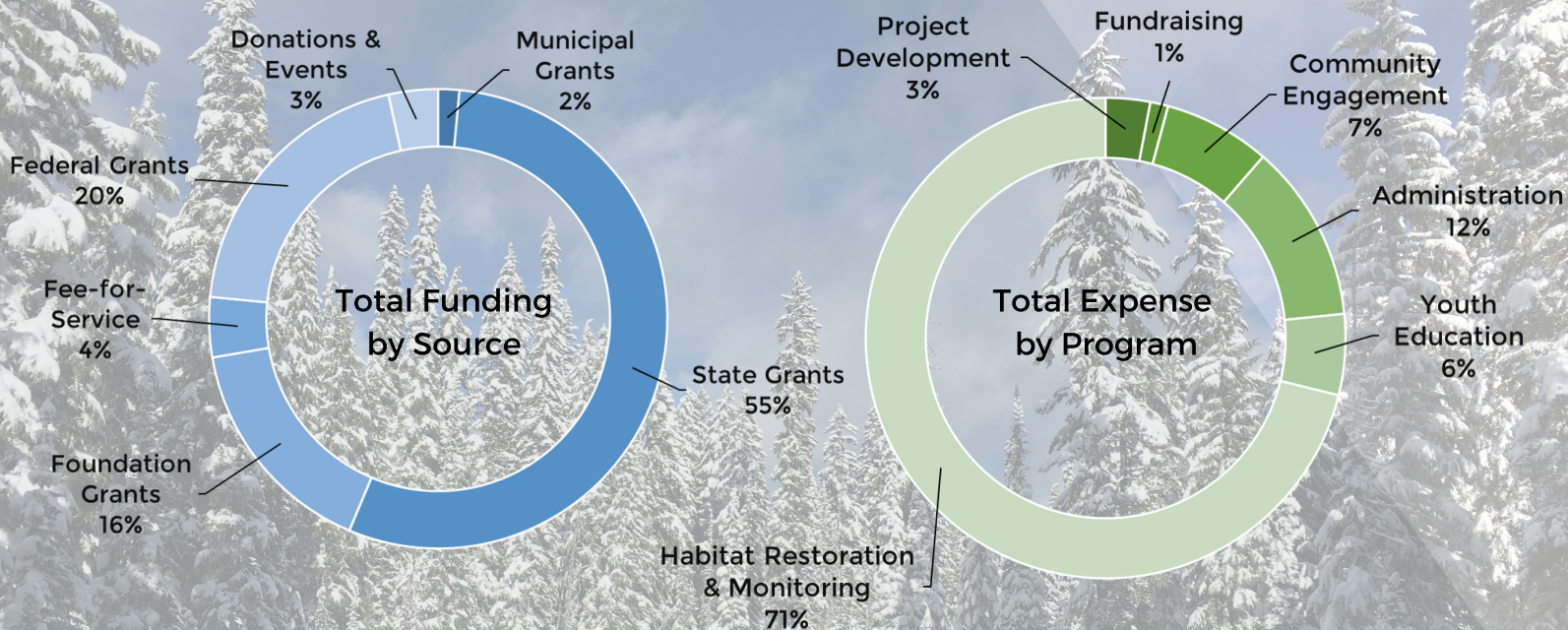
Brewer's Union Local 180
Café Mam
Chandra LeGue
Hilltop Bar & Grill
Lampa Mountain Stained Glass
Mountain Rose Herbs
Oroweat
Plank Town Brewing Co.
REI
Sweet Life Patisserie
Seneca Family of Companies
Washburne Cafe
WildCraft Cider Works

Partners

Alpine Trail Crew Association
Bureau of Land Management
Calapooia Watershed Council
Cascade Family Flyfishers
Center for Diversity & the Environment
Cities of Lowell, Oakridge, Springfield & Westfir
Disciples of Dirt
Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah
Forests Today & Forever
Freshwaters Illustrated
Giustina Land & Timber
Giustina Resources
Greater Oakridge Area Trail Stewards
Lane County Parks
Lundy Elementary School
Mountain View Academy
Museum of Natural & Cultural History
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Oakridge High School
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
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 Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
The Nature Conservancy
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Trans-Cascadia
Twin Rivers Charter School
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US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Forest Service
US Geological Survey
Weyerhaeuser Company
Willamalane Park and Recreation District
Willamette Riverkeeper
Xerces Society
9 private landowners

Our Mission

Working with communities for a healthy Middle Fork Willamette Watershed





A Big Thanks!



Lisa Kurian

Forest Service Hydrologist

Lisa is an integral part of our restoration team. For years she has worked hand in hand with Audrey to plan, restore, and monitor projects at Staley and Coal Creeks. She always goes above and beyond to make our projects successful, including delivering popsicles to our hard-working volunteers at Coal Creek!



Duane Bishop

Retiring Board Member

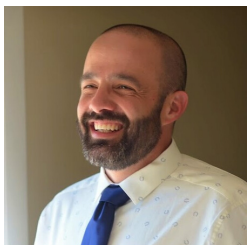
Duane joined the board as the Forest Service Advisory member in 2010 and has played a pivotal role there ever since. His insight, imagination, and enthusiastic involvement have made him a joy to work with. We will miss Duane, but wish him well in his new role as Assistant Forest Supervisor for the Willamette National Forest. If you see him around, raise an ice cream cone and thank him for all his hard work!



Erika Coyer

Outgoing Youth Education Coordinator

Erika made a huge impact on our youth education program and accomplished so much in her time with the watershed council. Her legacy lives on in engaging curriculum for youth that integrates science and art, as well as in all the robust relationships with local teachers, artists, and agencies. The youth of our watershed are better off for having had Erika in their educational journey!



Jay Breslow

Twin Rivers Charter School Principal

Jay has become a critical partner over the last year and a key to our education program. He consistently brings us new, exciting partnership ideas and our projects have benefited from the hard work and creativity of his students. Jay is a passionate, thoughtful educator and we look forward to expanding our partnership in the future.

Staff

Sarah Dyrda
Executive Director

Audrey Squires
Restoration Projects Manager

Molly Shea
Education Coordinator

Gale Darling
Community Engagement Coordinator

Karen Sarno
Operations Manager

Board Of Directors

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Jeff Malik
Member-at-Large

Austin Larson
Timber Representative

Duane Bishop
Advisory
USFS Middle Fork District Ranger

Greg Barrowcliff
Advisory
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

John DeLuca
Advisory
BLM Wildlife Biologist

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council

2019 At a Glance



Education

667

Students
Reached

108

Classroom
Lessons

60

Field
Trips



Restoration

2.5

Miles of Trail
Built

8

Active
Restoration
Projects

135

Acres
Restored and
Maintained



Community

18

Community
Events

1046

Volunteer
Hours

59

Community
Partners

Our Mission

We work with communities for a healthy Middle Fork Willamette Watershed through environmental education and habitat restoration



Our Watershed Education Program connects students with locally relevant watershed science lessons both in the classroom and out in the field. Students develop an understanding of the ecological functions of the watersheds, both positive and negative human impacts, and how to maintain healthy habitats. We work with entire classes of elementary school students as well as high school science classes to integrate standards-based STEM activities into their science curriculum. Students apply their classroom knowledge during site tours, field lessons, and service learning projects. We coordinate with agency partners to provide opportunities for students to build a sense of stewardship for the public lands in their communities.



Resilient ecosystems, clean water, and beautiful landscapes embody our vision for the Middle Fork Willamette. From valley floodplains to upland forests, our restoration staff work with our local communities to restore natural processes, enabling our landscape and communities to withstand both short- and long-term natural and human impacts. MFWWC staff work with expert partners and stakeholders at strategic, prioritized locations on public and private lands within the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed to plan and implement restoration actions that improve conditions across the landscape while creating jobs and bolstering the local restoration economy.



We recognize that the more people we engage, the more we can accomplish. To that end, we aim to provide opportunities for everyone to become involved in our work. We welcome our community members to discover your watershed through volunteer planting events, *Fermenting Ideas* pub talks, and exploratory tours that inform our community about our watershed and how we can all make a difference. Partnering with private and government partners is another important element of our community outreach. Our partners allow us to work on a larger scale and leverage multiple funding options to most efficiently restore our watershed.

It is important to acknowledge that our work in the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed spans Kalapuya and Molalla lands. We want to recognize the Native peoples that utilize this land for travel, trade, hunting, fishing, and other life-sustaining practices. These Native peoples are the original stewards and land managers of the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed. We also want to recognize that we are here because of the sacrifices that were forced upon them. We are guests of this land and must do our best to honor the original peoples, through authentic cultural narratives and continued stewardship of the water, land, plants, and people that make up this watershed community.

