



ANNUAL REPORT



2023

Hardesty / Goodman Creek

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

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As I move into my fourth year with the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council, I'm proud to look back at the last year and acknowledge the tremendous amount of growth in our programs and the increased connectivity and collective work with our partners throughout the Upper Willamette Basin. In 2023 our staff team grew to better support expanding education programming in urban and rural communities, we hired a Community Engagement Coordinator to support collaborative partnerships and increase our capacity to engage community members in stewardship, and our team balanced deliberate, community planning efforts for floodplain restoration at Elijah Bristow State Park with collaborative oak and prairie habitat restoration at Thurston Hills Natural Area. For the first time since before the pandemic, we held our Annual Watershed Celebration in May at Mount Pisgah Arboretum. It was a great opportunity to reflect on the resilience of our organization's hard working staff and engaged Board of Directors and also celebrate some of the longstanding partnerships, connections, and friendships we've made with people and groups who share our passion for healthy forests, watersheds, and community.

Looking ahead, we're focused on deepening our reservoir of volunteers in the Salmon Watch program, which engaged nearly 1000 students and 50 volunteers over 22 field trips in the fall, and opening up stewardship and education opportunities for community members and schools at restoration projects at Elijah Bristow State Park and the Westfir Confluence. It's a worthwhile challenge to undertake ecological restoration while prioritizing important cultural and social elements, but we believe that we can work through complex problems and provide positive changes through engaging more people within our shared landscape. Please contribute to our mission by learning more about our work, supporting one of our core program areas, or joining us at an event as we work toward a healthy and vibrant Middle Fork Willamette Watershed.

Dov Weinman,
Executive Director

HABITAT RESTORATION AND REGIONAL EDUCATION

In close partnership with Willamalane Park and Recreation District, Council staff worked to implement oak woodland habitat restoration and enhancement in the southern region of Thurston Hills Natural Area. Building upon previous oak release work along the ridgetop of the natural area in 2018, logging contractors removed encroaching conifers from 15 acres of oak woodland to provide better sunlight access and growing space to existing Oregon white oaks. Simultaneously, invasive blackberry thickets were removed from the woodland understory which was re-seeded with native grass and camas to enhance native vegetation and provide competition for re-emergent invasives. Revenue from the sale of removed conifers has been retained by Willamalane and will be used to support continued stewardship of Thurston Hills Natural Area.

The Regional Education Program is in its second year supporting field trips and learning activities for schools across Lane County. The program is housed at the MFWWC and exists through collaboration with partner organizations in the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network. This collaborative approach has allowed us to provide unique, hands-on learning activities for students across the watersheds and focus on place-based learning. Our education program expanded implementation of education offerings to urban and rural schools and summer programs. This was the second year leading the Salmon Watch Program, the first year creating and leading firewise lessons and planting activities, and our second year as a collaborative partner in Lane Fire School. We are excited to see our program activities develop with a greater emphasis on indigenous knowledge, music, art, and writing. Pairing these activity styles with lessons focused on watershed health and function continue to support students' connection to the environment through a culturally inclusive lens and creative place-based activities.

Regional Education - By the Numbers

Total field trips: 100

Total students: 3,250

Number of schools: 35

Grade range: 3-12

Total volunteers: 79

Total volunteer hours: 466

School districts: 11

McKenzie, Eugene 4J, South Lane,

Oakridge, Pleasant Hill, Springfield

Public, Fern Ridge, Crow-Applegate,

Marcola, Creswell, Bethel

*Front Image - Hardesty / Goodman Creek
Side Image - Blackberry root removal*



2023 Financials

Donors

Alec Hrynshyn	Carter Willis McKenzie	Janet & Stephen Dear	Kathleen Sherwood	Martyne Reesman
Audrey Squires	Cecilia Forrest	Jason Bosch	Kim Richner Herrick	Mary Kuhnle
Austin Larson	Chandra LeGue	Jason Humphrey	Kimberly Forrest	Molly Juillerat
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Bob & Suzanne Pritchard	Douglas Garletts	Karla Rusow	Linda Kate Knight	
Bryan Cutchen	Greg Wobbe	Kate Nilan	Marjorie Wolfe	

Corporate Donors

Amazon Smile	Falling Sky LLC	Oregon Beverage Recycling
Café Mam	Forrest Paint Co.	Oregon WaterShed LLC
Cascade Family Flyfishers	Kroger (Fred Meyer)	Weyerhaeuser
Caddis Fly Guide Service, LLC	Oakshire Brewing	Willamette Valley Fishing Guides
Crown Family Philanthropies		

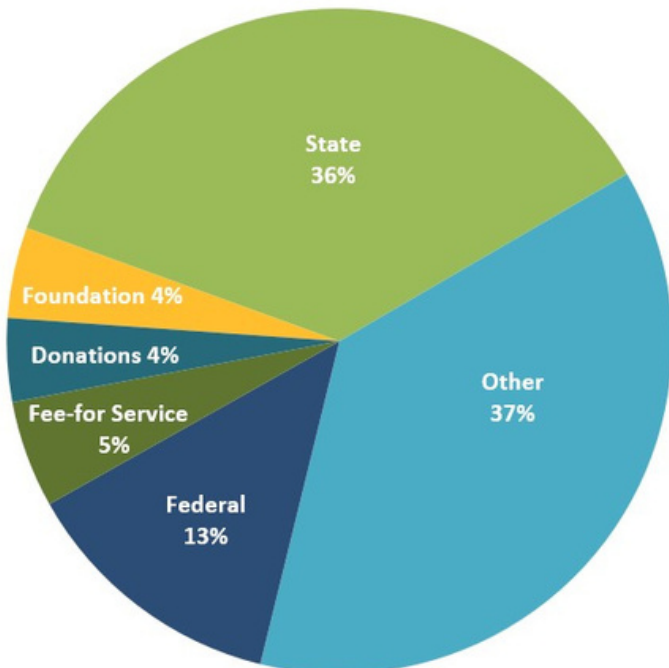
Funders & Grantors

Autzen Family Foundation	Lane Regional Air Protection Agency	The Reser Family Foundation
Bonneville Environmental Foundation	Lane STEM Hub	The River Network
Chambers Family Foundation	McKenzie Flyfishers	The Freshwater Trust
Collins Foundation	Meyer Memorial Trust	Twin Rivers Charter School
Environmental Protection Agency	Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund	Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District
Gray Family Foundation	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	US Forest Service
Grove Christian Camp	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Willamalane Park & Recreation District
	Springfield Utility Board	

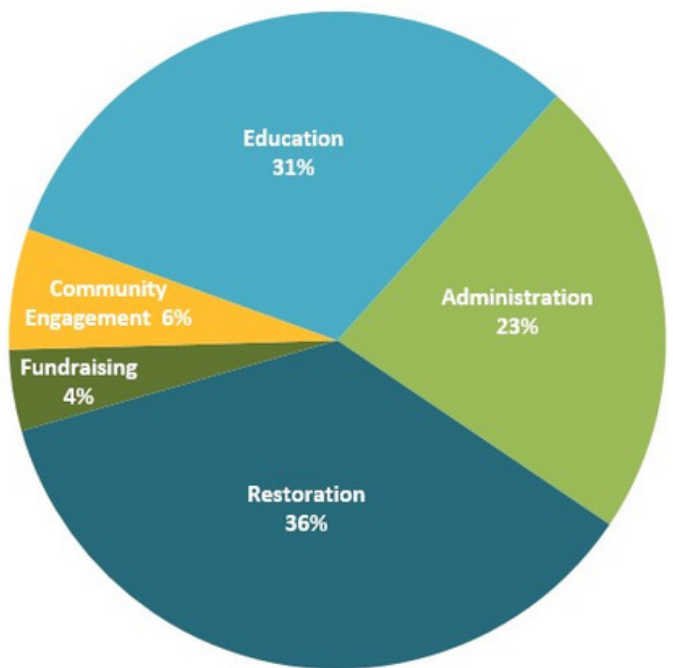


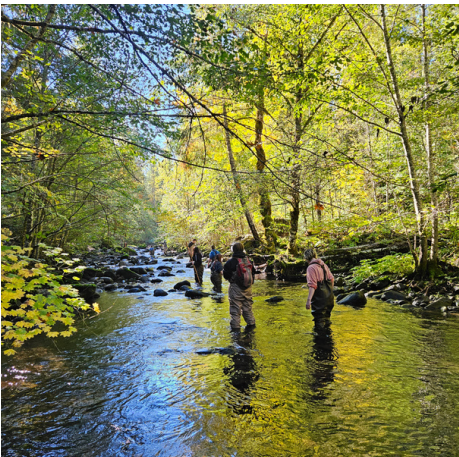
Little Fall Creek

Income by Source
\$636,104



Expenses by Program
\$646,016.75





Partners

Bonneville Environmental Foundation
 Bureau of Land Management
 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
 Eugene Water and Electric Board
 Friends of Buford Park
 Forests Today & Forever
 Good Company - Parametrix
 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
 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Oregon Department of Forestry
 Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
 Oregon State University Extension
 Oregon Wild
 R. Franco Restoration
 Rivers to Ridges Partnership
 Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative
 Springfield Utility Board
 The Freshwater Trust
 Tradition Ecological Inquiry Program
 Twin Rivers Charter School
 University of Oregon
 Upper Willamette Soil & 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
 Water Energy Learning Lab
 Weyerhaeuser Company
 Willamalane Park and Recreation District
 Willamette Riverkeeper
 Wolf Water Resources
 Willamette Resources & Education Network
 Xerces Society

Staff

Dov Weinman
Executive Director

Emma Garner
Education Program Manager

Karen Sarno
Operations Manager

Virginia Pritchard
Restoration Projects Manager

Dassy Smolianski
Education Project Lead

Anya Vollstedt
Community
Engagement Coordinator

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