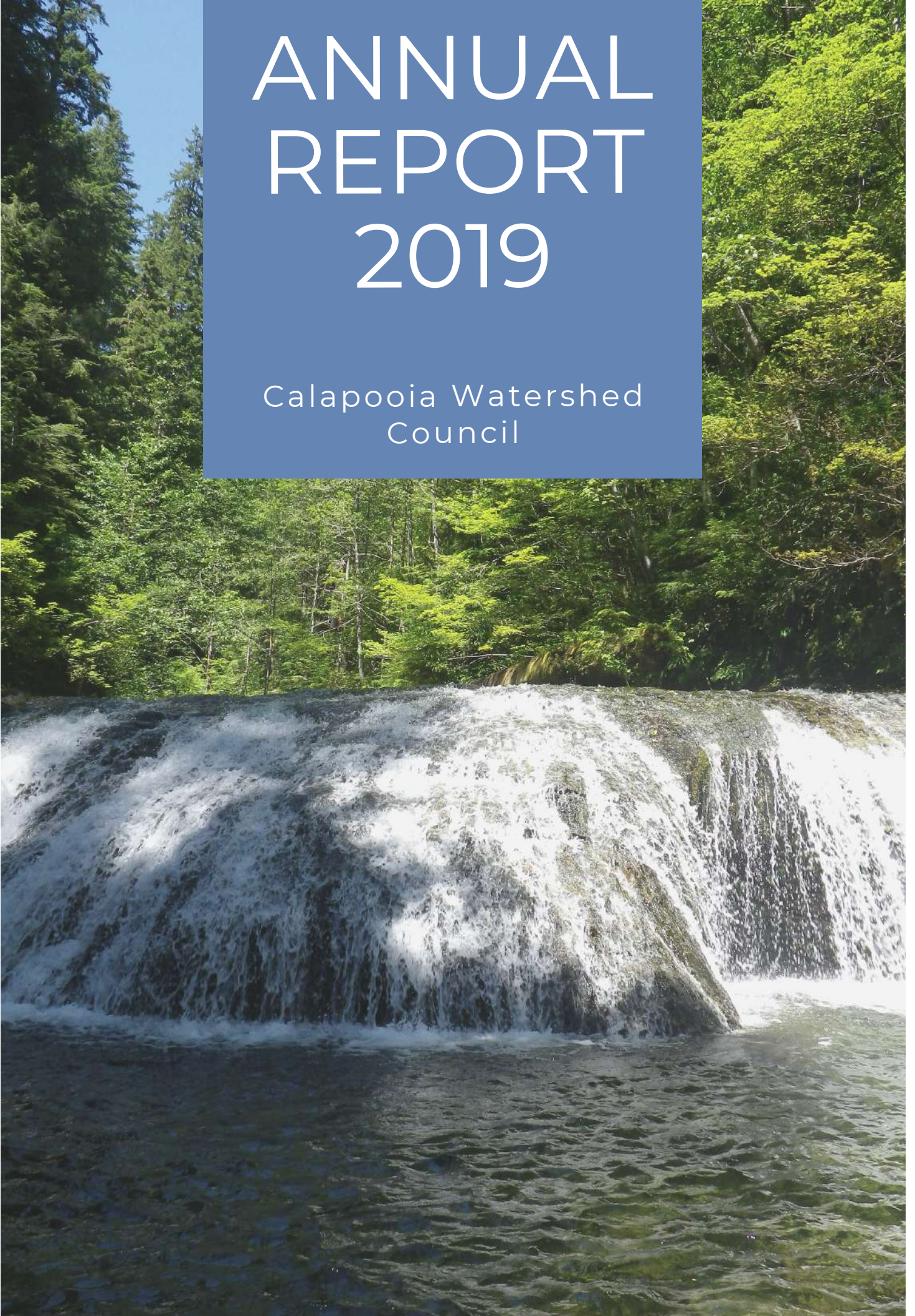


# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Calapooia Watershed  
Council







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# ABOUT CWC

The Calapooia Watershed Council (CWC) was created by residents of the Calapooia River watershed in 1999, and is a community organization that promotes voluntary actions to improve the health of the watershed. The Council was originally formed due to initial concerns of agriculture regulations and the listing of threatened fish species, namely spring Chinook and winter Steelhead. The activities of the Council are guided by bylaws, articles of incorporation, policies, and its mission statement.

The primary goals of CWC include sharing information, educating our local communities, coordinating habitat restoration and protection actions to help address watershed management issues in the Upper, Middle and Lower Calapooia Watershed, and providing a framework for coordination and cooperation among key interests. The Council earned its non-profit status in November 2008, and the Board of Directors comprised of 11 members from diverse interests and geographic regions of the watershed serves as the decision-making body. Committees include the Education Programs, Management, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and Projects Committees.

## MISSION AND VISION

*The Calapooia Watershed Council shall promote and sustain the health of the Calapooia Watershed. Stewardship, restoration, education, community involvement, and strategic partnerships are the tools we use in pursuit of this purpose.*



## A Message from the Executive Director

The Calapooia Watershed Council (CWC) has experienced a lot of growth over the last year, not only in our programs, but in our understanding and respect for the land that we are here to serve. We find it important to emphasize that the CWC recognizes that we live, recreate, and work on land that was stolen from the Kalapuyan people who inhabit the Willamette Valley. The Kalapuyans have lived on this land since time immemorial, and have endured enormous changes to their traditional ways of life during the past 200 years. Today, Kalapuyans are members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz. The Kalapuyan people continue their relationship with the land today, and are important members of the communities of the Calapooia Watershed. We hope to move forward with this understanding and strive to build relationships with indigenous tribes and incorporate traditional habitat restoration techniques and watershed knowledge in our educational material and programming.



*Collin McCandless*

This year, the Calapooia Watershed Council (CWC), along with the rest of the world, faced some unique challenges. Covid-19 forced us to do what we do best, think on our feet! Habitat Restoration was able to sneak by this spring 2020 with smaller crews than normal but we were able to meet all of our goals from planting thousands of trees to counting steelhead redds on the upper Calapooia! The education program was hit the hardest with school closures, making it impossible for our students and future stewards of the Calapooia Watershed to engage face to face with our staff and participate in any of our many spring programs including Urban Ecology and Outdoor School. The dedication to outdoor education was clearly shown by Kristen and Sarah's swift change from in person to online lessons and video content that was made available to the roughly ~1,400 students that otherwise have missed out on these opportunities. The CWC Board of Directors is very proud of what the education and habitat restoration teams were able to accomplish in the face of such an unexpected hurdle the pandemic became.

I am happy to look back at this past year and see what the CWC was able to accomplish and look forward with anticipation to what next year will bring. We love what we do, and it isn't possible without your support. Thank you, donors, sponsors, funders, partners, volunteers & Board of Directors!



# Education Programs

*The Education Department at CWC has been serving the students of Albany, Central Linn, and Harrisburg Oregon since 2013, and continues to grow in both the number of students served and the depth of programming.*

**We work with teachers, administrators, and community groups to provide watershed education programs for over 2,000 youth annually. Our education programming is guided by the firm belief that participation in these hands-on and fun learning experiences in our beautiful service area will inspire tomorrow's leaders to understand, appreciate, and act as stewards for our natural ecosystems.**





# Outdoor School

Our Outdoor School (ODS) programs are immersive learning experiences in the outdoors for students in the Greater Albany and Central Linn school districts. Outdoor School is a year long learning program with field trips and classroom lessons building up students' knowledge and preparing them for the spring program. Students spend 3-4 days at a residential camp to learn about science, our local environment, and themselves through standards-aligned, place based curriculum and team/communication building activities.



## Central Linn School District



## Greater Albany School District

## Outdoor School Online

This school year, our outdoor school programming was shared online with school districts due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Fortunately, our staff was still able to reach and educate students with our classroom lessons earlier in the school year. Residential programming lessons were adapted for students to do at home, and our staff created educational videos with professionals in the environmental field and our planned ODS presenters. These lessons and videos covered a variety of topics including: Adaptations, Bird Migration, Birds of Prey, Fire Ecology, Macroinvertebrates, and Watershed Health.

*"We need to tell other people about watersheds!"*  
-6th Grade Student



# Urban Ecology

This spring program is coordinated in partnership with the City of Albany Public Works and Albany Parks & Recreation. Students participate by attending a field trip to Simpson Park and Talking Water Gardens in Albany, OR to gain insight on the impacts of urban development on natural ecosystems. This program offers students five learning stations about an urban environment. Urban Ecology is staffed by a small number of dedicated volunteers and interns from the Oregon State University (OSU) Fisheries & Wildlife Department.



Due to Covid-19, CWC staff & an intern from OSU created virtual lessons that students could follow to learn about the impact of urban development on ecosystem health.

*"They (students) now know what a watershed is and which ones they live in. They know what type of water is needed for salmon health and how to test for it. They learned what we do with our water before returning it to the river to preserve water quality."*

*- 5th Grade Teacher, North Albany Elementary*



Five Urban Ecology Videos were Created for Students

Nine schools booked Urban Ecology field trips

460 Students were scheduled to attend Urban Ecology Programming



# Salmon Watch



Salmon Watch, coordinated by the Linn Benton Salmon Watch Steering Committee, is one of our most popular programs. Students and teachers alike have enjoyed a day on the South Santiam River learning about salmon and healthy habitats. Over the course of several hours, students learn about salmon biology and habitat, aquatic macroinvertebrates, water quality, and riparian habitats through several hands-on activities. A big highlight for students is the Chinook carcass dissection led by our volunteers and ODFW staff. Chinook carcasses are donated by the South Santiam Fish Hatchery.

6 Years of  
Programming

23  
Volunteers  
in 2019

507  
students  
and  
7 schools  
served in  
2020

*"My students LOVED  
the stations and  
hands-on learning!"  
-5TH Grade Teacher,  
Oak Grove Elementary*



# Snorkeling



CWC's snorkeling program is the first program of its kind west of the Rocky Mountains.

In partnership with the US Forest Service (USFS) and the South Santiam Watershed Council, CWC brings middle and high school students to the upper watersheds of the Calapooia and South Santiam rivers in the fall and spring. Snorkeling gear is provided for students by CWC. This program allows students to become a part of the river ecosystem, observing native species and aquatic habitats in an entirely new way.

Students observe and learn to identify native fish and aquatic macroinvertebrates while also learning about natural resource careers and internships from program partners. Perhaps most importantly, these students spend a fun and exciting day strengthening their relationships with the river.

140 students  
and 7 schools  
were served in  
2019

140 students  
from 9 schools  
signed up for  
2020

First snorkeling  
programs  
began in 2019

Environmental  
Leadership for  
Youth group  
attended in  
2020



*"What a beautiful day to be on the river. Thank you for the opportunity....Some of the kids that got in the water today would never have had the opportunity. This is one more experience that will solidify their passion and commitment to the natural world"*

*-Memorial Middle School  
Teacher*



# Youth Watershed Councils

CWC works with high school students from West and South Albany high schools, and Central Linn Middle and High Schools to conduct stewardship activities and recreate in the Calapooia Watershed. Past activities have included park clean ups, invasive plant removals, native shrub plantings, hosting community and outreach events, and snorkeling the upper Calapooia watershed. South Albany students also lead learning stations at various watershed exploration field trips. Over the past several years, the CWC has awarded \$1,000 scholarships to six Youth Watershed Council (YWC) students. This year's recipients are both from South Albany High School and have been integral in maintaining the momentum of the projects the group is involved in.

20-30 student members annually at West Albany and South Albany High Schools

Six scholarships awarded to students since 2017

- Invasive Plant Removals at Local Parks
- Turtle Habitat Restoration
- Pollinator Habitat Establishment
- Wet Prairie Restoration
- Hosting two annual SOLVE community events





# Habitat Restoration

*Once again, the Calapooia Watershed Council's Habitat Restoration Program was active throughout the Calapooia and Muddy Creek watersheds protecting and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat*

**For over 20 years, the Calapooia Watershed Council (CWC) has been partnering with local property owners (private and public) to restore, enhance, and monitor the health of the Calapooia River watershed. With projects reaching from the forested headwaters to the confluence with the Willamette River in Albany, Oregon, CWC has been actively involved in building a healthy watershed. Our habitat restoration projects aim to rebuild degraded natural areas back into functional, resilient ecosystems that will benefit fish and wildlife for years to come.**



*Cris Salazar*



# 2019 Awards

**This year, the Calapooia Watershed Council was the proud recipient of two awards from Oregon State Parks.**

Each award recognized our hard work, dedication, and successful collaboration with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to floodplain restoration at Bowers Rock State Park and Truax Island Access. Both of these restoration projects are ongoing, and we look forward to continuing these projects in the future.



# Bowers Rock State Park

Bowers Rock State Park is along the Willamette River about 1 mile west of downtown Albany. The main goal of this project is to allow the Willamette River to access its banks during high water times as it would have before the introduction of dam structures over the last century. These off-channel habitats during high water are very important for our native fish which include both Winter Steelhead and Chinook Salmon. This is a project that has been in the works for several years and continues to be a focal point for CWC's executive director for the past five years. In 2019 we were able to receive all of the design, permitting, and contractor selection to make implementation possible this coming summer of 2020!



The Board of Directors and staff of CWC are excited to have made serious headway on the largest habitat restoration project that the Council will have taken on since the dam removals in 2011.

We look forward to reconnecting the floodplain at Bowers Rock State Park!

## Projects:

Remove/Replace four Culverts

Connect 40 acre gravel pit to the Willamette River

Treat ~12 acres of invasive Ludwigia plants



# Truax Island Floodplain

- Acres: 27 acres
- Habitat Types:
  - *Riparian and Floodplain Forest*
  - *Oak-Pine Upland Forest*
- Species targeted:
  - *Western Pond Turtle*
  - *Chinook Salmon*
  - *Winter Steelhead*
- Partners:
  - *OPRD*
  - *MMT*
  - *Pacific Power*
  - *ODFW*
  - *R.Franco Restoration*

The Truax Island project is located on the banks of the Willamette River (River Mile 128), near Albany, Oregon. The project consists of reestablishing a functional floodplain forest on 27 acres owned by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The goal of the project is to restore and enhance the historic Willamette River floodplain in order to provide juvenile salmonids, including the ESA-listed populations, with high quality rearing, foraging, and refuge habitats during their critical, early years of growth.

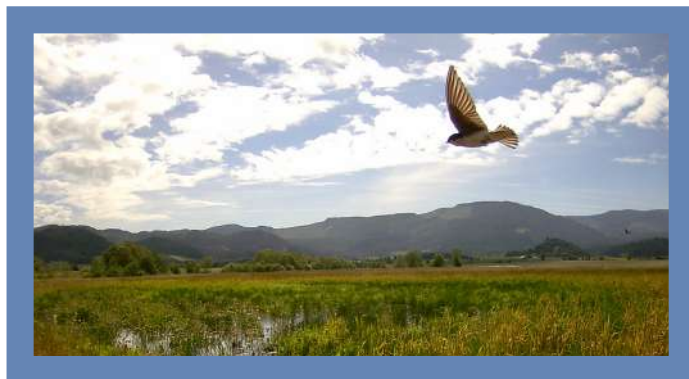
So far, the project has cleared acres of invasive vegetation and replaced it with 32,000 native trees and shrubs. Adjacent to the project are several large ponds home to a dozen or more Western Pond Turtles who regularly nest within the project area. One of only two native turtle species in the Willamette Valley, the Western Pond Turtle has experienced dramatic population declines and are uncommon in much of their former range. The project added additional components to enhance turtle nesting habitat and add much needed basking structures to the ponds.



# Tub Run Phase I and II



Since 2017, the CWC has been partnering with a local landowner to transform 192 acres of grass seed field into 36 acres of riparian forest and 156 acres of native grassland habitat. The combined projects include planting over 68,000 trees and shrubs, applying over 300 pounds of native grass and wildflower seed, and the creation of 12 vernal and emergent wetlands catering to countless species of amphibians, insects, and birds. Beginning in 2018, the project is visited annually by multiple breeding pairs of the Streaked Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris strigata*), which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.



- Acres: 192
- Habitats Types:
  - *Riparian Forest, Wet and Dry Prairie*
- Species targeted:
  - *Pollinators, Amphibians, Grassland Birds*
- Partners: *USFWS, OWEB, NRCS, FSA, OTP, R.Franco Restoration, and landowner*



# Upper Calapooia

## Steelhead Habitat Enhancement

The Upper Calapooia Steelhead Habitat Enhancement (UCSHE) project's goal is to aid in the recovery of winter steelhead in the Upper Willamette River by creating high quality spawning and rearing habitat in the headwaters of the Calapooia River. Historically in great abundance, logs and other woody debris form the backbone of healthy salmon habitat in the Pacific Northwest. Once swept downstream, this wood accumulates forming jams which result in complex aquatic habitats that favor rearing and spawning salmonids, including steelhead. Now, many of these salmon bearing rivers are lacking in this critical component, resulting in a loss of habitat complexity. This project will be reintroducing over a dozen large, stream adjacent trees into the river channel to create the dynamic river ecosystems that allow steelhead to thrive.

- River Miles: 1.0
- Habitat Types: *Pool-Riffle Stream Western Cascade Headwaters*
- Species Targeted: *Steelhead and Pacific Lamprey*
- Partners: *USFS, OWEB, and ODFW*



# Surveys & Monitoring



*In addition to our work restoring fish and wildlife habitat, CWC has an expanding watershed monitoring program.*

**Throughout the year, a variety of surveys and monitoring projects are conducted by CWC staff and technicians within the Calapooia River watershed. These projects work to compliment our habitat restoration efforts , providing insights into the current state of the watershed and the creatures that call it home. These insights also help us plan for the future to continue improving watershed health.**



# Temperature Monitoring

Since 2016, CWC has been conducting stream temperature monitoring in the Calapooia River and Brush Creek, an important tributary to the Calapooia River. The results of the temperature monitoring will be used to identify thermal refuges for coldwater fishes and evaluate the effectiveness of riparian revegetation efforts. Conversely, this data can be used to find areas that are too warm to help us identify where restoration efforts could improve the river.

In total for 2019, CWC conducts stream temperature monitoring on approximately 34 miles of the Calapooia River mainstem and Brush Creek. CWC also set up additional temperature monitoring at 2 of our mainstem projects as well, Truax Island and Bowers Rock.



Temperature monitoring data is collected during the warmest parts of the year, usually June/July through August/September. This helps CWC determine where cold water temperature refuges and warm areas are, but also avoids high water flows that would wash out our data loggers.

## 33.8 Miles of Stream Monitored in 2019:

- 4 miles of the Brush Creek tributary since 2016
- 30 miles of mainstem Calapooia River since 2018
- 3 loggers in Dead River along Truax Island
- 4 loggers in the Bowers Rock Gravel Pit

Deployed Data Logger



# Winter Steelhead Monitoring

The Calapooia Watershed Council has been monitoring the winter steelhead in the upper Calapooia River to determine population trends and habitat use. As a result of years of work by the Council to remove fish migration barriers, the wild steelhead population returning to the Calapooia River each winter now have unimpeded access to the high quality habitats in the forested headwaters. By tracking the number of redds (i.e. gravel nests) each winter, CWC and local fisheries biologists are able to estimate the number of returning steelhead. This information helps to guide management decisions and identify potential habitat restoration projects.



River Miles: 32

Redds: 201

Habitat Surveys:  
Upper Calapooia River

Species Targeted:  
Winter Steel Head

Species Targeted:  
*Winter Steelhead*

Partners:  
*ODFW, WeyCo, USFS, OWEB and many gracious landowners*





# eDNA Sampling



Photo: fishbio.com

An innovative monitoring technique, known as environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling, now allows for rare or cryptic species to be detected in freshwater ecosystems. CWC will be utilizing this technique, in partnership with the National Genomics Center for Wildlife and Fish Conservation, to assess the Chinook salmon population in the Calapooia River.

The population of spring Chinook in the Calapooia River was listed as Threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act in 2005 and once numbered as many as 9,000 returning adults. Today, spring Chinook have been nearly extirpated from the Calapooia River and little is known about their current status.

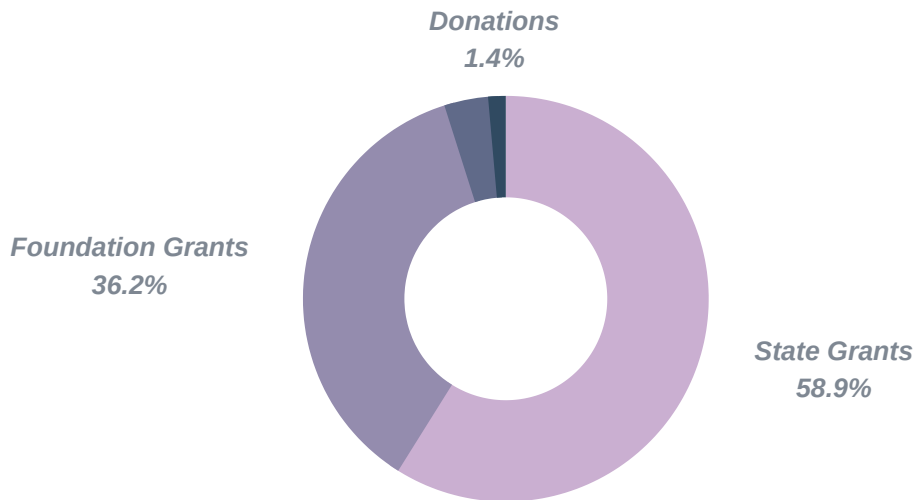
This project will provide fisheries managers and habitat restoration professionals with a detailed understanding of their distribution and habitat use at a fraction of the cost of traditional monitoring methods.

- River Miles: 73
- Habitats Surveyed:
  - *Calapooia River*
  - *Confluence to the end of anadromy*
- Species targeted:
  - *Spring Chinook*
- Partners:
  - *NGCWFC*
  - *WeyCo*
  - *ODFW*
  - *USFS*
  - *OWEB*
  - *and many gracious landowners*



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## Revenue



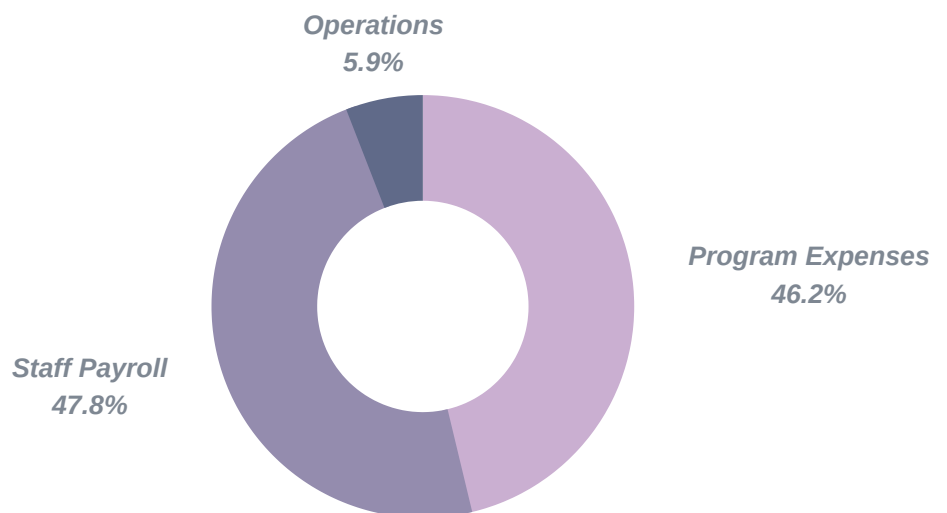
State Grants - \$390,409.95  
Foundation Grants - \$240,079.18  
Federal Grants - \$23,436.86  
Donations - \$9,235.99  
Interest & Dividends - \$984.63

**TOTAL REVENUE**  
**\$664,594.34**

## Expenses

Operations - \$35,932.32  
Program Services - \$280,206.95  
Payroll - \$289,375.83

**TOTAL EXPENSES**  
**\$605,515.10**





## Thank you to all our donors, partners, & supporters!

### DONORS

Cyndi Anderson	Randy Enders	Jana McCandless
George & Cheryl Pugh	Bud & Barbara Baumgartner	Don McCandless
John & Karen Joiner	John Marble & Cris Kostol	Joni Nelson
Matthew Fiorito	Juan Saucedo	Trout Unlimited - Bluebacks Chapter,
Rebecca Lemon	Winnie Barron	Corvallis
Kathleen & Dee Swayze	Kathleen Kendrick	Block 15 Brewery
	Corvegas	

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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Georgia-Pacific Foundation
Meyer Memorial Trust	Oregon Department of Agriculture
The Freshwater Trust	Oregon State Weed Board
The Nature Conservancy	US Forest Service
Gray Family Foundation	Pacific Power - Blue Sky
Central Linn Community Foundation	Intel
Bonneville Power Administration	One Tree Planted
City of Albany	Bonneville Environmental Foundation

### PROJECT PARTNERS



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## CWC STAFF

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Collin McCandless



### OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

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### YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGER

Kristen Daly



### HABITAT RESTORATION PROGRAM MANAGER

Cris Salazar



### OUTDOOR SCHOOL COORDINATOR

Sarah Norton

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