



The Clackamas

CURRENT NEWS

CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016

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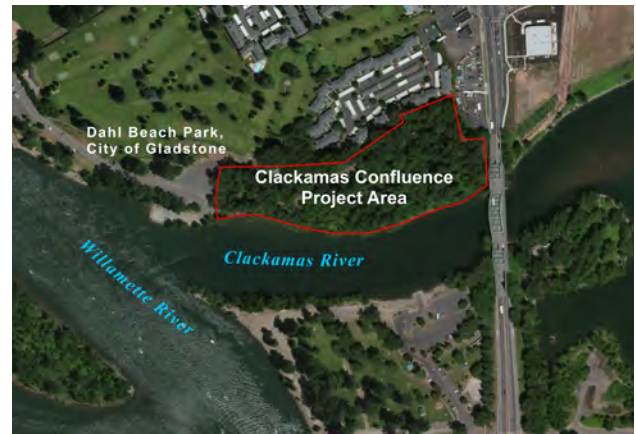
Thank You Donors!

Our work was supported by the following donors this quarter: James and Patricia Jaso, Daniel Skourtes. View more at: www.clackamas-river.org/donate/thank-you-donors

Converging on the Clackamas Confluence

Just like roads, streams have major junctions where two water bodies meet and sometimes traffic builds up, *fish traffic that is*. The mouth of the Clackamas River at Dahl Beach Park in Gladstone is an important area where threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead 'turn off' the Willamette River to head up the Clackamas to spawn. The **Clackamas**

Confluence Restoration Project will enhance key floodplain and off-channel habitats at this river junction to improve resting areas for migrating fish. The Clackamas River Basin Council is partnering with the landowner, City of Gladstone, as well as SOLVE, Clackamas SWCD, and ODFW to ensure fish have a place at the Clackamas Confluence.



Map of Clackamas Confluence Project

You may have noticed that **Dahl Beach Park** has gotten a 'face-lift' through invasive weed removal and native planting activities performed by volunteers and contractors. In the last year, over nine acres of weeds, like Himalayan blackberry and English Ivy were removed and over **4,000 natives planted**. These native plant species are much better at filtering dirty runoff, slowing flood waters, and providing food for birds and wildlife, than their non-native counter parts. In addition to improving habitat for fish and wildlife, these replanting activities are making the park a cleaner, safer, and more accessible place for people to enjoy the confluence of the Clackamas and Willamette Rivers. This vegetation restoration is the first step in the larger fish habitat enhancement project occurring this summer. Habitat construction activities occurring in July-August will include excavating areas connected to the river and installing large wood structures along the banks to provide fish with access to seasonal off-channel habitat. Just like people, fish need safe access to 'rest stops' while on long journeys to and from the ocean. Off-channel areas act as refugia or hiding spots for fish in high river flows, allowing them to take a break from swimming in fast water, snack on insects, and get away from predators.

You can help! The Clackamas Confluence Project engages hundreds of local community volunteers and students converging on the site to assist with restoration. Partners are also hosting community events and student hands-on learning days. Get involved by joining us at a work party/tour, or learn more at:

www.clackamasriver.org

Indian Plum, one of the first blooming native plants in Spring

Shade Our Streams

Planting for the Future

This past winter, the **Shade Our Streams** program planted **109,370 native trees and shrubs** at 38 different sites on 5 miles of streams in the Clackamas River Basin. Tucked in the ground neatly and kept well-watered, mulched and weed free, these streamside plantings will thrive and become another key piece in keeping the Clackamas watershed healthy for people, fish and wildlife.

David and Mary Ann Bugni are two of the participating landowners who were in the midst of winter's planting frenzy. Twenty years ago, the Bugni's purchased 17 acres of Estacada heaven filled with second growth timber and a whole lot of potential! Over the next several decades, they built their beautiful home deep in the woods with the help of friends and a lot of tenacity. They also acquired additional land to create a grand total of 84 acres bisected by **Suter Creek**.



David and Mary Ann Bugni along Suter Creek.

Hailing from families that helped steep their kids in environmental awareness, Dave and Mary Ann have taken the idea of stewarding their land seriously by powering their home with a state of the art micro hydro system as well as working tirelessly to enhance their portion of Suter Creek to benefit fish and wildlife. The Bugni's have received grants to replace culverts that will **open up 5.2 miles of stream** to native fish as well as add large wood and cobble to its bed to help make this stretch a perfect place for spawning. Through the Shade Our Streams program, CRBC has added the final crowning accomplishment by removing invasive reed canary grass along 1,000 ft of streambank and replacing it with 5,920 native trees and shrubs.

When asked about the best thing about being involved in the Shade Our Streams program, David excitedly volunteered, *"Shade Our Streams is free of charge to qualifying landowners. Wow! That is thousands of dollars' worth of work. Their weed treatment and planting benefits everyone - it is a no-brainer. We would have never been able to do this scope of work ourselves."*

In the Home Stretch . . .

Want an easy way to make a BIG impact on the health of the Clackamas watershed? Join the Shade Our Streams program or tell your friends and neighbors about this great **NO COST offer!** This year, CRBC is searching for our last 5 miles of streamsidess lacking in shade or overrun with invasive weeds and in need of native trees and shrubs. Contact us to see if Shade Our Streams is a good fit for your property. Call Suzi Cloutier at 503-303-4372 x105 or email suzi@clackamasriver.org. **Take advantage of this great opportunity before time runs out!**



Western red cedar seedling.



Crew planting native trees and shrubs along Suter Creek in February.



Where in the Watershed

Clackamas Partnership Teams Up for Salmon Recovery

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) **awarded \$137,696** to the Clackamas River Basin Council on behalf of the **Clackamas Partnership**. The award was one of eight grants totaling \$937,369 provided to organizations statewide to support fish and wildlife habitat and water quality programs that seek to develop plans and partnerships that support landscape-scale habitat improvements for native fish and wildlife.

The Clackamas River watershed is an incredible resource to our state, providing drinking water to over 10% of the population and a recreation haven for thousands who fish, swim, and raft as well. The river is home to genetic legacy fish species whose historical abundance and its potential for salmon recovery is recognized nationally for **Spring Chinook, coho, and steelhead**. With local landowners and community partners, the Clackamas River Basin Council has nearly two decades of proven results transforming the watershed. ***"The OWEB award will help us achieve greater restoration success as we work together,"*** says Cheryl McGinnis, Executive Director of the Clackamas River Basin Council. The Clackamas Partnership will develop an enhanced **strategic action plan** for recovery of listed **Clackamas fish populations** by addressing degraded water quality, aquatic and riparian habitat, migratory corridor connectivity and fish passage, and invasive species in priority areas. Planning is expected to begin this spring and be completed by July 2017.

Coho salmon in Deep Creek.



The Clackamas Partnership includes Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District, Clackamas Co. Water Environment Services, Clackamas Co. Parks, Clackamas River Water Providers, Metro, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District, Portland General Electric and US Forest Service, joined by Greater Oregon City, North Clackamas Urban, and Johnson Creek watershed councils. Tribal partnerships include the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Contact Cheryl McGinnis at cheryl@clackamasriver.org for more information.

Support Our Work

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Our tax identification number is 91-1838169.

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Online shoppers can go to smile.amazon.com, then click on your account and select CRBC as your charity of choice at no cost to you.

[Bag It Forward - New Seasons](#)

CRBC is a Bag It Forward partner at the Happy Valley store. Choose us as your nonprofit of choice to receive donations from recycled bag proceeds.

Learn More

[Map of Accomplishments](#)

Show all your friends the great things we do, together! **Download our map** of accomplishments for 2015 and current 2016 projects. Available on our website: <http://clackamasriver.org/about-the-watershed--3/map-labels>





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SAVE THE DATE:

Annual Clackamas Watershed Celebration

Thursday, May 19, 6:00-8:30 pm



Stay Connected!

Email info@clackamasriver.org to be added to our **E-blast** for the latest news and upcoming events.



Find us on **Twitter** at [ClackamasRiver](#).
 Search for our **Facebook** page at ["Clackamas River Basin Council"](#).

Get Involved

If you're looking for a reason to get out and about in the Clackamas watershed this spring and summer, look no further! Contact Morgan Parks at morgan@clackamasriver.org about how to get involved. Volunteer opportunities are also listed on our website at www.clackamasriver.org.

Council Meetings

CRBC meets on the third Thursday of each month from 6-8:30 pm at the Mt. Scott Fire Station in Happy Valley. These meetings are open to the public. Check our website for information about that month's featured presentation. Upcoming dates: **April 21 ~ May 19 (Celebration) ~ June 16**

Volunteer Work Parties

Enjoy the great outdoors, work those muscles, and meet new people, all while helping our waterways! Tools, gloves, and refreshments are provided. All events start at 9 am and end at noon.

~ **April 23:** SOLVE IT for Sandy at Zeldon Pond with Sandy High School

Save the Date

~ **May 19:** Annual Clackamas Watershed Celebration

~ **September 11:** 14th annual Clackamas Down the River Clean Up



River Mill Elementary students raised over 400 Rainbow Trout and released them into Estacada Lake as part of the Fish Eggs to Fry Program thanks to ODFW, CRBC, and NW Steelheaders.