

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shade Our Streams Keeps on Shadin' with over 100,000 Trees & Shrubs

What is 60 feet tall, casts a shadow, and is beloved by salmon? That's right! A native tree.

Luckily, over 100,000 native trees and shrubs will soon be planted across the Clackamas watershed this winter by **Shade Our Streams**, a program of the **Clackamas River Basin Council (CRBC)**.

These young trees and shrubs will have their work cut out for them. In addition to controlling bank erosion and serving as wildlife habitat, native plants filter dirty water as it runs off parking lots and fields, slow floodwaters, and provide a canopy of shade, lowering water temperatures for fish, wildlife, and people too.

CRBC is working with private landowners along the lower Clackamas mainstem and its tributaries including Deep Creek, Eagle Creek, Rock Creek, and Clear Creek. One of these sites slated to be planted this month belongs to **David and Mary Ann Bugni** along Sutter Creek in Estacada. The Bugni's know the value of the Shade Our Streams program and are already looking forward to seeing, *"the transformations that will occur as the planted seedlings and saplings grow into their mature forms in the upcoming years and decades. It will provide long term enjoyment for us all. There is a deep satisfaction in knowing that we helped make this enhanced beauty along the riparian area happen."*

Shade Our Streams in the Home Stretch

Shade Our Streams is a multi-year community tree planting project funded by **Portland General Electric (PGE)**. PGE is working extensively on salmon restoration as part of the management of their hydroelectric projects in the Clackamas River. These fish need cool, clean water in order to survive, and that's where the Clackamas River Basin Council and Shade our Streams step in to help.

"By bringing together landowners, local partnerships, nurseries, volunteers and restoration crews – the Shade Our Streams program is providing an umbrella of shade over streams in the lower Clackamas watershed, cooling it for the benefit of salmon and people alike," says Cheryl McGinnis, CRBC Executive Director. *"The involvement of many individuals has lasting results and adds proof to our belief that when the river thrives, we all thrive -- especially when we work together."*

Shade Our Streams focuses on planting along streams that need the most help – those that lack healthy habitats and are overrun with invasive weeds. Now in its fourth year, the program is nearing the end. By the end of February 2016, **21.5 stream miles** will have been planted from a goal of 30 miles, which totals over **325,000 trees and shrubs** planted since 2012. Shade Our Streams is currently working with over **100 landowners**, removing stubborn weeds from their streambanks and replacing them with a diverse mix of trees

and shrubs native to Oregon. Native trees and shrubs are acclimated to the typical annual conditions of our area, including three seasons of wet weather and a summer of drought.

Why Keep It Cool and Clean?

Nearly 300,000 people receive their drinking water from the Clackamas River. It's also unique in being home to viable runs of wild salmon, home to threatened wild coho, Chinook, and steelhead and provides abundant recreational opportunities, as thousands flock to its shores to launch their rafts, kayaks, and cast their fishing lines every summer.

Streamside landowners are encouraged to give CRBC a call to find out how they can get involved and take advantage of this 'no cost' invasive weed removal and native planting opportunity. If interested, landowners should contact Suzi Cloutier, CRBC Outreach Specialist, at suzi@clackamasriver.org or 503-303-4372 x105.

The Clackamas River Basin Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission of *fostering partnerships for clean water and to improve fish and wildlife habitat and the quality of life for those who live, work and recreate in the watershed.*

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