



The Clackamas

CURRENT NEWS

CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

A Message from the Director - Cheryl McGinnis

Summer 2016

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Thank You Donors!

Our work was supported by the following donors this quarter: Gail Shaloum, Dave Albrecht, John Borden, Bill Lenon, Fred Meyer/Kroger Family Stores, New Seasons, Pediatric Associates NW, PGE Community Foundation, Amazon Smile, and Creative Resource Strategies, LLC. View more at: www.clackamasriver.org/donate/thank

Those of us who live, work, and play in and around the Clackamas know its wonders and the reasons for protecting and improving our water quality, our fish habitat, and our recreation playground! With local landowners, businesses, and natural resource agencies, the Clackamas River Basin Council has nearly **two decades** of proven results transforming the watershed! I recently completed **10 years** as Executive Director at CRBC, and it's a wonder how quickly the time has passed. Thank you to all who have pitched in over the years. **Together** we've made giant strides!

My first CRBC project was along Spring Creek, where aging and rusted culverts were removed, a bridge was constructed, and logs were installed to provide better water quality and a naturalized home for fish and other aquatic species. The project involved over 34 landowners, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, Project YESS, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Pacific Bridge & Construction, PGE, REI volunteers, and U.S. Forest Service – what fun we had, especially when marveling over how salmon were seen migrating upstream just a month following project completion!



As with that project, the value of our partnerships is seen over and over again. Together, we have: **opened and restored over 200 miles of stream habitat** for fish to spawn, live, and rest, **planted over 58 miles** of streambank to provide shade, filter contaminants, and reduce erosion, **removed over 34 tons of garbage** accumulated along the river bank, **reduced pesticide use**, conducted over **244 public or school-based learning events**, and dedicated **47,774 volunteer hours** since 2007. What will the next 20 years bring?

Help us decide! The Clackamas Partnership, with over a dozen partners representing our diverse interests, is creating a list of prioritized projects to improve aquatic habitat for Clackamas fish species and water quality for our local communities. Our fish species include winter Coho, spring Chinook, and Steelhead that are federally recognized for their wild and genetic character. We know that you, and local landowners, are vital to our success in these pursuits. **Join us** to discuss projects at upcoming public meetings.

Email: info@clackamasriver.org for information.
-Cheryl McGinnis

The Clackamas River at the Rock Creek Confluence

Where in the Watershed

Down the River Clean Up - September 11th!

The 14th Annual Down the River Clean Up on Oregon's Clackamas River will take place Sunday, September 11th, 2016! **We hope you'll join us** for this spectacular day of organized chaos where 300+ river-lovers jump in their rafts, kayaks, and drift boats, uniting to scour 20+ miles of riverway from Milo McIver Park to Clackamette Park where the Clackamas empties into the Willamette.

A total of 3,635 community members and volunteers have joined together each year for the past 13 years to remove over 66,040 pounds of trash from the Clackamas River. Due to its bounty, beauty, and close proximity to urban areas, the Clackamas River has become known for attracting recreationalists of all kinds. The high-use of the river and its nearness to cities unfortunately brings in pollutants and unwarranted litter. Join us in turning restoration into recreation! Visit www.welovecleanrivers.org for detailed event information, volunteer roles, and registration. **SIGN UP NOW! All volunteers must pre-register!**

Stash The Trash

Speaking of litter, if you've been anywhere along the Clackamas River this summer you have seen the ubiquitous red and white Stash the Trash mesh bags - a lot of them! Those bags are a hot commodity and getting hotter every year as people grab them, fill them, and pack them out of the watershed! Between Memorial Day and Labor Day alone, the Clackamas sees at least 60,000 recreational users. The Stash the Trash free trash bag program is helping to change the behavior of these users by providing them with easy-to-access red collection bags, fostering a new norm of personal responsibility around trash. Stash the Trash bags are free for the taking at Milo McIver, Barton, Carver, and Riverside Parks, at the Barton Store, and at several beaches along the lower Clackamas. For those who make it a habit to 'grab a bag' - **We salute you!**

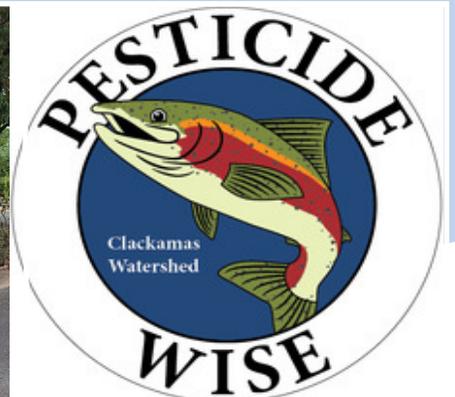
Pesticide Pledge

Since 2000, water quality monitoring undertaken by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has detected pesticides that exceed acceptable benchmarks that are healthy for fish and invertebrates in the Clackamas River watershed, particularly in lower tributaries. These pesticides are found in common yard care and commercial products, and are a detriment to stream health and beneficial insects, especially our invaluable pollinators. When homeowners make the decision to reduce the use of pesticides and use safer alternatives when possible, they help to improve the long term health of our watershed and all who live in it.

As part of our Parting with Pesticides Program, CRBC has launched its new **Pesticide Pledge Program** to educate property owners about the wise use of pesticides and the availability of alternatives. Participants who are using few to no pesticides (including herbicides and fungicides) can sign the pledge and display a beautiful, basin-specific yard sign to highlight the important steps they are taking to promote and enhance the health of THEIR watershed. Pesticide Free and Pesticide Wise signs are popping up in yards all across the watershed. **Take the pledge today and display your salmon proudly!** Visit www.clackamasriver.org for more information.



Bill Monroe proudly displaying his lawn sign.



Clackamas Confluence Milestone



The sounds of large equipment helped ring in a major step in the Clackamas Confluence Restoration Project this month! The Clackamas River Basin Council is partnering with the [City of Gladstone](#), [SOLVE](#), [Clackamas SWCD](#), [Metro](#), [PGE](#), and [ODFW](#) to ensure fish have a safe place to rest at the Clackamas Confluence. During the most recent stage of the project, backhoes took over the interior of Dahl Beach at the confluence of the Willamette and Clackamas Rivers, excavating off-channel areas to improve access for threatened and endangered Chinook and Coho salmon and Steelhead during high water events. Large wood jams were installed to create “rest areas” for anadromous fish during their migration.



Looking out towards the Clackamas

The new basins are coupled with on-going invasive plant removal and the planting of thousands of native plants, which help filter dirty runoff, slow flood waters, and provide food for birds and other wildlife.

This important project is helping our endangered and threatened salmon species get a fin up in the Clackamas watershed, while at the same time making the park a cleaner, safer, and more accessible place for community members!

You can help! The Clackamas Confluence Project engages hundreds of local volunteers and students to assist with restoration. Partners also host community events and student hands-on learning days. More at: www.clackamasriver.org.



Placing large wood/root balls

Support Our Work

Make A Donation

All donations are greatly appreciated, and are tax-deductible. Donate online via PayPal — just head to our website and click the “[donate](#)” button.

Our tax identification number is 91-1838169.

Look to the right for a great reason to donate today!

Fred Meyer Rewards

Help CRBC earn donations just by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card. Link your card to us at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.

Search for us by name or non-profit #89223.

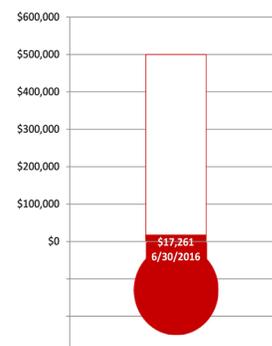
AmazonSmile

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.

A Future Home

The Council Board of Directors has a vision to build a **permanent office space** in the watershed. Our goal is to raise **\$500,000** for land and building. We are thankful for the initial funding available to these efforts and appreciate any size donation that will bring us closer to the fish, water, and community that is the focus of our work together.

Help us reach our goal!





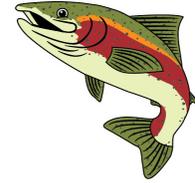
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JOIN US:

Down the River Clean Up

Sunday, September 11th, 7:30am - 5:00pm



Stay Connected!

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



Find us on **Twitter** [@ClackamasRiver](https://twitter.com/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 summer and fall, look no further! Contact Alix Danielsen at alix@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 each month's featured presentation.
 Upcoming dates: **September 15 ~ October 20 ~ November 17**

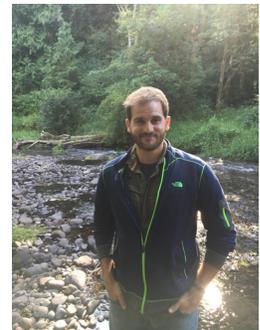
Volunteer Work Parties

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.
Winter and spring work parties are currently being scheduled. Check our website for updated information.

Save the Date

- ~ **September 11:** 14th annual Clackamas Down the River Clean Up
- ~ **October 9:** Shade Our Streams Celebration

Welcome to our newest staff members:



Charlie Ylijoki, Field Specialist



Alix Danielsen, Communication and Program Specialist