



The Clackamas

CURRENT NEWS

CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

2016 & Looking Ahead

Winter 16-17

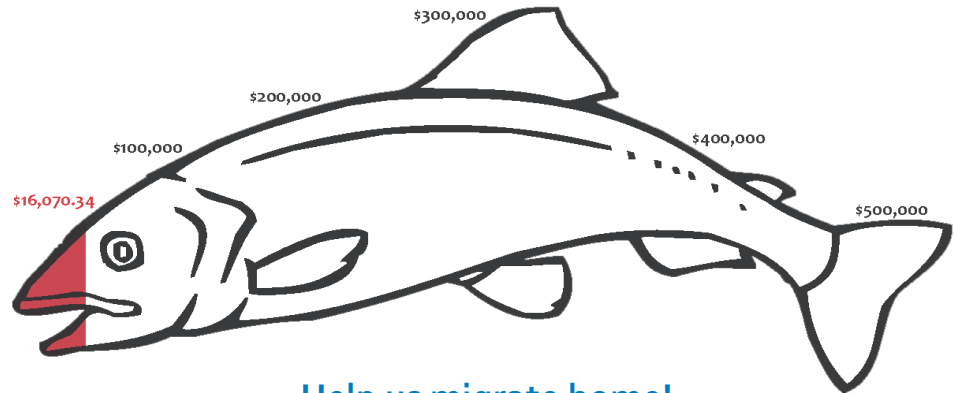
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Thank You Donors!

Our work was supported by the following donors this quarter: Terence King, Earlean Marsh, J. Frank Schmidt Family Foundation, PGE Employee Engagement Fund, Fred Meyer Community Rewards, & Amazon Smile.

View more at:

www.clackamasriver.org/donate/thank-you-donors



Help us migrate home!

Every dime counts in helping us move that "redd" line upstream!

2016 was a busy year of restoration, education, and water quality and habitat protection for the Clackamas River Basin Council. Over the course of the last year, we:

- ~ Cleared **9** acres of weeds, planted over **4,000** native plants, and completed a major restoration phase of the Clackamas Confluence Restoration Project (see details on the next page!);
- ~ Launched our **Pesticide Pledge Program** (consider taking the pledge!);
- ~ Together with **200** volunteers, we collected **1.8** tons of garbage during our 14th Annual Down the River Clean Up;
- ~ Distributed **3,000** Stash the Trash bags, helping to encourage users to pack it out and keep trash from making it into the river;
- ~ Hosted **6** work parties, planting over **2,549** native plants with the help of **293** volunteers (for a total of **1,249** volunteer hours!);
- ~ Hosted **9** days of school stewardship with over **170** students and teachers;
- ~ Planted **109,370** native trees and shrubs at **38** different sites on **5** miles of streams in the Basin, graduated **28** landowners, and reached our goal of **30** miles enrolled in the Shade Our Streams program!

Looking ahead to 2017, we are focused on continuing this important work and reaffirming our goal to build a **permanent office** within the watershed. We need your help to raise **\$500,000** for a new headquarters with an education center and demonstrations of bioswales and native plantings. We are thankful for the initial funding available to these efforts and appreciate **any donation amount** that will bring us closer to the fish, water, and community that is the focus of our work together.

~Thank you from all of us at CRBC!

North Fork Clackamas River

Where in the Watershed

Clackamas Confluence in Action!

In our summer newsletter, we reported on the completion of a major phase in the **Clackamas Confluence Restoration Project**: the development of two off-channel areas, supported by the installation of large wood jams. These areas improve access for threatened and endangered Chinook and Coho salmon and Steelhead during high water events, and create “rest areas” for anadromous fish during their migration. In early December, staff had the opportunity to see the site **in action** during a heavy Oregon winter rain event, and we’re happy to report that the restoration is performing as planned!



"Before" - Post-completion in August



"After" - In Action in December



"After" - Looking in

These off-channel restoration projects are designed to reconnect a water body (in this case, the Clackamas River) to its floodplain during high water events. Floodplains have largely been cut off from their adjacent water bodies for a number of reasons, including development of roads and agricultural and residential use. Unfortunately, without these connections anadromous fish have fewer places to shelter, rest, and find food during their annual migrations up stream, which take place during high/fast water times of the year. By reconnecting these off-channel areas, fish can move out of that fast water and take refuge among the large wood root balls in calm water. Woody debris has played a natural role in river systems, and these large wood installations have proved successful in re-creating a stable habitat that increases fish use. Macroinvertebrates also thrive in these areas, providing much needed food for the fish as they rest.



Panoramic view of large wood installation area, looking out towards the Clackamas River

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! In 2017, we'll continue to monitor the site's progress, plant more natives, and install an interpretive sign that details the project overall. Thank you to our partners in this project: **City of Gladstone, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, Metro, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, PGE, and SOLVE.**

Get involved! We have a container planting party scheduled for February 11th, 2017 at Dahl Beach at the Clackamas Confluence. Join us! [Email \[alix@clackamasriver.org\]\(mailto:alix@clackamasriver.org\)](mailto:alix@clackamasriver.org) to sign up.

Winter Watershed Tips

Winter is an important season within our watershed. As all Oregonians know, we receive an abundance of rain throughout the winter, and this increased volume and movement of water directly affects our river and its tributaries.

This “**stormwater**” (from rain or melting snow) does not soak into the ground. It instead flows from rooftops, over roads, sidewalks, farm fields, bare soil, and lawns, picking up harmful pollutants along the way. By the time stormwater reaches our streams, it can be laden with litter, vehicle oil, and chemical pollutants that negatively impact our water quality and wildlife habitat. In heavy and prolonged rain events, stormwater can also cause erosion.

What can **YOU** do?

- ~ Help limit what stormwater can pick up as it moves across the landscape: keep up on your car maintenance, clean up after your pets, properly dispose of hazardous wastes, and limit your use of pesticides and herbicides.
- ~ Winter is planting season! Visit your local nurseries to stock up on bare root native plants. Native plants help cover bare soil and reduce erosion. With their deep roots, they increase water infiltration into the ground so it doesn't runoff, and they even help absorb pollutants and excess nutrients by taking them up from the soil and water.
- ~ Install a rain garden! Use plants and soil to slow, filter, cleanse, and infiltrate stormwater runoff at home. Rain gardens are a great DIY project, and they look great too!



Online Resources:

- ~ Check out our helpful fact sheets at www.clackamasriver.org/resources/fact-sheets
- ~ “Ask Metro” how to dispose of chemicals and unwanted household products: www.oregonmetro.gov
- ~ Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District has extensive resources for agricultural landowners, as well as information on rain garden design: www.conservationdistrict.org

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.

[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.

Pesticide Pledge

As you look ahead to 2017, consider taking the **Pesticide Pledge**! This program encourages the wise use of pesticides, and highlights the availability of alternatives. By signing the pledge, watershed community members commit to using little-to-no pesticides, and in return receive a beautiful basin-specific lawn sign (see below) to display in their yards.

Take the pledge for watershed health!

Visit www.clackamasriver.org for information.





Clackamas River Basin Council
PO Box 186g
Clackamas, OR 97015
503-303-4372
www.clackamasriver.org
info@clackamasriver.org

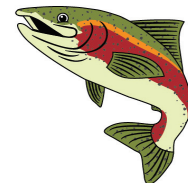
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JOIN US:

Winter Planting Parties!!



January 7th & February 11th, 9:00am - 12:00pm



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](https://www.facebook.com/ClackamasRiverBasinCouncil)"

Get Involved

If you're looking for a reason to get out and about in the Clackamas watershed in 2017, look no further! Contact Alix Danielsen at alix@clackamasriver.org for how to get involved. Volunteer opportunities listed on our website: 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: **January 19th, February 16th, March 16th**

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.

January 7th - Rock Creek Planting Party

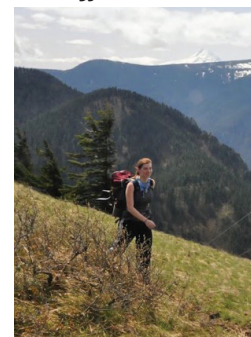
February 11th - Clackamas Confluence Container Planting

Email alix@clackamasriver.org to register, or visit clackamasriver.org for more details.

Save the Date

~ **March 11th** - Annual Watershed Wide Event, a joint work party with Dig In Community and Friends of Trees

Welcome to our newest staff member:



Jennifer Sampson, Fiscal & Administrative Assistant



CRBC Staff, December 2016