



The Clackamas

CURRENT NEWS

CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Winter 2018

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Thank You Donors!

Our work was supported by the following donors: William Stein, Fred Meyer Community Rewards, Amazon Smile, New Seasons Bag it Forward, and anonymous donors.

Check out our new website!
www.clackamasriver.org

2017 & Looking Ahead

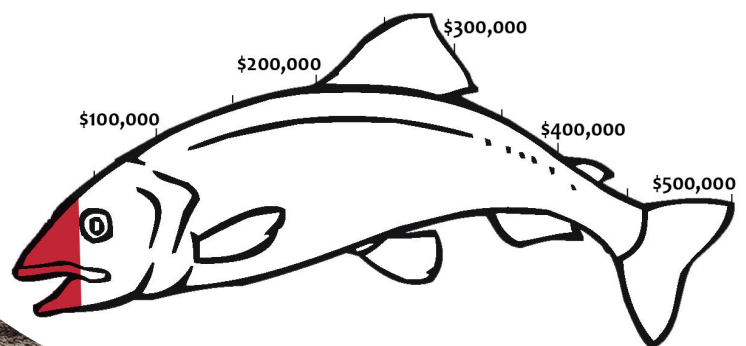
2017 marked another successful year for the Clackamas River Basin Council. Over the course of the past year, we accomplished the following restoration and outreach milestones for your local watershed:

- Coordinated **1,060** hours of volunteer restoration
- Guided volunteers in planting **900** native plants
- Organized professional crews to plant **141,765** native plants
- Improved **2,350** linear feet of side channel habitat
- Treated **63** acres of invasive plant species
- Removed **3,620** pounds of trash from the Clackamas River
- Released **1,000** fry with assistance from curious children

Momentum is growing in the watershed as we gear up for two new restoration projects starting this spring on **Clear Creek** and the **North Fork Clackamas River** (page 3). CRBC staff and board are also busy developing a Strategic Plan for the lower Clackamas River basin with the 13-member **Clackamas Partnership** (page 3). The **Shade Our Streams** program is in the home stretch – preparing the final few properties, totaling **57.14** acres, for native tree and shrub planting (page 2). Achieving our goal of **30** river miles of shade producing plant canopy is on the horizon!

The vision of relocating to a permanent office within the boundaries of our watershed remains at the forefront of our fundraising efforts. In 2017 our generous donors contributed **\$7,759** towards that goal, now totaling over **\$24,000**! Thank you for supporting our work! We appreciate any donation amount that will bring us closer to serving all residents of the Clackamas watershed!

Thank you from all of us at CRBC!



A winter day on the Clackamas River

Where in the Watershed

Introducing CRISP - Your Invasive Weed Partners!

Did you know that invasive weeds cost Oregon residents millions of dollars each year? Did you know they impair water quality, contribute to erosion, and degrade natural areas important to fish and wildlife? The impact from invasive weeds is real. A recent study by the Oregon Department of Agriculture estimated a potential annual loss of **\$1.8 billion** if weeds were left unchecked.* Yikes!



Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) invading Deep Creek.

Take heart residents of the Clackamas River Basin, a new combined effort is now underway to control invasive weeds in our watershed! The Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) is an ongoing program that aims to remove invasive species that are listed on the state's Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) list for **FREE**. Residents in our watershed can call CRBC for help with identification of non-native invasive plant species and free removal of these invasive weeds from their property. Select properties may also qualify for replanting with natives! Property owners with invasive weeds that do not meet program guidelines will receive additional recommendations for removal.



Questions? Please contact Suzi Cloutier, suzi@clackamasriver.org, or call 503-303-4372 x 105. To check out the Clackamas River Invasive Species Management Plan, please visit the CRISP webpage at <http://weedwise.conservationsdistrict.org/CRISP>.

Thank you to the following CRISP funders: PGE, Clackamas SWCD, & Metro!

*www.oregon.gov/ODA/shared/Documents/Publications/Weeds/ORNnoxiousWeedEconomicImpact.pdf

Making headway with Shade Our Streams

Shade Our Streams is a multi-year community tree planting project that aims to improve water quality and lower stream temperature in the Clackamas River Basin with the goal of shading **30** river miles! Since its inception in 2012, the Shade program has restored **133** acres across **127** sites along the Clackamas River and its tributaries. Over the course of several years, these sites cycle through different phases of restoration work, such as treatment, planting, maintenance and monitoring, before they are considered "graduated" and free-to-grow. In 2017, the Shade program restored **31** acres, covering over **5** miles of stream and bringing the program total to **26.75** miles!

The Shade program is on track to surpass its **30** mile goal in 2018 through the addition of **57** acres across **4** new sites! Planting will occur along nearly **3.2** miles of Little Clear Creek, making it the largest project in the program. One of the 2018 sites, a Port Blakely property (pictured below), was prepped for planting in 2017. In addition to planting taking place on the new sites, previously planted sites will receive maintenance and survival monitoring in 2018.



Before treatment - 7/2017



After 1st treatment - 8/2017



After 2nd treatment - 11/2017

Shade participants and graduates will be invited to a series of **FREE** workshops this summer! Folks can look forward to classes on gardening for wildlife, raingarden construction, and weed management. Field trips to some of our stellar Shade Our Streams participant properties are included! The first class - **Naturescaping** - will be held on April 14th! Enroll by emailing Suzi Cloutier, suzi@clackamasriver.org, or calling 503-303-4372 x 105.

Thank you to PGE for funding the Shade Our Streams program!

Winter Feature: Clackamas Partnership

Over the past 18 months, CRBC staff and board have been active leaders in the formation of the [Clackamas Partnership](#). The Clackamas Partnership is a working collaborative group of **13** local watershed councils and environmental agencies committed to building regional capacity around aquatic habitat for native Clackamas fish species. After receiving a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) in 2016, partners have been collaborating on how to strategically pool resources, such as expertise, funding and property, to reach habitat improvement goals for salmon recovery. Partners are outlining these strategies in a Strategic Plan that will detail restoration priorities for the lower Clackamas River and the surrounding basins.

This process has created opportunities for organization leaders to find coordinated solutions to complex tasks. One such opportunity is the development of a comprehensive project tracking website for partnership use. This website will provide a single launch point for all of the projects across the developed, developing, and undeveloped landscapes where wild Clackamas populations of fish can migrate, spawn, and rear. Organizations independently upload proposed assessments and projects to the website which are later evaluated by a technical advisory committee. A project prioritization framework is being developed to identify and prioritize projects at varying levels of the planning process, enabling the partnership to develop a portfolio of projects.



Now in the final months of the capacity building grant, the [Clackamas Partnership](#) is preparing for the next step – finalizing the Strategic Plan and compiling their portfolio for future funding. Interested in learning more about the process? Contact Executive Director Cheryl McGinnis at cheryl@clackamasriver.org.

OWEB Who? The Mission of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is “To protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies.” Learn more at www.oregon.gov/OWEB

Clackamas Partnership members (listed alphabetically):

- Clackamas County Parks Division
- Clackamas County Water Environmental Services
- Clackamas River Basin Council
- Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District
- Greater Oregon City Watershed Council
- Johnson Creek Watershed Council
- Metro
- North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District
- North Clackamas Urban Watersheds Council
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon State Parks
- Portland General Electric
- USDA Forest Service – Mt. Hood National Forest

New Projects

Clear Creek North Restoration Project

OWEB Restoration Grant | **\$149,588** Awarded

CRBC is partnering with Metro to restore a 68-acre property along Clear Creek. Clear Creek is home to 11 different fish species, including the last significant run of late-run coho in the lower Columbia River Basin. The project will restore the degraded woodland stream through floodplain expansion, large wood placement and improved access to off-channel habitat. Planning for the project started last fall in anticipation for summer water work to begin in June 2018.

North Fork Clackamas River Restoration Project

OWEB Restoration Grant | **\$117,473** Awarded

Located on historically harvested Bureau of Land Management property, the North Fork Clackamas River Restoration project will focus on instream spawning and rearing habitat by reactivating a 3,975 foot off-channel habitat and reconnecting 8.5 acres of floodplain. Crews are scheduled to be on the ground this spring.

Volunteer With Us!

Get involved with CRBC this winter at one of the following volunteer work parties.

February 10th at Estacada Public Library.
Volunteers will be planting native trees and shrubs along Wade Creek.

March 3rd at Big Valley Woods in Boring.
Volunteers will be planting native trees and shrubs along Deep Creek.

April 21st at Estacada Public Library.
Join us for an Earth Day celebration and mulch brigade!

More information on volunteer events can be found on the “VOLUNTEER” page at www.clackamasriver.org



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SAVE THE DATE

May 17th, 2018

Annual Clackamas Watershed Celebration

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), and follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** [@ClackamasRiver](https://www.instagram.com/ClackamasRiver)

Get Involved

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. Council meetings are open to the public - we'd love to hear from YOU!

Upcoming dates: **February 15th, March 15th, April 19th.**

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. **Visit clackamasriver.org for more details.**

Support Our Work

You can support our work every day by choosing to shop at **Fred Meyer** and **Amazon!**

- **Fred Meyer Rewards** - Link your card to us! Search for us by name or non-profit #89223 at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.
- **AmazonSmile** - Online shoppers rejoice! From smile.amazon.com, click on your account and select CRBC as your charity of choice!

Curious about other ways to give?

Visit clackamasriver.org/donate/ for more details.



CRBC Board of Directors, January 2018



CRBC Staff, December 2017