



The Clackamas

# CURRENT NEWS

## CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

### Winter 2019

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### Thank You Shade Our Streams Partners and Landowners!

We couldn't have met our goal of restoring 30 miles of streamside riparian habitat in the Clackamas River Basin without your support.

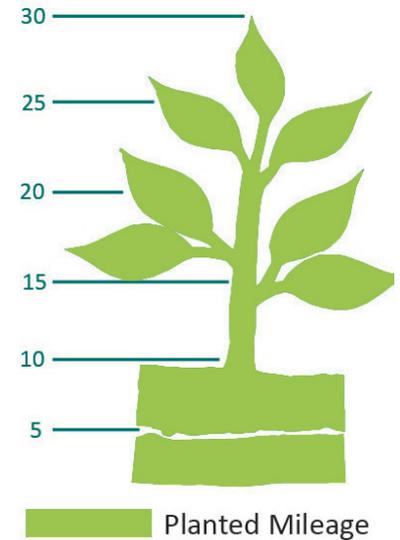
## Shade Our Streams Tops 30 Mile Goal

The Shade Our Streams project kicked off in 2012 with a substantial goal of planting native trees and shrubs along 30 stream miles in the Clackamas River Basin in six years. The project targeted streamsidess that needed the most attention due to infestations of invasive weeds or lack of native tree canopy.

That first year, the task looked monumental. Just one mile of riparian restoration is a big task. Now, six years later, with the support of our project partners and over 125 Clackamas County landowners, we have achieved our goal.

This year we planted 90,000 native trees and shrubs at four different sites on five miles of streams in the Basin, graduated 25 landowners, and reached that goal of 30 miles of planted riparian habitat in the Shade Our Streams program.

Yet, the work is not done! We will be maintaining the most recently planted sites for another two years, ensuring that invasive species do not reestablish and that native plants are successful.



## Port Blakely Conservation Plan

Port Blakely is a working forest landowner with properties in Clackamas, Oregon. This family owned business, with a history of environmental stewardship, is seeking to establish a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for 30,000 acres of forest land in Clackamas County.

Representatives from Port Blakely presented the planning process to the Clackamas River Basin Council in January. The objective is to develop science-based conservation benefits that exceed Oregon forest practice rules while providing long-term regulatory certainty for the company at the state level. The plan will complement landscape management efforts on adjacent State and Federal forestlands to enhance wildlife and fish habitat.

## Volunteer with CRBC

February 23rd at Trillium Creek to plant natives

March 16th at Trillium Creek to plant natives

April 27th at Milo McIver Park to create in-stream habitat

More information on volunteer events can be found on the "VOLUNTEER" page at: [www.clackamasriver.org](http://www.clackamasriver.org)

## Volunteer Work Party Restores Rock Creek Native Habitat

Clackamas River Basin Council partnered with Clackamas County Water Environment Services and Friends of Trees to plant over 500 native trees, shrubs and ferns along Rock Creek in Clackamas County.



Over 80 volunteers were drawn from throughout the region to participate in the event.

### Why Plant Stream Slopes?

The goal of the Rock Creek Confluence Project is to achieve a dense, healthy buffer of native vegetation along the creek. Gail Shaloum, Technical Services Coordinator at Clackamas Water Environment Services (WES) was on hand to offer tours of the site. "WES is funding this project," said Gail, "because streamside plantings of trees, shrubs, and grasses can intercept rain water and filter out contaminants from surface water runoff before they reach a stream and they help restore damaged streams." Buffers assist with stream health by slowing water runoff, trapping sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, bacteria, pathogens, and heavy metals, keeping these pollutants out of the stream.

More community planting events are planned for 2019. The first work party is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to noon on February 23 at the Burlwood HOA. To register for the event, visit <http://clackamasriver.org/get-involved/natives>.

Friends of Trees recruited 80 volunteers to support the habitat restoration work on Rock Creek. The group gathered at a cul-de-sac in the Windswept Waters development in Happy Valley just adjacent to the Rock Creek confluence with the Clackamas River.

Rock Creek is an important tributary of the Clackamas River and home to salmon, beaver, osprey, and other fish and wildlife. The Rock Creek Confluence Project was initiated in 2013 and included the removal of over 12 acres of invasive weeds, the placement of over 25 large wood structures and numerous boulders, and the planting of over 18,000 native trees and shrubs. Restoration efforts have improved habitat for spawning adults and for juvenile salmon before they migrate to the ocean.

The December 1st work party continued the project by planting upland areas of the site that have little tree cover and are exposed to summer heat and winter storm erosion. Among the species that were planted were red alder, big leaf maple, Douglas fir, Western serviceberry, snowberry, Oregon grape and sword fern. Planting natives will encourage the recovery of a more diverse habitat along this section of the creek and provide improved cover and food for wildlife.



Students from Gladstone and LaSalle High Schools turned out to work on the restoration of Rock Creek, planting in rocky soil and moving yards of mulch with a bucket brigade!

## OWEB Awards More Than \$3 Million to the Clackamas Partnership!

CRBC is delighted to report that the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) selected the Clackamas Partnership to receive a Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Implementation grant of \$3,454,580 at their January 15-16, 2019 board meeting.

### What's a FIP?

A Focused Investment Partnership, or FIP, is an OWEB investment that addresses one of seven ecological priorities identified by the board that achieves clear and measurable outcomes through a strategic action plan which is implemented by a high-performing partnership.

The Clackamas Partnership is made up of regional, state and federal entities, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and non-profit organizations including CRBC. The partnership was awarded \$3,454,580 of a 6-year planned total investment of \$8,744,080 to support fish habitat restoration in the Clackamas River Basin benefiting Chinook salmon, coho salmon, steelhead, and other native fish species. The partnership is expected to identify another \$5,000,000 from other funding sources to support their efforts.

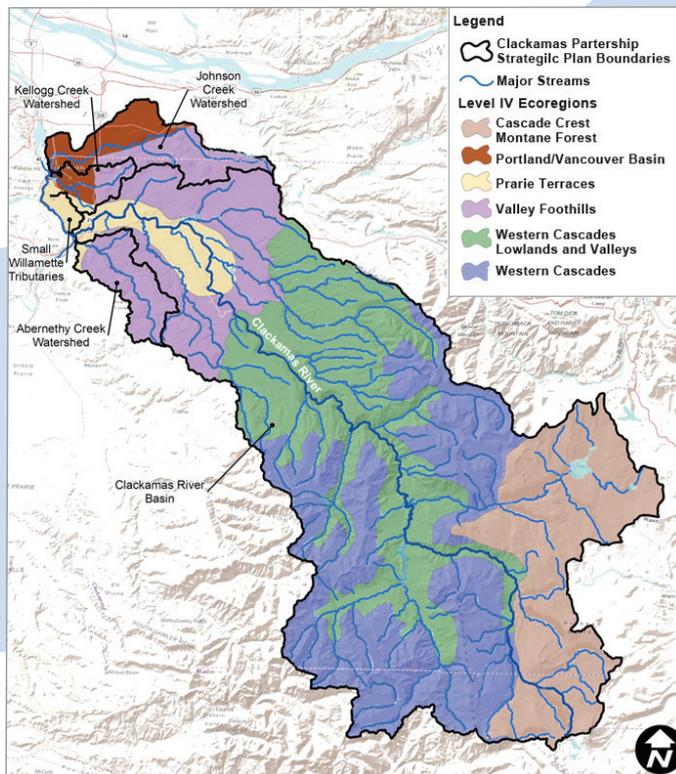
### What's the Plan?

The Partnership has developed a strategic plan to guide the work of the FIP. Restoration activities will be designed to improve water quality and habitat for threatened and endangered species that travel and spawn in the Clackamas

*"This investment benefits native fish species while improving water quality and supporting the local natural resource economy."*

*- Meta Loftsgaarden, OWEB Executive Director*

### Eco Regions Map of Partnership Plan Area



River Basin. The plan will cool streams and provide refugia for migrating adults, young fish and smolts.

The geographic area of the plan includes the Clackamas River and all tributaries from its headwaters to the confluence with the Willamette River; a portion of the Willamette River and its floodplain; and watersheds flowing into the east side of the Willamette River, including Abernethy, Kellogg, and Johnson Creeks.

### What is CRBC's Role in the FIP?

Clackamas River Basin Council will be the lead coordinating entity and will provide capacity and planning support for the Partnership. We will participate on the Technical Advisory Committee and in governance and decision-making.

CRBC will implement four to six projects every two years in the lower Clackamas River Basin. The work will focus on improving habitat complexity, floodplain and off-channel configuration along the mainstem of the Clackamas River.

### Get Involved with CRBC

Donate  
Attend an Event  
Take a Class

Visit [clackamasriver.org/get-involved](http://clackamasriver.org/get-involved)  
for more details.



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## Thank You 2018 Donors and Sponsors

Our work was supported by the following donors and sponsors:

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