



The Clackamas

CURRENT NEWS

CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Winter 2020

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Portland General Electric announces support for 3 CRBC projects

PGE will be providing funding for the successful Shade our Streams Program, in-stream restoration on Eagle Creek, and side channel restoration at Milo McIver State Park.

Partnership Members Take River Trip

The Clackamas Partnership kicked off work on several projects funded through an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Focused Investment Partnership Grant with a tour of sites along the lower Clackamas River. The partnership includes four watershed councils along with regional agencies that support or regulate activities in the area.

In 2019, the Partnership was awarded over \$3 million by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for the first phase of a 6-year planned total investment of \$8,744,080 to support fish habitat restoration. The Clackamas Partnership's restoration actions concentrate on restoring watershed processes and habitats that are limiting healthy native fish populations, as well as promoting water quality and conservation activities designed to improve

watershed health. The Partnership is expected to identify another \$5 million from other funding sources to support their efforts.

The river trip in drift boats and rafts provided the partnership members with a unique perspective on a lower reach of the Clackamas River from Barton Park to Carver. The lower Clackamas, along with watersheds flowing into the east side of the Willamette River will be the focus of the first projects identified for 2020/2021.

The group toured a few recently completed projects and discussed the future of fish recovery in the Clackamas basin. Participants took note of gravel enhancement to the river provided by Portland General Electric. Gravels are staged upstream and are carried by high flows to improve spawning conditions in depleted areas below North Fork Dam.



Clackamas Partnership members from Greater Oregon City Watershed, Metro, PGE, U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and OWEB floated the Clackamas River in early December.

Volunteer with CRBC

April 18, 2020 and May 2, 2020

Xmas tree placement to create habitat for juvenile fish
Location to be determined.

More information on volunteer events can be found
on the "VOLUNTEER" page at:

www.clackamasriver.org

Create a Ladybug Haven

Ladybugs are one of the most well known beneficial insects used in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs to control aphids and other pests. Here are some tips to attract and keep these helpful insects in your garden, tree farm or wood lot.

Make sure you have a food supply:

Ladybugs eat sapsucking insects like aphids, whiteflies and mites. If these insects are not present, or if you continually spray to eliminate them, ladybugs will find nothing to eat and move away. If ladybugs find a food source, they make short order of these pests and naturally keep their numbers at a tolerable level.



If you release ladybugs that you purchase, do so at night so they have time to explore for food and settle into your property before daylight encourages flight.

Photos courtesy of Needpix.com, Jack Wolf

Don't use pesticides:

When you spray pesticides, you wipe out the prime food source for your ladybugs and you may kill off the ladybugs themselves. Organic pesticides may be labeled as being safe to use around beneficial adult insects, but ladybug larvae can be damaged by insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils and other types of organic pesticides.



If you live in the Clackamas Watershed, you can take a pledge to earn a free Pesticide Wise or Pesticide Free sign to display in your yard.

Learn how to best use pesticides, how to read the label on pesticide containers and what alternatives there are to using chemical pesticides.

Find out more and get your FREE Yard Sign!
<http://www.clackamasriver.org/pesticidepledge>

Ladybugs have a sweet tooth:

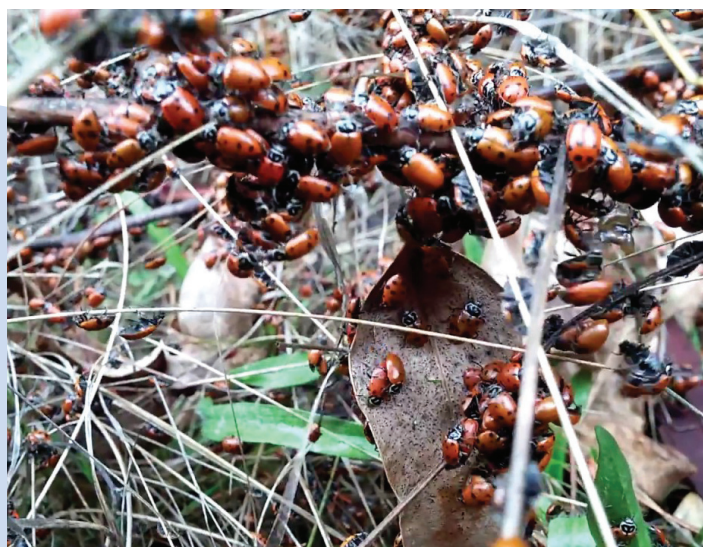
Ladybugs need more than the protein found in the insects they eat, they also need a source of carbohydrates. Carbohydrates are found in the sugars in plant nectar. Ladybugs will feed on the tiny flowers of the carrot and aster families. You can provide this food source by planting native plants like wild carrot, yarrow and lupin, as well as dill, Zizia, cilantro, fennel, daisies, yarrow, black-eyed Susans and sunflowers.

Support a complex food web:

Ladybugs and other beneficial insects are attracted to landscapes with a variety of different plant species present. Interplant your garden or tree lot with flowering herbs and perennials. The more diversity of native plants, plant structure, flower shape, flower color and bloom time you have, the better.

Provide winter habitat:

Ladybugs spend the winter outdoors. To encourage a good population of native ladybugs, leave perennials, grasses and other plants stand through the winter, instead of cutting them down in the fall. Many species of ladybugs overwinter in the hollow stems or in the debris that collects at their base. Ladybugs take shelter under fallen leaves for the winter. If needed, do cleanup in the spring, instead of in the fall.



Ladybugs will gather to mate and hibernate during winter months. By leaving leaf litter on the ground, you can provide shelter for these beneficial insects, and improve soil conditions at the same time.

Photo courtesy of Scott Linford

CRBC Welcomes New Staff Members

Two new staff members joined the CRBC in late 2019. Liz Gilliam is our new Restoration Program Manager. Our new Fiscal & Administrative Specialist is Dayna Lewis.

Liz, a fluvial geomorphologist, comes to us from OTAK, a multidisciplinary firm of architects and engineers. Liz is a river enthusiast and advocate for wild places and healthy rivers. Her nearly two decade-long career has focused on studying, restoring and promoting rivers. She has surveyed the dynamics of water, rocks, wood, fish, amphibians and vegetation in California and the Pacific Northwest, as well as the Rocky Mountains and Neotropics.



Dayna Lewis

Liz recognizes salmon as an important keystone species that is deeply embedded in our culture. She is dedicated to preserving salmon runs. You are most likely to find her working or playing very near a river or mountain pass.

Born and raised in Delaware, Dayna moved to Oregon in 2015 after visiting the area for a business conference and falling in love with the Pacific Northwest. She has extensive background in operations management and accounting, mostly for state government (public health) and the nonprofit sector. She enjoys working for an employer that makes a difference in the community, which is why the CRBC was a good fit for her. In her personal life, she enjoys reading, arts and crafts, board games, and volunteering at her church and in the community.



Liz Gilliam with her furry friend, Mei Mei.

Fish Populations in the Clackamas River

A presentation at the CRBC December Board Meeting highlighted ESA listed species populations in the Clackamas River. Species covered in the presentation included coho, fall Chinook, spring Chinook and winter steelhead. Extinction risk for fall Chinook is currently very high. The extinction risk for coho, spring Chinook and winter steelhead are moderate.

Populations of Clackamas wild fall Chinook are well below the delisting scenario of 1,551 individuals. In 2015 and 2017, fewer than 200 individuals were observed, while in 2016 and 2018, over 600 individuals were recorded.

Clackamas wild coho populations remain below the delisting scenario of 11,232 individuals. Fewer than 2,000 adults were recorded in 2015 and 2016, while over 7,500 were recorded in 2017 before dropping to 3,000 in 2018.

Clackamas wild spring Chinook populations have been observed above 2,000 individuals since 2011, and have exceeded the delisting scenario of 2,314 individuals since 2015.

Clackamas wild winter steelhead remain well below the delisting goal of 10,671. Adult observed populations have been between 2,000 and 4,000 individuals from 2012 through 2018.

Clackamas wild fish populations are limited by five general threats including dams, limited freshwater habitat, competition from hatchery fish, degraded or limited estuary habitat and ocean and Columbia River fisheries.

The good news is:

- PGE has made significant improvements to juvenile fish passage at North Fork Dam, with a 97% survival rate of juvenile salmonids passing through the project.
- Estuary habitat has seen a 12% increase in off-channel habitat since the mid-2000s due to restoration efforts.
- Freshwater habitat in the lower Clackamas River Basin has been improved by increased off-channel habitat and riparian habitat restoration.
- All Clackamas River hatchery programs are below conservation thresholds and are trending downward.
- All Clackamas Fisheries are mark selective, allowing for the retention of hatchery fish while requiring the release of wild fish. However, harvest remains a concern in non-selective ocean and Columbia River mixed stock fisheries.

Information provided by Jim Brick, ODFW Fish Biologist & Lower Columbia River Recovery Plan Implementation Coordinator.



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Visit clackamasriver.org/get-involved for more details.

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