

CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL
2023 ANNUAL REPORT

20
23





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Cover Photo: J Creek Side Channel Reconnection Project

MESSAGE FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David Bugni & Cheryl McGinnis

Friends and Supporters,
We extend our appreciation for your involvement in stewardship activities within the Clackamas River Basin! Our partnerships are key to the success we achieve toward our mission, to foster partnerships for clean water, to improve fish and wildlife habitat and enhance the quality of life for all those who live, work and play in the Clackamas River Basin.

You are appreciated!

We are excited to share highlights of the Clackamas River Basin Council 2023 accomplishments that we achieved together. Because of your support, the CRBC has been able to improve fish habitat in several key areas in the watershed with more projects planned for the coming years.

A special recognition to the Bugni family as Oregon Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year brought woodlot owners and private forest owners to Estacada where the statewide Oregon Family Forest Convention convened. The event included a tour of best practices in forestry at the Bugni property where, in addition to their hands-on forest management, included examples of Clackamas River Basin Council's activities such as Shade Our Streams streamside vegetation enhancement, instream habitat improvements that added boulder and log habitat structures to benefit fish and wildlife, and wetland restoration.

We invite you to venture into this report to view and read about project accomplishments. You can read about instream habitat projects including a restored side channel along the Clackamas River along with our excitement for receiving funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that furthers restoration work in the basin while providing economic benefit to the area. You'll see updates on our ongoing, hallmark Shade Our Streams program, designed to assist landowners with invasive weed control and native trees and shrubs plantings. In person outreach activities involved presenting information at community events, providing educational programming at local high schools that also involved students in field activities, engaging volunteers in work parties, and removing debris from the mainstem river banks during the Down the River Clean Up –along with recognizing our partners and supporters during the Annual Watershed Celebration.

Thank you for your partnership and support.

Any day is a great day to enjoy the Clackamas River!

David Bugni, 2023 Board Chair, & Cheryl McGinnis, Executive Director

CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL

MISSION

The Clackamas River Basin Council's mission is to foster partnerships for clean water and to improve fish and wildlife habitat and the quality of life for those who live, work and recreate in the Clackamas watershed.

OUR WATERSHED

The Clackamas watershed is a special place. The Clackamas River is a drinking water source for over 300,000 Oregonians. It is home to the last viable run of wild late winter coho in the lower Columbia River Basin, one of only two remaining runs of spring Chinook in the upper Willamette Basin, and a viable population of winter steelhead. The watershed is also home to a diverse array of native wildlife. Mammals such as the fringed myotis bat, reptiles including Oregon's two native turtle species, plants such as the Nelson's checkermallow, amphibians including the red-legged frog, and many birds including the olive-sided flycatcher call our basin home.

LAND DESIGNATION

The Clackamas River Basin has been home to native peoples for millennia. It is originally the territory of the Clackamas, Chinook, Molalla, Kalapuya, and other native peoples, and is currently recognized as lands of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, and other Native Peoples who may not be federally recognized. We thank those who came before us for their stewardship of these lands and those who continue to steward them now and in the future.



Steelhead Trout



Beaver

INSTREAM PROJECTS

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

As part of the Clackamas Partnership, the Clackamas River Basin Council has excelled at large scope projects including these described here. Funded in part by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Clackamas Partnership collaborates on aquatic, riparian and floodplain restoration, conservation, and habitat protection actions to enhance watershed health. Our collective work supports the recovery and sustainability of native fish populations, and contribute to the region’s economic and social vitality.



IMPORTANCE OF SIDE CHANNEL HABITAT

Side channel habitats provide critical refuge, feeding and breeding grounds for numerous fish and wildlife species. These habitats offer a calmer, nutrient-rich environment compared to the main river channel, supporting diverse plant and animal life. They are especially important for salmon and other culturally significant fish, offering safe areas for spawning and juvenile development. By maintaining and restoring side channel habitats, we enhance biodiversity, bolster fish populations, and ensure the overall health and resilience of the Clackamas River ecosystem.

Photo above: Woody habitat structures, or log jams, along the enhanced J Creek side channel



J CREEK SIDE CHANNEL RECONNECTION

CRBC is excited to highlight this project which wrapped up construction in summer of 2023. Designed by Interfluve and constructed by Evergreen Developers, the project reconnected 1/3 mile of side and backwater areas to the Clackamas River. Material was excavated from the upper end of the side channel to increase the amount of water flowing into the side channel. We also added almost 200 logs in various locations to encourage pool formation and provide complex habitat for juvenile salmon. The project provides important habitat over the winter and spring for juvenile Coho salmon as they migrate out of the upper river on their way to the Pacific Ocean. Top photo: Construction of the J Creek side channel log jam.



SOUTH FORK LARGE WOOD ENHANCEMENT

This project also wrapped up in summer of 2023 after being delayed by the 2020 Labor Day fires. The project was implemented by Aquatic Contracting at the South Fork Clackamas-Clackamas River confluence. Taking advantage of the devastating fires, 50 large fire-killed Douglas Fir trees were tipped into the South Fork. We built one “apex” log jam of 15 whole trees mid channel with 35 more whole trees tipped into and across the river. The largest tipped tree was over 5’ in diameter and 200 feet tall with most trees over 2’ in diameter. The tipped wood activated several new side channels improving spawning habitat for chinook and Coho salmon and adding important juvenile rearing habitat. Photo middle: Close-up of fire-killed logs at the South Fork Clackamas River. Photo bottom: Drone footage of contractors tipping and manipulating large logs in the South Fork Clackamas River.



RIPARIAN PROJECTS



WILDFIRE RECOVERY

CRBC has been busy assisting landowners impacted by the 2020 Labor Day wildfires. With Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) funding, we helped clear brush and replant about 20,000 tree seedlings at six properties, evaluate erosion hazards on steep slopes at two sites, install a new livestock fence, and connect other landowners with recovery resources. Clackamas SWCD, Pudding River Watershed Council, and OSU Extension Service have been crucial partners in this project.

We have also been supporting ongoing fuels reduction efforts in the Eagle Creek watershed and conducting community engagement around wildfire preparedness and recovery. And, CRBC staff participated in cooperative wildfire programs including the Oregon Fire Resilience Network, Western Oregon Cascades Recovery Effort, and Clackamas Wildfire Collaborative, growing our capacity to prepare for and respond to wildfire in our watershed and beyond

Photo Left Contractors plant trees and shrubs at one of CRBC's wildfire recovery sites.
Photo Right Volunteers from the Arbor Day Foundation plants trees at Milo McIver after a wildfire burned through several acres of the park.



SHADE OUR STREAMS

We planted over 31,000 native trees and shrubs in riparian areas in 2023, including 2 in-stream and 5 standalone projects, along 6100' of the river and four of its tributaries. CRBC also received a \$153,000 award from PGE's Clackamas Habitat Fund to launch a new Shade Our Streams effort in the Deep Creek watershed. By 2026 we will restore 2.5 or more miles of stream, guided by new stream temperature, shade, and habitat connectivity models to help maximize the ecological uplift gained from every acre we replant. Photo right: A freshly planted native shrub along Sieben Creek side channel.



TICKLE CREEK

In 2023, we launched a major mitigation project in Sandy's Tickle Creek Greenway. In the coming years, we will clear noxious weeds, install native plants, and repair off-trail impacts along 1.5 miles of Tickle Creek. This project will enhance coho and winter steelhead spawning habitat, protect water quality, replace tree canopy lost to storm damage, remove ladder fuels, and improve recreational opportunities in this beloved urban park. We are partnering with AntFarm Youth Services to provide youth employment and workforce development through this project. Photo left: Tickle Creek and trail.

NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT

Through the Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP), we helped treat some of the most worrisome noxious weeds in the watershed, such as garlic mustard and knotweed, on more than 85 acres. This year we also began an effort to rescue trees in the urban lower watershed from smothering vines like ivy and clematis, working with contractors, youth crews, and volunteers. Photo right: Our partners at Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership next to a very tall Policeman's Helmet patch.



MONITORING & IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

MONITORING AND REDUCING PESTICIDES IN THE CLACKAMAS BASIN

When it comes to protecting watershed health, we all have a role to play. CRBC is dedicated to protecting urban waterways in the Clackamas basin - and our work is making an impact for fish, wildlife, and those who live, work, and recreate in our watershed. We thank our funders for supporting this work: Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and the Clackamas River Water Providers.



WATER QUALITY MONITORING

As a Pesticide Stewardship Partner, we collected bi-weekly samples from five local creeks to track the presence of pesticides in our water. The sampling data collected is used to create meaningful outreach campaigns to help our community reduce pesticide use. For example, in 2023 there was a spike in Imidacloprid, an insecticide made from neonicotinoids. Our staff used this information to create targeted communication pieces to neighbors living in those areas. The PSP program offers an alternative to pesticide regulations. Our goal is to achieve and maintain reductions in pesticide concentrations in the Clackamas River, which is a drinking water source for over 300,000 Oregonians. Photo: water samples taken from Noyer Creek in Damascus, OR.



PESTICIDE REDUCTION

In 2023, CRBC staff connected with locals through a robust community outreach program to spread awareness and resources to reduce pesticide use in the watershed. Outreach staff hosted a pesticide reduction awareness table at 13 community events including the Summer Concert in the Valley series in Happy Valley, National Night Out in Estacada, Boring Dull Day in Boring, and Oregon City Pride at the Clackamas Community College. We also share pesticide reduction messaging through social media and we install displays with resources and alternatives to pesticides in 5 local garden centers. Photo: CRBC staff member Dakota Hufford hosts a table at Oregon City Pride in Oregon City to promote pesticide reduction in the basin.

STEWARDSHIP & VOLUNTEERISM

A SALUTE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

We thank our AMAZING volunteers for their hard work and dedication. This great work is not possible without the love and support we receive from our volunteers and friends.

VOLUNTEERS CLEAN OUR RIVER

In 2023, over 140 volunteers cleaned a 22-mile stretch of the Clackamas and removed over 2,000 lbs of trash. From Milo McIver State Park to the confluence with the Willamette River at Clackamette Park, volunteers rallied together in rafts, kayaks, SCUBA gear, drift boats and other vessels to scour the stream bed and banks for trash and recycling. After the cleanup, volunteers gathered at Barton Park for a celebratory BBQ. Photo: volunteer gives two thumbs up at the 2023 Down the River Cleanup.



VOLUNTEERS STASH THE TRASH

Since 2005, volunteers have stocked bag stands with reusable mesh trash bags at popular boat launches along the Clackamas River. In 2023, we were able to increase the total number of stands from five to nine. You can find the bright yellow bags at Milo McIver State Park, Barton County Park, Barton Convenience Store, Carver County Park, Riverside Park, Cross Park, High Rocks, and four stands accessible only by boat. Photo: volunteers Tina Johnson and Erin Holland hold Stash the Trash bags.



VOLUNTEERS WORK HARD

Volunteers are vital to the success of our programs. At work parties alone, 591 volunteers spent a total of 1,911 hours of their time participating in stewardship activities. These hard-working volunteers helped plant trees and shrubs, remove invasive weeds, and mulch baby plants at 11 of our project sites in 2023. Photo: volunteers hold Oregon Grape at a planting party at Cross Park in Gladstone, OR.



EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

STUDENT EDUCATION

In 2023, CRBC continued to offer our Clackamas360 virtual tour to high school students. With funding from the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, Portland General Electric, and Water Environment Services, CRBC staff visited 16 high school classrooms, with 342 students taking the virtual tour on Meta OculusGo virtual-reality headsets. We also brought 174 students out into the field for hands-on service learning activities at CRBC restoration sites in 2023. All told, 1,845 students benefited from natural resource education through CRBC.

Photo: a student from Clackamas High School shows fish eggs from a hatchery fish during a salmon carcass toss event at Eagle Creek. A special thank you to staff at the Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery for making this event possible.



INTENTIONAL PROGRAMMING

With funding from the City of Oregon City, in 2023 CRBC began a new youth education program with The Living Room, a program offered through New Avenues for Youth. Through this program, at-risk queer youth in Oregon City receive intentional and safe watershed health programming.

CRBC is proud to be a partner and friend of residents living in the Clackamas River Community Cooperative, a mobile home community in Clackamas, OR. With funding from the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife's Oregon Conservation Recreation Fund, CRBC continues to work with the community and offer workshops, stewardship events, and community gatherings for this neighborhood and the nearby community, Shadowbrook Mobile Park.

Photo: volunteers from the Huckleberry Consortium, a stewardship group formed of neighbors at the Clackamas River Community Cooperative, stain bat boxes to hang in their green space.



2023 BY THE NUMBERS

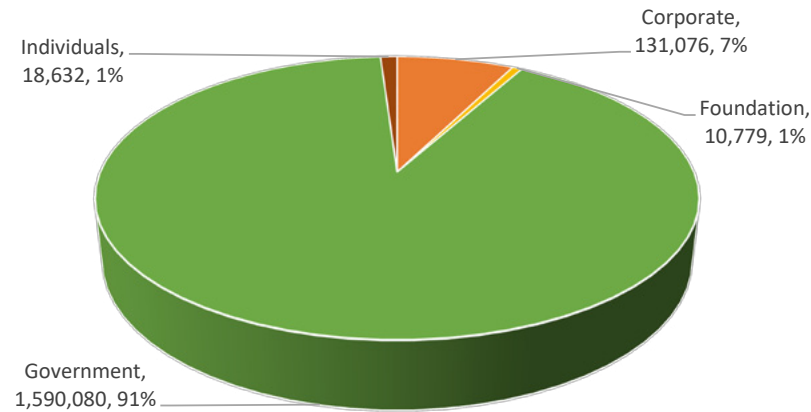
IN-STREAM	1/3	mile of side channel habitat enhanced for native fish
	250	logs placed in side channels to create complex habitat
	2	large-scale in-stream projects completed
STUDENTS	1,845	students reached with watershed health education
	342	students experienced the Clackamas360 virtual tour
	174	students went on nature-based field trips with CRBC
RIPARIAN	31,000	trees and shrubs planted through Shade Our Streams
	6,100	feet of stream bank restored with native plants/shrubs
	85	acres of land treated through CRISP
VOLUNTEER	20,000	trees and shrubs planted for wildfire recovery
	142	volunteers participated in the Down the River Cleanup
	2,000	lbs of trash removed from the Clackamas River
	948	total volunteers donated time to CRBC
	2,869	volunteer hours contributed to CRBC

REVENUE & EXPENSES

REVENUE INCREASING

Revenue increases are attributed to grant funds supporting current and future restoration projects, for implementation in 2020 through 2025 CRBC actively seeks additional funding to complete future projects.

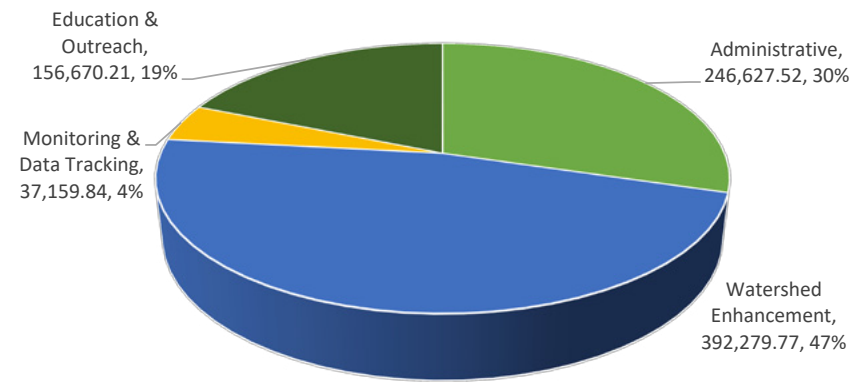
2023 Sources of Revenue



PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

Our activities emphasize restoration and on-the-ground projects dedicated to improving the watershed, water quality, and outreach & education. We monitor and assess conditions within the watershed to guide future activities to benefit local communities and to restore native fish populations.

2023 Expenses by Program



VOLUNTEERISM

We appreciate our volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to watershed stewardship activities. A total of 948 volunteers donated a resounding 2,869 total hours to CRBC in 2023!

2023 VALUE OF VOLUNTEERISM TO CRBC:

\$91,234! Volunteers are important to CRBC, for...

“ *When the river thrives, we all thrive — especially when we work together!* ”

VALUED PARTNERS

AntFarm Youth Services
 American Medical Response
 Aquatic Contracting
 Ash Creek Forest Management
 Backyard Habitats
 Barton Convenience Store
 Biohabitats
 Bonneville Environmental Foundation
 Bobby Mercier
 Brooks Tree Farm
 Bureau of Land Management
 Cascade Environmental Group
 Champoeg Nursery, Inc.
 Chrysalis Farms
 City of Estacada
 City of Gladstone
 City of Happy Valley
 City of Lake Oswego
 City of Milwaukie
 City of Oregon City
 City of Sandy
 Clackamas Community College
 Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
 Clackamas County Development Agency
 Clackamas County Sheriff Dept.
 Clackamas County Parks
 Clackamas County Tourism
 Clackamas Fire District #1
 Clackamas River Community Cooperative
 Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership
 Clackamas River Outfitters
 Clackamas River Water
 Clackamas River Water Providers

Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District
 Clackamas Stewardship Partners
 Clackamas Water Education Team
 Clackamas Water Environment Services
 Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
 Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
 David and Mary Ann Bugni
 Diego Franco Contracting
 Eastridge Church
 Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors
 eNRG Kayaking
 Evergreen Developers, LLC
 Fred Meyer/Kroger Rewards
 Greater Oregon City Watershed Council
 Inter-Fluve, Inc.
 J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co.
 Johnson Creek Watershed Council
 Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
 Marek Stanton
 Metro
 Molalla River Watch
 National Wildlife Federation
 North Clackamas Parks and Recreation
 North Clackamas School District
 North Clackamas Watersheds Council
 Oregon Beverage and Recycling Cooperative
 Oregon City Brewing Co.
 Oregon Department of Agriculture
 Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
 Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
 Oregon Department of Forestry
 Oregon State Parks

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
 OSU Extension Service
 Paul and Margarita Chmykhalova
 Pepsi Beverages of America
 Pesticide Stewardship Partners
 Port Blakely
 Portland General Electric
 Portland State University
 Portland Waldorf School
 Pudding River Watershed Council
 River Design Group
 Rivers of Life Center
 Scholls Valley Native Nursery
 Shade Our Streams Landowners
 Shadowbrook Mobile Home Park
 SOLVE
 Soul River Inc.
 St. Paul of Damascus Lutheran Church
 Starbucks
 Sustainable Northwest
 The Living Room/New Avenues for Youth
 The Nature Conservancy
 Tigard Water District
 Tina Johnson and Erin Holland
 Travel Oregon
 Trout Unlimited
 Tryon Creek Watershed Council
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 U.S. Forest Service
 U.S. Geological Survey
 Warn Industries
 Waterways Consulting, Inc.
 We Love Clean Rivers
 Willamette Seedling Nursery
 Wolf Water Resources

OUR SUCCESSES ARE ACHIEVED WITH ASSISTANCE FROM OUR MANY PARTNERS. THANK YOU!

DONORS MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

Amy Barton
Aaron Caldwell
Aaron Feigum
Adam Menendez
Adrienne Pradith
Alan Geist
Alex Triplett
Alma Kazic
Ariana Lohf
Arleen Barnett
Ashley Khokhlov
Bill Monroe
Bradley Burke
Brooke Jockin
Carson McVay
Chris Makuakane
Cynthia Patterson
Dan Cramer
Daniel Blaustein-Rejto
Diana Upton
Douglas DeHart
Erica Amt
Gail Shaloum
Garth Wyatt
Geoff Hales
Grace Butler

Gwen Collier
Jacob Linn
Jamey Osborne
Jamie Newport
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Juli Aldous
Kara Orvieto Ashley
Karen Kleinke
Katherine Kallus
Kregg Arntson
Kristin Tinker
Lee Archer
Lenna Cope
Leslie Schockner
Lindsay Smith
Luke Freauff
Margaret David
Maria Ouellette
Marjorie Wolfe
Mary A Bugni
Megan Hill
Melanie Schick

Michael Bender
Michael Herrick
Nancy Doran
Nathan Stansfield
Nick Ackerman
Nick Hernandez
Nick Loos
Randy Ealy
Rebecca Hufford
Renee Harber
Richard Belliveau
Robin Elizalde
Rocco Jaconis
Ryan Meagher
Ryan Mills
Sarah Doubleday
Sarah Wyllie
Sean Wells
Skye McKay
Tam Allison
Tami Guttridge
Thad FitzHenry
Todd Bartlett
Tony Dentel
TR Ryan
Winston Bradshaw

GOVERNMENT, CORPORATE, ORGANIZATION & FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Benevity Community Impact Fund
Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Bureau of Land Management
City of Gladstone
City of Oregon City
City of Sandy
Clackamas County Parks
Clackamas County Office of Sustainability and Solid Waste
Clackamas River Water Providers
Clackamas Soil Water Conservation District
Clackamas Water Environment services
Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Inter-Fluve, Inc
J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co.
Johnson Creek Watershed Council
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
Metro
Mt. Hood Territories

Oregon City Brewing
Oregon Department of Agriculture
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Portland General Electric
Promise the Pod
River Design Group
Sysmatics.com LLC
The Blackbaud Giving Fund
The Nature Conservancy
Tigard Water District
Trout Unlimited
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WARN Industries
Waterways Consulting
William P Edlefsen Trust
Wildland Watershed Specialists LLC
Window In The Fence Forestry, LLC

CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

David Bugni, Chair — Small Woodlot Owner
Maddy Sheehan, Chair-Elect — Citizens at Large
Casey Bage, Secretary — Recreation Interests
Renee Harber, Treasurer — Education/Youth
Todd Bartlett, Past Chair — Commerce

Executive Committee Members at Large:

Nick Ackerman — Local Utilities
Bill Monroe — Recreation Interests
Harry Rectenwald — Fish & Wildlife

Along with Officers, Our Community Representatives:

David Andersen — Commerce
Katie Arstingstall — Native American Tribes & Interests
John Borden — Environmental Interests
Ris Bradshaw — Mainstem Property Owners
Aaron Caldwell — Agriculture
Brian Chou — Industry
Gwen Collier — Citizens at Large
Douglas DeHart — Fish & Wildlife
Carl Exner — City Interests
Jeff Fulop — Small Woodlot Owners
Gary Guttridge — Tributary Property Owners
Lowell Hanna — Citizens at Large
Michael Karnosh — Native American Tribes & Interests
Earlean Marsh — Rural CPO
Gail Shaloum — Special Districts
Ivars Steinblums — Citizens at Large
Kari McClellan — USFS Liaison
Jack Williamson — USFS Liaison

STAFF

Cheryl McGinnis — Executive Director
Amy Barton — Communications & Stewardship Manager
Eric Butler — Riparian Specialist
Dakota Hufford — Communications & Program Coordinator
Isaac Sanders — Restoration Program Manager
Sharman Watts — Fiscal & Administrative Specialist



CRBC Board of Directors touring the J Creek Side Channel



Cheryl McGinnis



Amy Barton



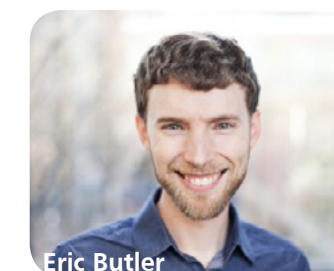
Sharman Watts



Isaac Sanders



Dakota Hufford



Eric Butler



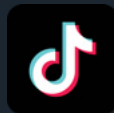
STAY IN TOUCH

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.clackamasriver.org



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CALL US

503-303-4372

MAIL US

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PO Box 1869
Clackamas, OR 97015

VISIT US

5427 Glen Echo Avenue
Gladstone, OR 97027

ATTEND A COUNCIL MEETING

Held the 3rd Thursday of each month from 6:00pm - 8:30pm. Call or visit our website for information to join meetings.

