

CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL
2024 ANNUAL REPORT

20
24





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Cover Photo: J Creek Side Channel Reconnection Project

MESSAGE FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David Bugni & Mary Logalbo

Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for your contributions towards a thriving Clackamas River Basin! We couldn't succeed in 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, without your help.

We are excited to share highlights of the Clackamas River Basin Council 2024 accomplishments that we have achieved together. Because of your support, the CRBC has improved fish habitat in several key areas of the watershed with more projects planned for the coming years. We are thrilled to see Clackamas populations of Coho and Chinook rebounding! We're also delighted to have engaged communities throughout the basin in opportunities to learn about and care for their watershed.

This past year our long-time Executive Director of over 20 years, Cheryl McGinnis, retired and was recognized with the Council's Thalweg Award. The Thalweg Award is given in the spirit of the hydrological feature where the deepest flow of the river exists. Cheryl was also awarded USDA's Rise to the Future Award and recognized in Washington, DC for her work in partnership development.

We invite you to venture into this report to view and read about our accomplishments. You will find clickable links that allow you to dive into the details of restoration and community involvement projects, including breathtaking drone flyover footage of the Clackamas River. We hope you enjoy the inspirational story of two rural communities located between Estacada and Sandy, that volunteered their time, land, and resources to carry out a significant fuels reduction and landscape-scale restoration project that was five years in the making! You can also read about how we banded together with residents and other partners to increase our basin's wildfire resilience. You'll see updates on our ongoing Shade Our Streams program, which is designed to assist landowners with both invasive weed control and the addition of native trees and shrubs along our waterways.

It's been incredible to connect with hundreds of volunteers and students this past year. We can't wait to hear what you think of all the great programming detailed in this report!

We look forward to continuing our work together to ensure that the Clackamas River and all that depends on it thrives!

Dave Bugni, 2024 Board Chair, & Mary Logalbo, 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

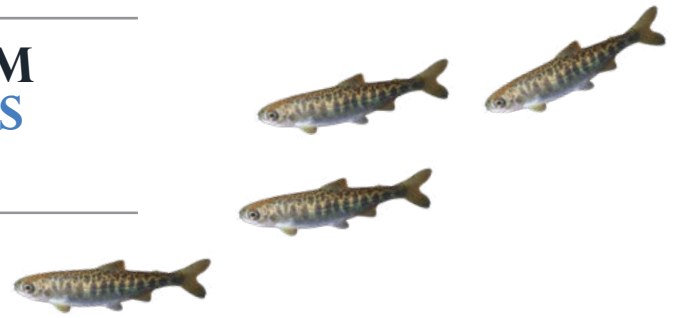
The Clackamas watershed is a special place. The Clackamas River is a drinking water source for over 300,000 Oregonians. It is home to the last viable run of wild late winter coho in the lower Columbia River Basin, one of only two remaining runs of spring Chinook in the upper Willamette Basin, and a viable 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.



INSTREAM PROJECTS



POWERED BY PARTNERSHIP

Through our role in the Clackamas Partnership, funded by an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Focused Investment Partnership grant, CRBC continues to lead impactful, landscape-scale restoration efforts like those highlighted in this report. The Partnership brings together agencies, nonprofits, and community partners to restore stream channels, rebuild floodplains, revegetate riverbanks, and protect critical habitat. These collaborative investments improve watershed resilience, boost native fish recovery, and strengthen both ecological and community well-being across the region.



CTWS SIDE CHANNEL RECONNECTION — AN INSPIRING COMEBACK STORY

In the upper Clackamas, on lands owned by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS), years of unmanaged recreation had taken a toll. Unauthorized roads cut through the floodplain, and homemade concrete soaking pools blocked the river, trapping juvenile fish.

In 2024, the site began its transformation.

Working in partnership with CTWS, we removed the soaking pools, decommissioned one-third of a mile of roads, blocked off former parking areas with logs, and restored eight acres of riparian habitat. The project nearly doubled side-channel habitat in this reach, installed over 500 pieces of large wood, and built seven habitat structures to guide water into newly reactivated channels. We thank our funder, OWEB, and our contractor, Biohabitats.

To finish the work, we made plans to work with the Indigenous-led contracting team MAD Bears to clear invasive blackberry, restore compacted soils, and plant more than 20,000 native trees, shrubs, and sedges.

Photo above: Construction during the CTWS Side Channel Reconnection Project in 2024.

REBUILDING SIDE CHANNEL HABITAT

Side channels are calm, sheltered offshoots of the main river — and they're some of the most valuable habitats in the system. Young salmon rely on these slower waters as safe places to rest, feed, and grow. Many other species use them too, from amphibians and birds to insects and mammals. Restoring side channels gives fish a fighting chance and boosts the river's overall resilience. When these habitats thrive, the whole watershed benefits.

NORTH FORK EAGLE CREEK PROJECT

After five years of fundraising, planning, and coordination, we completed the North Fork Eagle Creek Fish Habitat Project, one of the Clackamas River basin's largest and most complex restoration efforts. Using helicopters, crews strategically placed 370 large logs within North Fork Eagle and Bear Creeks, enhancing more than five miles of stream habitat. The project addressed the basin's only freshwater limiting factor for salmon—lack of physical habitat and included extensive riparian planting of native trees and shrubs. This \$1.6 million effort was made possible through strong community support, multiple funding sources, and collaboration among diverse agency partners. Click here to watch a YouTube video created by Dave.

Photo: CRBC Board Member Dave Bugni, project manager for this effort, standing among newly installed logs in 2024.



BEEBE ISLAND SIDE CHANNEL RECONNECTION

In 2024, we advanced planning for the Beebe Island Side Channel Reconnection project, located downstream of Carver. Construction is slated for summer 2025. The project will reconnect a ½-mile side channel for longer periods throughout the year, create alcoves that provide calm rearing habitat for juvenile coho and other native fish

We also plan to restore two nearby ponds to create habitat for sensitive wildlife, including one of Oregon's native turtles, the Western Painted Turtle, which is considered Species of Concern by the State of Oregon. The photo below shows the gravel ponds before construction.



Sloped banks planned for easy and safe access for turtle species

Barrier reduction planned to increase flow between ponds and access for turtles.

Location of future turtle basking logs.

Mound of fill material to be placed here for nesting habitat.

RIPARIAN PROJECTS



SHADE OUR STREAMS

This year we launched a new round of our long-running Shade Our Streams program focused on the Deep Creek watershed. Deep Creek and its tributaries provide over 30 miles of potential habitat for Coho salmon and winter steelhead, create ecologically diverse habitat corridors linking the Cascades foothills to the Clackamas River, and discharge above most of the drinking water intakes on the Clackamas. These streams also face serious pressures from wastewater discharge, noxious weeds, legacy pesticides, and ongoing agricultural and urban development around Sandy, Barton, and Boring. So far, we have signed up 10 new participating landowners, representing over 15 acres of riparian habitat to restore and getting us halfway to our goal of 2.5 miles of stream shaded. We also continue to work on properties elsewhere in the watershed, especially our urban streams.

Photo left: Buckets of mulch are prepped for delivery to a Shade Our Streams site in 2024.

Photo right: Contractors plant trees and shrubs at one of CRBC's Shade Our Streams sites in the Deep Creek area in 2024.

Image lower right: Rough-skinned newt.



WILDFIRE RECOVERY

An abnormally hot, dry spring in 2023 nearly derailed our wildfire recovery efforts after a first round of tree planting, but CRBC and partners (Clackamas SWCD, Pudding River Watershed Council, and Oregon State University Extension) rallied and replanted several properties in 2024. Tree seedling survival was much better this past year, thanks to healthier seedlings, more spring rain, timely mulching, and another year to manage competing vegetation. Our reforestation efforts may be wrapping up as our funding winds down in 2025, but CRBC is remaining engaged in this work as members of the new Clackamas Wildfire Collaborative.

Photo: Crews plant trees on a wildfire impacted property in the Clackamas watershed in 2024.



TICKLE CREEK

As mitigation for pollution discharges at its wastewater treatment plant, the City of Sandy is providing \$200,000 for CRBC to lead a major restoration effort in the Tickle Creek Greenspace. This cherished park and trail system spans nearly 40 acres of streamside forest along 1.5 miles of Tickle Creek but faces challenges from invasive weeds, off-trail trampling, and canopy loss from recent ice storms. Working with City staff, professional contractors, and AntFarm youth crews, we're removing invasives, planting 10,000 native trees and shrubs, stabilizing damaged areas, and engaging the community in caring for this special place.

Photo: Tickle Creek in Sandy.

NOXIOUS PLANT MANAGEMENT

CRBC is a founding member of the Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) and helps lead efforts to contain and eradicate some of the Basin's most troublesome noxious weeds. In 2024 CRBC made steady progress on several patches of garlic mustard, expanded our push against knotweed along Deep Creek, and launched a new effort to map and eventually eradicate a line of policeman's helmet stretching from the outskirts of Sandy all the way downstream to the Clackamas River. CRISP also coordinated the federal post-wildfire funds CRBC used to revegetate after 2023's South Fork large wood project.

Photo: Knotweed infestation.



MONITORING & IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

MONITORING AND REDUCING PESTICIDES IN THE CLACKAMAS BASIN

Healthy waterways depend on collective responsibility — and CRBC is leading that effort across the Clackamas Basin. Through strategic monitoring and community education, we're working to reduce pesticide pollution in urban streams, improving conditions for fish, wildlife, and the people who rely on clean water. This work is possible with support from the 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. Sampling occurs at Noyer, Sieben, North Fork Deep, Rock and Clear Creeks. The sampling data collected is used to create meaningful outreach campaigns to help our community reduce pesticide use. 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 quality sampling jars.

PESTICIDE REDUCTION

In 2024, CRBC staff connected with locals through a dynamic community outreach program to spread awareness and resources to reduce pesticide use in the watershed. Outreach staff hosted a pesticide reduction awareness table at a wide variety of community events including 4 pub talks with water quality focused topics, The Beaver State Fling (national disc golf championship) and Oregon City Pride at the Clackamas Community College. We also share pesticide reduction messaging through social media, and community presentations and workshops. Additionally, we share pesticide reduction information at stewardship work parties throughout the year, and we continued our partnerships with 5 local nurseries by them hosting displays with resources and alternatives to pesticides. *Photo: CRBC staff member Dakota Hufford hosts a table in Oregon City to promote pesticide reduction.*

STEWARDSHIP & VOLUNTEERISM

A SALUTE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

We thank our AMAZING volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Our work is not possible without you.

VOLUNTEERS CLEAN OUR RIVERS

On September 8th, 2024, our incredible volunteers showed up big time. A total of 140 volunteers removed 1,540 pounds of trash from a 22-mile stretch of river during our annual Down the River Cleanup — part of a legacy effort that has cleared 44 tons of debris since 2004. On September 28th, the momentum continued upstream with our first-ever Upper Clackamas Cleanup, where 50 volunteers tackled litter across 24 dispersed campsites along the Wild and Scenic Clackamas and Collawash Rivers, hauling out another half ton of trash.



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 2024, we increased the total number of stands from 9 to 13. 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. A team of River Ambassador volunteers amplifies this work with weekly floats on the Clackamas, removing roughly 100 lbs of trash a week!



VOLUNTEERS WORK HARD

Our volunteers make a lasting difference. In 2024, 437 volunteers contributed 1,834 hours restoring and caring for the Clackamas River watershed. From planting native trees and shrubs to removing invasive weeds and tending young plants, their efforts improved habitat and strengthened connections to the land. Together, they brought energy and dedication to 15 restoration sites across the basin — helping ensure a cleaner, healthier river for all.



Photo Top: Henry the dog shows off his haul after an on-water cleanup

Photo middle: Volunteers Erin Holland (left) and Tina Johnson (right) with a river-access-only Stash the Trash bag stand.

Photo Bottom: Volunteer Patsy Mugg clears trails of noxious plants during a work party in 2024.

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2024, our community of students, residents, and volunteers came together to care for the Clackamas River and the lands that sustain it. Thank you to everyone who took part — for your time, curiosity, and heart for the Clackamas River. Together, we're growing a community of stewards for generations to come.



STUDENT EDUCATION

Thanks to dedicated teachers, students, and partners, 882 youth explored the watershed through hands-on and virtual learning. 109 students experienced our Clackamas360 virtual reality tour, and 150 joined field trips to study salmon, macroinvertebrates, and native plants. With support from the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, Portland General Electric, Water Environment Services, Clackamas River Water Providers, and Oregon City Community Enhancement, students discovered how their actions today shape a healthier future for the river. Photo: students from Clackamas High School pose with salmon carcasses at Eagle Creek.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Through the generosity of our community, the Tim Shibahara Memorial Scholarship Fund supported two future environmental leaders: Jocelyn Clark (Animal Sciences) and Ava Shibahara (Environmental Engineering), both at Oregon State University.

INTENTIONAL PROGRAMMING

We are deeply grateful to the residents of the Clackamas River Community Cooperative and Shadowbrook Mobile Park, who built birdhouses, stained bat boxes, crafted pollinator baskets, and grew native plants for their greenspace. Together we shared trail cleanups, BBQs, and laughter — proof that caring for nature also strengthens community.

Photo: community members Patsy Mugg and JoAnn Cox plant pollinator baskets at the Clackamas River Community Cooperative.

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

More than 160 community members joined eight online workshops and a pub talk to learn about native plants, rain gardens, beavers, and pesticide alternatives. Their enthusiasm shows that every yard, balcony, and neighborhood can make a difference for clean water and wildlife.

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

IN-STREAM

- 7 miles of stream habitat enhanced for native fish
- 245 logs placed to create complex habitat
- 2 large-scale in-stream projects completed

STUDENTS

- 882 students reached with watershed health education
- 109 students experienced the Clackamas360 virtual tour
- 150 students went on nature-based field trips with CRBC

RIPARIAN

- 16,710 trees and shrubs planted through Shade Our Streams
- 4,055 feet of stream bank restored with native plants/shrubs
- 63 acres of land treated through CRISP
- 18,100 trees and shrubs planted for wildfire recovery

VOLUNTEER

- 302 volunteers participated in river cleanup events
- 4,090 lbs of trash removed from the Clackamas River
- 817 total volunteers donated time to CRBC
- 2,869 volunteer hours contributed to CRBC

REVENUE & EXPENSES

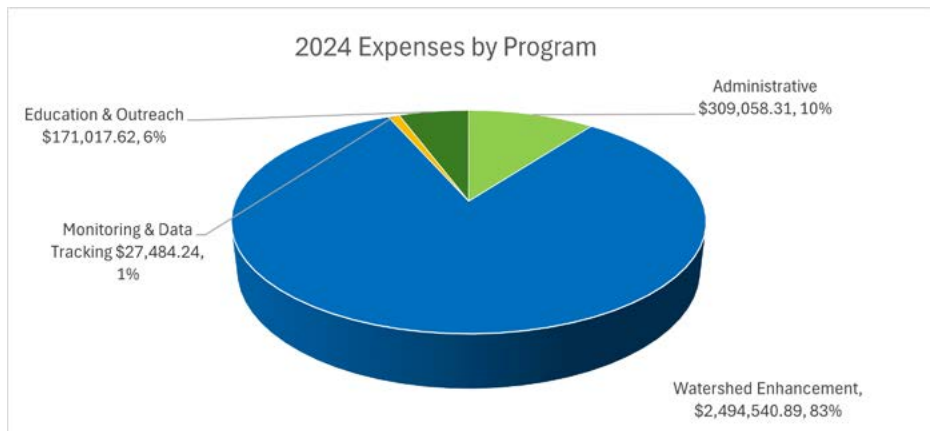
REVENUE INCREASING

Revenue increases and diversification have been realized in 2024. We have increased our overall revenue by over \$1 million in additional funding and have increased our corporate revenue by 12%! These funds are critical for supporting restoration, education and monitoring programming. CRBC is actively seeking additional funding to complete future projects.



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.



VOLUNTEERISM

We appreciate our volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to watershed stewardship activities. A total of 817 volunteers donated a resounding 2,819 total hours to CRBC in 2024!

2024 VALUE OF VOLUNTEERISM TO CRBC:

Volunteer contributions in 2024 are valued at **\$98,082!**



*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
Historical Research Associates
Inter-Fluve, Inc.
J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co.
Johnson Creek Watershed Council
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
Metro
Molalla River Watch
Mosaic Ecology LLC
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
Pepsi Beverages of America
Pesticide Stewardship Partners
Port Blakely
Portland Community College
Portland General Electric
Portland State University
Pudding River Watershed Council
River Design Group
Rivers of Life Center
Scholls Valley Native Nursery
Sevenoaks Native Nursery
Shade Our Streams Landowners
Shadowbrook Mobile Home Park
SOLVE
Soul River Inc.
Starbucks
Sustainable Northwest
The Living Room/New Avenues for
Youth
The Nature Conservancy
The Marylhurst School
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

GOVERNMENT, CORPORATE, ORGANIZATION & FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Benevity Community Impact Fund
Bonnevill 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 Blackburn 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



Photo: CRBC Board Member Dave Bugni, and Oregon State University's Sarah Cameron standing with several large logs that were installed through the North Fork Eagle Creek Fish Habitat Project.

CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

David Bugni, Chair — Small Woodlot Owner
Renee Harber, Chair-Elect — Citizens at Large
Casey Bage, Secretary — Recreation Interests
Aaron Caldwell, Treasurer — Agriculture Interests

Executive Committee Members at Large:

Nick Ackerman — Local Utilities
Bill Monroe — Recreation Interests
Gail Shaloum — Special Districts

Along with Officers, Our Community Representatives:

Rafaël Andersen — Commerce
John Borden — Environmental Interests
Andy Buoni — Agriculture
Brian Chou — Industry
Gwen Collier — Citizens at Large
Dan Cramer — Local Utilities
Justin Davis — Citizen at Large
Douglas DeHart — Fish & Wildlife
Julia Eden — Environmental Interests
Carl Exner — City Interests
Jeff Fulop — Small Woodlot Owners
Gary Guttridge — Tributary Property Owners
Lowell Hanna — Citizen at Large
Earlean Marsh — Rural CPO
Harry Rectenwald — Fish & Wildlife
Ivars Steinblums — Citizens at Large
Terry Turner — Fish and Wildlife
Kari McClellan — USFS Liaison
Jack Williamson — USFS Liaison

STAFF

Mary Logalbo & Cheryl McGinnis — Executive Directors
Amy Barton — Communication & Stewardship Manager
Eric Butler — Riparian Specialist
Dakota Hufford — Communication & Program Coordinator
Isaac Sanders — Restoration Program Manager
Eva Gallardo-Perez — Accounting & Office Admin Specialist





STAY IN TOUCH

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www.clackamasriver.org



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MAIL US

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VISIT US

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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.

