

McKenzie Watershed Council

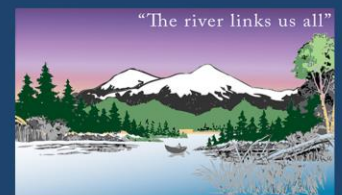
Our Mission

To foster better stewardship of the McKenzie River watershed resources, deal with issues in advance of resource degradation, and ensure sustainable watershed health, function, and use.



2018 Annual Report

Celebrating 25 Years



www.mckenziawc.org

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"The McKenzie Watershed Council was formed in 1994 to address complex ecological challenges facing the McKenzie River through collaborative and voluntary efforts. This unique approach forms the basis for much of the restoration and conservation work taking place within the watershed today. Our accomplishments have been made possible by the cooperative and dedicated support from a wide range of private landowners, public agencies, local governments, and engaged residents. Thank you! We look forward to another 25 years of working together to protect and restore this magnificent place."

- Jared Weybright, Executive Director

Education

Salmon Watch

Salmon Watch connects youth to the salmon life cycle by integrating in-class lessons with a field trip to see wild salmon spawning. Field trips are organized into four separate stations where volunteers teach lessons on salmon biology, water quality, aquatic macroinvertebrates, and riparian ecology. In 2018, over 1,200 students from eight school districts in Lane County participated in 40 field trips to the upper McKenzie River and Whittaker Creek (Siuslaw River). The program is managed by the McKenzie Watershed Council with support from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), McKenzie Fly Fishers, Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB), McKenzie Masters, and many other volunteers.



Students from Churchill HS based Rachel Carson Academy, preparing for a stream-side salmon lunch



Students snorkeling on Deer Creek

WATERS Program

The Watershed Action Teams for Enhancement, Restoration, and Stewardship (WATERS) program integrates environmental education within priority watershed restoration and monitoring projects in the Upper Willamette River Basin. Over 200 middle and high school students from 15 schools in six local school districts participated in 2018. Four high school teams focused on monitoring water quality in the City of Springfield urban core, Upper McKenzie River, and Mohawk River. Two additional high school teams completed stream habitat surveys associated with in-stream restoration projects on Deer Creek and Gate Creek. Fifteen middle school teams engaged in riparian restoration projects on a range of public and private lands. A student-led conference at the end of the school year provided a forum for over 100 students to share their projects with peers, local professionals, and the public. WATERS is managed jointly by the Coast Fork Willamette and McKenzie Watershed Councils.

Events

Salmon Celebration

The fourth annual Salmon Celebration marked the yearly return of spring Chinook salmon to the McKenzie River. Volunteers led a number of stations where over 100 visitors had the opportunity to view salmon spawning, learn to fly-cast, create fish-themed art, and much more. Held in late September, the family-friendly event is a partnership between the Council, McKenzie River Trust, ODFW, and the McKenzie Community Track and Field.



Fish printing fun



Trash collected during the river cleanup

McKenzie River Cleanup

In collaboration with the McKenzie River Guides Association and McKenzie Fly Fishers, the annual river cleanup was held July 7th, 2018. Over 100 volunteers removed more than 10 cubic yards of trash from the river. Afterward, volunteers enjoyed a great BBQ and raffle with gifts from local sponsors. This family-friendly event is a great opportunity to explore the river while helping to protect water quality and habitat.

Council Meetings

Our monthly meetings are open to the public and we strive to bring educational presentations to local communities. Topics in 2018 included Western Cascade fire ecology, toxic algal blooms, and riparian forest ecology. Meetings occur on the second Thursday of the month and rotate between Springfield locations and the McKenzie Fire & Rescue Training Center in Leaburg. Meeting minutes, schedules, and past presentations are available on the Council website.

South Fork Phase I

The installation of Cougar Dam, placement of levees and berms, the harvest of riparian forests, and active removal of in-stream wood combined to transform the lower South Fork McKenzie River into a simplified, largely single-thread channel with limited habitat for spring Chinook salmon and other native species. The Lower South Fork McKenzie River Floodplain Enhancement Project is a multi-phased approach to restoring habitat, floodplain connection, and river function downstream of Cougar Dam.



Diversion channel on the South Fork McKenzie River



Large wood transport



Large wood placement by excavator



Whole tree placement by helicopter

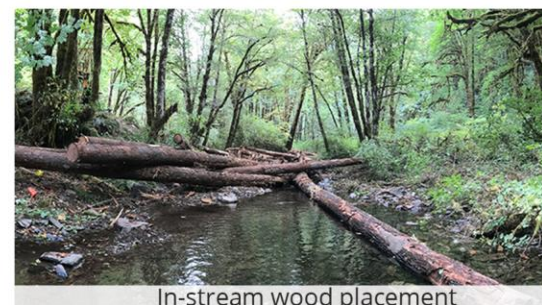
Phase I, completed in 2018, removed over 85,000 cubic yards of berms, old roadbeds, and deposits from the floodplain and used that material to aggrade nearly 0.77 miles of the incised mainstem channel. Nearly 3,000 pieces of large wood were placed throughout the floodplain. The lower South Fork is now reconnected to its floodplain and forming diverse pool, backwater, and wetland habitats. The project was managed by the US Forest Service (USFS) and Council with support from the ODFW and US Army Corps of Engineers. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Bonneville Power Administration, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and USFS funding the project.



Reconnected floodplain, post-project.

Lower Deer Creek

Deer Creek provides important habitat for spring Chinook salmon and other native species in the middle McKenzie River upstream from the community of Vida. A history of stream cleaning, timber harvest, and road building within the sub-watershed actively removed large wood from the stream channel and floodplain and degraded aquatic habitat. The Lower Deer Creek Floodplain Enhancement Project added over 200 pieces of large wood to the lower 0.68 miles of the creek on BLM-owned land in an effort to restore aquatic habitat and floodplain connectivity. OWEB, the Council, and BLM funded the project.



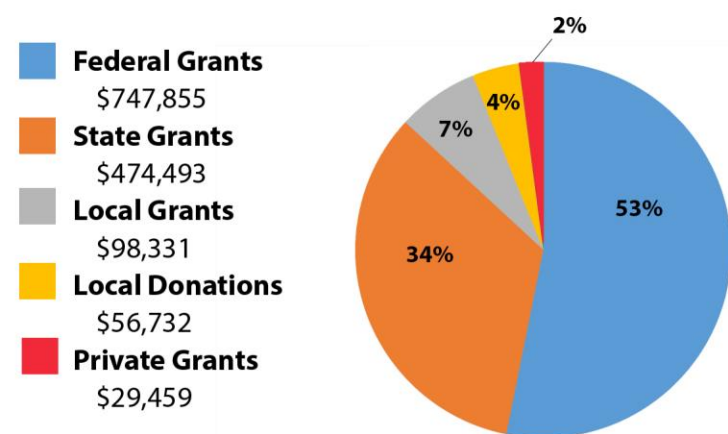
In-stream wood placement

Pure Water Partners Program

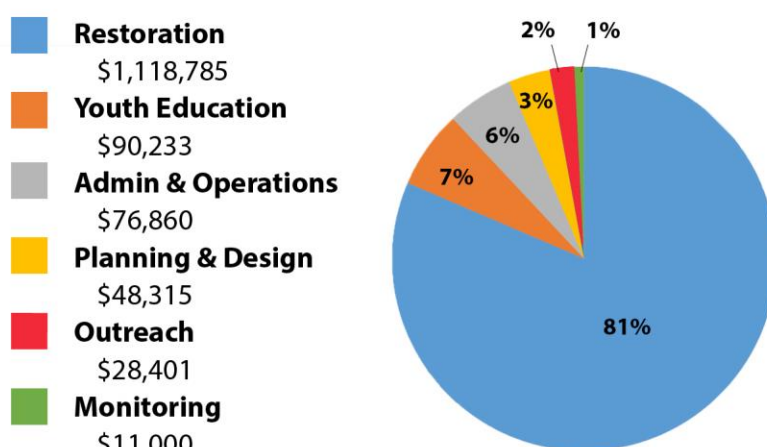
The Pure Water Partners (PWP) Program is an initiative designed to protect water quality through the long-term conservation and restoration of riparian forests. Eligible landowners who enter into long-term agreements to protect high-quality land along the river qualify to receive incentives ranging from annual payments to technical assistance. In 2018, PWP was able to work with 32 different landowners in the McKenzie sub-basin. More information is available on the EWEB website <https://purewaterpartners.org/>

Financial Information

2018 Funding By Source



2018 Expenses by Category



Official Council Partners

Bureau of Land Management
City of Springfield
City of Eugene
Eugene Water & Electric Board
HJ Andrews Experimental Forest
International Paper
Lane County

McKenzie Fly Fishers
McKenzie River Guides Association
McKenzie River Ranger District (USFS)
McKenzie River Trust
McKenzie Schools
Mohawk Watershed Partnership
NW Steelheaders Association

Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Rice Family Farms
Upper Willamette SWCD
US Army Corps of Engineers
Weyerhaeuser
Wildish
8 Resident Partners

2018 Supporters

Bi-Mart
Bonneville Power Administration
Bureau of Land Management
Cabela's
City of Springfield
City of Eugene
Environmental Protection Agency
Eugene Water & Electric Board
Franz Bakery
Gray Family Foundation
International Federation of Fly Fishers
Lane County
Mazama Sporting Goods
McKenzie Fly Fishers

McKenzie Masters
McKenzie River Trust
Meyer Memorial Trust
Mt. Rose Herbs
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
Newman's Fish Company
Ninkasi Brewing
One Tree Planted
Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Oregon Lox Company
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Pacific Continental Bank
Pacific States Marine Fishery Commission
Planktown Brewing

REI
SOLVE
Spirit Mt. Community Fund
Springfield Public Schools
Springfield Utility Board
The Freshwater Trust
Wayfarer Resort
Weyerhaeuser Foundation
Wildish
US Fish & Wildlife Service
US Forest Service
& Many Individual Donors

Council Staff

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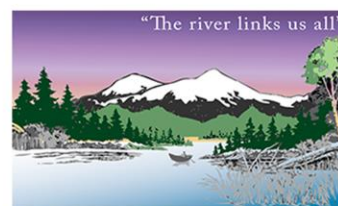
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The McKenzie Watershed Council, established in 1994, brings together residents, organizations, businesses, and government agencies to collaboratively address ecological and management issues in the watershed.



McKenzie Watershed Council

To learn more, or to get involved, contact us at our downtown Springfield office.

