

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

A year of growth.

Dedicated to improving the health of streams  
and watersheds on Oregon's central coast.







# COORDINATOR REPORT

**Evan Hayduk**  
**Council Coordinator**

2021 was another productive year for implementation of restoration projects, but it will be a lot more fun once we can share the results face to face again. We are optimistic about meeting again and building our outreach programs in the watersheds we serve in 2022 with our new staff member dedicated to outreach and education, but for now it's great to see friendly names and faces at our virtual meetings.

Together, our staff, partners, and contractors carried out four major instream habitat restoration projects this year. In Poole Slough, an important wetland in the Yaquina Bay estuary, an unused road was removed. This restored full tidal connectivity to upper Poole Slough and lower Wright Creek. As an experimental pilot project, donated logs were also placed above the high tide line to restore historic large woody debris loading to these future "Landward Migration Zone" areas. The logs will break down over time and act as nurse logs, allowing Sitka spruce and other associated species to grow above the often inundated surface. This should increase the resiliency of the area to higher tides and climate change as the sea level rises in the coming decades. You can read more about our Sea Level Rise study on our website.



Poole Slough road removal



Nurse logs above tide line



In the upper Alsea basin, twelve large log jams were installed on Ernest Creek on the Thyme Garden property to increase stream complexity and habitat quality. Many of the logs for this project were salvaged from the Echo Mountain Fire near Otis, OR. After about five years of planning and designing, the major groundwork was completed in less than a week! Informational signage on the site will help spread the word about this important work with the community that frequents the Thyme Garden retail nursery, and those who participate in their annual Fall Salmon Celebration.



Log jam structure in Ernest Creek

On S. Beaver Creek, upstream from Ona Beach, major work took place on two properties. That work is highlighted elsewhere in this report.

The busy summer included working with Lane County Public Works to replace a failing culvert on Crazy Creek near Alsea. We helped partners with restoration after the Echo Mountain fire, collected water temperature data in the Alsea basin, monitored fish, sediment, and wood now passing through our massive North Creek culvert in the Siletz basin, maintained past riparian plantings, and planned/fundraised for new projects. Please stop by our new office or call for more information!

We are looking forward to 2022 and beyond. This year we will take time to step back and look at our long term priorities through a formal Strategic Planning session. We are excited to maximize our impact for the habitats and communities of the MidCoast region for years to come.

Hope to see you in the office or field soon!



# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

**Paul Engelmeyer**

**Council Chair, Ten Mile Sanctuary Manager, Portland  
Audobon Socceity & Central Coast Manager, The  
Wetlands Conservancy**

The MidCoast Watersheds Council (Council) has done an amazing job in 2021 effectively implementing on-the-ground projects throughout these challenging times. Throughout the year the Council has also hosted educational presentations on a range of issues - all of which can be viewed via links on our website.

Recently, ODFW revisited their 12 year Coho Recovery and Management Plan. This Plan gives the Council guidance on where best to work to improve habitat conditions for Coho which are still listed under the Endangered Species Act. It emphasizes the importance of continuing our work to improve water quality and stream complexity, both of which are the key factors to recover coho salmon. This is a long term commitment to actually protect and restore ecological processes from the ridge-top to the estuaries if we are going to truly rebuild these populations.

Two efforts that I want to highlight for you are the Yaquina estuary project on Wetlands Conservancy lands near Toledo and the lower Big Creek restoration effort

on State Park lands between Yachats and Florence. Presentations on both projects can be viewed on our website. Some of you may be aware that actions to protect Big Creek date back to the 1980s when a destination resort was proposed for this important ecological area. If you are interested in more of the back story you can obtain a recently released book 'Saving Big Creek' by local resident Andrea Scharf.

The MCWC has been working for years with the Oregon Central Coast Estuarine Collaborative which involves other conservation organizations, federal and state agencies, and tribes who strive to improve the health and resilience of estuaries on the central coast. This year the Council and the Collaborative submitted a Focused Investment Partnerships project to OWEB - the effort will be restoring tidal marshes and spruce swamps in the Yaquina and Alsea basins. In particular I want to say thanks to not only the conductor of the effort, Debbie Pickering (TNC), but Evan Hayduk and Fran Recht for all the heavy lifting in pulling this process together. Great work - we all thank you.



Find our new social media and more here:



<https://linktr.ee/midcoastwatersheds>

The Council staff and board members have also been engaged with the State's Water Resource Department's 'Place Based Planning' effort for a number of years. The Mid Coast basin is one of four pilot projects within the state selected to bring community understanding and voice to water quantity issues. I would like to give a shout out to Council members Mike Broili, Fred Holzmer and Bill Montgomery for their efforts within this challenging process. Balancing growth and development, water use and keeping adequate water in our streams for salmon fry during the ever-longer dry months will not be easy. There is an opportunity to review the document and the draft plan.

Finally, the 1982 Yaquina Estuary Management Plan (YEMP) is being updated and the Council has been invited to engage in this effort. Our Coordinator and Chair are on the advisory group. This as an excellent opportunity to bring the Council and interested community members into this effort. If interested please contact Evan or email [ethan@willamettepartnership.org](mailto:ethan@willamettepartnership.org) to receive information on events, how to get engaged, or to provide direct feedback.

I hope to cross paths with you at one of our field trips, or maybe even a face-to-face Council presentation soon. Stay healthy.

# COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Recordings of these presentations are available on our website and YouTube

**January:** Yaquina Tidal Wetland Restoration Project (Evan Hayduk, MCWC)

**February:** Oregon's Lost Sea Otters: Restoring a Cultural Heritage and Ecological Keystone (Elakha Alliance)

**April:** Finding Species Through eDNA (Dr. Kellie Carim, US Forest Service National Genomics Center for Wildlife and Fish Conservation)

**May:** Bring Back the Pollinators! (Xerces Society)

**June:** The Soil Will Save Us (Kristen Ohlson, Author)

**August:** Prescribed Fires on the Oregon Coast (Aaron Groth and Debbie Pickering)

**September:** Financing Watershed Protection (Ben Hayes, Springboard Forestry)

**October:** What Hatfield's Visitors Teach Researchers About Communicating Climate Change (Shawn Rowe, HMSC)

**November:** Protecting Oregon's Underwater Forests (Tom Calvanese, Oregon Kelp Alliance)

**December:** Natural Habitats and Fish Communities in Oregon Estuaries (Scott Heppell, HMSC)



# BY THE NUMBERS

**4 INSTREAM RESTORATION PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED**

**16 ACRES OF RIPARIAN ZONE PLANTED**

**1 MAJOR PROJECT DESIGNED (LOWER DRIFT TIDAL RESTORATION)**

**5 NEW LANDOWNERS ENGAGED**

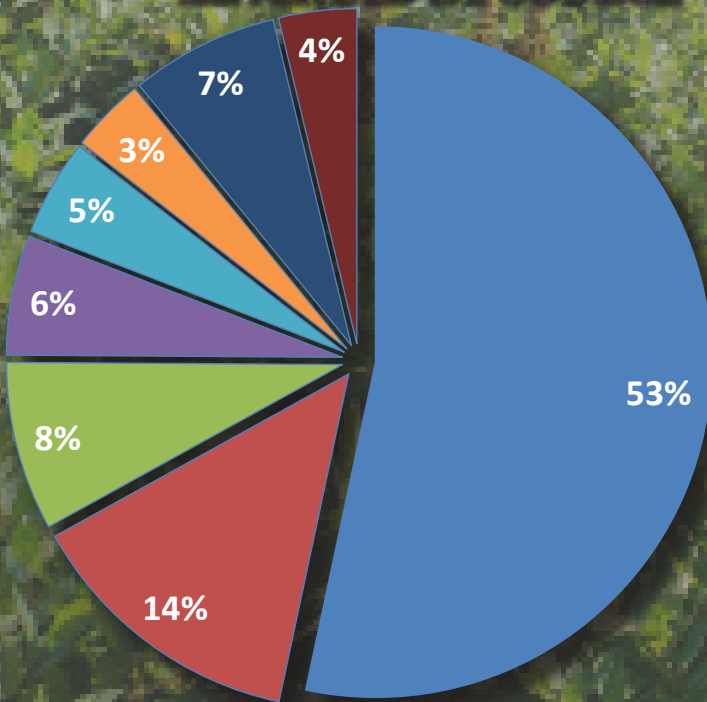
**1 FISH PASSAGE BARRIER REPLACED**

**1 MILE OF FISH PASSAGE RESTORED**

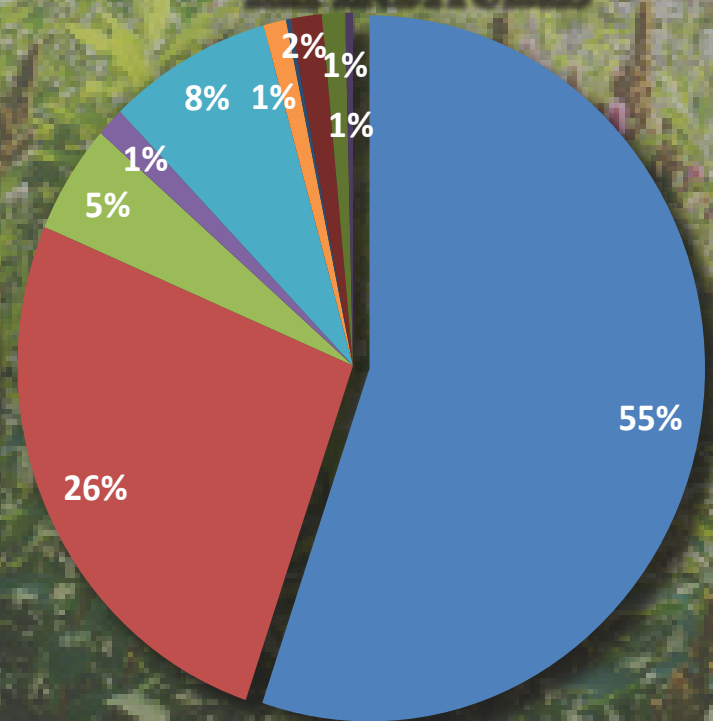
**OVER 500 PIECES OF LARGE WOOD PLACED**

## FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUES BY SOURCE



EXPENDITURES



■ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) (\$327,32)
■ Admin (\$83,601)
■ US Fish and Wildlife Service (\$50,005)
■ Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development (CPRCD) (\$35,432)
■ PPP Loan (\$28,534)
■ Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council (SDCWC) (\$22,125)
■ Other (\$43,702)
■ NFWF (\$23,009)

■ Contract Services (\$377,061)	■ Personal Services (\$179,359)
■ Material and Supplies (\$34,317)	■ Equipment (\$9,126)
■ Administration Expenses (\$54,123)	■ Office Rent (\$7,460)
■ Internet, Telephone, Utilities (\$1,471)	■ Travel and Conferences (\$10,328)



# THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!!

We are in constant awe of the generosity and dedication of our volunteers both in the field and on our committees. Without their time, effort, and knowledge, our work would simply be impossible. Volunteers planted thousands upon thousands of saplings, collected native seeds, and propagated native species. The restored areas will serve as the legacy of their commitment to improve the ecosystems we all depend on.

As COVID has severely restricted our ability to gather with our larger community over the past 2 years, our volunteer days have been a highlight of our work. Connecting with people for our common goal is the backbone of our work, so we are extremely grateful for those that connect with us. We also could not run without the service of Board members and Technical Team members.

If you would like to volunteer, please reach out!



Reporting for planting!



Weeding at our Native Plant Nursery



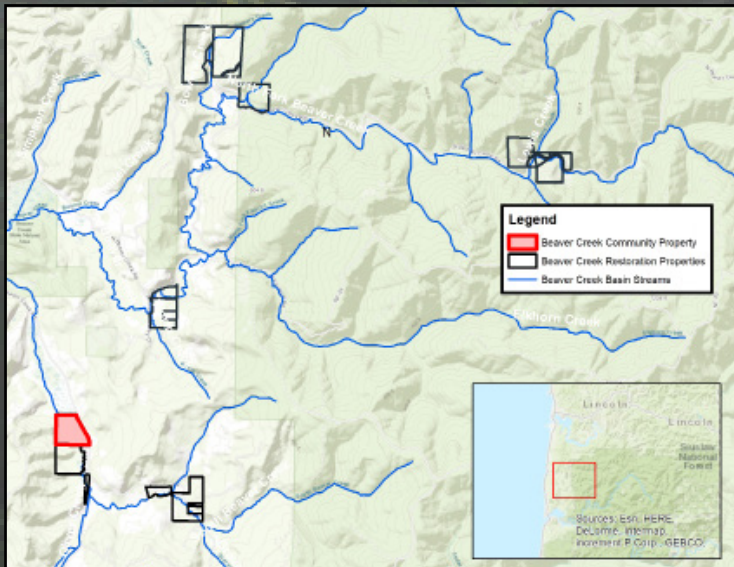
Our amazing planting crew on North Beaver Creek



# BEAVER CREEK

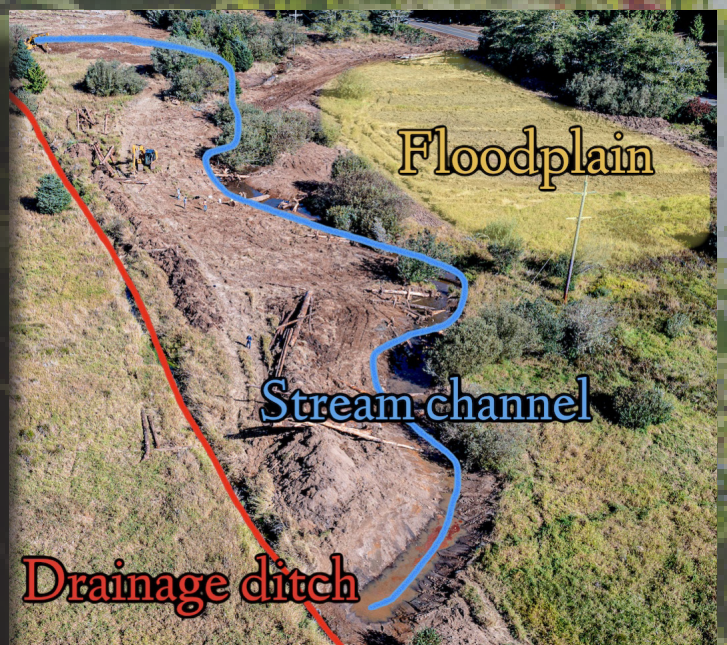
The Beaver Creek basin, near Seal Rock, Oregon, provides year-round habitat for endangered Oregon Coast coho salmon, as well as Chinook, winter steelhead, and other resident fish. The tributaries, freshwater wetland, and broad floodplains offer complex habitats, but the landscape has been severely impacted by human alteration. Through the willingness of local landowners and the help of LSWCD, we are attempting to restore and protect the fish habitat in this basin.

To maximize the benefit for fish, we employ a variety of strategies to rewild these areas, including invasive species removal, native plant establishment, stream channel alteration, and large wood placements.



One property received major restoration treatment this year. Located around mile marker 2 of South Beaver Creek Road, the creek and floodplain had been channelized through a narrow drainage ditch that offered little to no habitat for aquatic life in an unsuccessful attempt to farm in the wetland. The wide former floodplain had become overgrown with invasive Reed Canary Grass (RCG).

To restore natural functions, MCWC coordinated contractors to reconnect the creek to its former channel, fill the artificial ditch, place several large wood habitat structures, and scrape up about two acres of the RCG. Doubling the length of the stream, reconnecting to the historic floodplain, and seeding and planting the bare dirt with pollinator friendly native plants and trees will vastly improve the habitat quality and quantity in this site for years to come.



Drone photo by Peter Vance



Properties are planted heavily with plants from our and Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership's (NORP) nurseries. Trees we plant include cedar, spruce, douglas fir, cottonwood, hemlock, big leaf maple and red alder. Native shrubs include elderberry, salmonberry, twinberry, spirea, cascara, red flowering currant, dogwood, ninebark, and several species of willow. On bare soil we seed heavily with native forbes (plants without woody stems) and graminoids (grasslike plants) such as yarrow, slough sedge, blue wild rye, and many others. These native species provide much more food and shelter for wildlife and pollinators than non-native species.



Volunteers planting in elk enclosure cages on North Beaver Creek



Our "Branch Manager" Tahoma at our Beaver Creek Native Plant Nursery



Wood placement in restored channel on South Beaver Creek

The council would like to express our appreciation to the Beaver Creek community, especially Boone Ogden and Kate Scannell for their efforts in outreach and invasive species control in the basin. We consider them pioneer partners in the restoration effort in the Beaver Creek basin. Momentum continues to build in this priority area for salmon and other species.

We are planning a follow-up to our past manual yellow flag iris control efforts to match our habitat restoration soon. You are, of course, invited.



# INVESTMENTS IN OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Communicating the benefits and urgency of habitat restoration is an important part of reaching our goals. MidCoast Watershed Council has renewed its investment in concerted education and outreach programs with the creation of the Education and Outreach Specialist position. This role was filled in July 2021 by recent OSU graduate, Tom McCambridge.

Along with redesigning our website, we have finally established presence on social media outlets. We hope to use these tools to increase awareness of the sensitivity of our habitats and what we are doing to protect them.

Looking forward, we will continue to provide more learning opportunities for the community by presenting at local events, getting students and school groups out to our restoration sites, and facilitating meaningful participation in habitat restoration.

## STAFF

*Council Coordinator: Evan Hayduk*  
*Watershed Restoration Specialist: Trevor Griffiths*  
*Education and Outreach Specialist: Tom McCambridge*

## BOARD

*Chair: Paul Engelmeyer*  
*Vice Chair: Mike Broili*  
*Recorder: Fran Recht*  
*Commercial Fishing Representative: Jeff Feldner*  
*Siletz Watershed Council Representative: Don Larsen*  
*Small Woodlot Owners Representative: Joe Steere*  
*Restoration Workers Representative: Mark Stone*  
*Industrial Forest Representative: Jennifer Beathe*  
*Public at Large: Bill Montgomery, Fred Holzmer, Susan Hogg*  
*Recreational Fishing Representative: Joe Rohleder*  
*Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council: Paul Katen*





# FINAL NOTES



**Reconnected marsh on Poole Slough (Yaquina estuary)**

The MidCoast Watersheds Council works on land originally stewarded in a sustainable way by the ancestors of those now known as the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians (CTSI).



**Our Conservation Nursery perched over South Beaver Creek wetland**

We are proud to partner with CTSI for the implementation and monitoring of our restoration activities.

Our conservation nurseries have been developing simultaneously since 2018, and the sharing of plants, knowledge, and lessons has been invaluable to our work.



**Before: Failing Crazy Creek Culvert**



**After: Full bridge on Crazy Creek**



# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Aaron, Katie, Leo, & Ona Duzik  
Aaron Groth  
Andy Doremus  
Andrea Halliday  
Annie Young Matthews  
Ari Blatt  
Audubon Society of Portland  
Barbara Lachenbruch  
Barry McPherson  
Ben Hayes  
Benton County  
Benton Soil and Water Conservation District  
Bill Montgomery  
Bob Langley  
Boone Ogden  
Brian Fowler  
Bureau of Land Management  
Carla Shetzline  
Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development  
Celeste Lebo  
City of Newport  
City of Siletz  
City of Toledo  
Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians  
Craig Berdie  
Dan Elefant  
Debbie Pickering  
Don & June Larsen  
Elakha Alliance  
Elmer Ostling  
Fran Recht  
Fred Holzmer  
Georgia-Pacific  
Hancock Forest Management  
Hatfield Marine Science Center  
Holly Endersby & Scott Stouder  
Institute for Applied Ecology  
Jack Singer  
James Bassingthwaite  
James & Judy Marshall  
Jennifer Beathe  
Jeff Feldner  
Joe Rohleder  
Joe Steere  
Joel Keller  
John and Julie Fielder  
John Marshall  
John Theilacker  
Judi Irving & Peter Gurney  
Kate Scannell  
Kellie Carim  
Kevin Erdahl  
Kim Hastings  
KLCC radio  
Kristen Ohlson  
Lane County  
Laura Doyle  
Lincoln County Public Works  
Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District  
Linda Mallinoff  
Mark Saelens  
Marjorie Wolfe  
Marty Stein  
Matt Fehrenbacher  
Michael Posner  
Michael Hempen  
Mike Broili  
Mike Clark  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Noel Bacheller  
Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality  
Oregon Coast Today  
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
Oregon Dept. of Forestry  
Oregon Dept. of State Lands  
Oregon Dept. of Water Resources  
Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept.  
Oregon State University  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
OSU Extension Service  
Pacific Forest Trust  
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Paul Engelmeyer  
Paul Katen  
Paul Robertson  
Peter & Cathy Tronquet  
Private Landowners  
Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council  
Scott Heppell  
Seal Rock Water District  
Shawn Rowe  
Siletz Watershed Council  
Susan Hogg  
SOLVE  
Starker Forests  
Ted DeWitt  
The Nature Conservancy  
The News Guard  
The NewsTimes  
The Wetlands Conservancy  
Thompson Sanitary Service  
Tom Calvanese  
Tom Chandler  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
US Forest Service  
Van Eck Forestry  
Wolf Water Resources  
Weyerhaeuser  
Xeerces Society