



**ROGUE  
RIVER**  
WATERSHED COUNCIL

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2021**



# 10 ACTIVE RESTORATION PROJECTS

435  
PIECES  
OF  
LARGE  
WOOD  
PLACED

16.1 MILES  
OF IMPROVED  
STREAM ACCESS

102.2 ACRES  
REHABILITATED

\$1,222,417  
GRANT  
FUNDING  
AWARDED

0.15 MILES OF  
SIDE CHANNEL  
RECONNECTED

14 PROPOSALS  
FUNDED

130 DONORS

14 EVENTS  
21 VOLUNTEERS  
195 NEW  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
FOLLOWERS

Trees, shrubsdam, fish school, and log symbols: University of Maryland Integration and Application Network. Cover photo: RVCOG

# Healthy communities need healthy watersheds

Brian R. Barr, Executive Director

Focus, focus, and more focus. I'm a strong advocate of zeroing in on places where the RRWC can have an impact and doing what we do best in those places.

In the 2019 annual report, I wrote that RRWC had established priority watersheds and had started working with landowners in those areas on instream and near-stream project development. The restoration results from 2021 demonstrate what the Council's focused approach looks like "on the ground."

Within Little Butte Creek, we stewarded 16.5 acres of streamside forest, implemented the initial clearing of 38.2 additional acres of streamside forest, and prepared a 12-acre pasture (on a floodplain) for planting. We also installed 18 large wood structures on 0.7 miles of South Fork Little Butte and Salt Creeks. We removed two gravel push-up dams from Salt Creek, leaving just two barriers on this cool-water tributary. We are on schedule to replace those push-up dams with diversion structures easily passed by fish in 2022.

In Elk Creek, we stewarded 34.6 acres of streamside forest and initiated the development of two more projects that will rehabilitate 20 acres of streamside forest, reactivate 0.5 miles of secondary channel, and install 23 large wood structures along 1.5 miles of stream channel.

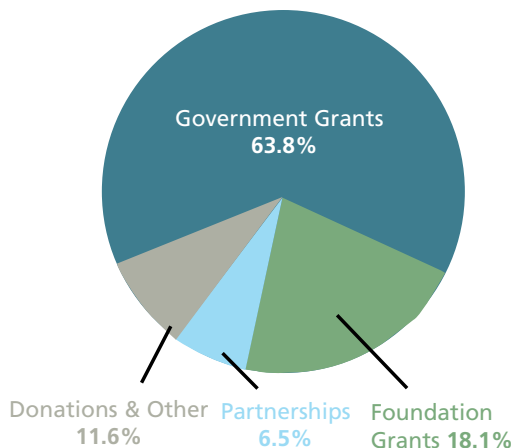
And along Bear Creek, we stewarded 21 acres of streamside forest, planted 9 acres (at Blue Heron Park and near the mouth of Wrights Creek), and sprayed blackberries on 25 acres across 13 privately-owned parcels within the Alameda Fire footprint. We started developing an instream restoration project that will reconnect 0.2 miles of side channel, install 34 large wood structures, and rehabilitate 10.0 acres of riparian forest with the Oregon Department of Transportation, The Freshwater Trust, and the City of Talent near Lynn Newbry Park.

It is easy for most casual observers of our work to ascribe the benefits to fish and wildlife. But the places we work and the types of restoration that we implement have important benefits to water quantity and water quality that is important to municipal water providers like the Medford Water Commission and the cities of Gold Hill, Grants Pass, and Rogue River. The connection between healthy watersheds and healthy communities is something in which we wholeheartedly believe.

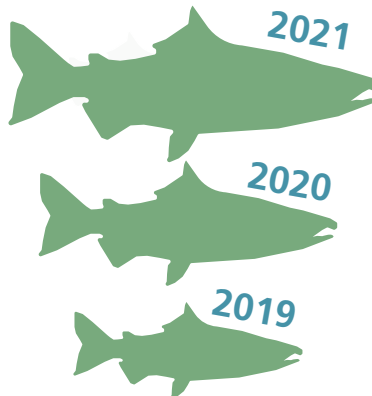
Thank you for your contributions. We do this for you. And we couldn't do it without your support.

## 2021 REVENUE

Total Revenue: \$1,344,784

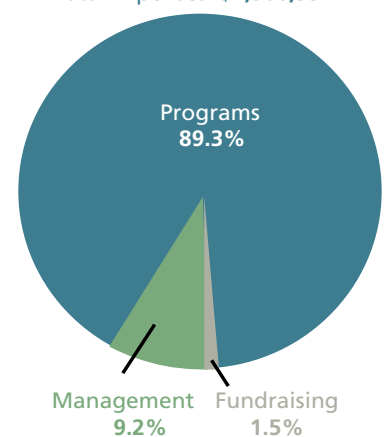


## ENGAGEMENT GROWTH



## 2021 EXPENSES

Total Expenses: \$1,306,552



# Funding and support

## 2021 Board of Directors

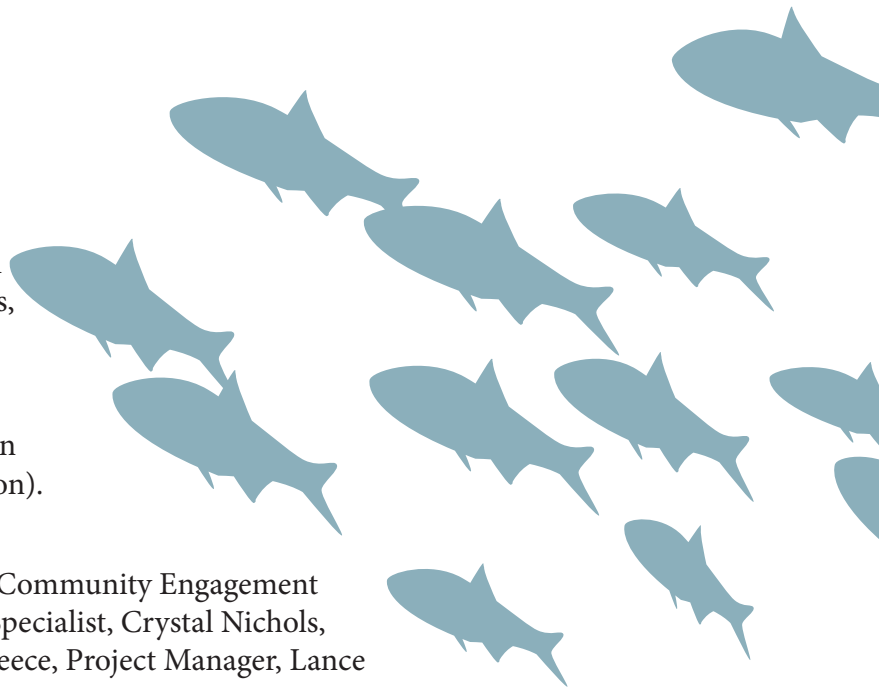
Terry Ruitter, Chair, Jack Williams, Vice Chair, Bela Toledo, Treasurer, Phylis McIntosh, Secretary, Keith Emerson, Dave Grosjacques, Bob Hunter, Bob Jones, Peter Mazzini, and Ray Tharp

## 2021 Board Liaisons

Randy White (Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District), Craig Harper (Medford Water Commission).

## 2021 Staff

Brian Barr, Executive Director, Donna Chickering, Community Engagement Program Manager, Anna Johnson, Administrative Specialist, Crystal Nichols, Community Engagement Project Manager, John Speece, Project Manager, Lance Wyss, Restoration Biologist



## Project Highlight: South Fork Little Butte Creek River Mile 7.6

We completed the “construction” part of the South Fork Little Butte Creek river mile 7.6 project during the summer of 2021 by placing 110 pieces of large wood in 12 strategic locations and reconnecting 0.15 miles of side channel to the primary stream channel. “Construction” started in late 2020 with the careful removal of blackberries, among other invasive species, on 9.4 acres of riparian habitat. The “careful removal” part is an extremely important part of our “Release & Recruit” approach to riparian habitat rehabilitation. It allows the struggling native woody plants like snowberry and ponderosa pine, to quickly grow into mature plants after we remove the competition from the blackberries.

The large wood additions and side channel connections work together with the recovering native plants in the streamside areas to provide the ecological components necessary to improve water quality and stream processes that create and maintain high quality aquatic and terrestrial habitats. These habitats, in turn, build a resilient ecosystem that supports robust, native plants and wildlife.

This is one of roughly 100 projects RRWC and our partners expect to implement over the next few years to support Coho Salmon and improve the quality of source water in the Upper Rogue. Our strategy focuses on increasing the public’s understanding of the importance of ecosystem services, the protection of drinking water sources, and supporting the economy of the region and the livelihoods of Rogue Valley citizens.

*Large wood structure on South Fork Little Butte Creek. Photo credit: Wild Salmon Center*

## Thank you to our generous funders in 2021!

Bureau of Land Management City of Grants Pass City of Phoenix

Jackson County Jackson County Soil & Water Conservation District

Laird Norton Family Foundation Medford Water Commission

Mountain Meadows Community Foundation Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Natural Resources Conservation Service

Oregon Department of Agriculture Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Rogue Basin Partnership The Freshwater Trust U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Forest Service WaterWatch of Oregon Wild Salmon Center

**Thank you to all the individuals who support RRWC through donations, in-kind support, and event sponsorship!**