

Molalla River Watch

2019 Annual Report



From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I hope all of you are finding creative ways to avoid “cabin fever”. Now, I have more time to reflect on 2019. With your help, Molalla River Watch was able to fulfill our mission to promote respect & understanding of the Molalla River Watershed through education & conservation for present & future generations.

New 2019 milestones included the Molalla River getting National Wild & Scenic River designation & we got a new office space. Our regular yearly accomplishments included our 27th annual spring & fall river cleanups & hands-on education with Molalla R High School Environmental Science students. We worked towards restoring important floodplain habitat at the bottom of our watershed at Molalla R State Park. Also, our new partnership with Molalla R Academy allowed us to emphasize the importance of local freshwater conservation to students.

We appreciate all of our supporters and partners. I look forward to meeting more of you. Please join us by volunteering, donating, & signing up for our newsletter!

Sincerely,

Asako Yamamuro
Executive Director

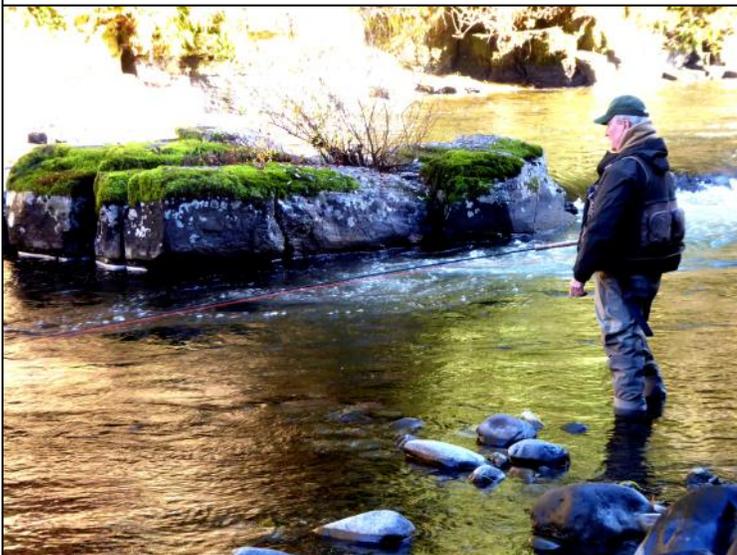
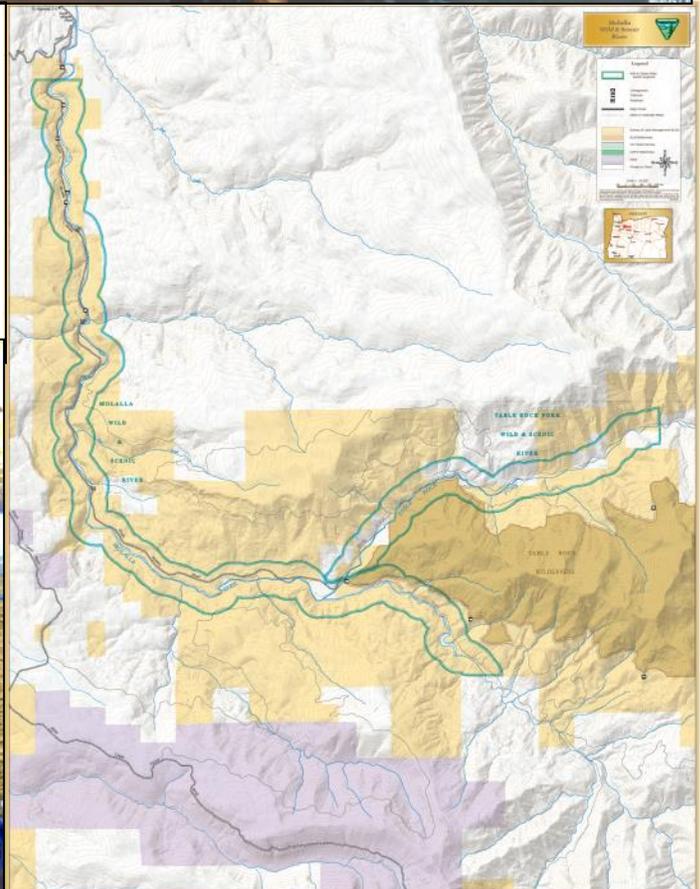


Molalla River: Now a National Wild & Scenic River!

Many partnerships & years of effort have paid off. On March 12, 2019, the upper 15.1 miles of the Molalla River & a 6.2 mile segment of the Table Rock Fork were officially designated as recreational under the National Wild & Scenic River System. The new designation offers more protection for the Molalla River that supplies drinking water to the cities of Molalla & Canby, provides recreational opportunities, & serves as vital habitat for fish & wildlife.



Above: Bill Taylor (middle), Molalla River Watch's board chair, talks to guests at the Molalla Wild & Scenic Celebration. **Right:** BLM map of the Wild & Scenic designated areas in blue outline on the Molalla R & Table Rock Fork. **Below:** Our partners at Molalla River Alliance (MRA) played an integral role in getting Molalla designated. MRA's chair, John Atkins, fishing.



Education



Molalla River High School Environmental Science students got to learn hands-on about forest ecology, native plants, & aquatic insects & beavers at Aquila Vista.



Molalla River Academy students learned about salmon migration back to rivers & why freshwater is so important to conserve. We discussed things taken for granted like flushing toilets!



Outreach



Welcome to our new Molalla River Watch office! 108 Engle Ave in Molalla.



Now, we have a home base to be more available as a resource center for landowners, have meetings with locals & partners, & have more of a presence with the community (like meeting families while passing out candy on Halloween 🎃).

Restoration: Molalla River State Park

Collaborating with Oregon Parks & Rec. Dept. to restore floodplain habitat at Molalla River State Park is Molalla River Watch's largest project to date. Funding support from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Bonneville Power Administration, & Willamette Water Supply Program has allowed for many accomplishments:

- ◆ Treating an extensive invasive knotweed monoculture. In its place we will work to restore a healthier & diverse native floodplain forest.
- ◆ Better understanding the complexity of water temperature, water levels, & restoration potential at the confluence of the Molalla, Pudding, & Willamette Rivers. The State Park has approximately 450 acres of floodplain habitat.
- ◆ Surveying for salmon, lamprey, freshwater mussels, & great blue heron. We plan on restoring natural floodplain functions to increase available habitats.

Found at Molalla R State Park. **RIGHT:** Healthy patch of wapato, an important wetland plant. Indigenous groups eat their tuberous roots. **MIDDLE:** Freshwater mussel, *Anodonta species*. **BOTTOM:** Pacific lamprey juvenile.



Molalla River Cleanups: Our 27th Year!



122 volunteers picked up 1,600 lbs. of trash & 40 lbs of recyclable glass!
Trash to Art participants used trash collected to create art pieces.

Amphibian Egg Mass Surveys: Our 5th Year!



270 northern red-legged frog, **2** northwestern salamander, & **61** chorus frog egg masses, plus **28** adult rough skinned newts surveyed by volunteers in Aquila Vista pond, located in the Molalla Recreation Corridor.

Molalla River Watershed Facts



The Molalla River is the Willamette River's **longest undammed tributary**.

Molalla's **spring Chinook salmon & winter steelhead** populations are listed as **threatened** on the Endangered Species Act.



Molalla River is the **drinking water source** for Molalla & Canby.

The upper section of the Molalla River is designated **State Scenic Waterway & National Wild & Scenic River**.



Make a Difference in the Molalla River Watershed

Amazing volunteers helped us pick up trash, plant trees, pull weeds, maintain trails, cook for fellow volunteers, & mail out newsletters.

Please contact molallariverwatch@gmail.com to:

- **Volunteer with us.**
- **Make a donation.**
- **Join our mailing list.**

