

Molalla River Watch

2020 Annual Report



From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support to Molalla River Watch. 2020 will definitely stand out as a challenging year due to COVID-19 and the wildfires. New words added to our vocabulary include “virtual meeting”, “nimble”, and “new normal”. We were also reminded that the Molalla River is a good place to go to get outside and socially distance during the quarantine.

Even though we were unable to meet in person and do good work together for most of 2020, Molalla River Watch was active behind the scenes wrapping up projects, planning future projects, and developing partnerships related to environmental improvements in our watershed for present & future generations.

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!](#)

With gratitude for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Asako Yamamuro".

Asako Yamamuro, Executive Director



Restoration Projects



Side Channel Restoration:

In collaboration with Native Fish Society, we helped to improve habitat in an important side channel of the Molalla River. The side channel provides refuge to young salmon & trout when the Molalla mainstem temperatures get too hot and reach lethal limits. The side channel remains cool and is an important refuge for temperature sensitive fish. Large wood was added to alter flow, allow water to spill over the wood, and help create more pool habitats that are important to fish.

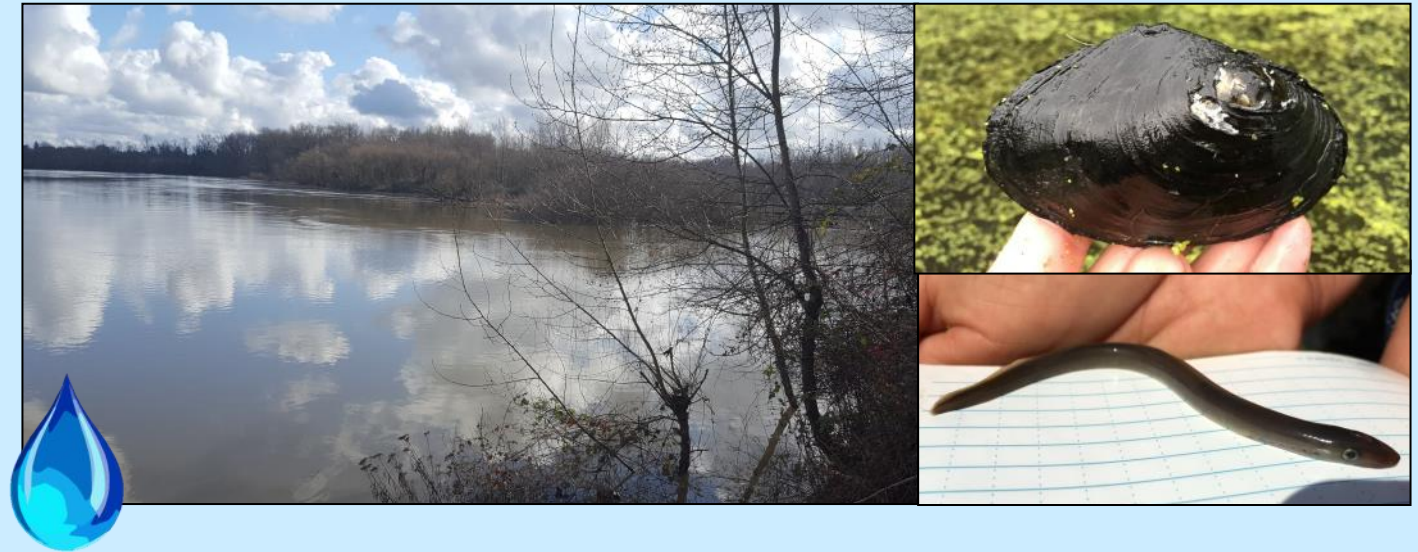


Elks Park:

Molalla River Watch coordinated with the park manager at Elks Park in Mulino to help plant 180 trees with scout troop 257 near the eroding bank on the Molalla River. It was our last in-person event before COVID-19 restrictions.



Restoration Projects



Molalla River State Park:

Molalla River Watch and Oregon Parks & Recreation Department finished up pre-restoration project planning at Molalla River State Park, which has over 400 acres in floodplain habitat and is located at the confluence of the Molalla, Pudding, & Willamette Rivers.

Pre-restoration project planning revealed new information:

- Molalla River State Park is home to lamprey & freshwater mussels! Future restoration work will avoid disturbing juvenile lamprey & freshwater mussel beds now that we know their locations.
- During rainy season high water periods, water from the Willamette backwaters up the Molalla River. So, the floodplain around the mouth of the Molalla also acts as a floodplain to the Willamette River.
- Invasive knotweed occupies more of the State Park than we realized. Over 25 acres of invasive knotweed were treated in preparation for future native planting.

Funders included Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Bonneville Power Administration, and Willamette Water Supply Program.

On-Going Partnerships

Molalla River Drinking Water Project

We continue to participate in the National Water Quality Initiative project initiated by Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District focused on drinking water sourced from the Molalla River. The project assesses potential impacts to drinking water quality. Did you know that Molalla, Colton, & Canby get their drinking water from the Molalla R Watershed? We serve as Technical Advisory Committee members & meet regularly. They are also taking community input at <https://molallariverdrinkingwater.com/>



Amphibian Egg Mass Surveys at Aquila Vista

Conducted our 6th year of amphibian egg mass surveys. We found 654 northern red-legged frog & 16 northwestern salamander egg masses!



On-Going Partnerships



Port Blakely Riparian Planting

Collaborated in planning riparian planting with Port Blakely and Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District on Port Blakely property along Woodcock Creek.



Revamped Molalla River Watch Website

www.molallariverwatch.org

Our remodeled website has more information about our organization, the Molalla River Watershed, & how to join us. We are especially proud of our [Land-owner Resources section](#).



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.**

