



From the Executive Director


Dear Friends,

Thank you for continuing to support Molalla River Watch. 2021 was a pretty great year. We were able to safely meet again in person and together we held our 28th annual spring and fall river cleanup events. Our beloved Molalla Corridor slowly became more accessible post-2020's devastating Beachie Creek Fire. Also, we moved to a new office in Molalla and were lucky to add a new member to our board.

A project that I'm particularly fond of is our collaboration with Molalla River Academy to build a trail on school property in a really cool wooded area that was previously inaccessible to students. [Our project was on the news!](#) The trail winds down to Dickey Cr. and we look forward to future conservation related lessons.

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,


Asako Yamamuro, Executive Director



Community Projects



Trailblazing with Molalla River Academy

Molalla River Watch is helping Molalla River Academy Trailblazing Class students to build a trail on their campus to Dickey Creek, which flows into the Molalla River. Students started by using tools to clear vegetation and make room for the trail, then they used heavier duty equipment to cut in the trail. These students are creating a trail on a part of their campus that wasn't accessible before this project. This will benefit all students at the school for years to come. It opens the possibility for further engagement in their environment, specifically Dickey Creek and the Molalla River.

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Restoration Projects

Woodcock Creek Streamside Plantings



In March 2021, Molalla River Watch staff and volunteers helped Port Blakely staff stage plants at their new home along Woodcock Creek on Port Blakely property.

Port Blakely is a local forestry company. The streamside invasive Himalayan blackberry and reed canary grass were replaced with over 1,400 trees, shrubs, plants, grasses, and sedges. All of the new native plants



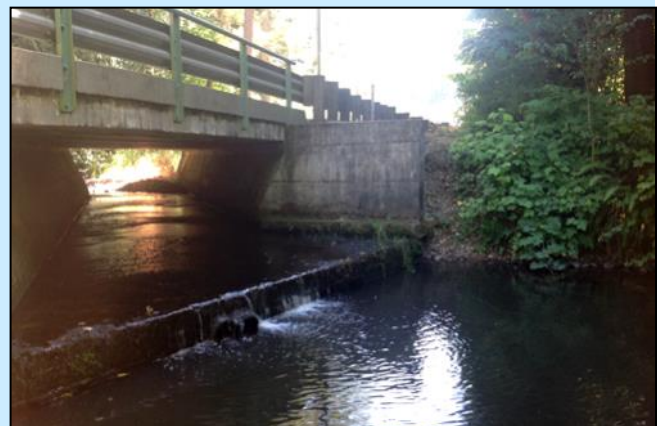
will provide food and cover for a large diversity of animals, stabilize streambanks, help filter nutrients and sediment from reaching water, and shade the stream for temperature sensitive fish like salmon and trout.



Woodcock Creek and Grimm Rd Fish Passage Project



Molalla River Watch, in partnership with Clackamas County's Dept. of Transportation and Development, was awarded a grant from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to replace a culvert that prevents fish passage with a bridge to enable fish passage. The existing concrete box culvert is undersized and perched. At high flows, the flat bottom and constrained sides makes the velocity extremely high and harder for fish to pass through. At low flows, the average depth is 2 inches, making it unpassable. Construction is scheduled for 2023.



Restoration Projects



Molalla River State Park

Molalla River Watch and Oregon Parks & Recreation Department were awarded grants from Willamette Water Supply Program (WWSP) and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for restoration work at Molalla River State Park, which has over 400 acres in floodplain habitat and is located at the confluence of the Molalla, Pudding, and Willamette Rivers. WWSP funds are focused on improving floodplain forest and riparian health by mapping and modeling floodplain shade, continuing to treat 25.5 acres of invasive knotweed monocultures, and replanting those areas with native trees and shrubs.

BPA funds will be used to complete restoration designs and permits to increase abundance and recruitment of instream wood to increase the natural creation of habitat and floodplain connections for fish and wildlife. The restoration design will prompt the river to build its own connectivity and complexity over time.



Weed control contractors in a formerly impassible knotweed monoculture. The first treatment was in 2019. Less effort and herbicide were necessary for second and third rounds of treatment. Planting with natives will begin in 2022!

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 (CSWCD) focused on drinking water sourced from the Molalla River. Molalla River Watch staff and 5 volunteers, helped collect water samples during multiple storm events to help monitor water quality throughout the watershed.

CSWCD is taking community input at

[https://
molallariverdrinking-
water.com/](https://molallariverdrinking-water.com/)



More Community Projects

28th Annual Spring Molalla River Cleanup Event: 51 participants helped cleanup 780 lbs of trash along the Molalla River, cleared 2 miles of trails in the Molalla Corridor, and painted over the graffiti at Hardy Creek Trailhead.

28th Annual Fall Molalla River Cleanup Event: 41 volunteers helped remove 2,300 lbs of trash near the Molalla River, cleaned out 2 campsites of ash, cleared parking areas with leaf blowers, and installed trail signs and cut out fallen trees in the Molalla Corridor trail system.



Fire Resources on Molalla River Watch's Website

www.molallariverwatch.org

The Molalla River Watershed was affected by several 2020 Labor Day fires: Beachie Creek, Riverside, Wilhoit, and Unger. In response, we learned a lot about wildfire recovery and added a list of fire-related resources to our website's [Landowner Resources section](#).



Molalla River Watershed Facts



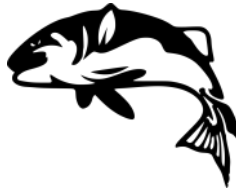
The Molalla River is the Willamette River's **longest undammed tributary**.

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



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

The upper section of the Molalla River is designated **State Scenic Waterway and 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, and mail out newsletters.

Please contact molallariverwatch@gmail.com to:

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

