



From the Executive Director

Dear Molalla River Supporters,

We can't do this work without you! Thank you so much for your continued support of Molalla River Watch and all of your help to make 2022 a successful year. We got a lot accomplished, including celebrating the Dickey Creek Trail at Molalla River Academy, hosting our signature community spring and fall river cleanup events, applying for and continuing to work on several fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects throughout the watershed, and monitoring the water quality of the Molalla River Watershed.

We appreciate all of our supporters and partners who help us do important work. 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

The Dickey Creek Walk trail on Molalla River Academy school grounds was completed in June 2022. Molalla River Watch helped with trail planning and teaching trail tool use so Molalla River Academy Trailblazing Class students could build a trail on their campus to Dickey Creek, which flows into the Molalla River.

Students learned trail building steps: clearing vegetation with tools to make room for the trail and cutting in the trail with heavier duty tools. These students created a trail on part of their campus that wasn't accessible before this project. All current and future students will benefit from the hard work of Trailblazing Class students, led by their teacher, Mrs. Quinlan. Now, all students can further engage in their environment right outside their classrooms.



More Community Projects

29th Annual Spring Molalla River Cleanup

Event: 55 participants helped cleanup 300 lbs of trash and 50 lbs of recycling along the Molalla River, and maintained 2 miles of trails in the Molalla Corridor.

29th Annual Fall Molalla River Cleanup

Event: 25 volunteers, including Antfarm YouthCore, helped remove 800 lbs of trash near the Molalla River and cleared trails in Aquila Vista, an environmental learning area in the Molalla Corridor, where trails had not been maintained since the 2020 Beachie Creek Fire had burned through.



Restoration Projects

Molalla Side Channel Project

Molalla River Watch submitted a grant application for protecting and enhancing four mainstem Molalla River side channels, productive cooler water habitats for salmon and trout to take shelter in during summer months when the mainstem Molalla River water levels drop and temperatures warm up. Salmon and trout



Coho juveniles in a Molalla side channel restored in 2020.

are temperature sensitive and days of consistently high water temperatures can cause illness or death. The project would install large wood to protect the side channels from being blown out by high winter mainstem Molalla River flows and logs to scour deep pools for more cooler water habitat volume.



Restoration Projects

Woodcock Creek Restoration at Port Blakely

Molalla River Watch was awarded a grant from Port Blakely, a local forestry company, and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to work on an instream large wood project in Woodcock Creek to increase fish habitat quality and complexity. Woodcock Creek flows through Port Blakely's Molalla office property. In a truly collaborative effort, the Bureau of Land Management is donating trees to be used for the large wood structures in this restoration project. Project implementation is scheduled for summer 2023.



Dave Stewart, ODFW fish biologist, next to Woodcock Creek. Port Blakely has treated invasives and planted natives in this riparian area in 2021. There is a lack of large wood in the stream and Dave suggests putting one of the 20 wood structures here.

Woodcock Creek and Grimm Rd Fish Passage Project

Molalla River Watch, with partner Clackamas County, is working to replace a culvert with a bridge to enable fish passage through a grant award from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The existing concrete box culvert is undersized and perched. The flat bottom and narrow width makes the water velocity extremely high at high flows and uniformly shallow at low flows, which makes it hard or impossible for fish to pass through. Construction is scheduled for 2024.

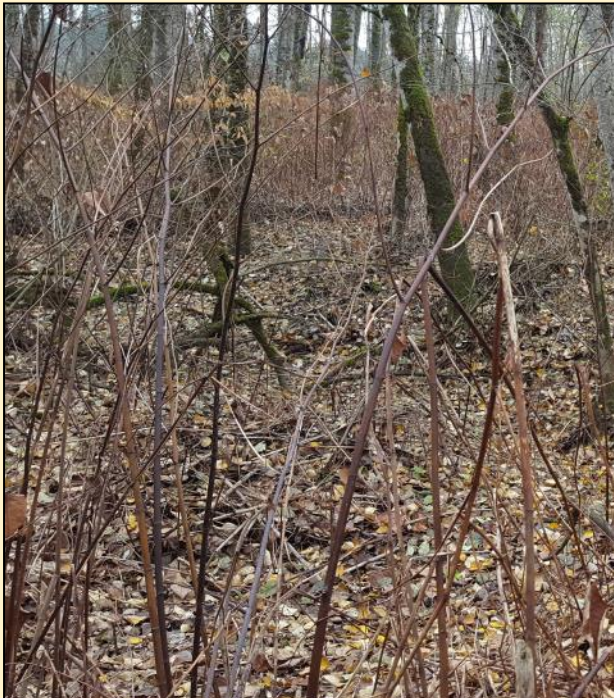


Restoration Projects



Molalla River State Park

Molalla River Watch, in partnership with Oregon Parks & Recreation Department, continues to restore fish and wildlife habitat where the Molalla River flows into the Willamette River at Molalla River State Park in Canby. Work is funded by Willamette Water Supply Program (WWSP) and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Molalla River State Park has over 400 acres in floodplain habitat. WWSP funds are focused on improving floodplain forest and riparian health by continuing to treat 25.5 acres of invasive knotweed monocultures, and replanting those areas with native trees and shrubs. 55,000 native plants (21 species) were planted across 32 acres of floodplain forest during winter 2022 to increase habitat diversity and increase Molalla River shade. BPA funds are being 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.



On left, knotweed treated and dead in fall 2019. On right, planting crews in 2022 installing native plants in spaces previously occupied by invasive knotweed.

Water Quality Monitoring



Molalla River Drinking Water Project

We continue to participate on the advisory committee for Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District's National Water Quality Initiative project on the Molalla River Watershed. Molalla River Watch staff and 5 volunteers, helped collect water samples between October 2021 and January 2022 during multiple rain storm events to help monitor water quality throughout the watershed. Turbidity tests on the water samples determine how much floating particles are in the water, like soil debris from hillslopes with excessive erosion. This data gives an idea of areas upstream that may be a problem for water quality. CSWCD is taking community input at <https://molallariverdrinkingwater.com/>



Molalla River Summer Water Temperature

Summer 2022 water temperatures were recorded with temperature dataloggers. High water temperatures can negatively affect young trout and salmon by increasing stress that can lead to impaired growth, more predation, increased disease infection, and death. Future restoration projects to increase cool water shelter habitats are underway.



Molalla River Watershed Facts



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

Molalla's **spring Chinook salmon and winter steel-head** 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 and 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 molallariver-watch@gmail.com to:

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

