

**Margaret Magruder**  
**Lower Columbia River Watershed Council**  
**Presentation to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means**  
**Natural Resources Subcommittee**

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Good afternoon members of the Committee. My name is Margaret Magruder.

I ask that you continue to fund the Estuary Partnership at the level proposed in the Governor's 2013 -2015 budget. It is a relatively small amount that is giving Oregon back far more than its cost. It keeps many partners working together to coordinate our restoration work which improves our efficiency. And it gets results. This is money that finds its way to the ground and implements worthwhile projects promoted by local citizens.

I am a sheep producer in Clatskanie, Oregon. I own and manage my family's historic sheep farm and am active in local, state and national agricultural groups. It is important that the voice of agriculture be heard during discussions about the Columbia River Basin ecosystem. I also am Coordinator of the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council which is a grass roots group that allows local citizens to determine what projects should be undertaken. The Estuary Partnership has helped fulfill the Watershed Council's mission to protect natural resources in a way that provides for sustainable natural resources , for an economic base and

viable communities. They access funds that we otherwise could not have accessed; they provide technical expertise for restoration project design and they monitor effectiveness of projects. For the past three years, the Estuary Partnership has paid staff to work in my community to help us identify habitat restoration projects in our watershed. Your support will ensure we can continue these successes.

This work is critical to meeting Oregon's goals for salmon recovery and watershed protection. The Estuary Partnership is filling in gaps left by state and other funding sources. It has brought millions to the region awarding most of that to entities like the watershed councils, stretching OWEB's investments. They leverage an amazing amount of funding which is creating local jobs while it restores habitat.

We could not have achieved what we have without the National Estuary Program. Besides the habitat restored in my area,

- They are hosting a pharmaceutical disposal program in Clatsop & Columbia Counties
- They have completed multiple sets of data I could not otherwise have collected and that is helping me be more strategic about what restoration projects to undertake.
- They also funded a feasibility study for upland disposal of contaminated sediment that the Port of Astoria needs to remove to stay operational.

**There is a lot more work that needs to be done.**

- 84,000 acres (more than 50%) of wetlands have been converted since 1880
- 13 species of salmonids are listed as threatened or endangered, all use the lower river twice during their lifecycle. This has had a negative impact on commercial fishing, which is an important source of income in the Lower Columbia.
- Toxics banned in the 1970s and emerging contaminants are present in water, sediment and fish and exceed the thresholds for species survival, some cause male fish to morph to female
- Contaminants concentrate in the lower river inhibiting ports' economic viability.

This program is important, it gets results, it is leveraging your funds \$40: \$1, it helps local watershed councils protect habitat, fish and wildlife.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.