



# Clackamas River Basin Council

P.O. Box 1869 • Clackamas, OR 97015 • [www.clackamasriver.org](http://www.clackamasriver.org) • Email: [info@clackamasriver.org](mailto:info@clackamasriver.org)  
503-303-4372 Fax: 503-303-5176

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Fish &  
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Interests

Recreational  
Interests

Commercial  
Wood  
Products

Citizens  
at Large

Native  
American  
Interests

Education  
& Youth  
Interests

Riverside  
Landowners

Tributary  
Landowners

State  
Natural  
Resource  
Agency

Rural &  
Urban  
Community  
Planning  
Organizations

Representative Dan Rayfield  
900 Court St NE, H-478  
Salem, OR 97301

## RE: 2015-17 Oregon State Budget Inclusion of Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program

Dear Representative Rayfield:

On behalf of the Clackamas River Basin Council, I am writing this letter in support of the results-oriented Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program (WOSRP), which requires the full-time efforts of seven fish biologists within the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The program has been de-funded in the 2015-17 proposed budget. Its funding is critical to continue enormous successes it's brought to watersheds across the region. Coastal rivers are once again filling with wild salmon and Portland metro-area streams also are finally seeing significant improvements in runs of endangered salmon and steelhead as well as re-invigorated and vital riparian areas. This is no time to weaken one of its greatest strengths -- scientific and biological support from the department to determined and devoted volunteer citizens.

The success of the Clackamas River Basin Council in implementing projects with significant ecological benefits would not be realized without the technical expertise and professional contributions from the WOSRP fish biologist. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is an essential partner in our work and we depend upon the Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program fish biologist's technical assistance during project concept development, planning, implementation, and post-project monitoring. Technical expertise is needed to complete restoration activities in the Clackamas River watershed where ESA listed species include Spring Chinook, Coho, and Winter steelhead. Stream restoration is essential for getting ESA listed salmon and steelhead populations to recovery.

Stream restoration results in ecological and economic benefits. Restoration work creates jobs in local communities – typically 15-20 jobs for every \$1,000,000 spent on restoration work – found a study from the University of Oregon. Researchers also found that for every dollar spent on restoration work, an additional \$2.10-\$2.14 spending is generated within the county as dollars are re-spent locally.\*

The Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program includes eight major watersheds in a 1.2 million acre area: Clackamas, Clatskanie, Molalla, Pudding, Sandy, Scappoose, Tualatin, and Yamhill in the northern Willamette Valley. The Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program biologist is located in the Clackamas office, an office that in addition to watersheds, serves five *Friends of Stream* groups, several Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Metro, Bureau of Environmental Services, Clean Water Services, Water Environment Services, NW Steelheaders, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, State and County Parks, multiple water districts, and six counties. These agencies partner to coordinate services when focusing on improving watershed function to restore native fish runs, protect habitat and improve water quality. Results impact over 2 million people in the region – more than half the state's population.

I urge your support of a 2015-17 Oregon State budget that includes funding to retain the fish and habitat biologists and the Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program.

Sincerely,

Cheryl D. McGinnis, MBA  
Executive Director

\*Nielsen-Pincus, M. and C.Moseley, "Economic and Employment Impacts of Watershed Restoration in Oregon" Institute for a Sustainable Environment, University of Oregon (Spring 2010).

*Working for clean water, healthy river and streams, and abundant fisheries  
in the Clackamas Watershed.*