



Annual Report 2017



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2017 In Review



Climate Change and Restoration

Using the strategies and projects outlined in our Wildlife and Climate Resilience Guidebook, we've been working to improve the health and resilience of habitats and wildlife populations in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Thanks to a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Society and a strong partnership with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, we began work on a program to release beavers into strategic locations in the southern Washington Cascades and to plant native riparian trees along sensitive streams where they can provide stream shade and bank stability to counteract effects of climate change, while also serving as future beaver forage



CFC volunteers monitoring huckleberry habitat

Under another initiative we monitored huckleberry habitats to determine which kinds of treatments and conditions are most conducive to plant growth. We'll continue this work in 2018.

Sustainable Forests

The Cascade Forest Conservancy submitted comments on the Iron Crystal timber sale and participated in collaborative group discussions on the project. This sale originally identified areas of mature forest for regeneration harvest – clearcutting. Through our negotiation we were able to eliminate this practice in many of these areas and reached agreements for large no-cut buffers that will help maintain water quality for fish.



Members of a community forest collaborative on a field visit

In April 2017, we submitted comments on the environmental assessment for the Upper White Salmon timber sale. Overall, we supported this project and were encouraged to see the Forest Service consider the role of wildfire and climate change impacts on the landscape. Through our participation in the South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative and conversations with Forest Service staff, positive changes to the proposal were made including leaving large, mature trees and reducing harvest near northern spotted owl nest sites. We also assisted in allocating \$500,000 of “retained receipts” – funds generated through logging – to restoration projects throughout the forest.

Mining

In 2017, we successfully prevented mining in the Green River valley for the 12th year. However, in August the Forest Service released their draft decision to allow exploratory drilling. CFC responded to this decision with an objection letter, action alert, press release and strong grassroots response. With the help of our coalition of over twenty conservation and recreation organizations, the Forest Service received nearly two hundred objections. Additionally, this issue reached a larger audience than ever before when it was covered by over fifteen media outlets throughout Oregon and Washington. Over the next year, CFC will continue to oppose this dangerous and unpopular proposal, including by challenging the agency decision in court.



Fly fishing on the Green River, site of a proposed gold and copper mine. © Balance Media 2017

Stewardship and Education

Last year we led 41 citizen science and restoration trips to the forest with 190 student and adult volunteers, who put in a total of 1860 hours of hard work! That's a 50% increase in the number of individual volunteers and 25% increase in number of hours compared to 2016. The trips this year included surveying roads and culverts, monitoring wildlife populations and timber sales, locating pika populations, monitoring huckleberry production, planting native trees to restore aquatic ecosystems, and analyzing beaver habitat for future reintroduction. We appreciate the dedication of our volunteers and other supporters who made this year another success. Thank you!

2017 VOLUNTEER
STATS

41 Citizen Science &
Restoration Trips

1860

Total Volunteer Hours

103 Adult
Volunteers **87** Student
Volunteers

Message from the Executive Director

Dear members and supporters,

Thank you for joining us for another banner year. 2017 was a year of significant growth for CFC as we retooled our programs to respond to increasing threats from climate change, new forestry practices, the Trump Administration, and Congress.

On the ground, we launched major restoration projects with the Cowlitz Tribe, the Forest Service, local schools, and volunteers to make our forests and streams more resilient to climate change. By planting trees along streams and reintroducing beavers to the region, we are making our forests a better place for everyone. We are also working with local partners to oppose a dangerous new forest practice called regeneration harvest, which we name for what it is – clearcutting. This practice, which only leaves approximately 15% of the trees standing, is inappropriate for our publicly owned national forest ecosystems.

Other threats to our forests began surfacing in 2017 as the Trump Administration and Congress began working in lockstep and paving the way for industrial resource extraction operations on our nation's public lands. The worst proposal was HR 2936, the mis-named Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017. This bill would allow clearcuts in the forest up to 45 square miles without any public review, and would remove protections provided by bedrock laws like the Endangered Species Act. Unbelievably, the House of Representatives actually passed this bill, with our own Representatives Herrera-Beutler and Kurt Schrader voting for it. We must keep our members of Congress accountable for these votes and other proposals that aim to destroy or privatize our public lands and special places.

We also must remain vigilant and ready to respond to these threats. We are especially grateful for our growing base of volunteers who work with us to take action and make a difference. We are also grateful for two new partnerships with IT companies, Intuitive Digital and 501 Commons, to make our public outreach to you more effective.

We are most grateful for you. Together, we will stem the tide of bad proposals coming our way and instead present practical, progressive solutions to climate change and other threats to our natural resources. Thank you again for your generous support. Because of you, I am looking forward to a great 2018!

Matt Little, Executive Director



One of the biggest Douglas fir trees in the world, located in the GPNF © Darryl Lloyd

We wish to thank our **many members** , whose donations make our work possible. In addition, special thanks to our **business and foundation supporters:**

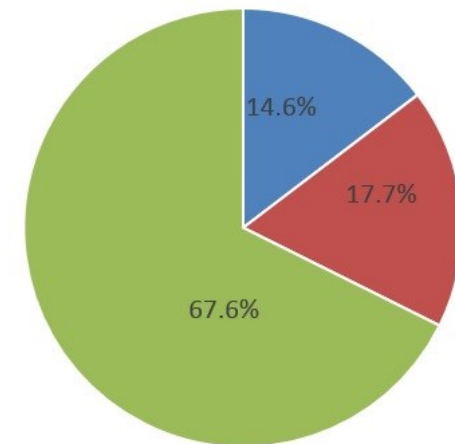
Albina Community Bank
Beaver Creek Environmental Services
Beneficial State Foundation
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Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation
Western Mining Action Network
Wiancko Charitable Trust
Wilburforce Foundation
Willamette Valley Vineyards



Vancouver Heritage High School students on a CFC trip

CFC Expenses (\$478,086)



■ Fundraising (\$70,000) ■ Operations (\$84,689)
■ Programs (\$323,387)

For more details, see <https://cascadeforest.org/about-us/strategic-plan-annual-report/>