

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Cascade Forest Conservancy

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OUR MISSION:

*WE PROTECT AND SUSTAIN FOREST,
STREAMS, WILDLIFE, AND COMMUNITIES IN
THE HEART OF THE CASCADES THROUGH
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY.*

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FINANCES
THANKS*

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MOLLY WHITNEY



2019 was a year of transitions and growth for CFC. In a number of ways, we look quite different than we did when we started the year. I joined CFC as the new Executive Director. We restructured many programs and existing staff grew in their roles. We added new staff members and began new partnerships. Change isn't always easy, but this organization took it in stride, and is better for it!

Looking back on the year, I feel a great sense of gratification and thankfulness. We have the best staff, board, volunteers, supporters, and partners; who all made the transitions this year possible and productive. Because of all of you, we continued to see success and built upon our ongoing programs, and even had a few firsts. Our team really accomplished a lot last year. Some of our most notable achievements were:

- With our partners, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, we took the Cascades Beaver Project to the next level. In 2019 we released 21 beavers into waterways across the north part of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, and with the help of dedicated volunteers, surveyed over 120 potential beaver reintroduction sites. Working with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and other partners on this exciting and continuing project has been a rewarding experience for us, and a vital component of our work to restore aquatic and riparian habitats while building climate resilience in the Cascades.
- We submitted written comments to maintain important environmental regulations, which were under threat from proposed new legislation to weaken the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and decrease public input. We also submitted comments advocating the preservation of a wide geographic scope for the listing of fishers under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to maintain a broad focus on protecting habitat across all of their range.

- Throughout the year, we led 25 student and volunteer trips to the forest. More than 160 individuals donated their time placing wildlife cameras, surveying roads and culverts, clearing invasive species, collecting native seeds, planting native saplings, and mapping habitat features for protection during timber sales. In addition, we were able to bring 250 middle and high school students to the Gifford Pinchot National Forest to take a direct part in preserving and restoring habitats.
- CFC participated in scoping and submitted formal comments to the US Forest Service regarding a controversial proposal to construct a road through the unique Pumice Plain to Spirit Lake within the Mount. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument to ensure this singular and critical natural research area is sufficiently protected.
- Early in the year, we kicked off a new partnership with Mount Adams Resource Stewards to safeguard unique mixed conifer forests by preparing areas near Mount Adams for prescribed burning.
- We undertook a large-scale study of fishers and martens in partnership with the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University using wildlife cameras and habitat modeling.
- Supported by our work in collaborative groups, we ensured that conservation and climate science informed the Kraus Ridge timber sale and began conversations regarding the upcoming Yellowjacket and Upper Wind sales that are proposed for 2020.
- CFC also Initiated a long-term, multi-project partnership with the Columbia Land Trust, including a collaborative effort to improve riparian and aquatic habitat.
- We were awarded a 3-year capacity-building grant through the Cowlitz Tribe Education and Arts Fund which supports a Communications Manager and Grassroots Community Organizer for our organization.

Thank you for your support and engagement this past year. You enabled us to be your voice for the southern Washington Cascades. As we look to 2020 and beyond, we will continue to deliver results in this changing climate to further our mission to “protect and sustain forests, streams, wildlife, and communities in the heart of the Cascades through conservation, education, and advocacy”.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Molly Whitney".

ADVOCACY AND POLICY

CFC continued serving as a strong voice for conservation in 2019. We worked toward our goals of ensuring that all laws, policies, and projects impacting Washington’s South Cascades are informed by current climate science, safeguard the biodiversity and health of complex ecosystems, and benefit nearby communities. Part of our effectiveness in 2019 was due to the uniquely diverse range of approaches CFC employed – from collaboration to litigation. We worked closely with our partners in the *Pinchot Partners* and the *South Gifford Pinchot Collaborative* – two groups that bring together representatives from CFC, the US Forest Service, the DNR, Washington Fish and Wildlife, other non profits, rural communities, indigenous communities, and the logging industry, among others. CFC continued to work with these collaboratives to advocate for sustainable and scientifically-sound forest management. Having a seat at the table has allowed us to express concerns about projects and timber sales early in the planning process.

We also took a number of decisive actions in 2019. Notably, in March, we filed a lawsuit opposing decisions made by the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, which granted a foreign mining company permission to begin prospecting in the Green River Valley. We also got heavily involved in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes to voice our opposition to the Spirit Lake proposed project involving the construction of a road through the Pumice Plain within the Mount St. Helens National Monument. We organized a local coalition and the project was pulled in the spring. Scoping for a new iteration of that project began in the late summer and we have continued to advocate for less harmful alternatives.

MOUNT ST. HELENS NO PLACE FOR A MINE



Since 2004, CFC has been fighting efforts to bring an open-pit hard rock mine to the Green River Valley. Last year, we commenced a lawsuit to prevent exploratory drilling on Goat Mountain, which was approved by the issuance of drilling permits from the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in 2018. We currently await judgment or a date for oral arguments, expected in 2020.

ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT



We strengthened our partnerships within collaboratives composed of Federal and State agencies and individuals representing non profit, public, private, and indigenous interests in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. These relationships have allowed us to advocate for responsible forest management and climate change mitigation *before* draft project plans or timber sales are open to public comment, meaning conservation perspectives are represented from the start of any project or timber sale.

PROTECTING THE PUMICE PLAIN



Lupine on Thurman Trail across Mount St. Helens Pumice Plain
by Dr. Carri LeRoy

The Pumice Plain near Spirit Lake is a designated Class 1 research area—a protected natural laboratory that is transforming our understanding of ecosystem recovery and formation. It is a place where we are seeing animals and plants come back faster than anyone thought possible. To protect this singularly important place, CFC engaged in the NEPA processes to oppose a project being proposed in this beautiful and unique landscape without adequate public engagement or a sufficient study of the environmental impacts the project would have.

ADVOCATING FOR THREATENED HABITAT AND SPECIES



CFC employed a variety of approaches to protect important habitat and threatened and endangered species. Through our work in collaboratives, we ensured timber sales left old-growth intact, supported the removal of roads in wild areas, and advocated for protections to help reintroduced fisher to reestablish a healthy wild population. We also publicly opposed new legislation designed to weaken the Endangered Species Act.

SCIENCE, STEWARDSHIP, & RESTORATION

IMPROVING HABITAT ALONG RIVERS AND STREAMS

Protecting and healing damaged watersheds remained a core component of our work in 2019. Last year, we continued to strategically prioritize a wide range of projects that each helped build climate resilience and provide safe habitat for diverse species throughout the region. Some of our most important partners in this work have been beavers – a keystone species whose work creates habitat for fish and other animals, slows and regulates water flows, and even cools water temperatures. We had the opportunity to relocate several families of beavers, whose building habits are now being put to better use in the forest than they had been in the suburbs and farm land they came from.

With the help of our volunteers, we also worked to restore creeks and rivers by planting trees along degraded riparian areas around their banks. The trees we planted will grow to shade and cool fish habitat, provide sustenance for future generations of beavers, and protect banks from erosion. And we continued to dream of new ways to protect these vital areas, such as the Instream Wood Bank project, which will build a region-wide collaborative network to help return streams and rivers to a more natural state.

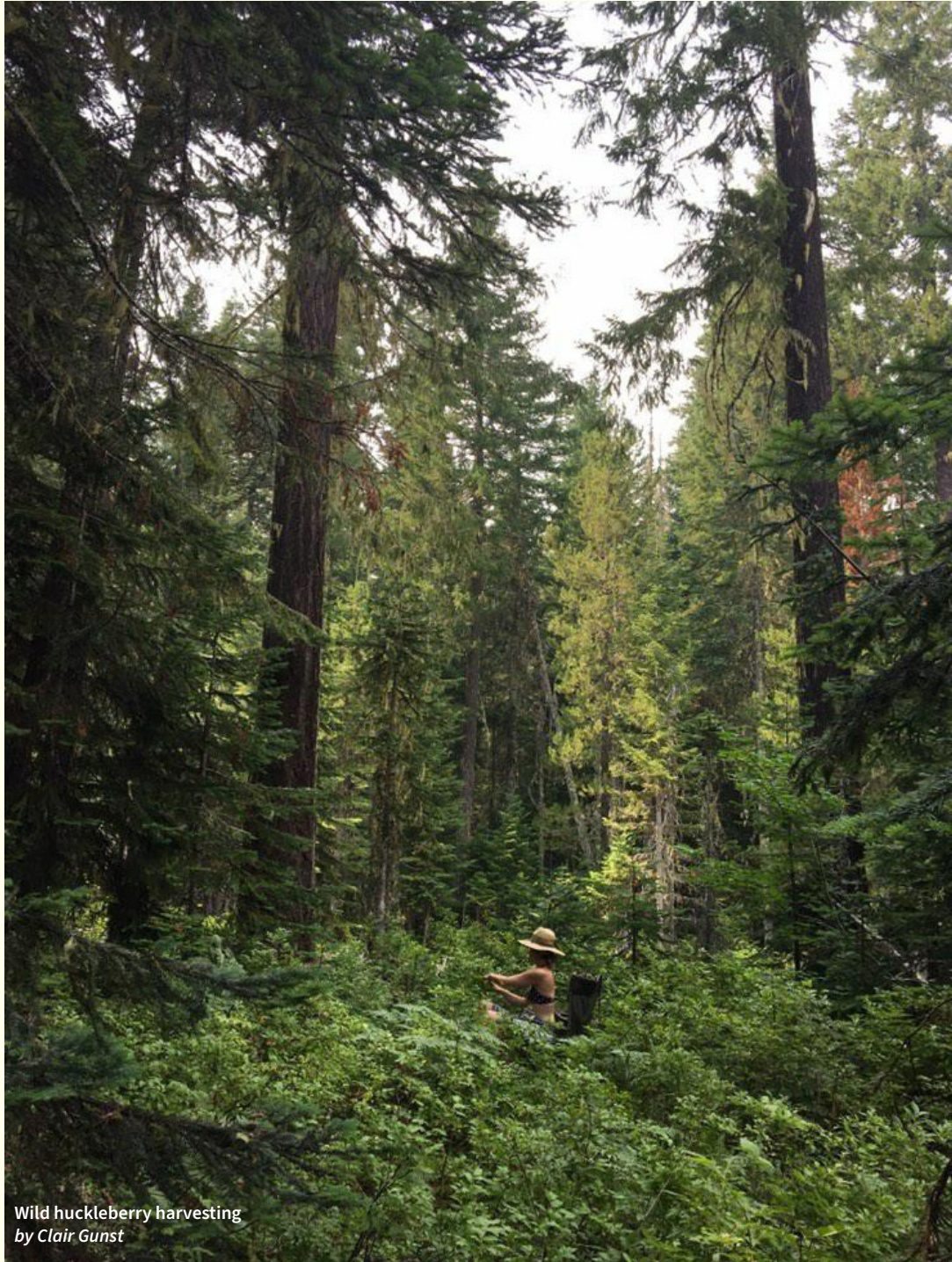
REINTRODUCED 21 BEAVERS TO CASCADE
STREAMS AND RIVERS

CONTINUED **BEAVER HABITAT SITE
ASSESSMENTS** TO FIND OPTIMAL HABITAT
FOR OUR FUTURE BEAVER REINTRODUCTION

**PLANTED 6,379 TREES ALONG 8
WATERWAYS**

BEGAN
PLANNING A
NEW AQUATIC
RESTORATION
STRATEGY
UTILIZING
**INSTREAM WOOD
BANK NETWORKS**





Wild huckleberry harvesting
by Clair Gunst

SCIENCE, STEWARDSHIP, & RESTORATION

IMPROVING HABITAT IN FORESTS

Safeguarding the carbon banked in the trees and detritus of dynamic and healthy NW forests, while protecting the web of micro-climates and habitats within those forests are both vital strategies to mitigating the coming effects of climate change. In 2019 the Cascade Forest Conservancy kept working to protect the incredible beauty and biodiversity of the forests of southwest Washington. While we advocated for responsible forest management and policy to protect what we have left, we continued to make a tangible difference on the ground. CFC and our dedicated volunteers helped restore areas affected by unusually frequent or severe fires, removed patches of invasive species, and helped to prepare areas of the forest for prescribed burnings, in order to restore the natural cycles of fire and regrowth the forest needs to thrive.

CLEARED INVASIVE SPECIES FROM
14 MILES OF TRAILS BEFORE THOSE
POPULATIONS BECAME PERMANENT

**MONITORED AND RESTORED 60
ACRES** OF FOREST AFFECTED BY
UNUSUALLY FREQUENT AND INTENSE
FIRES

CLEARED OVERLY DENSE DUFF LAYERS
AROUND **OLD-GROWTH PONDEROSA
PINES** TO PROTECT THOSE TREES
FROM FUTURE FIRE DAMAGE

WORKED WITH THE FOREST SERVICE
AND STAKEHOLDERS ON TIMBER SALE
PLANNING TO ENSURE **PROTECTION
OF OLD-GROWTH AND AQUATIC
HABITAT**



SCIENCE, STEWARDSHIP, & RESTORATION

UNDERSTANDING AND PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND PLANT SPECIES

New partnerships enabled us to begin working on exciting new projects to protect plants and wildlife in 2019. With OSU and the Institute for Natural Resources, we launched a new study to better understand the newly reintroduced fisher population in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and to examine how these reintroduced animals are co-existing with another native member of the mustelid family, the marten (another forest carnivore of interest.) CFC and volunteers will be retrieving the cameras in 2020 to analyze the photos that were captured over the past year. The collected photos and data will inform and guide future conservation efforts.

One of our best tools to protect vulnerable and reintroduced species is habitat protection. Guided by our detailed mapping of critical habitats and the vital connectivity corridors that bridge them together, we worked closely with the Forest Service to identify and prioritize roads for restoration or closure/reduction to protect critical habitat in the Wind River and Cowlitz River watersheds.



OUR AMAZING COMMUNITY

Building community and creating opportunities for people to learn about caring for the world around them are core components of our work. Our members, volunteers, and supporters are the backbone of this organization. Without them we wouldn't have accomplished even a fraction of the work we completed in 2019. Our member and volunteer numbers have continued to grow each year. More and more people are getting involved in our mission to protect and sustain the ecosystems and communities within Washington's South Cascades. We are grateful to have so many people that share our values and who want to safeguard the beauty and wonders of this landscape for future generations.

From April to November of 2019, we took 25 trips out to the forest and had over 400 youth and adult volunteers contribute 2560 combined hours to conserving and restoring areas within and around the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. They participated in nine different projects spanning from riparian planting at Trout Creek near Carson, WA, all the way up to invasive plant removal near Packwood, WA.

VOLUNTEER CITIZEN SCIENCE TRIPS



Our volunteers devote full days and entire weekends to help us achieve the goals of the variety of conservation and restoration projects we work on each year. The work of our volunteers in 2019 was pivotal to the success of our projects and the impact they made are insurmountable. ***Washington's South Cascades has more trees where they were once lacking, the streams have more beaver, and the trails have fewer invasive species.*** Numerous acres of severely burned landscape were restored, old-growth ponderosa pines were protected, and many miles of illegal roads were surveyed for closure. We are so grateful for our devoted volunteers – thank you to all who joined us in the forest last year!

YOUNG FRIENDS OF THE FOREST



Taking students out of the classroom to connect with nature is the main goal of the Young Friends of the Forest program. It is important that we inspire today's youth to become stewards of the land around us. We focus on collaborating with schools that have a significant proportion of underserved students and bring them out into the GPNF to conduct hands-on restoration and conservation projects. Whether it is planting trees or surveying streams for beaver habitat, they are getting to participate in a unique experience only found out in the forest. In 2019, we partnered with nine schools from the Portland metro and southwest Washington communities.

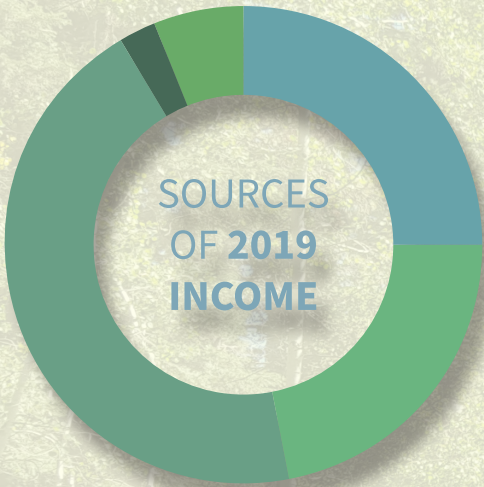
COMING TOGETHER



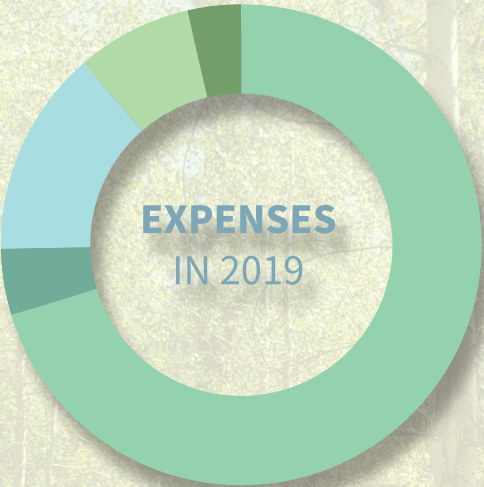
In October, we hosted our annual Auction and Banquet at the World Forestry Center where our partners, members, volunteers, and supporters came together to support the mission of CFC. We'd like to specially thank the Cowlitz Indian Tribe for their sponsorship. 2019's Auction and Banquet was our most successful yet! Thanks to you—our generous sponsors, guests, and volunteers—we raised over \$97,000 for all of our wildfire related conservation and restoration projects. We greatly cherish the opportunity to show our appreciation to everyone involved with our organization, and the end of year gala gives us that opportunity.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

We started off the year spending out a large grant received in 2018, allowing the organization’s total expense to exceed total income. Throughout the year CFC remained financially healthy and stable. Our balance sheet continues to be strong, which has allowed us to operate with a small deficit without making sacrifices to programs. We were also able to continue providing competitive wages and benefits to our dedicated staff. After grants, a significant portion of our income in 2019 was contributed through the generosity of individual gifts from our sustaining members and one-time donors. Thank you!



TOTAL INCOME	\$582,672
Individual Donations	\$144,966
Unrestricted Grants	\$127,010
Restricted Grants	\$256,977
Other Income	\$14,688
Events	\$33,885



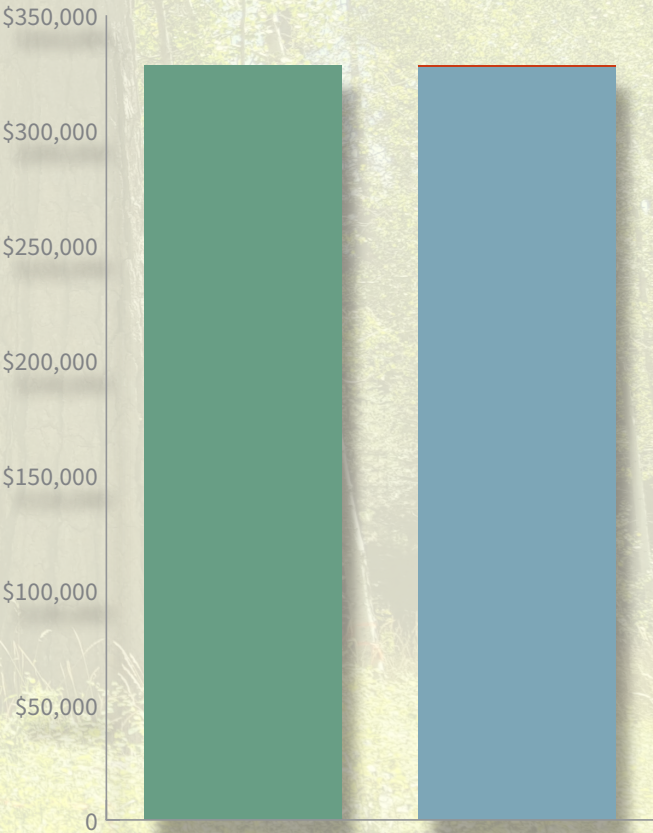
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$607,494
Personnel	\$427,841
Supplies	\$27,424
Operations*	\$84,160
Contracts	\$45,157
Other	\$21,912

*OPERATIONAL expenses include rent and utilities, travel, IT and communications, etc.

ASSETS	
BANK ACCOUNTS	\$326,537
OTHER ASSETS	\$1,811
TOTAL ASSETS	\$328,348

EQUITY	
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$23,678
BOARD DIRECTED RESERVED FUNDS	\$170,000
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED FUNDS	\$158,449
NET INCOME	-\$24,822
TOTAL EQUITY	\$327,305

LIABILITIES	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$1,043
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$328,348



THANK YOU!

Our work humbles us everyday. We are humbled by the awesome responsibility of caring for trees that have been growing hundreds of years before Washington became a state, before the man named Gifford Pinchot was born or a forest named for him, and before the river called *Wimahl* and *Nch'i-Wàna* (and much later, Columbia) was traversed by a dam. We're humbled by the beauty and nearly infinite complexity and interconnection of the ecosystems we work to protect and restore to balance. **And we're humbled by your support**, and sustained by the hope that the work you are enabling will continue to benefit Washington's South Cascades long after we're gone.

Because of you, the Cascade Forest Conservancy is ending 2019 stronger than ever – and we need to be, because the threats the southern Washington Cascades are facing now are unprecedented. The accelerating effects of climate change are creating an unavoidable new reality, and in all likelihood, each coming year will be hotter than the one before. Environmental opposition, especially on the federal level, is increasing as hard-won protections are rolled back in a piecemeal fashion. Development also continues to encroach on the landscape adding increasing pressure. The best chance we have to protect what remains is to work now to build climate resilience where we can.

Moving into 2020, CFC will continue to work to expand our reach and deepen our impact. We will be creating a new strategic plan to guide our efforts over the coming years, adding capacity by hiring new staff, forming new partnerships, and beginning new conservation and restoration projects. Most of all, we will continue to stand up for the people, plants, animals, and extraordinary places at the heart of the Cascades. Thank you for standing with us.



Spirit Lake from Harry's Ridge
by Michael Sulis
American Pica
by Michael Sulis

CFC WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE MANY SUSTAINING MEMBERS AND GENEROUS INDIVIDUALS WHO SUPPORTED US LAST YEAR. NONE OF OUR WORK WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR SUPPORT:

BURNING FOUNDATION • BREW DR. KOMBUCHA • CHARLOTTE MARTIN FOUNDATION
• CLARK-SKAMANIA FLYFISHERS • COLUMBIA SPORTSWEAR • W. BRUCE AND MARY LOUISE COOK FOUNDATION • COWLITZ INDIAN TRIBE • DRINKING WATER PROVIDERS PARTNERSHIP • HUGH AND JANE FERGUSON FOUNDATION • FRIENDS OF MOUNT ADAMS
• HAMMER & HAND CONSTRUCTION • INTUITIVE DIGITAL • JOHN R. MCCUNE CHARITABLE TRUST • LEE H. AND MARION B. THOMPSON FOUNDATION • LITTLE RED HEN FOUNDATION
• LOWER COLUMBIA CANOE CLUB • LOWER COLUMBIA FISH RECOVERY BOARD • GILES W. AND ELISE G. MEAD FOUNDATION • MILLSDAVIS FOUNDATION • NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION • NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION • NEW BELGIUM BREWING
• NORTHWEST FUND FOR THE ENVIRONMENT • OREGON RFID • OREGON DATA • THE OREGON ZOO FOUNDATION • PATAGONIA • PAPOOSE CONSERVATION WILDLIFE FOUNDATION • PINCHOT PARTNERS • UMPQUA BANK • US FOREST SERVICE RETAINED RECEIPTS • WEYERHAEUSER FAMILY FOUNDATION • WESTERN MINING ACTION NETWORK • WIANCKO CHARITABLE TRUST • WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY • WILBURFORCE FOUNDATION • WILLAMETTE VALLEY VINEYARDS

