



Lower Columbia

Estuary
Partnership

Board Briefing Book

February 2025

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Meeting Agenda:

Board of Directors

Agenda

Thursday February 19, 2026, 9:30am to 12pm

[Join the meeting now](#)

- 9:30 Call meeting to order
Approve Agenda
Approve [November 2025 Meeting Record](#)
- 9:40 Executive Director's Report – Elaine Placido
- Reports – Contracts, Funding, Personnel
 - Reintroduction – Sandy River Watershed Council – Dr. Leslie Jones
 - PE Update
 - State of the Estuary Report Update
 - Legislative Update – States and Federal
- 9:55 Finance Report – Vicki Clark, Jana Magnuson
- Financials
 - Audit Recap
- 10:05 Mirror Lake Project Overview Presentation – Chris Collins
- 10:35 Break
- 10:40 Communications and Development – Erinne Goodell
- Year End Campaign
 - Planning for 2026 Fundraising and Annual Event
 - Board Activity – Board member engagement
- 11:00 Volunteer Stewardship Presentation– Sam Dumont
- 11:20 Board Development-
- Board Activity – How to make Board service as valuable for Board members as it is for the Estuary Partnership. Time commitment, meeting tempo, opportunities for involvement.
 - Brainstorm with Board for identification of potential Board nominees
- 11:50 Closing Comments from Board members
- 12:00 Meeting adjourns

Prior Meeting Record:

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Board Meeting Record

Thursday, November 20, 2025 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon Estuary Partnership Offices

Members Present: John Anderson, Rosemary Furfey, Matt Jones, Irma Lagomarsino, Rian Sallee, Barbara Bergquist, Matt Harding, Amy Boyd, Susan Holveck, Mary Lou Soscia, Courtney Shaff

Ex Officio Members Present: John Netto, Chanda Littles, Shauna Hanisch-Kirkbride, Robin Parker

Presiding Officer: Rian Sallee

Staff Present: Elaine Placido, Madeline Marucha, Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky, Valerie Pufahl, Erinne Goodell, Catherine Corbett, Jana Magnuson, Chris Hathaway, Keith Marcoe

Other Present: Vicki Clark

Introduction and Review of Agenda

Action: *None Required.*

Review and Approval of September 18, 2025 Meeting Record

Action: *Approved.*

Executive Director Update

Contracts Report. Director Placido reported that \$2.5 million in contracts are currently being written.

CCMP Update. The CCMP has been approved by EPA. The Partnership is still awaiting an update on the Program Evaluation completed this September.

ANEP Tech Transfer. Director Placido and Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky attended the recent ANEP Tech Transfer in Mobile, Alabama, giving presentations on large habitat restoration projects and strategic communications.

Legislative Update. Director Placido reported that the legislation reauthorizing the NEP program is still proceeding in Congress.

Action: *None Required.*

Finance Report

Vicki Clark and Jana Magnuson reported that the Partnership finished with positive net income in the Month and Year to Date. The Finance Committee met for the first time recently; Vicki gave a general introduction to the committee and finance reports. The Committee will meet again in January.

Action: *None Required.*

Washington Base Funding Report

Director Placido reported that she was notified on October 30 that Washington Base funding from Washington Ecology was being indefinitely paused. These funds provide valuable support for education and stewardship. John Anderson will discuss this issue at his meeting with Washington Ecology.

Action: *None Required.*

Development Presentation, Erinne Goodell

[Erinne Goodell gave a presentation](#) on the Partnership's recent development and fundraising efforts.

Action: *None Required.*

Board Action Items

Employee Handbook. Director Placido brought [minor edits to the Employee Handbook](#) to the Board for consideration.
Action: Approved.

IIJA Year 5 Workplan. Director Placido brought the IIJA Year 5 Workplan to the Board for consideration.
Action: Approved.

Barrier Assessment Presentation, Keith Marcoe

Keith Marcoe gave a [presentation on the Partnership's Barrier Assessment work](#).
Action: None Required.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Submitted by: Elaine Placido, Executive Director; Madeline Marucha, Operations Coordinator

Signature: _____

Date Approved: _____

Executive Director's Report:

It's been a very busy winter. One of our team members made the comment the other day about hearing that things slow down in winter, and he just keeps waiting for that to happen. It doesn't seem to be happening this year!

Funding remains a close focus, particularly the work to restore our WA Base funding that was cut by the Department of Ecology in October. Jasmine and I have met with nearly every member of the legislature from SW Washington and have enjoyed hearing their overwhelming support for our organization and our work. This is a new process for us, and it has been a valuable, if unexpected, learning experience. Digging in and building stronger state and local relationships on both sides of the river will remain a high priority in the coming year. [HERE](#) is our letter requesting the Legislature restore our funding and [HERE](#) is the letter that was circulated by Representative Orcutt, look at the strong bipartisan support! We will be watching the development of the supplemental budget carefully. Good conversations with OWEB indicate continued commitment by Oregon to honor their pledge to support the Estuary Partnership in implementation of the CCMP.

The federal FY26 Budget that funds the EPA and the NEPs was signed into law in late January. Our EPA base funding through EPA is secure through the end of September 2027 and remains at \$850,000. I am in the process of reviewing the EPA Base Workplan for any necessary revisions for 2026-27. I'll be headed to DC with Erinne and Jasmine in March for our spring meeting with EPA, which I've served on the planning committee for, and for our annual meetings on the hill with our federal delegation. This is an incredibly valuable trip, both the interaction with EPA and the meetings with the delegation and their DC staff.

IJA Funding continues to play a significant role in our work and is really helping to move the needle on project development across the program areas. I have submitted the IJA Workplan for the final year of funding, \$912,333, across a multi-year, [2026-2031 Workplan](#).

We received our [final letter from EPA](#) to close out our 5-Year PE – we successfully completed the PE with a rating of proficient. That's like a pass on a pass/fail kind of grading system. Much gratitude to all of the Board members who participated in the PE process – Rian, Matt J., John N., Rosemary, and Mary Lou!

We have started to release our [State of the Estuary Reports](#). We're doing it a little differently this year due to some delays in getting data from partners. But I think it's a great opportunity to really dig in and share a lot of information about the five different indicator areas. The report is being released in five standalone chapters, each will be available on the website as they are released. Last month we released the first chapter – Connecting People to the Columbia River. This month we'll release the Imperiled Species chapter, including a look at two species of concern that weren't included in our last Report – freshwater mussels and the Oregon Ash tree. In the coming months we'll release chapters on Habitat, Water Quality, and Land Use. We are using a flipbook format this year, to make the viewing a little easier, make sure to click on the full screen button  at the bottom of the opening page as you explore each chapter.

Vicki and Jana will be at the meeting to present an overview and answer questions about the Audit that was just completed and presented to the Executive Committee. But sneak peek – the audit returned no findings or material weaknesses, so a clean audit. If you'd like to peruse the draft audit reports, they are linked below.

[Draft Financial Statements](#)

[Draft Governance Letter](#)

[Draft UGG Financial Statements](#)

Since our last meeting I've participated in:

- ANEP Executive Committee Meeting – November, December (x2), January.
- ANEP Board Meeting (Directors) – January
- ANEP External Affairs Committee - monthly
- EPA HQ and ANEP Leadership monthly check in meetings
- NEP/EPA Spring Workshop Planning meetings -multiple
- PMEP Steering Committee December
- Rivers Need Room Workgroups (Lower Cowlitz and Toutle River focus) – monthly
- Members of the WA Legislator – Rep. Abbarno, Rep. Orcutt, Rep. Wylie, Rep. Waters, Rep. McClintock, Rep. Walsh, Rep. McEntire, Sen. Braun
- Estuary Partnership Board Development Committee
- Estuary Partnership Finance Committee
- Estuary Partnership Executive Committee
- Lower Columbia Solutions Group

Met with Partners:

- WA Department of Ecology
- OWEB
- HAP
- City of Washougal - City Council Meeting, December 1, 2025
- LCFRB
- Port of Camas-Washougal

The weeks and months ahead look very busy. I'll be traveling in March with my daughter, then headed directly to DC. We have an event at Fort George the 31st of March, Erinne will share more information about that – should be a fun event! We'll be celebrating Earth Month and leaning into planning for our Annual Celebration which is scheduled for September 20th. We should see construction starting at the EFLR in the late spring and construction will begin at several different stormwater retrofit sites in early summer.

While we'll put together the Board Calendar for approval at the May meeting – just a head's up that we'll have the September Board meeting at the Port of Camas-Washougal. Many thanks to Trang and her team for hosting us!

Please enjoy the Board Briefing Book and reach out to me or anyone on the team if you have any questions-

E. Elaine Rocio

Safety Committee:

The Safety Committee will meet on March 4, 2026. A quarterly office safety self-inspection was held on February 11, 2026. Current projects include the following:

- Discussing implementation around our new Crisis Prevention Institute Verbal Intervention training. A workgroup of staff members from each organizational team and the Estuary Partnership's trained CPI teachers will make recommendations for policies regarding CPI training implementation.

Team Updates:

Ed Team:

Totals for Education Programs for the 25-26 school year from **September 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026**

- 38 classes within 12 schools
- 953 students
- 98 class lessons
- 21 student field trips at 7 sites: Lacamas Park, Multnomah Channel Marsh Natural Area, Grabhorn Park, Salmon Creek, Steigerwald Lake Wildlife Refuge, Meldrum Bar/Willamette River, Rigler Elementary School Campus

Totals for Volunteer + Community Programs from **July 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026**

- 15 volunteer events attended by 415 volunteers. Locations included Campen Creek, East Fork Lewis River, Fox Creek, Sandy River Delta, Steigerwald NWR, and Veterans Park Scappoose.
- 3 Community education events at Steigerwald with Friends of the Children SWWA, ORCAS Immigrant and Refugee Youth, and Through the Trees Collective with 33 total participants

Program Highlights and Projects of Note:

EFLR Community engagement began in December with a small midweek volunteer event. January has grown events with three large weekend plantings with a combined total of 171 volunteers who planted 4,265 native plants. Winter planting season will continue through mid-March with 10 volunteer events and 10 student field trips scheduled.

Winter volunteer opportunities! Join us at a planting event throughout the winter season – check the schedule and register here: <https://www.estuarypartnership.org/get-involved/volunteering>

Kelso school programs will continue for Spring 2026! This will be our third year supporting students in the Kelso school districts through a program that combines enriching classroom lessons and a Big Canoe paddle on Silver Lake, Castle Rock, WA. Programs are currently being scheduled for May and June with classrooms at four Kelso schools. New this year will be an expanded collaboration with WA State Parks, Mt. St. Helens Visitor Center whose staff will use their local expertise and center resources to host students for part of their field trip.

Salmon Creek Clean Water Education and Enhancement project (funded by Washington Ecology 319 program) has one remaining event on Sunday February 8th to round out this project work. Beyond this project at Salmon Creek, we will also host a few local schools in spring 2026 for stewardship activities, funded by EPA IJA Urban Streams to provide needed site support and school commitments that would have been funded by Ecology WA Base funding. We continue to seek funding to expand work along Salmon Creek with local community and school partners through a partnership with Clark County Legacy Lands. Through the County, we have a pending application to the Washington Dept of Ecology Centennial grant program for 2026-2029, as well as for the Terry Husseman Account (due on February 10th) on our behalf for continued education, outreach, and stewardship 2026-2028. We should receive notice about the Terry Husseman project in April 2026 and the Ecology Water Quality program draft funding list (published January 29th) ranked our project 4th overall and is listed in first position for Centennial program funding for 2026-2029.

Pending awards and upcoming applications

Submitted and pending applications:

- Camas Washougal Community Chest - \$9,500
- EMSWCD Partners in Conservation - \$44,000
- Spirit Mountain Community Fund - \$36,000
- PGE Foundation - \$25,000
- ECY Water Quality Combined Centennial – Clark County Salmon Creek - \$344,000

To be submitted February – May 2026:

- ECY Terry Husseman Account – Clark County Salmon Creek - \$96,000
- ECY Terry Husseman Account – City of Washougal Campen Creek - \$86,000
- BES Portland Harbor Community Fund – est. \$28,000
- WMSWCD Ripple – est. \$24,000
- Flyfisher Foundation Conservation Grant – est. \$18,000
- Clackamas County RiverHealth grant – est. \$30,000
- TSWCD Conservation Education grant – est. \$20,000

Stormwater

Narrative Description of Active Project Below

Projects									
Active	Anticipated Construction				Funding				
	2026	2027	2028	2029	EPA	PDX-BES	Ecology	Other	
Chief Joseph Elementary School									
Creston Annex School	X				X	X			
Duniway Elementary School	X				X	X			
Evergreen High School		X			X		X		
Fort Vancouver High School			X		X		X		
Glencoe Elementary School				X	X	X			
St. Ignatius Church and School	X				X	X			
Rooster Rock State Park		X			X				X
Rose City Park Elementary School			X		X	X			
Washougal High School & Streets	X		X		X		X		
Exploring:									
Duniway Elementary School									
Hudson's Bay High School									
Vernon School Phase 3									
Completed Projects									
Baker Bay Stormwater Project							X		X
Laurelhurst School					X				
Mittleman Jewish Community Center					X	X			X
Rigler Elementary School									
Sunnyside Elementary School					X				X
Terra Nova Science and Sustainability School					X				

Major Funders:

- *EPA Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Fund the Funder:* This grant continues to be instrumental to our ability to work on new projects, secure additional funding, and complete projects. We are currently working on 10 active projects associated with this grant.
- *City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services Percent for Green Program:* The City's Percent for Green program has proven to be a great source of match to the EPA grant. To date, the Percent for Green program is funding eight school projects for a total match of \$1,675,570. Percent for Green staff have acknowledged how much they love working with the Estuary Partnership and how mutually beneficial the EPA funding and Percent for Green funding sources are.
- *Washington Ecology Stormwater Financial Assistance Program:* Though the Estuary Partnership is technically ineligible for this funding source, we have established partnerships with Cities who apply for and receive SFAP funding for us. SFAP funding paid for the Baker Bay Project's construction and is paying for design work at Washougal High School, Evergreen High School, and Fort Vancouver High School. SFAP funding through the City of Ilwaco, City of Washougal, and City of Vancouver has totaled more than \$3,000,000.

Chief Joseph Elementary School (Portland Public Schools, North Portland):

Final construction drawings are completed, City of Portland permit secured, construction bid process concluded, and a contractor was selected. Brown Contracting was the low bid contractor (\$236,000) and they were selected to build the project. The project is scheduled for construction in June 2026. A Depave Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 30, 2026.

Creston Annex Head Start (Portland Public Schools, SE Portland): We are still working to resolve the final permitting issues (mostly having to do with screening the school's two dumpsters from all adjoining properties). The project is currently out for bid (an optional pre-bid meeting for contractors is Thursday, Feb 12). Bids are due on March 13. Construction is slated to begin in mid-June 2026.

Duniway Elementary School (Portland Public Schools, SE Portland): This is our newest project. The City of Portland Percent for Green Program will award the project \$147,161. The project will primarily be a depave and planting project. We'll be coordinating with Depave for a Depave Day in 2027.

Evergreen High School (Evergreen Public Schools, Vancouver): We have submitted a "Design Report" to Ecology which is the first major deliverable of this design project. Ecology has provided comments, and we are currently developing a response to those comments. Once accepted by Ecology, the design team will begin work on Construction Drawings. We are planning for a construction grant application in Sept-October 2026. If successful, construction would likely start in 2028.

Fort Vancouver High School (Vancouver Public Schools, Vancouver): In coordination with the City of Vancouver, the Fort Vancouver project was approved for SFAP funding by Ecology in July 2025 in the amount of \$256,956. Ecology and the City are close to finalizing the contract and the Estuary Partnership and the City are finalizing an MOU. A survey has been completed and geotechnical work is taking place on Feb. 16. These are important precursors to the start of project design. Like the Evergreen project – this is a design only project at this point.

Hudson's Bay High School (Vancouver Public Schools, Vancouver): In coordination with the City of Vancouver, we re-submitted the Hudson's Bay project to the Ecology SFAP program. The draft offer list was published in January 2026 and the project is not on the funding list. We will re-strategize this project before deciding whether to resubmit again.

Rigler Elementary School (Portland Public Schools; NE Portland): This project was completed in late fall 2025 and we celebrated with a “grand opening event” that had speakers from the school (students and the principal), the Portland School District (District Superintendent Dr. Kimberly Armstrong), the landscape architect (Dave Elkin with Juncus Studio) and the Estuary Partnership (Elaine). About 100 people attended the event including 40 ish students. The project’s final construction cost was around \$530,000.

Glencoe Elementary School (Portland Public Schools, SE Portland): We are nearing completion of the 50% construction documents. We’ll be submitting for a permit soon, and hopefully putting this project out for bid in the next month or two – with the idea that construction will happen during summer 2026.

Rooster Rock State Park: This is a cross-team project with Estuary Partnership's Science Team, pursuing a habitat restoration project. As part of the project EMSWCD and EPA are funding design work to comprehensively treat the stormwater generated from the 16-acre parking lot. Currently, all stormwater on-site flows directly, untreated, to the Columbia River. The Estuary Partnership contracted with Wolf Water Resources to design the habitat restoration project, who subcontracted Juncus Studio from Estuary Partnership's stormwater on-call list. Preliminary concept design work continues.

Rose City Park Elementary: This will be a smaller scale project that primarily involves depaving on the Rose City Park Elementary schoolyard. Concept design work is getting started soon. A Depave Day is scheduled for October 3, 2026 and additional excavation and planting work will take place after that. Funding comes from the Percent for Green Program (\$146,849).

St. Ignatius Church and School: We are close to finalizing the contract with the City of Portland Percent for Green Program for \$315,449 for this project. We have hired KPFF to do the engineering work. Survey work is complete and geotechnical work will take place on Feb. 27. We expect this to go to construction in summer 2027.

Washougal High School and Surrounding Streets (Washougal): Our engineering contractor, Robertson Fick, is working towards 90% construction documents in coordination with the City and the School District. Key next steps in the coming months will be joint City-School District meetings to dial in an MOU for maintenance and the development of a construction application to Ecology to be submitted in October 2026. If successful, we expect that construction would start in summer 2028.

Science Team:

Staff Updates: Zoie Brauser joined the Monitoring Team in January as a Research Technician. She's finishing her thesis at PSU focusing on the carbon methane research project, specifically the soil chambers at Wallooskee-Youngs restoration site. She will complete her thesis and support developing a manuscript of her results with a comparison of results from the eddy covariance flux tower. The data and results will be shared with the Pacific Northwest Blue Carbon Working Group, and the Working Group will support guidance in next steps for this important project.

Miscellaneous Projects:

Landcover Dataset – This project was delayed a bit through NOAA's procurement process. We reviewed multiple draft datasets and recently received a near final dataset. The updated landcover data will allow us to compare present-day landcover to the 2009 data to complete a change analysis. This allows us to quantify the habitat that has been converted to other landcover (e.g., urban or industrial use) or protected/restored since 2009. The new data will also have impervious surface and tree canopy information so we can assess potential implications for heat islands and stormwater runoff.

Science Work Group – We held another meeting in December with regional partners to discuss developing Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plans (MAMPs) for each restoration project. These plans will guide action effectiveness sampling design and adaptive management.

Columbia River Estuary Conference – This is delayed due to continued federal employee travel restrictions. We hosted a 1-day abbreviated Columbia River Estuary Conference on May 13, 2025, at McMenamin's Edgefield with almost 150 attendees. Typically held over three days in Astoria, Oregon, the 2025 conference was relocated to the Portland-metropolitan area due to the travel and purchasing restrictions affecting many government employees. An additional Part 2 of the conference was hoped for in Astoria in May 2026 but is looking like it will be delayed until 2027 unless travel restrictions are lifted.

Restoration Efforts:

East Fork Lewis River Reconnection Project: The EFLR Reconnection Project is a \$23M floodplain reconnection project that will improve habitat for target species and reduce flood, erosion, and avulsion risk for neighboring properties. The project team successfully completed the first year of construction in October, including filling 5 of 8 gravel pits, constructing over 10,000 feet of side channel, restoring 160 acres of floodplain, replacing one undersized culvert, and relocating a Clark County maintenance yard outside of the floodplain. The team, which is currently focused on winter plantings at the site, also salvaged and relocated 81,000 lamprey, 45,000 mussels, and 46,000 fish. More details on the project are available in this PowerPoint, which was prepared for the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board:

https://estuarypartnership.sharepoint.com/p:/g/ESoB2BlzGNhCqRujr8B3niAB9Min_O2Pufs6gvNYdav49A?e=5vajjY



To the left is a photo of the site taken by the contractor (Tapani) after a heavy rain in early November (the three unfilled gravel pits are on the right side of the image). The site received more heavy rain in December (see photo below). The Estuary Partnership anticipates starting the second, and final, year of construction in May.



Woodard Creek Ph 3: The Estuary Partnership is developing a floodplain connection/restoration project on Lower Woodard Creek below SR-14 on Washington State Parks lands. We are in the initial steps of assessing feasibility and restoration alternatives that would improve physical and biological conditions for native aquatic species and plant communities. The project will evaluate the feasibility of removing or replacing the culvert immediately upstream of the railroad bridge, widening the railroad bridge, removing levees adjacent to Woodard Creek, decommissioning an existing road, and installing habitat features. During designs we will also evaluate the relocation of Woodard Creek to its original location to the west and reconnecting the creek to its broad alluvial fan/floodplain. The Estuary Partnership has hosted several site visits with partners and contracted with OTAK to provide engineering services.

Multnomah Channel Marsh and Crabapple Creek Reconnection Project - This project includes two components – Phase 1: Multnomah Channel Marsh (MCM) floodplain restoration and Phase 2: Crabapple Creek Culvert replacement under Hwy 30 and the Railroad. Construction of Phase 1 is planned for 2027, while stakeholder coordination and fundraising will continue for Phase 2. We are partnering with the MCM landowner, Metro, to restore fish and wildlife habitats by reconnecting 278-acres of tidal floodplain habitat, opening 2 miles of tributary habitat to juvenile salmonids, enhancing amphibian and herptile habitat, and expanding emergent marsh and scrub-shrub native plant communities. Restoration actions include removal of two relic water control structures, two levee breaches, floodplain grading, large wood placement, and 60 acres of revegetation. The 60% design plan set has been completed and we are working with Wolf Water Resources to advance to the next design stage. We are drafting permits and will initial revegetation site prep this spring. This phase of the project is funded by BPA and Metro.

Campen Creek Floodplain Reconnection: Campen Creek is a small, urbanized tributary that flows through the City of Washougal and into Gibbons Creek and Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Through its education programs and the Steigerwald Reconnection Project, the Estuary Partnership has partnered with the City and Washougal School District for decades. The Campen Creek Project, which was successfully constructed in August and September of this year, built on those partnerships, and by reconnecting Campen Creek to three acres of its floodplain, the project also helps protect the investment made at Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Currently, the Estuary Partnership is reforesting 9 acres of riparian habitat at the Campen Creek site (including a successful and well attended volunteer planting event in December!) and partnering with the school district to treat runoff from impervious areas at Washougal High School. Below is a pair of before and after photos from the Campen Creek Reconnection Project site.



BEFORE CONSTRUCTION (February 2024)



AFTER CONSTRUCTION (October 2025)

Mirror Lake Reconnection Project – The Estuary Partnership is partnering with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL), and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to develop a large-scale reconnection and restoration of the 440-acre floodplain located at Rooster Rock State Park. Primary actions include reconnecting the upstream end of the site to the Columbia River by constructing a new culvert or bridge through Interstate-84, reclaiming the park’s boat basin, retrofitting stormwater infrastructure to treat runoff from 12 acres of parking lot that currently discharges directly to the river, reconnecting Latourell and Young Creeks to their floodplains, and removing an abandoned culvert. The Estuary Partnership recently toured the site with DSL’s new director, Kaitlin Lovell, and the Oregon Secretary of State, Tobias Read (see screenshot of Secretary Read’s Facebook post below). The team also worked with OPRD, ODOT, and DSL to select preferred alternatives and develop concept designs for each of the project’s restoration alternatives. The team currently is developing the 30% design plan set.

Oregon Secretary of State Tobias Read ✓
Yesterday at 9:35 AM · 🌐

Projects like the Mirror Lake floodplain restoration project will ensure that future generations can continue to experience the incredible beauty and biodiversity we see in the Gorge. Thank you [Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership](#) for your leadership on this project and for having us! 🌱

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership is at Crown Point, Columbia River Gorge.
October 24 at 6:00 PM · 🌐

Thank you [Oregon Secretary of State Tobias Read](#) and Department of State Lands Director Kaitlin Lovell, plus partners at [Oregon Department of Transportation](#) and ... [See more](#)

👍❤️ 21 1 share

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

East Fork Thermal Project- The Estuary Partnership is assessing and developing preliminary designs for habitat projects that will protect, enhance, and create cold-water refuge opportunities at off-channel and side channel locations along the lower East Fork Lewis River, for salmon and steelhead during summer months. Water temperature in the lower East Fork is of significant concern because it greatly exceeds established state and

federal criteria for salmonid health throughout much of the summer. The four locations we are investigating are between Daybreak and Lewisville parks in Clark County and were identified during the East Fork Lewis River Thermal Assessment that the Estuary Partnership completed in 2022. We are seeking to increase access and habitat quality for salmonid rearing at these locations; and to potentially enhance the quality and area of cold water available. The Estuary Partnership completed field investigations throughout 2024 and 2025 and followed up with an Alternatives Assessment and selection of preferred alternatives for each project site in January 2026. We are currently reviewing preferred alternatives with stakeholders, including Clark County, WDFW, and the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board. Preliminary designs are due in fall of 2026.

Franz Lake National Wildlife Refuge – The Estuary Partnership is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a floodplain restoration project on the Franz Lake Refuge. Project designs have been funded by BPA, and Wolf Water Resources recently completed the 60% design documents. The Project was recently reviewed by the Expert Regional Technical Group (ERTG) and is currently under review by BPA environmental planning staff. These scores and comments will inform any necessary design changes as the project progresses toward final designs. The main project goal is to reconnect existing historic channels to the Columbia River to Franz Lake at lower flows, increasing the duration and extent of flows across the floodplain, improving off-channel habitat for foraging and rearing juvenile salmonids, and restoring emergent, scrub-shrub, and riparian habitats.

Lower Columbia River Barrier Assessment – The Estuary Partnership and Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board worked with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA Fisheries, counties, conservation districts, and other stakeholders to create a central resource of prioritized fish passage barriers across the Lower Columbia subbasin of southwest Washington to support recovery of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead populations. This was a 2-year effort that was completed in June 2025. The Lower Columbia Barrier Inventory and Decision-Support Tool highlights culverts, tide gates and other fish passage barriers that could provide the greatest benefit to salmon and steelhead recovery if fish passage through them is improved. The data and tool are accessible through an interactive web map, available at the Estuary Partnership [website](#), and the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board’s [Salmon Resource Map](#). We began a second phase of the project in Fall of 2025, to address data gaps identified in Phase 1 and to update the barrier information with any recent changes that have occurred. We are currently re-running the decision-support model with updated information and will begin field assessments of previously unmapped barriers in spring of 2026.

Monitoring and Research Efforts:

Ecosystem and Action Effectiveness Monitoring:

- The Monitoring Team is processing data collected during the 2025 summer field season. The team with partners collected vegetation community data; water elevation and temperature; sediment accretion rates; and biomass samples for Ecosystem and Action Effectiveness Monitoring Programs.
- The Team continues to upload partner data and our data onto Tableau where they create short summaries of the results through “dashboards”. They are updating graphs and summaries for more recent data and will be working with partners over the coming months to identify additional information that would be useful to them for the dashboards.
- The Monitoring Team is continuing to work through processing the immense amount of LiDAR and multispectral imagery they collected over the past three years. This is highly specialized work requiring immense amount of storage and processing capabilities as well as technical knowledge and experience. We’re very lucky to have such an amazing and capable Monitoring Team!

Columbia County Water Quality Monitoring:

This project was completed in 2025. The project was a collaborative effort with the Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District and donations from the County Board of Commissioners. Data was shared with the ODEQ and is publicly available. See [eDNA study Tableau Dashboard](#) and [Columbia County Water Quality Monitoring Dashboard](#) for more information.

Methane Carbon Flux Study:

We relocated one of our two eddy covariance flux towers to the Steigerwald Floodplain Reconnection project. We anticipate deploying soil chambers there in February or early March 2026. The other tower remains at the 200-acre Wallooskee-Youngs restoration site managed by the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. We removed the soil chambers-deployed for over a year from the Cowlitz's site last year and began relocating them to Steigerwald. We hired Zoie Brauser, a PSU graduate student, to help with the soil chamber monitoring. The Estuary Partnership has been partnering with Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and Portland State University (PSU) to monitor the carbon and methane fluxes of floodplain habitats across the lower Columbia River for several years. The goal of our research is to identify conditions that support net greenhouse gas sequestration so that our floodplain wetland restoration projects can be designed to be natural climate solutions. OHSU and PSU researchers install and maintain an eddy covariance flux towers and soil chambers, respectively. We hypothesize that the Wallooskee-Youngs and Steigerwald restoration sites represent "bookends" of tidal inundation, elevation, and vegetation community conditions in the lower Columbia River and as a result, should demonstrate the minimum to maximum range spectrum of carbon and methane fluxes across the lower river.

Communications & Development:

2025 End of Year campaign Our end of year campaign raised \$20,368 from 54 donors, which is just over our campaign goal of \$20,000. In total with monthly donors, we raised \$21,464 from November 1 through January 14. Among campaign donors:

- 27% were first-time donors to the Estuary Partnership
- 53% have attended some sort of Estuary Partnership event
- 31% have volunteered with the Estuary Partnership

Earth Month campaign

Our next fundraising campaign will take place in April to celebrate Earth Month. I am currently seeking business sponsors to act as a 1:1 match for individual donors.

We will have a kick-off event at Fort George Brewery in Astoria on Tuesday, March 31 starting at 5pm. 10% of sales benefit the Estuary Partnership that day.

Annual Celebration

We have scheduled our Annual Celebration for Sunday, September 20 at the Hotel Indigo. We are aiming for an earlier timeframe than recent years, likely 1-4pm with heavy appetizers but no dinner (and everyone gets their Sunday night). Poison Waters will be our MC. We already have Inter-Fluve signed on as a \$5,000 sponsor.

Social media stats:

November 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026

- Facebook – 43.5K views
 - Interactions – 1.2K
 - Profile visits – 1.7K
 - New followers - 137
 - Total followers - 3,289
- Instagram – 18.6K views
 - Interactions – 795
 - Profile visits – 280
 - New followers - 74
 - Total followers – 1,935
- LinkedIn – 4,390 impressions
 - Interactions – 141
 - Page visits – 101
 - New followers – 29
 - Total followers – 761

Top posts:

Top Facebook post by reach: [East Fork Lewis River Reconnection Project year one update video](#), January 29, with a reach of 9,115 and 157 interactions.

Top Instagram post: [Promoting our volunteer schedule](#), January 6, with a reach of 940 and 77 interactions.

Top LinkedIn post: [Celebrating the reopening of the Rigler schoolyard](#), November 7, with 561 impressions and 26 engagements

Federal delegation updates:

Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez tours East Fork Lewis River Reconnection Project

Congresswoman Gluesenkamp Perez (WA-3) kicked off the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service volunteer planting event at the East Fork Lewis River on January 19, 2026. Despite frosty temperatures, over 60 people joined the Congresswoman to plant over 1,000 willow and ninebark plants and over 800 wetland sedges and rushes in the newly restored floodplain of the East Fork Lewis River.

The Congresswoman's opening remarks included mention of her dear friend who remembers a time when the Columbia River froze over in the winter. The last time the Columbia River froze was 1930. This was around the same time that gravel mining operations began along the East Fork Lewis River. Very few people with a living memory of the braided, wide floodplain of the East Fork Lewis River remain. But that is set to change. Over the past year, we've been working with Clark County, Tapani, and many other partners to restore the East Fork Lewis River to conditions like those that existed before impact. Watch the [video of the Congresswoman's opening remarks](#) at the volunteer planting event on her Facebook page.

After pitching in with the volunteer planting, the Congresswoman and her staff hopped in a UTV with Chris Collins and Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky for a full site tour that focused on how the restored river responded to the December flood events (positively) and why floodplain reconnection benefits salmon and people equally.



National Estuary Program funding for FY26 signed into law; FY27 appropriations process looming

President Trump signed the FY2026 Commerce–Justice–Science, Energy and Water Development, and Interior and Environment appropriations package into law on January 23, 2026. This appropriations package included \$850,000 in funding for each National Estuary Program.

The FY27 President’s Budget Request is expected to be released around the end of February. Congressional offices loosely follow this timeline to accept appropriations requests. We are tracking the release of appropriations request forms for each member of our Congressional delegation. Jasmine is scheduling meetings with Congressional staffers on the Hill in March to highlight the benefits of the National Estuary Program and deliver local impact stories.

Columbia River Basin Restoration Program

The Columbia River Basin Restoration Program (CRBRP) reportedly received \$3.5 million in funding in the FY26 budget. At this time, it is unknown how those funds will be used.

Washington State Updates:

Restoring Washington base funding

We are meeting with representatives and senators throughout our study area to inform them of Ecology’s decision to eliminate base funding for the organization. As of February 6, Jasmine and Elaine have met with Representatives Abbarno, Orcutt, Walsh, Waters, Wylie, Ley and McClintock, and Senator Braun. The conversations with all these elected officials have been positive. Representative Orcutt’s office is taking the lead on a sign-on letter supporting the restoration of our base funds. The last day of the 2026 legislative session is March 12.

Media Coverage:

Note: articles linked below may be available to subscribers only. A pdf version of each article is available here:

[2025 News Articles](#)

[Education and involvement: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership celebrates 30 years](#). The Columbian. October 30, 2025.

Funding Report:

Grant Name	Amount		Campaign	Account	Status
	Requested	Amount Funded			
Gray Family Foundation 2025	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	Education	Gray Family Foundation	Awarded: No Match
Dyer Creek Phase 2 Construction	\$295,902.48	\$295,903.00	Restoration	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	Awarded: No Match
First Interstate Bank Enviro Ed 2025	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	Education	First Interstate	Awarded: No Match
EPA Base 25-29	\$850,333.00	\$850,333.00	EPA Base	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Awarded: Requires Match
Barrier Assessment Phase 2	\$142,636.00	\$142,636.00	Restoration	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	Awarded: No Match
Recreation Conservation ODFW 2025	\$98,905.00	\$98,905.00	Education	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	Awarded: Requires Match
OSMB Waterway Access Grant 2025-27	\$62,600.94	\$32,003.15	Paddling & On-water	Oregon State Marine Board	Awarded: Requires Match
Total:	\$1,480,377.42	\$1,449,780.15			
OWEB Carbon Methane Monitoring	\$296,272.00		Monitoring	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Closed - Declined
PGE Habitat Support Fund 2025	\$34,982.14		Education	The Nature Conservancy	Closed - Declined
RFP #2025-51 Watershed Education	\$185,240.69		Education	Clackamas County Water Environment Services	Closed - Declined
Stimson-Miller Foundation 2025 - Big Canoes	\$11,258.00		Paddling & On-water	Stimson-Miller Foundation	Closed - Declined
Union Pacific Foundation - environmental education 2025	\$12,680.00		Education	Union Pacific Foundation	Closed - Declined
Maximizing Use of the Conservation and Restoration of Tidal Floodplain Wetlands for Natural Climate Solutions	\$284,108.00		Monitoring	Restore America's Estuaries	Closed - Declined
CWSP 2025	\$11,995.14		Education	City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services	Closed - Declined
Focus Grant 2025	\$33,965.00		Education	Community Foundation for Southwest Washington	Closed - Declined
EFLR Reconnection Monitoring	\$297,585.00		Monitoring	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	Closed - Declined
Mid EFLR Design	\$280,866.00		Restoration	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	Closed - Declined
Salmon Creek Feasibility and Design	\$190,096.96		Restoration	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	Closed - Declined
RFP #00002495 Elementary Water Education	\$601,305.92		Education	City of Portland	Closed - Declined
Lacamas Creek Design	\$349,900.00		Restoration	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office	Closed - Declined
Total:	\$2,590,254.85	\$0.00			
Portland Harbor Community Grant 2025	\$33,792.00	\$33,792.00	Paddling & On-water	City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services	Selected: Awaiting Agreement
Total:	\$6,998,821.06	\$1,757,116.30			
Mirror Lake Final Design and Permitting	\$502,852.00		Restoration	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	
Crabapple Creek Culvert Replacement and MCMNA Floodplain Reconnection	\$1,800,000.00		Restoration	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	Submitted
Spirit Mountain LOI Big Canoe 2026	\$36,153.00		Paddling & On-water	Spirit Mountain Community Fund	Submitted
Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal	\$6,922,258.00		Restoration	NOAA	Submitted
Metro Central Community Enhancement Grant 2026	\$33,884.30		Paddling & On-water	Metro	Submitted
PacifiCorp EFLR Restoration Feasibility and Design	\$283,696.00		Restoration	PacifiCorp	Submitted
Confluence EMSWCD PIC 2026-28	\$21,995.00		Volunteering	Confluence Project	Submitted
EMSWCD PIC 2026 Big Canoe	\$44,406.00		Paddling & On-water	East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District	Submitted
CWCC 2026	\$9,500.00		Education	Camas-Washougal Community Chest	Submitted
Ecology Centennial Salmon Creek 2026-29	\$322,193.63		Education	Washington Department of Ecology	Submitted
Ecology Centennial Salmon Creek 2026-29	\$322,193.63		Education	WA Ecology	Submitted
Total:	\$10,299,131.56				
Total Submitted and Awarded/Selected:	\$ 11,779,508.98	\$ 3,206,896.45			

Contracts Report FY25:

Contracts Report for Board of Directors			July 1, 2025 through February 12, 2026		
Contracts Awarded to the Estuary Partnership					
Contract #	Party	Dollar Value	Purpose	Date Signed	End Date
% for Green - Rose City	Portland BES	\$ 146,849.00	Rose City Stormwater Retrofit	8/7/2025	6/30/2027
% for Green - Chief Joseph	Portland BES	\$ 240,095.00	Chief Joseph Stormwater Retrofit	8/7/2025	6/30/2027
WQC-2024-LCEP-00181	WA ECY		Amended to update indirect to 15% for Sec. 319	7/8/2025	
WAGG Agreement #1753	Oregon State Marine Board	\$ 32,003.15	Waterway Access Grant	8/13/2024	6/30/2027
C23-12 Amendment 2	CRITFC		Extends agreement to 8/31/2026	8/22/2025	8/31/2026
Cooperative Agreement 97780	BPA	\$ 1,625,444.00	Habitat Restoration	8/27/2025	9/30/2027
32003986	Portland BES	\$ 33,792.00	Portland Harbor - educational map and programming, paddling	8/27/2025	7/26/2026
Cooperative Agreement 97796	BPA	\$ 1,189,457.00	Ecosystem Monitoring	10/1/2025	9/30/2026
MG-10996	BEF	\$ 34,290.00	47,625 trees/planting	8/1/2025	1/31/2026
02J55401-1	EPA- IJJA	\$ 909,000.00	IJJA Year 4	2/1/2024	6/30/2026
03J08401-0	EPA - Base	\$ 850,333.00	EPA Base Workplan (Yr. 1 of 4)	7/1/2025	9/30/2029
24-1528R	WA RCO	\$ 65,000.00	Increased funding by \$65,000 for Campen Creek	9/5/2024	11/25/2027
MOU	LCRFB		Barrier Data Management MOU	1/1/2026	12/31/2027
226-8005-24782	OWEB	\$ 329,987.00	Lower Columbia River Hab. Enhancement 25-27 (Oregon Base)	10/15/2025	12/30/2027
SEAFBD-2325-LCEP-00060	WA ECY		Amended indirect rate to state approved 30% of personnel costs.	10/1/2025	6/30/2027
25-1110	WA RCO	\$ 142,636.00	Lower Columbia Barrier Inventory Phase 2	12/2/2025	9/16/2027
ODFW 432-25	ODFW	\$ 98,905.00	Give Learn Explore: Community Recreation through Stewardship, Ed, and Paddling	10/31/2025	3/31/2028
		\$ 5,697,791.15			

Contracts Let by Estuary Partnership: 7/1/2025 - 2/2/2026					
Contract #	Party	Dollar Value	Purpose	Date Signed	End Date
24-2025-02	Dudek	\$0	Extension	7/30/2025	9/5/2025
Engineering Cost Agr.	Portland & Western Railroad	\$ 69,960.00	Railroad Engineering Review	7/3/2025	
CO3 - Rigler	Grasstains	\$ 5,850.00	Change order - adding steel catch basin replacement	7/31/2025	
30-2025-01	Wolf Water Resources	\$ -	Reallocation of funds by task	8/1/2025	10/31/2025
11-2025 CO 4	Tapani, Inc	\$ 383,992.33	Change orders for EFLR Construction	8/7/2025	
CO5 - Rigler	Grasstains	\$ 3,986.13	Change order for Rigler Construction	8/7/2025	
10-2025- 02	AINW	\$ 1,225.97	Amended contract to add \$1,225.97 and extend to 12/1/2025	8/11/2025	12/1/2025
02-2026	Trout Mountain	\$ 12,000.00	Logs PO - Campen	8/13/2025	8/28/2025
23-2025 - 01	Roberson Fick	\$ 10,560.00	Evergreen HS Stormwater Design Amendment #1 - to amend contract total to \$270,494.00	8/14/2025	
08-2024-01	Portland State University		Carbon Flux Estimates Extension to 6/30/3036	8/14/2025	6/30/2026
04-2026	Trout Mountain	\$14,000	Logs PO for EFLR with delivery	8/20/2025	8/28/2025
Course 23747	NOLS		Wildland First Aid, total to be billed after enrollment - \$300/attendee.	8/27/2025	
35-2024- 01	Juncus Studio	\$ 34,300.00	Extend the contract and increase total to \$73,800.	8/27/2025	12/31/2026
05-2026 (Purchase Order)	Flora Northwest	\$22,600	Purchase Order for Willow Cuttings.	9/2/2025	
06-2026 (Purchase Order)	Trout Mountain	\$ 103,254.00	Pile log delivery	9/3/2025	
24-2025-03	Dudek	\$0	Extension	9/5/2025	9/30/2025
11-2025-05	Tapani	\$ 201,262.27	Change Order 05	9/9/2025	12/18/2026
07-2026	R Franco	\$ 814,913.24	EFLR Reveg	9/21/2025	12/31/2027
08-2026	BioHabitats	\$ 758,335.27	EFLR Reveg	9/26/2025	12/31/2027
30-2025-02	Wolf Water Resources	\$ 21,469.00	Fully authorize Task 1 & 2	9/25/2025	10/31/2025
15-2025-01	Wolf Water Resources	\$ (33,000.00)	Reduce funding	9/25/2025	9/30/2025
26-2025-01	Aquatic Contracting	\$ 25,468.94	Change Order	10/6/2025	10/15/2025
11-2025-06	Tapani	\$ 86,625.62	Change Order 06	10/9/2025	12/18/2026
09-2026	University of Washington	\$ 103,903.00	Macroinvertebrate Processing and Analysis for EMP	10/9/2025	9/30/2026
10-2026 PLACEHOLDER	NOAA	\$ 180,595.00	Salmon and Prey Sampling, EMP and AEM, Otolith analysis, manuscript submittal,		
13-2026	ERSM	\$ 87,644.67	Campen Creek Reveg	10/21/2025	12/31/2027
14-2026	OTAK				
06-2025-01	Parametrix	\$ 11,549.00	Additional services request &	10/22/2025	11/30/2026
12-2026	Revive Riverscape Solutions	\$ 29,906.00	Woodard Preliminary Designs	10/23/2025	9/30/2026
11-2026	CREST	\$ 67,808.07	EMP Monitoring	10/28/2025	9/30/2026
14-2025-01	OHSU	\$ -	Extension	10/28/2025	12/12/2025
11-2025-07	Tapani	\$ 46,559.59	Change Order 07	10/31/2025	12/18/2026
37-2024-02	KPFF	\$ 4,500.00	Additional services request	10/29/2025	12/31/2026
16-2026	Robertson Fick	\$ 217,804.00	FVHS design	11/5/2025	12/31/2027
17-2025	KPFF	\$ 64,655.00	St Ignatius design	11/5/2025	12/31/2027
15-2026	Historical Research Assoc	\$ 28,917.00	Woodard Phase 3 Cultural	11/10/2025	9/20/2026
18-2026	Wolf Water Resources	\$ 49,549.00	MCMNA & Crabapple Design	11/12/2025	2/28/2026
14-2026	Otak	\$ 98,628.00	Woodard 3 Design	12/5/2025	9/26/2026
20-2026	Trout Mountain	\$ 166,800.00	EFLR Logs PO	12/8/2025	1/30/2026
19-2026	OHSU	\$ 298,024.00	EMP Monitoring	10/1/2025	9/30/2026
23-2025-02	Robertson Fick	\$ 16,825.00	Additional services request	12/30/2025	6/30/2027
24-2026	Juncus	\$ 34,880.00	Rose City stormwater design	1/14/2026	3/31/2027
23-2026	OHSU	\$ 51,058.00	Carbon Methane	12/13/2025	12/31/2026
22-2026	Conson	\$ 168,162.00	EFLR Year 2 Const Mgmt	1/1/2026	12/31/2026
25-2026	ERSM	\$ 37,807.04	EFLR Reveg	1/15/2026	5/1/2026
30-2025-03	Wolf Water Resources	\$ 97,065.75	Scope addition	1/13/2026	10/31/2026
26-2026	Brown Contracting, Inc	\$ 239,000.00	Chief Joseph construction	1/26/2026	10/31/2026
28-2026	West Fork Environmental	\$ 10,900.00	PIT Array Maintenance Steigerwald	2/2/2026	9/30/2027
		\$4,649,343			