

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

# Columbia CONNECTIONS

Protecting ecosystems...

## ***Horsetail Creek project improves floodplain connection to Columbia River***



The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, U.S. Forest Service, and partners began constructing fish passage and salmon habitat improvements within the historic Columbia River floodplain in mid-July. Construction crews, heavy equipment, and helicopters are working in the vicinity of Horsetail and Oneonta Creeks, five miles west of the Bonneville Dam, through mid-September.

The Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration Project will improve the connectivity between the Columbia River and a 180-acre tract of its floodplain, as well as improve habitat and water quality within this off-channel area. Historically the site was a dynamic part of the Columbia River floodplain with an ash forest, willow bottoms, and five creeks and sloughs connecting to the river. The construction of Interstate-84 (I-84), the railroad and the clearing of the site's forest to make room for grazing cattle diminished its connection to the river and degraded habitat for salmon and other species.

[Read more and photos](#)



Building connections...

***Outdoor Education program connects students with***



Engaging partners...

***Brown and Caldwell supports the***

## ***nature***

Students in the Outdoor Education program learn about the Columbia River and make environmental improvements in their local communities.

On a very rainy spring day in May, Kylie and her fifth grade classmates from Lewis and Clark Elementary in Astoria, Oregon headed out to remove Scotch broom from behind their school grounds. Their goal is to reclaim a nature trail that was overtaken by invasive species after a severe wind storm in 2007 downed dozens of trees. Without the dense shade provided by trees, Scotch broom spread rapidly. Using knowledge learned in the classroom, Kylie was able to identify both native and non-native plants and together with her classmates removed seven truckloads of Scotch broom. The rain didn't slow anyone down and everyone enjoyed jumping in rain puddles on the way back to the classroom.

Projects like the one at Lewis and Clark Elementary were just one of many lead by the Estuary Partnership during the 2012-13 school year when educators engaged over 3,600 students in classroom lessons, service learning projects and on-river field trips. Building on concepts learned in the classroom, students explored local natural areas, witnessed environmental concepts in action and engaged in hands-on activities that made environmental improvements within their local communities. Estuary Partnership educators worked with students from across our service area, from Corbett, Oregon to Ilwaco, Washington leading a regional effort to connect youth to the lower Columbia River in meaningful ways.

[Read more](#)

## ***Estuary Partnership***

With a legacy of stewardship dating back to its inception in 1947, it's no surprise that Brown and Caldwell (BC) is a sponsor of the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership. BC is 100% environmental and the largest engineering consulting firm solely focused on the U.S. environmental sector.

Headquartered in California, the firm has over 50 offices in major cities throughout the country, including Seattle and Portland. Management and employees share a strong commitment to social responsibility through national and local programs, including Water For People and Engineers Without Borders.

Working to improve the lower 146 miles of the Columbia River for this generation and all those who come after it is a big job and the Estuary Partnership can't do it alone. Building the stewardship needed to sustain this precious resource, restoring nature and clean water for everyone, takes collaboration.

"Brown and Caldwell is proud to be a sponsor of the Estuary Partnership," said Bryan Paulson, Oregon Area Leader. "We are committed to this nationally significant waterway's health and vitality and will continue to help in any way we can."

***Photo:*** BC's Portland office holds an annual park restoration project for Earth Day. Last year's event was held at Pier Park in North Portland, where employee volunteers removed invasive species such as blackberries and ivy, repainted park structures, removed graffiti and picked up trash.





### ***Volunteer spotlight: Michelle Westcott***

Thank you to Michelle Westcott for volunteering with the Estuary Partnership's Outdoor Education program this year. She volunteered her time on school field trips, helping lead aquatic macro and water quality stations for students at Oxbow Regional Park and Meldrum Bar Park. Michelle has a degree in Environmental Science with an emphasis in freshwater ecology. She also has experience delivering environmental education programs with the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association. We are grateful for the time and knowledge Michelle shared with us. Thank you!

### ***Upcoming Events***

#### **Connect to the Columbia Canoe Paddles**

[Willamette River Family Paddle & Picnic](#)

**August 15, 2013, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

Join us for a family friendly canoe paddle and picnic on Ross Island.

[Lacamas Lake, Camas WA](#)

**August 20, 2013, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

Join us family friendly canoe paddle on Lacamas Lake in Camas.

[Birdfest at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge](#)

**October 5, 2013, 9:30 AM or 11:30 AM start**

Join us as we paddle the canoes along Lake River at the Birdfest.

#### **Fundraising Events**

[Friends and Family Night at McMenamins Kennedy School](#)

**September 17, 2013, 5:00 PM to Midnight**

Enjoy dinner out and help raise funds for the Education Program. We will receive 50% of all food and drink revenue from the Courtyard Restaurant that night! Bring your friends!

[14th Annual Dinner & Art Gala](#)

**October 12, 2013, Columbia River Yacht Club**

Join us for our largest fundraiser of the year and enjoy a wonderful evening on the river with friends!

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