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Victory for the Columbia River

After eight years of work by numerous partners including the Estuary Partnership, the Columbia River Basin Restoration Act (CRBRA) was signed into law on December 16, 2016 by President Obama as part of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. **The CRBRA authorizes a grant program administered by the U.S. EPA to help local groups voluntarily clean up, monitor, and reduce the use of toxics within the Columbia River Basin.** This victory could bring millions of dollars to the region and make significant improvements to the river's water quality.

Eight million people live in the Columbia River Basin. Many of us depend on the river for jobs, food, recreation, transportation, and drinking water. But unlike other large water bodies across the nation, the Columbia River receives no federal investment to keep the water clean of toxics. With leadership from Oregon Senator Merkley and Congressmen Blumenauer, the CRBRA was introduced into congress in 2015 and co-sponsored by Oregon Senator Wyden, Representative Bonamici, Representative DeFazio and Washington Senators Cantwell and Murray. Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, NW River Partners, and Salmon Safe also championed the

While the new administration may bring the future of this victory into question, we will continue to work with our delegation and partners to ensure the region has the resources needed to support local efforts to keep our river clean.



Innovative Modeling at Buckmire Slough

Ecological Function Modeling by our Science Team helped Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife evaluate restoration alternatives at Buckmire Slough near Vancouver Lake. Buckmire Slough is part of the Shillapoo Wildlife Area, and provides critical habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl and sandhill cranes.

In designing a restoration plan for Buckmire Slough, WDFW wanted to understand how to best benefit native vegetation as well as habitat for wintering waterfowl, sandhill cranes, salmon, and white-tailed deer. Pairing hydraulic and ecological models offered WDFW a predicted view of how various restoration actions will affect habitat. This modeling helped WDFW design a restoration plan that will use levee breaches to re-connect the Columbia River to 800 acres of historic floodplain and wetlands.

The Estuary Partnership's ecological modeling is changing the way local land managers approach restoration. Typically, restoration designs focus on benefitting one species. Our modeling helps land managers better understand which restoration actions will have the greatest impact for multiple species. The result is innovative restoration designs that are cost effective and that have a higher likelihood of success. The Estuary Partnership is the

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Thank you to project partners the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration, and WDFW.



Environmental Educator (temporary)

Applications due February 3

Join our team and teach kids outdoors!
More details and the job description can be found [on our website](#).



Your Hands Needed to Plant Trees

There are four more opportunities this winter to get your hands dirty to improve habitat. Plantings are held Saturdays from 9am to noon. Sign up below!

- [February 25 - La Center Bottoms](#)
- [March 4 - Vancouver Lake Park](#)
- [March 11 - La Center Bottoms](#)
- [March 18 - Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge](#)



Dine with us at McMenamins on the Columbia

Tuesday, March 7, 5pm - close

We're excited to partner with [McMenamins On The Columbia](#) for Friends & Family Night! McMenamins on the Columbia is located directly on the Vancouver riverfront ([map](#)) and features fabulous river views in addition to tasty food and drink. **The Estuary Partnership gets 50% of the evening's**



2016 Highlights

Stewardship, science, restoration, and

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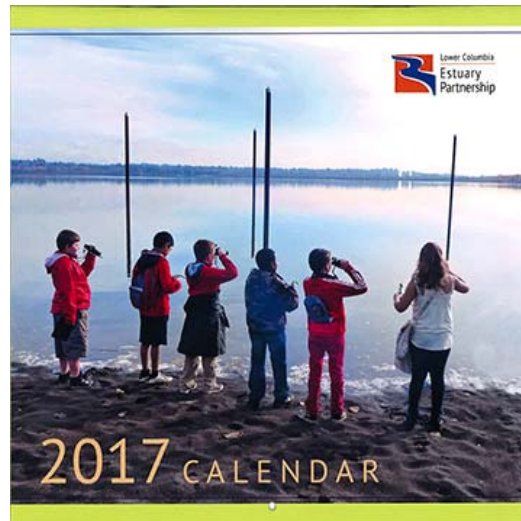
support our work. [RSVP on Facebook to let us know you're coming!](#)



Learn About Your Lake

Thursday, April 13, 5-7pm

Save the date and join us at the Water Resources Center ([map](#)) for our second annual Open House for Vancouver Lake. Sign up for stewardship opportunities, find out about rowing, learn about projects that are improving habitat. This event is free!



Free 2017 calendars

Still have a blank square on your wall where a calendar should hang? [Contact us](#) for a free, limited-edition Estuary Partnership wall calendar, featuring photos from our field trips, canoe paddles, and volunteer events!



Thank You for Giving

Thank you to everyone who generously gave to the Estuary Partnership during the holiday season. **Donors raised over \$8,000 to get kids outside to learn science and experience their watershed.** Our utmost gratitude to our matching donor **Wolf Water Resources**. We appreciate every gift, and your dedication to outdoor education and a clean and healthy Columbia River.



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