



2021 Annual Report

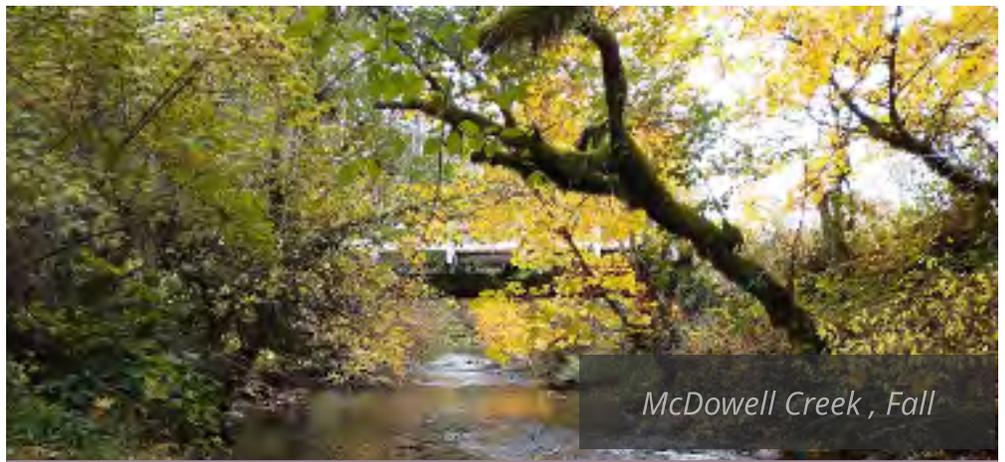
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Restoration Manager
JP Zagarola, Project Manager



McDowell Creek, Fall

Working for a watershed council allows for some expansive metaphorical thinking. When I asked my son what theme I should write on this year, he said water. Specifically, the nature of water as it flows downstream. The way it slides between and bends around rocks. How slowly it creates change, moving so gradually that you hardly notice a new pool, an undercut bank, a home for fish where there wasn't previously.

Water perseveres.

In many ways, this fits our 2021. The council continues to shift, adapting to current conditions, working to achieve ecological uplift, and reaching more people in the community. We are sometimes challenged to see growth day-to-day, and then we step back and say Yes. This is who we are.

But it's a complicated metaphor, too. Water in the west is imperiled. Over-promised, and decreasing in quantity, it comes less reliably-- sometimes too much or at an unexpected time.

This, too, fits our 2021 in many ways as we work to remain flexible, seeking new ways to do our best with the conditions we have and working with others to do the same.

We persevere.

2021. The council has done some hard work this year, and some very good work. You can read more about that in this report! If this is the only part you read, though, I hope you come away knowing how honored I am to work with you, our partners, board members, neighbors, and community members to help safeguard these ancestral lands of the Kalapuya, Santiam and Tsankupi peoples.

Without you, there is no watershed council. Thank you for your support and the energy you bring!

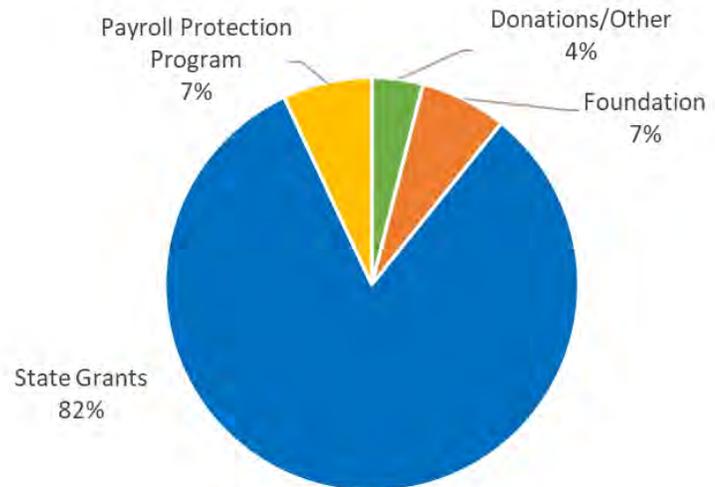
FINANCIAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2021 (JULY 1, 2020-JUNE 30, 2021)

One of the pieces of information that we provide in each annual report is a financial wrap-up for the previous fiscal year. The council's fiscal year runs from July 1-June 30, which aligns with the State of Oregon's fiscal year; other councils may operate on different calendars, including the federal fiscal year (October 1-September 30) or the calendar year.

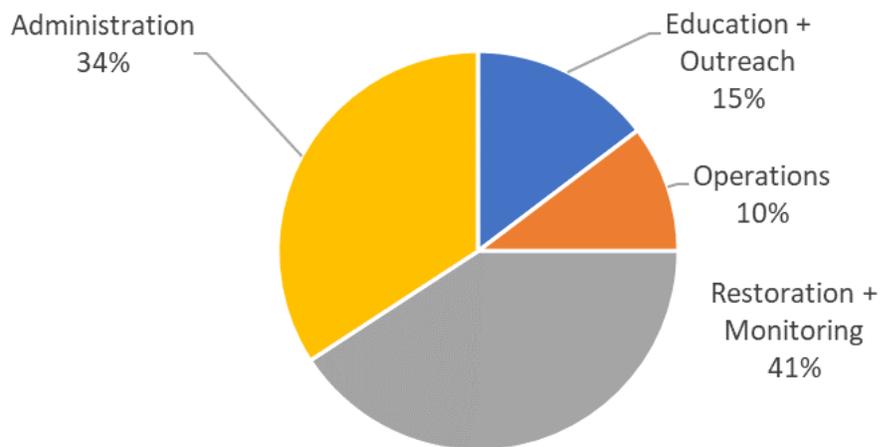
The majority of our funding comes via State Grants from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and others. Many of these grants operate on a reimbursement basis. Depending on the timing of expenditures and reimbursements, it can appear that the council's expenses outstrip income. There are other ways to display financial information, but showing it this way helps us also explain how finances often work for getting work done on the ground.

The 2021 fiscal year was significantly altered by the effects of covid, covid-related relief, and fire recovery spending. Our funders have been extremely generous with prolonged timelines, relaxed reporting requirements, and greater flexibility in spending. We also took advantage of the federal government's Payroll Protection Program (PPP). The PPP provided several months of payroll support in the form of a no-interest loan that was subsequently forgiven based on our use and documentation.

This year has highlighted the importance of cultivating diverse funding that incorporates novel sources of revenue. In the coming year, the council will explore options to build a donor base, support legacy giving and bequests, and seek mutually beneficial partnerships that help levy additional financial support. I'm excited to see where this takes us!



Total Income: \$194,070



Total Expenses \$214,856

RESTORATION

During FY 2021, we continued our plant establishment work, contracting with crews to mow, spray and interplant across nearly 100 acres.

One of our major efforts this year was a knotweed treatment project in Crabtree Creek. Using funds from the BLM Secure Rural Schools program, we hired contractors start in upper Crabtree Creek and Roaring River, treating every property we had permission to access as far downstream as possible. This included federal land (BLM), industrial timber and private lands.



The crew worked for a total of 276 hours and treated 7.4 miles of stream front. The abundance of knotweed meant that we treated fewer stream miles than we had hoped, but we were able to adapt the

three-year treatment plan to ensure that the system will get treated thoroughly.

More than half the landowners we reached out to gave us permission to access and treat. We hope that their trust will help convince other neighbors to participate too. That's the best way we can increase our overall impact!

OUTREACH

In 2021, we held a fully remote version of our popular Plan For Your Land workshop series. Participants learned from subject matter experts and their peers, and came away from the series with a land management plan specific to their needs.

One exciting benefit of being remote was that we recorded each seminar, and the recordings are available on our website at no cost! Combined with downloadable information from the workshops, our website is now a portal to accessible, approachable DIY planning content!

Visit our website to check it out-- we just celebrated one year on the website reboot, and are excited to hear what you think!

EDUCATION

Although the momentum we built in 2019 and early 2020 ground to a stop as covid took hold of the valley, 2021 brought a handful of opportunities to connect with young people in our service area.



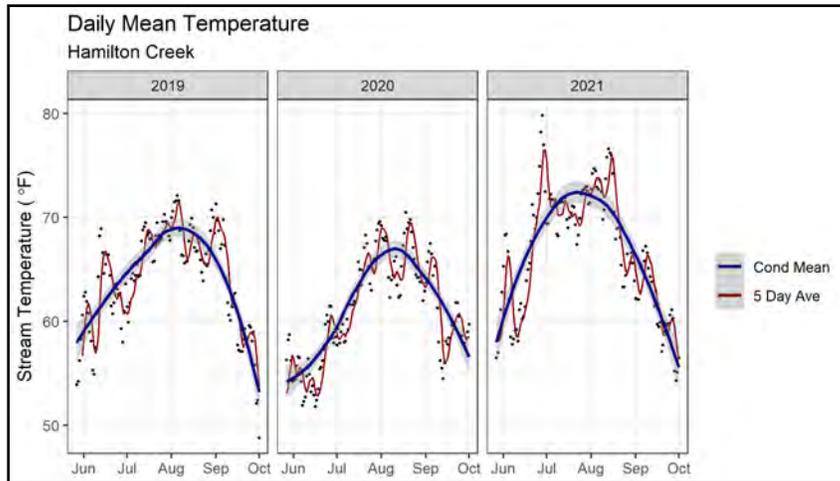
From steelhead dissections (above) and snorkeling trips with high school students to Girl Scout STEM Days (below), we brought outdoor education to learners.



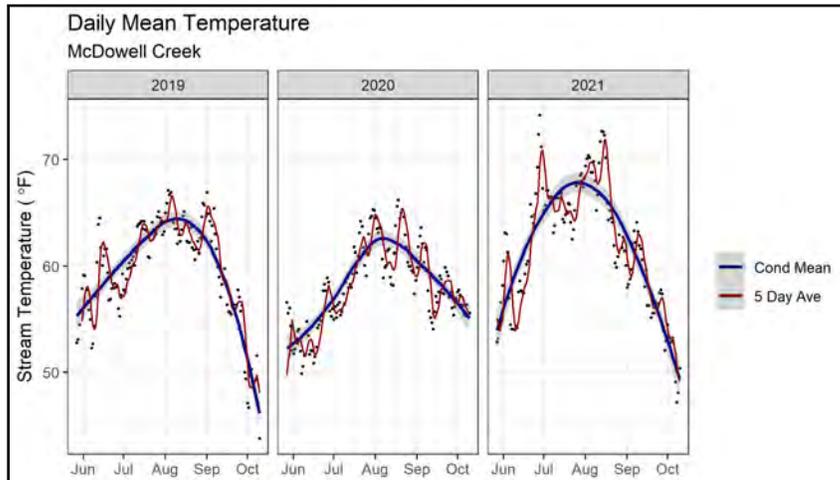
We hope that 2022 will allow us to return to the programming we love: Outdoor School, Salmon Watch, Youth Watershed Council, and more. Here's to a time that we can bring learners outside again, to explore watershed health in the best classroom around-- the river bank!

FEATURE: WATER TEMPERATURE MONITORING

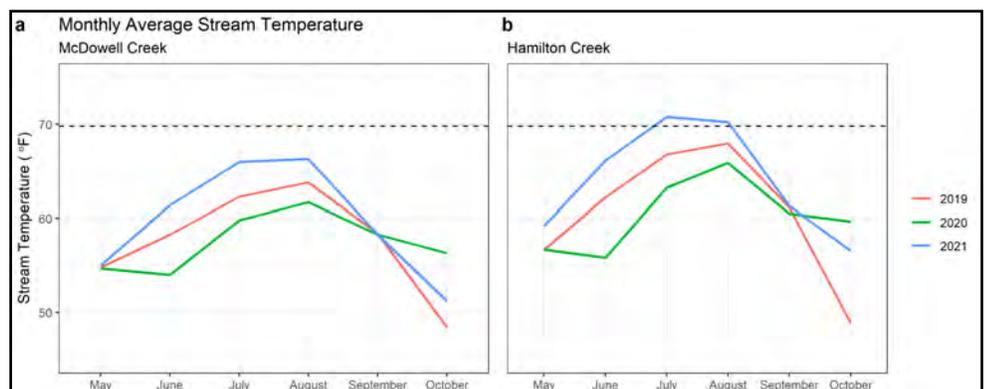
With funding and technical support from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), SSWC has monitored stream temperature in McDowell and Hamilton Creeks from May to October for the past 4 years. The council submits data annually to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for tracking and public disclosure. In 2021, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) awarded us a grant to expand our monitoring to year-round for the next 4 years. Long-term monitoring helps the SSWC understand the effectiveness of past restoration efforts aimed at reducing stream temperatures and keeps us informed of in-stream conditions that affect salmonid recovery.



Mean daily temperature of Hamilton (above) and McDowell (below) Creeks. Dots are daily average temperatures, while red is the 5-day rolling average. The blue line is a conditional mean to show the seasonal trend.



Mean monthly temperature for McDowell and Hamilton Creeks, 2019-2021. The dashed line at 69.8° is a stress threshold for migrating adult salmonids.



In general, temperatures in Hamilton Creek are higher than McDowell Creek. Both streams experienced their highest recorded temperatures in 2021, with daily means exceeding 70°F at multiple points throughout the summer. In 2021, we also recorded the lowest flows of our monitoring window; Hamilton reached a low of 3.6 cubic feet per second (cfs) and McDowell reached a low of 2.1 cfs in August. In 2021, mean monthly temperatures in Hamilton exceeded 69.8°F in July and August, a stress threshold for migrating adult salmonids. Both streams are currently listed under section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act as exceeding water quality criteria for temperature.

These trends highlight the importance of continued efforts to restore and enhance stream conditions for salmonids. Working closely with private landowners and agency partners, the SSWC will continue its efforts to address these issues and work toward sustainable solutions in the future.

PARTNERS



Weyerhaeuser



MISSION

To involve local people in the enhancement and protection of the South Santiam Watershed for the social and economic benefit of its landowners, managers, and users.

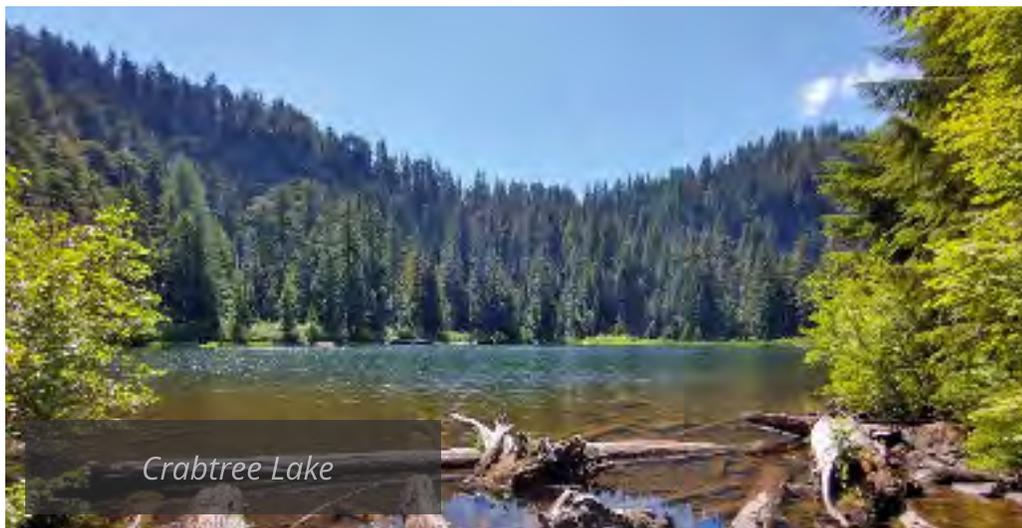
JOIN US

Who is a member of the watershed council?

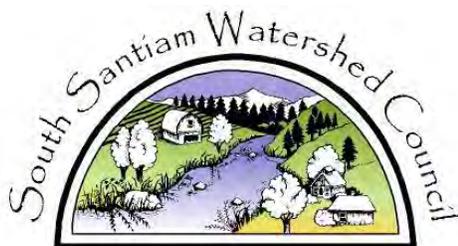
YOU ARE!

If you work, live or play in the South Santiam basin, you are a part of the council. Come to a meeting or check out the website for more information.

The South Santiam Watershed Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 3-5pm. Currently, we are meeting remotely on zoom; please contact us for log-in information!



Crabtree Lake



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