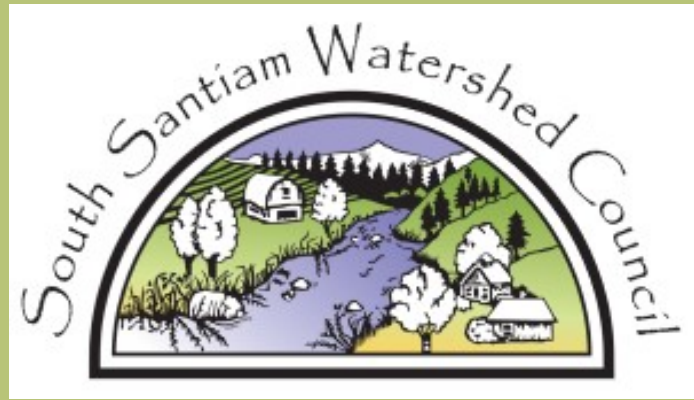




2024 Annual Report

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Moving from 2023 to 2024 brought the South Santiam Watershed Council more change. Late in 2023, the council added two additional staff members, and we have spent much of 2024 learning how to leverage each other's strengths. We also secured several new grants, including the largest grant the council has ever been awarded. Now, moving into 2025, I could not be more excited. We are hitting our stride. We serve the South Santiam basin, the communities and landscapes, with great pride and dedication. I can't wait to see what the new year brings!

We'll see you out there,
Shannon

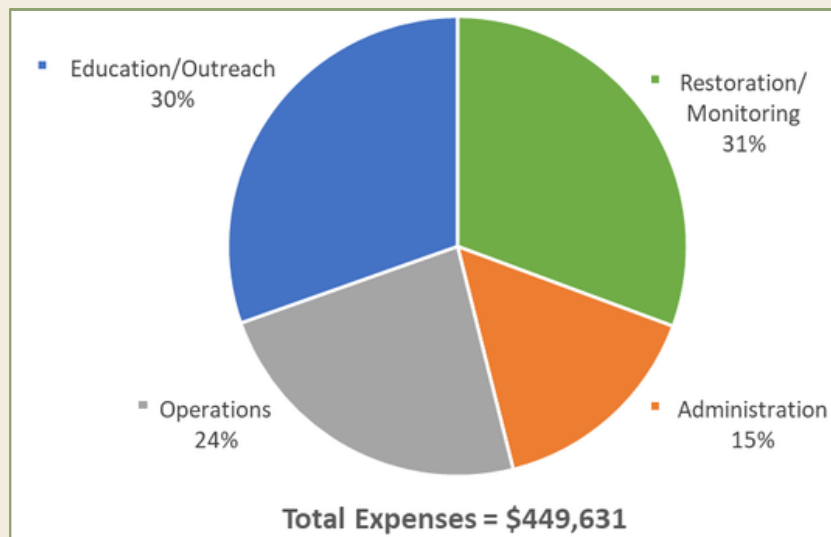
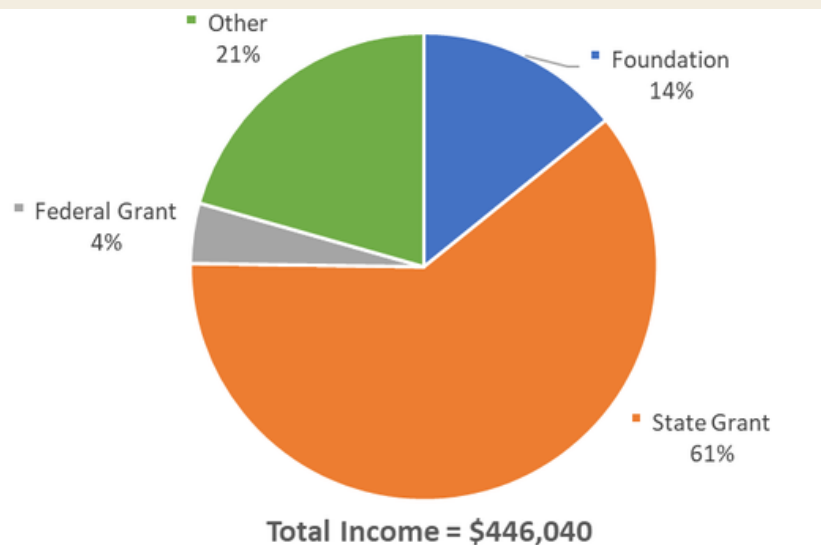
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ken Crouse	President
Marie Heuberger	Vice President
Marcia Morse	Secretary
Collin McCandless	Treasurer
Adam Fenner	Director
Kate Bentz	Director
Nancy Gilmore	Director
Pam Hewitt	Director
Scott Bruslind	Director
Scott Marlega	Director
Troy Abercrombie	Director



Financials

The South Santiam Watershed Council's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 the following year. This aligns with the Oregon's state fiscal year. With adding staff this year, our expenditures grew, relative to the past couple of years. This is due to the majority of our grants being reimbursement-based; that means that we pay up front and request reimbursement after the fact. Sometimes, that makes our books look like we're in the red when we're not! This year, as in many years, our sources of income were split approximately 60/40, with state grants comprising the majority of our funding and other sources reliably filling the remaining need.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

School House Project

DETAILS

We secured a zoning change, allowing us to pursue our dream of a community center and office along Hamilton Creek

OUTCOME

Once we are able to fund the renovations, we will have a new space to work, teach, share, and grow



Temperature Monitoring

Placed additional temperature loggers with new deployment method

This project allows us to track status and trend water temperature data in 3 subbasins we work in



Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership

A network of regional partners work together to promote beaver coexistence

Beaver activities help increase high-quality aquatic habitat, and we offer tools to help people and beaver get along

Staff Intros

The South Santiam Watershed Council added several new staff members this year and we asked them to introduce themselves!

Alex was born and raised in Lebanon, Oregon. If he wasn't digging for clams and catching crabs on the Oregon Coast with his grandma, he was swimming in the South Santiam River in the summers with his family. Growing up in Oregon allowed him to experience a range of environments that all sparked and nurtured his love and respect for the natural world. After high school, he attended Oregon State University, where he recently graduated with a B.Sc. in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences. Some of his previous work includes blueberry picking, lifeguarding, and meticulously weighing dried Pacific Cod samples.

He interned for the Calapooia Watershed Council in the spring of 2023 as an urban ecology educator. This internship proved to be a fantastic experience where he learned the importance of helping students build their relationships with the outdoors. That same year, he worked for the South Santiam Watershed Council as their outdoor school associate, where he finally got to experience the wonder of Oregon's outdoor school. He is now excited to step into the Watershed Education Program Coordinator role, where he hopes to continue engaging students with the outdoors. When he is not on a field trip, he can usually be found reading, gardening, cooking, and spending time outside with his dogs.



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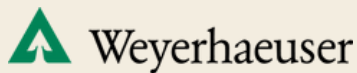
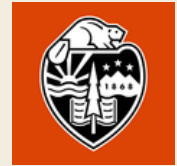
Ty grew up amidst the rugged high deserts of Southeast Idaho, forging a connection with the land through time spent with family on their ranching operations, on river trips, and climbing around in the mountains. After serving in the United States Navy, Ty owned and operated a residential construction company in Boise while raising his two daughters.

In his late twenties, he returned to school and earned an Associates of Science in Biology from the College of Western Idaho and a Bachelor of Science in Ecology and Conservation Biology from the University of Idaho. During his academic journey, he conducted a variety of research projects, such as entrainment of snails in a canal, American kestrel conservation projects, land-use ecology of osprey, and diets of greater sage-grouse.

As the Ecological Projects Coordinator at SSWC, Ty applies his ecological and project management skills to assist the community and partners in implementing meaningful restoration projects on the lands and waters in the South Santiam watershed. He is excited to promote stewardship and restoration within the watershed with a positive attitude and a multiple-land-use understanding. Outside of work, Ty enjoys foraging, gardening, hunting, carpentry, and as of recently, crabbing on the Oregon coast.

We couldn't have done it without our partners

*Thank
you*



www.sswc.org

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