



2018 Annual Report

PROTECT, CONNECT, RESTORE



The view from Cerro Gordo

BRANDI CRAWFORD-FERGUSON

We protected lands and waters

With your support, we spent much of 2018 working to enhance lands under our protection in western Oregon, while pursuing new conservation opportunities from the Cascades to the coast.

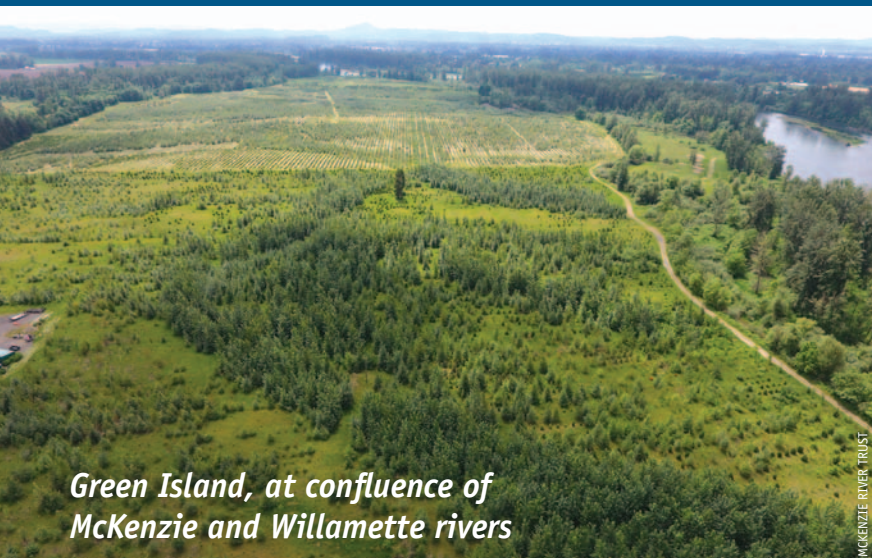
We connected people with the land

Volunteers' hours surged three-fold in 2018. More individuals and groups spent more time helping MRT in more ways—on the land, in the office, and in the community—than ever before.



ELIZABETH GOWARD

Volunteers from GMA Architects care for trees



Green Island, at confluence of McKenzie and Willamette rivers

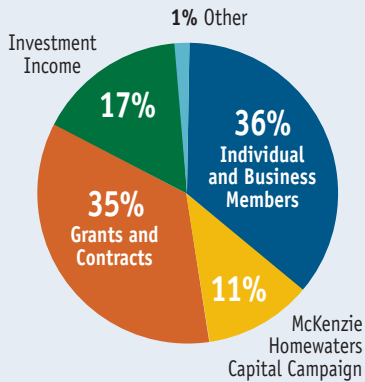
MCKENZIE RIVER TRUST

We restored native habitat

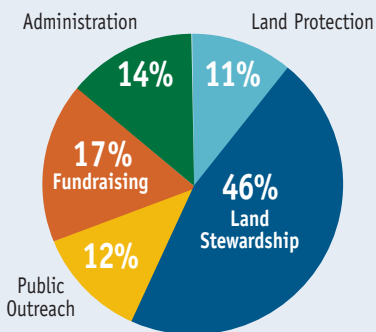
Those dark green patches at left are some of the half-million trees we've planted at Green Island. Here and elsewhere we worked to reestablish native vegetation, inviting in wildlife—from salmon to elk—while improving the quality of water, air, and soil on which we all depend.

Financials

2018 INCOME:
\$1,582,062



2018 EXPENSES:
\$1,778,561



Declining financial markets led to \$407,726 of unrealized investment losses for the year. Because we hold our investments long-term for the purpose of caring for conserved lands, we expect to recover this in future years. The losses have been excluded from these charts.

Our 2018 audited financial statements will be available at mckenzieriver.org in June.

Volunteer of the Year

Geographer loves all things aquatic



Don Holtgrieve at CARP site, Green Island

When Don Holtgrieve first approached the McKenzie River Trust about volunteering, he opened by explaining what he *didn't* want to do.

"I told them I'm not going to be cutting blackberries and planting trees anymore," the semi-retired geography professor says. Instead he proposed tagging along with staff on a tour at one of MRT's properties.

Leading nature tours is something Don knows well. While teaching at the University of California in Chico, he helped spearhead efforts to conserve more than 6,000 acres in and around town, creating wildlife preserves that linked city park and national forest land. In that process he led plenty of tours,

sharing his knowledge and particularly his enthusiasm for conserving aquatic habitat. He's a specialist in environmental impact assessment—he still teaches courses on that topic—and he's written his share of grants. This background set Don up for a year of diverse volunteer activities with MRT.

Don decided to become a Special Land Steward, keeping a close eye on MRT's Coburg Aggregate Reclamation Project (CARP) on Green Island. He shares information about MRT with the public at Get Outdoors Day and other events. And he's worked with kids on habitat restoration. It added up to more than 80 hours in 2018—a slice of the nearly 6,500 hours volunteers gave to MRT in 2018. Don is also a monthly donor, helping the Trust maintain its operations with a steady cash flow.

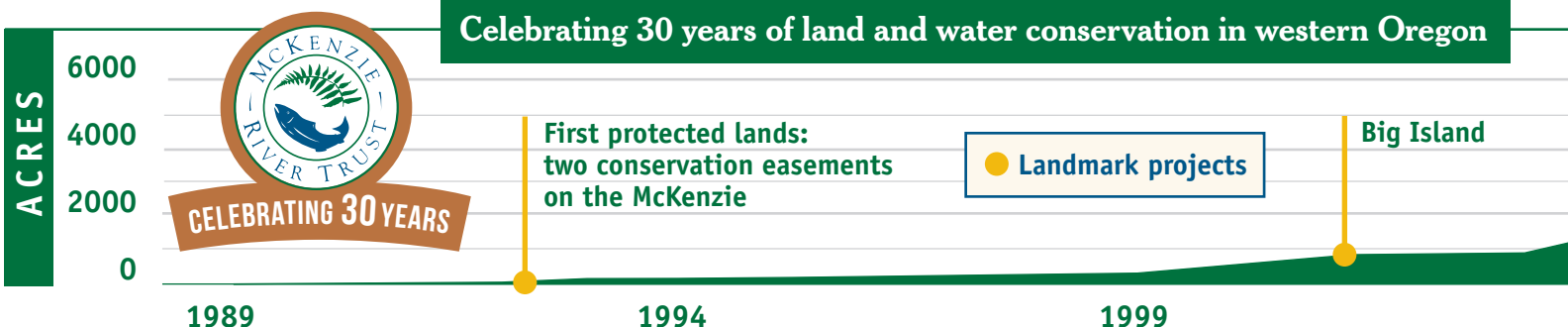
"Don has this great wealth of knowledge," Volunteer Coordinator Elizabeth Goward says. "He's really plugged into a broad range of our conservation efforts."

"The volunteer program is working very, very well," Don says. "It's always fun, and the staff is so supportive. I've tried to think of suggestions to make it work better for the volunteers, and I can't think of anything."

Dip Your Toes

Are you interested in joining the growing team of MRT volunteers? We have a wide range of opportunities to match your skills and interests. Contact Elizabeth@mckenzieriver.org or 541-345-2799.

Celebrating 30 years of land and water conservation in western Oregon

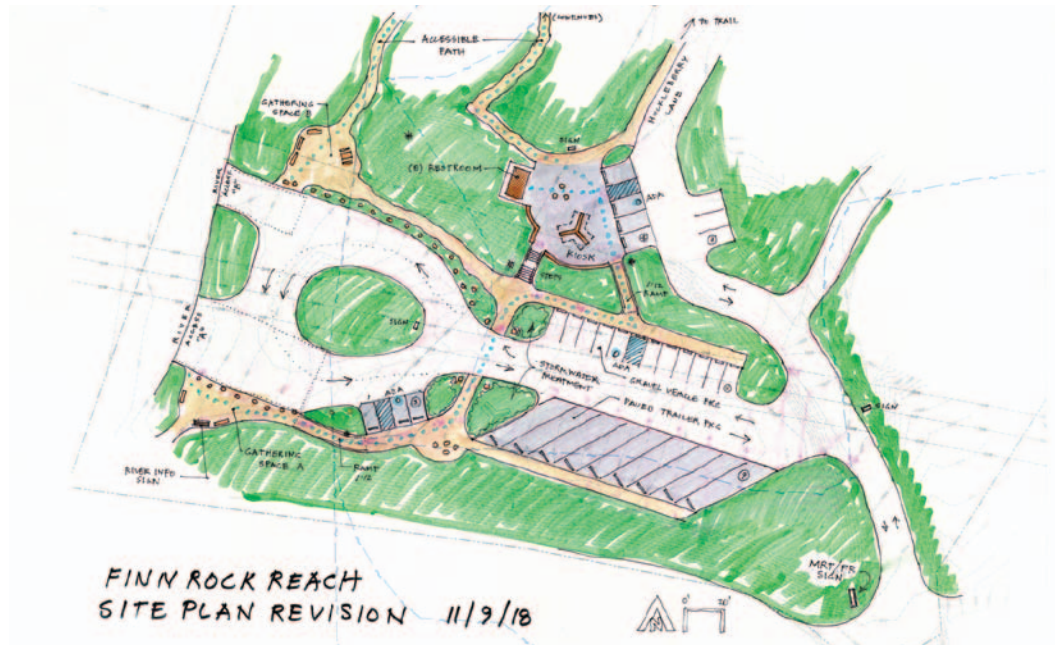


Improving access to popular McKenzie River put-in

More changes coming to Finn Rock Boat Landing

Your support for conservation of 278-acre Finn Rock Reach has many payoffs, in clean water, flood resilience, and enhanced salmon spawning habitat. But the most visible public benefit is improvement of the boat landing used by hundreds of McKenzie River enthusiasts every summer day.

In 2018 MRT installed vault toilets at the site. In the works are better parking, safer and more efficient traffic flow, and new signage. Thank you to our McKenzie Homewaters Campaign donors and to our supporters at Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, EWEB, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for making it possible.



Schematic drawing shows plans for improving traffic flow at the boat landing.

Two lost birds, plenty of bird habitat

While Waite Ranch awaits restoration, sedge wrens visit



MRT's former board president was conducting a bird count at the Trust's Waite Ranch property, on the lower Siuslaw River, in December when he saw a little brown wren, one that didn't look quite like the Pacific or marsh wrens he expected to see in western Oregon.

It was a sedge wren, a species normally found only east of the Rockies and only the third sedge wren ever spotted in Oregon.

Word of rare sightings travels quickly in birding circles, and soon birdwatchers were flocking to Waite Ranch hoping for a glimpse of the little wren. The challenge: Waite Ranch is set to undergo major tidal wetland restoration and is not open to the public. And a bird hundreds of miles from home didn't need more stress.

What happened next is a tale of community and habitat. Eugene

birdwatcher and MRT volunteer Alan Contreras called upon his Florence-area birding friends, who started offering guided tours to small groups, giving people a chance to spot the sedge wren—or wrens, after a second one appeared—without harm. By the end of January more than 160 people had traveled to Waite Ranch to see the wrens, and more were scheduled.

“What’s incredible,” said lead guide Daniel Farrar, “is that the habitat is not only good enough to attract a sedge wren, but it’s attracted two of them.”

Green Island

Tenmile Creek
Easements

- Berggren Watershed
Conservation Area
- Waite Ranch

Finn Rock Reach

With your support, McKenzie River Trust
has protected 5,765 acres of land you cherish, through
acquisitions, easements, and facilitation with other agencies.

2004

2009

2014

2018

Thinking like a network

In the upper Willamette River basin,
we're collaborating to increase impact



Students from Coburg Charter School worked with the McKenzie Watershed Council to collect and study native fish at MRT's Green Island.

Getting kids outside—enjoying the natural world and learning how it works—is a priority for the entire conservation community. That's one reason MRT joined four watershed councils and a public land friends group to create the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network in 2018. The network's purpose: deepen our collaboration to the point where we don't just look for opportunities to support one another's efforts, but we are developing goals and creating programs together, reaching more people and garnering more resources in the process.

Among those goals is making sure today's youth have meaningful experiences in the

natural world. We know that positive outdoor experiences help kids stay healthy. They also translate to lifelong support for conservation—for keeping water clean and habitat healthy for people and wildlife. Funding for traditional environmental education has fallen off in Oregon in recent years. So we're working together, sharing expertise and skills, to ensure that the outdoor education already offered by our network partners doesn't diminish but grows even more robust. Collaborating closely, as partners in this network, we can involve more people and more perspectives in the care of land and water today and in the future.

Upper Willamette Stewardship Network members

Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah, Long Tom Watershed Council, McKenzie River Trust, McKenzie Watershed Council, Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council



Thank you to the more than 1,000 businesses and individuals who contributed to MRT's mission in 2018. Our 2018 Honor Roll is posted at mckenzieriver.org.

Members and Business Supporters raft the McKenzie River near Finn Rock Reach in September.



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