



# 2020 Annual Report

## You are protecting special places!

This year taught us that even in the toughest of times, you still care about protecting habitat and water quality in our region. We welcomed three new conservation areas to our portfolio and expanded protected areas at Finn Rock Reach. Because of you, more beautiful landscapes will be protected forever.



*The Marvin and Marie Spores Conservation Area was protected by supporters like you! Even with social distancing, you found a way to connect to this land and protect its history and diverse habitat areas. Thank you!*

BRANDI CRAWFORD FERGUSON

These places are part of the traditional **Kalapuya Illahe territories**. Many of the Kalapuya people were forcibly removed to what are now the Grand Ronde and Siletz reservations, and are now members of Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. We also helped protect Rim Rock Ranch in partnership with Deschutes Land Trust. Rim Rock Ranch is on the traditional territories of Warm Springs, Wasco, and Paiute tribes, many of whom are now members of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs.

Learn more about these places at <https://mckenzieriver.org/protected-lands/>

*After the Holiday Farm Fire, Della Cantrell approached us about purchasing her property near Finn Rock Reach. This helped us expand our habitat restoration work along the middle McKenzie River.*



BRENT ROSS



RUSS MCILLIAN

*We partnered with Deschutes Land Trust to protect Rimrock Ranch in Central Oregon. This breathtaking high desert landscape includes rugged canyons and pine and juniper forest along 1.7 miles of Wychus Creek.*

# Responding to Fire

The impact of the Holiday Farm Fire in September reverberated through us in a way that nothing else did this year. Through all the shock and grief, we found hope in people like you. Thank you to everyone who gave time, money, and resources to help those affected by the fires.



MRT STAFF

*MRT Staff collected truckloads of dry goods and beverage donations during the wildfires from caring community members.*



CHRISTIE LABRECQUE

*The Finn Rock Reach conservation area was burned, but we are feeling hopeful about restoration and recovery for this habitat and beloved recreation area.*



EPHRAIM PAYNE

*MRT Staff joined other Pure Water Partners to assess land after the fires, providing landowners with recommendations for erosion control and other hazards. Learn more at [purewaterpartners.org](http://purewaterpartners.org)*



MRT STAFF

*Staff members worked with partners Northwest Youth Corps to hone their chainsaw skills while supporting cleanup efforts in the Blue River area.*

## The Work Ahead

In the coming months and years, we will stay committed and engaged with our friends and neighbors along the McKenzie River to support community, forest, and watershed recovery.

- We will provide information and land assessments to landowners through the Pure Water Partners program.
- We will restore burned areas and manage invasive species with volunteers and partners.
- We will purchase parcels from landowners interested in conservation who have no plans to rebuild.
- We will make improvements to the Finn Rock Boat Landing.

# Conservation in Action



Thanks to members and volunteers, who helped us complete our 43-acre restoration planting in the areas of Green Island referred to as “The Bull Pen.” Your support means thousands of new trees now grow near the confluence of the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers. Photo from 2019.



Preparations for the Finn Rock Reach restoration project were ramping up as the Holiday Farm Fire burned through the area. Local partners immediately connected to help us replenish the large wood supply that will become part of the floodplain restoration.



**Sam Hillman** joined our team in a 1-year position through a University of Oregon program to help us build partnerships and identify needs on the Oregon coast. In November, we secured a \$243,000 3-year grant to hire a coastal program manager and open a field office on the coast. We look forward to working more closely with partners between Lincoln City and Reedsport.

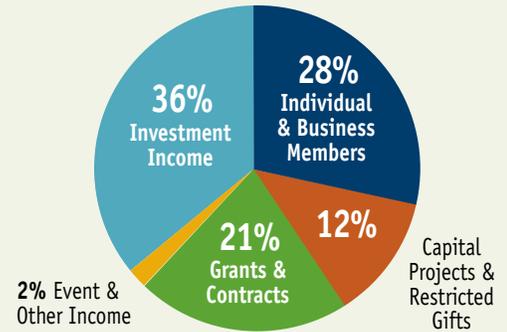
## Connection in 2020

Thank you for attending our virtual events this year. From Robin Wall Kimmerer’s soothing wisdom to the science-filled “Habichats” talks, we managed to have some fun together this year. We’re looking forward to finding even more ways to connect with you in 2021.

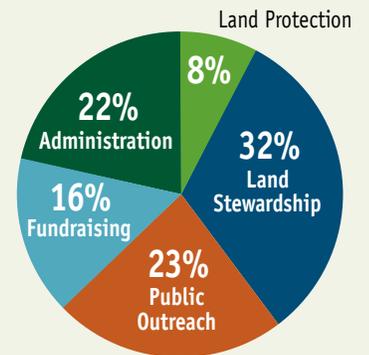


# Financials

**2020 INCOME:**  
**\$3,517,146**



**2020 EXPENSES:**  
**\$1,728,084**



*The COVID-19 pandemic restricted many planned events and activities causing us to focus this year on maintaining the integrity of the organization in the face of great change. Following the Holiday Farm Fire, we re-directed our focus to public outreach for the affected communities. Nearly all of our investment income was restricted for long term stewardship. Much of our land protection costs this year were capitalized as assets, so they are not reflected in our expenses. Through it all, your generous support provided a base for us to thrive going into 2021.*

**Thank you!**

Our detailed and audited financial statements will be available in June. If you have any questions about our financials, please contact Joe: 541-844-6284 or [jmoll@mckenzie-river.org](mailto:jmoll@mckenzie-river.org).



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## Inside: 2020 Annual Report!

# You Made a Difference in 2020

Not only our members, but everyone who shared our work with a friend or volunteered their time made a huge difference to local conservation in 2020. Through the challenges of social distancing, learning new technology, and the grief of wildfires, you were there. Thank you.

We can't do our work without the amazing members and businesses who make gifts. See the full list at [mckenzieriver.org/annual-report](http://mckenzieriver.org/annual-report)

CONNECT WITH US! Find out the latest news and event information.



BRANDI CRAWFORD FERGUSON

*The outdoors provided us space to connect with the land and each other safely.*



MATT MCRAE

*An otter feeds on crayfish on the Willamette River, near Green Island.*