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# NECANICUM WATERSHED COUNCIL

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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# EMERGING FROM THE PANDEMIC

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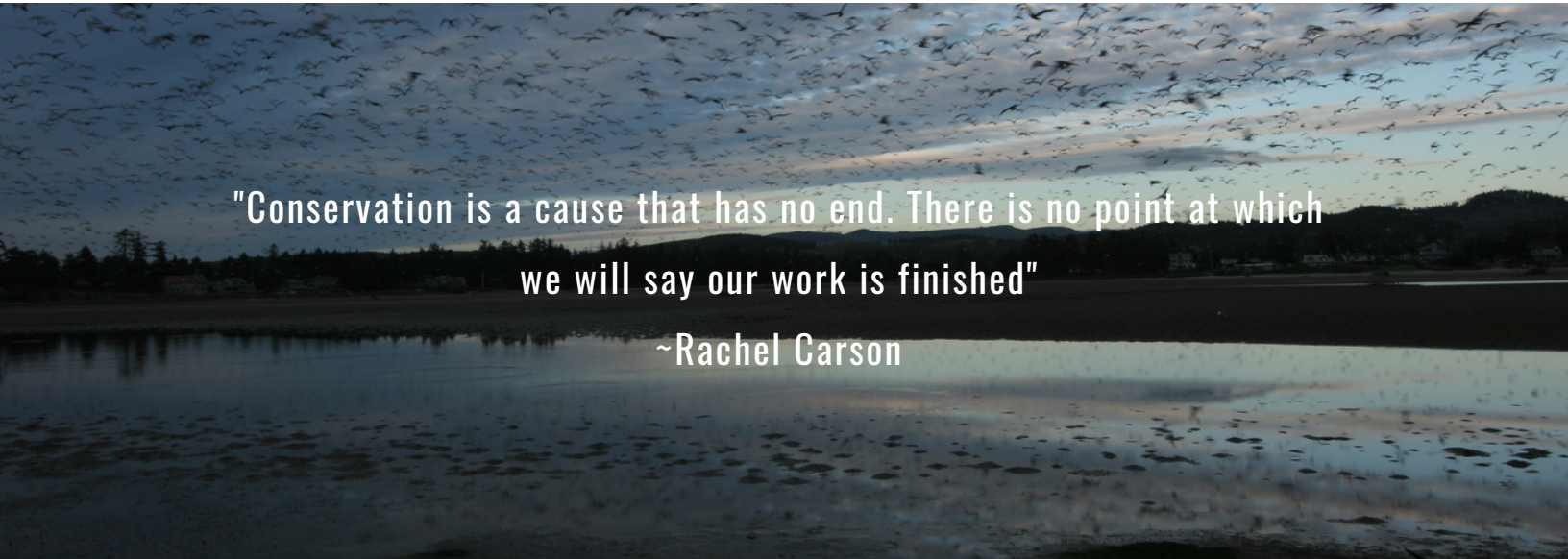
Together we found ourselves in a new world in 2022. And together we reached new heights.

In September of 2021 I was hired as the new leader of the Necanicum Watershed Council and from the get-go I knew that that while I had my work cut out for me, there was endless opportunity for this community. In 2022, we buckled down and showed that opportunity can be realized. We had an exciting year full of growth, restoration, education and development. From embarking on a core partnership with the Chinook Indian Nation to securing funding for a high-priority fish passage project to planting pollinator habitat in the Neacoxie system, we've had ourselves a big one. In fact, it's been such a great year that it took us a

little longer than anticipated to write this report, and for that we apologize. We pride ourselves on being a community-first conservation organization, so just know that our doors are always open to new friends, partners and most importantly, questions!

I am looking forward to sharing with you all, the successes of 2022 and the exciting things to look forward to in 2023. Here's to an ecologically and economically sustainable future for our basin.

Noah Dolinajec  
Executive Director



"Conservation is a cause that has no end. There is no point at which we will say our work is finished"

~Rachel Carson

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# PROJECTS

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# LOWER COHO CREEK FISH PASSAGE

In 2022 we secured the final funding package needed to support a culvert replacement on Coho Creek in Seaside, in partnership with the City of Seaside. Through a combination of funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, we retained Wolf Water Resources and Whiting Environmental LLC to assist us with the final design and permitting for the Lower Coho Creek Fish Passage project. The project will reconnect 1.4-miles of fully volitional salmonid habitat in the Neawanna system.



Coho Creek is a second-order type-F stream that historically supports populations of listed ESU coho salmon, pacific lamprey and sea-run cutthroat. The creek drains into the Neawanna Estuary, which ultimately confluences with the Necanicum Estuary before discharging into the Pacific Ocean.

## 3

### GRANTS

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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
\$355,979  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
\$261,060  
Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative  
\$22,000

## 6

### PARTNERS

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City of Seaside  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative  
Chinook Indian Nation  
Wolf Water Resources

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# BERGSVIK CREEK LARGE WOOD PLACEMENT

Warrenton and utilized to create additional anchor habitat along 0.6-stream miles of the Bergsvik system. This project completed a five-year restoration of the Bergsvik system which is now fully restored. In January of 2022, we observed adult coho returning upstream and in June of 2022 we saw coho fry utilizing the logjam habitats.

In the upper reaches of the Necanicum Watershed, Bergsvik Creek runs along HWY-53. and provides vital upper watershed habitat for the Necanicum's Evolutionarily Significant Unit of Oregon Coast Coho salmon. In 2021 we completed the last of more than 18 logjams along a 1.3-mile stretch of Bergsvik Creek. In 2022, 64 Christmas trees that were destined for landfill were donated by Home Depot

# 1

## GRANT

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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
\$10,973

# 4

## PARTNERS

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Weyerhaeuser  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
Home Depot

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# GEARHART POLLINATOR PATH

Pollinator habitat on the north coast of Oregon is in serious peril under the pressures of climate change and land development. We partnered with the City of Gearhart on a project to both engage the Gearhart community in watershed restoration and address the very real concern with reduced pollinator presence in our watershed.

Over the span of the nearly 1.5-mile Gearhart Ridge Path that runs through the middle of the town of Gearhart, we have strategically removed patches of invasive English ivy, English holly and Himalayan



blackberry and in its places installed over 600 native pollinator plants like lupine, Douglas aster, camas, canada goldenrod, sea thrift and more. Through 2024 we will work with various partners in Gearhart to establish healthy, diverse pollinator communities.

## 3

### GRANTS

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- Oregon Wildlife Foundation  
\$5,000
- Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund  
\$16,000
- Sou'Wester Garden Club  
\$500

## 5

### PARTNERS

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- Oregon Wildlife Foundation
  - City of Gearhart
  - Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund
  - Sou'Wester Garden Club
  - Chinook Indian Nation
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# PARTNERSHIPS

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# CIN-NWC CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE

The future of land and water stewardship on the north coast of Oregon, and everywhere, is predicated on the acknowledgement that current conservation systems do not properly advocate for or include tribal perspectives, priorities or expertise. The CIN-NWC Climate Collaborative is a comprehensive partnership development between the watershed council and Chinook Indian Nation. We are working to build watershed restoration structure that incorporates co-stewardship at every step of the restoration process. This partnership is designed to provide a best practices template for other



community-based conservation organizations in the Pacific Northwest and beyond, creating productive and safe space for tribal participation and direction in watershed management.

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## 2

### GRANTS

Oregon Health Authority  
\$50,000  
Roundhouse Foundation  
\$25,000

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## 4

### PARTNERS

Chinook Indian Nation  
Oregon Healthy Authority  
Roundhouse Foundation  
Nuveen Natural Capital

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# NORTH COAST WATERSHEDS PARTNERSHIP

Watershed Councils experience limited capacity which can hinder the successes of restoration work. We partnered with the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council (lead organization), Upper Nehalem Watershed Council, North Coast Watersheds Association, Nestucca, Neskowin and Sandlake Watershed Council and Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) to develop a memorandum of understanding between the five Councils and TEP as well as create a list of shared priorities between the organizations.

The partnership will work together over the next two years to find shared projects and priorities to tackle as a cohort with the goal of increasing capacity and effectiveness of watershed council work on the north coast of Oregon.

## 6

### PARTNERS

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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
Lower Nehalem Watershed Council  
Upper Nehalem Watershed Council  
North Coast Watersheds Association  
Nestucca, Neskowin and Sandlake WC  
Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

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# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

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2023 and beyond

In the year of 2022 the Watershed Council moved on from the fog of the COVID-19 pandemic and found exciting growth in the restoration, partnership and community realms. We see bountiful opportunity in the years ahead of us as we continue to develop long-term organizational and restoration goals. In 2023 we will adopt our first multi-year Strategic Action Plan, including a shared Action Plan with the Chinook Indian Nation, further solidifying the guarantee in perpetuity that the Chinook peoples of the Necanicum Basin will have a safe and productive place to participate in watershed management. We will complete a major coho salmon habitat restoration project and seek out funding to complete new and exciting riparian restoration and Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programming.

We hope you'll join us on this journey of growth and look forward to celebrating the fruits of our beautiful home **together**.

Noah Dolinajec  
Executive Director



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# STAFF & BOARD

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**Executive Director**  
**Noah Dolinajec**



**Chair**  
**Keith Wallach**



**Vice-chair**  
**Rachel Cushman**



**Treasurer**  
**Kerrie Littlejohn**





**Board Director  
Donovan Wargo**



**Board Director  
Chad Washington**



**Board Director  
Hunter Thompson**



**Board Director  
Joyce Hunt**



**Secretary  
Pat Johns**

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