

2016

ANNUAL REPORT



Tillamook Estuaries Partnership
A National Estuary Project

“Look deep into nature, then you will understand everything better.” Albert Einstein

On the Cover: Pools and Riffles... A mixture of flows and depth provide a variety of habitats to support fish and invertebrate life. Pools are deep with slow water. Riffles are shallow with fast, turbulent water running over rocks.



Message from the Director...

I am delighted to present 2016 Annual Report. This Report provides a snapshot of a few of this year's projects and successes. From restoration to education, partnerships are at the heart of everything we do as you will soon see.

As the cornerstone of our organization, partnerships in the community and at the state and federal level allow us to leverage our grant dollars, build capacity, and broaden our outreach. Partnerships allow us to do more and to do it more efficiently.

Although the Report focuses on programs and dollars, it is important to recognize that it is people that bring these programs to life. I would like to thank the many individuals behind these successful efforts: our dedicated volunteer board, our staff who take the projects from concept to reality, our many volunteers who support our efforts, most notably our k-12 events, and our partners who provide support, resources, and energy to carrying out the Tillamook Bay Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan and our mission:

TEP is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of

Tillamook County's estuaries and watersheds in their entirety.

This was an exciting year for TEP and as we look to the future, we will be identifying new ways to partner in our community and the nation as we carry out our mission and implement strategies to restore habitat, improve water quality, minimize impacts from flooding and encourage stewardship at every age.

*Lisa Phipps
Executive Director*



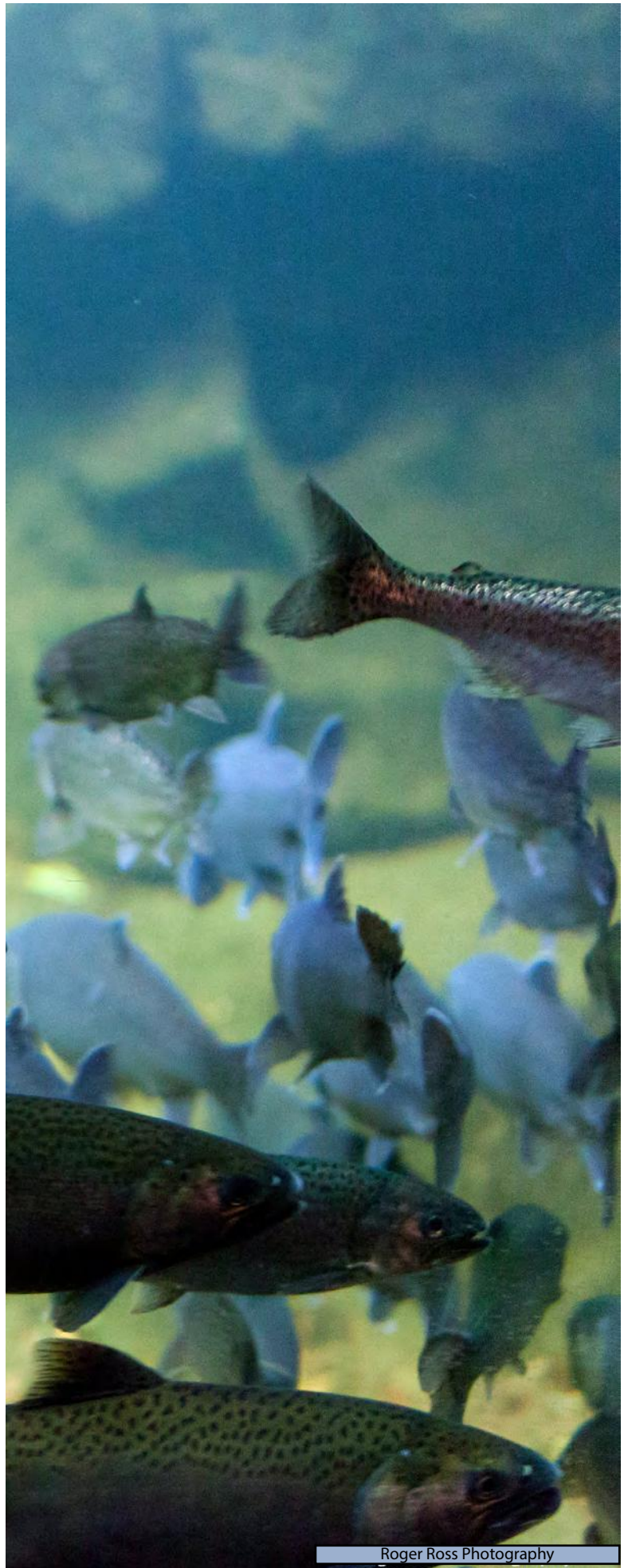
*“Alone we can do
so little; together we can
do so much.”* Helen Keller

Five bays, 7 major rivers, and streams and creeks too numerous to count, this is the study area of the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP). Each watershed is special in its own way. Yet, many of the challenges and opportunities are the same. With diverse ownerships and multiple uses throughout the Watersheds, finding balance is more important than ever.

Charged with the undertaking to create a plan for Tillamook Bay that balanced maintaining and improving water quality and living resources with Tillamook County's economically important industries, a committed group of stakeholders at the local, state, and federal level, developed the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). The CCMP identifies 63 action items to address those concerns and is the driving force for TEP's restoration efforts.

Increasing development and changing landscapes continue to pressure and influence our estuaries and watersheds. With a vast array of partners, we work together, completing significantly more projects with fewer resources. Working with private landowners, nearly 200 miles of streambank have been planted with native conifers and understory, fish passage has been improved, and restored wetlands will provide critical habitat to fish and wildlife. Through education and Best Management Practices, we are seeing improvements in some waterbodies for bacteria concentrations. Without landowner support, restoration in some of the most critical areas would not be possible. Strong relationships with landowners are a cornerstone of our success.

As we look to future goals and objectives of restoration and conservation, we renew our pledge to coordinate resources, strengthen partnerships and dedicate our resolve to protect and enhance the natural resources of all of the bays and watersheds in Tillamook County.



Roger Ross Photography

Learning by Doing

Out of their seats and into the field...

TEP is proud to be the host of two experiential learning programs for our local public and private elementary school students each year: Down By The Riverside and Childrens' Clean Water Festival. With the help of over 60 volunteers, 15 partnering organizations, and support through EPA 320 funds, we engage over 600 students in a series of entertaining, hands-on activities designed to foster a lifelong sense of environmental stewardship. These youngsters tap into the wonders of nature, while wearing their "yes" faces (smiles and positive attitudes), and develop personal connections to the world around them.

Down By The Riverside familiarizes third graders with the plant and animal life which can be found along the rivers, creeks, and streams in their neighborhoods. Children learn to identify plants by playing bingo and by creating colorful art with leaves, twigs, and sugar-based spray paint. Props and role-playing help teach about bird, mammal, and insect adaptations

and habitat usage. Students gain a sense of ownership for their local watersheds by participating in a landscaping project that involves planting trees, spreading mulch, and having fun.

The Childrens' Clean Water Festival introduces fourth graders to the many roles of water in their surroundings. Students transform into water that travel through water cycle. Junior aquatic scientists emerge as they observe a critter dissection and use microscopes and dip nets to investigate water bugs. Relay races emphasize the importance of recycling to keep trash out of the waterways. Music, art, and worms help the children learn about the interconnection between water, land, and wildlife. An exhibit hall features a multitude of demonstrations related to water, people, and the environment: human health, water safety and recreation, tidepools, oyster hatcheries, salmon fisheries, ocean currents, native and invasive plants, and many others.



650 Volunteers
15 Partner Orgs
600 Students

HIKE • WALK • PADDLE

EXPLORE NATURE

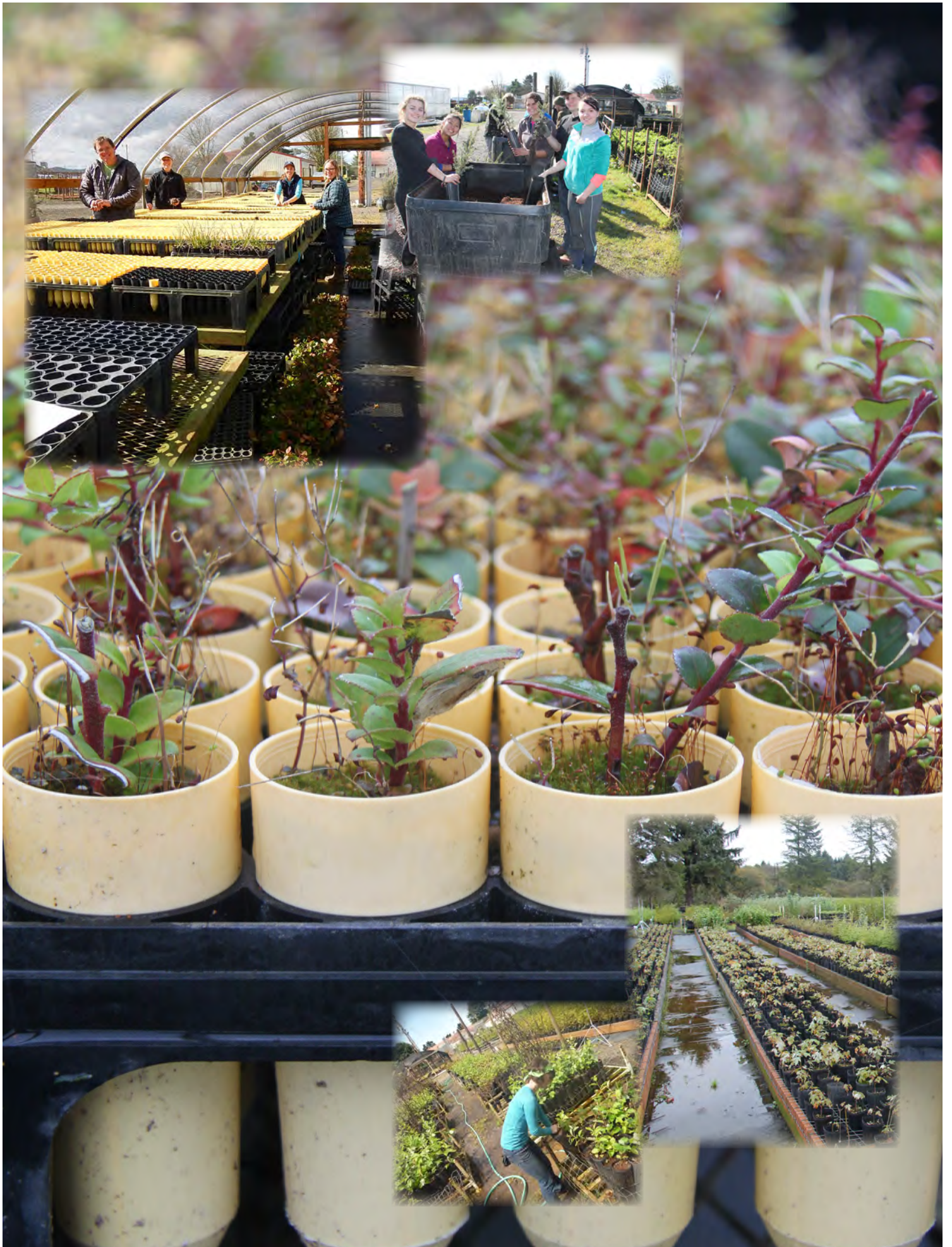


Education through recreation is the theme of our newly launched Explore Nature series of guided hikes, walks, and paddles. The Explore Nature partners strive to promote the natural beauty of the area by providing expert guides who highlight the wonders of Tillamook County and the work being done to conserve the area's natural resources, restore biodiversity, and preserve natural resource based industries.

The Explore Nature team includes Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, Friends of Netarts Bay – Watershed, Estuary, Beach and Sea; Friends of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve; Lower Nehalem Watershed Council; Lower Nehalem Community Trust; Tillamook Bay Watershed Council; and Nestucca-Neskowin-Sand Lake Watershed Council. These organizations work to ensure the health of ecologically important habitats along our coastline, educate local and visiting public, and promote stewardship and appreciation of our area. The partners recognize the importance of

creating awareness around healthy lands, healthy waters, and responsible recreation. Many of the Explore Nature programs share current science and findings on fish populations, the impacts of improving riparian areas, the outcomes of protecting portions of our oceans, and other scientific research discoveries coming from our forest lands, rivers, bays/estuaries, and nearshore coastal ocean.

Explore Nature was a tremendous success during its inaugural year. Each of the 16 spring and fall events was filled to capacity (average 20 participants) and several had long waiting lists. Most of the programs were free and family-friendly, making the events popular with local residents and tourists alike. Activities included community garden tours, a geology walk, moth viewing, an oyster hatchery tour, kayaking in Netarts Bay and Nehalem River, beach cleanup, mushroom hikes, and bird viewing.



The Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership

TEP manages the Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP) under its umbrella of programs. NORP is a cooperative effort, consisting of over 30 members, which promotes healthy forest and riparian ecosystems by growing native plants for habitat restoration.

NORP specializes in native plants grown from local seed and cuttings to develop genetically adapted plant material accustomed to the climates of the coast. Plants are grown in containers for two-to-three years to create large planting stock able to revegetate disturbed areas and outcompete invasive plants. NORP's primary facility, sited at Camp Tillamook, includes a commercial-sized greenhouse, shade-house, and a container nursery. Annually, NORP strives to provide plant material to restore native vegetation along 20 miles of streams and on 200 acres of land. Over 1,900 landowners have benefitted from this program.

In addition to growing diverse, appropriate plant material for restoration projects, NORP is dedicated to education and youth involvement. NORP's primary work force includes young people from the Columbia River Youth Corps, Tillamook Options Program School, Oregon's Youth Conservation Core program, and the Oregon Youth Authority Camp Tillamook facility, which is dedicated to rehabilitating challenged young men. NORP also has an education program that aims at inspiring the community to be actively involved in the restoration of their watersheds by teaching people about native plants, their role in the environment, and plant propagation and care.



Southern Flow Corridor - Confluence of Purpose

In 2001, Tillamook County, in concert with numerous partners including TEP, purchased 377 acres from three private landowners specifically for habitat restoration. The County's efforts to restore the 377 acres were restricted when hydraulic analyses concluded that full restoration of the entire site would cause unacceptable flood level increases within the City of Tillamook's Highway 101 business district.

After the 2006 flood, Governor Ted Kulongoski established the flood mitigation effort as an "Oregon Solutions" project, providing a structure and process for the community to collaborate in addressing technically and politically challenging needs. A 34-member Project Team comprised of federal, state, and local government agencies as well as community groups, business organizations, and individuals was assembled.

The Southern Flow Corridor-Landowner Preferred Alternative (SFC) rose to the top as a priority and grew to a 520-acre tidal wetland restoration project. In addition to its extraordinary habitat benefits, modeling showed the SFC-LPA project to be the most cost effective flood-level reduction measure by creating a flow corridor from Highway 101 out to Tillamook Bay.

As a result, this "win-win" project is in the final stages of completion. Restoring almost 10% of the watershed's historic tidal acreage, the project site will contain a range of habitats from mudflats to forested wetlands and sloughs providing substantial habitat to the Threatened coho as well as many other fish, wildlife, and bird species. These types of projects that provide not only habitat benefits but social and economic benefits are a model for future efforts.

Results:



Natural Channel Restoration
14 miles



Levees/Roads Removed
6.9 miles



Tidegates Removed
15

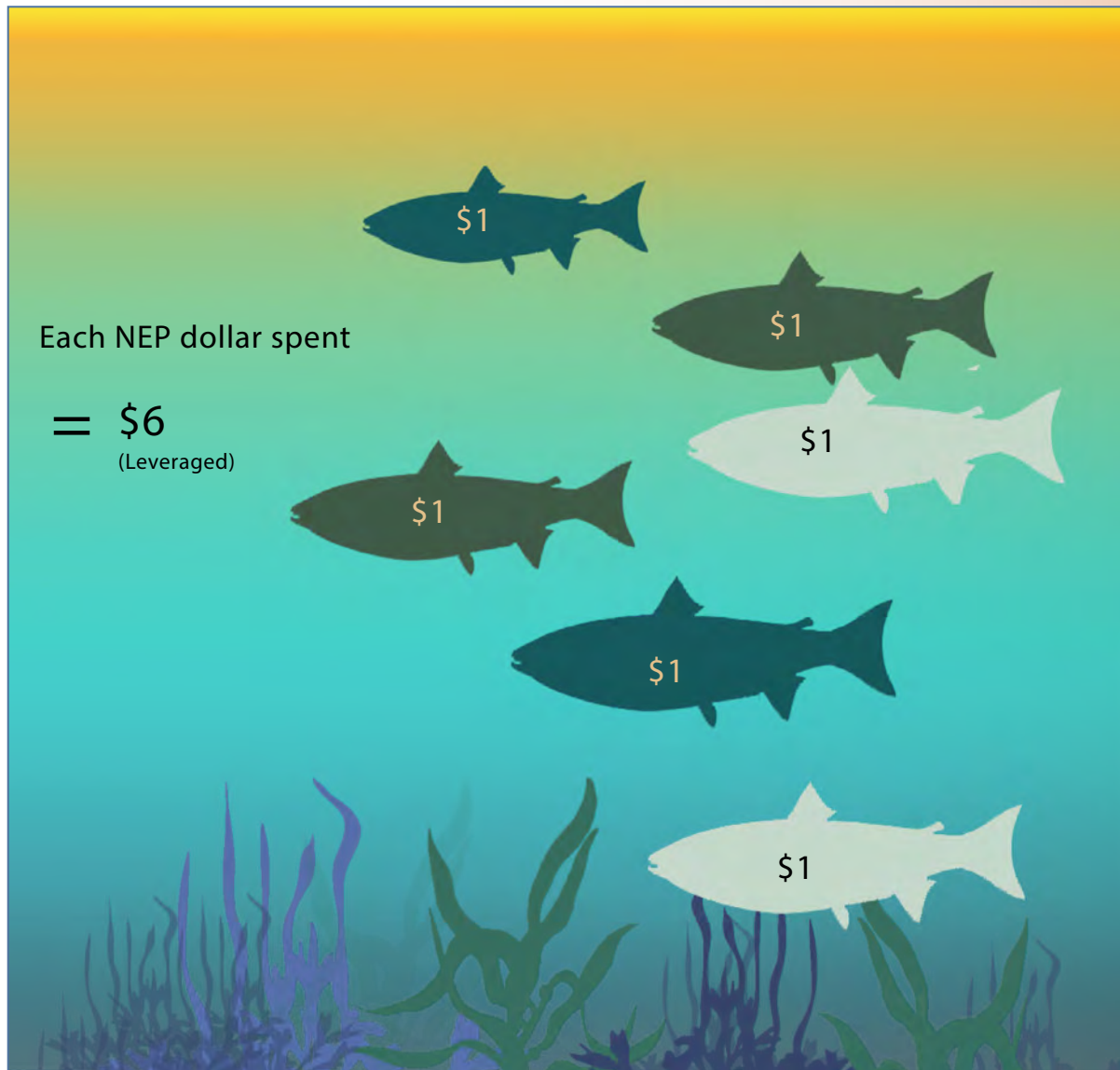


Channel Reconnections
18



Project Partners
27

National Estuary Program Spawns More Locally



In 2016, each Section 320 NEP dollar expended in Tillamook County leveraged \$6 dollars for projects implementing our Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. Utilizing these funds, TEP and 13 partner organizations restored 134 acres of habitat and re-established 18 river miles for use by salmon and other critical fish and wildlife species. TEP worked with over 40 partners in planning for future projects and collaborating on building capacity and outreach opportunities.

2016 Fiscal Year Financial Recap

Statement of Activities

For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016

REVENUE

Federal	\$719,975
State	\$210,775
Local/Private	\$285,020
Capacity Building	\$16,365
Donations	\$35,015
Total Revenue	\$1,267,150

EXPENSES

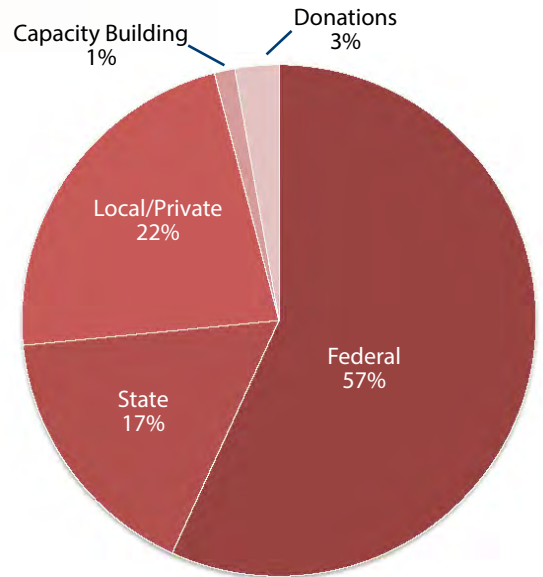
Program Services:	
Research and Monitoring	\$314,065
Habitat Restoration	\$577,010
Education and Outreach	\$72,130
Capacity Building	\$16,365
Total program expenses	\$979,570
Support Services:	
Management and Administrative	\$124,460
Development and Fundraising	\$11,890
Total Expenses	\$1,115,920
Change in net assets	\$151,230
Net assets beginning of year	\$261,870
Net assets end of year	\$413,100



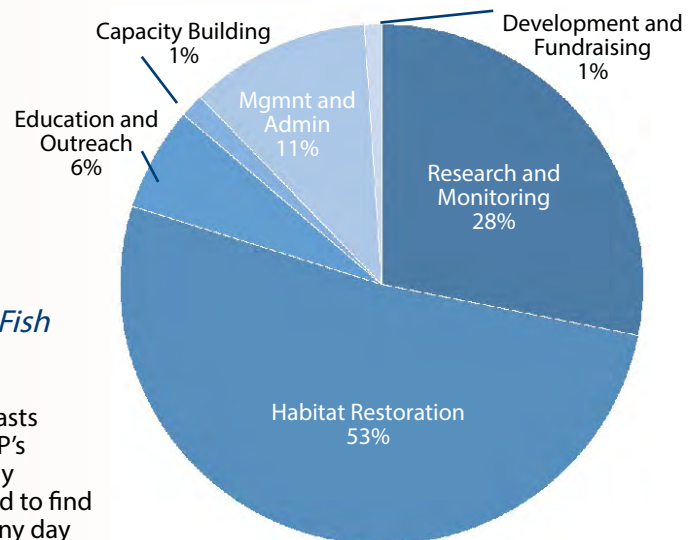
Fun and Funds from Fish

Over 100 fishing enthusiasts gathered last June for TEP's Annual Bounty on the Bay fundraiser. Fish were hard to find but great food and a sunny day resulted in net proceeds near \$6,500. Check out our First Place winner, John Lecarno, and his stunning springer.

Revenue by Source



Expenses by Program





Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

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The Tillamook Estuaries Partnership is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of Tillamook County's estuaries and watersheds in their entirety.



Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

A National Estuary Project

Current Board of Directors

Chris Knutsen, President
Pat Vining, Vice President
Denise Harrington, Secretary/Treasurer
David Johnson
Lenora Lawrence
Sally McGee

Current Staff

Lisa Phipps, Executive Director
Scott Bailey, Project Manager
Dean Bones, Education Events Coordinator
Kristi Foster, Education Program Coordinator
David Harris, Habitat Restoration Manager
York Johnson, Monitoring Coordinator
Ginnette Marberry, Administrative Assistant
Maysa Miller, NORP Coordinator
Claudine Rehn, Deputy Director
Don Reynolds, Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator
Larry Richardson, Encore Fellow

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For more about the National Estuary Program visit:
www.epa.gov/nep
We regret any errors or omissions; please contact
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