



# POWDER BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL

2019 Annual Report • Monitoring, Assessment, Restoration & Education

*Our Watershed, Our Home*



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the Council moves into its 25<sup>th</sup> year of facilitating watershed maintenance and restoration, I keep thinking of all the people who have contributed to the success of this organization. Initially, the Council, known as the Baker County Water Advisory Board, consisted of professionals in natural resource management and water resources. In 1995, the state of Oregon authorized and began funding Watershed Councils throughout the state in order to bring the general public into the process of determining priorities to develop solutions for water resources management. At the outset, the Powder Basin Watershed Council was run entirely by volunteers, including the development of projects, the compiling and publishing of data in watershed assessments and the management of the organization. Eventually, funding for a coordinator was acquired, but the involvement of volunteers continued in the form of participation in programs, service on the Board of Directors, feedback on issues and many, many meetings.

Over the last four years that I have been employed with the Council, volunteers have contributed to our educational programs, reviewed documents, collected water quality data, provided technical assistance, written grant proposals, provided input on project ideas, picked up trash along the Powder River, stuffed envelopes, donated money and contributed various goods and services. Through it all, they have continued to attend meetings, though we have tried to reduce the overall number. In particular, those that have served on the Board of Directors have dedicated time each month to discuss projects, review reports, plan events and delve into the details of running a non-profit organization. Without their commitment and generosity, we would not be able to function as a non-profit, so they deserve special recognition.

I can't think of a better way to celebrate our 25th anniversary, than by recognizing all the people who have contributed to this organization and made our work possible. I look forward to finding new ways for people to be involved in the Council and continuing to channel the participation of the community into meaningful and effective management of the streams, rivers and lakes within our watersheds.



Christo Morris  
Executive Director







## OUR MISSION

*The mission of the Powder Basin Watershed Council is to facilitate community-supported maintenance and restoration of the streams, rivers, and lakes within our watersheds.*



# 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

## MONITORING & RESTORATION

- Monitored water quality at: **48** sites for Continuous Temperature and **33** sites for pH, DO, turbidity, conductivity, and stream temperature grab samples
- **9** adult volunteers collected water quality samples and completed trainings for a total of **312.75 hours**, along with:
  - **12** High School students from Burnt River HS, and Pine Valley HS
  - **2** Baker Technical Institute Interns
  - **1** data entry volunteer
- Secured funding for the Powder River Fish Habitat Enhancement project and obtained permission to survey **50% of the properties**
- Completed the 2018 Macroinvertebrate Survey ID, analysis, and reporting
- Secured funding from **2** additional agencies for water quality-related projects



## OUTREACH & EDUCATION

- **57 volunteers** participated in Outreach programs and events for a total of **148.5 volunteer hours**
- Engaged **105 adults** and **159 children** at Baker School Open House and Nature Night events
- Completed **3 Summer Academy field trips** on the Powder River for 158 students, grades 1st through 6th
- Completed **2 cleanup events** and planted native shrubs along the Leo Adler pathway and Powder River in Baker City
- Facilitated **4 days of watershed lessons** at Hoffer Lake for all of the Baker School District 6th grade students
- Taught stream survey methods to **6** Burnt River High School foreign exchange biology students
- Hosted **1 hike** along the Elkhorn Crest Trail with **17 attendees** and **1** Phillips Reservoir Paddle trip
  - Collaborated with Baker Resources Coalition to hire **3 part-time High School interns**
- Presented **3 Speaker Series events** on the following topics: mining, sage grouse, and fishing in the Powder River



## ESTIMATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY

**2 Full-time Staff Positions**  
+  
**3 Part-time Internship Positions**  
+  
**Services, Equipment, & Supplies**  
purchased locally for a total of

**\$127,916.42**

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For Fiscal year ending June 30, 2019

**Total Grants Receivable as of  
June 30, 2019 not presented on  
Statement of Financial Position  
\$318,045**

## Statement of Activities

SUPPORT & REVENUE	(\$)
Corporate Grants	62,172
Foundation Grants	4,798
Government Grants	143,104
Individual Business Contributions	8,020
Corporate Contributions	1,035
Miscellaneous Revenues	4,367
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$223,496</b>
EXPENSES	
Accounting Fees	6,182
Advertising	204
Business/Registration/Permits & Fees	275
Contracted Services	51,640
Depreciation	3,058
Equipment Rental	52
Liability Insurance	4,033
Payroll Expenses	88,759
Postage, Mailing Service	556
Printing & Copying	1,873
Rent	9,170
Software	100
Supplies/Equipment	46,513
Books, Subscriptions, Reference	275
Telecommunications	1,987
Travel, Meetings, Memberships & Meals	6,135
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$220,812</b>
Increase in Net Assets	2,684
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	54,973
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$57,657</b>

## Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	(\$)
Checking/Savings	68,381
Fixed Assets	8,613
Accounts Receivable	4,000
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>80,994</b>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
LIABILITIES	
Employer Leave Liability	1,997
Worker Compensation Payable	594
Unearned or Deferred Revenue	20,745
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>23,336</b>
EQUITY	
Unrestricted Net Assets	54,973
Net Income	2,684
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>57,657</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$80,993</b>



\*Financial statements are preliminary and may change after review is complete



# A LOOK BACK...

## At Accomplishments from 2019

### WATER QUALITY MONITORING

The 2019 year marks the mid-way point for the Powder Basin Watershed Council's Long-term Monitoring Project. The project, having secured OWEB funding in 2018, has thus far has been a great success! With the help of nine hard-working volunteers, twelve High School students, and countless hours donated by technical advisers, the Council managed to complete monitoring at 48 sites for continuous temperature and 33 sites for pH, Dissolved Oxygen, Turbidity, Conductivity, and water temperature grab samples. These sites are distributed throughout the watershed widely, and can be found in all three subbasins: Burnt, Brownlee Reservoir, and Powder and on private and public lands. Data collected will add to the breadth and understanding of past water quality programs and in some cases attribute to larger datasets- as much as seven continuous years of data collection for some sites. Additionally, monitoring at these sites allows staff to determine improvements or degradation over the long-term.



Monitoring results for 2019 show similar trends as previous years, with approximately 25% of streams meeting the Oregon standards for stream temperatures. Of the thirty-three sites, only one site failed to meet pH standards (must not fall below or exceed 6.5-9.0SU) and one site failed to meet the Dissolved Oxygen standards (must not fall below 6.5 mg/L for cool-water, aquatic life or 8.0 mg for cold-water, aquatic life). Conductivity levels varied throughout the basin, also mimicking past trends, where higher and more varying levels of conductivity were seen as streams moved from upper to lower elevations in the watershed. Last, turbidity levels in the Powder Basin tend to remain low, except for in early season snowmelt periods. Monitoring for these parameters allows staff to understand basic water quality conditions and identify long-term trends in water quality.

### MACROINVERTEBRATE ANALYSIS

The Macroinvertebrate Survey was completed in 2018 and involved collecting aquatic insect samples at twenty-two sites broadly throughout the watershed. While sampling took place in 2018, the taxonomic identification was completed by Cole Ecological, Inc. in 2019. Shortly after, PREDATOR modeling was completed by ODEQ and data were returned to PBWC. These data were analyzed and compared to water quality and historical land use information to determine the quality of the macroinvertebrate assemblages at each of the twenty-two sites. The overall outcome of this effort will result in a Macroinvertebrate Survey Report detailing the interesting results and highlighting key areas of stream disturbances. A printed or downloadable copy of the report will become available early 2020! The completion of this report comes with great pride and sincere acknowledgement to the helpful advisors at ODEQ Division of Watershed Assessment Lab.

## POWDER RIVER FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The concept for the Powder River Fish Habitat Enhancement Project was hatched early in 2019 when a passionate Baker City resident approached the Council in hopes to better the Powder River fishery. Quickly the idea gained momentum and the Council garnered support from numerous agencies including Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, US Forest Service and Baker City. Knowing that in order to improve the Powder River fishery, PBWC must first understand the current conditions, it was decided to pursue an inventory of aquatic habitat as the first step. Funding for the inventory and analysis was secured through a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board in the fall. Survey work will begin on the first phase of the project in fall of 2020 and include the Powder River, extending from Hughes lane for seventeen miles upstream. Additionally, outreach for this project started off overwhelmingly positive, with nearly 50% of the 197 properties granting permission before receiving funding. The Council is excited to serve the interests of its local community, understand the health of our local waterway, and improve fishing in the Powder River.

## UPPER PINE CREEK RESTORATION DESIGNS

Development of restoration designs for upper Pine Creek has progressed nicely during 2019. After the completion of field surveys and hydrologic modeling, preliminary restoration designs were presented by RSI to address issues of flood damage, fish habitat and sediment build-up. Through a partnership with Idaho Power Co., efforts have been particularly focused on addressing issues related to fish passage and potential flood damage from an irrigation diversion. Again, field surveying and modeling has been completed and preliminary designs are ready to be presented to landowners and state regulators. Once this issue has been addressed, it will improve conditions for the downstream landowners.

## COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

The Council has continued to improve its effectiveness through a variety of trainings, conferences and formal partnerships. Trainings have included Board-staff relations, Board recruitment and fundraising. Staff from the Council attended the OCEAN Connect Conference in Bend and the Eastern Oregon Non-Profit Conference in Ontario. The Council was invited to participate in local sage grouse recovery efforts that resulted in a Focused Investment Partnership grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, totaling \$6 million over six years to a coalition of local partners. The Council will focus its contributions to the effort on summer sage grouse habitat, which includes wet meadows and riparian areas. The Council also formalized its relationship with a new entity focused on natural resource management in Baker County by becoming the fiscal agent for the Baker Resources Coalition ([www.bakerresources.com](http://www.bakerresources.com)). In addition, the Council has become the employer of record for an internship program developed by Baker Resources Coalition and Baker Technical Institute, allowing students to gain work experience, learn valuable skills and earn money. This arrangement will allow the Council to support their mission to integrate the management of forests, tourism, watersheds, youth education and fire prevention to benefit the community.





## OUTREACH & EDUCATION

2019 was a particularly fun and adventurous year! From hiking the Elkhorn Crest Trail to wading through the South Fork Burnt River with High School students, PBWC kept very busy. Our outreach and education programs are the backbone of keeping the Council connected to its community and we strive to create more robust and exciting opportunities for a diversity of our members. In order to sustain our programs, fundraising and strong partner relationships are crucial. Whether its developing lesson plans for elementary school students' summer field trips, collaborating with the Baker Resources Coalition to provide experiential learning and career development opportunities for Baker Technical Institute students, to leading paddling trips, or just getting our hands dirty at our semiannual Powder River cleanups we work hard all year to connect with each and every community member. The connection we make is important to us not only provide education about the Powder Watershed but also to learn.

### COMMUNITY & EVENTS

The Council participated in several community events over the spring to fall months, including: Miners Jubilee, Anthony Lakes Family Fishing Day, Wallowa Resources Watershed Festival, Crossroads Carnegie Art Center Anniversary Street



Fair, and First Friday Art Walks. The goal of participation in community events is multipronged: to connect with our wider community, to provide education about watershed-related topics, to strengthen partnerships with community groups, and sometimes to aid in fundraising.

### RIVER CLEANUPS

As tradition, the Council hosted spring and fall litter removal work parties along the Powder River in downtown Baker City. Both events increased in volunteer contributions, removing garbage from 2.1 miles of the Powder River. Additionally SOLVE Oregon provided a small grant to purchase two native trees and tools for planting along the pathway. Lots of interesting items were found in the river, including: bikes, cones, scrap metal, suitcases...to name a few. 2019 fall cleanup participation was rewarded with raffle gifts from Barley Browns Brew Pub and Betty's Books.

### OUTDOOR SCHOOL AT ANTHONY LAKES

Council staff helped lead a watershed-themed station for four days at the annual Outdoor School for Eastern Oregon 6th graders. 2019 was a particularly interesting year due to the change in venue to the beautiful Anthony Lakes. The watershed station was located at nearly 8,000 ft., next to Hoffer Lake. In total, roughly 140 students and 15 parents from Baker City, Haines, and Keating participated. The students learned about the water cycle, infiltration rate, surface runoff, and completed a watershed assessment. While the weather was challenging, facilitators made a campfire to keep warm and the experience is not one to be forgotten!



## HIKING & PADDLING TOURS

The 2019 hiking and paddling tours were a great success! The Council led an 8-mile hike along the Elkhorn Crest Trail from Marble Pass to the Twin Lakes trail head. With 17 people in attendance, participants traversed the rocky pass to view scenic vistas, the Elkhorn Peaks, native flowers, birds, and mountain goats! With the help of Go Wild shuttle service and an enthusiastic group of hikers, this trip did not disappoint! Earlier in the summer, the Council paddled the waters of Phillips Reservoir through old mine tailings to the main channel of the Powder River. After sharing paddling stories and lunch, kayakers made their way back to the launch point, enjoying a fantastic view of the Elkhorn Mountains, waterfowl, and fishing raptors.



## SUMMER ACADEMY MACROINVERTEBRATE FIELD TRIPS, NATURE NIGHT & OPEN HOUSE

Truly a highlight and privilege of the Outreach & Education program are the Summer Academy Field Trips for Baker students. The Baker 5J program's goal is to eliminate the summer slide with a plethora of learning opportunities provided by key community partners. With the help of funding provided by The Autzen Foundation and Collins Foundation, Council staff created all new programming for Summer Academy field trippers. Approximately 158 students, grades 1st through 6th traveled to the base of



Mason Dam where they explored their local macroinvertebrate community in the Powder River. Here students learned to collect and identify macros, and determine the water quality of the Powder River using a diversity index. Students also went on a nature excursion, taking a 1.5 mile hike in the Powder River Recreation Area, stopping to discuss points of interest such as: the Powder River, beaver, rainbow trout, ponderosa pine trees, local geology, and ecology. Last, students completed a watercolor painting postcard of the Powder River to remember their experiences. In support of these field trips, staff also participated in a Nature Night and an Open House event alongside partners. Staff met with parents and provided details about field trips.

## STREAM SURVEY WITH BURNT RIVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

In the fall, Council staff and volunteers met with 6 Burnt River foreign exchange students for an exciting day in the field. Students were guided through stream survey methods, including: stream, riparian, substrate, and vegetation monitoring. The group shared lunch in the field, and wrapped up their day by suiting up in waders and collecting macroinvertebrates. After a discussion about water quality and nearby land-use students were sent back to school with macroinvertebrate samples for a deeper dive.

## SPEAKER SERIES

In 2019, the Speaker Series presented three guest speakers: Tim Bailey, Fish Biologist (ODFW) who discussed fishing in the Powder Basin; Terry Drever Gee, Environmental Consultant from the Bonanza Mine in Cornucopia who discussed reclamation after mining for gold; and Dallas Hall Defrees, Sage grouse LIT Coordinator with Baker County who discussed the programmatic details of the sage grouse recovery through partnership strategy. Each of these events were well-attended and with both familiar and new faces.



# A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTNERS,

## PARTNERS, FUNDERS, & VOLUNTEERS

### LOCAL AGENCIES

Baker City

### STATE AGENCIES

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Oregon Water Resources Department  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

### FEDERAL AGENCIES

Bureau of Land Management Vale District

Wallowa Whitman National Forest  
US Bureau of Reclamation, Boise Lab  
US Fish & Wildlife Service

### LOCAL PARTNERS

Baker Resources Coalition  
Baker Technical Institute  
Baker School District 5J  
Burnt River High School  
Pine Eagle High School  
Malheur Watershed Council  
Crossroads Carnegie Arts Center  
Trout Unlimited  
Wallowa Resources

### TECHNICAL ADVISORS

Dr. Suzanne Fouty, FS (ret.)  
Jason McClaughry, DOGAMI  
John Dadoly, ODEQ  
Phillip Marcy, OWRD  
Tim Bailey, ODFW  
Winston Morton, ODFW

### GUEST SPEAKERS

Tim Bailey, ODFW  
Terry Drever Gee, Environmental Consultant  
Dallas Hall Defrees, Sage-grouse LIT Coordinator

### LOCAL BUSINESS DONORS

Barley Browns Brew Pub  
Betty's Books  
Elkhorn Custom Maps  
Go Wild-American Adventures  
Guyer & Associates, CPA  
Mad Mathildas Coffee House

### CORPORATIONS

Amazon Smile  
Cole Ecological, Inc.  
Facebook  
Idaho Power Company  
RSI, Inc.

### FOUNDATIONS

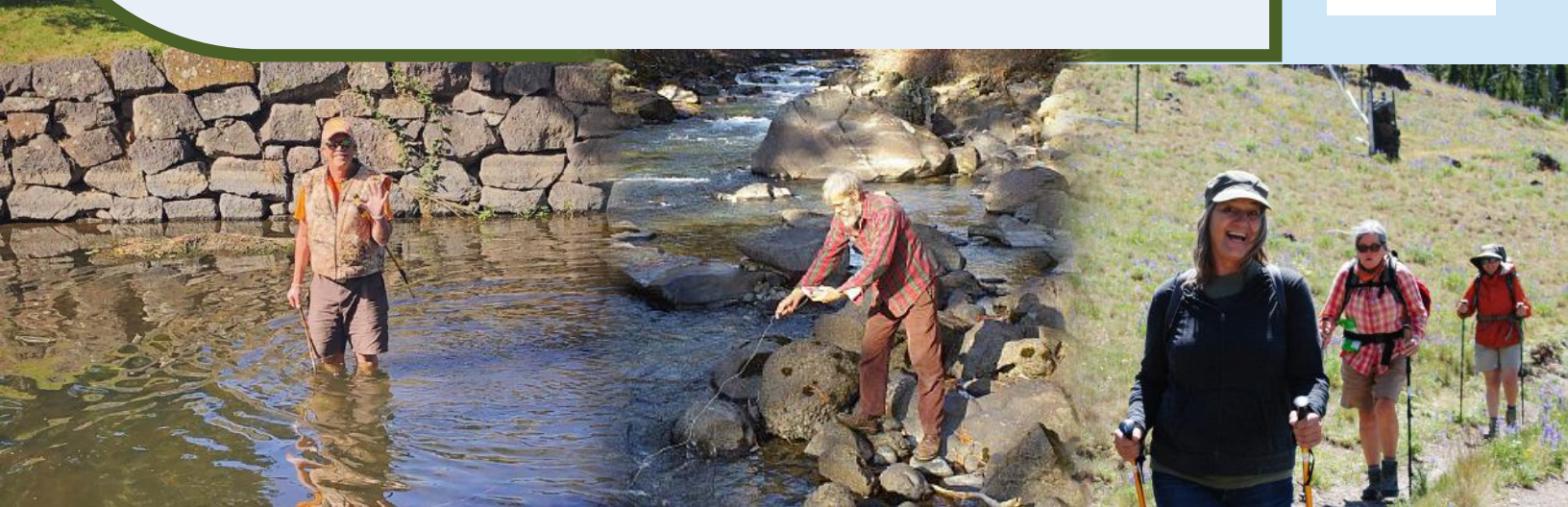
The Autzen Foundation  
Collins Foundation  
Charlotte Martin Foundation  
Oregon Community Foundation  
SOLVE Oregon  
Union Pacific

### WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Ben Titus  
Karen Reiner  
Jenn Stout  
Joseph Hayes  
Pete Martin  
Tonia Humbert - Burnt River HS  
Troy Tubbs - Pine Eagle HS  
Trevor Norman

### OUTREACH & EVENTS

Alan Egger  
Allan Sather  
Andy Rorick  
Angela Latin  
Barbara Meyer  
Barbara O'Neal  
Ben Titus  
Bob Mason  
Bob Parker  
Bruce Nichols  
Carolyn Jiles  
Damon Rose  
Dave Salo  
Deb Wesler  
Dorothy Mason  
Gretchen Stadler  
Jamie Ratliff  
Jeff Sizer  
Jill Wyatt  
Joe Hayes  
John Quintela  
Karen Reiner  
Kathleen Keifer  
Kristy Wright  
Liz Morgan  
Lori Shields  
Mark Witty  
Mike Meyer  
Nancy Rorick  
Paul Garvin  
Pete Martin  
Rebecca Kolbert  
Ron Stream  
Steve Edward  
Steve Flock  
Suzanne Fouty  
Tim Bailey  
Trudy Flock





# FUNDERS, SUPPORTERS, & VOLUNTEERS...

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

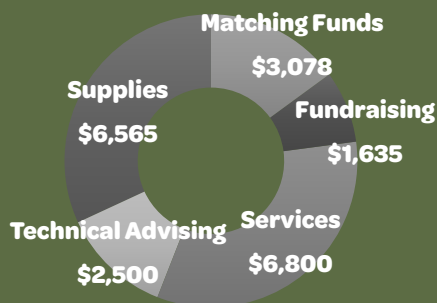
Dorothy Mason, President,  
Ben Titus, Treasurer  
Mark Jackson, Director at Large  
Karen Reiner, Director at Large

## STAFF

Christo Morris, Executive Director  
Anna Hayes, Monitoring & Outreach Coordinator

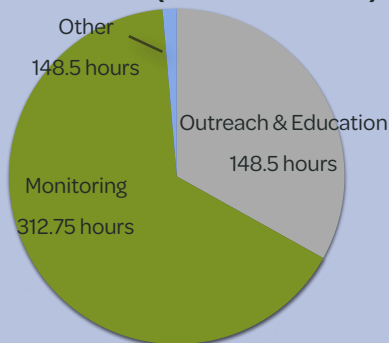
## PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

**TOTAL**  
Matching funds in  
equipment, supplies,  
technical advising,  
services, and  
fundraising  
**\$20,578**

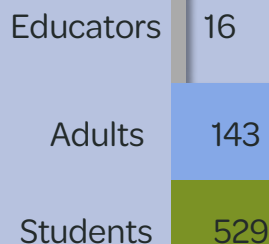


## By the Numbers...

**TOTAL Volunteer Contribution**  
**\$10,500.90 (467.75 hours)**

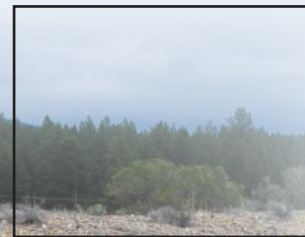


**TOTAL K-12 Education  
Program Attendees (688)**





Powder Basin Watershed Council  
2034 Auburn Avenue, Suite B  
Baker City, Oregon 97814



*Our Watershed, Our Home*

# CONTACT THE POWDER BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL

## STAFF

Christo Morris, Executive Director  
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Anna Hayes, Outreach & Water Quality Monitoring  
Coordinator  
[pbwcmc@qwestoffice.net](mailto:pbwcmc@qwestoffice.net)

## PHONE & WEBSITE

(541) 523-7288  
[www.PowderBasinWatershedCouncil.org](http://www.PowderBasinWatershedCouncil.org)

## JOIN US AT A MONTHLY MEETING

Monthly meetings are always open to the public and take place the  
first Wednesday of every month at:

Powder Basin Watershed Council  
2034 Auburn Avenue, Suite B  
Baker City, OR 97814  
4:30-5:30pm

For information about speakers and events find us on:  
[Facebook.com/PowderBasinWatershedCouncil](https://Facebook.com/PowderBasinWatershedCouncil)