

Collaborative commitment to the lower Columbia River

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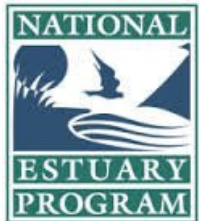


Lower Columbia
Estuary
Partnership



National Estuary Program

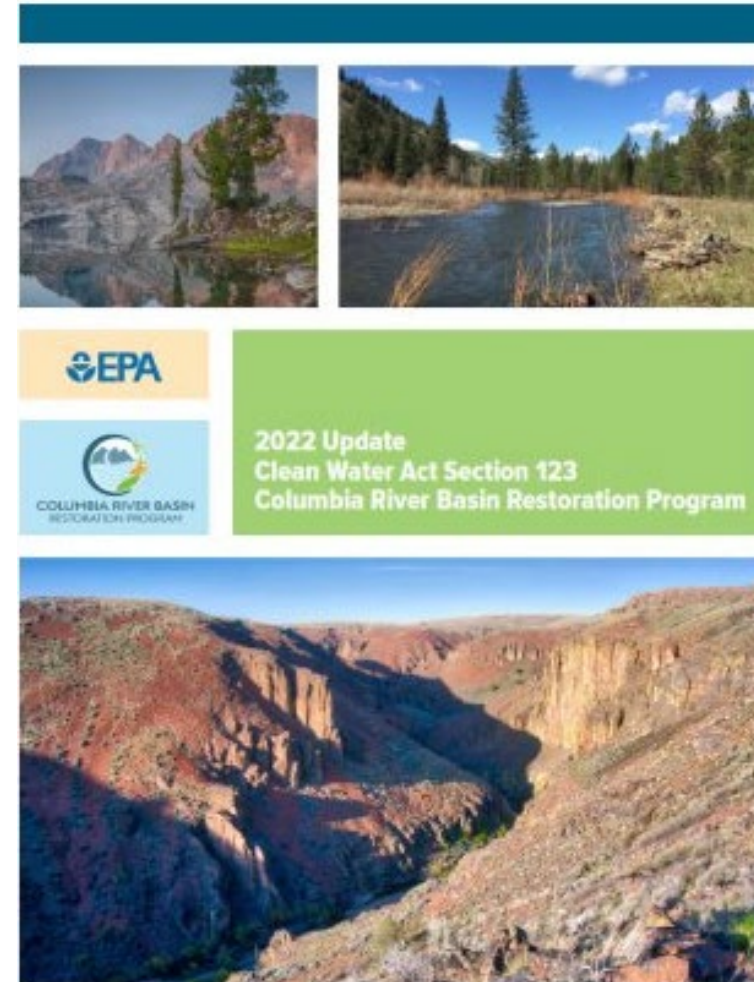
- The National Estuary Program is a place-based, collaborative program that safeguards the country's most significant estuaries, along with the communities and economies that depend on them.
- Congress established the National Estuary Program through an amendment to § 320 of the Clean Water Act in 1987. EPA administers the program.
- 28 National Estuary Programs in the U.S. and Puerto Rico
- **For every \$1 of funding, National Estuary Programs leverage \$17 in local, state, federal, and private-sector investment.**



Columbia River Basin Restoration Program

“The EPA Columbia River Basin Restoration Program—through the implementation of CWA Section 123—will be a catalyst for Basin wide toxics reduction work efforts, enabling communities to access unimpaired watersheds with healthy fish and wildlife and quantifiable toxics reductions in fish, wildlife and water.”

- Approved by Congress in 2016.
- Directs the EPA to develop a voluntary, competitive grant program for environmental protection and restoration programs throughout the Basin.
- \$81M (\$79M BIL) awarded in three funding cycles



Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

To restore and care for the waters and ecosystems of the lower Columbia River, for current and future generations of fish, wildlife, and people.

- 501(c)3 organization
- 13 Board Members; 5 Ex Officio Members
- 30 staff members
- Study area: 146 river miles of the Columbia and upland areas
- Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan



Education and Community Programs

Create and implement education and volunteer opportunities for citizens of all ages to engage in activities that promote stewardship of the lower Columbia River and estuary.

- Since 2000, the Estuary Partnership has:
 - worked with 3,713 classrooms
 - reached 98,595 students
 - provided 490,091 instructional hours
- Big Canoe program: 31,650 paddlers since 2000
- Since 2000, 15,651 volunteers have engaged in:
 - Planting 119,556 native trees and shrubs
 - Water quality monitoring, water trail maintenance, habitat mapping, assisting with restoration activities



Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Reduce and improve the water quality of stormwater runoff and other non-point source pollution.

- 26 Grattix Boxes (“stormwater treatment in a box”) installed at commercial and industrial locations
- Port of Ilwaco’s Baker Bay green stormwater project
- Rainier Boat Launch green stormwater project
- \$4.2 million Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Fund grant (BIL) for green stormwater projects in schoolyards:
 - Mittleman Jewish School, Sunnyside Elementary, Evergreen High School, Glencoe Elementary, Creston Annex Head Start, Chief Joseph Elementary, Fort Vancouver High School, Rigler Elementary, and more to come



Collaborative Science Convening

Facilitate and assist federal, tribal, state, and local governments' protection of the lower Columbia River and estuary.

- Supported an Indigenous-centered, Columbia River-focused learning journey for staff and partners
- Coordinate Science Work Group
- Science to Policy Conference
 - Conservation as climate mitigation: Using carbon programs to protect and restore ecosystems
 - Toxics, climate change, science communications
- Columbia River Estuary Conference
 - Echoes of the Estuary – Reflections for a Resilient Future, May 13-15, 2025.



Habitat Monitoring and Research

Provide information about the lower Columbia River and estuary that focuses on water quality, endangered species, habitat loss and restoration, biological diversity, and climate change to a range of users.

- **Ecosystem Monitoring Program:** baseline information on salmon habitat at five minimally disturbed tidal wetlands sites.



- **Action Effectiveness Monitoring Program:** determine how habitat restoration actions are impacting salmon habitat to improve future restoration actions.
- **Soil Carbon and Methane Study of the Columbia River**



COWLITZ



INDIAN TRIBE



Habitat Restoration

Protect, conserve, and enhance priority habitats, particularly wetlands, on the mainstem of the lower Columbia River and its tributaries.

- Since 2000, the Estuary Partnership has
 - Restored or protected 5,149 acres
 - Opened more than 83.7 miles of stream habitat
 - Supported partner restoration projects to accomplish 284 projects across 35,342 acres
- Spring 2025 – break ground on two floodplain reconnection projects
 - Campen Creek Reconnection Project
 - East Fork Lewis River Reconnection Project



Steigerwald Reconnection Project



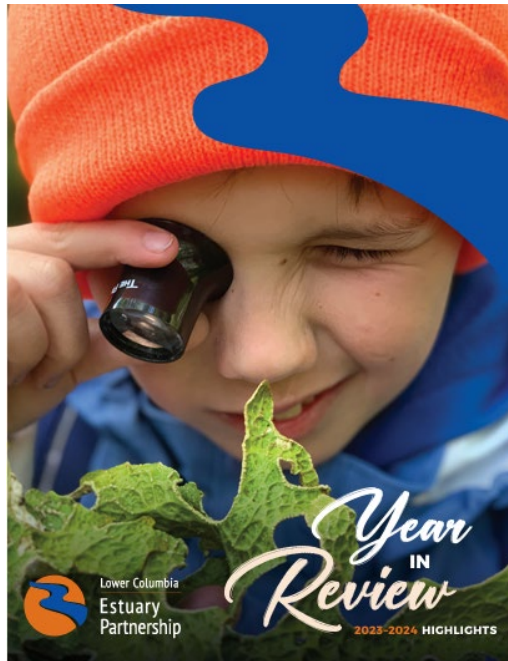
Largest habitat restoration project in the lower Columbia River

- Fixed three problems: flooding, recreation, fish access



Learn more about us (or visit!)

Year in Review



Website

