

2023 Annual Impact Report

Columbia Riverkeeper

What draws you to Columbia Riverkeeper? For me, the list runs long. (I began volunteering at Columbia Riverkeeper as a legal intern 18 years ago!) But it starts with my kids and my commitment to fight for justice.

My kids love playing in the Columbia River. Swimming. Fishing. Burying each other in the sand. After my older daughter, Talia, caught her first spring Chinook, she could hardly spit out the story to her grandparents; she was literally shaking with excitement. That's why we do this work. For all the kids who just want to go fishing and dunk each other in the Columbia. For a river that nourishes and unites us.

What keeps you partnering with Columbia Riverkeeper? For many, it's impact. The organization punches above its weight, year after year, delivering big wins for clean water, salmon, and our climate.

In 2023, Columbia Riverkeeper celebrated another year of victories and important progress in underdog fights. **You make these victories possible.**

- You **stopped years of illegal toxic pollution** at one of the largest ports in the Pacific Northwest, the Port of Vancouver USA, by enforcing the law and holding the port accountable.
- You worked with Tribes to **secure a fish passage agreement at dams** on an important tributary of the Columbia, the Lewis River.
- You **stalled a proposal for a massive non-conventional diesel refinery** in the heart of the Columbia River Estuary. No, the developers haven't thrown in the towel, but we know from experience that big victories follow years of smaller victories.

Columbia Riverkeeper's successful formula: combine strategic legal advocacy with community organizing and creative communications. Turn the page for highlights from our five program areas that showcase a year of big wins for clean water and our climate.

Victories matter for people who rely on the Columbia. They also matter because Columbia Riverkeeper brings together people who care about how to make an impact. We do so in solidarity with Tribes; through movement-building and lasting relationships; by listening to and partnering with people who live and work along the river; and with our values front and center.

Let's keep advocating for what we love.

Onward!



Lauren

Lauren Goldberg, *Executive Director*

Our Mission

To protect and restore the water quality of the Columbia River and all life connected to it, from the headwaters to the Pacific Ocean.

Our Vision

A Columbia River that unites people to fight for clean water, abundant fish and wildlife, and our climate.

Our Commitment

Embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion at every level of our work. Communities are the backbone of what we do. As an organization that advocates for the health and safety of river communities, we must fight for social justice and take a stand against racism.

Our Staff



Simone Anter (*She/Her*), Staff Attorney & Hanford Program Director



Acasia Berry (*She/Her*), Strategic Advisor



Kelly Campbell (*She/Her*), Policy Director



Andrea Capere (*She/Her & They/Them*), Communications Specialist



Zowie DeLeon (*They/Them & She/Her*), Communications Coordinator



Lorri Epstein (*She/Her*), Water Quality Director



Lauren Goldberg (*She/Her*), Executive Director



Miles Johnson (*He/Him*), Legal Director



Emily Kao (*She/Her*), Advancement Director



Audrey Klein (*She/Her*), Events & Operations Coordinator



Audrey Leonard (*She/Her*), Staff Attorney



Juan Monje (*He/Him*), Community Organizer



Lisa Muñoz (*She/Her & They/Them*), Grants Manager



Kate Murphy (*She/Her*), Community Organizer



Siobhán O'Halloran (*She/Her*), Finance & Administration Director



Esteban Ortiz (*He/Him*), Program Coordinator



Dianne Riley (*She/Her*), Sustaining Gifts Director



Dan Serres (*He/Him*), Advocacy Director



Alex Smith (*He/Him*), Development Manager



Liz Terhaar (*She/Her*), Communications & Marketing Director

Your Impact in the Last Year

Stopping Pollution



6 Clean Water Act lawsuits prosecuted and settled in 2023.

\$25 million the Port of Vancouver USA will spend to reduce toxic pollution under our legal settlement.

\$780,000+ paid by polluters in penalties to Tribes and nonprofits as a result of our 2023 lawsuits.

3 years to prevail in a court appeal brought by Earthjustice on behalf of Tribes, Columbia Riverkeeper, and Sierra Club to overturn a Trump-era rule gutting clean water protections.

Engaging Communities



240 water quality samples collected at river beaches.

650+ kids and young adults who experienced bilingual (English and Spanish) environmental education through our outreach program.

30+ events we hosted or partnered in to inspire people to speak up for clean water, salmon, and our climate.

1400+ pounds of garbage volunteers collected at our cleanup events.

Fighting Fossil Fuels



9 members of Congress urged regulators to deny a massive fracked-gas pipeline expansion.

200 people participated in a day of action against fossil fuels.

5 years a non-conventional diesel refinery has fallen behind schedule due in large part to our research, organizing, and a legal win.

Saving Salmon



10 dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers that, after years of litigation, have permits to reduce pollution.

4 Endangered Species Act-listed species in the Lewis River that will benefit from PacifiCorp building fish passage at old dams, thanks to advocacy by Tribes and allies.

2 Tribes and **6 fish advocacy groups** partnering with us to sue the state of Oregon for weakening protections for fish.

Cleaning Up Hanford



70 students who participated in a trip (featured on National Public Radio!), organized by Columbia Riverkeeper and Yakama Nation, to tour the Hanford Nuclear Site.

750+ people who advocated for improvements to Hanford cleanup plans.

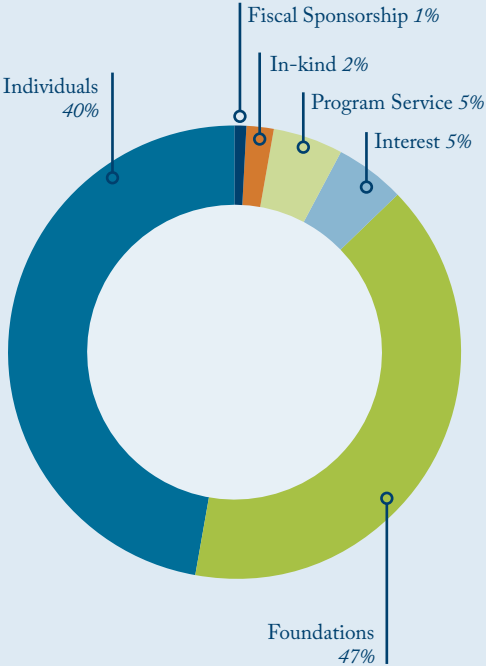
500+ people who explored our “Water’s Walk Through Hanford” storymap that explains contamination threatening the Columbia.

Revenue & Expenses

Jan. - Dec. 2023

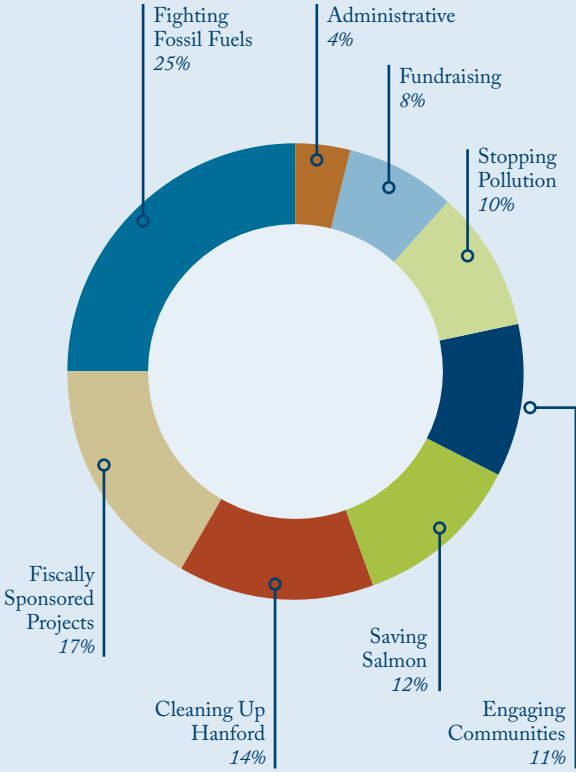
Revenue

Total:\$5,253,650*

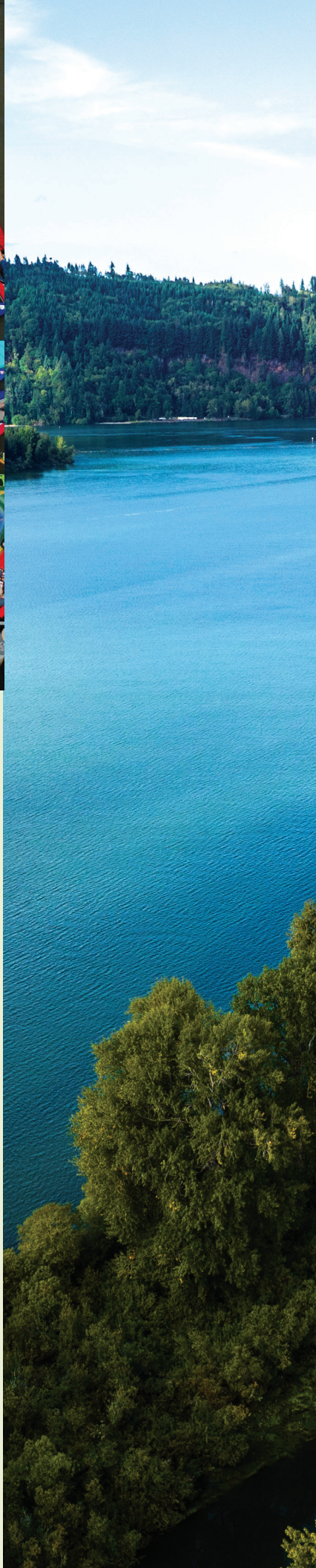


Expenses

Total:\$2,671,998



*This includes \$2,719,244 designated as funds for future years. In 2023 Columbia Riverkeeper received multiple grants designated for use in 2024 and beyond. In addition, Riverkeeper received a \$1 million anonymous gift to support the Cleaning Up Hanford program, which Riverkeeper will spend-down over four years to maximize the gift's impact.



In summer 2023, people who care about our climate and clean water united in Portland at the Land and Water Rally Day of Action against fossil fuels. Photo by Alex Milan Tracy.

“Columbia Riverkeeper is an established and trusted leader working to create a more just system for ecosystems, and the people who rely on them throughout the Columbia River Basin.”

— **Se-ah-dom Edmo** (Shoshone-Bannock, Nez Perce, and Yakama), Executive Director of Seeding Justice and former Columbia Riverkeeper Board Member

Cover and other landscape images by Paloma Ayala.



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