



# **ROGUE BASIN**

## PARTNERSHIP

*Rogue Basin Natural Resources Stewardship  
From Summit to Sea*

PO Box 1214, Medford, OR 97501

[info@roguepartners.org](mailto:info@roguepartners.org)

541.414.3474 | [roguepartners.org](http://roguepartners.org)





On behalf of the Rogue Basin Partnership, we thank you for taking the time to learn about opportunities to invest in the ecological and economic health of Oregon's Rogue River Basin. Your investment would help preserve our highest valued natural resources; restore functionality to degraded natural systems; adapt to the accelerating impacts of climate change; and build a restoration-based economy.

You can look around the world and find few places with as diverse a geology, biology, botany and hydrology as the Rogue. When you visit, you will get a taste of this diversity by following the Basin's backbone—the Rogue River—along its 216-mile journey from its source near Crater Lake National Park, through lush green forests and spectacular whitewater-filled canyons, to the Pacific Ocean.

When you hike into the mountains, you will find 30 different kinds of conifers—ranking the Basin among the world's most outstanding temperate conifer forests. Within those forests, you will find habitat for rare and endangered wildlife, such as the iconic Northern Spotted Owl and the elusive Pacific Fisher. If you are lucky, you will see the pink-purple flowers of a *Kalmiopsis leachiana*—the oldest living member of the rhododendron and azalea family. If you follow smaller tributaries inland, you will come across coldwater strongholds for endangered Coho salmon, and habitat for other native fish like Cutthroat Trout and steelhead. Throughout your visit, you will come to appreciate how the Basin's residents depend upon its waters, fields and forests for their health, safety, welfare and economy.

If you look closely, however, you will see how the Basin's ecosystems and economy face challenges from a legacy of historic uses and the ever-growing impacts of climate change.

- Although still relatively strong compared to most other watersheds, salmon and steelhead runs have substantially declined, in part because of the many disused dams that impair fish passage.
- Warming temperatures and new precipitation patterns threaten the remaining runs of Coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead, Pacific Lamprey, Cutthroat trout, and other native fish.
- Higher temperatures and a century of forest management practices have made forest fires—a natural occurrence in our climate—increase in size and intensity. Fires like the 191,000-acre Chetco Bar fire in 2017 have made SW Oregon ground zero for forest fire risk in Oregon.
- Invasive plants, like Himalayan Blackberry and Japanese Knotweed, can crowd out natives.
- Much of the rural economy has still not filled the holes left by the decline of the timber industry.

Here's how you can make a difference. By supporting the Rogue Basin Partnership, you will help us and our 19 member organizations strategically and collaboratively implement our comprehensive, data-backed Rogue Restoration Action Plan. In particular, you can help us:

- Preserve high priority, cold water strongholds and remove fish passage barriers to them.
- Implement forestry practices that can reduce threats of catastrophic fire and Basin-filling smoke.
- Improve streamside habitats by removing invasive plants, restoring native vegetation, and providing cover from the hot Oregon sun for fish and other aquatic organisms.
- Provide much needed employment by building a year-round local restoration workforce; and
- Inspire local residents and visitors to steward the Basin's natural resources for the future.

We gladly welcome your questions. When public health concerns permit, we invite you to visit so that you can see what annually draws tens of thousands of people to enjoy the Basin's natural beauty and its year-round outdoor recreation. And we would gratefully welcome you to the community of foundations and agencies that have already chosen to invest in the Rogue Basin.

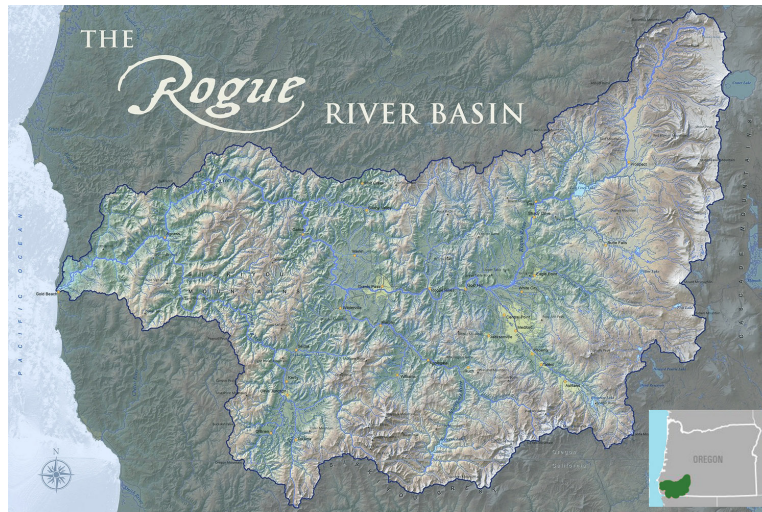
Very Truly Yours,

Eugene Wier, Chair, Board of Directors

Gregory Weber, Executive Director



# Know the Rogue



Southwest Oregon's 3.3 million acre Rogue River Basin encompasses one of the most dramatic, productive and bio-diverse landscapes in the West. From its source near Crater Lake, through its breathtaking canyons, to the Pacific Ocean, the Rogue is one of the nation's original Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Basin's streams host an extensive native salmon and steelhead

fishery. They provide drinking water to hundreds of thousands of residents and water world-renowned orchards and vineyards. The Rogue flows through local communities passionate about the outdoors and excited about the opportunities to improve it.

## Know RBP

Formed in 2015, the Rogue Basin Partnership (RBP) and its 19-member organizations share a common vision of improved health of the Basin's rivers and forests, and greater social and economic engagement in their stewardship. Working collaboratively throughout the Basin, RBP helps its members and partners identify, prioritize and pursue opportunities to improve the watershed.

## Our Passion

We unite people in improving the Rogue by strategically investing in the stewardship of our Basin. We provide a basinwide venue and perspective to enhance the success of member and partner organizations by:

- Supporting prioritization and coordination of actions among members and partners;
- Seeking out financial and technical assistance;
- Tracking and mapping collective progress; and
- Communicating stewardship successes.

## What We Do Best

- **Facilitate** implementation of the Rogue Restoration Action Plan by bringing together members and partners to prioritize their on-the-ground work.
- **Negotiate long-term investment** in the Rogue with funders to support large-scale, multi-partner projects and initiatives and ensuring sound fiscal administration.
- **Coordinate** information sharing about projects and measurable progress.
- **Communicate** to outside interests and funders the value of stewardship of the Rogue, detail ongoing efforts and identify opportunities to improve the landscape.



# Our Funding Needs

By investing in long-standing watershed management and restoration opportunities across the Rogue River Basin, you can help restore **both** the ecosystems and the economy of this spectacular region.

Your investment is needed more than ever as RBP members help the Basin respond to the devastating Alameda, South Obenchain and Slater fires.

## RBP members have shovel-ready projects that include:

- Forest management, habitat enhancement and fuels reduction;
- Improvements in irrigation efficiency through lining, piping and pumping;
- Invasive plants control;
- Native plants production;
- Removal and reconstruction of outdated barriers to native fish passage
- Riverside and floodplain habitat enhancement;
- Road improvements; and
- Water quality monitoring and infrastructure improvements.



## For 2021, a survey of our members identified potential investments of:

- \$5,800,000 in fish passage improvement;
- \$6,700,000 in forest management, habitat enhancement and fuels reduction;
- \$275,000 in streamside restoration;
- \$270,000 in native seed and plant production; and
- \$100,000 in invasive plant control.

## Similar multi-million dollar investment opportunities exist for 2022.

Ample work can be done within the Centers for Disease Control's guidelines for physical distancing and sanitation. Your investment in Rogue Basin watershed management and restoration offers you triple-bottom line returns. In addition to the substantial benefits to fish, forests, fowl and flows, our members' work helps fuel the local economy. You will find that financial and social benefits will flow to:

- Tourist-dependent businesses, local agriculture, sport and commercial fishing, and the outdoor recreation industry;
- Engineers, surveyors, archaeologists, foresters, project managers, grant writers, researchers and educators;
- Heavy equipment operators, loggers, truck drivers, bridge builders, irrigation specialists and tree planters; and
- Culvert and pipe manufacturers, steel fabricators, wood product processing and manufacturing facilities, native plant nurseries, and suppliers of hardware and agricultural materials.

The indirect benefits will multiply as they ripple through the local economy.



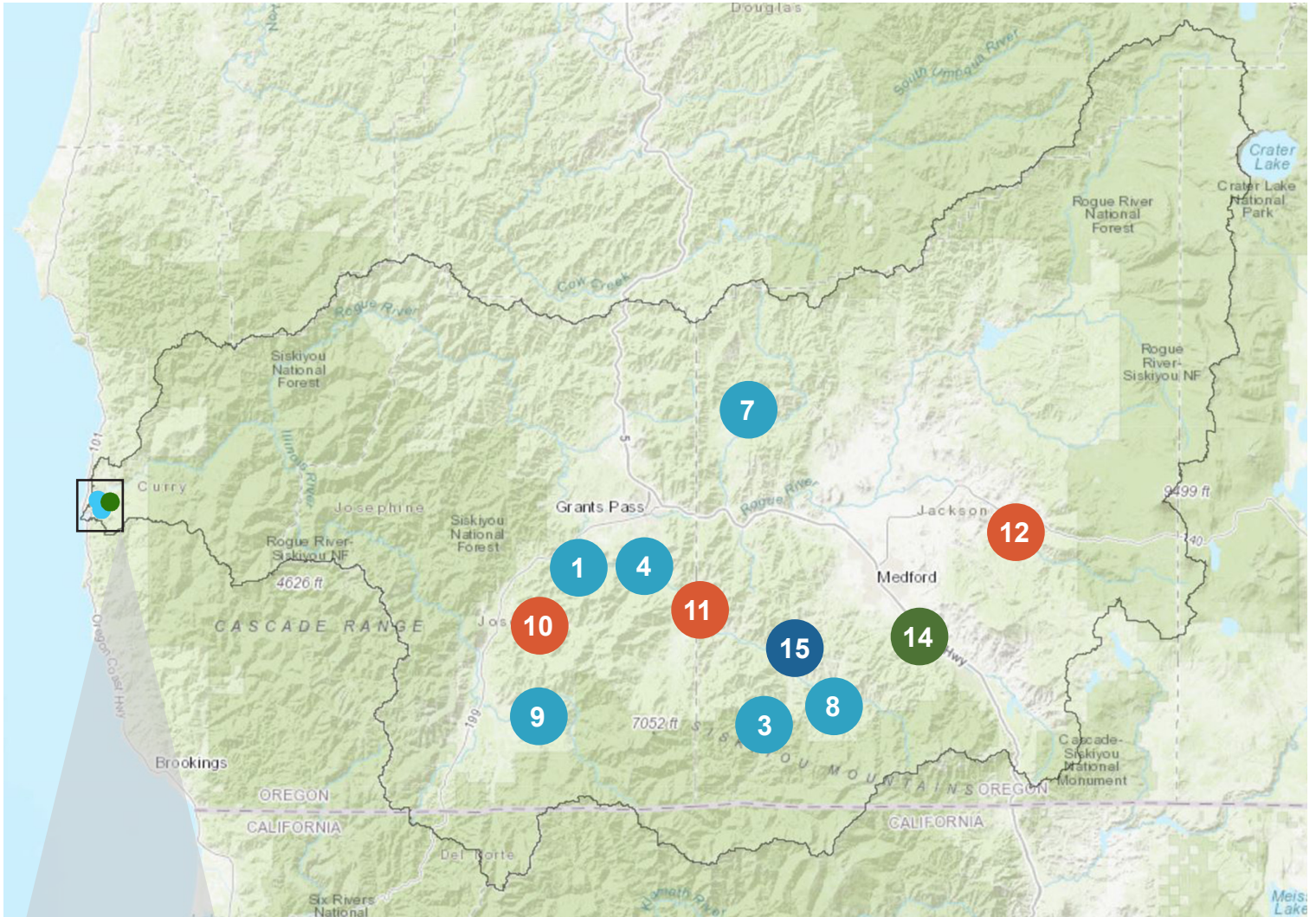
**To discuss your opportunities in the Rogue, contact:**

**Gregory Weber, Executive Director | [info@roguerpartners.org](mailto:info@roguerpartners.org) | 541.414.3474**



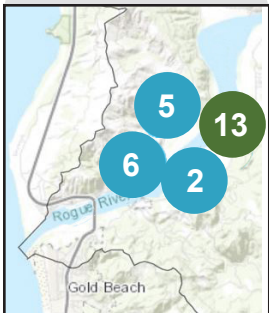


# Examples of Projects Needing Funding



## Funding Types

- Fish Passage Improvement
- Riparian Restoration
- Monitoring & Assessment
- Education & Outreach



# Fish Passage Improvement

- 1 Cheney Creek (McCann) Dam:** This project will address the only two fish passage barriers on Cheney Creek, a tributary of the Applegate River, by providing designs for replacing an undersized box culvert with a bridge and removing an abandoned concrete dam. The upstream habitat provides critical spawning habitat for Chinook salmon and cold water rearing habitat. These cold water refuges are increasingly important for survival as main stem river temperatures rise in the summer months. Lead member: Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council. **Need: \$30,000.**
- 2 GWY Slough Protection:** This slough provides critical over-wintering habitat for coho salmon, and rearing habitat for steelhead, cutthroat, Pacific lamprey, and Chinook salmon. ODFW Biologists have identified these areas as having high intrinsic potential for coho salmon production. We are geared up for implementation of a habitat enhancement project in summer 2021, and have been funded. We would also like to add protections in the form of an easement to the area. Lead member: Lower Rogue Watershed Council. **Need: \$50,000 - \$100,000.**
- 3 McKee Diversion Dam:** fish passage, irrigation efficiency, and fish screening at McKee Dam (Newberry Dam), an active diversion structure and fish passage barrier at river mile 40 on the Applegate River in Jackson County. Lead member: Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council. **Need: \$15,000.**
- 4 Murphy Dam:** APWC is partnering with Two Rivers SWCD and Murphy Ditch Association to develop alternatives and preliminary designs for improving fish passage, irrigation efficiency and fish screening at Murphy Dam, an active diversion structure and fish passage barrier at river mile 12.5 on the Applegate River. Lead member: Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council. **Need: \$1,000,000.**
- 5 Ranch Creek Culvert Replacement:** Steelhead, cutthroat, and coho are all present, but ODFW believes that the habitat upstream could support a much higher capacity if the lowest access point were fixed. Because of reduced accessible habitat, fish populations are likely limited in Ranch Creek. This lowest culvert in the system is currently a velocity barrier during high flows. Lead member: Lower Rogue Watershed Council. **Need: \$200,000.**
- 6 Reconnection Ranch:** The lower portion of Ranch Creek has been highly modified throughout time by ditching, and through previous gravel operations. The mouth of Ranch Creek is now compromised, and only connects at high tides, during high flows. The council and landowners are seeking funding to design a better path for the mouth to help return it to a better hydrological connection to the Rogue River and to the surrounding floodplain. Lead member: Lower Rogue Watershed Council. **Need: \$100,000.**
- 7 Sykes Creek Dams:** The seven Sykes Creek barriers limit adult passage to salmonid spawning habitat and juveniles access to critical cold water habitat during low summer flows. Lead member: Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council. **Need: \$500,000.**
- 8 Upper Phillips Dam:** This project will restore fish passage at Upper Phillips Dam, install a new headgate and fish screen and conserve water by piping 1.3 miles of irrigation ditch. Lead member: Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council. **Need: \$50,000.**
- 9 White Ditch Push-Up Dam:** This project will address instream flow conditions, irrigation efficiency and fish passage to Sucker Creek, in the Illinois River Watershed. Lead member: Illinois Valley Soil & Water Conservation District. **Need: \$1,000,000.**



## Riparian Restoration

- 10 Deer Creek Riparian Restoration:** Riparian shading, floodplain reconnection, and a raised water table will benefit water quality (temperature), water quantity and aquatic habitat. Lead member: Illinois Valley Soil & Water Conservation District. **Need: \$75,000 per site.**
- 11 Provolt Area Riparian Restoration:** Provolt is a large, multifaceted project in partnership with BLM. Currently, the project includes extensive invasive species removal and native plant restoration on public lands. The next phase will include private lands and irrigation associations. The additional projects will improve fish passage, irrigation efficiency, riparian habitat, and instream conditions. Lead member: Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council. **Need: \$40,000.**
- 12 South Fork Little Butte Creek Riparian and Floodplain Restoration:** South Fork of Little Butte Creek is one of the most productive and important tributaries in the upper Rogue for salmonids. Historical land use and floodplain alterations have reduced the quantity and quality of the riparian and floodplain habitats essential to supporting salmon and steelhead lifecycles. This project will help RBP coordinate the planning and implementation by multiple members of 10-12 of the highest priority projects and quantifying their benefits for salmon and steelhead. Lead entity: Rogue Basin Partnership. **Coordination and Planning Need: \$37,500. Project Need: \$100,000 per site.**

## Monitoring & Assessment

- 13 Saunders Creek WQ Investigations:** Saunders Creek provides an important rearing habitat at the outlet, where the creek turns into a slough. The Rogue River has only two sloughs in its tiny estuary; therefore these areas become very important to the whole watershed as rearing areas for important fish species. Saunders Creek supports Chinook, coho, steelhead, cutthroat trout, and many other aquatic species. Lead member: Lower Rogue Watershed Council. **Need: \$25,000 - \$80,000.**
- 14 Fish Passage Monitoring:** RBP is developing a monitoring plan for small dam removal projects in Rogue Basin tributaries. Monitoring helps determine project effectiveness, guide future restoration projects and provide accountability to funders. The multi-year plan compares fish use of the habitat made available by the removal of the barriers, before and after the projects are completed. Lead organization: Rogue Basin Partnership. **Need: \$175,000.**

## Education & Outreach

- 15 Applegate Environmental Education Program:** The program will provide hands-on environmental learning opportunities for youth, residents, and visitors in the Applegate Watershed. Lead member: Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council. **Need: \$25,000 - \$80,000.**







In the following pages, you can learn more about:



**Our Progress**



**Our Programs**



**Our Members**



**Our Plan**





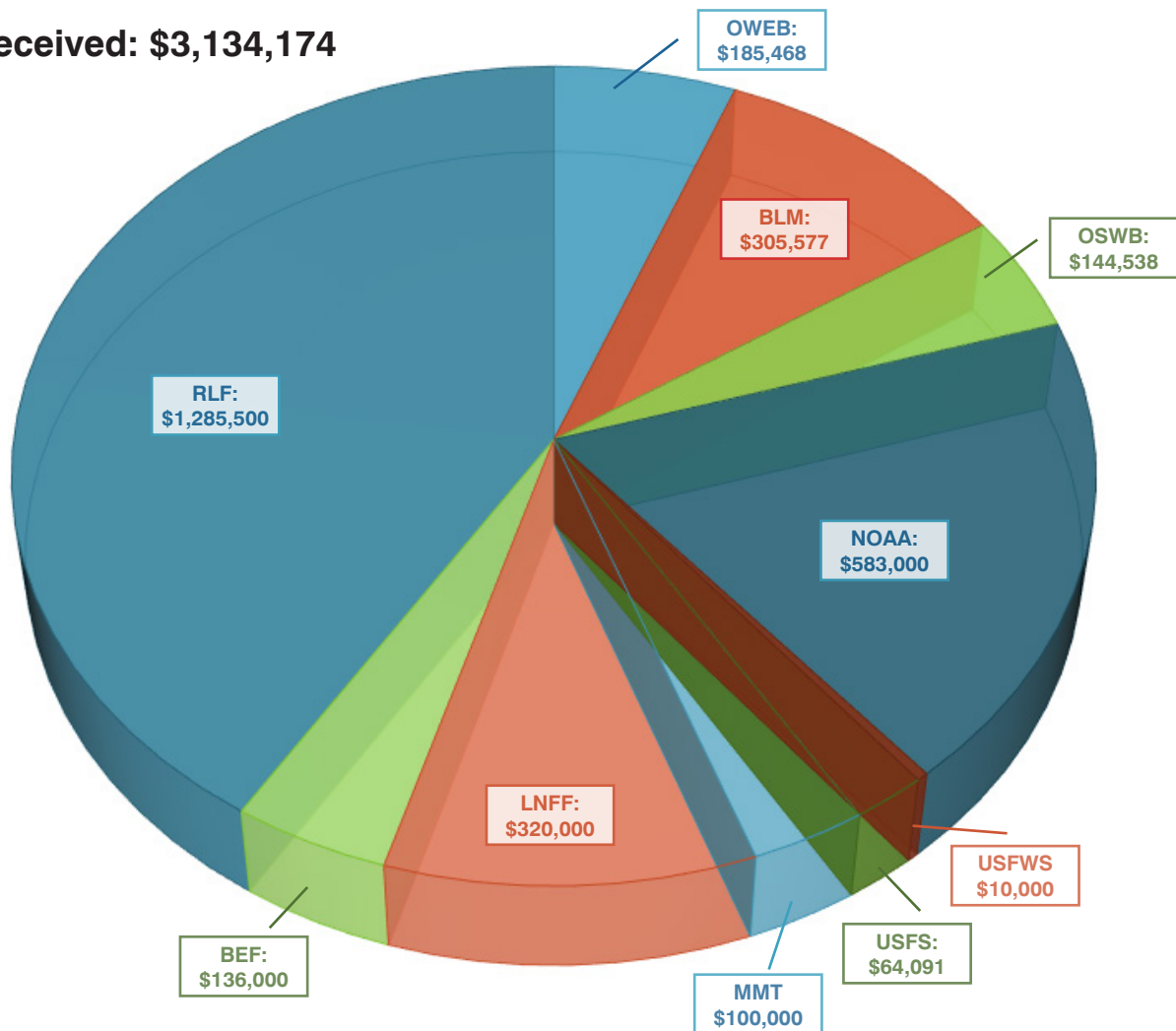
## Our Progress (2016-2020)

Working strategically, RBP accelerates the pace of conservation and restoration success, and advances Rogue Basin resilience, from summit to sea. RBP's Rogue Restoration Action Plan is the foundation of our efforts. Developed collaboratively between 2015 and 2016, the plan prioritizes restoration activities basin-wide.

The Action Plan envisions a Rogue River Basin that remains resilient and supports viable populations of native fish and wildlife. Ecological processes, as well as social and economic benefits, are conserved and enhanced through collaborative efforts of willing stakeholders. We will achieve this vision by addressing the principal limiting factors affecting native fish and wildlife, water quality, and flows in the basin and conserving and enhancing the ecological processes upon which they rely. The Action Plan's restoration strategies include flow conservation, upland water quality improvements, passage/migration restoration, aquatic habitat restoration, riparian corridor enhancement, terrestrial habitat restoration, and land conservation.

Here are a few highlights from the first five years of RBP's efforts to implement the Action Plan:

### Grants Received: \$3,134,174



BEF: Bonneville Environmental Foundation

OWEB: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

NOAA: National Oceanic & Atmospheric  
Administration Restoration Center

BLM: Bureau of Land Management

MMT: Meyer Memorial Trust

USFS: US Forest Service

OSWB: Oregon State Weed Board

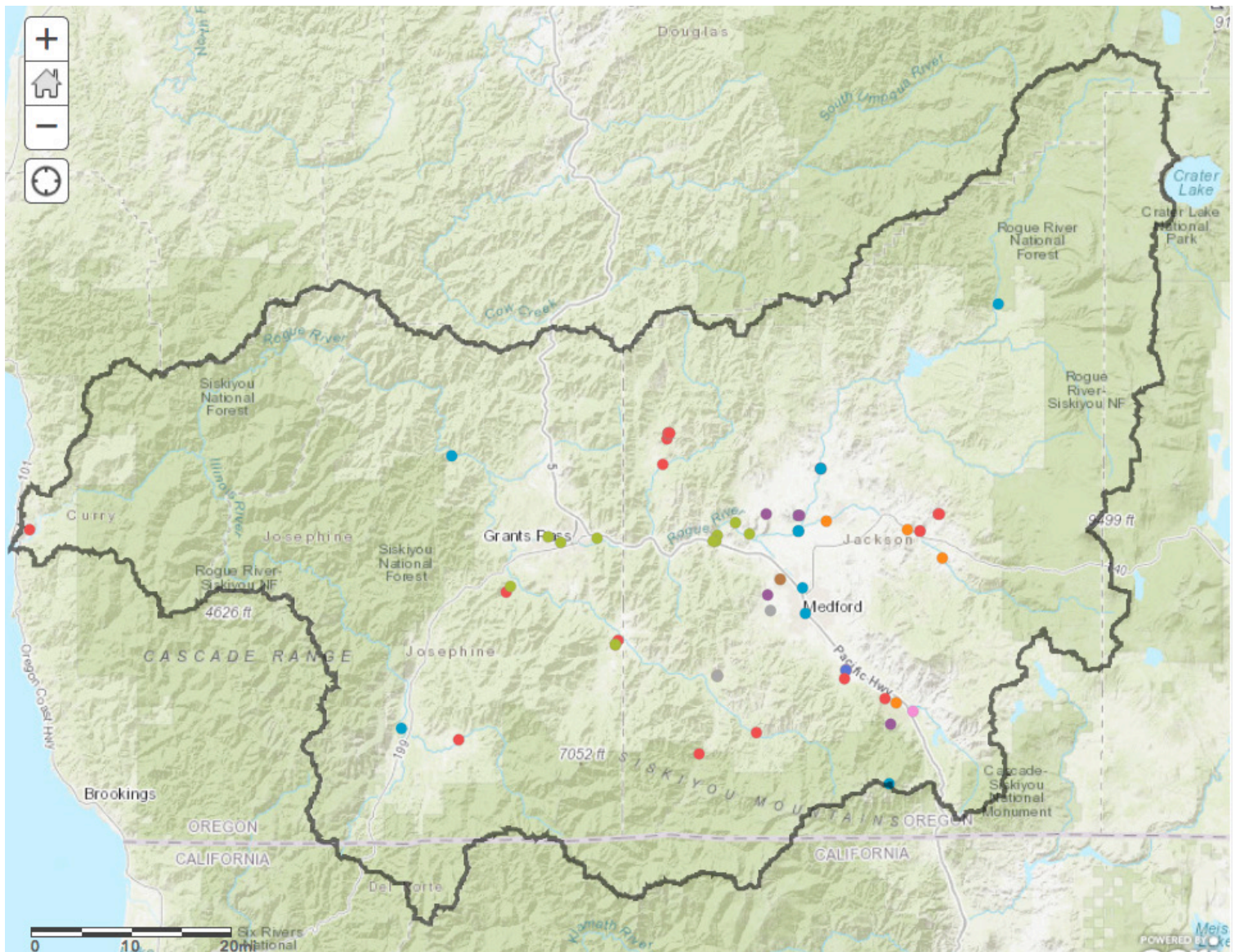
RLF: Resources Legacy Fund

LNFF: Laird Norton Family Foundation

USFWS: US Fish & Wildlife Service



# RBP - Supported Projects



## RBP-Supported Member Projects

- Fish Passage Improvement
- Stewardship Event
- Invasive Species Management
- Seed Collection Event
- Riparian Habitat & Floodplain Restoration
- Publication
- Scientific Study
- Action Plan
- Conservation Easement
- Conservation Plan
- Other





# RBP - Supported Projects

## Fish Passage

Barriers removed	8	Barrier removals underway for 2020-2023	27
Miles of improved habitat access	13	Planned miles of improved habitat access	160+

## Instream Restoration

Large woody structures installed	11	Large woody structures planned	10
Small woody structures installed	10	Linear feet of exclusion fencing installed	2,500

## Riparian Restoration

Miles of frontage restored	2.8	Miles of side channel reconnectivity or other improvements	0.7
Acres of frontage restored	11.5+	CIPs for future riparian projects developed	11

## Land Conservation

Acres protected by conservation easements	352
---	-----

## Native Plants

# Growers	5	Varieties of plants grown out	13
Pounds of seed collected	20.2	Net income from plant sales	\$15,189
Pounds of seed cleaned	12.9	Public seed collection events held	15
Varieties of seeds collected or grown	118	Attendees at public seed collection events	191
Plants grown out	6,660		

## Noxious Weed Management

Target species	8	Sites with noxious weeds eradicated	4
Miles of streamfront treated	40+	Plants treated	250,000+
Miles surveyed	100+	Public weed pull events	9
Net Acres treated	125+	Attendees at public weed pull events	230

## Monitoring

# parameters included in basin-wide plan	2
--	---

## Outreach Efforts

Festivals and outreach events held	20+	Participants in cleanups	650+
Festival attendees	2,100+	Visitors to information cart	20,000+
River clean ups held	13+		

## Publications, Models, and Plans

Basinwide Monitoring Plan v.2.3	Beaver Intrinsic Model
Environmental Educators Directory	Nontarget Species Handbook
Pacific Lamprey distribution survey	Riparian permit streamlining
Small city stormwater permitting pilot project	Streamsetback Scientific Report
Streamlined archeological review for fish passage project permitting	Story Map-Improving fish passage in the Rogue Basin



# Our Programs

## Collaboration Through Partnerships

Three programs illustrate the type of collaborations RBP promotes to accelerate the pace of restoration in the Rogue Basin.

## Fish Passage Improvement Program

Historically, the Rogue River Basin had outstanding runs of salmonids and other native fish. By the late 20th century, however, agriculture and urban development had contributed substantially to their sharp decline. Nevertheless, only the much larger Columbia River Basin produces more salmon than the Rogue Basin.

RBP's Fish Passage Improvement Program helps fish— particularly juveniles—get past dams, culverts, and other barriers that impede access to critical coldwater habitat. The Fish Passage Working Group is the hub of our basin-wide efforts. Over the last several years, our members have helped removed 8 barriers, including 4 of statewide importance. These projects have improved passage to 13.8 miles of critical habitat for native species, including coho and Chinook salmon; steelhead; and Pacific lamprey. Many more projects are underway.

## Cooperative Weed Management Areas

Noxious weeds present a significant threat to the Rogue Basin's agricultural and natural resources. Left unchecked, noxious weeds have a potential annual loss to Oregon's economy of about \$1.8 billion.

The Jackson and Josephine County Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA) partners work to prevent new noxious weed infestations and eradicate existing populations. The CWMAs work with integrated pest management experts and engage the public with "Let's Pull Together" volunteer events.

## Rogue Native Plant Partnership

Native seeds and plants are the currency of ecological restoration. Without access to diverse and appropriate native plant materials, many planned restoration projects would not happen. These materials facilitate diverse resilient ecosystems by creating a local robust native plant materials economy.

The Rogue Native Plant Partnership brings together agencies, private growers and NGOs to help meet the growing regional demand for native plant materials. RBP serves as its fiscal agent for federal grants.





# Our Members



**ROGUE BASIN**  
PARTNERSHIP

*Promoting Rogue Basin Natural Resources Stewardship  
from Summit to Sea*

Gregory Weber, Executive Director  
Rogue Basin Partnership  
PO Box 1214  
Medford, OR 97501

Dear Greg,

As members of the Rogue Basin Partnership (RBP), we wish to reaffirm our support for RBP, its mission, and our shared vision for the 3.3-million-acre Rogue Basin.

We envision harnessing the collective power of our partners, through RBP, to support healthy watersheds and vibrant communities throughout the Basin.

The Rogue Basin is a treasure. It is world-famous for its spectacular natural features such as Crater Lake and the Rogue River's breathtaking, whitewater-filled canyons. Its renowned runs of salmon and steelhead trout attract anglers from afar. Its biodiversity is unique, with numerous species of trees, birds, and wildlife living together in a relatively small space.

Climate change and other human-caused impacts, however, threaten many of the Basin's natural resources. RBP's mission is to help the Basin respond to those impacts by uniting people to strategically and collaboratively invest their time, talent and funding in Basin stewardship.

RBP provides a basin-wide venue and perspective to enhance the success of members and partners by:

- seeking out financial, technical assistance, and in-kind resources;
- supporting prioritization and coordination of actions among partners;
- tracking and mapping collective progress; and
- communicating Basin needs and successes.

Since its incorporation in 2015, RBP has worked to implement the Rogue Restoration Action Plan. The Plan is a collaboratively developed, data-backed set of restoration, conservation, and preservation strategies. It aims to help our Basin best adapt to the pronounced changes in temperatures, precipitation and habitat associated with climate change.

RBP has supported our work in multiple ways—convening working groups, finding funding, and communicating our collective work to broader audiences. While the list of projects and programs it has supported in just five years is impressive, much work remains to be done.

We look forward to continuing to work with and through RBP to advance our common vision of a healthy and vibrant Basin for all who depend upon and appreciate its natural resources.

Sincerely,

[signatures on the following pages]



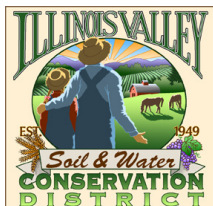
*Janelle Smith*  
AP Executive Director & Board of Director

**Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council** works to promote ecosystem health across the Applegate watershed through stewardship, education and restoration carried out in partnership with landowners, agencies and other interested parties while contributing to local economic and community well-being.



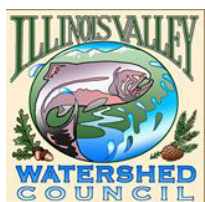
*Julie Dierthman*

The **City of Ashland** water conservation program is dedicated to preserving water resources for the community of Ashland. Through community education and advocacy for resource conservation we can ensure that our precious water resource will be here to serve the City of Ashland for years to come.



*214/3220*

**Illinois Valley Soil & Water Conservation District** is a local conservation leader in the Illinois Valley, committed to conserve, restore, and enhance the natural environment. They provide free, non-regulatory services and consultation to landowners, and may be able to provide grant funding and assistance for improvement projects.



*214/3220*

**Illinois Valley Watershed Council** works to promote the recovery of anadromous fish stocks in the Rogue Basin by improving natural resource conditions and fish habitat in the Illinois Valley.



**Lomakatsi Restoration Project** is a non-profit, grassroots organization that develops and implements forest and watershed restoration projects in Oregon and northern California. They work to restore ecosystems and the sustainability of communities, cultures and economies.



*Kelly Tinker*

**Lower Rogue Watershed Council** represents the broad and diverse geographic areas and community interests in the watershed and works collaboratively with these interests and landowners to develop and carry out voluntary watershed protection, restoration, enhancement, and community engagement activities.



*Craig Hansen*

**Medford Water Commission** operates and maintains the water system that delivers high-quality drinking water to about 131,000 Rogue Valley residents.



*Kirk Blaine*

**Native Fish Society** utilizes the best-available science and its network of grassroots River Stewards to advocate for the protection and recovery of wild, native fish across the Pacific Northwest.





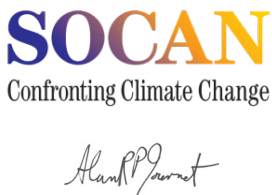
**Rogue Riverkeeper** works to protect and restore clean water and fish populations in the Rogue River Basin through advocacy, accountability, and community engagement.



**Rogue River Watershed Council** promotes stewardship of the Rogue River Watershed through restoration, education and community involvement.



**Rogue Valley Council of Governments** natural resources department works with communities and partners in the Rogue River Basin to conserve and enhance the health of our watersheds by facilitating the development and implementation of regional strategies, and by providing technical and educational assistance.



**Southern Oregon Climate Action Now** promotes awareness and understanding about the causes and consequences of climate change, to develop solutions, and to motivate concerned citizens to take individual and collective action.



**Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative** works directly with community partners and federal land managers, who oversee two-thirds of Southwest Oregon lands, to find common ground and help create sound, science-based federal forest plans.



**Southern Oregon Land Conservancy** works to protect and enhance precious land in the Rogue River region to benefit our human and natural communities.



The Freshwater Trust works to preserve and restore freshwater ecosystems by: delivering high-quality habitat and stream restoration projects; developing replicable market-based models for watershed-scale restoration; and creating a sustainable business model that can provide funding for stream restoration in the Pacific Northwest.



Trout Unlimited is a national non-profit organization with 150,000 members dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.



Valleys of the Rogue Watershed Council is developing a new model for community-based watershed service, information, and education.



# Rogue Restoration Action Plan

**Collaboratively Developed • Climate Adaptation Focused  
Data-based • Prioritized Strategies • Priority Areas**

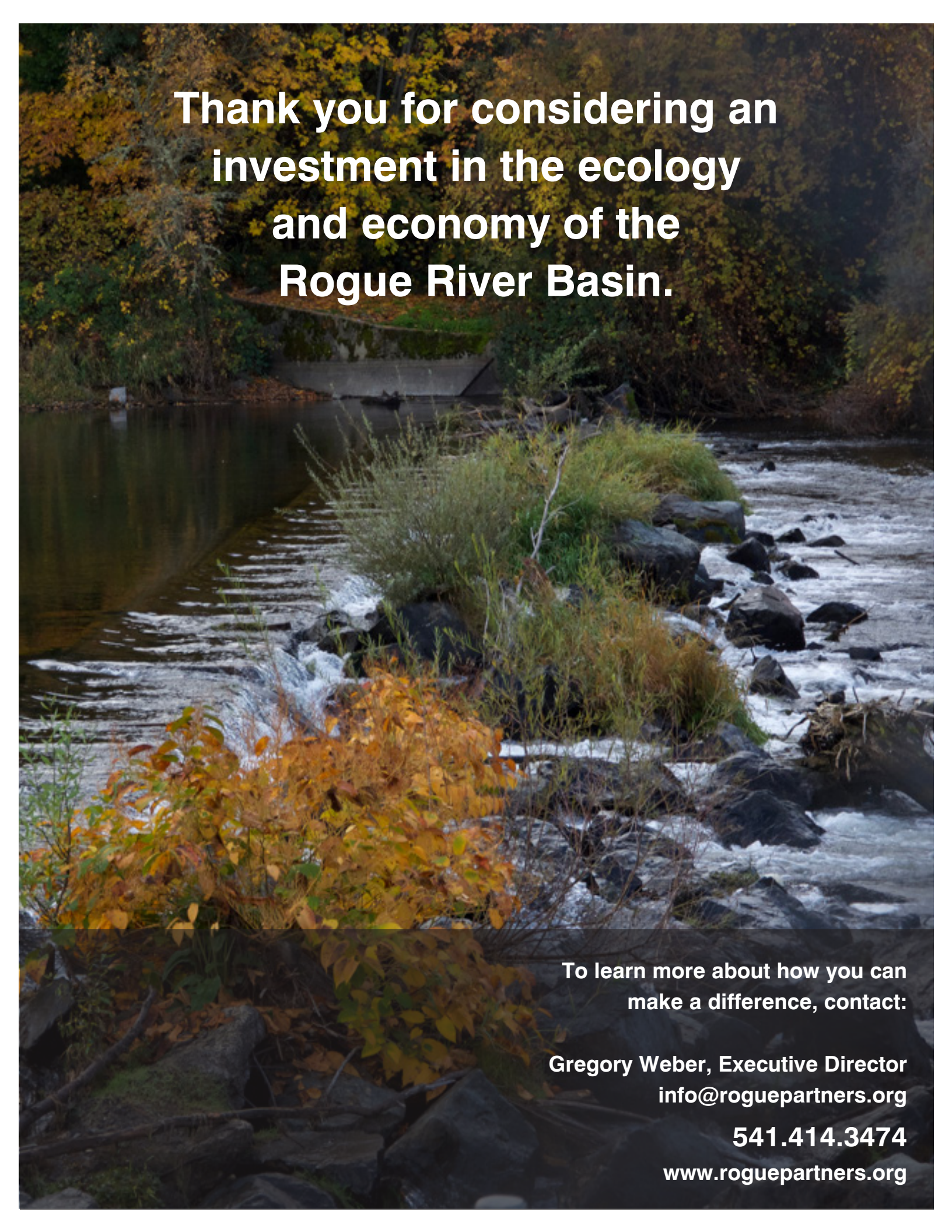
Full Report at:

<https://roguebasinpartnership.org/our-plan/>



**ROGUE BASIN**  
PARTNERSHIP



A scenic photograph of a river flowing over dark, jagged rocks. The water is white with foam as it cascades over the rocks. In the foreground, there are bushes with bright yellow and orange autumn leaves. The background is filled with dense trees, some with yellow leaves and others with green. The overall scene is a natural, outdoor setting.

**Thank you for considering an  
investment in the ecology  
and economy of the  
Rogue River Basin.**

**To learn more about how you can  
make a difference, contact:**

**Gregory Weber, Executive Director  
[info@roguepartners.org](mailto:info@roguepartners.org)**

**541.414.3474**

**[www.roguepartners.org](http://www.roguepartners.org)**