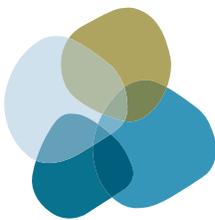


2018 Q4
**Quarterly
Impact
Report**



The
Freshwater Trust®



FRIEND OF THE FRESHWATER TRUST,

I grew up in a pretty conservative household in South Florida, the son of a Cuban father and a Puerto Rican mother. My parents imparted a number of virtues and principles on our family, among them the idea of taking care of our lands, our parks, and our waters. Even back then, fishing in the Florida Keys or diving among its reefs, many of the old timers wistfully remembered a golden era where the fish were more plentiful, the reefs more expansive, and the water a little more pristine. Back then, conservation and conservative shared more than just an etymological root.

We're all beneficiaries of the good (and a few bad) decisions our predecessors made. In many cases, our forebears traveled great distances to ensure their children and grandchildren could live better lives. In other cases, they had fewer choices and only hoped for a better outcome for their offspring.

But sadly, today, many of those principles are under attack. Conservation went from good policy to good politics, from something that made sense to both sides of the political aisle to something that makes for fuel for a culture war — people and outcomes be damned. And in an era of attacks on science, facts, and institutions, the idea of conservation faces an existential threat like never before.

Despite this assault, I remain more excited than ever about The Freshwater Trust's future. The strategy to defeat this invasion on our truth begins by understanding the relationships guiding landowners and land users, developing tools to diagnose ways to improve our waters, and clearly demonstrating their impact through science, technology, and advocacy in a way that challenges the most ardent skeptics' arguments.

I want to ensure that my children can one day enjoy waters the way I did: awash in wonder at their magnificence. Peril has sharpened our view. The decision before all of us today is much simpler now. Supporting and advocating for this resource is support and advocacy for our continued existence. Let us celebrate what this organization has accomplished this year and prepare ourselves for the challenges ahead. Our lives, and many lives to come, depend on it.

MARCELINO J. ALVAREZ

CEO, Uncorked Studios

Board Member, The Freshwater Trust

Year in Review: 2018 Highlights

Before one year closes and another unfolds, we take stock of what's been accomplished over the past 365 days. The following is what you get when you have a community of people supporting you in your pursuit of quantified outcomes for rivers.

We began 2018 with nearly \$100,000 from our supporters and that support grew stronger with contributions throughout the year. This is a result of those funds being put to work in 2018. If you know anything about us, it's that we take return on investment seriously. Together, this year, we:

Placed more than 1,400 pieces of large wood in the Rogue & Sandy River basins. Hundreds of [massive logs were placed](#) in specific spots throughout two of the most critical river basins in Oregon. Together, these logs created towering structures that expand side channel habitat, slow water, and provide nooks and crannies for juvenile fish to take shelter.

Kept the Lostine River flowing. The Lostine River Conservation Project, a collaborative effort started with the Wolfe Family Farm and others, was responsible for keeping 25% to 50% of the total streamflow in the river this summer. [The project](#) involved upgrading irrigation across hundreds of acres and conserving water during certain periods of the year through leasing.

Finished fixing an entire creek top to bottom. Years ago, we created what might be considered a honey-do list for the Sandy. It was long, and for nearly a decade, we've been ticking off tasks that will improve water quality and native fish habitat. In 2018, we officially completed everything on the list for Still Creek, one of the highest priority streams in the area.



Installed 3,750 feet of fencing to keep livestock out of the Rogue. Hundreds of pounds of nutrients have been prevented from washing into waterways in the Rogue basin because we constructed fences to keep livestock, and their waste, away from streamsides.

Helped Sacramento's regional wastewater authority win a \$280.5 million grant from California's Proposition 1 to build and operate a large wastewater reuse piping project down to southern Sacramento County, where agricultural transition from groundwater pumping to recycled water should dramatically improve year-round flows on the Cosumnes River.

Engaged more than 200 new individual donors, 5,000 followers, and dozens of business supporters. Our work inspired increased giving across our community. We also recruited new leaders to our [Headwaters Council](#), an advisory board of emerging professionals helping shape the future of conservation and restoration.

Continued

Hosted 12 site visits, which brought 85 people face to face with the impacts of their support. [Donning hard hats and safety vests](#), we spent the summer taking our supporters to the heart of the river restoration action.

Planted more than a mile of streamside in Idaho. As part of work with Idaho Power Company's [Snake River Stewardship Program](#), we broke ground on two projects along the Weiser River and the Little Weiser River. Nearly 5,000 plants were put in the ground, creating shade, filtering nutrients, and preventing erosion.

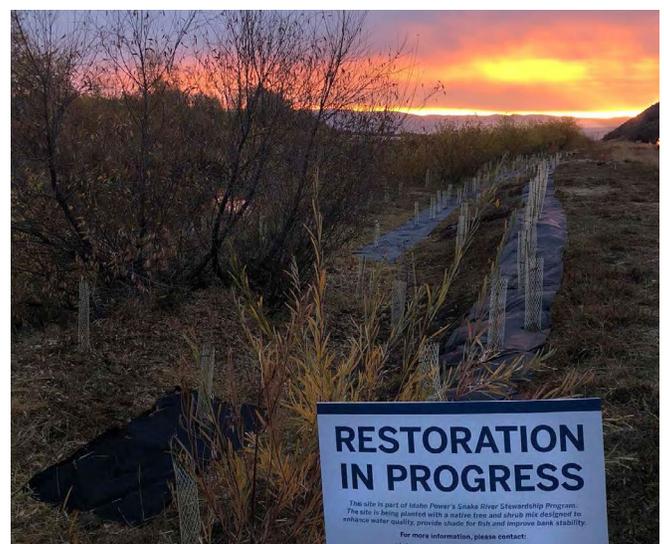
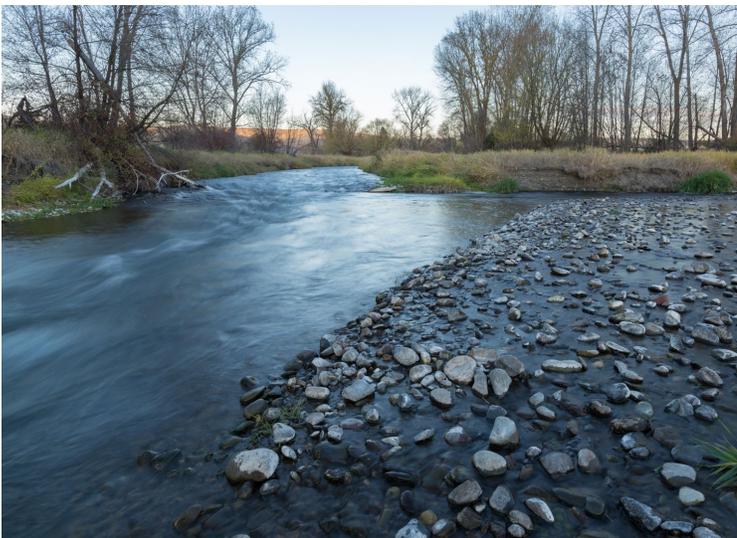
Removed 3,000 pounds of noxious weeds from Bayha Island. In 2016, we expanded an island in the Snake River to narrow and deepen the channels running alongside it and improve fish habitat. Then, we planted thousands of plants to create shade and prevent erosion, and in 2018, we removed more than one ton of noxious weeds to keep our plantings healthy and thriving.

Won nearly \$4.5 million in grant dollars, almost double what we are typically awarded in a year. One came from the U.S. Forest Service to improve the wild & scenic sections of the Rogue & Illinois Rivers. Another was awarded by the California Department of Water Resources [to engage disadvantaged communities](#) in plans to sustainably manage groundwater in California.

Added more data to StreamBank. This year, we added more than 8,000 new fields to our database, each with information on sediment, phosphorus and nutrient reductions. Adding this information into a centralized system allows us to more fully understand the outcomes of our programs.

Whether you gave \$25, \$100 or \$1,000 or are involved with a foundation, business or government agency that supported us, we are grateful. Thank you for being with us.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS include (clockwise) Lostine River, Salmon River, Weiser River, and Bear Creek



Coming in 2019: Immerse Yourself in River Restoration

If we've learned anything over our 35 years of fixing rivers, it's that when it comes to understanding the value of restoration and conservation, seeing is believing.

This past summer, we set out to bring individual supporters and business leaders to project sites in the Sandy and Rogue basins and therefore closer to our on-the-ground work. The testimony of those individuals prompted us to think bigger and more creatively about ways we could bring this experience to more people.

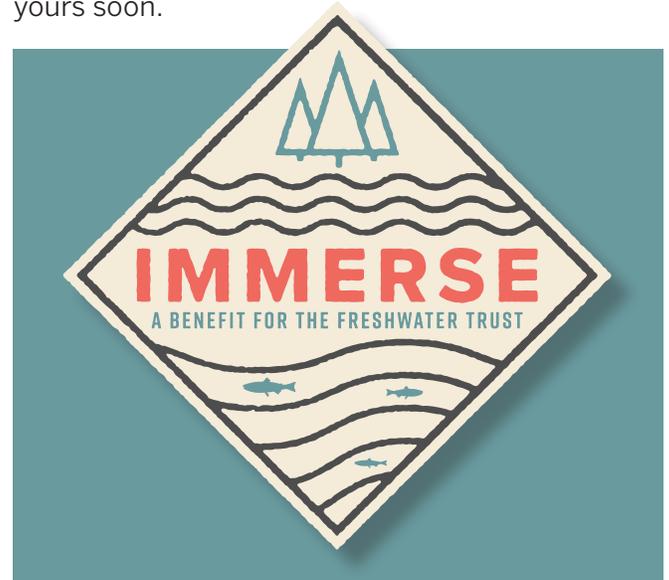
From this inspiration arose "Immerse," a curated, hands-on experience to connect our community to the world of river restoration and conservation in Oregon. Get ready to put your hard hats on.

On March 7, The Freshwater Trust will invite 400 of our closest friends to Castaway in Northwest Portland to dive deeper into our work.

You and your guests will enjoy abundant appetizers by Verde Cocina's Buenos Dias Catering & Events, local beer and wine, and opportunities to win phenomenal raffle prizes.

Most notably, you will also find yourself immersed in mossy forests and next to rivers through virtual reality experiences and large-scale imagery.

[Tickets for the benefit are on sale now](#), and because our goal is to bring the rivers and our work to as many people as possible, they're only \$50 each. We expect a packed house, so reserve yours soon.



BECOME A SPONSOR

Want to highlight your support for the most innovative environmental nonprofit in Portland by sponsoring Immerse? Contact [McCailin Wunder](#) for more information about [sponsorship packages](#).

FOLLOW US



ATTEND | *our Immerse fundraiser*

CHECK OUT | *photos from our summer site visits*

WATCH | *our 2018 highlights video*

thefreshwatertrust.org

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YEAR-END
GIFT**

Front page: Photo by Jackson Pickard