



Fall 2025

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Kailee Fiorella, far right, with the Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District and her team prepare to cut blackberries from the Big Elk River

## **Habitat Project Update: Big Elk Creek**

**By Pat Hoglund, CCA Oregon Executive Director**

A flash and then a dart. Then the chinook salmon came into focus, its gray body holding in the soft current. It was milling about in a shallow pool on the Big Elk River waiting for the water level to rise. It would eventually pass over the exposed granite ledge and continue its upriver migration. For now, it waited in the tannin-stained water where Jerry Massey and I stood. We were there to get an in-person look at one of two habitat projects CCA Oregon helped fund.

The Big Elk Creek flows west out of the Coast Range Mountains where at Elk City it joins the Yaquina River. It eventually winds its way past the town of Toledo before joining Yaquina Bay near Newport. All told Big Elk Creek flows 31 miles. The Big Elk is known for its winter steelhead fishing, and even more so its fall chinook fishing opportunities. The upper portion near Eddyville is prime spawning habitat for steelhead, salmon and sea-run cutthroat trout, which Massey and I bore witness when a second chinook flashed in the pool.

Kailee Fiorella, Agricultural Restoration Program Specialist with the Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District (LCSWD), walked us through the project pointing out work that has been completed and what more work that still needs to be done. There are culverts to install, brush to be cleared, fences to put up, and native trees to plant.

“We were originally going to make three paddocks, now we just have to run basically two fence lines to make two paddocks,” Fiorella said, noting that the landowner Tom Runion has taken it upon himself to purchase and install several culverts already. “So, we actually don’t need to section off as much as we were going to originally.”

Fiorella points out that the money saved from Runion’s purchases will be spent additional riparian plantings.

“Tom has graciously offered to run culverts himself and then we will eventually install native trees and shrubs here in the riparian area to help create a cover to cool off the Big Elk.”

Historically, cattle grazed along the water’s edge which spurred blackberry growth all but eliminating any chance for trees to grow. And that’s where CCA Oregon’s funding comes into play. From its habitat fund, CCA Oregon committed \$14,000 to this project. Money



CCA Oregon committed goes toward purchasing fencing, culverts, native plant species and paying workers to clear the land.

“Knowing how important it is to have good spawning habitat, and the importance of the Yaquina River, we felt it was a worthy project to support,” Jack Smith, Habitat Committee chair said. “It’s a small slice of habitat, but a very important slice.”

It is estimated that just over a quarter of a mile will be repaired. The work on this project is expected to be completed by June of 2026. Said Fiorella, “We really couldn’t complete any of this without our partners in conservation, CCA being one of them.”

To view Photos of project [CLICK HERE](#)



Mt. Hood Chapter President Wade Radke spearheaded CCA Oregon’s efforts to rid the Sandy River of trash.

**Trash, Junk Removed from Sandy River**

On Saturday, October 11th, the Mt. Hood Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association Oregon joined forces with the Sandy River Chapter of the Northwest Steelheaders for a successful joint cleanup effort along the Sandy River in Troutdale, Oregon. This biannual initiative brought together dedicated volunteers from both organizations, united by a shared commitment to preserving the health and beauty of our local waterways. Together, we removed 36 large bags of garbage and hauled out 27 bulky items—including storage totes filled with discarded clothing, portable RV waste containers, tables, and even bike parts. In addition, hazardous materials were safely delivered to Metro for proper disposal, ensuring they won't pose a threat to the environment.

This spring and fall tradition is more than just a cleanup—it's a celebration of community collaboration and environmental stewardship. Volunteers were fueled by donuts and camaraderie as they worked side by side, reinforcing the strong partnership between our two non-profits. We're proud of the impact we made and always welcome new volunteers to join us in future efforts. Whether you're passionate about conservation, fishing, or just want to make a difference, there's a place for you in our next cleanup. We'd love to have you. Please reach out if you want to work alongside a group of dedicated volunteers.

Wade Radke  
Mt. Hood Chapter President  
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### State Banquet:

**Last year's state banquet and awards ceremony drew over 200 guests.**

#### **10 Down. One BIG One To Go**

Believe it or not, we have held 10 chapter banquets, our most recent finished in September with better than expected turnouts. The Portland Chapter held its golf tournament at Colwood Golf Course in early September while the Columbia Gorge Chapter's banquet wrapped up Sept. 27th.

Both banquets mirrored the previous chapter banquets. Turnout was good, spirits were high and we raised a good amount of money for the fish. These fundraisers are so important to our organization's health and we can't thank you for your support.

And while the chapter banquets are behind us for this year, we have one more event: the **2025 Statewide Banquet & Awards Ceremony Nov. 15, 2025**. Like last year it will be held at the Wingspan Event & Conference Center in Hillsboro. And like last year, it will be our biggest party of the year.



We're excited to welcome Dr. Debbie Colbert, ODFW Director, as our keynote speaker. She will address the importance of hatcheries and CCA Oregon's relationship with the department. In addition, we'll hand out member awards and we'll award the Chapter of the Year.

Doors open at 4:30 p.m.

### **Highlights For This Year's Event**

- Keynote Speaker: Dr. Debbie Colbert, ODFW Director
- Plenty of Fishing Trips, Gear
- Golfing Vacations, Couples Getaways
- Duck Hunting Trip w/ Dave Smith Decoys
- Holiday Gifts & Household Items
- Women's Jewelry, Firearms
- Free CCA OR t-shirts, Columbia Sportswear Employee Store passes
- Great Silent Auction and Raffle items.

To register hit the link below. And keep in mind anyone who signs up before Nov. 1st will be eligible to win a Camp Chef Pro 60X grill valued at \$299.99.

### **Details/Register:**

<https://ccaoregon.ejoinme.org/2025StatewideHome>

For overnight guests, rooms are blocked out at the nearby Larkspur Landing Hotel. Details on registration page.





Jerry Massey doing what he does best: volunteering. Jerry has single-handedly sold over 200 drift boat raffle tickets

### **Jerry Massey Goes Above and Beyond**

It should not go unnoticed that CCA Oregon member Jerry Massey has gone above and beyond what was asked of him when it comes to selling drift boat raffle tickets. While many of our members have taken it upon themselves to individually sell raffle tickets, Massey has personally sold over 200 tickets for this year's drawing.

"Jerry's dedication to CCA Oregon is truly amazing," Dave Schamp, CCA Oregon Chairman said. "He epitomizes what volunteering is all about. He gives so much and asks nothing in return."

Indeed. Dedicating his weekends Massey has displayed the Willie drift boat numerous times at Tillamook Sporting Goods and Nestucca Valley Sporting Goods. Jerry and the drift boat will again be showcased at both locations the weekend of Oct. 24-25. In addition to selling raffle tickets, Massey has signed up at least five new members, including a life membership.



This year CCA Oregon is selling raffle tickets for a 16-foot Willie Drift Boat, plus a trailer, oars and several upgrades to the boat itself. The drift boat is valued at \$16,500. This year's winning ticket will be drawn live on Outdoor GPS, Sunday Nov. 2nd . We are asking that members tune in starting at 9 a.m. Tickets are \$20 apiece, or six for \$100. If you're interested in purchasing a ticket, hit the link below.

<https://ccaoregon.org/2025-drift-boat-affle/>

Massey also serves as the Tillamook Chapter president and is a member of the habitat and communications committees. He also works closely with the Tillamook Anglers volunteering countless hours working at the Whiskey Creek Hatchery helping to fin clip spring chinook smolts throughout the year. He also volunteers to fin clip smolts with Nestucca Anglers at Rhodes Pond and the past couple years he's been at regular fixture working at the Big Creek Hatchery 16 miles east of Astoria on Highway 30 helping to collect broodstock from chum salmon.

"Jerry is relentless in his passion for ensuring there are fish to catch," Schamp added. "We need more members like Jerry."



#### Not Too Early for Summer '26 Fun

It's a long way off, but it's not too soon to think about marking **July 25th (2026)** on your calendar for the annual Willamette Falls Chapter's Summer Fun for the Fish. This past summer was the Fourth Annual picnic, and it was the best one yet, according to Julie Monroe-Falk, the picnic organizer.

Held at Milo McIver State Park on the Sandy River, the picnic is a great summer break where the primary focus is on kids, the future anglers in Oregon. This year 79 people attended and took part in games, teaching kids to fish, and enjoying barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs.

"Huge thanks also to the many volunteers who helped organize, set up, help during the event, and take down," said Monroe-Falk.

In addition to the abundant door prizes, every kid in attendance left with a one-year CCA Oregon Youth Membership, a personalized tackle box and a Fisherman's Marine & Outdoor gift card. There was also an early bird TFO rod and Okuma reel prize and the disc golf prize of an Engel cooler filled with Fort George beer.

Special thanks go out to our Title Sponsor, Hatchery & Wild Co-Exist and our Kids Prize Sponsor, Manheim North America.



**Jason Hambly, our guest speaker for the Nov. 11th Zoom meeting**

Set Aside Tuesday, November 11th :  
Pro-Cure's Jason Hambly Guest Speaker

You might think you know, but do you really know what scents to use and when to use them while fishing for salmon and steelhead? On Tuesday, Nov. 11th we are hosting our quarterly Zoom call with Pro-Cure's Jason Hambly, one of the Pacific Northwest's experts on bait cures and scents. Bring Jason your questions. Starting at 6:30 p.m. Jason will give a short presentation and will open up the meeting to questions.



Jason has spent the better part of his adult life pursuing salmon and steelhead and his knowledge on scents and cures is vast. For example, for kings, he reaches for Bloody Tuna, herring, anchovy, sardine, krill, garlic and anise. Coho prefer krill, shrimp or a combination of krill and sand shrimp. Steelhead have a decided preference for shrimp, sand shrimp, krill and a combination of anise/bloody tuna. That's just scratching the surface. Jason promises more. Just come prepared to take notes.

If you want to look at past Zoom Presentations or to join the presentation, go here:

<https://ccaoregon.org/monthly-zoom-presentations/>

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