Over the last year, the Willamette River Initiative worked with a 17-member advisory group to envision a sustainable structure to continue and expand what’s been accomplished collaboratively through the WRI after the 10-year Initiative sunsets in 2019. The blueprint that follows was approved by our advisory group in September 2018, building on several years of conversations, in-depth interviews, and meetings with our partners and stakeholders to identify essential support services and strategies to elevate the scale and effectiveness of coordinated Willamette River Basin restoration in the future.

**Blueprint Advisory Group**

MARCELO BONTA, The Raben Group  
JOEL CARY, Tualatin Valley Water District  
BOBBY COCHRAN, Willamette Partnership  
CASSIE COHEN, Portland Harbor Community Coalition  
HOLLY CROSSON, Benton Soil and Water Conservation District  
SARAH DYRDAHL, Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council  
DAVE HULSE, University of Oregon  
KRISTEN LARSON, Luckiamute Watershed Council  
JOE MOLL, McKenzie River Trust  
MARY ROSE NAVARRO, Metro  
MICHAEL POPE, Greenbelt Land Trust  
TODD REEVE, Bonneville Environmental Foundation  
SUSIE SMITH, Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies  
RYAN SPARKS, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
KELLY WARREN, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs  
MIKE WILSON, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
ERIC WOLD, The Nature Conservancy Oregon
Who We Are
A network of people and organizations caring for a healthy Willamette River system and communities along the river, working together to increase our collective impact.

Our Mission
Catalyze, align and leverage efforts to create a healthy river system and thriving communities with meaningful connections to rivers and streams in the Willamette Basin.

Our Vision
A healthy Willamette River system, from its headwater rivers and streams, through its meandering network of floodplains, to its confluence with the Columbia River. A shared bounty of clean water, fish and wildlife, and cultural and recreational opportunities. Resilient habitats, economies and communities thriving equitably throughout the basin.

Our Values

- **TRUST** requires listening, learning, respect, and accountability to build relationships necessary for successful collaboration.

- **EQUITY** is foundational to river health and how we build our network. We strive to understand who will or will not gain from the decisions we make, and we intentionally seek out opportunities to advance equity. We are transparent with our network members and the public about how we advance equity goals.

- **SCIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE** guide us in advancing shared goals and help our work to be focused, strategic and most likely to have the greatest impact.

- **LEADERSHIP** requires building the capacity of all people, and integrating diverse, representative leadership in the governance and decision-making structure of the network, in order to achieve common goals and create lasting solutions.

- **EFFICIENCY & NIMBLINESS** help us accomplish more by working together and give us the ability to be responsive and flexible as we learn and circumstances change.
Willamette River Network Goals and Roles

Our Goals

1. Healthy Willamette River System
   - Water flows are abundant and clean.
   - Floodplain forests and side channels are protected and expanded.
   - Native wildlife and plants are thriving.

2. Engaged, Diverse River Leadership
   - River stewardship efforts reflect all communities of the Willamette Basin.
   - Communities experiencing inequity have strong leadership to co-create a healthy river system.
   - Current and past inequities are understood and addressed.

3. Communities and Rivers Thrive Together
   - People and communities value and enjoy the benefits of river health.
   - Rivers are safe for all to swim, drink and consume fish.
   - Rivers are welcoming and accessible for cultural, spiritual and recreational opportunities for all.

Unique Roles of the Network

SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE PLANNING & ACTION
- Support development of shared vision and goals
- Connect partners through convening and ongoing communications
- Identify and pursue opportunities for shared services and collaboration

BRING NEW FUNDING INTO THE BASIN
- Pursue innovative new funding strategies
- Match-make between funders and practitioners
- Raise funds for the field
- Foster and maintain funding partnerships

SERVE AS A HUB FOR INFORMATION & LEARNING
- Build a bank of relevant science, data and knowledge
- Foster a culture of ongoing learning and improvement
- Track progress towards shared goals
- Identify and address gaps and opportunities

RAISE THE PROFILE OF OUR SHARED ENTERPRISE
- Use targeted communications to advance network goals
- Develop shared messaging and communication tools
- Coordinate policy and advocacy work in support of shared goals
Willamette River Network Organizational Structure

**LEADERSHIP BOARD**
7-11 members representative of Willamette River system demographics, interests and geography

**FUNDING CIRCLE**
Develop funding strategy; advise and support implementation
Members including funding partners and a representative of Leadership Board

**FUNDING STRATEGIES**
- Grants
- Individual donations
- Public funding
- Corporate funding
- Membership
- Possible endowment
- Direct funding from donors to partners
- Funding partnerships

**ACTION TEAMS**
Members include network staff, partners and others essential to the work, with representation from across the Willamette and tributaries
Inform and advance shared goals and objectives
Make recommendations to staff, Leadership Board and Funding Circle

**POSSIBLE ACTION TEAMS**
- Healthy Willamette River & Tributaries
- Growing a Diverse, Equitable River Movement
- Shared Knowledge & Learning
- Communications, Public Engagement & Policy

**POTENTIAL STAFF**
Positions may not all be full time, depending on resources
- Director
- Funding Circle Manager
- Program Manager
- Communications
- Administration
Willamette River Network
BACKBONE ORGANIZATION

» Support collaborative planning and action
» Bring new funding into the basin
» Serve as a hub for information and learning
» Raise the profile of our shared enterprise

Municipalities & Utilities
Other Networks e.g. Rivers to Ridges, Intertwine Alliance
River Restoration & Conservation
Forestry
Policymakers & Influencers
Environmental Justice
Public Health
Recreation & Access
Education & Outreach
Science, Monitoring & Reporting
Equity & Inclusion
Agriculture

Other Networks