



**Clatsop
Community
College**



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Eighty-Two Acres Conserved for Wildlife Habitat and Environmental Education

Columbia Land Trust transfers 82 acres on Astoria's South Tongue Point to Clatsop Community College for habitat restoration and use in science curriculum

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ASTORIA, OR— Following several years of project development, Columbia Land Trust acquired and immediately transferred 82 acres of land on the lower Columbia River to Clatsop Community College (CCC). The property is adjacent to where the college's Marine and Environmental Research Training Station (MERTS) campus sits and will preserve critical habitat for salmon and other wildlife, while being used as a living laboratory by students.

The riverfront parcel provides one of the last feeding opportunities for juvenile salmon migrating downriver before they enter the open ocean. The college, Columbia Land Trust, and the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST) are partnering to restore this crucial habitat, which will also provide a place for community college students to observe and monitor ecological processes in real time.

“We are very excited that Clatsop Community College students will have the opportunity to get real-world experience in environmental science and we look forward to being good stewards of this critical habitat,” said CCC President Chris Breitmeyer. “Students will be able to use the space to collect data, do hands-on research projects, and gain knowledge and skills necessary to work in a variety of fields.”

Breitmeyer estimates that up to 30 students will use the outdoor classroom each term, and the college hopes to increase that number as they develop more courses specifically to utilize the site.

“South Tongue Point is a unique opportunity to create a valuable resource that benefits both students and fish,” said CREST Project Manager Tracy Hruska, explaining how the planned restoration work will create feeding stations for migrating salmon, to increase their chances of survival.

"It is very exciting to see this project come to fruition," said Land Trust Conservation Lead Lydia Mendoza. "We are thrilled that this habitat for juvenile salmonids will be forever protected and will serve as a resource for students."

After years of work, the local community is celebrating the collaboration that made the purchase and transfer of this property possible. "This partnership is an excellent example of a community-based project that draws on the strengths of each organization to build something greater than we could do alone," said CREST Director Denise Löfman.

"Without the Land Trust and our other partners this wouldn't have happened," said Breitmeyer. "We all came together to preserve critical habitat and create a space where students and the community at large can learn about the unique Columbia River ecosystem."

Funding for the project came from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and private funding raised by Columbia Land Trust.

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About Columbia Land Trust

Columbia Land Trust is a non-profit organization focused on conserving and caring for the vital lands, waters and wildlife of the Columbia River region. The Land Trust has conserved more than 50,000 acres of land, from the high deserts to the coasts of Oregon and Washington. Columbia Land Trust has earned accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance, which recognizes those land trusts that adhere to national standards for excellence, uphold public trust with rigorous ethical standards, and take steps to ensure that conservation efforts are permanent.

About Clatsop Community College

Located near the mouth of the Columbia River in historic Astoria, Oregon, Clatsop Community College's high-quality, affordable education serves the community's need for continued access to Associate Degree, Certificate, Workforce and Community Education opportunities. CCC provides state-of-the-art laboratories and classrooms for student-centered learning spaces. Instructors bring real world application of their studies that transfer immediately into the workforce and allow graduates access to well-paid jobs or to continue on in their education.

About Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce

CREST, located in Astoria, OR, is a community organization specializing in environmental planning and habitat restoration for fish and wildlife. CREST's overall mandate is to provide leadership in environmental and resource planning for fish and wildlife habitat in the Columbia River Estuary ecosystem.