

East Fork Lewis River Partnership for clean water

East Fork Lewis River Partnership - A Year in Review | 2019

Greetings!

'Tis the season to celebrate and acknowledge partners!

Here are some **East Fork Lewis River Partnership Highlights and Updates from 2019**.

Thank you for your continued dedication to protecting clean water and aquatic life!

Please complete this [Doodle Poll for the next East Fork Lewis River Partnership meeting](#) in January 2020.

Partnership Overview

The East Fork Lewis River (EFLR) watershed is home to both the fastest growing city in Washington State, and five high priority populations of Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed salmonids. The watershed has seen a 47 percent increase in human population since 2000, and provides recreation, timber, agriculture, and water resources for this rapidly growing region of the State. At the same time, the watershed is key to the recovery of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead that rely on the mainstem and tributaries for critical spawning and rearing habitat. The social, economic, and environmental value of the watershed and diversity of functions it supports has made the EFLR watershed a central focus of salmon recovery, water quality, and water quantity management in Southwest Washington. These planning efforts began in the early 2000's, but continue today as implementation progresses and new partnerships have formed.

The East Fork Lewis River and its tributaries are on the state's [polluted waters list \(303d list\)](#) for warm water temperatures and fecal coliform bacteria problems. Keeping the watershed clean is important because high levels of bacteria increase risks to people swimming, wading, or fishing. In addition, high temperatures create poor conditions for fish and other wildlife. To achieve clean water, the [East Fork Lewis River Partnership](#) launched in May 2018 to use the [Source Assessment Report](#) as a foundation to work collaboratively with local, state, federal, and tribal governments, non-profits, private organizations, and landowners to develop and implement the *East Fork Lewis River Water Cleanup Plan*.

The *Water Cleanup Plan* is an alternative way to improve water quality in watersheds where pollutant sources are mostly nonpoint. This *Water Cleanup Plan* relies on partnerships to achieve voluntary implementation of water quality projects. Success relies on establishing, maintaining, and leveraging partnership and public awareness as principal tools toward achieving improved water quality. The East Fork Lewis River is not only a priority for water quality recovery, but also for salmon recovery. The top four priorities for clean water in the East Fork Lewis River are addressing nonpoint source pollution from septic systems and small acreage agriculture, increasing riparian forest restoration efforts, and improving stormwater management in the watershed.

East Fork Lewis River Partnership for clean water

Grant Funding Highlights from 2019

FY 2021 Combined Water Quality Funding

Four competitive grant applications that benefit water quality in the East Fork Lewis River were submitted for FY 2021 Water Quality Combined Funding. Proposed projects include:

- **Manley Creek Restoration** – *submitted by Watershed Alliance of Southwest Washington.*
The Middle East Fork Lewis River and its tributaries have temperatures that greatly exceed water quality standards due to high shade deficits. This project will improve the shade deficit and reduce temperature by creating a 10-acre, 100-foot wide riparian forest corridor on 2,400 feet of Manley Creek, an important tributary to the East Fork.
- **Schriber Riparian Reforestation** – *submitted by Clark County Clean Water Division.*
This project will plant trees and shrubs on 12.25 acres of county-owned property stretching nearly 4000 feet along the south bank of the East Fork Lewis River. The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board's EFLR Habitat Conservation Plan identified the proposed planting area as having significant shade deficit.
- **Poop Smart Clark Pollution Identification and Correction Program** – *submitted by Clark Conservation District.*
Poop Smart Clark is a Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) program that employs local agency and non-profit partnerships to reduce bacteria in the East Fork Lewis River watershed. Through pollution source identification, targeted outreach, education, and implementation of best management practices, Poop Smart Clark will connect residents and landowners to information and financial resources to correct pollution in the East Fork Lewis River watershed. This grant was developed in partnership with Clark County Clean Water Division, Clark County Public Health, Watershed Alliance of Southwest Washington, and Washington State University Extension.
- **La Center Stormwater Master Plan** - *submitted by City of La Center.*
The City of La Center will complete a Stormwater Master Plan addressing Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE), operations and maintenance, and capital improvement needs. The Plan will use system modeling and mapping, and private facility identification and audits, to improve stormwater conveyance infrastructure and address water quality issues in Brezee Creek and the lower East Fork Lewis River downstream of the City.

The Draft Offer List for FY 2021 funding will be announced in mid-January 2020. The Final Offer List will be available in July 2020. With around 6.5 million dollars available statewide for Centennial and Section 319 projects, it is a very competitive year for nonpoint source projects. Thank you to all partners that submitted applications for FY 2021 funding. As a reminder, it is never too late to start your applications for next year. FY 2022 funding applications will be due in October 2020.

East Fork Lewis River Partnership for clean water

Terry Husseman Account Grant Announcement

Terry Husseman Account (THA) grants support locally sponsored projects that restore or enhance the natural environment. Typical projects address water quality issues, or protect or enhance fish and wildlife habitat adjacent to waters of the state.

- **Application Opens:** January 2, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.
- **Application Closes:** February 4, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.
- **Award Announcement:** By April 10, 2020.
- **Agreement Start Date:** June 1, 2020.
- **Grant Maximum:** \$50,000.
- **Typical award range:** \$10,000 to \$25,000.
- **Grant Timeline:** 12 to 18 months.
- **Match:** No match or cost-share requirements.
- **More information:** Please review the [Terry Husseman Account Website](#) and [2020 Funding Guidelines](#).

If you have questions about Ecology funding programs, contact the Southwest Regional Office's Funding Coordinator, Leanne Whitesell (leaw461@ecy.wa.gov).

Partner Highlights

Since the East Fork Lewis River Partnership launched, over 50 different partners from 30 different organizations have engaged in Partnership activities. Thank you to all of the partners and landowners working to achieve clean water in the East Fork Lewis River. Here are a few highlights from 2019.

- **Washington State University Extension Small Acreage Program** sent targeted mailers to 1,000 landowners in the East Fork Lewis River advertising Small Acreage workshops in 2019. WSU held multiple workshops over the year covering a wide range of topics including well and septic maintenance, composting manure, and streamside planting with native plants. WSU's Small Acreage program has generated significant [outcomes and impacts](#) in Clark County.
- **Clark County Clean Water Division** completed a full year of water quality monitoring in the East Fork Lewis River. The data collected will inform pollution identification and NPS implementation strategy in 2020. Clark County Clean Water also submitted a FY 2021 grant application to implement riparian restoration activities on the mainstem East Fork Lewis River.
- **Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board** has been working on the East Fork Lewis River Recovery Plan Review in 2019. This evaluation will provide information on how land use and land cover has changed in the watershed since 2004, what projects have been implemented on the ground, and what stressors are still present in the watershed.

East Fork Lewis River

Partnership

for clean water

- **Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership** has implemented multiple projects in the East Fork Lewis River. Past, present, and future projects have benefited over 600 acres of habitat on 10 miles of river. LCEP also convened the Ridgefield Pits Technical Advisory Committee in 2019, and educated students through hands-on stewardship activities in the watershed.
- **Clark Public Utilities District** completed the Zimmerly Restoration Project in July 2019, which restored 2,400 lineal feet of river, planted over 28,000 trees, and restored 24 acres of riparian habitat. In FY 2020, Clark Public Utilities received an Ecology grant to complete the McCormick Creek Restoration Project. This project will remove 16 acres of invasive species, plant 28,000 trees, restore 20 acres of riparian habitat, and add 60 pieces of large woody debris (LWD) to McCormick Creek. Additional funding from the Recreation and Conservation Office will stabilize 1,400 lineal feet of eroding streambank, reconnect the floodplain, and install an additional 150 pieces of LWD to McCormick Creek.
- **Clark Conservation District** hired two new staff in 2019 and welcomed Zorah Oppenheimer as their new District Manager. The District successfully improved a culvert on private property in Mason Creek by installing a new bridge, and improving fish passage and aquatic habitat in the East Fork Lewis River. The District also completed a Watershed Stewardship educational series and [surveyed](#) landowners to curate future projects in the watershed. The District worked with Partners to develop a FY 2021 grant application for Pollution Identification and Correction activities in the East Fork Lewis River.
- **Watershed Alliance for Southwest Washington** expanded its work into north Clark County in 2019, and launched the new [Backyard Habitat Certification Program](#) in partnership with Columbia Land Trust and Portland Audubon. The Watershed Alliance worked hard to develop a FY 2021 grant application to implement riparian restoration activities on Manley Creek in the East Fork Lewis River.
- **The City of La Center** identified and corrected multiple illicit cross connections in its stormwater system over the last year. The City also implemented a new stormwater utility to support long-term investments in stormwater infrastructure. The City submitted a FY 2021 grant application to develop a Stormwater Master Plan to support improved water quality in the lower East Fork Lewis River watershed.

East Fork Lewis River

Partnership

for clean water

Ecology Highlights

- A full East Fork Lewis River Partnership meeting was held in February 2019 ([Meeting Summary](#)).
- To support early project and program development, a Grant Project Development Workshop was held in May 2019 ([Meeting Summary](#)).
- To raise public awareness on water quality in the East Fork Lewis River, a Public Townhall was hosted in the City of La Center in June 2019 ([Meeting Summary](#)).
- Proactive nonpoint source (NPS) investigation has continued in the watershed throughout 2019. Ecology NPS specialists have completed proactive outreach to all property owners adjacent to tributaries in priority areas of McCormick Creek. A manure lagoon associated with an old dairy was identified during NPS investigation. This manure lagoon is now decommissioned, removing a large source of bacteria in the watershed.
- Ecology, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, and PC Trask & Associates will present on partnerships for clean water and salmon recovery in the East Fork Lewis River at [River Restoration Northwest](#) in February 2020.
- The draft *East Fork Lewis River Water Cleanup Plan* (TMDL Alternative) is complete. Next steps include an internal Ecology review, and an external Partner review. We will likely reach out to partners in the New Year to request assistance in reviewing sections of the Plan. If you are interested in reviewing and providing feedback on the *Water Cleanup Plan* in early 2020, contact Devan Rostorfer (dros461@ecy.wa.gov).
- The East Fork Lewis River Partnership was highlighted in multiple news articles over the last year.
 - [Partnership seeks to improve East Fork water quality](#)
 - [Project aims to ease East Fork of Lewis River's woes](#)
 - [Town hall on East Fork water quality set for June 3rd](#)
 - [East Fork: Officials offer insight on elevated temperature, bacteria levels](#)
- All Partnership meeting materials and presentations are available on the [East Fork Lewis River Ezview website](#).

East Fork Lewis River Partnership for clean water

New Year, New Resolutions, & Next Steps

Thank you to **ALL** of the partners working in the watershed! If you have an East Fork Lewis River success story to share from the past year, please send a short summary to dros461@ecy.wa.gov and come to the next East Fork Lewis River Partnership meeting in January 2020 ready to share your achievements!

What are your clean water resolutions for 2020?

Some of our New Year's resolutions for 2020 include:

- Continue proactive NPS investigation to find and fix source of bacteria pollution.
- Continue building relationships with private landowners to implement bacteria and temperature projects on private properties.
- Continue raising public awareness, inspiring behavior change, and promoting water quality stewardship in the East Fork Lewis River.
- Foster new projects for FY 2022 Combined Water Quality Funding.
- Implement projects that improve water quality in the East Fork Lewis River!
- Work with East Fork Lewis River Partners to develop long-term goals, targets, milestones, and a timeline for water quality implementation.

Please complete the [Doodle Poll for the next East Fork Lewis River Partnership meeting](#) in January 2020.

See you in 2020!

- [Devan Rostorfer](#) – Water Cleanup & Implementation Lead.
- [Jennifer Riedmayer](#) – Nonpoint Source Specialist.
- [Shawn Ultican](#) – Nonpoint Source Specialist.
- [Lawrence Sullivan](#) – Water Quality Supervisor.

