



For Immediate Release – February 3, 2025

Columbia Riverkeeper Receives \$25,000 Donation from the BottleDrop Fund

Donation will support environmental education programs in Hood River and Wasco Counties

CLACKAMAS, Ore. – The [Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative](#) (OBRC), which operates the [BottleDrop](#) network, announced today that it has donated \$25,000 through its BottleDrop Fund to [Columbia Riverkeeper](#). This donation will further empower the nonprofit based in Hood River in its mission to protect and restore the water quality of the Columbia River and all life connected to it, from the headwaters to the Pacific Ocean.

Donation funds will specifically be used to support their bilingual education program, which is expected to reach at least 300 students and 75 community members in Hood River and Wasco Counties. Led by local Latine residents and staff, this program educates and engages residents on environmental issues throughout the Columbia River Gorge through hands-on restoration and stewardship events. Through targeted outreach to traditionally underserved communities, they are working to develop long-term stewardship and a sense of belonging for participants, many of whom may not otherwise be engaged.

“The Nichols Natural Area is a living laboratory in the middle of the bustling Hood River waterfront. At Nichols, learning is not confined by classroom walls,” said Lorri Epstein, water quality director for Columbia Riverkeeper. “Last year over 500 kids experienced this unique environmental education experience.”

"Supporting organizations like Columbia Riverkeeper reflect OBRC's commitment to promoting environmental stewardship, particularly for audiences that may not otherwise be engaged," said Devon Morales, vice president of external affairs at OBRC. "We are thrilled to support Columbia Riverkeeper's educational programming and initiatives in Oregon communities to help protect and preserve the largest river in the Pacific Northwest."

The [BottleDrop Fund](#), created in partnership with Oregon Community Foundation, supports nonprofit organizations in Oregon that are operating in the spirit of the Bottle Bill through annual grantmaking. The Fund's priorities include litter and waste reduction, environmental conservation, environmental education, recycling, public-private partnerships that work to solve a community problem in Oregon, and skill-building and job training for low-income residents.



About BottleDrop and the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative

The Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative is the industry steward of Oregon’s nationally recognized beverage container redemption system and the operator of the BottleDrop network. On behalf of the beverage industry, OBRC helps Oregonians conveniently redeem and recycle more than 2 billion containers every year, dramatically reducing litter in Oregon’s special places and boosting the state’s recycling outcomes. To learn more, visit BottleDrop.com or OBRC.com

About Oregon Community Foundation

Since 1973, Oregon Community Foundation has worked to improve the lives of all Oregonians through the power of philanthropy. We partner with donors, volunteers and nonprofits to strengthen communities in every county in Oregon. OCF distributed more than \$220 million in grants and scholarships in 2024. Individuals, families, businesses and organizations can work with OCF to create charitable funds that support causes important to them. To learn more, please visit oregoncf.org.