

The logo consists of four overlapping triangles in blue, purple, green, and yellow, arranged in a larger triangular shape.

# Columbia INSIGHT Annual Report 2023

*The New York Times* reported, not long ago, that 2,500 newspapers in the United States have closed since 2005, and that we will lose one-third of our newspapers by 2025. Those that survive often cut staff and reduce coverage.

This is happening when reporting on the environment is more important than ever. We are experiencing record-breaking temperatures, wildfires, storms, and floods. Yet only half of Americans believe that humans cause climate change.

Your ideas, gifts, and other support allow *Columbia Insight* to fill the ever-widening gap in environmental reporting throughout the Columbia River Basin. We could not be more appreciative. And we believe that your children and grandchildren will be too. Thank you.



Bowen Blair, *Chair*  
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**We Are Grateful to Our  
Donors For Their Support  
of Independent  
Environmental  
Journalism.  
Thank You!**



# KINNIKINNICK

Our SUSTAINERS Your gifts of \$100-\$499  
keep us going year-round.

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**Our STALWARTS Your gifts of \$2,500 and up. These donors dig deep like the GarryOaks.**

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Columbia River Estuary  
Study Taskforce (CREST)  
Earth Day Oregon  
Edwards Mother Earth Foundation  
EnviroGorge LLC  
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Gorge Rebuild-It Center  
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Jubitz Investments LP  
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Summit Studio LLC  
The Burning Foundation  
Twiggs, Inc.  
Twin Oaks Construction & Metal Work  
Umpqua Bank  
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# HOPE



Humans, the United Nations reports, are on track to cause one million species to go extinct in the coming years. Half the rivers and streams in the Pacific Northwest are polluted. A 20-year drought in the West is decimating its forests.

Yet it is hope that drives ***Columbia Insight***. I think it may be hope that brings you to our stories.

Habitat loss, hunting and use of the pesticide DDT reduced the population of bald eagles in the United States from 100,000 nesting pairs in the late 1700s to 500 in the 1960s. Through breeding programs, strong law enforcement, habitat protection, and banning DDT, there are now over 300,000 bald eagles in the country.

Four years ago, Dawn Stover took on the daunting job of researching what appeared to be an inordinate number of cougars killed in Klickitat County, Washington. She interviewed wildlife biologists as well as

the county sheriff who had organized posses to kill cougars, which he perceived as a safety threat to local citizens. The science didn't back up the rationale for the cougar hunts; the number of cougars killed in the county far exceeded state averages. We continue reporting on this story because, while it may only address biodiversity in one small spot on the planet, each spot makes a difference.

I am grateful for ***Columbia Insight***'s team. Everyone involved—board, staff, consultants, and journalists—are grateful for your readership, for passing our articles on to others, for your comments on the stories, and for your funding. You give us hope.

**Susan Hess**  
*Publisher*





# Connections and Investigations

Susan Hess founded **Columbia Insight** in 2018 to tell people about the environmental challenges facing the Columbia River Basin.

Five years later, we remain true to our mission to “...publish stories that highlight the connection between the environment and all the people who call this place home.” Each week we share a new story with readers. Thanks to our participation in the Associated Press StoryShare Program, people throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond learn about critical environmental issues. Our newly-designed website connects the newest stories with past articles. **Columbia Insight** continues to forge a connection between our readers and the land, air, water, and wildlife we share a home with.

During the past 18 months, **Columbia Insight** writers produced stories that

inspired, informed, and illuminated. In addition to receiving a first-place award from the Society of Environmental Journalists, Nathan Gilles’ article exploring the massive die-off of Douglas Firs was reprinted around the country. Videographer Deborah Bloom captured Barbara Robinson’s passion for wildflowers and wilderness. K.C. Mehaffey’s story about highway wildlife crossings celebrated their success.

We haven’t shied away from longer investigative pieces. Our exclusive story about the proposed “green” data center in Cascade Locks exposed the discrepancies in projected water and power usage, the concerning background of project backers, and the lack of transparency in the Port’s evaluations of the project. The Friends of the Columbia Gorge credited **Columbia Insight**’s article with bringing “some needed

sunlight to this issue,” in a nod to former Justice Louis Brandeis’s statement on government transparency. Voters recalled two Port commissioners. The election of community members supporting more community involvement in water and natural resource use reaffirmed the impact that environmental news can have.

Your unwavering support lets us dig deeply into stories that need extra time and effort. Thank you for providing the resources we need to bring sunlight to issues that matter more than ever.

**Tracey Tomashpol**  
*Director of Marketing & Outreach,  
Board of Directors*



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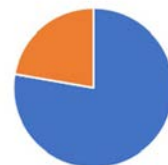
*Photographs by Jurgen Hess*



## Columbia Insight Finances

Fiscal Year 2023

### Revenue



|           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| Donations | 118,714       |
| Grants    | <u>33,900</u> |
|           | \$152,614     |

■ Donations ■ Grants

### Expenses



|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Stories/editing   | 84,567       |
| Administration/IT | 26,336       |
| Website Redesign  | 20,000       |
| Fund Raise        | 6,531        |
| Savings Account   | <u>1,500</u> |
|                   | \$138,934    |

■ Stories/editing ■ Administration/IT  
■ Website redesign ■ Fundraise  
■ Savings Account