

2021-2022

Willamette-Laja Partnership Report



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Willamette Valley

Rio Laja Partnership

Ken Schmidt 2016-01-08

Mission

Cross-jurisdictional actions for watershed health addressing climate change locally and promoting bi-national collaboration and peace.

Vision

Create a sense of peace, personal purpose, and collective power through a cross-cultural bridge for educators, conservation professionals, the youth, and our communities.

Values

- Latinx Engagement and Inclusiveness
- Environmental Health: human safety and bird habitat conservation
- Whole Child Development: interdisciplinary curriculum and real-world opportunities
- Borderless Connections: migration of birds and humans during political uncertainty and global environmental challenges



MESSAGE FROM

OUR LEADERS

The Willamette–Laja Partnership has been an opening to innovation in environmental education, alliances, and financing and collaboration strategies. It has promoted technical, cultural, and contextual exchanges, and has activated education, proposals, and actions for soil and water conservation, and facilitating habitat preservation.

Today with experience we continue to innovate. The binational environmental education program *Aves Compartidas* has added allies, new schools, and new learning. It incorporates contextualization for the understanding of climate change, applies solutions based on nature, and uses art as a means of learning. It incorporates parent participation, promoting consistency and cultural change towards responsible consumption.

It supports and manages the active participation of young people with exchanges and university internships and dignifies and promotes the profession of socio-environmental promoters. We seek and support imagining to create, diversity in thinking, continuity, and results that allow and activate a sustainable coexistence of respect with nature

- Jalili Aragón and Tara Davis

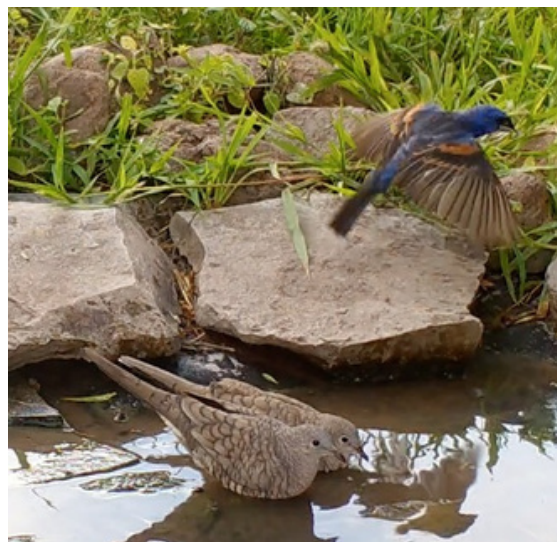




Our Annual Adventures

This year the Willamette-Laja partnership has continued to educate our binational communities providing peer-to-peer learning curriculum and professional experiences related to shared migratory birds and their watershed habitats through hands-on involvement in restoration and stewardship. We pursued multiple school garden programs, bird observation, and full-day field experiences partnering with 9 elementary schools in the Laja and Willamette watersheds. Growing our partnership with universities has created opportunities for college students to develop professionally and contribute to local conservation at a meaningful level.

Coming out of a pandemic presented challenges for our partnership. Increasing the frequency of cross-border professional communications and continuing virtual partner exchange was essential. We discovered just how resilient our team and committees truly are during times of crisis. Moving forward, we are planning several in-person group and individual exchanges, which thrills our staff and partners and provides light and even greater hope for our future.





The Willamette- Laja Connection

Oregon's Willamette Valley partners with Guanajuato's Rio Laja Basin to unite youth, educators, habitat restoration practitioners, and the birding community for deep cultural connections and sustained conservation of our shared migratory species and habitats.



Our 2022 Strategy

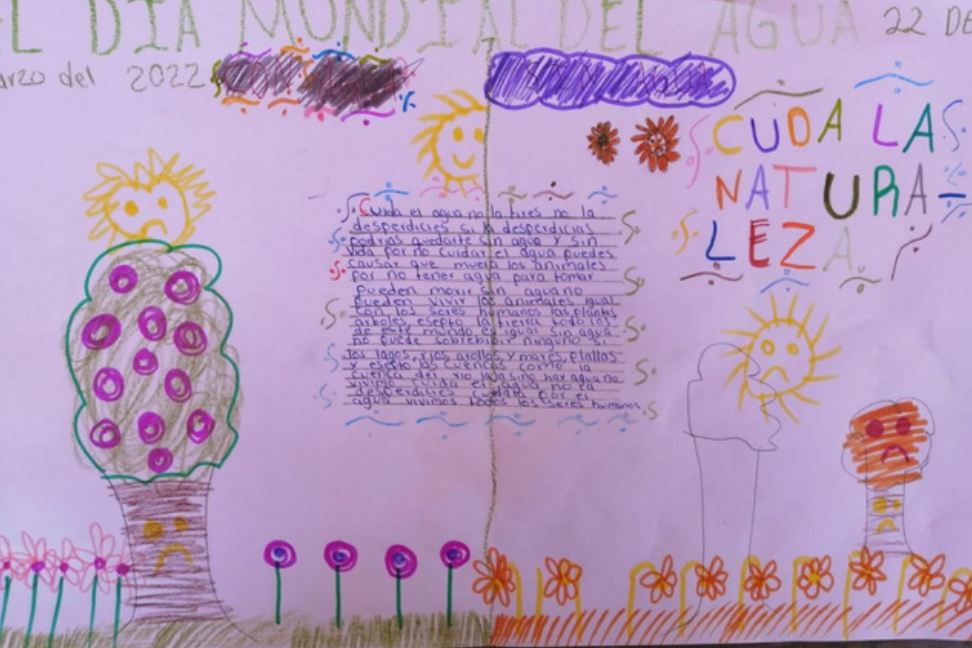
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A major goal of the 2021-2022 school year was to amplify our outreach, restoration, and education efforts in the Portland Metro area. To accomplish this expansion, we hired a new program coordinator to recruit additional metro-area schools and maintain alignment with Portland State University's Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program (LSMP) to develop climate resilience internships for college students.

An ongoing goal for the partnership is to continue our international partner exchanges between the Willamette and Rio Laja. By building stronger relationships with plant nurseries and educators, we are preparing to plan another exchange in June 2023.





2021-2022 ACOMPLISHMENTS

Youth outdoor learning

Students grew gardens, participated in habitat restoration, and studied birds using binoculars.



Water Catchment

Diagnostic data for the water captivation system at Justo Sierra. Prep site for the water captivation system and filter additions.

Cultural exchanges

Students wrote letters, drew maps of North America, and exchanged videos and photos with their pen pals.

World Migratory Bird Day

Partnered with groups locally in the Willamette and Laja basins to promote outreach for families related bird observation and raising awareness for the challenges that migratory birds face.

University of Oregon

Partnered with the Environmental Leadership program to develop service learning projects for college students. Students gained experience creating lessons and implementing outdoor education for elementary students.

Taller de la Nutrición

Educated families on the link between nutrition and the environment. Taught better eating habits and emphasized eating locally for sustainability.



Testimonials

UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

"I gained personal growth in my time management and organizational skills"

- Student Testimonial

"The experience has been very valuable to their [interns] professional advancement, and they seem to get great mentorship and connections."

- OSU Partner



AVES COMPARTIDAS

This program helps hit standards that I don't otherwise have the chance to with our curriculum. It's a good supplemental program for what the students need to learn."

- Teacher Testimonial

Gives the students the chance to have a hands-on experience with science and art.

- Teacher Testimonial



Engagement Statistics

780 elementary students

23 classrooms

9 elementary schools

800+ University Internship Hours

14 university student instructors

5 university partnerships

18 bilingual lesson plans developed



Financials

Partner Contributions

\$8,500	Local Contributions
\$98,690	Foundations
\$3,185	Others
\$72,000	In-Kind & Labor+Restoration

82%

AVES COMPARTIDAS

14%

ADMINISTRATION

Partnership Investments

\$22,812	Administration
\$140,000	Aves Compartidas
\$7,740	Project Supplies+Travel

4%

PROJECT SUPPLIES+TRAVEL

With the great help of those funding, donating and volunteering, The Willamette-Laja Twinning Partnership has continued to provide students, families, and its communities with knowledge and the confidence to care for their environment and live sustainably.




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Willamette-Laja Twinning Partnership

WE THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT

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 [Willamette-Laja Twinning - Proyecto Hermanamiento](#)

