



# Within Our Reach Conference 2018

Growing the Movement for a Healthier Willamette

## Call for Break-out and Poster Proposals

**Deadline for Submission: April 23, 2018**

Help us build the conference program! We're seeking proposals for break-out sessions and posters for the fifth biennial Within Our Reach Conference, December 13-14, 2018 at the Salem Convention Center located at 200 Commercial St. SE in Salem, Oregon.

**Within Our Reach** is a unique event that brings together river restoration professionals, funders, landowners, public agencies, scientists, Tribes, students and community members around a common cause – working for the health of the Willamette River and its tributaries. Attendees share challenges, celebrate successes, and come together to strategize for a healthier, more resilient Willamette River system.

This year will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Willamette River Initiative, the funding program of Meyer Memorial Trust that established **Within Our Reach** as its cornerstone event back in 2010. After a decade of Willamette River grantmaking, Meyer Memorial Trust is working to transition the Willamette River Initiative to an enduring home in the community it serves. With eyes on building a strong foundation for the future, this year's conference will explore a range of topics related to the theme ***Growing the Movement for a Healthier Willamette***.

We invite you to help shape the conference by submitting a proposal for a break-out session and/or poster. Break-outs will take place on both days of the conference. Posters will be displayed in the conference center on both days, and there will be a dedicated poster session to showcase these during the conference. Break-out and poster selections will be made by Willamette River Initiative staff and a volunteer committee of Willamette River stakeholders.

## Break-Out Sessions

### Guiding Themes for Proposals

Within Our Reach explores the ecological, social and cultural dimensions of Willamette River health. We're seeking to build a diverse slate of break-out sessions that cover the following topics:

- **Restoration accomplishments** – Project case studies; restoration summaries by geographic area, program or partnership; challenges and lessons learned.
- **Working better, together** – What makes a successful partnership? What are the challenges and benefits of taking collaboration to the next level? Proposals might include partnership case studies and lessons learned.
- **New science and research** – What have we learned about the Willamette Basin in recent years, and where do gaps in knowledge remain? How can we connect the latest science with on-the-ground restoration efforts? We welcome proposals that: help us better understand how the Willamette River system functions; focus on species



that rely on healthy floodplain and riparian habitats; consider the impact of shifting demographics and climate change on land use in the Willamette Basin; explore the connection between human health and watershed health; and/or inform future planning and restoration priorities.

- **Diversity, equity and inclusion** – How can the Willamette River restoration movement better reflect and include the diversity of communities that reside here? Examples of proposals might include: projects and partnerships working to advance equity and inclusion; perspectives from communities that have been underrepresented in watershed restoration and stories of resilience; proposals that explore environmental justice in the context of Willamette River health.
- **The importance of water** – Topics might include drinking water and source water protection; water quality and emerging toxics/pharmaceuticals; flow management; water quantity and availability in the Willamette system.
- **People and the river** – Ongoing efforts and new ideas to connect Willamette Basin communities with the river and its tributaries. May include a range of topics, such as recreation, health, education, access, communications, storytelling, history, and culture. How do communities and individuals value their local rivers and streams, and how can this inform efforts to protect and improve river health?
- **Funding the future** – What opportunities exist for creative grant seeking and effective non-grant fundraising? In the long-term, how can the base of support to sustain this work be expanded, secured and diversified?

## Examples of Session Formats

The Planning Committee encourages interactive and learning-oriented session formats. Following are some examples of possible session formats. This is not an exhaustive list, and we welcome proposals for sessions using formats not included below.



**Panel Discussion:** Panel discussions consist of 2-3 speakers and a moderator. Discussions are themed on a particular topic or issue. Each speaker gives a brief presentation (10-15 minutes; 10-12 slides), leaving ample time for moderated discussion and/or audience Q & A. You may apply as a complete panel or as an individual. If you apply as an individual, you may be grouped with other speakers presenting on the same theme.



**Interactive Space:** This format emphasizes discourse and ‘group think’ over info-sharing presentations. Moderators lead participants in facilitated discussion around a specific topic or question. Discussion can take place in roundtables or with the full group, or a combination of the two. Applicants may propose any interactive discussion format, or simply propose a discussion topic and, if the proposal is selected, work with conference planners to develop an appropriate format. The strongest proposals in this format will lead discussions towards a clear outcome, such as actionable next steps or increased/deeper understanding of differing perspectives.



**How-To Workshops:** How-to workshops may combine aspects of panel discussion and interactive space, but will have more of training focus and should aim to equip attendees with new practical skills and knowledge by the end of the session. Examples might include tutorials for restoration practitioners on using new tools or methods. How-to workshops should include active participation by attendees, such as activities, exercises or walk-throughs that help build the new skill, rather than one-way instruction.



## Selection Criteria for Break-Out Sessions

The strongest proposals will fit the following criteria:

1. **Active participation.** We seek proposals that spark active engagement of participants. All proposals should outline how the presenter(s) and/or moderator will encourage discussion and active participation by audience members.
2. **New connections.** This event aims to bring a wide range of people and perspectives together and foster collaboration. We seek proposals that make connections between landowners, scientists, watershed restoration groups, city officials, resource managers, Tribes, business and industry, community members and/or other river-related interests.
3. **Relevance.** The strongest proposals will fit within the theme of the conference and cover topics that are timely and relevant to a wide cross section of Willamette River stakeholders. When possible, proposals should describe how break-out session takeaways might be carried forth beyond the conference.
4. **Overall fit.** Proposals will be selected based on how well they fit into the overall program, including other break-out sessions and plenaries.

Conference planners may contact applicants to suggest alternative session formats, reasonable modifications to session content, or combinations of speakers to best fit overall program needs and support the learning experience of the conference as a whole.

## Posters

The poster session showcases a range of watershed restoration, research and other projects occurring throughout the Willamette Basin. Poster selections will depend on space available and fit with the following criteria.

### Selection Criteria for Posters

The strongest proposals will fit the following criteria:

1. **New connections.** This event aims to bring a wide range of people and perspectives together and foster collaboration. We seek proposals that make connections between landowners, scientists, watershed restoration groups, city officials, resource managers, Tribes, business and industry, community members and/or other river-related interests.
2. **Relevance.** The strongest proposals will fit within the theme of the conference, present new and/or timely research, and be broadly relevant to conference attendees.
3. **Overall fit.** Proposals will be selected based on how well they fit into the overall set of posters to ensure a diverse collection of projects is represented.

## How to Submit

To submit a break-out and/or poster proposal, please complete our [online submission form](#).

The deadline for proposals is **April 23, 2018**. Applicants will be notified of decisions by June 29, 2018. If you have any questions, contact Sierra Winegarner at [sierra@withinourreach.net](mailto:sierra@withinourreach.net) or 503.226.2377.