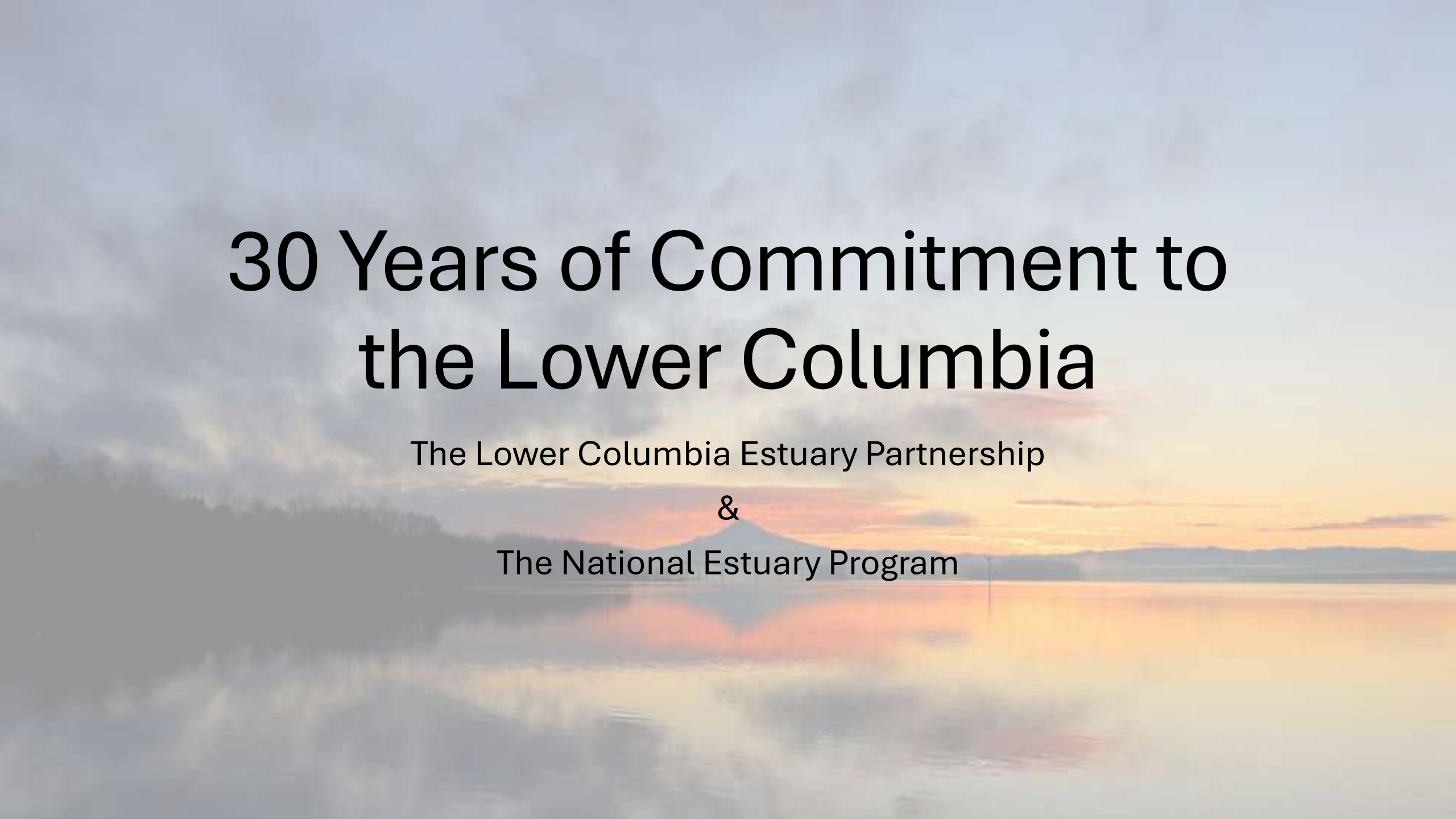


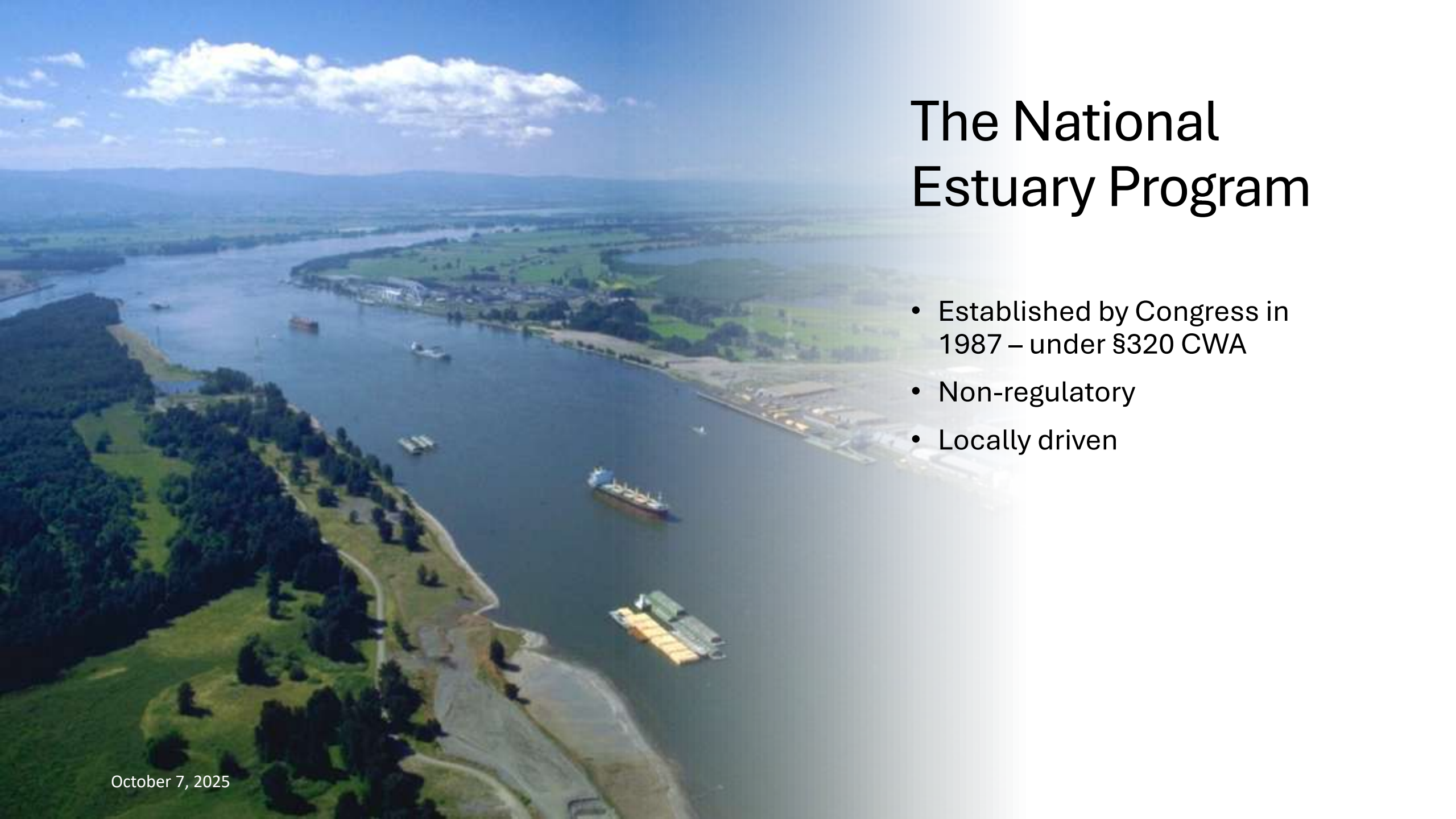


30 Years of Commitment to the Lower Columbia

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

&

The National Estuary Program

An aerial photograph of a wide river estuary. In the foreground, a large barge with yellow and green sections is being pushed or pulled by a tugboat. Several other smaller boats are visible further upstream. The river is bordered by green fields and forests on the left, and industrial or residential areas on the right. In the distance, rolling hills are visible under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

The National Estuary Program

- Established by Congress in 1987 – under §320 CWA
- Non-regulatory
- Locally driven

From the NEP Enabling Language:

- Point and nonpoint sources of pollution
- Restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the estuary
- Restoration and maintenance of water quality
- A balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish and wildlife
- Recreational activities in the estuary
- Assure that the designated uses of the estuary are protected;
- Address the effects of recurring extreme weather events
- Identification and assessment of vulnerabilities in the estuary and the development and implementation of adaptation strategies;
- Increase public education and awareness of the ecological health and water quality conditions



The National Estuary Program (NEP) is an EPA place-based program to protect and restore the water quality and ecological integrity of estuaries of national significance.





Brief History of the Estuary Partnership



1999 Signing Ceremony for the First CCMP



2nd Grade Students
Planting Trees during
our First Year of
Environmental
Education
Programming in 2001







2009 – Coal Creek Slough

*

2013 – Steigerwald Lake NWR

Habitat Restoration:

Action 2 of CCMP: Protect, conserve, restore, and enhance priority habitats, particularly wetlands, on the mainstem and within tributaries of the lower Columbia River and in the estuary.

Priority Issues to Address –

- Biological Integrity
- Habitat Loss and Modification





Horsetail Creek
in the Winter of
2023



Steigerwald Lake NWR – Completed 2023





Gibbons
Creek-
Spring 2021

Elk out for swim at Steigerwald – September 2025





East Fork Lewis River





Diversion Structure Being Removed – September 2025





Fish Salvage at the East Fork

Monitoring Program





Science



Community Programs:







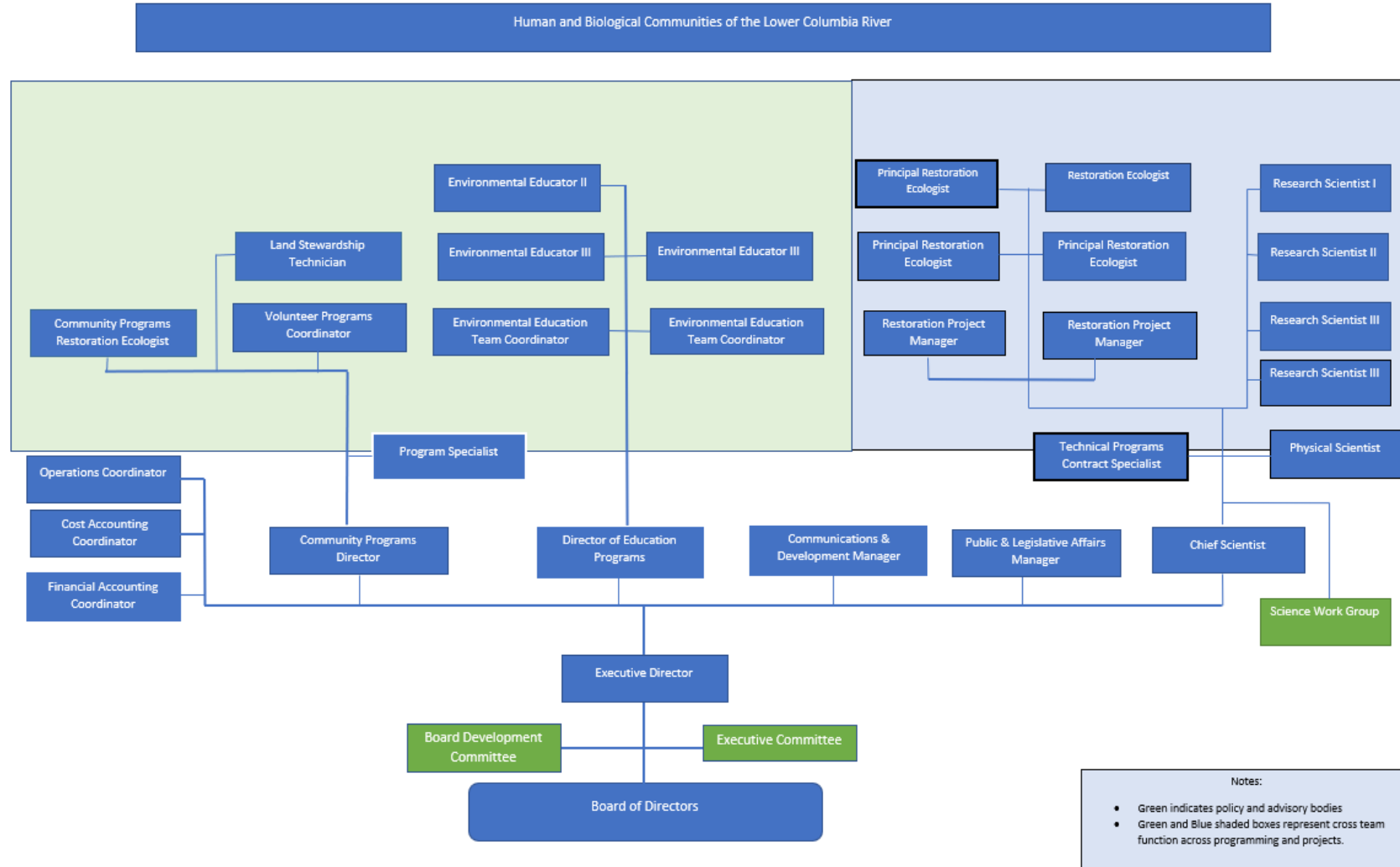




A group of approximately ten people, mostly wearing bright yellow safety vests, are gathered outdoors on a rocky, gravelly bank. They are looking towards a large map or informational board that is propped up on the ground. The background features a steep, rocky hillside with some sparse vegetation and trees. The scene appears to be a field visit or a site inspection. The text "Partners visiting the East Fork Lewis River" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Partners visiting the East Fork Lewis River

Org Chart 2025 - 2026





Staff planting at Steigerwald – winter 2022



Scan QR Code to access the Estuary Partnership's Website





Thank you!