



Wenatchee River  
INSTITUTE

# FIELD NOTES

## 2024 Annual Report

### A Note from Canuche



As we reflect on 2024, we are proud of the significant strides we have made at the Wenatchee River Institute (WRI). It was a year marked by new and meaningful work, including the success of our Pay What You Can model.

Pay What You Can opened doors and made our programs more accessible. Looking ahead, we are excited to embark on new initiatives to stay relevant in our community and learn to be better allies to the indigenous peoples who lived here first. We also deepened community partnerships, ensured livable staff wages, and invested in improvements for the E. Lorene Young House.

Your support made all of this progress possible - you make a huge difference! We remain committed to connecting people, communities and the natural world, and are deeply grateful for your partnership. Thank you for being a part of our journey!

Canuche Terranella  
Executive Director

### Our Mission

We connect People, Communities and the Natural World.

### Our Vision

A community that cares for and engages in the natural world.

### Our Values

Respect, Responsibility, Relevance, and Connection.





# Youth Education

Whether it's gazing at the stars or wading in the river in search of macroinvertebrates, the programming you support provides hands-on learning that inspires a lifelong passion in caring for the natural world. Nature provides us with so many reasons to protect it - we just need the opportunity to discover them.

That's the goal with WRI's Youth Programs - to give these students every opportunity to learn to care for the natural world. 2024 brought a much requested addition to WRI's offerings - After School Program! We appreciate the opportunity to rise to our community's needs with this new endeavor. The programs you support, in and out of schools, gives young naturalists of all backgrounds the opportunity to experience nature and discover their own reasons to care for it.

*Right: A 4th grade student takes a quiet moment to document their observations on a fall nature hike.  
Below: A kindergarten student shows off their scavenger hunt findings.*



## In the 2023/2024 School Year...



8

WRI Educators connected with students



9,749

times across



23

schools in



6

counties in Washington.



# Community Programs

These programs provide a space for people to gather and connect with the natural world. 2024 featured classic programs like Bird Fest and the Trashion Show, and some exciting new ones like the popular Plant Foraging Workshops. These workshops invite curious foragers to get their hands dirty and explore the edible and medicinal plants we may otherwise overlook. The Plant Foraging Workshops, as well as many other WRI programs, were Pay What You Can (or PWYC) in 2024.

***"Decreasing barriers is the way to equity."***

*-Jordan, PWYC Program Participant*

PWYC programming allows more people across all backgrounds to connect with nature and their community at WRI, no matter their finances. This payment structure made it possible for people like Jordan, a program participant, to get creative at a beading workshop - a previously higher cost program. We hope PWYC continues to lower barriers for everybody to participate in learning of all kinds. Your support helps make this equitable access possible.

*Left: 2024 Trashion Show People's Choice winners strut the Green Carpet runway.  
Below: A participant admires their wreath made of foraged materials.*



In the 2024 Calendar Year...



**3,256** people attended



**107** programs and



**79%** of them were free or Pay What You Can.



# Finances

## Fiscal Year 2024 - January 1st-December 31st

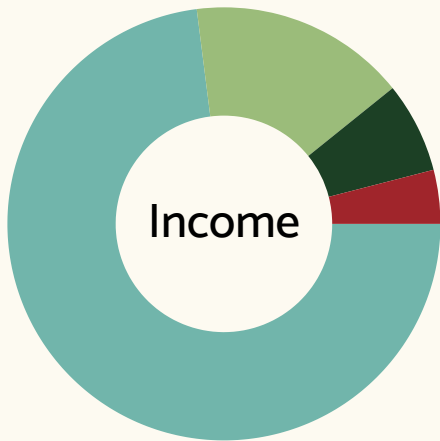


Fig 1. Total WRI income for the 2024 fiscal year.

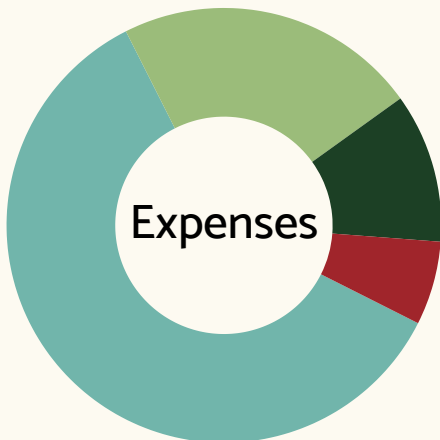


Fig 2. Total WRI expenditure for the 2024 fiscal year.

We are so grateful for the support that community members like you have shown us. In 2024, 73% of our total income came from fundraising efforts. These efforts include donations, sponsorships from local businesses, and grants. You keep this work alive by believing in and supporting the mission that connects people with nature and one another.

WRI is committed to being a great place to work, as outlined in our 5 year strategic plan. As part of that commitment, the Board of Directors made a significant investment in staff salaries. Great programs need inspired and supported staff - we believe their compensation should reflect that. Thank you, community members, for making this work possible!

**THANK YOU!**





# Thank you to everyone who supported WRI in 2024!

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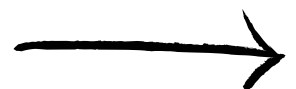
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They made many of our programs possible, including Red Barn Events, Trashion Show, Bird Fest, and Sunset & S'mores.

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Please pardon us if you are not on this list and should be.

Please let us know if this is the case!



# Volunteers

Support from volunteers is integral to everything we do. Our dedicated volunteers offer their time to support WRI programming at all levels. They govern, plan, stuff envelopes, sell beverages at events, teach programs, and make the WRI campus a functional and beautiful space for all who visit. We hope to connect with you even more in 2025! If you'd like to contribute your time to WRI, don't hesitate to reach out. There's opportunities for everybody!

2024 came with a new volunteer project - asking community members to help plant over 300 native plants, provided by the Xerces Society, along the WRI trails. The sounds of shovels and picks filled the Native Plant garden as 8 volunteers battled with rocky ground to make our campus a beautiful place for people and pollinators alike. We can't do it without you!

*"This area has some unique and incredible plants. I'm excited for more people to experience them."*

*-John, Native Planting Party Volunteer*

We can never thank our volunteers, like John, enough - but we can try! Staff and volunteers gathered in the summer time for our first Volunteer Appreciation since 2020. We hope to continue this tradition and see you all at our next gathering in June of 2025!

Right: Addie, a summer volunteer, poses with Creativity Campers on a nature hike.  
Below: Salmon Patty helps students look for macroinvertebrates in the river.



In the 2024 Calendar Year...

 **100** volunteers contributed

 **2,713** hours to WRI.



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# WRI's Nature Journal

## Entry No. 6: Lanceleaf Springbeauty (*Claytonia lanceolata*)

This perennial can be found in large, open fields. Be sure to look for it on your next springtime hike. Keep reading for some fun facts!



- These perennial wildflowers are some of the first to bloom in the springtime.
- You can identify these tiny flowers by their 5 petals - ranging in color from pink to white.
- These plants have pink pollen! If you look closely, bees leaving these flowers will have pink pollen bags instead of yellow. How stylish!
- From the flower to corms (aka roots), all parts of this plant are edible! It is closely related to miner's lettuce.

*Disclaimer: Please refer to an official guide while foraging for edible materials. Eat foraged items at your own risk.*

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- A Note from Canuche
- Youth & Community Programs Reflections
- 2024 Financials - Thank You Donors!
- Volunteer Project Updates

**FIELD NOTES**  
2024 Annual  
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