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PATRICK LEE HONORED AS STEWARD OF THE YEAR

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (Estuary Partnership) names Patrick Lee, Clark County Public Works Program Coordinator II, as their Steward of the Year. The annual award was presented at the Estuary Partnership’s 18th Annual Dinner and Art Gala on Saturday, October 14 at the Columbia River Yacht Club.

For the last decade, Lee has managed the Clark County Legacy Lands Program and has made a significant mark on the health of the lower Columbia River with his work in that role. In that time, the Estuary Partnership and Clark County have developed a strong collaboration that resulted in several successful habitat restoration projects, including Salmon Creek, La Center Bottoms, and the East Fork Lewis River Side Channel.

The Legacy Lands Program seeks to establish, restore and maintain an interconnected system of parks, natural areas, trails and open spaces within the region with a focus on lands highly valued for habitat, scenic corridors, low-impact recreation, or other qualities that enhance the local environment. Clark County has conserved more than 5,000 acres through the Legacy Lands Program, which celebrates its 31-year anniversary this year. Lee’s leadership has been key to the success of the program.

“Patrick has shown a sustained commitment to the care and protection of the Columbia River and its many watersheds. He embodies the Estuary Partnership’s belief in partnerships and engaging people to take care of the lands around us,” said Debrah Marriott, Estuary Partnership Executive Director.

“The Great River of the West defines this region. It is the artery that nurtures the economy, the people, the fish and wildlife that all combine to make this such a wonderful place to live,” Lee said about his deep respect for the Columbia River.

Lee first came to Clark County in 1999 as the Long Range Planning Manager, leading the 2004 update of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan and completing numerous major zoning code revisions, including habitat, wetlands, and other critical area ordinances.

Prior to Clark County, Pat worked in a variety of land use, public facility, and environmental planning and natural resource management programs, including with Metro in Portland where he led the development of the Metropolitan Greenspaces Master Plan.

“I am privileged to receive this award,” said Lee. “It is gratifying to know that my small efforts to protect and enhance our environmental legacy has resonated with so many. I accept this on behalf of all my existing and former co-workers and conservation partners that share equally in this recognition.”

The Annual Steward of the Year Award was instituted by the Estuary Partnership in 2001 to recognize exceptional stewardship of the lower Columbia River and estuary.

About the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
The Estuary Partnership was established in 1995 by the Governors of Washington and Oregon and the US EPA to provide regional coordination, to advance science, and to get on-the-ground results in the lower Columbia River and estuary. It is a collaborative program of the states of Oregon and Washington, federal agencies, tribal
governments, non-profit organizations, businesses and economic interests, and citizens. The Estuary Partnership restores and protects habitat, improves water quality and reduces pollution, and provides information about the river. The lower Columbia River and estuary is an “Estuary of National Significance,” one of only 28 National Estuary Programs in the nation. The US EPA administers the National Estuary Program, created in the 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act. The Estuary Partnership is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. For more information, visit www.estuarypartnership.org.