



ANNUAL REPORT

2025



Our mission is to promote the understanding, appreciation, and conservation of the Nisqually Estuary through education, interpretation, and community science.

Contents

Education Highlights

Community Science Highlights

What's New at the Center

Financial Report

Volunteer Appreciation

Sponsor & Partner Appreciation



Education Highlights

Weeks of Summer
Camp:

5

Field Trips at the
Estuary:

68

Students Reached:

2,110





2025 was a great year for our Environmental Education program! Thanks to our newly-established partnership with the Olympia School District, we continued to expand our programs, offering more field trips and reaching more students! We also designed and installed a sensory wall and picture communication system board to improve our accessibility for neurodiverse and disabled students. This year, our summer campers left their mark on the Center in the form of a hand-print mural (pictured above).



Community Science Highlights

Ongoing Research
Projects:

3

Volunteers Who
Made an Impact:

71

Hours of Research
Conducted:

1,393



Our science program continued to thrive in 2025, thanks to our wonderful community of volunteers. We gathered valuable data on the breeding behaviors of Pigeon Guillemots in the South Sound for the 12th year in a row, filling an important knowledge gap for one of the few year-round inhabitants that breed in Puget Sound. We also continued our participation in the Larval Crab Survey project, partnering with staff from the Nisqually Indian Tribe, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and the Pacific Shellfish Institute to monitor a light trap at Zittel's Marina to track changes in Dungeness crab populations.

Thanks to a new partnership with the Cascadia Research Collective, the summer of 2025 also acted as a pilot season for new seal haul-out surveys at the Nature Center. This new project was a success, and we are looking forward to collecting seal haul-out data again during the summer of 2026!

Overall, we are proud to support three research projects which not only provide government agencies and decision-makers with important ecological data, but also provide opportunities for our community volunteers to get involved with the conservation of the Nisqually Estuary and greater Puget Sound.





What's New at the Center?

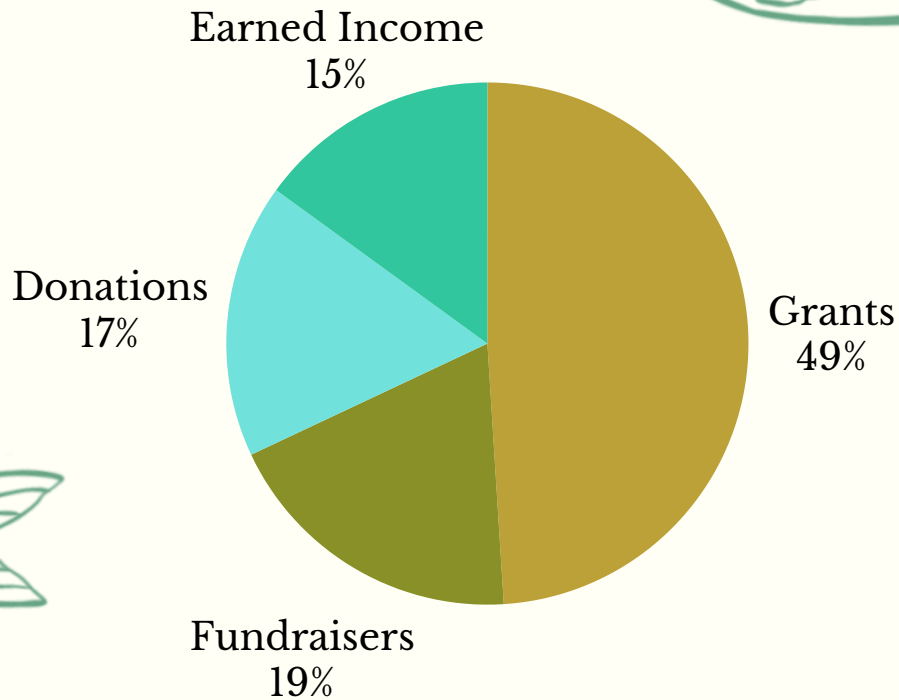
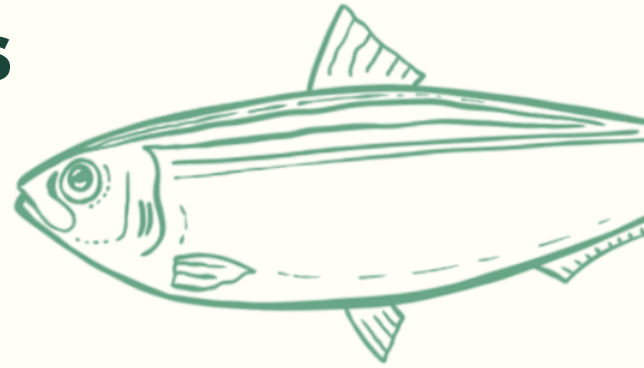
In early 2025, NRNC staff and volunteers installed new wall finishes and flooring in our visitor center (pictured above in-progress). This was a huge undertaking, but well-worth the effort.

We also collaborated with local artists to continue adding murals to the retaining wall outside our building. We added eight new murals in 2025!

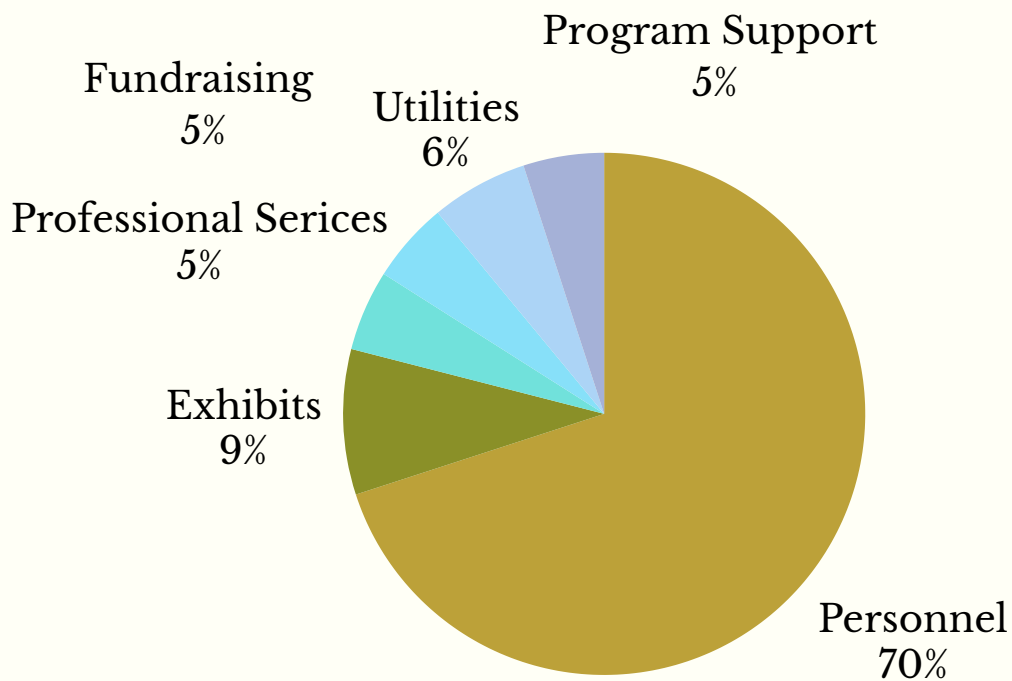


Finances

2025 Income: \$204,522.84



2025 Expenses: \$210,134.16



Volunteer Appreciation

Volunteers are the backbone of our mission. Whether it was volunteering in our visitor center, community science programs, serving as board or committee members, or taking care of our facility, we could not have accomplished so much in 2025 without our volunteers.

In 2025, our volunteers completed a total of 4,084 hours, which is valued at \$170,302.80 by Independent Sector.

We are ever so grateful for all our volunteers! Thank you for being a part of our mission.



Sponsor & Partner Appreciation

2025 Sponsors

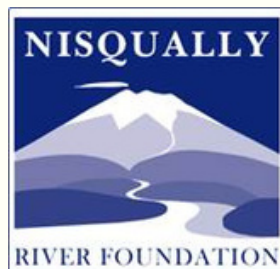


Dawkins Charitable Trust

2025 Partners



Washington Department of
FISH & WILDLIFE



Chehalis Basin Education Consortium



South Sound GREEN

- Global Rivers Environmental Education Network -

