

A Closer Look

# Friends' Fire Response & Recovery Initiative

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The Eagle Creek fire prompted a massive outpouring of public concern and generosity last fall. Donations poured in to Friends of the Columbia Gorge from our members, school kids, community and civic organizations, faith congregations, and businesses anxious to support fire response efforts.

Friends received almost \$350,000 to support our overall response to the fire. In addition, just over \$48,000 was



Outreach Manager Maegan Jossy and U.S. Forest Service Biological Science Technician Katie Santini scouting fire damage near Devil's Rest. Photo: Mika Barrett

donated by members of the public to support the Hood River County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Division, who had taken the lead in rescuing 150 hikers trapped by

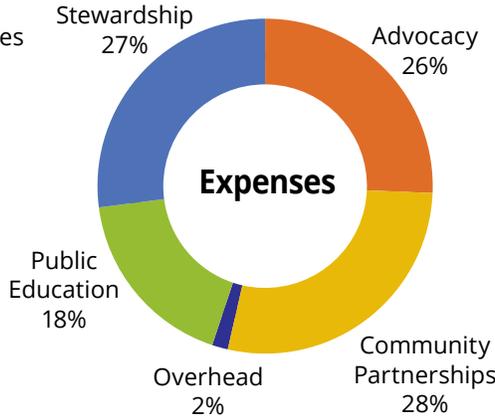
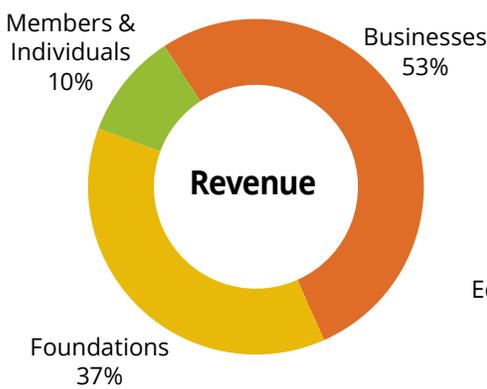
the fire on the Eagle Creek Trail. Roughly 80 percent of the donors to the search and rescue fundraising appeal had not been previously associated with Friends.

Together, this new, public generosity and energy have allowed us the flexibility to respond quickly in numerous ways. We were able to launch an advocacy campaign to forestall action on hastily developed congressional legislation that would open fire-affected forests to clear-cut logging. We created new maps showing trail closures and co-organized a fall public education campaign to "Show the Gorge Some Love," in support of fire impacted Gorge businesses. And we directed \$30,000 to the Oregon's Kitchen Table's crowd-funding campaign to help restore trails near Multnomah Falls.

Looking ahead, these resources enabled us to launch a new program to support the forest's natural recovery by removing invasive weeds at the edges of the burn area, and to hire a staff person (Mika Barrett) to coordinate those efforts. So far this year, we have hosted more than two dozen stewardship work parties focused on invasive weed control.

To learn more about Friends' ongoing fire response and resilience efforts, please visit [gorgefriends.org/fireresponse](http://gorgefriends.org/fireresponse). ■

## FIRE RESPONSE FINANCIALS



### Fire Response Revenue

Businesses	\$182,563
Foundations	\$129,684
Members & Individuals	\$35,427
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$347,674</b>

**FY 2018-19 Carryover: \$233,069**

In the current fiscal year, July 2018 – June 2019, we have budgeted nearly \$400,000 (including the carryover) to continue our advocacy, education, partnership, and stewardship efforts focused on Eagle Creek fire restoration.

### Fire Response Expenses

Advocacy	\$29,400
Community Partnerships	\$32,006
Overhead	\$1,755
Public Education	\$20,468
Stewardship	\$30,976
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$114,605</b>

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