

NORTHWEST

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\$6.95 US/CAN

Fly Fishing

Western Rivers Buying Wild

In rapid succession, critical Washington and Oregon trout, salmon, and steelhead waters are being snatched up for protection, restoration, and public access by Western Rivers Conservancy, www.westernrivers.org. The Portland-based group's recent projects include acquiring a half mile of Oregon's Sandy River that completes a 13-mile corridor above former Marmot Dam; acquiring the Miniam Store boat launch, adjacent to Minam State Recreation Area, which is a favorite drop-in for Wallowa/Grande Ronde river floats; adding 60 acres to the Hoh River Trust, which protects salmon-rearing channels in a block of river habitat near Forks, Washington; and initiating a conservation project on 16 miles of the Lower John Day

River that included buying the 8,114-acre Murtha Ranch with an 8,000-acre Bureau of Land Management grazing lease and the bottom 3 miles of coldwater Hay Creek, critical for summer steelhead, then winning the sheriff's foreclosure auction bid for a 3,259-acre property along the John Day 75 miles upstream of Murtha Ranch. At the end of the year, WRC purchased the second installment of a 47,000-acre property along 20 miles of the lower Klamath River on California's North Coast—a stretch of river critical to spawning salmon.



PHOTO BY JOHN SHERNEY