

# RIVERLANDS

NEWS FROM WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

Issue 25

Spring 2012

## Conserving Vital Links in the Sierra Nevada



*With its dam-free length and undeveloped stretches, Deer Creek is one of the Sierra's top streams for aquatic life.*

### DEER CREEK & MILL CREEK, CALIFORNIA

In the northern Sierra Nevada foothills, a few precious streams hold the hope of restoring the Sacramento River's fishery. Among them are Deer and Mill Creeks. Flowing in adjoining watersheds from the slopes of Mount Lassen to the Sacramento Valley, these are two of the last streams in the northern Sierra Nevada that support Threatened runs of spring Chinook and winter steelhead. Western River Conservancy's (WRC) acquisitions along these streams are establishing continuous protected corridors for fish and wildlife, as well as new public recreational opportunities.



WRC has committed to purchasing 1,792 acres along Mill Creek, including two and a half miles of river frontage. Besides supporting

*Continued, page 2*



## Creating a Willamette Valley Sanctuary

### NORTH SANTIAM RIVER, OREGON



Tumbling out of Oregon's central Cascades, the North Santiam River is a sanctuary for one of the best remaining fisheries in the Willamette Basin, while its rich habitat provides refuge for a number of species of concern. In December, Western Rivers Conservancy took an important step towards conserving this important habitat by purchasing 160 acres of critical fish, wildlife and plant habitat along the lower North Santiam.

This acquisition is the first phase of a project that will total 338 acres. Located near the town of Stayton, the property has two miles of mainstem and off-channel frontage, as well as seven side channels and frontage on Dieckman Creek. It is the most intact riparian assemblage in the lower Santiam Basin. The river is bounded by mature stands of willows, black cottonwoods, big-leaf maples and red alders.

*Continued, page 3*



WESTERN RIVERS  
CONSERVANCY  
www.westernrivers.org

*WRC is preserving priority habitat along the North Santiam River, an important Willamette River tributary.*



Two of the healthiest streams in the northern Sierra Nevada, Deer Creek and Mill Creek (above) are rare California waterways with healthy runs of spring Chinook and steelhead.



Lassen National Forest to the Ishi Wilderness Area. The same can be said of the Deer Creek acquisition which is the missing link in a complex of trails that include the breathtaking Lower Deer Creek Falls. ■

## DEER CREEK & MILL CREEK, CONTINUED

Threatened fish species, the upper Mill Creek watershed boasts one of the largest stands of old-growth forest remaining in the northern Sierra, which is a haven for California spotted owls, Pacific fishers and wolverines. This project presents an unprecedented opportunity to protect the only private lands along 35 miles of Mill Creek between Lassen Volcanic National Park, Lassen National Forest and the Ishi Wilderness. WRC has helped the Lassen National Forest secure Land and Water Conservation Funds to purchase these inholdings.

WRC's current purchase also includes 640 acres in the Deer Creek watershed, just south of Mill Creek. Deer Creek winds through more than 50 miles of old-growth coniferous forest, chaparral, blue oak groves and grassy hills. In 2009, WRC began to conserve this vital link along Deer Creek when it purchased the Lower Deer Creek Falls property from Sierra Pacific Industries. In December, the California Wildlife Conservation Board approved funding that will allow WRC to convey the land to the Northern California Regional Land Trust for permanent conservation this spring.

The Mill and Deer Creek watersheds are treasured by river runners, anglers and hikers, and attract thousands of visitors each year. Both Mill Creek and Deer Creek are being recommended for National Wild and Scenic River designation. Conserving these properties will improve access for hiking, fishing and whitewater kayaking. This project will also complete public ownership of the scenic Mill Creek Trail, which links

## WRC Projects Receive Land and Water Conservation Funding

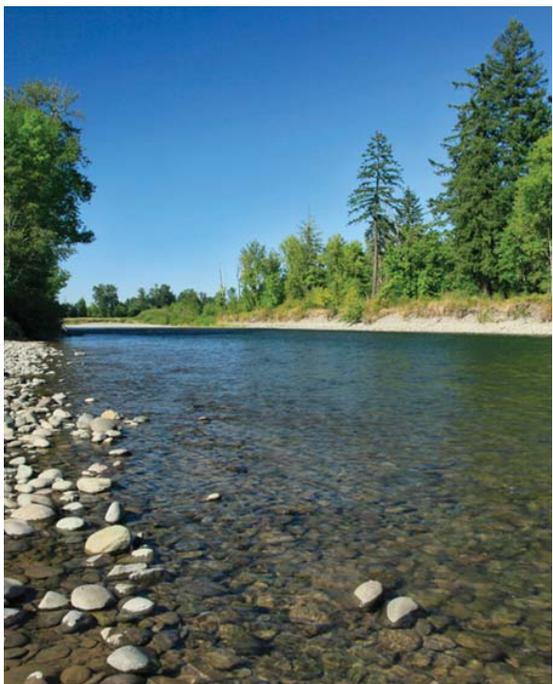
We are excited to announce that along with our Mill Creek project in California, projects in Colorado and Oregon have received 2012 Land and Water Conservation Funds.



**Gunnison River, CO.** WRC purchased 403 acres and three miles of river frontage along the Gunnison in May 2011. Land and Water Conservation Funds will allow WRC to convey the property, which is Critical Habitat for a number of rare fish species, to the Bureau of Land Management this spring. These lands will be managed as part of the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area.



**Drift Creek/Alsea Bay, OR.** WRC purchased 287 acres along Drift Creek and the Alsea Bay estuary in November 2010. This property, which is a key piece in a large coho recovery effort, will be funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund in FY12. Once conveyed, it will complete the more than 1,600-acre acquisition WRC began in 2002. The property will be managed by the U.S. Forest Service as part of the Siuslaw National Forest. ■



WRC is acquiring two miles of North Santiam River frontage with rich off-channel habitat.

### NORTH SANTIAM RIVER, CONTINUED

The property contains intact wetland and native prairie habitats as well as good floodplain habitat restoration opportunities.

Some of the best salmon, steelhead, trout and chub habitat remaining in the Willamette Basin is found in the lower North Santiam, in the heart of this project area. Historically, two-thirds of winter steelhead and one-third of spring Chinook salmon in the entire Willamette Basin originated in the North Santiam. Those runs are now imperiled and listed as Threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. Oregon Chub, a native resident fish species, is also listed as Threatened in the Willamette Basin.

A number of listed or at-risk wildlife species call this property home, including four listed Species of Concern: pileated woodpecker, hooded merganser, western pond turtle and red-legged frog. There is also potential and/or suitable habitat for Pacific lamprey, Lewis' woodpecker, olive-sided flycatcher, little willow flycatcher, western bluebird and vesper sparrow.

WRC will acquire the remaining 178 acres in September 2012. Conserving this property not only protects key habitat, but ensures the North Santiam River will remain an important haven for native wildlife and once again become a major producer of fish. ■



## Prime Eastern Oregon River Access Forever Conserved

### MINAM RIVER, OREGON

River recreationists will forever have access to one of the most beautiful river floats in Oregon. On March 1, Western Rivers Conservancy conveyed two acres, including the Minam Store and 350 feet of river frontage, to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD).

Situated at the confluence of the Minam and Willowa Rivers, the Minam Store is a prized access point for river users, including anglers, hunters and especially boaters. The site is vital for reaching the majestic river canyon and launching multi-day family float trips on the Wild and Scenic Willowa and Grande Ronde Rivers.

The store sits adjacent to Minam State Recreation Area and OPRD has long sought to bring the property into public ownership. WRC stepped in to help and purchased the property in April 2011. OPRD's permanent stewardship of the Minam Store property will result in continued public access and a protected waterway for fish, wildlife and people. ■

*Conserving this site improves access to the Wild and Scenic Minam River canyon and complements nearby recreation opportunities.*





**WESTERN RIVERS  
CONSERVANCY**

www.westernrivers.org

## OUR MISSION

*Western Rivers Conservancy acts to protect outstanding river ecosystems in the western United States.*

*We acquire land to conserve critical habitat, provide public access for compatible use and enjoyment, and cooperate with other agencies and organizations to secure the health of whole ecosystems.*

## STAFF

Phillip Wallin, *President*

Sue Doroff, *Executive Vice President*

Alan Christensen,

*Senior Project Manager*

Jim Cox, *Director of Major Gifts*

Rob Griffith, *Corporate Counsel*

Juliette Harding, *Director of*

*Finance and Administration*

Josh Kling,

*Assistant Program Director*

Jennifer McCormick,

*Communications Director*

Rachel Roscoe,

*Communications Associate*

Anne Tattam,

*Development Coordinator*

Cam Tredennick,

*Senior Project Manager*

Everett White, *Project Manager*

David Wilkins,

*Development Director*

Willis Yarberry, *Director of the*

*Interior West and Federal Affairs*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jack Williams, *Chair, Medford, OR*

Nan McKay, *Vice Chair,*

*Seattle, WA*

Robert Anderson, *Treasurer*

*Corrales, NM*

Henry Little, *San Francisco, CA*

Peter Moyle, *Davis, CA*

Cleve Pinnix, *Olympia, WA*

Jon Roush, *Portland, OR*

Darcy Saiget, *White Salmon, WA*

Phillip Wallin, *Portland, OR*

Norb Wellman, *Director Emeritus*

*Portland, OR*

# Board of Directors Welcomes Two New Members

## Henry Little

*Partner, Applied Conservation*

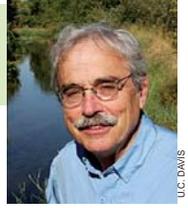
Henry Little enjoyed a long and distinguished career with The Nature Conservancy. Beginning in 1972, Henry directed TNC's Western Regional Office, established its Hawaii State Program, built and ran its International Program, and negotiated many of TNC's most exciting ecosystem-level projects in Idaho, California and elsewhere. Henry retired in 2010 and lives in San Francisco with his wife, Lydia Mendoza. He holds an AB in history from Hamilton College and an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.



## Peter Moyle

*Associate Director, Center for Watershed Science, U.C. Davis*

Peter Moyle is a nationally-recognized expert in fisheries science and the impacts of climate change on riparian ecosystems. He is the author or co-author of over 200 peer-reviewed publications and a member of American Fisheries Society and numerous professional organizations. Peter holds a BA and a PhD in zoology from the University of Minnesota and an MS in Conservation from Cornell University.



## Thank you for your support!

We'd like to thank the generous individuals, foundations, businesses and organizations that make our work possible. Recent gifts of \$100 and above are listed below. For a complete list, visit [www.westernrivers.org](http://www.westernrivers.org)

### Individuals

Raymond Adleman  
Mike Aldrich  
Randy Allworth and Julie Miles  
Mark Amrhein  
David and Lyn Anderson  
David Anderson  
Craig Anderson  
Lauren Anderson  
Lauri Aunan  
Peter Bahls and Judith Rubin  
Jerry Barnhart and Evelyn Rose  
Dutch Baughman  
Jay Beckstead  
Nathan Bennett  
Betsy and Walter Bennett  
Ennalls and Suzanne Berl  
Frederick Berry  
Keith Beverly  
Alexander Bing  
Lloyd Bland  
Bill Bogle  
Dave and Kay Boyce  
Thomas Brady  
Rebecca Bremner and Matthew Pigg  
Ann and Tim Brown  
Frederick Brune  
Fred Buckner  
Richard Cain  
Clayton and Nancy Campbell  
Clifford Canepa  
Robert Carlson  
William Carroll  
Robert Chittenden  
Yvon Chouinard  
Alan and Judy Christensen  
Ann Claassen  
Marvin Clemons  
James Coleman  
Dennis Collins  
Michael Contino  
Tom Cook  
Greg and Mary Jo Corrado  
Jim Cox and Brenda Nuckton

Ben Cravatt  
Michael Crawford  
Brewster and Rebecca Crosby  
Lettitia Cutforth  
Allen and Nancy Davis  
John Dirr  
Wayne Dockstader  
Robert Doggett  
Sue Doroff and Holly Duncan  
Dwight Doty  
Kay and Leo Drey  
Don Elder  
Steve Elsoe  
Aaron Enz  
Arthur and Margianne Erickson  
Craig and Sally Falkenhagen  
Kevin and Pam Fife  
Bruce Forsythe  
Dan and Sheri Foster  
Anthony Gades  
Bill and Ilse Gaede  
Fred and Karen Garmire  
Charles Gates  
Jim Genes  
Michael Gentry  
Richard Gerten  
Al Goldner  
Red Goodwin  
Debbie and George Grable  
Bill Graeber  
Bob Graham  
Robert Graham  
Meg Garman and Rob Griffith  
Katie Gonser and Ken Grossman  
Stephen Hadac  
Thomas Haensly  
Mike Hagen  
Gary Hahn  
Peter Haight  
Randy Hamann  
James Hanson  
Sarah Harman  
Jack and Susan Havens  
Marty Healy  
Nancy Hegg and Mitch Williams

Bill Henry  
Jim Hirzel  
Gregg Hofland  
John Holing  
Steven Hollowell  
Elizabeth and Michael Hom  
Dennis Howard  
Ed and Vicki Igleheart  
Justin Isle  
Grant James  
Ed Morrison  
Paul Jennings  
Jim Johnson  
John Johnson  
Ray Johnson  
Frederick Johnson  
Ann Giesel and Malcolm Jollie  
Frank Kawasaki  
Art and Virginia Kayser  
Patrick Kelley  
Dick and Sue Kellogg  
Jan and Jon Kellogg  
Brian Kenkman  
Mark King  
Robert Kirk  
Simon Klevansky  
Polly Koenigsnecht  
Joseph Koenigsnecht  
David Kwolek  
Leslie and Randy Labbe  
Russell Leavitt  
Dexter Levandoski  
Robert Lew  
Brian Light  
Abe Lillard  
Henry Little  
Jon Lund  
Bill Macdonald  
Carter and Jennifer MacNichol  
Kelly Maher  
Kris Maier  
Richard Marantz  
Kevin Marshall and Sigrid Olsen  
Travis Mason  
Dennis McCann  
John and Nancy McCormick

Jill and Peter McDonald  
Nancy McKay  
James and Jan McRoberts  
Gregg and Kathleen Melton  
Gregg Messel  
Edward and Kirsten Meyer  
Linda and Mat Millenbach  
Rod Miller  
Karen and Rolf Mogster  
Douglas Morell  
Ed Morrison  
N. James Morse  
Taree Muller  
Dorcas Adkins and Patricia Munoz  
Dennis and Kathleen Muzzana  
Dick Neuman  
William Nevins  
Gary and Marion Nitchmann  
Sylvia Novak  
Bob and Yvonne Olinger  
Dennis Olson  
William Osher  
Steve Green and Heather Palonder  
Greg Parker  
Michael Patterson  
Katherine Pellow  
Kenneth Pepper  
Dennis Phelps  
Cleve and Marty Pinnix  
Harry Piper  
Kim Pittenger  
Ron Post  
Valerie Rapp  
Craig Reynolds  
Chris Rich  
Dane Richardson  
Ronald Rodgers  
Anya Roles  
Joyce Chinn and Jon Roush  
James Rowen  
Darcy and Dave Saiget  
Jon Sanchez  
Jim Sandoz  
Jake Sapirstein  
Russ Schnitzer

Steven Schroeder  
Charles Scott  
Brian Shafer  
David Shannon  
David Skaar  
Karen Seymour and Blake Smith  
Robert Smith  
Craig Sosey  
Ken Spearing  
Jerry Spring  
Timothy Steidle  
Ian and Nicole Stewart  
James Street  
Gari Stroh  
John Sullivan  
Jonny Andre Svensli  
Christopher Taylor  
Carson Taylor  
Terry Thomas  
Gary Thompson  
Felicia and Liam Thornton  
Cathy and Peter Ironquet  
Marc Umeda  
Stephen Verigin  
Paul Wagner  
Keith and Lori Warren  
Eric Weitz  
Norb and Ann Wellman  
Linton Wildrick  
Serena Crawford and David Wilkins  
Cindy Deacon Williams and Jack Williams  
Joe and Marilyn Williams  
Heggie and Julie Wilson  
Niki Thommen and Greg Wright  
James Wright  
Phyllis Yes  
Douglas and Jennifer Yoshida  
Chuck Yuva  
Robert Zasoski

### Foundations

The William M. Brod Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation

Carolyn Foundation  
The Collins Foundation  
The Dabney Point Fund of the Seattle Foundation  
Cecil W. and Sally Anne Drinkward Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation  
Margaret Watt Edwards Foundation  
The Jackson Foundation  
George F. Jewett Foundation  
The Keneda Fund  
Giles W. and Elise G. Mead Foundation  
M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Prairie Foundation  
Ray-Griffin Foundation  
Carol and Velma Saling Foundation  
Schamp Family Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation  
Smith/Welsh Foundation  
Wiancko Charitable Foundation

### Businesses & Organizations

Bainbridge Island Fly Fishers  
Boeing  
Chico Area Flyfishers  
Clark-Skamanian Flyfishers  
Columbia Basin Fly Casters  
ExxonMobil  
The Freshwater Trust  
Gallatin International LLC  
Intermountain West Joint Venture  
New Water Media LLC  
Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds  
Rose City Mortgage  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
The Standard  
Tactics.com