

RIVERLANDS

News from Western Rivers Conservancy

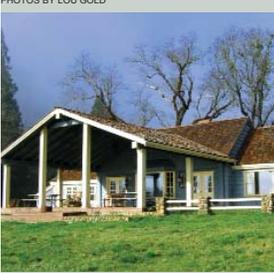
Issue 7

Summer 2005



PHOTOS BY LOU GOLD

Above: Deer Creek, tributary to the Illinois River in southern Oregon.



Left: A ranch house on the property will serve as headquarters for a research and educational facility.

Ranch Along Oregon's Deer Creek will be Dedicated to Conservation, Research

Oregon's Wild and Scenic Illinois River valley will soon have a nationally significant center for ecological research, environmental education and riparian restoration.

Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) has signed an agreement to purchase an 870-acre ranch along Deer Creek, a major tributary to the Illinois River. The ranch will be set aside as a field research station and educational facility. Deer Creek is located in the heart of the Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion, an area of top-quality streams in southern Oregon and one of the richest and most diverse bioregions in the world.

WRC is working to acquire the site in partnership with a consortium of educational institutions that will manage and utilize the facility on Deer Creek:

“This will build southern Oregon's brain trust, its commitment to a pristine environment and a sustainable economy for generations to come – truly a rare opportunity!”

SUE PARRISH, SISKIYOU FIELD INSTITUTE

The Siskiyou Field Institute, Southern Oregon University, Humboldt State University (CA) and Rogue Community College.

“This site will allow Siskiyou Field Institute to expand its cadre of field-based natural history courses to serve people aged six to eighty with comprehensive, year-round programs,” says Sue Parrish, Director of the Siskiyou Field Institute. “This will build southern

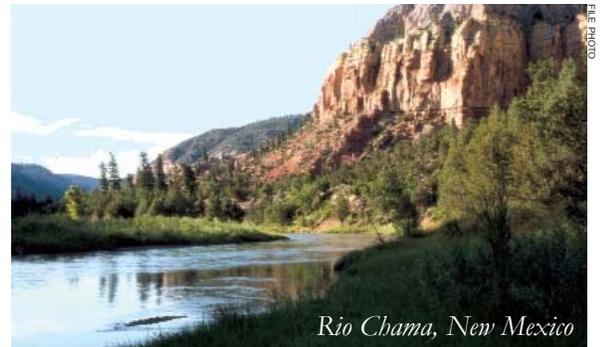
Please see Deer Creek, Back Page

WRC Charts Five-Year Strategy for Growth, Funding and Monitoring

LAUNCHING OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

Through the hard work of staff, Board and friends, Western Rivers Conservancy has just completed its new five-year strategic plan entitled “Great Rivers of the West.” The plan calls for a new approach to river conservation, one that focuses on the best remaining rivers, combines private and public resources, creates new forms of land stewardship, partners with corporate landowners and results in the protection of whole river ecosystems.

Since 1988, Western Rivers Conservancy has built a record of success in the Pacific Northwest. We have purchased over 45,000 acres of land on some of the most outstanding rivers in Washington, Oregon, Montana and California. We have shown that a lean, highly skilled, highly focused



Rio Chama, New Mexico

We need sanctuaries representing the full range of river ecosystems, from temperate rainforest to Sonoran desert.

organization can accomplish dramatic results. Now it is time to begin expanding, slowly and strategically, into the other regions of the West.

The “Great Rivers of the West” program is built

Please see Strategic Plan, Next Page



Western Rivers
CONSERVANCY

MAIN OFFICE

71 SW Oak St.
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 241-0151
(503) 241-0374 fax

CALIFORNIA OFFICE

313 N. Main St., Ste. C
Sebastopol, CA 95472
(707) 823-5845
(707) 823-3876 fax

www.westernrivers.org



Our current priority areas. In the next five years, we will expand strategically to other regions of the West.

Strategic Plan, Continued

on nine major initiatives (see box below).

By 2010, Western Rivers Conservancy plans to have all these elements in place so that we can begin to implement our program across the West. The challenge is to mobilize private and public resources to create a series of major sanctuaries on our best western rivers, from the Northwest rainforest to the Sonoran desert, where native fish, wildlife and people can flourish. ■

Western Rivers Conservancy's Strategic Plan, "Great Rivers of the West," is Built on Nine Major Initiatives

- ▶ Survey the 13 western states to identify the 100 most outstanding river ecosystems.
- ▶ Create major sanctuaries on rivers of the highest quality by acquiring critical habitat lands. Where possible, conserve the whole river from source to mouth.
- ▶ Focus our efforts on eight ecoregions that are especially rich in high-quality rivers.
- ▶ Create private, non-profit "River Trusts" to be long-term land stewards and river protectors.
- ▶ Use creativity to achieve maximum leverage in land purchases, assembling capital from numerous sources, both private and public.
- ▶ Build a \$10 million revolving River Protection Fund to help us seize land purchase opportunities.
- ▶ Partner with selected corporations with extensive land holdings, such as utilities and timber companies.
- ▶ Monitor the quality of our results over the long term.
- ▶ Build a stronger Board, staff and infrastructure to implement this ambitious plan.

WRC Makes First Conveyance of Land to Hoh River Trust

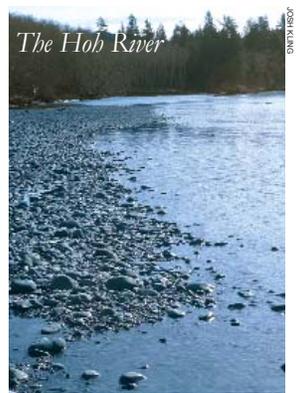
A UNIQUE RIVER ORGANIZATION GETS ON ITS FEET

The Hoh River project has taken a critical and exciting step as Western Rivers Conservancy has conveyed 3,400 acres to the Hoh River Trust, the organization that will manage the lands in perpetuity.

The Hoh River flows pristine out of the Olympic National Park, hosting some of the finest runs of wild Pacific salmon and steelhead. WRC has been working since 2001 to purchase lands along the Hoh's thirty-mile unprotected lower stretch to create a corridor for recreation and conservation extending the length of the river ecosystem.

WRC has partnered with Rayonier Timberlands to conserve all of the company's Hoh River lands – 4,500 acres. In the next phase, we hope to acquire about 2,000 acres from Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo and Company (GMO). We now seek federal funding for 1,200 additional acres to be conveyed to the Hoh River Trust, an organization we co-founded with the Wild Salmon Center. The Trust is now the largest private landowner on the Hoh – with critical habitat along fifteen river and stream miles valued at over \$6 million.

WRC and the Wild Salmon Center are building a strong staff and Board of Directors for the Trust with local participation, ensuring that the land will be managed for ecosystem protection and compatible public access. ■



The Hoh River

With Dam Removal in Sight, More Sandy Riverlands Set Aside

117 ACRES SLATED FOR CONSERVATION

Our project to create a refuge on the Sandy River continues to steam ahead as Western Rivers Conservancy will convey another parcel to the public this summer. The forested, 117-acre tract follows a scenic ridge called Devil's Backbone – an ideal spot for a future hiking trail. This will bring the riverlands conserved to date to 2,257 acres along the Sandy and Little Sandy Rivers, including scenic gorges, class-IV whitewater and excellent habitat for wild salmon.

Conserving these lands is all the more exciting as we approach Portland General Electric's removal of two dams in the basin in 2007-2008 to make the Sandy and Little Sandy free-flowing for the first time since

the early 1900s.

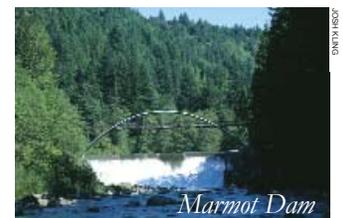
Portland General Electric is also donating 1,500 acres to the project, including 750 acres to date.

WRC is acquiring 3,000 intervening acres to create a seventeen-mile river conservation corridor. The land is being conveyed to the Bureau of Land Management and designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Our assemblage of 4,500 total acres of land for conservation, coupled with the dam removals, will help recover a great wild fishery and outdoor playground like no other near a major city. ■



Woody debris creates a haven for wild salmon along the Sandy River, just outside of Portland, Oregon.



Marmot Dam

BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROFILE

ANDREW MILLER

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

In his first year on Western Rivers Conservancy's Board of Directors, Andrew Miller has already taken an important role in guiding the organization's corporate partnerships and strategic planning.



Andrew Miller, CEO, Stimson Lumber Company

Andrew is President and CEO of Stimson Lumber Company, based in Portland, Oregon. Stimson is one of the oldest, continuously operating forest products companies in the U.S., with roots

dating back to the 1850s in Michigan. A member of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Stimson now owns over 400,000 acres of resource lands and fourteen manufacturing facilities in Oregon, Washington, Montana and Idaho.

With his leadership in the forest products industry, Andrew brings with him insight on timberlands and markets that are critical to many of WRC's river conservation transactions.

"To make deals that conserve riverlands, we have to understand what works for landowners," says WRC President Phil Wallin. "Andrew brings that sensitivity to the organization."

Western Rivers Conservancy's market-based approach to conservation lends itself well to partnerships with forest products companies, Andrew says. He feels that the outlook is good for environmental organizations like WRC to forge new relationships with the industry and overcome traditional, adversarial roles.

Andrew grew up fishing Montana streams with his father and grandfather. He has three daughters and a son, and lives in Portland. ■

NEWS FLASH: Federal Funding Clears Another Hurdle!

Excellent news just came from Congress: The Senate has earmarked \$1 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for our Goose Creek Project, and \$1.6 million for the Sandy River Project! Your letters to Congress continue to help us secure this funding. Visit www.westernrivers.org to write a letter of support. ■

WRC AWARDS SENATOR FEINSTEIN IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



WRC's Vice President Sue Doroff (along with her daughter, Zoe) recognized California Senator Dianne Feinstein in April for her work to bring funding to the Goose Creek Project. Also presenting the award were Brian Stranko, Director of CalTrout, and Anne Marie Bakker, President of the Golden West Women Flyfishers of California.

WRC Set to Complete First Purchase on Goose Creek

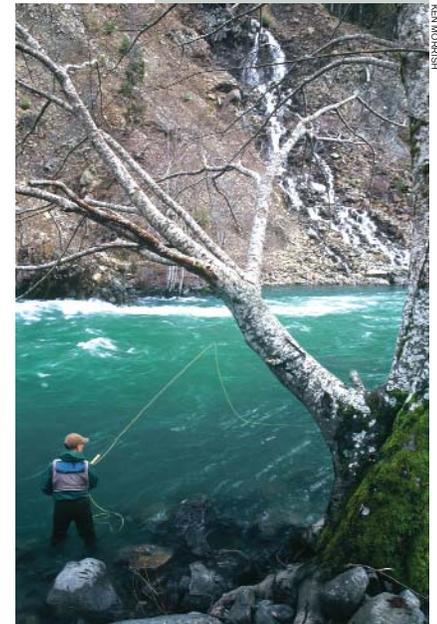
SMITH RIVER, CALIFORNIA

In an exciting development for the Goose Creek Project, Western Rivers Conservancy has moved to complete our first purchase of land with the goal of protecting all 9,483 acres of private ownership in the Goose Creek watershed on California's Redwood Coast. This purchase of about 3,800 acres covers nearly half of the total project lands. We plan to buy the balance of the property next year from the owner, Green Diamond Resource Company.

Goose Creek is the largest and most important contributor to the pristine water quality of the Smith River. As the last major undammed river in California, the Smith is one of the healthiest large river ecosystems in the state. Its clear, cold waters flow through redwood and Douglas fir forests, supporting California's healthiest wild runs of chinook salmon, steelhead and coastal cutthroat trout.

Working with our partners, the Smith River Alliance and California Trout, we have secured \$2.1 million from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund that will allow the U.S. Forest Service to purchase the first phase of lands and incorporate them into the existing Smith River National Recreation Area.

Once part of the National Recreation Area, Goose Creek will be an important destination for angling, back country camping, hiking, mountain biking and whitewater kayaking. ■



The Smith River's crystalline waters are home to the healthiest wild salmon runs in California.

Support us Online!

Support Rivers Today!		<input type="button" value="Contribute!"/>
\$250 River otter		
\$35 Cutthroat trout		
\$50 Harlequin duck		
\$100 Sockeye salmon		
\$250 River otter		
\$500 Coho salmon		
\$1,000 Roosevelt elk		
\$2,500 Steelhead trout		
\$5,000 Black bear		
\$10,000 Chinook salmon		
Other		

www.westernrivers.org



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 for compatible public use and enjoyment and cooperate with other agencies and organizations to secure the health of the whole ecosystem.

MAIN OFFICE

71 SW Oak Street
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 241-0151
(503) 241-0374 fax

CALIFORNIA OFFICE

313 N. Main Street, Ste. C
Sebastopol, CA 95472
(707) 823-5845
(707) 823-3876 fax

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Phillip Wallin, *President*
Sue Doroff, *Vice President*
Hannah Davidson, *Director of Finance & Administration*
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Russ Pinto, *California Director*
David Wilkins, *Development Director*
Jenny Andrews, *Communications Manager*

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Deer Creek, Continued

Oregon's brain trust, its commitment to a pristine environment and a sustainable economy for generations to come – truly a rare opportunity!”

The Deer Creek Ranch is strategically located near biological “hot spots” for research and education, including Eight Dollar Mountain, the Illinois River and the Squaw Creek watershed. Forested lands include bogs that host an abundance of the carnivorous *Darlingtonia californica* (cobra lily), as well as other rare plants and animals. A ranch house, once frequented by actor John Wayne, on the scenic property will lend itself well to the program. Water rights for the irrigated fields are some of the most senior on Deer Creek.

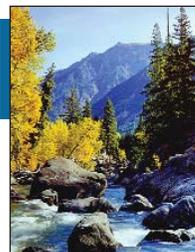
A private foundation in Atlanta, Georgia has committed a \$3 million challenge grant to fund the project. Western Rivers Conservancy will



Deer Creek Ranch

purchase the Deer Creek Ranch this fall and convey it to a permanent steward, likely the Siskiyou Field Institute, in 2006.

The Illinois River valley struggles with such issues as logging, mining and the aftermath of the huge Biscuit Fire while it tries to rebuild its economy around ecotourism. The educational programs offered at Deer Creek Ranch will help connect the local community with the ecological treasure that lies in its backyard. ■



GIVE THE WORLD THE GIFT OF RIVERS!

Support the Work of Western Rivers Conservancy

Our operations are made possible by recent gifts from the people, foundations, businesses and organizations listed below. They are funding our work on the Hoh, the Sandy, the Smith and other great western rivers. They are getting real, tangible results for their investment. We are grateful to each and every one of them. **Thank you!**

INDIVIDUALS

Lauri Auman	Charles Esler	Joanne and Pat Knowles	Andrew Piper	Phil Wallin
Doug Ballinger	Eva and Donald Estberg	Pamela Kromer	Daniel Platter	Dr. J. V. Ward
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