



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.

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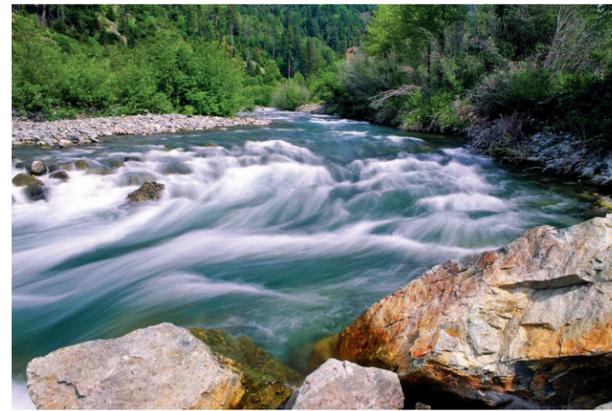
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KLAMATH RIVER, CONTINUED

and implementing a no-herbicide-use policy, the Yurok Tribe will improve the quality of water flowing into the Klamath from three tributaries: Pecwan, Weitchpec and Ke'pel Creeks. Each of these sub-watersheds is important to Klamath salmon and steelhead. By reintroducing fire into forest management, the Tribe will restore meadows that traditionally supported subsistence hunting and gathering.

This milestone completes the first phase of the project. Now, we move to the next phase: protecting the entire lower watershed of Blue Creek. One of the most productive tributaries in the Klamath Basin, Blue Creek is also sacred to the Yurok people. All migrating Klamath River salmon and



We've already begun work on the next phase of the project to preserve the entire watershed of Blue Creek.

steelhead hold at the mouth of the Blue Creek, which is a crucial refuge when main-stem water temperatures rise to lethal levels. In the face of climate change, preserving Blue Creek is both a safety net and a key to recovering the Klamath's legendary fish runs. ■



Thank you for your support!

We'd like to thank the generous individuals, foundations, businesses and organizations that make our work possible. Recent gifts are listed below. For a complete list, visit www.westernrivers.org

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- Michael Aamio, Thomas Allen, Steve Altschuld and Bonnie Boone-Altschuld, Robert and Susan Anderson, Tod Asmusen, Jerry Barnhart and Evelyn Rose, John Barrett, John Baughn, Frederick Berry, Gene Biddinger, Eric and Karin Bigler, Michael Bland, Melva and Shawn Boles, Don Bolstad, Thomas Brady, John Brinkley, Ann and Tim Brown, Joan and Mason Browne, Franklin and Linda Browne, John Bruce, Martin Bumstead, David Burdick, Eugene Butler, Norman Christensen, Kent Clausen, Gloria and Michael Cowan, Jim Cox and Brenda Nuckton, Paul D'Amato, Stephen Darling, Michael Davis, John Dirr, Sue Doroff and Holly Duncan, Gary and Georgianne Duback, Lou and Sandra Duncan, Fred Dustman, Don Elder, Larrie Elhart, Dave and Nancy Ellis, Norval Fairman, Alex Ferber, Gregory Flannery, Charles and Zoe Foster, James Fox, Clint Frahler, Jonah Freedman, Charles and Roberta Frumerie, George Gale, J. Edward Gallant, Kevin Garry, Paul Gerrie, Kirk Giloth, David Godfrey, Charla and Martin Gold, Geoffrey Gouette, Gary Grayson, James Grieve, Richard Hall, Eleanor and Robert Hammond, Kevin and Nicole Hanson, John Hartmann, Bill Henry, Steven Hollowell, George Hudson, Michael Hughes, Lee Jester, Lawrence Jordan, Edward Kane, Susan Knight and Glenn Lamb, Peter Krohn, Leslie and Randy Labbe, Gary Leaverton, Alyssa Leggoe, Robert Lew, Jon Lund, James Luskay, Charlotte Magelssen, Kris Maier, Dean Malenic, Kevin Marshall and Sigrid Olsen, James Marshall, Travis Mason, Barclay Mason, Craig and Jackie Mathews, Michael McDevitt, Byron McFarland, David McKinney, Patrick and Rebecca McRae, Mike Melchior, Mark Metzdorff, E. Geoffrey Meyer, Whitney Miller, John Morris, Ed Morrison, Jim Nasman, David Nelson, William Nevins, Bonnie and Tim Newman, Pat and Wally Nowak, Stanley Ohara, Robert Ornstein, Jeffery and Karen Parnall, Gregory and Myra Parrott, Doyle Pasley, William Pearcy, Joyce Pettijohn, Cleve and Marty Pinnix, Peggy Jewell and Mark Pirak, Cindy and Daniel Platter, Andrea and Malcolm Powell, Peter Priepeke, Douglas Rathkamp and Amy Wheat, Pamela Reagan, Dane Richardson, Curt and Marybeth Ries, Lee Rusconi, Thomas Sadoris, Kathryn Ordway and James Sadler, Brian Sanda, Louise Criswell and Jim Sandoz, David Satterlee, Mark Scantlebury, Russ Schnitzer, Charles Scott, Kurt Sherwood, Craig Smith, Jerry Spring, Ronald Steenerson, Jeffery Steffens, Judi Stewart, Joe Strohmaier, Chris Stromsness, Jonny Andre Svensli, Ryan Swanson, Anne Tattam, Terry Thomas, David Thomas, Niki Thommen and Greg Wright, Ralph Tiedeman, Tom Toretta, Kris Tucker, Eleanor and Peter van Alderwerelt, Dave Waldron, Larry Ward, Dr. J. V. Ward, Arthur Warner, Erick Watson, Andrew Weiner, Norb and Ann Wellman, Effie Westervelt, Darren Wiese, Corey Wiggins, Linton Wildrick, Richard Wilkens, Cindy Deacon Williams and Jack Williams, James Wright, Horizons Foundation, Jubitz Family Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Carol and Velma Saling Foundation, Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust, The Conservation Alliance, EcoUnit, Jeppesen, My Own Labels, New Water Media LLC, Oracle Corporation, Rising LLC, Sierra Nevada Brewing Co., The Standard, Union Bank, Union Pacific Foundation, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Pheasants Forever, Portland Metro Chapter, Rainland Fly Casters, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, United Way of Jackson Co.

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- The Conservation Alliance, EcoUnit, Jeppesen, My Own Labels, New Water Media LLC, Oracle Corporation, Rising LLC, Sierra Nevada Brewing Co., The Standard, Union Bank, Union Pacific Foundation

Agencies & Organizations

- Intermountain West Joint Venture, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Pheasants Forever, Portland Metro Chapter, Rainland Fly Casters, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, United Way of Jackson Co.

Foundations

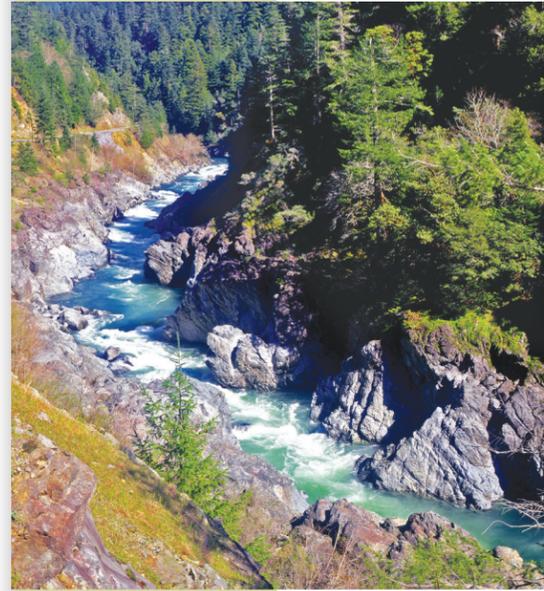
- Stephen Bechtel Fund, Burch-Safford Foundation, Flyfisher Foundation, Foundation for Sustainability and Innovation, The Hayes Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation



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NEWS FROM WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY



In partnership with the Yurok Tribe, we've completed protection of more than 22,000 acres on the lower Klamath.

Victory on the Klamath!

After more than six years of hard work, Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) and the Yurok Tribe closed the purchase of more than 22,000 acres along the lower Klamath River in April.

The achievement is an enormous conservation accomplishment. The purchase protects more than 34 square miles of coastal forests that shelter cold side streams flowing into the Klamath. This is WRC's largest conservation effort to date.

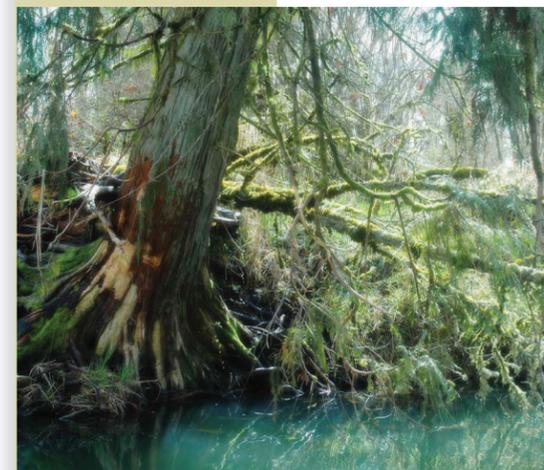
Key habitat for seven fish species – including coho (a listed Threatened species) and Chinook salmon, steelhead, coastal cutthroat and rainbow trout – is now protected. The property is also home to other

CALIFORNIA'S NORTH COAST

federally-listed species, such as the marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, Humboldt marten and mardon skipper, a rare butterfly species, all of which will benefit greatly from the acquisition.

The land, purchased from Green Diamond Resource Company, is now in the stewardship of the Tribe, which has cared for the lower Klamath River since time immemorial. This project more than doubles the Tribe's ancestral land holdings and establishes the Yurok Tribal Community Forest. By limiting road-building, increasing forest diversity, setting aside carbon reserves

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WRC will acquire two miles of North Santiam River frontage with rich off-channel habitat.

Project Launched on North Santiam River

Western Rivers is expanding its efforts in the Willamette Valley by committing to purchase nearly 350 acres on the North Santiam River, a major tributary of the Willamette River.

Historically, the North Santiam River was the largest producer of Willamette Basin winter steelhead and the source of approximately one-third of spring Chinook salmon. Today, those runs are in danger. Both species are now listed as Threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Oregon Chub, a native resident fish, is also listed as Endangered in the Willamette Basin.

IMPORTANT WILLAMETTE TRIBUTARY

While the Willamette is highly degraded, some of the Basin's best remaining salmon, steelhead, trout and chub habitat is found in the North Santiam River below Big Cliff Dam. The North Santiam is also home to important resident populations of native Santiam cutthroat and rainbow trout.

The property, located near the town of Stayton, has more than two miles of North Santiam frontage and includes seven side channels and sloughs, as well as portions of

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Second Property Purchased on Bear River



ROB DALCHERTY / ROBSON DUNCAN

The millions of feathered visitors that congregate at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge eventually spread out over the hemisphere.



SHANE

land purchase in the Delta. In June, we bought the 600-acre Lucky Seven-Pintail Club, utilizing generous support from the Stephen Bechtel Fund. Our purchase secures immediate protection for these wetlands, which will now be restored to even greater health for species like tundra swan, black-necked stilt, snowy plovers and marbled godwits. WRC will convey the property to the USFWS to add to the refuge.

This most recent acquisition builds on WRC's 2010 conveyance of the nearby Feather and Finn property to the refuge. Together, these acquisitions enhance waterfowl habitat by protecting open water areas adjacent to grasslands and sheltered nesting sites. ■



JANE NAY

The property includes seven side channels lined by riparian forests that support healthy salmon habitat.

UTAH'S GREAT SALT LAKE ECOSYSTEM

The Bear River carries snow melt down from three Rocky Mountain states and supplies the Great Salt Lake with 60 percent of its fresh water. Where it meets the Great Salt Lake, the Bear River spreads in a vast delta. An oasis in the desert, these marshes provide resting areas and abundant food for more than 200 bird species migrating along the Pacific and Central Flyways between Mexico and Canada. The millions of feathered visitors that congregate here eventually spread out over the Western Hemisphere and beyond.

In 1929, the area was set aside as the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, signifying its global importance. Three years ago, Western Rivers Conservancy found several opportunities to expand the footprint of the 74,000-acre Refuge by acquiring adjacent wetlands in the Bear River Delta.

In partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Friends of the Bear River Refuge, WRC has made its second major

NORTH SANTIAM RIVER, CONTINUED

Dieckman Creek. Willows line the river, which is bounded by mature stand of black cottonwoods, big-leaf maples and red alders. The property contains intact wetland and complex native prairie, and has good floodplain habitat restoration opportunities.

Besides fish species, a number of at-risk or listed wildlife species have been documented here, 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.

Purchase and restoration of this land will be a big step forward for native fish and wildlife, and will aid recovery of listed species in the Willamette Basin. ■

Four More Miles of Gunnison Purchased



RICH DURMAN

The acquisition will expand the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area.

COLORADO PLATEAU

Western Rivers Conservancy purchased an additional four miles of Gunnison River frontage in May, which will help ensure the survival of rare desert fish.

The 403-acre property was threatened by gravel mining, but now will be protected within the surrounding Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (NCA). Keeping this stretch of waterway healthy and its habitats intact is critically important to four rare warm-water species: humpback and bonytail chub, Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker.

Given its importance, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has ranked this project as its number one national priority for conservation acquisition. Western Rivers Conservancy will hold the land until BLM acquisition funding is in place.

This purchase complements 131 acres that we recently bought several miles downstream, adjacent to the Bangs Canyon Special Recreation Management Area near Grand Junction. Both properties fill gaps in a nearly unbroken stretch of protected lands from the NCA to the Colorado National Monument. This reach of river also offers an exceptional gentle-water river float through stunning deep canyons. ■



RUSS SCHITZER

Plans Move Forward For New State Park

LOWER JOHN DAY RIVER, OREGON

We are one step closer to complete conservation of an important sixteen-mile stretch of the lower John Day River. Piece by piece, Western Rivers Conservancy is transferring the 16,000-acre Murtha Ranch to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) and forming Oregon's largest state park. In May and June, we conveyed an additional 1,500 acres to OPRD, with the final piece slated for conveyance in the next biennium.

When the Murtha family's ranch came on the market in 2008, WRC acted quickly to buy and protect this extraordinary, large block of sagebrush-steppe habitat – a landscape being fragmented elsewhere across the West.

Upon purchase, we took measures to bolster the John Day as the best remaining stronghold for mid-Columbia River summer steelhead, a Threatened species. We gave special attention to rehabilitating the lower three miles of Hay Creek, one of the only tributaries on the lower John Day where summer steelhead spawn and rear. In conjunction with fish rehabilitation, WRC initiated a comprehensive restoration strategy with partners, including treating hundreds of acres of noxious weeds and replanting native grasses and plants.

OPRD soon surfaced as an ideal long-term steward. They share our vision to protect sensitive and diverse habitats while enabling compatible public access for fishing, boating, hiking and hunting. The resulting Cottonwood Canyon State Park, slated to open in 2013, will bring to life WRC's initial vision of a wild conservation and recreation experience unparalleled in Oregon. ■



PETER MARRBACH

Western Rivers Conservancy has conveyed the second portion of the Murtha Ranch to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.