

# RIVERLANDS

News from Western Rivers Conservancy

Issue 6

Winter 2005



STOCK PHOTO

The Hoh is a legendary salmon stream on Washington's Olympic Peninsula.

## WRC Completes First Phase of Hoh River Acquisitions

FINAL RAYONIER PROPERTY PURCHASED

Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) has made its fourth and final purchase from Rayonier Timber Company along the Hoh River and completed its first phase of Hoh River acquisitions! We purchased a 1,000-acre property, known as the Hoh Oxbows, which includes a large swath of floodplain forest, the lower portion of a tributary called Anderson Creek and an important boating

access site known as Nolan Bar. WRC plans to maintain the launch site at Nolan Bar in order to ensure that the angling community has boating access on the lower Hoh.

Over the past three years, Western Rivers Conservancy has acquired 3,500 acres of Hoh riverlands from Rayonier. The Hoh Oxbows purchase brings WRC's total ownership in the Hoh River valley to 4,500 acres. We are now well over halfway to our goal of acquiring the 7,000 acres of corporate-owned riverlands in the Hoh valley. The lands purchased from Rayonier will be included in the Hoh River Conservation and Recreation Area and managed by the Hoh River Trust. ■



BUCK HEER

## Congress Appropriates More Than \$2 Million to Protect the Smith River

GOOSE CREEK ACQUISITION

Good news has just come from Congress for Western Rivers Conservancy's initiative to protect the Smith River of California, one of the critical strongholds for wild salmon in the lower forty-eight states.

In partnership with the Smith River Alliance, California Trout and the Six Rivers National Forest, WRC has succeeded in rallying statewide support for this project. The result: Congress has appropriated a little over \$2 million for

Please see Smith River, back page



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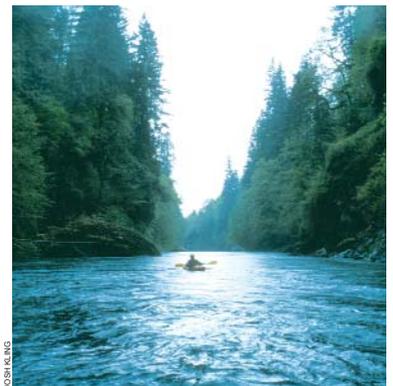
## In Hard Times, Sandy River Funding Prevails

\$1 MILLION APPROPRIATION

Congress has awarded the Sandy River a fifth appropriation in as many years from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The \$1 million appropriation brings the total appropriations since 2001 for the Sandy to \$9.1 million. This level of continued investment by the federal government indicates the great value of conserving fish

and wildlife habitat and creating recreational opportunities in the Sandy River basin, a treasured river just outside of Portland, Oregon.

Strong support from Oregon Senators Gordon Smith and Ron Wyden, as well as Representative Earl Blumenauer, has been instrumental in securing this funding. These continued appropriations are all the more impressive considering the



JOSEPH HARRIS

A kayaker on the Sandy River.

precipitous decline in funding for the LWCF. ■



*With scenic canyons, excellent fish habitat and class IV whitewater, the Sandy River is a sanctuary like no other in the vicinity of a major metropolitan area.*

## More Sandy River Land Added to Conservation Area

### FUTURE HIKING TRAIL

Western Rivers Conservancy will add another property to the emerging Sandy River conservation area, when we close our purchase of the Ten Eyck property in February and convey it to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The 131-acre tract, located between the Sandy River and Marmot Road, is critical in that it connects three other properties previously conserved by WRC. This purchase will allow a planned hiking trail to follow the north side of the Sandy along the entire length of the thirteen-mile-long conservation



*WRC is assembling a Conservation Corridor that will extend thirteen miles of the Sandy River and four miles of the Little Sandy.*

corridor. The Ten Eyck property has a scenic vista of the Sandy River canyon. From the top of the property, one can get a good sense of the canyon's size and the conservation corridor's scope. ■

## Forest on Devil's Backbone Protected

### HISTORIC OREGON TRAIL SITE

Portland General Electric has generously donated another property to Western Rivers Conservancy in the Sandy River basin. The forested, 120-acre parcel is located atop a high ridge known as the Devil's Backbone that divides the Sandy and Little Sandy River sub-basins.

The property contains mature and old-growth forest stands, as well as a small tributary to the Bull Run River. In addition, the parcel boasts cultural significance with the historic Oregon Trail located on the property's edge. The Oregon Trail followed the spine of the Devils' Backbone as it wound its way down to the Sandy River crossing at Revenue Bridge and onward to Oregon City. ■

## Garvey, Schubert and Barer's Legal Expertise Guides WRC

### OUR IN-KIND PARTNERS

Year after year and river after river, Western Rivers Conservancy has benefited from the legal expertise of the law firm of Garvey, Schubert and Barer (GSB). GSB is at the forefront of the legal field in charitable work — their attorneys spend ten percent of their time on pro bono services.

With offices in Portland and Seattle, among other cities, GSB works on the front lines of legal struggles important to the Northwest and its residents — issues involving the environment, business, real estate and the Pacific Rim.

For the past 14 years, GSB's attorneys have volunteered their time and skills for all of Western Rivers Conservancy's legal services. In Portland, the lead attorney for WRC is Rob Griffith. A lifelong Oregonian, Rob has always been drawn to our waters — fresh and salt water. Now an avid sea



GARVEY  
SCHUBERT  
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[www.gsblaw.com](http://www.gsblaw.com)

*“Saving our water and the habitats it supports is central to saving our environment.”*

—SARA SANDFORD, GSB

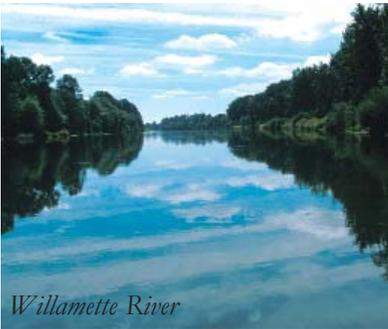
kayaker and fly fisherman, Rob feels fortunate to bring his expertise in business and real estate law to bear on WRC's conservation work. “I appreciate the beauty, solitude and power of watercourses,” Rob says. “Ensuring that many of those waterways will be preserved for my children and beyond is an important part of my connection with water.”

The lead attorney in Seattle for WRC's Washington projects is Sara Sandford. Specializing in international business law, Sara spent several years practicing law at a firm in Tokyo. She now facilitates Japanese-American commerce for clients on both sides of the Pacific.

*Please see GSB Law, back page*



*Rob Griffith (above) and Sara Sandford of Garvey, Schubert and Barer.*



## Willamette Floodplain Restoration Continues

### FIFTH FLOODPLAIN ACQUISITION

For the past century, agriculture and development in Oregon have diminished the Willamette River's broad floodplain, destroying wetland habitat that is key to preventing severe floods.

Fortunately, outstanding remnants of the natural floodplain persist in pockets along the river. Western Rivers Conservancy has been working for over a decade to reclaim these "relic areas" as anchors for a restored riverside greenway.

Now, in our fifth Willamette floodplain acquisition, WRC purchased a 27-acre property on the river, ten miles upstream of Corvallis, Oregon. With funding from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the land has been incorporated into the adjacent Sam Daws Bend State Park. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department will manage the property by phasing out farming and starting a native planting program.

The owner of this property, Mike Greenslade, is a generous supporter of WRC, pledging donations of land and funding for our projects. Together, we are working toward our long-term goal of reconnecting remnant channels of the floodplain in order to alleviate flooding, improve water quality, enhance salmon and wildlife habitat and provide a natural area for the public. ■

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROFILE

### CLEVE PINNIX

#### OUR NEW BOARD CHAIR

Recently elected chair of Western Rivers Conservancy's Board of Directors, Cleve Pinnix couldn't be more fired up about river protection.

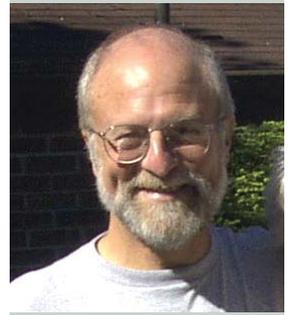
"I think the work the Conservancy is doing is really out there on the forefront," Cleve says about saving our healthiest rivers and taking a long-term view of the land. "I'm intrigued by the idea of taking the best of what's left and working in a systematic way to protect that."

During his long career of public service, Cleve blazed a trail of accomplishments from Capitol Hill to Mount Rainier. Cleve retired in 2002 after a decade as Director of the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission. He also served eight years on Capitol Hill as chief of staff for the U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee

that dramatically expanded our National Park System in the 1970s. In 1975, he helped Congress designate the New River in North Carolina as Wild and Scenic, protecting it from a hydropower project. "One of the best things I was ever associated with," he says.

But "retired" is certainly a misnomer for Cleve. While chairing WRC's Board, he is also active on the Board of the Washington State Parks Foundation and the executive committee of Washington's Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. "That's what's great about being retired," he says. "I get to spend time on things that I care about."

Cleve has a daughter, Julia, a son, Jack, and a granddaughter, Cassandra. He lives with his wife, Marty, in Olympia, Washington. ■



Cleve Pinnix

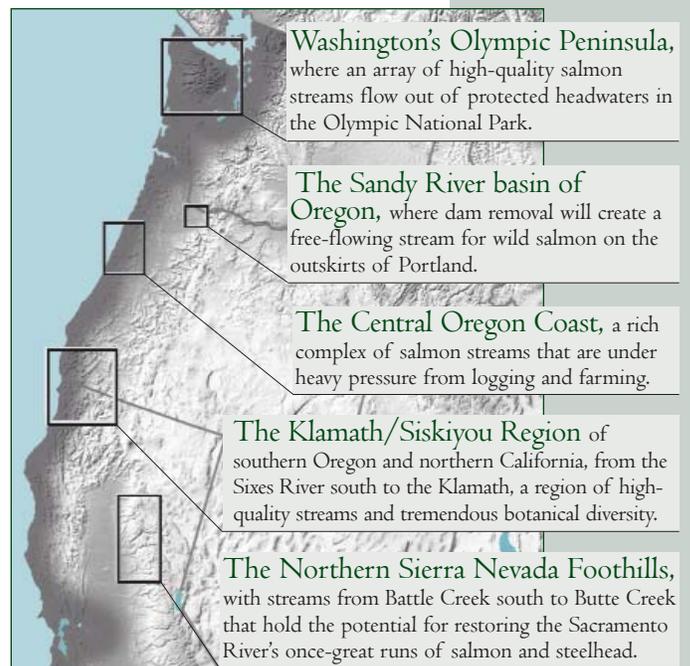
### Thanks, Jim!



Western Rivers Conservancy thanks Jim Lichtowich for serving as Chair of our Board of Directors since 2002. Jim continues to be our resident expert in fisheries biology.

## Priority Areas for Western Rivers Conservancy

Western Rivers Conservancy focuses its efforts on these five regions (right), each of which possesses a high concentration of intact stream ecosystems and biological diversity.



Learn more about Western Rivers Conservancy at our website:  
[www.westernrivers.org](http://www.westernrivers.org)



## Western Rivers CONSERVANCY

www.westernrivers.org

### OUR MISSION

*The mission of Western Rivers Conservancy is to protect outstanding river ecosystems in the western United States, primarily through land acquisition.*

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### STAFF

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Jenny Andrews, *Communications Associate*

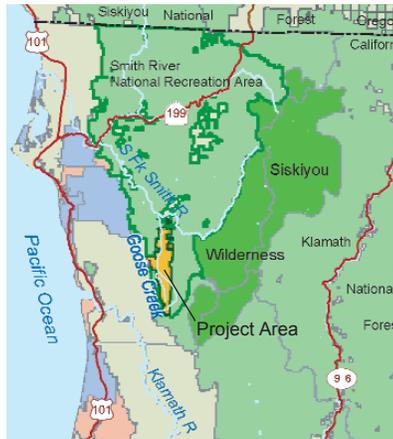
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### Smith River, Continued

the U.S. Forest Service to buy the first portion of Goose Creek. This first purchase will likely occur in June 2005. With luck, the remaining land will follow a year later, protecting Goose Creek and with it the pure waters of the Smith River.

Flowing through the redwood forests of California's north coast, the Smith is California's only major undammed river. While the mainstem Smith flows primarily through protected state and national parks and wilderness, most of the watershed of Goose Creek, the Smith's largest tributary, is owned by a Seattle-based timber group, Green Diamond Resource Company. Working cooperatively with Green Diamond, WRC has made a deal to buy all 9,483 acres of private land in the Goose Creek watershed. Our purchase will remove the danger of landslides and erosion from logging Goose Creek's steep, unstable slopes. ■



*Our project on Goose Creek will conserve one of the last major inholdings in the Smith River National Recreation Area.*



## GIVE THE WORLD A 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!*

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*Please consider giving to Western Rivers Conservancy so that we can accelerate our river conservation efforts. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to our office in Portland. Please visit our website, www.westernrivers.org, or call David Wilkins, Development Director, at (503) 241-0151 for more information.*