

RIVERLANDS

News from Western Rivers Conservancy

Issue 12

Winter 2007

Key Wildlife Area Conserved on Beaver Creek

Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) is working to preserve an exceptional wetland and wildlife area that is part of the Sol Duc River system on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. Beaver Creek, Beaver Lake and the surrounding marsh encompass an area of old-growth forests, riparian habitat and wetlands that support a wealth of sensitive species. The lake drains through a narrow gorge that terminates at Beaver Falls, a spectacular cascade that is impassable to migrating salmon. From here, Beaver Creek contributes cold, clean flows to the superlative water quality of the Sol Duc River.

WATER QUALITY IN THE SOL DUC RIVER BASIN



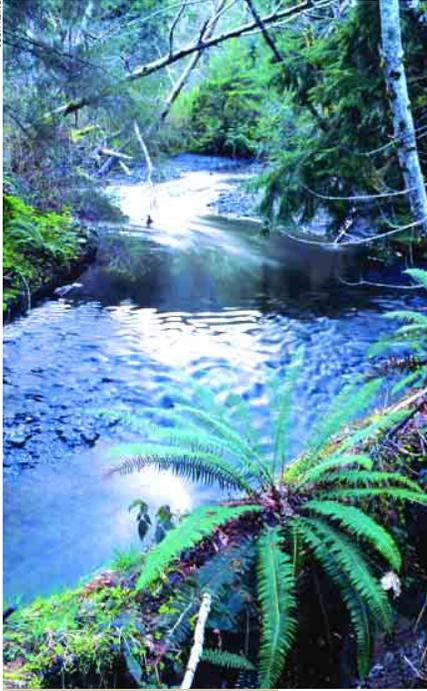
TOM HAMER / HAMER ENVIRONMENTAL

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY FORESTRY

ensure the area will remain high-quality habitat for a long list of species including: marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, bald eagle, trumpeter swan, harlequin duck, heron, northern river otter, beaver and numerous reptiles and amphibians. Many of these species are on federal and state endangered, threatened or sensitive lists. The marsh is habitat for the sensitive Olympic mud minnow, landlocked sockeye salmon (kokanee), cutthroat trout and yellow perch.

With the support of Congressman Norm Dicks, the land will become part of the surrounding Olympic National Forest, preserving designated Critical Habitat for marbled murrelets.

Beaver Lake is skirted by the Burnt Mountain Highway, which offers easy visitor access and includes a boat launch, several picnic areas and hiking trails. ■



JOSH KLING

Cold Creek (above) flows into Beaver Lake, supporting a wealth of wildlife together with the surrounding marsh.

Right: marbled murrelet and northern river otter.

In December 2006, WRC purchased 424 acres of timberlands from Rayonier that includes all of Beaver Lake, a large portion of Beaver Creek, the surrounding marsh and the lower course of a tributary, Cold Creek. This complements 213 acres WRC purchased in the upper part of the marsh in the first phase of this project in 1997. These are exciting acquisitions that

On the Hood River, WRC Buys Punch Bowl Falls Property

CRITICAL CONFLUENCE POINT

In November 2006, Western Rivers Conservancy was the successful bidder at an auction for a 20-acre property at the confluence of the West and East Forks of the Hood River, the site of Punch Bowl Falls. Just 12 miles from the city of Hood River, Oregon, this forested tract provides easy access to view the waterfall and the beautiful columnar basalt cliffs that surround it. WRC will convey the land to a long-term steward for fish and wildlife habitat protection and compatible public recreational access.

This is Western Rivers Conservancy's first land

Please see Hood River, page 2



PHIL MARRASCH

The conserved property lies at the confluence of the East and West Forks of the Hood River, a scenic access point with a healthy riparian forest and basalt cliffs.



**WESTERN RIVERS
CONSERVANCY**

SOMETIMES
TO SAVE A RIVER,
YOU HAVE TO BUY IT.

71 SW Oak Street
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www.westernrivers.org

Pick up a Pen to Support the Smith River!

Western Rivers Conservancy, California Trout and the Smith River Alliance need your help to protect the source waters of California's last major undammed river, the Smith. Western Rivers Conservancy is in the process of acquiring 9,500 acres of private land in the watershed of Goose Creek, the Smith's largest tributary. In December 2006, WRC acquired another 3,800 acres along Goose Creek, a great stride forward for the project. When it is complete, the acquisition will preserve Goose Creek as a haven for wild salmon, steelhead and endangered species, and as a year-round source of cold, clear water for the Smith.

We now need to secure federal funding for the U.S. Forest Service to purchase the land from

WRITE A LETTER

Visit www.westernrivers.org for guidelines on writing cards and letters to the California Congressional delegation.

Western Rivers Conservancy and incorporate Goose Creek into the Smith River National Recreation Area. In this effort, WRC is working with its partners: California Trout, the Smith River Alliance, Green Diamond Resource Company, the Six Rivers National Forest and Del Norte County.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Letters to Congress from concerned citizens can help secure an appropriation to fund this important acquisition. Please write the Congressional delegation now and help us to protect the future of California's finest wild river ecosystem. You can find a template to write your letter at www.westernrivers.org. Your time and effort can make a huge difference. **Thank you!** ■

Hood River, Continued

purchase on the Hood River as part of a larger initiative to restore the river to health. In 2010, PacifiCorp will dismantle the only dam on the main stem Hood River, removing the primary barrier to salmon and steelhead. In conjunction with dam removal, many conservation partners have come to the table with the Hood River's best interests in mind. WRC and partners envision that the Hood River can be conserved in its natural state, protecting important fish and wildlife habitat and providing new opportunities for people to enjoy the river.

In the adjacent Sandy River basin, WRC is acquiring thousands of acres to complement another dam removal in that watershed. We envision a similar model for the Hood River, acquiring high-quality riparian lands to establish permanent sanctuaries for salmon and at-risk species on all three forks of the Hood. Working with landowners and the many groups already involved in Hood River restoration, we hope to create a lasting legacy of conservation in the basin that will benefit not only fish and wildlife, but the community and its many visitors as well. ■

WRC Buys Winchuck River Tract



In late October 2006, WRC purchased 43 acres in the Winchuck River basin, home to many of Oregon's last redwood groves. The Winchuck is an important coastal fishery just north of the Oregon-California border. ■



Goose Creek flows into the South Fork Smith River, supplying critical coldwater flows.



The West Fork Hood River above Punch Bowl Falls.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROFILE

NAN MCKAY

CARING FOR PEOPLE AND LANDSCAPES

Nan McKay manages the Environmental Sustainability Program for the Russell Family Foundation in Gig Harbor, Washington. At the heart of her work is valuing people, their ideas, and their strengths and abilities to create a better world. Nan has applied this to a worthy list of causes, including water quality, energy conservation, mental health, education, sustainable business practices and land use.



Nan McKay

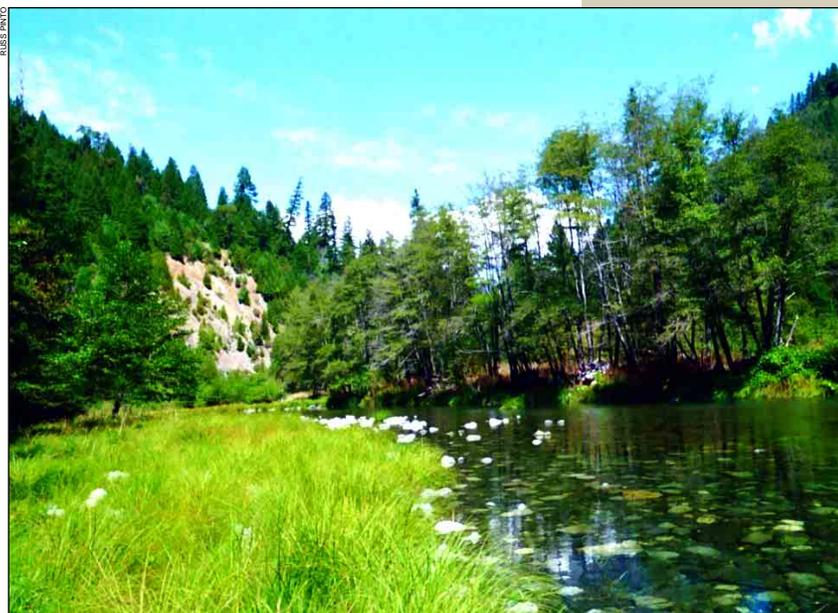
Nan was instilled with a love of wild places from an early age, growing up in Fort Wayne, Indiana, with what her family called a “ravine” full of native plants and a creek in her backyard. Summer vacations were spent at the lakes and rivers of northern Michigan. Nan lived on the East Coast for a time before finally coming to the Pacific Northwest, where she felt right at home.

Nan worked for the League of Oregon Cities on issues ranging from juvenile justice to land use, and later as Energy Project Coordinator for the city and county associations in Washington state. In 1985, she became Deputy Director of a new state agency – the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority. She worked for three governors, as Executive Director of the Authority and as Chair of the Puget Sound Action Team until joining The Russell Family Foundation in 2002.

The Foundation is bringing a number of exciting projects to life. Nan is enthused by the Foundation’s work on sustainable communities and its work to infuse sustainability into practices and curricula at schools and colleges in western Washington. She is also stewarding a Foundation initiative to create ten new natural areas and restore 100 miles along Puget Sound’s shoreline.

Nan was elected to Western Rivers Conservancy’s Board in January 2006, and is a member of the Development Committee.

“Nan is above all a connector,” said WRC President Phil Wallin. “She strengthens Western Rivers Conservancy by putting us in touch with people in the activist world, the foundation world and the political world who can help us accomplish our mission of conserving rivers.” ■



Critical Spawning Reach Along South Fork Trinity Purchased

SAVING SALMON FROM SEDIMENT LOADING

In November 2006, Western Rivers Conservancy purchased a property on the South Fork Trinity River centered on an exceptionally productive spawning reach for spring chinook salmon. Among all the Klamath River’s tributaries, the South Fork Trinity is host to one of only two surviving runs of native spring chinook, and this half-mile stretch fosters some of the best spawning conditions for this run. The 170-acre property is an inholding within the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, and also supports important steelhead habitat.

Arguably the primary threat to fish runs along this reach is erosion caused by logging and development along steep, adjacent slopes. For decades, excessive loading of fine sediments into the river has not only degraded spawning habitat, but also inhibited the growth and survival of juvenile salmonids. By acquiring this tract, Western Rivers Conservancy is helping to protect the integrity of this stretch of the South Fork Trinity.

Western Rivers Conservancy will remove several existing structures on the property and decommission a road to return the land to a more natural state. Later this year, WRC hopes to convey the land to the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, which shares our vision of promoting mature forest stands and protecting the fish runs. ■

The South Fork Trinity River is the longest Wild and Scenic River in California.



Our Web site has a new look! See what we’re up to at www.westernrivers.org



WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

www.westernrivers.org

OUR MISSION

Western Rivers Conservancy protects 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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Hannah Davidson, *Director of Finance and Administration*
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Russ Pinto, *California Director*
Anne Tattam, *Administrative and Development Assistant*
David Wilkins,
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Jack Williams, *Medford, OR*

New Board Directors Elected

Two exceptional new Directors were elected to Western Rivers Conservancy's Board in January.

Rocky Dixon is Principal and co-founder of Endeavour Capital in Portland and a supporter of numerous local and international causes. Rocky previously spent six years as the West Coast Director of the Earl Kinship Capital Corporation. He has been on the Board of The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Trout and numerous Oregon charities, and is an avid fly angler.



Rocky Dixon

Jack Williams brings his expertise in fisheries biology to WRC's Board. He currently serves as the Chief Scientist for Trout Unlimited's national program. Jack was previously the Forest Supervisor for the Rogue River and Siskiyou National Forests in Oregon, and has held senior science positions at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management.



Jack Williams

We're thrilled to have Rocky and Jack join us in the exciting task of conserving our best western rivers. ■



Anne Tattam Joins Staff

We are pleased to welcome Anne Tattam to the Western Rivers Conservancy staff. Anne joined us in October as Administrative and Development Assistant. A native Oregonian, Anne has been fly fishing since grade school and is well acquainted with the Northwest's fishing streams. She is also no stranger to the world of nonprofit conservation, having previously worked at the Native Fish Society.

A graduate of the University of Oregon, Anne is a welcome addition to the WRC staff. She works simultaneously works to enhance WRC's fundraising and outreach efforts and oversee essential administrative tasks. Welcome, Anne! ■



GIVE THE WORLD THE GIFT OF RIVERS!

Support the Work of Western Rivers Conservancy

Our operations are made possible by a generous group of individuals, foundations, businesses and organizations. Recent gifts are listed below. We are grateful to each and every one of our contributors. Thank you!

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