

Central Region Watershed Councils

Crooked River

The Council is currently establishing a native tree propagation program coupled with an intensive riparian monitoring effort to improve water quality in the watershed. Through funding from the DEQ and a partnership with Crook County High School, the Council will be renovating a greenhouse located at the high school for use as a native plant nursery. As part of a natural resource curriculum, students will collect, grow and plant native trees and shrubs in riparian areas throughout the watershed. A parallel effort by the Council will deploy a network of stream temperature probes and tools to measure canopy closure in riparian areas to monitor progress over time in reducing water temperatures on listed streams.



Crooked River Riparian Planting

Gilliam-East John Day

Gilliam County is part of the Columbia Plateau Watershed. This land is characterized by a landscape of farmland on the high elevation plateau which is divided by deep, rugged canyons. For this project, solar power was used to get water from the developed spring source to the troughs on a ridge top. It has given the landowner the ability to better manage his pastures, preventing livestock access to the John Day River and improving the upland and riparian conditions. He is also implementing an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP) to enroll up to 4.5 miles of fencing above the John Day River and develop off stream livestock water to better manage his rangelands and riparian areas. A total of four landowners joined in to develop similar projects on their land in this watershed.



A Solar Panel was installed to power the solar pump which is housed in the insulated pump house fenced off from livestock.

Hood River



Current terminus of the Central Canal Upgrade pipeline (constructed in 2004-2005).

The council has developed many successful planning documents, including the 2004 Hood River Sub-basin Plan. In 2003, the Hood River Watershed Group was a key player in the development of the Powerdale Dam decommissioning agreement, which plans for the removal of the Powerdale Dam at the mouth of the Hood River in 2010. The Council works closely with Hood River watershed partners, including irrigation districts, to conserve water, restore fish passage and improve water quality. Currently, the Council is working with the East Fork Irrigation District to eliminate the use of Neal Creek for irrigation water conveyance. This Central Canal Upgrade/Neal Creek Inverted Siphon Project will restore fish passage for native steelhead and resident trout by removing a diversion dam and an ineffective fish screen in Neal Creek. It will also improve water quality in Neal Creek and restore stream flow to East Fork Hood River.

During the last several years the Klamath River Council has had challenges with representation. However, since the last part of 2004, the council's energy and enthusiasm have increased tremendously. The Council has committed to working through the tough times and forging ahead. It has reestablished Working Groups, and these groups are now discussing projects and potential projects. The Council had been unsuccessful at working in certain areas in the past, but it is now planning miles of riparian projects. The Council is currently working with the Klamath SWCD on CREP and juniper removal projects in the basin, and is looking forward to many productive years to come.



View of Caledonia Marsh with Upper Klamath Lake in the distance.

Lake County

The Deep Creek's Off-Stream Water Source project developed a solar pump unit on a private land owner's cattle ranch using a well that had already been drilled. The objective is to decrease the pressure of cattle on Honey Creek by developing an alternative water source. Willow and riparian vegetation will re-establish themselves and the creek will benefit from lighter use.

The Goose Lake Watershed Council and Fishes Working Group is a highly recognized and progressive organization that formed in 1992 to address watershed health of the Goose Lake Basin. The group represents a cooperative bi-state effort that involves a diversified stakeholder membership. The GLFWG is reviewing monitoring data, keeping involved in current watershed issues and offering technical support for restoration and improvement projects within the Basin. In 2005 the members plan to focus on the habitat conditions of not only Redband trout, but other fish species found in the watershed.

The Silver Lake Watershed Council was most proud of accomplishing the Silver Lake Community Watershed Assessment last year. They wanted to build a foundation which would lead to cooperative management across land boundaries. Within the watershed, individual goals, dreams, and aspirations were brought to a focal point. Historical knowledge gathered through the assessment has helped to create a better understanding of the watershed's current condition. This information will help the council toward a process of encouraging and promoting healthy watersheds.

The Upper Chewaucan Watershed Enhancement project will accomplish 1500 additional acres of juniper thinning. The Upper Chewaucan Watershed Council has managed to thin and burn thousands of acres of juniper over the past several years. The council is realizing their goals by seeing increased vegetation growth and prevention of further erosion.

The Upper Sycan Watershed Assessment will be a huge accomplishment for the council in 2005. With a goal in mind, the Upper Sycan council wants to build a foundation which will lead to cooperative management across land boundaries. Goals and a well defined action plan will come from this assessment.

Sherman County

*North
Sherman/
Grass Valley
Canyon/
Mack's
Canyon/
Pine Hollow
Jacknife/
Buck Hollow*

One program the Sherman County councils are especially excited about is educating the youth about local geography and environmental cycles through hands-on learning. The Watershed Councils in Sherman County realize that this is the best way to assure the preservation of local landscapes. Watershed Councils encourage youth education about local watershed issues through active involvement of Jr. High and High School students in outdoor activities such as stream monitoring (shown right). By volunteering time and monitoring equipment, Sherman County Councils guarantee the future health of local watersheds by strengthening youth.



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Trout Creek / Willow Creek

Last year the Trout Creek Watershed Council was pleased to approve the Trout Creek Watershed Analysis and completed action plans for 2004 and 2005-2007.

The Willow Creek Watershed Council partnered with Madras High School students and the Bureau of Land Management to clean up an old dump site along a scenic trail along Willow Creek where people continue to illegally dump trash. The two day project removed seven tons of garbage from the area. Several local businesses donated food and water for the volunteers. Next year the Council plans to partner again with Madras High School and BLM and plans to partner with Jefferson County and other local businesses and individuals to continue the clean-up of this area.



Willow Creek Dump Site Clean-Up

Upper Deschutes



Since 2003, the UDWC has been strengthening their relationships with local communities through several high profile habitat restoration projects that have included extensive volunteer participation, numerous local contributions, and strong outreach and community awareness efforts. These projects, including 2.8 miles of restoration at Tumalo Creek and 2,500 feet of urban riparian restoration at Farewell Bend Park (shown left), have helped build improved local awareness and understanding of watershed restoration. The Community Rivers Program, initiated in 2003, links volunteers, students and civic groups to hands-on restoration projects in the local communities. To date, the program has brought more than 450 volunteers to nine on-the-ground restoration projects in Bend, Black Butte Ranch and other areas.

Wasco County

This year the Wasco County councils converted 66% of their agricultural fields to no-till in Fifteenmile Creek and enrolled nearly 200 miles of stream in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. Also, Mosier Watershed Council is embarking on a two year study to determine the causes of groundwater decline, which threatens both the economy and ecology of the Mosier Valley. Major partner, U.S. Geological Survey, will produce a hydrologic model of the aquifer network, that will allow determination of the most effective actions to address this threat. This project has the potential to radically change the way groundwater is managed (or not managed, as the case may be) in the Mosier Valley. We have visions of the Mosier Valley becoming an example for sustainable groundwater management throughout the Northwest and the country.



No-till drills prevent removing previous year's stubble, which holds soil in place and protects streams from sedimentation.

*Bake Oven/Fifteenmile/
Mosier/ The Dalles
White River*