

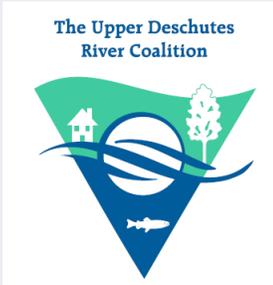
Upper Deschutes River Coalition

www.udrc.org <https://www.facebook.com/udrc.org>

541-390-9798
PO Box 3042, Sunriver, OR 97707 501(c)3

MARCH 3, 2016

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Our Mission:

To protect Upper Deschutes River Communities by restoring and sustaining healthy fire-resistant forests, pure and abundant river flows and wildlife habitat.

Please review our updated 2015 Operations Plan at: www.udrc.org

At UDRC Organization

Also, Click Who We are and Our History for a map of our service area



Message from the UDRC President:

Fellow UDRC Stakeholders – we conducted our first business meeting on February 16th at 7 pm at the Sunriver Public Library. Our plans are to continue to hold public meetings on the third Tuesday of the month at the library at 7 pm. We invite all interested community residents and partners to attend and provide feedback.

Our focus for the March 15th meeting is to elect new community board representatives, planning team members and the 2016 Operations plan. Another major action item is to map out our roadside ladder fuel chipping project for the spring. Funds are available to chip wood biomass and blow it back onto private properties. Funds from Project Wildfire, Oregon Dept. of Forestry and the UDRC will be used. The perfect storm of December 2015 has left many of our private properties with severe ladder fuel hazards. It's time to act now prior to the fire season.

We have posted a new UDRC map on our web site, developed by Jim Larsen. I encourage you to check it out. What a wonderful way to display all of our communities together on one page.

Our expanded Planning Team includes:

Carl Jansen
President
541-593-2777
carlj@searchna.com

Vice President
Bill Filsinger
707-954-0648
Bfilsinger53@gmail.com

Treasurer
John Moore
541-974-6153
jjmoore@msn.com

Secretary/Public Lands
Jim Larsen
541-848-7925
jimlarsen@icloud.com

Private Lands
Dean Richardson
541-593-1207

Watershed
Jeff Wieland
541-280-3237
jeffjwieland@me.com

Jerry Hubbard

UDRC Committees:

Private and Public Lands
Jim Larsen
Dean Richardson
Bill Filsinger

Watershed
Jeff Wieland
Ray Cecchi
Shaun Pigott
541-407-7155

E News Editor/Program Manager
Jerry Hubbard
jhubbard@chamberscable.com

2016 Meeting Schedule:
www.udrc.org

[Sunriver public library](#)
[7 pm](#)
[March 15](#)
[April 19](#)
[May 17](#)

Thank you Jim for using your computer based talents”

<http://udrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2016-03-01-UDRC-Communities-Map.pdf>

Please see the Watershed report as there will be a public meeting on **May 10** on the work and issues related to water flows.

Carl Jansen

PUBLIC LANDS

Greater La Pine Basin Cohesive Strategy Project

This project leverages strong partnerships across diverse organizations and community groups to integrate multiple objectives across the landscape. This includes increasing forest resiliency to insects, disease, and fire; enhancing and protecting water yield and quality; improving wildlife habitat; and engaging communities to increase awareness about the project.

Spanning 344,701 acres the project area includes state, public, and private lands. The project will implement activities focused on hazardous fuels reduction, restoration, and maintenance on federal lands, fuels reduction and restoration work on private lands, and outreach and education to assist local communities in becoming more fire-adapted.

Fiscal year 2016 funding: USFS - \$952,125; NRCS - \$250,000

Forest: Deschutes

Partners: Deschutes County; Project Wildfire; Oregon Department of Forestry; U.S. Bureau of Land Management; Oregon State University Extension; Walker Range; Oregon Department of Corrections; **Upper Deschutes River Coalition**; Upper Deschutes Watershed Council; Firewise Communities; Klamath County; Central Oregon Fire Chief’s Association; Central Oregon Cohesive Strategy Initiative; Deschutes Fire Learning Network; Oregon Department of Transportation; Oregon Department of Agriculture; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Forest Service Fall River Restoration Project:

Recreational use along Fall River has resulted in degraded riparian vegetation and soil stability. The restoration project proposes to utilize placement of downed wood, rocks, and boulders to discourage off-trail use and define foot traffic patterns. Web link: http://a123.g.akamai.net/.../w.../nepa/103012_FSPLT3_2626889.pdf

USFS Upper Deschutes WUI Fuels Project

Ladder fuel reduction, commercial thinning, shrub mowing, and prescribed burning totaling 3600 acres, within the wildland-urban interface of several communities in the Upper Deschutes River area.

Proposed Schedule:

Comment Period: Feb., 2016, Decision: Apr., 2016, Implementation: Jul. 2016 Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=45297

Buildings threatened by wildfire must be able to resist exposure from wind-blown embers. The focus of this presentation will be to review vulnerable building features and discuss mitigation strategies that can help buildings survive wildfire.

Web link: <http://starkerlectures.forestry.oregonstate.edu/exposure-buildings->

Communities represented by the Upper Deschutes River Coalition:

Beaver Road District
Shaun Pigott

Caldera Springs

Cougar Grove
Jim Larsen

Crosswater

Deschutes River Recreational Home sites:

#1-5
Kevin Smalling

6
Bonnie Wilkins
Nadine Ruth

8
9
Sandra Peer
John Nielsen

Fall River Estates
Bill Swanson

Fall River West
Dean Richardson

Gate House

Haner Park
Maidie Kenney

Lazy River West

Lazy River Huntington
Monte Dammarell

Oregon Water Wonderland:
1
Dean Drabin
2
Ricky Keller

Pinewood Country Estates
Bill Filsinger
Carol Strom

River Forest Acres
Chris Meredith

River Meadows
Ray Checci

Spring River Fire & Safety Assn.
Jeff Wieland

Sun Country Estates
Sunriver Business Park
Sundance – Sunriver
Thousand Trails

Vandevort Acres Road District
Lauren James

Vandevort Ranch

[wildfire-vulnerabilities-and-mitigation-strategies](#)



Two Chief's Program

The goal of the Two Chiefs' Joint Landscape Restoration Partnership is to improve the health and resiliency of forest ecosystems where public and private lands meet through a partnership between the Forest Service and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

The vision is to restore lands across large landscapes regardless of ownership, reduce wildfire threats to communities and landowners, protect water quality and supply, and improve habitat for at-risk species seamlessly across public and private lands.

To accomplish this, Forest Service and NRCS are launching a coordinated effort on priority forested watersheds to deliver on-the-ground accomplishments by leveraging technical and financial resources, and coordinating activities on adjacent public and private lands.

The 13 priority watersheds chosen had existing local partnerships and work in progress. By leveraging technical and financial resources and coordinating activities on adjacent public and private lands, conservation work in the watersheds will be more efficient and effective.

Your Coalition is working with the USFS and Project Wildfire and other partners to effectively participate in the program.

Check out our stakeholders
page at www.udrc.org
For detailed information
and links to all of our
stakeholders.

PRIVATE LANDS



2016 Sweat Equity Program – details coming soon.

WATERSHED - Watershed Update:

The Big Picture - Over the last 4 years, there has been a great deal of work towards addressing water imbalances and future supply security for Agriculture, Municipal and InStream interests. Spotted Frog lawsuits have put pressure on the timetable, but they have also made working towards actually putting water in the river more difficult as parties “go dark” on the advice of counsel.

The Irrigation Districts and Agencies submitted their responses to the request for an injunction this week, and the the first court hearing is on March 22nd in Eugene, so hopefully, working on real solutions to Upper D flows will be easier after that.

Conversations among stakeholders about early implementation of some greater level of releases below Wickiup continue, and we are hopeful about initial flow improvements sooner rather than later. Still, water management changes involving peoples’ lives and livelihoods remain sensitive, complicated, and slower than all would like.

The Upper Deschutes Basin Study - The Basin Study Climate Change Impact Modeling is complete, and the Bureau of Reclamation is developing their report. The Upper Deschutes, Wychus Creek, and Crooked River ecological assessments will be completed this Summer. The other Basin Study tasks and conclusions will be completed by 2018. Water management scenarios, negotiations, funding, and implementation will follow and may require administrative and legislative changes.

Public outreach meeting – May 10

Do you want to understand more about what the Basin Study does and doesn't do? Would you like an opportunity to ask questions of a panel of the major players in restoring the Upper Deschutes? If so, up your Water IQ by attending the Upper Deschutes Basin Study public outreach meeting that the Sunriver Anglers are hosting on May 10th at the Sunriver SHARC in the Pringle Room from 6:30 to 8:00PM.

Frogs and Lawsuits from the Irrigation Districts perspective - On February 9, 2016, The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and Water Watch of Oregon filed a joint motion for preliminary injunction against the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec), and three irrigation districts (IDs) — Central Oregon (COID), North Unit (NUID), and Tumalo (TID). CBD and Water Watch are seeking dramatic changes to the operations of Crane Prairie, Wickiup, and Crescent Lake reservoirs beginning next month.

Their motion urges the court to upend the hydrological status quo that has existed for more than 50 years, regardless of the potential impacts to farm and ranch families or to the high level of uncertainty regarding whether those changes may adversely impact the Oregon Spotted Frog (OSF), its habitat, and other species.

The changes sought by CBD and Water Watch could prevent Districts from storing water in Wickiup and Crane Prairie for irrigation purposes from this point forward, eliminating 250,000 acre-feet in authorized storage capacity. This would eliminate stored water supplies for the more than 6,000 families that rely on those reservoirs for irrigation.

As Junior water rights holders, families in NUID would likely bear the brunt of those shortages. The changes sought by CBD and Water Watch would also effectively eliminate 18,200 acre-feet of storage capacity from Crescent Lake, further reducing stored water available for irrigation in the Basin.

The preliminary injunction motion follows a complaint filed by CBD against BuRec in December of 2015, and another filed by Water Watch against BuRec, COID, NUID, and TID in January of 2016.

In the complaints, CBD and Water Watch allege that BuRec violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by failing to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFS) regarding the potential effects of Crane Prairie and Wickiup reservoir operations on the OSF after it was listed as threatened in August 2014.

Before the complaints were filed, BuRec initiated consultations with the USFWS. CBD also alleges that BuRec is violating the ESA by operating the reservoirs in a way that harms the OSF. Water Watch makes a similar allegation against Reclamation, COID, NUID, and TID. The Court combined the two cases into one.

Irrigation District Actions to Benefit the Oregon Spotted Frog - Deschutes Basin irrigation districts have been working collaboratively with local, state, and federal agencies, conservation groups, the Tribe, and other to improve OSF habitat for several years. Since 2000, Districts have restored over 80,000 acre-feet annually to the Deschutes, Little Deschutes, and Crooked Rivers, along with Ochoco, Whychus, Tumalo, and Crescent Creeks.

These restorations have benefited salmon, steelhead, bull trout, the OSF, and other species. Additionally, Districts and Prineville are working with USFWS and many Deschutes Basin Stakeholders on a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that will result in numerous actions that benefit fish and wildlife, including the OSF.

Districts have also taken recent actions to benefit the OSF. In September of 2015, before Water Watch and CBD filed their suits, 5 irrigation districts voluntarily implemented conservative, targeted changes to reservoir operations to improve OSF habitat. These changes include:

1. Establishing a year-round, minimum 30cfs flow immediately below Crescent Lake Dam.
2. Operating Crane Prairie in a way that provides a stable surface water elevation from March 15th to July 15th to provide OSF breeding and rearing habitat.
3. Dedicating 15,700 acre-feet of storage capacity in Crane Prairie for OSF habitat management.
4. Working with State and Federal agencies to identify and evaluate opportunities for wetland enhancement downstream from the reservoirs.
5. Working with BuRec and USFWS to develop a detailed monitoring and adaptive management program to ensure that changes in reservoir operations benefit the OSF.
6. On February 5 of this year, the District voluntarily implemented operational changes to provide increased Spring flows on the mainstem Deschutes during a time that CBD and Water Watch allege that higher flows are necessary to improve OSF breeding habitat. These changes will:
 - a. Provide a minimum instream flow of 600cfs from March 31 to September 15 immediately below Wickiup Dam.
 - b. Provide a gradual ramp-up to 600cfs prior to March 31st.
 - c. Provide for a gradual ramp-down of at least 7 days at the end of irrigation season.
 - d. The Districts will continue these operational changes until BuRec completes its consultations with USFWS, with completion anticipated in July of 2017.

The Districts believe that these voluntary, interim measures will protect the viability of the OSF in the short term without abruptly altering the state quo in a way that would adversely impact families throughout the Deschutes Basin. These interim measures will help provide a bridge until the Deschutes HCP is completed in 2018.

So there you have it from the Irrigation Districts perspective. Real, long-term solutions to flow issues on the Upper Deschutes will certainly involve finding water through conservation, District efficiencies, reservoir optimization, off channel storage, and other strategies. A Court ordering drastic changes in water availability that threaten agriculture is not going to be helpful and could result in long-term litigation while The River continues to suffer.

Submitted by Jeff Wieland, Chair, UDRC Watershed Committee

Upper Deschutes River at River Meadows, 1/20/16. While the reservoir is 75% full there is still very little water in the river.



Fish need water to survive and flourish.



OPERATIONS

The Planning Team, the Board of Directors with our Federal, State, County and stakeholder partners are working on our 2016 programs and projects. Fuel reduction on private and public lands is one of our two main goals.

The other main goal is to continue to participate in the Deschutes Basin Study.

The fire season in Central Oregon is a major concern and we will be working with our partners to help minimize wildfires in our urban interface.

Who We Are!

The UDRC is a multi-issue, project-based nonprofit coalition representing a broad range of interests among its 29 member communities, Federal, State, County and other stakeholders.

Our UDRC's Twenty Year Vision Statement: *Communities and partners aware of the issues, engaged, collaborating and acting together to create and maintain a healthy, scenic and sustainable environment where everyone is able to live with their core values.*

UDRC's Mission Statement: To protect Upper Deschutes River Communities by restoring and sustaining healthy fire-resistant forests, pure and abundant river flows and wildlife habitat.

UDRC's Primary Role: The Upper Deschutes River Coalition is the lead organization in its 69,000 acre Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) to catalyze and coordinate its stakeholder's, community neighbors, public, nonprofits and partners. For example, of primary importance is to first educate, and advocate, gather factual information and be the voice of reason in ongoing wildland fire, water rights, and native habitat issues.

Jake Keller Awards:

2015 Awards:

Volunteer of the Year:
Carl Jansen
Spring River

Partner of the Year:
Alex Enna
USFS

2014 Awards:

Volunteer of the Year:
Jeff Wieland
Spring River

Partner of the Year:
Kirk Flannigan
USFS

2013 Awards:

Volunteer of the year:
Jim Larsen
Cougar Grove

Partner of the Year:
Stu Otto
Oregon Dept. of Forestry

2012 Awards:

Volunteer of the year:
Mick McMicken
Fall River

Partner of the Year:
Katie Lighthall
Project Wildfire

Current Sponsors of the Upper Deschutes River Coalition include:

Search North America <http://www.searchna.com/>

Sunriver Resort www.sunriver-resort.com

Caldera Springs <http://www.calderasprings.com/>

River Meadows Community www.rivermeadows.com/

Past Sponsors include:

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http://www.portlandgeneral.com/community_environment/default.aspx

Sunriver Brewing Company www.sunriverbrewingcompany.com

Cascade Natural Gas Company
<http://www.cngc.com/>

Fall River Estates Association www.fallriverestates.org/

Vandever Ranch Association <http://vandevertranch.org/>

Deschutes River Recreational Home sites Number 9

Oregon Water Wonderland One <http://www.oww1.com>

Oregon Water Wonderland Two <http://www.oww2.org>

UPPER DESCHUTES RIVER COALITION

www.udrc.org GIFT FORM

Yes, I/we would like to help the Upper Deschutes River Coalition build an environmentally minded community by protecting Upper Deschutes River communities by restoring and sustaining healthy fire-resistant forests, pure and abundant river flows and wildlife habitat.

You investment will help the Coalition build a strong base for financial stability.

I have enclosed a gift of:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lodgepole Pine for \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Cranebow Trout for \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rainbow Trout for \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Trout for \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ponderosa Pine for \$2,500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Redband Steelhead for \$5,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bull Elk for \$10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Another Amount \$ _____ |

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Our Tax ID Number is 03-0557393**

For more information call 541-593-2777 or visit www.udrc.org

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May we include your name in our list of donors? ___ Yes ___ No

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P O Box 3042,
Sunriver, OR 97707

Thank You!

