



UPPER DESCHUTES RIVER COALITION

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www.udrc.org

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

Second Strategic Planning Conference Summary

The UDRC sponsored our second strategic planning conference held at the Thousand Trails Conference Center on Friday, January 28, 2011. 53 attendees participated in this daylong event. Coalition members included representatives from 22 neighborhoods, 22 partner organizations and 9 participants representing local interests.

Tod Heisler, Executive Director of the Deschutes River Conservancy volunteered to facilitate the sessions. Tod divided the attendees into eight mixed groups representing evenly disbursed individuals from neighborhoods, partner organizations and local interests.

The objective was to develop a long range view about what the UDRC region should look like in the year 2030. The groups presented and discussed their future views with all attendees at two separate sessions. The initial presentations made by all groups were similar and a uniform consensus about the future was developed.

The next stage involved outlining a series of activities to reach our agreed upon long term vision of what our region should look like in 2030.

The common themes and actions to be taken are listed below:

1. Education

- Better utilize the internet and technical services (GIF, GPS, etc.).
- Communication between UDRC and Home Owner Association (HOA) and HOA's to the UDRC. Provide homeowner involvement opportunities with UDRC. Provide task teams on water flow issues, restoration, and fire protection training in neighborhoods, recreation and bike trail opportunities.
- Experience based education of parents and children.
- Provide teachable moments (fire, water, resources, etc.)
- Create momentum on items like actions and grants, attitudes, continuity, sustained lifestyle.
- Understand education needs of the next generation and newer residences.

- Public and private land needs in fuel threats and forest health.
- Making education a habit...ongoing education, engages in discussions with other coalitions in the Pacific NW.
- Enhance educational signage along trails, rivers, lakes, etc.
- Build the UDRC brand so it is a household nonprofit name.
- Reinforce thinking about defensible spaces around homes in all UDRC communities.

2. Wildlife

- Sustain, maintain and improve wildlife corridors and habitat. Daily and seasonal.
- Improve wildlife habitat maps so we can plan to live with them and not exclude them. Update critical wildlife habitat overlay maps.
- Concentrate on keeping unfragmented wildlife habitat. Plan for wildlife corridors and conductivity.
- Concentrate on vegetation management plans in the UDRC's service area.
- Identify financial incentives to save key habitat while still maintaining infrastructure.

3. Funding the UDRC

- Grants, fund raising, partnerships, cost share programs.
- Stable funding with lot owner participation.
- Funding for defensible spaces on private property.

4. Community Involvement

- Private homeowner's responsibility – self sustaining.
- Everyone thinks bigger. Create a recipe for the vision. Improve and share community vision.
- Expand field and ground level involvement.
- Provide sweat equity tasks or programs.
- Involvement in trail building, talking with neighbors, partnering of agencies.
- Support of economic development such as biomass and product utilization.
- Creating responsibility across each ownership, active management, and economic potential to help others.
- Create ownership and value in South County so people want to get involved and move beyond their own back yard.
- Use zoning, easements, etc. to move across boundaries. Improved zoning and enforcement.
- Collaborative decision making – addressing each other's values (heard, seen, values considered).
- Action and decision orientated; decision outcomes to meet interests of many; create prioritized objectives for the community as a whole. Manageable activities with timelines, action plans.
- Future growth.
- Governance – citizens involved in community governance. Local entities take the lead and government responds.
- Promote unique qualities of the place.
- Building community capacity.
- Stronger working relations with local, county and other government agencies.

- Protection of private property.
- Review other successful developments.
- Expand the UDRC.
- Improve communication.
- Partnerships with Federal, State, County, nonprofits and others.

5. Recreation

- Design motorized recreation trails that will keep users on the trails.
- Create bike/hiking paths from La pine to Bend to Tumalo thru partnerships and funding. Link communities. Follow railways.
- Improve the quality of water for fish.
- Camping, hunting, fishing, biking, boat launches, parking, etc.
- Pathways, river access, parks.
- Work with local trail groups (land and water) to connect healthy habitat with suitable use.

6. Forests

- Keep large diameter trees.
- Healthy forests – widely spaced big trees Ponderosa and Lodge poles, big trees, preserving our current old growth.
- Biomass and the economy – high efficiency and small scale.
- Improve collaboration in forest management, USFS, BLM, and ODF.
- Noxious weed control
- Habitat – working with the Deschutes Land Trust, Nature Conservancy, etc. to purchase or care for high priority habitat.
- Mitigating risk and danger
- Creating and sharing model forest areas with interpretation.
- Community forest plan – working for an economically and ecological viable plan.
- Working with realtors to see and understand the value of big trees, well managed forests.
- Engaging different stakeholders and create campaigns to discuss healthy forests.
- Fire evacuation routes expanded.
- Using fire to create resistant forests.
- More private owner participation.

7. Rivers

- Improve/create partnerships to help manage water flows, address stream length issues (uses, agriculture, irrigation and other issues).
- Healthy river flows and fishing.
- Flood plans.
- Refine system for managing in stream water flows. Support understanding of an improved, more natural flow needed and share a voice for that flow.
- Wetlands – comment on County Comp Plan to help guide or encourage proper management of wetlands.
- Waste water – move toward sewers and water recycling – conservation and water quality.
- Allies

- Preserving and caring for wetlands and riparian areas. Using native vegetation and in stream structure to reduce bank erosion.
- Water rights.
- Acquire stored water; shared agreements.

8. Economy

- Help create more living wage Jobs Housing
- Tourism - increase
- Infrastructure – high level, telecommunications, paved roads(county and local)
- Low cost environmentally friendly wastewater management. Maintain existing wetlands, review developments, acquire additional wetlands, mitigation.
- Ground water protection for land and rivers, waste water options, potable water options.
- Develop energy infrastructure (biomass).
- Undeveloped lots in sensitive areas – fix/improve buy-out plans.
- Bring together stakeholders to look at and craft solutions for floodplain properties (high ground water lots).
- Preserve natural feel.
- Preserve/increase outdoor recreational opportunities.
- Commercial options – who, how big, where, zoning.
- Rural service areas – multiple uses – outright and conditional.

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John Moore, UDRC Treasurer/Fund Raising

Jerry Hubbard, UDRC Executive Director/Grants

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