



UPPER DESCHUTES
WATERSHED COUNCIL



UDWC 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

25 Years of Restoration, Education and Monitoring




REFLECTING UPON 25 YEARS

It has been an inspiring year with many exciting restoration projects, research opportunities and watershed education events taking place! I am exceedingly grateful for our staff, Board, funders, partners, and community of supporters who bring these endeavors from concepts to reality. It has also been fun to look back this year and recognize that the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council (UDWC) is celebrating our 25th anniversary as an organization in 2022! UDWC was formally established as a 501 (c)3 charitable organization in 1997. Since then, we have been working to achieve our mission to restore and protect the upper Deschutes watershed through collaborative projects in habitat restoration, watershed education, and long-term monitoring.



The map on the opposite page is a chance to reflect

back over 25 years and recognize that UDWC has worked with partners to complete over 50 habitat restoration projects! Our watershed council, though, is certainly more than projects on a map. We talked a lot at our 25th anniversary celebration event on November 3rd in Sisters about how a watershed council is really a community of people seeking to make a positive difference in their local watershed and how fun it is to learn about the “ripple effects” this work can have in our community and beyond. For example, check out the video link to the right and learn how one of our former students and employees is now working around the world on solutions to climate change and water resource issues.

 **LEARN MORE** about our 25 years of restoration, education and monitoring

In the pages of this annual report, you will read about our recent projects and the work we have completed this past year. I hope you will be inspired while learning about the restoration, education, and monitoring work that has transpired thanks to our many partnerships and community support. Looking ahead to 25 more successful years, I would like you to consider joining us by volunteering or making a year-end gift. This work can’t happen without financial support from our community and you play a crucial role in our watershed community. **Here’s to the next 25 years of restoring and protecting our rivers and streams in Central Oregon!**

Kris Knight

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Kris Knight
Executive Director

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Education Director

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Monitoring Program Manager

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Restoration Program Manager

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Education and Outreach Coordinator

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25 YEARS OF RESTORING AND PROTECTING THE UPPER DESCHUTES BASIN

Metolius River (11)

- Metolius Instream Habitat Restoration
- Jack Creek Dam Removal
- Cold Springs Resort Riparian Restoration
- Brush Creek Culvert Replacement
- Forest Service Road 12 Fish Passage
- Suttle Lake Dam Fish Passage
- South Fork Lake Creek Culvert Removal
- Diversion 1 and 2 Fish Passage and Screening
- Diversion 13 and 14 Fish Passage and Screening
- Lake Creek Lodge Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration
- Spring Creek Habitat Restoration

Whychus Creek (18)

- Deschutes Land Trust Rimrock Ranch Habitat Restoration
- Deschutes Land Trust Whychus Canyon Preserve Habitat Restoration
- Deschutes Land Trust Camp Polk Meadow Preserve Habitat Restoration
- Deschutes Land Trust Willow Springs Preserve Habitat Restoration
- Creekside Park Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration
- Leithauser Dam Removal
- Pine Meadow Ranch Fish Passage
- Plainview Dam Removal and Fish Screening
- Pine Meadow Ranch Dam Removal and Floodplain Restoration
- Three Sisters Irrigation Dam Fish Passage and Screening
- Edgington Fish Screen
- Uncle John Irrigation Diversion Decommissioning
- Meeker/Snyder Bank Restoration
- Whychus Creek Overlook Restoration
- Whychus Creek Riparian Vegetation Transplanting and Planting
- Indian Ford Culvert Replacement and Riparian Planting
- Aspen Hollow Preserve Restoration
- Captain Jack Springs Riparian Restoration

Middle Deschutes (3)

- Cline Falls Dam Removal
- North Canal Dam Fish Passage
- Tumalo Creek Restoration

Upper Deschutes (18)

- Riverbend Park Restoration
- Ryan Ranch Restoration
- Riverbend Park South Restoration and Access
- Farewell Bend Park Wetland and Riparian Restoration
- Miller’s Landing Habitat Restoration and Riparian Planting
- Hall Property Riparian Restoration
- Big Marsh Wetland Restoration
- Upper Deschutes Riparian Stewardship
- Benham Falls Riparian Enhancement
- Fall River Riparian Enhancement
- First Street Bank Stabilization
- Lynch Property Riparian Restoration
- Soda Creek Riparian Planting
- Trapper Creek Habitat Restoration
- Shevlin Park Upland Planting
- Thousand Trails Bullfrog Control
- Vandeventer Ranch Streamside Restoration and Bullfrog Control
- Odell Creek Bull Trout Passage



Projects listed have been led by UDWC or UDWC has provided expertise or funding to support completion of the project. Many projects occurred in the same vicinity, and numbers on the map represent multiple projects completed in the same region.

Cover Photography / Anabrach Solutions

Willow Springs Preserve

IN JUNE 2022, the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council began restoration work at Willow Springs Preserve which is owned by the Deschutes Land Trust. Whychus Creek flows for approximately 0.75 miles through the preserve and UDWC partnered with Anabran Solutions to develop a restoration design and ultimately implement the project. Compared to other restoration projects on Whychus Creek, a low-tech, process-based restoration approach was used for this project which eliminated the need for large machinery. A crew of 6-12 young adults from Anabran Solutions worked to install more than 100 hand-built wood structures called pole-assisted log structures (PALS) and beaver dam analogs (BDAs). These structures were installed in the stream channel and in the adjacent floodplain. The idea is that with these structures in place, more natural river processes will be encouraged which in turn will expand multiple, braided stream channels across the valley to maximize available habitat created at Willow Springs Preserve for fish and wildlife. We expect this to happen over multiple years and multiple phases of the project. In the meantime, the PALS provide instant structure and habitat benefits instream that were not present prior to this work.

Funding for this project has been provided by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Pelton Round Butte Fund, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Western Native Trout Initiative, U.S. Forest Service, and Oregon Department of Forestry.

Photography / Peter Cooper

RESTORATION



Creekside Park

The Upper Deschutes Watershed Council partnered with the City of Sisters to complete a habitat restoration project at Creekside Park and campground to rehabilitate multiple user-created access trails and vegetation loss along the park's steep, eroding stream banks. Wood and boulders were incorporated into the banks and channel to create instream habitat features. At the downstream end of the project where a concrete cap protecting a buried sewer line was exposed and causing further bank erosion, the creek bed was restored to allow fish to more easily swim up and downstream. UDWC also restored riparian vegetation along the banks while still allowing visitors creek access with the creation of four stone step access points. UDWC contracted with River Design Group LLC and M&M Services LLC to construct the project. The outcome is a stream corridor with restored streambanks, incorporation of more wood and boulders instream for

fish-friendly habitat, four new access points, and a fenced and replanted riparian area. Nearly 400 students and community members planted more than 2,000 native plants along the banks and a Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council youth crew was hired to construct the fence protecting newly planted riparian plants.



Project funders providing grants to UDWC to implement this project included the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Pelton Round Butte Fund, and the Sunderland Foundation.



Photography / Scott Wright



LEARN MORE about our restoration efforts at Creekside Park

Riverbend Park

Habitat restoration work began in October 2022 near Bend's Riverbend Park between the Bill Healy Bridge downstream to the Farewell Bend pedestrian bridge. This project is the result of years of planning by the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council and the landowner, Bend Park and Recreation District (BPRD). Riverbend and Farewell Bend are heavily used community parks that draw extensive numbers of recreational visitors, and this restoration project will demonstrate the ability to balance river access with river stewardship and protection. The project will include restoring designated access points and fencing off and restoring other riparian areas where user-created access points have led to impacts on vegetation and erosion of streambanks. New habitat, including an off-channel marsh, will also be created along with the addition of wood at the edge of the river. Designated access points will be constructed using stone steps so recreational users, including those with mobility limitations and children, can access the river without harming existing or restored habitat. Riparian planting will be completed by students and community volunteers in the years ahead as part of UDWC's education and outreach programs.

Funding for this project comes from Bend Park and Recreation District along with grants received from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Sunderland Foundation, and the Bend Sustainability Fund, a project of Visit Bend.



LEARN MORE about our restoration efforts on the Willow Springs Preserve





MONITORING



UDWC staff and collaborators monitor a section of Whychus Creek restored in 2021.

Photography / Joe Rudolph and Wolf Water Resources

2022 marked two significant moments for restoration effectiveness monitoring on Whychus Creek: 10 years since the restoration of Whychus Creek was completed at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve and one year since the restoration of a half mile of Whychus Creek at Rimrock Ranch, both owned by the Deschutes Land Trust.

We've monitored both projects to be able to measure and communicate about the habitat restored and the biological response to restoration at these key intervals. We mapped floodplain and stream elevations to tell us how well the two are connected, measured pebbles to understand how much gravel is available for native trout and salmon, surveyed vegetation to track what plants are thriving, and collected aquatic insect samples to learn about food availability for fish and the aquatic insect community's response to restored stream conditions.

We continued to collaborate with partners and volunteers to learn about restoration outcomes.

At Rimrock Ranch we worked with partners to acquire drone imagery that will support multiple applications and analyses. We had a banner turnout of partner agency staff and community volunteers for our 12th annual Stream Sampling Day on Whychus Creek. We started a new collaboration with partners at U.S. Geological Survey and Oregon State University-Cascades to

design a monitoring study that will help us understand how restored floodplains store and release water throughout the year. We continued to monitor stream temperature to understand temperature response to the Deschutes River Conservancy's stream flow restoration efforts.

Finally, we were able to share what we've been learning through two notable communications released this year. Results from Whychus Creek monitoring were published in the journal *Frontiers in Environmental Science* through a collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service. In early 2022 we released our Whychus Canyon Preserve Phase I monitoring report detailing 2017-2019 outcomes of this restoration project.



Photography / Nadia Kelem



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The Upstream Project

The Upstream Project definitely lived up to its name during the past two years of COVID restrictions and a complete halt to bussing students to streamside locations for our field activities. Still, we remained resilient and we adapted our programs to offer creative hands-on lessons through online videos that were utilized by hundreds of local teachers and parents.

As schools reopened in 2021 and 2022, a few brave teachers reached out to us to see if we were taking students outside again to learn about local rivers and streams. It was clear that both teachers and students had become desperate for outdoor education and we were up for the challenge. Busses were still out of the question, so we coordinated hands-on watershed education activities along the Deschutes River and Whychus Creek to classes that could walk or bike to one of our streamside learning locations.

On a crisp, sunny day in late April, it finally happened. We set up our education materials for students to study macroinvertebrates in the Deschutes River. Donning waders with net in hand, Kolleen looked up to see an enthusiastic teacher and 27 fourth graders racing toward her. "I can't believe we are here!" the teacher panted. "This is the very first field trip these kids have been on in TWO YEARS!" The excitement and energy was palpable so without delay, Kolleen smiled and said, "Let's do this!"

AFTER TWO YEARS of virtual learning and way too much screen time, the value of the mental, physical, social, and emotional benefits of this type of outdoor learning became more apparent than ever before.

Much research has been conducted on the value of spending time connecting to the natural world and the opposite negative effects of spending too much time staring at screens. This is true for all of us. Our dedication to our experiential education work has never wavered. Through COVID and today, we are still here. With education activities in art, writing, science, music, and outdoor exploration, we will continue to connect youth to the natural world and inspire them to develop an informed sense of place and an empowered sense of stewardship for our rivers and streams.



Deschutes River Cleanup

The Deschutes River Cleanup began before the Watershed Council was born. It was a collaborative effort that originated from the dedication of many local partners and a commitment to protect our incredible river. That passionate commitment has not changed over the past 25 years. However, quite a few other factors have changed. A LOT. Those changes affect our river every day. To name a few: more than twice as many people, more roads and bridges that cross the Deschutes, two new beautiful riverside parks, more people, access to float the river where there once was none, more cars, more things falling in the river that is a home for fish, more people, paddleboards where there once were none, a new whitewater park, and more people. You get the drift.

When we took over the important responsibility of coordinating the annual Deschutes River Cleanup, we had 32 lovely volunteers help us pull weeds and remove a few bags of litter from the streambanks. This year, we hosted six different cleanup activities up and down the river from LaPine State Park through Bend to Tumalo State Park. We worked with fifteen partners and sponsors and over 250 community volunteers. Deschutes Search and Rescue brought skilled scuba divers to pull trash from the bottom of the river. We removed over 2,400 pounds of garbage and weeds from the Deschutes and its riparian area. We raised more money than ever to make this important cleanup a reality. All of this was necessary and only possible thanks to... more people. Thanks to our partners, volunteers, and sponsors, the Deschutes River Cleanup was our most successful community event ever. Thank you.



Watershed Speaker Series

We piloted our first watershed speaker series for adults thanks to funding from the Roundhouse Foundation and were thrilled with the response from our community! The series engaged our natural resource partners to help us offer a comprehensive overview of the Whychus watershed. Participants learned about the history, hydrology, water use and conservation, stream restoration, native fish, and community stewardship activities in the Whychus watershed. Speaker series attendees also participated in a hands-on riparian stewardship project along Whychus Creek this fall.



Thanks to the overwhelming success and positive feedback from our attendees, we have received new funding to offer two more speaker series programs in 2023. In partnership with COCC and many of our natural resource partners, we will be coordinating a Metolius Watershed and Upper Deschutes Speaker Series during the winter and spring. These opportunities for adults are built on the same educational vision, goals, and objectives that are foundational to our youth education program. Overall, with students and adults, we seek to connect our community to the natural world through watershed science and hands-on stewardship activities that help them develop an informed sense of place and sense of stewardship.



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF RESTORATION, MONITORING & EDUCATION

Photography / Scott Wright

THANK YOU FOR 25 YEARS OF SUPPORT!

Mike Taylor

The Upper Deschutes Watershed Council lost a passionate supporter and Board member in 2022. Mike Taylor passed away in February of 2022. Mike was a resident of Vancouver, Washington and LaPine, Oregon and reached out to our watershed council in 2019 expressing his interest in supporting efforts to protect and restore the Deschutes River. From that first meeting, Mike started learning more about UDWC's work and we began learning from Mike. In the summer of 2020, Mike approached our watershed council sharing that he and his wife Kellee wanted to support organizations during the early challenges of the COVID pandemic. Mike and Kellee knew UDWC had cancelled our one fundraising event of the year in the spring of 2020, and Mike and Kellee's financial contributions were a much-appreciated boost during a challenging time.

Shortly thereafter, in February 2021 Mike joined the UDWC Board. Mike was often the first to offer congratulations or gratitude to UDWC staff when reading a story about a UDWC project. He was also great about asking challenging questions to help us think about how we might be able to dig deeper and do more. Though Mike's time on our Board was far shorter than any of us could have anticipated, we are extremely grateful for the passion, enthusiasm, and thoughtfulness he shared with our watershed council.



Mike Taylor, third from right, at a Board retreat with other UDWC Board members in October 2021.

2022 Supporters

\$25,000 AND UP

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GRANT FUNDERS

Bend Park and Recreation District
Bend Sustainability Fund, A Visit Bend Project
Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Children's Forest of Central Oregon
Deschutes County
Deschutes River Conservancy
Oregon Community Foundation
Oregon Department of Forestry
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Pelton Round Butte Fund
Portland General Electric
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Trail Blazers Foundation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
Western Native Trout Initiative
Pacific Power

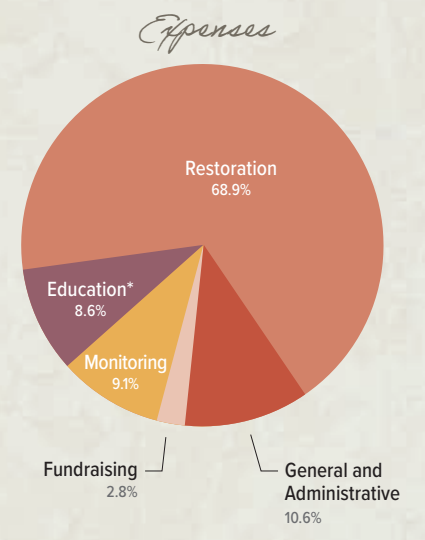
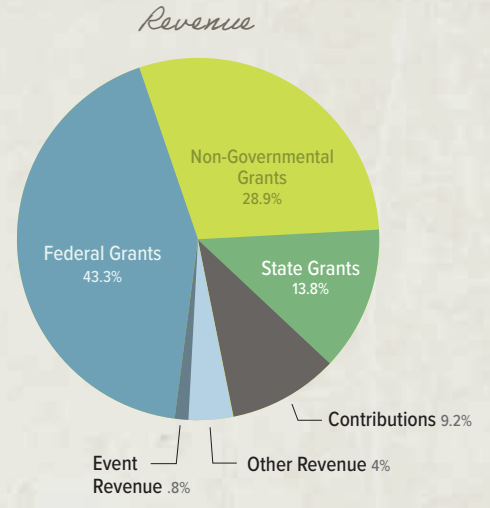
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Tumalo Creek
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We Clean

* Donors listed are from Dec. 1, 2021 up to the point this annual report was published in late 2022.

Thank you 2022 supporters!

2022 Financials 7/1/21 - 6/30/22



Revenue

State Grants	\$226,918.89
Non-Governmental Grants	\$471,972.15
Federal Grants	\$706,924.15
Contributions	\$149,959.06
Other Revenue	\$64,873.89
Event Revenue	\$13,456.90

Total Revenue \$1,634,105.04

Expenses

Education*	\$130,418.61
Restoration	\$1,047,476.00
Monitoring	\$138,726.79
Fundraising	\$42,159.83
General/Administrative	\$161,825.11

Total Expenses \$1,520,606.34

*A significant portion of funding for our education programming comes from individual contributions and community support.

Get Involved



Donate Now

Join us by making a contribution or following our work.



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Photography /
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