

North Fork John Day Watershed Council

March 2008

Council Update

With snow packs in the John Day Basin 10% above average, it was a winter to stay indoors and get caught up on paperwork. The Council closed out several Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) projects that involved fencing, water developments and grazing improvements in the upper reaches of the Middle Fork, the Ritter area and the North Fork of the John Day.

We got a break in January when we attended Monument SWCD's Annual Resource Fair (thanks to District Coordinator, Julie Twehues, and the FFA students for a great event). In February we enjoyed a visit from students in teacher

Tina Lau's Long Creek High School Applied Science class. The class was learning about mapping systems as part of a wildlife management plan they were developing. Council Project Manager, Amanda Born, introduced them to the mapping software she uses for weed management, which gave them a chance to see the importance of monitoring and data analysis in a real world situation.

March and April will be spent preparing for the OWEB grant submission deadline and gearing up for a busy field season. Call or come by the office to discuss how we might be able to help you with a project.

Weed Program Update

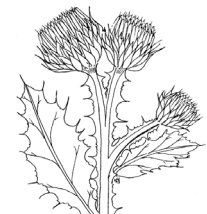
We have completed Phase 1 of our National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) weed grant. Phase 1 was designed to assist in the development of the North Fork John Day Cooperative Weed Management Area (NFJD CWMA). Now we can begin Phase 2 which will fund on-the-ground weed treatment. Please contact us if you have weed concerns so that we can be prepared for the upcoming weed season.

cited about the formation of another CWMA and plan to work closely to coordinate weed control efforts in the area.

NFJD CWMA Most Wanted

- ◇ Mediterranean sage
- ◇ Leafy spurge
- ◇ Knapweeds
- ◇ Yellow starthistle
- ◇ Scotch thistle

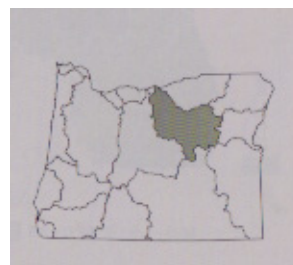
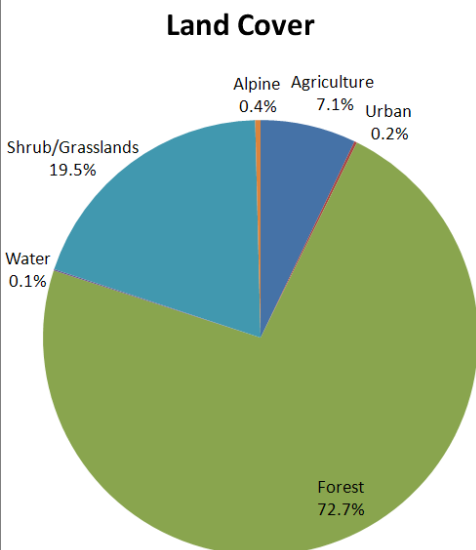
In other news, Tom Rush has recently initiated the Grant County Cooperative Weed Management Area (GCCWMA) which encompasses all of Grant County. We are very ex-



John Day Basin Facts

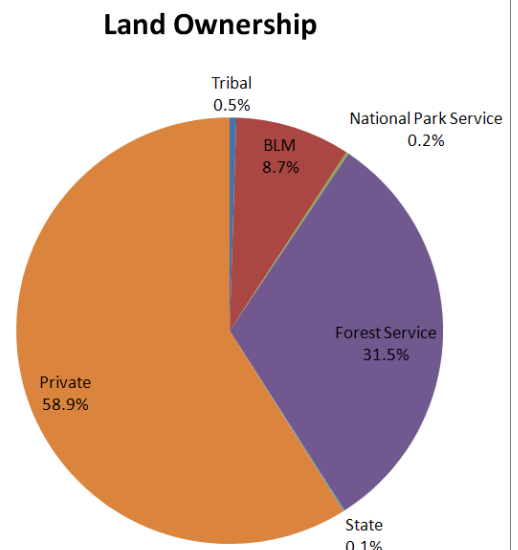
Source: The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

The North Fork John Day Watershed Council is part of the John Day Basin. The John Day Basin consists of 8 separate Watershed Councils. In 2006, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) awarded a total of \$2,901,197 for 86 projects in the basin. Below are some quick facts about the John Day Basin.



Basin Facts

Population (2000).....11,690
 Cities Over 10,000.....0
 Area (acres).....5,076,758
 Watershed Councils.....8
 SWCDs.....5



Vacancy Announcement

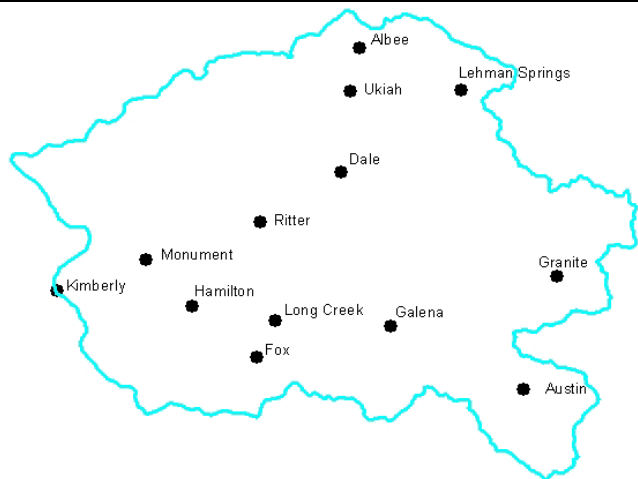
The North Fork John Day Watershed Council, a non-profit 501(c)3 in Long Creek, Oregon, is seeking a forward-thinking, friendly, and energetic person for their Council Coordinator position. This person must have at least three years of experience associated with administration and development of a non-profit or similar

public service organization, grant writing, and/or conservation project management, and a four year degree. Starting salary range: \$38,000 to \$45,000, DOE, plus benefits. To obtain application information and a full position description, visit: www.nfjdw.org. Applications due March 18, 2008. *No phone calls please.*

Next Council Meeting

If you would like to become more involved with the North Fork John Day Watershed Council we invite you to attend our Council meetings. They are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6pm at our office in Long Creek. The following is the tentative agenda for March 18th:

- Introductions
- Approval of February meeting minutes
- Review of February Action Items
- Financial report
- Progress report on the CWMA



Grant Updates

The Kelsay Creek Fencing Project has received a recommendation for funding from Oregon Watershed Enhancement board (OWEB). However, we won't know for sure if it will be funded until the end of March. The Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) has been initiated and the Butte Creek Culvert Replacement project will begin this summer. The following is a brief description of the projects:

Kelsay Creek Fencing - This project is located on Kelsay Creek, a tributary of Desolation Creek. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) is partnering with the Umatilla National Forest and the North Fork John Day Watershed Council to construct 2.75 miles of fence to enclose an upland riparian area and associated springs. The goal of this project is to improve water quality, stabilize the streambank, and improve

riparian habitat.

Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW)- The North Fork John Day Watershed Council is collaborating with other natural resource managers in administration and monitoring efforts for the *Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW)* program, recently initiated in the upper Middle Fork John Day River watershed. The IMW program is designed to fund effectiveness monitoring of the various restoration activities and conservation projects in the Middle Fork John Day River.

Butte Creek Culvert Replacement- A culvert on Butte Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork John Day will be replaced with a 14' wide bottomless arch to meet passage, flow and substrate requirements. Watershed benefits are improved fish passage to 5 miles of Butte Creek for juveniles and increased water quality.

The North Fork John Day Watershed Council encompasses 2600 square miles of land that drains into the North & Middle Forks of the John Day River. To the left is a map of the Council boundary. We are updating our mailing list, so if you are no longer interested in receiving our updates or if you would like to receive information electronically by email, please contact us. Thanks!

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