

North Fork John Day Watershed Council

Winter 2008

Council Update

North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Inc. recently celebrated its first year as a nonprofit 501 c 3 corporation. While we have undergone both staff and board changes, our priority remains carrying out on-the-ground projects that benefit both the watershed and those that live within it.

In addition to starting our weed management program and initiating plans for monitoring the Middle Fork, 2007 also saw the completion of several projects involving spring developments, riparian fencing, streambed restoration, juniper removal and grazing improvements. Other future efforts include culvert replacements, grazing allotment improvements, along with contin-

ued juniper removal, riparian fencing and livestock watering developments.

Amanda Born, our project manager, and Patti Hudson, our fiscal administrator, are available to assist landowners and managers with a variety of projects. Please call, email or stop by the our office, next to the Post Office in Long Creek.



Board of Directors

Rick Henslee, President, Long Creek

Ed Farren, Vice President, Ukiah

Jeff Fields, Sec/Tres., Mt. Vernon

Reiba Smith, Board Member, Long Creek

Destry Brown, Monument Soil and Water Conservation District

Mark Rietman, Morrow County

Brian Cochran, Oxbow Conservation Area

John Zakarjsek, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Weed Program Update

We have officially convened the North Fork John Day Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA). The CWMA Steering Committee met for the first time in September to develop a strategic plan and select 5 priority weeds.

I would like to thank you for the many responses we received from the survey this summer. The information was very helpful when it came time to decide our "priority weeds" for the CWMA. These included: Mediterranean sage, leafy spurge, knapweeds, yellow starthistle, and Scotch thistle. We chose these weeds based upon the results of the survey, the state noxious weed list,

and those that we felt could be controlled before they became widespread. These aren't the only weeds we'll be after, but they serve as our "CWMA Most Wanted List".

We recently submitted two grant proposals to the Oregon State Weed Board to supplement our existing National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) weed grant.

Now is the time to contact me with your weed concerns so that we can be prepared for next season. Please call, email, or write me with your concerns. I look forward to hearing from you.



Mediterranean sage

Happy Holidays!

IMW Update

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. If successful, this will measure and track watershed-scale health changes stemming from conservation, rehabilitation, and restoration actions implemented on the ground. The IMW program is made up of several monitoring elements, including water quality, geomorphology, groundwater, and grazing monitoring efforts. The area of IMW interest is the upper Middle Fork John Day River from the confluence of Big Creek to the headwaters.

The Upper Middle Fork John Day Working Group is an informal organization formed in 2004 with help from the Watershed Council. The IMW project was promoted through

the working group and many working group participants help with its administration. The IMW is managed from active participation by OWEB, Malheur National Forest, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation, The Nature Conservancy, Bureau of Reclamation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Water Trust, Grant SWCD, and North Fork John Day Watershed Council. Additional private landowners and other organizations are also involved with assisting in its development. Funding is provided by NOAA Fisheries through OWEB.

The Watershed Council is receiving a portion of IMW funds to coordinate and collect stream temperature data in the Middle Fork John Day River. In the past, several entities have collected data, but there has been little sharing and analysis. Such system-wide temperature collection may help show the effectiveness of the area's restoration efforts.

For further information on the IMW efforts, contact Holly Bentz at 575-3012.

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 right is a map of the Council boundary.

We are in the process of 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. Thank you.

Next Council Meeting

The following is the tentative meeting agenda for December 18th, 2007:

1. Introductions
2. Approval of October & November meeting minutes
3. Progress report on the CWMA
4. Financial report
5. Discussion of staff duties
6. Project status reports

Grant Updates

Currently, we have two applications pending approval through Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). The applications were submitted this fall and we'll find out next spring if they will be funded. The following is a brief description of each proposal:

Meadowbrook Riparian Improvements- The North Fork John Day Watershed Council is working with USFS permittees to exclude livestock access on Meadowbrook Creek along US 395. Watershed benefits include improved riparian habitat, streambank stability and water quality.

Kelsay Creek Fencing Project- 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.

