

North Fork Currents

Published by the North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Inc. (NFJDWC)
Visit us on the web at www.nfjdw.org

January — March 2011

A Watershed Year

It was a defining year for the Watershed Council. Our pursuit of funding over the past few years began to pay off in 2010, allowing us to hire a Project Manager and a Monitoring Technician. With an increased budget and the additional staff we dramatically expanded our ability as a community-based organization to help landowners and land managers make cost-effective improvements that protect their lands and their livelihoods.

By connecting the best available science with the practical, local knowledge of area farmers and ranchers, we put nearly a half million dollars into on-the-ground projects within the North/Middle Fork Watershed last year. These projects helped provide operational resilience to numerous agricultural producers. They also helped safeguard the waters and wildlife of our watershed, and brought needed jobs and dollars into the local economy.

Not only did the Watershed Council itself hire more employees, research from the University of Oregon's Ecosystem Workforce Program shows that the half million dollars we spent on restoration projects helped support another 8 jobs elsewhere. Additionally, it is estimated that every grant dollar cycling through the economy results in at least two times that in financial activity.

The Council's budget will more than double in 2011 to over \$1.6 million, as we continue to grow and expand the number and size of projects we can implement. But our goal remains the same: To provide the local support needed for a healthy, productive watershed that offers long-term stability for the individuals and communities that rely its natural resources.

See page 2 for more on 2010 & 2011 projects and expenditures.

10th Annual Resource Fair Coming Up

The Watershed Council and the Monument SWCD invite you to join us at the 10th annual Resource Fair on January 26, from 10am - 2pm, at the Monument Senior Center.

Numerous agency representatives will be on hand to answer questions and talk about programs of interest to landowners. Presentations are scheduled on invasive annual weeds, water law and woodland owners cooperatives. There will be a poster contest for Long Creek and Monument students. And you don't want to miss the Monument FFA's famous Tri-Tip lunch, with all the fixings! Proceeds from the \$6/plate meal go directly to the Monument FFA.

Plan to join your friends and neighbors at this informative and fun event. For more information call: Monument SWCD at 541-934-2141 or the Watershed Council at 541-421-3018.

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"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value."

Theodore Roosevelt

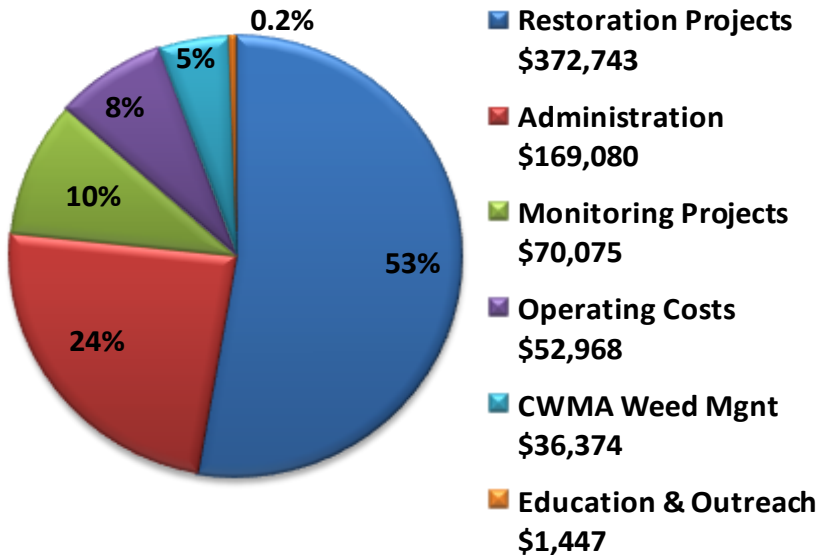
Upcoming Events

- Jan. 18** NFJDWC meeting
6pm at Long Creek Office
- Jan. 26** Annual Resource Fair
10 - 2 Monument Senior Center
- Feb. 15** NFJDWC meeting
6pm at Long Creek Office
- Mar. 15** NFJDWC meeting
6pm at Long Creek Office



North Fork John Day Watershed Council Annual Summary

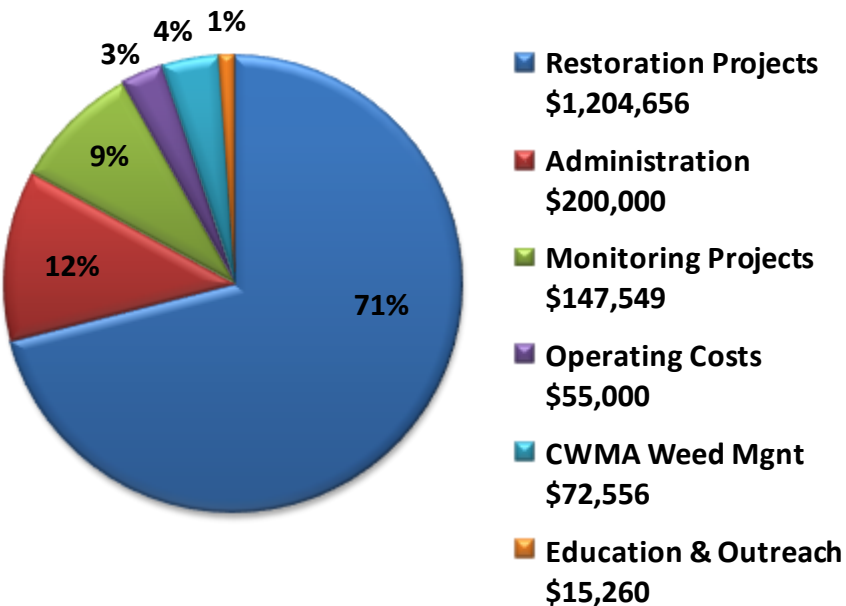
2010 Program Expenditures: \$ 702,687



Projects Completed in 2010

- 1 stream crossing improvement
- 1 stream assessment
- 3 irrigation improvement projects
- 4 push-up dams removed
- 5 spring developments
- 20+ miles riparian fence constructed
- 120 acres juniper removal
- 275+ miles of river & road weed surveys
- 1200 acres of weeds mapped
- 200+ acres of weeds treated
- 500 copies Rancher's Guide distributed
- 2000 hardwoods planted
- 11,400 conifers planted

2011 Anticipated Program Expenditures : \$ 1,695,021



Projects Planned for 2011

- Red Boy Mine assessment & drainage system improvements
- Morrow/Grant County Off-Highway-Vehicle Park improvements
- Allotment improvements
- Desolation & Eight-Mile culvert replacements
- Spring developments
- Juniper treatments
- Weed surveys, mapping and treatments
- Stream channel restoration on Fox Creek
- Riparian restoration at Bates Pond
- Landowner & Community Outreach Program
- Continue Middle Fork Intensively Monitored Watershed Project
- Continue Fox/Cottonwood Leafy Spurge Project

Weed Update

Staff Attends Noxious Weed Symposium

In early December, Bryan Vogt and Erik Rook braved the roads and made the trek over the mountains to attend the 2010 Oregon Interagency Noxious Weed (INW) Symposium in Corvallis. The 3-day event was hosted by the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Noxious Weed Control Program and brought together groups from across the state working on noxious weed control and education/outreach efforts. Participants listened as updates on priority weed species and on-the-ground control measures were given by local cooperators and state and federal agencies within Oregon, as well as weed control agencies from all four surrounding states. Highlighting local efforts, Mike Martin with the Grant Soil and Water Conservation District gave a presentation entitled "Early Detection of High Priority Noxious Weeds of Grant County."

Immediately prior to the symposium, Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA) from around the state met to share priorities, accomplishments, and funding ideas. It was really the first time that CWMA's had come together in this fashion, and the value of holding future statewide meetings was discussed.



North Fork John Day CWMA - Private and public partners, working across property boundaries & sharing resources for a broader impact on noxious weeds

Expect to see another CWMA gathering of this sort prior to the 2012 INW Symposium. In the meantime, regional CWMA representatives were selected and will meet on a more frequent basis to discuss on-going noxious weed issues, especially as they pertain to funding of the Oregon State Weed Board's noxious weed grant program and providing feedback to the Oregon Invasive Species Council.

All in all, Erik and Bryan felt it was a worthwhile trip. Bryan added, "It's always good hearing what similar groups are doing, putting faces with names, and just getting a general feel for weed control across the state. We were even able to come back with some useful pamphlets to give out to our cooperators and North Fork John Day CWMA participants."

Gearing Up for 2011 Weed Season

After wrapping up a successful 2010 field season, we're busy planning our 2011 weed control efforts. On-going projects will include the Fox/Cottonwood Creek Leafy Spurge project, BLM weed surveys along the North Fork corridor, and weed treatments in the Granite area in conjunction with a mine tailing restoration and revegetation project.

New for 2011 is a weed treatment project along Rudio Creek prior to a major channel realignment and restoration project. Additionally, the NFJDWC has a proposal into ODA to fund yellow starthistle treatments on a property in the Ritter area, and is looking for funding to continue whitetop treatments

in the Pass Creek, Long Creek, and Fox Valley areas. A proposal has also been submitted to conduct weed assessments, mapping, and landowner coordination of weed treatments in the upper Middle Fork John Day River area.

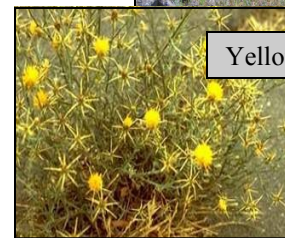
Anyone interested in developing a noxious weed assessment or control project with the NFJDWC should contact Project Manager, Bryan Vogt, at (541) 421-3018.



Whitetop



Yellow starthistle





691 HWY 395 N
PO Box 444
Long Creek, Oregon 97856

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About the North Fork John Day Watershed Council

The North Fork John Day Watershed Council was formed by local citizens in 1995 and incorporated as a non-profit 501(c)3 organization in 2006. Our mission is to plan, fund and implement programs that protect the health of our watershed, honor tribal treaty rights and provide long-term stability for the individuals and communities that rely on the watershed's natural resources. Through restoration, monitoring and outreach, we seek to foster an understanding that upland and riparian habitat improvement, weed management and other conservation efforts are vital to the social and economic fabric of the area.

Projects sponsored by the Council include, but are not limited to, upland watering system developments; irrigation diversion and efficiency projects; riparian improvements; removal of fish passage barriers; water quality monitoring; noxious weed control; educational outreach and technical assistance.

STAFF

Amy Charette, Coordinator

Bryan Vogt, Project Manager

Valeen Madden, Program Assistant

Erik Rook, Field/Monitoring Technician

Patti Hudson, Outreach

MEETINGS

NFJDWC meetings are open to the public and held the third Tuesday of every month at 6pm.

Contact us for agendas and locations.

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BOARD

Rick Henslee, President, Long Creek

Thom Bruce, Vice President, Kimberly

John Zakrajsek Secretary/Treasurer, CTUIR

Reiba Smith, Long Creek

Mark Rietmann, Morrow County

Steph Charette, Confederated Tribes of the
Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

Stop by our new office in the white house
across the street from the Post Office, or
visit us on the web at www.nfjdw.org