

RIVERLANDS

News From Western Rivers Conservancy

Issue 3

Fall 2003



Goose Creek is the largest tributary to California's finest wild salmon stream.

WRC moves to buy Goose Creek in the headwaters of California's Smith River

In our largest land transaction to date, Western Rivers Conservancy has signed an agreement with Simpson Timber Company to buy the biggest tributary to California's finest wild salmon stream, the Smith River. The 9,483 acres we are purchasing includes thirteen miles of Goose Creek and many more miles of smaller tributaries.

While this land is included within the boundary of the Smith River National Recreation Area (NRA), it is still subject to road-building and timber harvest. By purchasing the land we guarantee the future of Goose Creek as a source of clear, cold water for the Smith's wild salmon and steelhead. Even in times of drought Goose Creek provides a

CALIFORNIA'S ONLY UNDAMMED RIVER

strong, dependable base flow to the Smith.

In partnership with the Smith River Alliance and California Trout, we are working to secure federal funding for the U.S. Forest Service to purchase this land as part of the Smith River NRA. The Forest Service and the environmental community strongly support the project.

The Smith is California's only major undammed river, flowing from the Siskiyou Mountains near the Oregon border to the Pacific Ocean near Crescent City. From its protected headwaters, the Smith flows through Douglas fir and redwood forests, supporting California's healthiest wild runs of chinook salmon, steelhead and coastal cutthroat trout. The upper reaches of Goose Creek also support native

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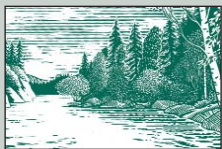
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Score Another One for the Salmon! WRC Buys Land on the Illinois River

After five years of hard work, Western Rivers Conservancy has closed the purchase of 871 acres along two miles of the Illinois National Wild & Scenic River in southwest Oregon.

The Illinois is one of the great salmon streams of the West and lies at the heart of the Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion. The land that we purchased is located near the point where the Illinois flows into the Rogue River. This is a scenic area that sees tremendous public recreational use. WRC conveyed the land to the Siskiyou National Forest to be managed as part of the Wild & Scenic River corridor.

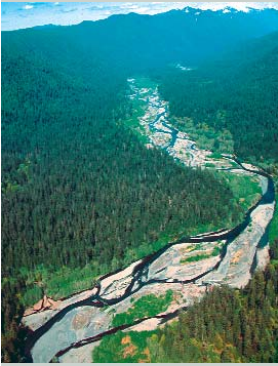
The Forest Service's funding for the purchase came from the federal Land & Water Conservation Fund.



WRC conveyed 871 acres of spectacular trout and salmon habitat be part of a Wild & Scenic River corridor.

A HAVEN FOR SALMON AND PEOPLE

The Oregon delegation to Congress — Senators Smith and Wyden and Congressman DeFazio — went to bat for the project in Washington, D.C. WRC bought the land at a bargain price from Bill Sweet of North Bend, OR, which enabled us to convey it to the Forest Service at a price well below appraisal. ■



The Hoh's braided channel provides rich habitat for salmon and steelhead.

Funding Begins to Flow into Hoh River Project

A SANCTUARY FOR NATIVE SALMON

Western Rivers Conservancy has taken on the ambitious goal of buying and protecting the entire private-land corridor of the Hoh River from Olympic National Park to the Pacific Ocean, a distance of thirty-one river miles. Without waiting for government to act, we began buying lands from Rayonier Timberlands Operating Company and other owners, with 2,150 acres acquired to date. In partnership with the Wild Salmon Center, we are forming a locally-based Hoh River Trust to take ownership of these river lands and manage them as habitat for native salmon and other wildlife.

Recently we got the good news that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has made a first grant of \$3 million to the Hoh project for land acquisition. This will enable the Hoh River Trust to buy a first large tract of land from WRC. This in turn will allow WRC to move forward with its third land purchase from Rayonier and other owners. ■

BUILDING A REFUGE IN PORTLAND'S BACKYARD



Dam removal will make the Sandy free-flowing from Mt. Hood's glaciers to the Pacific Ocean.

More Sandy River Land Protected

WRC continues to steam forward on our Sandy River project with over 600 acres conserved along the Sandy and Little Sandy Rivers in FY2003. This brings our total to 1,891 acres of land protected in the Sandy River basin to date!

Included in the past year's accomplishments are eighty acres along the Little Sandy River that WRC purchased from a Sandy-based timber company. WRC has now acquired half of the lands targeted for conservation in the Little Sandy sub-basin, and we are working to buy the remaining properties. When the Little Sandy Dam comes down in 2008, returning steelhead will encounter an entirely protected stream from forested headwaters to river mouth.

Continued, next page



The Kentucky Falls Special Interest Area is one of the largest old growth reserves in the Siuslaw National Forest.

WRC's Work Brings Success for the Salmon Streams of the Siuslaw

Fisheries biologists working on Oregon's mid-Coast are celebrating one of the most strategic conservation achievements for coastal salmon in recent years. Their cause for celebration: WRC closed the purchase of prime fish habitat along the North Fork Smith River, Cleveland Creek, Five-Mile Creek and Bell Creek from Davidson Industries, Inc. of Mapleton, Oregon. In summer 2003, WRC conveyed these properties to the Siuslaw National Forest as part of the Siuslaw Watershed Restoration and Demonstration Area.

The 600-acre Five-Mile and Bell Creeks acquisition protects the upper reaches of streams that contain the highest number of coho spawners per mile of any stream on the Oregon coast. These streams drain into Lake Tahkenitch where the lake is a natural buffer from pasture development and provides good coho rearing habitat. The diking and draining of estuaries is considered the most limiting factor in coastal coho recovery.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR COASTAL COHO

Oregon's North Fork Smith River (not to be confused with the Smith in California) is a salmon and steelhead stronghold for the large Umpqua River system. The Smith is a coastal river that flows into a Cascades river. (The Umpqua's headwaters are in the western Cascades.) As such, the Smith provides cold water and good habitat to Umpqua River fish in summer months. The 320-acre North Fork Smith parcel was a private in-holding within the Kentucky Falls Special Interest Area, a seven-mile-long corridor of old growth forest in the Siuslaw National Forest.

The 365-acre Cleveland Creek acquisition protects a small tributary to the Siuslaw River that acts as cold water refugia for Siuslaw River fish in summer months. As the Siuslaw heats up, one can find large numbers of fish seeking a safe haven in lower Cleveland Creek. Taken together, these acquisitions bring real hope to the recovery of coastal coho stocks and the long-term health of the mid-Coast's salmon and steelhead. ■

Goose Creek, continued

trout and endangered aquatic species.

The Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion has been identified by the World Wildlife Fund as biologically significant on a global scale and threatened. This region contains the greatest plant biodiversity in North America. The Klamath-Siskiyou has played an important role in seeding all of the great western forests. The region was not glaciated during the last ice age and thus served as a genetic reservoir for these later forests. ■

Sandy River, continued

Portland General Electric made another generous donation of river lands to WRC in 2003, contributing 421 acres in two separate parcels to the Sandy River conservation corridor. The 304-acre Boulder Drop parcel nearly completes protection of the Sandy's famed Inner Gorge, a beautiful, waterfall-lined canyon with cliff-dwelling plant communities and class IV rapids. This property also contains the largest expanse of mature forest along the middle Sandy.

WRC moved outside of our project area between the Sleepy Hollow and Revenue bridges by helping the City of Sandy acquire a 124-acre property for a new city park. The property is located adjacent to the Sandy High School and extends down to the river, crosses over to the other side, and includes a forested island. The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife's 190-acre Cedar Creek property is immediately to the west, bringing the total land managed for conservation near the city center to 314 acres. This land purchase allows the City of Sandy to have a physical connection from Main Street to its namesake river, with a trail and interpretive information planned to help Sandy residents explore their river. ■

BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROFILE:

JIM LICHAOWICH

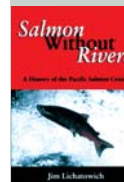
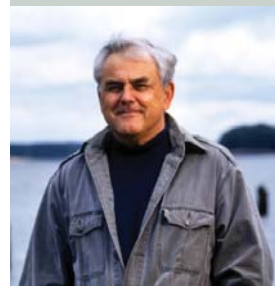
Board Chair Devoted to Salmon Issues

Western Rivers Conservancy's Board Chair, Jim Lichatowich, has been on the front lines of Pacific salmon issues for over thirty years as a fisheries scientist, researcher and manager. Jim is currently working as a private consultant, where he specializes in evaluating the status of salmonid populations and developing restoration plans. He also served the State of Oregon for many years as Chief of Fisheries Research and Assistant Chief of Fisheries.

Jim is the author of *Salmon Without Rivers*, which investigates the origin and development of the salmon crisis in the Northwest. He plans to have a second book completed next year. Jim has also written many scientific papers on the history, status and future outlook for salmon. In 1991 he co-authored a paper titled *Pacific Salmon at a Crossroads*, which greatly increased public awareness of the decline of salmon. The paper coincided with petitions to list salmon as a threatened species. "It sort of woke people up about the salmon problem we were facing," he said.

The solution for salmon is habitat, not hatcheries, and Western Rivers Conservancy's work is critical in this area, Jim says. "Land acquisition is the first step toward creating refuges for salmon."

Between projects, Jim enjoys fishing the Deschutes and North Umpqua Rivers and the Columbia, which is right in his backyard. ■



RIVERLANDS NOTES:

Western Rivers Conservancy would like to note an omission in our 2002 annual report.

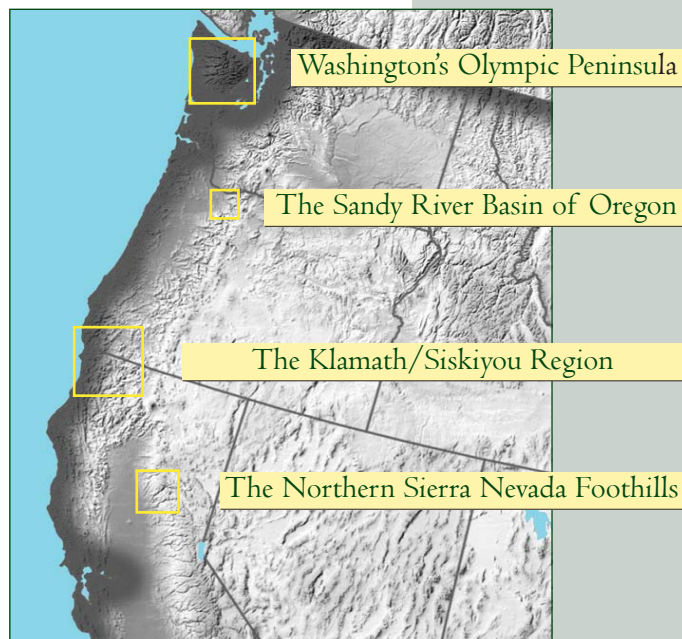
The inside cover photo was taken by Ken Morrish.

We would like to thank Ken for his contributions to our report.

Priority Areas for Western Rivers Conservancy

Our strategy is to focus our efforts on regions that have a high concentration of intact stream ecosystems and biological diversity. Initially, we have selected four such regions:

*Learn more about
Western Rivers
Conservancy at our
Web site:
www.westernrivers.org*





Western Rivers CONSERVANCY

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Our Mission

The mission of Western Rivers Conservancy is to conserve the most outstanding river ecosystems in the western United States, primarily through land acquisition.

Founded in 1988 and based in Portland, Oregon, Western Rivers Conservancy is the nation's foremost specialist in the field of riverland conservation.

Staff

Phillip Wallin, *President*
Sue Doroff, *Vice President*
Hannah Davidson,
Director of Administration
Josh Kling, *Project Manager*
Jenny Andrews, *Intern*

Board of Directors

Ken Grossman
James Lichatowich
John McGlenn
Cleve Pinnix
Phillip Wallin
Norbert Wellman



Cleve (front) joined Josh Kling and other WRC staff members in September for a Rogue River float.

Cleve Pinnix is Newest Member of Western Rivers Conservancy Board

Western Rivers Conservancy is proud to welcome Cleve Pinnix to our Board of Directors. Cleve retired last year after a career in public service, most recently a decade as Director of the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission.

Cleve served eight years as chief of staff for the U.S. House Interior Committee, subcommittee on National Parks that dramatically expanded our National Parks system. He regularly refers to himself as "an old Parkie." An avid outdoorsman, Cleve is enjoying the retired life. He recently returned from a hiking trip on Washington's Pacific Crest Trail, and before that Cleve joined Western Rivers Conservancy staff and colleagues on a Rogue River float in September. ■



GIVE THE WORLD THE GIFT OF RIVERS!

Support the work of Western Rivers Conservancy

Our second year of operations

has been made possible by the people, foundations and corporations listed below. They are funding our work on the Hoh River, the Sandy River, the Smith River, and other great Western streams. They are getting real, tangible results for their investment. We are grateful to each and every one of them. ■

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Stanley Doroff
Si Foote
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Kathleen Moore
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Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund
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Resources Legacy Fund
Foundation (grant and PRI)
Weeden Foundation
Marie C. & Joseph C. Wilson Foundation

Intern joins WRC staff

Jenny Andrews joined Western Rivers Conservancy in July as our new intern. Jenny is currently designing WRC's publications, including river briefing books and the *Riverlands* newsletter. (Her contribution is obvious!) She is also developing and maintaining the WRC website.



Jenny Andrews

Jenny graduated in May from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, with a degree in Environmental Science. She brings with her several years experience in news and publications, first as a manager at the Willamette University newspaper and then a copy editor at the *Statesmen Journal*.

Jenny joined WRC staff rafting the Rogue River in September, where she swam her first Class III rapids! She enjoys indoor soccer and is learning the violin. ■

Please consider giving to Western Rivers Conservancy so that we can accelerate our efforts in river conservation. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to our office in Portland. Please visit our website or call Hannah Davidson, Director of Administration at (503) 241-0151, Ext. 10 for more information.

