

RIVERLANDS

News from Western Rivers Conservancy

Issue 4

Spring 2004

WRC now Largest Private Landowner on Hoh River!

MORE CRITICAL FISH HABITAT ACQUIRED

The Hoh River on Washington's Olympic Peninsula is a legendary salmon stream and one of Western Rivers Conservancy's top priorities. As part of our ongoing effort to create a Hoh River conservation corridor from headwaters to estuary, WRC recently purchased another group of properties critical to the Hoh River ecosystem. With this recent purchase, WRC is now the largest private landowner on the river! WRC owns over ten miles of the Hoh, which is a third of the way to achieving our vision of a thirty-mile-long Hoh River conservation corridor.

The acquired property includes two miles of frontage along the mainstem Hoh, three miles along both sides of Nolan Creek and portions of lower Braden Creek and Pins Creek. Protection of the lower three miles of Nolan Creek, including the stream's mouth, safeguards one of the Hoh basin's most important coho- and steelhead-producing streams. Nolan Creek, which is often tea-colored with tannins from the surrounding forest, is the only tannic stream on the Olympic Peninsula known to contain bull trout. Both Braden and Pins Creeks are also important fish-producing tributaries to the Hoh River.

With our partner, the Wild Salmon Center, Western Rivers Conservancy is working to protect Hoh River lands between the

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The Hoh River and its off-channel waterways contain excellent fish habitat.



Goose Creek

Goose Creek Project Gets a Major Boost

OUR LARGEST PROJECT TO DATE

In January, our initiative to buy the largest tributary to California's legendary Smith River got a big boost when the current administration budgeted \$2 million for the project.

In Western Rivers Conservancy's biggest project to date, we have made a deal with Simpson Timber Company to buy their entire ownership of 9,438 acres in the watershed of Goose Creek, the biggest tributary to California's healthiest wild salmon stream, the Smith. By buying this land and adding it to the

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Western Rivers Conservancy has Moved Closer to the River

HISTORIC OFFICE ON THE WILLAMETTE

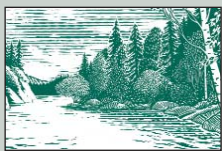


Our new office is in one of Portland's oldest buildings.

The staff at WRC had been working fourteen blocks from our city's main attraction, the Willamette River, and that was too far! Early in March 2004, WRC moved our operations from NE Broadway to SW Oak Street to enjoy a location one block from the Willamette River. WRC now occupies the first floor of the Dielschneider

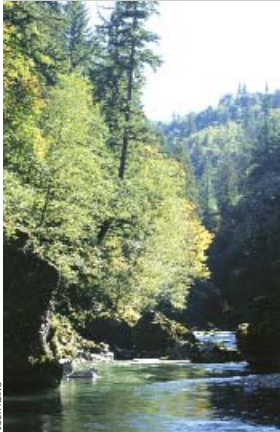
Building at 71 SW Oak Street downtown.

The Dielschneider building was constructed in 1852, making it one of Portland's oldest. It's a beautiful site and we hope to see many river-lovers at our open house party this May. (An announcement with additional information will be mailed soon.) ■



**Western Rivers
CONSERVANCY**

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The Sandy River's Inner Gorge, famous for its beauty and whitewater, is now entirely in public ownership.

Treasured Whitewater Run Protected

SANDY RIVER INNER GORGE IN PUBLIC HANDS

With another terrific accomplishment on the Sandy River, WRC has protected the Sandy's famed "Inner Gorge," a favorite expert kayaking run. With a generous donation of 304 acres from Portland General Electric (PGE), WRC was able to complete the protection of this treasure in Portland's backyard.

To cap this achievement, WRC was able to secure permanent boater access to this exceptional run. PGE donated another 117 acres

above the Inner Gorge along Marmot Road, which guarantees public access to the Inner Gorge put-in.

The Inner Gorge is a five-mile-long basalt canyon with waterfalls, seeps, cliff-dwelling plants and old growth forest. There are four class IV rapids in this five mile reach, making it one of the most challenging runs in the greater Portland area. In addition, the 304-acre property donated by PGE contains the largest block of mature forest along the middle Sandy.

WRC is partnering with PGE and the Bureau of Land Management to remove two dams from the Sandy River basin and create an eleven-mile-long conservation corridor along the middle Sandy. To date, WRC has acquired and protected 2,191 acres of land in the Sandy River basin. ■

WRC Opens California Office, Staffed by Russ Pinto

CALIFORNIA CAMPAIGN

Western Rivers Conservancy is doing more and more river protection work in California. Our Big Chico Creek project established a 4,000-acre preserve along five miles of Big Chico Creek, now managed by California State University, Chico. Our Goose Creek project on the Smith River is our first initiative in California's north coast region.

In February, we took the exciting step of opening our California office in Sebastopol, north of San Francisco. The office, at 313 North Main Street, will be led by new staff member Russ Pinto. Russ has more than 20 years of experience in conservation land-buying, beginning in the Wood River Valley of Idaho. Later he worked with the Trust for Public Land for 3 years, focusing on the Columbia River Gorge. For the past 14 years Russ has been the Director of Land Protection for The Nature Conservancy in Oregon, serving as their chief negotiator on all real estate transactions, public and private. Russ has dedicated his career to ecosystem protection, working with a wide range of partners. He sees his new position with WRC as a chance to protect outstanding rivers throughout the Sierra Nevada, the redwood coast, the Central Valley and other beautiful regions of California. ■

Little Sandy Almost Entirely Protected

RESTORING A ONCE-GREAT STEELHEAD STREAM



Dam removal will make the Little Sandy River free-flowing for the first time in more than ninety years.

The sixteen-mile-long Little Sandy River is nearly all protected and in public ownership. In 2003, WRC acquired 200 acres of land in two parcels along the Little Sandy. Only four miles of the Little Sandy's course are not protected in public ownership, and these purchases include over two miles of that reach. WRC also secured a donation of 100 acres this year from PGE along the Little Sandy, bringing WRC close to protecting the entire corridor.

The Little Sandy was once a blue-ribbon steelhead stream but has been cut off from its mouth by water diversions since 1907. Removing the dam will allow fish to access ten miles of high-quality habitat. The Little Sandy has pristine forested headwaters on the west slope of Mt. Hood, a robust riparian plant community, low sediment loading, low water temperature and ideal aquatic habitats. Dam removal coupled with land protection will give Little Sandy steelhead the best possible opportunity to recover. ■



Russ Pinto has joined WRC as California Director. He brings with him more than 20 years of experience in conservation land-buying.

CONTACT OUR CALIFORNIA OFFICE:

Russ Pinto
California Director
313 North Main St.
Suite C
Sebastopol, CA 95472
(707) 823-5845

Hoh River, continued

Olympic National Park boundary and the Pacific Ocean. Creation of this thirty-mile-long conservation corridor will safeguard one of the finest salmon and steelhead streams remaining in the continental United States. WRC will convey all of the land purchased on the Hoh to the Hoh River Trust, a non-profit organization that we are forming with the Wild Salmon Center. The Hoh River Trust will be an organization dedicated to long-term conservation stewardship and public access to the river. ■

Goose Creek, continued

existing Smith River National Recreation Area, we will protect against future logging and road-building that could jeopardize the crystalline water quality of the Smith. We are working closely with the Smith River Alliance and California Trout on this project.



The mouth of Goose Creek at the Smith River.

The administration budget line-item for Goose Creek enables the Forest Service to begin working with us to acquire the Goose Creek lands. In a round of meetings over the past few months, local Congressman Mike Thompson and Senator Dianne Feinstein have taken the lead in seeking funding for the project in the Congressional appropriations process. The Del Norte County Board of Supervisors has written a letter to support the project, while citing their concerns over loss of county tax revenues.

Our work on this project has been made possible by grants from the Heller Charitable Foundation, Weeden Foundation, Goldman Fund and the Compton Foundation and a grant and loan from the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation. ■

BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROFILE:



NORB WELLMAN

A LIFE-LONG INVESTOR IN RIVERS

Growing up with a Cascade stream in his backyard, Western Rivers Conservancy's founding Board Member, Norb Wellman, developed a love for rivers at an early age. Butte Creek ran through his family's Mount Angel, OR farm, and Norb often fished there for trout and steelhead and swam the creek's waters. Over time, he saw those clear waters turn silty and degraded — an experience that stuck with him. Years later, a mutual friend introduced Norb to WRC President Phil Wallin, and they struck an accord that was the beginning of a partnership in conservation.

"Norb was the first person we turned to when we founded Western Rivers Conservancy," Phil Wallin says. "He epitomizes the Westerner who loves rivers, has gotten a lot of enjoyment from rivers and wants to give something back. Norb is the rock that Western Rivers was founded upon."

Norb is the founding partner of the investment firm Ferguson Wellman Capital Management Inc., located in Portland. An Oregonian to the bone, he went to Oregon State University on a baseball scholarship, where he pitched the Beavers to the College World Series in 1952. After

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Norb Wellman is founding partner of Ferguson Wellman Capital Management Inc. in Portland, Oregon.

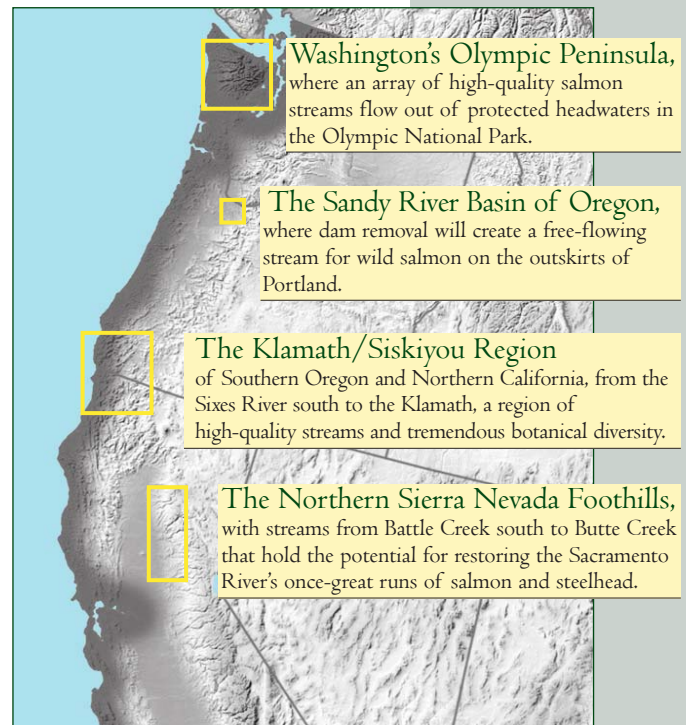
Priority Areas for Western Rivers Conservancy

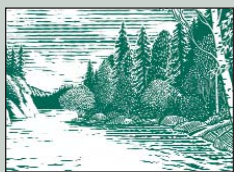
Our strategy is to focus our efforts on regions that have a high concentration of intact stream ecosystems and biological diversity.

Initially, we have selected four such regions (right). ■

*Learn more about
Western Rivers
Conservancy at our
website:*

www.westernrivers.org





Western Rivers CONSERVANCY

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(503) 241-0374 fax
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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.

Staff

Phillip Wallin, *President*

Sue Doroff, *Vice President*

Hannah Davidson,
Director of Administration

Josh Kling, *Project Manager*

Russ Pinto,
California Director

Brigitte Sarabi, *Interim
Director of Development*

Jenny Andrews, *Intern*

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Nevada Brewing Co., CA*

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Alder Fork Consulting, OR

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Tetra Tech/KCM, WA

Andrew Miller,
Stimson Lumber Co., OR

Cleve Pinnix, *Retired, WA*

Phillip Wallin,
Western Rivers Conservancy

Norb Wellman, continued

serving in the Air Force, he taught, coached and served as Tigard High School's Vice Principal for 4 years. In 1962, he started in the investment business with a New York Stock Exchange firm. In 1975, he and his partner founded Ferguson Wellman Capital Management, which currently manages approximately two billion dollars of private and institutional money.

Norb still finds time to fish his favorite streams. This year, he plans to revisit Elk Creek in Western Colorado — what he calls “some of the most phenomenal fishing ever.”

Norb is a trustee for the OSU Foundation, where he also served as president and chaired a committee that raised \$2.5 million to build a new baseball stadium. He lives in Portland with his wife, Ann, and has two grown children and one grandchild. ■

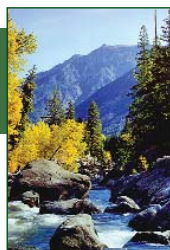
CEO of Stimson Lumber Company Joins WRC Board of Directors

Some of Western Rivers Conservancy's best partners have been forest products companies who have sold or donated lands along rivers. Such companies include Simpson Resources, Longview Fibre and Crown Pacific. With this in mind, WRC recently welcomed to our Board of Directors a new member with deep family roots in the industry.



*Andrew Miller,
CEO, Stimson
Lumber Co.*

Andrew Miller is President and CEO of Stimson Lumber Company. Based in Portland, Stimson is a privately-held forest products company that owns 420,000 acres of resource lands and 14 manufacturing facilities in Washington, Oregon, Montana and Idaho. Additionally, Stimson Lumber is a member of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. Andrew is an officer and Board member of the Western Wood Products Association. The father of four children, Andrew enjoys fishing and the outdoors and welcomes the chance to help conserve Western rivers for the next generation. ■



GIVE THE WORLD THE GIFT OF RIVERS! Support the work of Western Rivers Conservancy

Our operations have

been made possible by the people, organizations and foundations listed here.

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. ■

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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Portland General Electric
Simpson Timber Co.
Thompson Smith Consulting Group

FOUNDATIONS

Bullitt Foundation
Charlotte Martin Foundation
Collins Foundation
Compton Foundation

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, www.westernrivers.org, or call Brigitte Sarabi, Interim Director of Development (503-241-0151, Ext. 14), for more information.