



WESTERN RIVERS  
CONSERVANCY



WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY'S  
**River Protection Fund**  
A revolving fund to protect riverlands forever.

**For more than 35 years, Western Rivers Conservancy has been the preeminent organization protecting the great rivers of the West. With the support of friends like you, we have permanently conserved over 225,000 acres of habitat for fish and wildlife along more than 250 rivers and streams. We have returned clean, cold water to tributary and headwater streams where fish and rivers desperately need it. And we have created or protected recreational access along some of the best, most beautiful rivers in the region.**

The key to WRC's success is having access to ready capital, which allows us to purchase river properties quickly, often before they go on the commercial market. This is where WRC's River Protection Fund comes in.

The River Protection Fund is a permanent revolving fund that provides WRC with a ready source of cash to secure properties quickly. Many of the most impactful projects WRC has brought to fruition were made possible by the fund, including our work creating Cottonwood Canyon State Park on the John Day River in Oregon; establishing the San Luis Hills State Wildlife Area in Colorado; and conserving the Yakima Canyon Ranch on Washington's cherished Yakima River.

In recent years, the appraised values of river properties have soared, and the time required to hold properties before conveying them to their long-term stewards has increased. With more and more competition from private buyers, access to ready cash to purchase properties can be the difference between conserving a great stretch of river forever—or losing the opportunity for a lifetime.

**This is where you can make a lasting impact for the rivers of the West!** The current value of the River Protection Fund is \$16 million. With your help, our goal is to grow the fund to \$25 million so we can take on even greater opportunities to save the great rivers of the West as they arise.



### **John Day River, Oregon**

*WRC's River Protection Fund played a critical role in our conservation of more than 42,000 acres and 30 mainstream river miles along the lower John Day and more than 14 miles of two of its most important tributary streams for wild summer steelhead. We created Cottonwood Canyon State Park, secured new river access at Thirtymile Creek and preserved recreational access at McDonald's Ferry. These acquisitions have provided access to more than 75,000 acres of public lands that were difficult to access prior to WRC's work in this region.*

JORDAN SIEMENS

TOM AND PAUL LEEBSON

## HOW THE RIVER PROTECTION FUND WORKS: Your investment in perpetuity!



The River Protection Fund is an internal revolving fund that we use to buy key riverlands. It is not an endowment; it is a *working fund*, repeatedly replenished. We use the fund to buy options, make down payments, or purchase land outright. Once WRC conveys a property to a long-term steward, we recover our investment, and those dollars are replenished back into the fund to do the work of saving rivers all over again.

When you make a gift to the River Protection Fund it is **permanent**. Because it is a revolving fund, you and your family have the satisfaction of knowing your investment will protect properties many times over.

At any given time, our ability to act is limited to our access to working capital. The River Protection Fund, which was established by a seed grant more than two decades ago, no longer matches the scale and increased costs of our many opportunities to purchase riverlands across the West. **By directing a gift to the River Protection Fund, you will increase WRC's capacity to take on more projects as they arise, making a lasting impact on the great rivers of the West.**

### THE MANY WAYS YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

You can invest in the River Protection Fund with gifts of cash, appreciated stock, a distribution from your Donor Advised Fund, a multi-year pledge, or a bequest in your will or estate plan.



#### The Big Hole Basin, Montana

Thanks to the River Protection Fund, WRC was able to acquire the Eagle Rock Ranch on the Wise River and Clemow Cow Camp on Cox and Old Tim Creeks, all tributaries to the legendary Big Hole River—one of the most revered fly fishing streams in the West. Both projects secured significant water rights ensuring cold water habitat for native fluvial Arctic grayling and westslope cutthroat trout, in addition to rainbow and brown trout populations. Conserved meadow riparian areas provide excellent habitat for Rocky Mountain elk, Canada lynx, pronghorn and sandhill cranes. These acquisitions permanently secured public access for hiking, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing.



#### Tarryall Creek, Colorado

Most recently, the River Protection Fund helped permanently protect Collard Ranch, which includes five miles of Tarryall Creek, a principal tributary to the South Platte River within easy access of Denver and Colorado Springs. The ranch is a major migration corridor for thousands of Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer and pronghorn. The meandering stream with its resident brown and rainbow trout populations includes exceptional wetland habitat and beaver ponds, creating prime spawning habitat for fish and attracting a diverse array of bird life including Lewis's woodpecker and mountain plover. Conveyance to Colorado Parks and Wildlife ensured public access to this coveted fly fishing stream and its surrounds.