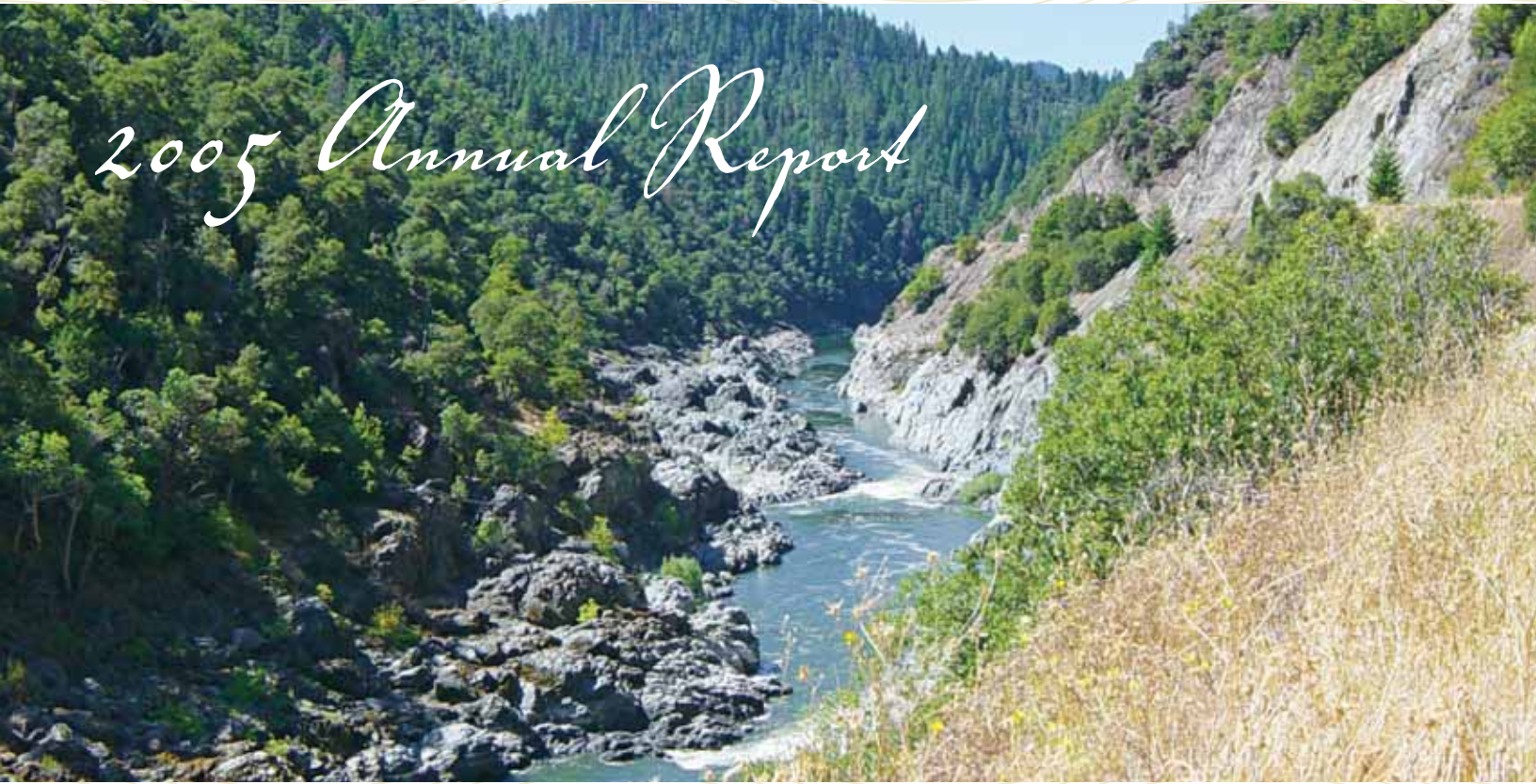


2005 Annual Report



WESTERN RIVERS
CONSERVANCY



JOHN MARSHALL

“America is a great story, and there’s a river
on every page of it.”

–Charles Kuralt

Letter from the Chair & President

Is there any true Westerner who doesn't love the sight and sound of a wild mountain stream? Westerners who care about rivers want to help keep them wild and natural, and that's where Western Rivers Conservancy comes in. We buy land along the most outstanding western streams to conserve them for fish, wildlife and people. Our results are real and lasting.

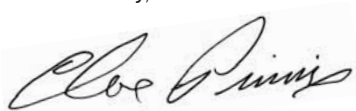
In 2005, with a small staff and a lean budget, Western Rivers Conservancy took major steps toward conserving some of the finest rivers in the West.

- The Smith River, on the north coast of California: We exercised our option to purchase all 9,500 acres of private lands in the watershed of Goose Creek, a principal tributary to the Smith.
- The Hoh River, on Washington's Olympic Peninsula: We purchased 1,050 acres along the Hoh River from Rayonier and conveyed 3,400 acres to the nonprofit Hoh River Trust, creating a major new sanctuary for wild salmon, steelhead and threatened species of wildlife.
- The Illinois River, in the Siskiyou Mountains of southern Oregon: Western Rivers Conservancy signed a contract to buy an 871-acre ranch along Deer Creek, which will become an ecological research and education center for the Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion.
- The Sandy River basin, on the eastern edge of the Portland, Oregon, metropolitan area: Western Rivers Conservancy added two new properties to the assemblage of a seventeen-mile salmon sanctuary in a river basin whose only dams will be removed in 2007-2008.

Just as important, in 2005 WRC adopted an ambitious five-year strategic plan, "Great Rivers of the West," that will guide our efforts to conserve the best western rivers. Beginning with a survey of the last, best streams, bringing to bear creative real estate techniques, getting maximum leverage from partnerships and private capital, our goal is to conserve whole river ecosystems.

We invite you to roll up your sleeves and join us in this crusade to conserve the great rivers of the West. Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cleve Pinnix".

Cleve Pinnix, *Chair, Board of Directors*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip Wallin".

Phillip Wallin, *President*

The Mission of Western Rivers Conservancy

Western Rivers Conservancy acts to protect outstanding river ecosystems in the western United States. We acquire land to conserve critical habitat, provide for compatible public use and enjoyment and cooperate with other agencies and organizations to secure the health of the whole ecosystem.

Priority Areas for River Conservation

Western Rivers Conservancy works to protect our best remaining western rivers. To do this, we focus on the following five regions, each of which possesses a high concentration of intact stream ecosystems and biological diversity:

1



Washington's Olympic Peninsula, where an array of high-quality salmon streams flow out of protected headwaters in the Olympic National Park.

2



The Sandy River basin of Oregon, where dam removal will create a free-flowing stream for wild salmon on the outskirts of Portland.

3





1

Washington's Olympic Peninsula

2

Oregon's Sandy River Basin

3

The Central Oregon Coast

4

The Klamath-Siskiyou Region

5

The Northern Sierra Nevada Foothills of California

3

The Central Oregon

4



The Klamath-Siskiyou Region of southern Oregon and northern California, from the Sixes River south to the Klamath, a region of high-quality streams and tremendous botanical diversity.

5



The Northern Sierra Nevada Foothills of California, with streams from Battle Creek south to Butte Creek that hold the potential for restoring the Sacramento River's once-great runs of salmon and steelhead.



TOM OYKEE

The rare, carnivorous plant Darlingtonia californica blooms along the Illinois River.

A Premier Site for Conservation and Research: *Deer Creek*



LOU GORD

In our newest project of Fiscal Year 2005, Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) is preserving a biologically important ranch property along Oregon's Deer Creek and helping to establish a nationally significant center for research and education.

In March 2005, we signed an agreement to purchase the 871-acre property along Deer Creek, a major tributary to the Illinois River in Southern Oregon. The site is located in the heart of the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion, an important region for WRC's river conservation work because of its great botanical diversity and healthy streams like the Illinois, Chetco and Rogue Rivers.



Deer Creek Conservation Achievements in FY05 included:

- Signed an agreement to purchase an 871-acre ranch along Deer Creek, tributary to the Illinois River
- Working with Siskiyou Field Institute, Southern Oregon University and Humboldt State University to establish a research and education center focused on the surrounding rare ecosystems

We are partnering with several area educational institutions – the Siskiyou Field Institute, Southern Oregon University and Humboldt State University – to convert the Deer Creek Ranch house and buildings into a research station and education center. Nearby sites support an unusually high diversity of rare and endemic plants and animals, serving as the perfect backdrop for an outdoor classroom and laboratory. Eight Dollar Mountain, Squaw Creek and the Illinois River are just several of these “hotspots” for biodiversity in close proximity to the ranch.

A private foundation in Atlanta, Georgia, has committed a \$3 million challenge grant to fund the project. WRC plans to hold the property until the Siskiyou Field Institute and Southern Oregon University take ownership later in 2006. This is WRC's second project on the Illinois River and its tributaries. Two years ago, we conserved nearly 900 acres along the Illinois near its confluence with the Rogue River.



MIKAEL DAMKIER

Above and Right: Surrounded by rare ecosystems and a diversity of plant and animal species, the Deer Creek Ranch is the ideal location for a future research and education center.



SISKIYOU FIELD INSTITUTE



JOSH KLING

WRC is assembling the lands to create a corridor for conservation and recreation along the length of the lower Hoh River, a globally important salmon stronghold.

A New Model for River Conservation: *The Hoh*

Flowing pristine from the glaciers of Mount Olympus, Washington's Hoh River is one of the finest salmon rivers in the continental United States. With the upper two-thirds of the watershed protected in Olympic National Park, Western Rivers Conservancy is acquiring lands to protect the lower thirty miles of the river, outside the park. When the project is complete, the Hoh will be conserved along its entire fifty-six mile length — a vast accomplishment protecting an entire river ecosystem and a globally important stronghold for salmon and steelhead.

In December 2004, WRC purchased the fourth and final phase of properties owned by Rayonier along the Hoh,

totaling 1,050 acres. The land contains a broad, rich floodplain known as the “Hoh Oxbows,” which includes an important put-in and take-out site for boaters and anglers. The confluence of the South Fork Hoh, an important spawning reach for bull trout and other fish species, was also conserved in this phase. The purchase brings WRC's total lands acquired to 4,500 acres, well on our way toward the long-term objective of conserving at least 7,500 acres of land along the lower Hoh.

WRC and partners are developing a new model for river conservation on this special stream: the river trust. In 2004, WRC and the Wild Salmon Center formed the Hoh River Trust, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to conserve native salmon and wildlife habitat along the Hoh, ensure public access to the river and manage its lands for permanent ecosystem protection.

In Spring 2005, WRC conveyed to the Hoh River Trust 3,400 acres of land along fifteen river and stream miles. As the Trust took title to these first lands, WRC worked with the Wild Salmon Center to help set the organization on course, hiring an Executive Director and a Director of Land Management.

WRC continues to help the Hoh River Trust build a strong Board of Directors to raise its endowment and develop a



Hoh River Conservation Achievements in FY05 included:

- Purchased 1,050 acres from Rayonier, bringing our total lands acquired to 4,500 acres
- Conveyed 3,400 acres to the Hoh River Trust for permanent conservation stewardship
- Helped set the Hoh River Trust on course with qualified staff and seed funding for an endowment

land management plan. We have also committed seed funding to the Trust for two years. The Hoh River Trust's success has affirmed WRC's belief that this is an important and repeatable model for private-sector river conservation.

Finally, a federal grant of \$2.25 million was announced in September 2005 that will allow the Hoh River Trust to

purchase an additional 1,176 acres from WRC. Special thanks to U.S. Representative Norm Dicks and Doug Sutherland, Washington DNR Commissioner of Public Lands, for helping to secure this funding from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund. The funding complements \$6.7 million already granted to the project in 2003 and 2004.



WRC staff float the Hoh with Bill Peach of Rayonier.



AVI HESTERMAN

Western Rivers Conservancy is purchasing the entire privately-owned watershed of Goose Creek, largest tributary to the Smith River.

Protecting a Great California Stream: *The Smith River*

In the rugged backcountry of California's North Coast, Western Rivers Conservancy is protecting the headwaters of California's last major river without a single dam – the Smith River. Tucked in the northwest corner of the state, the Smith is famous for its clean, emerald waters and record-size steelhead. Its main tributary, Goose Creek, is owned almost entirely by Green Diamond Resource Company. In our largest project to date, WRC is

purchasing Green Diamond's 9,501-acre ownership – the entire privately owned watershed of Goose Creek – and incorporating this land into the surrounding Smith River National Recreation Area. This will forever ensure cold, clean water for the Smith River's robust runs of wild fish and provide for improved recreational access to this scenic area.

In FY2005, WRC worked with the Smith River Alliance and California Trout to secure \$1 million from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund for Goose Creek. WRC will use this funding in 2006 to purchase the first 5,100 acres, with plans to purchase the rest of the land in subsequent funding cycles. We secured this funding thanks in large part to the support of the California Congressional delegation – Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer and Congressman Mike Thompson. The project also has the support of Del Norte County, with the understanding that the County will be compensated for lost property tax revenues.

Protected in large part by state and national parks and wilderness areas, the Smith is a benchmark for what a healthy salmon stream should look like. While much of California's wild fishery is threatened or degraded, the Smith serves as an "insurance policy" for the genetic integrity of the state's wild salmon and steelhead populations. Conserving Goose Creek, a critical year-round source of cold, clean water for the Smith, will ensure that the Smith River's healthy legacy will be passed on to future generations.



Smith River Conservation Achievements in FY05 included:

- Exercised our purchase option, committing WRC to buy all 9,501 acres of private lands in the Goose Creek watershed
- Secured an appropriation of \$1 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund



California's last major river without a single dam, the Smith River supports the state's healthiest wild runs of salmon, steelhead (inset) and coastal cutthroat trout.



GARY BRAASCH

The Sandy basin is home to two herds of Roosevelt Elk.

Creating a Wild River Sanctuary: *The Sandy River*



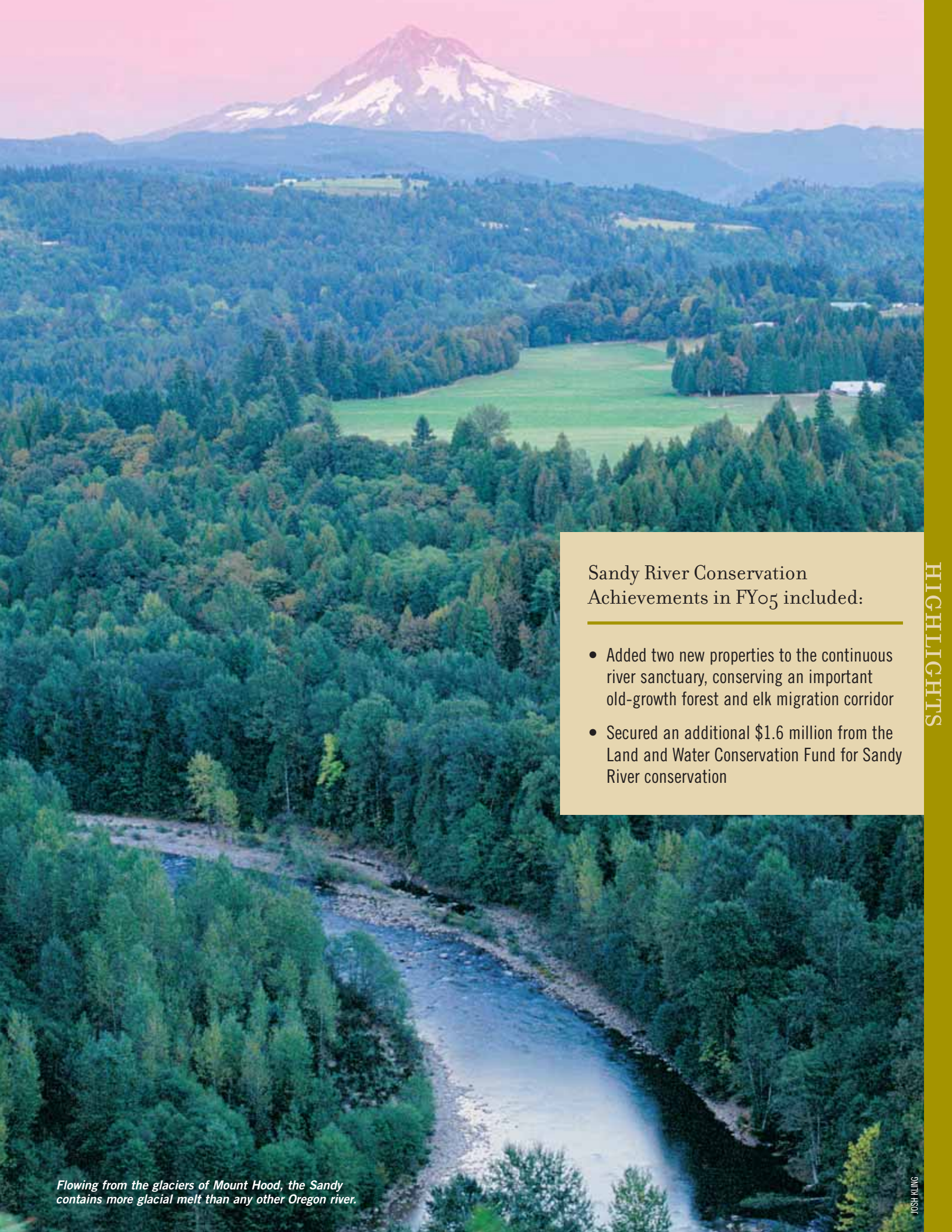
The Sandy River is a wild, glacial river in the very backyard of Portland, Oregon. Its course is steep and rocky through scenic gorges, supporting habitat for native runs of winter steelhead, spring and fall chinook and coho salmon. Since 1999, Western Rivers Conservancy has been working to create a refuge along seventeen miles of the Sandy and Little Sandy Rivers to protect these treasured streams forever. Conserving this land is all the more exciting as we approach Portland General Electric's removal of two dams in 2007-2008 to make the rivers free-flowing for the first time since the early 1900s.

In FY2005, WRC added two properties to the emerging conservation corridor, bringing our total lands acquired to 2,257 acres along eight river miles. In February 2005, we purchased the 131-acre Ten Eyck property and conveyed it to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which will manage the corridor for fish and wildlife protection as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The Ten Eyck property links up adjacent tracts already conserved by WRC that will allow a future hiking trail to follow the Sandy, with scenic vista points along the length of the conservation corridor.

In June 2005, we conveyed to the BLM a forested 120-acre parcel located atop a high ridge known as the Devil's Backbone. Portland General Electric (PGE) generously donated this property in 2004. The property contains locally-rare mature forest stands and a tributary to the Bull Run River.

In July 2005, Congress awarded the Sandy River \$1.6 million from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This award brings the total appropriations for the Sandy to \$10.3 million since 2001, demonstrating the continued federal priority of conserving Sandy River fish and wildlife habitat. Strong support from Oregon Senators Gordon Smith and Ron Wyden, as well as Representative Earl Blumenauer, has been instrumental in securing the LWCF funding.

PGE is donating 1,500 acres to the project, including 750 acres to date. WRC's assemblage of 4,500 total acres of land for conservation, coupled with the dam removals, will help recover a great wild fishery and establish an outdoor playground like no other near a major city.



Sandy River Conservation
Achievements in FY05 included:

- Added two new properties to the continuous river sanctuary, conserving an important old-growth forest and elk migration corridor
- Secured an additional \$1.6 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for Sandy River conservation

Flowing from the glaciers of Mount Hood, the Sandy contains more glacial melt than any other Oregon river.

Great Rivers of the West:

Our 2006-2010 Strategic Plan

In the fall of 2005, Western Rivers Conservancy launched an ambitious five-year strategic plan, *Great Rivers of the West*. The plan calls for an exciting new approach to river conservation, one that focuses on our best remaining rivers, combines private and public resources, creates new forms of land stewardship, partners with corporate landowners and results in the protection of whole river ecosystems.

Since 1988, WRC has built a record of success in the Pacific Northwest and beyond. We have applied private resources and creativity to the task of river conservation, having protected land along hundreds of outstanding river miles in Washington, Oregon, Montana and California. Now it is time to begin expanding, slowly and strategically, into other regions of the West.

The *Great Rivers of the West* program is built on nine major initiatives:

- **Survey** the thirteen western states to identify the most outstanding river ecosystems.
- Create major **sanctuaries** on these rivers by acquiring critical habitat lands. Where possible, conserve the whole river from source to mouth.
- Focus our efforts on **eight bioregions** that are especially rich in high-quality rivers. Examples are the Olympic Peninsula in Washington and the Klamath-Siskiyou region in southern Oregon and northern California.
- Create private, nonprofit “**River Trusts**” to be long-term land stewards and river protectors. The Hoh River Trust is an example.
- Use **creativity** to achieve maximum leverage in land purchases, assembling capital from numerous sources, both private and public.
- Build a \$10 million revolving **River Protection Fund** to help us seize land purchase opportunities.
- Partner with selected **corporations** with extensive land holdings, such as utilities and timber companies.
- **Monitor** the quality of our results over the long term.
- Build a **stronger organization** – Board, staff and infrastructure – to implement this ambitious plan.

By 2010, Western Rivers Conservancy wants to have all these elements in place so that we can begin to deliver our program throughout the West. The challenge is to mobilize private and public resources to create a series of major sanctuaries on our best western rivers, from the northwest rain forest to the Sonoran desert, where native fish, wildlife and people can flourish.

“In a society that has become increasingly urban and alienated from the natural world, rivers offer an opportunity to return, to rejoin the pattern and the company of life on earth, to share in this archetype of creation. But that possibility exists only if the rivers are worth going to.”

—Tim Palmer, *Lifelines: The Case for River Conservation*



NORMAN EDER

The Snake River flows through Hell's Canyon, North America's deepest gorge, located on the Oregon-Idaho border.

Statement of Financial Position

September 30, 2005

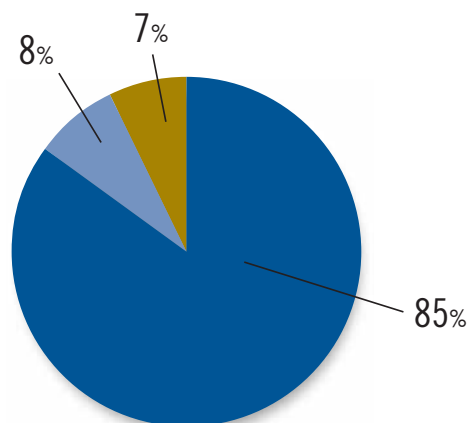
Assets:	2005	2004
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,453,517	3,709,546
Contributions receivable	75,000	-
Interest receivable	16,150	-
Other receivables	47,098	49,490
Prepaid expenses	11,626	17,502
Investments	1,448,729	-
Land holdings, options and other real property	1,823,600	6,807,850
Office equipment	23,463	27,838
Total assets	\$5,899,183	\$10,612,226

Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	15,459	43,211
Accrued payroll and related expenses	16,338	12,665
Interest payable	21,072	211,589
Grants payable	75,000	-
Funds held on behalf of others	389,279	382,374
Notes payable	869,000	5,846,985
Total liabilities	1,386,148	6,496,824

Net assets:		
Unrestricted:		
Available for programs and general operations	978,776	460,121
Board designated funds:		
Reserve Fund	472,000	472,000
River Protection Fund	320,000	320,000
Net investment in land holdings, options, other real property and other capital assests	764,529	567,416
Total unrestricted	2,535,305	1,819,537
Temporarily restricted	1,796,894	2,115,029
Permanently restricted	180,836	180,836
Total net assets	4,513,035	4,115,402
Total liabilities and net assets	\$5,899,183	\$10,612,226

EXPENSES: YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

- Program Services
- Management and General
- Fundraising



Statement of Activities

Revenue:	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	2005 TOTAL	2004 TOTAL
Contributions of land:					
Fair market value of land acquired	\$1,345,500	-	-	1,345,500	5,793,650
Less consideration paid	(1,294,500)	-	-	(1,294,500)	(4,503,650)
Contributions of land, net	51,000	-	-	51,000	1,290,000
Other public support and revenues:					
Contributions and grants	155,143	943,188	-	1,098,331	308,408
In-kind contributions	35,606	-	-	35,606	60,354
Program service fees	-	-	-	-	1,090
Investment income	65,694	-	-	65,694	17,505
Change in asset value	872,350	-	-	872,350	331,000
Other revenue	271,396	-	-	271,396	78,350
Total public support and other revenues	1,400,189	943,188	-	2,343,377	796,707
Total public support and revenues	1,451,189	943,188	-	2,394,377	2,086,707
Net assets released from restriction	954,357	(954,357)	-	-	-
Total revenues	2,405,546	(11,169)	-	2,394,377	2,086,707
Expenses and donations:					
Donations of land to public agencies:					
Fair market value of land conveyed	7,352,100	-	-	7,352,100	5,812,500
Less consideration received	(7,352,100)	-	-	(7,352,100)	(5,229,699)
Donations of land to public agencies, net	-	-	-	-	582,801
Program service expenses associated with land conservation	1,712,519	-	-	1,712,519	1,110,612
Management and general	154,252	-	-	154,252	132,101
Fundraising expenses	129,973	-	-	129,973	90,292
Total expenses	1,996,744	-	-	1,996,744	1,915,806
Increase (decrease) in net assets before non-operating activities	408,802	(11,169)	-	397,633	170,901
Non-operating activities:					
Net Assets released from restrictions for land acquisition	306,966	(306,966)	-	-	-
Increase (decrease) in net assets	715,768	(318,135)	-	397,633	170,901
Net assets at beginning of year	1,819,537	2,115,029	180,836	4,115,402	3,944,501
Net assets at end of year	\$2,535,305	1,796,894	180,836	4,513,035	4,115,402

This financial information is excerpted from Western Rivers Conservancy's audited financial statement. To obtain a complete copy of the audit by the firm of Gary McGee & Co., please contact Western Rivers Conservancy.

Staff



WRC Board and staff rafts the Middle Fork Salmon River, Idaho.

Phillip Wallin is the co-founder and President of Western Rivers Conservancy. Phil has thirty-five years of conservation land-buying experience, both as a founding staff member of the Trust for Public Land and later as founder of River Network.

Sue Doroff co-founded WRC and serves as Vice President. Sue brings with her twenty years of experience in conservation and commercial real estate, focusing extensively on private-public cooperation. She is responsible for the long-term protection of more than 10,000 acres of riverlands in the Pacific Northwest.

Hannah Davidson is Western Rivers Conservancy's Director of Finance and Administration. She brings with her over fifteen years of administration and management experience, primarily in nonprofit organizations.

Josh Kling is Western Rivers Conservancy's Project Manager. Before joining the Conservancy in 1999, Josh specialized in ecological monitoring while working for the U.S. Forest Service at the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

Russ Pinto, California Director, has two decades of experience in conservation land buying. Before joining Western Rivers Conservancy in 2004, Russ worked as the Director of Land Protection for the Oregon State Office of The Nature Conservancy.

David Wilkins, Development Director, brings to the organization a long history of fundraising for river and forest protection. Most recently, he was Development Director for Oregon Natural Resources Council and prior to that, he worked with several of WRC's current staff at River Network.

Jenny Andrews, Communications Manager, joined Western Rivers Conservancy in 2003 after graduating from Willamette University. She previously worked as a copy editor for the Salem *Statesman Journal*.

Allison Barra joined Western Rivers Conservancy in August 2005 as Administrative and Development Assistant. Prior to joining WRC's staff, Alli coordinated a headwaters-to-coast educational tour of the Columbia River. She has a degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Rochester.

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Director, retired

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Western Rivers Conservancy
Portland, Oregon

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Investor, retired

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Portland, Oregon

*elected in FY06

Acknowledgments

Western Rivers Conservancy would like to acknowledge the following for their gracious support between October 1, 2004 and September 30, 2005:

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