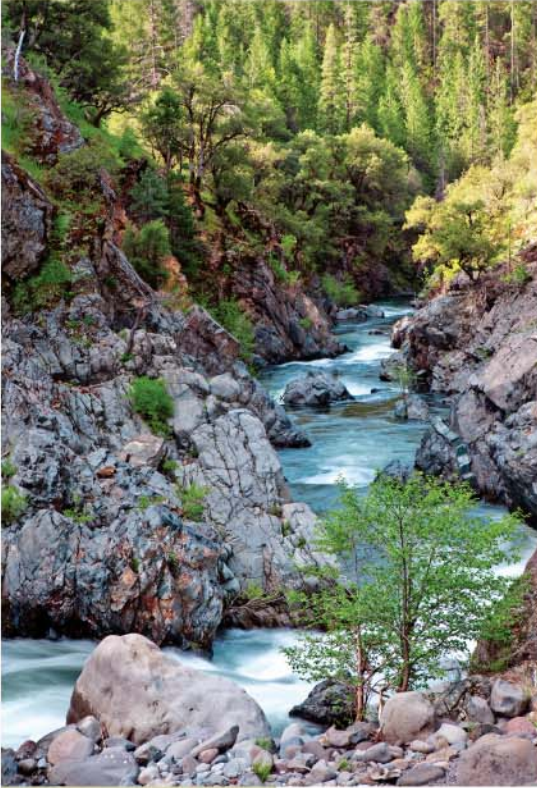


RIVERLANDS

News from Western Rivers Conservancy

Issue 17

Summer 2009



Deer Creek, California

Protecting a Vital Link on Deer Creek

STRONGHOLD OF THE NORTHERN SIERRA NEVADA, CALIFORNIA

A handful of streams in the Sierra Nevada hold the hope of restoring the Sacramento River's once-great runs of salmon. Among them is Deer Creek, which flows dam-free from the Sierra Nevada foothills to the Sacramento Valley. Deer Creek is one of the top three streams in the Sierras for aquatic life – a rare California waterway with healthy runs of spring Chinook and steelhead.

Western Rivers Conservancy has the opportunity to preserve a vital link along Deer Creek within the Lassen National Forest. We have signed an agreement to purchase and conserve 600 acres currently owned by Sierra Pacific Industries. The land includes a scenic trail that follows the canyon and leads to Lower Deer Creek Falls, a breathtaking cascade that typifies the rugged beauty of the region.

The property connects to a network of wilderness trails that offer year-round access to a hiking and backpacking paradise. Whitewater boaters revel in the fun drops and grand scenery along this stretch, easily accessed from Highway 32.

With land protection, the diversity of flora, fish and wildlife that utilize this stretch of the Deer Creek canyon will be conserved for all time, contributing to the health of the entire system and the long-term survival of Sacramento River salmon. ■



Western Rivers Conservancy has protected nearly 7,000 acres of habitat along the Hoh River.

Hoh River Victory a Decade in the Making

OLYMPIC PENINSULA, WASHINGTON

The Hoh River is one of the most revered salmon streams on the Pacific Rim, and its protection deserves our steadfast efforts – in this case, over many years.

After negotiating with three successive landowners of the same property over seven years, Western Rivers Conservancy successfully purchased the land – nearly 2,000 acres – in March. We now have acquired all of the major corporate-owned land along the lower 30 miles of the Hoh River, something we set out to achieve nearly a decade ago.

In August, we will convey the 1,982-acre property into the permanent stewardship of the Hoh River Trust. With this conveyance, Western Rivers Conservancy has protected nearly 7,000 acres of habitat along the finest remaining salmon and steelhead river in the continental United States.

The result: The Hoh River Recreation and Conservation Area now stretches from Olympic National Park to the Pacific Ocean, protecting nearly the entire length of this magnificent river.

Continued, next page



WESTERN RIVERS
CONSERVANCY

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Completed! South Fork Trinity River

A sensitive stretch of fish habitat is now safeguarded along the South Fork Trinity River in northern California.

In 2006, Western Rivers Conservancy purchased a 160-acre property that lies along one-half mile of an extremely productive spawning reach for threatened Chinook salmon. We removed buildings on the property and returned it to a more natural state.

In August, we will convey the land to the Shasta Trinity National Forest, where it will be protected within the Wild and Scenic River corridor. Without the threat of logging or development, trees will grow to maturity and anchor unstable

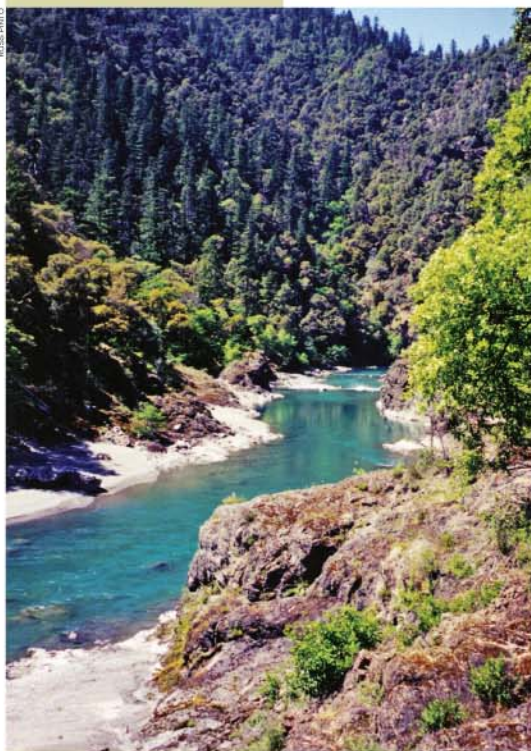
CALIFORNIA FISHERY STRONGHOLD

slopes along this stretch, promoting high-quality water for fish and other species.

A celebrated tributary to the Klamath River, the South Fork Trinity once hosted one of the region's best runs of native steelhead and spring-run Chinook salmon.

Today, the South Fork Trinity supports one of only two surviving runs of native spring Chinook in the entire Klamath basin.

Conserving this sensitive half-mile stretch puts in place a small but important piece of the puzzle for the recovery of native Klamath River salmon. ■



South Fork Trinity River, California

How You Can Help

Western Rivers Conservancy needs your help to protect three outstanding streams as public, community treasures and havens for fish, birds and people.

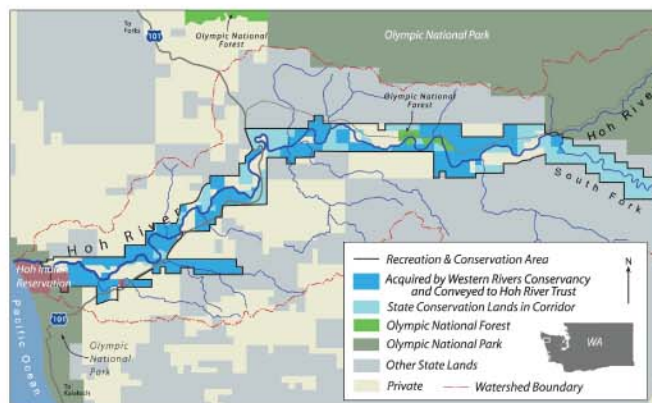
Visit westernrivers.org/lwcf to contact key decision-makers and urge them to support federal funding for Western Rivers Conservancy's projects on the Bear, Elk and Sandy Rivers.

Your time and effort will make a difference for these rivers.

Thank you for your support! ■

Letters of Support

Visit westernrivers.org/lwcf for guidelines on contacting key decision-makers, urging them to support federal funding for the Bear, Elk and Sandy Rivers.



Hoh River, Continued

Conserving these lands will help ensure that the Hoh River remains a globally important stronghold for native salmon, steelhead and trout. Many species of wildlife will benefit from large-scale habitat protection, including threatened species like marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, bald eagle and bull trout. In addition, outdoor enthusiasts of all types will realize a wealth of improved recreational opportunities and access along the lower 30 miles of the river.

Our sincere thanks go to the Bullitt Foundation, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Congressman Norm Dicks, Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Hoh River Trust and everyone who worked to see this acquisition to completion. ■



Bear River, Utah



Elk River, Oregon



Sandy River, Oregon



A mountain wetland forms one of the sources of the Little Sandy River, which is now dam-free.

Headwaters of Little Sandy River Protected

Western Rivers Conservancy is protecting the headwaters of the Little Sandy River just as the salmon are returning after dam removal!

In 2006, we purchased 332 acres from Longview Fibre Company on the western flank of North Mountain. The property includes 70 acres of old-growth forest and a wetland that forms one of the sources of the Little Sandy River. Portland General Electric provided funding to purchase the land as part of their wetland mitigation

SANDY RIVER BASIN, OREGON

agreement for the Clackamas River hydroproject relicensing.

Now, Western Rivers Conservancy is conveying the land to the U.S. Forest Service to be preserved within the Mount Hood National Forest.

This tract is an inholding within the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit, the source of Portland's pure, high-quality drinking water. ■

COHO RETURN TO THE LITTLE SANDY!



In May, biologists began documenting coho salmon fry in what was a dry streambed last year behind the Little Sandy Dam.

This marks the first time in nearly 100 years that salmon have successfully spawned above the former dam. Portland General Electric removed the dam and diversion in 2008, returning water to the Little Sandy River and making nine miles of upstream habitat accessible.

New Strides on the Wild and Scenic Salmon River

Western Rivers Conservancy has been working diligently to protect another important Sandy River tributary, the Salmon River.

The Salmon River is recognized as the best producer of wild fish in the entire Sandy River system, with anchor habitat for winter steelhead, coho and spring Chinook. Deer, elk, black bear and other wildlife rely on the Salmon River corridor to migrate from the neighboring Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness.

In June, Western Rivers Conservancy purchased another 19.5 acres from Clackamas County in the Wild and Scenic corridor of the Salmon River. This is the second portion of a 110-acre property we

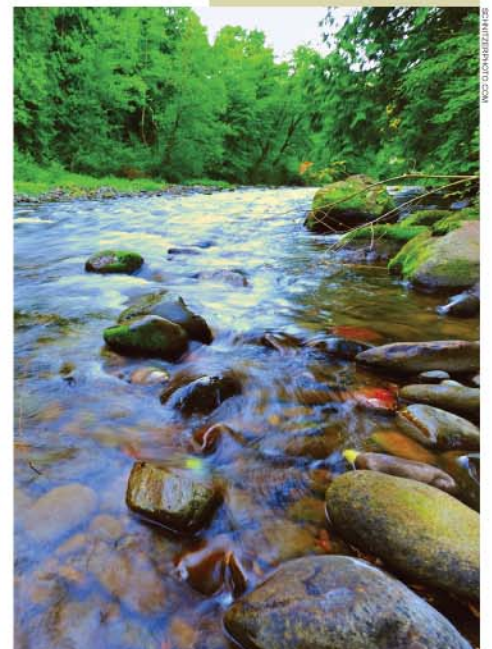
CRITICAL SANDY RIVER TRIBUTARY

are working to convey to the Bureau of Land Management.

This property adds to the natural resource and recreation area we are assembling along 17 miles of the Sandy and its tributaries.

To date, we have conserved more than 3,000 acres toward the goal of a 5,000-acre protected river corridor that will be accessible for public enjoyment.

Protecting the Salmon River and its beautiful forests will help ensure the future health of the entire Sandy River system and its celebrated wild runs of salmon and steelhead. ■



Salmon River, Oregon



WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

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OUR MISSION

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

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Robert Anderson Elected to Board of Directors

Western Rivers Conservancy is pleased to welcome Robert Anderson, elected to the Board of Directors in May.

A native of southeastern New Mexico, Robert graduated from Cornell University and served in the Peace Corps before studying business at the University of New Mexico and joining his family's company. There, he took up duties as manager and director of subsidiaries and affiliated enterprises engaged in farming, ranching, oil and gas exploration, manufacturing, banking, real estate development and restaurants.

From 1993 to 1996, Robert served as executive director of Fundacja na Rzecz



Rozwoju Polskiego, an economic development agency based in Warsaw, Poland. He has also served as director of a number of charitable and civic organizations,

among them The Nature Conservancy, the American Farmland Trust, the Albuquerque Community Foundation and the University of New Mexico's Robert O. Anderson School of Management Foundation.

Robert lives with his wife, Susan, in Corrales, New Mexico. ■



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We'd like to thank the generous individuals, foundations, businesses and organizations that make our work possible. Recent gifts are listed below.

Individuals

Lisa Adams and Ben Anderson
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Heller Charitable & Educational Fund
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National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Prairie Foundation
Carol and Velma Saling Foundation
Weeden Foundation

Thank you **Flyfishers Foundation** for raising \$10,500 for the John Day River at an auction in May!

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