

Upper Deschutes River Coalition

www.udrc.org

541-390-9798

PO Box 3042, Sunriver, OR 97707 501(c)3

JUNE 2, 2014

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Our Mission:

To protect Upper Deschutes River Communities by restoring and sustaining healthy fire-resistant forests, pure and abundant river flows and wildlife habitat.

Please review our 2013 Annual Report and 2014 Operations Plan at: www.udrc.org

Click Who We are and Our History for a map of our service area

Leadership Team:

Carl Jansen
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Jerry Hubbard,
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President's Message:

Fellow UDRC Stakeholders:

During the spring months of 2014, we have been very busy in implementing portions of our 2014 Operations Plan.

During our April meeting, we accepted the offer by Monte Dammarell to manage a project focused on assessing existing and proposed safe river access locations from Wickiup to Benham Falls on the Upper Deschutes River. This project requires discussions with many of our stakeholders, federal, state, county, non-profits and community neighbors.

This assessment is focused on improving safe river access for both visitors and permanent residents. Please call Monte at 541/604-0210 for your constructive input. Our plan is to have Monte provide an update on progress at each of our monthly meetings, which started on May 20th. Note: Monte has been a very active member on our education committee.

As part of this project, coalition board members, community residents and FS Bend-Fort Rock staff toured several river access sites prior to our coalition meeting on May 20th. These included Maxwell Bridge, Besson Day Use and a 162 acre FS parcel along Spring River Road.

The 162 acre parcel appears to have other natural resource priorities and is considered not-feasible at the present time. Other site locations need to be studied further with intense community involvement by all. Monte's involvement in this project is welcomed by your leadership team. We need to secure an economically feasible safe river access location near Harper Bridge.

A special "THANK YOU" for the significant support by all of you who participated in the Fire Free Ladder Fuel Removal Days May 16th and 17th at the South County Transfer Station.

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Fund Raising

Jerry Hubbard
John Moore
Carl Jansen

2014 Meeting Schedule:
www.udrc.org

Please attend our Board and Partner meetings at :

Next General Meeting is
June 17 2014, 12:30 noon,
River Meadows
Community Center.

Subject: Bend Paddle Trail Alliance

Project Wildfire coordinator, Allison Green reported that over 2200 cubic yards were collected at the La Pine station and over 30,000 yards were collected throughout the county.

Monte D, Jon O, Mick M, and I handed out our "UDRC Defensible Space Brochures" to all people depositing woody biomass at the La Pine transfer site. We estimate over 500 trucks or trailer loads of biomass were deposited at the site. Educating the public is a critical element in our 2014 operations plan.

I would encourage you to check out two significant reports prepared by Headwaters Economics in the private lands section of this E News. Also note the comments from Ed Keith. I thought it pertinent for discussion purposes.

Again we are continuing to pursue six more UDRC communities this year to become Firewise certified. Reducing lost structure costs are an important factor in firefighting in our WUI. Note Oregon was not a part of these original studies.

The Sunriver Anglers has a special discount for new members until July 1, 2014. This discount is 15% off, or \$25 for a family membership. Check out their new website at www.sunriveranglers.org for membership and how to fish resources.

Note: Jerry Hubbard is now Co-President of the SRA. We will continue to develop a strong partnership with this great non-profit. I encourage active and retired fishers to join and participate in many of their summertime activities. Central Oregon has so much to offer everyone.

Carl Jansen

Annual Silent Auction & Appreciation Event – Sunriver SHARC October 18th

Mark your calendars for our **Annual Appreciation event**. Project Wildfire will be doing BBQ Tri Tips with all the trimmings. Sunriver Brewing Company, a UDRC sponsor will be selling beer for \$5. Wines will be supplied by Willamette Valley Vineyards.

Silent auction requests – if you have products or services you would like to donate for the silent auction and the raffle please e mail Jerry Hubbard, VP, at jhubbard@chamberscable.com Last year we generated over \$4,000 for the UDRC operations budget. Our goal this year is \$6,000 plus.

Communities represented by the Upper Deschutes River Coalition:

Beaver Road District

Caldera Springs

Cougar Grove

Crosswater

Deschutes River Recreational Home sites 1-5; 6; 8; & 9.

Fall River Estates

Gate House

Haner Park

Lazy River West

Lazy River East

Oregon Water Wonderland # 1 & 2

Pinewood Country Estates

River Forest Acres

River Meadows

Spring River Fire & Safety Assn.

Sun Country Estates

Sunriver Business Park

Sundance – Sunriver

Thousand Trails

Upper Fall River

Vandevent Acres Road District

Vandevent Ranch

Whispering Pines

Wild River Assn.

Jake Keller Awards:

2012 Awards:

Volunteer of the year:

Watershed

How's the River Running? Click on <http://levels.wkcc.org/?P=Oregon.html>
Fishing guides and fly shops use this site: <http://www.west-fly-fishing.com/cgi-bin/riverData?region=OR>

River Flow

"The Deschutes below Wickiup has been running at about 1,250 cfs for a couple of weeks now. Based on informal conversations with North Unit Irrigation District (NUID), they expect that flow level to continue until hot weather forces increased releases. Releases may be tempered this season by the 2nd low snowpack year in a row causing as much a 25% of the agricultural land in NUID to be left out of production this year. This is a serious blow to our Central Oregon farmers, and it emphasizes the need for a comprehensive Water Management Agreement to provide better supply certainty for Agriculture, Municipalities, and the River".

Deschutes Basin Study – "The Basin Study Work Group (BSWG) met on Wednesday and agreed after a long and open discussion to re-order priorities for about 45-60 days to accommodate the Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC, all of the irrigation districts) to meet a July 31st deadline for their Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP: a plan with federal agencies that will give them assurances under the Endangered Species Act in exchange for actions that mitigate their impacts). They just don't have the manpower to give their full attention to both projects over the next 2 months, so we worked through stakeholder concerns and adjusted timelines for refining the detailed Plan of Study required when the BuRec Basin Study is approved.

The Upper Deschutes InStream sub-group of the BSWG met on Tuesday to participate in a video conference about one of a few models being considered for use in the Basin Study to determine the effects of flows on the river channel, fish, frogs, and riparian habitat. We will continue our individual research during the "pause", but the various sub-Committees will not be drawing conclusions or prioritizing study items until the larger BSWG reconvenes about August 1st and can review the sub-committee work to date.

Most importantly, the BSWG is hoping for formal approval and funding of the Basin Study at the Western Regional Governor's Conference in mid-June.

This would be great news for both the entire Deschutes Basin and our home waters, the Upper Deschutes. The BSWG has tasked the planning team with developing responses required by BuRec and the State of Oregon for timely review and approval by the larger group during the pause.

Our UDRC representative on the Deschutes Water Alliance (DWA), BSWG, and InStream Flow sub-committee is Jeff Wieland. He can be reached at jeffwieland@me.com if you have questions or concerns."

Public Lands

Stewardship Agreement - The USFS and the Coalition are working on a draft agreement to provide resources to expand fuel reduction on private land that would have a direct benefit to the Deschutes National

Mick McMicken
Fall River

**Partner of the
Year:**

Katie Lighthall
Project Wildfire

2013 Awards:

**Volunteer of the
year:**

Jim Larsen
Cougar Grove

**Partner of the
Year:**

Stu Otto, Oregon
Dept. of Forestry

Check out our
stakeholders page at
www.udrc.org
For detailed information
and links to all of our
stakeholders.

Forest.

Big Bend boat launch and Besson Day Use area – the USFS and the Coalition are discussing ways the Coalition can help improve and maintain the sites.

Private Lands

Headwaters Economics Reports:



[Study Finds No Evidence Firewise Lowers Suppression Costs](#)

While Firewise helps to increase homeowner and firefighter safety, our study finds no evidence of a relationship between wildfire suppression costs and Firewise participation.



[Local Responses to Wildfire Risks Are Limited](#)

These eight case studies highlight that many western communities are doing little to address the growing dangers of future wildfires.

Comments from Deschutes County's Forester, Ed Keith:

Study #1

As the article states, the goal of Firewise is not to lower suppression costs, it is to provide increased safety for residents and firefighters and increase the chance that homes survive wildfires. I'd submit the premise of the study is misdirected. We have research going back 15 years that tells us applying these principles increases the chances a home will survive a wildfire.

Here is a page of just Cohen's research on the subject:
<http://www.firewise.org/wildfire-preparedness/wui-home-ignition-research/the-jack-cohen-files.aspx?sso=0> Fighting fire in the WUI is inherently more complicated and expensive. That is the reason ODF has an extra charge for improved lots. In my opinion reducing costs will be achieved by more landscape scale forest restoration like that being attempted as part of the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project, but even that will prove difficult to measure.

It is sort of like advocating for fire prevention funding. We can never prove the avoided costs of a fire that doesn't happen because it was prevented, even though we all know we are avoiding costs and preventing fires with our educational activities.

Study #2

I think there are some very good points made in the lessons that are listed. Some of the points we have figured out here in Deschutes County and we provide a good example for others nationally, such as having the political will (I think we have great political support here) (#2), coordinating between government bodies (another exemplary example here in central Oregon) (#3), providing education to overcome complacency (this is the foundation of Project Wildfire) (#4), and carefully walking the line between helpfully educating and regulating (SB 360) (#5).

The point you have the question mark noted on I have to agree with (#7). WUI treatments are more time consuming, politically sensitive because of their visibility, and expensive for public land managers than working in the 'back 40'. Things like prescribed burning are infinitely more complicated near the WUI not only due to risks of escape but also due to smoke impacts. That is not an excuse to shy away from WUI treatments, but it is a reality we have to deal with.

Deschutes County and Project Wildfire – have completed a \$200,000 grant request for a Fall 2014 sweat equity program. The decision is due in the Summer of 2014.

[OSU App Brings Wildflower Identification to your Fingertips](#)

(Click on above title)

Information about the Pacific Northwest's wide array of wildflowers is just a swipe away with a new mobile app designed in part by botanists at Oregon State University. Available for iOS and Android devices, the Oregon Wildflowers app provides multimedia and information on nearly 1,000 wildflowers, shrubs and vines common in Oregon and adjacent areas in Idaho, Washington and California. For each plant, the app offers photographs, natural history, range maps and more. It works

without an Internet connection once downloaded.

Who We Are!

The UDRC is a multi-issue, project-based nonprofit coalition representing a broad range of interests among its 29 member communities, Federal, State, County and other stakeholders.

Our UDRC's Twenty Year Vision Statement: *Communities and partners aware of the issues, engaged, collaborating and acting together to create and maintain a healthy, scenic and sustainable environment where everyone is able to live with their core values.*

UDRC's Mission Statement: To protect Upper Deschutes River Communities by restoring and sustaining healthy fire-resistant forests, pure and abundant river flows and wildlife habitat.

UDRC's Primary Role: The Upper Deschutes River Coalition is the lead organization in its 69,000 acre Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) to catalyze and coordinate its stakeholder's, community neighbors, public, nonprofits and partners. For example, of primary importance is to first educate, and advocate, gather factual information and be the voice of reason in ongoing wildland fire, water rights, and native habitat issues.

Friends of the Coalition 2014 Contributions

Please support the Coalition's 2014 efforts in partnering with stakeholders to restore the Upper Deschutes River by joining The Friends of the Coalition.

[Donate to the UDRC Today](#)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lodgepole Pine \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Cranebow Trout \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rainbow Trout \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Trout \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ponderosa Pine \$2,500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Redband Steelhead for \$5,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bull Elk \$10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Another Amount \$_____ |

To Donate Click here: [Donate to the UDRC Today](#)

Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

Please make your check payable to "Upper Deschutes River Coalition"
Our Tax ID Number is 03-0557393

Appreciated Stock Gifts are Welcome!

For more information call 541-390-9798 or visit www.udrc.org

Use PayPal at [Donate to the UDRC Today](#)

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Upper Deschutes River Coalition P O Box 3042, Sunriver, OR 97707

Thank You!

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Sunriver Resort www.sunriver-resort.com

Crosswater Club <http://www.crosswater.com/>

Caldera Springs <http://www.calderasprings.com/>

Portland General Electric Company
http://www.portlandgeneral.com/community_environment/default.aspx

Cascade Natural Gas Company
<http://www.cngc.com/>

River Meadows Community www.rivermeadows.com/

Sunriver Brewing Company www.sunriverbrewingcompany.com

Fall River HOA

Vandevent Ranch Association <http://vandeverttranch.org/>

DRRH Number 9



