

Upper Deschutes River Coalition

www.udrc.org

541-390-9798

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

MARCH 12, 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

Carl Jansen
President
541-593-2777
carlj@searchna.com

Jerry Hubbard,
Vice-President
541-390-9798
jhubbard@chamberscable.com

President's Message:

Fellow UDRC Stakeholders:

February 2014 has been a busy month for our volunteers and part time Executive Director. During our February 11th board and partners meeting we reviewed and approved our 2013 Annual Report and 2014 Operations Plan and budget. Please refer to our web site www.udrc.org "UDRC Organization" and "Events" pages for details. Also, we have added ladder fuel reduction contractors under the web home page "Living in the UDRC" drop down to "Create Defensible Space". These contractors are ready to work directly for property owners.

As a celebration of Earth day in April, we are also promoting the sale of 400 Ponderosa seedlings to be delivered to customers at our April 15th board meeting at the Sunriver Library. So far 50% of the seedlings have been sold. Seedlings come in units of 25 for \$25. To order send a check to the UDRC at our PO Box.

Jerry Hubbard, Jim Larsen and I met with the Bend - Fort Rock USFS management team to explore formalized agreements. One agreement is for funding fuel reduction on private land adjacent to USFS land. The work needs to provide a direct benefit to the Forest Service. The second agreement is focused on stewardship efforts by our volunteers together with USFS funds allowing us to improve Forest Service sites such as boat access at Besson Day Use site and the Big River boat access site. Jerry and Jim will be working with the FS staff on the draft agreements.

Carl Jansen, President

Upper Deschutes River Coalition – Leadership Team:

Carl Jansen, President
John Moore, Treasurer

Jerry Hubbard, VP and Executive Director
Jim Larsen, Secretary

Treasurer

John Moore
541-974-6153
jjmoore@msn.com

Secretary

Jim Larsen
541-848-7925
Stagestop16439@gmail.com

Jerry Hubbard

Executive Director
541-390-9798
jhubbard@chamberscable.com

UDRC Committee Co-Chairs:**Private Lands**

Mick McMicken
541-593-7686
semperfimick@aol.com

Jon O'Shaughnessy

541-593-2880
kandjo2@q.com

Public Lands

Jim Larsen
541-593-3691
Stagestop16439@gmail.com

Dean Richardson
541-593-1207

Watershed

Jeff Wieland
541-598-7790
Wilyj8@yahoo.com

Ray Cecchi

541-598-2062
rayant35@gmail.com

Shaun Pigott
541-407-7155

Education & Outreach

Jerry Hubbard
Carl Jansen
Monte Dammarell
541-604-0210
kmriverhaus@gmail.com

Fund Raising

Jerry Hubbard
John Moore
Carl Jansen

2014 Meeting Schedule:

www.udrc.org

Please attend our Board and Partner meetings at :

Conservation – Upper Deschutes River Redband Trout Radio Tagging Project

The UDRC's Board approved a \$1,000 grant to support the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's study of Redband Trout movements in the Upper Deschutes River.

The objectives of the radio telemetry component of the Deschutes River Fish Monitoring Project are to identify and document migratory behavior of native redband trout in response to seasonal changes in stream flow and temperature. This is particularly important as area stakeholders are having discussions, considering alternatives and making decisions related to water management/conservation and fish passage at man-made barriers. It may identify the importance of cold water refugia for redband trout.

2013 Radio Tagging:

- Native redband were originally located and tagged between Sawyer Park and Lower Bridge on the middle Deschutes;
- 30 radio tags were deployed in native redband trout;
<http://www.lotek.com/mst-series-programmable-sensor-transmitters.htm>
- Fish were tagged in May and monitored through the middle of December when the transmitter batteries went dead;
- Data was received from 29 of 30 fish tagged when project first began; at the end of the monitoring season, data had been collected from 22 of the original 30 fish;
- Results from the first year of telemetry indicated many fish did not exhibit large movements, however, several individual fish migrated considerable distances both upstream and downstream. Changes in flow appeared to trigger the movement.

We would like to expand radio tagging to the upper Deschutes and continue monitoring on the middle Deschutes in 2014. Our objectives are:

- To increase the number of tags deployed – 30 on the middle Deschutes (Bend to Steelhead Falls) and 30 on the upper Deschutes (Wickiup to Bend) to hopefully provide more data and a basis for comparison on the middle Deschutes (compared to 2013 radio tag data); A portion of the middle Deschutes tags would be deployed specifically in Tumalo Creek;
- To continue monitoring and better pattern fish movement;
- To determine if fish are using cold water refugia; on the upper Deschutes, cold water areas include the Little Deschutes, Fall and Spring Rivers. On the middle Deschutes, we would focus primarily on Tumalo Creek;
- To determine if fish in Tumalo Creek use the Deschutes and if fish in the Deschutes use Tumalo Creek;
- To determine spawning areas currently being used by native redband trout; and
- To deploy radio tags earlier in the season, if possible, to be able to monitor during spring spawning season for redband trout.

Next General Meeting is March 18, 2014, 12:30 noon, Sunriver Public Library. La Pine park district expansion.

April 15th meeting, Sunriver Library. Natural Cohesive Wildland Fire Management. Ponde seedlings pickup.

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.

Project needs are:

- 60 radio tags (30 for the middle Deschutes and 30 for the upper Deschutes); tags cost approx. \$190/each = \$11,400;
- Two receivers, one for use on each section of river; receivers are approx. \$2000 each;
- We are also requesting funds from OWEB, R & E, M & E, Sunriver Anglers and Central Oregon Flyfishers. The primary grant for research being done on the middle Deschutes is through an OWEB grant. The OWEB Regional Review Team recommended funding for two additional years of research (through 2016). OWEB funded the first two years of this study, with that funding ending this spring. M & E funded the first two years of research on the upper Deschutes and will continue to fund the project until they decide otherwise.

Watershed

Upper Deschutes River water flows- Jeff Wieland spoke with Deschutes Basin Watermaster Jeremy Giffin. When he started the slow ramp up, Wickiup was at 190,000 acre feet (af). OWRD and BOR would like to keep it below the 200,000 fill level as the Dam is only engineered for 200,000 af and Wickiup reservoir is only authorized to store 200,000 af.

It's been higher than 200,000 af in the past before the Spring irrigation turn on but is quickly brought back to within 200,000 af. NUID initially wanted to continue at 37 cfs in case their worst fears came true and Wickiup wasn't going to fill, especially with the likely below average snowpack and reduced replenishment during early Summer. Jeremy attended the NUID Board meeting, assured them that it would (as much as possible), and that the slow ramp up over a month or so would be much better for the banks & habitat.

Because Wickiup is not authorized for flood control purposes, only irrigation, it has been hard to balance the out flow due to the large amount of water coming out of the Little Deschutes causing flooding.

Within the limits imposed by current water agreements, I believe that Jeremy and OWRD Regional Manager Kyle Gorman are committed to doing their best on Winter flows and ramp ups and downs.
Jeff Wieland, UDRC Watershed Committee Chairman

Public Lands

Reducing Fire Risk Top Concern for Central Oregon Residents

Feb 20, 2014

Central Oregon residents' main concern for the Deschutes National Forest is to manage forests to reduce wildfire risk, according to a new poll commissioned by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, a state agency charged with public education about forest management.

Jake Keller

Awards:

2012 Awards:

Volunteer of the year:

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

OFRI contracted with DHM Research in Portland for the phone [survey](#), which polled 300 Deschutes County residents in early November to determine public awareness and attitudes about forestry issues. OFRI worked with the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project, a Bend-based community group, to design the survey.

On a scale of 1-10, those polled gave "manage forests to reduce high-severity wildfire risk" a mean score of 8.1, making it their top priority.

Respondents were asked to rate their preference for various forest management methods. The top three, all with about 90 percent agreement, included tools such as thinning dense forests to make them more fire-resilient, using prescribed fire to remove underbrush and small trees when conditions are appropriate, and using controlled burns to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire.

"The survey results confirmed for us that there is a high degree of public support for active management of our national forestland, primarily to reduce the risk of wildfire and improve overall forest health," said Alan Unger, Deschutes County commissioner and chair of the collaborative.

According to Paul Barnum, OFRI executive director, the agency undertook the survey to benchmark public attitudes in an area where federal forests dominate the forested landscape (87 percent in Deschutes County) and help the collaborative direct its educational efforts.

"The results show that the DCFP has done a remarkable job of public education," Barnum said. "The public is knowledgeable and supportive of active forest management."

"It is critical to sustain the education effort," he added, "because Central Oregon will [continue](#) to draw new visitors and residents, many of whom will be unfamiliar with these forest management activities, which are ongoing. We need to get the word out and earn their trust." Respondents were contacted randomly by phone between Nov. 7 and 9. The survey has a margin of error of approximately +/-5.7 percent at the 95 percent confidence interval. Barnum said the results, especially with such high levels of agreement, are comparable to surveying the entire population.

Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project: The DCFP is breaking through historic gridlock to forge new agreements and create a shared vision for stewardship that will sustain our federal forests into the future. www.deschutescollaborativeforest.org

Oregon Forest Resources Institute: OFRI was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1991 to advance public and landowner education about the importance of forests, forest management and forest products. It is governed by a 13-member board and funded by a dedicated forest products harvest tax.

OFRI commissioned this research, working with the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project, to better understand public perceptions of forest management in central Oregon. www.oregonforests.org

Annual 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.

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 at jhubbard@chamberscable.com

Who We Are!

The UDRC is a multi-issue, project-based nonprofit coalition representing a broad range of interests among its 28 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 \$ _____ |

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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

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



