

Upper Deschutes River Coalition

www.udrc.org

541-390-9798

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

AUGUST 19, 2015

[DONATE TO THE UDRC TODAY](#)



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 updated 2015 Operations Plan at: www.udrc.org

[At UDRC Organization](#)

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

The La Pine Rural Fire Protection District has issued the following notice:

Due to Very High Fire Danger ALL OUTDOOR BURNING IS CLOSED - Including Campfires

UDRC News

Facebook

UDRC Facebook Page:

The Upper Deschutes River Coalition now has a Facebook page. It will be used for regional, community, and neighborhood news releases, and Coalition event announcements. Here is a link to the web page:

<https://www.facebook.com/udrc.org>

You do not have to be a Facebook member to view the web page. Facebook members may submit comments and postings. Click on the "Like" button to add the Coalition Facebook page to your Facebook timeline.

UDRC Member Survey

To view the summary of responses please click on:

For Immediate Release, July 21, 2015

Lawsuit Launched to Protect Deschutes River Oregon Spotted Frogs From Damaging Dam Management

PORTLAND, Ore.— The Center for Biological Diversity today submitted a formal notice of intent to sue the Bureau of Reclamation over operation and maintenance of the Crane Prairie and Wickiup dams, which are harming the [Oregon spotted frog](#) on the Deschutes River. In accordance with a settlement agreement with the Center, the frog was protected in August 2014 as a threatened species under the

Our expanded Planning Team includes:

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

Vice President
Bill Filsinger
707-954-0648
Bfilsinger53@gmail.com

Treasurer
John Moore
541-974-6153
jjemoore@msn.com

Secretary
Jim Larsen
541-848-7925
Stagestop16439@gmail.com
[m](#)

Private Lands
Mick McMicken
Dean Richardson

Public Lands
Jim Larsen
541-848-6153
Stagestop16439@gmail.com
[m](#)

Watershed
Jeff Wieland
541-280-3237
jeffjwieland@me.com

UDRC Committees:

Private Lands

Bill Swanson
alicewilly14a@frontier.com

Jon O'Shaughnessy
631-807-9661
kandjo2@q.com

Public Lands
Jim Larsen
541-848-6153
Stagestop16439@gmail.com
[m](#)

Dean Richardson
541-593-1207

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

Endangered Species Act. This protection triggered a duty for the Bureau to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and adjust dam management to ensure it is not jeopardizing the survival of the frog, neither of which it has done.

"The Oregon spotted frog is one of the most imperiled amphibians in the world," said Noah Greenwald, endangered species director at the Center. "The Bureau of Reclamation needs to step up and ensure that management of these two Deschutes River dams doesn't drive the Oregon spotted frog to extinction."

The frog lives both upstream and downstream of the two dams and is harmed when the reservoirs are rapidly drawn down in the spring, stranding egg masses, and when the level of the river is raised flooding important frog habitat. These problems can likely be fixed with minimal impact to irrigation deliveries, but it will take some care on the part of the Bureau.

The frog was once common from British Columbia to Northern California along numerous rivers and lakes, including the Deschutes and Willamette, but has undergone massive declines mostly because of loss of its wetland habitats. Today there are fewer than 100 known sites where the frog still survives.

"The fate of the Oregon spotted frog is intimately tied to the health of our rivers and streams," said Greenwald. "As we've dammed, channelized and polluted rivers across the Northwest and beyond, species like the frog have suffered. By saving these animals, we'll almost certainly improve the health of the Deschutes and other Northwest rivers."

The Center is represented in litigation by Laurie Rule and Elizabeth Zultoski of Advocates for the West.

The Center for Biological Diversity is a national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 900,000 members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places.

Contact: Noah Greenwald, (503) 484-7495, ngreenwald@biologicaldiversity.org
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Watershed Committee

Reservoir Levels - Current reservoir levels can be found on the Bureau of Reclamation Pacific Northwest Region Hydromet Program at <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/destea.html>.

UDRC Grant Supports Deschutes River Redband Tagging Study

BNSF Railway \$5000 Grant – The Coalition in cooperation with the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife purchased 1,720 PIT tags which are used to monitor Trout movements in Central Oregon Rivers. The tags were delivered to the Bend office on 8/3/1015. Jerry Hubbard is the UDRC grant manager.

Deschutes Basin Study:

Ray Cecchi
541-598-2062
rayant35@gmail.com

Shaun Pigott
541-407-7155

Communications
Carl Jansen
Bill Filsinger

Fund Raising
Carl Jansen

E News Editor
Jerry Hubbard
jhubbard@chamberscable.com

2015 Meeting Schedule:
www.udrc.org

**Next meeting Sept. 15 at
the Sunriver Library.**

**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

- **What is a Basin Study?** The following description is excerpted from the the Bureau of Reclamation website, <http://www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART/bsp/>:

Funding is available for comprehensive water studies that define option for meeting future water demands in river basins in the West U.S. where imbalances in water supply and demand exist or are projected. Each Basin Study includes 4 key segments:

- State-of-the-art projections of future supply and demand by river basin.
- An analysis of how the basin's existing water and power operations and infrastructure will perform in the face of changing water realities.
- Development of options to improve operations and infrastructure to supply adequate water in the future.
- Recommendations on how to optimize operations and infrastructure in the basin to supply adequate water in the future.

The purpose of the Deschutes Basin Study Work Group (BSWG) is to obtain and manage a Basin Study with BuRec toward the goal of developing and implementing a plan that addresses the long-term water needs of Agriculture, Municipal, and InStream Flow in the Upper Deschutes River Basin.

The Deschutes Basin Board of Control, the fiscal agent and cost-share partner on behalf of BSWG, was awarded a \$1.5 million study in June of 2014, \$750,000 committed by BuRec, and \$750,000 committed by the state through the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD).

The Study Approach is based on the following concepts:

- Agricultural, InStream, and Municipal (or domestic water supplies) goals are met incrementally and simultaneously throughout the study; i.e., we're all in this together working collaboratively.
- The analysis will be framed to maximize cost-effective efficiencies with the current water distribution system to meet baseline targets.
- More expensive options (i.e., new, off-channel storage) will also be analyzed to achieve benefits beyond baseline targets over the longer planning process.

What are the benefits of being involved in the Basin Study?

The Basin Study will provide additional resources to understand the extent of water supply and demand imbalance into the future and to assess possible solutions. Being involved ensures that there is local input into this planning process.

Timeline:

the Basin Study was awarded in June 2014. BSWG and BuRec developed a Memorandum of Understanding and Plan of Study that was approved in April 2015. The Study is estimated to run from April 2015 through February 2018.

Thousand Trails

Upper Fall River

Vandever Acres Road District

Vandever Ranch

Whispering Pines

Wild River Assn.

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

Jake Keller Awards:

2014 Awards:

Volunteer of the Year:

Jeff Wieland Spring River

Partner of the Year:

Kirk Flannigan USFS

2013 Awards:

Volunteer of the year:

Jim Larsen
Cougar Grove

Partner of the Year:

Stu Otto, Oregon Dept. of Forestry

After the study is complete, basin partners will use the information to negotiate, sign, and implement a regional, long-term Water Management Agreement (WMA) that meets InStream flow targets and the needs of Agriculture and Municipalities.

Progress Report:

BSWG approved the Plan of Study and MOA on April 7, 2015. The group also approved hiring Niklas Christensen, a consultant with Watershed Professionals Network, to develop the detailed Project Management Plan in partnership with BuRec. Niklas recently served as Project Manager for the Hood River Basin Study, and has the breadth of expertise relevant to the Basin Study, including hydrological and climate change modeling, irrigation engineering, reservoir siting, and instream sciences.

BSWG, with the help of Niklas, generated 8 scopes of work to perform Basin Study tasks with the State \$\$\$. BSWG expects to have contracts signed and the full Study underway by September. BSWG will form technical subgroups as necessary to support the study team.

The Steering Committee (voting members of BSWG) will remain engaged in the process. BSWG also formed a Communications Subgroup that will direct communications and public outreach through The Study's completion in the Spring of 2018.

The 8 scopes of work contracted for the Basin Study are:

- Technical Director: Niklas Christensen, Watershed Professionals Network.
- Communications, Coordination, Technical and Project Management Support: Deschutes River Conservancy.
- Water Conservation Assessment (including Engineering Efficiency and Reservoir Optimization): Anderson-Perry.
- Water Rights, Legal, and Socio-economic Assessment: The BSWG Planning Team recommended a blending of two teams that has not been finalized.
- Upper Deschutes Ecological Assessment: River Design Group-HDR.
- Crooked River Temperature Assessment: Crooked River Watershed Council for data, and Watershed Professionals Network for analysis.
- Middle Deschutes Temperature Assessment: Upper Deschutes Watershed Council.
- Wychus Creek Temperature Assessment: Upper Deschutes Watershed Council.

Watershed Committee Chair Jeff Wieland (jeffjwieland@me.com, 541-280-3237) can be contacted regarding meetings with UDRC neighborhoods and groups interested in additional information about the Basin Study and restoring healthy InStream flows in the Upper Deschutes.

2012 Awards:

Volunteer of the year:

Mick McMicken
Fall River

Partner of the Year:

Katie Lighthall
Project Wildfire

Feds kick in \$2.7 million for C.O. canal piping projects
LOS ANGELES -

U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced Wednesday the Bureau of Reclamation will invest nearly \$50 million to improve water efficiency and conservation in a dozen Western states, including three canal-piping projects by Central Oregon irrigation districts.

“In a time of exceptional drought, it is absolutely critical that states and the federal government leverage our funding resources so that we can make each drop count,” said Jewell.

“Being ‘water smart’ means working together to fund sustainable water initiatives that use the best available science to improve water conservation and help water resource managers identify strategies to narrow the gap between supply and demand.”

WaterSMART water and energy efficiency grants can be used for projects that conserve and use water more efficiently, increase the use of renewable energy, improve energy efficiency, benefit endangered and threatened species, facilitate water markets, carry out activities to address climate-related impacts on water or prevent any water-related crisis or conflict. The 50 projects announced today will be leveraged with at least 50 percent non-federal funding for a total of \$133 million in improvements over the next two to three years.

The three in Central Oregon:

Three Sisters Irrigation District, Main Canal Pipeline and Micro Hydro Generation Project
Reclamation Funding: \$1,000,000 Total Project Cost: \$4,737,906

The Three Sisters Irrigation District in Oregon will pipe 14,000 feet of the open Watson-McKenzie Main Canal.

The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 1,900 acre feet that is currently being lost to seepage.

A portion of the conserved water will be dedicated for instream flows to Whychus Creek in order to improve riparian habitat and benefit Bullhead Trout, Steelhead, Chinook and Sockeye Salmon, Oregon Spotted Frogs, willow flycatcher and yellow breasted chat.

The District is working with the Deschutes River Conservancy to dedicate approximately 1,400 acre feet annually that will be conserved as a result of this project into a water right held by the State of Oregon.

In addition, with completion of this project, pressurized water will eliminate electrical pumps on farm, which are using over 3 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually.

The pressurized pipeline resulting from this project will also allow farmers who receive deliveries from the District to implement further improvements.

As part of an existing partnership, the Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide assistance, as available, for those farmers to expedite coordinated water conservation improvements in the area. The project also includes the installation of 4 micro-hydro turbines, which have a combined energy capacity of 200 kilowatts.

North Unit Irrigation District, Lateral 58-11 Piping Project

Reclamation Funding: \$704,478 Total Project Cost: \$1,525,545

The North Unit Irrigation District in Madras, Oregon, will pipe two miles of the 58-11 open ditch lateral to address seepage losses.

The project will also include installation of 8 pressurized deliveries to District landowners. The project is expected to result in annual water savings of 570 acre-feet.

Through a partnership with the Deschutes River Conservancy, conserved water will be marketed to restore instream flows in a critical reach of the Crooked River.

Tumalo Irrigation District, Piping of the Tumalo Feed Canal (Phase IV)

Reclamation Funding: \$1,000,000 (\$500,000 in FY 2015) Total Project Cost: \$2,100,000

The Tumalo Irrigation District near Bend, Oregon, will complete Phase IV of the Tumalo Feed Canal Piping Project.

Phase IV of the project includes piping 3,400 feet of the remaining 6-mile open canal system, which is expected to result in annual water savings of 776 acre-feet currently being lost to seepage and evaporation.

The conserved water will be dedicated to the State of Oregon for permanent instream flows for use in Tumalo Creek, Crescent Creek, and the Little Deschutes River.

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Harper Bridge River Access Update:

Although the UDRC is not actively involved in talks regarding the County's commitment to "a safer and more viable Harper launch at the current location", Watershed Committee Chair Jeff Wieland (jeffwieland@me.com) is familiar with the process and can help answer some questions."

The public should use caution in driving by Harper Bridge as it is very congested.

Drought in Oregon

Governor Kate Brown has declared drought in 23 of Oregon's 36 counties. This widespread water shortage is due to record-breaking low snowpack levels, high temperatures, and significantly low stream flows in many parts of the state.

This winter, Oregon's snowpack peaked at the lowest levels measured in the last 35 years. According to the Water Resources Department, stream flow is

expected to be well below normal through the end of summer despite the current statewide average precipitation being 87%.

On July 28th, Governor Brown issued an [executive order](#) directing state agencies to plan for resiliency to drought. She directed state agencies that own or manage land or facilities to immediately curtail or end the non-essential use of water for landscaping, enact a moratorium on the installation of new non-essential landscaping projects that require irrigation at state-owned buildings, develop signs and other messaging to encourage state employees to reduce non-essential uses of water, and assure that state-owned buildings and facilities have current leak detection systems and procedures that are being carried out on a timely basis. The goal of this executive order is to reduce non-essential water consumption by 15 percent or more on average across all state-owned facilities on or before December 31, 2020.

SDAO understands that certain district members are directly affected by these drought conditions more so than others. We have been participating on the Governor's drought advisory committee and communications team to better understand how state and local agencies are affected by these conditions. While not all parts of the state are equally impacted, all areas can do their part to conserve and wisely use this precious resource.

Oregon's drought website, drought.oregon.gov, was developed to help Oregonians learn more about drought assistance programs, drought status updates, conservation methods, and recreation information. We encourage you to utilize this informative website.

Source: Special Districts Association of Oregon

Public Lands Committee -

To date, Central Oregon has seen 208 wildfires in the 2015 wildfire season and of that number, 119 have been human caused starts, which is an increase from the past few years. Due to this surge, Forest Service law enforcement officers will be increasing patrols on the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and Crooked River National Grassland.

Fire Restrictions Increase in Central Oregon - All Campfires Banned

With dry conditions expected to continue in Central Oregon and fire suppression resources limited due to numerous wildfires in Oregon and Washington, the Prineville District Bureau of Land Management, the Deschutes National Forest and the Ochoco National Forest, including the Crooked River National Grassland, are implementing a total campfire restriction.

Effective 12:01 a.m. August 18, 2015 (Tuesday), all open fires, including charcoal fires, will be prohibited on all lands administered by the Deschutes National Forest, the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland, and the Prineville District, BLM. There are no exceptions for developed or hosted campgrounds.

In addition to campfire restrictions, smoking remains restricted to an enclosed

vehicle or building, in a designated campground, in boats on lakes and rivers, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is clear of all flammable material.

Portable cooking stoves or lanterns using liquefied or bottled fuel may still be used in all areas. Officials also want to remind the public that using explosive target material, such as Tannerite, explosives, and fireworks continue to be prohibited on all federal lands.

Upper Deschutes WUI Fuels Project Field Trip:

Alex Enna, Forest Service project leader for the WUI Fuels Project has scheduled a field trip. If you would like to view some of the proposed treatment areas with the interdisciplinary team specialists, a field trip is planned for October 21st. We will leave the Sunriver Library at 9 am and return by 3:30 pm. If interested please respond to Alex via e-mail by September 1st. In your response, include any specific areas you are interested in or topics you would like to see addressed. Alex will have transportation available, let him know if you plan to drive your own vehicle. If there is sufficient interest Alex may consider a second field trip.

Alex Enna
USFS Assistant Fire Management Officer
Email: aenna@fs.fed.us

La Pine Fire District conducting structural assessments

To access the La Pine Fire wildfire risk assessment map, Go to the Oregon Ready, Set, Go website:

<http://oregonrsg.org>

Click on My Risk: Go to the Map

Enter your address or enter 97707 zip code for an overview

Here is the Assessment Guide:

http://www.lapinefire.org/documents/WildlandStructuralAssessmentGuide_000.pdf

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.

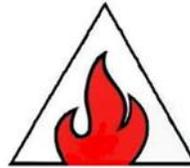
Our UDRC's Twenty Year Vision Statement: *Communities and partners aware of the issues, engaged, collaborating and acting together to create and maintain a healthy, scenic and sustainable environment where everyone is able to live with their core values.*

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.

UDRC Supporters



PATRICK
PatRick Environmental Corporation
P.O. Box 758
Redmond, OR 97756
1-800-782-4119
Cell 541-233-3105
Fax 541-923-6070

PatRick Environmental was established in 1971 and has a long tradition of providing professional land management services to federal, state, local, and private landowners throughout the northwest. Our services incorporate all aspects of hazardous fuels treatments including: thinning, hand-pilling, chipping, pruning, and prescribed fire.

PatRick is committed to Central Oregon, with the main headquarters in Redmond, OR, by protecting the natural resources that make this area unique. PatRick understands the need in Central Oregon to develop resilient landscapes, fire adapted communities, and safe and effective wildfire response. We have the resources and experience to meet and exceed your expectations.

Friends of the Coalition Contributions

**Please support the Coalition's future by joining
The Friends of the Coalition.**

[Donate to the UDRC Today](#)

It takes \$12,000 a year to operate the Coalition.

By becoming a Friend of the Upper Deschutes River Coalition your investment will help the Coalition's 2015 work that includes:

- Our home owner sweat equity work on private property (funded from a grant from Project Wildfire)
- Our new five year agreement with the USFS
- Our work with the USFS on the new Upper Deschutes River Wildland-Urban interface fuels reduction project (3,600 acres next to UDRC communities).
- Our continued direct involvement with the Deschutes Basin Study (river flows and more)

I have enclosed a gift of:

- \$100
- \$250
- \$500 \$1,000 \$2,500 \$5,000 \$10,000
- 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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Fall River HOA

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