



Upper Deschutes River Coalition

PO Box 3042, Sunriver, OR 97707
541-390-9798

501(c)3 www.udrc.org

DECEMBER 15, 2012

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.

2012 Draft Annual Report and 2013 Draft Operations Plan is 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, Acting
Vice-President

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

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

President's Message – Happy Holidays!

Hi Everyone,

What a wonderful year 2012 has been for people living in our area. Your UDRC staff and volunteers have doubled our efforts compared to previous years in supporting our mission and vision.

Thank you to everyone involved in the Coalition. 2013 will be even a better year. Please read this E-News in detail, many recent events and future events are summarized. Forward this newsletter to other neighbors within our UDRC boundaries. We need your financial support and volunteer time on projects throughout 2013. Please provide e mail addresses to me for people who might want to receive future issues of the E News in 2013. Send them to carlj@searchna.com

Several new assignments have been made during the 4th quarter. Jim Larsen has accepted the role of UDRC Secretary, responsible for the meeting minutes and other administrative functions. Jon O'Shaughnessy representing River Forest Acres has also taken the role as co-chair of the Public Lands committee.

We are all very pleased with these neighbors in accepting the role in these important positions within the UDRC.

Your Leadership group composed of Jerry, John, Jim Larsen (our new Board secretary) and I wish you and your loved ones and friends a joyous Holiday Season.

We all have a lot to be thankful for.

Carl Jansen

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

UDRC Committee Co-Chairs:

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

Monte Dammarell
541-604-0210
kmriverhaus@gmail.com

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

Jon O'Shaughnessy
541-593-2880
Kandjo@gmail.com

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

Ray Cecchi
541-598-2062
Rtac35@msn.com

Education & Outreach
Monte Dammarell
Carl Jansen

Fund Raising
Jerry Hubbard
John Moore

2013 Meeting Schedule:
www.udrc.org

Please attend our Board and Partner meetings at the Sunriver Public Library at 12:30 p.m. on:

Next meeting is February 19

Communities represented by the Upper Deschutes River Coalition:

Beaver Road District

Caldera Springs

Cougar Grove

Crosswater



PS – please consider supporting the Jake Keller Memorial Fund

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

Fall River Estates

Haner Park

Lazy River West

Huntington Road West

Oregon Water Wonderland
1 & 2

Pinewood Country Estates

River Forest Acres

River Meadows

Spring River Fire & Safety
Assn.

Sun Country Estates

Sundance - Sunriver

Thousand Trails

Vandevort Acres Road
District

Vandevort Ranch

Whispering Pines

Wild River Assn.

Who We Are!

The UDRC is a multi-issue, project-based nonprofit coalition representing a broad range of interests among its 26 member communities, Federal, State, County and other stakeholders.

The 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.

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Leadership Committee

- **2013 Operation Plan and Budget** – the Leadership team and committee chairs and co-chairs are starting the operations plan and budget for 2013.
- **2012 Annual Report** – will be released to all in mid January.
- **2013 Sponsorship Opportunities** – the Coalition is looking for businesses, organizations or individuals to co-sponsor the Coalition's direct operations in 2013 with a total funding goal of \$20,500. More information is in the Fund Raising section below.

○ [Donate to the UDRC Today](#)

Public Lands Committee

- New USFS 2013 Projects – see Watershed section

Private Lands Committee

Ladder Fuel Reduction – Sunriver Business Park – we are working with the owners of three lots totaling six acres in the business park to provide defensible space. Allan Clark Logging is the contractor and funds were provided by a two-year \$100,000 grant from Deschutes County.



Photo above - Fuel Reduction next to Hammertime in the Sunriver Business Park

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) – The Coalition, Project Wildfire and our Federal, State and County partners are working on the third revision of our UDRC CWPP. The draft will be ready for the Board of Directors review in late January and will be up for approval at the Coalition's February 2013 Board/Partner meeting.

Watershed Committee and Public Lands

- **NEW PROJECTS FOR Summer of 2013 –**

Tetherow Area, Upper Deschutes River – UDRC funding goal \$6,000.

Project Area: The project area would be from the Tetherow boat ramp on the Deschutes River at river mile 212.5 downriver approximately 2 miles.

Existing Condition: Numerous user created trails/roads have been created from FS road 4330-900 down to the river. Appear to be created by quad runners or similar vehicles. Several hill climbs have been created.

Damage to soils, vegetation, and riparian areas has been noted. Potential habitat for Oregon Spotted Frog exists in the area. This is a species that may soon become a federal threatened species.

Proposal: Rehabilitate disturbed soils with equipment and by hand raking. Rehab damaged riparian vegetation by hand. Place downed wood and boulders across created trails. Clean up litter.

Total Project Cost Estimate: \$12,000

Includes cost for Forest Service personnel, heavy equipment, hauling boulders.

Funds requested from UDRC for 50/50 match: \$6,000

Benham Falls Area, Upper Deschutes River – UDRC Funding Goal \$5,000

Project Location: Deschutes River near Sunriver, east bank of river. TS 19S, R11E, NW1/4 of Section 20. Near river mile 185.

Project Size: 1 acre

Project description: User-created extension of spur road 640 led to the river where considerable damage to soils, vegetation, and riverbank has occurred from vehicle traffic and dispersed camping. Road 640 has recently been closed where user-created extension began.

Project Proposal: (1) restore compacted soils through sub-soiling; (2) plant vegetation (upland shrubs and grasses); and (3) restore approximately 150 feet of riverbank through tree placement, bank sloping, and riparian vegetation planting. User created roads that begin at the restoration site and head up and down river would also be closed and sub-soiled at the junctions.

Restoration of activities would be consistent with management direction of the Deschutes LRMP, Upper Deschutes River Wild and Scenic River

Management Plan, and INFISH.

Restoration would occur in the fall after flows in the river drop (mid-October). De-compacting soils would be accomplished either by sub-soiler or excavator with toothed bucket. Tree placement (approximately 12-15 trees) and bank sloping would also be accomplished with the excavator.

Trees (lodgepole pine approximately 12-15" diameter and 60 feet length) could be pushed over on-site. Planting and seeding in both the uplands and riparian area would be done by hand crews. Stock for riparian plants such as sedge plugs and willows would be taken from on-site sources in the spring and grown for one growing season at private nursery with fall planting anticipated.

Donate to the UDRC Today

The UDRC is looking for partners to help fund the work. Also volunteers will be needed for this project in the summer of 2013! Send funding commitment e mails to Jerry by Dec. 31 and funds are due March 1, 2013. Funding commitments please e mail or call Jerry Hubbard at jhubbard@chamberscable.com or 541-390-9798. [Donate to the UDRC Today](#) for this project.

- **Abandoned/sinking Pontoon Boat** - Upper Deschutes River – the Deschutes County Sherriff has contacted the boat owner who says the boat will be removed in December. The boat has been there for two+ years.
- **December 4th UDRC Upper Deschutes River Water Management Meeting:**

Who has authority over the Deschutes? Still no answer

By Jonathan Kahnoski

For the Upper Deschutes River Coalition

At a second public meeting hosted by the Upper Deschutes River Coalition held at December 4 at Sunriver's The SHARC facility, attendees heard presentations from three non-profits concerned with river health, but no answers as to who can help residents with summer flooding.

During the question and answer time after the presentations, one of the roughly 40 attendees asked the question on everyone's mind: who is the primary agency with authority over the river? The answer from the presenters and Jeff Wieland, chair of the UDRC's

watershed committee who presided over the meeting, no one agency has that authority. Rather, a number of government agencies at the federal, state and local level have authority over different aspects of the river.

Attendee Robert Hickman suggested the issue confronting property owners along the river wasn't water rights; rather, it was who is supposed to maintain the river as an irrigation channel delivering water to the irrigation districts. The presenters said no one has that responsibility, that the irrigation districts maintain only the facilities within their district boundaries.

Ray Cecchi asked if, instead of releasing large amounts of water from Wickiup Reservoir all at once, water could be released slowly and stored downstream in other reservoirs like Haystack. The presenters answered that Haystack is not large enough to hold the amount of water needed. They said a new reservoir would cost \$500 million and there is no funding for such a project.

Much of the meeting's two hours consisted of presentations by three private organizations. First was Tod Heisler, executive director of the Deschutes River Conservancy, explained the DRC's mission is to restore stream flows and improve water quality in the Deschutes Basin. Mr. Heisler stressed his organization develops consensus decisions among nine private interests (e.g., agriculture and ranching, and tourism) and eight public interests (Native American tribes, state and federal agencies) and counties.

Mr. Heisler outlined the DRC strategic approach: define a target (e.g., a water flow in a particular creek), collaborate with the right partners employing the right tools, work incrementally towards the target and monitor outcomes and adapt the strategy as needed. He explained the DRC "finds" water to improve flows through conservation, better flow management, "gentlemen's agreements" and leasing or arranging transfers of water rights.

The DRC currently is working on a planning initiative goal for the Deschutes River basin to "...engage partners in a process to develop a voluntary water management agreement that can be implemented to improve streamflows in the mainstem Deschutes River, Little Deschutes River, and Tumalo Creek, while meeting the needs of irrigators, municipal water providers, and other interests."

Derek Staab, Trout Unlimited's project manager for the Upper Deschutes Basin, stressed his organization's role in helping the individual property owner to conserve and restore space adjacent to the river. Mr. Staab referred the audience to the UDRC's eight-page River Stewardship Guide, available online at www.udrc.org/river-guide.

The Stewardship Guide, Mr. Staab explained, outlines how the property owner can assess the condition of their riverfront property and develop and implement plans for restoration and conservation. The guide lists and describes 10 community resources, both government agencies and private organizations, that offer guidance, direct assistance and referrals to reliable contractors.

Ryan Houston, the Deschutes Watershed Council executive director, said his

organization organizes collaborative projects in habitat restoration, community education and watershed monitoring. His council, in of many in Oregon, stretches from Lake Billy Chinook and the Metolius River south to encompass the Cascade Lakes and the Little Deschutes River.

Mr. Houston noted the DWC considers the “Upper” Deschutes River as extending downstream to the mouth of Whychus Creek. He said their large-scale restoration projects have focused on Whychus Creek and the Metolius River, but they are beginning efforts to research and monitor the Upper Deschutes River with the goal of developing and implementing large-scale restoration projects in the future. Mr. Houston said, for the DWC, “large-scale” project encompasses one to five miles of riverbank.

The UDRC was formed in 2003 as a coalition of neighborhoods along the Upper Deschutes River basin from Spring River Road in the north to Wickiup Reservoir in the south. With 26 individual communities dispersed among four rivers and a rich forestland, the UDRC provides one collective voice to advance three goals: ensure healthy, fire-resistant forests, promote clean and abundant river flows and enhance beneficial wildlife habitat. More information can be found at www.udrc.org.

To help support future UDRC work on the Upper Deschutes River please consider a year end donation. [Donate to the UDRC Today](#)

- **How Does Groundwater Pumping Affect Streamflow? See report on ground water under Community News.**

Fund Raising Committee [Donate to the UDRC Today](#)

UDRC Sponsor Program – Sponsors will be featured on the Coalition’s web site, our E News, and at our monthly Board and partner meetings.

New Sponsorship – Co-Sponsor of the Upper Deschutes River Coalition for 2013!

Co-sponsorship of the Coalition for 2013 and receive recognition in the following:

- UDRC web home page and additional pages web site,
- Quarterly E news,
- Letterhead,
- E mail signature lines,
- Monthly meetings,
- Special events,
- Annual appreciation event

If you would like to discuss being a sponsor contact John Moore, UDRC Treasurer at jjemoore@msn.com

Community News

How Does Groundwater Pumping Affect Streamflow?

ScienceDaily (Nov. 16, 2012) —

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/11/121116124557.htm>

Groundwater provides drinking water for millions of Americans and is the primary source of water to irrigate cropland in many of the nation's most productive agricultural settings. Although the benefits of groundwater development are many, groundwater pumping can reduce the flow of water in connected streams and rivers -- a process called streamflow depletion by wells. The USGS has released a new report that summarizes the body of knowledge on streamflow depletion, highlights common misconceptions, and presents new concepts to help water managers and others understand the effects of groundwater pumping on surface water.

"Groundwater discharge is a critical part of flow in most streams--and the more we pump below the ground, the more we deplete water flowing down the stream," said USGS Director Marcia McNutt. "When viewed over the long term, it is one big zero-sum game."

Groundwater and surface-water systems are connected, and groundwater discharge is often a substantial component of the total flow of a stream. In many areas of the country, pumping wells capture groundwater that would otherwise discharge to connected streams, rivers, and other surface-water bodies. Groundwater pumping can also draw streamflow into connected aquifers where pumping rates are relatively large or where the locations of pumping are relatively close to a stream.

"Streamflow depletion caused by pumping is an important water-resource management issue across the nation because of the adverse effects that reduced flows can have on aquatic ecosystems, the availability of surface water, and the quality and aesthetic value of streams and rivers," said Paul Barlow, USGS hydrologist and author on the report. "Managing the effects of streamflow depletion by wells is challenging, particularly because of the significant time delays that often occur between when pumping begins and when the effects of that pumping are realized in nearby streams. This report will help managers understand the many factors that control the timing, rates, and locations of streamflow depletion caused by pumping."

Major conclusions from the report:

- Individual wells may have little effect on streamflow depletion, but small effects of many wells pumping within a basin can combine to produce substantial effects on streamflow and aquatic habitats.
- Basinwide groundwater development typically occurs over a period of several decades, and the resulting cumulative effects on streamflow depletion may not be fully realized for years.
- Streamflow depletion continues for some time after pumping stops because it takes time for a groundwater system to recover from the previous pumping stress. In some aquifers, maximum rates of streamflow depletion may occur long after pumping

stops, and full recovery of the groundwater system may take decades to centuries.

- Streamflow depletion can affect water quality in the stream or in the aquifer. For example, in many areas, groundwater discharge cools stream temperatures in the summer and warms stream temperatures in the winter, providing a suitable year-round habitat for fish. Reductions in groundwater discharge to streams caused by pumping can degrade habitat by warming stream temperatures during the summer and cooling stream temperatures during the winter.
- The major factors that affect the timing of streamflow depletion are the distance from the well to the stream and the properties and geologic structure of the aquifer.
- Sustainable rates of groundwater pumping near streams do not depend on the rates at which groundwater systems are naturally replenished (or recharged), but on the total flow rates of the streams and the amount of reduced streamflow that a community or regulatory authority is willing to accept.

"Conjunctive management of groundwater and surface-water resources is critical in New Mexico, where our limited surface-water supplies can be impacted by new uses that are predominantly dependent on groundwater pumping," said Mike Johnson, Chief of the Hydrology Bureau in the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer. "This new USGS publication consolidates our understanding of the connection between aquifers and streams and provides a clear, thorough and up-to-date explanation of the tools and techniques used to evaluate streamflow depletion by wells. This report will be very useful to New Mexico's water managers in guiding technical analysis, dispelling common misconceptions, and explaining these complex concepts to decision makers and the public."

The report, which is a product of the USGS Groundwater Resources Program, is titled "Streamflow Depletion by Wells -- Understanding and Managing the Effects of Groundwater Pumping on Streamflow" and is available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1376/>.

The Groundwater Resources Program provides objective scientific information and develops the interdisciplinary understanding necessary to assess and quantify the availability of the nation's groundwater resources. The Program has been instrumental in documenting groundwater declines and in developing groundwater-flow models for use in sustainably managing withdrawals. The research and understanding developed through this program can provide water-resource managers with the tools and information needed to manage this important natural resource.

Story Source: The above story is reprinted from materials provided by United States Geological Survey.

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Thank You!