



# Upper Deschutes River Coalition

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NOVEMBER 14, 2012

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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.*

**2011 Annual Report and 2012 Operations Report is at:**  
[www.udrc.org](http://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](mailto:carlj@searchna.com)

**Jerry Hubbard, Acting**  
Vice-President

**Treasurer**  
John Moore  
541-974-6153  
[jjmoore@msn.com](mailto:jjmoore@msn.com)

**Secretary**  
Kelle Jones  
541-410-4472  
[kelleqjones@gmail.com](mailto:kelleqjones@gmail.com)

**Jerry Hubbard**  
Executive Director

## **President's Message – Happy Thanksgiving!**



Hi Everyone,

Now that our elections are over, you might have some time to read our UDRC E News.

A special thank you to our community residents and many partners who have contributed their time, talents and treasure making our 2012 stewardship effort a great success.

Many of you are owners of our success over the years. We have asked you to become volunteers in supporting ladder fuel reduction, river bank restoration and fund raising.

We have several important 2013 projects focused on improving our watershed. Note the comments and reports addressed in this E News.

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](mailto:carlj@searchna.com)

May you enjoy the upcoming Thanksgiving season with your loved ones and friends. We all have a lot to be thankful for.

Carl Jansen

541-390-9798  
[jhubbard@chamberscable.com](mailto:jhubbard@chamberscable.com)

**UDRC Committee Chairs:**

**Private Lands**  
Mick McMicken  
541-593-7686  
[semperfimick@aol.com](mailto:semperfimick@aol.com)

**Monte Dammarell**  
541-604-0210  
[kmriverhaus@gmail.com](mailto:kmriverhaus@gmail.com)

**Public Lands**  
Jim Larsen  
541-593-3691  
[Stagestop16439@gmail.com](mailto:Stagestop16439@gmail.com)

**Watershed**  
Jeff Wieland  
541-598-7790  
[Wilyj8@yahoo.com](mailto:Wilyj8@yahoo.com)

Ray Cecchi  
541-598-2062  
[Rtac35@msn.com](mailto:Rtac35@msn.com)

**Education & Outreach**  
Monte Dammarell  
Carl Jansen

**Fund Raising**  
Jerry Hubbard  
John Moore

**2012 Meeting Schedule:**  
[www.udrc.org](http://www.udrc.org)

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

**Next meeting is November 20.**

**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

Haner Park

**PS – please consider supporting the Jake Keller Memorial Fund  
Donate to the UDRC Today  
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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## Upper Deschutes River – Partnerships in Managing Multiple Uses

The UDRC is holding its second member, partner and public meeting on the issues relating to management of water flows on the Upper Deschutes River. Please plan on attending:

- **December 4**
- Start 6 pm
- Ends at 8 pm
- Location Sunriver SHARC aqua center, off Circle 2
- Speakers:
  - Tod Heisler, Executive Director, Deschutes River Conservancy
    - The Deschutes River Planning Initiative

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  
Vandevert Acres Road District  
Vandevert Ranch  
Whispering Pines  
Wild River Assn.

- Process
- Schedule
- Who's Involved
- Next Steps

- Darek Staab, Project Manager for Upper Deschutes Basin, Trout Unlimited
  - River Stewardship -- Using the UDRC's River Stewardship Guide
- Ryan Houston, Executive Director, Upper Deschutes River Watershed Council
  - Our Mission

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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.
- **2013 Sponsorship Opportunity** – the Coalition is looking for one entity to be the sole sponsor of the Coalition's work in 2013 at \$20,500. More information is below in the Fund Raising section.
  - [Donate to the UDRC Today](#)

## Public Lands Committee

- The Forest Service has announced the fall and winter prescribed burning program. For more information:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/centraloregon/news-events/?cid=STELPRDB5394659>

The Forest Service conducted a successful prescribed burn at Cow Meadow near Crane Prairie Reservoir on Oct. 11. This burn was part of a meadow habitat restoration project. For more information:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/centraloregon/news->

[events/?cid=STELPRDB5394660](http://www.stelprdb.com/events/?cid=STELPRDB5394660)

- **Todd Lake Campground Restoration – please see the report at:** click on Site URL: <http://upperdeschutesrivercoalition.shutterfly.com/>

Click on Recent Items to view the power point.

## Private Lands Committee

**Sweat Equity** – click on Site URL: <http://upperdeschutesrivercoalition.shutterfly.com/>  
To see recent pictures and also click on Recent Items to see files like the power point shows on our Sweat Equity project.

## Watershed Committee

- **NEW PROJECT FOR SPRING 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

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The UDRC is looking for partners to help fund the work. Also volunteers will be needed for this project in the spring of 2013! Send funding commitment e mails to Jerry by Dec. 15 and funds are due March 1, 2013. Funding commitments please e mail or call Jerry Hubbard at [jhubbard@chamberscable.com](mailto:jhubbard@chamberscable.com) or 541-390-9798. [Donate to the UDRC Today](#) for this project.

- **Abandoned Pontoon Boat** - Upper Deschutes River – the Deschutes County Sherriff has contacted the boat owner who says the boat will be removed in November. The boat has been there for two+ years.
  
- **River Flow web site**  
<http://levels.wkcc.org//?q=levels/&P=Oregon.html>
  
- **Hydromet Water Flow History – Upper Deschutes River**  
<http://www.usbr.gov/pn-bin/webarccsv.pl?station=WICO&format=3&year=2001&month=+9&day=+1&year=2012&month=+9&day=+9&pcode=QD>
  
- **First sockeye salmon spotted in the Metolius**  
Earlier this month, the first returning ocean-going sockeye salmon in about 45 years was spotted swimming in the Metolius River. This was an event to be

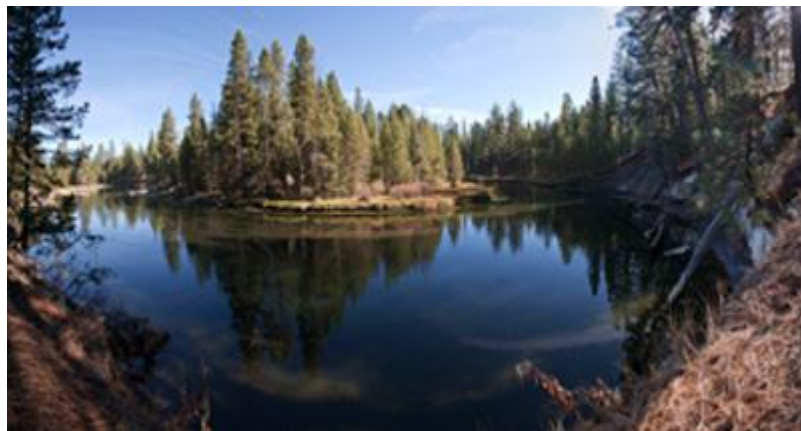
celebrated, as it illustrates the continued success of the [steelhead and salmon reintroduction project](#) underway in the Upper Deschutes Basin. More than 114 fish now have found their way back to the spawning grounds in the upper Deschutes Basin. Article from the Deschutes River Conservancy.



*Spawning sockeye salmon. Photo courtesy of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.*

- **Stream flow restoration planning underway for the Deschutes River**

[The DRC has recently received a \\$50,000 grant](#) from the [Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Program](#) to develop a comprehensive water management strategy aimed at improving streamflows in the [Deschutes River](#), including winter flows in the [upper reach](#). Following our commitment to consensus-based restoration projects, the DRC will be working collaboratively with all interested parties in the Basin to find a streamflow solution that will meet everyone's needs - the fish, farmers and cities.



*The Deschutes River flowing at 143 cfs through La Pine St. Park*

## Upper Deschutes River Flow Issues

By Jim Murphy, Resident, DRRH 9

This summer, we experienced the highest river levels ever remembered by long time residents. There was property flooding and river damage. It started July 8th when the Wickiup release rate was raised to ~ 1850 cubic feet per second (cfs). The river levels prompted numerous calls and complaints to the water master, and there were several articles in the Bend Bulletin. The flow rate was reduced and then held steady around 1750 cfs thru late August when the normal fall reduction started.

The high river levels were discussed at several community meetings and wording was included in the new South County Plan – Newberry Country - about the hazards of the high flows and the need to start to understand the issues and possible solutions. As a result, the County Planning Dept took the lead working with the other responsible Organizations and setup a meeting to focus on the river levels; this took place Oct 24 at the Sunriver SHARC facility – co - hosted by UDRC.

The meeting was very well attended; many river residents and all the Homeowner Associations were present; most of our elected officials were present or had staff members there, Alan Unger – County Commissioner - who chairs the Deschutes Water Alliance was present, and several members of the County Planning Commission.

Presentations were given by the Oregon Water Resources Department(OWRD) Regional Manager – who explained the history of the dams, the overall water management for the basin and how much flow the Irrigation Districts (ID's) can request, and the duties of the Water master; the County Flood Plain Manager from the County Planning Dept – who explained how the flood plain was established by FEMA, the FEMA Flood Insurance program, and steps that must taken during construction in the floodplain; and a representative from the Forest Service – who explained how the Deschutes was designated as a Wild and Scenic River, and the limitations this imposes.

A lengthy question and answer period followed that really got into detailed examples of what happened this summer and possible explanations. While we had the highest river levels this summer – release rates from Wickiup were not as high as they have been.

Several years ago, release rates went as high as ~1950cfs – without the flooding seen this summer. In retrospect – it seems like we had a very large plant/weed growth in the river – weeds cause the river to slow down and take away river channel – causing the river to rise for a given flow rate. Weed growth may be greater this year due to the higher winter flow levels the last two years. Unfortunately; there are no easy solutions to the weeds; most solutions would not be allowed as a Wild and Scenic River.

It's clear that a number of aspects about the Upper Deschutes are all now coming into conflict. The river has been used for summer irrigation for a long time with much higher range of summer to winter flows than as a natural river – gradually the flow capability decreases due to bank erosion and plant growth. Higher winter flows are desired to re-establish the fishery – but it looks like this increase the plant growth which also reduces the flow capability.

The designation as a Wild and Scenic River places limitations on things that might be done to protect property and reestablish flow capability. Remember – reduced flow capability means higher river levels. The OWRD/water master has to respond to ID's requests that could go as high as ~2600cfs flow rates – which would cause even more serious flooding and river damage. FEMA established the floodplain a number of years ago – the river now has a reduced flow capability – flooding would now be worse than they projected.



So what's next? The UDRC has agreed to serve as a focus for the south county on this issue. We are working with the Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC) to look at an approach which would provide better winter flows and reduced/safer summer flows. If all the water storage facilities in the Deschutes Basin could be better shared and managed – it should allow for better balance between winter and summer flows on the Upper Deschutes. Todd Heisler, Director of the DRC - will give a summary of this study at our next meeting on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at the Sunriver SHARC at 6 pm. If this approach is shown to work, it would take several years for approvals and implementation. In the near term – let's hope that the ID's and OWRD will work closely together to safely limit the summer river levels.

**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 – Sponsor of the Upper Deschutes River Coalition for 2013!**

To be “The” sponsor of the Coalition for 2013 and receive recognition in the following for \$20,500:

- UDRC web home page and additional pages web site,
- Quarterly E news,
- Brochures such as the UDRC and new Maintenance brochure,
- Letterhead,
- E mail signature lines,
- Monthly meetings,
- Special events,
- Annual appreciation event
- Board business cards

If you would like to discuss being a sponsor contact John Moore, UDRC Treasurer at [jjemoore@msn.com](mailto:jjemoore@msn.com)

## Community News

### Trash Talk: Oregon's Waste Recovery at Record Highs, Disposal at Record Lows, New State Survey Says

Oregon recovered more than half of the municipal waste Oregonians generated in 2011 – the highest rate since the state started measuring waste recovery rates in 1992. At the same time, per-capita waste disposal in Oregon dropped to the lowest amount ever since 1992.

These two findings are from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's 20<sup>th</sup> annual **Material Recovery and Waste Generation Rates Report**, which breaks down the handling of materials – either for disposal or for recovery through recycling, composting and burning for energy.

View this year's [report](#) on DEQ's website.

The report lists material recovery rates by 33 county [wastesheds](#) in addition to two municipal wastesheds (Portland metropolitan area and Milton-Freewater). (**Reporters: Local contacts are listed in the wastesheds link above.**)

Key findings and trends for the year 2011:

The state's overall material recovery rate was 52.3 percent, highest since the first survey in 1992 and up from 2010's 50 percent rate.

- Per-capita waste disposal (1,264 pounds) was the lowest since 1992. Total disposal was 2.44
- Per-capita waste generation (the sum of all discards that are either disposed or recovered) totaled 2,458 pounds per person, down substantially from the peak of 3,105 pounds per person in 2006 but up slightly (0.6 percent) from the 2,443 pounds per person in 2010.
- Per-capita waste generation, which declined sharply in the late 2000s, has remained relatively flat in recent years.
- Energy savings from recycling and energy recovery amounted to the equivalent of 253 million gallons of gasoline, or roughly 3.2 percent of total energy used by all sectors of Oregon's economy in 2011.
- Greenhouse gas reductions in 2011 amounted to about 2.8 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents – equal to the tailpipe emissions from 580,000 “average” passenger cars, or about 4 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions statewide in 2011.
- Keep recycling! Greenhouse gas reductions for material recovery – particularly recycling – are significant. Recycling cardboard produced nearly a third of these reductions, followed by scrap metal and other paper.
- Waste prevention – reducing the amount of waste generated in the first place – remains a key goal. The benefits of waste prevention far outweigh the benefits of waste recovery. Numerous organizations and governments continue to encourage people to reuse items and live more sustainably.

A geographical perspective:

- Nearly 70 percent of the state's 35 wastesheds increased material recovery rates from 2010 to 2011.
- Lane County had the highest recovery rate (61.5 percent) in 2011, followed by Marion County with 60.8 percent and the Portland area with 59.3 percent.
- Rural Oregon counties had the lowest recovery rates, in the range of 10 to 30

percent, but eight of those counties showed progress over 2010. Curry County, for example, increased its rate 6.8 percent over 2010.

- **National Weather Service forecast for UDR GPS coordinates.**  
Weather forecast for Spring River two miles south of Sunriver.

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=43.86423779837694&lon=-121.4717960357666&site=pdt&smap=1&unit=0&lg=en&FcstType=text>

**Red Cross has released a new wildfire app -**  
<http://www.redcross.org/mobile-apps/wildfire-app>

### **Wildfire by American Red Cross**

Be ready for wildfires with the official Red Cross wildfire app. "Blaze Warnings" let you see where NOAA has issued wildfire warnings, "Blaze Alerts" notify you when a new wildfire occurs and the "Blaze Path Tracker" gives you a current view of the wildfire's track and perimeter. You can also let loved ones know that you are safe even if the power is out and learn what steps you should take to prepare your family, home and pets – all from the palm of your hand.

From your mobile phone, call \*\*REDCROSS (\*\*73327677) and we will send you a link to download the app or visit [iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#) app stores.

### **Features**

- Step-by-step instructions let you know what to do before/during/after a wildfire, even without data connectivity.
- Get notified about current wildfires or wildfire-conducive weather.
- Let family and friends know you are okay with the customizable "I'm Safe" alert for Facebook, Twitter, email and text.
- Find open Red Cross shelters in your area when you need help.
- Stay safe when the lights are out with the Toolkit, including a strobe light, flashlight and audible alert functions.
- Prepare for the worst by learning how to assemble an emergency kit for your family in the event of power outage or evacuation.
- Empower your family to stay safe and remain calm in an emergency by learning how to make and practice an emergency plan.
- Earn badges that you can share with your friends and show off your wildfire knowledge with interactive quizzes.
- See an illustrated history of wildfires in your area

The Upper Deschutes River Coalition is a 501 c 3 nonprofit corporation

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Appreciated Stock Gifts are Welcome!

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

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Thank You!