

February 6, 2012



Upper Deschutes River Coalition

Healthy Fire-Resistant Forests

Clean & Abundant Rivers

Beneficial Wildlife Habitat

UDRC 2011 Annual Operations Report

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

To our stakeholders;

As a result of our second Strategic Planning Meeting held at the 1000 Trails Conference Center in January 2011, your board members adopted a long term vision statement: "Community and partners aware of issues, engaged, collaborating and acting together to create and maintain a healthy, scenic, and sustainable environment where everyone is able to live their core values."

This report is intended to summarize all of the UDRC's major accomplishments as it relates to our 2011 operations plan released in February 2011 and based on our strategic plan. Over 80% of the proposed actions were accomplished in 2011. Our report is broken down into major committee reports, leadership, public lands, private lands, watershed, education and fund raising. It should be noted over \$211,000 in kind (volunteer time and business services) contributions were provided to support UDRC activities in 2011. Without this support, our achievements would have been marginal. Please review the attached financial statements for details.

In addition, please review the UDRC's flow of services chart developed by Jake & Sarol Keller. We need more volunteers to support these services. What would you like to do for the UDRC in 2012?

Please review and call me to discuss the results outlined in this report. We need your volunteer time and financial support to make our 2012 operations plan a success. Thank you to everyone who made 2011 the best year ever in meeting our mission statement goals.

Carl Jansen
President, UDRC 541-593-2777

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Leadership Committee

- Completed during the 1st quarter, the twenty years Strategic Vision, and strategic plan. Secured commitments from members and partners. Over 80 stakeholders attended the January 2011 conference at the 1000 Trails Conference Center.
- Revised 2004 UDRC by-laws to reflect current and future legal issues which allow a progressive organization to accomplish stated mission in a significant way.
- Continued to meet with local community organizations and partners including the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Counsel (COIC) in encouraging participation towards meeting our mission statement and supporting their concerns.
- Managed the 2011 operations plan, operating and grant budgets and reported status to the board of Directors on a monthly basis.
- Improved the procedures for monthly coalition meetings designed to encourage more volunteer participation in collective efforts.
- Completed a financial review by John Moore and Carl Jansen of 2010 income and expense statements to assure compliance to nonprofit reporting procedures and UDRC policies.

Public Lands Committee

- Kept Coalition members informed on proposed Forest Service (FS) and BLM fuel treatment projects within the Coalition Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) boundary and monitor ongoing projects including the FS Travel Management Plans.
- Identified areas of hazardous fuels on FS lands bordering Coalition neighborhoods and proposed a fuels treatment projects using the Healthy Forest Restoration Act process. Proposed a 1000 acre FS fuel treatment project to reduce wildfire hazards along access roads to Haner Park, Wild River, Ponderosa Pines, Cougar Grove and River Meadows.
- Supported the Controlled Burn by the Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District in reducing the wildfire threat on over 100 acres of nearby private property West of Spring River. All Spring River neighbors have responded very positively on the project.
- Jim Larsen used wildfire behavior computer modeling to identify high risk areas within the Coalition CWPP boundary and also used aerial images to construct 10 year history of vegetation changes.

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- The Deschutes National Forest Advisory Committee approved Jerry Hubbard as a member. Jerry will be responsible to represent the UDRC's interests in mapping out future plans acceptable to John Allan, Deschutes National Forest Supervisor, and his staff.

Private Lands Committee

- Continued to promote use of two Deschutes County biomass staging sites (on county lots) bordering (Fontana-Glendale and Lazy River) for woody debris from private and public landowners during 2011. Over 3,000 cubic yards of biomass wood fiber were shipped to power plants in Oregon.
- Managed a two year \$100,000 Deschutes County fuel reduction sweat equity program. UDRC paid contractors over \$31,000 to process 4200 cubic yards of woody biomass. Neighbor volunteers spent over 7,000 hrs in sweat equity to collect the biomass from their properties
- Continued to assess inventory within 26 private lot UDRC communities for compliance to SB360/Defensible Space requirements. Updated GIS wildfire hazard maps.
- Coordinated with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in evaluating FireWise communities. Spring River F & S Assoc. (has been certified by the ODF), Fall River, Crosswater, Caldera Springs, River Meadows and Wild River have received FireWise national awards.
- Worked to improve collaboration with Project Wildfire, other CWPP's in Deschutes County and the ODF for operational alternatives and improvements to the way we currently support defensible space programs.
- Continued to expand collaborative fuel reduction programs with UDRC communities, County, State, and Federal agencies to optimize our limited funding for forest health improvements with emphasis on property owners sweat equity participation. Significant volunteer hours were achieved (11,471 hours) the highest on record since the UDRC was established.

Watershed Committee

- Worked with all partners, including Deschutes River Conservancy, Trout Unlimited and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, to support sustainable stream flows and fish habitat in the Deschutes during the fall and winter seasons. Restored 2000 ft of USFS Westside Deschutes River banks north of Cardinal Bridge.
- Coordinated 5th annual river sweep with SOLV on September 10th, thus reinforcing community partnerships. Expanded the river sweep to include the Upper Deschutes from La Pine State Park to Benham Falls boat takeout, from Thousand Trails on the Little Deschutes to Big Deschutes and all of Spring and Fall River tributaries.
- Investigated use of GIS mapping for river bank conditions, wetlands and wildfire habitat.
- Continued collaborative program coordination with Deschutes River Conservancy, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council and the Oregon Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Education Committee

- Continued to revise our new website with relevant information for public use to support our mission. This included community fuel reduction/hazard maps for all 26 communities.
- Produced E-newsletters and forwarded to members, Friends of the Coalition and partners on a quarterly basis highlighting current activities, volunteer projects and financial support. E-news and the River Brochure are now sent to over 200 direct recipients. Board members have been encouraged to send the E-newsletter to 6,200 lot owners within the Coalition's service area.

Fund Raising Committee

- Doubled the donations to the coalition through better communications to all stakeholders about the value the UDRC is delivering to our current 26 neighborhoods and members. Besides cash donations and business sponsorships over the year, the UDRC received an estimated \$211,869 in kind donations from the 11,471 volunteer hours by our neighbors and partners in supporting leadership/board/project wildfire, meetings, national and regional conferences, special contract projects, wildfire lot assessments on 6200 properties, community outreach projects and website, E-news and brochures. This year (2011) the UDRC received the most donated funds and in kind services ever.

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- Researched funding opportunities and submitted grant requests to Federal, State and County agencies and foundations.
- Coordinated grant requests with our Coalition partners
- Collaborated with other organizations with similar natural resources goals including intra and inter-state, to optimize funding restriction and combined program strength
- Participated with Deschutes County Project Wildfire fuel reduction grants for private lots and secured donations from landowners who benefited from ladder fuel reduction projects.

Sincerely Submitted,

Carl Jansen,
President

Jake Keller
Vice President

John Moore
Treasurer

Kelle Jones
Secretary

Jerry Hubbard
Executive Director