



DRAFT
Upper Deschutes River Coalition
P O Box 3042
Bend, OR 97707
www.udrc.org

UDRC 2008 Annual 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.

This draft report ,with future revisions, will be approved by the UDRC BOD in January 2009. It is intended to provide a summary of 2008 activities by all subcommittees and highlight our plans for 2009 implementation.

UDRC 2008 Results

- UDRC expanded membership to 19 neighborhoods by the addition of Pinewood Estates.
- Applied for \$ 200,000 in grants since January 2008. None have been approved in 2008. UDRC collected over \$4,000 in donations from individual lot owners and neighborhoods in 2008.
- Officers participated in numerous UDRC presentations during the 1st quarter with Sunriver Chamber Business Forum and Central Oregon Realtors' Association focusing on educating the public in how the UDRC's mission is fulfilled. Other education events included participating in National Forest Foundation's Western Collaboration Conference "Navigating the Swirling Waters of Collaboration" utilizing conference calls among 10 non-profit environmental groups located from Maine to California on August 18th.
- UDRC member Dean Drabin and members of the Deschutes County Project Wildfire team visited Washington D.C. public officials to provide an overview on wildfire fuel reduction efforts in Deschutes County. Joe Stutler, County Forester, reported that these efforts resulted in the county securing an added \$1.4MM grant to continue fuel treatment efforts in Deschutes County.
- Public Lands Subcommittee toured USFS properties West of Bend and Sunriver with Sierra Club members to review forest fuel reduction projects related to prescribed burns and pre-commercial thinning. All participants were encouraged about the progress made by employees of the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District.

- Jim Larsen developed, constructed, and installed with the help of committee members, five travel management signs near the Upper Deschutes River from the Wickiup Reservoir to the Wild River Neighborhood. Education grant funds amounting to \$4,500 were used for this project.
- Ken Lane was honored by Deschutes County Project Wildfire and Congressman Greg Walden for his work in wildfire fuel reduction efforts. The Private Lands Fuel Reduction Committee co-chaired by Jake Keller and Ken Lane, through funds supported by Western States and National Fire Plan grants, have reduced wildfire fuel levels on 49 acres covering 58 private lots in our Urban/Wildland Interface neighborhoods. This represented a 207% increase in private lot fuel reduction compared to 2007. Over 75 private lot wavers have been secured, private lots have been marked for treatment in 2009. These lots will be treated in 2009.
- In August members of the UDRC again participated on the annual "War on Weeds" in cooperation with the Deschutes County and the Sunriver Owner's Association.
- Under Lynda O'Neil and June Ramey's leadership, the Watershed Committee co-sponsored with the USFS, the 40th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act at Thousand Trails Lodge on September 16th. This event was financed by the Oregon Water Enhancement Board's grant of \$10,000. Over 100 neighbors and civic leaders participated in this event. Another earlier event co-sponsored by Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLV) centered on sweeping 20+ miles of river on September 7th resulting in 1,500 lbs of litter collected and disposed through the Deschutes County Landfill.
- The Watershed Committee composed of Lynda, June, and Ray Cecchi remain active participants with the Deschutes River Conservancy, the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in implementing the Upper Deschutes River Restoration Strategy. This includes increasing fish habitat in Spring River and Fall River by adding river rock to streams for more fish propagation..
- Second annual meeting with neighborhood leaders and partners in July at DRRH#9 recreation site on the Deschutes was a success with over 70 people participating. Presentations on the War on Weeds, UDRC fuel reduction thinning projects including the promotion of the Deschutes County fuel wood recycling center on Downey and Fontana Roads in DRR#1-5 were highlighted. The group also welcomed John Allen, the new supervisor for the Deschutes National Forest.
- Compu Group was retained in October to completely revise the UDRC website. The focus is to reduce our current website maintenance costs and streamline its readability and usefulness. Terry Pickering, owner of Compu Group, resides in one of our neighborhoods and will provide timely updates to our website in the future.



12/8/08

UDRC 2009 Operations Plan

- Update and seek BOD approval of policies, procedures and UDRC By-Laws to reflect current improved methods of UDRC operations.
- Increase local resident involvement in standing committees, grants and donations, public lands, private lands, watershed and education.
- Continue to use our monthly BOD meetings and general coalition meetings involving all partners allowing for expanded range of community involvement to support our mission..
- UDRC will continue to be active in seeking grants, private and corporate donations to continue supporting our mission. A key focal point will be increasing neighborhood donations within our communities.
- The public lands committee will continue to work with the USFS staff in the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District to mitigate wildfire threats from the Western borders of our neighborhoods. Key activities include oversight of the East Turnbull and the Myst fuel reduction and thinning projects. The USFS will continue to keep UDRC neighborhoods informed when prescribed burns occur.
- The private lands wildfire fuel reduction committee intends to expand its fuel treatment program to include the Sundance, River Forest Acres, Cougar Grove and the Western boundary of DRR#1-5. The focus in 2009 will be to utilize all grant funds provided by the National Forest Plan and Western States.
- The watershed committee will continue its river cleanup efforts in September 2009 on Spring, Fall, the Little Deschutes and the Upper Deschutes Rivers. Efforts in working with the many river management groups will continue with a focus on increasing the winter stream flows and reducing river bank erosion.