

BREAKING GROUND ON CROOKED RIVER RESTORATION



GIVE BACK TO THE RIVER YOU LOVE!

Our local rivers and streams need you!

Please help us keep our momentum going by making our local rivers and streams a priority in your philanthropy this year. In these challenging economic times, we ask you to continue investing in your own backyard. The DRC relies on supporters like you to help us accomplish our mission of restoring streamflow and improving water quality in the Deschutes Basin.

Because you care about our natural resources and quality of life, we know you are invested in the health of our local rivers and streams. Only through collaboration and strong partnerships can we accomplish record breaking conservation initiatives and **only with your investment in the work of the DRC can we continue to achieve results on such a grand scale.** Thank you for the vital role that you play in protecting the quality of life we all treasure so much here in Central Oregon! 🌊



Larry Stephenson

FINDING INNOVATIVE WATER MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS FOR FARMERS AND FISH

The Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC) has been working with North Unit Irrigation District (NUID) to find a solution to address the irrigation needs of the farmers and conservation needs of the river. We are pleased to announce that we will be breaking ground this winter with North Unit Irrigation District on the first phase of the largest streamflow restoration initiative in Oregon's history.

For over one hundred years, the Deschutes River and its tributaries have supported agricultural communities in Central Oregon. More than 700 miles of irrigation canals deliver water to farmers whose crops make a significant contribution to our national food production.

NUID, located near Madras and Culver, serves Central Oregon's most vibrant farming community. Farmers in this district are the most junior water right holders in the Deschutes basin, meaning they are last in line for water. To ensure that farmers in North Unit have sufficient water supplies to grow their crops, the district aggressively pursues innovative conservation practices. NUID's primary water source comes from

the Deschutes River, but they also rely heavily on costly water pumped from the Crooked River.

The first phase of this exciting water conservation project will line 4.9 miles of NUID's main canal, conserving Deschutes River water that would otherwise be lost through seepage. This conserved water will then be used on lands that are currently irrigated with water pumped from the Crooked River. As a result, more water will remain instream in the Crooked River. It is important to note that in 2007, NUID received Congressional approval to restore streamflows through its conservation effort. Without this legislation, this project would not be possible.

When completed, this initiative will allow North Unit farmers to reduce their reliance on pumped water from the Crooked River and will restore up to 220 cubic feet per second (cfs) of streamflow in the section of the Crooked River running through Smith Rock State Park. With flows as low as 10 cfs, historically this section has suffered from poor water quality and a degraded ecosystem. A win-win opportunity for farmers and fish, the North Unit Initiative supports a strong

agricultural economy while permanently improving conditions for fish, wildlife and recreation.

The North Unit Initiative is a great example of how the DRC provided a vision, created a strategy and brought together instrumental partners. North Unit Irrigation District, The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Portland General Electric, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board worked with us to produce this innovative solution to a complicated water management problem. 🌊



"Having a healthy watershed is as important as having a reliable source of water for agriculture."

Martin Richards, NUID Farmer

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DESCHUTES RIVER CONSERVANCY

RESTORATION AND REINTRODUCTION MILESTONES IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN

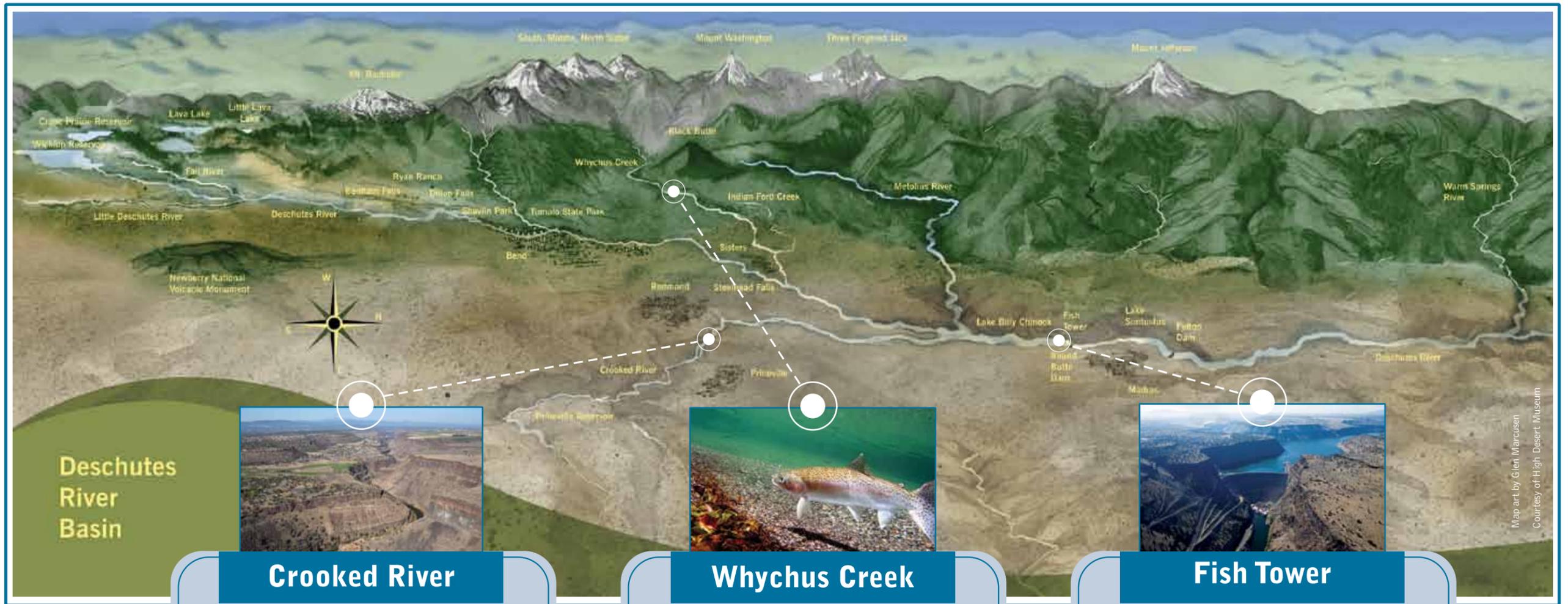
An unprecedented effort is underway in the Deschutes Basin to reintroduce steelhead and salmon. Since the Pelton Round Butte Hydro-Electric Project was built in the 1960s, these anadromous fish have been blocked from the Deschutes Basin above the dams. Over the past several years, the DRC and our partners have been working to restore and maintain the watershed

conditions necessary for successful salmon and steelhead reintroduction.

2011 has been a very encouraging year for these reintroduction efforts. Earlier this year, Portland General Electric, The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation and the State of Oregon celebrated the return of the first adult steelhead from the 2007

reintroduction. Additionally, major flow restoration milestones were achieved on both Whychus Creek and the Crooked River.

A healthy watershed and a thriving ecosystem are the keys to our future here in the Deschutes Basin. When we have healthy rivers, streams and lakes, we know we can support the diverse needs of people and wildlife.



Deschutes River Basin

Crooked River

Largest Water Conservation Project in Oregon's History

We will be breaking ground this winter with North Unit Irrigation District on the first phase of the largest streamflow restoration initiative in Oregon's history. When completed, this initiative will restore up to 220 cubic feet per second of streamflow to the Crooked River running through Smith Rock State Park. This reach of the Crooked River has historically suffered from poor water quality and a degraded ecosystem. This initiative will benefit the region's agricultural economy while permanently improving conditions for fish, wildlife, and recreation.

Whychus Creek

Permanent Restoration Achieved

Flowing through the town of Sisters, Whychus Creek historically ran dry during the irrigation season causing fish and wildlife populations to suffer. Working with Three Sisters Irrigation District and Oregon Water Resources Department, the DRC implemented a series of water conservation projects and water rights transfers to eventually protect over 20 cubic feet per second (cfs) of instream water rights in the creek. Maintaining a healthy year-round flow in the creek is vital to efforts currently underway to restore salmon and steelhead to Whychus Creek.

Fish Tower

Successful Passage for Steelhead and Salmon

The fish tower at the Pelton Round Butte Dam Complex located at Lake Billy Chinook draws water from the surface and from the bottom of Lake Billy Chinook. This changes the currents in the lake to draw fish toward the tower and into the fish collection facility. After being reintroduced into Whychus Creek and the Crooked River in 2007 and migrating out to the ocean, the first adult chinook and steelhead returned to the Deschutes in 2011. This is very encouraging for the success of fish reintroduction efforts in the Deschutes Basin.

Map art by Glen Marcusen
Courtesy of High Desert Museum