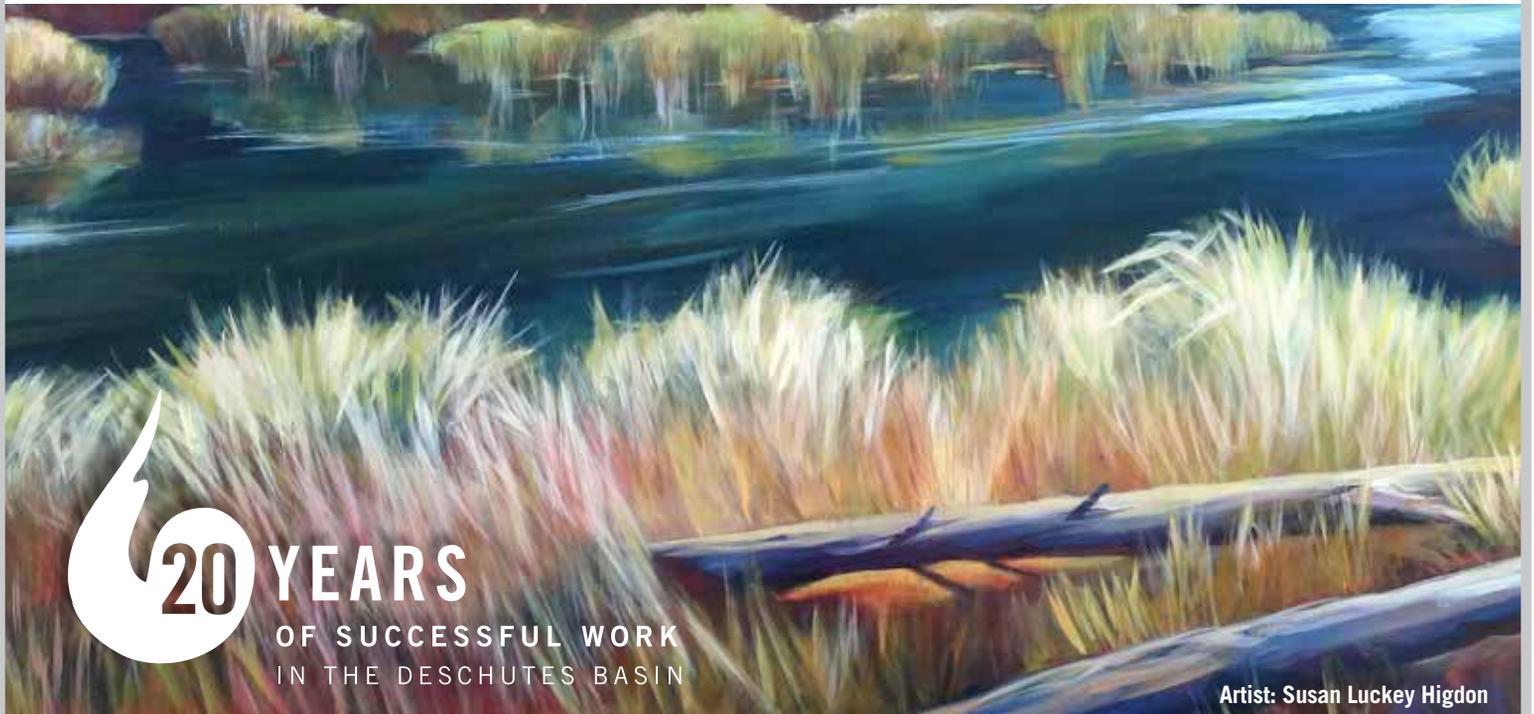




RiverVoice

WINTER 2017 VOL.11 NO.1

NEWSLETTER OF THE **DESCHUTES RIVER CONSERVANCY**



20 YEARS
OF SUCCESSFUL WORK
IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN

Artist: Susan Luckey Higdon

A Step in the Right Direction for the Upper Deschutes

Beginning this winter, the Deschutes River will flow at a minimum of 100 cubic feet per second (cfs) from September 16th to March 30th. The river community is celebrating the addition of this water to critically low winter flows that have dropped as low as 20 cfs in past years.

“It’s unfortunate that these results were achieved through litigation,” said DRC Executive Director, Tod Heisler. “While this is a step in the right direction, it doesn’t solve the long-term flow issues that face the Deschutes River. We see this 100 cfs as a foundation for further flow restoration and we sincerely hope that additional flows can be restored through continued partnership and collaboration within the basin.”

This initial flow increase is the result of a recent settlement agreement in the

Oregon spotted frog litigation involving WaterWatch, Center for Biological Diversity, Bureau of Reclamation and five local irrigation districts – Arnold, Central Oregon, Lone Pine, North Unit and Tumalo.

Irrigators have also agreed to leave 600 cfs instream in the Upper Deschutes River for the first half of April to support Oregon spotted frog breeding and habitat. Additionally, Crescent Creek will now flow at a minimum of 30 cfs and levels in Crane Prairie Reservoir will remain more stable to benefit existing frog populations living along the reservoir’s edge.

The settlement agreement will be in place through July 2017. After that time, additional agreements between the irrigation districts and the federal agencies are expected to continue to increase minimum winter flows in the future. The

goal of the Deschutes River Conservancy is to protect a minimum of 300 cfs of winter flows in the Upper Deschutes, or ultimately enough water to restore a functioning upper Deschutes River.

A large scale basin study scheduled to conclude in 2018 will provide key information needed to create long-term cooperative solutions that will both restore the Deschutes and benefit water users for the future. Because climate change is increasingly impacting the timing and supply of water, we need to place great importance and care on how we manage and use water in Central Oregon.

The DRC believes there is enough water for all if we continue to manage this precious resource with forward thinking solutions.

John Allen
USDA, Deschutes National Forest

Rick Allen
Jefferson County

Ron Angell
At Large

Bruce Bischof
At Large

Nathan Boddie
Central Oregon Cities Organization

Linda (Bo) Bonotto
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Mike Britton
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Bobby Brunoe, Vice-Chair
The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Doug DeFlicht
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Phil Fine
Irrigation - North Unit Irrigation District

Chris Gannon
Crook County

Nancy Gilbert
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Kyle Gorman
State of Oregon Water Resources Dept.

Ellen Grover, Secretary
Karnopp Petersen LLP

Jay Henry, Chair
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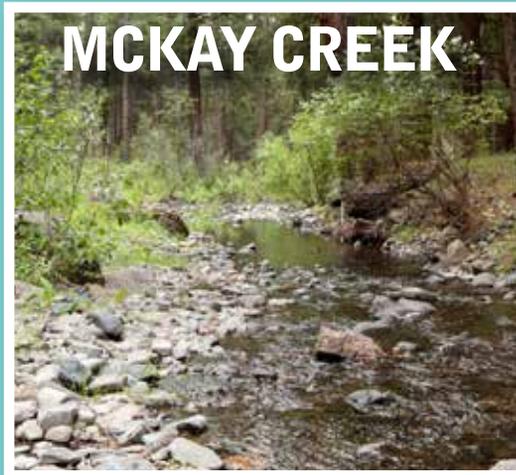
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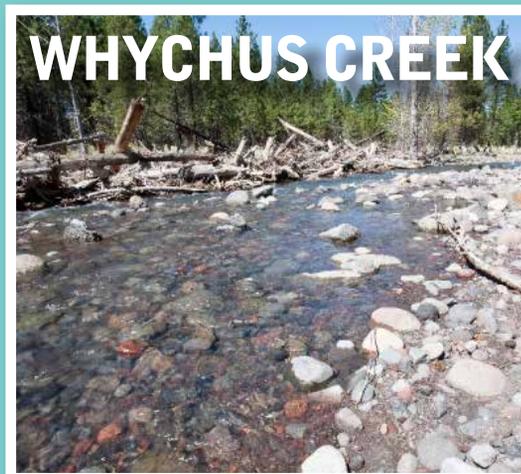
Kelsey Wymore Program Associate

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REACH UPDATES



We are moving forward in our partnership with Ochoco Irrigation District to develop the McKay Creek Water Rights Switch. This project would restore natural flow to McKay Creek in exchange for providing landowners irrigation water rights from Ochoco Irrigation District. Increased flows will improve habitat and water quality for summer steelhead and redband trout, and will increase fish access to 37 miles of stream in McKay Creek.



Phase Eight of the Three Sisters Irrigation District Main Canal begins this winter. This phase will pipe another 4,400 feet and protect an additional 1 cfs instream. With the completion of Phase Eight, the project will include 8.27 miles of piped canal yielding 14.32 cubic feet per second (cfs) of conserved water--all of which is protected instream. This increase in streamflows will help meet minimum streamflow targets from April through October to improve conditions for reintroduced steelhead, Chinook salmon, and native redband trout from the diversion to the mouth of Whychus Creek.

From the Desk of the Executive Director, Tod Heisler

This year has been unpredictable for many reasons. Water supply, climate change and politics have all been top of mind.

As we enter uncertain times, it is important for us to work together as a community. To keep calling for the protection of our beautiful places. To keep educating our children about the value of nature. In my family, we have all pledged to do everything we can to protect the beautiful world we live in.

In the Deschutes Basin, we have been working to set aside our differences and find solutions for water conservation where we can all win - fish, families and farmers.

Though we've been successfully working at this for twenty years, today we need your help more than ever.

Restoration of the Upper Deschutes is our greatest undertaking and affects our entire region. We can't do this without community support.

We need you to pledge your support to restoring the Deschutes River. We need you to pledge to do everything you can to conserve water and educate others.

Please join us in being a water ambassador. The only way we will see healthy flows in the Upper Deschutes is by pulling together.

Together we can do great things.

**WE
THE RIVER.**



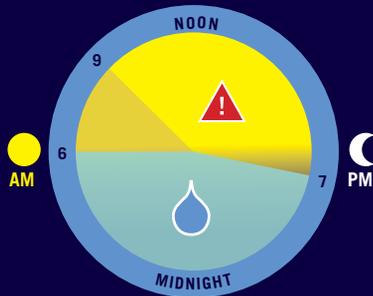
DESCHUTES RIVER
CONSERVANCY

SAVE THE DESCHUTES

7 TIPS FOR CONSERVING WATER

Start today!

1 Know when to water.



URBAN

BEST TIME
7pm-6am

AVOID
6-9am & 5-7pm

NO WAY
9am-5pm

RURAL

BEST TIME
7pm-9am

AVOID
Hottest part
of the day

2 Don't set it and forget it.

Watering needs vary seasonally.
Adjust your settings accordingly.



3 Maintain your irrigation systems.



Up to 16% of water is lost due to leaks in irrigation systems.

Up to 50% can be lost in leaky canals

Keep ditches free of debris for efficient water delivery

5 How much is too much?



URBAN

Get a kit.

A simple irrigation kit from the City of Bend provides a sprinkler gauge to measure your watering.

1

Measure.
Use a flow meter or measurement device.

2

Check.
If you are watering below the root zone, you are using too much water.

4 Don't water the street!

- 1 **Concrete doesn't need water.** Adjust and align nozzles to avoid wasteful overspray.
- 2 **Mind your duration.** Watering too long causes wasteful run off.

6 Get the right watering system for the job.

SHRUBS & PLANTER BEDS > drip or soaker hoses

LAWNS > sprinklers

FARMS > sprinklers or drip irrigation

TIPS

Worn out nozzles waste water & energy

Water as evenly as possible.

Install the **most efficient system** you can afford.

7 Grow less water-intensive plants and crops

Change your landscaping from lawn > xeriscape

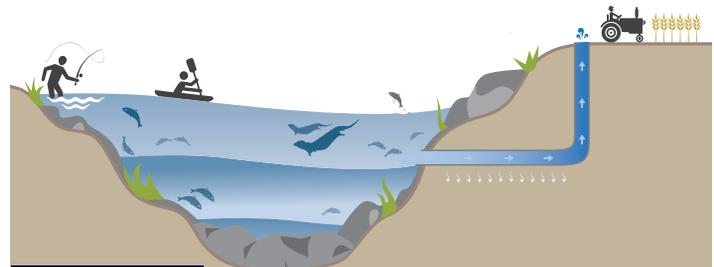
URBAN

Shift to xeriscape.
A small shift toward xeriscaping each year saves water and money. Free resources are available from the City of Bend.

RURAL

- 1 **Grow drought-resistant crops.**
- 2 **Look into leasing.** Not using your water? Contact the DRC for information about leasing back instream.

Find more water-saving tips and online resources at:
deschutesriver.org/resources/conservewater



DID YOU KNOW

The largest opportunity to restore the Deschutes is through conservation of water on rural lands.



**DESCHUTES RIVER
CONSERVANCY**

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Support the Deschutes!

Restoring streamflows and improving water quality is what the Deschutes River Conservancy has been dedicated to for the past 20 years. Why we do it goes so much deeper.

The Deschutes River is the heart of Central Oregon. It is a place we go to spend time with friends and family, and to spend time alone with nature. We believe that having a healthy, flowing river makes our community healthy.

We are so grateful for all of our supporters who help make our work possible. Together we can restore the Deschutes River for future generations to love.

With your help, we will have a healthy river and community for years to come.

www.deschutesriver.org

SAVE THE DATE | MAY 6, 2017



riverfeast
DINNER & AUCTION

Artist: Susan Luckey Higdon