



RiverVoice

SUMMER 2017 VOL. 11 NO. 2

NEWSLETTER OF THE **DESCHUTES RIVER CONSERVANCY**



A MESSAGE FROM DRC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TOD HEISLER

PHOTO: DRC STAFF

Changing the Story in the Deschutes River

A confluence of forces in our basin today is shaping a bright future for our beloved Deschutes River.

To me, the river is not only a fabulous recreational attraction, but a spring-fed ecological marvel. Since arriving at the DRC thirteen years ago, I have worked to find a way that we can make a significant difference for one of our national treasures.

But how could we get farmers and fishermen to work together in such an increasingly partisan world? And how to precipitate change big enough to fix the river?

Today, I am very encouraged by the new conversations I hear and actions being taken. When I talk to farmers, I hear something different. They tell me how important the river is to them, that the decline of the river

over the years is regrettable, and they are committed to bring it back.

An irrigation district manager recently told me that managing water in his district is not exclusively about water deliveries to their patrons, but also about serving the whole community — including the river.

Several fishermen I know and others in the environmental community are talking about the importance of district modernization — helping farmers so that they can help the river.

Why is all this happening now? Why am I so hopeful? Because when incentives are properly aligned, great things can happen.

Many things have transpired which have our community poised for big positive changes as never before.

The threat of litigation incentivized the completion of a long-term habitat conservation plan. The enormous collaborative problem-solving of the Basin Study Work Group coincides with potential funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service to invest in solutions.

So fasten your seat belt, we are about to change the story of the Deschutes Basin. As we continue pressing forward on restoring flows in the Upper Deschutes, protecting Whychus Creek, and as we embark upon a long awaited project on McKay Creek, you can trust our collaborative board of diverse and committed stakeholders to all be at the table speaking for the river. Join us as we change the story!

DESCHUTES RIVER CONSERVANCY 2017 AREAS OF FOCUS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

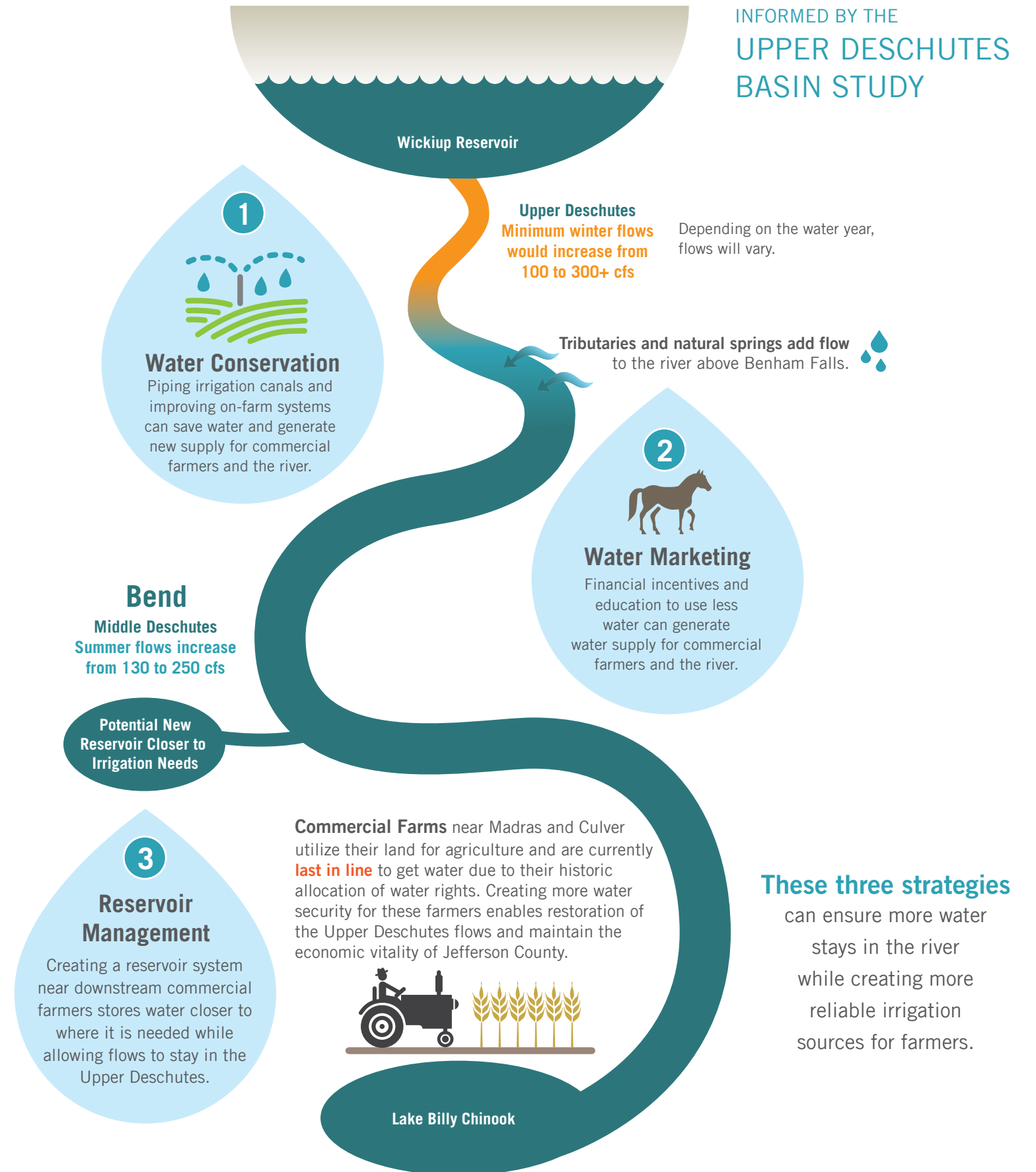
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- Bobby Brunoe** (Vice-Chair) Tribal
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- Phil Fine** Irrigation
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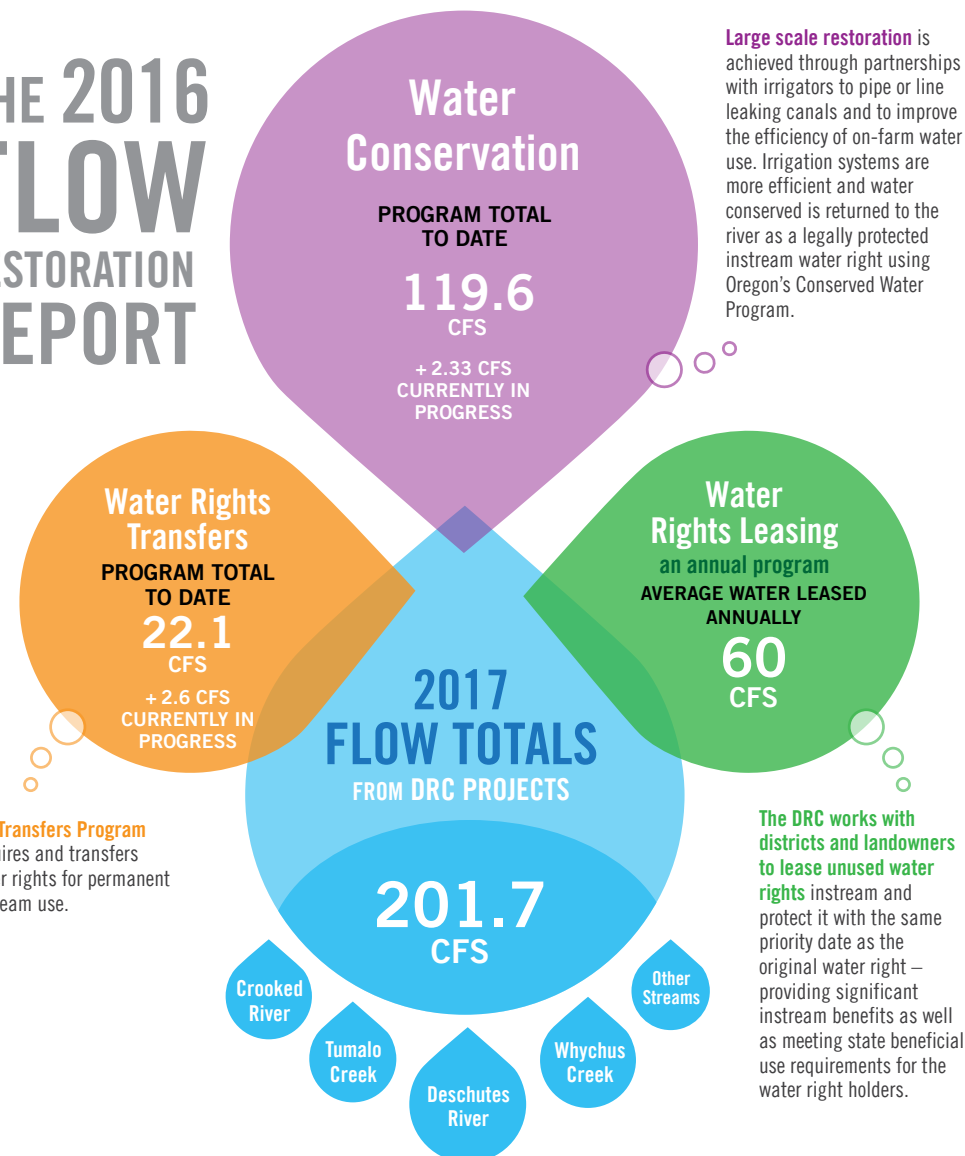
The Upper Deschutes seen from the Deschutes River Trail above the Old Mill District in Bend.

Tools to create a Healthy Deschutes River

INFORMED BY THE
UPPER DESCHUTES
BASIN STUDY



THE 2016 FLOW RESTORATION REPORT



*CFS = Peak protected flows May - September

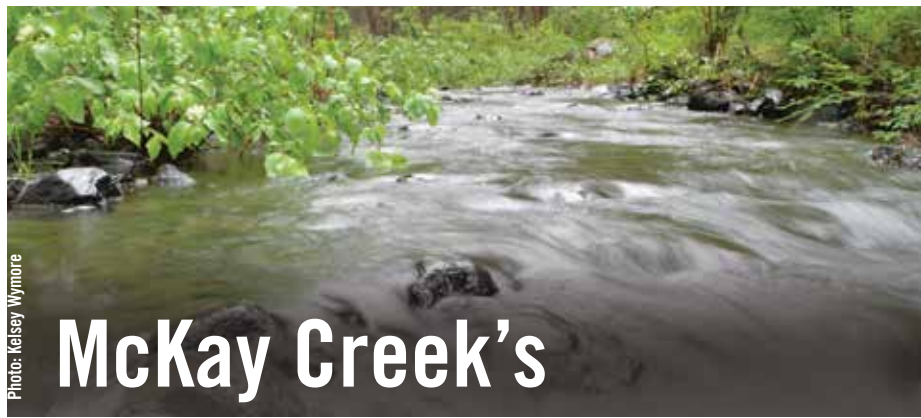


Photo: Telsey Wymore

McKay Creek's Missing Link

McKay Creek Water Rights Switch: Benefits for Landowners and Fish

McKay Creek flows 37 miles from its headwaters in the Ochoco National Forest, through private agricultural lands, and joins the Crooked River just northwest of Prineville in Crook County. The dominate private land use along the creek is livestock and irrigated forage production, using water from the creek. Due in part to irrigation diversions, flows are low or intermittent in the middle reach during the irrigation season, limiting fish movement and contributing to insufficient aquatic habitat, resulting in high stream temperatures.

The McKay Creek Water Rights Switch (the Switch) will restore natural flow to the middle reach of McKay Creek by allowing landowners from river miles 6 to 12 to trade their private McKay Creek water rights for Ochoco Irrigation District (OID) water rights, sourced from Prineville Reservoir. In exchange for more reliable OID water, landowners will transfer 11.2 cfs of certificated McKay Creek water rights instream. Restoring the natural hydrograph in this reach of McKay Creek will address many limiting factors, including low flow, altered hydrology, high water temperature and impaired fish passage.

For Landowners, the Switch provides:

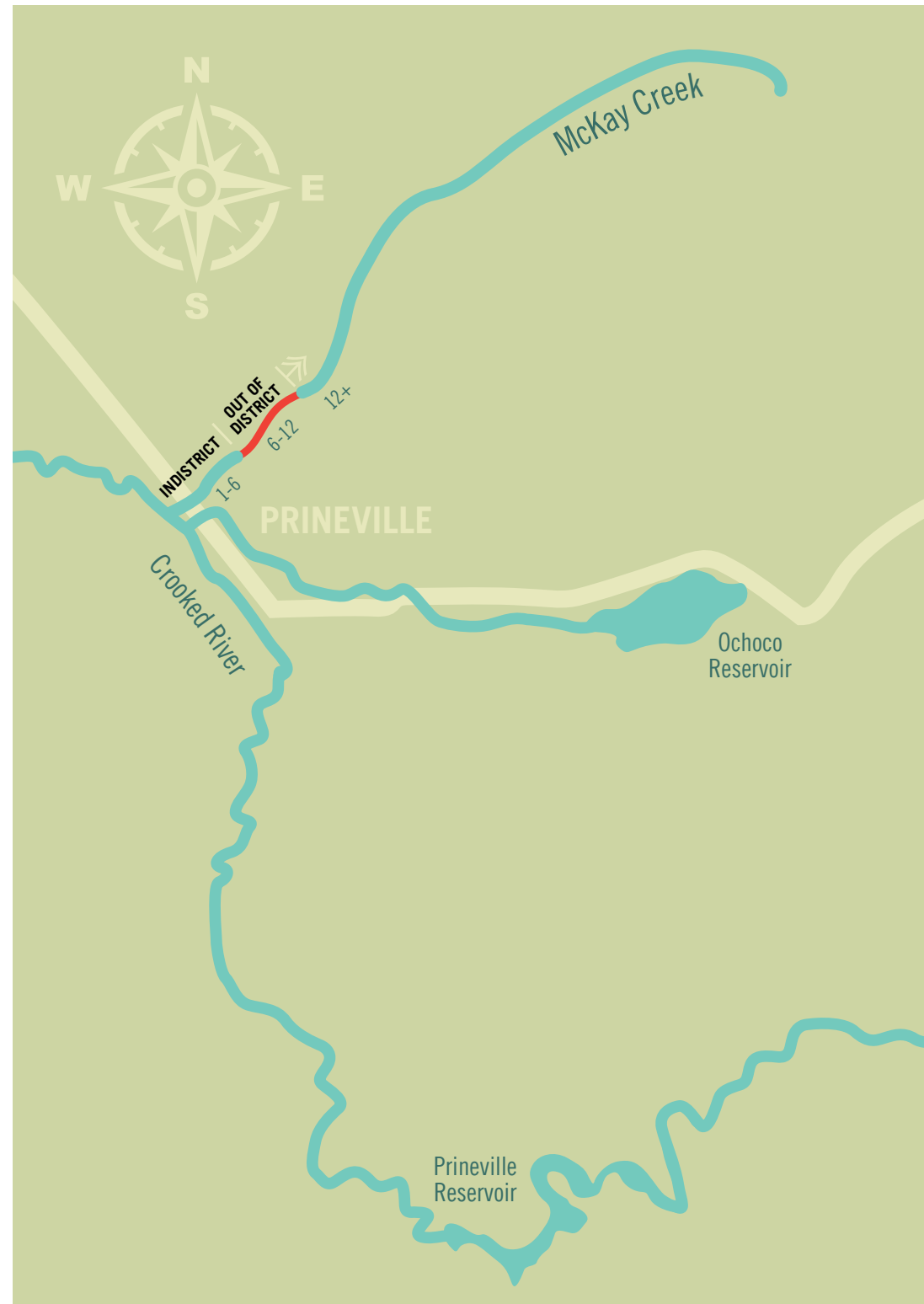
- Water users the opportunity to hold more reliable water rights
- Potential increase in property value associated with more reliable water rights

For Fish, the Switch provides:

- Extend and increase late spring streamflow allowing for more steelhead to transition from fry to juveniles and migrate to suitable summer rearing habitats.
- Lower early summer stream temperatures increasing the survival of fry and juveniles prior to migrating to late summer rearing habitat.

For the Irrigation District (OID), the Switch provides:

- Stability to their assessment base for future urbanization by adding additional patrons.



INDISTRICT MILES 1-6

Water users from the confluence of McKay Creek and the Crooked River to approximately river mile 6 are patrons of OID and serviced with water from Prineville Reservoir. This reach of the creek does not experience low streamflows, due in part to the return of irrigation water to the creek.

OUT OF DISTRICT MILES 6-12

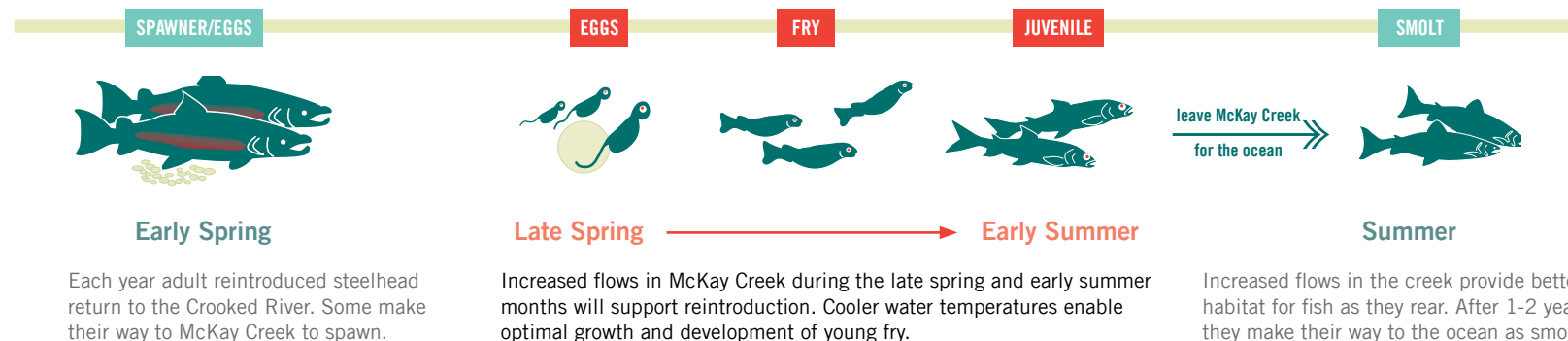
Water users from approximately river mile 6 to river mile 12 divert water directly from McKay Creek contributing to critically low and intermittent streamflow conditions earlier in the summer than would naturally occur. These diversions can create fish passage barriers and contribute to high stream temperatures.

PART OF A BIGGER PICTURE MILES 12+

Removing all private irrigation diversions from McKay Creek eliminates the need for diversion structures that create passage barriers for migrating fish and optimizes habitat restoration and land conservation opportunities.

The Switch will help leverage the work of our partners in these ways:

- Protect water restored to McKay Creek from Forest Service floodplain restoration projects upstream of the Switch
- Provide opportunities for riparian land conservation with the Deschutes Land Trust and habitat restoration opportunities with the Crooked River Watershed Council.



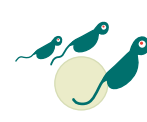
SPAWNER/EGGS



Early Spring

Each year adult reintroduced steelhead return to the Crooked River. Some make their way to McKay Creek to spawn.

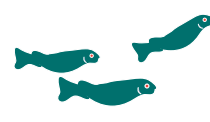
EGGS



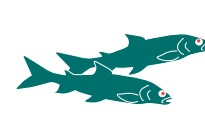
Late Spring

Increased flows in McKay Creek during the late spring and early summer months will support reintroduction. Cooler water temperatures enable optimal growth and development of young fry.

FRY



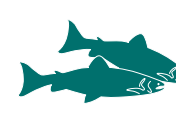
JUVENILE



Early Summer

Leave McKay Creek for the ocean

SMOLT



Summer

Increased flows in the creek provide better habitat for fish as they rear. After 1-2 years, they make their way to the ocean before they return to spawn.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The DRC is dedicated to restoring streamflow and improving water quality in the Deschutes Basin. To date, we have achieved unprecedented restoration results through the implementation of collaborative projects with our local partners.

Assets 2016

Current Assets	\$1,529,233
Other Assets	\$10,585
Total Assets	\$1,539,818

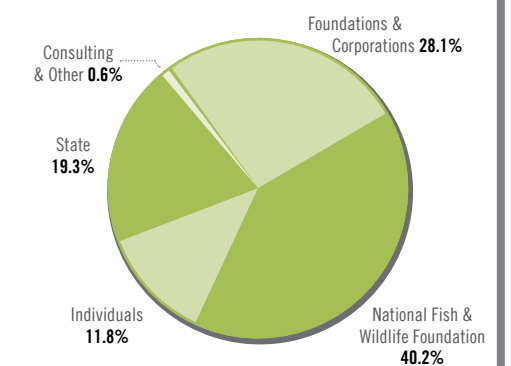
Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities	\$647,301
Long-term Liabilities	\$41,036
Net Assets	\$851,481
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,539,818

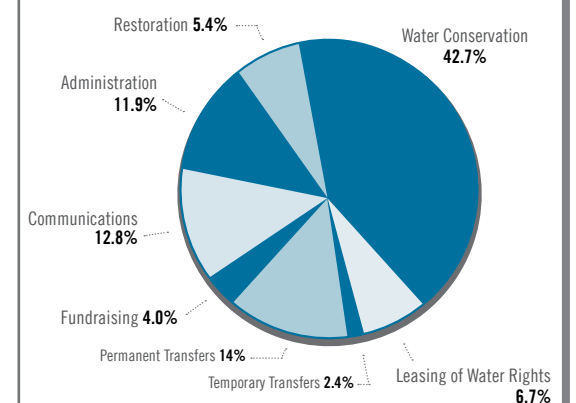
Revenue and Support

Grants and Contributions	\$1,373,824
Contributions and Events	\$218,128
Other	\$249,368
Total Revenue & Support	\$1,841,320

REVENUE BY SOURCE



PROGRAM EXPENSES



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

DONATIONS MADE FROM JANUARY 1, 2016 - DECEMBER 31, 2016

RIVER STEWARD (\$1,000+)

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Bigfoot Beverages
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The OCF Shelk Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
The OCF Stensland Cultural Fund
The OCF-Ward Family Fund
The Seattle Foundation
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Amy Tykeson and John Teller Tykeson Family Charitable Trust
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James and Becky Powell
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Kathleen and DJ Quinney
Jarold and Dorothy Ramsey
Michael J. Reidy

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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Yellowhawk Point B & B

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Deborah Berger
In honor of Stephen Kiley
Frank Connolly
In memory of Stephen Kiley
Janet C. Gehlert
In memory of Gary Gehlert
Charles Harrison
In memory of Steve Kiley
Gregg Henton
In memory of C. Rexford Henton
Blake Livingston
In memory of Eddy Miller
Claire McCann
In memory of Stephen Hadley Kiley
Mary Norville
In honor of my son, John Norville
Sally Peterson
In memory of Stephen Hadley Kiley
Susan C. Peterson
In Memory of Stephen Kiley
Ken Roberts
In memoriam of Mike McKee
Nan Robertson
In memory of Douglas S. Robertson
Thomas Struck
In memory of Stephen Kiley
Meg Wujack
In memory of Helen M. Lilley

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Bella Vista Foundation
Bonneville Environmental Fund

Bonneville Power Administration
Collins Foundation
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Deschutes Basin Board of Control
Deschutes Brewery
Jubitz Foundation
Laird Norton Foundation
Meyer Memorial Trust
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Oregon Community Foundation
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Portland General Electric

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Central Oregon Irrigation District
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Lone Pine Irrigation District
North Unit Irrigation District
Ochoco Irrigation District
Swalley Irrigation District
Three Sisters Irrigation District
Tumalo Irrigation District

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Jim Hart
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Ochoco Valley Ranch
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Thank you to all our donors who wish to remain anonymous. We greatly appreciate your support of our work!



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTNERS !



**DESCHUTES RIVER
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Make a Difference!

Thank you to everyone who attended RiverFeast this year! It was by far one of the DRC's most successful events to date. Please save the date for next year!

When you support the DRC, you are ensuring innovative projects will continue to revitalize the rivers of Central Oregon. Your support also allows us to continue to develop balanced strategies that benefit the river and all those who love and depend upon it.

Thank you for your support of the river and of the Deschutes River Conservancy. Together, we are doing great things.

For more information and project updates, please visit us at www.deschutesriver.org.

SAVE THE DATE | MAY 12, 2018

riverfeast
DINNER & AUCTION

Susan Luckey Higdon

For more information visit us at www.deschutesriver.org or call 541.382.4077.