

# Ripples

## in the Grande Ronde

Spring 2006

RIVERS UNITING NEIGHBORS · QUARTERLY NEWS FROM THE GRANDE RONDE MODEL WATERSHED

## Steering steelhead out of the ditch

by Jeff Oveson with  
Coby Menton, GRMW

I don't recall the date, only that it was a late summer evening and I was about 13, maybe 14 years of age. My twin brother, Greg, and I were walking across a couple of pastures just south of the house in which we resided. Between us we had one fly rod, and on the end of the leader, a single fly. We carried no creel, no extra flies or leader. This was standard operating procedure for us. We would take turns fishing and if one of us lost the fly, we went home. Greg had made the same walk alone the evening before and had lost the fly. According to him, he lost it because a really big fish had taken it. Because we were returning to seek vengeance for this theft, I would be allowed to start fishing, and as we moved downstream to the spot where "ol' Big" had committed the nasty deed the night before, I would give the rod to Greg so he could get even.

Upstream of the site where Greg was to exact penance from this monster fish, I saw what appeared to be a decent-sized trout feeding on the surface right next to the grassy bank. Guessing the size of these fish was based on what turned out to be a fairly accurate method – the size of the bubbles they left in the swirl where they broke the water's surface. I cast the fly his way and got a real aggressive strike that I missed, and commented to Greg that it was a "good" fish. I gave the fish another chance and this time we

hooked up. Immediately afterward, this fish broke the water and we both started screaming. He ran downstream and then up, leaving me with a tangled mess of line at my feet and no idea how I was going to ever actually land him.

Greg immediately assessed the situation, sat down and took off boots and socks, then rolled up his pant legs. As the fish tired and ran under some wild rose bushes on the opposite bank, Greg jumped into the water, waded across and reaching down, got a good hold on the fish, a minor miracle in my mind.

Greg's big fish from the night before had moved upstream some, apparently just passing through. The fish was surely not where he was supposed to be for several reasons. He was a steelhead 27 inches long, it was summer, and he was in an irrigation canal, the

Lower Valley Ditch. I'm glad the memory is so clear to me because it was a long, long time before I had another steelhead take a dry fly.

Maybe this fish is a record for the Lower Valley Ditch, who knows? If so, the record will stand forever because steelhead will no longer be coming up the ditch. And that's a good thing. In the fall of 2005, the intersection of the Lower Valley Ditch and Dry Creek (a steelhead-bearing stream) was converted from a surface bypass to a subsurface 36-inch siphon tube by which Lower Valley Ditch water is transported underneath and beyond Dry Creek. The old concrete bypass allowed migrating

.....Continued on Page 6, STEELHEAD

*Before modifications, Dry Creek (foreground) was intersected by Lower Valley Ditch at this concrete structure. At high water, water from the ditch and creek intermixed, allowing fish to enter the ditch.*



# Fish, flows and license plates

by Beth Stewart, Editor

In today's world, \$30 may buy you a bag of groceries, a modest bouquet of flowers, maybe even a dinner for two. In Oregon, \$30 also buys a future for salmon and trout. Get enough Oregonians pitching in 30 extra dollars for a salmon license plate every two years and all of a sudden you have hundreds of thousands of dollars devoted to improving conditions for salmon and trout from the Oregon coast to the Wallowa Mountains.

Since its inception in 1998, Oregon's salmon license plate program has generated nearly \$4 million for salmon and trout restoration. In 2004, salmon plate purchases reached a record high, totaling more than \$670,000. Funds are channeled through two state agencies, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. According to Monte Turner in Salem, the communications coordinator for the "Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds," \$15 from each salmon license plate goes directly to fix road-related impacts to salmon and trout streams through grants awarded by OWEB. Projects involve improving water quality, fish habitat and fish passage. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department invests the other \$15 in salmon habitat and related projects in Oregon state parks. Those projects range from restoring streamflows to increasing public awareness.

## OWEB Grants

Each year, OWEB accepts grant applications for road-related improvements addressing specific impacts to native Oregon fish. All applications are reviewed by regional committees. Priority is given to projects sponsored by private landowners and local governments where sufficient funding is not currently available. Past projects have included road improvements to reduce sediment in streams and the replacement of culverts that block fish passage.

On March 17, OWEB announced its latest round of projects that will receive salmon license plate funds.



In all, \$350,000 will be allocated to six projects statewide designed to restore fish habitat and improve water quality, returning fish to nearly 25 miles of streams. "All of these projects help maintain or increase fish populations that have been declining in these areas," said Tom Byler, OWEB executive director. "The additional habitat should provide a significant benefit to fish in each stream."

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is a state agency led by a policy oversight board. The agency provides grants and services to citizen groups, organizations and agencies working to restore healthy watersheds in Oregon. OWEB actions support the "Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds." Created in 1997, the plan represents a state-sanctioned cooperative effort to restore salmon runs, improve water quality, and achieve healthy watersheds and strong communities throughout the state. In addition to salmon license plate revenues, OWEB

funding comes from the Oregon Lottery, federal salmon funds, and other sources.

## The Grande Ronde Connection

A portion of this year's OWEB salmon plate funds will make its way to eastern Oregon's Wallowa County in the Grande Ronde Watershed. The Nez Perce Tribe will receive approximately \$40,000 toward improvements on Mahogany Creek. According to Monte Turner, a barrier preventing fish passage will be replaced with an open-bottom arch culvert that will reopen 2.5 miles of spawning and rearing habitat in a remote stretch of Mahogany Creek near Imnaha. The Grande Ronde Model Watershed and the U.S. Forest Service are partners on the project with the tribe. Mahogany Creek supports spring chinook salmon, which are listed under the Endangered Species Act. The project, whose total cost will exceed \$130,000, will also decrease erosion from the road and lessen the likelihood of future road failure.

This isn't the first time salmon license plate revenues have reached Wallowa County. In 2000, the Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded nearly \$8,000 to improve the road and reduce sediment in Rock Creek, a tributary of the Wallowa River that supports ESA-listed spring chinook and steelhead populations. In 2005, more than \$42,000 went to Wallowa Resources, who partnered with several private entities and government agencies to replace three culverts in the upper Joseph Creek watershed. The improvements will allow year-round access for steelhead to more than 11 miles of previously blocked habitat.

In 2005, OWEB grant money was also allocated to two projects in adjacent Union County. Over \$9,000 was awarded the Oregon Department of Forestry to help restore over two miles of Smutz Draw, a major

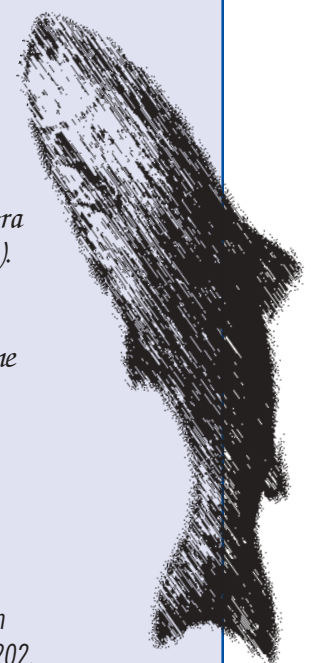
## How you can help

Four ways to get a salmon license plate

1. When you buy a new or used vehicle, tell the salesperson you want a salmon license plate (extra \$30 plus one-time \$5 plate fee).
2. When registering your vehicle, ask the DMV for a salmon plate (extra \$30 plus one-time \$5 plate fee).
3. Switch to a salmon plate when you renew your plate (extra \$30 plus one-time \$10 plate fee).
4. Replace your existing plate anytime (extra \$30 plus one-time \$15 plate fee).

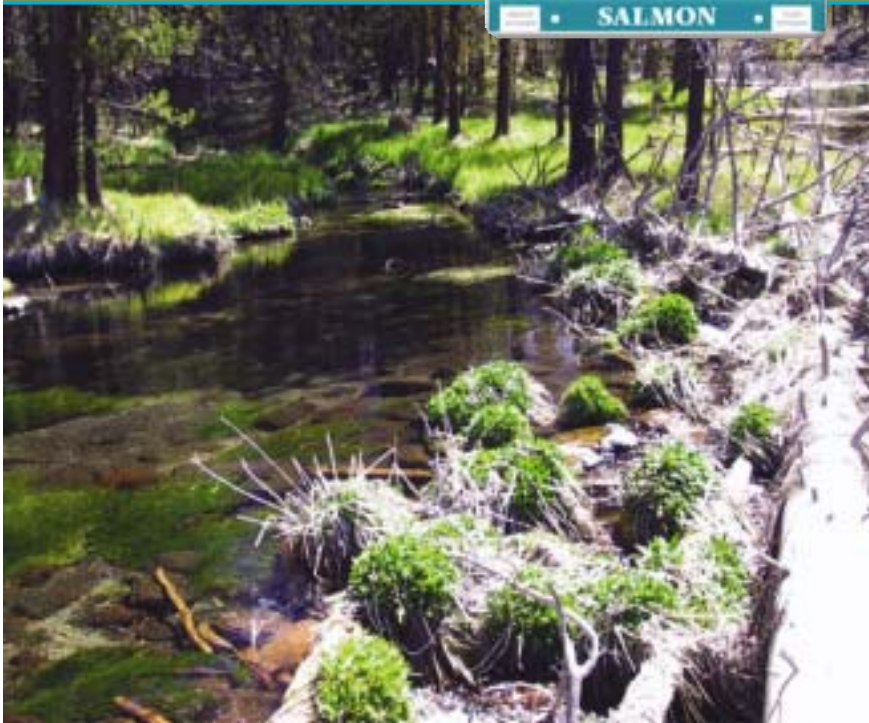
For more information about how to purchase a salmon license plate, visit OWEB's website at [www.oregon.gov/OWEB](http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB) or the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles at [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/DMV/vehicle/plates.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/DMV/vehicle/plates.shtml).

If your business or organization would like to display or distribute cards promoting salmon license plate sales, request copies from Maribeth Mattson at OWEB in Salem at 503-986-0202.





# Put A Salmon On Your



Purchase a salmon license plate and join thousands of Oregonians who display their support for abundant salmon populations, healthy streams and state park salmon projects.

## Do your part for fish and streams.

tributary of Upper Ladd Creek, eliminating the road along the draw bottom, removing culverts, and placing in-stream logs. To complement the effort, the Union Soil and Water Conservation District and U.S. Forest Service replaced one of the remaining fish passage barriers and replanted native riparian vegetation to reduce erosion. When complete, the project will remove a significant sediment source and open up more than one mile of quality habitat for juvenile steelhead and resident redband trout.

Last year, \$5,500 was also allocated to restoration efforts on Bear Creek in the upper Grande Ronde watershed. The Union Soil and Water Conservation District, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, will eliminate a mile of draw-bottom road and create a more fish-friendly ridge-top road to reduce sediment in the creek. The project also calls for planting nearly seven riparian acres with Douglas fir, Englemann spruce, larch, tufted hairgrass, mountain brome and blue wildrye.

### *State Park Improvements*

The responsibility for investing the other half of the salmon license plate funds lies with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). OPRD has received more than \$2 million in revenue from plate sales thus far. While the legislation that created the salmon plate does not require the department to earmark the money for salmon restoration, OPRD spends tens of thousands of dollars each year in park projects to improve salmon and trout habitat. Eastern Oregon's state parks are no exception.

About \$24,000 were spent in the Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area in Baker County to boost the recovery of streams once devastated by mining activities. Designed to improve conditions for Bull Trout, the project involved placing four boulder weirs (barriers to control streamflows) to help raise water levels and create pools. Boulder "armoring" has reinforced the bank at the confluence of two creeks, and whole trees are now providing shade and shelter for fish and other aquatic life in the Powder River.

OPRD has also invested money in split-rail fencing along Catherine Creek (Catherine Creek State Park) and along the Grande Ronde River (Red Bridge State Wayside) to control access to the water and protect stream banks. Money has also been spent on riparian plantings along the Grande Ronde River at Hilgard Junction State Recreation Area and along the Minam River at Minam State Recreation Area. Interpretive signs have also been installed on the Wallowa River at Wallowa Lake State Park as well as the Minam Recreation Area.

Monte Turner is optimistic about Oregonians' participation in salmon license plates, although he admits sales have tapered from the record-breaking 2004 levels. "Oregonians who have salmon license plates are loyal," says Turner, pointing out that those who do purchase salmon plates often keep them. "We are always looking for ways to boost sales, however," adds Turner. For a modest \$30, put a salmon on your plate. Then rest assured you've done your two-cents worth for fish and streams in Oregon. ■



# To irrigate a golf course

by Lyle Kuchenbecker, GRMW

**W**hat does the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and clean water have to do with Union County's Buffalo Peak Golf Course? As it turns out, the two are more closely related than you may think.

Back in 2000, the Department of Environmental Quality completed the Upper Grande Ronde Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and associated Water Quality Management Plan. A TMDL analyzes the factors affecting water quality and identifies the amount of pollution that can be present without violating state water-quality standards. Pollutants responsible for water-quality problems include excess heat, nutrients, and sediments that enter streams as a result of human-induced changes. The Upper Grande Ronde TMDL, as its name implies, established targets for reducing pollutants in the upper Grande Ronde subbasin.

Two significant pollution point sources identified in the TMDL were the effluent discharges from the La Grande and Union Wastewater Treatment plants. The La Grande plant discharged effluent into the Grande Ronde River; Union discharged into Catherine Creek. These were the only municipal effluent discharges during summer low-flow months in the upper Grande Ronde.

Effluent discharge of nutrient-rich water into streams can result in excessive periphyton (algae) growth when combined with low streamflow and elevated water temperatures. Excessive periphyton growth causes large day/night dissolved oxygen and pH fluctuations. Algae flourishes during the day and decomposes at night, sucking oxygen from the water. The low night-time oxygen levels can suffocate aquatic organisms. Excessively high or low pH levels can cause toxic effects ranging from growth and reproduction limitations to death.

*Right: Evening shadows lengthen at Buffalo Peak Golf Course, accentuating the lush green fairways and the intermixed natural vegetation areas. An aerator in the effluent storage pond mixes and aerates the water to reduce odor and algae growth. Photo by Charlie Johnson of Baker City. Top right: Buffalo Peak under construction in 2000. Major course construction and seeding was complete; the clubhouse had not yet been constructed. Photo by Anderson Perry & Associates of La Grande.*

**T**he cities of La Grande and Union knew before the TMDL was completed that there would be restrictions on their wastewater treatment plant discharges during the low-flow summer months. Due to already elevated nutrient and temperature conditions in the Grande Ronde River and Catherine Creek, the cities realized they needed to explore alternatives that included fully utilizing treated water for a significant portion of the summer. Fortunately there were options for both cities. One of La Grande's options included reuse of the water in a cooperative project with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to re-create wetlands at Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area.

Union's preferred alternative was to use the treated water to irrigate a golf course. And so a golf course was born, and was christened "Buffalo Peak," named after a prominent peak just to the east of the location selected for the course. The City of Union passed a levy in 1999 and acquired additional grants for both the golf course construction and upgrades to the

wastewater treatment facilities. The city purchased 160 acres on the southeast side of town and launched into the process of building the golf course.

Course designer was Bill Phillips, an independent golf course designer based in Georgia. The city enlisted the Phoenix firm First Golf, Inc. to oversee course construction. Earthwork, including fairway shaping, green construction and installation of the irrigation system, began in May 1999. Construction was mostly complete by the fall. Grass seeding began in the fall and was completed by the spring of 2000. The course opened in September 2000.

Effluent application added complexities to the course design, irrigation system and construction because it required two separate irrigation systems and

BUFFALO  
PEAK  
GOLF  
COURSE





a large storage facility. Substantial storage capacity was necessary to balance out inconsistent supply and the demand for water on the course. A 5-million gallon storage reservoir was designed and constructed that, in addition to serving its primary purpose, doubles as a large water hazard on the course. Its strategic location challenges golfers on several holes.

**O**peration of the municipal wastewater treatment plants and discharges are regulated by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. In Oregon, permits are issued by the DEQ. Under the terms of the permit for the Union facility, effluent discharge into Catherine Creek is regulated between June 1 and October 31. During June, discharge may only occur when streamflow exceeds 15 cubic feet per second (cfs). No discharge is permitted from July 1 to September 30. During October, discharge may occur only when streamflow exceeds 15 cfs and stream temperature is less than 12 degrees centigrade. As it turns out, this schedule coincides nicely with when a golf course requires water.

The irrigation system design at Buffalo Peak com-

bines the use of wastewater effluent, Catherine Creek irrigation water, and well water from Union's municipal system. There are two separate irrigation systems. The effluent side uses a mixture of effluent and Catherine Creek water. The freshwater side, as its name implies, uses primarily fresh water from Catherine Creek, with occasional supplementation as needed, with municipal water from the city's wells.

According to course superintendent Rich Goodrick, effluent pumped from the city's wastewater treatment plant supplies about one-third of the water needed for the course in an average year. In 2005, this amounted to nearly 25 million gallons, pumped from the city's treatment plant on the west side of Union up to the storage reservoir through a 10-inch diameter, 10,000-foot pipeline.

Effluent application, under the terms of the DEQ permit, is restricted to areas of the course not adjacent to private property bordering the course. About 100 acres are irrigated at Buffalo Peak. The effluent/freshwater mix is used on about 75 acres, with the remaining 25 acres irrigated only with fresh water.

The City of Union completed wastewater treatment

plant upgrades with the golf course irrigation system. The plant is now a state-of-the-art facility sized to meet future growth of the City of Union. Anderson Perry & Associates designed the treatment plant upgrade, the transmission pipeline and the storage pond. According to Troy Baker, engineer at Anderson Perry, the Union treatment plant consistently exceeds biological oxygen demand and total suspended solids (TSS) discharge standards. At times of the year the TSS are less than that of Catherine Creek.

**I**rrigating golf courses with recycled water is not uncommon in the United States. It is becoming more common and currently occurs on about 1,000 courses (13 percent of courses nationwide). Thirty-four percent of courses in the arid Southwest use effluent in some manner. In fact, due to scarcity of water in the Southwest, the use of effluent is sometimes required for newly constructed courses. The Buffalo Peak Golf Course, however, is somewhat unique in that it was specifically constructed as a facility to dispose of treated effluent.

Golf course effluent irrigation is totally safe and highly regulated. Treated water is disinfected through chlorination at the plant before it is pumped up to the course. The chlorine dissipates into the atmosphere within a short time of being in the pond. Odor and algae growth are controlled with the help of an aerator that circulates and mixes water in the storage reservoir.

The Buffalo Peak Golf Course has provided an environmentally attractive alternative to the discharge of wastewater into Catherine Creek. The course has provided the City of Union with an avenue to dispose of its effluent, as well as providing the community and visitors a very fine, challenging and well maintained golf course. ■



*Left: The effluent and freshwater storage ponds are strategically located to serve their primary water storage/irrigation purpose as well as to challenge golfers playing the course. The first nine holes are located around the perimeter of the course with the last nine located in the middle of the course. Above: The City of Union Wastewater Treatment Plant. A \$2.5 million upgrade to the facility was completed in 2002 in conjunction with the golf course project. Photos by Anderson Perry & Associates.*



## Wallowa County Community Spring Cleanup May 2006

### Attention all Wallowa County Residents!

#### Free garbage dump at Ant Flat Landfill during the month of May

If you don't already have your coupon, you may pick one up at the following offices or businesses. One coupon per household. Sorry, no refrigerators.

This event sponsored by Wallowa County Commission, Ant Flat Landfill, Grande Ronde Model Watershed, EOU Cornerstones Program, and SOLV (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism). If you have any questions, please call Mary Estes at 541-663-0570.

#### Enterprise

Wallowa Soil & Water Conservation District - 209 NW First St

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife - 65495 Alder Slope Rd

Wallowa Resources – 200 W. North St

#### Joseph

Joseph City Hall – 201 North Main

Moonlight Graphics – 102 North Main

#### Wallowa

Nez Perce Wallowa Band Interpretive Center – 209 E. Second St

Wallowa City Hall – 211 E. Second St

#### Lostine

M. Crow & Co - 133 Highway 82

Lostine City Hall – 128 Highway 82  
(M, T, W 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.)

#### *STEELHEAD, continued from Page 1.....*

steelhead access to the ditch where they were subject to periodic dewatering of the ditch, stranding, regular chemical application to kill the moss that flourished in the ditch during the summer, and possible diversion into adjacent irrigated farm fields. The Dry Creek/Lower Valley Ditch Improvement Project has eliminated all fish access to the Lower Valley Ditch from Dry Creek, including anadromous Pacific Lamprey, eel-like fish that were once a regular inhabitant of the ditch, their immature gamete life form snuggled neatly in the muddy banks of the ditch.

Dry Creek is a tributary of Rock Creek, which is a tributary of the Wallowa River, the confluence of the two being at the head of the Wallowa River Canyon below the town of Wallowa on State Highway 82. The project site is on the east side of the Promise road just before the road turns from pavement to gravel. Elements of the project include the 36-inch siphon tube, concrete inlet and outlet complete with headgate and trash racks, bypass channel from the ditch to Dry Creek, siphon drain pipe, and significant Dry Creek channel work to maintain channel form and grade. Follow-up procedures include willow planting and grass seeding of disturbed ground.

The siphon is to be closed and drained during winter months to eliminate the risk of freezing. This required the installation of a bypass ditch above the siphon and a siphon drain. The bypass ditch returns Lower Valley Ditch water to Dry Creek during those months out of irrigation season. It is complete with concrete headworks and is fitted with a fish passage barrier. The barrier is again in place to keep fish in Dry Creek and out of the ditch. The four-inch drain is plumbed into the bottom of the siphon and day-lights back to the creek about 700 feet downstream.

With the support of the Lower Valley Ditch Company, the Grande Ronde Model Watershed implemented this project. The Bonneville Power Administration and the ditch company funded the project with Henderson Logging as the construction contractor. With technical support from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Bureau of Reclamation provided design and construction direction.

This project complements actions the neighboring landowners have been taking for several years now. The Arnold Schaeffer family, owners of the land where the new facility is located, had already placed the riparian corridor along Dry Creek into the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), which will encourage the growth of trees, shrubs and grasses natural to the riparian area. CREP is a program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Services Administration, with some financial support from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The Max and Jean Mallory family, just downstream, have their portion of Dry Creek fenced off to enhance the riparian ecology. More than a mile of Dry Creek above the project, on the Oveson property, is also enrolled in CREP.

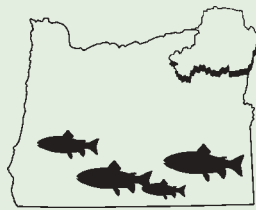
What is the result of so much effort and so many cooperators? A simple, yet significant outcome: irrigators still get their water, and the riparian and aquatic species of plants and animals still get theirs. ■

*Void of the old concrete structure, Dry Creek flows free, January 2006. Water in the Lower Valley Irrigation Ditch now flows under the creek through a siphon. Both photos taken from the same vantage point. Photos by Coby Menton, GRMW.*



## Meet the Staff

### Beth Stewart



GRANDE  
RONDE  
MODEL  
WATERSHED

Beth Stewart works as an independent contractor for the Grande Ronde Model Watershed, editing and designing the quarterly newsletter you hold in your hands. Beth began working with the GRMW about a year ago and coordinates all aspects of the newsletter, from writing articles to providing camera-ready artwork to the La Grande Observer for printing.

Beth's involvement with Northwest salmon issues began back in the mid-1980s when, fresh out of college, she went to work for the Idaho office of the Northwest Power Planning Council in Boise as public involvement director. She recalls that was a time when the Power Planning Council and the Bonneville Power Administration were first discussing the concept of a "model watershed."

From there, Beth spent 10 years north of Seattle as a freelance writer and editor, working with agencies such as the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the

Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority editing various research reports and management plans. In the late '80s and early '90s, Beth served on the Authority's Subbasin Planning Team as editor of the original 31 Columbia Basin Salmon and Steelhead Subbasin Plans.

Beth holds a B.S. degree in wildlife biology and a M.S. degree in public relations and communications in the natural resource field from Colorado State University in Fort Collins. She has served as editor of an international four-color Arabian horse magazine and as publisher of her own regional equine advertiser. She is also the author of 10 children's books about animals.

By day, Beth works full-time as a life and health insurance agent for Valley Insurance in downtown La Grande. She lives in Union with her two Welsh Corgis and three exceptional kids: Kate, 13; Brooke, 11; and Chase, 8.



## What does shade have to do with it?

### Part 2

Excerpt from "Science Findings," a monthly publication of the Pacific Northwest Research Station, U.S. Forest Service, Portland, Oregon. Keeping it cool: unraveling the influences on stream temperature, June 2005. Published with the permission of the PNW Research Station.

The major factor influencing both stream and air temperature is incoming solar radiation," reports Sherri Johnson. "They are correlated because they are both responding to daily cycles of solar energy." Johnson, a research ecologist in the Forest Ecosystems and Landscapes Team of the Ecosystem Processes Research Program of the Pacific Northwest (PNW) Research Station in Corvallis, has recently collaborated with Steve Wondzell, himself a research ecologist with PNW's Aquatic and Land Interactions Team in Olympia, Washington. Johnson and Wondzell sought to determine the effect of shade on stream temperatures through an experiment described in Part I of this story (see the Winter 2006 issue of "Ripples on the Grande Ronde").

Johnson and Wondzell, in addition to the shade experiment, have also been investigating the function that streambed composition (substrate) plays in moderating stream temperature. They realized that some research completed in the 1960s was based on an error, leading to an erroneous conclusion that substrate did not affect stream temperature. More modern technology allowed examination of spatial dynamics of stream temperature at a much higher resolution than before.

Interesting results were derived from this new high-tech approach, including the conclusion that streambeds composed of mostly gravel substrate moderated temperature fluctuations throughout the solar cycle (lower high temperatures and higher low temperatures), while the daily averages were very similar to those in stream reaches where substrate was composed primarily of bedrock.

The physical process responsible for this phenomenon is conduction, where heat moves from areas with higher temperatures to areas of lower temperatures. The area where water interacts with the streambed is referred to as the "hyporheic zone." Although little is known today about this zone, and how to measure the direct influence it has on the entire stream, it is now known that the type of substrate in the hyporheic zone might be a good predictor of the impact that riparian area management activities might have on stream temperatures. ■



## *Lend a helping hand on May 20 at Riverside Park in La Grande*

**B**ring your elbow grease! Everyone is invited to join staff members of Eastern Oregon University's Cornerstones Program and the Grande Ronde Model Watershed on Saturday, May 20, at Riverside Park in La Grande from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Be prepared to help remove graffiti from the bridge and surrounding rocks. For those of you who like to dig in the

dirt, we will be removing brush, and planting trees and shrubs on an adjacent landowner's property. Saturday's efforts are tied into SOLV's (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism) "Down by the Riverside" cleanup activities throughout the state of Oregon. If you are interested in lending a helping hand on this project, please call Cierra at 962-3308 or Mary at 663-0570.



## *Grande Ronde Model Watershed participates at Tree School East*

The Union County OSU Extension Office hosted its second annual "Tree School East" on April 22 on the Eastern Oregon University campus in La Grande. And the Grande Ronde Model Watershed was there. More than 20 classes featured a wide variety of topics designed for family forestland owners, professional foresters, loggers, arborists, ranchers, farmers, students, teachers and the general public. Class topics ranged from timber sales management to forest property taxes to pond management. Several natural resource agencies, including the Grande Ronde Model Watershed, set up informational displays in Loso Hall for the day. The Model Watershed's display featured various stream restoration projects and its involvement with private landowners. Tree School East is just one of many events and activities in which the Grande Ronde Model Watershed participates.



## **Grande Ronde Model Watershed**

### **Upcoming Board Meetings**

*The public is welcome to attend*

- Tuesday, May 23, 6:30 p.m.  
Nez Perce Wallowa Band Interpretive Ctr, Wallowa
- Tuesday, June 27, 6:30 p.m.  
St Mary's Catholic Church, 12th Street, Elgin
- Tuesday, July 25, 6:30 p.m.  
Nez Perce Wallowa Band Interpretive Ctr, Wallowa
- Tuesday, August 22, 6:30 p.m.  
St Mary's Catholic Church, 12th Street, Elgin
- Tuesday, September 26, 6:30 p.m.  
Nez Perce Wallowa Band Interpretive Ctr, Wallowa
- Tuesday, October 24, 6:30 p.m.  
St Mary's Catholic Church, 12th Street, Elgin

*Meeting dates subject to change. Please call  
541-663-0570 to confirm. Thank you!*

## **Grande Ronde Model Watershed**

1114 J Avenue ■ La Grande OR 97850  
ph 541-663-0570 ■ fax 541-962-1585

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