



WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

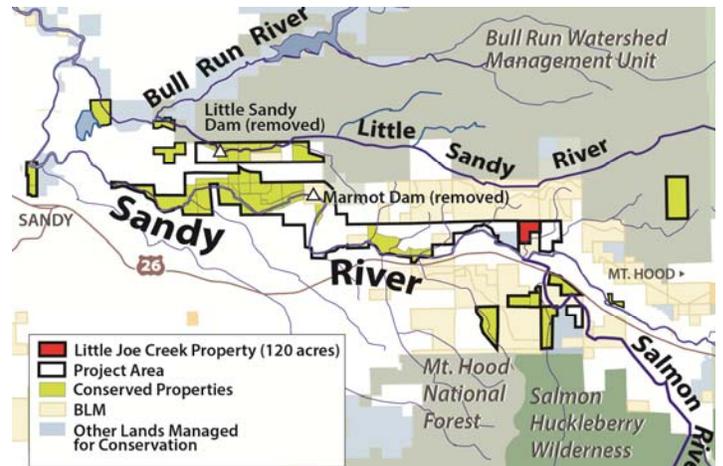
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Sandy River, Oregon: Another Win for Fish and People on the Sandy River

Western Rivers Conservancy is expanding a 20-year conservation effort that has protected 17 miles of Oregon's Sandy, Little Sandy, Bull Run and Salmon Rivers. In July 2015, WRC will purchase a 120-acre tract of forest along Little Joe Creek, a coho and steelhead-bearing tributary to the Sandy. Two decades ago, WRC and Portland General Electric (PGE) formed a partnership to restore the Sandy and Little Sandy rivers to health. PGE carried out its plans to remove Marmot Dam on the main-stem Sandy in 2007 and the Little Sandy Dam in 2008, making the rivers completely free-flowing. To date, WRC has established a nearly 4,500-acre conservation and recreation area along the Sandy, Little Sandy, Salmon, Bull Run and other tributaries. The BLM is now working to incorporate the lands into an existing Area of Critical Environmental Concern, a designation that will ensure these lands are managed for the sake of the Sandy's imperiled fish and wildlife. Few cities the size of Portland feature such a world-class river park so well conserved near its urban hub.

Steve Terrill Photo



Fossil Creek, Arizona: Conserving the Last Unprotected Stretch of a Desert Jewel

Western Rivers Conservancy purchased the last piece of unprotected land along Arizona's Fossil Creek, a tributary to the Verde River and one of only two Wild and Scenic Rivers in the state. WRC intends to convey the property to the Coconino National Forest for inclusion and protection within the Wild and Scenic River corridor, affording these vital riverlands one of the best protections a river can get. Fossil Creek rises from a series of mineral springs in central Arizona's Mogollon Rim, and its high mineral content creates slick limestone formations and spectacular blue-green travertine pools throughout much of its length. Within the arid landscape of the Sonoran Desert, Fossil Creek is an oasis, providing important habitat for rare native fish, beavers, otters, leopard frogs, bats and an extraordinary array of bird species. WRC's purchase of this property will improve the integrity of both the Fossil Creek and Verde scenic river corridors and conserve prime habitat within the Verde River basin.

Reid Helm Photo

