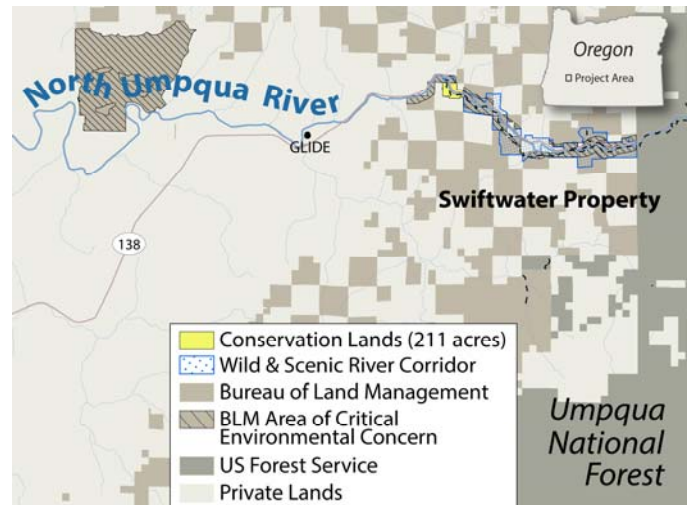




North Umpqua River, Oregon: Launching an Effort to Save a Stretch of a Legendary Stream

The North Umpqua River is one of Oregon’s great recreational treasures and one of the finest rivers in the Pacific Northwest. Flanked by the North Umpqua National Recreational Trail for most of its length, the river is accessible by foot or mountain bike for 79 miles, making it a haven for anglers, mountain bikers, hikers, backpackers and boaters. But what really sets the North Umpqua apart is its clean, cold water and its extraordinary fishery. In 2015, Western Rivers Conservancy embarked on an effort to protect 211 acres of forest and a mile of North Umpqua riverfront at the head of the National Recreation Trail. The need arose when Douglas County, Oregon, concluded it had to sell Swiftwater County Park, a popular park with prime access to the river, an important trailhead and a largely unbroken stand of old-growth forest. Rather than let the park be developed, WRC committed to purchase the property. Our goal is to convey the lands to BLM for inclusion and protection within the Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Andrew Kalmer Photo



North Santiam River, Oregon: Expanding our Work to Protect a Salmon Stronghold

The Willamette River and its vast floodplain were once a lacework of side channels, wetlands and wet prairies, with extensive bottom-land forests that provided rich habitat for fish and wildlife. But today, Willamette Valley wetlands and native deciduous forests exist only in pockets, primarily along Willamette tributaries like the North Santiam River. In early 2015, Western Rivers Conservancy completed Chahalpam, a project that conserved 429 acres of forest and over 2.5 miles of the North Santiam and key side-channels that provide vital habitat for salmon, steelhead and other wildlife. Our partner in this effort was the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. We are now working with the Tribe to conserve another 411 acres of outstanding riverland habitat, upstream from Chahalpam. This project is our third acquisition on the North Santiam and will protect nearly three miles of main-stem and side-channel frontage. When combined with our recent projects downstream, WRC and its partners will have protected over five miles of the North Santiam, as well as vital side-channel frontage, wetland habitat and hundreds of acres of native forest.

Steve Terrill Photo

