



WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

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Global Giving
Project Report Photos
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Big Sheep Creek, Washington: Rare Wildlife Corridor Forever Conserved

In the wild country of northeastern Washington, Western Rivers Conservancy has protected part of the primary route for grizzly bears and other large mammals to move between Canada and the United States: Big Sheep Creek. Flowing south from Canada's Monashee Mountains, Big Sheep Creek snakes through gentle, fertile terrain en route to the Columbia River, drawing an impressive array of wildlife through the valley. At the heart of this movement corridor is the 2,440-acre Bennett Meadows property, which WRC purchased in 2014. In December 2015, WRC conveyed the lands to the Colville National Forest for permanent conservation management. Beyond fish and wildlife, the project offers tremendous recreational value. WRC's efforts ensured access to a key reach of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail. WRC's acquisition of the parcel placed a unique stretch of the trail into public hands, improving wildlife viewing opportunities and helping ensure this recreational treasure remains public forever.

Dave Jensen Photo



Catherine Creek, Oregon: Victory for Columbia and Snake River Salmon

The best hope for recovering imperiled Columbia and Snake River salmon and steelhead are high-quality tributaries where fish spawn and rear in large numbers. Perhaps the most stunning example of this is Catherine Creek in northeast Oregon, where WRC has just completed a game-changing project for a key wild run of Chinook salmon. Catherine Creek pours cold and clear from the Wallowa Mountains and runs through the town of Union before entering the fabled Grande Ronde, a tributary to the Snake. It is a nurturing arm for the entire Snake River system and a top priority to recover the purest wild run of Snake River spring Chinook. In 2014, Western Rivers Conservancy purchased 545 acres along the lower stretch of creek to help revive this critical run of salmon. This fall, we conveyed the land to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, which is using funding from the Bonneville Power Administration to extensively restore the original, winding channel of Catherine Creek.

Dave Jensen Photo

