



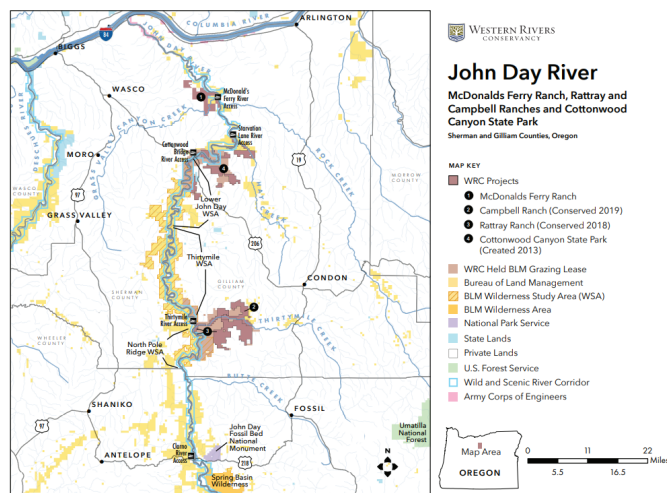
# WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

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Project Report Photos  
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## *Oregon's John Day River: Preserving history, habitat and public access on a wild and scenic river*

The John Day is one of the West's great rivers, home to the Columbia Basin's healthiest run of wild summer steelhead and one of its most important runs of spring Chinook. It is also a major destination for hikers, anglers, boaters and hunters seeking the solace of a wild desert canyon. In the summer of 2023, WRC and the Bureau of Land Management permanently conserved McDonald's Ferry Ranch, protecting 3.2 miles of the Wild and Scenic John Day River and 4,054 acres of sagebrush and grassland habitat. And we placed the lowest boating takeout on the river into public hands forever. WRC purchased McDonald's Ferry Ranch in 2020 and held the property for three years while working to secure funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. In August 2023, we successfully conveyed the property to the BLM, conserving a broad expanse of Oregon's sagebrush country and creating new recreational access along this stretch of river in perpetuity. *Sage Brown photo*



## *Washington's Antoine Creek: Partnering with the Colville Tribes to Save Okanogan Steelhead*

WRC has successfully completed a game-changing project on Antoine Creek, a critical spawning stream for Threatened summer steelhead that flows through the ancestral homelands of the Colville Tribes. The Okanogan River is a major tributary of the Upper Columbia River, and the salmon and steelhead that are born in its tributaries navigate a 500-mile journey, including nine Columbia mainstem dams, to reach the Pacific and then again to return home to spawn in streams like Antoine Creek. WRC and the Colville Tribes permanently conserved the 2,524-acre Antoine Valley Ranch, which spans 2.5 miles of Antoine Creek. WRC purchased the ranch in 2020 and transferred half of it to the Colville Tribes, and held the second half of the property while working to secure funding to permanently protect the remainder of the ranch. WRC successfully transferred the second half of the ranch to the Colville Tribes in September 2023. *Ellen Bishop photo*

