



# WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

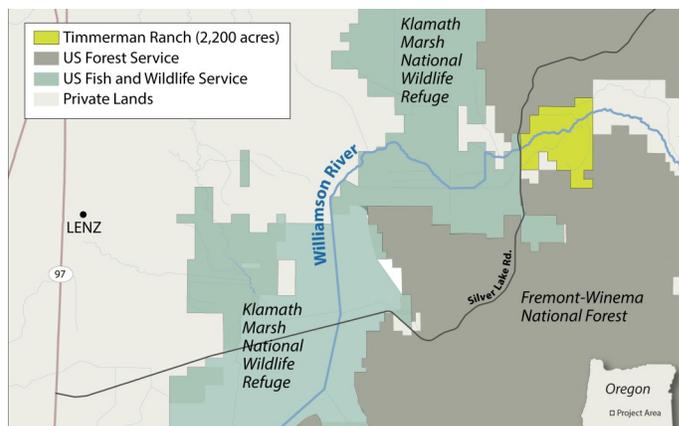
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Global Giving  
Project Report Photos  
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## *Williamson River, Oregon: Expanding the Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge*

Every year, millions of birds—ducks and geese, songbirds and swans, herons, grebes and others—take to the skies along the Pacific Flyway, an aerial super-highway stretching from Patagonia to Alaska. Along the way, fully two-thirds of them descend on the upper Klamath Basin, where six national wildlife refuges protect a freshwater mosaic of lakes and meadows that draw more than 350 bird species throughout the year. WRC has the rare opportunity to expand one of these refuges—the Klamath Marsh NWR—with vital wetlands and stream flows that will rejuvenate a watery paradise for birds and bird-lovers. Our new effort centers on the Williamson River, a renowned trout stream that winds through the 40,000-acre Klamath Marsh and then provides much of the inflows to Upper Klamath Lake, the source of the Klamath River. Where the Williamson enters the wildlife refuge, WRC purchased the 2,200-acre Timmerman Ranch, which holds significant water rights along the river. We plan to convey the land, along with the ranch's water rights, to the USFWS to expand the wildlife refuge.

*Tom and Pat Leeson Photo*



## *Middle Fork Salmon: Protecting Critical Salmon Habitat at the Headwaters of the Middle Fork*

Some of the West's best salmon runs have gained newly protected habitat and desperately needed water for spawning and rearing fish, thanks to WRC's recent success at the source of the Middle Fork Salmon River. In September, WRC transferred the 158-acre Cape Horn Ranch to the Salmon-Challis National Forest. The ranch is tucked between the Sawtooth and Frank Church/River of No Return wilderness areas, and the property's streams and wetlands are prime cold-water fish nurseries at the Middle Fork's headwaters. The ranch controls water rights along a half-mile of Knapp Creek, which feeds Marsh Creek. Below the property Marsh Creek flows into Bear Creek, and there, the famed Middle Fork begins. The project is of special importance when it comes to water and fish. Cape Horn Ranch historically used up to 75 percent of Knapp Creek's water, severely limiting habitat for salmon, steelhead and bull trout. WRC was able to transfer those rights to the state of Idaho, ensuring this water stays permanently in-stream for fish.

*Kirk Anderson photo*

