



WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

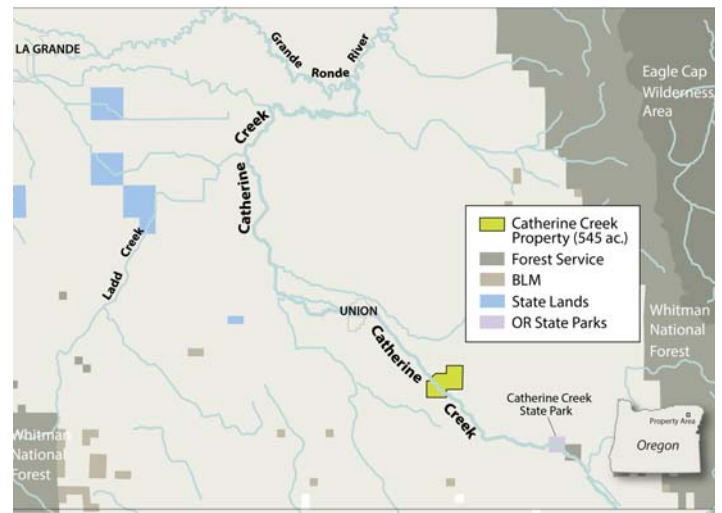
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Project Report Photos
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Catherine Creek, Oregon: *Protecting a top priority stream for Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead*

In February 2014, Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) purchased a reach of Oregon’s Catherine Creek, a critical salmon- and steelhead-bearing tributary of the Grande Ronde and Snake rivers. The stream reach that passes through the 545-acre property that WRC acquired holds some of the most important spawning and rearing habitat in the Columbia Basin-habitat with tremendous restoration potential. WRC plans to convey the property to the Umatilla Tribe, which seeks to restore side-channels and stream complexity to enhance spawning habitat and improve survival rates for over-wintering smolts. Once completed, the project will improve odds for some of the Pacific Northwest’s most imperiled fish and benefit the Columbia River fishery as a whole.

Dave Jensen Photo



Little Cimarron River, Colorado: *Returning Flows to a Prized Colorado Trout Stream*

From its headwaters high in the Rockies, the Little Cimarron flows for 25 miles before joining the main-stem Cimarron, which meets the Gunnison River at the spectacular Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. The Little Cimarron’s upper reaches are prime trout water. The lower river, however, is de-watered much of the year. In 2012, WRC purchased a farm with senior water rights above the river. WRC is working with Colorado Water Trust and Colorado Open Lands to conserve the farmland and dedicate the property’s water as exclusively “in-stream” during the driest months of the year. The project aims to reestablish perennial flows, reconnect vital fish habitat, reduce river temperatures and allow trout to repopulate the de-watered reach of the stream.

Russ Schmitzer Photo

