



WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

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Project Report Photos
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John Day River, Oregon: *Conserving a Lifeline for the John Day's Salmon and Steelhead while Protecting Public Access*

On Oregon's John Day River, WRC recently embarked on a land acquisition that will revive the largest cold-water tributary to the lower river: Thirtymile Creek. Our effort at Thirtymile will improve some of the most important summer steelhead habitat in the John Day system and forever protect a public access point that is cherished by anglers, hunters and boaters from around the Pacific Northwest. This exciting project became a reality in June 2014, when we signed an agreement to purchase the Rattray Ranch. The purchase of these lands will conserve four miles of Thirtymile Creek and twelve miles of the main-stem John Day, as well as extensive tracts of inland sagebrush-steppe habitat.

Dave Jensen and Shelby Banks Photos



Big Sheep Creek, Washington: *Protecting Large Mammals, Redband Trout, a Scenic Trail and Wetlands in Washington's "Wedge"*

After flowing out of the Monashee Mountains on the Canadian border, Big Sheep Creek winds through an area known as "the Wedge," a prime movement corridor for large mammals traveling between the United States and Canada. Rare redband and bull trout also inhabit the creek. In an effort to conserve a key stretch of Big Sheep Creek, as well as extensive wetlands and riparian areas around the stream, Western Rivers Conservancy is working to purchase 2,400 acres along and around this unique Washington creek. In spring 2014, we signed an agreement to purchase the first 1,000 acres of this strategically-located property. In addition to conserving fish and wildlife habitat, the project will place an important stretch of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail into public hands. By purchasing these lands, we will forever protect this recreational treasure and ensure it remains accessible for all.

Dave Jensen and Tom Leeson Photos

