



WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

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Project Report Photos
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John Day River, Oregon: Protecting More Habitat for Fish and Wildlife

Thirtymile Creek is a key component of Western Rivers Conservancy's long-term commitment to the John Day River. In 2014, we acquired the creek's lower four miles when we purchased the Rattray Ranch. We are now working with the BLM to conserve this reach of the stream and secure a rare public access road to the spectacular and largely inaccessible river canyon. Last month, we expanded our efforts when we signed a contract to acquire 3,093 acres of the Campbell Ranch, which spans five additional miles of the creek, immediately upstream. Together, the Rattray and Campbell properties will allow for meaningful protection and restoration of the lower nine miles of Thirtymile Creek—a big win not just for the John Day's steelhead, but for everyone.

Tom and Pat Lesson Photos



Rio de los Piños, Colorado: Creating New Access to a Hidden Gem

Nestled in the eastern foothills of the South San Juan Mountains, just a dozen miles from Chama, New Mexico, the Rio de los Piños is often overshadowed by the nearby Conejos River when it comes to fishing. This is partially due to the fact that accessing the river's most attractive fly water is a challenge along most of its length. That changed this summer when Western Rivers Conservancy acquired 368 acres along the Los Piños, just off Highway 17, near Cumbres Pass. WRC then conveyed the land to the Rio Grande National Forest, creating new access to an angler's paradise and ensuring permanent protection of this important stretch of the Los Piños River.

Russ Schmitzer Photo

