

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Annual Report of Accomplishments

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024



Mule Deer buck in front of a large juniper cut in the Trout Creek watershed.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- ACRONYMS..... 1
- I. JEFFERSON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (JCSWCD)..... 2
 - A. DISTRICT STAFF 3
 - B. BOARD OF DIRECTORS 4
- II. 2023-2024 ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK 5
- III. PROJECT UPDATES..... 7
 - A. DROUGHT PLANNING 7
 - B. SMALL GRANTS 8
 - C. CAMPBELL CREEK WATER QUALITY 8
 - D. MIDDLE DESCHUTES PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIP (PSP) 9
 - E. WEED PROGRAM 10
 - F. TROUT CREEK WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (TC_ANNUAL_REPORT.PDF) 11
 - G. PARTNER: MIDDLE DESCHUTES WATERSHED COUNCIL..... 14
- IV. FINANCIAL SUMMARY..... 17

Partners

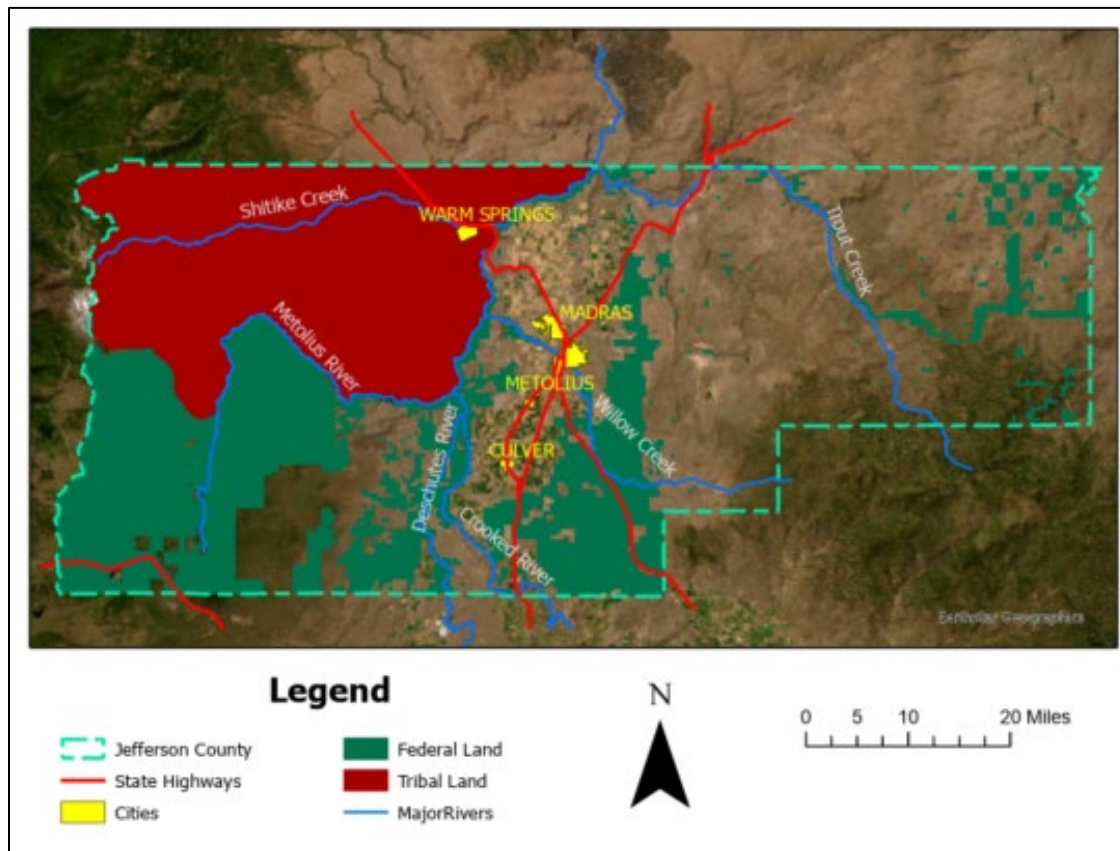
Thank you to our partners and funding organizations for continued support. There are too many to list due to the widespread interest and involvement in all of our activities. However, you will see many of their names sprinkled throughout our report.



ACRONYMS

BDA	Beaver Dam Analog
CIS	Conservation Implementation Strategy
JCSWCD	Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District
MDWC	Middle Deschutes Watershed Council
NRCS	National Resource Conservation Service
NUID	North Unit Irrigation District
ODA	Oregon Department of Agriculture
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
OSU	Oregon State University
OWEB	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
PSP	Pesticide Stewardship Partnership
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

I. Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District (JCSWCD)



The 1930s brought an ecological disaster known as the “Dust Bowl”. The US Congress immediately declared soil and water conservation a national policy and priority, and the idea for SWCDs was born. Today there are almost 3000 SWCDs, one in almost every county. Each SWCD is designed to serve the conservation needs of that county and help its citizens conserve land, water, forests, wildlife, and other natural resources.

The JCSWCD operates within the boundaries of Jefferson County in Central Oregon and has been helping landowners conserve natural resources since 1974. It consists of 6 staff members, 7 Board Directors, and 4 Technical Advisors. Its mission is to “pursue natural resource stewardship through collaboration, assessment, and project implementation.” We:

- Provide technical assistance to landowners to implement conservation measures to protect natural resources while meeting their objectives.
- Advise on erosion control, irrigation, manure management, invasive species, wildlife habitat, stream functioning, and other natural resource issues.
- Conduct research and assessments to identify problems and solutions.
- Work with local agencies and groups to address watershed-wide natural resource concerns and opportunities.
- Inform residents through public speaking, workshops, printed material, and public media.
- Bring federal, state, and private dollars to Jefferson County to assist landowners with implementation costs.

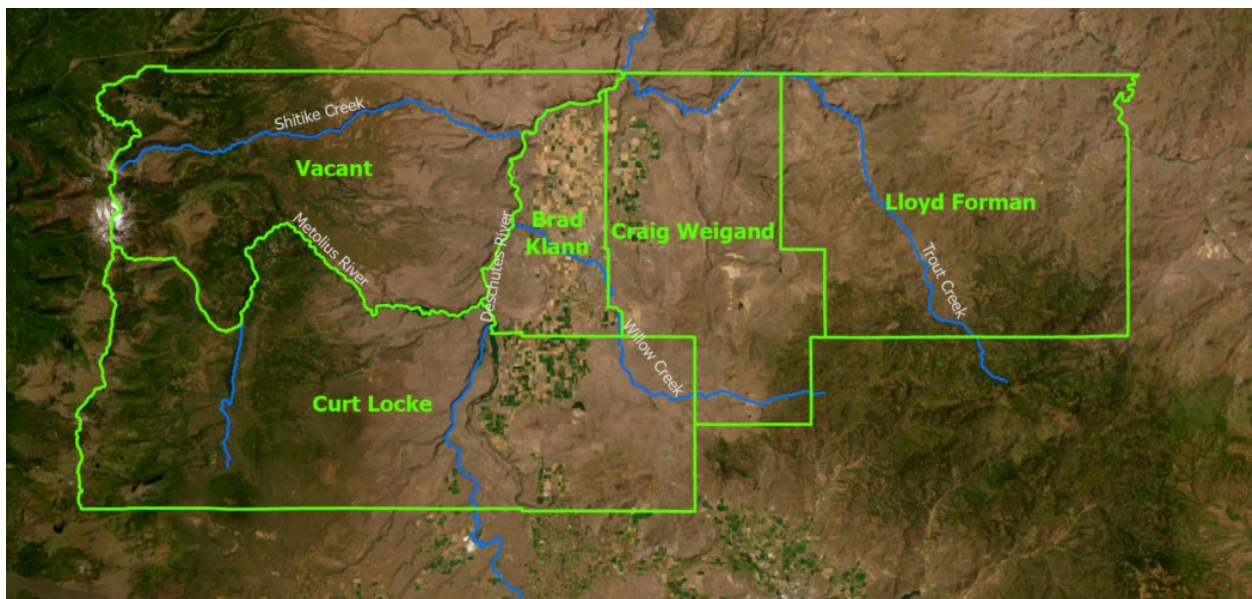
A. District Staff

- Staci Merkt *District Manager (left June 2024)*
Staci Merkt moved to Central Oregon from Virginia in April of 2019. She holds a B.S. from Radford University in Natural Resources Management. In Virginia, she worked for SWCDs for 12 years doing a combination of fieldwork and administrative duties. Prior to that, she traveled around the country working for the Bureau of Land Management, Farm Service Agency, and National Park Service.
- Adam Haarberg *Trout Creek Project Manager (started 1998)*
Adam Haarberg earned a B.S. in Rangeland Resources from Oregon State University (OSU) in 1996. Adam manages the contract with Bonneville Power Administration to implement habitat improvement projects in the Trout Creek Watershed to benefit federally listed “threatened” Mid-Columbia summer steelhead population that uses Trout Creek and its tributaries.
- Lisa Windom *Conservation Specialist/ Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Planner (through October 2023)*
- Ellen Hammond *Conservation Specialist (started 2022)*
Ellen joined the JCSWCD after 25 years in Oregon’s Department of Agriculture (ODA) Water Quality Program as a Regional Water Quality Specialist and the statewide Monitoring Lead. She has an M.S. from OSU and previously worked for the Malheur County SWCD. She has first-hand experience with irrigation and is excited to be working directly with farmers again.
- Ryan Brunner *Weed Program Manager (started 2024)*
Ryan grew up in Jefferson County in the agricultural community and received B.S in Agriculture Science from OSU, with a minor in Business and Animal Science. He was a crop advisor in Central Oregon since 2017. His main focus is to control noxious weeds, but he also has a passion for soil, water, and crop health.
- Ally Steinmetz *Middle Deschutes Watershed Council (MDWC) Coordinator (started 2021)*
Ally earned a M.S. in Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation from Virginia Tech and a B.A. in Liberal Studies with a Spanish minor from OSU-Cascades in 2011.

B. Board of Directors

The JCSWCD is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors elected in the General Elections. Five are elected from each of the zones and two are at-large positions. Directors serve four-year terms.

Lloyd Forman	<i>Chair, Zone 4</i>
Rob Galyen	<i>Co-Chair, At Large 2</i>
Curt Locke	<i>Treasurer, Zone 5</i>
Brad Klann	<i>Secretary, Zone 2</i>
Scott Samsel	<i>Director, At Large 1</i>
Craig Weigand	<i>Director, Zone 3</i>
Vacant	<i>Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Representative, Zone 1</i>



Technical Advisors

Nina Andrews	<i>Oregon Department of Agriculture, Water Quality Specialist</i>
Lars Santana	<i>Natural Resource Conservation Service, District Conservationist</i>
Collin Cowsill	<i>North Unit Irrigation District, Water Operations Specialist</i>
Smita Mehta	<i>Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Program</i>

II. 2023-2024 Annual Plan of Work

Goal A: Improve irrigation efficiency and reduce runoff

1. Partner and collaborate with stakeholders, agencies and organizations including NUID, NRCS, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Wy'East Resource Conservation and Development, Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC), etc. to coordinate and facilitate natural resource agreements, work group participation and round table discussions.
2. Facilitate the Jefferson County Agricultural Drought Resiliency Group; participate in Group conversations and Workgroups
3. Provide technical assistance to landowners including site visits, grant writing, implementing conservation practices, compliance visits with ODA, and project management/inspection/verification.
4. Map irrigation systems

Goal B: Improve soil health in croplands

1. Assist landowners with Environmental Quality Enhancement Program and small grant applications that improve soil health
2. Facilitate tours of conservation practices implemented and planned
3. Assist NRCS with outreach
4. Develop and implement methodology to assess and track soil health
5. Weeds: attend winter meetings, meet with up to 100 landowners to discuss weed control
6. Weeds: develop 5 brochures for different types of landowners
7. Weeds: 2 peer-to-peer on-farm field days focusing on weed control

Goal C: Protect and improve water quality

1. Continue Campbell Creek Strategic Implementation Area water quality monitoring
2. Implement the Middle Deschutes Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) Strategic Plan; continue monitoring pesticides in Mudsprings, Campbell Creek, Rattlesnake Canyon, and Culver Drain. Implement outreach program.
3. Implement outreach through the ODA/Environmental Protection Agency Toxics Grant

Goal D: Improve streamside conditions and habitat

1. Connect streams to floodplains via beaver dam analogs (BDAs) and bioengineering
2. Improve riparian vegetation via plantings
3. Hire Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Planner

Goal E: Improve rangeland and forest health

Improve Hydrologic Function in Trout Creek Watershed

1. Provide Technical Assistance & Input, seek funding
2. Watershed Coordination and Assistance with ODFW-Trout Creek Project
3. Habitat Maintenance - Maintain Instream and Floodplain Structures
4. Develop and implement noxious weed program: write grants, develop outreach tools, provide information to landowners and pesticide applicators, and control noxious weeds
5. Trout Creek Vegetation Improvement - Upland & Riparian
6. Foley Creek Passage and Habitat Improvement - Phase 2 Implementation
7. Little Trout Creek Juniper Removal OWEB Grant Implementation
8. Beaver Creek Watershed Improvement OWEB Grant Implementation

9. Calf Gulch Juniper Removal OWEB Grant implementation
10. Produce Annual Report
11. Weeds: attend winter meetings, meet with up to 20 landowners to discuss weed control
12. Weeds: develop brochure for different types of landowners
13. Weeds: 1 peer-to-peer on-farm field day focusing on weed control

Trout Creek Monitoring

1. Assist ODFW with Steelhead Spawning Surveys and Smolt Trapping
2. Annual project site visits/evaluations and photo points
3. GPS survey past stream restoration project sites after high water events
4. Hydrologic Restoration for Steelhead in Jefferson County – Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) monitoring

Other

1. Maintain BDAs in Campbell Creek
2. Plan and implement field tours and outreach/educational events
3. Implement Roberts' Small Grant

Goal F: Support MDWC activities

1. Provide technical assistance to on the ground projects
2. Write and manage grants
3. Manage Small Grant Team
4. assist with outdoor education programming in Jefferson County
5. Act as Fiscal Administrator for Council

Goal G: District Operations

Market JCSWCD to increase community support for our mission

1. Maintain District website. Display information, news, create community, and showcase benefits of Jefferson SWCD programs.
2. Show and market the results and outcomes that Jefferson SWCD achieves thru Annual Report.
3. Newsletters and News Releases.
4. Participate in Natural Resource Committees or Groups that align with the District mission in Jefferson County.
5. News articles

Internal Operations

1. Implement 2023-2028 Strategic Plan
2. Annually update Annual Plan of Work based on Jefferson SWCD Strategic Plan.
3. Develop weed strategic plan
4. Hire Conservation Planner
5. Update as needed Board Policies and Procedures
6. Continue to manage Jefferson County SWCD financial affairs consistent with Accepted Accounting Principals and ODA Requirements
7. Submit detailed financial reports to Board member for monthly review
8. Administer grant funding and track finances for all funding sources in QuickBooks
9. Conduct annual financial audit or review and quarterly financial review by CPA

III. PROJECT UPDATES

SWCD staff have successfully met most of their goals identified in the Annual Plan, as indicated below.

A. Drought Planning

The Deschutes Basin Watershed was in moderate to severe drought throughout the year. Average summer temperatures in the last 30 years are higher than the average for 1900-2000. And, water availability in the snowpack near Wikiup Reservoir, which is NUID’s primary source of irrigation water, has been less for the last 15 years than in the previous 30 years.

NUID delivers water to 58,800 acres, which constitute most of the irrigated acres in Jefferson County. Due to NUID’s junior water right, drought and the Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan, NUID delivered one third of their allotment in 2023 and half in 2024. These unprecedented shortages drastically affected the watershed, community, and economy of the county. Drought is also affecting irrigation and ranching in the rest of Jefferson County. The SWCD facilitated the development of the Jefferson County Agricultural Drought Resiliency Plan ([Drought Resiliency for Jefferson County, Oregon Agriculture](#)) and worked with partners to begin implementing it. Meeting minutes are available at [Drought Resiliency Group - Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District](#).

Workgroups facilitated by JCSWCD staff identified and are addressing the following priorities, with SWCD involvement as needed:

Croplands

- Increase crop water use efficiency
- Diversify cash crops
- Improve soil health
- Control weeds on fallow land



SWCD implementation: June 11 Soil Health Workshop with Ray Archuleta, promotion of Open ET, hiring of Weed Program Coordinator, and summary of types of crops and annual acreages for the last 30 years.

Ranchlands

- Juniper control (+ reseeding + weeds control + burning + grazing, as needed for rangeland health)
- Grazing to improve forage and rangeland health
- Vegetated streambanks
- Reconnect stream to floodplains
- Control invasive annual weeds

SWCD implementation: Trout Creek work (see below), hiring of Weed Program Coordinator, SIA Restoration Grant for the mouth of Campbell Creek



Public Outreach: “Jefferson County agriculture is diverse, valuable, at risk, and worth supporting”

The SWCD facilitated an outreach plan that resulted in the following:

- Logo to represent all of Jefferson County agriculture
- Video about Jefferson County ag
- Social Media: SWCD [JCSWCD Facebook](#) & [JCSWCD YouTube](#)
- Articles: Bend Bulletin & Madras Pioneer



B. Small Grants

Every biennium, OWEB allocates approximately \$100,000 for each SWCD statewide to implement natural resource conservation practices. The Small Grant Team develops priorities based on information received from landowners and agency personnel. Conservation practices and environmental benefits must meet the criteria set by OWEB. Small grants have a quick turnaround for funds and are limited to \$15,000 per project per landowner per biennium. A 25% landowner match (cash or in-kind) is also required. The JCSWCD District Manager manages this program, and the team helps develop conservation projects, submit applications, and manage grant implementation. The SWCD received overwhelming interest in this program and funded the following projects, although most were implemented by the MDWC:

Ranchland

- Reseeded 21 acres disturbed during juniper removal on Axehandle Ridge in the Trout Creek watershed.
- Juniper removal on 33 acres, followed by reseeding and cattle exclusion on Little Willow Creek.
- Juniper removal on 62 acres that drains to Willow Creek Reservoir.
- Juniper removal on 33 acres using chainsaws, followed by reseeding and cattle exclusion near the headwaters of Hay Creek.
- Juniper removal on 45 acres of rangeland, followed by reseeding and minimal livestock disturbance on McMeen Creek.
- Removed old fencing and junipers, and planted willows, cottonwood, and aspen using a hydraulic tree planter and protected by fencing on Foley Meadow.
- Planted willow, cottonwood, and aspen along Willow Creek near the confluence with Coon Creek.

Cropland

- Replaced above ground concrete irrigation ditch with a buried 12” pipe on Agency Plains.

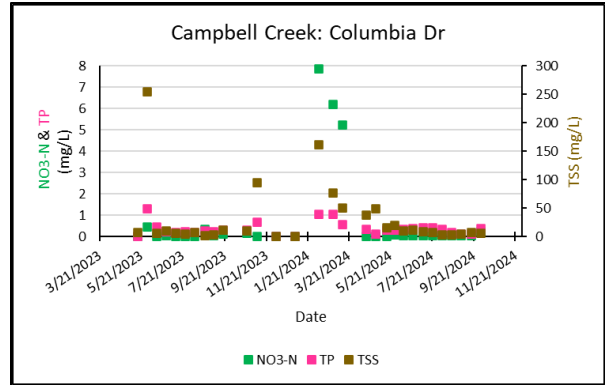
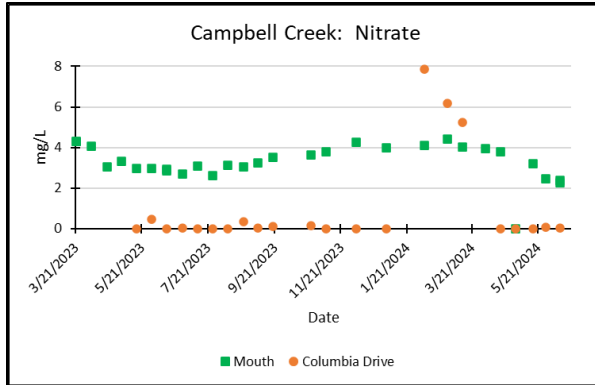
C. Campbell Creek Water Quality

The JCSWCD started monitoring nitrates, turbidity, and total phosphorus in Campbell Creek for the first time since 2008. Current monitoring locations include the end of Lateral 57 at Columbia (photo) and the mouth of Campbell Creek.

The older monitoring indicated that phosphorus was present in irrigation runoff, while nitrates appeared to enter the creek via springs dating from the 1940s or earlier.

Our current monitoring confirmed those older findings. Nitrate concentrations at the mouth of Campbell Creek dropped during the irrigation season; nitrates were consistently < 1 mg/L at Columbia Drive except for an unexplained peak in January/February that appears to be related to very heavy rains and resultant field erosion.





D. Middle Deschutes Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP)

The JCSWCD has facilitated the PSP since 2012. The PSP consists of outreach to landowners to reduce pesticide detections in local waterways, guided by water quality monitoring. PSP members include Jefferson County, Helena, Wilbur-Ellis-Pratum, NUID, Central Oregon Seeds, Inc, OSU, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and ODA

Water was analyzed at five sites in four drainages (Campbell Creek, Mud Springs, Rattlesnake, and Culver drain). Each location was sampled during the irrigation season (March through October). All samples were collected in accordance with protocols established by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and ODA.

Pesticide concentrations are compared with levels set to protect aquatic life. “Pesticides of Concern” are detected most often and/or at concerning concentrations. Monitoring shows pesticides are entering the Deschutes River. We don’t know what percentage are entering waterways via wind drift, overland flows, or infiltration to groundwater.

Pesticides of Concern in Jefferson County, based on presence in waterways				
Pesticide of Concern	Common Trade Names	Type ¹	Common Local Uses	Where of Most Concern?
Dimethoate	Dimate	I	Grass seed, alfalfa, wheat	Campbell Creek
Diuron ²	Direx, Karmex	H	Bluegrass seed, alfalfa; fencerow, stackyard, right of ways (ROWS), etc.	Campbell Creek, Culver Drain, Mud Springs, Rattlesnake Drain
Imidacloprid	Admire, Gaucho, Merit, Premier, Provado	I	Vegetables	Culver Drain
Linuron	Lorox	H	Carrot seed	Campbell Creek, Culver Drain, Rattlesnake Drain
Oxyfluorfen	Galigan, Goal	H	Carrot seed, bluegrass seed	Campbell Creek
Prometryn	Caparol	H	Carrot seed	Campbell Creek
Sulfometuron-methyl	Oust	H	ROWS, staging areas	Culver Drain

¹I = Insecticide, H = Herbicide ²Being phased out

E. Weed Program



Ryan Brunner is the Noxious Weed Program Coordinator as of April 1st. Most folks understand that the weeds in this county are ACTIVELY growing by then so it was straight to business.

Jefferson County weed control consists of treating approximately 600 miles of roadsides, of which only 160 miles are paved, and controlling weeds along Oregon Highways. And, unlike many counties, Jefferson has Class A, B, and C noxious weed enforcement; this is a complex process, and 100 notices were sent to landowners for violations.

Ryan was extremely busy this spring! We had a continuing OWEB grant that assisted landowners in the Trout and Willow Creek drainages with Class A noxious weed treatments and herbicide cost-share.

Other projects included U.S Forest Service treatments of broadleaf and annual invasive grasses, outreach events, and writing grants to build up the Jefferson county weed program.

Integrated Pest Management at work: releasing biological controls, sprayer on truck, ATV for offroad spraying, flying Rejuvra onto rangeland!



F.

F. Trout Creek Watershed Improvement Project ([TC Annual Report.pdf](#))

The primary goal is to improve the habitat (in-stream, riparian, and upland), providing a landscape more resilient to climate change, while increasing the carrying capacity for native salmonids in Trout Creek and its tributaries. The species of focus are the federally-listed Middle Columbia River summer steelhead and their counterpart, the interior redband trout. Our goal is to return the Trout Creek population to "viable" status, with long-term goals of reaching "highly viable".

Foley Complex Fish Passage Improvement

This project is located on three streams (Dutchman Creek, Big Log Creek and Foley Creek) both upstream and downstream of their confluences with each other. This largescale project has been broken into two phases, with implementation of Phase 1 being this fiscal year. Phase 1 included restoring the original confluence of Dutchman Creek with Big Log Creek. Years ago, logging operations directed Dutchman Creek down the ditch adjacent to the AY Road and it finally met up with Foley Creek directly downstream of the two culverts on the AY Road. This configuration also had Big Log Creek joining Foley Creek directly upstream of those culverts. The new configuration has Dutchman meeting up with Big Log in its historical location, eliminating the ditch it used along the road. We also repurposed a concrete bridge that was installed in 1995 downstream on Foley Creek. This bridge lasted less than one year when the flood of 1996 undermined the abutments and made the bridge unpassable by vehicles. In August 2023, we moved the bridge up to Dutchman Creek to allow it to return to the historical confluence. Finally, to finish up phase one, we removed the two undersized culverts on Foley and created a ford that will only be in place for less than a year once Phase 2 is implemented.



Trout Creek Vegetation Improvement

Planting was focused on two restoration project sites: Beaver Creek and Dutchman Creek. The JCSWCD and ODFW had an expandable tree planter made at a local fabrication shop, and this was the first time it was used, and it was successful. We planted 500 large, rooted trees and shrubs in a day and a half along Beaver Creek in February. Earlier, in January, ODFW and JCSWCD staff cut willows and planted the cuttings by hand along Dutchman Creek upstream and downstream of the bridge. A native seed mixture was broadcast on disturbed soil (2 acres) on the Foley Complex Fish Passage Improvement Project.



Left Photo – Expandable Tree Planter planting a cottonwood along Beaver Creek (Feb 15, 2024)
Center Photo – Dogwood planted with Expandable Tree Planter (Beaver Creek) (March 28, 2024)
Right Photo – Willow cuttings planted by hand along Dutchman Creek (May 21, 2024)

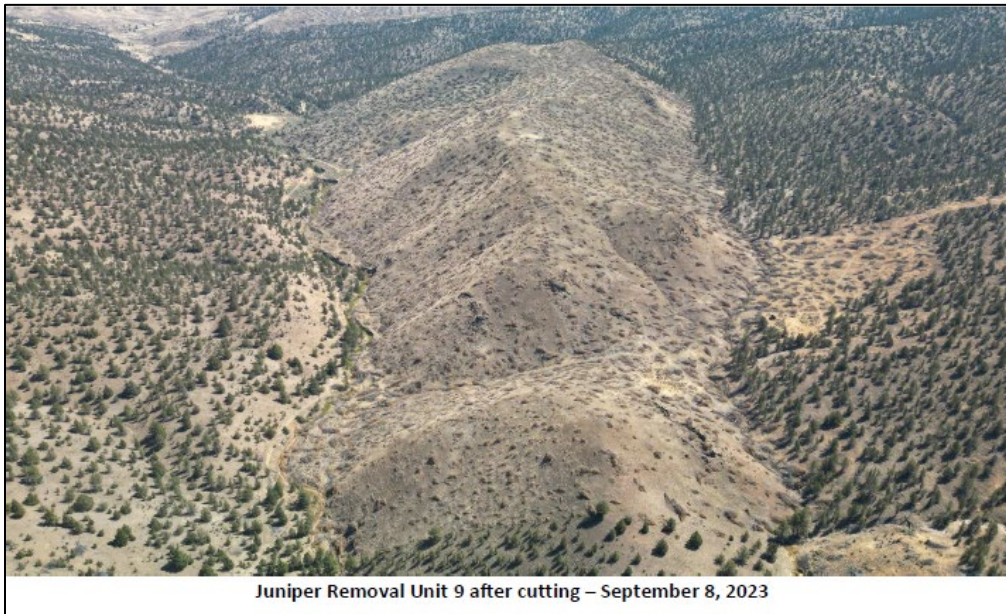
Trout Creek Noxious Weed Program

This year, we focused our efforts on early spring weeds such as Scotch Thistle and whitetop. The locations that were treated had been treated the past 13 years, which include past restoration sites as well as important steelhead production corridors. These include remote, rugged areas with little access, the primary one being Degner Canyon along Trout Creek. We also targeted whitetop in upper Trout Creek tributaries. In total, 26.65 acres of “A” and “B” listed weeds were treated.

Juniper Removal

We continued to help the MDWC Coordinator create a watershed assessment document that will be used to acquire funding at the Federal level to remove junipers in the Trout Creek watershed.

Efforts on the state level resulted in more funding to treat junipers in the form of House Bill 2010. We identified 3 areas to maximize the footprint of juniper treatment in two tributaries, Little Trout Creek and Calf Gulch. The units are adjacent to previously treated areas. We also continued to administer the three OWEB grants we have received since 2019. The Little Trout Creek Juniper Removal Project joins two other ongoing upland projects funded by outside sources: the Beaver Creek Watershed Restoration and Stenersen Upland Habitat Improvement Projects. We also secured FY2025 funding for the Foley Meadow Restoration Project to restore habitat for beaver reintroduction in the meadow by removing junipers encroaching into the meadow and planting willows, cottonwoods and aspen.



Beaver Creek Watershed Restoration

This is a comprehensive upland, riparian, and fish passage project that encompasses the entire Beaver Creek watershed, which includes three different landowners. Funding sources include OWEB, PGE and Jefferson County Public Works. Project components include:

- Juniper Cutting/Removal – 802 acres
- Annual Grass Treatment – 700 acres
- Rangeland Seeding – 711 acres
- Spring Developments – 6 each
- Culvert Replacement – 1 each
- Channel Reconstruction/Relocation – 0.26 miles

This year, we cut/removed junipers from 132.8 acres and seeded 365.9 acres of rangeland with a range drill and a broadcaster.

G. Partner: Middle Deschutes Watershed Council

Outreach

In 2023/2024, MDWC's outreach consisted of attending workshops/conferences, presenting at regional events, and offering tours.

- Workshops/Conferences: Society for Range Management Annual Meeting; CONNECT Conference; USFS Cross-Border Session- Deep Creek, Ochoco NF; Willow Workshop for beaver-based restoration practitioners.
- Presentations: Farm Fair; *Hydrologic Restoration for Steelhead in Jefferson County (Trout Creek CIS)* annual update at the NRCS Local Work Group Meeting; annual update to Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners; update on educational accomplishments at the Pelton Round Butte Cultural Resources Work Group Annual Meeting; guest lectures to OSU-Cascades students in the Integrated Watershed Management class.
- Tours: McKay and Dick Creek tour with Ochoco National Forest partners; Opal Springs on the Crooked River led by Deschutes Valley Water District.



MDWC Board members and partners dwarfed by riparian plant enclosures planted on Dick Creek ten years ago, just downstream from the recently completed project that established many additional trees.

Education Program

MDWC continues to support Warm Springs K-8 Academy, Madras Elementary, Buff Elementary, and Metolius Elementary schools within the Jefferson County School District. MDWC offers after-school

lessons and field trips at locations on the Deschutes River, Metolius River, and Trout Creek. MDWC continues to have education work supported through grants with the Reser Family Foundation and Gray Family Foundation. Trout Unlimited continues to be our major education partner.



Additionally, MDWC and Trout Unlimited finalized two lessons with cultural themes: 1) *Water, Fish, and People*, and 2) *Lamprey/Eels and Why We Need Them*. The lamprey lesson was vetted by CTWS tribal elders. We are now delivering these lessons in schools prior to field trips and in the field with native educators when possible.

Restoration Projects

MDWC oversees restoration projects through the proposal, implementation, and monitoring stages. The intent of these projects is to help us accomplish our mission of enhancing and protecting the natural resources of the Middle Deschutes watershed.

2023/2024 project highlights:

Upper Trout Creek Tributary Rehabilitation

This is an OWEB funded project, and all instream restoration activities were completed in 2023.

- Large wood was added to tributaries in the Opal Creek, Headwaters Trout Creek, and Foley Creek subwatersheds with medium tracked excavators and by USFS felling crews with chainsaws and chainsaw winches.
- Approximately 12.5 miles of large wood was added along with constructed pools to help jump start formation of habitat. Wood loading was 60-80 pieces per mile for an estimated 1,000 pieces of large wood added to the stream channels in the project area.
- Approximately 2.4 miles of limited log jams, side channels, and off channel wetlands were constructed to encourage floodplain reconnection, water retention, and improve high-flow energy dissipation in sections where channel incision had occurred.
- Native riparian hardwoods and forbs were planted in disturbed areas where treatments occurred. Contracted riparian planting occurred on 12.5 miles of the project area and approximately 34,000 plants were planted as a result of this effort. Approximately 2% of these plants are intended to have protection cages by the end of 2025-2026.

Planned monitoring for the Upper Dick Creek project site includes time lapse cameras to visually capture changes in the riparian areas, trail camera to capture wildlife utilization of the site, channel and floodplain cross-sections along with seven groundwater level monitoring wells to capture changes in the local water table, and additional shade monitoring to capture any changes in available stream shade after conifer thinning within the riparian corridor.

National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) – Upper and Lower Trout Creek Watershed Assessment

MDWC has completed three phases of the assessment and is working to complete Phases 4 & 5. We are currently compiling an analysis of sub-basins prioritized for juniper removal. The project is aimed at mitigating juniper encroachment in the Trout Creek watershed to restore ecohydrological functions.

Campbell Creek Watershed Enhancement – Implementation (OWEB)

In Spring 2023, MDWC worked with the design and implementation team at Anabran Solutions to create BDAs on Campbell Creek. The team placed 132 BDAs within approximately 1.5 stream miles. The BDAs are actively accumulating sediment and slowing water, allowing the soil exchange necessary for treating high nutrient loads.

Roberts' Campbell Creek Watershed Enhancement

MDWC is partnering with JSWCD in this SIA Restoration project. The goal is to restore the uplands to healthy, perennial bunchgrass and to plant riparian shrubs and trees along Campbell Creek to improve bank stability and shading and to complement BDAs. MDWC will plant 70 trees in the fall 2024.



Increasing the diversity of native riparian species on Campbell Creek to complement BDAs

Hydrologic Restoration for Steelhead in Jefferson County CIS (NRCS)

MDWC annually updates the Monitoring Report for this CIS with support from Adam Haarberg (JSWCD) to document piezometer data to understand in-stream and groundwater conditions in Little Trout Creek and Beaver Creek. MDWC presents an annual update on this effort to the NRCS Local Work Group and to Jefferson County Farm Fair attendees. Over 3,000 acres have been treated as a result of this project.

OWEB Small Grants

The Middle Deschutes Watershed Council is managing 7 small grants:

- Axehandle Ridge Reseeding
- Headwaters Hay Creek Juniper Treatment
- Little Willow Creek Juniper Treatment
- Simmons Juniper Treatment
- Molony Juniper Treatment
- Upper Willow Creek Riparian Planting

Monitoring Program

MDWC continues to partner with JSWCD in the PSP program. MDWC collects water samples across agricultural areas in Jefferson County to test for pesticides of concern in waterways. MDWC regularly collects photo-point monitoring data of juniper removal and BDA projects within the Middle Deschutes watershed. JSWCD and MDWC continue to monitor piezometers and temperature loggers in Little Trout Creek and Beaver Creek in the Trout Creek watershed. The purpose of this monitoring is to understand whether there is a significant change in both groundwater elevation and surface water flow after removing juniper upstream of monitoring locations. Data since 2019 has indicated an increase in the number of days of surface flow following juniper removal.

IV. Financial Summary

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Revenues	
Grants	\$1,241,565
Less Grant Rev received but not yet spent	(100,006)
Expenditures	
Soil and Water Conservation Programs	\$1,059,764
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$81,795
Fund Balance – Beginning of Year	\$84,234
Retained Earnings – Beginning of Year	\$103,721
Net Income	\$81,795
Fund Balance – End of Year	\$269,750

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