



### **OWEB Council Capacity update, July 2024:**

The Middle Deschutes Watershed Council has made good progress on plans we set for 2023-2025. We have completed several restoration projects including:

- Warm Springs Riparian Planting- Planted 174 riparian species on the Lower Deschutes with tribal partners and a volunteer crew.
- Robertson Juniper Treatment- Removed 74 acres of juniper in the Trout Creek watershed.
- BOR WaterSMART Upper Willow Juniper Removal- Removed 380 acres of juniper in the Upper Willow Creek watershed.
- Campbell Creek BDA Implementation- Installed 132 beaver dam analogs in Campbell Creek.

Projects still underway:

- Upper Trout Creek Tributary Rehabilitation- All channel fill and large wood placement is complete, as well as riparian plantings. This project is nearing completion and is being actively monitored.
- Trout Creek Watershed Assessment, funded through the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)- MDWC is working on Phases 4 & 5 and is nearing completion.
- Updating the MDWC Action Plan- We will begin this process in fall 2024.

New Projects:

- OWEB Small Grants (*ALL ACTIVE*): Axehandle Ridge Reseeding, Headwaters Hay Creek Juniper Treatment, Little Willow Creek Juniper Treatment, Molony Juniper Treatment, Simmons Juniper Treatment, Upper Willow Creek Riparian Planting.
- SIA Small Grant: Roberts Vegetation Management- MDWC is partnering with JSWCD to do riparian plantings, weed treatments, and a spring development on Campbell Creek.

Grant Funding Recently Applied for:

- PGE/TNC Salmon Habitat Fund- Foley Meadow Restoration consisting of cottonwood clump plantings, juniper removal, and fence removal (*AWARDED, July 12<sup>th</sup>*).

Projects in the planning stage:

- BDA repairs and riparian plantings Campbell Creek (planning to apply for PGE funds).
- Beaver Habitat Improvement on Upper Willow Creek (applying for OWEB TA grant fall 2024).
- Headwaters of Mud Springs habitat improvement (early planning stages).

We recently succeeded in allocating all of our Small Grant funding for the biennium, and are now eligible to receive a share of OWEB funds that carried over from the previous biennium (\$100k). The MDWC Council Coordinator took over the role of Small Grant Team Manager with Staci Merkt's departure. We are excited to proceed in using our Council Capacity funding to address habitat enhancement, and water quantity/quality concerns in the Middle Deschutes Watershed. Through additional grants, the Council continues to run an education program with our education partner, Trout Unlimited. In the last school year, we offered fall and spring field trips and classroom visits for Jefferson County students, and piloted our new tribal history lessons in collaboration with native educators.