

INSTREAM

The newsletter of Water Watch of Oregon Spring 2002

What's Up?

Join SalemWatch to keep informed of environmental legislation and agency actions. Details on the back page.

Join us at the Portland Patagonia store on April 11th to celebrate the life of whitewater pioneer, Buzz Holmstrom. See back page for details.

Thanks to everyone who helped WaterWatch succeed in meeting two challenge grants! See page 11 for more info.

What's Inside?

Stream of Consciousness
— page 2
A word of thanks at the take-out

Loving the River to Death
— page 3
Central Oregon growth threatens the Deschutes River

News Briefs — page 4
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board approves \$3 million to remove Savage Rapids Dam

River Profile — page 6
The Clackamas River: a priceless recreational resource tapped for water for growth

Activist Profile
— page 8
Craig Lacy has filled every role in Deschutes River protection

Inside WaterWatch
— page 11
Reed Benson, WaterWatch executive director, to leave after eight years



WaterWatch is fighting to protect pristine Tenmile Creek, which flows through Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area.

GROWING CITIES SCRAMBLE FOR MORE WATER

Since the nineteenth century people have been draining Oregon's rivers to provide water for a variety of uses, including irrigation, mining and industry. Today Oregon's burgeoning population is putting more pressure on our already dewatered rivers: pressure to provide drinking water to cities; pressure to provide water for golf courses in the desert; pressure to supply large amounts of water to new industries.

The population of the Pacific Northwest is increasing at nearly twice the national rate. Portland State University projects that by 2025, Oregon's population will increase by nearly one million people.

In response, cities and towns all over the state are scrambling to get more water, either by pushing for new permits or trying to resuscitate old undeveloped rights. But because our rivers are already over-allocated, many municipalities are finding it difficult to get all the water they claim they need. Unfortu-

nately, their response to this shortage has not been to conserve, or to fix leaky systems, or even to price water at what it's worth. Instead, many are pressuring the state to relax river protections so they can grab even more water.

While some of these projected water needs are legitimate, many are based on speculation. For example, the Coos Bay North Bend Water Board recently sought a water right to provide for a population size it won't reach for 50 to 100 years. The water will be taken from Tenmile Creek, a pristine creek that flows through the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area on the coast and is home to both coho salmon and steelhead. The state granted the right, even though the city had at one point admitted that it wanted to secure the water now because it feared that, in the future, laws to protect fish might intervene and prevent them from getting a permit.

On the Clackamas River, too, water districts are
see MUNICIPAL, page 5



WaterWatch is a river conservation organization devoted to restoring and protecting natural flows in Oregon's rivers. We work in the courts, state and federal agencies, and the legislature to ensure that enough water is left in our rivers to sustain the fish, wildlife, and people who depend on them.

Copyright 2002 by WaterWatch of Oregon, Inc. All rights reserved.

CONTACT US:

213 S.W. Ash, Suite 208
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: (503) 295-4039
Fax: (503) 295-2791
e-mail: info@waterwatch.org
Web site: www.waterwatch.org

Southern Oregon Office:
27 N. Ivy, Medford, OR 97501
Phone: (541) 772-6116
Fax: (541) 779-0791
e-mail: bob@waterwatch.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Nancy (Ned) Duhnkrack, President
Brian Posewitz, Vice President
Mary Lou Soscia, Secretary
Karen Ringquist, Treasurer
Karl Anuta
John Frewing
Keith Jensen
Pamela Gesme Miller
Audrey Simmons

STAFF:

Reed Benson, executive director
reed@waterwatch.org
Nancy Drinnon, comptroller
Erika Giesen, administrative assistant
erika@waterwatch.org
Bob Hunter, staff attorney
bob@waterwatch.org
Melanie Leaf, development coordinator
melanie@waterwatch.org
Molly Kramer, administrative assistant
molly@waterwatch.org
Doug Myers, legislative consultant
dmyers@wvi.com
Steve Pedery, outreach director
steve@waterwatch.org
Kimberley Priestley, assistant director
kimberley@waterwatch.org
Karen Russell, senior staff attorney
karen@waterwatch.org

INSTREAM PRODUCTION:

Betty Brickson, publisher
Printed by MetroPrint

STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS

by Reed Benson, executive director



“Our toughest challenges still lie ahead, and WaterWatch will need you more than ever in the coming years.”

“All things must end, even in the field of water law.”

— California Court of Appeals

After eight-plus years at WaterWatch, I'm moving on. By the time you see the next issue of *Instream*, we will have a new executive director. I hope s/he loves this job half as much as I have.

So why leave? I've been given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to join the law faculty at the University of Wyoming, where I'll be teaching water and environmental law, among other things. I've wanted to teach for several years, so this is a dream come true for me.

At the risk of being trite, I'd like to say a few thanks in my last Stream of Consciousness. Please bear with me.

To the WaterWatch staff and board, past and present: thanks for defending Oregon's rivers and building an outstanding organization. It's been great working with you. I'll expect even bigger things from you after I'm gone!

To the folks I've met and worked with in my WaterWatch career: thanks for everything. Regardless of who you are, I hope I've always shown you the respect you deserve.

To our members and supporters: thanks for all your generosity and commitment. You've helped us do great things. Our toughest challenges still lie ahead, and WaterWatch will need you more than ever in the coming years.

I'd also like to thank a few others who have been very good to me in the past eight years. Unlike the people mentioned above, these friends of mine are even more than 90 percent water. I'm talking about Oregon's rivers (and a few in Washington), which have given me so much joy since I took up kayaking after moving to Portland.

To the North Umpqua, Hood, McKenzie, Klickitat and North Fork John Day: I didn't see you often, but you offered great beauty and fun every time. Thanks for some of my best days paddling.

see *STREAM*, page 9

CENTRAL OREGON GROWTH THREATENS THE DESCHUTES

One hundred years ago people thought that Oregon's natural resources were limitless. Today we know better, and all across the state people are demanding greater environmental protections. Appreciation for healthy streams and abundant fish and wildlife has never been greater. But as people move to be closer to the natural resources they cherish, we are in danger of loving our rivers and streams to death.



Sprawl. It's not a four-letter word but here in Oregon, it might as well be. Photo courtesy of 1000 Friends of Oregon.

The region's explosive growth has also caused the demand for water — by cities, industries, and developers — to skyrocket.

“We need to grow in a smarter way than this,” said Water-Watch assistant director, Kimberley Priestley. “Problems arise when the state rejects sensible environmental safeguards, like water conservation. How many more golf courses do we need in the high desert?”

Central Oregon provides a good example. While large irrigation withdrawals have reduced sections of the Deschutes Basin's waterways to a trickle, today the largest single threat to the Deschutes is the explosive growth of Bend, Redmond, Sisters and other communities in the region. Central Oregon is the fastest growing area of the state. Between 1990 and 2000, the City of Bend grew by 160 percent, making it Oregon's fastest growing city for that

time period.

With the booming population growth has come a host of problems — increased traffic and pollution, more roads, the destruction and fragmentation of open spaces, and a decline in wildlife habitat. The effects of rapid growth and ensuing sprawl led a leading scenic heritage organization to designate Central Oregon as one of the nation's most endangered landscapes.

Because the state has already given away more rights to withdraw water directly from the Deschutes than the river can sustain, more and more developers and irrigators are turning to the basin's groundwater resources. However, in the Deschutes Basin groundwater and surface water flows are connected, meaning that when someone pumps groundwater from a well it eventually depletes surface water flows. Thus

see DESCHUTES, page 5

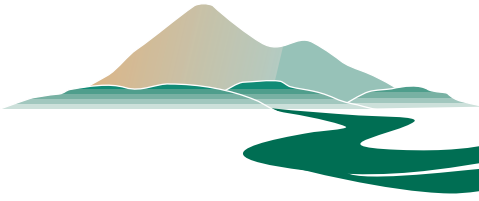
Proposed Power Plant a Huge Water User

Cogentrix, Inc., is proposing to build a 980-megawatt natural gas-fired electric power plant near Smith Rock State Park in Central Oregon. The plant would sit adjacent to the Crooked River Grasslands, which is home to a variety of wildlife species. The project (ironically named “Grizzly Power”) has applied for a groundwater right for 12.38 cubic feet of water per second, or eight million gallons per day, for cooling water.

Cogentrix proposes to tap groundwater that the U.S. Geological Survey has found to be connected to the Deschutes/Crooked River system. Groundwater withdrawals in the basin will eventually reduce the amount of water flowing in those rivers. Because the State Scenic Waterway Act and other laws protect Deschutes River flows, Cogentrix has to provide full mitigation — that is, they have to add as much water to the river as they remove — before they can get a water right. However, the company's

proposed ‘conceptual’ mitigation plans do not meet this test.

Activists opposed to the project are also concerned about its potential air, light and noise pollution; the resulting destruction of wildlife habitat and migration corridors; the view of unsightly cooling towers over 17 stories tall; and its production of excessive waste. For more information on this issue, contact Kimberley Priestley at 503-295-4039, ext. 23.



NEWS BRIEFS

Another Milestone Reached in the Campaign to Remove Savage Rapids Dam

Ten years ago, who would have dreamed that WaterWatch and the Grants Pass Irrigation District (GPID) would make a joint pitch for funding to remove Savage Rapids Dam? In January that's exactly what happened: Bob Hunter of Water-Watch and Dan Shepard from GPID approached the annual meeting of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to ask for money for this project. OWEB agreed, coming through with a grant of three million dollars, which will go towards removing the 80-year-old dam and replacing it with modern pumps.

Savage Rapids Dam has long been known as the single biggest killer of salmon and steelhead on the Rogue. The grant may be the largest salmon restoration project ever awarded by the board.

"After so many years of conflict over this dam, it is amazing how people have come together," said Hunter. "Maybe there is a lesson here for other environmental conflicts around the state."

Funds for OWEB grants are drawn from revenue from the Oregon Lottery and other sources, including federal salmon restoration funds and the sale of salmon license plates and "salmon-friendly" power. 💧



Waterfowl fill the sky at the Klamath National Wildlife Refuge. Photo by Bob Hunter.

Bush Administration Spins Klamath Study

"Scientists Critical of Klamath Water Ban," *The Oregonian* reported on February 4th. The National Academy of Sciences' interim review of last year's crisis in the Klamath Basin made headlines in early February — or at least, the Bush Administration's spin on the report made headlines. Media across the country accepted this spin — that, in essence, "scientists agree that fish don't need water" — as news. Like so many other media stories about the Klamath, this perspective paints an inaccurate picture.

committee that issued the report, pointed out that media has misinterpreted the report's conclusions. In an interview on National Public Radio on February 4th, he stated: "Much of what's appearing [in the press] in sensationalized and inaccurate."

"We [the committee] did not say the farmers were right and the scientists were wrong. We said the science was not conclusive" as to what lake levels endangered sucker fish require. Mr. Lewis noted, "We also know that removing water from the lake at some point will definitely be bad for the fish, so we didn't say more should go to the farmers. We don't know where the balance lies."

The review was leaked to the news media just days after the Bureau of Reclamation proposed a water management plan for the massive Klamath Irrigation Project that would maximize the amount of water delivered to irrigators while shirking its responsibilities to endangered species. This has some conservationists wondering whether the Bush administration is mounting an all-out attack on the Endangered Species Act.

The review, conducted at the request of the Bush Administration, found that scientific data on the needs of endangered fish are sorely lacking, and called for more research. It also noted that the region suffers from severe water quality problems, including pollution and warm temperatures.

William Lewis, chairman of the

"This is extremely troubling," said senior staff attorney Bob Hunter. "Endangered species are not the problem, they are symptoms of the problem. The fundamental problem in the basin is that more water has been promised than the environment can sustain, and we need to reduce demand to bring things back into balance." 💧

seeking to divert more water for future growth. In several places in this basin instream rights, which are designed to keep water in the river to meet the needs of fish, aren't being met. But the water districts have asked the state for even more water. Meanwhile, they have yet to initiate an aggressive conservation plan, and appear also to be asking for water for areas already covered by neighboring water suppliers.

And in the Walla Walla River basin, where irrigators, conservationists and state and federal agencies are working to put water back into the river, the city of Walla Walla in Washington is trying to get a large water right from Mill Creek, a critical tributary stream. Here again, a city is seeking water rights to accommodate growth in the distant future — in this case, up to the year 2060.

These types of proposals have led WaterWatch and community activists to urge cities and the state of Oregon — which is charged by law with managing water in the public interest — to take a hard look at alternative ways to meet legitimate water needs, such as basic water conservation. Thus far, however, not many cities and towns are stepping up to the plate as responsible users of

this valuable resource. And so far, the State has done little to help.

“Urban water demands pose a big threat to Oregon’s rivers,” said senior staff attorney Karen Russell, “but the Water Resources Department seems more

“The Water Resources Department seems more interested in avoiding conflicts with cities and towns than they are in protecting endangered salmon, wildlife, and the public’s best interests.”

— Karen Russell,
WaterWatch

interested in avoiding a confrontation with cities and towns than they are in protecting endangered salmon, wildlife, or the public’s best interests.”

In addition to grabbing excess water,

cities are pressuring the state to allow them to hang on to old undeveloped permits, despite the fact that all other water users must “use it or lose it.” These permits, some of which are 30 to 40 years old, are located on some of the state’s most cherished rivers and streams. If developed into permanent, full-fledged water rights they could destroy endangered fish habitat.

Worst of all, some cities are trying to ‘market’ their ‘extra’ or unused rights. All over the state, cities are looking at water as a marketable commodity that can be sold to other users — although legally water is owned by all Oregonians, and the state gives the cities rights to it for free. For example, a small water district on the coast that holds a permit to withdraw water from one of Oregon’s most sensitive coastal streams is proposing to sell part of this right to a nearby city for \$1.25 million.

Water is one of Oregon’s most precious resources. The state must not give away water to municipalities unless sensitive streams are protected, a real need for the water is demonstrated, and the municipality embraces basic conservation measures. Growth must not come at the expense of the rivers and streams on which the fish, wildlife and people of Oregon all depend. 💧

groundwater pumping poses a serious threat to instream flows needed to support fish, wildlife and recreation — flows which already are not being satisfied most of the year.

What WaterWatch is Doing:

In 1998 the Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD) organized a diverse working group, including representatives from WaterWatch and development interests, and charged it with crafting a plan to make up for the damage new groundwater development would cause to the Deschutes. The group was not able to reach consensus, but did agree on some basic principles that would have

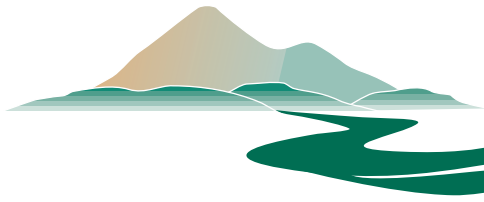
offered some protection to the river. Last fall, however, the WRD bowed to pressure from developers and drafted new groundwater mitigation rules that did not include even these basic environmental protections.

“The Department is more interested in pursuing accounting gimmicks than in creating rules that actually protect the river,” said Kimberley Priestley, WaterWatch assistant director.

Alarmed, conservation groups began working to educate Oregonians and demand rules that protect the river. Thanks to dozens of letters from river advocates in Central Oregon and across

the state (including many WaterWatch members!), the WRD scrapped the weak rules and started over. However, WaterWatch remains concerned that the state will not require environmentally sound mitigation practices, and insists that if the WRD can’t craft a set of rules that protects the Deschutes, they should stop issuing new rights in the Basin. By closing the entire Deschutes Basin to new water development, the state could increase pressure for cities and irrigators to adopt basic water conservation measures. The state hopes to have the new rules in place by June. For more information on the mitigation rulemaking, contact Kimberley Priestley at 503-295-4039, ext. 23. 💧





RIVER PROFILE: The Clackamas

A playground for the Portland area, the Clackamas River faces incre

When Portlanders daydream about fishing, boating, or simply getting out to enjoy the scenic beauty of a wild landscape, the Clackamas River often provides the backdrop.

Located just an hour from the downtown of Oregon's largest city, the Clackamas (or 'Clack', as many boaters call it), is an incredible recreational resource. Each year it draws tens of thousands of whitewater boaters, anglers, and hikers to its waters. For city dwellers accustomed to the slow moving, sometimes turbid Willamette, the Clackamas is a crystal-clear mountain getaway.

The river is born high in the Cascades, on the slopes of Olallie Butte at 6,000 feet above sea level. It is relatively short, flowing for 83 miles to its confluence with the Willamette between the towns of Gladstone and Oregon City. As it runs northwest through the shadow of Mount Hood, it travels down an impressive canyon cloaked in Douglas Fir. Snapshots of the river's volcanic history can be seen in the basalt crags of the river canyon.



A day well spent on the Clackamas River. U.S. Forest Service photo.

Dense forests line the upper reaches of the river, and two wilderness areas lie within the basin (the Salmon-Huckleberry and the Bull of the Woods), providing habitat for a variety of wildlife. Rocky Mountain elk, bald eagles, and river otters are among the more charismatic creatures that inhabit the basin.

Fifty miles of the river's main stem bears federal Wild and Scenic designation because of its outstanding scenery, fishing, and recreation values. Fourteen miles of the Roaring River, a Clackamas tributary, share the same designation. Four sections of the lower river have been designated as a State Scenic Waterway.

The social history of the river contrasts this beauty: the Clackamas takes its name from a tribe of Native Americans that once made their homes along its lower reaches, as well as along both banks of the Willamette up to Willamette Falls. With the arrival of European settlers, the Clackamas and neighboring tribes eventually were forced off their ancestral land and on to the Grande Ronde Reservation.

As it flows down from the mountains, the Clackamas River shows many moods, alternately pausing in deep pools and roaring down tight canyons. Above the town of Estacada, class II and III rapids are common, making for prime whitewater boating (though several dams create slack water pools in this section as well). Below Estacada the whitewater is somewhat less challenging but still beautiful, and the lower river is a favorite of canoeists, drift boaters and beginning kayakers.

Over the years boaters have

given the Clackamas' rap Powerhouse, Hole in the One of the river's most f Hole, takes its name from enthusiast named Bob B to boater lore, Bob always the rapid each time he fl but he never had much i with his boat upright (fl rapid somewhat since B

*Bob always insi
the rapid each
the Clackamas
had much luck
it with his b*

Today several major whi on the river each year, in Oregon Cup, one of the festivals in the United St donated to conservation WaterWatch.) The Clack recreational opportunit boat or fish. A popular i upper Clackamas for sev are many public campgr the river; McIver State P fine example.

But for all of its incredib popularity with recreatio the Clackamas is a troub flow problems plague se lower basin. Foster, Roc Creeks have been identi priorities for flow restor South Forks also suffer f Two hydroelectric projec difficulties for fish and f

Increasing demands to provide water for a growing urban population.

oids colorful names like the Wall, and Toilet Bowl. Famous rapids, Bob's in an early whitewater reitenstein. According ys insisted on running oated the Clackamas, luck getting through it ooding has tamed the ob's day).

*sted on running
time he floated
s, but he never
getting through
boat upright.*

whitewater events are held including the Teva biggest whitewater ates. (Proceeds are groups, including kamas also offers great es to those who do not hiking trail follows the veral miles, and there ounds and parks along ark near Estacada is a

le scenic beauty and on-minded Portlanders, oled river. Significant veral tributaries in the ck, Deep and Cow fied by the state as high ation. Oak Grove and rom low flows. cts in the basin create lows; both are up for

re-licensing in 2006. The Oak Grove Project takes water from that fork (hence its flow problems), and the North Fork Project's three dams create problems for fish passage in populations which are already stressed.

Spring chinook and winter steelhead in the Clackamas are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon have endangered status under the state's ESA. A listing decision is pending on cutthroat trout, and efforts may be made in the future to list bull trout as well. In addition, parts of three streams within its basin are listed as "water quality limited" by the state of Oregon, mostly due to high water temperatures. And logging within the basin has sparked environmental controversy for years. Recent proposals for logging along a tributary, Eagle Creek, have resulted in lawsuits and protests from forest conservation groups.

But perhaps the largest threat facing the river today is the growing demand for water from nearby cities and towns. The river already provides municipal water to over 175,000 residents in the Portland metropolitan area. A new proposed municipal water development at river mile 2.9, would take 148 cfs (cubic feet per second) from the river year-round. During August this could be as much as 28 percent of the river's average flow — or much more, in a dry year like 2001.

Other proposed water supply schemes look to the river's water to fuel new growth. In fact, water districts in the area already hold rights for a large amount of water — up to

about 150 cfs — and over half of that amount could legally be withdrawn without respect for instream flows.

What WaterWatch is Doing:

WaterWatch is working with local citizen groups who oppose the proposed diversion mentioned above, and we are watchdogging the progress of undeveloped water use permits in the basin. WaterWatch is also working statewide to reform the way in which rivers are tapped for speculative future growth. Of course, cities and towns require water, but there is often a huge difference between what municipalities need and what they want. WaterWatch is willing to work with cities to ensure they can get the water they need without harming our rivers. But we will also continue to oppose new water uses which are based on speculation at a time when we are struggling to return water to rivers and streams in order to protect fish, wildlife, and recreation. 💧



A kayaker tries to catch a surf wave near "The Narrows" on the Upper Clackamas. Photo by Brian Fields.



ACTIVIST PROFILE: Deschutes Defender Craig Lacy

WaterWatch member and Bend resident Craig Lacy has been an advocate for wild rivers and wild fish for nearly three decades. Craig grew up in Albany, California, but summer vacations were spent at a rustic family ranch at the headwaters of the John Day River in northeastern Oregon. These early childhood vacations spawned a passion for rivers that has been a major force throughout his life.

In the early 1980s, attracted by the Deschutes River, Craig moved to Bend with his wife, Carol, and their two children, Chris and Trisha. Craig worked as a guide for a flyfishing business out of Sisters and then started his own outfitting business — Whitewater and Wild Fish — in 1985, becoming the first full time outfitter out of Bend to do extended trips on the Deschutes. The business grew over the years, with seven guides taking flyfishers throughout the area, including the high cascade lakes, the Deschutes and the John Day.

In 1995, after 11 years of guiding, Craig decided to give his back a rest and work on a degree in fishery science at Oregon State University. As Craig put it, the more he learned about rivers, the more he realized there was to learn. So he delved into studying all the aspects of healthy streams — not only fish, but entomology, biology and botany. With this degree, Craig began consulting on river issues, working primarily with the Warm Springs Tribes regarding the current Pelton Round

Butte Dam relicensing.

PRESERVING WILD FISH AND THEIR HABITAT

Craig had decided long before that he wanted to give something back to the rivers he so enjoyed. Back in 1975 he had founded the Grizzly Peak Flyfishers, a group of concerned flyfishers in the San Francisco Bay Area who worked on conservation projects to benefit steelhead.



Craig Lacy with his wife, Carol.

After moving to Bend, Craig became an active member of the Central Oregon Flyfishers. Under his presidency, the club received the Stanford Miller Conservation Award in 1987, honoring them as the top conservation club in the country; that same year, Craig was named “Oregon Flyfisher of the Year” by the Federation of Flyfishers, primarily because of his conservation work.



Craig navigates Whitehorse Rapids on the Deschutes River.

LASTING PROTECTION FOR THE DESCHUTES

In the mid 1980s, Craig also served as the Chairman of the Coalition for the Deschutes, a group that worked closely with then-state Representative Tom Throop to successfully stop 16 proposed hydro-electric dams on the Deschutes, all of which would have been within 15 miles of Bend. Craig and company succeeded in getting the Deschutes added to the state scenic waterway list, which not only stopped the hydro projects from going forward but also gained long-standing state protection for the river. It also inspired activists from around the state to seek similar protection for their own beloved rivers.

In 1987, Craig worked with Bill Marlett (now the executive director of the Oregon Natural Desert Association) on a successful statewide ballot measure that protected an additional 24 rivers under the Oregon scenic waterway program. This, in turn, led to Senator Hatfield's federal legislation protecting an additional 2,000 miles under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.



shift in community values. He calls this change “dramatic,” and now sees “a bright future for solving the flow problems in Squaw, Tumalo, and the upper and middle Deschutes.”

When we asked Craig what he loved about rivers, he paused a moment and said: “It’s what life is about. There’s just so much that goes on in a river,” he explained, “so many fascinating relationships between water, fish, plants, bugs, everything.”

In addition, Craig worked with the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in the 1980s and 1990s to draft the Wild and Scenic Plan on the Deschutes and John Day Rivers, and helped the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife write its management plan for the Upper Deschutes and John Day Rivers. These endeavors took upwards of ten years — testimony to Craig’s tenacity and dedication. During this time he also served on Oregon Trout’s Board of Directors for ten years as their Central Oregon representative.

‘RIVERS NEED WATER’ – NO LONGER A TABOO IDEA

Not one to let a minute go to waste, Craig was also active in getting the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council up and running in 1996. In this forum, irrigation districts, cattle ranchers, agency folks and conservationists all sat down together to try to do positive things for river flows of the Deschutes, an experience Craig found particularly rewarding, as it demonstrated that streamflow issues were no longer taboo.

Craig attributes this shift in attitude to a number of things — the Governor’s salmon plan, the emergence of strong watershed councils, money for conservation projects and just a general

Steelhead Falls on the Deschutes River.

“It’s what life is about. There’s just so much that goes on in a river, so many fascinating relationships between water, fish, plants, bugs, everything.”

— Craig Lacy

And while he is not fishing as much these days, Craig still spends hours on the river “just watching.” The Deschutes is lucky to have Craig as one of its guardians, and WaterWatch is proud to call him a member. 💧

STREAM, continued from page 2

To the Rogue, White, Grande Ronde, lower John Day, Metolius and Owyhee: sorry we only got together once. You were unforgettable nonetheless. I’d love to see you again before I leave Oregon.

To the Clackamas, White Salmon, Molalla, and above all the Sandy: thanks for being such wonderful backyard rivers. Whether I was running your rapids with a bunch of friends, or paddling your calmer stretches on my own, I could always count on you for a great day on the water.

To all of you, liquid and semi-solid, thanks again. I’ll miss you. Keep it flowing. 💧



INSIDE WATERWATCH

Reed Benson to Leave WaterWatch

As Reed explains in this issue's "Stream of Consciousness", he will soon be departing WaterWatch as executive director to join the faculty at the University of Wyoming's School of Law in Laramie. Reed has wanted to teach for several years, and finally decided that 2002 was his year: he would either find a teaching job, or give up the dream forever. After a few interviews, followed by several anxious months of waiting for the phone to ring, the University of Wyoming was smart enough to give him a call and offer him a position, beginning Fall 2002.



Reed originally joined the WaterWatch staff in 1993 as an attorney, having worked previously for the Environ-

mental Protection Agency and the Land & Water Fund of the Rockies. As a WaterWatch staff attorney, he focussed on the Umatilla Basin, where he worked with irrigators, Tribes, and federal and state agencies to preserve and protect flows in the Umatilla River. Reed succeeded Jeff Curtis as executive director in 1997, and has worked the last 4 1/2 years to help make WaterWatch a stronger and more successful organization.

In his own words, 2001 was "perhaps our best year ever, as we made great strides in protecting Oregon's waters and building the organization." Because of that success, he feels this is a good time to go, as he leaves WaterWatch with "an excellent team in place, a very talented and experienced staff and solid leadership on the board."

Although we will miss Reed, we are proud that he has been offered this opportunity. And as he will be teaching environmental and water law in Wyoming, we can only hope that he will help to sculpt more river activists!

WaterWatch Wish List

A donation of any of the following items would be greatly appreciated:

- a light table for viewing slides;
- two slide carousel that fit a Kodak Ektagraphic III AM projector;
- an office chair with wheels and a movable seat;
- and four chairs to use at our conference table.

If you can help provide any of these items, please call Molly at 503-295-4039, ext. 21.

Erika Giesen Joins the WaterWatch Staff in Medford

This past winter WaterWatch hired a new staff member: Erika Giesen is now our part-time administrative assistant in the Medford office, helping WaterWatch attorney Bob Hunter in his efforts to protect and restore flows in the Rogue and Klamath Basins. Erika is an Oregon native who grew up mostly in Eugene, but also on the Umpqua River and Fall Creek. She earned a bachelor's degree from Portland's Lewis and Clark College in Gender Studies, and a master's degree through the University of Arizona in Women's Studies.



Erika has been involved in environmental and social justice activism for 10 years and happily moved from the Bay Area to Ashland to take this job, expressing a desire to "live in the woods" again. She comes from an activist family — long-time members may remember her cousin, Anne Perrault, who worked as an attorney for WaterWatch in the early 1990s — and says she is "honored" to now be working with WaterWatch. We are pleased to have such a dedicated activist join our ranks!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WaterWatch Succeeds in Meeting Two Challenge Grants!

Last year, WaterWatch received a challenge grant from the Harder Foundation to help kick off our major donor program. Our board of directors helped raise over \$30,000 last year through phone calls, donor visits, house parties and other events, which the Harder Foundation matched with a grant of \$20,000. This grant was a big boost in our effort to diversify our funding base and reach out to current and prospective donors. Thanks to those members who gave their support!

We also received a challenge grant from the General Service Foundation for the recruitment of monthly donors. We met this challenge as well, raising over \$12,000 in monthly contributions (which was matched by the Foundation) and bringing in 31 new monthly donors. We are extremely thankful to those of you who became monthly donors last year. Your steady support helps ensure that Oregon's magnificent rivers are protected all year long!

Leave a Legacy for Oregon's Rivers

Last year's drought and the Klamath Basin water crisis highlighted the importance and scarcity of water in Oregon — and the need to better balance water uses in the state. Hopefully, these events also reminded Oregonians that the water in our precious rivers is a life-giving necessity for fish, wildlife, and people, and must be protected today and in the future.

You can help protect Oregon's rivers long into the future by making a charitable bequest to WaterWatch. By doing so, you will help ensure safe, clean, flowing rivers for future generations. In addition, charitable bequests can be deducted from your gross estate and therefore offer estate tax savings. If you are interested in making a bequest to WaterWatch or donating stock or other securities, please contact Melanie Leaf at 503-295-4039, ext. 25.



Healthy flowing rivers could be a part of your legacy by making a bequest to WaterWatch.

HELP PROTECT OREGON'S RIVERS ALL YEAR LONG! BECOME A RIVER PARTNER BY DONATING EACH MONTH TO WATERWATCH

"YES! I want to be a RIVER PARTNER. I agree to donate the following amount each month:"

_____ \$10 _____ \$15 _____ \$20 _____ \$25 \$ _____ other

I prefer to donate by one of the following methods:

1. AUTOMATIC BANK TRANSFER: I authorize WaterWatch to receive the above amount from my checking account on the fifth day of each month, and I am enclosing a VOIDED check for bank coding purposes.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

2. CREDIT CARD: I authorize WaterWatch to receive the above amount from my credit card on the fifth day of each month.

VISA _____ MASTERCARD _____ Card No. _____
Signature: _____ Exp. Date: _____

YOUR GUARANTEE: River Partner members maintain complete control over their donation. You may change or cancel your commitment at any time, and your credit card or bank information will be kept completely confidential. Please provide your phone number for verification: _____

Return this form with your voided check to: WaterWatch, 213 SW Ash, Suite 208, Portland, OR 97204.
And thank you for joining RIVER PARTNERS!

WATERWATCHER

Bulletin Board



Buzz Holmstrom Slide Show Coming to Portland in April

In the last issue of *Instream* we told you about Buzz Holmstrom, the amazing whitewater pioneer from Oregon who became, in 1937, the first person to float the Green and Colorado rivers alone . . . and in a homemade boat! WaterWatch member Vince Welch co-authored Buzz's biography, and put together a slide-and-short-film show about Buzz's life while writing the book. Our second Portland showing of this program will be on April 11th at the Patagonia store in the new EcoTrust building. We are pleased to partner with Patagonia on this free event, as they have supported our conservation work for years. So bring a friend or two to learn more about Buzz: from his humble beginnings in Coquille, Oregon, to his tragic, mysterious end.

When: Thursday, April 11, 7:30 pm

Where: Patagonia store in the Jean Vollum Natural Capital Center, 907 NW Irving St., Portland

For more info: Contact Molly at 503-295-4039 ex. 21

Subscribe to SalemWatch and Keep Informed

Even though the legislature is not in session this year, decisions are still being made in Salem that affect our environment. To stay informed, sign up for the e-mail newsletter SalemWatch, published by the Oregon Conservation Network. You will receive monthly updates of state agency actions, budget news, and so on. During the legislative session you will get weekly notices which track environmental legislation. Simply visit OCN on the web at www.olcv.org/ocn/ and follow the directions to sign up!

Send Us Your Photos!

Got a river photo you're proud of? Maybe a snap of an illegal diversion? We're always looking for new images to use in slide shows and outreach materials. Send your photos to Molly at the Portland WaterWatch office. (Please note where the photo was taken and when, if possible.)



WaterWatch
is proud to be
a member of Earth Share
OREGON



WATERWATCH

PROTECTING NATURAL FLOWS IN OREGON RIVERS

213 SW Ash, Suite 208
Portland, OR 97204

Change service requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Portland, OR
Permit #5771