



## 2011 Accomplishments

Thanks to your support, WaterWatch achieved many truly important victories for Oregon's rivers in 2011. Recent successes have been dramatic and remarkable. Here is a sampling:

### Protecting and Restoring Streamflows and Rivers



***On the Little Applegate River, WaterWatch restored the most senior water rights to the river, which will be protected instream.*** In 2011, WaterWatch facilitated transactions that will return 5.4 cubic feet per second to the Little Applegate. More than half of this water has the most senior priority date (1857) on the Little Applegate, which means that this water will remain in the river even during extreme drought. These instream transfers will constitute a large part of the flow in the Little Applegate during summer months. This water has extremely high ecological value.



***Restoring the Rogue River to a free-flowing condition.*** Building on the successful removal of four major dams on the Rogue River through the Free the Rogue Campaign, WaterWatch entered into an agreement with an irrigation district to work jointly to engineer solutions at a major irrigation diversion dam on the Rogue. This dam takes too much water from the Rogue and constricts fish passage. WaterWatch also is working to remove two other dams on an important Rogue tributary.



***WaterWatch stopped the damming of important tributaries that feed the John Day River.*** In 2011, WaterWatch continued to push back against proposals to build small dams on critical tributaries to the John Day River. WaterWatch recently stopped a proposal to build multiple dams in one watershed that would block fish passage, add to water quality problems and undermine restoration investments for the John Day River. WaterWatch has also worked to ensure that other water diversions in the basin adequately protect fish and wildlife and scenic waterway flows.

### Providing a Voice for Streamflows and Balanced Water Policies in Salem and Washington D.C.



***Stopping Environmental Rollbacks at the State Capitol.*** WaterWatch stopped bills that would have taken water from the Columbia River without considering the needs of fish, exempted new hydroelectric projects from fish passage and bypass flow requirements, and delayed and burdened processes to protect and provide adequate stream flows for the Willamette River. WaterWatch also continued to influence the state budget process to ensure that the Oregon Water Resources Department retains important water management capacities that benefit rivers.



***Planning for Oregon's Water Future - Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy.*** WaterWatch's advocacy in this state water planning process has ensured fair and equitable treatment of instream values in Oregon's emerging Integrated Water Resources Strategy. WaterWatch served on the Policy Advisory Group for the Strategy and organized concerned citizens to ensure that the Strategy addresses Oregon's instream needs.



***Advocating for balance in the Klamath.*** In Washington D. C., WaterWatch worked to protect water for fish and wetlands in the Klamath Basin by advocating for improvements to the flawed Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and implementing legislation.

## Protecting Rivers Across Oregon from the Effects of Growth



***On the Clackamas, McKenzie and Row Rivers, WaterWatch went to court to protect imperiled fish populations and to hold cities to rational and defensible water demands.*** These cases will help define the steps cities and the state must take to maintain troubled fish populations as cities demand more water from our rivers. The Row River case will determine whether the Water Resources Department can ignore the terms and conditions governing the development of water rights. These issues affect many ecologically significant streams across Oregon, including the Rogue, the Chetco River at Brookings, Horn Creek (tributary to the Nestucca), Kilchis and Willamette Rivers. These streams support multiple runs of anadromous fish and are threatened by proposed municipal water development.



***In the Deschutes Basin, WaterWatch and its members stopped legislative attempts to weaken the Deschutes Groundwater Mitigation Program.*** This program protects scenic waterway flows in the Lower Deschutes River from groundwater pumping in the upper basin. WaterWatch also advocated for more water for the parched Crooked River from Prineville Reservoir and worked to stop the City of Bend from pulling more river water from the Tumalo Creek watershed.

WaterWatch also adopted a new three-year strategic plan in 2011. The process reinforced WaterWatch's commitment to protecting and restoring streamflows in Oregon's rivers but also suggests a few new projects and approaches. Stay tuned for details.

WaterWatch remains the only conservation group monitoring all decisions of the Oregon Water Resources Department. This watch-dogging work protects the public interest in water and increases accountability, legal compliance and the transparency of the state's decisions about water.

After more than a quarter century, WaterWatch continues to play a unique and essential role for Oregon's rivers. WaterWatch is the only organization in Oregon focused solely on protecting and restoring streamflows in Oregon's rivers for fish, wildlife, and the people who depend on healthy rivers. The staff and Board of Directors of WaterWatch thank you for your continuing investment in our shared passion for Oregon's waters.