

2016 Accomplishments

Protecting and Restoring Streamflows and Rivers



Restoration in the Rogue Basin: Fall chinook salmon are spawning in the upper reaches of Evans Creek where state fish biologists have never seen them before just one year after removal of Fielder and Wimer dams. Building on our track record of dam removals in the Rogue, WaterWatch is helping lead a partnership to remove 50 dams in the basin over the next ten years to help recover salmon and steelhead. Also, on the Rogue River, WaterWatch helped the Gold Hill Irrigation District successfully modify its diversion to leave more water in the Rogue, add measurement and control to the diversion and prevent harm to migratory fish.



Scenic Waterway Act Designations: On the Chetco and Molalla rivers, WaterWatch helped secure the first new designations in three decades under Oregon's Scenic Waterway Act. The new designations protect 25 miles of the Chetco and Molalla rivers.

Strategic Plan: WaterWatch adopted a new Strategic Plan that will guide our programs and grow our capacity to protect and restore Oregon's rivers.



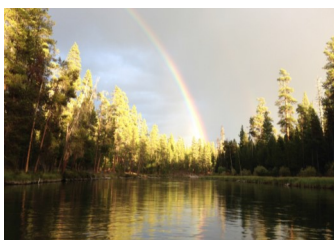
Protecting Rivers as Oregon Grows: WaterWatch went to court to protect the McKenzie River from water speculation. On the Clackamas River, WaterWatch challenged the Oregon's decision to allow cities to use up to half of the river's dry season flow without regard for the needs of four runs of imperiled salmon. WaterWatch went back to court with an amazing team of experts to secure better protections for the river, the fish and to force Oregon to follow the law.

Protecting Oregon's Groundwaters: WaterWatch challenged Oregon's unsustainable groundwater policies and practices in the Malheur region, sparking a process to develop reforms that should help protect streamflows in the region and the wetlands and lakes of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. *The Oregonian* day lighted these issues statewide through the highly acclaimed "Draining Oregon" series which drew on WaterWatch's work to generate intense public attention and demand for reform of the unsustainable groundwater management practices and policies that threaten Oregon's water future.



Drilling irrigation pipe stands ready in a DuRoi Valley field, farm country along Effersville Creek south of The Dalles. In Oregon, the largest-scale water developments are planned by cities or counties. Water users' best interests are weighed to 100,000 million water rights. An analysis by The Oregonian/OregonLive has found farmers in a country of water-rich Oregon, the most part of the state, are allowed to pump more underground water each year than they deplete.

DRAINING OREGON



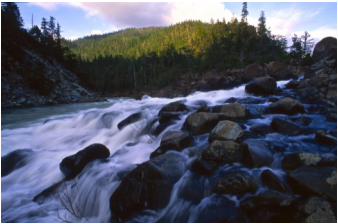
Progress for Deschutes Basin Rivers: WaterWatch's advocacy is securing streamflow restoration on the Crooked River below Bowman Dam. WaterWatch also blocked a large new reservoir on a tributary to the water short Crooked River. Higher in the basin, WaterWatch helped secure more winter water for the Upper Deschutes River, 65,000 acres designated as critical habitat and a schedule for plans to help the Oregon Spotted Frog.

2016 Accomplishments Cont'd

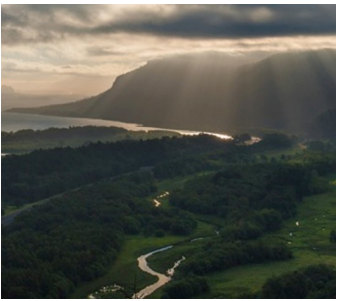
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Progress for Wetlands, National Wildlife Refuges and Migratory Birds in the Klamath Basin: WaterWatch helped lay the groundwork for better management of the waters and wetlands of the internationally significant National Wildlife Refuges in the Klamath Basin. Building on a 2015 court victory, WaterWatch helped generate hundreds of public comments and marshalled expert analysis to push the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to prepare improved conservation plans for the refuges and migratory waterfowl.



North Fork Smith River: WaterWatch made real progress towards preventing water use by an offshore corporation proposing a large nickel strip mine in the headwaters streams of the North Fork of the Smith River in southwestern Oregon, perhaps the most pristine river on the west coast in the lower 48 states. WaterWatch prepared and submitted a petition the Water Resources Commission to protect the basin's waters by classifying all surface waters for instream use.



Climate Change: All of our achievements help Oregon's waters adapt to the effects of climate change. WaterWatch served on the Governor's Drought Task Force to develop measures and build the case for funding to help rivers in this time of recurring drought and a changing climate.

Siletz River: Our advocacy secured conditions to protect salmon and steelhead in a municipal water right and eliminated a diversion on the Siletz River on the Oregon coast.



Progress Towards Klamath Dam Removals: After years of sometimes lonely advocacy for a stand-alone Klamath River dam removal agreement - unhindered by linkage to federal legislation and a water-sharing deal based on make-believe water, WaterWatch's efforts paid off this spring with the signing of a stand-alone pact to remove the four lower mainstem Klamath dams by the year 2020. These four obsolete hydropower facilities - J.C. Boyle, Copco I, Copco II, and Iron Gate dams - generate a relatively small amount of electricity, but cause profound harm to salmon and water quality. Dam removal can now proceed without linkage to legislation to implement the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement, a subsidy-laden and controversial water deal that had divided conservationists and the basin's Native American tribes.

