

**November Conservation Report
Trout Unlimited Deschutes Chapter
Board Meeting**

**Spawning Site Protection for Redband Trout on the Lower
Deschutes River, OR**

1. A proposal was prepared in early October 2010 and presented to the board for discussion and approval. It was approved.
2. The project proposal was sent to Matt Fox, fishery biologist, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (Tribes); Rod French, regional biologist, Oregon Department of Fish and Game (ODFW), and Michelle McSwain, Assistant field manager, BLM Prineville District, for review. Initial feedback from the Tribes and ODFW was positive.
3. I met with Jimmie Eisner, fishery biologist, BLM Prineville, to discuss the proposal. He had discussed the proposal with the former ODFW regional biologist for the Lower Deschutes. Jimmie did not think the part of the proposal that address fall Chinook spawning sites on the stretch of the river from Jones Canyon to Macs Canyon was needed. He felt that most spawning sites were inaccessible to wading anglers. He was also concerned about sign pollution. He did say that ODFW would address the issue with press releases and notices in the weekly fishing reports.
4. Jimmie felt the best aspects of the proposal addressed redband spawning sites in the Warm Springs to Trout Creek stretch. He said that he would forward a revised proposal to BLM leadership. The revised proposal would call for the placement of 5 to 6 signs on major spawning sites and include an educational component with local schools similar to the project on the Crooked River.
5. I will scale down the proposal, incorporate the BLM input, and resubmit the proposal to the BLM, ODFW, and the Tribes. I would like to work with Herb Blank to coordinate with Warm Springs area schools about the proposal. The revised proposal will be provided board members for review.

Submitted: Bill Seitz, Conservation Chair, TU Deschutes Chapter, November 2010