

# Trout Unlimited's Upper Deschutes Home Rivers Initiative:



Reconnecting our community with an  
ecologically restored Deschutes River basin

Darek Staab, Project Manager



# Fall Planning and Strategy Meetings

1. Watershed Education
  2. Advocacy in Central Oregon
  3. Restoration and Monitoring on the Crooked River
  4. Restoration and Monitoring on the Upper Deschutes
- 25 Groups, Agencies and Organizations represented
  - Focused on Current Programs, Objectives, Opportunities, and Priorities



# Niche for Trout Unlimited, for Deschutes?

1. Need for Volunteer Coordination
2. Need for Monitoring Support (Implementation and Design)
3. Need for Outreach Education in support of Restoration and Conservation
4. Need for Advocacy to push with other groups and tackle large issues



# Deschutes Restoration Outreach Project:

## D.R.O.P Program Elements:



1. **Deschutes River Stewards and Stewardship Projects**
2. **Workshops, Trainings, and Weekends** on restoration, education and monitoring in the basin
3. **Presentations and Field Trips** on watershed ecology and conservation
4. **Written and Online Materials** to build an understanding of our watershed conditions and restorations goals



# Deschutes Basin Stewards:



- New Stewardship Program
  - 10 hours of training and 30 hours of field work
  - key leaders for our conservation efforts in the years to come and can join us in the following efforts:
1. Monitoring the physical and biological watershed conditions
  2. Implementing restoration elements with other volunteers
  3. Sharing outreach education material at festivals and field trips
  4. Supporting restoration and conservation planning for our future

\*\*For 2010 = 400 volunteer hours and over 20,000 in-kind match

# DROP Field Calendar for 2010:

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>** - *Stewardship Training (\*seasonal training\*)*

**April 17<sup>th</sup>** - *Clean Up on the Crooked River*

**April 27<sup>th</sup>** - *Rehabilitation for the Tumbull Project*

**May 11<sup>th</sup>** - *Restoration Tour for Deep Creek*

**May 14<sup>th</sup>** - *Fishing guide training and BBQ*

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** - *Weed pull and tour of the Rim Rock Ranch*

**June 5<sup>th</sup>** - *Upper Deschutes Council's Stream Stewardship Day*

**June 25 and 26<sup>th</sup>** - *Crooked River Campout, Restoration Tour and Service Projects*

**July** - *Odell Lake Summer Brook Trout and Bull Trout Surveys*

**August** - *Water School: a 2 day training with OSU and Partners (\*seasonal training\*)*

**Sept. and Oct.** - *Whychus Creek plantings at Camp Polk and TSID Project*

**Oct.** - *Crooked Riparian Restoration and Education Project*

**Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>** - *Wilderness outreach on the Deschutes R. and Whychus confluence*



# Crooked River Riparian Restoration Project

**Plan:** Work with local Prineville students to study and restore 2 acres of their local wild and scenic Crooked River. We are working with over 300 kids and studying the Stearns Dam removal/restoration.

**Partners:** BLM, Crooked River Watershed Council, ODFW, Wolfree and Middle and High Schools in Crook County

**Schedule:** Fall curriculum complete for 200 students. Spring is focused on green house studies, planting, and monitoring.

**Audience:** Working with Middle and High School students in Crook County



# Riparian Planting and Monitoring, Camp Polk Preserve and Whychus Creek

**Plan:** Supporting riparian and channel restoration at Camp Polk and the new TSID project. We held 8 work days this year.

**Partners:** Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, Deschutes Land Trust, Deschutes River Conservancy, Deschutes National Forest

**Schedule:** May, June, Sept. and Oct. days. We hope to continue to monitor results.

**Training opportunities:** Riparian species identification, planting techniques, monitoring plant diversity, and monitoring physical habitat and water quality



# Spring, Meadow, and Stream Restoration Deep Creek Restoration Area

*Plan: Restoring headwater streams, springs and meadows in the Deep Creek Basin, and monitoring changes to the habitat and populations. We have started with a head cut restoration project on a Little Summit tributary and meadow.*

*Partners: Forest Service, ODFW, and Watershed Council.*

*Schedule: We have run 4 stewardship days this year, a 3 day girl scout program, and completed the head cut before the snow. We have more riparian planting, monitoring, and educational days to come May through October 2011.*

*Training opportunities: Riparian health, water quality, fish migration and abundance, and species diversity.*





Looking up into the meadow  
and cow trail



Looking down  
trail and stream.



Cows wait for us to finish

# Tumbull Fish Restoration Project and Riparian Forest Trail

Plan: placement of large wood to stabilize banks and create cover and shelter for fish, planting of riparian plants, and trail work through the riparian area to allow for recreational use

Partners: Upper Deschutes River Coalition and Deschutes National Forest, ODFW

Schedule: Spring and Fall work days have occurred with a late planting to come\*\*\*

Training opportunities: Trail work and recreational planning, Riparian species ID, planting techniques, monitoring plant diversity and health



# Odell Lake and Bull Trout Restoration

**Plan:** We are working with the Bull Trout Working Group to prioritize and implement restoration needs for the Odell Lake bull trout population and habitat within the system.

**Partners:** Deschutes National Forest, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, and ODFW.

**Schedule:** Opportunities to support summer monitoring and outreach education. We supported 3 monitoring days this summer.

**Training opportunities:** Water quality monitoring, fish population monitoring and outreach education for a diversity of audiences.



# Future Written and Online Tools:

1. Spring Release Upper Deschutes Conservation Success Index (TU's CSI mapping and prioritization program)
2. Spring release of an economic study of the value of water flow, riparian systems, and recreation along our river corridors (through University of Michigan and partners)
3. Spring release Upper Deschutes Landowner Stewardship Guide (through UDRC and partners)
4. Seasonal DROP Briefs, Opportunity Calendars, and Conservation News (next release – late February 2011)

