

Wallowa Resources 2004 Accomplishments Report



Overview

The year 2004 was a challenging year for the organization. We had our largest program ever to implement, and entered the final year of several larger grants. We struggled to balance our responsibilities to effectively implement a wide range of projects on the ground, and invest sufficient resources towards fundraising for 2005.

The pressure of this workload were evident in some project management errors – including insufficient attention to detail on the grant decision-making process for the Wallowa River Restoration Project. Overall, however, we accomplished a great deal on the ground, and have a sufficient program platform going into 2005 to anticipate continued success.

One are of significant growth in 2004 and opportunity in 2005 is our natural resource education program. We designed and tested three pilot programs over the spring and summer, and laid the groundwork for new programs at the K-12 level and college undergraduate level next year.

We also expanded our interaction with private family landowners – including landowners in both Wallowa and Baker Counties. And, the post and pole facility has been brought on line with support coming from local investors in the community.

The breadth of our partnerships continued to grow this year and the depth of existing relationships increased substantially. The organization has benefited greatly as a result.

In all, we are pleased to report the following accomplishments for 2004.

Watershed Restoration

This program combines the forest, range and riparian work. All of these projects seek to generate job and business opportunities for local residents in the restoration and stewardship of important ecological attributes and systems.

The principal outcomes under this program are as follows:

Joseph Creek Watershed Restoration:

- Completed Old Growth Survey
- Completed Integration Report
- Initiated first phase projects in Upper Joseph Creek Watershed
 - Pond cleaning (cleaned five ponds designated high priority by permittees and landowners)
 - Culvert replacement (secured designs and ordered arches. Installation in 05.)
 - Fire ridge fuel reduction
- Conducted Forest Restoration Tour in partnership with SNW, HCPC and NRAC
- Secured funding for second phase projects in Uppers Joseph Creek Watershed
 - Headwaters restoration (Upper Chesnimnus and Devils Run)
- Secured initial funding for Lower Joseph Creek Watershed Assessment
- Awarded USFS Chief's Partnership Award
- Implemented riparian plant restoration in Swamp Creek

Lower Grande Ronde Noxious Weed Management:

- Two complete river survey and treatment runs (91 river miles from Minam to confluence with Snake)
- 174,000 acres of aerial sketch mapping
- Acquired range drills for NE Oregon and Asotin Counties
- Facilitated grant to Tri-County Weed Management for treatment of north-end of Eagle Cap Wilderness
- Developed grant in partnership with USFS, TNC and Tri-County WMA to initiate similar weed management program in Imnaha and Snake River canyon lands.

Blue Mountain Habitat Restoration:

- Conducted fence maintenance and effectiveness monitoring on all sites and contracted fence repair as required.
- Completed restoration on 2 new USFS sites
- Secured seven landowner agreements, and completed restoration work on six, which resulted in 14 enclosures
- Conducted detailed mapping and demarcation of all plot centers in long-term study.

Bear Gulch Watershed Restoration:

- Completed restoration on one private landowner site
- One site remaining to complete in spring 2005.

Wallowa River Restoration:

- Completed reconstruction of meandering channel
- Initiated revegetation work
- Developed monitoring plots
- Completed several tours including OWEB Technical Committee, GRMW Board, Whitman College, etc.

Alder Slope Fuel Reduction:

- 36 enrolled private landowners with 147 acres
- 20 landowners completed work on 83 acres. WR paid out \$39,270.
- Secured extension to continue program in 2005.

Wallowa County Community Fire Plan

- Requested by NRAC to chair sub-committee of community fire plan process
- Secured Title III to fund process
- Will have draft plan completed by end of 2004 with public workshops in 2005.

Business Development

The program assists with business planning and management for any income-generating venture that Wallowa Resources becomes engaged with.

Community Smallwood Solutions:

- Secured \$150,000 in private investor capital from 12 parties (9 residents of the county)
- Created new LLC (Community Smallwood Solutions) – CSI retained 50% shareholder interest in new LLC.
- Secured Purchase Order worth \$200,000 for Long Pole business and have modified plant to meet this order
- New production team and part-time sales person in place.
- Five truck loads of new sales booked at end of November.

Nature and Heritage Explorations:

- Activity deferred until 2005.

Roundwood Buildings:

- Completed CSS Office Building
- Completed Mountain Cache Cabin
- Contributed to Nez Perce Gazebo on Tick Hill

- Completed plans for Salt Creek Summit Recreation Building and secured funding from 6 different parties for construction in 2005.
- Close to completion of plans for Wallowa County Fair Grounds Stage.

Timber Bridges:

- One timber bridge will be installed in 2005 as part of culvert replacement in Upper Joseph Creek

Landowner Association:

- Completed feasibility assessments for integrated ton wood facility in Wallowa and small saw mill operation in Baker City.
- Work included assessments of available timber supply from private family forest owners in Baker, Union, and Wallowa; assessments of best markets for log and milled products.

Education and Outreach

Wallowa Resources' Education and Outreach programs continue to expand – demonstrating the potential of Ben Boswell's vision to make education a sector of economic growth in the County.

Field Studies Program:

- Secured accreditation of 3 courses from Oregon State University (OSU). Delayed first offering via OSU E Campus until Fall of 2005.
- Secured agreement with Pacific University for stand-alone course in May 2005 drawing off courses developed for OSU.
- Completed 3 new courses for OSU accreditation in first quarter of 2005 for offering as part of 2005 Fall Term in Wallowa County.
- Invited to create a Fire and Fuels Course with Eastern Oregon University (EOU).

Wallowa Ranch Camp:

- No significant activity. Wallowa Ranch Camp suspended by Oregon East Through West.

K-12 Natural Resources Education:

- Conducted pilot Friday Field Studies Program in Swamp Creek for 10th-12th Grade Students over 10-week program.
- Conducted pilot 3-day teacher training workshop on Grande Ronde River.
- Participated in 3-day teacher training workshop organized by OSU and ODF in LaGrande.
- Conducted pilot outdoor education experience with entire Joseph Elementary School
- Exploring partnership with EOU Education Program for continuing series of teacher training institutes.

Youth Conservation Programs:

- Supported summer program for one Oregon Youth Conservation Corps program.
- Employed Wallowa and Joseph High School youth in revegetation of Wallowa River project.

Films:

- Developed initial working draft of forestry film.
- Established partnership with OPB film project on sustainable forestry in Oregon.

Information Products:

- Organizational Brochure completed and distributed.
- Web site redesigned and updated.
- Eastern Oregon Small Diameter Wood Products Fair Final Report.
- Covered by local news media nearly 20 times.

Presentations:

- Conducted four speakers forums, doubling the goal set in the Communications Plan.
- Performed four local presentations.
- Completed in excess of 12 outside community presentations reaching in excess of 500 people.
- Coordinated five project tours

Outreach:

- Provided technical assistance to eleven other local and regional groups.
- Assisted nine college students with research about Wallowa Resources.
- Subject of four case studies.
- Received three awards for projects performed and services provided.

Community Policy

- Participated in “Week in Washington” event.
- Hosted Restoration Tour.
- Sponsored fourth annual Community Based Forestry Policy Meeting
- Participated in local Natural Resource Advisory Committees
- Responded to various political initiatives e.g. funding for the Economic Action Program, permanent stewardship contracting authorities, and competitive sourcing initiative.

Organizational

- Conducted Board and staff retreat.
- Implemented new mission and strategy from retreats.
- Updated job descriptions.
- Amended Employee Manual.
- Created Fiscal Policies and Procedures Manual.
- Drafted, formalized and implemented Communication Plan.
- Conducted employee evaluations.
- Coordinated 12 Board meetings and 48 staff sessions