

## **Wallowa Resources Receives USFS “Rise to the Future” Award November, 2007**

Wallowa Resources of Enterprise, Oregon won the 2007 “Rise to the Future” Award in the Partner category from the Chief of the US Forest Service, Gail Kimbell. These awards celebrate excellence in professional fisheries management. Steve Ellis, Supervisor of the Wallowa Whitman National Forest, presented the award to Nils Christoffersen, Executive Director of Wallowa Resources, on the Chief’s behalf on Monday, November 19, 2007.

Alan Miller, Wallowa Mountain Zone Fisheries Biologist for the USFS, nominated Wallowa Resources for their contribution to fisheries restoration in Upper Joseph Creek Watershed north of Enterprise. Wallowa Resources is coordinating this effort under Wallowa County’s Natural Resource Advisory Committee.

Since 2004, Wallowa Resources raised over \$750,000 to implement the Upper Joseph Creek Watershed Action Plan. To date, over 35 miles of stream habitat have been restored for native steelhead. The biggest of these projects involved the replacement of the Billy Creek culvert with a bridge, and the replacement of the Summit Creek culvert with an open bottom arch. Each of these opened upstream habitat for steelhead spawning and rearing. In addition, 41 off-channel water sources have been developed or reconstructed to support livestock grazing. Other work includes the planting of native riparian shrubs, removal of in-stream structures, and construction of riparian fence.

In addition to supporting the Forest Service on aquatic restoration, Wallowa Resources partners the Wallowa Whitman National Forest in aquatic habitat and fisheries education. Wallowa Resources assists with the annual Free Fishing Day at Marr Pond in Enterprise, and hosts the annual Watershed Festival at the Wallowa County Fair Grounds. Aquatic ecology was the focus of this year’s Outdoor Wallowa Learning, a program Wallowa Resources provides to 4-6 grade students across the County at the start of each school year.

Wallowa Resources secured funds for these projects from the Grande Ronde Model Watershed, Bonneville Power Administration, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, National Forest Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Pacific Corp Foundation, Liz Claiborne Art Ortenburg Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Oregon Community Foundation.

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*Left to right –  
Dana Nave, USFS WMO Hydrologist, Barbara Van Alstine, USFS Wallowa Valley District Ranger, Steve Ellis, WWNF Supervisor, Nils Christoffersen and Erin Melville, Wallowa Resources*