

Wallowa Resources Annual Report • 2008

Stewardship
Community
Education



WALLOWA
RESOURCES



Wallowa County stretches across 3,145 square miles of far Northeastern Oregon—a bold landscape of breathtaking mountains, valley grasslands, timber slopes and steep canyons. It is home to the nation's deepest natural gorge, Hells Canyon; to the Wallowa Mountains—aptly nicknamed the Alps of Oregon for 26 granite peaks higher than 8,000 feet—and to Zumwalt Prairie, the largest intact bunchgrass prairie in North America.

Wallowa Resources was started by citizens of Wallowa County to help maintain the natural resource sector in the midst of profound social and economic change. We work on land, knowledge and community stewardship. We develop, promote, and implement innovative solutions to help the people of Wallowa County and the Intermountain West sustain and improve their communities and their lands.

Our work requires partnerships—collaborative relationships that build consensus on the desired future for our County, its resources and people; coordinate effort and leverage resources; and, provide the framework to scale up and address larger regional and national constraints to local sustainability.

Wallowa Resources recognizes that stewardship is an ongoing process of learning and adaptation, which requires an investment in local research, monitoring and evaluation. This learning and adaptation is best done on the ground with land managers and community members.

We support traditional agricultural and forest livelihoods and values while exploring new approaches, strategies and markets. We believe that community engagement is the dynamic foundation for solutions to both challenges and opportunities. The benefits to this approach are far-reaching—jobs, commerce, education, alliances, events, activities—sustainable communities and ecosystem health.

*The challenges facing Wallowa County and rural communities throughout the West are complex and varied. In order to meet those challenges, Wallowa Resources utilizes three programmatic emphases: **Community Development** concentrates on job and business creation and community vitality; County youth and adults learn relevant science, stewardship, and resource management concepts and skills in our **Research and Education** program; and the organization's resource management professionals lead collaborative efforts to sustain the health of public and private lands through the **Land Stewardship** program.*

Each of the programs strives toward sustainable economies and ecosystems in the County and region. Although the programs approach that goal from different perspectives, Wallowa Resources realizes that succeeding in its mission requires a synthesis of the three programs.

Wallowa Resources Board Members:

Jim Henson,
Chair

Joe McCormack,
Vice-Chair

Cory Carman

Larry Davis

Gail Hammack

Mike Hayward

Doug McDaniel

Ed Millar

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Nils D. Christoffersen,
Executive Director

Land Stewardship



Watershed Stewardship

Our Collaborative Restoration Program works with diverse partners to restore and maintain the productivity and ecological function of our watersheds. The program has restored native steelhead spawning and rearing habitat, high elevation wetlands, and terrestrial wildlife habitat, and implemented fuel reduction to improve forest stands and protect our community. All projects are designed to provide benefits to landowners and natural resource managers, including livestock producers.

Seven years of in-depth analysis have been documenting conditions of forest, range, soil, water, wildlife and fish habitat, and are allowing identification of short and long-term actions to prevent further degradation. Roughly half federal and half private land, it's been a model example of public-private cooperation toward watershed health.

Specific accomplishments in 2008 include the following:

- Opening and improvement of the High Trail in Hells Canyon National Recreation Area below Hat Point;

- Replacement of Redmont Creek Bridge to support mountain biking, equestrian, hiking and Nordic ski trails south of the Wallowa Mountain Loop Road as it rises to Salt Creek Summit;
- Completion of riparian improvements in Upper Joseph Creek and initiation of roads work and the restoration of native hardwoods and upland water sources;
- Completion of a ten-year evaluation of the effectiveness of our aspen restoration projects;
- Completion of forest and range condition assessments in Lower Joseph Creek (177,929 acres)—the first step in generating long-term management recommendations reflecting the views of diverse stakeholders.

In partnership with Wallowa County and other local groups, we also began to explore options to preserve the landscape and natural beauty of Wallowa Lake's east moraine, the future dispensation of transitional lands in the Imnaha Canyons, and the development of new models for community ownership of working forest and ranch lands.

The Collaborative Restoration Program seeks to:

1. Advance knowledge of watershed conditions and trends by conducting collaborative landscape assessments at the watershed and property scale, and identifying priorities for restoration and stewardship.
2. Improve ecological function and resource productivity by assisting in the design and implementation of priority restoration and management projects.
3. Provide social and economic benefit from working landscapes through the development of new community ownership and management models; contracting restoration and stewardship jobs to skilled local contractors; and, promoting best value contracting and performance targets for public land management.

Community Development



Community Solutions Inc.

Wallowa Resources' wholly owned for-profit subsidiary, WR-Community Solutions Inc, provides capital, business services and technical support to create and support businesses that generate benefits to the community and the environment.

In 2008, WR-CSI was in transition following the sale of Community Smallwood Solutions LLC to Upstream 21. Under a new Board of Directors led by Wendy McCullough it was re-organized to become a full partner in the support of business development opportunities in Wallowa County.

The following five strategies provided focus:

- Manage Wallowa County assets as opportunities become available
- Assess entrepreneurial potential and business opportunities in Wallowa County
- Provide business services for entrepreneurs and small businesses
- Provide capital to entrepreneurs
- Act as an entrepreneur as opportunities become known

Significant accomplishments included the launch of Renewable Energy Solutions LLC (RES) to promote renewable energy job and business development in Wallowa County as well as the installation of small/community scaled renewable energy technologies; the development of a partnership with the County and USFS to maintain and service over 100 campgrounds within the Wallowa Whitman National Forest; the completion of feasibility studies for integrated biomass utilization and renewable energy production in Baker and Wallowa Counties—in partnership with RES; and business planning support to the expansion of a custom saw mill in Joseph.

Research and Education



The Wallowa Mountain Institute

Wallowa Mountain Institute is comprised of the following programs: Youth Stewardship Education, Field Trips and Natural Heritage, and Undergraduate and Graduate Research.

The Youth Stewardship Education Program (YSEP) served 385 students in Wallowa County from kindergarten through 12 grades in 2008. The YSEP is a field-based science program which connects local students to Wallowa County's landscape, plants, animals, and people through research and awareness. Programs include OWL (outdoor school), WREN (Friday field science), WET (watershed monitoring program), and HAWK (high school apprenticeship). The program is built on strong partnerships: the Joseph, Enterprise, and Wallowa Public School Districts, Wallowa County

The Canyonlands Partnership



The Canyonlands Partnership is a unique collaboration between Wallowa Resources, county, state and federal government, private landowners and businesses. It works aggressively to prevent the spread of noxious weeds, and restore damaged, infested sites.

Noxious weeds and invasive species are an enormous and growing threat to healthy ecosystems. These alien plant species negatively impact Oregon's economy and natural resources, affecting livestock, wildlife, fisheries, habitat, water quality, and plant communities.

Working with private landowners, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Wallowa County, The Nature Conservancy and others, this program treated over 1,900 acres of weeds in 2008. Early detection surveys are critical program components that identify sites—especially small sites of new invaders—for treatment in

Education Service District, the Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the US Forest Service.

2008 was the fourth year for the Annual Watershed Festival. The popular day-long celebration attracts 500 county residents and visitors to the popular celebration of mountains, canyons, forests, rivers, lakes, animals, grasslands and people.

Wallowa Resources expanded its Natural Heritage Expeditions and Day Trips. Seven different itineraries highlight the region's natural beauty while also focusing on sustainable tourism and our stewardship ethic. All of our naturalists are local residents. Guests enjoy catering from one of the county's organic food farms, and stay in quality, locally operated facilities. Proceeds from the trips help fund our Youth Stewardship Education Program.

In March of 2008, we entered a long-term community-university partnership with the Rural Studies Program of Oregon State University. This partnership supports field courses, applied graduate research and a community indicators project.

With each of our education programs, we seek to:

1. Develop understanding of the linkage between human and ecological communities;
2. Promote a sense of place and environmental stewardship;
3. Merge natural and cultural history with the arts, humanities, and science; and
4. Inspire curiosity, critical-thinking, and life-long inquiry about nature

the program area. Various methods have proven effective for detecting weeds: helicopter surveillance, hiking, horseback reconnaissance, and waterway trips are among those used. Mapping and data collection allow for monitoring of long term trends.

The best treatment alternative is identified considering the weeds present, the site condition and the management goals of the owner/manager. Treatments may include chemical, mechanical, restoration seeding and/or biological agents. Biological control—deploying beneficial insects—has proven effective on populations of Dalmatian toadflax and Diffuse Knapweed, and Yellow Star thistle.

The Canyonlands Partnership maintains a Weed Bounty Program. The concept is simple: educate, encourage and reward land owners and recreationists for noxious weed scouting. Citizens can earn a bounty of \$200 for locating and reporting new infestations of six critical weed species. This collaboration is serving as a model for similar programs in the Oregon/Washington/Idaho area.

The Canyonlands Partnership seeks to protect and restore the canyon grasslands of the Lower Grande Ronde, Imnaha, and Snake River watersheds from invasion and degradation by noxious weeds using integrative pest management methods by:

1. Helping community members learn to identify noxious weeds and recognize the significant threat they pose to our ecology and economy.
2. Working closely with area land owners and managers to provide assistance, cost share, and expertise in the detection, treatment and restoration of noxious weed sites across jurisdictional boundaries within the Canyonlands Partnership area.

Financials

Income and Expense by Month January through December 2008

Profit & Loss

January through December 2008

Income

Restricted Grants

Local Agency Grants	17,500.00
Federal Grants	413,988.72
State Grants	119,097.37
Contract Income	132,779.38
Total Restricted Grants	683,365.47

Unrestricted Income

Foundation Grants	328,150.00
Program Revenue	80,614.16
Individual Donations	33,145.55
Corporate Donations	3,450.00
Total 4300	
Unrestricted Income	445,359.71

Total Income \$1,128,725.18

Project Expenses

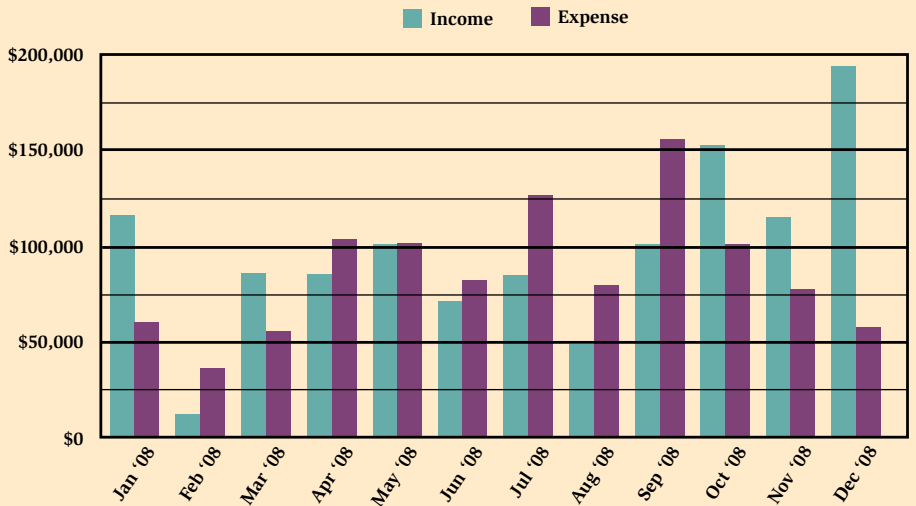
Project Payroll	308,570.04
Contractors	383,140.78
Fees & Permits	10.00
Project Supplies	110,576.46
Travel	23,731.71
Total Project Costs	826,028.99

Administrative Expenses

General Admin Office	40,719.10
G&A Payroll	64,773.60
Indirect Expenses	65,212.83
Uncategorized Expenses	865.32
Total Administrative Costs	171,570.85

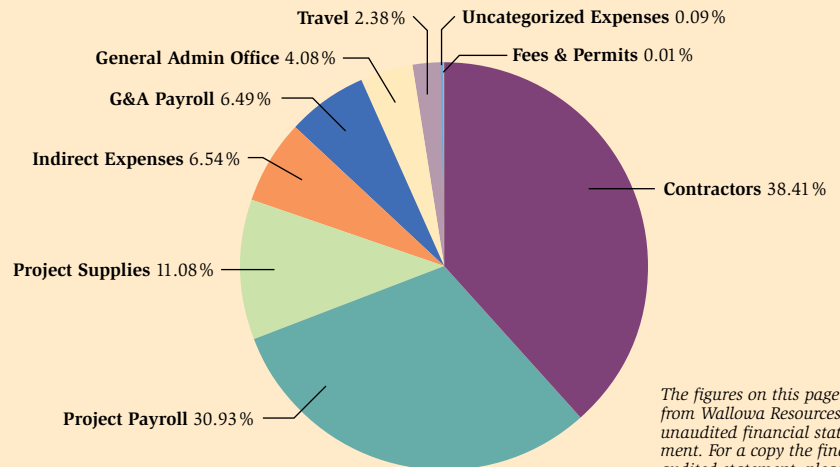
Total Expenses \$997,599.84

Net Income \$131,125.34



Expense Summary

Total Expenses for 2008 \$997,599.84



The figures on this page are from Wallowa Resources' unaudited financial statement. For a copy the final audited statement, please contact Kathy Reynolds: kathy@wallowaresources.org

Staff

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Partnership Coordinator

Erin Melville, Watershed Stewardship
Coordinator

Kathy Reynolds, Financial Manager

Penny Arentsen, Youth Stewardship
Education Coordinator

Don Harker, Managing Director,
WR Community Solutions Inc.

Sarah Ketchum, Weed Program Specialist

Troy Nave, Heritage and Field Trips
Coordinator

Donors & Grantors • 2008

Friends of Wallowa Resources (90 Individual Contributors) • Wallowa County Board of Commissioners • Natural Resource Advisory Committee, • Asotin County • Tri-County CWMA • U.S. Department of Agriculture • NRCS • USFS • Rural Development U.S. Department of Interior • Bureau of Land Management • Oregon Parks and Recreation Department • Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife • Oregon State Weed Board • Bonneville Power Association • National Forest Foundation • American Honda Foundation • Charlotte Martin Foundation • Kerr Pacific Corp • Collins Foundation • Oregon Community Foundation • Gray Family Fund • Grand Ronde Model Watershed • Friends of Paul Bunyan Foundation • Lamb Foundation • Oregon Community Foundation • Cycle Oregon • Jubitz Family Foundation • Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board • Wildhorse Foundation • Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation • Pacific Power Foundation • Ford Foundation • Upstream 21 • PGE Foundation • NW Area Foundation • National Fish & Wildlife Foundation • Compton Foundation • Wildhorse Foundation • Ford Family Foundation • Intermountain West Joint Ventures • Flora Family Foundation • Liz Claiborne Art Ortenburg Foundation • Sustainable Northwest • The Nature Conservancy • CBF Watershed Research Center • Blue Mountain Elk Initiative • Blue Mountain Habitat Restoration Council • Whitman College • Wal-Mart • Anderson Consulting Services • Coleman & Chrisman Insurance • Borgerding Construction, Inc. • Grande Ronde Lodge & Cattle • McClaran Ranches • Ted Gould Trucking • FC&C Enterprises • AGG, Inc • Northwest Fence Company • Legacy Financial Services • North Slope Resource Co.

In 2008, a local business owner independently raised over \$11,000 from our community to start an endowment for Wallowa Resources. We will build on this effort in 2009.