

WALLOWA RESOURCES 2003 – Review and Accomplishments

✿ Administration and Fundraising

The Ford Family Foundation helped to fund Diane's attendance to the Harvard Business School in July for a week long, intense training session on "Strategic Perspectives in Non-profit Management". The course was held on campus at Cambridge. The session was worth the investment of time. Many lessons were learned. Some highlighted here include: Importance of a clear mission, need for creating a program and organizational development strategy, clarifying roles and responsibilities of Board/staff/affiliates, being market sensitive, understanding the dynamics of financial stability, and utilizing the power of partnerships.

Actions identified for implementation include creating a new mission statement and reviewing our existing programs to reduce the variety. Our mission statement needs to be shortened and immediately communicate, "who we are" and "what we are trying to achieve". This exercise needs to involve the Board of Directors and staff. A copy of Diane's report is available.

"Successful companies...market-driven, successful nonprofits...mission-driven, best nonprofits...mission-driven and market sensitive" *S. Greyser*.

In our fundraising efforts, general dollars continue to be harder to find, however, project dollars have been accessed and are being put to good use.

Kathy Reynolds is serving as Financial Manager under a 20-hour per week contract. Her services have been beneficial in helping us get better organized and implement an accounting system for Community Smallwood Solutions.

- ✿ Major Donors Program – The program has included "point of entry" sessions with approximately 50 local participants, nearly 30 individual "asks", and one major "ask" event in San Francisco. The total receipts generated this year are slightly less than \$10,000, which is less than our projected \$50,000. The program took more time to implement than planned and many staff members were reluctant to follow through with individual appointments.

Forest Stewardship Programs

- ✿ Forest Certification – With the closure of the Joseph Timber Company, the only FSC certified mill in the Wallowa County, this initiative has been forced to switch gears to explore a broader range of marketing strategies that might increase revenue from private forestland, and reward good management. Collaboration with private landowners in Baker and Union County, and OSU, is taking shape to explore this issue.
- ✿ WUI (Wildland/Urban Interface) Fuels Reduction Projects – WR and the Oregon Department of Forestry continue to partner to reduce

wildland/urban interface fire risk and generate local benefits. Letters went out to landowners on Alder Slope; two foresters were contracted by WR to make evaluations. Local contractors are conducting the work for landowners that have signed up for the program.

- ✧ Sky Bob/Timber Bridges – Work on Sky Bob continues to be delayed by the NEPA permitting issues. A number of efforts to secure clearance for this research and demonstration program of light skyline logging of suppressed stands on steep slopes using Categorical Exclusions failed. We are now working to incorporate the project in the Baldwin Vegetation Management Project in Lower Joseph Creek Watershed. Work on Timber Bridges has been delayed by two years by delays from the USFS Forest Products Lab in delivering bridge designs. These designs have just been received (Nov 2003). Funding requests have been submitted to test these designs in the Upper Joseph Creek Watershed. The timber bridges will be used to replace culverts that are blocking fish passage.
- ✧ Blue Mountain Habitat Restoration – Funding has been received from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to continue the aspen restoration project. This fall WR contracted 3716' of fence build on Beeler Ridge. An article in the Chieftain requesting private landowners to partner with WR for restoration of their existing aspen stands has generated interest from local landowners. Monitoring of migratory bird species was not performed this year, but aspen monitoring was conducted using a local contractor. This project will continue in 2004.
- ✧ Community Planning Process - The process was initiated to involve the community in watershed assessment and planning relevant to public land management in the County. It also provided an opportunity to achieve greater synergy in public and private land conservation efforts. The Upper Joseph Creek Watershed Assessment is part of this process. The final assessment report will be circulated by early January 2004.
- ✧ Stewardship Contracting – The work to secure and expand local employment opportunities in forest restoration on national forest land is progressing. WR hosted our second Contractor Workshop in April of this year. 17 local contractors, along with Wallowa Resources, Forest Service, Nature Conservancy, Oregon Department of Forestry, attended the meeting. Each of the local organizations presented their upcoming schedule of work to inform contractors about future opportunities.
- ✧ Haypen III – Post-Operation fuels and vegetation condition monitoring was conducted during the summer. The results will be written up over the winter.
- ✧ Community Smallwood Solutions: Our investments in small diameter roundwood processing capacity and marketing strategies have been transferred from the Joseph Timber Company, to a new industrial site

located in the City of Wallowa. A new company, Community Smallwood Solutions (CSS), is being created under Community Solutions Inc. CSS Inc will be producing a variety of post and pole products, and watershed restoration products. The watershed restoration line of ELWD products is produced under license from Forest Concepts LLC. The primary markets for all products are expected to be Oregon, Washington, California and Idaho. Wallowa Resources is leasing the pole processing equipment directly to CSS Inc for \$1,000 per month. By 2004, Community Smallwood Solutions should be incorporated as an LLC, and Wallowa Resources (through its for-profit subsidiary Community Solutions Inc) will be the largest shareholder.

Wetland and Riparian Stewardship Program

- ✧ Wallowa River Project –Both the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Grande Ronde Model Watershed have stepped in to assist this project through the design, permitting and implementation process. New design work has been completed by ODFW, and funding proposals have been submitted to BPA and OWEB. If funding is secured, the project will be implemented in the spring and summer of 2004.
- ✧ Parks Ditch Project – Wallowa Resources is proud to report this project is complete. The Imnaha Parks Ditch Water Conservation Project is a success. The initial design planned for savings of 1.34 cfs with a maximum flow of 6 cfs in the pipeline. Actual savings could exceed 3.0 cfs – over twice the benefit to the Imnaha River. By converting an open ditch system, to an irrigation pipeline the project provides a more efficient delivery system for water diverted from the Imnaha River. This contributes to improved crop yield, reduced diversion of water from the river and thereby increased in-stream flow in the Imnaha, which benefits ESA listed Chinook and Steelhead runs.
- ✧ Bear Gulch – Improving and conserving critical water points in the Bear Gulch Watershed Area for wildlife and domestic livestock benefit continues to progress. In October a local contractor built 4018' of fence, installed four new spring boxes and water troughs. Funding from OWEB has allowed WR to partner with two landowners to expand the work onto private lands. This project will continue in 2004.

Range Stewardship Program

- ✧ The Lower Grande Ronde Noxious Weed Program continues to work across the fence lines to manage noxious weeds and maintain healthy rangelands. This year is our biggest yet with new landowners becoming involved and past partners continuing their efforts. Highlights of the year include the Scotch Thistle spray day where WR provided mixed chemicals for the community to spray Scotch Thistle and Diffuse Knapweed. Neighbors and staff from Tri County WMA and Union, Wallowa and Asotin Counties showed up to help and almost 140 acres of weeds were

treated. Another highlight was a very successful aerial spray project in the canyons - 17 landowners combined to spray near about 1400 acres of Yellow Star and Scotch thistle. WR worked with Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Asotin Counties Weed Coordinator to release two *new* Biocontrol agents into the River corridor, one for knapweed and one for Leafy Spurge. All known Leafy Spurge and Toadflax sites on the river were treated this year. The program also has become a supplier of Diffuse Knapweed biological control agents, exporting 40 releases to the Wallowa Valley and elsewhere. OYCC youths helped quite a bit this year, collecting the bugs for the aforementioned release, chopping thistles, pulling Toadflax, and using GPS units to map spurge. Intensive inventories have been preformed over thousands of acres for two new invaders (Rush Skeletonweed and Common Crupina). WR is working to coordinate revegetation efforts as well – A rangeland drill is currently in use on the river seeding weedy areas back to grass.

- ✧ Efforts to secure funding for WR or local interest purchase of or interest in the Lewis ranch Properties in Imnaha were not successful. It appears that the ranch will be involved with the land exchange as the Lewis family has accepted the offer of a private group that is working with Clearwater Land Exchange. The deal should close on December 15th, 2003. Cooperative efforts with future owners will be explored.
- ✧ The Range Condition Assessment portion of the Upper Joseph Creek Assesment is about to wrap with the production of final maps of plant community and condition class. WR has helped to organize meetings and cooperation from area landowners and permittees. Many projects have been identified to improve cattle distribution, water systems and range condition and implementation should begin this spring.

Education

- ✧ Wallowa Ranch Camp - Hosted four camps this past summer, attendance from the urban campers was low this year but local youth filled the spots. WR continues to provide administration support to Oregon East through West. WR also assisted with fundraising, securing funding from the Enterprise Education Foundation, Friends of Paul Bunyon toward the general camp operation, and funding for aspen fence work on the Zumwalt.
- ✧ Field Studies Program - With support from the County Commissioners (Title III Funding), Wallowa Resources developed the first two courses of a new Field Studies Program that eventually will cater to students, teachers and professionals of all ages and abilities. The first two courses that will be offered in 2004 are targeted for undergraduates interested in natural resources management and environmental education. The courses are being developed in partnership with Oregon State University, and are currently being considered for accreditation by OSU under their Natural Resources Program.

- ✧ OYCC Program - This summer Wallowa Resources coordinated a three-day, two-night float trip for ten youth and two crew leaders on the Minam and Grande Ronde River. On this trip the youth learned about watersheds, hydrology, navigating the river and weeds. A crew of five youth and one crew leader got lots of hands on weed experience this summer pulling weeds on the Grande Ronde, in a local aspen enclosure and on Clear Lake Ridge. They built fence, captured bugs for bio-control, worked on watershed restoration on Swamp Creek and planted on Dead Horse Ridge to help create better habitat.
- ✧ Nature and Heritage Program – The initial season of this program was postponed due to delays in marketing, and constraints in securing permits from the USFS due to the fire season. The USFS and the Outfitters and Guides are all interested in pursuing this project with WR in 2004. The new Business Development Officer is spearheading the planning and preparation for the 2004 season.
- ✧ Easter Oregon Small Diameter Fair – Funding was secured through a National Fire Plan Grant to fund this event which will happen in March of 2004. This event will be the first eastern Oregon regional small diameter wood products fair and will convene leading businesses, community leaders, and entrepreneurs to shape the future of the wood products industry. This event will help eastern Oregon become a leader in ecosystem restoration, wildfire risk reduction and wood products utilization.

Outreach

- ✧ Warm Hearts Warm Homes – Wallowa Resources, Oregon Department of Forestry, Community Connections, Human Services, and local residents partnered to sponsor this project. Through our combined effort, firewood for disadvantaged families and elderly in Wallowa County was provided last winter. Through Community Connections, Wallowa Resources' received requests from 24 households for firewood. We are proud to say we delivered firewood to all of them! Volunteers spent many of their Saturdays splitting, stacking and loading firewood on pickups to be delivered throughout the Wallowa Valley.
- ✧ Dale Bosworth, Chief of the Forest Service visited Wallowa County in May. Wallowa Resources, Sustainable Northwest and our local Forest Service District office hosted the visit that highlighted collaboration in Wallowa County, the community planning process, fuels reduction and thinning projects as well as candid discussions about the continuing decline in economic stability occurring in Wallowa County.
- ✧ National Geographic Senior Illustrations Editor Chris Johns and his family spent nearly a week in Wallowa County visiting with Wallowa Resources and enjoying the splendor of the place we call home.

Communication and Information

- * Wallowa Resources newsletter is now published twice a year.
- * Databases updates continue with contractors, donors, newsletter and foundations being some of the categories stored.
- * Publication of the new brochure is on line to happen soon. WR contracted Stacy Green to work with the staff to produce a more understandable brochure after receiving input from some Board members that the draft was too technical. The text is finished and we are about ready to go to print.

Policy

- * Recognition of Wallowa Resources' work resulted in Nils' appointment as Chairman of the Governor's Eastside Forest Advisory Panel. Diane continues to serve on the Oregon State Board of Forestry. Mark Porter remains as Chairman of the Wallowa County Weed Board. All three of these staff members work on a regular basis with the County's Natural Resource Advisory Committee.
- * Monitoring remains a priority of the organization's policy work. Activities in monitoring aside from project implementation monitoring, includes participation on the Regional Monitoring Team for Stewardship Pilots, membership on the Oregon Progress Board, the Northeast Oregon Community Assessment Workgroup, pilot status under the criteria and indicators process, and assistance to the Sustainability Roundtable.
- * At the federal level, the major issues requiring our work include: maintaining funding for the Forest Services and its Economic Action Program; permanent authorization of the stewardship contracting authorities; and implementation of the National Fire Plan and the Healthy Forests Initiative. In addition, Jesse Abrams, an OSU Graduate Student, interned this summer and performed an in-depth study of the impacts of the Competitive Sourcing Initiative on the Forest Service and rural communities.
- * The Community Planning Process is actively promoted as a model for collaborative natural resource management. Presentations have been made in many areas including to the Chief of the Forest Service and to the National Schools and Counties Coalition.