



2017 Annual Report

A Message From Our Director



In our 21st year, Wallowa Resources maintained strong performance putting natural resources and people back to work – in a way that sustains our lands and community for the future. This past year, our programs supported 57 jobs and put \$1.7 million into our local economy. Our Watershed Stewardship Program paid local contractors over \$300,000 to improve fish passage for chinook, steelhead and bull trout, and to complete forest health and fuel reduction treatments on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Our Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership program paid local contractors \$162,000 to treat 1300 acres of invasive weeds, and spent \$50,000 with local businesses.

As a key player in forest collaboration, community wildfire planning, and outreach and engagement to family forest landowners, we're building the foundation for large landscape forest restoration and new job opportunities. Our outdoor education programs reached over 500 K-12 students in the county, as well as university students from across the West. Through these efforts we're nurturing the next generation of land stewards and natural resource

Nils Christoffersen, Executive Director



Ford Family Capacity Grant

In 2017 we were awarded a Special Opportunity Grant from the Ford Family Foundation to invest in our organization and build capacity to advance our mission, and extend services to more communities across NE Oregon. This two-year grant, totaling \$467,380, will allow us to hire three new staff, including a Program Director, a Development Director and a Communications Coordinator. The Program Director will also assume the duties of our Watershed Stewardship Program Manager.

With this support, we will invest in actions that 1) increase the health of forested landscapes and the vitality of communities, 2) encourage new sustainable business development, including biomass and other sustainable energy models, 3) explore new structures and relationships that improve access to social impact capital for local enterprises, and 4) sustain and advance core programs and innovation in Wallowa County to continue providing replicable models to other communities.

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Nils Christoffersen

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Lick Creek culvert replacement project provides improved habitat



The Lick Creek culvert was replaced with a 40-foot-span concrete bridge, eliminating spawning and rearing habitat barriers for steelhead, spring Chinook salmon, bull trout and Pacific lamprey.

In 2017, our largest watershed restoration project was the replace of a failing culvert on Lick Creek at the FR 3925-015 crossing. This culvert was identified as a barrier to juvenile salmonids by the Nez Perce Tribe. It blocked access to 2.5 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead; 1 mile of rearing habitat for juvenile spring Chinook salmon, 5 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for bull trout, and an estimated 2.5 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for Pacific lamprey.

With financial support from BPA, OWEB and USFS – we contracted with Henderson Logging LLC to replace the culvert with a 40-foot-span concrete bridge, and construct a new stream channel with additional pool structures and large wood debris to enhance existing channel complexity and habitat. During the after project review, representatives from the USFS praised the work, stating it was “one of the best culvert replacement project that [they’ve] seen in the last 15 years”.

High school internships provide valuable learning opportunities for local youth

Three Wallowa County high school students (11th and 12th graders) worked for Wallowa Resources for over 6 weeks during the summer of 2017. The students were from Wallowa High School, Alternative High School, and home school. The High School Apprentice Work Program (HAWK) team went on several outings, interspersed with classroom lecture on broad topics including natural resource management, basic ecological principles, and range management. As well as, more specific study and discussion guided by selected readings based around the field day experiences we were going to have. These included: water resource scarcity and issues in the West and Oregon, invasive and noxious weed issues and management in the West and Oregon, watershed restoration and management, forestry practices and management and fire ecology in the West, issues facing Aspen restoration and management in the West and Oregon, and renewable energy issues and growth in the West, with specific concentration on community based micro-hydro projects.



HAWK interns learning about forest management and the importance of understanding tree health

Trails Association formed in Wallowa County



WMHCTA members work to remove blackberry vines and other debris from the Imnaha River Trail

After more than a year of weekly organizing committee meetings, a new volunteer organization, the Wallowa Mountains Hells Canyon Trails Association (WMHCTA), launched its first season of work, clearing trails in, you guessed it, the Wallowa Mountains and Hells Canyon. Wallowa Resources provided staff support and office space to WMHCTA. Both organizations are part of the Eagle Cap Partnership, along with Eastern Oregon University and the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The partnership seeks to leverage each member's expertise in stewardship, education, and recreation to generate "collective impact" on public lands in northeast Oregon.

The Eagle Cap, Hells Canyon, and Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness areas comprise the largest and most heavily used wilderness complex east of the Cascades in Oregon, with over 40,000 visitors annually, but declining USFS budgets have resulted in hundreds of miles of deferred maintenance. WMHCTA's first season was a great success, with 32 volunteers putting in nearly 1200 hours with crosscut saws, loppers, and other hand tools to clear 27 miles of trail. WMHCTA coordinated closely with US Forest Service staff, who provided training and logistical support. Of the ten work parties, four included high school or college students who wanted to perform community service and develop outdoor skills.

Medusahead rye treatment and re-vegetation success



Left side photo: In 2009, the light brown patches are Medusahead infestations. Right side photo: In 2017, after several years of different treatments, intermediate wheatgrass begin to establish within the former Medusahead patches

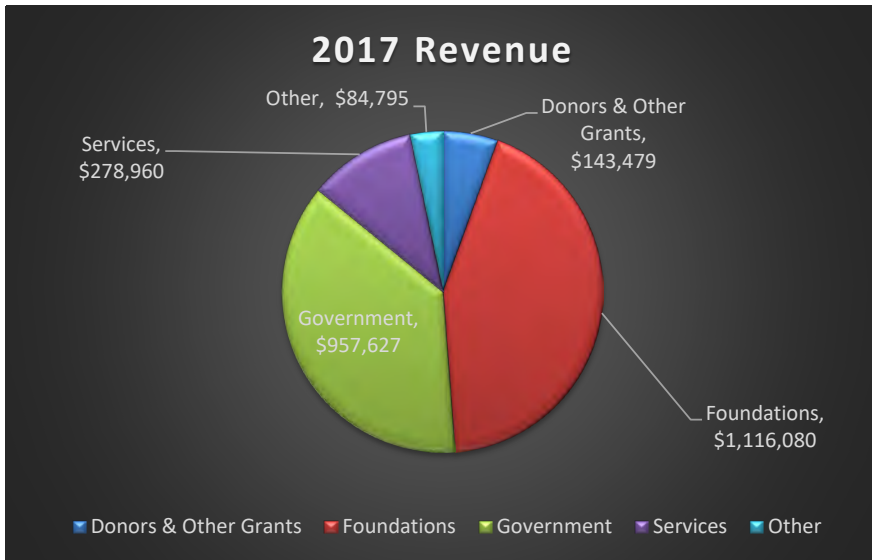
Re-establishing desirable vegetation on sites that have been overrun with annual invasive grasses such as Medusahead rye is a major challenge for land managers and private landowners. Wallowa Resources has worked with multiple partners for many years to create solutions for this problem. In 2017, we had funding from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and private landowners to implement a large aerial application of seed on over 600 acres of Medusahead sites we treated with chemical the previous year.

This was one of the largest re-vegetation efforts we've made since the program's inception. We were not able to see the immediate results from this effort because it can take a few years for the planted seeds to establish, but we know from other sites that species such as intermediate wheatgrass are likely to emerge, thereby reducing density of Medusahead on these sites.



2017 Financials

Revenue Summary



Expense Summary



Grantors and Supporters

2017 Government & Foundation Contributors:

American Forest Foundation, Autzen Foundation, Bonneville Power Association, Building Healthy Families, Bureau of Land Management, Collins Foundation, Eastern Oregon University, Gray Family Foundation, Herbert A. Templeton Foundation, Kelley Foundation Trust, Meyer Memorial Trust, National Forest Foundation, OR Community Foundation, OR Department of Education, OR Dept. Fish and Wildlife, OR Dept. Forestry, OR Parks & Rec, OR State Weed Board, OR Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon State University, Pacific Power, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Sills Family Foundation, Sustainable Northwest, The Ford Family Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Tri County Cooperative Weed Management, Union County, University Of Colorado, USDA US Forest Service, Wallowa Lake Property Association, Warner Family Charitable Fund, WC Wallowa County, Wildhorse Foundation

2017 Supporters:

Bank of Eastern Oregon, Barreto Manufacturing, Inc., Winding Waters River Expeditions, The Blackfoot Challenge, Buhler Ranch Partnership, Building Healthy Families, Energy Trust of Oregon, The Forest Guild, Grande Ronde Model Watershed, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards, Powder Basin Watershed Council, Ruby Peak Naturals, LLC, Les Schwab Tire Center, US Fish & Wildlife, Wallowa Lake State Park, Wallowa United Methodist Church Resale Store, Wallowa Valley Networks, Whitman College, Susan Bexton & Scott Flor, Eric Borgerding, Greg & Cindy Brink, Chris Buhler, Erik & Alissa Christoffersen, Diane Daggett, Rocky & Julie Dixon, Brad Doran, Peter Ferre', Figgins Family Wine Estates, Nels Gabbert & Eileen Trudeau, Jacob Hasslacher, Mike & Bev Hayward, Tyler Hays, James Honey, Ann Humphrey, Bruce Murray & Valerie Ilsley, Jean Jancaitis & Jonathan Plummer, Dale & Lu Johnson, Clint & Maureen Krebs, Scott & Vicki McClaran, Doug McDaniel & Gail Hammack, Jeff & Kathryn Nuss, Brad & Anne Stephens, Mike & Deanna Williams, Bob Winn. **219 individual contributors.**