

# factsheet

July 2006

## John Day River celebration

### The John Day Basin

The John Day is the second longest free-flowing river in the contiguous United States and the longest containing entirely wild runs of anadromous fish.

The anadromous runs are spring chinook salmon and summer steelhead. The river also contains resident populations of westslope cutthroat, redband and bull trout.

Originating in the Strawberry Mountains near Prairie City, the John Day River flows northwesterly 284 miles to enter the Columbia River approximately four miles upstream of the John Day Dam. The basin drains over 8,000 square miles, is Oregon's fourth largest drainage basin and incorporates portions of 11 counties.

### Restoration Activities

To date 66 diversion dams that hinder fish passage have been replaced with fish friendly diversions and pumping stations.

The fish friendly replacement diversions have enhanced fish passage to over 50 miles of migratory, spawning and rearing habitat for both steelhead and spring chinook.

2,387 acres have been cleared of western juniper and been revegetated with desirable native species to improve headwater flows.

Approximately 16 miles of riparian habitat has been protected with fencing and 18 miles of riparian hardwoods have been planted.

Seven irrigation delivery efficiency projects have been completed to increase base flows in the upper John Day Subbasin.

Nine underground pipe irrigation return flow cooling projects have been completed, resulting in cooler river water.

Nine upland and off-channel water developments have been installed to improve riparian area health by watering livestock away from the riparian area. These water developments have also provided upland water sources for wildlife and are improving upland conditions in an effort to increase base flows to streams.

The program has established the premier native plants nursery and is currently growing native cuttings and seedlings necessary to complete work in the John Day Subbasin.

BPA has also purchased the Oxbow and Forrester conservation areas on behalf of the tribes. The combined 5,200 acres provide fish habitat protection and enhancement that includes approximately 10 miles of mainstem and Middle Fork John Day rivers as well as several tributaries.

### Project Partners

Through their John Day Basin Office, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon have played a pivotal role in the John Day Watershed restoration effort. The Grant Soil and Water Conservation District has established a long-term successful relationship with private landowners



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while designing and implementing the fish friendly diversion projects proposed and coordinated by the tribes. Other partners include:

- Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Bureau of Land Management
- Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District
- Bonneville Power Administration
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Forest Service

- Farm Service Agency
- Oregon Water Resources
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Oregon Water Trust
- South Fork Watershed Council
- Oregon Trout
- Grant County Conservationists
- Oregon Youth Conservation Corps
- The North Fork Watershed Council
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Monument Soil and Water Conservation District