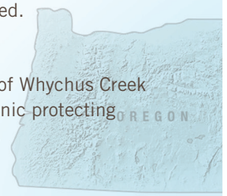
Whychus Creek
RESTORATION TIMELINE

1987 Oregon's Instream Water Rights Act is passed.



1988 The upper 15 miles of Whychus Creek is declared wild & scenic protecting flows, fish and habitat.

1995 **The Deschutes Land Trust** is established.

1996 **The Deschutes River Conservancy** and the **Upper Deschutes Watershed Council** are formed.

1999 Flow restoration work begins on Whychus Creek. (The Creek has never seen a dry day since.)

2000 Camp Polk Meadow Preserve is acquired by Deschutes Land Trust.

2004 Beginning of conserved water and piping in the Three Sisters Irrigation District.

2005 Restoration planning begins at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve.

2007 Steelhead fry are reintroduced in Whychus Creek.

2007 Upper Deschutes Watershed Council begins fish passage & screening work.

2009 Downstream passage is reestablished at Lake Billy Chinook.

2012 First adult steelhead migrate back to Whychus Creek.

Projects & Partnerships

The importance of cooperation in the restoration efforts in Whychus Creek cannot be emphasized enough. The projects outlined on this map are the result of committed efforts by local and regional funding sources. Once a dry creek bed in the summer, Whychus Creek is now starting to see healthier flows year round — a testament to power of partnerships.

Deschutes River

Alder Springs

Whychus Creek

Indian Ford Creek >

Sisters

North Sister

Middle Sister

South Sister

Whychus Headwaters

Camp Polk Meadow Preserve

A newly transformed reach of Whychus Creek now meanders through Camp Polk Meadow. Restored habitat, floodplain and streamflows bring back an important spawning ground for steelhead. Camp Polk Meadow is the quintessential example of the power of the collaborative process engaged by organizations such as the Deschutes Land Trust, the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, the US Forest Service and the Deschutes River Conservancy.

Pine Meadow Ranch

In 2014, reintroduced steelhead in Whychus Creek gained access to 13 miles of upstream habitat and an additional 1 cubic foot per second (cfs) of streamflow. The historic Pine Meadow Ranch partnered with the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, the US Forest Service and the Deschutes River Conservancy to replace an outdated dam and earthen ditch with a more efficient and fish-friendly diversion and irrigation system.

TSID Hydro

Fish-friendly renewable electricity is produced at TSID's brand new 0.75 MWt in-pipe hydropower generator installed at District headquarters at Watson Reservoir. Additionally, piping provides pressurized water for farmers, reducing electricity needs on farms. Future piping projects will provide the opportunity for a second 0.3 MWt generator at McKenzie Reservoir.

Uncle John Ditch

By removing an unscreened diversion and re-routing irrigation water through TSID's Main Canal, this project restored 2.5 cfs of streamflow back to Whychus Creek, while ensuring fish and other wildlife do not become trapped within the irrigation system.

Three Sisters Irrigation District (TSID)

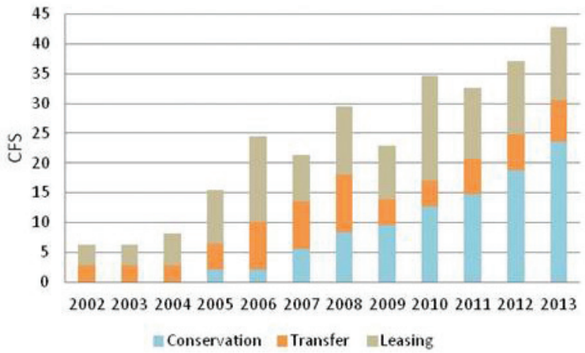
Water Conservation

TSID and its partners have now piped over half of the District's canal system and protected up to 23 cubic feet per second (cfs) instream.

Fish Passage, Screening & Floodplain Restoration

In 2009, fish passage at the District's head works was re-established providing fish access to spawning habitat upstream. The diversion was also retrofitted to provide fish screening and prevent fish from becoming trapped within TSID's canal system.

Restored Flows



Flows

Since the early 1900s, Whychus Creek ran dry in two out of every three years due to irrigation diversions. Through a combination of water conservation (i.e. piping) and both permanent and temporary water transfers, the creek is now well on its way to achieving the flows necessary for reintroduced steelhead. Continued investments in streamflow projects will also have a direct effect on other indicators of river health, such as improved habitat availability and cooler water temperatures.

Leveraging Funds

In the conservation world, good projects often appear as points on a map or figures on a spreadsheet; and while a single project rarely achieves watershed-level results, strategic and integrated solutions can leverage resources to achieve greater outcomes. By focusing on outcomes and through the efforts of many partners, Fish and Wildlife investments in Whychus Creek stream flows (through the CBWTP) were **leveraged 9:1** between 2008 and 2012.

In addition to heavily leveraged investments in streamflow, CBWTP funds compliment watershed-scale restoration efforts occurring at a massive scale through the work of the Deschutes Partnership, a consortium of groups including the Deschutes River Conservancy, the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council and the Deschutes Land Trust. The Deschutes Partnership works to restore and enhance the biological and ecological conditions necessary to support a thriving steelhead population in Whychus Creek. Additional partners and funders in Whychus Creek are listed below.

Funder*	$ Contribution
CBWTP	$874,000
Pelton Water Fund	$1,898,910
Private	$579,285
Federal	$2,859,209
State	$2,258,672
Total	**$8,470,076**

*Streamflow investment in Whychus Creek (2008-2012)

Reintroduction

Streamflow restoration is only one indicator of overall river health and local partners have focused on restoring the entire structure and function of the creek instead of just a single component. This holistic approach is especially critical because **the fish are already here.** In 2012, the first returning adult steelhead in over 50 years passed above the dams at Lake Billy Chinook and were able to return to their ancestral spawning grounds in Whychus Creek.

This reintroduction program, supported by more than 20 partners and spanning several decades, is the largest anadromous fish reintroduction program on the West Coast. Whychus Creek plays an important role in reintroduction because it provides approximately 40% of the steelhead habitat necessary to support the reintroduced fish.

Partners

Bella Vista Foundation, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Bonneville Power Administration City of Sisters, Clabough Foundation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Laird Norton Family Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program, National Forest Foundation, National Marine Fisheries Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Community Foundation, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Portland General Electric/Pelton Water Fund, Reser Family Foundation, Roundhouse Foundation, The Freshwater Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Three Sisters Irrigation District, Trout Unlimited, US Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and US Forest Service

The Deschutes PARTNERSHIP

Why Whychus?

From headwaters high on the glacial slopes of the Three Sisters and Broken Top mountains, Whychus Creek naturally flows cold, clear and unimpeded on its 40 mile journey through the city of Sisters and the lush meadows of Camp Polk before reaching the Deschutes River. Like many Western streams, Whychus Creek plays a significant role in providing irrigation water to farms and local communities which has impacted streamflow, water quality and habitat over the past century.

When pioneers first arrived in Sisters 150 years ago, Whychus Creek offered the ideal setting for a new beginning: abundant water for crops and cattle as well as thriving fish and wildlife populations. Today, a broad coalition of Oregonians is ensuring the successful reintroduction of steelhead, an extraordinary fish that migrates hundreds of miles to and from the Pacific Ocean, returning to headwater tributaries such as Whychus Creek to spawn a new generation. Join us in the effort to repopulate Whychus Creek with this iconic and inspirational symbol of resilience and renewal in the American West.