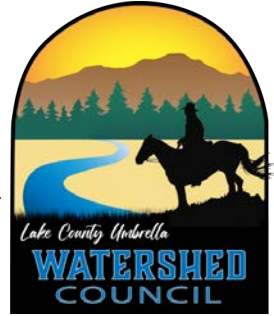


LAKE COUNTY UMBRELLA WATERSHED COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT



2024

Our Story

Established in the mid 1990s, five independent Watershed Councils were formed to represent each distinct watershed in Lake County. The Councils (made up of local residents) assisted landowners with watershed projects to improve and promote watershed health. Over time, the Councils merged to become the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council. With the aid of many partners, the Council plans, secures grant funding, implements, and monitors watershed restoration and enhancement projects.

Our Mission

The Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council strives to promote cooperative watershed restoration across jurisdictional boundaries, to enhance Lake County's watersheds for present and future generations.

Our Lake County Home

Lake County is made up of multiple, diverse watersheds, each of which have characteristics the State of Oregon recognizes as having priority significance. These characteristics provide the foundation for our restoration and enhancement efforts. Understanding and appreciating our working landscape in Lake County, we help design and implement projects that are beneficial to the land, water, and wildlife...but to the landowner as well. We focus on Ridgetop to Ridgetop Restoration.

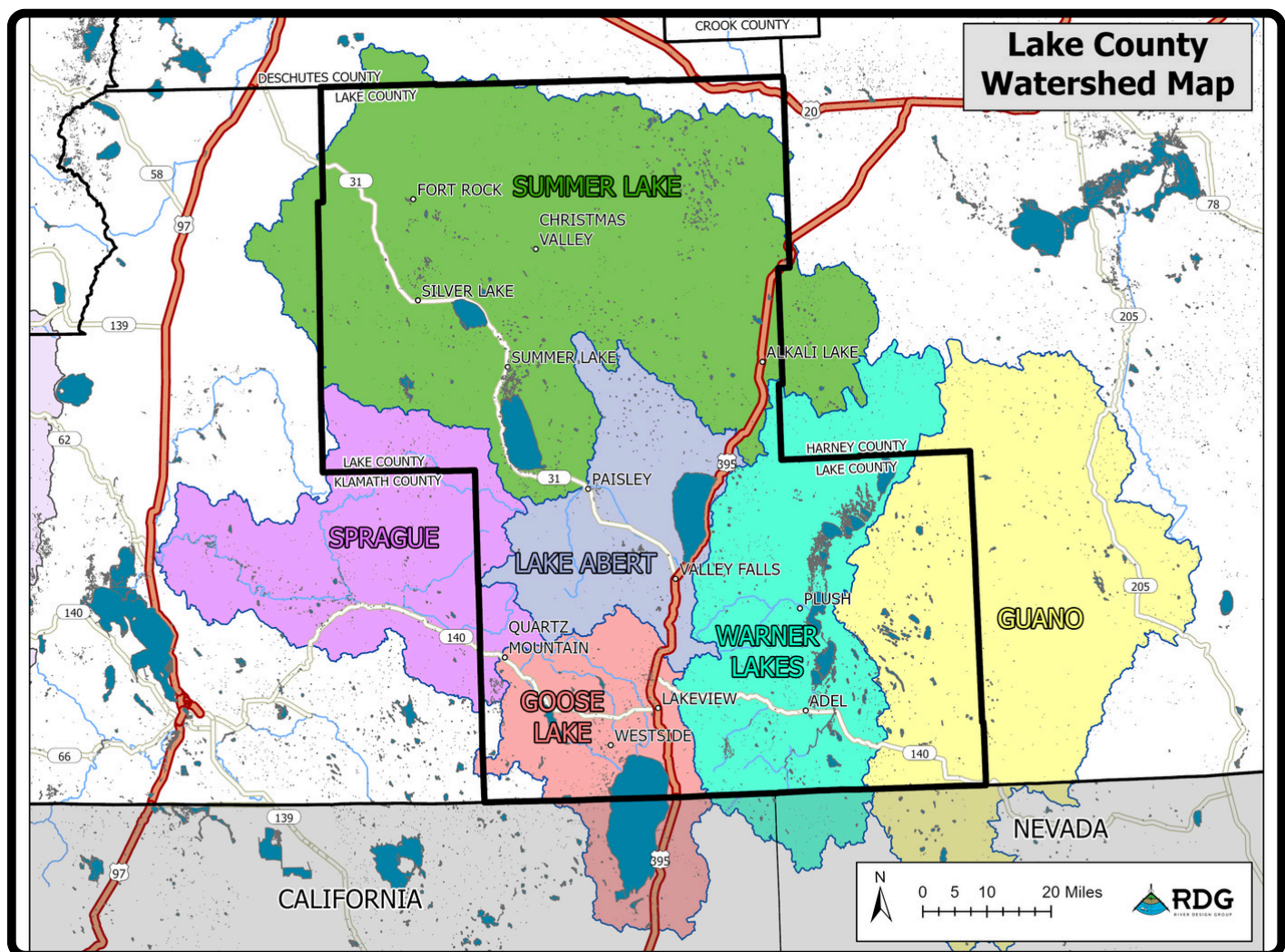
RIDGETOP TO RIDGETOP RESTORATION





LAKE COUNTY WORKING LANDS

Working Lands are defined as areas of land “where farming, ranching, or forestry are actively taking place, while simultaneously aiming to maintain and conserve the natural ecosystem-balancing economic needs with environmental sustainability.” The map below shows our Lake County working landscapes & watershed boundaries.



OUR WORKING LANDS RESOURCE HUB

Lake County's working lands just gained a powerful new ally with the grand opening of the Our Working Lands Resource Hub, a shared office space housing four organizations committed to supporting the region's natural resources and agricultural communities.

The hub brings together the following organizations:

- **Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council** Supports watershed restoration and enhancement projects through collaboration with landowners and partners.
- **Soil & Water Conservation District** Promotes soil health, prevents erosion, and assists landowners with conservation practices to sustain agricultural productivity.
- **Lake County Cooperative Weed Management Area** Works with the community to control invasive weeds and protect native plants and landscapes.
- **Pheasants Forever** Focuses on wildlife habitat restoration and sustainable land management benefiting upland birds and other wildlife.

Together, these organizations combine expertise and resources to address challenges facing Lake County's working lands. The shared office space fosters collaboration, streamlines communication, and serves as a hub for community engagement.

620 N 1st St.
Lakeview, OR 97630



COUNCIL & CONTRACTORS

Tom O'Leary- Chair, Silver Lake Community Watershed

Pete Talbott- Secretary/Treasurer, Goose Lake Watershed

John Taylor- Vice Chair, Warner Basin Watershed

Jayna Ferrell- Crooked Creek Watershed

Matt Withers- Upper Sycan Watershed

Jack O'Leary- Chewaucan Watershed

Fiscal Administrator

-Colleen Withers, 541-610-3134

-slidemountainsolutions@gmail.com

Project Manager, Uplands Coordinator

-Autumn Muir, 541-817-5649

-lakecountywsc@gmail.com

Project Manager, Stream & Riparian Coordinator

-Brandi Neider, 541-219-0493

-bdneider23@gmail.com

Watershed Assistant

-Riane Miles, 503-302-6691

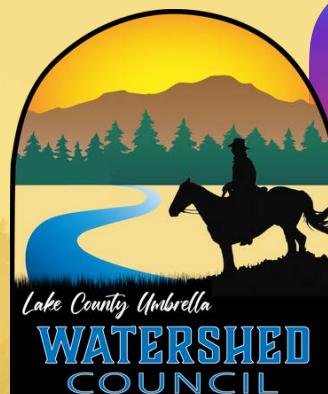
-lakeco.watersheds@gmail.com

LCUWC

PO Box 848

Lakeview, OR 97636

Visit us at www.lakecountywsc.com



Find us on Facebook &
Instagram

Photo Credit: Jade Elhardt

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEMBERS & FUNDING PARTNERS

Federal

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- US Fish & Wildlife
- US Forest Service

State

- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon Department of Transportation
- Oregon State University Extension
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Oregon Water Resources Department

Local

- Lake County Commissioners
- Lake County Community Foundation
- Lake County Cooperative Weed Management Area
- Lake County Resource Initiative
- Lakeview and Silver Lake/Fort Rock
 - Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership

Other/Private

- American Forest Foundation
- Desert Fish Habitat Partnership
- Ducks Unlimited
- Resource Legacy Fund
- Western Native Trout Initiative



2024 VALUED CONTRACTORS

Anabranch Solutions, LLC
Anderson Engineering and Surveying
ARM Initiatives
ASM Affiliates
Bill Tracy
Chuck Kelley
Coyote Moon Enterprises, LLC
Dave's Tree Service, LLC
David Halter
Dog Lake Construction
DL Reforestation Inc.
Ethos Global Holdings Limited
Fosters Natural Resource Contracting
Grayback Forestry Inc.
Helena Agri-Enterprises
Horseshoe Meadow, LLC
John Albertson
John Flook
JR Carlon Corp.
Nils Martinsson
Lawson Logging
Larkmuir, LLC
Leading Edge Aviation

Lone Pine Contracting
Michael Douglas
Mountain View Reforestation, LLC
Northwest Electric & Excavation Inc.
O'Leary Equipment
Pardue Construction, LLC
Shannon Theall
Sweeney Construction
Svejcar Research & Consulting
SC Ranch, LLC
Stevie Ruda
River Design Group
SWCA, Incorporated
Slide Mountain Solutions
T.A. Lawson & Sons, Inc.
Thomas Creek Construction, LLC
Table Rock Forestry
The Pivot Earth
Tom Zarosinski
Valley View Forestry
Wallowa Resources
Wilson Herbicide



Ridgetop to Ridgetop Watershed Management

Ridgetop to Ridgetop planning starts in the upland timber stands through forest health treatments and works its way through the landscape to meadows, streams, and lakes below where a variety of restoration techniques can improve watershed conditions, benefiting wildlife, aquatic species, and working landscapes.

Forest Health & Juniper Thinning

Juniper expansion has shown a negative impact on forage production, wildlife habitat, fire cycles, and overall watershed functions. Treatment options are available to reverse this trend. Forest health projects are NOT just limited to juniper removal. Treatment can include pine and aspen stand enhancement as well.

Post Fire Recovery

The effects of climate change have been significant in Lake County. The two most recent catastrophic fires were the Bootleg Fire, which burned to 414,000 acres, and the Cougar Peak Fire, which grew to over 85,000 acres. Both fires started in untreated dense forests, in red flag warning weather conditions, resulting in extreme fire behavior and rapid fire growth. The LCUWC seeks out funding to help private landowners respond to these devastating fires with emergency and long term restoration solutions.

Riparian and Wetland Area Management

The LCUWC works with landowners to implement practical, but efficient riparian and wetland area restoration strategies. These strategies allow operators to sustain a productive forage community for livestock feed while enhancing riparian and wetland function.

Stream Restoration

The health of our streams is a direct reflection of the health of our land. The LCUWC is committed to helping landowners improve watershed function and stream channel health. Streams connect the mountains to the valleys, the headwaters to the lakes, and the people to the land.

Fish Passage & Screening

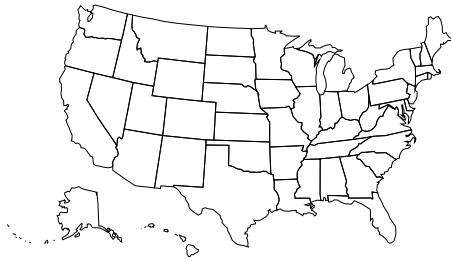
Maintaining water resources for our agriculture community and native fish populations is important to the LCUWC. Working cooperatively with landowners and agency partners can lead to a win-win scenario where efficient irrigation and watering systems are implemented, while providing fish passage and quality habitat for native fish species.

Education & Outreach

The Council provides education activities for youth and adults throughout Lake County. We connect youth and landowners to experts in the field to provide information about natural resources, watershed function, restoration techniques, and more.

Consultation

Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council Project Managers can help landowners develop a project and connect them to valuable resources. Whether someone already has ideas about his or her land or not, the first step in any watershed restoration or enhancement project is consultation. We are happy to help!



Federal Project \$ Spent:
\$349,473.48



State Project \$ Spent:
\$1,563,745.75



Other Project \$ Spent:
\$24,043.30



Stream & Riparian \$
Allocation:
\$664,970.92



Upland & Forest Health
\$ Allocation:
\$463,316.49



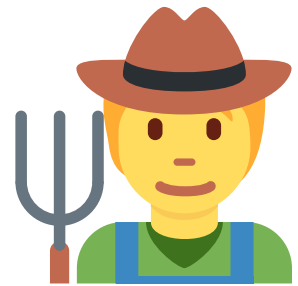
Project Mngmt. \$ Spent:
\$149,842.16
(8% of total project \$)



Small Grant Program:
\$23,15.00



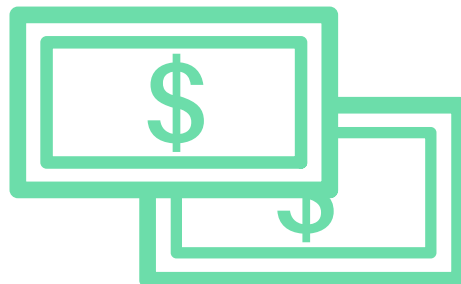
Post-Wildfire Project \$ Spent:
\$718,592.98



Landowners Served:
Approx. 288
Landowners Contacted:
Approx. 691



Contractors Hired: 45

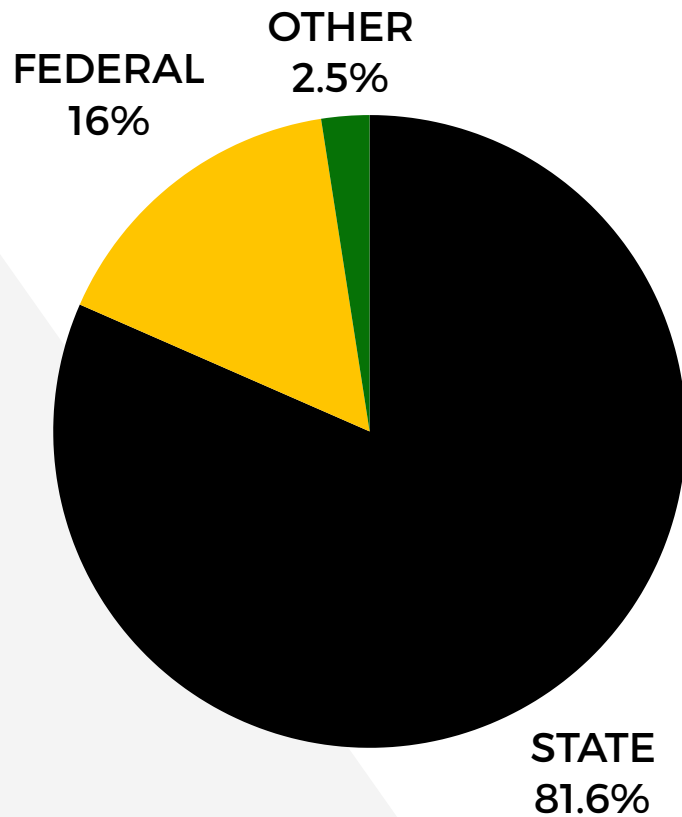


**2025 Secured
Funding:
\$5Million+**

*Figures are as of 12.31.2024

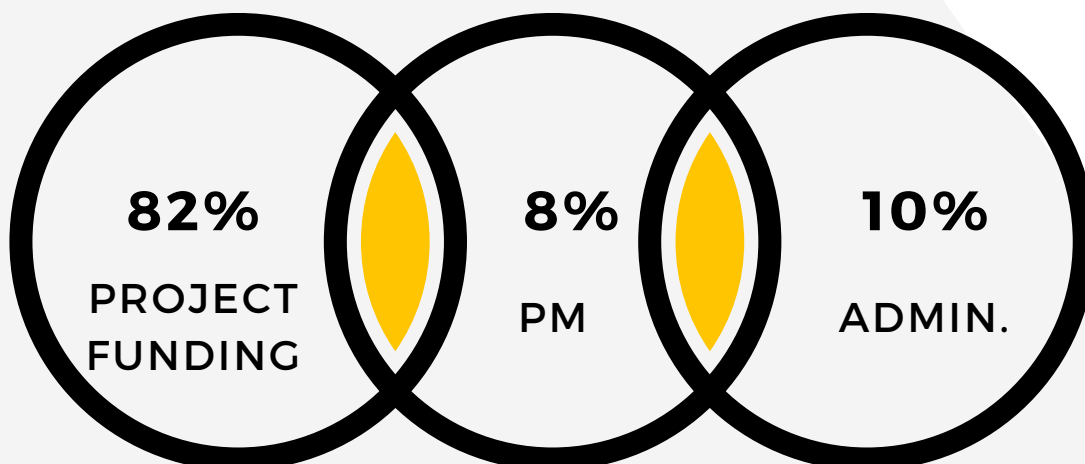
FUNDERS

All funders and partnerships are critical to the work we accomplish. This graph shows a percentage breakdown of 2024 funding sources.



HOW WE WORK

The LCUWC allocates the majority of funding to the project itself. Project Management (PM) pays our local contractors (Uplands and Stream/Riparian Coordinators), Administration (ADMIN) pays local contractors (Program/Fiscal Manager and Watershed Assistant), but completely supports our growth and operations: i.e. insurance, fees, office space, promotional products, advertising, most youth education, and more.



2024 PROJECTS

Planning & Design

- Chewaucan Watershed Assessment (Complete)
- Cougar Peak and Patton Meadow Post Fire Recovery
 - Upper Mesman Creek / Camp Creek
- Cottonwood Creek Fish Habitat Restoration
- Cox Flat Stage Zero Planning and Design
- East Camp Creek Crossing
- Deep Creek Town Assessment
- Deep Creek Starveout Diversion Fish Screen Design
- Drews Creek Fish Passage and Stream Restoration
- Goose Lake Water Conservation Study (Complete)
- Lake County All Lands Restoration Initiative Prescribed Fire TA (Complete)
- Lake County All Lands Restoration Initiative FIP Partnership Capacity
- Lake County All Lands Restoration Initiative FIP TA
- Lake County All Lands Restoration Initiative FIP Stakeholder Engagement
- Lower Deep Creek Warner Sucker Habitat Restoration
- South Warner Mapping and Inventory TA (Complete)
- Twenty-mile MC Diversion Modification
- Wallowa Resources Sub-grant

Implementation

- 2021 Post Fire Recovery Cougar Peak and Patton Meadow
 - Post Fire LTPBR Phase II: Muddy/Mesman (Complete)
- Camas Creek Instream and Floodplain Enhancement Phase II (Complete)
- Campbell Mill Aspen and Wetland Restoration (Complete)
- Cottonwood Creek LTPBR Phase II (Complete)
- Cox Creek Fish Passage and Screening
- Drake Creek Upland Enhancement (Complete)
- Lake County Wet Meadow Resilience Engagement
- Lake County All Lands Restoration Initiative Mini FIP Phase 2
- Lake County All Lands Restoration Initiative Prescribed Fire Implementation
- Lake County All Lands Restoration Initiative FIP Restoration
- Mule Deer Enhancement within the Goose Lake Basin
- Summer Lake Slash Management
- Zarosinski Upland Enhancement (Complete)

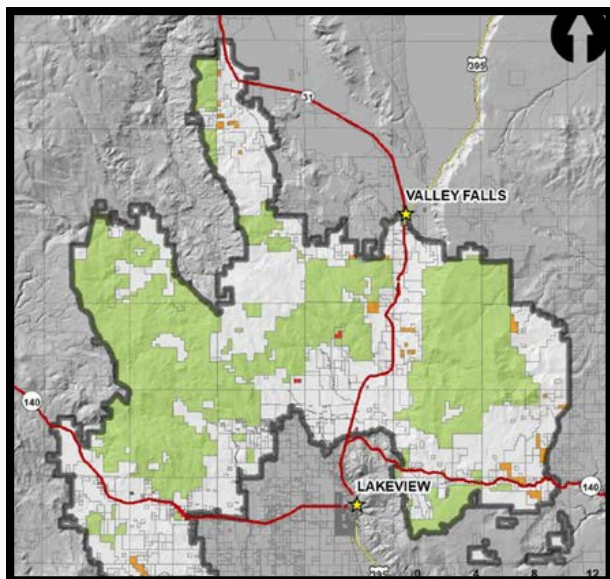
FOREST HEALTH IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

Uplands



The Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership and the LCUWC was awarded the Lake County All Lands Restoration Initiative Focused Investment Partnership (LCALRI FIP) funded by OWEB. The geographic boundary of the LCALRI FIP is the North Warner and Thomas Creek Projects combined, totaling 402,423 acres. This grant outlines goals and objectives for increasing resiliency within the LCALRI landscape by completing high and moderate priority thinning treatments and the first entry of prescribed fire (including associated noxious weed treatments) and by outlining the long-term return interval of maintenance with prescribed fire based on the ecological site conditions. We have been working in this landscapes for multiple years on large scale cross-boundary forest health improvements on multiple parcels of private land and public lands and hope that this funding source will help us increase the pace and scale of forest health restoration in Lake County.

The LCUWC continues to partner with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to improve mule deer habitat. This biennium we are focused in the Goose Lake Basin. We are addressing the fringe of the transition zone from high elevation forest to lower elevation winter range.



2024 Accomplishments

LCALRI FIP: Awarded Fall 2024

262 acres cut and piled
300 acres of piles burned
3,400 acres under contract for treatment for Biennium 1 (24-26)

ODFW MDE: Awarded Fall 2024

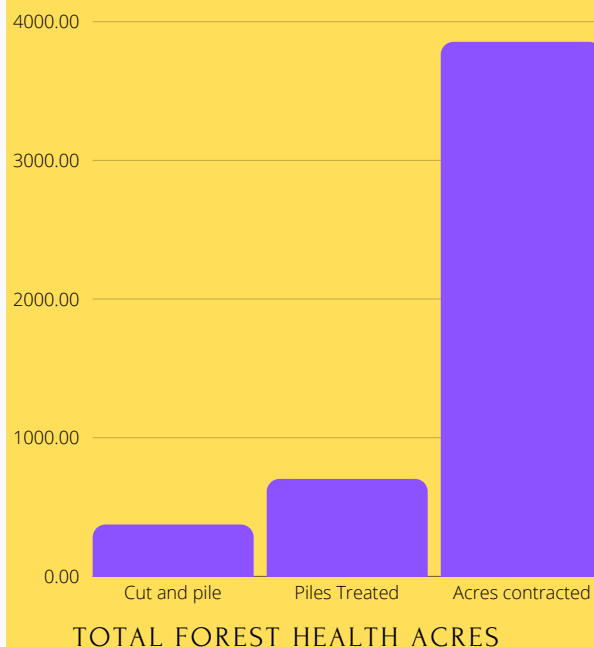
112 acres cut and piled
455 acres in progress

USFS RAC: Awarded Spring 2023

175 acres broadcast burned
403 acres planned for next fall

Previous grants (NWFHP II, ODFW MDI, Mini FIP Phase 1 and 2, and Small Grants) treatment update

403 acres of piles burned



TOTAL FOREST HEALTH ACRES

The Lake County All Lands Restoration Initiative Landscape

FOREST HEALTH PLANNING AND OUTREACH PROJECTS

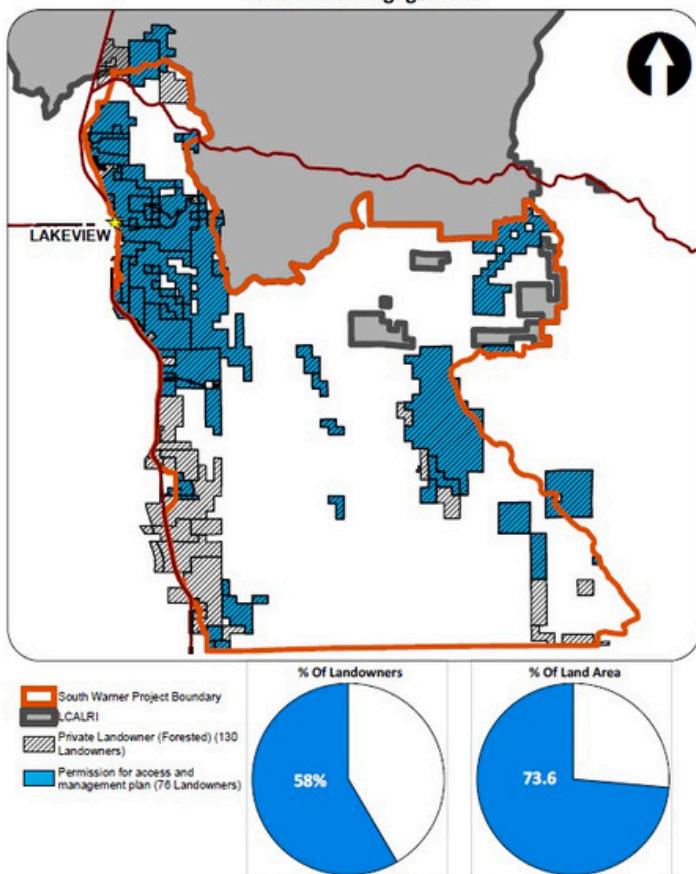
Uplands



Technical assistance (TA) and Stakeholder Engagement grants provide an opportunity to prepare and plan for a more in depth restoration of implementation grants. In 2024, LCUWC completed the mapping and inventory of forested landowners in the South Warner Landscape. Each participating landowner was given an in depth map packet and binder with additional educational information and resources. The LCUWC held workshops to review this material and discuss next steps. Depending on landowner interests, we will likely apply for a South Warners Restoration grant next fall.

Additionally, The Lake County All Lands Restoration Focused Investment Partnership grant funded by OWEB includes dedicated funding to increase engagement with landowners in the geography. Workshops and one on one meetings are being planned throughout the biennium. Each workshop will focus on a specific stage of forest health restoration planning with goals to inform priorities and land management planning for each landowner.

South Warner Landscape Management Program
Landowner Engagement



2024 Accomplishments

Inventoried and mapped 23,285 acres of private forest land in the South Warners

Distributed 56 landowner map packets and educational binders

Held several workshops for private LOs about forest resource options and planning for next steps

Held Prescribed Fire Tour (pre-burn)

Continued engagement (newsletters and social media) with landowners in LCUWC FIP boundary

Meetings and consultations with several new landowners interested in conducting treatments on their land



Participants in Prescribed Fire Tour

WILDFIRE RECOVERY

Uplands

Multiple large wildfires (Brattain, Patton Meadow, and Cougar Peak Fires) in recent years have burned thousands of acres in Lake County. Although this has been a tremendous loss to the partnership and community, this emphasizes the true reality of how quickly and negatively wildfires can impact our forested landscapes. It is imperative that the remaining unburned portion of the landscape be restored in a timely manner for long-term resilience.

OWEB Post-Fire Landscape Recovery grants have continued to fund opportunities to address longer-term fire recovery needs, such as landscape level soil erosion, aquatic habitat alterations and fuels reduction within these fire perimeters. These grants help us to continue to restore 100's of burnt acres and miles of stream restoration on private lands within the fire perimeters of Cougar Peak and Patton Meadow.



2024 Accomplishments

Uplands

359.5 acres of contour felling completed

10.52 miles of directional fence felling completed

650 acres of contour felling in progress

4000 acres of tree replanting scheduled for Spring 2025

715 acres of aerial and ground herbicide reapplications applied

3,225 acres of aerial seeding applied

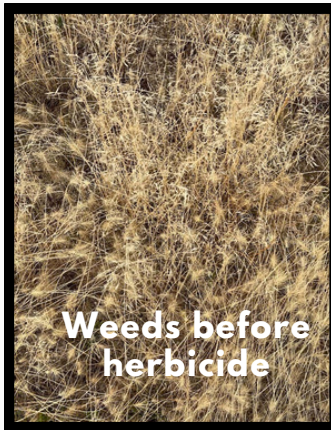
Inspections and photo monitoring ongoing

UPLAND ACRES OF TREATMENT FOR COUGAR PEAK & PATTON MEADOW (SINCE 2021)

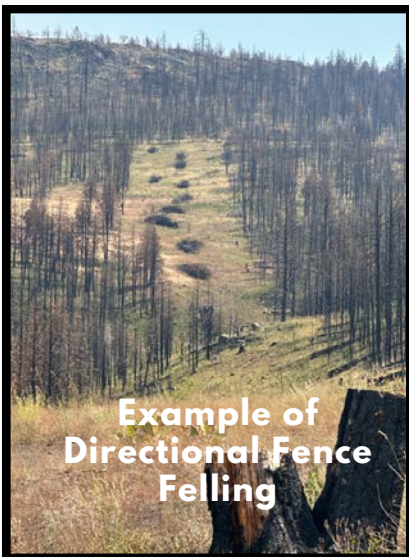
Contour Felling Site



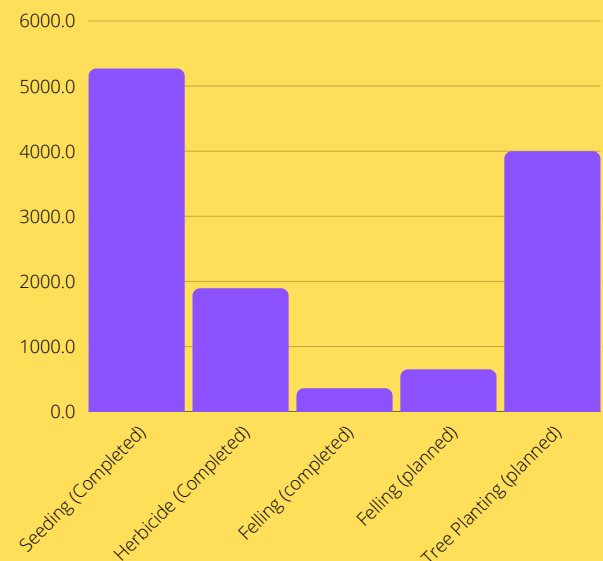
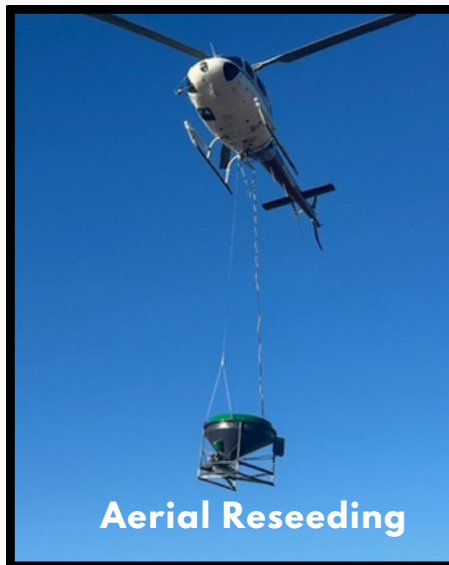
Weeds before herbicide



Example of Directional Fence Felling



Aerial Reseeding



Goose Lake Watershed

Stream and Riparian

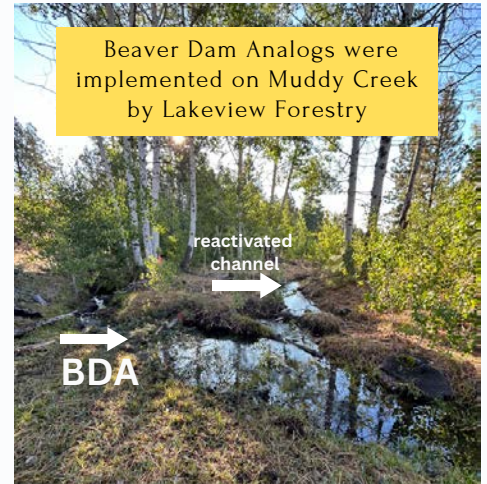
Project Name / Type	Fish Passage and Screening	Floodplain Connection	Instream Habitat	Irrigation Improvement	Post-Fire Recovery	Riparian Health	Water Quality	Wetland Habitat	Status
Camp Creek Post Fire Recovery		X	X		X	X	X		2025 Construction
Cottonwood Creek Post Fire Recovery		X	X		X	X	X	X	2025 Construction
Cottonwood Creek Fish Habitat Restoration		X	X	X		X			2025 Construction
Cox Creek Fish Passage and Screening	X			X					In Progress
Drews Creek Fish Passage	X			X					2025 Construction
Goose Lake Feasibility Study	X			X					Complete
Mesman Creek Post Fire Recovery		X	X		X	X	X		2025 Construction
Muddy Creek Post Fire Recovery			X	X	X	X	X		2025 Construction
Thomas Creek Cox Flat Stage Zero Planning and Design							X	X	2026 Construction

Cox Creek Fish Passage Project



Goose Lake Watershed

Stream and Riparian



Open Grant
Agreements



2024 \$ Spent

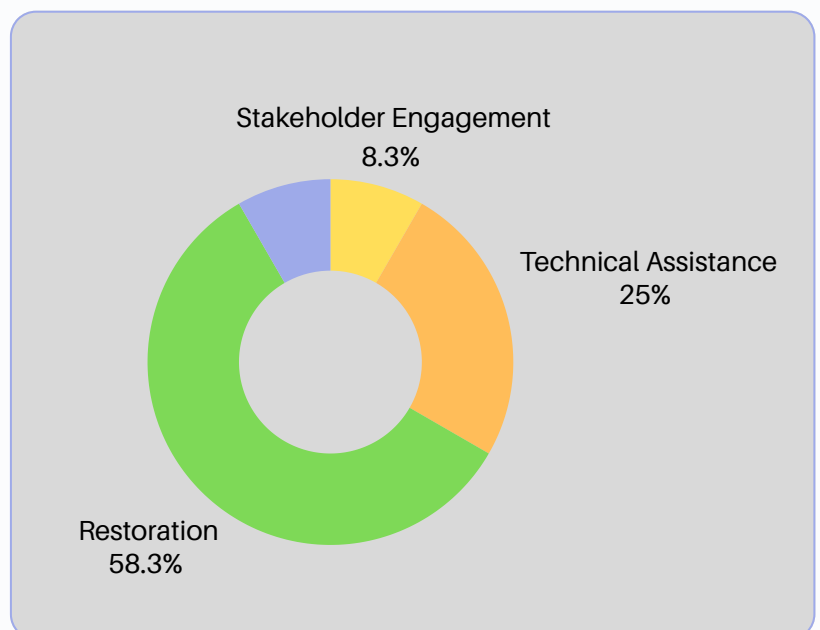


Stream Miles in
Project Work



Developing
Projects

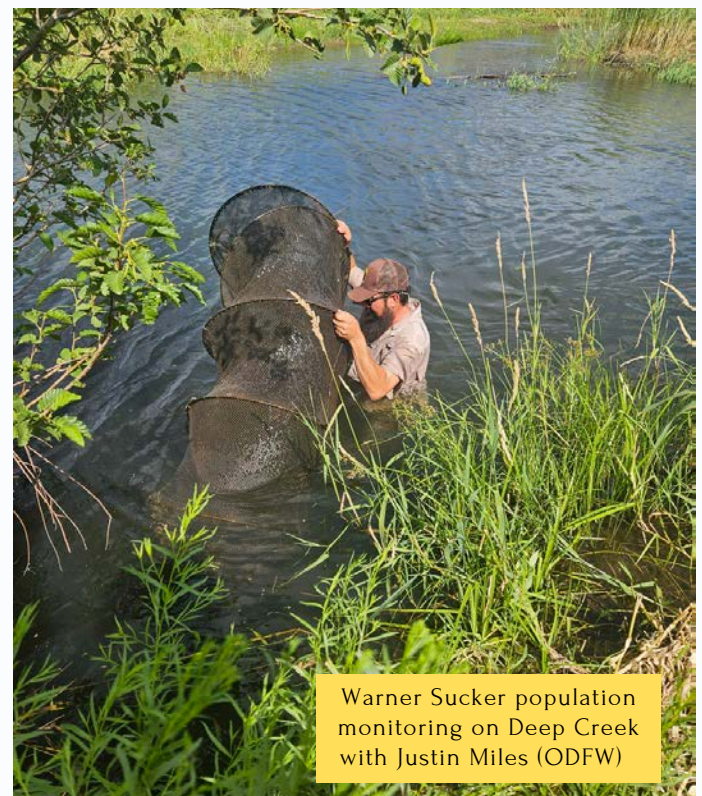
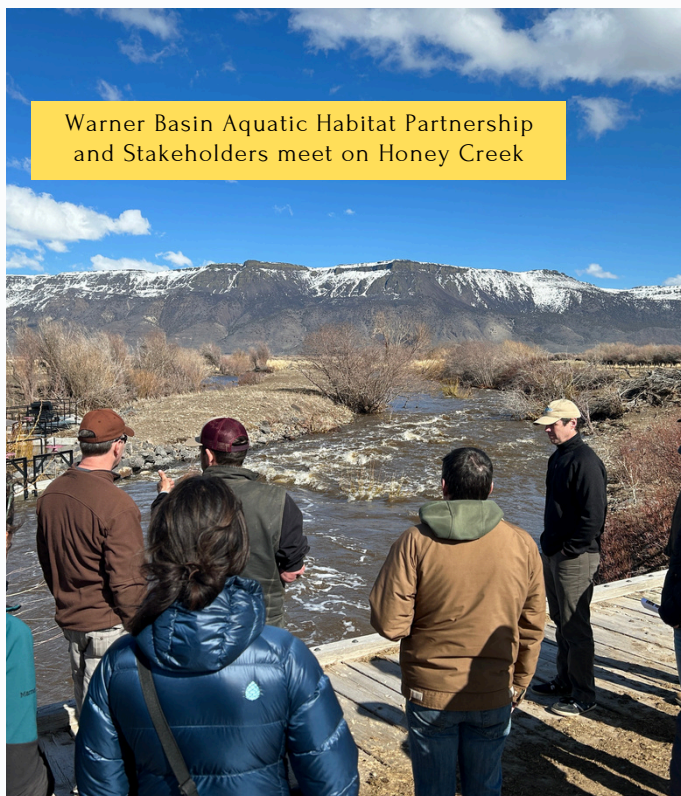
FUNDING ALLOCATIONS



Warner Lakes Watershed

Stream and Riparian

Project Name/Type	Fish Passage and Screening	Floodplain Connection	Instream Habitat	Irrigation Improvement	Post-Fire Recovery	Riparian Health	Water Quality	Wetland Habitat	Status
Camas Creek Floodplain Enhancement II		X	X			X			Monitoring
Deep Creek Givans Diversion Fish Passage Phase II	X			X					In Progress
Deep Creek Starveout Fish Screening Design Plan	X								Planning and Design
Deep Creek Town Diversion Assessment	X								Planning and Design
Lower Deep Creek Warner Sucker Habitat Improvement			X			X	X		2025 Construction
Twenty-mile MC Diversion Modification	X			X					Planning and Design
Warner Sucker Fish Passage Effectiveness Monitoring Study	X								Monitoring



Warner Lakes Watershed

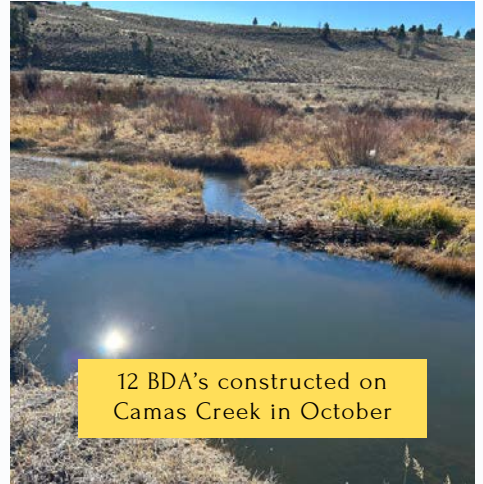
Stream and Riparian



Post Project Monitoring at the Deep Creek Relict Weir Rock Ramp Fishway - May



USFWS Partners Program provide technical support on Camas Creek in June



12 BDA's constructed on Camas Creek in October



Deep Creek O'Keefe Diversion Fish Ladder post implementation photo - Spring 2024

10

Open Grant
Agreements 2024

\$119,792

2024 \$ Spent

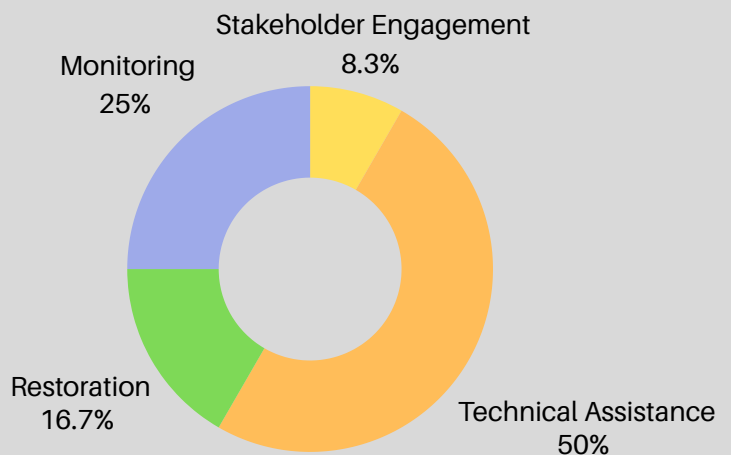
8

Stream Miles in
Project Work

1

Developing
Projects

FUNDING ALLOCATIONS



Abert and Summer Lake Watersheds

Stream and Riparian

Project Name/Type	Fish Passage and Screening	Floodplain Connection	Instream Habitat	Irrigation Improvement	Post-Fire Recovery	Riparian Health	Water Quality	Wetland Habitat	Status
Campbell Mill Wetland Enhancement								X	Complete
Pine Creek Post Fire Beaver Dam Analogs					X				Complete
Upper Chewaucan Watershed Assessment	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Complete
Upper Chewaucan Watershed Planning and Design	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Initiated
Willow Creek Post Fire Beaver Dam Analogs					X				Complete



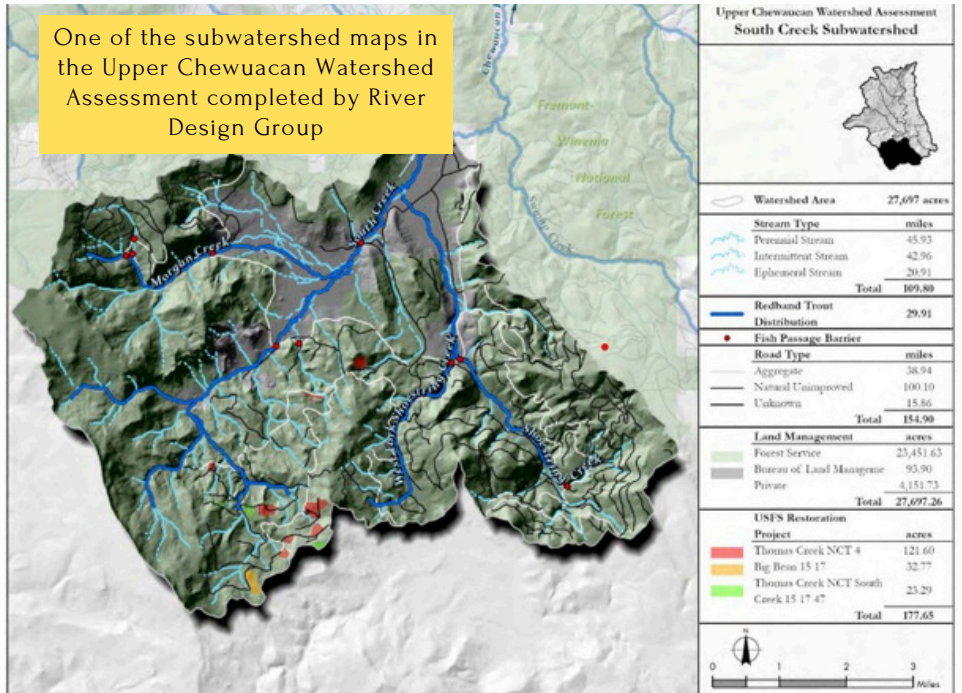
Abert and Summer Lake Watersheds

Stream and Riparian

Table 2-14. Burn severity associated with four recent fires in the Upper Chewaucan watershed.

Burn Severity	Bootleg Fire (mi ²)	Brattain Fire (mi ²)	Cougar Peak Fire (mi ²)	Watson Creek Fire (mi ²)	Total (mi ²)	% of Burn Area
Unburned	6.8	6.9	1.4	8.1	23.1	11
Low	27.2				77.6	36
Moderate	51.9				91.4	43
High	8.8	2.3	0.2	10.6	21.9	10
Total	94.8	32.5	26.7	60.1	214.1	100

Table from the Upper Chewaucan Watershed Assessment



Open Grant Agreements 2024



2024 \$ Spent

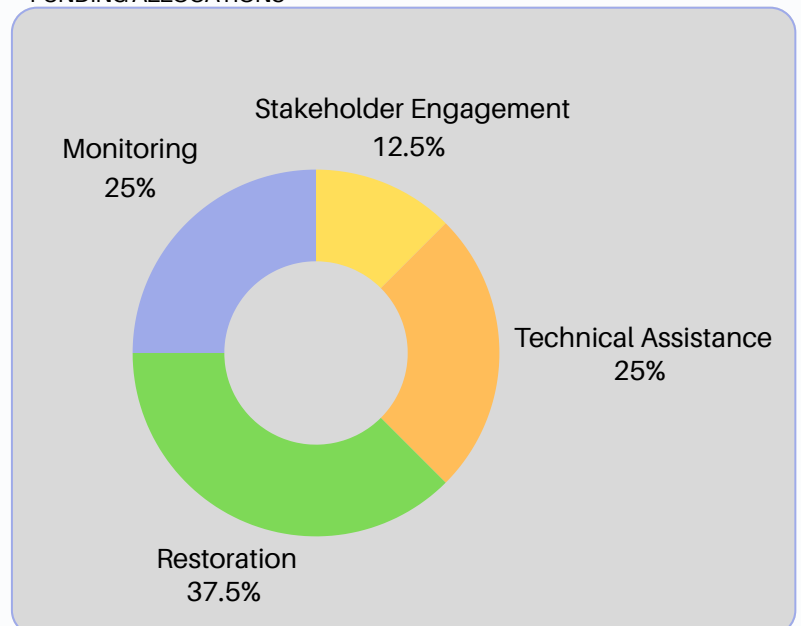


Stream Miles in Project Work



Developing Projects

FUNDING ALLOCATIONS



SMALL GRANTS



The Small Grant Program is a competitive program funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board that awards \$15,000 for on the ground restoration - primarily on private lands. The program allows landowners to become familiar with the granting and restoration process while focusing on specific watershed improvements on their property. These projects must meet the criteria for priority watershed concerns such as:

- Instream Process and Function
- Riparian Process and Function
- Wetland Process and Function
- Upland Process and Function
- Water Quality/Irrigation Efficiency
- Fish Passage
- Road Impact Reduction
- Urban Impact Reduction



Hampton & Withers Creek



Drake Creek Juniper Reduction



Drew's Creek



Zarosinski Brush Mastication

2024 Projects

Drews Creek Wetland
Habitat Enhancement
(In Progress)

Willow & Pine Creek Stream
& Riparian Habitat
Enhancement (In Progress)

Hampton & Withers Creek
Riparian Enhancement
(In Progress)

Drake Creek Upland
Enhancement (Completed)

Zarosinski Upland
Enhancement (Completed)

**1.34 Miles of Riparian
Area Treated**

31 Acres of Upland Area Treated



MONITORING OUR WORK



Post implementation monitoring and reporting is required for all Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board restoration grants. Post monitoring provides insight and impact of the project over a 3 – 5 year period and is an effective way to determine if the project continues to meet initial goals. Post monitoring also allows Restoration Practitioners to learn from successful and unsuccessful projects, providing valued knowledge as new projects are developed.

In 2024 the LCUWC reported on 11 past restoration projects across the County. Pre and post photos are captured at selected points of reference to demonstrate change over time.



Monitoring Status

Doolittle Upland Enhancement
Kloster Upland Enhancement
LeGaux Upland Enhancement
Poirier Upland Enhancement
Yocum Valley Upland Enhancement
Cougar Peak Emergency Response
Lower Drows Creek
Drows Gap Upland Enhancement
Camas Creek Phase I BDA's
Pine Creek Phase I BDA's
Willow Creek Phase I BDA's
Muddy Creek Phase I BDA's
Thomas Creek Phase IV
Restoration
Deep Creek Relict Diversion
Fishway
Thomas Creek Amsbaugh Fish
Passage

11

**Monitoring Reports
in 2024**

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Through grants, projects, and partnerships, the Council hosted the following events:

Weeds & Watersheds Annual Gathering

Lake County Commissioners Presentation

Countywide Outdoor School for 4th Graders

Lake County Fair Outreach Table

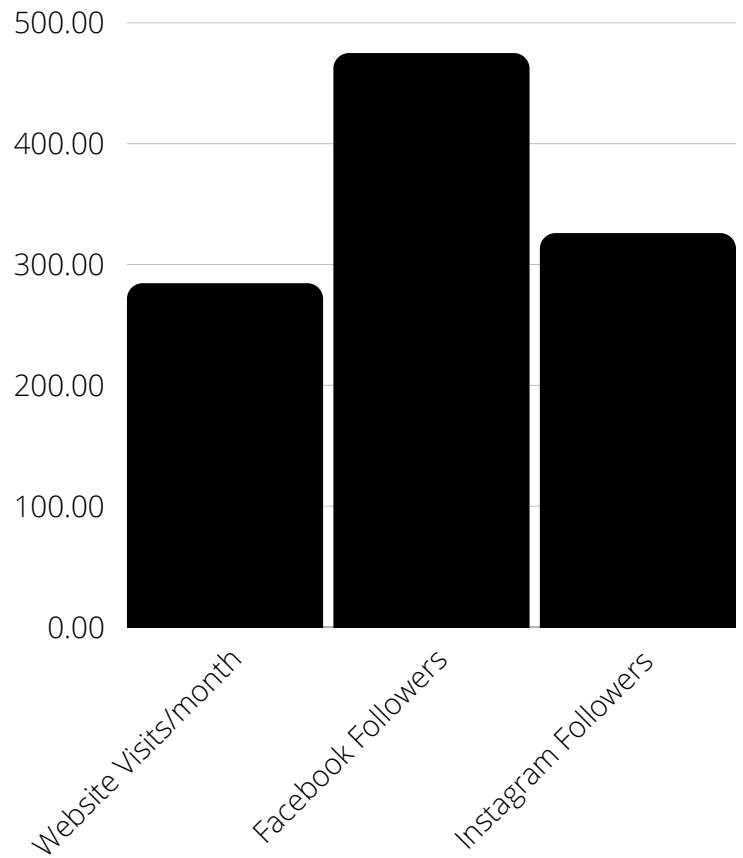
Meadow Resilience Workshop and Field Tour

Prescribed Fire Field Tour

South Warner Landowner Workshop

Buck Creek Beaver Project with North Lake Agriculture Students

Our Working Lands Resource Hub Open House



North Lake High School Agriculture students successfully completed a project relocating a beaver dam and constructing a beaver cheater around a point of diversion. Great teamwork and hands-on learning in action!

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



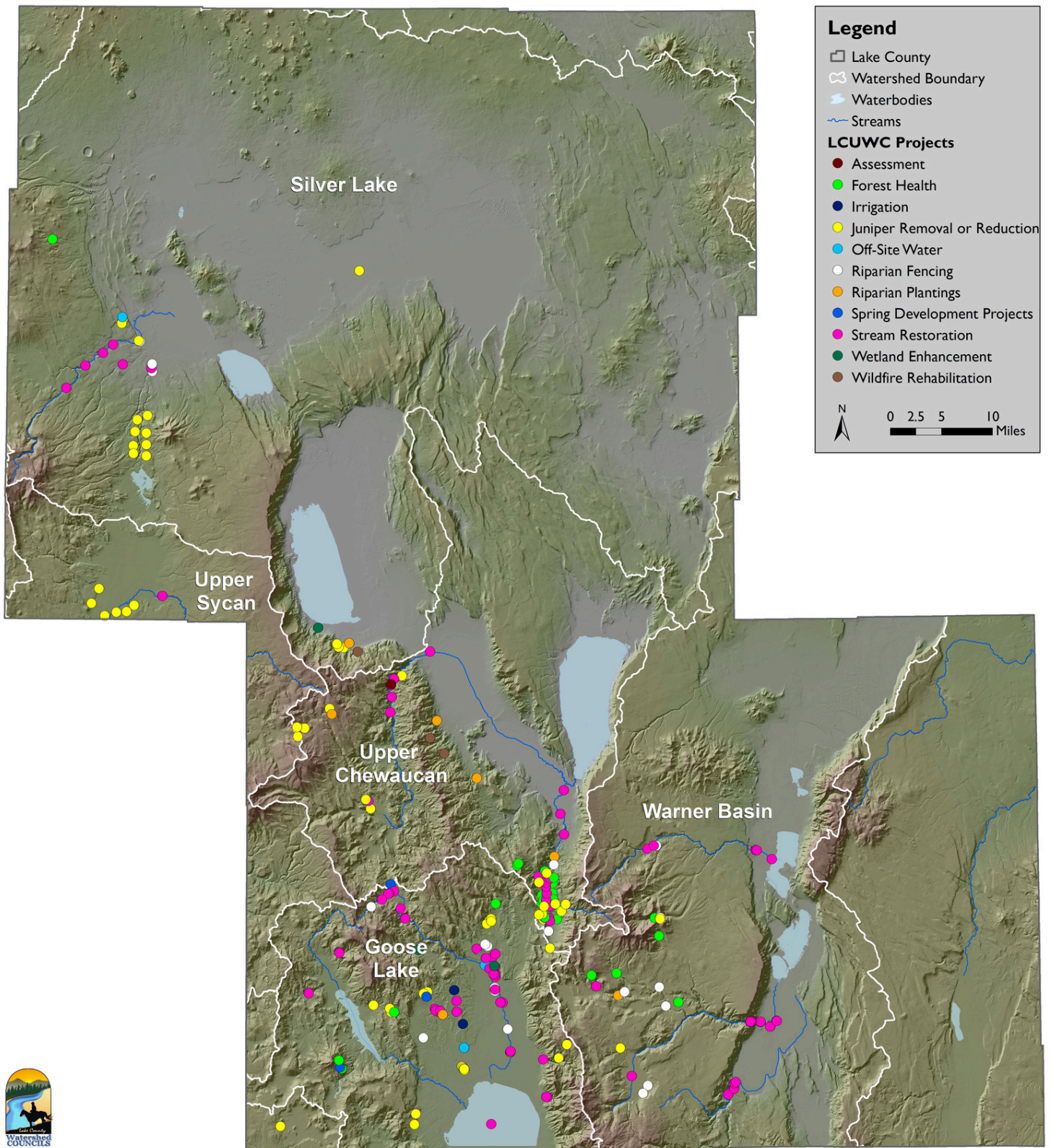
Outdoor School at the
Summer Lake Wildlife
Area

North Lake High School
Agriculture students
constructing a
Beaver Dam Analogue



Meadow
Resilience
Workshop and
Field Tour

Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council Projects



River Design Group, Inc. 2019.06.22 Data source: Elevation - NED; Hydrography - NHD

Since 2004, the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council has completed over 150 restoration projects county-wide. Map courtesy of River Design Group. Updated 12/2023

2024

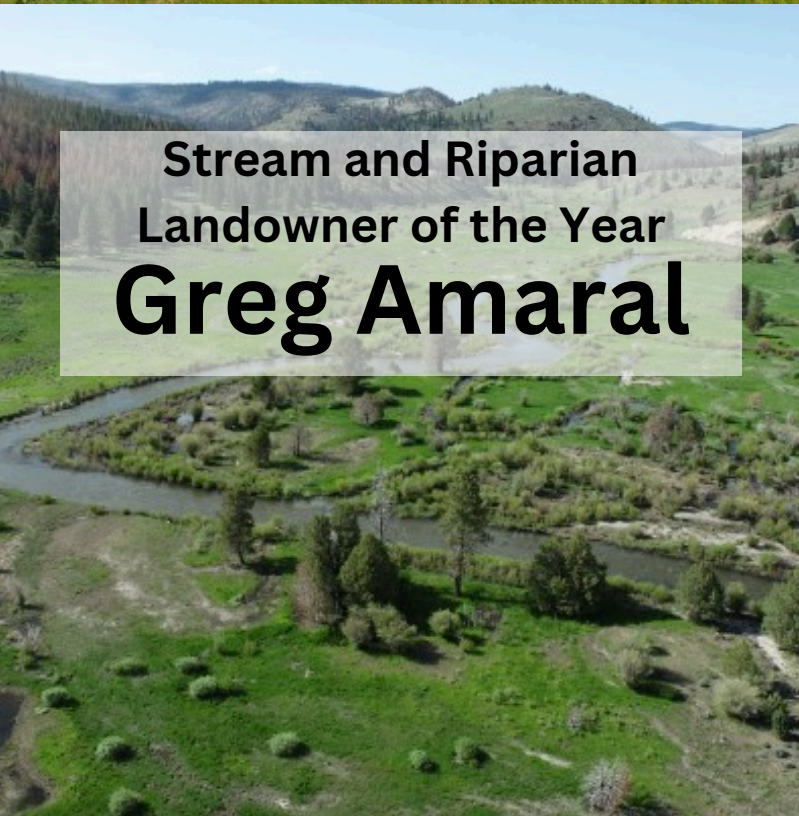
IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING LAKE COUNTY WATERSHEDS



Uplands
Landowner of the Year
Dusty Counts



Uplands
Partner of the Year
Jesse Morris



Stream and Riparian
Landowner of the Year
Greg Amaral



Stream and Riparian
Partner of the Year
Fara Brummer