



Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council Annual Report 2017



Lake County Umbrella WSC
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★ 2017 Board & Staff

- Tom O'Leary – Silver Lake Community Watershed
- Pete Talbott – Goose Lake Basin Watershed
- John Taylor – Warner Valley Watershed
- Roger Linton – Crooked Creek Watershed
- Matt Withers – Upper Sycan Watershed
- Adam Schutz – Upper Chewaucan Watershed

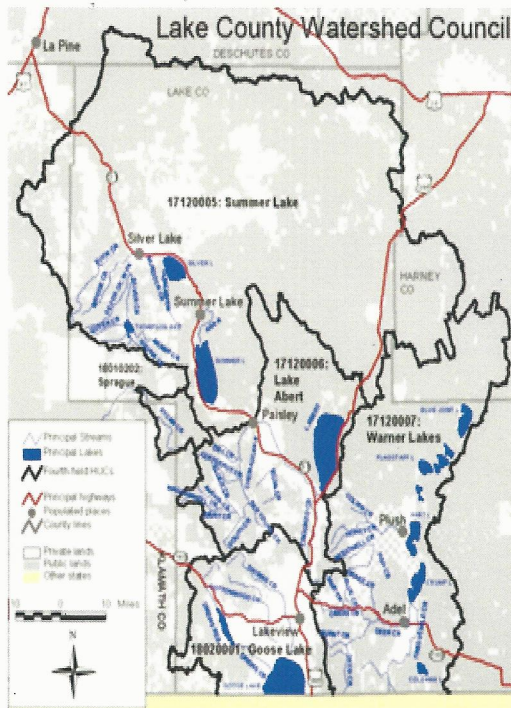
Council Coordinator & Project Manager: *Marci Schreder*

Fiscal Manager & Education Coordinator: *Colleen Withers*

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEMBERS

- Bureau of Land Management
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District
- US Forest Service
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon State University
- US Fish and Wildlife
- Natural Resource Conservation District





Five Uniquely Different Watersheds

- Silver Lake Community
- Upper Sycan
- Upper Chewaucan
- Warner Basin
- Goose Lake Basin

Goal: Complete a minimum of 1 project in each watershed per year.

Mission Statement & 2017 Projects

Mission Statement

The Lake County WSC strives to promote cooperative watershed restoration across jurisdictional boundaries to better Lake County's Watersheds and people.

Since 2005, the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council has completed over 100 projects, an average of 10 projects are completed each year. These county wide restoration activities include planning, Design, implementation and monitoring.

Over the past 12 years, the Watershed Council has invested more than \$7 million in private lands restoration projects to improve our watersheds, wildlife, and working landscapes.

What We Do

- Improve Watershed Conditions
- Implement Restoration Projects
- Provide Educational Opportunities
- Fiscally Manage Our Own Projects
- Monitor Effectiveness of Projects
- Watershed Assessment and Landowner Outreach
- Collaborate with Partners
- Support Working Landscapes

Lake County WSC At Work

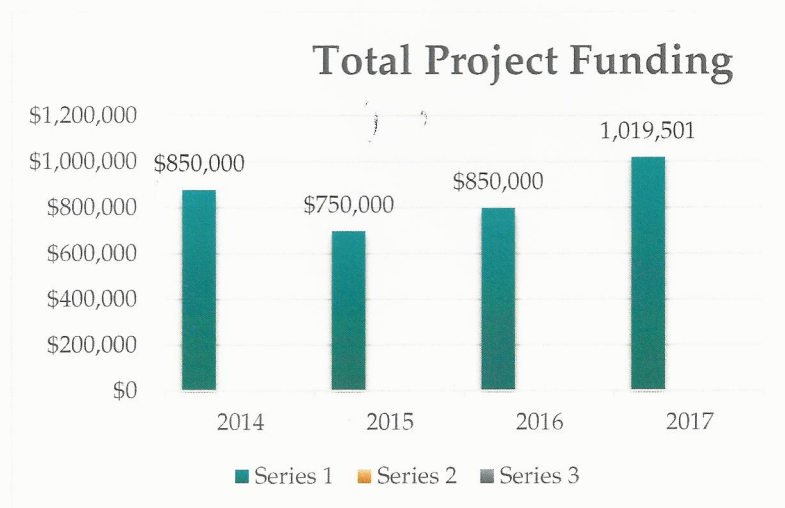
The Watershed Council is a non-profit grass roots organization that strives to work with local contractors and suppliers.



2017 Projects

1. Silver Creek Riparian Enhancement
2. Upper Sycan Juniper Removal
3. Paisley Town Weir Baffle Installation
4. Elder Creek Fish Passage
5. Crooked Creek Restoration
6. North Warner Forest Health
7. Twentymile Creek Fish Passage
8. Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Strategic Action & Design Plan
9. Rosa Creek Restoration
10. Westside Lakeview Spring Development
11. Yoakum Valley Forest Health Thinning
12. Cogswell Creek Stream Reconnaissance & Design

2017 Funding



Revenue & Expenses: 2017

Grants: \$1,019,501

Expenses

Contracted Services:

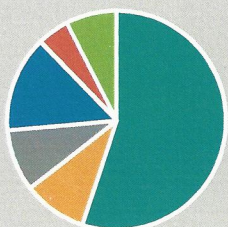
(15 Contractors Completed Lake County WSC Projects – 10 from the local area, 5 from within Oregon)

- Restoration - \$604,501
- Forest Health - \$300,000

Supplies & Materials:

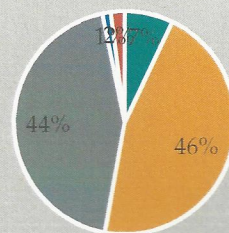
- \$125,000

WHERE FUNDING COMES FROM



Legend: OWEB, BLM, USFS & RAC, USFWS, ODFW, RUBY

Where Funding Goes



Legend: Goose Lake Basin, Warner Valley, Upper Chewaucan, Upper Sycan, Silver Lake



ELDER CREEK CULVERT REPLACEMENT

The Watershed Council's in-stream projects focus on enhancing stream condition, improving fish habitat, and providing fish passage for native species. These projects, implemented in collaboration with numerous local, state and federal partners. Key projects for 2017 are highlighted here.

1. Elder Creek Culvert Replacement

Although much of the Chewaucan River and its tributaries already provide excellent fish habitat, the replacement of the Elder Creek culvert will provide connectivity to an additional 8 miles of habitat in the headwaters of the stream for Chewaucan Redband trout. Project partners include: Green Diamond Resource Company, OWEB, USFS, RAC, USFWS, ODFW.

2. Twentymile Creek Fish Passage

The Watershed Council is pursuing a series of projects in the Warner Valley Watershed that will retrofit irrigation diversions to provide up and downstream passage for Warner sucker and Warner Redband trout. These projects will benefit native species by providing connectivity to additional habitat and will lead to future species recovery. Project partners include: Adel Irrigation District, BLM, ODFW, USFWS, SWCD, OWEB.

3. Rosa Creek Restoration

Historical land use activities and increased stream runoff contributed to alterations in stream function, leading to increased water velocities, changes in discharge and sediment load. The result was loss of equilibrium and floodplain use, which led to channel headcuts. Large wood and rock material was used to stabilize headcuts, accelerate recovery of the stream, and in time, will restore meadow function. Project partners included: Collins Timber, Cascade Stream Solutions and local contractors.

4. Paisley Town Weir Baffle Install

Through monitoring efforts conducted by ODFW it was determined that water velocities through the interior of the fish screen were not conducive to passage for redband trout. Ice build-up during the winter months was also an issue. Project partners including ODFW, Bagley Ditch Water District, and Lake County Watershed Council collaborated to install baffles, which will slow water through the screen and send fish back to the river via a bypass pipe.

5. Crooked Creek Restoration - IV

Extensive restoration efforts have been conducted within the Crooked Creek Watershed over the past several years, with over 30 projects completed on private land, Chandler State Park, and the USFS to improve overall watershed function. Project focus is ridge top to ridge top restoration with treatments occurring within the uplands to the creeks below. In 2017 two property owners worked with the Council to install juniper from upland cutting efforts to stabilize streambanks. Project Partners: Local Ranches, OWEB, RDG, USFWS, DU, USFS, RAC, State Parks.

6. Spring Development & Riparian Area Enhancement

Annually the Council assists property owners with projects to establish spring sites for livestock & wildlife. In addition, many property owners seek opportunities to improve vegetation condition through riparian fencing.

Stream Restoration

2017

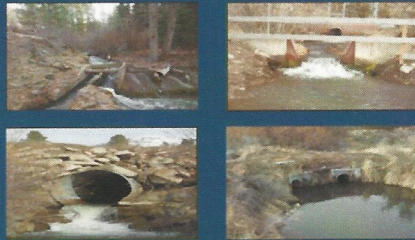


Project Planning

7. Cogswell Creek Reconnaissance

In partnership with local property owners, the Lakeview SWCD and Lake County Watershed Council are in the process of developing a stream reconnaissance and design plan. This project will improve irrigation efficiency and provide opportunities for fish passage in the Cogswell Creek sub-watershed. Project treatments will occur in 2018-2019.

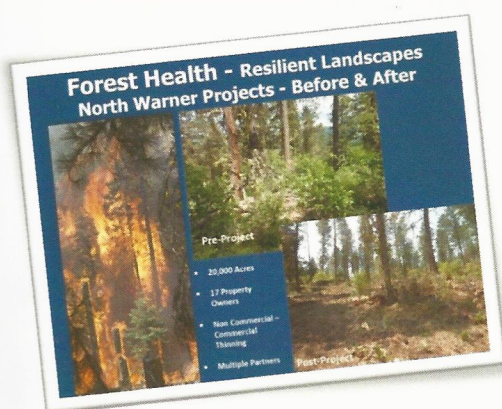
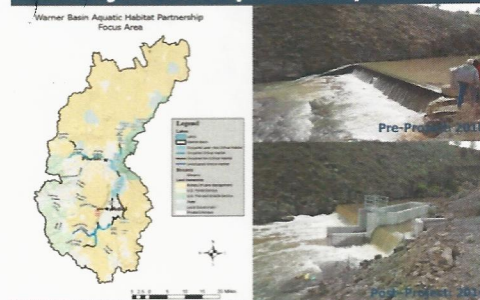
Cogswell Creek Stream Reconnaissance and Design



8. WBAHP Partnership Strategic Action & Design Plan

With the goal of improving Aquatic habitat and passage for Warner Sucker and Warner Redband trout, a design plan is being developed for Twentymile, Deep and Honey Creeks. A series of irrigation diversions will be improved for fish passage, screening in some instances and irrigation efficiency. These projects will result in improved connectivity and access to quality habitat in the headwaters of these systems for native fish.

Warner Watershed Aquatic Habitat Project Concept to Completion



Upland Forest Health Treatments

9. North Warner Forest Health Project:

The North Warner Forest Health Partnership is working together to improve forest health conditions across private and public land in the Crooked, Mud and Honey Watersheds. This project will enhance forest stand conditions on multiple acres in Lake County. The vision is to restore lands across large landscapes regardless of ownership, to reduce wildfire threats to communities and landowners, protect water quality and supply, and improve vegetation conditions for wildlife and livestock.

With assistance from Oregon Department of Forestry, the Lake County Watershed Council and Natural Resource Conservation Service is working with 17 property owners to address forest health conditions. In 2017 over 1000 acres were treated on private land. Plans are in place to treat several thousand acres by 2018. This effort will take place over the next five years. Project partners include: ODF, ODFW, NRCS, USFS, LCUWC, OSU Extension, Collins Timber, LCRI, SWCD, OWEB, Joint Chiefs, BLM, KLFHP.

10. Upper Sycan Forest Health Project:

The Lake County Watershed Council in partnership with a ranching family in the Sycan Watershed treated 75 acres of timber stands during spring of 2017. Project goals were to reduce invasive Western juniper from within pine stands to improve forest health, increase vegetation condition, and increase flow where natural springs are located. This project was funded by OWEB, the property owner and ODFW.

11. Westside Forest Health Project:

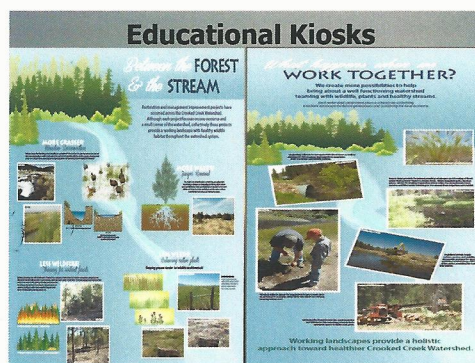
A local family ranch envisioned healthier timber stands on their property. Their goal was to reduce risk of disease, insect damage, and wildfire. Working with ODF and the Lake County WSC they were able to thin their 40-acre property. This project was funded by OWEB, ODFW, and completed by the property owner.

2017 brought several educational workshops, tours, and speaking opportunities for the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council to participate in. This series of events kicked off in January and continued through the summer months. Because Lake County is so diverse there are multiple opportunities to share experiences, knowledge, and science. The result is a shared understanding of how these unique landscapes function while we maintain our rich heritage in ranching, timber management, and hay/alfalfa production. These events included the following:

- **Forest Health Workshop**
- **Range Ecosystem Symposium**
- **American Fisheries Society Conference**
- **OWEB Review Team Tour**
- **Lakeview Rotary**

HANDS ON EDUCATION

The Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council actively pursues opportunities to work with Lake County youth. We seek to educate the next generation of watershed stewards through meaningful educational experiences. Our goal is to enhance education and provide students with hand-on knowledge of their local watersheds.



RIDGE TOP TO RIDGE TOP RESTORATION

Restoration and management improvement projects have occurred across the Crooked Creek Watershed.

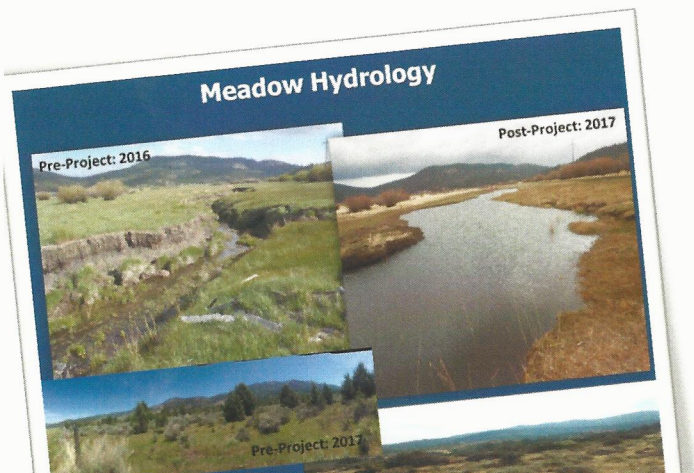
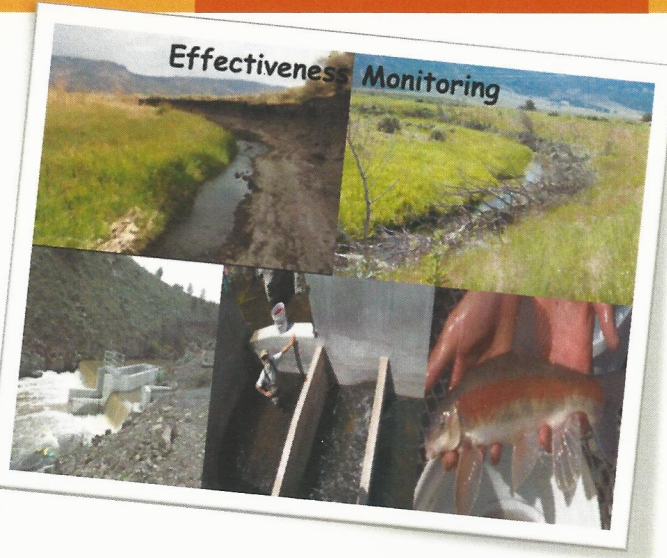
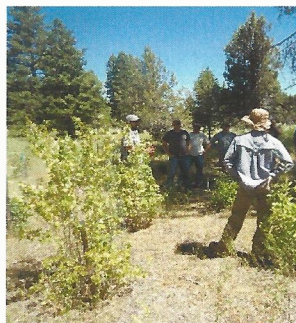
Although each project focuses on one resource and a small corner of the watershed, collectively these projects provide a working landscape with healthy wildlife habitat throughout the watershed system.

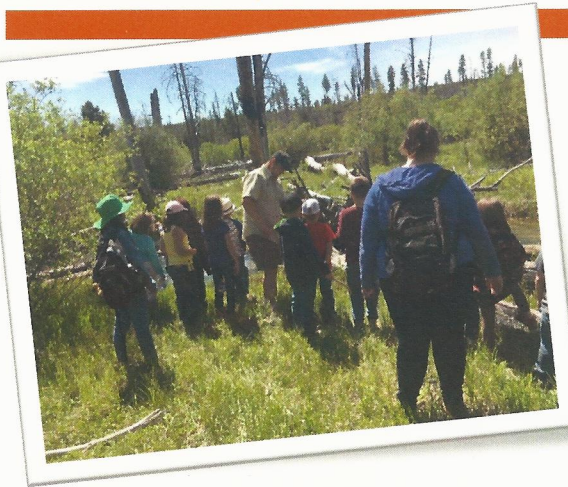
Multiple projects have and will continue to be completed within this watershed. This large landscape level project addresses upland timber stands to the streams below. Over 16 property owners have been involved with this effort.

Watershed *Monitoring*

PRE- AND- POST PROJECT RESULTS

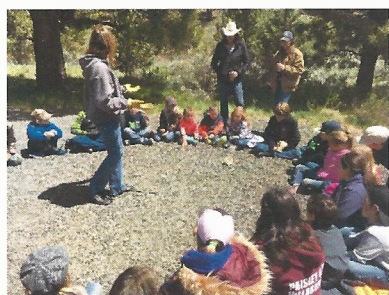
Valuable information is gathered through monitoring efforts. This data is used to help us set restoration priorities, evaluate project effectiveness & improve treatment practices.





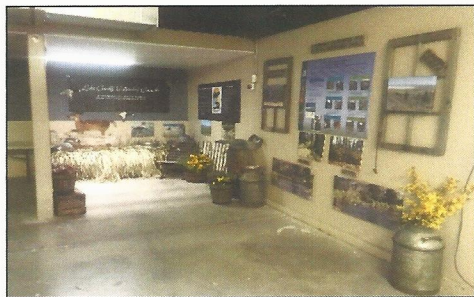
NORTH LAKE NATURAL RESOURCE OUTDOOR
OUTDOOR SCHOOL

Watershed Education



PAISLEY OUTDOOR SCHOOL

Grades K-6th grade join the Lake County Watershed Council and our partners for a day of learning activities.



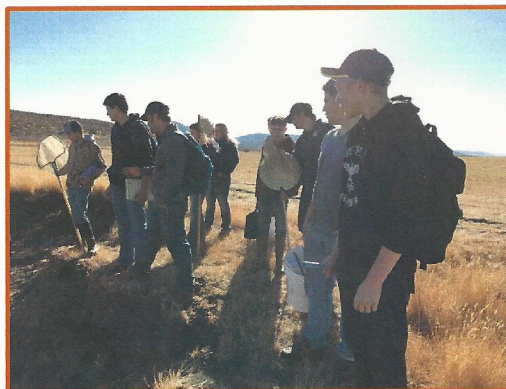
Lake County Fair & Roundup

FAST FACTS

200+

Students participate in Watershed Programs in 4 Days!

- Coordinated education programs for 2 local schools.
- Provided educational materials, programs, presentations for each outdoor school.
- Coordinated over 20 local volunteers to assist with education programs. (USFS, OSU Extension, Local talent, ODA, Badger Creek Wildlife Rescue, ODFW).
- Partnered with Lakeview High School Field Biology class to conduct hands on monitoring activities for students on Cox Creek.
- Recruited local high school students to assist with willow planting along Lake County streams.
- Created a Watershed display at the Lake County Fair to demonstrate the type of opportunities the Watershed Council offers. The display showcased restoration work taking place throughout the county.



Planning Strategies for 2018:

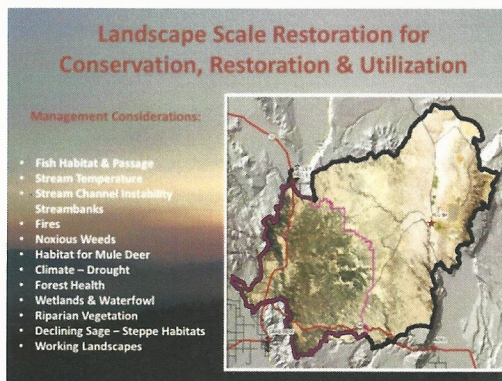
- Landscape Projects
- Quality Collaboratives to reach conservation goals for Lake County
- Maintain Working Landscapes
- Address Issues Associated with Drought
- Water Storage
- Forest Health
- Water, Fish & Wildlife
- Reduce Noxious Weed

Conservation Challenges -Lake County:

- Desert Fish
- Juniper Encroachment & Forest Health
- More Catastrophic Fire
- Drought
- Sage Grouse
- Rangelands – Grasses – Grazing
- Sonoran Region - Wetland Water Birds
- Water Storage
- New Regulations

Our goal is to improve restoration practices so that complex issues are resolved. To do this restoration must be flexible and long lasting.

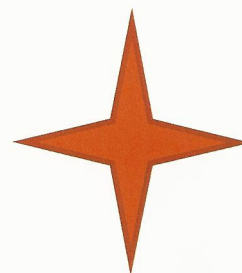
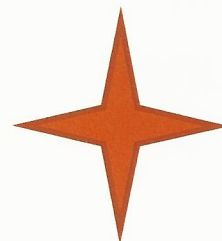
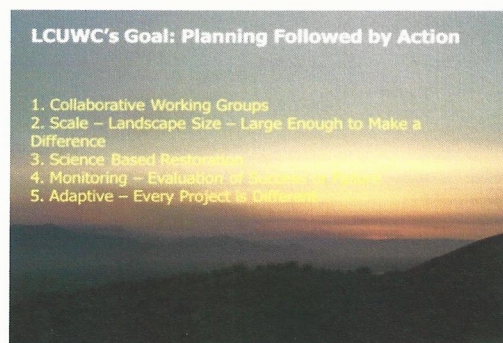
MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS



HIGH PRIORITIES



Watershed Council Goals



To Learn More About the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council:

Visit: lakecountywsc.com

Write: 17482 Tunnel Hill Rd., Lakeview, OR. 97630

Call: Marci Schreder – Council Coordinator & Project Manager at 541-219-0830

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