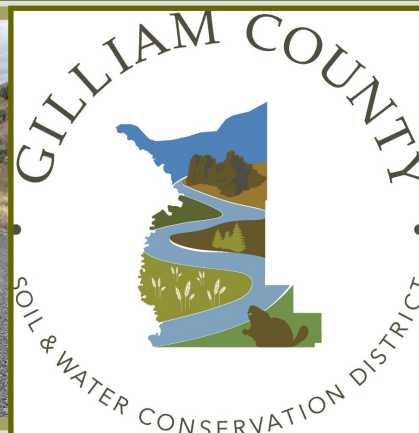


# GILLIAM COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE RURAL COMMUNITY AND TO EDUCATE AND ASSIST THE COMMUNITY IN CONSERVATION WHILE MAINTAINING SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE.**

## A few words from the Manager

The District had a very productive year with staff completing multiple projects and seeking additional funding opportunities. Expanded grant writing efforts have been successful and we expect a significant increase in restoration funding over the next five years. As we enter the sixth year of my position as District Manager, I'm excited to continue the great work that staff, directors, and cooperating agencies have successfully implemented over the years. We at the District look forward to the future with our programs to help serve the people of Gilliam County.

Herb Winters



### Our Team

- ◆ Herb Winters, who joined the team in November of 2017, holds the position of Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District, District Manager.
- ◆ Norie Wright joined the team in the summer of 2018 as a Conservation Technician I. Previously, Norie held the position of GEJDWC Coordinator. In December of 2018, Norie took the position of Office Manager.
- ◆ Jessica Gillen joined the team in early 2018 to fill the Conservation Technician I position.
- ◆ Roger Lathrop holds the Conservation Technician II position and has been with the district for 15 years.
- ◆ Katie Garthwaite holds the position of Gilliam East John Day Watershed Council Coordinator. Katie joined the team in February of 2022.

**GILLIAM COUNTY SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Condon, Oregon**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

**June 30, 2022**

A condensed version of the statement of activities as follows:

	Governmental Activities	
	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
Program revenues		
Operating grants and contributions	\$ 1,095,098	\$ 1,241,803
General Revenues		
Rent Income	98,613	98,613
Other income	6,701	-
Interest income	590	776
Total revenues	1,201,002	1,341,192
Program expenditures		
Soil and water conservation	1,031,852	1,085,395
Interest expense	41,802	46,498
Total program expenditures	1,073,654	1,131,893
Change in net position	127,348	209,299
Net position beginning of year	835,895	626,596
Net position end of year	\$ 963,243	\$ 835,895

**Financial Analysis of the Government's Funds**

The focus of the District's governmental funds is to provide information on short term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the District's financing requirements. In particular, unassigned fund balance serves as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

At June 30, 2022, the District's governmental funds reported an ending fund balance of \$239,213, an increase of \$51,084 in comparison with the prior year. The backlog of prior year receivables, delayed due to staffing changes related to the COVID-19 pandemic, started to arrive more timely. Although receivables increased, a greater proportion of them were received within 60 days of year-end. The ending fund balance included \$22,845 restricted by grantors for soil and water conservation.

## Low Tech Process Based Restoration HAY CREEK

The GSWCD is currently engaged in aquatic and riparian habitat restoration planning for Hay Creek, a 104 mi<sup>2</sup> tributary of the Lower John Day River in Gilliam County.

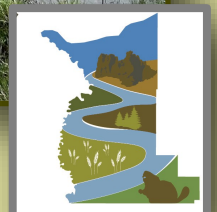
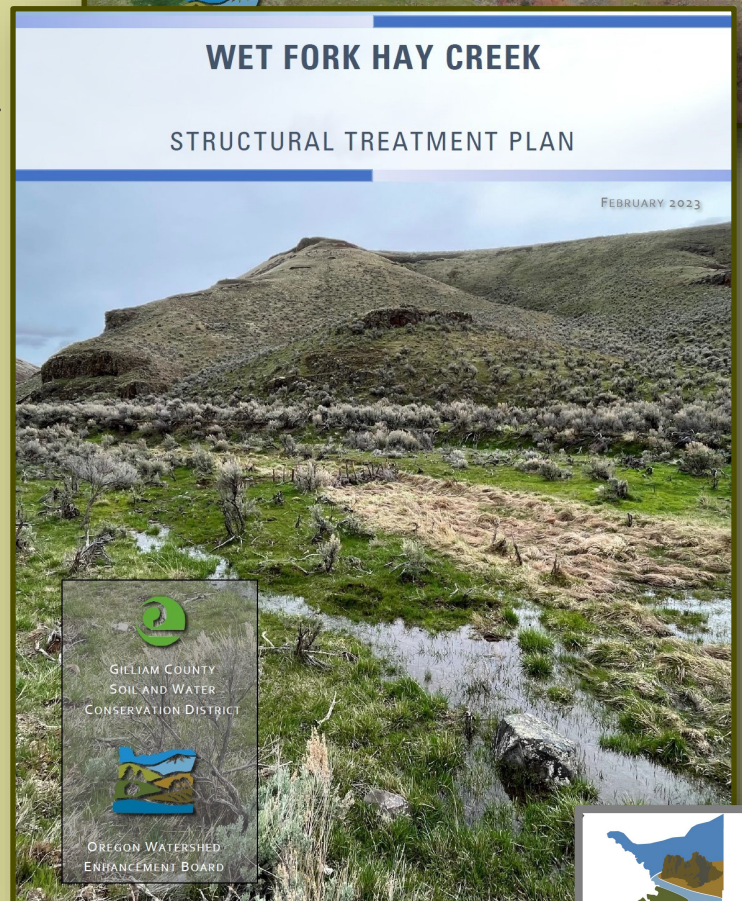
### Middle Fork Hay Creek Canyon:

This Low-Tech Process-Based (LTPBR, Wheaton et al. 2019) restoration plan has been designed to employ structural treatments to expedite the recovery and expansion of aquatic and wetland habitat in Hay Creek through installation of 67 beaver dam analog structures in two treatment reaches.

The project has the potential to substantially increase pool habitat and in-channel complexity, expand existing channel habitat by up to 1.2 km, and create up to 7 ac. of wetland habitat capable of supporting wetland and riparian vegetation.

### Wet Fork of Hay Creek: 2022:

The project area on the Wet Fork and mainstem Hay Creek suffers from a lack of continuous perennial surface flow, reduced channel geomorphic complexity, and a lack of riparian and wetland vegetation. This Low-Tech Process-Based (LTPBR, Wheaton et al. 2019) restoration plan has been designed to employ structural treatments to expedite the recovery and expansion of aquatic and wetland habitat in Hay Creek through installation of 160 beaver dam analog structures in two treatment reaches. The project has the potential to substantially increase pool habitat and in-channel complexity, expand existing channel habitat by up to 2.2 km, and create up to 5 ac. of wetland habitat capable of supporting wetland and riparian vegetation.



# THIRTYMILE CREEK SNIPTION CANYON RESTORATION

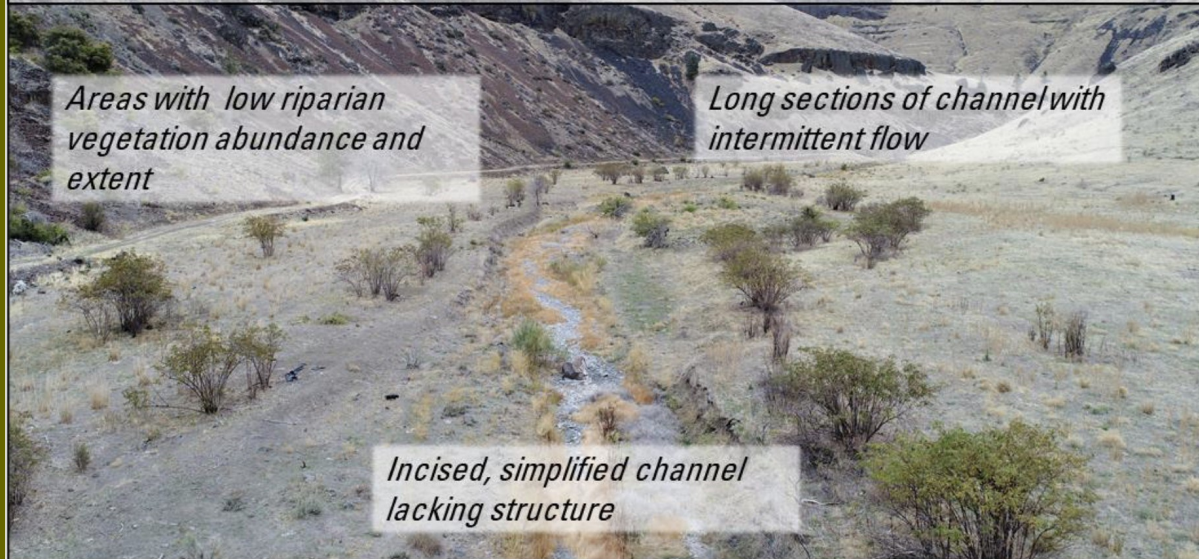
## RIVERSCAPE RESTORATION

### Implementation of Low-Tech Process Based Restoration —

In 2021-2022 implementation of the first phase of Thirtymile Creek Sniption Canyon low-tech process based restoration for approximately 1.7 miles of mainstem habitat within the Thirtymile Creek watershed was completed. The restoration implementation is designed to promote natural fluvial processes and ultimately result in development of a healthy and dynamic aquatic ecosystem with greater habitat quality and quantity for the threatened steelhead population that rely on the watershed for spawning and rearing (NWPCC 2005).

The implementation consisted of ca. 93

#### THIRTYMILE CREEK - Sniption Pre-restoration Project Area – Fall 2020



restoration structures that mimic large woody debris accumulations (i.e., post-assisted log structures, PALS) and beaver dams (beaver dam analogs, BDAs). The restoration plan also suggests a set of complementary restoration actions intended to promote beneficial geomorphic, vegetative, and hydrologic processes over a 5 – 10-year period at which point these processes may be expected to become self-sustaining.



# UPPER THIRTYMILE CREEK RESTORATION

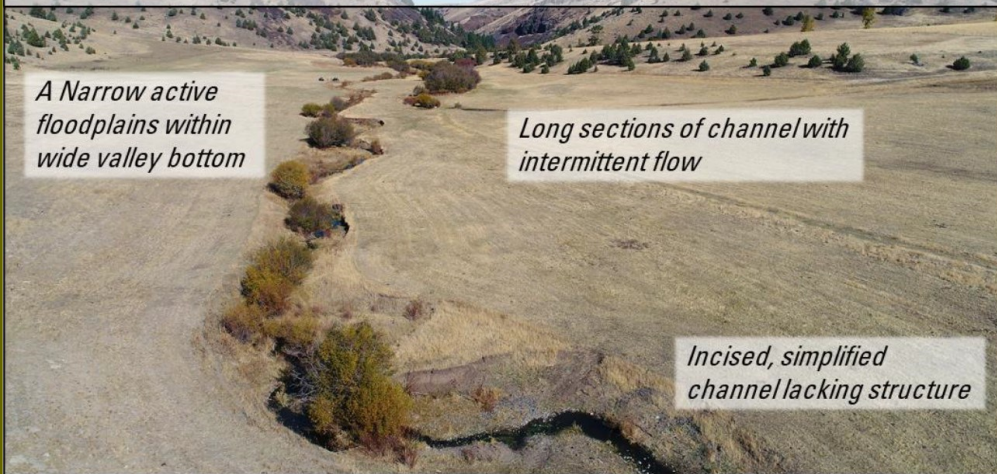
## PROCESS BASED RESTORATION

### Continued improvement midst the drought

In 2020 Thirtymile Creek Low-tech Process-Based Restoration (LT-PBR) Project involved installing 263 restoration structures across four linear miles of main channel and side channel habitat on Thirtymile Creek, working upstream from river mile 23. The restoration structures consisted of 169 Beaver Dam Analogs (BDA) and 94 Post Assisted Log Structures. In 2021, 800ft of adaptive management work was conducted to further these objective, showing continued success midst a sever drought.



### UPPER THIRTYMILE CREEK Pre-restoration Project Area – Fall 2020



*A Narrow active floodplains within wide valley bottom*

*Long sections of channel with intermittent flow*

*Incised, simplified channel lacking structure*

In 2022 low – tech process – based riverscape restoration was implemented for approximately 5.7 miles of mainstem habitat within the Thirtymile Creek watershed. The restoration plan implemented approximately 359 structures designed to promote natural fluvial processes and ultimately result in

development of a healthy and dynamic aquatic ecosystem with greater habitat quality and quantity for the threatened steelhead population that rely on the watershed for spawning and rearing (NWPCC 2005). Upon completion of this project **10.32** miles of continuous LTPBR has been implemented on Thirtymile Creek.



## DISTRICT CONSERVATION PROGRAMS



### Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary program that uses State and Federal funds to implement a suite of restoration practices on private land. The purpose of this program is to establish riparian vegetation on agricultural land along streams, protecting water quality and restoring fish and wildlife habitat. **In 2021-2022 10 CREP contracts were signed to protect and enhance 220 riparian acres covering 12 stream miles resulting in over one million dollars being brought into Gilliam County for restoration, rental payments, and landowner incentives.**

### BUTTE / THIRTYMILE MONITORING Phase II

This project is located in the Thirtymile and Butte Creek Watershed in the Lower John Day Basin. We will conduct stream habitat



(stratified by eco-physical delineations), macroinvertebrate, temperature, and fish abundance/distribution monitoring in Thirtymile and Butte creeks. Specifically, we will map the extent of summer surface flow in both streams and measure stream temperatures at basin-scale and at a project level scale to assess temperature heterogeneity created by the beaver dam analogs. We will conduct surveys for juvenile and adult steelhead abundance and distribution in Thirtymile Creek. We will also evaluate the interaction of bass and steelhead in Thirtymile Creek, including assessment of potential ameliorative strategies.

### Combining Methods to Monitor John Day Steelhead Migration and Overshoot

Approximately 60% of adult steelhead returning to the John Day River "overshoot" the John Day River mouth and are detected 119 km upstream in the Columbia River at McNary Dam. After crossing McNary Dam, John Day adult steelhead must "fallback" in order to return and spawn in the John Day River. Adult overshoot past a hydroelectric dam can directly (via physical injury during fallback) and indirectly (via increased energy expenditure) reduce the survival and reproductive capacity of returning adults. The current proportion of adult steelhead overshooting the John Day River contributes to a 7-year mean Bonneville Dam to South Fork John Day conversion probability of 50%, and is a limiting factor for steelhead population recovery. This means that only half of the adult steelhead arriving at Bonneville Dam survive and return to their natal stream to spawn. Life-cycle models indicate substantial risk of quasi-extinction for a



John Day steelhead population if this status quo conversion probability continues. The quasi-extinction risk diminishes to near zero if conversion rate increases to 70%. In order to increase the probability of John Day steelhead returning to their natal stream, we propose a third phase of a three phase monitoring for John Day adult steelhead overshoot.

# DISTRICT CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

## Successfully/Soon to be Completed

**Thirtymile Floodplain Analysis and Prioritization** This project produced a prioritization report using LiDAR and GIS workflows outlined below.

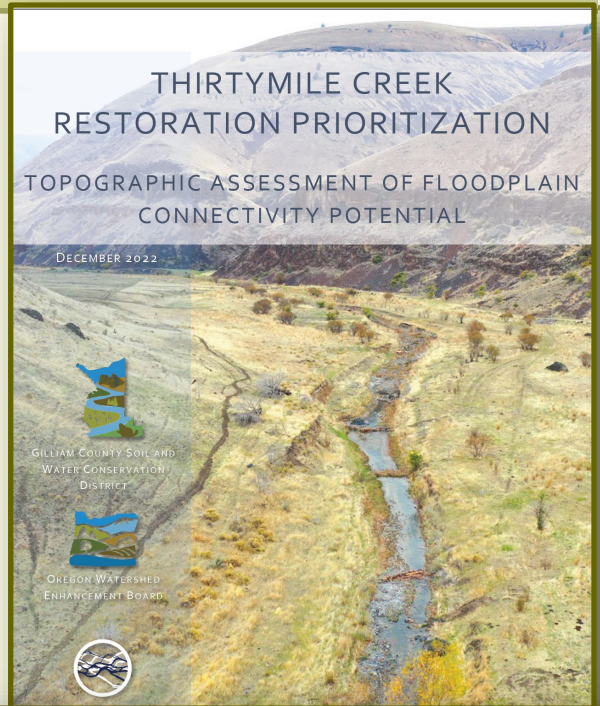
Delineate the Valley Bottom: Valley bottom width provides the upper bounds for floodplain connectivity, salmonid habitat expansion, and increasing riparian vegetation distributions. The Valley bottom area will be extracted from LiDAR digital elevation models (DEMs) for the Thirtymile stream network using the Valley Bottom Extraction Tool. The final objective will include the production of a 65-mile valley bottom network polygon layer segmented at 0.5 km intervals.

### **BUTTE / THIRTYMILE MONITORING**

This project utilizes a nested approach to project monitoring structured around the Bonneville Environmental Foundation results chain model developed by Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. We will conduct stream habitat, temperature, and fish abundance/distribution monitoring in Thirtymile and Butte creeks. Specifically, we will map the extent of summer surface flow in both streams, and measure stream temperatures at both a basin scale and at a project level scale to assess temperature heterogeneity created by the beaver dam analogs. We will conduct surveys for adult steelhead spawner abundance and distribution, and juvenile steelhead abundance and distribution in Thirtymile Creek.

### **Gilliam County Farm Bill Support**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works collaboratively with local partners to implement conservation programs under the federal Farm Bill. Recently in Oregon there has been an increase in landowner interest in these programs, and NRCS has been unable to meet the increased demand. To meet this increased demand, NRCS has \$1 million available to OWEB to support the capacity of local organizations to assist NRCS in the local delivery of Farm Bill programs. In utilizing this funding, OWEB will work with NRCS to develop a grant offering and administer the additional funds through existing watershed council and soil and water conservation district Operating Capacity grant agreements. Local organizations will partner directly with NRCS staff to provide the needed technical and administrative assistance to support the delivery and implementation of Farm Bill programs in Oregon. Two sets of Low Tech Process Based Designs were completed with this funding.

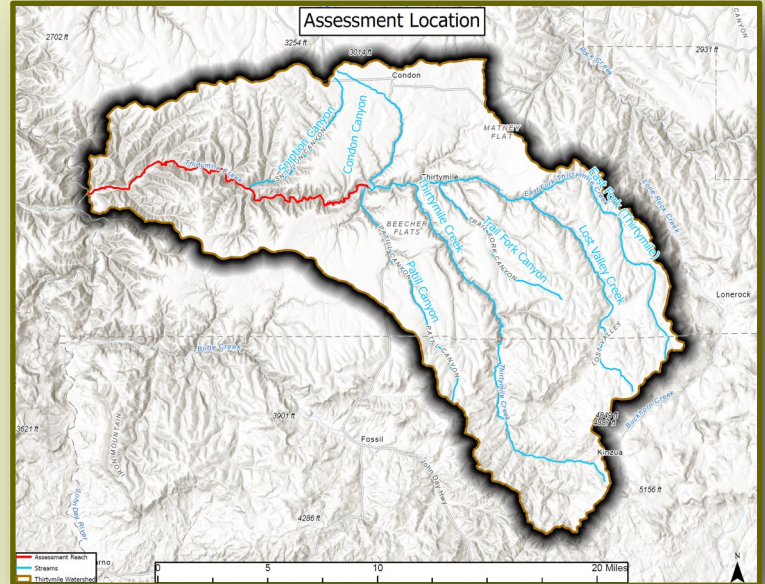


# DISTRICT CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

## Large Scale Conservation Program Large Grants-Awarded and just beginning

### Thirtymile Hydrologic Assessment

This project will take place in the Thirtymile Creek Watershed, near Condon, OR. The project area is an 18.6 mile reach of Thirtymile Creek from its confluence with the John Day River to the bridge at OR -19) Thirtymile Creek, like many Lower John Day tributaries, is plagued by long ephemeral and intermittent reaches that only flow seasonally, thereby providing little habitat value for native migratory fish. Even worse, ephemeral reaches act as disconnection points that also prevent native migratory fish from accessing high quality habitat upstream from ephemeral reaches. In Thirtymile Creek, many highly productive perennial reaches in the upper watershed are inaccessible to steelhead coming from the John Day River. Activity 1 consists of monitoring precipitation and discharge at several points along Thirtymile Creek. Notably, Thirtymile Creek does not currently have any stream gauge. Activity 2 includes geophysical surveys, sediment characterization, and walking surveys of flow permanence. These combined tasks will determine how much baseflow is required to provide perennial flow in Thirtymile Creek. Outputs include the estimated thickness and permeability of sediments along the Thirtymile Creek, and the discharges at which perennial flow is observed along each reach. The ultimate output will be a map of total downvalley flow rate (combined surface and subsurface flow, in cfs) targets for each reach to achieve perennial flow.



Activity 1 consists of monitoring precipitation and discharge at several points along Thirtymile Creek. Notably, Thirtymile Creek does not currently have any stream gauge. Activity 2 includes geophysical surveys, sediment characterization, and walking surveys of flow permanence. These combined tasks will determine how much baseflow is required to provide perennial flow in Thirtymile Creek. Outputs include the estimated thickness and permeability of sediments along the Thirtymile Creek, and the discharges at which perennial flow is observed along each reach. The ultimate output will be a map of total downvalley flow rate (combined surface and subsurface flow, in cfs) targets for each reach to achieve perennial flow.

**Wet Fork Hay Creek Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration** The project is located on Hay Creek, approximately 11 miles from the mouth. Hay Creek is a tributary to the John Day River and the John Day River is drains into the Columbia River. It is approximately 9 miles north of Condon in Gilliam County. The major watershed issue for this reach is intermittent flow during the summer months. The project will seek to create beaver habitat, expand the floodplain, initiate incision recovery, promote existing vegetation, and increase physical complexity. This will be done by installing Beaver Dam Analogs and Post-Assisted Log Structures. fencing installed using a federal program. Planned for Summer of 2023.





# DISTRICT CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

## Large Scale Conservation Program

### GSWCD Unmanned Aerial System (Drone) Program and Awarded Grants

In 2021 the District has received additional grant funding to purchase UAVs to be used for our programs. The District worked with Oregon State University in developing protocols for using drones for our programs. The drones can be used for creating high-resolution georeferenced aerial photos that help with planning and monitoring efforts. The drones will also lower the cost of project design. Rather than using expensive survey equipment and crews to develop surface models; the District will use drone images and specialized software to create digital terrain models (surface model) to be used for design. These designs will be primarily for Beaver Dam Analogs as well as Water and Sediment Control Basins.

### Development of Conservation Practice Certification Protocols using Unmanned Aerial Systems

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) uses a landowner cost-share model to sponsor conservation practices on private lands across the United States. The Conservation practices cover dozens of different actions including brush management, herbaceous weed control, range planting, among others. The individual conservation practices are summarized in “job sheets” on various state level NRCS web sites.

When conservation practice activities are conducted in remote areas, it may take an NRCS representative an entire day just to visit one job site & conduct an infield inventory. Therefore, to increase efficiency and to lower costs of the inventory and certification process, Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is proposing to develop a Technical Note of how to remotely inventory & certify completed practices using Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS).

### Columbia Basin Remote Sensing and Surveying (C.B.A.S.S.)

Thanks to innovative partnerships with NRCS Oregon, Gilliam SWCD, and Morrow SWCD employees and partners have developed a solution that saves time and money, while strategically focusing on the part of Oregon that experiences the most HEL reviews.

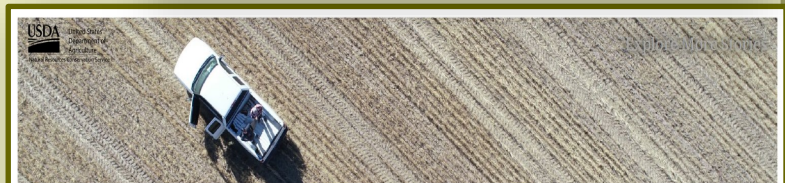
This new approach uses Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, commonly referred to as UAVs or drones, to gather high-resolution photographs remotely. NRCS staff review the pictures from their office computers to determine compliance. MORROW

**The new UAV solution requires only 12 to 16 hours for staff to complete a review—a process that used to take up to six weeks to accomplish.**

The photos are taken at randomly placed photo points on the field according to NRCS sampling protocols and using GPS coordinates. With GPS, the drone can return exactly to the same photo point to take subsequent photos in the future and more accurately determine visual trends.

## Drones

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)
- Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)



### Birds Eye View

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) save staff time & tax dollars to achieve conservation compliance



# C.B.A.S.S.

Columbia Basin Aerial Sensing & Surveying Program



# RCPP

## John Day Canyons Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

**\$806,128.00**

### **OBLIGATED TO HELP PRODUCERS IN 2021 and 2022**

RCPP is an innovative program that has, as its critical features a co-investment approach through which NRCS and partners collaborate to implement natural resource conservation activities. This will bring an estimated \$4 million to our basin over the next 5 Years.

In 2018 the Gilliam – East John Day Watershed Council received an OWEB grant to help engage landowners in the Thirtymile, Ferry Canyon, and Hay Creek/Scott Canyon watersheds. The goal has been to learn the operational objectives and better understand the resource concerns of producers within each of the watersheds. This project helped us begin the process of developing and advancing a funding proposal to pursue an opportunity that has yet to be implemented in the area, the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). We became better informed about the needs of the watersheds as we applied for the RCPP funds.

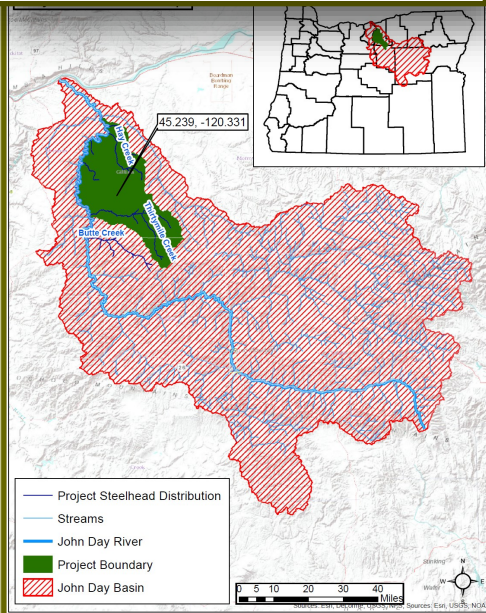
- In 2020 the Gilliam SWCD wrote a successful proposal for Regional Conservation Partnership Program. The goal of the Lower John Day Canyons Restoration Initiative (LJDCRI) is to protect and enhance over 40 miles of critical Mid-Columbia Steelhead habitat in the Lower John Day Basin. The project area is located in Gilliam and Wheeler Counties and is approximately 518,000 acres. This project seeks to use partner capital and NRCS RCPP funds to perform a ridge-top to ridge-top landscape-scale restoration effort. The objectives are to install use exclusion fencing, Beaver Dam Analog structures, and riparian plantings to improve native fish habitat. Additionally, up-land objectives will also be pursued to reduce sediment inputs into the river. These include forest stand improvement, brush management, spring developments, expired CRP reseeding, sediment control basins, and firebreaks.



### RCPP ACTION PLAN

February 5, 2021 Stakeholder informed conservation

Report prepared by Gilliam SWCD for OWEB



2022 RCPP Totals			
Practice	Amount	Units	
<b>BDAs</b>	3315	linear ft	3 contracts
<b>Juniper</b>	250	ac	5 contracts
<b>Forestry</b>	175	ac	2 contracts
<b>Water Systems</b>	14	no	14 contracts
Spring	5	no	
Tying to existing well/system	9	no	
<b>Fence</b>	11816	ft	2 contracts
<b>Access Rd</b>	1447	ft	1 contract
Total contracts obligated			
24			
Total obligated amount			
\$415,128.00			

# DISTRICT CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

## Partnership/Planning

### John Day Basin Partnership OWEB FIP

The John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP) formed in 2014 from a diverse group of stakeholders. Currently 28 organizations have signed onto the memorandum of understanding. The function of the Partnership is to build and implement a basin wide strategic action plan that can bring in additional funding to support more high-quality ridge-to-ridge watershed restoration projects. The vision is a John Day Basin with clean water and healthy watersheds sufficient to provide for the ecological, economic, and cultural well-being of the basin. Gilliam SWCD is a founding member of the Partnership played a key role in developing the strategic action plan. SWCD staff sit on the Steering Committee and Technical Committee.

### FIP IMPLEMENTATION FUNDS

- \$12 Million over 6 years
- Thirtymile - Butte Priority (North Fork and Middle Fork other Priorities)
- Focus on extending wetted area in stream
- Proposals totaling \$370K in first biennium



### **John Day Basin Partnership**

#### *Operations Manual*



<https://flickr.jp/5838tw>

Prepared by:  
John Day Basin Partnership

Date:

Version 4.0: June 20, 2016 (Approved by Partnership on August 24, 2016)

### Lower John Day Working Group- OWRD Place Based Planning

In partnership with Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), this is a collaborative water planning effort to address water challenges facing the Lower John Day Basin. The goal is to hear the voice of the community in a locally-led, voluntary, and non-regulatory process. We are using the best available science and resources to look at water quality, quantity, and ecosystem needs in developing sustainable solutions for our future. We will identify regional solutions to efficiently develop, conserve, store, and utilize water to meet both instream and out-of-stream needs. With collective understanding of our local water conditions, we will gain the knowledge and ability to evaluate current and future needs, allowing us to develop a vision for our future.

## Oregon Water Resources Commission recognizes water plans



With our combined efforts we will have the tools we need to implement a proper plan for our water future. Over the past year we have completed our Lower John Day Basin Integrated Water Resource Plan and received acceptance from the OWRC.



## The Lower John Day Basin Integrated Water Resource Plan

<https://www.lowerjohndaypdp.com/>

5/17/22

(istock-photo.com photo credit)

# DISTRICT CONSERVATION PROGRAMS



## Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS): John Day Watershed Restoration Program

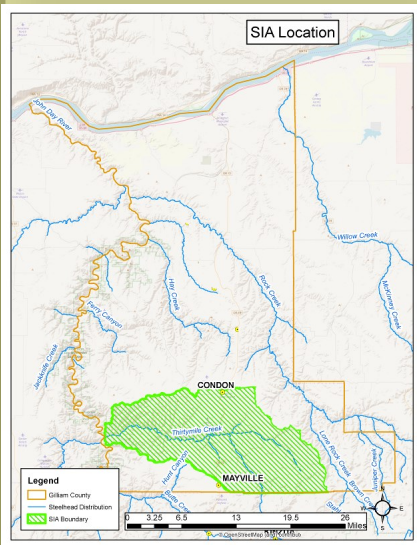


CTWS provides the Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District with Program Support and opportunity for Thirtymile Restoration Design. This support includes work element and such as actions associated with program management & administration, opportunity assessment, conceptual design, development, adaptive management, and post project support. The support for Thirtymile Restoration Design includes designs for BDA structures in the Thirtymile watershed that will address target and focal action in the CTWS Strategy and Atlas FIP implementation. The CTWS Strategy lists habitat complexity as the focused restoration action within the Lower John Day Subbasin. These designs will be used to implement projects funded by the FIP. This funding allowed for the planning and development as well as a low – tech process – based riverscape restoration plan

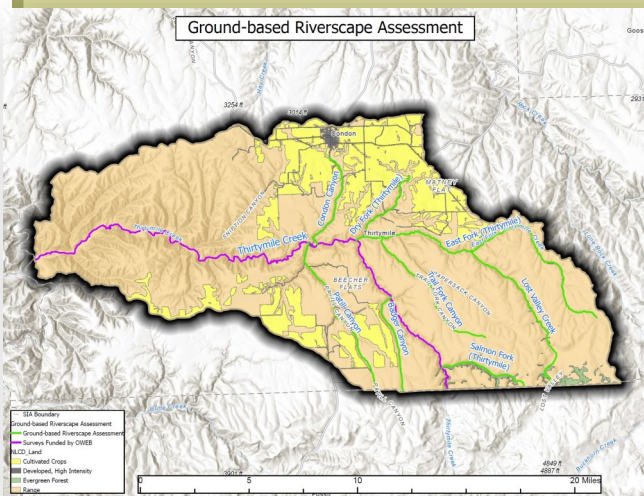
for approximately 5.7 miles of mainstem habitat within the Thirtymile Creek watershed that is planned to be implemented in the Summer of 2022.

### ODA – Ag Water Quality Program- Thirtymile SIA- Strategic Implementation Area

ODA is leading “Strategic Implementation” initiatives, where select areas around the state receive funds focused on outreach and education to address priority water quality concerns. ODA and natural resource partners work together with agricultural landowners to concentrate technical and financial assistance as needed. Landowners located in this watershed who are interested in this program can contact the Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District. The area of the Thirtymile Watershed has been identified by Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) as a priority through their Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) process and were selected for action in 2018. The Gilliam County SWCD board of directors has committed to assist ODA with the SIA process in the Thirtymile Watershed. Thirtymile creek provides critical habitat for Mid-Columbia Steelhead, a species listed as threatened by the federal Endangered Species Act in 1998. The Mid-C Plan lists temperature and sediment load as high restoration priorities for Thirtymile Creek. Thirtymile Creek is included in Oregon's 303d List for not meeting state water quality Standards for temperature and sediment. A TMDL is in place for temperature, a limiting factor for aquatic species present in Thirtymile. The Thirtymile Creek Watershed Assessment states that 70% of streams in Thirtymile have little to no shade. This project is expected to reach those areas of concern and result in eligible restoration projects.



### Thirtymile Ground-based Riverscape Assessment and Data Summary-



Gilliam SWCD and partners need updated information to more effectively implement programs that lead to cooler stream temperatures. The most recent watershed assessment was completed in 2006 by the Gilliam-East John Day Watershed Council. This proposal plans to address this issue in two ways: 1) Conduct Ground-based Riverscape Assessment with a two person crew on 60+ miles of tributaries in the Thirtymile Watershed. The project will use the Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration Project Implementation and Monitoring Protocol developed for OWEB by Eco Logical Research. These ground-based surveys will be digitized and georeferenced to provide the baseline data needed to make future restoration action decisions. 2) Synthesize datasets from several different efforts within the project area to produce an overarching assessment. Some examples of datasets include: summary of restoration work implemented after 1999, compile all drone imagery flown to date, rapid Ground-based Riverscape Assessment data, temperature data, wet/dry surveys, ODFW steelhead data, and flood-

plain prioritization.

# OWEB FUNDED RESTORATION

## Investments in Gilliam County



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) mission:  
To help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies.



Since 1999, OWEB has awarded nearly **\$5.96 million in grants in Gilliam County.**

### Accomplishments

Restoration and improvements accomplished:



**102** instream and riparian habitat miles treated  
6,563 statewide



**323** miles of fish passage made accessible  
7,048 statewide

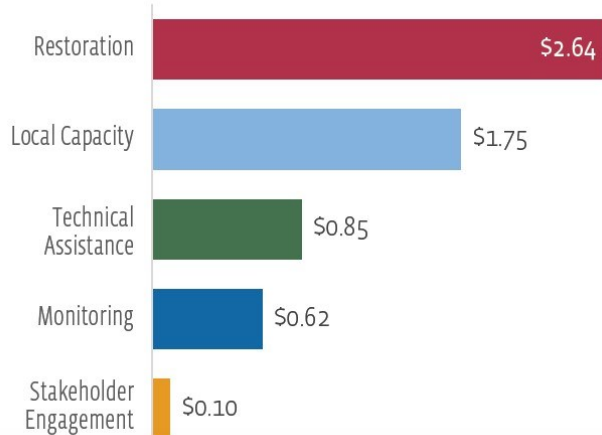


**50,115** upland habitat acres improved  
1,392,620 statewide

### Grant Awards by Project Type 1999-2022

All Fund Sources: **\$770.01 million**

(Numbers below are in millions of dollars)



### About OWEB

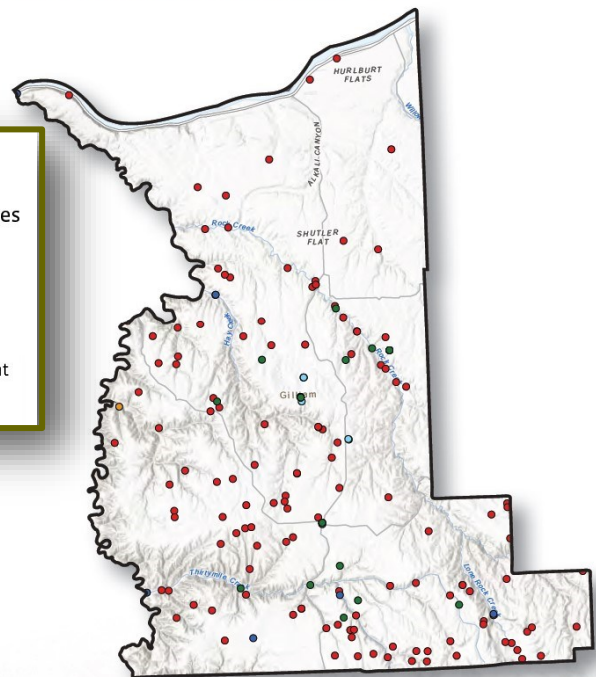
The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board cares about and invests in the long-term health of Oregon watersheds, both on the land and in the water that flows through it. Together with local partners across the state of Oregon, we invest funds from Lottery, General Fund, federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, Salmon License Plates, and other sources in local communities. These funds help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies.

### Projects in Gilliam County by Type, 1999-2022

#### Gilliam County

OWEB Grant Project Types

- Acquisitions
- Restoration
- Local Capacity
- Monitoring
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Technical Assistance



# COUNTY, COMMUNITY, OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

## Gilliam County

Gilliam County provide capacity funding for Implementation of the **Gilliam County, John Day Basin, Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plan** dated **December, 2019**. The District will implement the TMDL Plan, assist the County with completing reports that County must provide to DEQ in accordance with the TMDL Plan. Provide assistance with Geographic Information Systems to County's Assessor at County's request, and provide outdoor and conservation educational opportunities to students enrolled in schools located within the boundaries of Gilliam County.

## Small Grant Program

This is an excellent resource for small acts of conservation kindness that can be done by land managers and land owners. In partnership with OWEB, we are able to use \$66,000.00 every two years to support these efforts. This reporting cycle we completed three small grants, including spring developments, a water development, and a western juniper cut. We also completed reporting on six other small grants including spring developments, fire restoration, and irrigation efficiency.



The Gilliam SWCD participated in the Gilliam County Crop Tour 2022 hosted by Gilliam County OSU Extension Service. The purpose of these tours is to connect researchers with farmers to help them improve their agricultural operations with the latest varieties of wheat, as well as the best management practices for improving soil health and water use efficiency in the cropland fields. Improving the management of farmland on the plateau will have a positive impact on the watersheds they are located in by reducing the potential for sediment, nutrients, and pesticides reaching streams and other wildlife habitats.



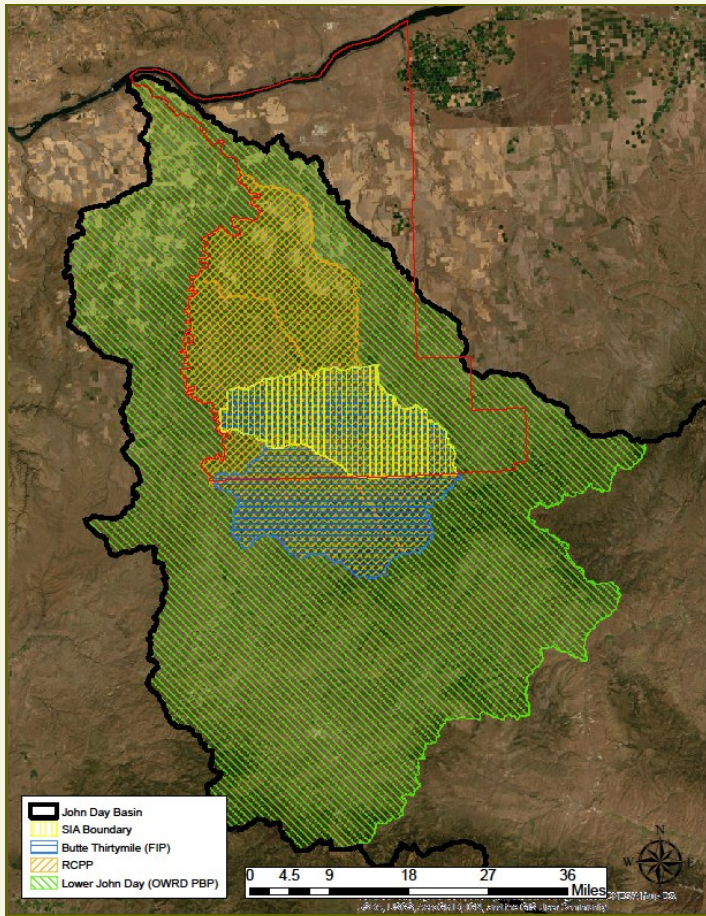
**The Gilliam SWCD continues to engage the community, producers, and land-owners through numerous events and activities.**

Our District Manager Herb Winters, led the Wonderful World of Drones at the Gilliam County 4-H STEM Camp. In this camp the students were inspired to think creatively, collaborate, and solve problems. Some of the many STEM concepts the students learned while participating in this class were; physics in action, understanding mechanics, remote control concepts, real-world math, spatial and abstract planning, coding and programming, leadership and working together, environment, geography, and topology. Big thank you to OSU Extension and Gilliam County 4-H for allowing us to participate in this camp.



# DISTRICT CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

## A Unique Opportunity For Large Scale Restoration



Putting the pieces together for a ridge top to ridge top approach to conservation county wide!

Though hard work, extensive planning, and partnerships the Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District has created the rare opportunity to leverage funds from numerous funding sources to help achieve the highest results of conservation achievements.

Current project boundary areas of projects within Gilliam County consist of: The John Day Basin Focused Investment Partnership, Oregon Department of Agriculture Strategic Implementation area, Regional Conservation Partnership Program Boundary, and the Lower John Day Basin Partnership. The area of the county not within these boundaries will also receive conservation dollars through our small grants program.

FY	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Small Grants		\$66,000.00		
LJDWG		\$250,000.00		
ODA		\$195,000.00		
RCPP		\$4,000,000.00		
FIP		\$4,000,000.00		



Thirtymile has been selected as an **OWEB Conservation Effectiveness Partnership** watershed.

The Conservation Effectiveness Partnership has a mission to describe the effectiveness of cumulative conservation and restoration actions in achieving ecological outcomes through collaborative monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. CEP partners have agreed on goals and objectives for the partnership, with an emphasis on water quality and watershed health.

GILLIAM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT STAFF DIRECTORY

DISTRICT MANAGER	HERB WINTERS	384-2672, EXT 110
OFFICE MANAGER	NORIE WRIGHT	384-2672, EXT 108
CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN II	ROGER LATHROP	384-2672, EXT 106
CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN I	JESSICA GILLEN	384-2672, EXT 108
WATERSHED COORDINATOR	KATIE GARTHWAITE	384-2672, EXT 111

**Board of Directors**

- ❖ **Jordan Maley**-Chairman- Jordan is the OSU Extension Agent for Gilliam County. Jordan also manages family holdings north of Condon and on Ferry Canyon.
- ❖ **John Anderson**-Vice-Chair-John and his wife Marilee own land in the Thirtymile Watershed.
- ❖ **Rich Harper**-Secretary/Treasurer- Rich and his wife Alice manage the Circle W Ranch on middle Rock Creek.
- ❖ **Chet Wilkins**,-Chet is the Gilliam County Assessor and operates a family ranch on Rock Creek.
- ❖ **Doug Potter**-The Potter family operates a multi-generational farming operation in the Condon area. When not helping out on the place Doug maintains a “day job” with the Gilliam County Weed Department.

**GILLIAM SWCD THANKS**

THE WORK OF THE GILLIAM SWCD IS SUPPORTED AND ENHANCED BY MANY, STARTING WITH OUR PRODUCERS AND LANDOWNERS. BUT, NONE OF OUR PROJECTS WOULD SUCCEED WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF OUR FUNDING PARTNERS. OUR THANKS TO OUR PRODUCERS, LANDOWNERS AND THE FOLLOWING FUNDING PARTNERS:



- OREGON DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
- OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD
- CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE WARM SPRINGS
- BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
- NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE
- GILLIAM COUNTY
- FARM SERVICE AGENCY
- OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE