

# Klamath Watershed Partnership



## Report of Accomplishments 2007-2008

*Where land, water and people come together.*

## Letter from the Director

Many of you were involved in merging the Klamath Watershed Council and the Klamath Basin Ecosystem Foundation in July of 2007. In addition to sharing the vision of a community-based organization committed to ecosystem restoration as well as sustaining local communities, we had several distinct purposes for consolidation:

- Increase efficiency by sharing administrative personnel, space, and other expenses;
- Increase "fund-worthiness" by combining resources under a single nonprofit organization;
- Serve as a single point of contact for landowners interested in restoration;
- Ensure we are able to hire employees with the right qualifications that also fit our mission;
- Consolidate boards to make efficient use of community volunteers' time;

The past 18 months have borne out much of what was hoped for. We are viewed by many landowners as their advocates in pursuing restoration that also keeps their operations viable, and as the "point of entry" to a whole host of funding resources that are available. We are also viewed as partners by those agencies and organizations who are committed to restoration, as so much of what is needed is on private lands. Combining resources has allowed us to dramatically increase the number of projects, as you can see on the Fact Sheet, with 15 active projects in 2007-08 and initial contacts for another 12.

This growth has been achieved largely because of investing in staffing capacity: Danette Watson moved from Council Coordinator to Restoration Manager with the merger, focusing on outreach and projects in the Sprague while also overseeing the restoration program. Joe Watkins came on right away to supervise the on-the-ground work, and he shines as a jack-of-all-trades who also knows how to get the most out of his crew. We hired Katharine Jackson last July to develop new projects outside the Sprague, and she has proven invaluable in managing all the details of getting projects up and going, even in the Sprague, freeing up Danette to focus on new project development. Molly Russell handles all our finances in just one day a week, making sure that we stay on top of billings, financial reports, and federal laws for nonprofit accounting. Ginny Monroe has been on board just over a year as our Outreach Coordinator, and she has tackled working group meetings as well as numerous community events, the media, and regular communications to more than 600 with a quarterly newsletter.

Keeping the organization afloat will likely always be a challenge, but it especially so in light of the current economic downturn. We are deeply grateful to the numerous partners who make this work possible. In addition to their funding of restoration projects, we want to acknowledge the Klamath Falls Office of the US Fish & Wildlife Service for their capacity-building grant that helped us get off the ground, and OWEB for their ongoing Council Support grant. The Jeld-Wen Foundation and Sustainable Northwest provided necessary funds for restoration project development, and the EPA Targeted Watershed Grant supports outreach above the lake; both of these will now be largely picked up by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. NFWF will also cover the cost of our work on an off-Project water settlement, landowner conservation incentives, and assessing the need for a local easement program, as well as coordinated strategic planning and restoration project implementation. And last but certainly not least, private donors provide the "mortar" that fills in the gaps, keeping the doors open and the lights on.

A hearty thanks to the boards of directors who had the vision to consolidate the two organizations. Together we have moved this organization to a new level in the Upper Klamath Basin, and we continue to create the vision that initially inspired us—sustaining our rural communities as well as the ecosystem of the Upper Klamath Basin.

Here's to the journey!



Terry Morton, Executive Director

*Pictures on cover were provided by employees of the Klamath Watershed Partnership*

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# What Kinds of Watershed Restoration Do We Do?

**Riparian Restoration:** The land adjacent to the river, known as the "riparian area," is critical for the ecosystem. Vegetation filters out nutrients from pasture runoff, the root systems help stabilize the stream banks and reduce excessive erosion, and woody trees and shrubs that fall in the stream provide fish with protection from predators and promote higher water tables by increasing flood plain connectivity. Improper grazing management can degrade riparian areas. Lack of shade causes stream temperatures to rise, and overland flow nutrients entering the waterway contribute to excessive algae growth. During late summer, as algae dies and decomposes, the oxygen levels decrease, negatively impacting fish health.

**Grazing Management:** The Klamath Watershed Partnership works with ranchers to find ways to restore the ecosystem, while also maintaining an economically viable grazing operations. The Partnership can provide interested landowners with a Grazing Management Plan with practical strategies to balance ecosystem needs with production interests.

**Fencing:** Often the most practical way to manage grazing is by fencing the river. The Partnership applies for funding, designs the fencing plan, secures any necessary permits and installs the fence. Partnership staff work with landowners every step of the way, and manage the project from start to finish.

**Off-stream Watering:** Cattle that are fenced from the river need alternative sources of water. The Partnership designs and installs off-stream watering systems, and if pumping is needed, installs solar pumps to save on power costs.

**Vegetation Plantings:** Grasses provide a buffer that filters nutrients out of runoff; shrubs and grasses help stabilize the banks, trap river sediment during high flows and reduce erosion; and fallen trees provide habitat for fish. Vegetation also promotes higher water tables by increasing floodplain connectivity. While grazing management protects the area so vegetation can return, planting native vegetation can speed up this process.

**Spring Restoration & Reconnection:** Springs historically have provided spawning habitat for a variety of fish, and a source of cold, clean water for the river, improving water quality. The Partnership can assist landowners who are interested in restoring and/or reconnecting springs to the river by securing funding and managing the project.

**Wetlands:** The Upper Basin used to have thousands of acres of wetlands, most of which was reclaimed for agricultural use. Now we know that wetlands make a major difference in water quality and provides late season flow as the river and lake levels decrease. They also help filter out nutrients and provide habitat for numerous birds, fish & animals. The Partnership works with landowners as well as state and federal agencies to restore wetlands around Upper Klamath Lake and Lake Ewauna, as well as the rivers and streams in the Upper Basin.

**Stream Channel Restoration:** Streams are meant to twist and turn, and in decades past we didn't recognize the consequences of straightening to reduce flood impacts and improve irrigation efficiency. In some situations, mechanically altering the channel form can speed the restoration of the natural processes of the river. Moving levees back from the riverbanks can allow the river, at high flows, to flood the land and replenish the water table; and water that is retained in the soil is released later in the season, enhancing late-season flows.

**Juniper Management:** While junipers are native to the Basin, fire suppression has resulted in their spreading far beyond their normal range. Reducing the number of junipers results in significant water savings, as a single tree can use as much as 50 gallons a day. This helps replenish the springs, groundwater and the natural hydrology of the area.

**Irrigation Improvements:** We work with ranchers and farmers to conserve water and improve the quality of the water entering the rivers. Planting dryland crops reduces irrigation demands and more efficient irrigation systems can reduce water use, both without reducing production. Tailwater recycling systems reduce irrigation withdrawals, and tailwater areas filter runoff before it enters the river, improving water quality.

# Fact Sheet

## Outreach

Working Group Meetings	24
Landowner Consultations	48
Ranch Management Plans	24

## Restoration Projects

Riparian Fencing	13 landowners 27 miles
Off-Stream Watering Systems	6
Riparian Vegetation	4.25 miles
Wetland Protection/Restoration	28.5 miles
Spring Restoration	5
Water Conservation	3
Upland Management (juniper/dryland seed)	3

## Watershed Assessments

Upper Sprague-Sycan	Document Complete
Lower Sprague-Lower Williamson	Final Draft



# Partners in Restoration

Local landowners are our primary partners, since nearly all of the restoration work that we do is on private land. We partner with many natural resource agencies and organizations in developing and implementing projects, many of whom contribute funding as well as expertise:

## Federal Agencies/Tribes

- The Klamath Tribes
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation District
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- US Environmental Protection Agency

## State/County

- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Oregon Water Resources Department
- Klamath Soil & Water Conservation Service
- Oregon State University  
Klamath Basin Research & Extension Office

## Nonprofits

- The Nature Conservancy
- Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust
- Ducks Unlimited
- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
- Sustainable Northwest
- Working Lands Alliance

## Private

- Jeld-Wen Foundation



# Financial Statement

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 54,453
Accounts Receivable	110,557

**TOTAL ASSETS** **\$165,010**

### Liabilities

Liabilities	\$ 20,608
Unrestricted Net Assets	106,607
Net Income	37,800
Total Equity	144,404

**TOTAL EQUITY & LIABILITIES** **\$165,010**

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

### Revenues & Support

Grants Awarded	
~OR Watershed Enhancement Board	\$ 574,460
~US Fish & Wildlife Service	299,528
~Sustainable Northwest	72,000
~Jeld-Wen Foundation	37,500
Environmental Protection Agency	21,376
Individual contributions	3,200
Miscellaneous	530

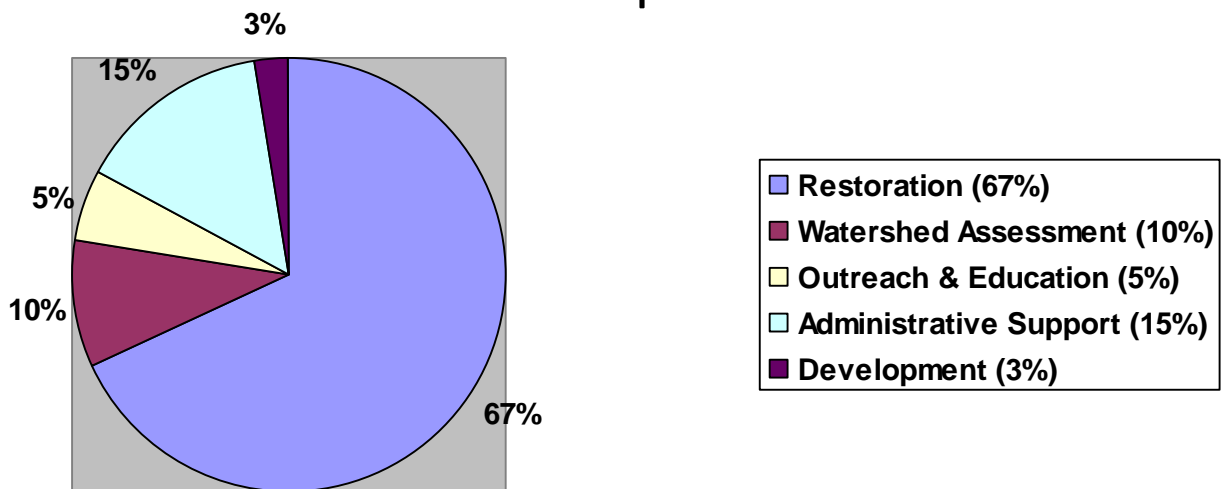
**TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT** **\$1,008,594**

### Expenses

Program Services	
~Outreach & Education	\$ 47,525
~Watershed Assessments	88,225
~Restoration Projects	623,707
Support Services	
~Administration	134,632
~Development	22,641

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$916,730**

## Breakdown of Expenses



# Board of Directors

## Officers

**Andrew Stuedli, Chair**

*Local appraiser whose family is in ranching*

**Mark Stern, Vice-Chair**

*Area Director of The Nature Conservancy*

**Anne Wenner, Secretary**

*Active in conservation issues throughout the Basin for several decades*

**Nathan Jackson, Treasurer**

*Manager of the Gerber Ranch and Chair for the Lost River Working Group*

## Working Group Chairs

**Gerda Hyde**

*Upper Williamson Working Group, Rancher*

**Shirley Kerns**

*Klamath River Working Group, Rancher*

**Matt Walter**

*Sprague River Working Group, Rancher*

**Vacant**

*Urban Issues Working Group*

## Directors

**Larry Dunsmoor**

*Senior Aquatics Biologist with The Klamath Tribes*

**Becky Hyde**

*Off-Project Rancher*

**Steve Kandra**

*Farmer on the Klamath Reclamation Project*

**Dan Keppen**

*Family Farm Alliance Executive Director*

**Martin Kerns**

*Klamath Soil & Water Conservation District*

**Alice Kilham**

*Conservation Community and active in Klamath Basin Water issues for generations*

**Jeff Mitchell**

*Tribal Council Member, The Klamath Tribes*

**Chris Sokol**

*Jeld-Wen Timber Resources Forest Manager*

**Marshall Staunton**

*Farmer on the Klamath Reclamation Project*

**Karl Wenner**

*Local surgeon with a ranch on Rock Creek, tributary to Upper Klamath Lake*



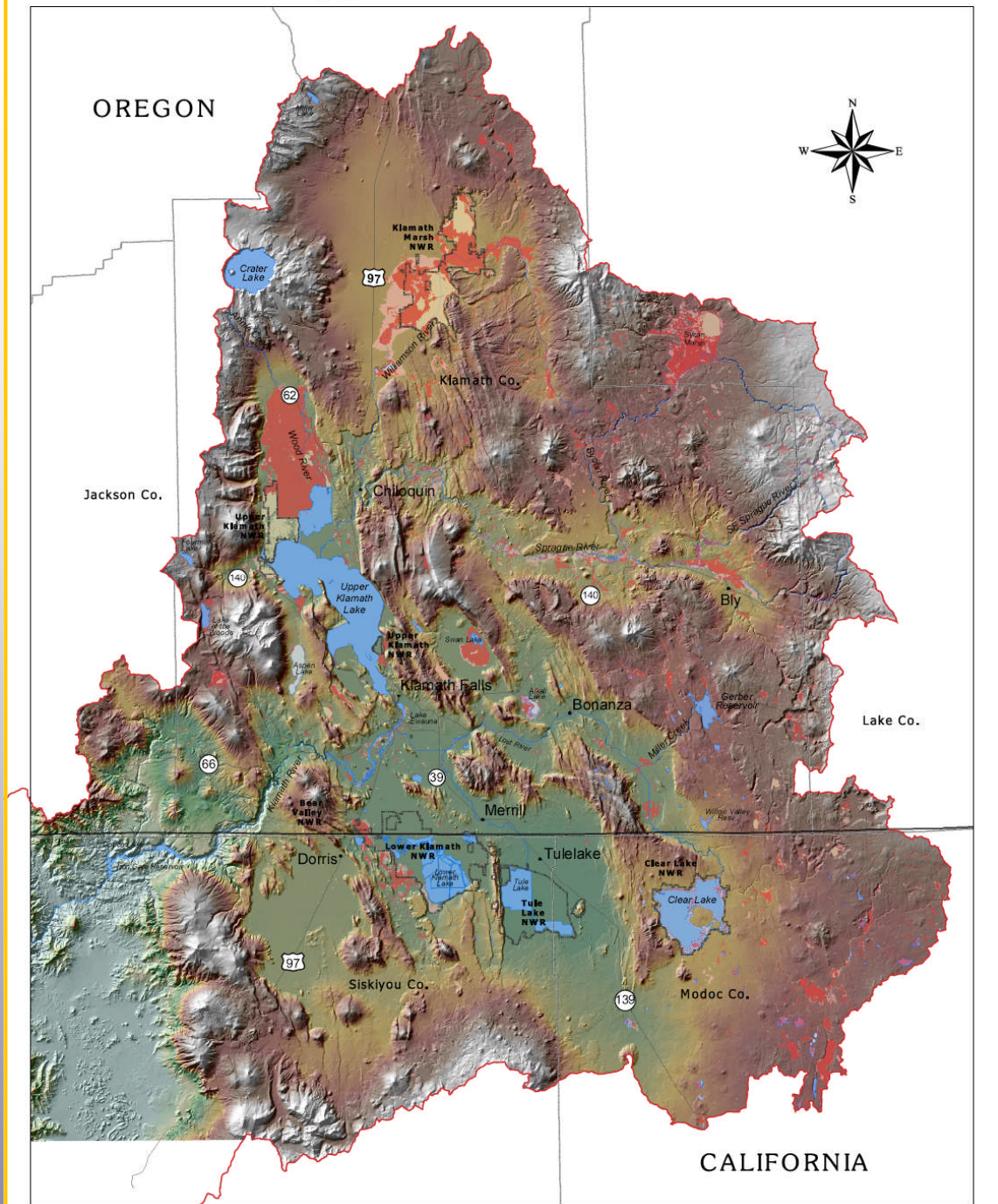
# What's in the Future?

1. **Working Groups:** Providing outreach, watershed education and landowner consultations to community members through local working groups;
2. **Sustaining the Ecosystem and Communities:** Developing and implementing restoration activities that sustain the ecosystem, in ways that also sustain the individual producers and local economies;
3. **Riparian Restoration:** Continuing to focus on riparian restoration on the Sprague River, because of its high impact on improving water quality and fish habitat;
4. **Landowner Incentives:** Coordinating existing programs and developing new incentives for landowners willing to do conservation or restoration;
5. **Settlement:** Working toward settlement of off-Project water rights in ways that increase in-stream flows to the lake by the 30,000 acre feet needed to sustain a Basin-wide water balance, and also sustain local producers;
6. **Reducing Water Use:** Facilitating conversion to dryland crops and irrigation improvements to reduce water use, as well as juniper management, prioritized for ranches that also need riparian restoration;
7. **Coordinated Planning:** Participating in coordinated Upper Basin planning for recovery of the species by (a) evaluating previous project effectiveness as well as socio-economic impacts and opportunities, (b) prioritizing restoration activities by reach and (c) identifying partners' roles, timelines, and funding resources; and (d) ongoing monitoring of results and adapting the plan accordingly;
8. **Fish Screens:** Developing a fish screen program that will prevent entrainment in irrigation systems, researching subcontractors to build reliable, self-cleaning screens that either they or we can install;
9. **Watershed Assessment:** Developing Action Plans in the Upper Sprague-Sycan and Lower Sprague-Lower Williamson, and conducting the final community-based watershed assessment for Upper Klamath Lake;
10. **Organizational Capacity:** Building organizational capacity to respond to the need for restoration in the Upper Basin:
  - a. Detailed strategic planning to set program goals with measurable objectives, strategies and timelines;
  - b. Board development to include Personnel, Nominating, Watershed Assessment and Restoration Program committees;
  - c. Fiscal, Personnel and Program policies, as well as Position descriptions and Performance Appraisal formats for each staff position;
  - d. Pursuing resources for administrative support for all of the activities listed above, as well as indirect costs to keep the doors open and the lights on.

*Klamath Watershed  
Partnership is just "Down  
to earth people trying to  
help you get something  
done."*

*Anonymous Sprague River  
Landowner*

# The Upper Klamath River Basin



## MISSION

To conserve, enhance and restore the natural resources of the Klamath Basin, while ensuring the long-term sustainability of the regional economy and local communities.