

Upper Sprague Watershed Assessment

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AUM	Animal unit month
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
C-S-R	Capture, store and release
CCC	Commodity Credit Corporation
CCRP	Continuous Conservation Reserve Program
CFS	Cubic feet per second
CHT	Channel habitat type
CREP	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
CWD	Chronic wasting disease
DEM	Digital elevation model
ECSI	(DEQ) Environmental Cleanup Site Information
ENSO	El Niño/Southern Oscillation
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
ERO	Ecosystem Restoration Office (of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESRI	Environmental Systems Research Institute
ET	Evapotranspiration
FLIR	Forward Looking Infrared Radiometry
GAP	Gap Analysis Project
GIS	Global (Geographic) Information System
GLO	General Land Office
GPS	Global Positioning System
HSU	Humboldt State University
HUC	Hydrologic unit code
HWG	Hatfield Working Group
IAU	Individual Assessment Unit
ID	Inter-disciplinary
INR	Institute for Natural Resources
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
KBEF	Klamath Basin Ecosystem Foundation
KNRD	Klamath Tribes Natural Resources Department
KWC	Klamath Watershed Council
LASAR	Laboratory Analytical Storage and Retrieval Database
LIDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
LRMP	Land and Resource Management Plan
LWD	Large woody debris
LWG	Local working group
MBF	Million board-feet
NCDC	National Climatic Data Center
NF	National Forest
NFCP	Native Fish Conservation Policy
NHD	National Hydrography Dataset
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

NPS	National Park System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRST	National Riparian Service Team
NTU	Nephelometric turbidity unit
NWI	National Wetland Inventory
NWCC	National Water and Climate Center
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
OAR	Oregon Administrative Rules
OC&E	Oregon, California, and Eastern
OCAFS	Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
OCS	Oregon Climate Service
ODEQ	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
ODF	Oregon Department of Forestry
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
ODSL	Oregon Department of State Lands
OGAP	Oregon Gap Analysis Program
OGEO	Oregon Geospatial Enterprise Office
OIT	Oregon Institute of Technology
ONCIC	Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center
ONHP	Oregon Natural Heritage Program
ORS	Oregon Revised Statute
OSU	Oregon State University
OWEB	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
OWQI	Oregon Water Quality Index
OWRD	Oregon Water Resources Department
PDO	Pacific Decadal Oscillation
PFC	Proper Functioning Condition
PNW	Pacific northwest
POR	Period of record
PRISM	Parameter-elevation Regressions on Independent Slopes Model
PSMFC	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
RCU	Riparian condition unit
REO	Regional Ecosystem Office
RUSLE	Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation
SNOTEL	Snowpack Telemetry
SRI	Soil Resource Inventory
SSURGO	(NRCS) Soil Survey Geographic
STATSGO	(NRCS) State Soil Geographic
SWE	Snow water equivalent
(%) TIA	(percent of) total impervious area
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TRS	Timber Resource Services
USBR	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
USDI	U.S. Department of Interior
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

WAB	Water availability basin
WARS	Water Availability Reporting System
WDNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources
WFPB	Washington Forest Practices Board
WLA	Working Landscapes Alliance
WPCF	Water Pollution Control Facility
WPN	Watershed Professionals Network
WQMP	Water Quality Management Plan
WRCC	Western Regional Climate Center
WRIS	Water Rights Information System
WRP	Wetland Reserve Program

Disclaimer

This watershed assessment is based almost entirely on the work of others. The authors of this document have attempted to organize relevant data and associated interpretation into a format that will be most useful to Upper Sprague River Watershed stakeholders. Citations are provided to key data bases and existing reports that provided the foundation for this assessment. Note, however, that we rely heavily on data interpretations provided in these reference reports, as is standard practice for watershed assessments. We have cited and referenced many borrowed works for this document and maintain the fair use doctrine for such use. Under the fair use doctrine of the U.S. copyright statute, it is permissible to use limited portions of a work for purposes such as scholarly reports.

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Preface

by Mike Connelly, KBEF

As far back as the records go, the Upper Sprague and Sycan watersheds have been “on the edge.” This is true in terms of geography, culture, economy, politics, and ecology. For centuries, this was where the Paiute Indians, whose territory stretched all the way down into Nevada, met the Klamath people, who ranged westward into the mountains west of Upper Klamath Lake. The Modocs sometimes came here too, from their homes to the south on Tule Lake and the Lost River.

This area has been on the edge in other ways as well. To the west, it is wetter, and the plants and animals are more numerous. To the east, where it gets dry pretty quickly, the plants and animals change, and generally are fewer and farther apart. When the states were formed, the area ended up near the line between Oregon and California, and when Lake and Klamath counties were formed, these watersheds were shared between the two.

This region contains the headwaters of a drainage that travels several hundred miles and empties into the Pacific Ocean, slicing through the Cascade Mountain Range along the way. The January snowflakes falling on Gearhart’s cliffs will make their way downriver, eventually lapping into the saltwater on the coast of northern California. For untold centuries, people and fish have followed the rivers and creeks, upstream and downstream, looking for more hospitable weather and better things to eat.

In some ways, the people were luckier than the fish. People got to climb the mountains during the summer months, breathing the thin air deeply, squinting at the bright blue and sunshine, looking down on the places they lived -- getting a good long look at “The Big Picture.”

There are good people that live in the Upper Sprague and the Sycan, people with all different kinds of backgrounds. These are people who work harder than most, and get less in return, at least when it comes to money. But there must be something else that they get, because they stay in this place, working the land day in and day out, fighting the cold, sweating in the heat, swatting the bugs, and watching as the travelers pass on through, on their way to somewhere else. Other times, they sit with people they’ve known for years, watching the sun come up, watching the sun go down, watching the fish jump and the swallows dive as the water keeps flowing slowly by.

Today, the communities of the Upper Sprague and Sycan are on the edge not just in location, but also in time. Things are changing in these communities, as they are throughout the rural western United States. Some of these changes are good, and some of them aren’t any good at all. But either way the change is there, and we’ve got to find a way to deal with it.

This document is supposed to be a tool. It’s meant to help us deal with changes in a way that doesn’t sacrifice all the good things about our rural communities -- the common sense, the honesty, the faith, the endurance, the love of the land, the love for your neighbor, and the willingness to do what it takes to make things right.