



John Day Basin watershed restoration

Project goal

Continue implementation of the John Day Watershed Restoration Program.

Background

This project is a continuation of the ongoing watershed restoration program in the John Day basin. The individual implementation projects are intended to improve water quality and quantity, aquatic habitat, and fish production; reduce bank instability, sedimentation, bedload movement and summer water temperatures thereby improving water quality; reduce or eliminate migratory delays from passage impediments; and improve riparian condition. The project also includes continued implementation of an annual monitoring program to evaluate each of the implementation projects.

The project began in 1998 and has continued to be very popular with the agricultural communities in the upper John Day subbasin. The Warm Springs Tribes have used a strong partnership with the Grant Soil and Water Conservation District to promote, design, implement and monitor the work.

About 85 percent of the project budget applies to fish passage design, administration, planning,

monitoring and implementation that promotes continued agricultural irrigation diversions without impeding fish passage. This replaces the traditional method of diverting water for irrigation with the use of push-up dams, which requires large equipment to push up the rock in the river bed to dam the water and divert it to an irrigation system.

The project also focuses on improving riparian habitat and maintenance of native plant diversity by installing off-site (stream) water developments for livestock to drink without disturbing the stream, growing native species in a nursery to plant riparian areas and removing invasive Juniper to improve the hydrologic cycle for streams.

Costs

Total budget for 2005: \$727,800

Total expenditure since project inception: \$2,269,000

Contractor: Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

