

*The Upper Deschutes Watershed Council* seeks to protect and restore the two-million-acre Upper Deschutes River watershed through collaborative projects in habitat restoration, watershed education, and long-term monitoring.



**UPPER DESCHUTES**  
WATERSHED COUNCIL



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



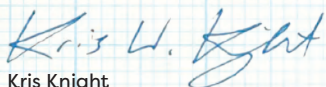
# Greetings Watershed Supporters!

This past year, the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council has continued much of the work we have been doing for the past 27 years as we strive toward our mission to restore and protect the upper Deschutes watershed by conducting habitat restoration, watershed education and long-term monitoring. In the following pages, you will read about the restoration projects we have undertaken this past year, the students we have engaged in watershed education, the native plants restored along our rivers and streams, the trees we have thinned to create resiliency to wildfire and to support our habitat restoration efforts, and the adult volunteers who have supported our education, stewardship and monitoring efforts. The graphics to the right summarize all these efforts. I would invite you to visit our new website that we updated in 2024 to learn more!

All of the work we do at the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council requires partnerships. That includes the landowners we work with and the local, state, and federal agencies, NGOs and tribes that support our efforts through funding or providing expertise and guidance. It is also partnerships with community members that support our work in many different ways. Support could include volunteering at our annual river clean-up or a stream sampling event, or attending one of our speaker series sessions to learn about local watersheds. It could also mean being one of the many individuals or businesses that support our mission through making a financial donation that allows us to keep doing this work year to year. We are grateful for this support!

As we look ahead to 2025, we have a lot to be excited about! In Whychus Creek, we plan to develop a stream temperature forecasting system to forecast when stream temperatures will get too warm for native fish species so we can seek creative solutions to cool stream temperatures. In the Deschutes, we look forward to launching an engineering design process to create a fish passage structure at the dam in Bend that creates Mirror Pond and we are leading a feasibility study effort to assess fish passage opportunities at a dam on the Little Deschutes river. We plan to offer continuing education classes through Central Oregon Community College this winter for community members to learn about the Metolius watershed and this spring for the upper Deschutes watershed. We will continue to offer our K-12 youth education programs to create formative experiences like the photo on the front cover of student activities on the Metolius River.

Thank you for supporting our work in 2024 and for considering supporting the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council as we look ahead to 2025!



Kris Knight  
Executive Director

## Staff

Kris Knight  
Executive Director

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Casey Schuder  
Stream Restoration Project Manager

Michael Tauriainen  
Monitoring Technician

Katie Wareham  
Education and Outreach Coordinator



UDWC staff and Board members visiting a project site

## Board of Directors

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Will Groves  
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Sunny Simpkins

# 2024 BY THE NUMBERS



**.75**  
MILES OF  
STREAM RESTORED  
on Whychus Creek



**3,557**  
STUDENTS ENGAGED  
to become the next generation of  
watershed stewards through  
our K-12 watershed  
education program



**21,132**  
NATIVE PLANTS  
planted along our Central  
Oregon rivers and streams



**580**  
TREES THINNED  
to create wildfire resilient  
communities — reused for  
habitat in local streams



**594**  
ADULT COMMUNITY  
VOLUNTEERS  
participated in watershed  
education, stewardship and  
monitoring events





## MONITORING

### Part of our mission at the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council (UDWC) involves long-term monitoring.

This involves monitoring trends in our watershed but also assessing the effectiveness of our restoration efforts. In 2024, UDWC continued monitoring stream temperature trends by tracking temperatures in the Deschutes River, Tumalo Creek, and Whychus Creek. UDWC has a 20+ year stream temperature dataset which can help the community understand conditions for native fish, changes in stream temperatures over time related to diversion of water from the river and streams but also related to restoration of streamflow.



Volunteers and partners collecting macroinvertebrate samples.

### To understand the effectiveness of our restoration efforts,

UDWC staff and contractors continue to monitor the results of our floodplain restoration efforts on Whychus Creek. UDWC received a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to continue this floodplain monitoring work in 2024 and beyond. One piece of that work involves working with volunteers and partners each

summer to collect macroinvertebrate samples from Whychus Creek in August. This past summer, 44 volunteers collected 19 samples of macroinvertebrates over two days to inform UDWC

about the health of Whychus Creek and the value of our restoration efforts. To learn more detail about this floodplain restoration and monitoring work in the Whychus Creek watershed, visit our story map at the QR code below.

### As we look ahead, we are excited that we will be receiving a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

in early 2025 that will allow us to contract with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to monitor native fish populations, macroinvertebrates and water quality in the Deschutes River and Little Deschutes River. We are also excited to launch a project to develop a real-time temperature forecasting tool that could help UDWC and partners understand when temperatures in Whychus Creek will become too warm for native fish. Lastly, contributions from our donors and funders have allowed us to purchase our first-ever drone in 2024! This equipment will help us conduct additional monitoring and save funds by using the drone ourselves rather than contracting with other companies for this work.

SCAN HERE



for the  
Whychus Creek  
StoryMap.



Test flight for our new drone. This image and the image above taken with our drone at a recent restoration project.



# Willow Springs Preserve Restoration Project

This past summer, the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council led the implementation of Phase 2 restoration efforts at Willow Springs Preserve, owned and preserved by the Deschutes Land Trust. The Willow Springs Preserve property has approximately 0.75 miles of Whychus Creek flowing through the property. Phase 1 of this project was completed in 2022 and in 2024 we returned to continue the restoration effort. UDWC again contracted with Anabran Solutions to complete the restoration work. Compared with some of our habitat restoration projects that involve large equipment, we are trying a different approach called low-tech, process-based restoration. This involves crews

of young adults from Anabran Solutions installing hand-built wood structures called pole-assisted log structures (PALS) and beaver dam analogs (BDAs). These structures



*Building pole-assisted log structures (PALS).*

will help create more natural river processes over time and also create structure right away to enhance habitat for fish and wildlife. In 2024 during Phase 2, 157 structures were built and installed in and along Whychus Creek. 550 juniper trees were thinned from two neighborhoods and a ranch near Sisters, Oregon, to create communities more resilient to wildfire. Instead of piling and burning these trees, they were hauled to Willow Springs Preserve and are now creating habitat for fish and wildlife. Funding for this project was provided by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Pelton Round Butte Fund.



*Tree-thinning near Sisters, Oregon.*

## RESTORATION

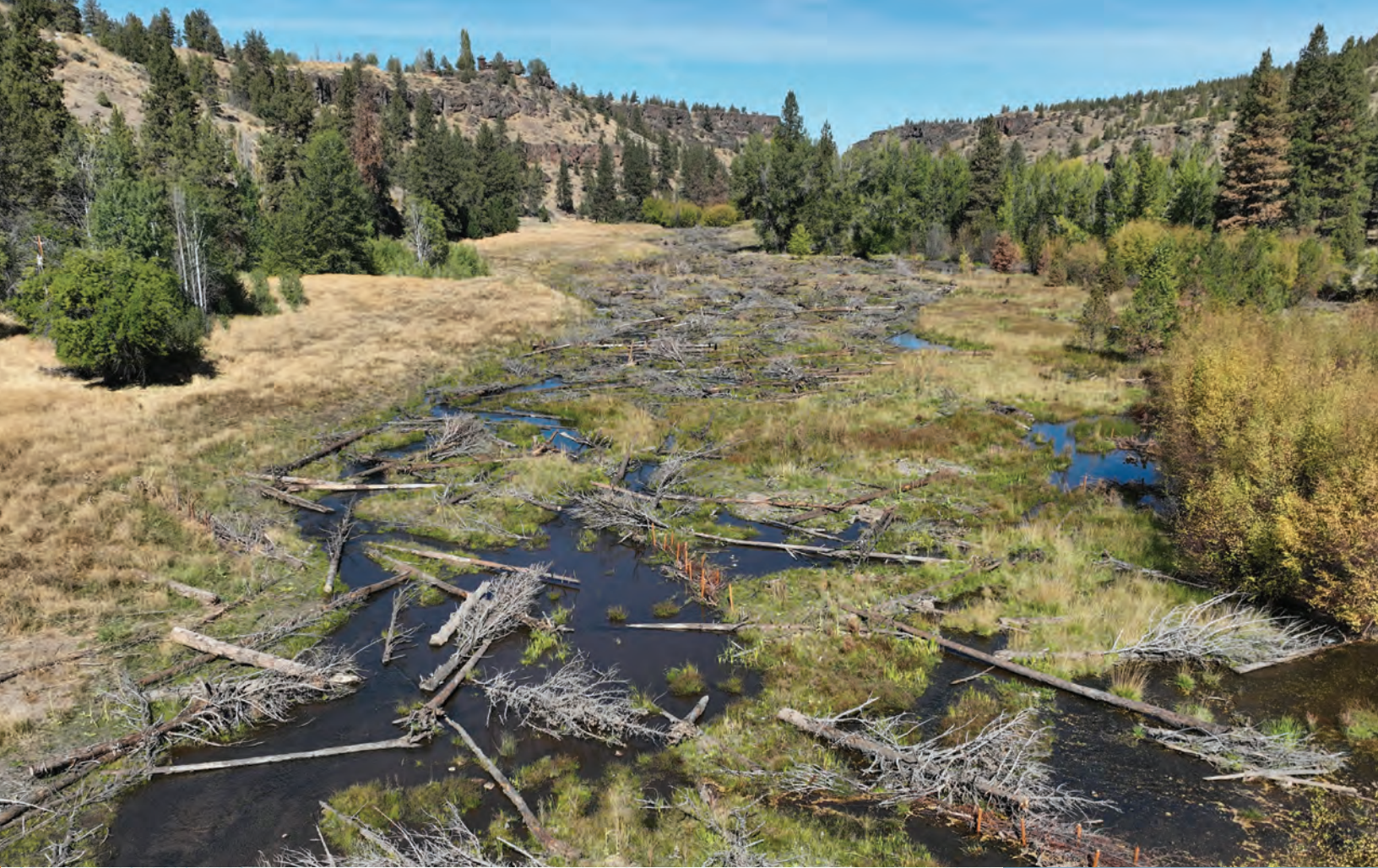
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to watch a video about Phase 1 of this project.







## Rimrock Ranch Preserve Restoration Project

**Between July and October of 2023, UDWC completed our largest-ever restoration project in a single season,** restoring 1.5 miles of Whychus Creek at the Rimrock Ranch Preserve, owned by the Deschutes Land Trust.

In the summer and fall of 2024, we returned to the project site to enhance flow across the floodplain and plant additional native plants in the restoration area.

To encourage water to flow to new channels across the floodplain, UDWC staff and partners constructed 26 pole-assisted log structures (PALS) at the project site. This type of adaptive management can be used to enhance and support previous restoration efforts. In addition, crews and volunteers returned in October of 2024 to plant an additional 20,000 native plants in the floodplain and along Whychus Creek. We are especially excited to see that a beaver or family of beavers have moved in and created at least one dam that is naturally enhancing the project! Apparently, the beavers approve of the habitat being created and we are hopeful they can manage the restoration efforts going forward!



*A volunteer planting along Whychus Creek.*  
**Photography / Kelley Hamby**



*A new beaver dam enhancing restoration efforts.*

*Left photography / Anabran Solutions*

## Fish Passage Projects

UDWC has received funding to launch two fish passage efforts in 2025. UDWC plans to receive funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to design a fish passage structure at Mirror Pond on the Deschutes River in Bend. This structure will be called a “nature-like fishway” and was selected as a preferred alternative in 2023 by the Mirror Pond Fish Passage Advisory Committee. In addition, UDWC has received funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for a feasibility study to understand fish passage options at a dam on the Little Deschutes River near Gilchrist, Oregon.





## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

### *Youth Education Programs*

**Our youth education program at the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council is dedicated to educating K-12 students throughout Central Oregon,** helping them cultivate an informed and inspired sense of place and stewardship for our local rivers and streams. Through hands-on activities and outdoor experiences, each field trip and watershed lesson reinforces our place-based approach, ensuring that every student has an opportunity to build a lasting connection to our local rivers. Whether dipping their hands in the cold, clear waters of Whychus Creek, painting along the rippling ripples of Tumalo Creek, or planting new vegetation amidst the willows and pines that grace the Deschutes River, our students are deepening their connection to the natural world through outdoor, hands-on experiences.

**While all of our watershed education programming utilizes a place-based approach,** we also offer special programs designed to deepen students' sense of connection to the landscapes and streams they call home. One of these programs called Tribal History/Shared History is delivered to 4th and 5th grade students as part of a regional curriculum that has been developed for Central Oregon students in partnership with the Confederated Tribes



*Student helping restore native plants to Whychus Creek.*

of Warm Springs. We support educators and students in exploring lessons where natural resources and cultural resources overlap. By learning about the history, presence, and use of natural resource practices by Indigenous peoples who have lived here since time immemorial, students gain a deeper understanding of our watershed, life cycles of the creatures within, and a sense of river stewardship.



*Students creating art next to the Metolius River.*

**Expanding on this holistic approach to watershed education,** we have partnered with the City of Bend to launch One Water, a watershed education program designed for 5th grade and high school students. This program teaches students about our sources of water, the journey water takes through our watershed, and how they can conserve and protect this vital resource. We aim to empower students to become informed advocates for water stewardship, instilling a sense of responsibility to cherish and safeguard the water that sustains our communities and ecosystems. By deepening their knowledge, fostering connection, and nurturing stewardship, we strive to inspire students to develop a lifelong commitment to protect our watershed for generations to come.

**With the generous support** of individual community members, foundations, and local businesses, we are able to fund programs that connect youth to nature through place-based education, inspiring a future full of engaged watershed stewards.



# Community Outreach and Stewardship: One Watershed Community



Volunteers learn about restoration efforts prior to planting native plants.  
Photography / Kelley Hamby

In 2024, the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council offered multiple opportunities for community volunteers and businesses to learn about and directly connect with our work. In many cases, UDWC provides hands-on opportunities to engage in our work by planting native plants along the river or creek, pulling weeds, or supporting our monitoring efforts. In 2024, UDWC again partnered with Central Oregon Community College to share information about a local watershed through UDWC's speaker series sessions. More than 60 community members attended five classroom sessions to learn about Whychus Creek watershed over the winter. In the spring, these community members attended a day-long watershed tour to see firsthand what they had been learning about from UDWC and our partners.

## DESCHUTES RIVER CLEAN-UP

**260 volunteers supported UDWC at the Deschutes River Clean-up** as part of our largest annual community event. Volunteers were split across multiple clean-up sites from upstream of Bend in Sunriver to downstream of Bend at Tumalo State Park. The event was held on Saturday, July 27, and the main group of volunteers was based out of Farewell Bend Park in Bend. At Farewell Bend Park, scuba divers and paddlers were paired together to retrieve debris and garbage from the bottom of the river. After the clean-up effort, a volunteer appreciation party was hosted by UDWC and Confluence Fly Shop in the Old Mill District. Special thanks to Central Oregon Diving, Deschutes County Search and Rescue, our event sponsors, and the many volunteers that helped make this event a success!



260 volunteers came out to support the Annual Deschutes River Cleanup by picking up trash, pulling weeds, or removing instream debris from the river

Photography / Kelley Hamby



## HONORING A FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE

**On July 20, 2024, family, friends and colleagues gathered at Creekside Park in Sisters, Oregon to dedicate a memorial in memory of Andrew Dutterer.** Andrew was a friend and colleague who worked as the Partnerships Coordinator at the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and supported the work done by the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council and other partners in Whychus Creek and other watersheds around Oregon. Andrew was tragically killed in a car accident in 2021. The memorial includes an interpretive sign about the partnerships and restoration efforts in Whychus Creek, a boulder with a plaque honoring Andrew, and a wood-carved bench made from a ponderosa pine tree by J. Chester (Skip) Armstrong. The remaining portion of the ponderosa tree used for the bench is now part of a restoration project at Rimrock Ranch Preserve along Whychus Creek. A memorial fund created by Andrew's family and friends funded the memorial that was coordinated by UDWC. The memorial fund will also support an internship at the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council in Andrew's memory starting in 2025.



Andrew Dutterer Memorial Bench  
Photography / Dennis Schmidling



# 2024 Supporters\* *Thank You!*

## \$25,000 AND UP

Anonymous  
Bill and Leslie Cornog  
Tumalo Creek Kayak & Canoe

## \$10,000 AND UP

Cris Converse  
DeLaski Family Foundation

## \$5,000 AND UP

Andrew Dutterer  
Memorial Foundation  
Catherine and Mark Turner Fund of Oregon Community Foundation  
Ellie and Dan Fund In Honor of Joanne Richter  
Fred W. Fields Fund of Oregon Community Foundation  
Ken and Ginger Harrison  
Loren Smith

## \$2,000 AND UP

Bend Park and Recreation District  
Bob and Joan Taylor Family Fund of Oregon Community Foundation  
City of Bend  
Lynne Dorsey  
David & Nancy Hall  
Christine McKinney  
Powdr Corporation/Mt. Bachelor  
Rutherford Giving Fund  
Katharine Smith  
SOLV Energy  
Visit Bend  
Zen Art Ink Studios

## \$1,000 AND UP

E.H. and M.E. Bowerman  
Advised Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation  
Peter Cohen & Gloria Chenoweth  
Carole Ekker  
Jennifer Hobson-Hinsley  
Robert Maina  
Jeanie Ogden  
Kellee Taylor

## \$500 AND UP

Bill and Tracey Anthony  
Gayle Baker  
Frederick Betz  
Jayson & Megan Bowerman  
Jim & Judy Clinton  
Pamela DiDente  
First Interstate Bank  
First Nature  
John Stephenson & Nancy Gilbert  
Kai Kinder  
Michael Lattig  
Patricia Leiser  
Sandra & Ron Linder  
Lubbesmeyer Art Studio  
Steven & Kelly Michel  
Chuck & Debbie Newport  
Joanne Richter & Sara Wiener  
Sunny Simpkins

## OVER \$100

Megan Alonso  
Black Butte Books  
Troy Brandt  
Mike Buettner  
Sage Murray & Stacey Butler  
Car Stickers  
Lori Faha  
Friends of Westside Village  
Magnet School  
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Martha Lussenhop  
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Marjorie Wolfe  
Amy Yoder  
Sara Wiener Consulting  
American Online Giving Foundation

## \$100 AND UNDER

Karen Allen  
Ken Bierly  
Herb Blank  
David Caplan  
Sasha Chacon  
Phillip Chi  
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Tod Cover  
Luke Donaldson  
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Therese Kollerer  
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Cheryl Morgen  
Andrew Pawlowski  
David Perry  
Bruce Ronning  
Richard & Dianne Schuder  
Jamie Sheahan-Alonso  
Martha Swain  
Tessa Swift  
Bryn Willis

## GRANT FUNDERS

Bonneville Environmental Foundation  
Deschutes County  
Deschutes Land Trust  
Deschutes River Conservancy  
Gray Family Foundation  
Oregon Community Foundation  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
Pelton Round Butte Fund  
Portland General Electric  
Roundhouse Foundation  
Sunderland Foundation  
Trailblazers Foundation  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Forest Service

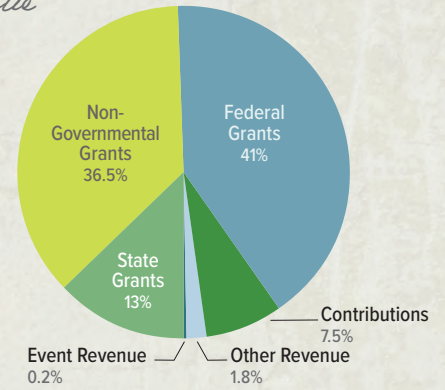
## IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

Bend Park and Recreation District  
Bureau of Land Management  
Café Yumm  
Car Stickers  
Cascade Lakes Brewery  
City of Sisters  
Central Oregon Community College  
Community Volunteers  
Confluence Fly Shop  
Deschutes Brewery  
Deschutes Land Trust  
Eberhard's Dairy Products  
Free Range Equipment  
Kelley Hamby  
Janine and Pat Harrison  
Hill Neighborhood Homeowners' Association  
Hydro Flask  
Market of Choice  
McMenamins  
Nature Connect of Central Oregon  
Newport Avenue Market  
Old Mill District  
Oliver Lemon's  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Pole Creek Ranch  
Portland General Electric  
Project Bike  
Qorvo  
REI  
Roundhouse Foundation  
Safeway Century Drive  
Dennis Schmidling  
Sisters Bakery  
Sisters Coffee  
Sparrow Bakery  
Strictly Organic  
Sun Country Tours  
Sunriver Brewing Company  
Tollgate Homeowners' Association  
Tumalo Creek Kayak & Canoe  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Partners for Fish and Wildlife  
U.S. Forest Service  
West Coast Provisions

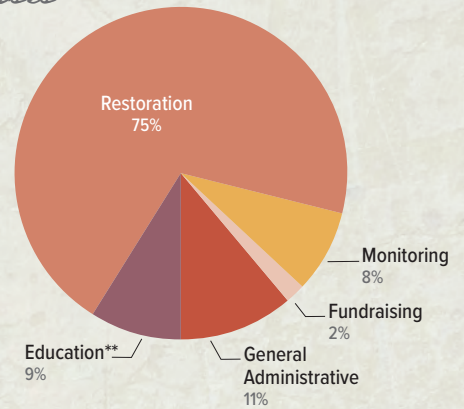
\*Donors listed are from November 16, 2023 to November 15, 2024.

# 2024 Financials 7/1/23 – 6/30/24

## Revenue



## Expenses



Revenue	
State Grants	\$284,715
Non-Government Grants	\$810,803
Federal Grants	\$914,177
Contributions	\$167,796
Other Revenue	\$40,712
Event Revenue	\$5,990

**Total Revenue \$2,224,194**

Expenses	
Education**	\$195,750
Restoration	\$1,522,553
Monitoring	\$181,155
Fundraising	\$42,836
General/Administrative	\$237,480

**Total Expenses \$2,209,775**

**Net Income \$14,418**

\*\*A significant portion of funding for our education programming comes from individual contributions and community support.



UPPER DESCHUTES  
WATERSHED COUNCIL

## Connect With Us

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## Donate Today!

