



RiverVoice

WINTER 2018 VOL.12 NO.1

NEWSLETTER OF THE **DESCHUTES RIVER CONSERVANCY**



**A MESSAGE
FROM DRC
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR,
TOD HEISLER**

PHOTO: DRC STAFF

Looking to the Future of the Upper Deschutes River

There is a saying in our office that “restoration does not happen at a 21st century pace.”

In an immediate world of instant messages, short cuts and quick fixes, we are accustomed to being able to solve problems right away. When a problem is as complex as solving the flow issues in the Upper Deschutes, the time line for solutions, by necessity, must follow its own pace.

Over the past 21 years, the Deschutes River Conservancy has successfully restored streamflow to Whychus Creek, the Middle Deschutes, Tumalo Creek and the Crooked River through building relationships, forging agreements

and creating win-win solutions for basin stakeholders.

With the help of our partners, we are now on the eve of the greatest change we hope to accomplish in our basin: fixing the Upper Deschutes River. It is our responsibility as a community to leave the Deschutes Basin a better place than how we found it. In order to do that, we are changing the story of how we use water in Central Oregon.

In this newsletter, you will learn about the approach to large-scale and long-term restoration solutions for the Upper Deschutes. The graphic inside will show you how, through the execution of a

suite of innovative conservation measures, irrigators and their partners will create more water security for farmers and restore critically needed flows to the Deschutes River. These conservation measures include canal piping, water rights transactions, and reservoir management. The measures are designed to incentivize irrigators in urban areas to share water with farmers in Jefferson County so that these farmers are able to then share reservoir water with fish and wildlife in the Upper Deschutes.

By rethinking how we use and share water, we can and will have enough water for fish, farms and families.

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DRC Says Farewell To Our Longtime Development & Communications Director

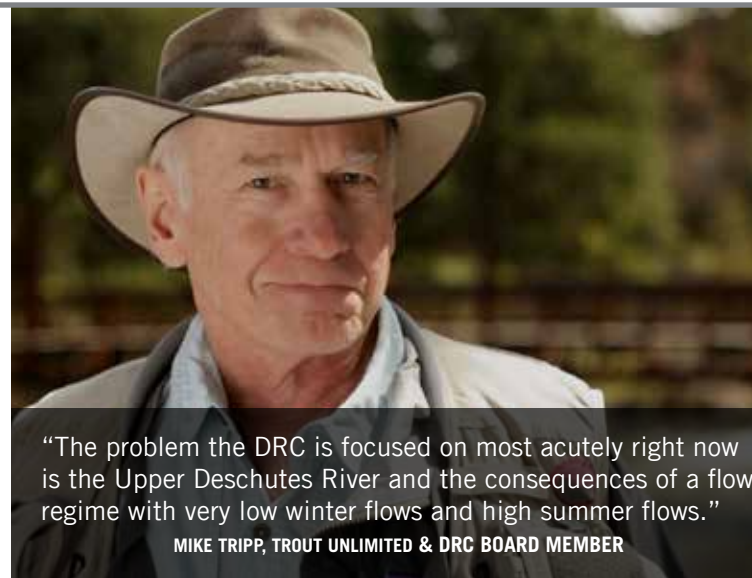
After 12 years at Deschutes River Conservancy, Bea Armstrong is leaving her position as the Director of Development and Communications to seek new adventures with her family in Hong Kong.

Bea was the DRC's first Marketing and Communications Director and was promoted to the Director of Development and Communications in 2010. She built the Marketing and Communications Program from the ground up, developed and scaled the DRC's brand and founded the DRC's two signature fundraising events, the Tight Lines Auction and RiverFeast (now combined into one event).

An avid river rafter and fly fisher, Bea leaves a strong legacy of passion and dedication to raising awareness about the issues facing the Deschutes and its tributaries.

During her tenure, she was instrumental in the establishment of the Deschutes Partnership brand and raised millions of dollars to accomplish the DRC's mission to restore streamflow and improve water quality in the Deschutes Basin.

We wish Bea the best of luck with her new adventures!



"The problem the DRC is focused on most acutely right now is the Upper Deschutes River and the consequences of a flow regime with very low winter flows and high summer flows."
MIKE TRIPP, TROUT UNLIMITED & DRC BOARD MEMBER



"COID is partnered with the DRC to lead the charge in efficient water management to help relieve shortages for other farmers and for the river."
CRAIG HORRELL, COID & DRC BOARD MEMBER



"My hope is that eventually we will have a healthy river and ecosystem that everybody can be proud of year-round."
PHIL FINE, MADRAS FARMER & DRC BOARD MEMBER

BALANCING THE DESCHUTES

WATER FOR THE RIVER AND FARMS

Restoring the Upper DESCHUTES RIVER

Every fall, streamflows in the Upper Deschutes River are reduced to a small fraction of their natural flows to store water in Wickiup and Crane Prairie Reservoirs for the next irrigation season. The low winter flows strand migrating fish in pools and threaten wildlife habitat.

Central Oregon Irrigation District's conservation measures will generate a more reliable water supply for North Unit Irrigation District. North Unit Irrigation District will then be able to make water available from their storage in Wickiup Reservoir to increase winter flows in the Upper Deschutes River.

CONSERVATION TOOLS

TRANSFERRING*

Permanent transfers of water rights off the land generate improved water supply for farmers, cities, and the river.

SHARING

Water agreements between districts facilitate water conservation measures and improve reliability.

PIPING

Piping COID's outdated canals, that leak up to 50% of their water in transmission, allows commercial farmers and the Deschutes River to capture an abundance of water.

Taking care of FARMERS

The amount of water that is saved through COID piping and other conservation measures is shared with NUID and other junior water right holders to ensure that farmers have the water they need, even in dry years.

Though this infographic focuses on COID and NUID, there are four other irrigation districts in the region employing conservation measures that will help balance the Deschutes: Arnold, Swalley, Tumalo and Lane Pine.

* These tools can be used for mitigation to ensure that municipal water needs are met.



**DESCHUTES RIVER
CONSERVANCY**

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Give to the Deschutes!

This time of year reminds us of how fortunate we are to have an amazingly beautiful, clean river that carves through the landscape of Central Oregon. This holiday season, we invite you to support the work of the DRC by making a 100% tax-deductible donation to river restoration. Your support ensures that innovative, collaborative approaches to streamflow restoration and water quality will continue to thrive in the Deschutes Basin. Let's continue to Change the Story together!

Thank you for your support of the river and the Deschutes River Conservancy

For more information and project updates, please visit us at www.deschutesriver.org.

SAVE THE DATE MAY 12, 2018

riverfeast
DINNER & AUCTION

Susan Luckey Higdon

For more information visit us at www.deschutesriver.org or call 541.382.4077.