BiOp Project Update

by Lyle Kuchenbecker, GRMW

The Summer 2009 issue of the *Ripples* described the Biological Opinion (known as the "BiOp") as the federal document that "provides the recipe for protecting fish populations and off-setting the impacts of the federal hydroelectric dams on the Snake and Columbia rivers." The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GRMW), and partners in the Grande Ronde Basin have developed a set of proposed habitat restoration projects to support the BiOp's mission to rebuild habitat in the basin for Endangered Species Act listed species such as Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout populations.

The GRMW coordinated the preliminary on-site technical review of 15 proposed restoration projects for prospective BiOp funding between June 15 and 17 and July 8 and 9. A technical team comprising GRMW staff, agency biologists, and BPA staff reviewed 10 projects in Union County and five projects in Wallowa County during these site visits. At this point in time, project proposals are in various stages of development, from more conceptual to nearly finalized proposals. The purpose of the review was to familiarize reviewers with site conditions, determine suitability of the projects for BPA mitigation funding, and provide sponsors with feedback as to how to improve the projects with recommendations for further proposal development as appropriate.

Project sponsors presented the proposals, explained project objectives, and answered reviewers' questions. Site visit reports have been distributed to project sponsors for their use in preparing and submitting formal proposals to obtain BPA funding assistance for qualifying BiOp projects. Final review will occur throughout the fall and winter as project sponsors prepare and submit more detailed proposals.

This newsletter is funded by the Bonneville Power Administration and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

From the Archives

Island City, Oregon

compiled by Heather Hall, GRMW

The Old Flour Mill. Photo courtesy of Anderson·Perry and Associates, Inc.

Located in the western section of Union County, Island City was originally an 8-mile-long, one-mile-wide island surrounded by the Grande Ronde River and the Mulholland Slough. The first known settler on the island was Joseph Magrue, who settled on land claimed by John Caviness. Magrue made improvements to the land, and, in payment, Caviness gave him a pack horse and asked Magrue to move on. The first school was opened in 1865, and Caviness erected a grist mill in 1872. In 1873, Island City established a post office as well as the First National Bank of Island City. The Island City Mercantile and Milling Company went into business in 1884 (see photo above), and it was one of the largest businesses in Union County at that time. In later years, the course of the Grande Ronde River was redirected, and Island City is no longer on an island today. Although it still has an elementary school, this town of about 995 residents on the outskirts of La Grande no longer has its own post office.

Margaret McGladrey,
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Ripples in the Grande Ronde

Fall 2009

RIVERS UNITING NEIGHBORS·QUARTERLY NEWS FROM THE GRANDE RONDE MODEL WATERSHED

Natural Selection

The GRMW Selects a New Technique to Restore Wallowa River Fish Habitat to its Natural Condition

by Michael Milstein, Public Relations, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

A multi-agency team of biologists and habitat restoration experts freed nearly a mile of northeastern Oregon's Wallowa River from a straightened channel in early July, shifting it to a new course that once again resembles a natural river and resurrects prime salmon and steelhead spawning habitat. Located on private 6 Ranch land north of Enterprise, this project to reroute the Wallowa River highlights a new kind of habitat restoration work that provides more immediate results than traditional streamside planting and fencing efforts. While typical restoration may take years to yield improved habitat as vegetation grows in, the 6 Ranch project showed immediate results, as the river coursed in a more fish-friendly direction within hours.

Anderson·Perry and Associates' engineering team, with support from agency biologists, designed the river's new route with the sweeping meanders of a wild river, slowing the water and creating the naturally diverse currents, flows, and gravels that fish need for spawning. "We're rebuilding the structure and complexity that we used to have," said Coby Menton, who managed the project for the Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GRMW).

The Need for the Project

The project remedies the shortcomings of the river's former channel, which resembled a canal more than a river. Many decades ago, the river was confined to the channel to open its floodplain for farming and reduce the risk of flood damage. The trouble was that water rushed through the rigid channel "like a rocket," said Timmie Mandish, a BPA biologist on the technical team that reviews habitat projects in the Grande Ronde River basin.

The rapid current made the stretch of river inhospitable for spawning and carried away prime spawning gravel. 6 Ranch landowner Craig Nichols, a former hunting and fishing guide who has fished across the West and Alaska, said, "I've seen healthy streams and not-so-healthy streams, and this one was not-so-healthy."

Heavy equipment was used to turn a mile-long stretch of the Wallowa River from a straight channel into its original fish-friendly meander. Photo by Michael Milstein.

Constructing the New River Channel

The 6 Ranch project has been in development for years, managed by the GRMW and funded largely by the BPA and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. A highlight of the project's construction occurred between July 6 and July 8, when carefully choreographed heavy equipment and crews diverted the river into its new bed in a way that would minimize any impacts on fish in the river (shown above). As a dump truck, small bulldozer, and trackhoe built small dikes that rerouted the river, teams of biologists scoured the water with equipment that briefly stuns fish so they can be scooped up in nets. With help from local students, the biologists then transported the fish to a data collection station to be weighed and examined before they were returned to the river downstream.

A Model Restoration Project

The project is located directly off of Highway 82, the main route into the Wallowa Valley. Landowners Craig and Liza Jane Nichols and the many agencies that supported the project hope it will serve as both a showcase and a model for best practices in habitat restoration. "We have really hoped that other people will see this and say, 'I want to do something like that, too,'" Liza Jane Nichols said as she watched heavy equipment seal off the old channel. "I hope we can dispel some of the myths around what it means for landowners to do this," she said, "because our experience has been great all the way through." A downstream neighbor, Doug McDaniel, had supported a similar river restoration project on his land and encouraged the Nichols to do the same. Steelhead began spawning in McDaniel's channel within a year. The Nichols had hoped to put their stretch of river back onto a natural course for years. Help from the GRMW and funding from the BPA and others finally made it possible. They have seen fish quickly take advantage of earlier opportunities along the stretch of river. When two spruce trees blew over into the river, creating a pool that offered refuge from the current, steelhead smolts rapidly schooled there. They expect the new river course, augmented by rocks and logs that will offer similar refuge, will do the same.

Biologists say that such channel complexity is ideal for fish. The project will also create new wetlands along the river. Crews will fill in and replant the vacated channel.

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"Now (the river) is going to get a chance to slow down and build up the floodplain, build up the wetlands," Nichols said. "The insect population will grow, and from that, everything follows."

Bill Maslen, who manages the BPA's Fish and Wildlife program, told about 50 people gathered for a recent project tour at the site (see pictorial article at right) that it represents a good investment for the BPA's ratepayers, fish, and the region. He told the group that the project boosts both the quality and quantity of fish habitat, contributing to the goals of the federal strategy for mitigating the Federal Columbia River Power System's effects on fish.

Teams assisting with the project included the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Nez Perce Tribe (NPT), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, GRMW, and BPA. Most of the assisting crews work for programs funded by the BPA. "Everyone knows they're doing good things for fish," said Jeff Yanke, an ODFW research biologist based in Enterprise. "It makes you proud to be part of all these folks." ■

A version of this article appeared in the August 2009 issue of the Confederated Umatilla Journal

The Project in Pictures

Text by Jeff Oveson, GRMW Executive Director, Photos by GRMW Staff

This pictorial tour represents some of the activities associated with the project to restore about a mile of Wallowa River channel on 6 Ranch land. In the fall of 2009, this project, the landowners, and all of the partners involved will be the focus of an hour-long show on Oregon Public Broadcasting's *Oregon Field Guide* hosted by Vince Patton. Karen and Ralf Meyer of Greenfire Productions are also creating a 20-minute video that will highlight the "behind-the-scenes" work that goes into implementing this kind of habitat restoration project.

ABOVE: Project engineers Brett Moore and Chas Hutchins of Anderson·Perry and Associates Inc. (AP) explain the nuances of the project to prospective construction bidders more than a year before the project was completed.

ABOVE: Coby Menton, GRMW Project Manager, helps conduct a mid-construction tour in the spring of 2009 for Dana Nave, Alan Miller, Ken Gephardt, and Nathan Goodrich of the USFS Wallowa Valley Ranger District.

BELOW: Brian Mahoney of the CTUIR and Jim Harbeck of the NPT lead their professional crews as they safely capture and relocate all kinds of aquatic creatures.

ABOVE: The boat seen on the left-hand side of this picture was the primary means for fish salvage crews to move back and forth across the "new" channel to access the "old" channel. Jeff Yanke of the ODFW directed the fish salvage and relocation work of crews from the ODFW, the CTUIR Fisheries Program, the NPT Fisheries Program, and biologists from the USFS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Happy Trails to our Project Partner

by Jeff Oveson, GRMW Executive Director

Brad Smith bags a buck. Photo courtesy of the ODFW.

The ODFW's Brad Smith Retires After 32 Years

It should come as no surprise to those who know him that Brad Smith and his wife, Ann, plan to spend a lot of time fishing and hunting now that he has retired. Brad just recently wrapped up a 32-year-long career with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and Brad has always preferred the outdoors to the indoors.

Brad's background explains his love of the rural, outdoor life. He was raised along the Trinity River in northern California before relocating to southwestern Oregon's Douglas County. There, he grew up along the South Umpqua River and graduated from high school in Days Creek, a town not dissimilar in makeup and size to many of the towns where his career eventually led him. Brad matriculated at Oregon State University, earning his Bachelor's of Science degree in Fish and Wildlife Management in 1976, an education funded by hard work as a logger in the forests of western Oregon. Although he has lived in a number of different towns during his career, Brad refers to his various postings by naming the watersheds he has worked in along the way: the Willamette, the Elk, the Rogue, the John Day, and finally, the Grande Ronde and the Imnaha, having been based in the Enterprise Office of the ODFW since 1990.

Many of the people who came to know Brad through his work will recall that he worked with Assistant District Fish Biologist Bill Knox to implement the adult broodstock capture program on the Lower Grande Ronde River. Over a four-year period in the mid-2000s, Brad and his team engaged the participation of hundreds of volunteer anglers in catching early returning adult steelhead in the Grande Ronde River around Troy. These adults were transferred to hatchery facilities in Enterprise with the hope of increasing the numbers of steelhead returning to their natal waters of the Grande Ronde subbasin earlier in the season, thereby improving the angling opportunities in the fall. Brad and Bill, along with numerous colleagues, made a lot of friends for the ODFW, educated anglers about the life cycle of steelhead, and cooked for an untold number of volunteers.

Brad mentions his work with landowners and people from other agencies to help develop a "better understanding and acceptance of the value of healthy aquatic environments and fish populations" as a highlight of his career. Among the frustrations, he noted, as do many professionals in his field, "the inertia created by overlapping bureaucratic processes." Associates and colleagues of Brad regard him as a thoughtful, insightful, honest, and engaging partner, the kind of guy they loved working with. Between them, Ann and Brad have four children: Gabe, Brooke, Holli, and Madeline. The GRMW team has always enjoyed our work with Brad and wishes him the best for his well-deserved retirement to the good life.

Fish Online!

www.grmw.org

- Adult salmon counts at the dams
- Snake River Basin stream flows
- Snow and precipitation reports
- Habitat enhancement projects
- Meetings, activities, and events
- Past issues of *Ripples* and more!

Grande Ronde Model Watershed

Upcoming Planning Session and Board Meetings

- Annual Planning Session
  December 1, 2009
  9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
  Ascension School Conference Room
  1006 Church Street
  Cove, Oregon
- Board Meeting
  January 26, 2010: 6:30 p.m.
  Wallowa Community Center
  204 East Second Street
  Wallowa, Oregon
- Board Meeting
  March 23, 2010: 6:30 p.m.
  Elgin Community Center
  260 North 10th Street
  Elgin, Oregon

The public is welcome to attend.
Meeting dates are subject to change.
Please call 541-663-0570 to confirm.

Adding New Fuel to the Fire

The Enterprise School District Biomass Heating Project

by Nils Christoffersen, Executive Director, Wallowa Resources

In 2008, students at Enterprise School District in Wallowa County were the first in the state in more than 50 years to attend a school heated with wood. The $1.8-million heating project included a comprehensive energy audit and energy efficiency investments in insulation, lighting, and heating controls to improve energy conservation at the school. A U.S. Department of Agriculture grant obtained by Wallowa Resources funded the initial visit from technical experts and feasibility studies.

However, being the first has its own costs and risks. The new wood heating system in Enterprise struggled through its first three months of operation. Adjustments made over the winter allowed the wood boiler to provide for more than 80 percent of the school district's heating needs during the second semester. With the first year of operation under its belt, the school district is looking forward to realizing the full benefits of their investment this year. Enterprise estimates an annual savings of between $70,000 and $100,000 from the conversion of its oil-fired boiler to the new one that uses wood chips and residue. As heating oil prices rise, the school will realize even greater savings.

Logs typical of the size and quality that are processed into a form useable for operation of the biomass plant. Photo by Nils Christoffersen.

Augers and conveyor belts efficiently move wood chips from storage to burner in the Enterprise system. Photo by Trey Scavone, McKinstry Essention, General Contractor.

The Enterprise School District and Wallowa Resources were awarded Oregon Renewable Energy Innovation Awards by the Oregon Department of Energy for their collective efforts to advance these new technologies. In a press release Gov. Ted Kulongoski said, "The project demonstrates that by working together we can restore forest health, create economic growth in rural communities, and help Oregon meet its ambitious goals to reduce carbon emissions."

Why Wood?

The use of wood biomass as an energy source to provide economical heat in public schools came about as a result of at least two seemingly unrelated needs:

1. The wood products industry's need to dispose of unmarketable small woody material to reduce the risk of catastrophic forest fires; and

2. The desire of local school districts to find the most economical ways to operate their schools.

Using wood to heat community facilities is becoming increasingly popular because of the rising cost of fossil fuels and a greater interest in renewable energy. Modern wood heating systems use a sustainable fuel source that can be supplied at a lower cost than electricity and heating oil. Wood energy systems not only provide for cost-efficient building operation, but also support a community's remaining forest and wood products sector.

Institutional wood energy systems have a proven track record. Modern systems have lower emissions, increased efficiency, lower staffing requirements, and more reliable operating systems than their predecessors. When wood is burned as fuel for heat in a modern, high-tech boiler, emissions from the combustion are significantly lower than emissions from uncontrolled forest fires or slash burns. Emissions from modern wood fueled systems compare favorably with those from natural gas fueled systems.

Biomass Projects Throughout Eastern Oregon

The 55,000-square-foot Harney County District Hospital in Burns, Oregon, installed a wood pellet boiler last year and has already saved more than $50,000 compared to propane or electricity. According to Jim Bishop, the hospital's chief executive officer, "The decision to use wood pellets to heat the hospital was based on cost savings as well a desire to reduce reliance on traditional fossil fuels." In operation for more than a year, the hospital's system requires minimal maintenance and generates modest amounts of waste product – about 30 gallons of ash every two to three weeks – that is given to people in the community to use as a soil supplement. "Out here in Harney County, folks are just happy that we're using wood and saving money," said Bishop.

With new biomass utilization plants developing in Wallowa and Baker City, there is a real opportunity for municipal buildings in northeastern Oregon to switch to pellet boilers. These boilers cost about one-quarter the amount of the wood chip boiler installed at the Enterprise School District and are even easier to operate and maintain. More than 50 percent of the capital costs of converting from conventional heating systems to woody biomass systems (whether chip or pellet) can be offset by existing federal and state subsidies for renewable energy investments.

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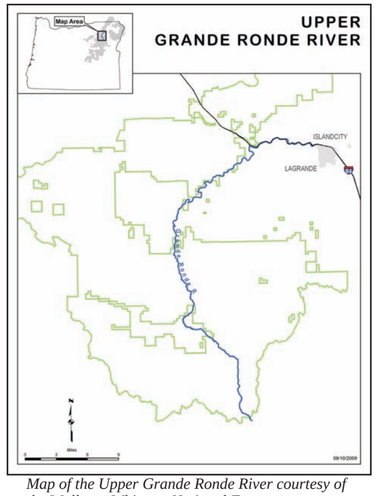
Mining for Enhanced Habitat

The Upper Grande Ronde Mine Tailings Restoration Project

by Alicia Bergschneider, Environmental Document Writer, La Grande Ranger District



Map of the Upper Grande Ronde River courtesy of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

The Grande Ronde River in northeastern Oregon traverses forest and grazing lands and eventually drains into the Snake River. Scenic and accessible, the Grande Ronde River is a well-known destination for hunters, fishers, rafters, and hikers, enticing not only visitors but also many residents of Union and Wallowa Counties to recreate along the river. In addition to its popularity as a recreation location, this river has unique ecological and historical significance to the region. In particular, it provides important habitat for fish species listed as threatened or sensitive under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) including Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout, and redband trout.

History of the Grande Ronde River Fish Habitat

However, this crucial fish habitat has not always been recognized as such. In the early nineteenth century, the Grande Ronde River valley was inhabited by the Nez Perce, Umatilla, Walla Walla, and Cayuse tribes until Euro-American settlers came to the area in the late 1860s. At this time, settlers established farms and ranches near the river and began logging, mining, and irrigated and non-irrigated agriculture activities. Located in an upper tributary, Camp Carson was established as a mining camp during this time as well. In the 1940s, the miners started using dredge mining techniques along the river. Dredge mining created tailing piles, which are the materials left over after the process of separating the valuable fraction from the worthless fraction of an ore. These tailings covered the valley floor in piles up to 8 feet high in some places, thereby simplifying the river channel and disconnecting the river from its natural floodplain. Timber harvest, grazing, mining, irrigation, and channel engineering continued to reshape the river in the valley through the 1970s, and there are still a number of active mining claims in the area to this day.

These kinds of land use activities have reduced the complexity of habitat for aquatic species, in particular for endangered and sensitive fish species. Historic timber harvest has greatly diminished the amount of large wood available to fall into stream channels, meaning that fish have largely lost the important habitat feature of large woody debris in streams. The mine tailings have disconnected the river from its floodplain, causing channelization in some areas. Although the Wallowa Whitman National Forest and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) partnered in the late 1980s and early 1990s to restore parts of the river by adding structural elements such as large woody debris to create pools for fish habitat, the tailings were not altered, which left the river and floodplain in an unnatural condition. In 2008, a stream survey to determine the effectiveness of the old structures indicated that these woody structures were rotting away and no longer provided critical fish shelter. Furthermore, the old structures caused widening of the stream channel. Because previous restoration activities did not address floodplain function, riparian vegetation, or streamside shading and the installed woody structures were failing, it became evident to the agencies charged with enhancing fish habitat that further restoration efforts were needed along the Grande Ronde River.

Restoring Habitat for Fish

To address these issues, an interagency group undertook the Upper Grande Ronde Mine Tailings project, the main goal of which was to restore the form and function of aquatic and riparian habitat while providing recreation opportunities and mining access for claimants. Project objectives are to:

- improve floodplain connectivity
- improve water capture, storage, and safe release within the floodplain
- increase quantity and quality of pools
- increase the amount of fish cover and spawning gravel
- improve habitat complexity, forage availability, and stream shading
- increase the number of large and medium pieces of large woody structures in streams

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Overview of the mine tailings that restrict the Grande Ronde River floodplain. Photo courtesy of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

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Wood material (left) is fed automatically into the boiler (right) where it is burned. Photo by Trey Scavone.

Fast Facts

About Enterprise School District:

Age of buildings – The elementary school is housed in the original Enterprise School Building that was constructed in 1917. The primary school building, the high school, and the multipurpose buildings were added in 1958 and 1974 respectively. A wrestling room and locker rooms were added in 1980.

Size of the schools – 100,497 sq. ft.

Enrollment and staff size – The Enterprise School District has an enrollment of 400 (K-12) and a staff of 45.

About the Biomass Boiler:

- New boiler is 2.5 million BTUH, which is properly sized to handle 90 percent of the annual heat load in the school district.
- Over the past seven years, the district used an average of 50,441 gallons of heating oil per year.
- Annual cost to run the boilers prior to installation (at $2.27 per gallon) was $114,501.
- 90 percent of the fuel will be replaced with biomass fuel.
- Annual estimated cost to run the boilers to heat the district post-installation:
  - $23,320 for biomass ($32 per ton)
  - $11,450 for oil ($2.27 per gallon)
  - For a total cost of $34,770
  - Annual savings are $79,731
- The school district will use an estimated 582 tons of fuel each year, which is approximately 29 truckloads of fuel.
- The boiler plant will be a central plant for all three schools, and the oil-fired boilers will be used for back up.

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The complexity of this project required the collaborative effort of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), the Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GRMW), and the BPA. CTUIR teams led the way in compiling cultural inventories and reports as well as completing site design and contract administration work and are currently conducting extensive monitoring on the Grande Ronde River. The GRMW facilitated the technical review of the project design and approval process with the BPA. The CTUIR, BPA, and USFS provided funding support for this project, which will contribute to meeting the goals of the Biological Phase Two of the project.

Phase Two will begin in October and will involve the seeding and mulching of the entire area. Large woody structure additions are scheduled to be installed during the in-stream work window between July 1 and 31, 2010, while the logs will be prepositioned during June 2010. Planting of the stockpiles and floodplain with native vegetation will be accomplished during 2010 and 2011. An estimated 5,000 conifers and 5,000 deciduous shrub species will be planted. After the Upper Grande Ronde River Mine Tailings project is completed in 2011, both fish and humans will be able to enjoy the enhanced stream channel for years to come.

Heavy machinery moving the tailings. Photo courtesy of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

(for more information about the Biological Opinion, see the Summer 2009 issue of the *Ripples*). The agencies coordinated with the public and active mining claimants so that all tailings will be left on-site where claimants can access these materials.

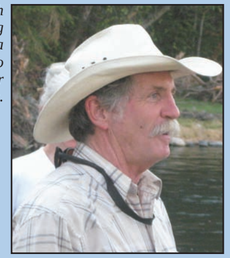
Phases One and Two: 2009-2011

This project was divided into two phases, with Phase One beginning on July 1, 2009, and completed on August 11, 2009. This phase involved removing approximately 50,000 yards of mine tailings along 2.5 miles of the Upper Grande Ronde River. Hanging Rock Construction of Starkey, Oregon, was hired to remove the imposing amount of tailings. Tailing removal involved eight dump trucks, two bulldozers, and four excavators. A portable bridge was assembled and moved four times to haul tailings from the other side of the river. The tailings were placed into nine stockpiles located on the other side of the road and outside the floodplain. About half of the stockpiles will be reshaped to fit in with the surrounding landscape and installed during

Heavy machinery moving the tailings. Photo courtesy of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

ABOVE: The guests and participants in the July 7 project tour are greeted by (from left to right) Bill Maslen, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Program for Bonneville Power Administration (BPA); Tom Byler, Executive Director of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB); Bill Knox and Jeff Yanke, fish biologists with the ODFW; and Ray Jubitz of the Jubitz Foundation. BPA and OWEB supplied the vast majority of the project funding, while ODFW consulted from the beginning of project design throughout the project and managed the fish salvage/relocation aspect of the work. Jubitz Foundation helped fund the work of Greenfire Productions's videography of the project.

RIGHT: 6 Ranch landowner Craig Nichols recites a "cowboy" poem to those assembled for the project tour.



ABOVE: Derek Spang loads the off-road dump truck driven by Matt Walker (both with LD Perry Construction Inc.) as they move material into place to close off the old channel.

LEFT: Derek Spang and Coy Riggs of LD Perry begin the process of redirecting the river's flow from an old section of channel (left) into the new section (right). The material excavated in the construction of the new channel was stockpiled last winter and spring.

ABOVE: Mike Hayward, Chair of Wallowa County Board of Commissioners and the GRMW Board of Directors, along with Coby Menton and Jeff Oveson of GRMW, welcome the crowd of 110 who listened to a number of speakers, enjoyed a great lunch, and took a walking tour of the 6 Ranch project on July 7.

ABOVE: Students in Penny Arentsen's Wallowa Resources Outdoor School class came along to help with the work, including transferring salvaged fish, carrying buckets, and devouring lunch. Pictured (from left to right) are Maddie Hill, Paul Arentsen, Dakota Jenkins, Sawyer Wick, Ben Hill, Ryan Seal, Natalie Zeigler, Silje Christoffersen, Abbey Hill, and Penny Arentsen.

ABOVE: Liza Jane and Craig Nichols, owners of the 6 Ranch, welcome guests and provide a special perspective on the project located on their property.

LEFT: Pictured from left to right are Chas Hutchins and Brett Moore, project engineers from AP; Karen Leiendecker, Regional Representative from OWEB; and Kathleen Cathey, a representative from Senator Ron Wyden's office.

LEFT: OWEB Board members from left to right:

- *Left front row: James Johnson, Diane Snyder, Dave Powers*
- *Left back row: Dan Carver, John Jackson, Dan Thorndike, Skip Clarquist*
- *Center: Ken Bierly, Deputy Director*
- *Right front row: Patricia Smith, Eric Quaempts, Meta Loftsgaarden*
- *Right back row: Kim Kratz, Jose Linares, Tom Byler, Executive Director*