



*“The care of rivers is not a question of rivers
but of the human heart.”*

— Shozo Tanaka

COALITION
FOR THE
DESCHUTES
WE SPEAK FOR THE RIVER

SONG OF THE RIVER

by Gail Snyder, Founder, Executive Director

Just over four years ago, we created the Coalition for the Deschutes so the river would have a voice, so that it would be seen as more than an extension of urban and agricultural infrastructure, a utility to be tapped.

We can't talk about restoring rivers without talking about how we all use them, from farming to recreation to household use. And so, I was drawn into Central Oregon "Water World."

Discussions revolve around projects, policies, politics, often with conflicting narratives in a milieu of misinformation and mistrust.

To enter into Water World is to be drawn away from the river, diverted just as the river is diverted.

For me, it has meant willingly entering into a place of personal sorrow. But with that has come conversations and with conversations has come hope.

Hope that we will get to know our neighbors and hear each others' stories.

Hope that we will share—farmer sharing water with farmer, all of us sharing water with the river.

Hope that we will work together for the common good.

I remind myself that in order to move forward, sometimes it is necessary to take a step back—to step back from the tensions, to step back from judgment—and to find a place of quietude.

I step back so that once again I can hear the song of the river and the whisper of my heart, and I remind myself that we are all our river's people.

And so, I take the words of the poet Rumi to heart as he invites us to talk with each other:

"Out beyond the ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I'll meet you there."



"Every river deserves a smart, engaged, committed organization that's dedicated to working together with others for the health of the stream and everything it touches. All who care about this great Oregon waterway have that in the Coalition for the Deschutes."

— Tim Palmer, Author/Photographer, River Advocate

STEWARDS OF THE RIVER

Purge the Plastic & Lash your Trash!

by Julia Alvarado and Ella Kerr, age 12

When I was younger, I remember seeing trash everywhere in my community. As I grew up, I learned that plastic never goes away and eventually ends up in our rivers and ocean. There is one way to stop it and that is working together as a community. If we all stopped using single-use plastic, they wouldn't make it and then less plastic would end up in our rivers.



Did you know one garbage truck of plastic is dumped into the ocean every minute! When you're out on our rivers and lakes, please lash your trash and keep it out of the water. I hope you will take part and save our rivers and oceans!

Beavers at Work

by Pamela Adams, Beaverworks.org

Imagine you're a beaver (sorry, ducks!) You'll need a river. And food. You'll need a safe place to call home. While you're at work, busy as beaver as one of nature's river engineers, you'll be creating homes for other critters, from fish to bugs to birds. The channels you dig will provide important refugia for tiny fish and for frogs and other amphibians.



You might also get into trouble with your human neighbors who don't want you cutting down trees or damming their culverts. If that happens, they can call the Beaver Response Team for help. Coz everybody needs a safe place to call home.

Musing on a Kingfisher

by Nancy Boever, birder

I walk in search of a belted kingfisher and reflect upon how birding is changing my relationship with the natural world around me. Birding taught me to pause, listen, to look around me and to bear witness to wild places.



As I search, I wonder, "How can we share space with and be welcoming to our feathered neighbors?"

The kingfisher's dependence upon riparian ecosystems begs us to support land management practices that protect, restore, and heal habitat that has been injured.

We are in awe of the power of Benham Falls roaring through the canyon. But look a little closer into the smaller mysteries that surround us. Pause a moment...and nature will reveal its most sacred secrets.

Jodi Knows Bullfrogs

Jodi Wilmoth knows bullfrogs. She spends her summer nights catching and removing them from the river. Bullfrogs were brought to Oregon more than a century ago, and they like it here. Like many other introduced species, they outcompete the natives. Bullfrogs can ravage the habitat of Oregon spotted frog and other native amphibians.



STEWARDS OF THE RIVER

Tread Lightly

by Dave Nissen, Owner, Wanderlust Tours

More and more of us are living in towns and cities, and more and more of us are heading outdoors to recreate and seek rejuvenation in the natural world. Through nature-based experiences, we can gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the gifts that nature showers upon us. We can strive to protect them.



The Deschutes River is a magnet for recreation. It's a source of fun, but it's also home for a multitude of species. As we renew ourselves, we might inadvertently be disturbing their habitat. We encourage everyone to tread lightly, TREAD REALLY LIGHTLY, as we recreate on our rivers and lakes.

Got Carrot Cake?

If you like to eat, then thank a farmer. From the family unit to the global commons, we are connected by food and farmers. Jefferson County grows 55% of America's hybrid carrot seed. That seed goes into packets for backyard gardens; it goes into the fields that supply farmers markets and supermarkets. Our urban and rural lives are intertwined.



Who are Central Oregon farmers? They are parents and grandparents. They fish and recreate on rivers. They are stewards of the land. They are our neighbors.

"We have partnered with Coalition for the Deschutes to host several tours on our farm. During these tours I have witnessed firsthand the transformative influence and progress that is possible from the outreach, education, advocacy and action the Coalition is leading."

—Kevin Richards, Central Oregon family farmer

A Fish's World View

by Jodi Wilmoth, Deschutes Redbands Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Have you ever snorkeled a river? It's an amazing experience to see fish doing their normal fishy things: searching for large bugs to eat, ducking under a fallen log for shade and protection.



To be submerged in a fish's world gives you a view into another realm, quiet and loud at the same time. It gives you perspective of what the fish are experiencing, whether that be a muddy, cloudy river or a clear, cold environment. If we put ourselves in someone else's shoes (or fins), we get a hint of what their life is like, and what we can do to understand and treasure it.

...we are all stewards of the river

Photography by Chad Copeland: cover, pages 3-4

PLOTTING FOR POLLINATORS

What's the buzz?

Pollinator species are vital to more than one-third of the world's food sources. Despite their importance, many bee populations are in decline.

Plotting for Pollinators, aka P4P, helps farmers help pollinators by growing native plants on their land to benefit the small but mighty native and domestic bees. With our partners, we have planted 11.5 acres of native wildflowers to help support these crucial populations.

P4P is a program of these Shared Vision partners:

**Coalition for the Deschutes
North Unit Irrigation District
Middle Deschutes Watershed Council**



To learn more and help a buzzillion bees, go to :

coalitionforthedeschutes.org/plotting-for-pollinators/

Coalition for the Deschutes

**Working to restore the Deschutes River
so fish, farms, and families can thrive.**

We are just getting started...

Today's Central Oregon communities are built on actions taken more than a century ago. Just as the early settlers profoundly changed the landscape, so too are people coming here today.

Through our field trips, educational presentations, roundtable discussions, and Springs to Sprouts river-to-farm tours, we engage the entire community—including families, farmers and recreationalists—to overcome old obstacles and build bridges among divergent interests.

HELP US KEEP MOMENTUM

SUPPORT

coalitionforthedeschutes.org/donate/

VOLUNTEER

coalitionforthedeschutes.org/get-involved/

By building a broad-based constituency that shares our commitment to restoring the river, we are changing the traditional narrative of water in the West. We believe we can and must do better—together, we will.

A SHARED VISION FOR THE DESCHUTES

Working together so that families, farms, and fish can thrive

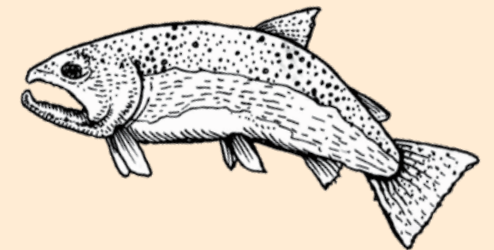
From fish to families, kayaks to carrot seed, ecology to economy, a lot is asked of our rivers.



With the river, our community, and collaboration at heart, together with Deschutes River Conservancy, Deschutes Redbands Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and irrigation districts of Central Oregon, we created the Shared Vision for the Deschutes.



SHARED VISION GOALS:
*A healthy, restored Deschutes River
 Thriving farms and sustainable agriculture
 Robust and vibrant communities*



We are connected by our love of place...of the rivers and the land, of the mountains and high desert.

SHARED VISION PARTNER QUOTES

“What I truly appreciate about the Coalition and what makes it different is the tireless effort to get people together who would normally not be allied.”

—Phil Fine, Central Oregon family farmer

“We’re about conserving, protecting and restoring the cold water fisheries of the Deschutes Basin. We love native and wild fish, and the places they call home. We look forward to partnering with all who share this vision.”

—Shaun Pigott, Deschutes Redbands Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Chair

“The irrigation districts are proud to be a Shared Vision partner. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with organizations, businesses, and individuals to work together and find ways to conserve water and restore the Deschutes River.”

—Craig Horrell, Deschutes Basin Board of Control, Chair

WE BELIEVE:

- The Deschutes River is integral to our Central Oregon communities, culture, and economy
- We all benefit from a healthy river and sustainable agriculture
- There’s enough water to meet all needs if it is managed wisely and shared equitably
- We can restore the Deschutes River to a healthy condition
- Working together as partners is the key to our success

Today we have 45 Shared Vision partner organizations and businesses.

BECOME A SHARED VISION PARTNER

[coalitionforthedeschutes.org/
shared-vision-for-the-deschutes/](http://coalitionforthedeschutes.org/shared-vision-for-the-deschutes/)