What is a Watershed Council?

Watershed Councils are local, volunteer groups established to improve the condition of watersheds in their area. Oregon legislation authorized the creation of non-regulatory watershed councils. They offer local residents the opportunity to evaluate watershed conditions and identify cost-effective and acceptable opportunities for improvement. Watershed councils help residents learn about the condition of their watersheds and the causes of water quality problems. They educate residents about the importance of protecting and restoring aquatic habitats.

WWBWC Mission

The mission of the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council is to protect the resources of the Walla Walla Watershed, deal with issues in advance of resource degradation and enhance the overall health of the Watershed. The Council’s mission is to protect the resources of the Walla Walla Watershed Basin.

For more information please visit our website: www.wwbwc.org and friend us on our Facebook page: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council.

Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council

810 S Main St
PO Box 68
Milton-Freewater, OR 97862

WWBWC Quarterly Newsletter

2016 Aquifer Recharge Season Summary

The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council recently wrapped up its 2016 Aquifer Recharge season. During the 2016 season, the WWBWC operated 7 aquifer recharge sites: 5 in Oregon and 2 in Washington (see map). The Oregon season started in late November and continued through early May with a month long shutdown period during February for diversion and fish screen maintenance. The Washington season started in early February and continued until late April. The purpose of the WWBWC’s aquifer recharge program is to simulate lost distributable network functions and floodplain connections that historically spread water from the Walla Walla River across the valley and recharged the underlying shallow aquifer (groundwater) throughout the winter and spring months. The aquifer recharge programs simulates these lost processes by using the existing irrigation system to distribute and delivery water to aquifer recharge sites located across the valley floor. The WWBWC started the aquifer recharge program in 2004 with a single site (Johnson) and has expanded the program to its current 7 operational sites with an additional 7 sites constructed and ready to begin operations next recharge season.

(continued)
continued - 2016 Aquifer Recharge Season Summary

A total of 5,316 acre-feet (1 acre-foot = 325,851 gallons) of water was delivered to the Oregon recharge sites. In addition approximately 1,000 acre-feet of water soaked into the ground as the water was delivered to each site for an approximate Oregon total of 6,316 acre-feet (2.06 billion gallons of water). On the Washington side the total was delivered to recharge sites was approximately 825 acre-feet with an addition of approximately 340 acre-feet of water soaking into the ground as water was delivered to the sites for a total of 1,165 acre-feet (379 million gallons of water) for the Washington total. The entire program, both Oregon and Washington, recharged approximately 7,481 acre-feet into the shallow aquifer (groundwater system) during the 2016 water year. This equals 2.437 billion gallons of water! This would be the same volume as a football field covered with over a mile of water on top of it (see figure to right).

To learn more about the WWBWC’s aquifer recharge program please visit our website: www.wwbwc.org/projects/recharge or contact Steven Patten, Senior Environmental Scientist @ 541-938-2170 or via email: steven.patten@wwbwc.org

Sign-up now for
Hydromania 2016
Summer Science Camp

When: June 21st - 23rd
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Where: Central Middle School
306 SW 2nd Ave
Milton-Freewater

Visit the WWBWC website for more

Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council

Board Members:
John Zerba - Chair
Ed Chesnut
Dr. David Close
Steve Irving
Clark Lampson
Malcolm Millar
Ralph Perkins
Joelle Pomraning
Molly Reid
Vern Rodighiero
Sean Roloff
Robert Waldner
Larry Widner
Ray Williams

Staff Members:
Brian Wokott
Senior Environmental Scientist
Trey Baker
Monitoring & GIS Program Manager
Wendy Harris
Operations Manager
Graham Banks
STELLAR Coordinator
Tara Patten
Watershed Technician
Chris Sheets
Fiscal Technician

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www.wwbwc.org
Hey Water Skippers

DO YOU KNOW YOUR WATER FACTS?

1) A person can live without food for more than a month but can only live without water for how long?
   A) 3 - 5 days  B) 2 - 3 weeks  C) 1 week  D) 1 day

2) How many gallons of water does the average person in the U.S. use every day?
   A) 20 to 40 gallons  B) 40 to 60 gallons  C) 60 to 80 gallons  D) 80 to 100 gallons

3) How many gallons of water does it take to make four new tires?
   A) 986 gallons  B) 1,524 gallons  C) 1,865 gallons  D) 2,072 gallons

4) How many gallons of water does the average African family use each day?
   A) 5 gallons  B) 25 gallons  C) 50 gallons  D) 100 gallons

5) Approximately what percentage of the earth is covered with water?
   A) 85%  B) 75%  C) 60%  D) 50%

Hey Water Skippers

Did you know that only 3% of the earth’s water can be used as drinking water?
Remember, do your part to conserve this precious resource.
Together we can protect our water.

WATER SKIPPERS

WWBWC Secures $255,365 in OWEB Funding

At their April 26-27, 2016 Board meeting, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) awarded the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council $87,392.00 for the Hydrology Monitoring and $167,973 to install White Ditch Piping and Telemetry Integration in the Walla Walla Basin. The award was one of 88 grants totaling $10,388,555 provided to local organizations statewide to support fish and wildlife habitat and water quality projects.

“Grant funds from OWEB allow the WWBWC to continue to monitor over 130 wells and over 45 surface water monitoring locations across the Walla Walla Valley. These data are valuable to local landowners, farmers, irrigation districts, local and state agencies, and fisheries managers. Our on-going monitoring program would not function without the support and collaboration with dozens of local landowners who allow us to monitor on their property. This funding will also help support the WWBWC’s near real-time gauge network that provides hourly updates on Walla Walla River flow information to our website,” says Steven Patten, Senior Environmental Scientist, who secured the funding for the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council.

The Hydrology Monitoring in the Walla Walla Basin project will continue monitoring surface and ground water, building on years of data. This information is critical to the WWBWC’s aquifer recharge program, as well as to water managers and fish management agencies. It is expected to begin early summer of 2016 and be completed by December 30, 2016. WWBWC monitoring information and data is available on the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council’s website at www.wwbwc.org; along with information about all of WWBWC’s projects and programs.

The White Ditch Piping and Telemetry Integration project will pipe 2,500’ of the White Ditch, resulting in 2.3 cfs of savings from ditch loss that will be placed in the state’s conserved water program. The project will also install equipment at seven telemetry sites to automate remote control of diverted flow, leaving more water in the Walla Walla River. It is expected to begin in late fall of 2016 and be completed by fall of 2017.

Funding for grants awarded by the OWEB Board comes from three primary sources – the Oregon Lottery, Salmon License Plate revenues and Federal Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery funds.

Since 1999, the Oregon Lottery has provided over $500 million to OWEB’s grant program that helps restore, maintain and enhance Oregon’s watersheds. Combined, the Lottery has earned over $9 billion for watershed enhancements, public education, state parks and economic development. For more information about the Oregon Lottery visit www.oregonlottery.org.

For additional information about this project contact Steven Patten at steven.patten@wwbwc.org. For additional information about OWEB and its grant programs, contact Eric Hartstein at eric.hartstein@oweb.state.or.us. A listing of all awarded grants is available at: http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/GRANTS/docs/2016-Board-Awards-April.pdf.
The much appreciated funding for this project was provided by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and Meyer Memorial Trust.

The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (WWBWC) coordinated the Watershed Field Day this May for students to experience some outdoor and hands-on learning activities. All six 4th grade classes in the Milton-Freewater School District, accompanied by their teachers and parent volunteers, spent the day along the South Fork of the Walla Walla River. The WWBWC staff, along with agency and community volunteers, provided nine stations for groups to rotate through and explore topics of fish and wildlife, water, and the local environment.

Above: Ali Fitzgerald from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) hikes along the South Fork Walla River discussing fish habitat with a class.

Bellow left: Students admire salmon and Steelhead replicas at a local fisheries station provided by CTUIR staff Clinton Case. Bellow right: Renee Hadley of the Walla Walla County Conservation District provided a value of the riparian zone activity.

Bellow left: Students have a great time playing Hooks and Ladders, a game ran by WWBWC’s Wendy Harris that demonstrates some of the challenges salmon and steelhead face in their migration. Bellow center: Jimmye Turner of the US Forest service engages students in concepts of wildlife habitat and watersheds in the context of fire prevention. Bellow right: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Jacquelyn DeAngelo amazed the kids with what specimens found in the river with a hands on macroinvertebrate survey.

Above center: A biodiversity activity challenges students to take a closer look at their surroundings. Above right: Tonya Dombrowski of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality intrigues students with a groundwater model demonstration of hydrology.
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**Above:** Ali Fitzgerald from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) hikes along the South Fork Walla River discussing fish habitat with a class.

**Below left:** Students admire salmon and Steelhead replicas at a local fisheries station provided by CTUIR staff Clinton Case. **Below right:** Renee Hadley of the Walla Walla County Conservation District provided a value of the riparian zone activity.

**Above left:** Troy Baker demonstrates some of the measurement techniques of the WWBWC’s monitoring program. **Above center:** A biodiversity activity challenges students to take a closer look at the surrounding. **Above right:** Tonya Dombrowski of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality intrigues students with a groundwater model demonstration of hydrology.

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WWBWC Mission

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Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council

Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations are welcome to support our efforts and are tax-deductible as allowed by law.