

... continued from page 2, **REMEMBER**

Given the remoteness of the location, the annual snow load, and the more than 40-foot drop over the dam, our efforts to find a solution that could effectively allow the passage of all life stages of steelhead, redband trout, and bull trout over Beaver Creek Dam involved a journey of nearly 20 years for city, state, and federal officials and a local engineering firm (Anderson-Perry and Associates, Inc.) to develop a design we could all support.

The result is a one-of-a-kind fishway that we now know has reconnected wild steelhead to 14 miles of some of the best habitat in the upper Grande Ronde River Basin. This biologist with deep roots in northeastern Oregon will not forget that day in June 2019 when I saw confirmation that steelhead had been reconnected to their homeland and knew that something I had a part in had made this homecoming possible. Thank you to all the partners who made this day a reality.

The story of Beaver Creek and the fish within it continues. Steelhead will continue to ascend the Beaver Reservoir fishway to spawn and recolonize the habitat upstream, as will redband trout and bull trout. The project partners will continue to observe the fishway to make sure it is functioning as intended and will revisit the stream annually to document the effectiveness of the project while witnessing one of nature's wonders.■

... continued from page 5, **ODYSSEY**

I cannot thank enough the 5 Rivers Program, Trout Unlimited, all of our sponsors, and every wonderful soul I had the pleasure of connecting with. I hope that our experience serves as an impetus for other young students, anglers, and conservationists to get out and see what impact they can make, especially in their own backyards.

See more photos and learn more about the program here:

- www.instagram.com/tucosta5rivers
- <https://www.tu.org/conservation/outreach-education/headwaters-youth-program/tu-costa-5-rivers-college-clubs/>
- <http://www.tucosta5rivers.com/about-1>

Thanks to the sponsors of the Costa 5 Rivers Program, the Sheep Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration Project, and the Sheep Creek Hand Crew-Based Headwater Resilience Project. These sponsors include the National Forest Foundation, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Portland General Electric/The Nature Conservancy Salmon Habitat Fund, the Bonneville Power Administration, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the NF John Day Watershed Council, the Grande Ronde Model Watershed, and Trout Unlimited.■

A special thanks to these local retailers for selling our shirts!



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To everyone who has purchased a GRMW t-shirt, hat, or sticker to show your support for *Ripples in the Grande Ronde* and our mission, we want to say **THANK YOU!**

Thank You

Grande Ronde Model Watershed

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