

PROJECTS: Most spending will be on Chinook waters

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At the recommendation of the federal government and the Bonneville Power Administration — the latter being GRMW's most reliable source of funding — the predominance of GRMW's spending through 2018 will be directed toward Chinook waters in the Upper Grande Ronde and Catherine Creek areas.

Still, at least three projects in Wallowa County are on the drawing board to begin either right away, possibly late in 2015, or maybe in 2016 or 2017.

Of GRMW's six full-time employees, the one who works exclusively in Wallowa County is Coby Menton. Menton is a project manager, has been employed by the nonprofit for 13 years, and regularly works closely with landowners and project partners.

Menton says Steve Linley Contracting, of Union, has been awarded the contract and given the go-ahead to stage materials for a meander-creating project on the Wallowa River east of Sunrise Road, between Enterprise and Lostine. Priced in the \$450,000 range, the intent of the project will be to slow down the river on the 6 Ranch and create fish-friendly habitat with side flood channels as a safeguard. That work stretching over a space of about 2,000 feet where slacks in grade will be a major factor in slowing the water will be accompanied by extensive planting of cottonwoods, willows, and dogwoods along the river, says Menton.

The bulk of the 6 Ranch effort will be completed in the spring and summer of 2015 and essentially represents a change in philosophy since about 50 years ago when heavy equipment regularly worked in rivers in the county to straighten meanders for flood control purposes.

Another local GRMW-related project, one expected to reach fruition in 2016, is the Sheep Ridge diversion site located about 3.5 miles south of the city of Lostine on the Lostine River. That project, similar to another approximately \$175,000 project undertaken in 2012 a little closer to the city of Lostine, will be to upgrade an aging concrete fish passage built by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Menton says the existing passage "no longer meets fish passage standards." GRMW and the Nez Perce Tribe will co-sponsor the upgrade project.

Menton says the Nez Perce Tribe will sponsor yet another project along the Lostine River that might be implemented in 2016 or even 2017. Monies now are being sought to take that Tulley Hill diversion upgrade through the conception and design stages. A diversion on the Tulley Hill Ditch was replaced in the mid-1990s, but that has been less than effective, and the goal now is to improve fish passage there on

a long-term basis.

GRMW was founded in 1992 and its mission always has been to restore fish habitat in the Grande Ronde Basin. Technically, says Oveson, all of Wallowa County with the exception of the Imnaha Basin is part of the Grande Ronde Basin, "yet Imnaha always has been part of our service area."

Although the GRMW secures grant money from other sources, its primary source of funding is the Bonneville Power Administration.

Within the past year, says Oveson, GRMW has begun taking a less active role in implementing projects. At present, the nonprofit routinely secures funds for fish enhancement projects and then names entities to activate selected projects using procured grant monies. Partners today include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, Nez Perce Tribe, Union Soil & Water Conservation District, and the U.S. Forest Service, Oveson says.

Wallowa County Commissioner Mike Hayward has been on the GRMW board of directors for 18 years, the last 14 years as chairman. "Over the years the GRMW has helped facilitate fish habitat projects on public and private lands. It's also helped landowners use their land without impacting endangered species," Hayward says.

SNOWPACK: Low stream flows predicted

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The Imnaha Basin, currently at 72 percent, was at 86 percent a year ago. Elsewhere in Northeast Oregon, conditions were significantly worse, with NRCS warning that water users in the Powder and Burnt River drainages "should expect shortages this coming summer and begin to prepare accordingly."

The report's section on Northeast Oregon (Grande Ronde, Powder, Burnt and Imnaha basins) also noted major reservoir water storage levels ranging from 69 percent of average at Phillips Lake to 174 percent of average at Wallowa Lake.

Many other parts of the state were looking especially dry, however.

According to NRCS, 32 snow measuring sites with

long-term records are experiencing all-time record low snowpack.

"Most of these sites are spread throughout the Cascades. However, as the dry and warm conditions have continued, records have spread eastward in the state," Oviatt said. "These record lows have not been observed since the SNOTEL monitoring network was installed in the late 1970s and

early 1980s."

The latest information on Oregon's streamflow forecasts can be found in the March Water Supply Outlook Report, available on the NRCS Snow Survey website at www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/snow.

NRCS publishes six monthly Oregon Water Supply Outlook Reports between Jan. 1 and June 1 every year.

JACKSON: Tree farm his 'legacy'

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After three years, Jackson said he and the Forest Service "grew disillusioned with each other." He saw an ad for a Wallowa lumber company called J. Herbert Bate and applied for the job.

He relocated to Wallowa in April 1951.

"I still hear people talking about the Bates Mill, and it didn't have an S at the end," Jackson said.

Working at Bate until a large strike in 1962, Jackson struck out for the pastures of the Joseph Lumber Company where he worked as a forester until 1967 when the company sold out to Boise Cascade. The skills Jackson developed as a forester placed him in good stead for his next phase of his life as he became a surveyor.

"In marking timber you have to stay within your boundaries, so I was getting some experience for surveying," Jackson said. He started his surveying career early in the 1970s.

Preferring to work for himself, Jackson started his own business. One of his more memorable jobs included doing the preliminary surveying for the Tramway at Wallowa Lake.

After retirement, Jackson taught evening community classes at Enterprise High School in both forestry and computers in the 1980s and '90s. "Computers have gotten way too complicated for me now," he said with a laugh.

Jackson showed his mind is still razor sharp as he flawlessly recited the entire poem "Who Has Seen the Wind"

by Christina Georgina Rossetti. Senior Living Activities Director Lacey Doss recently experienced Jackson's trickery when he switched out her full bottle of Mountain Dew for an empty during a recent meeting. Doss said she spent the day worrying she'd lost her mind as she didn't remember emptying the bottle. Jackson confessed to the crime a week later.

Jackson no longer indulges much in his old hobby of painting and illustrating, but several of his excellent renderings, including a cardinal and a sunset, hang in his room. "I learned to paint and

illustrate during biology and botany classes in college. I got high grades, and I think my illustrations had a lot to do with it," he said.

The accomplishment of which Jackson is most proud and the legacy he'd like to leave is the Goebel Jackson tree farm he started with the Goebel family on 160 acres on Alder Slope. "The tree farm was just an idea that came up. I've been pretty disappointed in what the Forest Service and timber companies have done with the land. The tree farm is my legacy of taking care of the land," Jackson said.

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March Events

- 6 - Exhibit Opens. 7pm.
- 7 - One-Day Ceramics Workshop with Mellica McIntire \$65. 1-4pm.
- 10 - Brown Bag Discussion. "Domestic Violence and Women" with Safe Harbors. Noon.
- 12 - Bette Husted Reading at Josophy Center. 7pm.
- 13 - Bette Husted Writing Workshop at Fishtrap. Beyond Silence: Telling Our Stories. \$10 9am - noon.
- 13 - Cinema Night "Girl Rising." 3pm & 7pm.
- 24 - Brown Bag Discussion. "Women and Medicine" with nurse practitioner Kathy Siebe. Noon.
- 26 - Cinema Night. "Fault in Our Stars." 7pm.
- 28 - Women's Words & Music Night with Wallowa Valley Music Alliance. 7pm.
- 30 - Exhibit Ends.

For more info visit: josophy.org.

This exhibit is made possible by Oregon Cultural Trust, The Oregon Community Foundation, and The Collins Foundation.



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