

Custom and Culture of Wallowa County, Oregon 2009

Introduction

Wallowa County contains 2,034,000 acres of land, 56% of which is public land and 44% which is private land. The County has long held that natural resources form the basis of the social and economic culture of the population. Sissel Waage wrote in her dissertation that studied Wallowa County: *“Landowners, loggers, ranchers, county officials, and the Nez Perce Tribe came together because they saw themselves as independent, albeit in very different ways, and wanted to protect their ability to determine their future. These disparate groups transcended conflict by developing a way in which to express shared concerns, (re)imagine the past (re)envision a common future, and devise recommendations for action.”*

Later she states: *“Today many of Wallowa County’s local leaders, decision makers and landowners have maintained a strong belief that the independence and self-sufficiency of landowners should be facilitated, or at least not impeded, by the federal government through “respect for private property rights.” (page 166) and “... Many landowners and resource users in the county articulate and show that they share beliefs in inviolable private property rights, independent land ownership, and a small, non-intrusive government. When woven together these stories form an ideology focused on the broad concepts of independence, non-intrusive government, and self-determination.”*

Other comments continue to paint the portrait of Wallowa County, its people and their beliefs, desires, needs and vision. A resident summarily stated: *“The reason that we are active here goes back to the kinds of people you find here...an independent and a responsible bunch of people, taking responsibility for their future. We don’t want to be victims.”* Others have stated: *“This advocacy for “local control” --- whether it is defined as participatory decision making, joint management, or county control --- was often supported by referring to local knowledge of the area.”*

These statements, made after studying Wallowa County’s customs and culture, frame the strong beliefs of local community and the foundations on which the community is based. Add to this the traditional strength of Wallowa County residents of their internal connections and their caring for each other, regardless of their background, situation or circumstances, and you have best described Wallowa County.

Wallowa County’s strong belief in community was evident in the early 1990’s when the Wallowa County Commission and the Nez Perce Tribe had the foresight to recognize the economic devastation this community would suffer as a result of the listing of the Chinook salmon as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Their solution was to formulate a plan that would result in resource management and resource use that would again stimulate our economy. Therefore, the desire by Wallowa County citizenry to be proactive rather than reactive was the impetus behind writing the Wallowa County-Nez Perce Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan (locally known as the “Salmon Plan”) in response to the potential listing of the Chinook salmon as a threatened species. However, the listing of the Chinook salmon occurred May 22, 1992.

The Salmon Plan is a locally driven, grass roots initiative built by consensus. Nineteen individuals representing 14 different groups with over 440 years of experience in Wallowa County participated in the development of the document. Committee membership consisted of representatives from agriculture/grazing, BLM, community, business, recreation, environmental interest, labor, large landholders, logging industry, Nez Perce Tribe, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Wallowa County Small Woodlands, US Forest Service, and Wallowa County Court. The committee’s mission was to develop a management plan to maintain and enhance watershed conditions to aid in the recovery of the Snake River salmonids consistent with the needs of Wallowa County, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the rest of the United States. In short, the committee was solution oriented, the members were dedicated to carry through, and their philosophy was that the plan needed to be environmentally sound as well as economically efficient.

The Salmon Plan set forth to enhance and maintain watershed conditions that provides for spawning habitat, rearing habitat, and migration habitat within Wallowa County. The results are that we have a site specific analysis which has been performed on the 11 sub-basins in the county. This analysis having been done reach-by-reach, ridgetop-to-ridgetop basis, and was developed based on sound science and sound economics.

To ensure coordinated and continuing implementation of the Salmon Plan, in 1995, the Wallowa County Commission

appointed a Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC). This committee of 20 diverse individuals meets two to three times a year whenever significant issues arise or large projects are ready for the group's analysis. This larger committee annually elects a nine member standing committee which meets monthly to conduct the business of the overall committee. The County Court also appointed a technical committee made up of natural resources and wildlife professionals that ensures projects developed meet the guidelines of the Salmon Plan and makes each project's plan available for public input. The technical committee also meets once a month and has since its appointment.

The Wallowa County NRAC continues to move ahead with its charge, including advising the Board of Commissioners. It helps ensure the voice of the local community is heard in federal and state agency actions. It also continues to educate citizens and decision makers, in-county as well as out-of-county, about the need for good watershed management and how to be effective in a local effort.

The following pages set forth the historical perspective, the present situation, and a desired future for the natural resources and people of Wallowa County. These pages will show the custom, culture, and community stability that have been, still is, and will be Wallowa County. The natural resources that are covered in the following pages include agriculture, outdoor recreation, grazing, and forestry.

Agriculture

General Introduction

Wallowa County contains 850,000 acres private land of which approximately 90,000 acres has been farmed at some point in the last century. There is currently just over 45,000 acres of land under irrigation. The vast majority of the irrigated land lies in the Wallowa Valley with small acreages in the Imnaha and the Chesnimnus areas.

Wheat, barley, hay and livestock have dominated agricultural productions for over 100 years. Prior to adequate transportation modes, farmers had difficulty in getting cereal grains to market so they raised pigs and then "walked their produce to market." One year Wallowa County marketed over 26,000 hogs. However, today there are no commercial hog farmers left in Wallowa County. When improved transportation was developed, wheat and barley were sent to market by trucks and train.

The first white settlers in the county were livestock producers who came to Wallowa County after many areas in Oregon and the west had already been settled. Wallowa County was off the path and separated by geographic features, such as deep canyons and high mountains, causing most early travelers to bypass the area. As both the government and railroad companies sought more homesteaders in the west, Wallowa County's population expanded significantly. Homesteads then lined the streams and all other areas near water that seemed capable of supporting agriculture. Areas were plowed in hopes of producing grain, hay or vegetables. Most meadows near streams were plowed, some were irrigated and livestock were present most of the year.

Barnyards were generally located near or adjacent to the water ways allowing milk cows, pigs, sheep, horses and chickens ready access to water. In the early nineteen hundreds 45,000 fat hogs, 34,000 cattle, 8,700 sheep and 4,500 horses were shipped in one year. Open range laws prevailed, and competition for grass was the driving force behind much over grazing. By 1930, conditions in much of the watersheds were degraded.

At that time, livestock producers having seen the land in its prime became concerned. They therefore formed associations, and with the assistance of the USFS, began to manage livestock grazing. As livestock numbers were reduced and miles of fence have been built to control where and when livestock grazes, conditions on the land began restore. By 1959, the majority of hogs and milk cows were gone, and riparian areas were generally improved, with sod forming and willows and other trees growing. Today, range seedings and new management systems have replaced much of the excessive grazing.

Today nearly 24,000 acres of cropland is in the Conservation Reserve Program. Another 13,000 acres of cropland has been seeded to permanent pasture. Over 3000 livestock ponds and 3600 watering troughs provide water in the uplands away from riparian areas.

Irrigation, Dams, and Reservoirs

The word “Wallowa” is usually interpreted as “land of winding waters” and one of the main resources for agriculture in Wallowa County is the amount of available water. Prior to irrigation a large portion of the county was desert-like. Irrigation claims began with the first homesteaders into the valley. These early homesteaders claimed individual rights and later on, groups began claiming rights as ditch companies (Belew, 2000, p. 91). Most of the water rights that exist today were filed by the mid-1960’s. Today there are over 45,000 acres of water rights in Wallowa County with the earliest dating back to the 1870’s.

Wallowa Lake has been an important source of irrigation water for the Wallowa Valley. The Wallowa Lake Dam is located on the natural outlet at the north end of Wallowa Lake and raises the lake 28.4 feet creating a reservoir with approximately 52,000 acre-feet of storage. In 1884, the first diversion was built near the mouth of the lake and was low enough fish could jump it (Belew, 2000, p. 181-182). In 1905, a log crib dam was built about 200 feet south of the present dam site, this was when sockeye salmon passage ceased (Belew, 2000, p. 181-182). The current dam was originally constructed in 1918 and was raised to the current level by 1929 to provide additional storage for irrigation and hydropower generation. Constructed as a concrete gravity structure, the dam is over 35 feet high and has a crest length of 200 feet.

The Wallowa Lake Dam is owned and operated by the Associated Ditch Company (ADC), a non-profit organization made up of farmers and ranchers irrigating over 16,000 acres of prime agricultural land within the Wallowa Valley.

The Associated Ditch Company is authorized to store water to an elevation of 4,384.06 above sea level as set forth in an Oregon Supreme Court ruling dated 11-28-61 (28.4 ft above natural flow as indicated on the dam gage). In addition to owning the dam, ADC owns the storage rights as set forth in certificates of water rights dated 1915, 1921, & 1967 issued by the State of Oregon.

The Minam Lake Reservoir, was built to regulate the flow of the Lostine River and utilizes water rights that were filed as early as 1916. This reservoir is located in the head waters of the Lostine River, very near the divide with the Minam River. The dam is owned and operated by the irrigators of the upper Lostine River drainage. There is approximately 4,000 acres of water rights associated with this reservoir. The water that is released from the facility augments the irrigation water of irrigators for approximately 10 days in mid to late summer.

Another irrigation improvement project is the Wallowa Valley Improvement District # 1. This district owns and operates what is commonly known as the “Big Sheep Creek Canal,” which brings Big Sheep Creek water, a tributary of the Imnaha River, around the east end of the Wallowa Mountains and delivers water into the headwaters of Prairie Creek. It supplies water to over 5,100 acres of irrigated ground in the upper Prairie Creek area, mostly south of the Imnaha Highway. This canal was constructed by the Big Sheep Ditch Company, with construction beginning in 1905. It was dug by dragline, Fresno, horses, and men with shovels and picks. This inter-basin transfer of water adds significant acre feet to the productive farm lands of the upper Wallowa Valley, and along with the other irrigation facilities, supplies stream flows for the Wallowa River throughout the summer season and into the fall, benefiting the fisheries of this system.

The delivery system of ditches in the upper Wallowa Valley blends the waters from the Wallowa River, Wallowa Lake and the Wallowa Valley Improvement Canal. These ditches deliver the combined water to irrigators that use flood and/or sprinkle methods. The system of large ditches is designed to run near capacity, which generates a return flow to Prairie Creek and the Wallowa River. Some of these ditches have been described as good fish habitat, providing spawning and rearing locations for local trout and providing fishing opportunities for the community.

Crop Production

Historically Wallowa County producers have concentrated their efforts on wheat, barley, hay cattle, sheep and hogs. For a time dairy cattle were of significance in the valley. Farmers have continuously searched for additional crops and over the years have also grown rye, oats, peas, seed potatoes, white clover seed, red clover for seed, mustard for

seed or condiment, canola, garlic, leaf spinach, and flax. Crop production can be separated into different regions of the county: the Wallowa Valley, which is mostly irrigated, the Leap area that is dry-land with very limited rainfall (many years below 12 inches), and the north end, Flora area which is in the higher precipitation band that receives between 20 and 25 inches of precipitation per year. The valley and some areas of the north end are annually cropped. Farmers in the Leap area and some in the north end utilize summer fallow every other year or sometimes two crop years then a fallow year.

Acres of production of major crops in Wallowa County

Crop	1929	1934	1950	1964	1982	2002	2008
Wheat	35,600	21,800	31,000	17,500	20,000	9,850	12,000
Barley	7,900	5,500	8,500	12,000	16,000	5,050	2,800
Oats	3,452	3,859	4,000	1,400	1,700	800	150
Alfalfa	11,300	13,631	12,000	23,864	20,000	16,250	12,000
Other Hay	22,800	28,600	20500	14600	10,000	29,350*	27,900*
Other crops	1,500	2,600	1,200	600	460	2650	2,200
Conservation Reserve						14350	23800

* included acres of farm ground grazed

Wheat

Wheat production as a base commodity has always been significant in Wallowa County, although the amount grown has fluctuated over time relative to the amount of ground available for production and the commodity price. The amount of ground available was determined in part by the number of livestock that were being raised which then dictated the need for growing hay.

Most of the wheat produced in the county was raised and sold (as it is harder to use wheat in processed feed). Wheat easily turns to flour when attempting to roll or crack wherein oats, corn or barley can be milled into good livestock feed. By the year 2000 wheat acres had dropped below 10,000 acres and have held steady since then. Soft white wheat has historically been the type of wheat grown, however in the past 10 years hard red types have become a significant portion of the product (1/3 of production in 2008). In recent years some producers in the county have raised wheat for seed. The growing conditions and the isolation of Wallowa County, coupled with the knowledge of the producers, has garnered a positive marketing advantage of consistently producing a very high quality seed.

Barley

Barley is grown for differing purposes in Wallowa County. Originally barley was raised for livestock feed and as a rotation crop on ground targeted for cereal grain production. (Crop rotation is required to keep diseases from building up on a piece of ground.) Rotation is generally done by planting wheat one year, barley the second year and then rotating into a legume, or other broad leaf, if possible the third year.

In the early 1970's farmers began growing malting barley. Malting barley has to be delivered to Portland by rail and strict standards must be met. This continued until recent years when access to reasonably priced rail service and low barley prices severely limited this opportunity. Barley production peaked in the early 1980 and has fallen to below 5,000 acres since 2004.

Hay

Production of hay has been the largest crop in the county since the early 1930's. Wallowa County has traditionally been known for its high quality hay production. The higher elevation and cooler temperatures during the growing season allows Wallowa County producers to grow high quality hay with small stems and good relative feed value.

The hay is sold to local cattle producers to be used as winter feed for cattle herds, and sold out of the county as dairy hay, horse hay and as export to the Pacific Rim. Hay that is produced for export from the county includes a portion of the 10 to 15 thousand acres of alfalfa plus many acres of timothy, orchard grass and alfalfa grass mix. These higher-end market opportunities have been developed over the years by individual hay producers and by the producers working together as members of the Wallowa County Hay Growers Association.

Other Crops

Producers in Wallowa County have long searched for alternative crops that will grow well in the mountainous climate, survive the cold snaps that occur in any (and every) month of the summer and consistently produce enough yield at a price that will allow for an adequate return on investment.

Alternative crops include broad leaf rotational crops that often break pest cycles (insects, disease and weeds) of the cereal grains. Many times, these rotational crops help build soil health and benefit the next cereal crop grown on that acre.

In the early years farmers grew rye, both for grain and for hay. As better varieties of other crops were developed, rye was generally replaced with barley, wheat and broad leaves. In the Flora area there have been small acreages of white clover grown for seed, mustard and canola. Although these crops are grown as alternative, unfortunately, they all have problems either with consistent year-to-year agronomic performance or volatile prices.

Peas, mustard, canola, clovers and alfalfa are the rotational crops generally used in the valley on irrigated lands. These broad leaves serve the same purpose as presented for the Flora area. Peas, mustard and canola are grown when contracts for certified seed can be obtained. Alfalfa, which is a perennial plant is also used in rotation. Alfalfa is retained for several years, as it produces well for multi-years, yet is more expensive to establish, thus elongating the time period required for adequate return on investment.

Two other crops that have been grown are garlic and potatoes. In the early 1990's, garlic was grown as a seed crop for approximately 5 years. The virgin soils that often produce clean, disease free seed, isolated from the normal growing areas appealed to the garlic companies. However, the venture was halted due to the loss by winter-kill, of two of the first five years crops. For nearly 20 years, potatoes were grown for seed in the valley. The isolation of the valley and large acres of crop ground that had never grown potatoes allowed for producers to grow high quality seed potatoes.

To help market their product and coordinate inspections and certifications, the local potato growers created the Blue Mountain Potato Growers Association. Growing potatoes can be done consistently in Wallowa County. However, the tonnage is usually approximately half of that in the Columbia Basin. This severely restricts the farmer's opportunity to produce an adequate return on investment. The down-fall of seed production is meeting the annual certification standards and the fact that markets for seed potatoes is extremely volatile. The heightened risk of growing potatoes eventually forced all producers to convert to other crops.

In recent years there has been an increasingly active group of producers who are growing organic products or "natural" produce. Organic standards are defined by state and federal regulations while "natural" is used by those who sell products with fewer non-natural inputs but have not met the organic standard. Products in these categories produced in the county range from organic vegetables to grass fed beef and free range chickens.

Natural products are normally the result of using agronomic techniques limited to organic fertilizers, no pesticides, limited or no antibiotics, etc. The focus is very broad and diverse, however and the aim is to deliver a naturally grown product that limits non-natural inputs and many times offers a direct market opportunity. Natural products are sold through local farmers markets or through natural or organic cooperatives.

Trends in Livestock

Grazing in Wallowa County has occurred for centuries. Livestock grazing began in the early 1700's when the Nez Perce acquired horses and continues today with nearly 28,000 head of cattle in local operations. Over 12,000 head of those cattle graze on public land at some time each year. The total number of cattle swells during the summer when between 6,000 and 8,000 stock and paired cattle rent pasture and are seasonally grazed.

In the early 1900's, Wallowa County supported large dairy cattle, swine, and sheep industries that are almost nonexistent today. These industries have been replaced by a larger beef cattle industry. Since federal land permits are directly connected to private land holdings, many of the trends are similar across federal and private land. Each class of livestock has experienced its own trends and are well documented in the Annual Wallowa County Agriculture Reports and later in the data provided by the Oregon Agriculture Information Network.

Nez Perce Tribe Livestock

The Nez Perce have always been recognized for their large horse and cattle herds, yet there are no official numbers. Kenneth Reid, an anthropologist, compiled population and livestock numbers for the Nez Perce between 1860 and 1897. While these numbers represent a larger group than only the Wallowa Band of the Tribe, they still provide insight into the numbers of livestock the Nez Perce owned. Reid collected these numbers from statistical tables and letter reports of Indian Agents (1985, p. 3). However, Nez Perce tribal member Joe McCormack does suggest that numbers of animals ran by the Nez Perce should be looked at with caution. This is because Native Americans may not have reported all of their animals if a Bureau of Indian Affairs officer was requesting information. This mis-reporting was likely due to the distrust caused by the fact that promised supplies didn't actually reach the Native American people. Many supplies were sold before they reached the Native Americans (McCormack, 2005). Therefore, it is plausible that the numbers were much higher than represented here. It was not unusual for one family head or band leader to own over 4,000 horses. (McCormack, 2005). The total number of cattle and horses recorded by Reid exceeded 22,500 in about 1876.

History indicates the Nez Perce Tribe obtained horses by 1730 (Reid, 1985, p. 2). It is thought that the horses originally were brought from Mexico (Slickpoo, 1973, p. 31). Shortly after obtaining horses the Nez Perce gained a reputation as being excellent horsemen (McCormack, 2005). The Nez Perce Tribe is said to have had some of the largest horse herds on the continent as a result of natural advantages of their land (Slickpoo, 1973, p. 31), which included the many canyon lands within their territory, which the Tribe quickly realized the value of these lands for livestock production.

The many canyons acted as natural corrals for horses, protecting the herds from invaders and predators (Reid et al., 1980, p. 31). The canyons also provide a more moderate climate with feed and milder winters (Reid et al., 1980, p. 31). The Nez Perce people practiced seasonal grazing and spent most of the winter in the canyons, and grazed large portions of the Zumwalt Prairie and surrounding areas the rest of the year (McCormack, 2005).

The Nez Perce actively managed the lands in this area. Their main management tool was fire (McCormack, 2005). They regularly used fire to maintain and rejuvenate grasslands, often in edge areas where grasslands and forest meet and where wildlife they hunted would benefit. By burning decadent grasses and the understory of the forests, they improved forage quality for livestock and wildlife and cleared trails for travel.

Livestock in the Early Settlement Years

The first permanent resident of the county is recorded in the Wallowa County Chieftain on October 3, 1940 as being A.C. Smith. Yet, one of the first individuals to recognize Wallowa County for its value as grazing land was James Tulley in 1871. He was so impressed with the valley that his brother, Erasmus, joined him the next spring bringing their 300 head of cattle and horses to the valley (Tucker, p. 121). They initially summered their animals in the county, then took them back in the fall (Johnson, 2005). James A. Masterson also came in with stock about the same time. They settled near Wallowa (*History*, p. 475). There was no need for these men to do any farming in order to put up hay, as the wild hay was so thick and heavy in the meadow lands that labor, not quantity, limited the amount put up (Tucker, p. 121-122).

A.B. Findley was another early settler. Findley and his family originally settled in Summerville, Oregon. After a year of scarce feed for livestock, in 1871, Findley set out to see the Wallowa Valley. He reports that bunchgrasses covered the hills and valleys. With this discovery, Findley sold the family home in Summerville and moved to the Wallowa Valley in January of 1872.

Even though many settlers quickly saw the value of wintering livestock in the canyons, Jack Johnson was the first white man on the Imnaha except for Captain Benjamin L.E. Bonneville (Findley, n.d.). Johnson married Florence Findley and they became the first permanent settlers on the Imnaha River. In later years, Johnson had the largest Morgan horse ranch in the U.S. (Bartlett, 1979).

The conflict between a farmer and some Nez Perce hunters. changed things in the Wallowa Valley forever. A.B. Findley and his neighbor Wells McNall tracked some of Findley's missing horses to a Nez Perce camp. An argument ensued and a Nez Perce man was shot and killed by

Findley (Bartlett, 1984, p. 60-61). The Nez Perce War of 1877 ensued (*Indian*, 2005). The War resulted in the removal of the Tribe from Wallowa County.

The year of 1877 is noted for its very severe winter. Large numbers of cattle were lost, and disastrous losses were experienced by nearly all who owned stock. In response to the losses, the settlers built more barns, and put up more hay the following year (*History*, p. 482). Canyon grazing became imperative to the livestock industry in Wallowa County, and continues to be today. Much of the bench land, now within the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, was homesteaded by the late 1800's and early 1900's (USDA, n.d.). At that time, there were a large number (thousands) of sheep raised in the canyons.

In Ellie Belew's book, Sara Miller describes canyon ranching practices in the Lower Imnaha and Snake River Canyons, wherein cattle are seasonally moved to different elevations at varying times of the year. They are wintered in low portions of the canyons, and gradually moved higher as spring approaches. Summer and fall grazing occurs on the high prairies and timber uplands, examples of which would be the Zumwalt Prairie, the Findley Buttes, Lord Flat, and Cayuse Flat areas. Natural barriers such as rimrocks are used along with strategic fencing to control grazing areas. (Belew, 2000, p. 5-6)

Species	1910's	1920's	1930's	1940's	1950's	1960's	1970's	1980's	1990's	2000's
Dairy	1215	4,000	5,000	6716	3400					
Sheep	300,000	250,000		65,000	25,000		15,000	7,500	2000	1500
Swine		15,000	26,000	15,000	10,000	5,000	3,000	800	200	
Beef	18,000	19,000	16,000	28,000	38,000	34,000	26,000	30,000	30,000	27,000

Public Land Grazing

Regulation of grazing on National Forest Reserves began in 1905-1906 when Gifford Pinchot, first Chief of the Forest Service, imposed the first grazing fees on federal land grazing. Before regulation, stockmen customarily utilized the public domain lands adjacent to their base properties for grazing their livestock on a first come first serve basis. Enforcement of permits and other regulations began in earnest about 1910. Nevertheless, grazing fees proved to be very profitable for the federal government and revenues exceeded timber revenues every year until 1910, then occasionally till 1920.

The next major change to grazing came in the form of the 1934 Taylor Grazing Act. That act permanently instituted a permitting program for livestock grazing on public lands. With the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act, public lands were permanently withdrawn from homesteading, and the beginning of an attitude shift toward public land use.

The numbers of animal unit months (AUM) on Forest Service lands continue to be reduced by Forest Service management, and there are fewer permittees on the allotments. Allotment areas are often consolidated and smaller livestock operations purchased by larger ranches. The tenure of grazing permits has also changed over time. In the past, the advantage of the Forest Service permits over private land grazing was the tenure (long term commitment which could not be taken without significant violations by the permittee) versus having to search out new privately owned pastures on a year-to-year basis.

Nevertheless, many operations still rely on federal permits. As previously stated, they are contracted for a ten year time period and then must be renewed. Permits are attached to base properties that are held in the permit holder's name. A requirement of the base property used to require a certain amount of forage be produced; however, today the requirement is facilities to handle the cattle during the seasons when they are not on federal lands.

An Era of Legislation

In 1960 the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act (MUSYA) was passed. This act expanded the management considerations of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Pursuant to the 1897 Forest Service Organic Act, the Forest Service had been managing the national forests for timber supply, watershed protection, and forest preservation. MUSYA enacted a broader range of uses for the national forest lands including outdoor

recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish. The act directs the Secretary to manage renewable resources for multiple uses. From that point forward, rangeland health, and hence livestock grazing, is one of the five main purposes managed for on national forest lands.

This era also brought about multiple wilderness designations, and the designation of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area.

Recognizing the continued decline of a portion of the nation's plant and animal species as a result of human activities, Congress passed the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA). The purpose of the act is to provide a means to conserve endangered and threatened species (ESA, 1973, Sec. 2(b)). The act provides for critical habitat designation in order to protect those species. Restrictions are put on many land use activities in areas where there are endangered and threatened species.

The major endangered/threatened species designations that have affected Wallowa County have been the Snake River Chinook Salmon in 1992, the summer steelhead in 1997, the bull trout in 1999, and Spalding's Catchfly in 2001.

The 1992 listing of the Snake River Chinook Salmon was the first listing of an anadromous fish in the United States, and spotlighted areas with the salmon. Wallowa County happened to be one of those areas.

The listing of the summer steelhead in 1997 and the bull trout in 1999 increased the complexity of the fisheries issues in relation to livestock. The Chinook salmon listing affected the Wallowa River stream complex, the Grand Ronde River, the Wenaha River, and the Snake River. When the summer steelhead was listed in 1997, all of the streams listed for the Chinook salmon plus the Joseph Creek Complex of streams were impacted. Then in 1999, the bull trout listing affected the upper reaches of all the previously mentioned streams.

The combined effect of these three listings is that virtually all of the stream courses in Wallowa County are now overlaid with an endangered species listing. Such listings require mitigation measures be incorporated into management activities to ensure these activities are not harming the listed species, which in turn causes increased time and money. The most challenging of these measures is that cattle are not allowed in a pasture that has a stream with redds (salmon nests) in the gravel. Steelhead spawn in early spring and the fry come out of the gravel through June. Chinook spawn beginning in August and the eggs stay in the gravel until spring. In this situation some pastures can only be grazed during the month of July. July is usually not the month that you want to be grazing in riparian areas due to the high temperatures associated with July weather. This situation makes it impossible for rangeland managers to manage in an ecologically sensitive manner.

One of the most recent listings under the ESA is Spalding's Catchfly in 2001. This plant is typically associated with the Palouse Prairie (*Spalding*, 2001). Some of the only known populations are located in Wallowa County. Because of the plant's endangered status, U.S. Forest Service allotment management plans (AMP) that were being developed had to go through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. To date, managing for the Spalding's Catchfly has increased complexity to the planning but has not caused reductions in numbers nor removal of any areas from grazing.

The gray wolf has been another listed species that has caused problems for the grazing industry in Wallowa County. The wolf was extirpated from much of the West by the early 1900's, and numbers were stressed throughout much of the nation. When the national ESA was enacted, the gray wolf was added to the list of endangered species. Subsequently, it was also listed under the Oregon Endangered Species Act, which was passed in 1987. In 1996, after much deliberation and controversy, wolves were reintroduced into Yellowstone and portions of central Idaho, just across the Snake River from Wallowa County. Many believe there is not enough contiguous wolf habitat to support wolves in Oregon and that interaction between wolves and cattle will result in cattle being killed by wolves, with the subsequent significant economic losses to cattle producers. Naturally, ranchers are concerned about economic losses, as wolf predation on cattle presents another element with which they must deal.

In 1976, the Congress passed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). A portion of this act specifically deals with grazing permits and management on federal lands. Glicksman and Coggins believe that in some ways FLPMA adds to the security of grazing permit tenure. It gives permit holders priority to renew permits as long as the lands remain available for grazing. It provides that if a permit is terminated to use the land for other purposes the permittee must be compensated for all permanent improvements the permittee made, and must be given two years notice. However, they point out the act also gives more authority to the agencies to make needed

adjustments. FLPMA encourages multiple uses.

The other act that has greatly affected the livestock grazing industry is the 1977 Clean Water Act. This act provides guidelines for regulating point and non-point source pollution into waters of the state. Livestock grazing was considered a source of non-point source pollution. Recently there has been additional economic pressure on the livestock industry because confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) are now considered point sources of pollution. Ranchers with CAFOs (feed lots that contain livestock in lots with no vegetation for more than 45 days in a year) were following the state Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) standards for CAFOs. This became a real problem in 2002 when the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), launched surprise inspections on producers in northeast Oregon, under auspices of the Clean Water Act, which mandates much more stringent requirements than Oregon law. As a result, many feedlots had to be altered or closed to come into compliance with the more stringent federal regulations.

Wilderness Areas and the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area

Forest reserves signified the beginning of public domain retention by the federal government, and additional designations of that land resulted in further definition of their use. Two designations that have changed livestock production and grazing in Wallowa County are the wilderness area designations and the creation of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area.

Over 600,000 acres Wallowa County lands has been pronounced “wilderness.” Even though this designation does not statutorily eliminate grazing, federal mandates make it difficult to continue grazing and many times the additional costs of meeting the requirements of designated “wilderness” forces grazing to cease. The designation of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (HCNRA) in 1975 changed ranching in that area forever. With the designation, ranchers, even though they had privately owned lands that were used as grazing for many decades, within the boundaries of the HCNRA, were essentially forced to sell their land to the U.S. Forest Service. Some people sold because they were afraid of having their land condemned and taken under the government’s power of eminent domain. Others feared there would be problems running livestock on the HCNRA lands, and thus decided to sell.

Like the wilderness designations, the HCNRA designation also restricted grazing. In 2003 there were 652,488 acres in the HCNRA. In 2003, prior to the HCNRA Comprehensive Management Plan implementation approximately 91% (566,411 acres) of the HCNRA (652,488 acres) was within 51 grazing allotments. 53% of those were active allotments (298,905 acres on 40 allotments) and 47% were vacant (267,506 acres on 11 allotments). Following the implementation of the HCNRA’s Comprehensive Management Plan, only 302,546 remained open in 40 allotments and 18,083 acres were converted to administrative allotments.

Comparatively, in the 1920’s, approximately 108,000 animal unit months (AUMs) were permitted within the HCNRA. In 1998, only 34,990 AUMs were permitted in Oregon side of the NRA.

Livestock in Wallowa County – Historic to Current

Dairy Cattle

When the settlers came to the Wallowa Valley nearly every family had their own milk cow. With the resources available in the valley, some dairy herds grew over time. The industry saw a boom in the early 1920’s, and continued to increase. The number of dairy cows in the county increased 55% between 1925 and 1930. Wallowa County had at least one creamery, and provided dairy products for the surrounding area. However, as a result of low butterfat prices in the early 1930’s dairy cattle numbers dwindled, but increased again in 1940, reaching a high of 6,716.

Numbers were drastically reduced in the early 1940’s as a result of labor scarcity during World War II. Numbers of dairy cattle were around 3,000 due to low cheese and butter prices into the early 1950’s. Numbers continued to decline until reaching the point where Wallowa County lost the Lewiston, Idaho market, causing the end of the dairy industry in the county.

Sheep

For many years sheep were abundant in Wallowa County, wintering in the canyons and summering in the high Eagle Cap Mountains. Numbers were already greatly decreased by the early 1920's, from their high peak at the turn of the century when numbers were estimated to be over 300,000. The number of sheep owned by individuals ranged from a few head to large operations with 25,000-30,000 head. Most were grade Rambouillets that produced wool and crossbred lambs for market were range sheep herds. The remainder was small farm flocks that were grazed on the irrigated pastures in the valley.

The county wool pool was organized in 1920. The goal behind the wool pool was to collect wool from small herds and sell it collectively. Initially there was difficulty getting the wool sold, but the group was successful in 1921.

The early 1930's saw low lamb prices, causing a decrease in numbers. As the thirties progressed, the United States Forest Service became less favorable toward sheep grazing as they began implementing reductions in response to their concern about range conditions.

The sheep industry also took another hit when the nation entered World War II. By 1944 there were approximately 40,000 head in the county, as compared to almost 90,000 head in the late 1920's. Numbers plummeted largely due to the scarcity of labor and the high costs of running sheep during wartime and predation by coyotes and wild cats. Coyote numbers were very high, especially in the timbered summer ranges. Many ranchers abandoned the sheep business because the coyotes were so rampant. The problem persisted until after the war when the pesticide 1080 was used to poison the predators. Incidentally, an increase in deer and elk populations was also observed with the reduction of the predator population. This era also signified the beginning of the production of synthetic fiber, which provided competition for wool.

Sheep numbers continued to decline as grazing on federal lands subsided. Reductions caused by increased regulations were compounded on federal lands when the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area was designated in 1975. During the next 5 years all but one operation had left the canyons. The last sheep operation left the Snake River in the 1990's leaving only one range operation in the county. By 2008 only one producer with more than one band of sheep operated on private land augmented by a US Forest Service permit in the Sled Springs area. This sheep ranching operation divides its time between Wallowa County in the summer and the Columbia Basin in the winter. All other sheep in Wallowa County are farm flocks of generally less than 100 head.

Swine

For many years swine production was a very important industry in Wallowa County. As the number of farmers in the county increased so did the pigs. Pigs were kept to utilize grain not fit for human consumption or in some cases they were the only way to get the grain to market. In the book **"About Wallowa County: People, Places, Images,"** edited by Ellie Belew, Mary Louise Carlson relates, *"In the late 1890's Raymond Moore raised hogs. They ran loose. When fall came, he would take them to market by leading them, a common practice then. He would fill a wagon with feed, scattering feed behind, and the hogs would follow, eating all the way to market... a two-day trip to Enterprise."* Many talk of the hog drives during the era before usable roads or rail connected the county to markets. The story goes that ranchers placed grain strategically along the trail to lure the pigs to market, therefore, facilitating selling their grain in the form of pork. Particularly, pig drives originated from Lost Prairie, Promise, Flora, Eden, and the Grouse Flat areas of the county. The hogs on the north side of the Grande Ronde River usually went to Clarkston, Washington, and Lewiston, Idaho. Hogs in other portions of the county usually went to shipping yards in Enterprise.

In 1921 there were an estimated 15,000 hogs in the county. At that time, Wallowa County was the largest hog-producing county in the state, and kept the title at least through 1931. In his 1927 report, Extension Agent Donaldson states, *"In the country lying north of Enterprise where the farms are a long distance from the railroads,*

farmers market most of their grain through their hogs. This section is a dry farming section and wheat is their main crop. Very little of the grain is sold directly, most of it going to market in the form of pork. In the irrigated sections of the county practically every farmer raises hogs and as a result this county puts a large number of hogs on the market each year."

Around 1929 there was a shift in marketing techniques. With the increased use of trucks and a better road system, the custom of moving grain to market via feeding hogs was changed, and farmers from the outlying sections directly hauled more of their grain to market. This resulted in a decrease of the number of hogs being produced in some of the dry land sections of the county.

The swine industry also saw some hardship in the 1930's. Low grain production resulted in retention of almost all hogs from 1931 until the 1932 grain crop was available to fatten the hogs. Low hog prices resulted in declining quality of the animals. 1937 marked the beginning of disease problems for the industry. The county suffered severe loss due to worms, erysipelas, necrotic enteritis, chronic cholera, and other diseases. Sanitation issues were identified as the main problem. When cleanliness procedures were taken, swine herd health improved.

However, the industry suffered another blow as a result of World War II. In 1945 hog production was down to approximately two thirds of prior eras. This was partly due to a lack of labor and partly due to the farmers putting their feed grains through beef cattle rather than through hogs.

The spike in grain prices following the war compounded by low pig prices, resulted in numbers reaching a low by 1953. By 1959, Agent Cornett estimated only 1,800 brood sows remained in the county. The last commercial hog producers converted to other livestock in the late 1990's.

Beef

Early in Wallowa County's history, cattle numbers were relatively low. In the mid 1920's the number of cattle reported in the county was around 19,000 head (Donaldson, 1927 & 1928). In 1929, Agent Donaldson reported a reduction of beef cattle at approximately 16,000 head. He explains that, "*The past year has seen considerable reduction in the number of beef cattle in the county. Many cattlemen have taken advantage of the good prices obtained for beef cattle and have sold off, in some cases, their entire holdings...*"

Over time, the cattle industry seemed to benefit from the troubles of the other industries in the county. When labor became scarce with the onset of World War II, producers tended to reduce sheep, dairy, and swine production and increase their beef cattle operations. This was because beef cattle required less manual labor than dairy and sheep, and could utilize lower quality feeds than swine. Between 1940 and 1954 the number of beef cattle in the county increased by approximately 18,550 animals (Best, 1958). See Figure 11.

World War I (1914-1918) marked the beginning of a livestock boom. The war provided high demand for livestock products. This resulted in a dramatic increase in domestic livestock numbers. In turn, the greatest impact on the land was realized during this era. It was reported that during this time, cattle could only be driven until about 2 p.m. each day because they were so thin they would die from exertion if pushed any harder. So many animals were being grazed in the county that there wasn't enough feed to go around.

The next era to impact the livestock industry was the great depression. Jack McClaran, long time rancher in the Imnaha and Snake River canyons, relates that the typical Snake River outfit owed a lot of money in the 1920's. During the economic boom of the 1920's, many people decided to acquire land, therefore they had debt. With the onset of the Great Depression, many people went out of business. Eight to ten ranches were saved from ruin because of the assistance of Leonard Johnson, a canyon operator. Johnson recognized that many people couldn't even pay the interest they owed. Johnson helped those he trusted by financing these operations. He made the payments reasonable, and lowered the interest. Because he was careful who he loaned the money to, they all made it and he didn't lose his money.

The World War II era (1941-1945) didn't experience the environmental damage of World War I, as the spike in

livestock production was more moderate during World War II. This was also an era of mechanization, meaning there was less dependence on the use of horses for travel, farming, etc.

Nevertheless, livestock numbers did see an increase during the war. However, the increase was not in all species. During this time period, the land was also still trying to recover from the overuse during World War I. One way land managers attempted to reverse this problem was through seeding. A program of seeding Canadian bluegrass on selected areas of the Chesnimnus and Imnaha-Snake Districts was instituted. With livestock number reductions, the Snake River Canyon and Zumwalt areas recovered quickly from the previous overgrazing. Recovery of bluebunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue was observed.

Current Situation

While prices and the number of cattle have fluctuated over the years, the cattle industry has persisted as the dominant livestock industry in Wallowa County. Several events in history changed the livestock industry, each time moving more of the production toward beef cattle. Change is inevitable. As with anything, the livestock industry has had to adapt to survive. The number of animals grazed in Wallowa County has greatly decreased in the last 100 years, and the class of livestock being grazed has changed. As a whole, the industry has become more environmentally friendly as new management techniques are learned and more is discovered about the natural processes on the land. New challenges continue to arise, specifically in the political arena.

The U.S. Forest Service, the main land management agency in Wallowa County, manages approximately 536,000 active acres of rangelands out of the Wallowa Mountain Office. On these allotments there are 37 permittees running livestock on 54 active allotments. Within these pastures there are a total of 319 pastures, 182 of which contain fish listed under the Endangered Species Act at least during some portion of the year. Listed fish are not the only challenge for land managers and permittees. They must also deal with two listed plants, the spalding catch fly and Mcfarlands 4 O'clock. U.S. Forest Service lands are still a very important part of the industry. Over 2/3 of all cattle in the county still graze on some form of federal grazing permit, and permits are still utilized as part of the base price of a cattle ranch in Wallowa County.

The number of animals grazed on private land has also decreased with time. Some of that is due to economics. Other factors include that base property (private land) is connected to federal permits, therefore federal stocking rates somewhat dictate private land stocking rates; and operators have learned about carrying capacity and are working to stock their land at a sustainable level.

Along with stocking lands at sustainable rates, there have been a series of rangeland improvement projects in the county, especially in the past 50 years. There has been focus on revegetation, encouraging animal movement, and water developments. To give an idea of the magnitude of these projects, over \$12 million has been spent on watershed improvement projects since 1992. Coupled with the above, aggressive efforts to control noxious weeds are underway.

The bottom line is that the grazing community is resilient. Over 60% ownership of cattle operations is at least two generations old (Williams, 2005). Grazing continues to be a major part of the Wallowa County economy and social structure. The livestock industry still produces approximately 50% of the agricultural money in Wallowa County. Agriculture accounts for approximately 19% of the county's income.

Operators are holding on to the fact that the United States will need beef in the future. They realize they will have to continue to work harder to make a living. Many are trying new marketing techniques, putting themselves in niche markets. For example, many people are involved with organizations like Oregon Country Beef, or Painted Hills, making their product unique, whether animals are sold through their organization or cooperatives that include natural, organic, or meet a higher level of quality assurance.

Change is inevitable, but with the perseverance that Wallowa County stockmen have shown for over a century, the livestock industry will continue to be a major part of Wallowa County's economy and community. With wise management of the land, the collaboration of the local managers of the federal lands and the knowledge of local land owners/managers; cattle ranching will be profitable and sustainable.

Vision for the Future

Wallowa County's agriculture will continue to be the main focus of the local economy in the future. Along with the other natural resource industries, agricultural production will continue to utilize the cooler summers, high elevation and relative isolation to produce high quality products that create value-added returns to the local producers. Wallowa County's desire to maintain agricultural lands free from excessive development while supporting the continued use of our productive agricultural and timber lands will sustain our natural resource industries. Continued access and use of water rights for agricultural use will offer stability and success to all sectors of agriculture. Wallowa County producers will continue to lead the state in demonstrating how to successfully raise and market their product while improving the ecological conditions on the ground.

With the unique combination of high elevation summer grazing combined with the low elevation canyon lands that supplies late fall, winter and early spring grazing cattle production will continue to dominate as the largest sector of the agricultural community. Additionally the hay growers will continue to combine their knowledge of production and marketing to lead the state in stable and profitable management. Crop production will benefit from increased technology and improved genetics to continue to find niche marketing and production techniques to expand the "value added markets" currently being used by many.

Forestry

It has been the custom and culture of the inhabitants to enjoy, utilize and care for all the forests of Wallowa County. The forests are valued for hunting, fishing, and other recreational pursuits, as well as mushrooming, berry picking, fuel wood gathering and sawtimber. They are also valued for the habitat provided for native wildlife and for maintaining our watersheds. Historically, when the railroad came to Wallowa County timber production became a large part of the local economy and remains an important contributor to economic stability in the county. Sawmills were established in Minam, Enterprise and Wallowa in the 1920's. During that time timber production was approximately 30 million board feet per year.

Railroad Logging

In 1908 the railroad was extended from Elgin to Joseph. This opened up a vast area to logging of ponderosa pine sawtimber. The Palmer Lumber Company, which was initially established in Union County, extended their operations to Wallowa County, beginning by buying up homesteads.

In 1910 the Palmer Lumber Company hired Morrison-Knudsen to construct a spur rail off the main line about two miles up the Wallowa River from its junction with the Grande Ronde River. From here a track was built up Howard Creek for a distance of five miles to a logging camp called Camp Five. The last three miles climbed a 6% grade. From here branch lines were extended to other locations in the Grossman and Promise Areas.

At that time, horses were used to skid logs to where the donkey engines could reach them. The logs were loaded on a train and shipped to the mill. The company had six locomotives. One of these was a Shay, which weighed 110 tons and was able to carry large loads. The Shay was gear driven and was used on steep grades. The smaller locomotives, 35 to 70 tons, were used to bring the logs on spur lines to the yards at Camp 5. The Shay was then hooked onto 20 loaded, double-decked cars and began the descent down the 6% grade to Vincent. The logs and cars were put on a siding and the Shay returned for another load. Camp 5 had a machine shop and a roundhouse. They had 4 donkey engines skidding and loading logs.

Maxville

In 1922 Bowman-Hicks Lumber Company purchased the Palmer Lumber Company operation at Camp 5. Since this was only a temporary camp, Bowman-Hicks began looking for a permanent camp. The new location for the

permanent camp needed to be large enough for a town of 4 to 5 hundred people, level enough for train tracks and have water enough for the town and locomotives.

Bishop Meadows was just such an area. It was large and flat with a stream that could be dammed up to create a large water pond. In 1923 the construction of Maxville was started with the workers living in rail cars and tents until cabins were built. In September of 1923, the Post Office was moved from Camp 5 to Maxville. By the end of 1923 a school, a bunk house and a mess hall for the 800 single workers was built. Housing was then completed for the married men and their families. Maxville also had a baseball field, a swimming hole, a doctor's office and running water. The Maxville workers came mostly from out-of-state, transported by the company directly from the deep South. But what made Maxville unique was that 50 to 60 of its citizens were African-American. It was home to the only segregated school in Oregon. Its black residents lived in a group of houses across the tracks from the white residents. Conflicts across racial lines were few and friendships many.

In 1924 Bowman-Hicks purchased the Nibley-Mimnaugh Mill in Wallowa and extended its railroad line to Wallowa, a distance of 16 miles. Eight steam locomotives began hauling logs from the Maxville area to Wallowa.

Maxville began to decline after the 1929 Depression. The lumber market slowed down and people began leaving Maxville and moving to Wallowa and other towns. In 1930 they began pulling the tracks and building roads on the grades. In 1933 Maxville closed, and some cabins were moved to Wallowa.

Today the only thing left at Maxville is a pond and a large log house.

Other Sawmills

The Eastern Oregon sawmill was built in Enterprise in 1915. The citizens of Enterprise gave 80 acres, in the center of town, with the understanding that the mill would be a two-shift operation that employed 500 people and produced 100,000 board feet of lumber per day. The operation included a planer and an extensive railroad network in the upper valley, including the Sled Springs and Fire Ridge areas. Unfortunately, this mill did not survive the Great Depression.

Other major sawmills that operated in Wallowa County were Mt. Emily Lumber Company, Valsetz Lumber Company, Miller Mills and Manufacturing, Mt. View Lumber Company and Chief Joseph Lumber Company.

In the 1930's and 40's there were as many as 20 small sawmills cutting special order lumber. In the late 1940's and 50's there was massive road building across the country. Mills began to cut trees other than the large ponderosa pine that had dominated the market up until then. In the 1970's two mills were built with the capability to cut the smaller diameter mixed species logs.

Until 1994 there were three mills operating, one in Wallowa and two in Joseph, all utilizing sawlogs from the forests in the County. Additional sawlogs left the County to be made into lumber in Union County, Oregon, and Asotin County, Washington. From the 1950's until 1992 the annual harvest removed off the Wallowa- Whitman National Forests in Wallowa County averaged 50 to 100 million board feet year with the highest in 1962 of 129 million board feet.

Wildland Fires

The poor ecological health of the forested ecosystem in Wallowa County and the greater Blue Mountains area is well documented in federal and scientific reports. Forest ecosystems are considered "unhealthy" when there is a widespread conifer die-off due to insect and disease epidemics, as well as a cycle of low precipitation. The U.S Forest Service Vegetation Assessments (1993-1998) of the Wallowa Whitman National Forest determined that mortality exceeded new growth by 29%. Assessments of the area highlight "natural process imbalances" attributed to the history of fire exclusion, past livestock grazing and past timber management techniques (in particular overstory removal of early seral species).

Past timber management practices and fire exclusion have driven a colonization of the forested lands by more shade-tolerant Douglas-fir, true firs, and a build-up of fuels to a level much greater than that historically found in this area. Since 1976, scientists have been predicting an

increase in catastrophic stand-replacing fires. Between 1986 and 2007, eleven large wildfires occurred, compared to only two small wildfires that occurred in the previous 30 years. Current assessments rank the risk of catastrophic fire in Wallowa County to be extremely high.

Private timber managers have responded to this threat by utilizing proactive forest management on many acres to reduce fuel loads. However a considerable portion of the County's federal forested lands require more active management in order restore a fire adapted ecosystem. Conservative estimates suggest a starting point of 100,000 acres of the 750,000 acres of public forest in the County would benefit from mechanical tree removal and slash disposal. However, current rates of treatment of these high fire risk acres are less than 2,000 acres per year, largely due to politically motivated, rather than environmentally motivated concerns.

The recreational, ecological and scenic values that draw tourists to Wallowa County are the same values that the residents of Wallowa County value to protect lands from the risk of wildfire. The important values to Wallowa County are public safety, protection of the local economy (e.g., forestry, agriculture, arts and recreation), protection of municipal watersheds and native wildlife. Wallowa County has experienced several large fires over the course of the last 5 years that have affected those values, including Battle Creek Complex, Eastside Complex, Carrol Creek, Horse Creek, Lightning Creek Complex, Anniversary, and several wildland fire use (WFU) fires in the wilderness.

The fire frequency for the Wallowa Fire Zone (Wallowa Ranger District, Eagle Cap Ranger District, and Hells Canyon National Recreation Area) is based on the fire occurrence records from 1970-1999. The Wallowa Fire Zone, over the past 30 years, has experienced 1,860 fires or an average of 62 fires per year.

Fire starts are categorized into human caused or lightning caused. Wallowa County has a significant numbers of lightning storms that pass through during the summer and fall months, thus prevention of such fire *starts* are beyond human control. Over 3/4 of all fire starts are attributed to lightning, with a higher percentage of lightning starts on the public lands (85% average for the last 5 years) than the private lands (72% average for the last 5 years). The sheer number of natural, lightning caused fire creates the need for fire control, which can only be achieved with appropriate forest fuel levels.

Wallowa County residents wish to live and work in areas that are resistant to catastrophic wildfire and in a community that is prepared to minimize the effects of those fires. More acres of mechanical treatments are needed to improve forest conditions and resiliency in the face of climate variation, and restore historic stand structure and species diversity critical to native wildlife.

The Endangered Species – Chinook Salmon 1992 to Present

Following the Endangered Species listing of the Snake River Spring Chinook Salmon by the Federal Government in 1992 the volume of sawtimber removed annually from the Wallowa- Whitman National Forests has been drastically reduced. Sawtimber harvested from private lands continue to supply the mills at a minimal level, however, in 1994 all three sawmills in Wallowa County shut down. The two small diameter mixed species sawmills reopened in 1995 and continued to operate at reduced production levels until 2002, when one was closed. The remaining sawmill closed in 2006.

At present, there is one small post and pole operation in Wallowa, two small one-man sawmills in Joseph/Imnaha that produce special order lumber products and some very small part time mobile sawmills operating in the County. Since 2000, the sawtimber volume harvested from the Wallowa-Whitman National Forests in Wallowa County has been between 0 and 10 million board feet per year, with an annual average harvest of less than 5 million board feet,

even though the forest grows approximately 200 million board feet of timber each year. From 1986 through 1993 timber sale receipts to Wallowa County for schools and roads averaged over a million and one half dollars per year. From 1994 through 2001 timber sale receipts to Wallowa County for schools and roads averaged just over three hundred and ninety-five thousand dollars per year, which has caused undue hardship to those trying to adequately fund the public school system.

The timber industry represented approximately 1/3 or more of the total local economy between the 1970's and 2000. At the time of the listing of the Snake River Spring Chinook Salmon in 1992 the number of family wage earning jobs in Wallowa County, in the logging and sawmill industries, exceeded 700 positions. In 2009 the number of family wage jobs in the logging and sawmill industries is less than 100. The recent loss of harvest volume from the Wallowa-Whitman National Forests has caused this important industry to be significantly reduced.

The Future

Harvest volumes of all products (sawlogs, pulp, posts and poles, and biomass) needs to be in excess of 80 million board feet per year in order to sustain the environmental and economic well being of Wallowa County. This is less than the historic annual average harvest of 90 million board feet from all forested acres in the County (1962-2007). Average annual harvests of 10-12 million board feet off the private family forest lands, and 30-35 million board feet off the private industrial land are fairly constant. In order to provide an adequate degree of forest health with fire resistant fuel levels, more wood products must be taken from the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. A biomass MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) was recently signed allowing slash from thinning projects to be removed from the Wallowa-Whitman National Forests lands. This is a step forward, however until appeals and lawsuits from environmental groups, changes made in the Endangered Species Act and federal funding goes toward long term forest sustainability instead of fire fighting, the poor economy and threat of catastrophic fire remains a reality in Wallowa County.

The timber industry can have a bright future with the re-creation of additional family wage jobs that complement the farming, grazing and tourist industries that will stabilize economic base. A viable forest products industry in Wallowa County will help maintain the value of private forestlands as forests and help deter the conversion of these lands to recreational, agricultural, or even dispersed developmental properties. Utilization of biomass will not only contribute to the economic stability of the county, but also play a significant role in restoring the health and viability of the public forests that produce lumber products as well as an abundance of wildlife. This sustainable level needs to and will be provided if those matters valued by the Wallowa County citizenry, including scenery, water, wildlife, soils, grass and trees are maintained long term.

Wood cutting

The picture of a house built in 1879 by John Creighton on Prairie Creek has a prominent fire place as well as a chimney for a stove. In a picture of Joseph nearly every building had one to four chimneys. The early settlers had little choice but to use wood as their fuel for heating their homes and businesses. As electricity, heating oil and liquid gas became available, some residents converted to these other sources. However, in Wallowa County heating with wood is still utilized by a significant portion of the population. Many houses have a dual heating usages with wood heat as the primary source and electric or gas as a back-up. The cost of utilizing wood as fuel continues to stay significantly cheaper than the alternatives.

Wallowa County residents have continuously and consistently utilized the national forests as the primary source of fire wood cutting for generations. It is not only a fuel source but a social value that has been passed down through the generations from parent to child. Fire wood cutting is a time when people take the opportunity to return to their favorite locations where they have gone since their youth. It is time when people can continue to be self sufficient "preparing for the winter" as their ancestors have for generations. A wood stove is still the customary place of gathering such as a pot bellied stove in the small community restaurants.

For others it may just be a source of fuel which continues to be less expensive than the alternatives. The actual cost of cutting firewood varies. In Wallowa County most people that cut firewood are set up with the appropriate saws, axes, pickups, trailers etc. which makes to cost per cord relatively low. It is estimated that the cost per cord of wood when cut and hauled personally is \$54.37 per cord.¹ If it is purchased the cost is approximately \$150.00 per cord. In

the table below, the cost of fire wood is compared using the value of \$150.00/cord.

During the survey of USFS Maintenance Level One Roads, conducted by Wallowa County's NRAC and other volunteers, 58% of all open roads were identified as roads used by woodcutters and 28% of roads open only to ATV were used by woodcutters. Since a large portion of the County's population uses and gathers firewood this activity is one of the primary uses of public lands. As other heat sources raise in price, wood heat is being used more and more so the need for access to the national forest and wood gathering is increasing. Additionally, as the dead and dying trees on the public lands continue to increase, wood cutting is one method of reducing the fuel loads economically and in a timely manner.

^a **Cost of wood gathering.**

		Cost/cord
Saw	Purchase price \$350 and will last 10 years	\$35/year
	Will only use 50% of the time for wood gathering	\$17.50/year
	Estimated to get 4 cords per year (17.50/4)	\$4.37/cord
Saw Fuel	Takes about 1/2 gal of fuel/oil per cord at \$2.50/gal	\$1.25
Saw Maintenance	Estimated to be about \$1.25/cord	\$1.25
Pickup	Based on per mile basis and 30 miles to sight \$.75/mile x 60 mile	\$45.00
	On average 1 cord of wood is hauled for each trip	
Axes, mauls, wedges	Estimated to cost \$100 for all with a 10 year life span. So costs \$10/year and if get 4 cords/year the cost is \$2.25/cord	\$2.25
Total cost	Per cord of wood	\$54.37

^b **Cost of wood as a fuel**

Wood as fuel is generally sold and measured in cords, which is a stack of wood 4 feet high, 4 feet wide and 8 feet long. A cord takes up 128 cubic feet of space (4'X4'X8') but because of air spaces, the amount of solid wood is approximately 80 - 85 cubic feet.

The table below compares different fuel types based on cost per 1 million British Thermal Units (BTU) of heat produced

Fuel type	Cost per 1million BTU
Electricity ¹	\$19.12
Heating oil	\$19.56
Propane	\$34.36
Wood @ \$150/cord	
Western larch	\$11.40
Douglas-fir	\$11.85
Alder	\$13.95
Ponderosa pine	\$14.70

¹Actual cost of residential electricity October/November, 2008 Newport, OR.

Firewood heating values

Firewood heating values can vary significantly. The most important factor affecting useful BTU content is the moisture content of the wood. Well-seasoned, air-dried wood, protected from the rain and snow will not dry out completely (bone dry state) but should equilibrate to a low moisture content of less than 25%.

An approximation of the negative effect of moisture on the heating value of wood is that for every percent increase in moisture content, starting at bone dry, there is a 1% decrease in heating value. For example, if a piece of firewood has a heating value of 8,500 BTUs per pound at 0% moisture content (bone dry) then it will have an approximate heating value of only 1,700 BTUs per pound at 80% moisture content. (BTU = 8500 BTU – (moisture % x 8500)

All firewood dried to the same moisture content contains approximately the same heat value per pound - from about 8,000 to 9,500 BTU per bone-dry pound and about 6,500 to 7,500 BTU for air-seasoned wood of about 20% moisture content. The difference between the high and low heat values is the density of the wood. For the same volume, a higher density species, such as white oak, has more wood and less air space than a lower density species, such as alder or fir. Generally, denser hardwoods provide longer-burning fires and contain the greatest total heating value per unit of volume. Softwoods usually burn quicker and contain less total heating value per unit of volume.

Recreation

Introduction

Recreation is very diverse in Wallowa County. The reasons for visiting Wallowa County listed at the Wallowa Mountain visitors center include scenic driving, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, camping, swimming, water skiing, boating, rafting, snowshoeing, snow skiing, skating, and snowmobiling. Locals have identified hunting, fishing, OHV (off highway vehicles) riding, camping, horseback riding, berry picking, mushrooming, wildlife viewing and scenic driving. With this diversity, Wallowa County offers a true variety of recreational opportunities to the resident population and the visitor. The local visitor center recorded over 72,000 annual contacts in 2007. Information was sent to over 2000 people, 25% to foreign inquiries, 40% US outside Pacific Northwest and 35% Pacific Northwest.

Hunting, Fishing and other wildlife related activities

Native American Fishing and Hunting

On the first day of 1812 the Wilson Price Hunt party encountered lodges in the Grand Ronde valley and traded with the Indians for horses, dogs and some roots. On the 6th day of January the party crossed the Blue Mountains and stopped at an Indian village in the Umatilla valley, where they noted that the natives wore garments of buckskin and robes of buffalo.

In mid-February of 1834 Capt. Benjamin Bonneville sought refuge and food at a Nez Perce camp on the Imnaha River. In July of 1839 the Henry Spaulding became the first white man to describe the Wallowa valley. As a guest of Old Chief Joseph he traveled from the Nez Perce winter camp near the mouth of the Grande Ronde River to the Wallowa River where the natives were fishing for sockeye salmon.

In the fall of 1866 Wallowa valley was still home for the Nez Perce when surveyor William Odell noted the Indians camped on the banks of streams, taking great quantities of fish, while their large herds of horses grazed quietly upon luxuriant grasses. Anthropologist H. J. Spinen documented 41 bands of Nez Perce fishing in the Wallowa basin in the early 1900s.

Indians of the Umatilla, Cayuse and Walla Walla tribes were a common sight each spring in the early 1900s, coming to the Wallowa valley for the summer. There were many small family groups scattered all along the valley, where they camped and fished.

There was a major Nez Perce camp on the Snake River at what is now Pittsburg Landing, where women and children stayed while the men headed through Idaho to Montana for buffalo. There was a major route up Temperance creek to the head of Freezeout Creek, leading to camps at Memaloose and Indian Crossing. There was a big campsite on Cow Creek, and 15 to 20 would camp at Blue Hole on the Imnaha.

In 1933 Wayne Huff made a trip with his father to Indian Crossing on the Imnaha and camped near a group of 30 to 40 Nez Perce who had come horseback from Kamiah, Idaho. The Indians came every summer for the salmon runs and camped near the Blue Hole. This continued at least into the early 1940s. Arrow points have been found on the Warnock property near the town of Imnaha.

In the early 1930s Umatilla, Cayuse, and Nez Perce Indians camped at the Wallowa River fish hatchery site to fish.

Nez Perce and some Umatilla Indians took a few elk out of the Troy area from 1964 through 1978 under the 1855 treaty rights.

Indians from the Umatilla, Cayuse and Wallowa tribes passed through Cove during the period from the 'teens to the 1930s on their way to the Minam River to fish for salmon and pick berries.

Hunting

A broad variety of wildlife in varying landscapes makes Wallowa County a great destination for hunters. The county touches seven wildlife management units. During fall, deer and elk are the most popular big-game animals to pursue for firearm and archery seasons. There are also seasons to take trophies — like bighorn sheep, mountain goat black bear, and cougar. A variety of game birds are available for hunters including duck, geese, turkey, grouse, pheasant, chukar, gray partridge, California and mountain quail.

Bighorn Sheep

Bighorn sheep seemed to be quite plentiful from the Sheep creek area to Snake River in the late 1800s. Jack Jackson, an early settler of the 1870s, related that the Indians drove bighorns off the ridges and killed them in the canyons. John Huffman, who homesteaded on Big Sheep creek in the 1880s, considered them pests and in competition with his cattle, killing many that came around his place; three were seen in his smokehouse by J. T. Wasson in the late 1880s. In 1916 Fern Warnock saw bunches of 10 to 12 bighorns travel down Saddle creek to the Snake River. In 1919 Bert Weinheimer killed two bighorns below the mouth of Sheep Creek that were infected with sheep scabies; from 1916 to 1918 the bighorns were rapidly disappearing.

In 1925 Earl Hibbs killed two large rams at the mouth of Granite creek and he saw bighorns in the canyon as late as 1940. Ace Barton saw a family of 3 bighorns at the mouth of the Imnaha in 1940.

Between 1928 and 1930 George Chadwick saw skulls and horns on the Minam river. Around 1936 Howard Fisk saw 6 rams on the Minam River from Pot creek to Lackey Hole.

In 1971 bighorns were reintroduced in two groups of 20 each, one group in the Lostine River area and the other in the Hells Canyon Dam area. The sheep in the Lostine River area survived and multiplied, but the Hells Canyon Dam herd died. Other areas of the county were supplied with bighorns captured from the Lostine herd and other states and provinces. Today there are approximately 500 bighorn sheep in Wallowa County offering hunting at the rate of nine 9 tags per year and significant wildlife viewing. Viewing bighorns is easiest in the lower Imnaha where they are often encountered near the road. Often, they can also be observed from Table Mountain the Joseph Creek view point, Buckhorn Overlook and Hat Point lookout.

Moose

There have been a few sightings of moose in northeast Oregon, probably of individuals that had crossed the Snake River from Idaho. These sightings were on the Snake, Imnaha, and Minam rivers, and at Meacham. In 1971 Howard Fisk found a palmated antler near the Stockman's cabin on the Minam. Archery hunters observed a moose near the head of the Imnaha in 1988.

Currently there is a producing herd of about 40 moose in the county, located in the north end. These animals are not yet being hunted. They are mostly a curiosity that provides some interesting wildlife viewing.

Mountain Goats

Mountain goats are found in the Snake River and the Wallowa Mountains, but were not considered native to Oregon for many years. However, in more recent archeological finds they have been deemed native to Oregon. In March of 1951 six mountain goats were released at Wallowa Lake. This population leveled off at around 30 animals. Supplemental releases were made in 1986 and 1989. Today there are approximately 350 goats in Wallowa County offering 7 hunting tags per year.

Mule Deer

Mule deer are native to Oregon and have varied widely as to their abundance historically.

John Fremont reported few deer or other big game species in southeastern Oregon in the 1840's. However, by the late 1850's gold miners traveling from California to the Boise Basin found deer abundant in eastern Oregon. By the 1890s deer and elk in much of eastern Oregon were nearly extinct. By 1936, it was estimated that Oregon's mule deer population to be 39,000 to 75,000. Populations increased through the 1930's and 40's, peaking during-mid 1950's 60's and 70's. The estimated statewide population in 1990 was 256,000. The statewide management objective was 317,000. Populations in Wallowa County mirrored these statewide fluctuations. These fluctuations can be attributed to drought, severe winters on the down side and high moisture and mild winters on the upside. Predation is a major factor in mule deer population declines.

Initially, deer-hunting regulations in Oregon were set by the state legislature. The first deer season was established in 1901. At that time, hunters were allowed five deer, either sex. The season was from July 15 through October 31. Bag limits and season length typically decreased over time until 1923 when a buck-only law was passed, when hunters were allowed 2 bucks in a 40 day season.

In 1941 the legislature granted regulatory authority to the Game Commission. A deer tag separate from a hunting license became effective in 1948. By 1952, buck season opened October 1, and ran for three weeks. The last 3 to 5 days of the season was an either sex hunt. Special hunts, doe hunts, damage hunts and special seasons have all been used in the past 50 years to address buck/doe ratio, population issues and damage problems. In the 1980's management objectives were set for each unit and differing numbers of tags for each unit are used as management tools. In 1991, in response to high hunter densities and low post-season buck-to-doe ratios, total limited entry hunting for mule deer was initiated in eastern Oregon.

Archery hunting regulations evolved along with the various rifle season changes. For many years archery hunters were restricted to hunting specific units. In 1972 archers were required to purchase a specific archery tag. Separate deer tags for rifle and archery were required in 1979. In recent years muzzleloader seasons have also been implemented.

In Wallowa County there are currently an estimated 22,400 mule deer in the county. The management objective is 41,000. The fawns per 100 does stood at 45/100, however, in the fall of 2008, had dropped to 32/100 by spring. The buck/doe ratio was at 13/100. In 2009 there will be 4,700 tags offered. The tag numbers peaked in the 1970's at 17,000.

White-tailed Deer

White-tailed deer moved into the Wenaha area from Washington. The area has a good mule deer and white-tail population. The population has since spread south and east as far as the Imnaha and Snake River units. Currently the white-tail deer population has risen significantly and they are more abundant than mule deer in much of the valley private lands. The population to day is estimated at 2,500 however, it peaked a few years ago at 3,000. Controlled buck tags have a bag limit of one whitetail or one mule deer. Most antlerless tags are species specific.

Rocky Mountain Elk

The Rocky Mountain Elk are native to eastern Oregon and were widely distributed before the arrival of non-native settlers. Around 1876 Joseph Huff was a hunter for a railroad crew somewhere around LaGrande; he shot elk and other game to keep the crew in meat. The elk population declined with the settlers coming into the country, followed by the hard winters of the 1880s. By 1892 elk and deer were nearly extinct in the Blue Mountains between LaGrande and Pendleton. T. T. Geer related seeing 25 to 30 head of elk in the park near Medical Springs in the late 1800s. Lee Thompson of Halfway told about killing the last elk in Wallowa County in the early 1900s. A few native elk survived in the Minam and Wenaha River areas. The state legislature provided protection for elk in 1899 by making it illegal to sell meat from wild animals and by closing elk season from 1909 through 1932.

Elk were first brought in from the Yellowstone herd in 1912 when 15 head were released in Billy Meadows enclosure, a 2,560 acre fenced pasture. In the spring of 1913 and additional 15 were added to the original herd. A few native elk were trapped and placed in the pasture at Billy Meadows. By 1923 the head had grown enough so the fence was cut to let the animals move out under their own will. The first transplants out of the area occurred in 1917 when 15 elk were moved to Crater Lake National Park.

In 1929 a large bull was the first elk seen at Wallowa Lake in many years. A few cows and calves slowly followed. There were no elk from the release in the Imnaha prior to 1930.

When the 1933 elk season was first opened it was held during the last 3 days of deer season. Around Wallowa County the animals were slaughtered haphazardly. The Wallowa hunt spread the elk out, but there were none noted west of Joseph Canyon before 1939. Ranger Gerald Tucker indicated that by 1949 there might have been 50 head between the Snake and Imnaha Rivers, and it wasn't until the early 1950s that many moved south of the Imnaha River. Since that time the population has expanded and elk are found throughout Wallowa County. Northeast Oregon elk numbers continued to increase from the 1960s through the 1990s. Elk numbers declined after increases in cougar numbers resulted in heavy calf predation.

Elk hunting season is a very popular event in Wallowa County. The tags peaked in the mid-1970 with 17,000 tags. In 1995 there were 7,000 bull tags and 4,140 cow tags, today there are 4,600 bull tags and less than 400 cow tags. These reductions are primarily due to significant increase in the cougar population, which has reduced elk populations.

Today there are an estimated 15,600 elk in Wallowa County with a management objective of 17,000. There is an estimated 14 bulls per 100 cows and 20 calves per 100 cows. Bull ratios are the highest on record and improved calf survival has resulted in population increases in all units except the Wenaha.

Black Bear

Rolland Huff remembers black bear being quite plentiful in the early 1900s. At that time, it was common to see 2 or 4 every day while riding the range in spring and summer. Bear were sometimes a problem with sheep operations, and most sheepmen carried at least one trap with them for trapping a sheep-killing bear. In 2008 there were 70 bear taken by hunters.

Cougar

Around 1900, cougar seemed to be scarce, perhaps because of the lack of deer and elk at that time. Cougar have not presented problems to the cattle operations but have been a significant problem with the sheep industry. An increase in cougar populations in the 1990's (as a result of voters implementing reduction in hunting with hounds) has caused declines in the elk population. Cougars also predate on deer and bighorn sheep herds. There is an average of 40 cougars taken each year between hunters and damage control efforts.

Furbearers

Considerable beaver trapping occurred in northeast Oregon since early in the century. Trapping also occurred for coyotes, otter, beaver, bobcat, pine marten, mink and muskrat, skunk, and ermine [weasel]. This is still going on today. Harvest is carefully regulated by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Approximately 80 to 100 bobcats per year are taken in Wallowa County.

BIRDS

Raptors

Eagles. The first documented observation of bald eagles in northeast Oregon was on the Wallowa River in July 1839 when Henry Spaulding saw many gathered where salmon were running.

The golden eagle has always been common in the region, however except along the Snake River, bald eagles have not commonly nested. There is a large influx of bald eagles in the winter, especially along the Snake River where fish and ducks are plentiful. Overall, the population of both golden and bald eagles has increased since the 1950s and 60s.

Around 1913 bald eagles nested around Hat Point Creek in the Snake River canyon. Howard Fisk remembers that they were quite common around Wallowa Lake, with 2 nests on the west side. But they were killed in the early 1940s by shooters in a boat. Bald eagles are common today in Wallowa County, and they have been delisted from the ESA, (Endangered Species Act) however, they continued to be federally protected. Currently, there are active nests at Wallowa Lake, and along the Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers.

Hawks and Falcons. Hawks were widespread and numerous prior to the pesticide spraying and animal poisoning of the 1950s and 60s. Osprey were common on Wallowa Lake in the 1940s, they became rare in the 1960's and are

again common in the county today. Raptor viewing is best in the Zumwalt area, with the exception of osprey.

The 3 hawk species that nest on the Zumwalt Prairie are the Swainson's hawk, ferruginous hawk and red-tailed hawk. There, ground squirrels and other prey support one of the highest known concentrations of breeding hawks in North America. The Swainson's hawk and ferruginous hawk are of national conservation concern due to evidence of range-wide declines, but are abundant in much of the grassland areas in Wallowa County.

Upland Birds

Northeast Oregon supported large populations and a wide variety of native grouse and quail in the early days. Many old-timers found the grouse numerous and tame, hunting them with a .22 rifle.

Forest Grouse. Early day reports indicate thousands of blue grouse in the forested areas of the region. Spruce grouse [Franklin grouse or "fool hen"] and ruffed grouse were also plentiful. The populations seemed to be cyclic, perhaps affected by cold winters. Before game law enforcement started around 1910, there was quite a lot of shooting of blue grouse. Even after game laws were passed, forest grouse seemed to be favored as "camp meat."

In the early 1930s one often saw grouse on the 12 mile drive down the Cold Springs Summit road in Wallowa County. There were always grouse around the mountain springs until the area was opened, when the Game Commission yielded to public pressure and created seasons which, through hunting pressures and vandalism, reduced the population to a low ebb.

From the 1920s through the 1940s blue grouse were thick in brushy patches and around springs all over Big Creek, Catherine Creek, Craig Mountain and High Valley. Grouse were all over the Minam country during the 1930s and 1940s. Ruffed and blue grouse are currently at a low in the population cycle, possibly due to spring weather patterns.

Columbian Sharp Tail Grouse. Columbian Sharp Tail Grouse were reintroduced in the early 1990's on Clear Lake Ridge and the Leap area. Currently there is a small population in the Leap area. These are the only known sharp tails in Oregon. The birds were once found in all the counties east of the cascades.

Morning Dove There are significant Morning Dove nesting in Wallowa County, however, by the time the season occurs they have moved south to other locations.

Wild Turkey. Turkeys were introduced into the county in the 1960's with little success. However, in the 1980's wildlife officials changed the species they were attempting to introduce to the Rio Grande. Today wild turkeys thrive throughout Wallowa County and offer some of the best hunting in northeast Oregon.

Ring-necked Pheasant. The first release of ring-necked pheasants was around 1915, and they largely took over where sharp-tailed grouse were previously present in the thousands. Pheasants were reared in game farms at Mission, Hermiston, Union and Ontario and were released in large numbers. These farms were closed down and game farming operations consolidated in Corvallis in the mid-1960s. These birds are seen occasionally and currently are hunted.

Chukar Partridge. Chukars were first released in the Snake River area in the early 1950s. They "took off with a boom" spreading all over Lookout Mountain, and the Snake River.

Hungarian Partridge. The Hungarian partridge was raised on game farms and widely released in the teens and 1920's. They are still abundant in the open grassland areas of the county. They are hunted as upland game birds.

Quail. In the early years there were large numbers of mountain quail around the region, and in 1939 the population exploded all over northeast Oregon. They declined in the 1960's, but are still found in the eastern half of the County. Valley Quail are native to southern Oregon and were introduced in the 1920's. They are doing very well today in the Wallowa Valley where they were introduced in the 1980's. They are hunted as upland game birds.

Waterfowl

Northeast Oregon wetlands were sufficient to attract a fairly good variety of waterfowl. In the 1880s Loren Powers wrote that ducks and geese were much in evidence in the Wallowa valley. Sandhill cranes also stopped in larger

numbers and some stayed to nest and rear young. There are still a few in northern Wallowa County today.

Ducks and Geese. Ducks are plentiful in the valley today. Some of the population migrate south in the winter and some nest and become residents. Many of those that nest are mallards, however there is a wide variety. Viewing abounds around Wallowa Lake, Pete's Pond, Zumwalt Prairie ponds, the Wallowa Hatchery Pond, and other waterway.

Geese historically migrated through the county. Since the mid-1980's, there is an increasing resident population, Goose hunting is popular in the county.

FISHING

Wallowa County has perhaps the most diverse freshwater fishing opportunities in Oregon, from rainbow and brook trout in high mountain lakes, to kokanee and lake trout in Wallowa Lake, to summer steelhead, spring Chinook, smallmouth bass and catfish in the rivers.

Wallowa Lake

For many anglers, Wallowa Lake is the county's main fishing area. The lake holds native and introduced trout and kokanee. Wallowa Lake is open for angling the entire year including ice fishing during the winter and early spring. However most of the fishing takes place in the spring and summer. Many anglers are attracted by the lake's prized kokanee, which are landlocked sockeye salmon, as the lake has produced the current state record.

Rivers

Summer steelhead fishing is a big draw in the fall in the Grande Ronde River near Troy, and in late winter and early spring in the Wallowa and Imnaha rivers. Each spring, about 800,000 juvenile steelhead are released from Wallowa Fish Hatchery near Enterprise, one of the biggest steelhead stockings in the state. This stocking fuels the fishing on the Wallowa, Grande Ronde, Snake and Columbia rivers. Another 180,000 steelhead smolts are released annually from the Little Sheep Creek facility in the Imnaha drainage. There are many streams in Wallowa County that provide good trout angling with the most popular being the lower Wallowa, Grande Ronde, and Imnaha Rivers and the Snake River from Granite Creek upstream to Hell's Canyon Dam.

Ponds and Reservoirs

Marr Pond in Enterprise, Wallowa Wildlife Pond near the town of Wallowa, and Victor Pond northwest of Wallowa, offer good fishing for stocked rainbow trout in the summer. Honeymoon Pond, McGraw Pond, Teepee Pond and Salt Creek Summit Pond on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest also are stocked with trout. Ponds are open to angling the entire year with the exception of Kinney Reservoir which is open the same as rivers

Warmwater species

Warmwater fish species such as bass, crappie, sunfish and catfish have been introduced to Wallowa County and can be found in the Snake River and the lower Imnaha and Grande Ronde rivers. Hells Canyon Reservoir and Brownlee Reservoir, south of Wallowa County, offer some of the best catfish, bass and crappie fishing in the state. Warmwater angling is open all year on the Snake River.

Fish Species in Wallowa County

Summer Steelhead

Summer steelhead are presently distributed throughout the accessible portions of the Grande Ronde River, Imnaha River, and Snake River sub-basins. The historical distribution is not known but probably approximates today's distribution with the exception of areas above dams such as Hell's Canyon Dam (Snake River), Wallowa Lake Dam (Wallowa River), upper Alder Slope Dam (Hurricane Creek), and dams and diversions associated with the Wallowa Valley Improvement Canal (Big Sheep and Little Sheep Creeks, Imnaha sub-basin).

Adult steelhead enter Wallowa County Rivers as early as July but most fish enter from September through April, and peak spawning occurs from late April through early June. Fry emerge from spawning gravels and spend one to three years in fresh water before migrating to the ocean as juveniles, or smolts. The main smolt migrations occur in late spring (April through June), however some individuals begin downstream migrations in the fall (October-November).. The actual timing for individual tributaries is probably dependent on temperature and flow regimes. They then spend one to three years in the ocean before migrating back to their natal stream to spawn and repeat the cycle described above.

One measure of wild steelhead abundance in Wallowa County are the annual counts of redds (steelhead nests built in stream gravels) in index streams. An early high point was reached in 1966 and 1967 when county-wide average redds/mile were 8.8 and 8.7 respectively. The average count in 1987 for the Wallowa District was even higher at 13.6 redds/mile. The average for the last twenty years was 4.6 redds per mile and ranged from a low of 1.1 in 1995 to a high of 8.2 in 2002.

Prior to the early 1980's, steelhead sport harvest consisted entirely of wild fish. Sport harvest was closed in 1974 as a result of low wild fish abundance. A catch and release fishery was reestablished in 1983, and in 1986, following establishment of Lower Snake River Compensation Plan hatchery programs, the harvest of marked hatchery fish was opened in the lower Grande Ronde, Wallowa, and Imnaha Rivers. The average catch from 1959 - 1970 was 1,573 fish. Since hatchery programs were established sport harvest has increased to as many as 5,000 steelhead in some years.

Trout

Resident rainbow trout are distributed throughout Wallowa County streams in areas accessible to adult steelhead as well as above some barriers to steelhead migration. Rainbow trout and steelhead are the same species, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, and differ only in the migratory behavior of the steelhead. They both spawn in late spring and often interbreed on the spawning grounds. Resident rainbow trout live their entire life, usually five to seven years, in fresh water. Rainbow trout are probably the most sought after fish by anglers in Wallowa County and throughout the state of Oregon. Trout fisheries in streams in Wallowa County are supported by naturally produced rainbow trout and, in the lower Wallowa, Grande Ronde, and Imnaha Rivers, by residual (non-migrating) hatchery steelhead released from acclimation facilities. Trout fisheries in lakes and ponds are supplemented with stocked rainbow trout from Wallowa Hatchery.

Three species of char are present in Wallowa County, the native bull trout and introduced brook trout and lake trout. Life history of chars differs from rainbow trout in that they are fall spawners. Bull trout inhabit cold, headwater reaches of local streams and are generally found in association with Chinook salmon. Bull trout rarely use water with temperatures greater than 60°F. Some individuals exhibit a migratory life history and move from summer use of headwater areas downstream to larger streams following spawning in the fall, and then return to headwater areas the following spring as water begins to warm. Bull trout are currently listed as "threatened" under the federal Endangered Species Act and are designated as a "sensitive" species by the state of Oregon. Harvest of bull trout is prohibited in Wallowa County waters, however, catch and release angling is allowed in the Imnaha and Wenaha Rivers.

Brook trout were introduced to many waters in Wallowa County beginning in the early 1900's. They are present in many of the high lakes of the Wallowa Mountains and in streams of the Wallowa Valley, especially those draining areas of the Wallowa Mountains and spring fed reaches of the upper Wallowa River and Prairie Creek. Brook trout fishing regulations are part of the general trout regulations in Wallowa County streams. In mountain lakes brook trout often overpopulate and become stunted, therefore, there are no limits on size or number of brook trout that may be harvested from Wallowa Mountain lakes.

Lake trout, or Mackinaw, were introduced to Wallowa Lake in the 1950's. They are present in relatively small numbers in the lake but attain trophy size and are relatively long-lived compared to other trout species. Some individuals live 15 to 20 years and reach sizes of 25 to 30 pounds.

Spring Chinook

Spring and summer Chinook are presently found in the Grande Ronde and Imnaha Rivers and most of their larger tributaries such as the Wenaha, Minam, and Lostine Rivers as well as Bear, Hurricane, Prairie, Big Sheep, and Lick Creeks. The historical distribution likely included additional tributaries and areas upstream of dams. Spring/summer Chinook enter fresh water (lower Columbia River) in April through June and arrive in Wallowa County streams in late-May through July. They spawn in mid-August through September and their fry emerge from spawning gravels in early spring the following year. Juveniles rear for a little over a year before migrating to the ocean as smolts. Chinook spend one to three years in the ocean before returning as adults and repeating the life cycle.

Annual spawning surveys have been conducted since 1964 on all streams that support significant spawning populations (Carmichael and Boyce 1986). Redds/mile in Grande Ronde basin index surveys averaged 9.6 from 1964-1973, but declined in the late 70's and early 80's following completion of lower Snake River dams. Hatchery programs (described in more detail below) were established in the 1980's to compensate for reduced Chinook

numbers. Recent index area spawning survey results have included record lows in 1995 (0.53 redds/mile in Grande Ronde and 1.09 redds/mile in Imnaha) and a record high in for the Imnaha of 21.1 redds/mile in 2002. Spawning surveys conducted from 2001 through 2008 have reflected improved abundance of spring/summer Chinook with averages of 6.1 redds/mile in the Grande Ronde basin and 11.7 redds/mile in the Imnaha basin.

Spring Chinook fisheries in Wallowa County were closed in the late 1970's in response to declines in abundance. Establishment of hatchery programs and improvement in run sizes in 2001 allowed reestablishment of fishing seasons targeting marked hatchery fish. Wild (unmarked) Snake River spring/summer Chinook are listed as "threatened" under federal and state Endangered Species Acts and are protected during sport fisheries. Current sport fisheries for spring/summer Chinook are managed on an annual basis depending on strength of runs in the Columbia and Snake Rivers. In recent years there have been open seasons for marked hatchery Chinook on the lower Imnaha and Wallowa Rivers and on the Snake River below Hell's Canyon Dam.

Fall Chinook

Fall Chinook are presently limited in their distribution in Wallowa County to the free-flowing section of the Snake River and the lower reaches of the Grande Ronde and Imnaha rivers. Adult fall chinook enter the lower Columbia River in August and September and begin arriving in Wallowa County rivers in late September and October. Spawning occurs from late October through early December. Fall Chinook fry emerge from spawning gravels in April and May and most Snake River fall Chinook juveniles migrate to the ocean as 0-age smolts in July through September. Fall Chinook spend two to four years in salt water before migrating upstream to complete their life cycle.

Coho

Coho are presently extinct in the Grande Ronde sub-basin. The historical distribution is not fully known, Parkhurst (1950) found a few coho spawning in the lower Grande Ronde river during an October 9-17, 1940, survey. He also noted that a small run was reported to be still ascending the Wenaha River. The Grande Ronde Hatchery Station trapped and spawned 438 female coho from the Wenaha River in 1903 (Van Dusen 1903). These fish were incorrectly labeled sockeye in the report but the time of spawning corresponds to coho. Van Dusen (1901) stated that the "Silverside" variety spawn principally in the lower Wallowa River. According to a map prepared by Lavier (1976), the 1850 distribution was in the Wenaha River, the Grande Ronde River up to Rondowa, the Wallowa, Minam and Lostine Rivers and Hurricane Creek. His information came from conversations with local biologists and is probably somewhat speculative. Adults began arriving off the Wenaha River in mid September, and spawning at the Grande Ronde Hatchery Station occurred from mid October through December 8th (Van Dusen 1903).

Juvenile trapping at irrigation diversions in the Wallowa Valley indicate that the peak smolt migration from the tributaries generally occurred from May through July (Thompson and Haas 1960). Coho generally spend about 18 months in freshwater before migrating to the ocean as smolts in May during the spring freshet. Most adults usually spend about 18 months in salt water.

The best historical estimate of escapement to the sub-basin is from the 1901 Annual Report of the Master Fish Warden. The Hatchery Station took 7.5 million eggs from 2,511 females. Assuming a 50:50 ratio of males to females, over 5,000 coho were entering the Grande Ronde River at the turn of the century. Only a remnant of this population remained by the early 1960's and all Snake River populations of coho were declared extinct in 1987.

Sockeye

Sockeye were limited in distribution to Wallowa Lake and the Wallowa River, mostly spawning in the gravel bars at the inlet to Wallowa Lake (Van Dusen 1901). The dam at the outlet to the lake was raised to 40 feet in 1916 and blocked off access to the lake for anadromous fish. Kokanee (landlocked sockeye salmon) are still present and support a popular fishery in Wallowa Lake. Run timing for the lower Grande Ronde River can be found in Van Dusen (1903). Sockeye were reported to be passing the Wenaha River from June 20-July 20. Van Dusen's 1905 annual report indicated that the fish moved into the Wallowa River in September and October. Spawning occurred from mid October through mid November.

Few reliable records of sockeye abundance are available; however 1902 and 1903 reports from the Grande Ronde Hatchery Station provide some information. The 1902 season produced 3.6 million eggs from 1,173 females which were reared at the Grande Ronde Hatchery Station and an additional 5 million eggs from 1605 females which were "carefully planted in a spawning bar below the racks" (Van Dusen 1903). The 1903 season produced 3.9 million eggs from 1,342 females at the Wallowa Hatchery Station (Van Dusen 1905). In both cases, eggs were planted in gravel bars or fingerlings were released near the rack locations in the lower Grande Ronde River. This meant a

probable 100 percent loss of fish since sockeye require lakes for rearing. Bartlett (1975) reported, in "History of Wallowa Lake", in 1881 and 1882, two canneries on the lake took 60,000 pounds, approximately 12,000 sockeye each year.

The sockeye runs had already been greatly reduced by 1905 when a dam was constructed across the Wallowa River near Minam for the Wallowa Fish Hatchery.

Between irrigation diversions, dams, hatchery procedures, and overfishing, it is not surprising that in the 1905 report of the Master Fish Warden it was noted that "No eggs of the Sockeye variety of salmon were secured this season". The last few adults were observed around 1917 to 1920 (Toner 1960) and may have been returns from juvenile kokanee that migrated from the lake.

HATCHERY FACILITIES

Fish culture has a long history in Wallowa County. Fish culture practices began around the turn of the 20th century with the construction of racks in the Grande Ronde River where adult salmon were collected and spawned and the resulting eggs or fry were placed in the river near the rack site. The salmon trapping operations were moved to a hatchery facility that included a dam across the Wallowa River, in the vicinity of what is now Minam State Park. A low dam was first constructed in 1903 and enlarged in 1906. The hatchery continues to operate mainly as an egg take and fry release facility and also transported eggs from the Wallowa to other salmon programs in the state. The lower Wallowa facility operated until 1913. Many of these early fish culture practices likely did more harm than good to local fish runs, especially runs of sockeye salmon from Wallowa Lake. The Wallowa River Hatchery dam was damaged by high flow in 1913 which allowed some fish to pass the structure. However records seem to indicate that the dam remained at least a partial barrier to fish passage until 1924 when local citizens demolished the dam with explosives.

Lower Snake River Compensation Plan Hatcheries

The Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (LSRCP) was passed by Congress in the mid-1970's to mitigate for losses of fish and wildlife resulting from construction and operation of lower Snake River dams. The program is administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in cooperation with state and tribal fisheries agencies. Programs in Wallowa County involve the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Nez Perce Tribe, and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). Two hatcheries and several satellite facilities have been constructed in Oregon to support LSRCP programs for spring/summer Chinook and steelhead in the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins. LSRCP facilities in Wallowa County are satellite facilities that support the primary rearing facilities Lookingglass Hatchery (Chinook) and Irrigon Hatchery (steelhead). No suitable sites for large rearing facilities were identified in Wallowa County. Below is a brief description of each LSRCP facility that supports operations in Wallowa County.

LSRCP programs and facilities support sport, commercial, and tribal fisheries in the Columbia and Snake Rivers. The popular local steelhead fishery is supported by the LSRCP programs. Local sport and tribal Chinook fisheries have occurred periodically, when run sizes are large enough, as a result of LSRCP programs. In years of large adult returns, there may be more adults returning to LSRCP facilities than are needed for broodstock needs. Surplus adults are used in some cases to supplement natural production in streams with low natural abundance. They have also been provided to tribes for subsistence purposes, given to local food banks, and in the case of steelhead, used to stock local ponds.

Primary Rearing Facilities

Lookingglass Hatchery

Lookingglass Hatchery is located on Lookingglass Creek, 2.3 miles upstream from the confluence with the Grande Ronde River at Palmer Junction, Oregon, and 16 miles north of Elgin, Oregon. The facility became operational in 1982. The hatchery is designed to serve as the primary spring/summer Chinook rearing facility to support mitigation needs for both the Grande Ronde and Imnaha River systems. Lookingglass rears Chinook from eggs to pre-smolts for captive and conventional brood stock programs in the Lostine River, Catherine Creek, and upper Grande Ronde River and for conventional programs in the Imnaha River and Lookingglass Creek. Adult Chinook collected at satellite facilities are transported to Lookingglass Hatchery for spawning in August and September. Each stock is kept separate throughout adult holding, spawning, incubation, and rearing. Incubation and rearing requires approximately 1.5 years and pre-smolts are then transported to satellite facilities for acclimation and release into their respective river systems in April.

Irrigon Hatchery

Irrigon Hatchery is located at approximately river mile 279 on the Columbia River, 3 miles west of Irrigon, Oregon. The facility became fully operational in 1986. The hatchery is designed to handle steelhead mitigation for both the Grande Ronde and Imnaha River subbasins by raising eyed eggs received from Wallowa Hatchery to the pre-smolt stage. A portion of the available hatchery space is allocated for each subbasin and each stock is kept separate. Adults collected from satellite facilities are spawned and their eggs incubated to the eyed stage at Wallowa Hatchery then eyed eggs are transported to Irrigon Hatchery to complete incubation and rearing. Pre-smolts are transported back to satellite acclimation facilities the following March and released in April and May.

Satellite Facilities

Wallowa Hatchery

The oldest hatchery facility that is still in operation in Wallowa County is Wallowa Hatchery near Enterprise. Operations at Wallowa Hatchery started around 1924 and a larger facility was constructed in the late 1930's. Many of the buildings and facilities that remain in use at Wallowa Hatchery were constructed in the 1930's. Wallowa Hatchery has been used primarily to raise rainbow trout for stocking local waters. However, it has also been used for culture of sockeye, coho, Chinook, steelhead, bull trout, and kokanee. Wallowa Hatchery is currently used to raise rainbow trout for stocking local lakes and ponds and for components of Lower Snake River Compensation plan steelhead and Chinook salmon mitigation programs.

Wallowa Hatchery is located on Spring Creek, one mile west of Enterprise, Oregon. LSRCP facilities were added to the existing state hatchery and became fully operational in 1986. Additions included a new building with office, laboratory, spawning, and incubation facilities; and an adult trap, adult holding pond, and two smolt acclimation ponds. Additional water sources were also developed to accommodate the LSRCP program. Water is provided from the Wallowa River, Spring Creek, two springs, and two deep wells. Well water is the primary source for incubation while Spring Creek is the primary source for the holding and acclimation ponds. Wallowa Hatchery operates as a satellite facility for the Wallowa River steelhead program and the initial incubation facility for the Wallowa and Imnaha steelhead programs. Adult steelhead are collected and spawned at Wallowa Hatchery in March through May and their eggs are incubated to the eyed stage. Eyed eggs are then transported to Irrigon Hatchery where they are reared to pre-smolts. Pre-smolts are transported back to Wallowa Hatchery in March for acclimation and smolts are released in April and May. Approximately 370,000 steelhead smolts were released from Wallowa Hatchery in 2009.

Wallowa Hatchery has also been used recently for the early rearing (parr to smolt) phase of the experimental Grande Ronde subbasin captive Chinook broodstock program. The captive broodstock program is being scaled down to a "safety net" program for the upper Grande Ronde River spring Chinook population and it is uncertain what role Wallowa Hatchery will play in the future.

Big Canyon Facility

The Big Canyon Facility is located on Deer Creek 1.25 miles east of Minam. The facility became operational in 1987. The original purpose of the facility was to act as a backup adult trapping site for both Chinook and steelhead and also as an acclimation area for smolts brought in from Lookingglass and Irrigon Hatcheries. However, Chinook activities at Big Canyon were discontinued in the late 1980's. The facility still functions as part of the LSRCP Wallowa River steelhead program. Steelhead are trapped in the spring from February through May. Hatchery origin (marked) adults may be held for broodstock if needed to supplement trapping at Wallowa Hatchery. If broodstock needs are met at Wallowa Hatchery, the hatchery origin adults may be hauled to Minam and recycled through the lower Wallowa River sport fishery, outplanted to local ponds, or provided to food banks. Wild origin (unmarked) adults are passed above the wier to spawn naturally. Big Canyon is also an acclimation site for the LSRCP Wallowa River hatchery steelhead program. The operation is similar to Wallowa Hatchery; pre-smolts arrive from Irrigon Hatchery in March and smolts are released in April and May. Approximately 312,000 steelhead smolts were released from the Big Canyon facility in 2009.

Little Sheep Creek Facility

The LSRCP Imnaha steelhead program is supported by Little Sheep Creek satellite facility, located at river mile five on Little Sheep Creek approximately eight miles upstream of the town of Imnaha. The facility became fully

operational in 1988 and functions as an adult collection and smolt acclimation facility, much like the Wallowa and Big Canyon facilities. Broodstock for the Imnaha steelhead program were developed exclusively from native steelhead trapped in Little Sheep Creek. They are kept separate from the Wallowa program fish throughout the fish culture activities at Wallowa and Irrigon hatcheries. The Imnaha/Little Sheep program is used to support sport and tribal fisheries as well as attempts to increase numbers of steelhead in Big Sheep and Little Sheep Creeks. Adult steelhead are collected at the facility in March through May. Approximately 140 adults are needed for broodstock each year and collections for broodstock include 10 or more wild fish to incorporate wild genetics into the broodstock. Adult collection guidelines include release of up to 250 and 500 hatchery adults into Little Sheep and Big Sheep Creeks, respectively, to supplement wild production. Additional surplus adults may be provided to tribes for subsistence, given to food banks, or outplanted to local ponds. Initial incubation of eggs occurs at Wallowa Hatchery and eyed eggs are transferred to Irrigon Hatchery for final incubation and rearing of juveniles. Pre-smolts are transferred back to Little Sheep in March for acclimation and smolts are released in April and May. Current smolt production goals are 165,000 for acclimation and release in Little Sheep Creek and 50,000 for release in Big Sheep Creek.

Imnaha Satellite

The Imnaha satellite is located approximately 30 miles south of the town of Imnaha at river mile 45.5 on the Imnaha River. It is used for adult collection and smolt acclimation in the LSRCP Imnaha River spring/summer Chinook salmon program. The Imnaha River hatchery program provides adult chinook for hatchery broodstock and limited recreational and tribal harvest within the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan mitigation area (Snake River and tributaries above Ice Harbor Dam). The program also provides fish for harvest in Columbia River fisheries. The program utilizes an endemic chinook hatchery stock that was founded on spring/summer chinook indigenous to the Imnaha River. Wild adults from Imnaha are incorporated within the broodstock annually and hatchery origin adults are allowed to spawn naturally in Imnaha River each year. A portion of returning adults is also released into Big Sheep Creek and Lick Creek to "supplement" natural production. Eggs taken from the Imnaha facility are incubated and reared at Lookingglass Hatchery and pre-smolts are transferred back to Imnaha for in March for acclimation and release in April. The current production goal for the Imnaha Chinook program is 360,000 smolts.

Lostine Satellite

Satellite facilities for the Lostine spring Chinook supplementation program are operated by the Nez Perce Tribe in cooperation with ODFW and USFWS (LSRCP). They consist of an adult weir and trap at river mile 1 and smolt acclimation ponds at approximately river mile 11. The facility operates much like the Imnaha facility; wild and hatchery origin adults are trapped and kept for broodstock or released above the weir to spawn naturally. Wild adults are incorporated into the hatchery broodstock each year and some hatchery adults are allowed to spawn naturally. Adults collected for broodstock are transported to Lookingglass hatchery for spawning and rearing of juveniles. Pre-smolts are transported to acclimation ponds on the Lostine in March and released in April. The program began in the late 1990's following record low returns of Chinook in 1994 and 1995. In 2009 there are enough hatchery adults projected to return to the Lostine to support sport and tribal fisheries. The sport fishery is in the Wallowa River below the mouth of the Lostine. The current smolt production goal for the Lostine River Chinook program is 250,000.

The following was provided by the Nez Perce Tribe:

The Nez Perce Tribe
Department of Fisheries Resources Management
Joseph Field Office

Over 150 years ago, the Nez Perce Tribe signed a treaty with the United States government. In the Treaty of 1855, the Nez Perce retained fishing rights on all streams and rivers within the boundaries of the original 13.4 million acre reservation that extended outward to "all usual and accustomed places". Tribal ancestors maintained those rights because the once abundant salmon runs were vital to their way of life and to future generations. Since then, salmon and steelhead runs have declined to crisis proportions due largely to hydroelectric power developments, habitat degradation, water quality and quantity impacts, and over-harvesting.

Today, maintaining a healthy 13-plus million acre watershed and improving survival of salmon and steelhead under the auspices of the 1855 Treaty, rests with the Tribe's Department of Fisheries Resources Management program. Our vision is to recover and restore all species and populations of anadromous and resident fish within the

traditional lands of the Nez Perce Tribe. Underlying the vision is a desire to remove fish populations currently listed under the Endangered Species Act and reestablish fisheries for both tribal and non-tribal anglers.

Staff from the Department of Fisheries Resources Management program work throughout traditional Nez Perce lands including Wallowa County where we maintain a field office in Joseph. We coordinate and interact with state, federal, county and tribal agencies and private entities in assessing and implementing fish recovery and restoration plans. We monitor fish populations and provide recommendations and overview on Endangered Species Act (ESA) issues. We also provide recommendations for restoration and protection of critical habitat for fish populations and protect fish and wildlife resources through conservation actions.

Multiple salmon, steelhead and habitat projects are conducted from the Joseph Field Office. The office accommodates staff from three divisions within the department who apply their respective skills toward these projects. The Research Division strives to provide the basis for a technically sound and credible management program for the Nez Perce Tribe. This division carries out applied research to:

- monitor and evaluate the status and abundance of fish populations
- determine the effectiveness of hatchery supplementation programs
- estimate smolt survival through the Snake and Columbia River hydroelectric projects
- provide information to support tribal fisheries
- provide for the genetic conservation of salmon and steelhead populations
- provide information on salmon recovery alternatives under ESA along with impact assessments
- participate in state and regional technical forums to promote Nez Perce Tribe policy and management goals

The Production Division focuses on “putting fish in the rivers” to rebuild natural spawning runs and to restore harvest opportunities. Staff from this division seek to restore historic fish species, stocks, and populations to a healthy abundance throughout the Nez Perce treaty territory through fish culture expertise. Our goal is that fish will be found in all available habitats and will provide fishing for present and future tribal generations.

The Watershed Division objectives are directed toward protecting, restoring, and enhancing watersheds and all treaty resources throughout Nez Perce Territory, as described under the Treaty of 1855. These activities are accomplished using a holistic approach, which encompasses entire watersheds, ridge-top to ridge-top, and emphasizes all cultural aspects in our restoration efforts.

The following is one of many Nez Perce legend stories. This particular story illustrates the long term and important relationship between fish populations and the original people of Wallowa County.

A Nez Perce Legend Story And the Historical Abundance of Fish in Wallowa County (Words in bold are fish names in the Nez Perce language)

The Creator wanted to know what animals of his creation would help the humans when they entered this land. The Creator said, “I want each one of you to step forward and explain how you will help these human beings when they come. For without you, they will have a difficult time making a living here”.

Nac’ox (Chinook salmon) and **Hey’ey** (steelhead) came forward and said, “We can help the human beings with our flesh”. **Nac’ox** (Chinook salmon) said, “When we come up the rivers we will die, so the humans will have to catch us before that happens. And we will come only in certain times of the year. That’s when they’ll have to catch us”. **Hey’ey** (steelhead) stepped up next and said, “We will come in the wintertime, and we’ll give the humans something special. From our skin they can make glue. This glue can be used to make bows and spears. And we’ll be in the water all winter long”. So the Creator listened to **Nac’ox** (Chinook salmon) and **Hey’ey** (steelhead) and was glad they would help the humans.

Then **Q’oyxc** (sockeye salmon) came forward, “We don’t want to be big like **Nac’ox** (Chinook salmon) and **Kallay** (coho) or even **Hey’ey** (steelhead), but our flesh will be red and delicious”. **Pic’katyo** (trout) came forward and they said, “We will not go down to the ocean. We will stay here in these waters and if the humans can find us, we will offer ourselves as food.

Finally, the beautiful **Heesu** (lamprey) stepped up and addressed the Creator, “We don’t want to look like **Hey’ey** (steelhead) or **Nac’ox** (Chinook salmon) or **Pic’katyo** (trout). Our bodies will be long and narrow. We will rest in swift waters by grasping the rocks with our mouths. We too will swim up the rivers every year, and the humans can use our flesh for food. So this is how the **Cuy’em** (fish) families told the Creator they would help mankind.

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And this was the response as seen in Wallowa County history...

- In 1812 Captain Bonneville and his men reported seeing hundreds of salmon in almost every stream and river of the Snake River region including the Wallowa country.
- In 1839 missionary Henry Spalding wrote of Nez Perce Indians fishing along the Wallowa River. He estimated that they caught over 600 salmon in just one day.
- Anthropologist H.J. Spinden wrote of multiple bands of Nez Perce Indians all fishing for large numbers of Chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon, steelhead trout and lamprey throughout the Wallowa Valley.
- “I saw a lady from the county fishing for large reddsides steelhead in the Wallowa River near the town of Wallowa. She was standing in the river with a pitchfork. When a school of reddsides came by, she would spear one of them with the pitchfork and toss it on the bank. At one point, so many reddsides swam by at the same time that they knocked her down into the water”.  
U. S. Chief Justice William Douglas
- “Every fall the sockeye were so plentiful up at Wallowa Lake that the fish would tickle the women’s feet as they were trying to collect them”.  
Rod Wheeler (Nez Perce historian)
- “We used to gaff for salmon off the big rocks on the Imnaha River. There were times when we would catch a Chinook that was so big that all you could do was to lay on your belly on the rock and just hold on while the salmon tried to get away”.  
Wilfred Scott (Nez Perce elder)
- “Our family used to make the trek from Cottonwood Creek down to Asotin Creek to collect eels (lamprey). The men would get long poles with nets on them the collect eels and put them into a holding pool that the children had been instructed to build. At the end of the day, the children had the job of gathering the eels from the pool and putting them into sacks to take back home or back to camp to eat”.  
Vaughn Bybee (Nez Perce fisherman)

Since time immemorial, the Nez Perce people have lived and fished along the rivers, streams and lakes of Wallowa County. The Tribe is humbled by the legacy of the salmon and steelhead that have faithfully returned to the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins. The cultural, legal, economic and religious significance of these fish continue today. That is why the Nez Perce Tribe’s vision for Wallowa County is one of stewardship. It is this concept that provides the motivation and basis for our salmon and steelhead restoration in the “land of the winding waters.” In so doing, we look forward toward the return of healthy fish populations and a vibrant economy in Wallowa County.

### **Recreational OHV use on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest**

The following was provided by the recreational OHV’s users:

OHV use on the WWNF has been an on going family activity for over 4 decades. Use in the early years began on motorcycles when they started to invite themselves as a normal mode of transportation. As time moved on, three wheelers and finally four wheelers where invented. With their vastly improved functionality, they became an extremely popular form of recreation on the WWNF.

OHV recreation has been very popular on the WWNF due to the forest’s vast expanse. It has allowed all ages and groups of people to enjoy the forest that could not normally do so. It allows families of all ages, children and adults

alike to access areas that are far from reach otherwise. OHV recreation is especially important for elderly and handicapped persons. It is the only form of access that is available to them. They may not be able to get on a horse and no longer have the ability to walk the many miles needed. Handicapped persons have been using OHV=s for forest access for decades, allowing them to visit the areas that they have fond memories of or that carry family heritage.

OHV use also carries great importance for the younger generation. It has been a choice family activity for many decades. Activities that allow an entire family to spend time together are far and few in between. OHV use has allowed families that use the WWNF to pass down memories and family heritage that is heavily dependant on OHV access.

OHV use is a growing activity that is a viable and legitimate forest use. Numbers of OHV users that are permitted to use public lands in Oregon, via the state parks off highway sticker is growing in numbers. The 08' season had 52,749 class I, 16,611 class II, and 18,316 class III ohv=s permitted. So far the 09' season had seen an impressive growth of users. Just through the month of May already permits sold are up to 94,222 class I, 27,678 class II, and 33,798 class III ohv=s. That alone shows the amount of families, elderly and handicapped users that our sharing our forests and enjoying what OHV recreation has to offer our society here in Oregon and especially here in the WWNF

OHV use is an important part of rural life, weather you are a rancher using an OHV for work purpose, or you are a grandfather wanting to show your grandson your favorite hunting area. WWNF has a rich history of OHV use.

## **OUTDOOR ADVENTURES**

Wallowa County has hundreds of trails that carry you through 1,400 miles of back country. Whether traveling on foot, bike or horseback, you may encounter deer, sheep, bears, elks, goats, eagles, owls, hawks or ravens while walking through the forests and meadows. Wallowa Lake and its tributaries make up lots of water sports opportunities including camping, swimming, fishing and boating during the summer.

### **Hiking**

Whether you wish to hike for a day or a week, single paths can take hikers through both the Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area (HCNRA) and the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area (ECWA).

### **Horseback Riding**

Horseback rides are popular along trails in the Eagle Cap Wilderness. You can bring your own or rent horses or mules and ride to a view of Wallowa Lake, or spend a day in the saddle exploring. Outfitters have long offered a wide range of services and supply horses, mules, tents, stoves, food, and a cook. Remember if you bring your own hay Wallowa County and the USDA Forest Service require Weed Free Hay.

### **River Rafting and boating**

Guided rafting trips are available on the Wallowa, Imnaha, Grande Ronde and the Snake rivers, including some class 5 rapids in Hells Canyon. Jet boats rides are available to experience Hells Canyon from Lewiston Idaho or Hells Canyon Dam. Captains narrate the trips, explaining history and geology of the canyon. Wallowa Lake offers the opportunity to parasail. With parachutes on their backs, riders are harnessed to a motorboat and then taken around the water until they are elevated as high as 600 feet in the air.

### **Golf**

At Alpine Meadows Golf Course in Enterprise, golfers tee off on a challenging course with a mix of trees and bunkers. Trout Creek runs down the middle of the course and hooks around the seventh hole. Playing men's tees, the course covers 3,067 yards; for ladies, it's 2,558. Additional tees give those playing 18 holes a second set of challenges

### **Bike Rides**

Wallowa County has a variety of routes for bicycling of all levels, from easy bicycle rides around town to challenging off-road ventures in Hells Canyon.

### **Winter Sports**

The Wallowa Valley Community Ice Rink in Enterprise is open all winter. The rink includes a regular schedule, with two hours set aside each day for local hockey games or lessons. Weekday games happen in the evenings.

Every year in early December, volunteers assemble the rink at Enterprise City Park. Hockey skates, figure skates, hockey sticks, pads, helmets and any other equipment is available locally.

The Ferguson Ridge Ski Area, called “Fergi” around the county, is a locally operated slope open weekends and holidays. The T-bar lift raises 640 feet to access eight downhill runs ranging in difficulty from beginner to expert. On paths that aren’t cleared, snow enthusiasts improvise or “tree ski”. All the gear required for the day: skis, snowboards, poles, goggles, helmets is available with the café and lounge offering hot food, warm up and rest. February and March tend to supply the best snowfall, but April is the time for the annual Fergifest, where everybody enjoys free skiing, live music, a potluck meal and games to end the year.

Backcountry skiing is another of the many opportunities in the county during the winter. The Ski season is usually December through May at elevations between 6000 and 9000 feet. The first commercial backcountry hut was a yurt base camp in McCully Basin in 1985. The Canal Fire changed the landscape significantly for skiing. Considerable Nordic ski trails have been developed and several operations offer guided ski trips to remote cabins at Anaroid lake. Backcountry skiing continues to expand, both commercially and privately.

## **Other Recreation**

**The Wallowa Union Railroad’s** Eagle Cap Excursion Train generally departs from Elgin and follows 63 miles of track, known as the Joseph Branch, through the Grande Ronde River downstream, and the Wallowa River up the valley. The railroad has a number of excursions running year-round including the Fishing Trains in February and March, the Mother’s Day Brunch train in May and the Fall Foliage Trains in Sept.

### **Eagle Cap Extreme SLED DOG RACES**

The Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Race is a qualifying race for the Iditarod in Alaska. or the Yukon Quest. The Eagle Cap race has two event levels: a 100-mile 8-dog race and a 200-mile 12-dog race with up to 20 teams running. The start and finish lines are set up at Ferguson Ski Ridge east of Joseph.

### **OREGON MOUNTAIN CRUISE Joseph classic car cruise**

More than 300 classic cars from around the Northwest will line Main Street in Joseph in early June for the 21st annual Oregon Mountain Cruise (OMC).

### **MT. High Broncs & Bulls**

Mountain High Broncs and Bulls, held in late June at the Wallowa County Fairgrounds, includes ranch saddle bronc rides, saddle bronc rides and two performances of bull riding. Other events include mutton busting (kids either younger than six or lighter than 60 pounds who ride sheep), non-riding events such as Ring of Fire and \$100 The Hard Way event, the mechanical bull, and a dance. “The Ring of Fire” is an event where folks try to stand in a hula hoop in the arena while a bull runs freely in the arena. The last man or woman standing in their hula hoop wins \$100. If running as fast as you can is more your style, then sign up for “\$100 The Hard Way” — and try and snatch a \$100 bill off a bull’s horns as you chase, dodge and run.

### **FOURTH OF JULY Flea market and parade**

Fourth of July in Wallowa County offers many opportunities to enjoy camping, fishing, boating, hiking and barbecuing during the weekend, and still have plenty of time to catch a parade in Wallowa, a flea market in Lostine and spectacular fireworks at Wallowa Lake at dark.

### **TAMKALIKS Native American sights and sounds**

During the third weekend in July, the Nez Perce and the local community commemorate the ancestral, historic and modern role of the Nez Perce in the Wallowas. Tamkaliks combines a homecoming procession on horseback, native dancing, drumming, an encampment, a huge friendship feast, religious ceremonials and concessions on 320-acres owned and managed by Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center, Inc. near Wallowa. Its goal is to create a physical place to enhance the relationships between the descendents of the Nez Perce natives and today’s residents, to preserve and celebrate the native culture and to educate the public on the history of the area. On Saturday of Tamkaliks weekend, the Wallowa townspeople hold a giant citywide yard sale.

### **CHIEF JOSEPH DAYS**

Chief Joseph Days is the oldest and still the largest of all Wallowa County’s many summer events. The rodeo is four days of pro-rodeo performances, surrounded by parades, cowboy breakfasts, dances, a teepee encampment and friendship feasts. Festivities officially get underway the Wednesday before the last full weekend in July. Chief

Joseph Days attracts major contenders to all its events, as well as top stock contractors, bullfighters, clowns and specialty acts. Wednesday night is Family Night, when mutton busting is added for peewee wranglers.

### **WALLOWA COUNTY FAIR**

The Wallowa County Fair is held the first week in August at the fairgrounds in Enterprise. At the old-time, small-town, farm fair you won't find a carnival, but you can participate in the watermelon seed-spitting contest, join the scarecrow-decorating contest and sample some tri-tip from the Backyard Grilling Contest and follow it with ice cream and pie by the Pamona Grange. Each year the fair offers 4-H, FFA classes for exhibitors with pigs, sheep, goats, horses, cattle, and dogs. On Saturday a junior rodeo runs all day with the livestock auction in the evening.

### **HELLS CANYON MULE DAYS**

Hells Canyon Mule Days is held at the Wallowa County Fairgrounds in Enterprise every September. It is centered around three competitive mule shows – for all ages of driver and rider – where mules pull carts, run races, barrel race, pole bend, jump fences, maneuver obstacles and are loaded down with heavy packs. There's also a non-motorized Saturday morning parade. Other events include a horse and mule sale, western entertainment and a pit barbecue.

The following was provided by the Wallowa Valley Arts Council:

## **Arts Custom and Culture of Wallowa County**

**Wallowa County maintains a rich, vibrant & varied artistic community. There are more artists and artistic enterprises in Wallowa County now than ever before.**

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Wallowa Valley Arts Council is to advance and promote the state of all the arts in Wallowa County

### **Wallowa Valley Arts Council - History:**

In 1983, Wallowa Valley Arts Council was incorporated by Don Green, Eve Slinker and Rich Wandschneider. That same year the first Festival of Arts was held in the Enterprise mall so the local community at large could see the wonderful visual art being produced. It then moved from there to Cloverleaf Hall and then to the Joseph Community Center. The theme for the Festivals was "Western Art in Eastern Oregon". Besides showcasing quality art produced in the Inland Northwest, the Festival contained western-style barbecues, dancing, entertainment, cowboy poets, and a "quick-draw" contest. During that period Missoula Children's Theatre first came to Wallowa Valley and has been coming every since.

The Council owing to its tax-exempt status, became an umbrella and grant-proposal channel for other arts organizations and individual arts in the Valley. The first Annual Fishtrap Gathering was co-sponsored by the Council and Eastern Oregon Regional Arts Council in 1988. Today, Wallowa Valley Arts Council has continued the very early umbrella sponsorship of other cultural organizations.

### **Wallowa Valley Arts Council – Events:**

#### **Wallowa Valley Festival of Arts:**

Established in 1982 to showcase the bronze sculpture for which Joseph is noted, the Wallowa Valley Festival of the Arts has grown to include art of all mediums. Eastern Oregon's premier arts festival is always held the first weekend in June, at the foot of the beautiful Wallowa Mountains. Artists from throughout the Pacific Northwest will gather in Joseph for a weekend of art exhibition, music, art demonstrations, "Plein Air" and Quick Draw competitions, food, wine, and gallery strolling. The weekend begins with a special artist and patron's reception on Friday evening with a limited number of tickets to the reception for \$25 each. Admission includes the opportunity to preview the art before the public viewing days as well as a special hand painted wine glass, free wine bar, hors d'oeuvres, live music, and a chance to meet many of the artists. Award winning artists will be honored as well as the Festival Judge and Featured Artist. The Festival continues on Saturday and Sunday. Viewing of the art is free to the public

on those days. All of the art is for sale. Through the generous support of local banks, WVFA is able to offer artists significant cash prize opportunities for participating. This has brought extra interest from artists to participate by entering their best and most recent work. The Festival is a great place for buyers to find beautiful artwork at very reasonable prices.

### **Night of Quick Draw:**

This popular event has again become part of the Wallowa Valley Festival of Arts. Scheduling the event the same weekend has attracted many more artists from around the region as well as more spectators. Artists are required to start from a completely blank work surface and each participating artist must also be entered in the Wallowa Valley Festival of the Arts show. Artists will have 1 ½ hours to complete their pieces. The one-of-a-kind creations are available to purchase by silent auction. The Quick Draw also includes lively music, hors d'oeuvres, a no-host full bar, all for a \$6 admission price to the general public. Wallowa Valley Arts Council Members are admitted with no charge and have a chance to take home a piece of art from the "Artists of the Wallowas" revolving collection for the ensuing year.

### **Wallowa Valley Youth Arts Festival:**

This event is held the last weekend in April showcasing Special Needs; K-1st; 2nd-3rd; 4th-6th; Middle School; High School artists. **Art Show Categories:** Painting, Drawing, Mixed Media/2-D Collage, Sculpture/Woodworking, Photography/Printmaking and Fiber Art/Ceramics/Jewelry. Children are allowed to enter three pieces of art and ribbons are awarded for first, second and third places in each age group. All art work receives a ribbon. There will be a Judges Choice Award and patrons of the festival also get to vote for the People's Choice Award. This event features an opening artist reception; student entertainment sponsored by Wallowa Valley Music Alliance; and various hands-on art activities.

### **Missoula Children's Theater:**

It is based in Missoula and was founded in 1970 and currently has eight original musicals touring with thirty MCT Tour Actor/Director teams. MCT first came to Wallowa County in 1983. The Missoula team arrives in February, has an audition, rehearses for a week and present a show with local children. This event rotates between schools in the Wallowa County School District.

**Wallowa Valley Arts Council – Partnerships:** WVAC, owing to its tax-exempt status, is an umbrella and grant-proposal channel for other art/cultural organizations in the Valley without tax-exempt status.

**Wallowa Valley Arts Council** remains a community of painters, sculptors, musicians, writers, ceramicists, glass blowers, and any number of other craftspeople; the Wallowa Valley Arts Council is fortunate enough to be able to furnish the organization, resources and enthusiastic support these artists require.

The arts in Wallowa County bring in thousands of visitors a year which in turn supports the businesses of the County. For more information: [www.wallowavalleyarts.org](http://www.wallowavalleyarts.org).

The following was provided by the Wallowa Mountain Quilter's Guild:

### **Wallowa Mountain Quilter's Guild Mission Statement**

The Wallowa Mountain Quilter's Guild was formed in 1991 by a small group of local quilters whose love for quilting prompted them to form a local organization with the following goals: Raise public awareness of the ancient art form of quilting and revive public interest in this art form. Preserve and celebrate the tradition of quilting. Increase knowledge of and appreciation for modern quilting methods. Provide an inexpensive avenue for quilters to display their crafts. Facilitate an

> exchange of ideas, techniques, patterns and creativity among quilters. We will accomplish the above goals by: Contributing awards for quilters at the county fair. Providing quilt books for the public library. Offering educational

opportunities by sponsoring speakers and teachers. Volunteering our quilting skills for community projects.

The following was provided by the Foundry Industry:

### **Foundry Customs and Culture**

Metal working has a long been a part of Wallowa County. Due to the remoteness of early farms and ranches many had some form of blacksmith or machine shop, so they could repair and make their own tools and tack, in addition to the local blacksmith shops in each town.

The first casting foundry was one that Walt Williams set up in the late 60s to early 70s to do green sand casting of a variety of metals.

Since 1981 the bronze foundry industry in Wallowa County has opened up a wide range of other business opportunities in the area, as well as help shape the cultural and economic landscape of Wallowa County. In addition to the foundries there are many other businesses that have developed. Wood and marble base makers supply foundries locally and around the country with quality wood and marble bases and pedestals for the sculptures. Other businesses that have emerged due to the growing foundry industry are mold makers, wax and metal chasers and arts galleries. Wallowa County has become a destination for Artists seeking quality castings and collectors alike looking to purchase fine art. Over the almost three decades of bronze art foundry industry in Wallowa County it has helped support the local economy with an average of 75-100 family wage jobs every year. Many of these jobs being filled by long time residents of Wallowa County. The foundries have not been immune to the current economic trends facing the whole nation. Since late in 2008 foundries have had to lay off workers due to the lessening demand for castings. Though the current economic situation has affected the bronze industry, it tends to continue to be a viable industry.

#### Foundrys

##### **VALLEY BRONZE**

In 1981 Glen and Helen Anderson started the first bronze art casting foundry in Joseph OR. They were art collectors themselves and had a knack for starting and running businesses. At the urging of artist friends Dave Manuel and Roger McGee they decided to build a foundry. Roger McGee helped design the former Harris Pine mill site into a working foundry that is now the home of Valley Bronze. It was a natural fit for the town of Joseph that had lots of natural beauty and a willing work force that was hungry for new industries. In the first two years it grew from a 3-4 person operation to 13 employees. In the mid 80s the business was sold to the current owners Dave and Kris Jackman. By the late 80s it grew to a work force of 70 employees casting bronze, silver and stainless steel. Artist traveled from as far away as Alaska, Hawaii and the east coast to have their sculptures cast meanwhile spending money in the local community. One of the most significant projects cast at Valley bronze "The Freedom Horses" by Veryl Goodnight is placed in Berlin Germany. Another being the WWII Memorial in Washington DC.. Valley bronze has a current average work force of 25-30 employees.

As the skilled work force began to grow, so did the opportunity for more foundries to open up and expand the casting capabilities. A wide Variety of business sprung up to compliment the growing industry and arts community

##### **PARKS BRONZE**

In 1986 Steve and Cindy Parks after being two of the first 13 employees of Valley bronze decided to start "Parks Bronze" in their garage in Joseph. But soon found that they need more space to accommodate their growing client list so the moved there shop to Enterprise where they are currently located. Parks bronze built up to a work force of 25-30 employees. Some of their more note worthy projects are The Tom McCall Memorial by Artist Rip Caswell in Portland Or. "Attitude Adjustment" by Austin Barton in Joseph Or.

##### **CURTIS BRONZE**

In the mid 1980s Artists Gareth and Shelly Curtis moved to Wallowa County to work at Valley Bronze and learn about the foundry business. And after a few years opened up their own foundry along highway 82 between Enterprise and Joseph

##### **PARMENTER STUDIO**

Gary and Nancy Parmenter established "Parmenter Studio" in the late 80s for the purpose of producing Ramon Parmenter's (Gary's brother) bronze sculptures and promoting his art work, enabling them to have more control to produce the highest quality castings. They have an average trained staff of 5 wax and metal workers, also utilizing the local foundries for their rough cast needs.

## **JOSEPH BRONZE**

In 1996 Jeff and Marilyn Harman and along with another business partner purchased equipment from Curtis Bronze and in the same location started Joseph Bronze. Providing the opportunity to employ approximately 25 more local workers. Some of there most significant casting are the Vietnam memorial by Fred Hoppe in Branson Mo. Woolly Mammoth by Doug Van Howd in Mammoth lakes Ca. Boiler Maker By Jon Hair Purdue Univ.

## **NORMAN ARTS**

Norman Arts was established in 1996 by Tim and Nickie Norman. (Tim being one of the original 13 employees at Valley Bronze) They provide a full service facility utilizing the local casting foundries for rough cast metal to finish in their shop and provide specialized bronze services from enlargements of smaller sculptures to the finish patina work, installation and consulting work, along with creating and producing Tim's own line of sculptures. Some of their most noted work is "All Around Cowboy" by Austin Barton on main street in Joseph Or. "Baby Steps" by Austin Barton in the Capitol Square Olympia Wash. and a life size bald eagle "Quest" by Devin Rowe presented to Pres. George Bush.

## **CROSS COUNTRY BRONZE**

Cross Country Bronze was established in 1994 by Dick Cross, another of the original 13 at Valley bronze. He provided valley Bronze with metal chasing in a satellite facility and in 1996 Dick started full time in what is now Cross Country Bronze specializing in metal welding and chasing along with producing his own line of sculptures.

## **FRASER IRON WORKS AND BLACKSMITH SHOP**

Blacksmith Chuck Fraser creates one of a kind functional and ornamental iron work with forge and hammer. Using age old techniques along with more modern tools and equipment to create anything from Damascus knives to spiral staircases. Also utilizing his foundry background he adds cast and forged bronze accents to his Iron work.

## **MANUEL MUSEUM**

One of the original Artists that cast at valley bronze was David Manuel. In the mid 90s David and his wife Lee started a facility utilizing the local foundries to cast his work with his own staff doing the mold, wax, metal and patina work. 'The Carriage House' was part of the museum of his own art work, Indian and western artifacts. They employed 5-10 people until moving to Union County Or.

## **TW Bronze**

TW Bronze is the newest addition to the bronze industry in Wallowa County. Tim Parks brother of Steve Parks, offers a full service foundry including bronze and silver casting. He currently employs 3-4 workers and continues to grow their client base.

## **TIMBER BRONZE**

Timber bronze owned by Myran and Kendra Kirkpatrick produces functional bronze art for homes. In the form of door knobs and pulls, coat hangers, switch plates, outlet covers and much more. Their products have been purchased for use in fine settings from the Crater Lake National Park Lodge in Oregon to the sets of CBS Studios in New York.

The following was provided by Fishtrap:

### **Wallowa County Custom and Culture Profile FISHTRAP**

#### **MISSION**

Fishtrap's mission statement, formulated many years ago and re-affirmed frequently, is "Fishtrap promotes clear thinking and good writing in and about the West," sometimes abbreviated as "Writing and the West."

#### **PROGRAMS**

Fishtrap began in 1988 at Wallowa Lake, Oregon, with a Summer Writers' Gathering. Over 100 writers, editors, teachers, librarians, and readers spent a July weekend reading, listening, and discussing "Western Writing and Eastern Publishing." Each summer since, people have gathered to listen and respond to outstanding Western writers address living and writing in the West.

Summer workshops were added in 1989, and the Fellows program in 1990, both of which are tightly coupled to the Gathering. In 1991 the first Fishtrap Anthology was published. The Winter Fishtrap Gathering was launched in 1992, followed by the Imnaha Writers' Retreat and the Writer-in-Residence programs in 1997.

Several programs that primarily serve residents of Wallowa County followed: the volunteer-driven Radio Storytelling program in 2000, both the Friday College program and Lectures & Readings in 2002, and The Big Read in 2006. At the same time, programs for the regional audience of writers continued to expand. The Children's Lit Workshop started in 2004, Fishtrap's writer-in-residence model was expanded in 2006 to serve four other eastern Oregon counties as the Eastern Oregon Writers-in-Residence program, a yearlong low-residency writing workshop program started in 2008, and the Outpost workshop and a nature writing residency are seeing their first incarnations in 2009.

Today, Fishtrap runs more than fifteen different programs which occur year-round. We estimate that in the course of our 22 year history, we have served more than 20,000 people and engaged more than 350 writers, academics, and literary professionals as faculty for our programs.

## HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION

Fishtrap became a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation in August of 1992. The organization has a very active 11-member local Governing Board of Directors, and a 19-member Advisory Board made up of writers, publishers and literary activists from all over the country. The founding director, Rich Wandschneider, stepped down as Executive Director in 2008, but is still on staff as the Josephine Library director.

Fishtrap conducted its first capital campaign in 2001 to purchase the Gwen and Gladys Coffin house in Enterprise, which now serves as its headquarters. Under Rich's guidance, Fishtrap is planning a second capital campaign to fund the development of the Alvin Josephine Library of Western History and Culture.

## BOARD MEMBERS

Fishtrap's very active governing board is composed of Wallowa County residents who have collectively contributed thousands of hours of volunteer time to make Fishtrap work. Thank them when you get a chance!

Governing Board, 2009: Pam Slinker, Chair (plant nursery owner), Elizabeth Oliver, Vice Chair (retired teacher), Nick Lunde, Secretary (retired Forest Service), Don Green, Treasurer (retired businessman), Susan Badger-Jones (sustainability consultant), Pam Royes (educator), Jim Shelly (potter), Rob Taylor (ecologist)

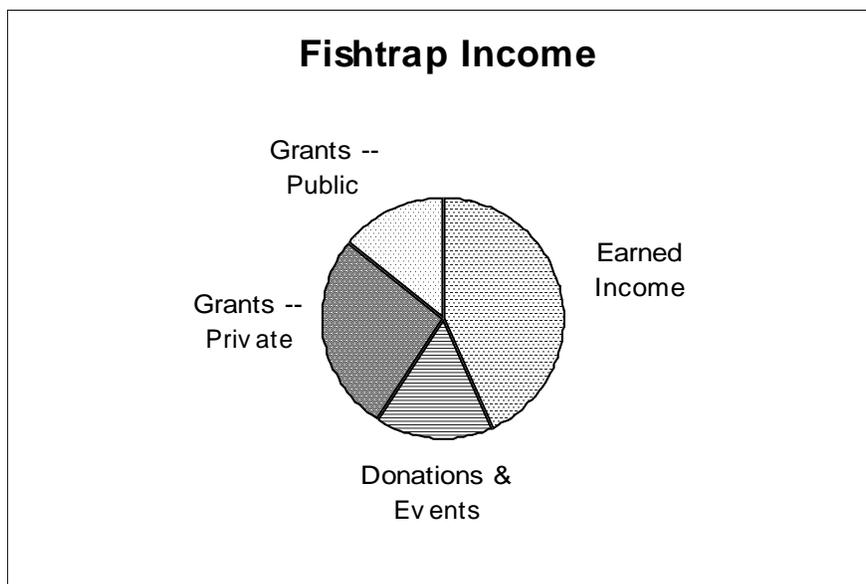
Fishtrap's advisory board is composed of leading literary figures from the Pacific Northwest and beyond. They provide invaluable guidance and advice to the staff and Governing Board.

Advisory Board, 2009: Sue Armitage, Susan Fletcher, Molly Gloss, Lizzie Grossman, Jim Hepworth, Gary Holthaus, Marc Jaffe, Teresa Jordan, Al Josephy, Bill Kittredge, Ursula K. LeGuin, Craig Lesley, Jonathan Nicholas, Diane Josephy Peavey, Kate Power, Primus St. John, Peter Sears, Kim Stafford, Luis Alberto Urrea

## FINANCES

Fishtrap has a budget for FY 2009-2010 of a little over \$300,000. About 43% of our revenue comes from registration fees, 41% from grants, and 16% from individual donations, small business sponsors, and fundraising events. Of grant funding, about 2/3 comes from private foundations, and 1/3 comes from government sources such as the Oregon Cultural Trust.

On the expense side, roughly 80% of Fishtrap's costs are program-related, and the other 20% of costs cover administrative overhead and fundraising efforts.



## FISHTRAP Programs Synopsis

Fishtrap's programs are divided into five broad categories: Gatherings, Workshops, Serving Writers, Connecting with Schools, and Community Currents.

### Gatherings and Workshops

The **Winter Fishtrap Gathering** is a weekend-long conference held in late February each year at Wallowa Lake Lodge at the head of Wallowa Lake. Three presenters and about 60 participants discuss a theme, usually but not

always dealing with a public policy issue. The emphasis is on discussion rather than on actual writing, although the event includes some writing opportunities and an open-mike session. All meals are included. Lodging is offered in the same facility.

**Summer Fishtrap** is two events held back to back in early July at the Methodist Church's Wallowa Lake Camp and Retreat Center at the head of Wallowa Lake:

The **Summer Workshops** consist of seven to nine workshops taught by an equal number of faculty. Usually there are seven five-day workshops held Monday through Friday mornings. Genres vary, including novel, short fiction, memoir, nature essay, poetry, and songwriting. In addition, there are one or two one- to three-day workshops, held in the afternoons and typically dealing with publishing or non-writing exercises like book-traditional basket-making. Workshop capacity is 12, with a total attendance maximum of 100 to 130. Open-mike sessions occur each day, usually in the evening. Meals and lodging are offered but not mandatory.

The **Summer Gathering** is a long-weekend conference which begins on Thursday (formerly Friday) evening of the workshop week with a keynote speaker, and continues from Friday afternoon through Sunday morning. Presenters include all workshop faculty plus one or two additional paid faculty. Several additional writers, sometimes including past faculty or advisory board members, are also invited on an unpaid basis, sometimes to present and always to enliven discussion. Faculty read from their work and lead panel discussions. There is a music performance on Saturday night. Meals are included. Lodging is offered but not mandatory. Attendance ranges from 60 to 100 people, many of whom also participate in a workshop.

**Outpost** began in 2009 as a special summer workshop, taking place not at Wallowa Lake but at a remote location in Wallowa County, such as the USFS Billy Meadows Guard Station. Participants stay at the remote site for most of the workshop week, but return to Wallowa Lake toward the end of the week to share the experience with others at Summer Fishtrap. The focus is on nature writing about Wallowa County.

The **Children's Literature Workshop**, a weekend event, has occurred each September since 2004. Two or three faculty, including both writers and illustrators of children's and young adult literature, work with about 25 participants at Fishtrap's Coffin House. Faculty read on Saturday night in an event open to the public, and often a Sunday event will specifically target children.

In 2008, Fishtrap launched its first **Year-Long Workshop**. The goal of this low-residency program is to mentor writers who seek to complete a first-draft manuscript in one year. Participants meet in person three times, starting with a week-long session at Summer Fishtrap, again at a five-day meeting (typically in Portland), and finally at another week-long session at the following year's Summer Fishtrap. In between these sessions, participants submit 25 to 30 pages of manuscript each month to the instructor, then confer by phone or email.

### Serving Writers

Five **Fishtrap Fellows** have been selected each year since 1990 to attend Summer Fishtrap (both the workshops and the Gathering) for free. Winners are selected from a pool of over 100 applicants. The process is free and blind-judged. Fishtrap board members and volunteers read submissions in teams. About 30 finalists are sent to a professional writer, editor or publisher for the second round of judging. In addition to free attendance at Summer Fishtrap, Fellows are highlighted with longer time slots during the open-mike sessions.

The **Imnaha Writers' Retreat** occurs at a modern but remote cabin on the Imnaha River each April and October. Capacity is five or six people staying at one time. Participants sign up for one to four weeks. Usually dinners are taken communally, with some time in the evenings to share and critique each other's work.

The **Werner Writing Residency** is connected to the Outpost program. The selected writer visits Wallowa County for several weeks, including participation in the Outpost workshop during Summer Fishtrap. The writer stays on in Wallowa County to continue working on his or her own, with the goal of contributing to a growing body of published work about the natural environment of Wallowa County.

### Connecting with Schools

The **Writer-in-Residence** program brings a writer to Wallowa County for nine weeks each year, typically from late January to mid-March. The writer (or team of writers) works eight hours per week in school classrooms, offers a five-week-long evening workshop for paying participants from the community, and gives a public reading. Fishtrap

pays a stipend and provides housing, and the writer is given enough free time to focus on his or her own writing projects. The program started in 1997.

The **Eastern Oregon Writers In Residence** program was started in 2007 to jump-start writers' residencies using the Fishtrap model in three other rural Eastern Oregon communities: Klamath County (Chiloquin), Harney County (Burns, Hines, Frenchglen, and others), and Wheeler and Gilliam counties (Fossil and Condon). Fishtrap provides guidance, helps find writers, administers the supporting grants, convenes meetings, and conducts site visits and evaluations.

A community-wide reading event occurs each winter in Wallowa County. In years when the NEA is involved, it is called **The Big Read** (NEA's term). In years when the NEA is not involved, it is called **Wallowa County Reads**. During a period of four to six weeks, usually between January and March, the selected book is sold at a discount, provided to libraries and schools, and featured as the thematic focus for a series of movies, photo exhibits, interviews, art projects, lectures, panel discussions, potluck dinners, readings-around-the-burn-barrel, and any other imaginable sort of event.

Fishtrap offers college-level **Fishtrap College** classes in Literature, Composition, Poetry, Creative Writing, and special topics each school year. Most participants are local high school students who wish to prepare for college and/or receive Advanced Placement credit. Classes are taught by contracted faculty.

### Community Currents

Three or more **Lectures & Readings** may occur at any time of year. Fishtrap invites writers, historians, journalists, adventurers, social workers, and others to speak to audiences of 30 to 200 people. Topics are as varied as the presenters, who are usually asked to visit one or more schools on the following morning to speak with students.

The energy of one of Fishtrap's board members drives **Fishtrap Storytime**, a weekly radio storytelling program that runs each winter for five months. Volunteers read classic and original stories, which are recorded and archived for future use.

The following was provided by the Wallowa Valley Music Alliance:

#### Wallowa County Custom and Culture Profile Wallowa Valley Music Alliance

**Participation in and enjoyment of music and the arts is an essential part of the human experience, allowing exploration of ideas and emotions leading to a better understanding of history and culture. Musical expression, exploration and education benefits individuals in many ways and can also have a significant positive impact in the communities in which they live.**

**The mission of the Wallowa Valley Music Alliance is to foster the growth of the music community in Wallowa County, Oregon, by connecting music educators with students, and encouraging a widening participation in music of all genres, with particular emphasis on youth education.**

**Founded in the spring of 2004, the Wallowa Valley Music Alliance is a young organization with big dreams. Having grown their programming from a small offering of Friday morning classes for kids during the school year, to a variety of music workshops and live performances year-round, they continue to explore new ways to enrich the community with the gift of music.**

**While the Music Alliance has a growing roster of musical programming, it also acts as a support base for the multitude of music projects presented by other organizations and individuals throughout the county. They have a database of musicians and music educators to draw from when inquiries are made regarding performers or teachers available in the community. They are often called on to coordinate musicians to perform at various community events and social functions.**

**The Wallowa Valley Music Alliance is an Oregon nonprofit organization registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) corporation. It has an eight member volunteer board of directors, and a part-time paid executive director who oversees all programming and coordinates volunteers and faculty. 2009 board of directors:**

**Janet Graham (chair), Laura Skovlin (vice-chair), Jan Blair (secretary), Heather Tyreman (treasurer), Rodd Ambroson, Gail Swart, Carolyn Gilbert, and Syd Tate. Current executive director is Janis Carper. The annual budget for 2009 is \$45,000.**

It is a goal of the Music Alliance to develop a reputation for Wallowa County as a destination for musicians—to study, create, perform, entertain, and enrich the lives of those who live and work here.

#### **Programs of the Wallowa Valley Music Alliance**

**Musical Expressions for Youth**—A program designed to fill the gap in Wallowa County’s public school system with regard to music education. Drawing from our community’s diverse pool of musicians and educators, the Music Alliance is developing a faculty that provides creative and exciting music educational experiences for our youth, both in the schools and at their own facility. Their Friday classes at The Woodshed have been ongoing since January of 2005.

**Lifetime Music Workshops**—Educational programs for all ages, focusing on the enjoyment of music and expanding musical horizons. The Music Alliance helps facilitate workshops based on the needs and desires of the community, taking advantage of local resources as well as calling on the talents of musicians or bands who may be touring the region. Program offerings and participation varies from year to year, based on available funding and faculty.

**Tunesmith Night**—a monthly showcase of original music presented in a listening atmosphere by the songwriters themselves. Participating artists come from around the northwest and beyond, and always include local talent. Tunesmith Night presents about 24 musicians to an average monthly audience of 50 people during September through May each year.

**Newsletter**—The Music Alliance publishes a free quarterly newsletter, with information about musical events around Wallowa county.

**“The Woodshed”**—A place for those in our community to gather to enjoy music, to play, sing, listen, encourage, support, teach, share, and create, in a safe and friendly environment. Many of our classes and workshops are held here, and there is a guest bedroom for visiting musicians as well as office space for Music Alliance staff. The Woodshed also provides space for private music lessons and rehearsals.

**The Courthouse Concert Series**—free and open to the public every Thursday during the summer months. Drawing from local and regional talent, the Music Alliance presents a wide variety of music all summer long on the gazebo stage at the Wallowa County Courthouse in Enterprise, Oregon. Funding assistance is provided by the City of Enterprise, Wallowa County Board of Commissioners and donations from concert attendees. In a typical season the Courthouse Concert Series presents 50 musician, including many local performers, and will be attended by 1500 people from both in and out of Wallowa County.

**Wallowa Fiddle Tunes Workshop**—A week long family oriented workshop that explores the tradition of old-time fiddling. Ongoing since 2005, the program provides an opportunity for folks young and old to learn from top notch players in classes that are both affordable and fun. Held in July on the campus of the Wallowa School, the workshop offers various levels of fiddle and guitar instruction, plus ample opportunities for jamming and one-on-one sessions. Free on-site camping is provided. Attendance at Wallowa Fiddle Tunes Workshop is usually around 125 participants, with 90% of them coming from outside Wallowa County.

**Spring Strings in The Wallowas**—is a weekend retreat for recreational chamber music players, in coordination with local bed and breakfasts, inviting musicians from all over the northwest and beyond to share their love of chamber music in the scenic setting of the Wallowa Valley. Spring Strings has the capacity to serve around 30 participants, nearly all from outside Wallowa County.

**Recorders for Fourth Graders**—each year the Music Alliance donates a recorder to each fourth grader in Wallowa County schools, in efforts to give all students an opportunity to explore the joy of music.

**Scholarship and Grant Program**—in 2009, the Music Alliance launched a program to help provide financial assistance for music education to students in Wallowa County, for private or group lessons taught by local instructors. Ten percent of the organization’s contributed funds go to this purpose.

**Juniper Jam** – The Sweetest Little Music Festival in Eastern Oregon – New in 2009, Juniper Jam debuts on Labor Day Weekend, Saturday, September 5, 2009. This all-day music festival features local and regional musicians performing blues, Americana, folk, alt-country, jazz - something for everyone, plus food, drink, kids activities and local art. Juniper Jam will feature about 30 musicians, 20% of them from Wallowa County. Projected attendance at the first year event is 400, at least 50% from outside the county.

Contact Information:

Wallowa Valley Music Alliance  
PO Box 148  
Enterprise, OR 97828  
541-426-3390  
[www.wvmusicalliance.org](http://www.wvmusicalliance.org)  
info@wvmusicalliance.org

## **The Genesis**

The custom, culture, and community stability show in the preceding pages includes a desired vision of the future for the various natural resources of Wallowa County. These visions are considered achievable and sustainable for the future.

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