

Middle Deschutes Watershed Council – Update March 26, 2020

Dear Middle Deschutes Watershed Council Board of Directors,

Thank you for your support and understanding during this moment of public health uncertainty. In lieu of an in-person update during our previously scheduled meeting this month, please see below for written updates. Please do not hesitate to call or email me with questions or comments. I hope for a more “normal” April so we can meet in person and catch up.

Since our last meeting, I have spent the majority of my time developing restoration grants (Warm Springs riparian planting, Upper Willow Juniper Cut, Upper Trout Creek Fencing), planning education activities (Warm Springs after-school lessons, Madras/Buff Elementary field trips to Cove Palisades State Park), and writing a Conservation Implementation Strategy for Juniper Cutting in Trout Creek submitted to NRCS.

Council/Admin:

- Attended River Restoration Northwest – Stream Restoration Conference (early Feb)
- Attended NRCS Local Working Group Meetings (mid Feb)
- Attended ODA Strategic Implementation Area Meeting (late Mar)
- Continuing to plug away on MDWC Annual Report
- Reading watershed assessments, handbooks
- Developing R code for mapping, statistics

Education:

- Met with Madras HS teacher (Mike Dove) to discuss Working Watersheds certificate, Willow Creek monitoring (early Feb)
- Began weekly Warm Springs after-school lessons (late Feb)
- Planning/rescheduling Cove Palisades field trip with Buff and Madras Elementary

Monitoring:

- Continuing Middle Deschutes Water Quality brainstorming with ODA, NUID, JSWCD (early Feb)
- Pesticide Stewardship Partnership data collection (mid Mar)
- Met with DEQ regarding monitoring in Trout Creek for water quality research (mid Mar)

Restoration:

- Developing riparian planting project on Warm Springs side of Deschutes River (continuous, ONDA meeting mid Feb)
 - Developing proposal for PGE grant (due early April)
- Developing juniper cut project on Upper Willow (continuous, site visit late Feb)
- Developing fencing on Upper Trout Creek (continuous, site visit early Mar)
- Attended Lake Billy Chinook Aquatic Invasive Species meeting (mid Feb)
- Wrote Trout Creek Juniper Cut Conservation Implementation Strategy proposal for NRCS (mid-late Mar)

Outreach:

- Hosted an informational table at *Nature Night* – Deschutes River Conservancy event + *Wild Rivers Night* – Coalition for the Deschutes event (late Feb)