

Project Completion Report
Camp Creek Ecosystem Resiliency Project
Project Number: OCRF 2021-29

Grantee:

Powder Basin Watershed Council
2034 Auburn Avenue, Suite B
Baker City, OR 97814

Actions Completed

Implementation actions occurred in both 2023 and 2024. Powder Basin Watershed Council (PBWC) staff supported by a number of youth and young adult crews implemented the work along 2.5 miles of Camp Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of the Burnt River. Project Objectives include:

- Reconnect 2.5 miles of Camp Creek with its historic floodplain by 2030.
- Expedite recovery of riparian vegetation, with a focus on native willow, on 5.6 acres of riparian habitat along Camp Creek.
- Beaver will occupy and build dams throughout the 2.5 project reach by 2030. Achievement of this objective will be facilitated by implementing objectives 1 and 2. Actions under this objective will be primarily to document Beaver activity within the project reach.
- Improve aquatic habitat conditions for Columbia Basin Redband Trout and Columbia Spotted Frogs along 2.5 miles of Camp Creek by 2025.

To accomplish project objectives, we installed seventy-four beaver dam analogs (BDAs), five post assisted log structures (PALS) and directionally felled 268 lodgepole pine into the channel and adjacent floodplains and side channels. All materials used to construct the BDAs and PALS were harvested from the project vicinity. To expedite recovery of riparian vegetation, we constructed six riparian exclosure fences to reduce wild and domestic ungulate browse of riparian shrubs. We received a grant from the Wallowa Whitman National Forest to upgrade the fencing from wire mesh to buck and pole. A total of 4,871 feet of fence was constructed, protecting 5.21 acres of riparian habitat.

Youth Engagement/Outreach

Low-tech process-based restoration actions like constructing BDAs and PALS are a great way to engage both youth and adults in conserving and enhancing the watersheds in-which they live. A secondary goal of this project was to engage local youth and young adults in project implementation by providing a hands-on activity focused on watershed management and at the same time, provide some basic watershed and natural resource education while the work is being done. With oversight and support of PBWC staff, youth crews implemented the project work. Youth also assisted with collection of pre-implementation monitoring data. A total of forty-six youth engaged in implementation of the project including crews provided by the Baker Resources Coalition, Baker Technical Institute, Beef Northwest, Northwest Youth Corp and Training and Employment Consortium. In addition, we have used the project site to host two

outdoor education field days for junior high and high school students from throughout Baker County. Approximately 60 students attended.

Monitoring

To track progress toward meeting project objectives we have collected the following pre-project data:

- Photopoint pictures at six locations
- 12, Valley-wide monitoring transects throughout the 2.5-mile project reach including measurement of surface elevation, vegetation density/height, ground cover, channel substrate and wetted surface.
- Beaver presence/absence/sign surveys in 2023 and 2024.
- Inventory of in-channel wood using the ODFW AQI methodology
- Drone Aerial Imagery

Post project data will be collected, years 2 and 4, post project. Many of the BDAs constructed showed immediate increase of water surface elevation and expansion of the greenline. Beavers are present and active at the bottom of the project area

Project Photographs

