

PHOTO BY KLAMATH BASIN RANGELAND TRUST



# Sevenmile Creek

## KLAMATH RIVER BASIN

The Klamath River Basin, covering more than 12,000 square miles in southern Oregon and northern California, is considered one of the most important waterfowl areas in North America. It is home to six National Wildlife Refuges and supports more than 430 species of wildlife. Extreme over allocation of water resources in the upper Klamath River Basin has resulted in inadequate stream flows and the degradation and/or loss of critical riparian and aquatic habitat.

The conflict between agricultural and ecological water needs in the basin remains one of the most significant environmental issues in the western United States. Sevenmile Creek is located upstream of the Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge and contains some of the best remaining stream habitat in the Upper Klamath Basin.

The area is home to myriad species and is designated as critical habitat for threatened bull trout, native redband rainbow trout and the sensitive Oregon spotted frog. Irrigation diversions within the watershed have partially or completely dewatered critical streams, while return flows are often too warm or nutrient laden to provide adequate habitat for listed and threatened species.

Historical water use in this area has led to the diversion of the entire flow from the upper reaches of Sevenmile Creek, resulting in the complete dewatering of two miles of the stream and limiting fish access to some of the most critical, intact habitat in the stream system. This dewatering also prevents high quality, cold, clear water from flowing down the remaining 17 miles of Sevenmile Creek to areas located in the National Wildlife Refuge.

Since 2004, the Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust has tested the results of improving flows in Sevenmile Creek. Keeping water in the stream has improved habitat and provided a critical migratory corridor for endangered and threatened species. Through habitat monitoring, there has been a demonstrated linkage between keeping water flow in stream and improvements to fish habitat. With increased flows, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has reported dramatic increases in the occurrence of redband trout.

### project snapshot:

**LOCATION:**

Klamath River Basin, Southern Oregon and Northern California

**START UP DATE:**

2012

**PROJECT RESULT:**

More than 1.2 billion gallons of water restored per year

**PROJECT PARTNERS:**

Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

**VERIFICATION:**

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation



With funding provided in part through the sale of Water Restoration Certificates® to Southern Oregon University, this project will restore approximately 1.2 billion gallons of water per year to a critical and previously dewatered stream system to restore essential river and wetland habitat. The transaction will be completed on a voluntary basis with the landowner; the property will continue to be operated as an active cattle ranch with dryland grazing helping preserve the local agricultural economy while still meeting the needs of endangered species.

## Opportunity:

Through the sale of Water Restoration Certificates® BEF will facilitate the implementation of a project that restores approximately 1.2 billion gallons of water per year to a critical and previously dewatered stream system. The transaction will be completed on a voluntary basis with the landowner. The property will continue to be operated as an active cattle ranch with dryland grazing helping preserve the local agricultural economy while still meeting the needs of endangered species.

Your investment will return substantial brand equity, significant public relations interest, and stakeholder support. Funds will restore water to critical river and wetland habitat and will generate credit for millions of gallons of water restored to the environment.

## lets build a meaningful partnership

For more information about this or other water flow restoration projects, or to request a consultation with our team, please contact Val Fishman at 503-553-3946 or [vfishman@b-e-f.org](mailto:vfishman@b-e-f.org).