

# Klamath Watershed Partnership

## 2020 Annual Report

*205 Riverside Drive, Suite C, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601*



*Mission: To conserve, enhance and restore the natural resources of the Klamath Basin, while ensuring the long-term sustainability of the regional economy and local communities.*

This report highlights many of the 2020 accomplishments of the staff and board at Klamath Watershed Partnership. To achieve the goals spelled out in our mission statement, the organizational activities are divided into the following four programs:

- Riparian Restoration/Fisheries Conservation
- Upland Watershed and Forest Health
- Outreach and Technical Assistance
- Irrigation Efficiency and Modernization

## **Riparian Restoration/Fisheries Conservation**

KWP staff and board pursued several voluntary riparian restoration projects in 2020 and identified funding sources to complete that work. KWP also completed several riparian fencing projects throughout the county in 2020. The goal is to assist cattle management and provide effective options that improve fisheries/riparian habitat and water quality, reduce grazing pressure along the riparian zone, while keeping ranch operations viable in the process.

KWP works with a wide range of partners, including but not limited to:

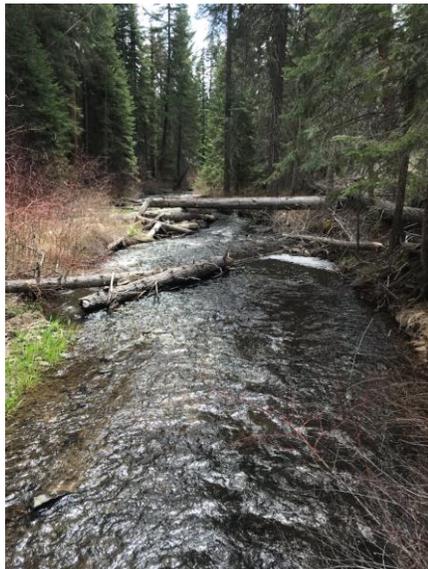
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Klamath Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Klamath Tribes, US Forest Service, Trout Unlimited, Sustainable Northwest, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Institute of Technology, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Green Diamond, and many private farms and ranches throughout the county that make this work possible. Some photos and descriptions of examples of this work are included below.



**On the Williamson River, fencing and riparian planting were completed in 2020 along sections of critical to habitat for endangered sucker species with the support of USFWS Partners Program. More planting will occur along this stretch of the river in 2021.**



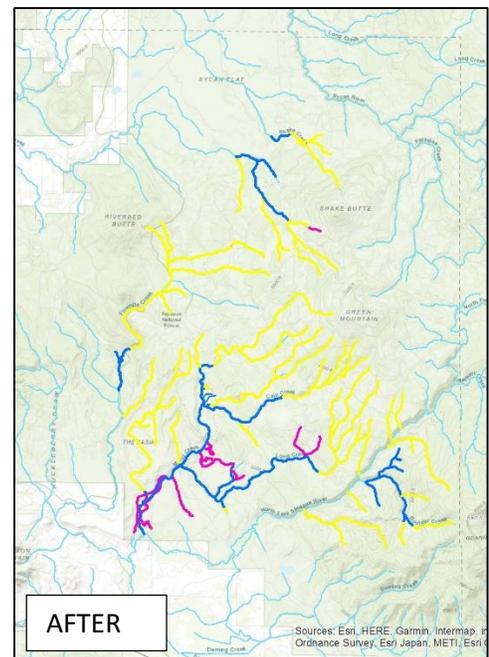
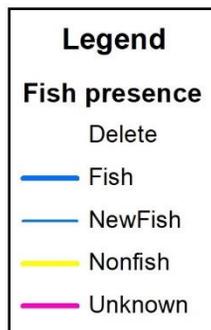
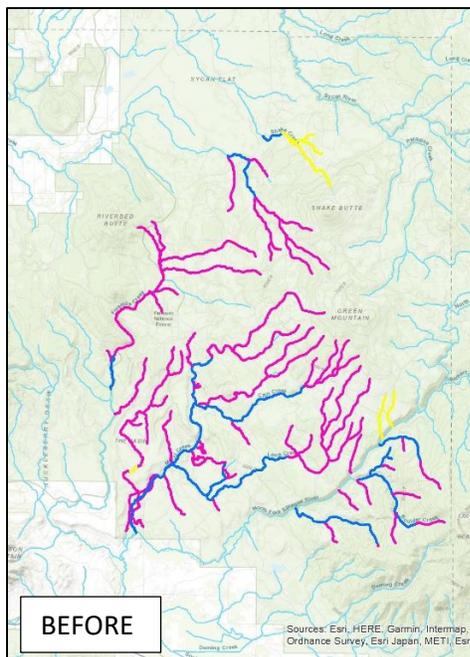
**In 2020, several projects were researched and evaluated for upcoming restoration opportunities. KWP has permitted to extend streambank stabilization and fish habitat improvement along a section of the Williamson River. Other projects include erosion control and fish habitat improvement along Upper Klamath Lake, North Fork Sprague River, and Whiskey Creek. Funding for these projects has been provided by OWEB and USFWS Partners Program.**



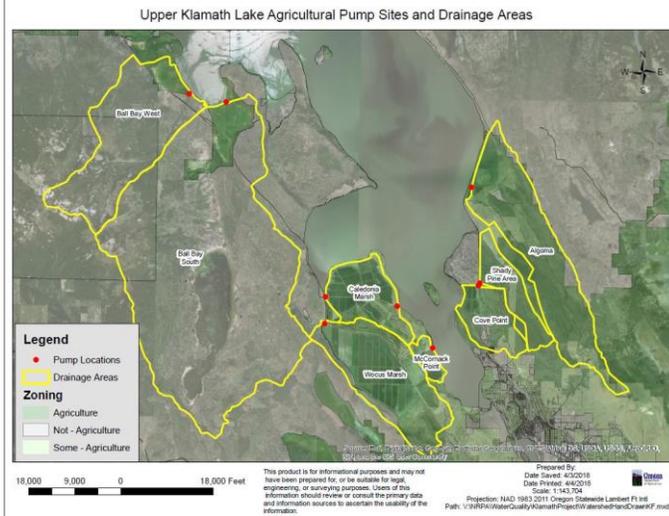
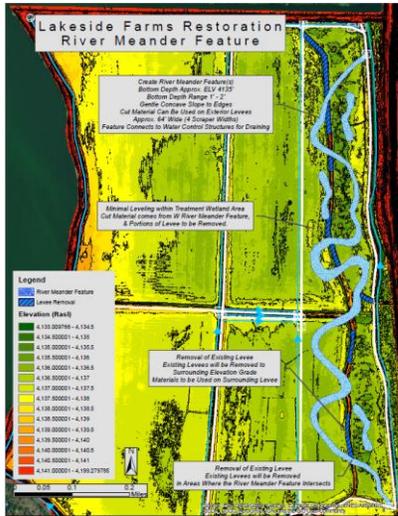
**Oregon Institute of Technology has partnered with KWP to improve methodology for the use of Beaver Dam Analogues and Post Assisted Log Structures, beaver-inspired restoration techniques. This effort includes a study at Spencer Creek utilizing computer modeling, GIS analysis, drone analysis, and field surveys to determine feasibility of addressing stream channel incision, creating more natural stream flows, and improving fish and wildlife habitat.**



**These photos reflect one year of vegetative growth following installation of cattle exclusion riparian fencing on Long Creek, which is designated Bull Trout habitat. This project is a collaboration of KWP, Green Diamond, OWEB, and USFWS Partners Program.**



**Stream Classification Database work continued in 2020, assisting the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife with updated mapping of the habitat characteristics of streams in the county. In 2020, surveys in the upper sections of the Sprague River resulted in corrections to 108 miles of database streams. This work, funded by OWEB, will streamline forestry operations while ensuring the protection of fish and water resources.**

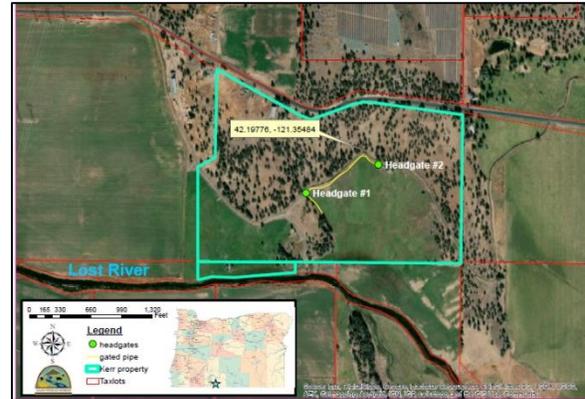


**Water Quality Improvements along Upper Klamath Lake have become a priority in the Upper Klamath Basin and KWP has been involved through restoration planning at Lakeside Farms, identification of restoration opportunities at Modoc Point, and technical assistance support in determining feasible solutions. This is a coordinated effort with many landowners, agencies, and private business interests working together to determine best options for success.**

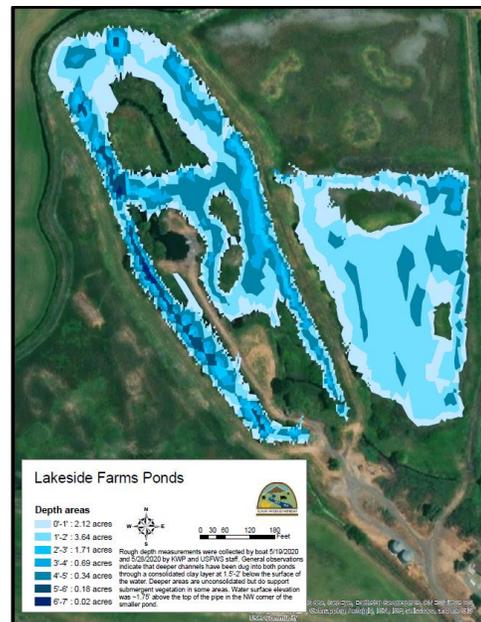
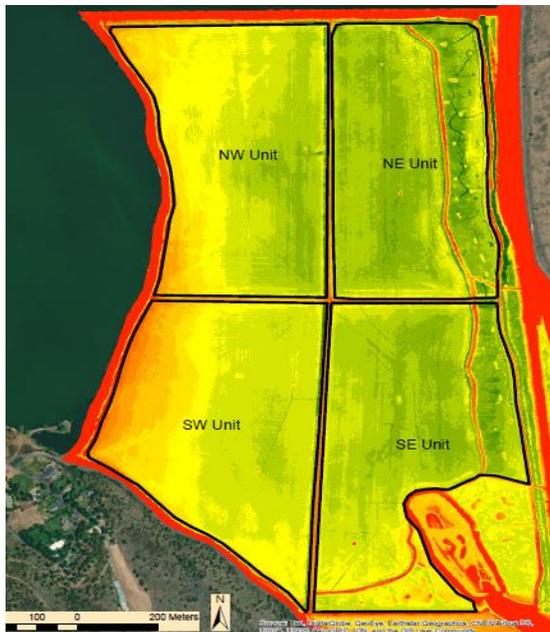


**Delaney Forestry Services, Biological Carbon, and Oregon Department of Agriculture teamed with KWP to utilize IM-11 PacifiCorp funding in an effort to further implement pilot studies for biochar filtration of pumped water returning to the lake, slow filtration through irrigation ditches, and the overall feasibility of using biochar mixes to capture phosphorous and sediments to improve water quality. This project will continue through 2021.**

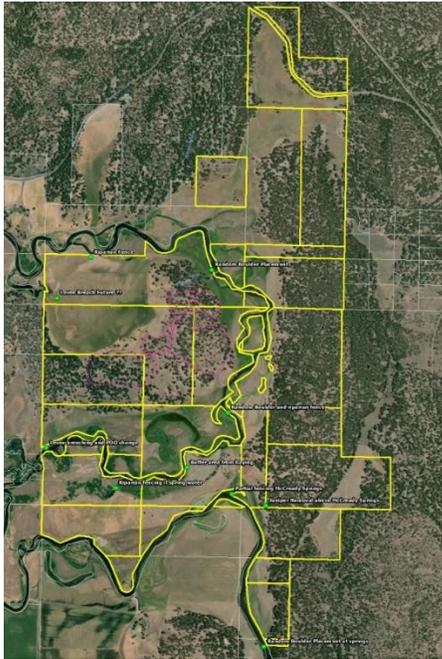




The OWEB funded small grants to KWP for 3 projects in 2020, including development of an off-channel water system, forest health improvements, and a project to convert open ditch to gated pipe for improvement of irrigation practices along the Lost River.



Restoration of reclaimed lake fringe wetlands, including tailwater return improvements, wetland development, and sucker rearing opportunities, is perhaps the largest project funded through KWP in 2020. This project is funded by OWEB, USFWS Partners Program, and local landowners, with technical support from numerous state and federal agencies.



**Improvements to fish habitat and riparian use along the Sprague River is being pursued by KWP with support from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as USFWS Partners Program.**

### **Outreach and Technical Assistance**

Outreach and education are an important part of the technical assistance KWP provides, distributing information to a wide array of stakeholders ranging from facilitators and politicians to funders and landowners implementing projects on the ground. 2020 was a challenging year, with COVID19 drastically changing our plans. Many events were put on hold or scaled back to eliminate concerns. We have hope for continuing programs late in 2021. Following is a list of some of KWP outreach and technical assistance efforts during 2020.

Klamath Watershed Partnership  
Published by Bill Lehman · February 23 ·



### Ranching Resources Seminar

March 12<sup>th</sup> 11:00-3:00  
Chiloquin Community Center

<p><b>PRESENTATION</b> 11:00-12:30</p> <p><b>Grazing Management Considerations in a Dynamic Climate</b> David Bohnert OSU Extension Cattle Specialist</p> <p> Lunch will be provided for those in attendance.</p>	<p><b>OPEN HOUSE</b> 12:30-3:00</p> <p>Stay after the presentation or drop in during the Open House to discuss technical/financial support available, and new programs offered through the Farm Service Agency, NRCS, and Klamath Soil and Water Conservation District. Get feedback from local landowners who have benefited from some of these programs.</p>
--	--

For information, contact Bill Lehman at 541-850-1717 or blehman@klamathpartnership.org



As part of the Watershed Action Planning Team, KWP is leading efforts to provide education, training, and technical assistance opportunities to landowners in the region. In March, we hosted a seminar with speakers from OSU Extension and other natural resource management organizations.

### Chiloquin Community Workshop

#### Wildfire Risk Reduction & Two Four Two Fire Recovery Assistance

Masks and social distancing will be observed

Hosted by Chiloquin Fire & Rescue, Klamath County Emergency Management, & the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership

Thursday, October 1 from 6-8 p.m. -  
Chiloquin Community Center  
140 South 1st Ave.



Learn about financial and technical assistances that may be available to assist with wildfire risk reduction projects such as defensible space and forestry treatments, as well as information for those affected by the Two Four Two Fire.



Representatives from Chiloquin Fire & Rescue, USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Klamath County Emergency Management, Klamath Watershed Partnership, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, & the Fremont-Winema National Forest will be available.



In October, KWP worked with local partners to conduct a community meeting in Chiloquin to share resources available to those affected by the 242 Fire.



**Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership**  
www.KL.FHP.org

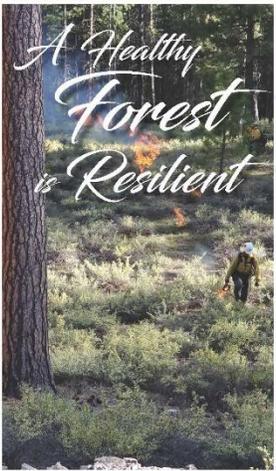
**Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council**  
www.lakecountywsc.com  
Uplands Coordinator: Autumn Larkins  
lakecountywsc@gmail.com  
541-817-5649

**Klamath Watershed Partnership**  
www.klamathpartnership.org  
Project Manager: Leigh Ann Vradenburg  
lvradenburg@klamathpartnership.org  
541-850-1717

**Oregon State University**  
Forest Health Extension  
205 Rowles Dr., Suite C  
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

**NRCS**  
Natural Resource Conservation Service

**The Nature Conservancy**



**Forest Restoration in Lake & Klamath Counties**

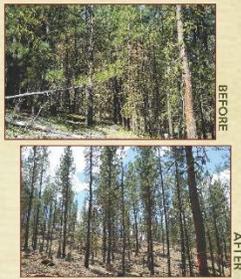
**Working together we are making changes ... towards healthier forests**



**Current Forest Conditions**  
Today our forests in Lake and Klamath Counties are in jeopardy. Insect infestations, overstocked Western juniper, and an altered fire regime have all led to heavy fuel loads. A single lightning strike today has a greater probability of creating a catastrophic wildfire that will burn hotter and more intensely than historical natural fire. Our forests need YOUR HELP to be restored to their once-resilient state and reverse these trends.

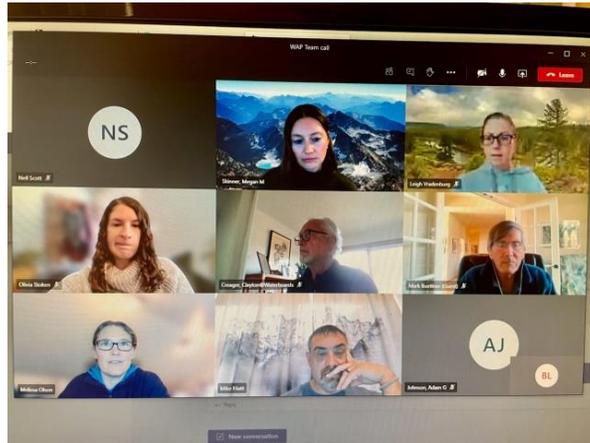
**The Landscape Approach**  
Private landowners, along with state and federal entities, must work together across jurisdictional boundaries to affect change on a landscape level. To restore ecological resiliency to our forests and ensure economic viability of our communities, Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership (KL.FHP) is providing technical and financial support to forest landowners in critical areas with the greatest opportunity for impact across public and private land.

**What Do We Do?**  
The KL.FHP utilizes an 8-step process to implement private forestland restoration (catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw707). We work with landowners to map their forest resources and fire risk at no cost or obligation to them. We can provide information about the condition of your forest and recommendations on how to reduce your wildfire risk, and discuss treatment options best-suited for your property management goals and the landscape.



- What Can You Do?**
- Participate**  
Have your forest land inventoried and mapped to better understand the current conditions and potential risk of wildfires.
  - Reduce Fuels**  
Implement forest thinning, juniper removal, and brush clearing as recommended to improve health and reduce risk.
  - Maintain**  
Develop a management plan for your forest to maintain treated areas through mechanisms such as thinning and prescribed fire.

**KWP worked with Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council and other partners of the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership to produce a brochure and video explaining and promoting forest health projects across both counties. The brochure was mailed to 2,800+ landowners in the Chiloquin project area.**

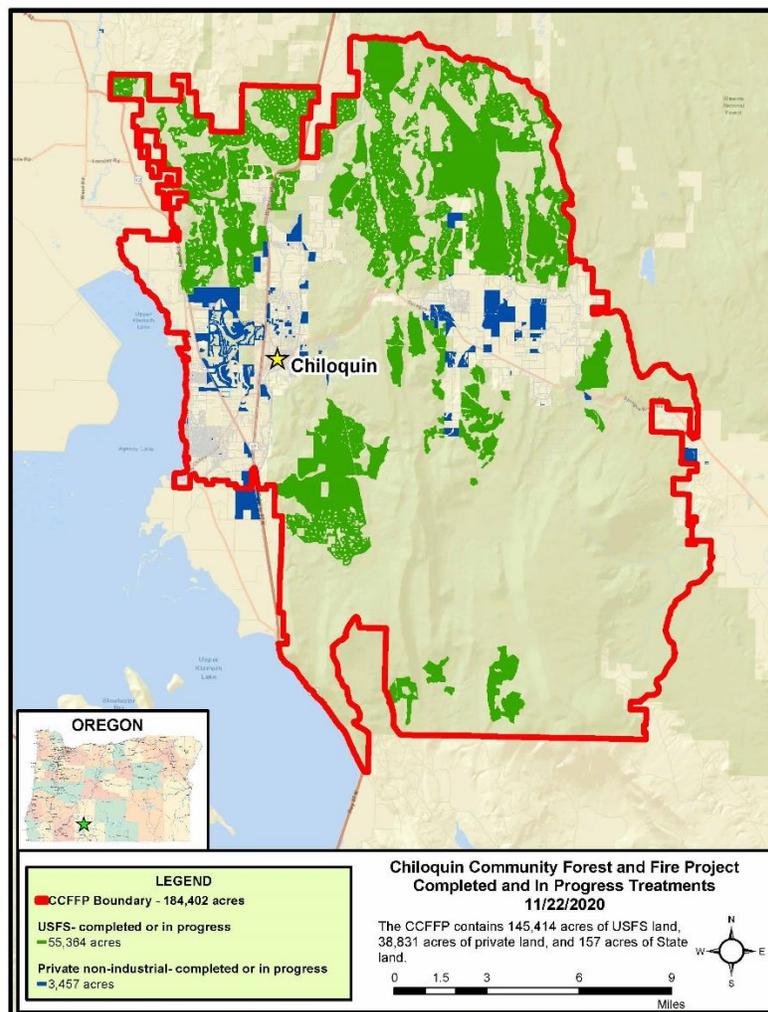


**With the onset of COVID19 in mid-March, educational materials and technical assistance have been provided through more socially distant means. Conference calls, Facebook announcements, flyers, e-mails, and outside meetings have been the norm for most of the year. We continue to provide a variety of flyers and brochures promoting watershed health at the KWP office in the Chamber of Commerce building and work with partners to develop beneficial programs and distribution of information as promptly as possible.**

## ***Upland Watershed and Forest Health***

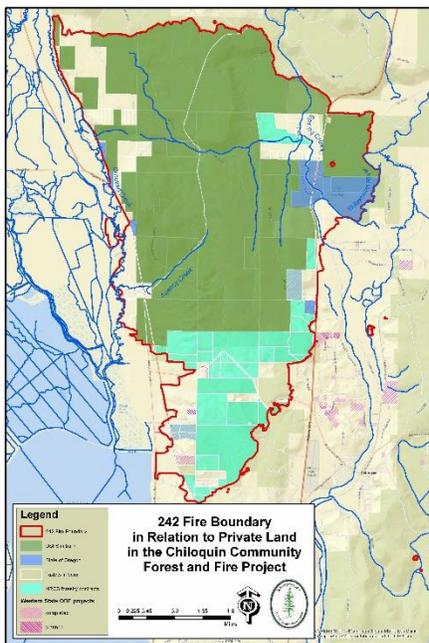
How we manage our upland fields and forests eventually affects our rivers and streams. KWP has made an effort to focus on upland opportunities for improvement, including grant writing and field work to improve forest health, increase juniper treatment, and manage noxious weeds in Klamath County.

**The Chiloquin Community Forest and Fire Project (CCFFP) is a partnership effort between private landowners, federal and state agencies, and other partners. The purpose of the project is to achieve fire resilience, fire response, forest health, wildlife habitat, and grazing objectives on private lands on a landscape-level scale, across boundaries, with Fremont-Winema National Forest. To date, project partners have brought more than \$7 million to the CCFFP for planning, outreach, and treatments.**





**In this second year of an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board restoration grant, KWP treated 156 acres of overstocked, unhealthy forest north of Chiloquin starting in November 2020. These project acres narrowly escaped the 242 Fire in September, and will now be more defensible and resilient should another fire occur. Unique and necessary to this project was a strong collaboration with Collier State Park, the Woodland Park Road District, Oregon Department of Forestry, and private landowners.**



**KWP is working with stream and forest restoration partners in a coordinated response to recovery needs following the devastating 14,473-acre 242 Fire. This fire changed existing forest restoration plans across thousands of acres of public and private forest, and has shifted priorities to protection of stream resources, removal of burned debris, and seeding and reforestation to jump start recovery. These efforts will continue in 2021 as KWP continues to promote forest health and wildfire risk reduction projects throughout the Chiloquin project.**



**KWP wrapped up several efforts on juniper projects in the Gerber area, including grant closeouts, final photos, and pile burning. These projects leveraged several years of outreach and planning by the NRCS, Klamath Soil and Water Conservation District (KSWCD), KWP, BLM, USFWS Partners Program, and ODF to reduce western juniper density on >3,600 acres of private lands to improve watershed health, mule deer habitat, and land productivity.**



**KWP continues to support landowners with noxious weed treatment and information, as well as funding to the Klamath County Weed Program, intended to help manage a variety of invasive upland, riparian, and wetland plants. These programs are funded by the USFS Resource Advisory Committee and the Oregon Department of Agriculture.**

## Sprague River and Keno

Added \$30,000 this summer to continue programs  
2020 totals: 858.1 gross acres; 85.1 net acres treated; 16  
landowners

## Lost River

\$30,000 renewed agreement started 7/14/2020  
2020 totals: 177 gross acres; 38 net acres; 3 landowners

## ODA Yellow Flag Iris

KWP identified a previously undocumented population of noxious yellow flag iris adjacent to Upper Klamath Lake and quickly secured funding for surveys of the lake and treatment. This iris was of concern to the county and the USFWS, as treatment of populations below the lake have become a priority in irrigations ditches and in wetland areas. Surveys revealed no other populations around the lake. Known iris were treated twice in 2020 and will be treated again in spring 2021.

**Stop the spread around  
Upper Klamath Lake!**

**YELLOW  
FLAG  
IRIS**



Yellow flag iris is an invasive ornamental that can be found along waterways. It can clog irrigation ditches and replace native waterfowl habitat. The roots and rhizomes are poisonous to cattle. We are working to identify and control expanding populations around Upper Klamath Lake to reduce economic and environmental damage.

**KEEP WATCH & NIP IT IN THE BUD!**  
Yellow flowers appear from **April-June** when the plant is 3-4' tall. Call to report any yellow flag iris in the Upper Klamath Lake area so that we can work to get it treated!

 **Klamath Watershed Partnership: 541-850-1717**

## **Irrigation Efficiency and Modernization Program**

With the support of Sustainable Northwest (SNW), the KWP Energy and Water Savings Program was established to provide rural Klamath county with on-farm technical assistance, as well as grant funding support specific to energy and irrigation water conservation projects. KWP maintains a list of renewable energy assistance programs specific to irrigation and continues to write grants for these alternative energy options in the Upper Klamath Basin. In 2020 SNW and KWP teamed with Oregon Institute of Technology, Wy-East RC&D, and Lake Country Resource Initiative to continue utilizing USDA grant assistance for landowners interested in assessment and implementation of renewable energy projects.



**Partners discuss landowner efficiency options at a ranch in Klamath County.**



**KWP continues to provide funding of irrigation improvements that save both water and energy for individual farms as well as for residents throughout the county. Sustainable Northwest led 2 field tours in 2020, and we assisted in planning and development of these tours for the purposes of assisting both Project area, and Off-Project area farmers with improvements to their energy conservation. This work will continue in 2021.**



The need to pump and move large volumes of water for effective irrigation requires improvements to energy efficiency as well as options for energy alternatives. KWP continues to support this work.



## **Summary Balance Sheet as of January 4, 2021**

### ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	120,641.12
Accounts Receivable	-150.02
Other Current Assets	3,058.90
Total Current Assets	<u>123,550.20</u>
Fixed Assets	17,959.96
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><b>141,510.16</b></u>

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	-391.02
PPP	26,188.49
Payroll Liabilities	15,885.19
Total Current Liabilities	<u>41,682.66</u>
Total Liabilities	41,682.66
Equity	<u>99,827.50</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>141,510.16</b>