

**PINE CREEK RANCH
WILDLIFE HABITAT AND WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN**



**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE WARM SPRINGS
RESERVATION OF OREGON**

Project History

- 1997: GAP Analysis & OWC Identify Area as a High Priority Mitigation Site
- 1998: Pine Creek Ranch Acquisition Proposal Submitted to BPA
- 1999: Pine Creek Ranch Acquired
- 2001: Wagner Ranch Acquired



Regional Significance

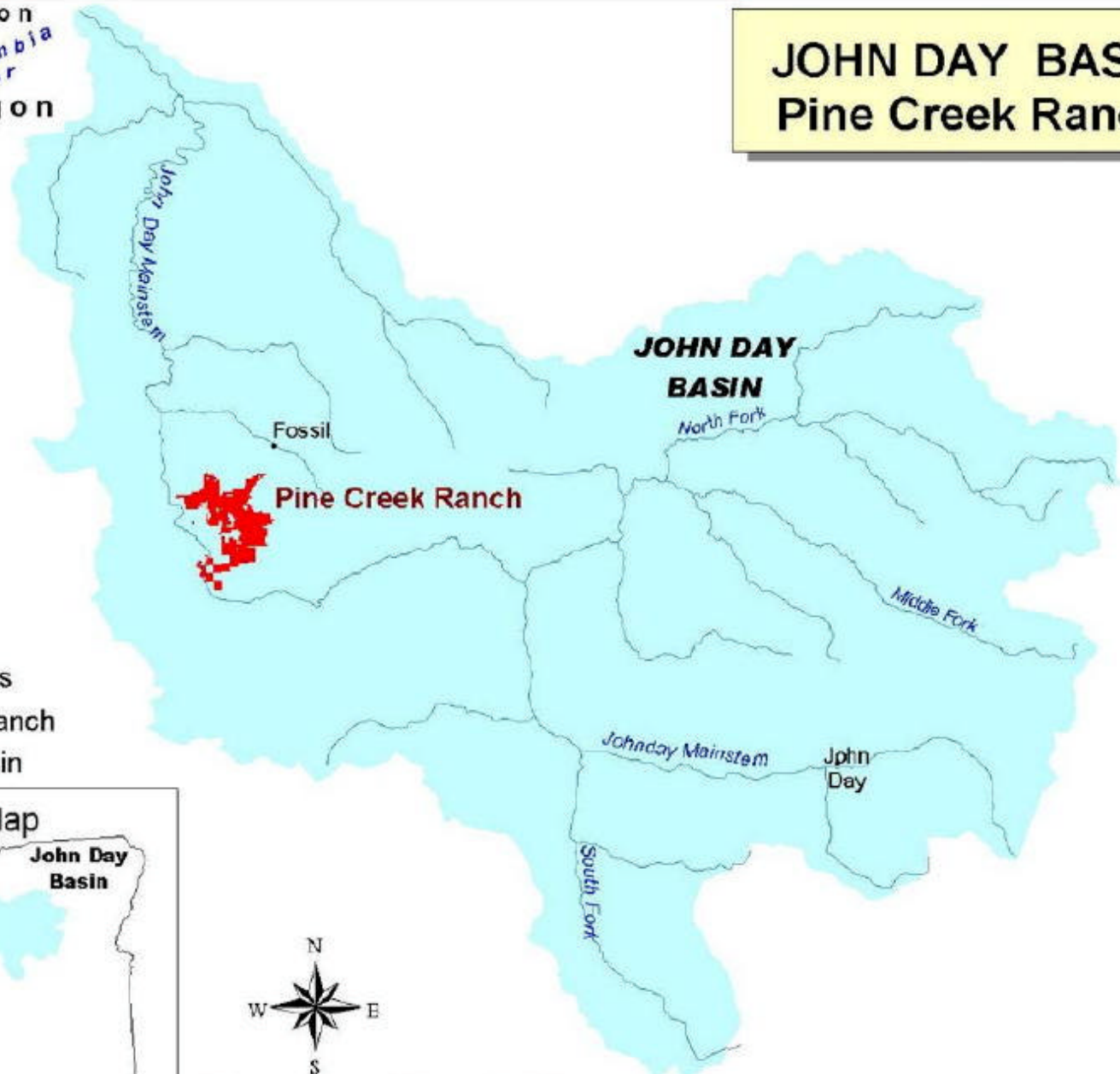


Subbasin Summary:

Habitat Protection and/or Restoration Would Provide the Greatest Long-term Benefit for Fish and Wildlife

Washington
Columbia
River
Oregon

JOHN DAY BASIN Pine Creek Ranch



Legend

- Major Streams
- Pine Creek Ranch
- John Day Basin

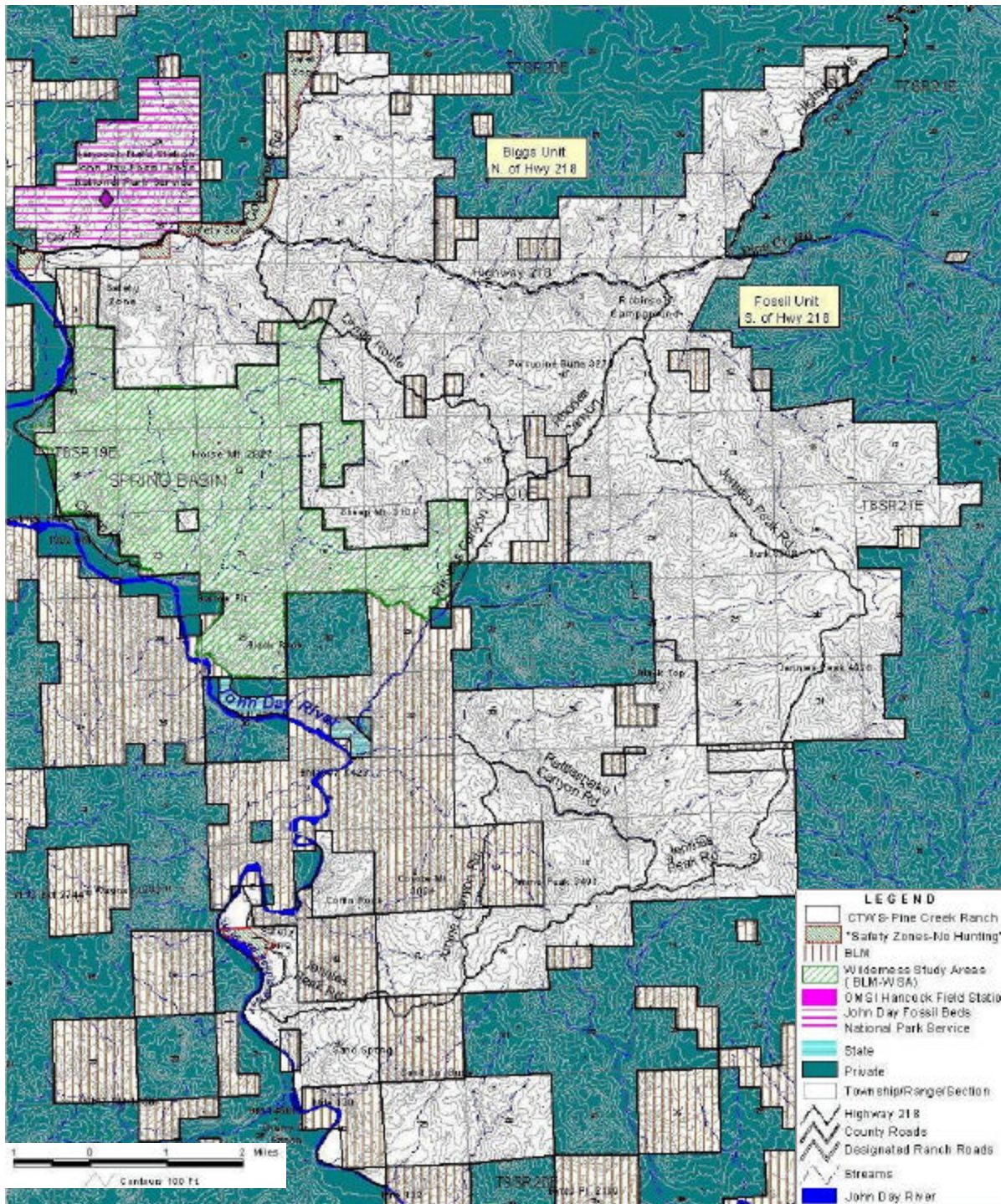
Locator Map



100 0 100 200 Miles

PINE CREEK RANCH

- 34,000 deeded acres
- 10,000 acres of BLM allotments
- 10 miles of Pine Creek
(37% of the watershed)
- 6 miles of John Day River front
- Steep, dissected topography
1300 - 4100 feet elevation
- Predominantly bluebunch
wheatgrass, basin big sagebrush,
and western juniper habitats



WILDLIFE HABITAT AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

- States goals and objectives
- Describes resources and management issues
- Provides guidelines for future management.
- States initial planned actions.
- Adaptive management will allow modifications of management techniques with information gained through monitoring.

GOALS

- Partially Mitigate for Habitat Losses at John Day Pool
- Conserve Native Habitat & Biodiversity
- Restore Ecosystem Functions, Using Passive Restoration Where Possible
- Work in Partnership with Neighbors, Agencies, Conservation Groups, and Educators
- Serve as a Model of Watershed & Habitat Recovery



Regional Significance: Wildlife

- Protection of Key Habitats Connecting BLM Wilderness Study Areas & NPS Lands
- Shrub-Steppe Species are in Regional Decline
- Over 240 Terrestrial Vertebrate Species
- 34 Special Status Species
- 9 out of 10 HEP Species from John Day Pool



Regional Significance: Fish



- Protection and Recovery of Spawning and Rearing Habitat for Summer Steelhead and Redband Trout
- Watershed Recovery and Instream Leasing of Water Rights to Benefit Anadromous Fish
- Meet NWPPC & Subbasin Plan Objectives Through Habitat & Watershed-Based Strategies

Juniper Encroachment



Noxious Weeds



Yellow star-thistle
(Centaurea solstitialis)



Dalmatian toadflax
(Linaria dalmatica)



Whitetop
(Cardaria draba)



Scotch thistle
(Onopordum acanthium)

Annual Grasses



Riparian Recovery



OBJECTIVES

Upland Areas (Section VII)

- Maintain native vegetation and habitats. Maintain or increase native bunchgrass and shrub steppe.
- Maintain vegetation for healthy watershed function.
- Allow the occurrence of natural disturbance processes within the practical constraints of limited land area and altered ecology.
- Reduce encroachment of western juniper into bunchgrass and shrub steppe habitats.



OBJECTIVES

Riparian Areas and Floodplains (Section VIII)

- Facilitate recovery of riparian systems and allow development of desired habitat characteristics.
- Provide quality aquatic and riparian habitats for native fish and wildlife.
- Establish functioning riparian buffers and wildlife habitat by restoring key native vegetation species in historic agricultural fields.



OBJECTIVES

Listed Species (Section IX)

Protect habitats of all listed species as appropriate.



OBJECTIVES

Wildlife and Fish (Section X)

- Manage for native habitats that will sustain populations of diverse native wildlife species, while providing continued hunting opportunities for tribal members and the public.
- Protect, maintain, or increase local populations of native steelhead and redband trout by allowing natural recovery of habitat.
- Eliminate artificial fish passage barriers by replacing problem culverts.



OBJECTIVES

Water Rights (Section XI)

- Restore water rights to instream flows. Utilize water rights on an interim basis as needed for establishment of desired vegetation.



OBJECTIVES

Introduced Plant Species (Section XII)

- Minimize the impacts of introduced species on native vegetation and hydrological function.
- Reduce the potential spread of noxious weeds to uninfested areas and neighboring lands.



OBJECTIVES

Grazing and Fences

(Sections XIII-XIV)

- Allow habitat recovery to occur prior to any livestock grazing on deeded lands.
- Utilize grazing only as a habitat management tool.
- Coordinate management of BLM grazing allotments with Prineville District BLM.
- Work with neighbors to maintain boundary fences.
- Reduce the impact of interior fences on wildlife.

Roads(Section XV)

- Minimize impacts, including erosion and weed dispersal. Maintain only roads necessary for management access. Allow unnecessary road segments to revegetate.

OBJECTIVES

Fire Management (Section XVI)

- Allow wildfires to play a role in habitat restoration and maintenance; consider neighbors' concerns.
- Utilize prescription fires in a safe and appropriate manner to benefit native habitats.



OBJECTIVES

Tribal and Public Access (Section XVII)

- Allow regulated tribal and public access. Restrict access or activities that may harm natural resources or interfere with achievement of management objectives.



OBJECTIVES

Monitoring and Evaluation (Section XIX)

- Accurately monitor and evaluate changes in riparian conditions, upland vegetation, and wildlife habitats. Document the effects of management actions.
- Encourage natural sciences research and education.



Initial Results

- Livestock Removed from 45,000 Acres of Private and BLM lands
 - Strong initial recovery of riparian vegetation
- Noxious weed control with Wasco & Wheeler Counties
- Partnership with Wheeler SWCD / OWEB
 - Removal of passage barrier culverts
- Partnership with Wheeler County
 - “Paleo Project”
- Enrollment in CREP Riparian Buffer Program

Education & Access Program

- Advisory Committee Includes local representatives, ODFW, OSP, BLM, NPS
- OMSI Partnership, over 1500 student-days
- 878 Tribal & Public Hunter-days from 2000-2002
- 262 Hiking / bird-watching days from 2000-2002



Monitoring & Inventory



- HEP
- Vegetation map & monitoring (w/ ONHP)
- Game surveys
- Breeding bird point counts

- Aerial photography
- Water Quality (w/ DEQ)
- Stream flow, Climate (w/ USGS)
- Aquatic Habitat Survey (w/ ODFW)



Long-term Benefits

**Pine Creek Ranch will be Managed in Perpetuity
for the Benefit of Wildlife and Fish Habitat**

