

Wallowa County Vitality Summit

Presenter Questionnaire

Organization: Wallowa Resources
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Mission and Purpose in Wallowa County:

Wallowa Resources seeks to develop, promote, and implement innovative solutions to help the people of Wallowa County and the Intermountain West sustain and improve their communities and their lands. Wallowa Resources contributes to Wallowa County's economic revitalization through investments in natural resource jobs, land stewardship, education and community infrastructure.

Key Metrics/outcomes/impacts for the past year:

- Supported over 45 jobs through direct employment, contracting and business investments.
- Provided outdoor education programming to nearly 40% of Wallowa County's K-12 population.
- Provide noxious weed management and coordination for over 1 million acres
- Facilitate and support elk management efforts (hazing, fencing, hunting) on the Zumwalt in response to landowner request
- Installed woody biomass fueled combined heat and power system at Biomass Campus in Wallowa.
- Installed woody biomass pellet boilers at WR Stewardship Center – reducing operating costs for facility that houses Wallowa Valley Care Center, Veteran's Telemedicine Clinic, USDA offices for FSA, NRCS, SWCD, Energy Trust of Oregon, Freshwater Trust, two satellite law offices and WR.

Current Top 3 priorities/focus areas:

- Complete and implement Lower Joseph Creek Watershed Restoration Projects
- Support build out of biomass campus this summer – which will generate additional employment and benefits back to public and private forest landowners and contractors.
- Pursue with landowners, ditch companies, and other partners (NRCS, SWCD, etc.) opportunities in irrigation improvement and micro-hydro systems.
- Building research and education partnerships with local and regional entities.

Challenges that you most need help with, either from another organization or the community at large:

- Leveraging local resources to compete for state and national funding critical to sustaining operations.
- Communication and education – both locally and to the broader public influencing opportunities in Wallowa County.

Top 3 opportunities you see for the coming year:

- Project opportunities in Lower Joseph Creek Watershed – forest, range and riparian contracts.
- Investments in irrigation / micro-hydro systems.
- Developing new educational partnerships with local organizations and schools to advance K-12 education, and with regional universities and colleges to advance post-secondary education and build a stronger cohort of leaders supporting rural community revitalization.

Number of current active/serious collaborators:

- >75 : federal, state, local partners (including schools and local organizations) and numerous private landowners.

Who would you like to collaborate with more?

- Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Water Resources Department
- Local education groups – school districts, BHF, Fishtrap, etc.
- Forest and ranch landowners and operators.