



# Birch Creek Assessment and Action Plan

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January 2015 Kickoff Meeting  
White Eagle Grange Hall

# Welcome & Partner Introductions

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- Umatilla Basin Watershed Council
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District
- United States Forest Service
  - Portland Fish Company
  - Ecosystem Sciences



# Meeting Purpose

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- Introducing a new planning effort, and why it is necessary
- Take a brief look into the 25+ year restoration history & partnerships within the watershed
- Explain the assessment process
- Discuss action plan development
- Discuss the role of public engagement
- Reinforce the reliance on landowner partnerships

# Agenda Review

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- Background Information
  - What are the known issues?
  - What has been done about the issues in the past?
- Break
- What is the new approach?
- Where will public input be included?
- Moving forward
- Q&A Session

Background information

# Why Birch Creek? Why now?

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**Strong history of landowner cooperation:**  
Numerous projects over more than 25 years

**A vested interest:**  
A solid foundation of technical information  
43 sensitive species within the watershed



**Wild Steelhead Sanctuary:**  
Accounts for up to 1/3 of basin native fish  
Accounts for about 1/5 total return fish  
Identified as a priority restoration area

# What are the known issues for the watershed?

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- Channel and bank stability
- Flooding and flood damage
- Bedload deposition
- Water availability
- Water quality
- Noxious weeds
- Social and economic values



Resident Concerns

# What are the known issues for the watershed?

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- Bedload deposition
- Water availability
- Water quality and temperature
- Fish concerns:
  - Passage
  - Habitat
  - Population
  - Utilization

NR Management Concerns



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Overlay Concerns

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Overlay Concerns

All part of the same picture

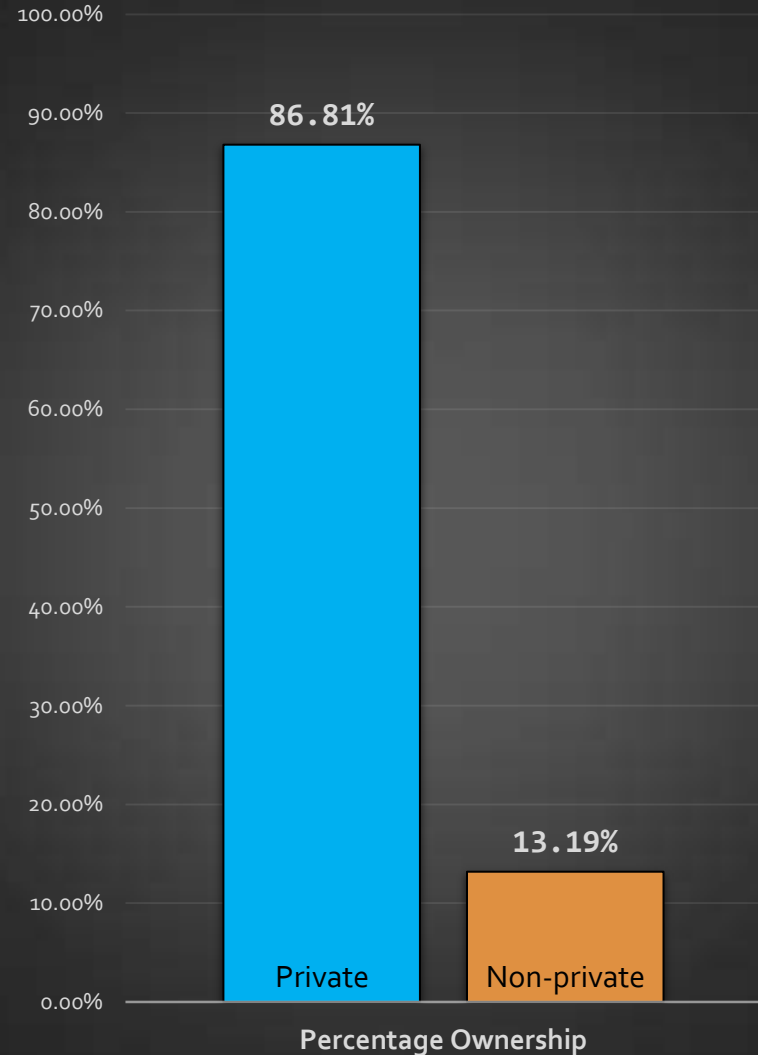
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Human Dimensions

Human Dimensions of Natural Resource  
Management and Restoration of  
the Birch Creek Watershed

NR Management

# How is land managed in the Birch Creek Watershed?

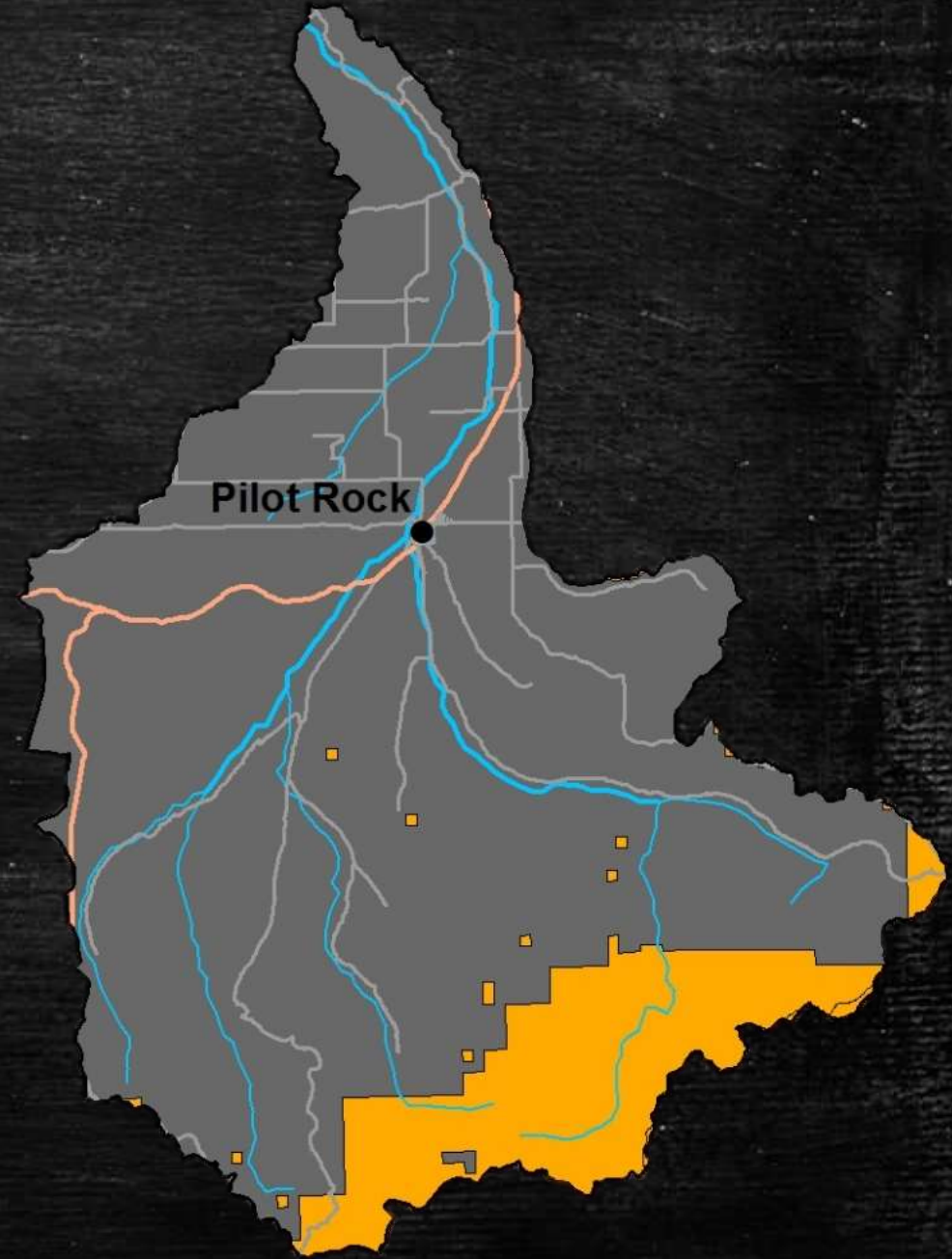


**86.81%**  
**Private  
Ownership**

Total Area: 284.45 mi<sup>2</sup>  
182,050 acres

Private Area: 246.94 mi<sup>2</sup>  
158,042 acres

Nonprivate Area: 37.51 mi<sup>2</sup>  
24,006 acres



Working together is critical for success

