

SHEILA FINZER

Terrebonne, Oregon

My quilt is a product of my imagination that hopefully does justice to the actual headwaters. I was challenged to work predominantly in white as my pieces normally show my love of color. This project is very important to me, to be able to help in this very small way, to contribute to the restoration of the beauty of Central Oregon's Whychus Creek for future generations.

JEAN WELLS KEENAN VALORI WELLS KENNEDY

Sisters, Oregon

My piece "Coming Home", was a family endeavor and it honors the restoration work that is bringing back native fish to Whychus Creek. My son Jason took me to a magical place on Whychus that was my inspiration, six-year-old granddaughter, Livy, took some of the photos I used in conceptualizing the work and my daughter Valori painted the steelhead in the water of the quilt.

JUNE JAEGER

Prineville, Oregon

Exploring my creative inspiration for this piece triggered childhood memories of fishing, swimming and playing on the Metolius with my sisters. Throughout my life I've explored the high country of the Three Sisters and come upon many breath taking scenes. I hope my piece captures the beauty that I've been privileged to experience and that travels in my heart.

CATHERINE MOEN

Sisters, Oregon

We visited a beautiful site together only a few miles outside Sisters and hiked a little-recognized river trail. All the raw, natural, untouched beauty so close to where we live was inspiring. I took pictures and went home with a greater awareness of the special qualities of Whychus. I added fish to my quilt in hopeful anticipation of their return!

JANICE W. HEARN

Sisters, Oregon

The pedestrian bridge over Whychus as it flows through Creekside Park is a landmark of Sisters. I always know I'm home when I drive past it. The bridge has become a visual metaphor for me, symbolizing what the creek means to Sisters and leading to a future when salmon and other fish will leap and play in our waters again. I call my quilt "Bridge to the Future."

PAT WELSH

Bend, Oregon

I was overwhelmed by the beauty of the landscape on our visit to Whychus Creek. I fully understand and appreciate how valuable this area is to the human experience. My inspiration and vision was to capture, in fabric, the diversity of this unique environment, which is so important as valuable habitat for fish and wildlife.

MARY STIEWIG

Redmond, Oregon

I love to work with fiber in unusual ways and am fascinated with nature with its ever-flowing lines. Most of my fiber art is representational of real life. I find myself on a journey with fiber, enjoying the mystery of the process. This has been an enlightening project; contributing to such a worthy cause and enhancing my quilting experience.

SARAH KAUFMAN

Bend, Oregon

I have lived near rivers most of my life. Growing up in Astoria, I watched my dad fly fish for steelhead and cutthroat, while I snagged crawdads in the shallows. Same thing in Juneau, Alaska—only keeping a sharp eye out for bears! Now, living in Bend, my husband and I love river walks, both “tame” (paved) and “natural”...Whychus Creek, for example!

HELEN BRISSON

Bend, Oregon

As we hiked the area, I felt myself trying to see it through the eyes of the Native Americans: how pristine the water, how abundant the fish and how beautiful the forest that surrounded them. I could sense the spirit of the women toting children on their backs through the woods. Are they really there, or is it just the bark on the trees?

BETTY GIENCKE

Bend, Oregon

The orientation and hike provided an 'ah-ha' moment for me at Camp Polk Meadow. This project, to dig a meandering channel through the meadow, would start the process of returning the creek to its original flow and provide quality habitat for fish and other wildlife. My piece has some representative eddies and pools – look closely and you just might find one of those elusive fish.

TONYE BELINDA PHILLIPS

Camp Sherman, Oregon

My heart and my soul belong to the Metolius basin. There was never any question that my focus would be on this beautiful and magical river valley. My piece, "A Metolius Meander," showcases a rustic cabin nestled in among the towering ponderosa, larch, fir and aspen trees that grow so majestically along the Metolius River.

CINDY YOUNG

Brookings, Oregon

We came to a large, flat clearing with huge boulders forming a wall opposite the creek. It seemed like a perfect spot to camp or picnic. I was transfixed by an old tree growing at the water's edge, and wished it could tell us about all the different people who had spent time there in the clearing...the tree knows.

MARY NYQUIST KOONS

Eugene and Sisters, Oregon

As boaters, my family loves to see wild and free-flowing waters. Sadly, efforts to control nature often cause unfortunate outcomes for wildlife. Knowing this projects supports the return of salmon to Whychus is exciting! I dream of seeing our daughter, an extreme kayaker, paddle the Whychus and Metolius. She's the inspiration for "Blue Moon Paddle."

JUDY JOHNSON

Sunriver, Oregon

When I learned that our partners the National Forest Foundation and US Forest Service are restoring Whychus Creek to its former glory, it brought back fond memories of my first visit to the area 45 years ago. I hope my piece, "Deep in the Woods," captures the simple beauty and serenity that will again be Whychus Creek.

DONNA CHERRY

Bend, Oregon

I am always inspired by nature and the beauty of God's creation and I love to depict those elements in my art. The challenge of the collaboration stretched my creativity and helped me grow as an artist. I have a fish fetish and wanted to show the heart of my desire for Whychus Creek in bringing it back to its original life.

CAROL WEBB

Sunriver, Oregon

The river flows its sparkly way through an enchanting winter landscape. Bare branches represent winter willows. I wanted to suggest movement of water, the mystery of the forest and the life beneath the winter cold – I always feel quiet magic there.

DONNA RICE

Bend, Oregon

I designed the layout of the river and oversaw the creation of the quilts. My vision for the last quilt in the series was to have the river wind into a canyon, deep into the beautiful rock cliffs. Taking pictures, and drawing on memories of my hiking experiences, I created an abstract quilt that completes the river mural.