

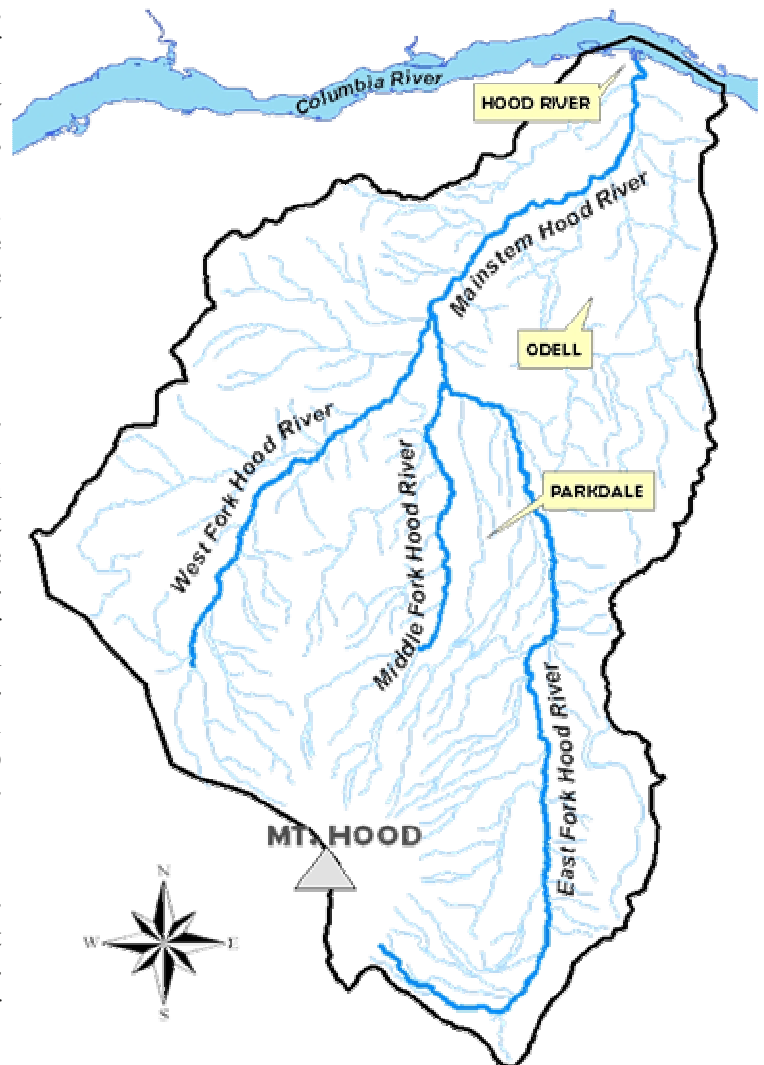
# Living in the Hood River Watershed

If you are a new rural resident in Hood River County, welcome to the watershed. A watershed is the land area that drains to the same lake, stream or river. The Hood River drainage basin, or watershed, covers about 340 square miles between Mt. Hood and the Columbia River. Its west boundary is the Cascade mountain's Waucoma Ridge, and its east boundary is Surveyors Ridge and Fir Mountain. The Hood River has 3 main branches - the East Fork, Middle Fork and West Fork. These forks converge on the west side of the Hood River Valley to form the mainstem Hood River, which joins the Columbia River just east of the City of Hood River.

The Hood River watershed is in a transition area between the temperate marine and semi-arid continental zones. The elevation and climate vary widely within the watershed. The City of Hood River lies at about 160 feet above sea level while just 25 miles away, the peak of Mt. Hood reaches 11,245 feet high. Precipitation ranges from an average of 130 inches per year along the crest of the Cascade mountains to less than 30 inches along the eastern ridgelines, with most precipitation falling November through March. Snowfall is heavy at high elevations and can reach 30 feet deep at timberline on Mt. Hood. The Hood River is a dynamic, glacially-influenced system with steep terrain.

Summer and winter steelhead, spring and fall Chinook, coho salmon, bull trout, rainbow and cutthroat trout inhabit the Hood River and many of its tributaries. See the chapter entitled "Water Resources" for more information on the fish in the Hood River.

## Hood River Watershed



### Hood River



### Watershed Group

Call the HRWG Coordinator at (541) 386-6063 if you have any questions or thoughts related to water quality, habitat, land management or other natural resource management issues *or project ideas* involving your land. Also, see the website [www.hoodriverswcd.org/hrwg.htm](http://www.hoodriverswcd.org/hrwg.htm) for information on Watershed Group meeting topics, dates, locations and articles related to your watershed.

By virtue of living in the watershed, you are now a member of an active and supportive group of watershed enthusiasts called the Hood River Watershed Group (HRWG). The Group is neither a government agency nor an environmental organization. It is a local forum of landowners, irrigation and water districts, fruit growers, sport fishers, businesses and agencies interested in working cooperatively to address watershed restoration, enhancement and sustainable use of natural resources. The group uses four approaches including science-based planning, doing on-the-ground restoration projects, promoting education and providing assistance to the public.

*This article was written in cooperation with Steve Stampfli, Hood River Watershed Group*