

The Freshwater Trust

● QUARTERLY

WATER

REPORT

Q1 
2020



FRIENDS OF THE FRESHWATER TRUST,

For those of you who do not know me or may not have been at the Immerse event earlier this month in Portland, my name is Iván Resendiz Gutierrez. I am an appellate and employment attorney with Miller Nash Graham and Dunn LLP and also a proud member of The Headwaters Council of The Freshwater Trust (TFT).

On March 5, I had the honor of serving as the emcee at TFT's largest fundraiser, Immerse. In addition to fixing rivers and putting donor dollars to work, this team can really bring people together to celebrate TFT. If you were there, thank you for attending. If you couldn't be there, but sponsored the event or supported it in some other way, thank you as well. It takes a lot of time and investment to make an event like Immerse possible. You'll see in the following pages of the report that it was a huge success.

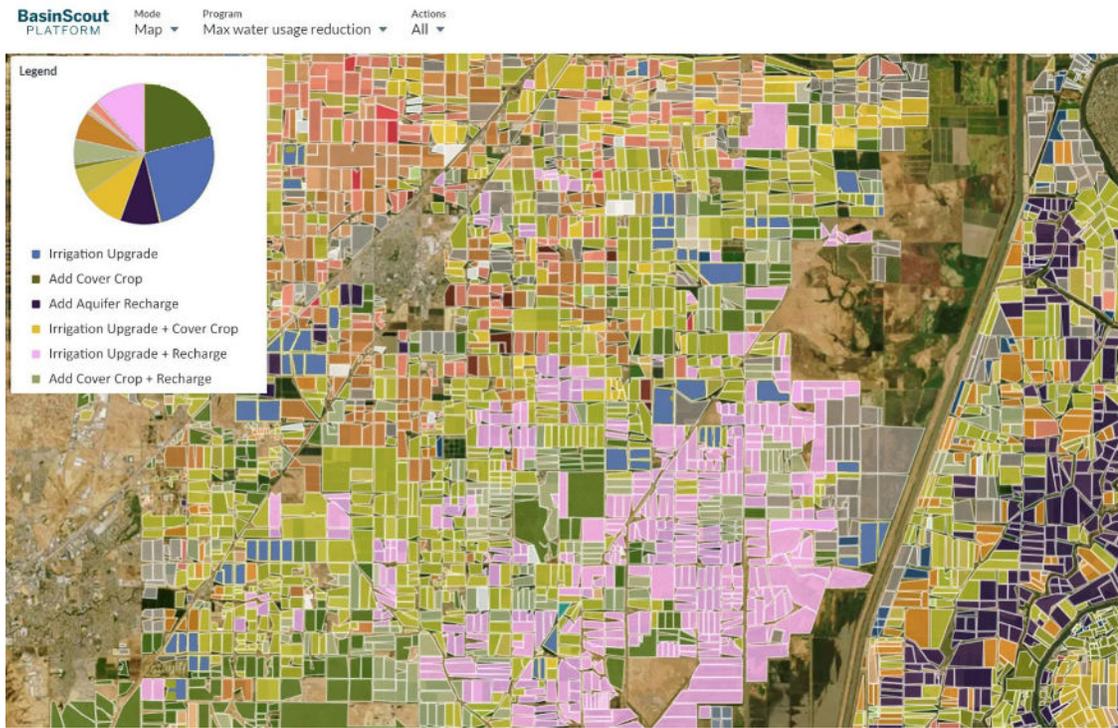
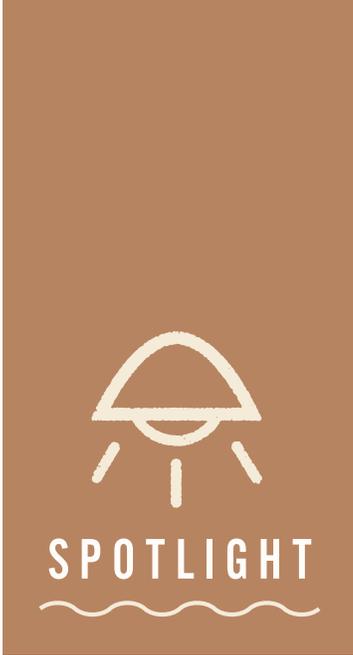
Connection and immersion were not only major themes of the event, they are themes of TFT's work every other day of the year. Having to write a script got me thinking about my own connection to rivers and why I am immersed in this organization's work. It all started with my father. My father is a man of few words. He was born in Guerrero, México and came to the United States in his early 20s to pursue the American dream and create a brighter future for his family. When I was young, my father would work tirelessly so that we could chase our dreams. The little free time he had, he spent with my two brothers and me on the river. He would take us fishing for shad on the Clackamas. We would use the shad as bait to fish for sturgeon on the Columbia. He never said much during those trips, and he didn't need to because the river connected us. As I've grown older and life has gotten busier, I look back fondly on those precious moments with my father

and two brothers, both of whom currently serve in the Armed Forces. I'm fortunate to have had those moments with them and to now spend my time volunteering with an organization that has such an incredible impact on the river that's so important to me. There are a lot of organizations doing similar work, but TFT will always have my support because they can show concrete results. I know where the money goes and that it is being used in the most efficient and effective way possible.

As you enjoy this latest report – one example of how TFT reports back on the use of your dollars – I'd love for you to think about ways you can connect deeper to TFT's work in the coming months. How can you support them a little more? That may be by sharing this report with a friend. It may be by making a donation to help them gear up for a summer of restoration work. It may be by making a reoccurring monthly donation. Whatever works for you, I'd like to challenge you to get a little more immersed with this organization. They're truly remarkable.

Thank you, or as we say at home, Gracias,

Iván Resendiz Gutierrez
Headwaters Council Member
Attorney, Miller Nash Graham and Dunn LLP



New platform for fixing rivers faster

The Freshwater Trust (TFT), a river restoration and water conservation nonprofit, partnered with Upstream Tech, a mission-driven company, to develop a unique technology platform to protect water resources more efficiently and effectively.

The jointly developed BasinScout® Platform efficiently targets high-impact opportunities for restoration or conservation in a watershed. It can be used for designing a basin-wide plan to improve groundwater sustainability, minimize nutrient runoff into a river system, and identify fields ripe for practices that would improve water quality and quantity.

“Integration and speed are the key benefits here,” said Sharon Petras, product manager with TFT. “It is now possible for us to quickly assess the current state of a watershed and generate recommendations for improving water quality and quantity. What’s more, this platform allows us to prioritize the actions by considering cost constraints and conservation targets.”

Upstream Tech and TFT recognized a great need to leverage new technologies, such as machine learning, up-to-date satellite imagery and automation, to accelerate water conservation at scale.

Watershed analysis and conservation planning—a process that currently takes months or years—can now be done in a matter of days using BasinScout Platform.

By using satellite data and machine learning, BasinScout Platform automates the planning process—identifying optimal field-level recommendations to meet conservation goals, thereby saving organizations time while maximizing impact.

In a region with hundreds of thousands of acres, users can hone in on the few dozen fields where conservation actions will do the most good.

These insights will enable users, such as water agencies, natural resource managers and sustainability directors, to confidently make decisions for conservation programs and maximize conservation investments. For example, if a groundwater sustainability agency needed to create an actionable groundwater sustainability plan, they could use the BasinScout Platform to evaluate multiple scenarios with field-by-field recommendations for reducing water usage across their basin. For TFT, it helps in determining who to partner with to fix an entire river basin for the least amount of cost, ensuring dollars go further and to the correct places.

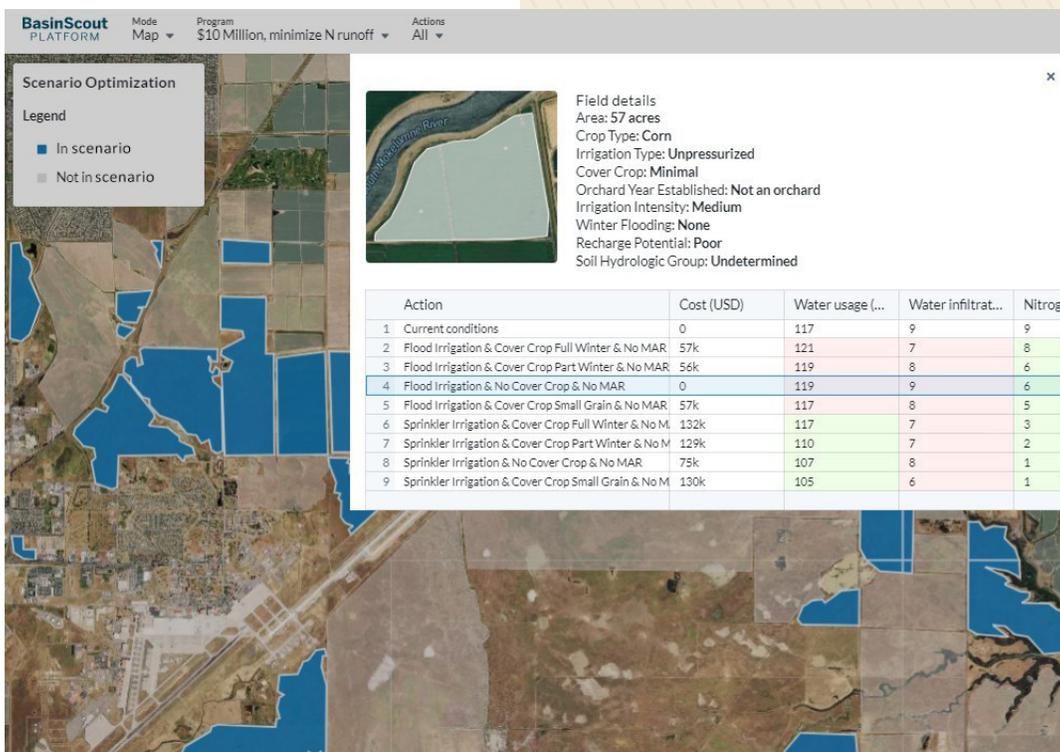
“By analyzing satellite data with machine learning models, we can quickly identify field-level management practices and aggregate up to the watershed level,” said Marshall Moutenot, Upstream co-founder. “This process had previously been time-consuming and costly. Now, the combined approach can expand from small geographies, such as an irrigation district, to larger regions, such as an entire state, to create a more comprehensive and transferable approach to addressing critical water issues.”

The first iteration of the platform has been designed to discover the best places to improve agricultural practices for water conservation in California, such as irrigation improvements, managed aquifer recharge, and cover cropping. The state of California mandated specific groundwater targets in 2014, after recognizing the need to better monitor water use. This tool aims to empower ongoing conservation planning efforts with a tailored plan for how to achieve sustainability goals in the years ahead.

TFT and Upstream Tech are already working to bring these tools to other geographies, including Oregon and the Midwest.

“This platform was developed with the goal of providing those who are making decisions about the future of water with a more accurate roadmap to achieving sustainability,” said David Primozich, conservation director with TFT.

“We don’t just want recovery of freshwater ecosystems, we want to make sure we are squarely on the path toward sustaining that recovery with smart management. This technology makes that easier.”



THANK YOU TO THE MANY INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES THAT MADE IMMERSE POSSIBLE.



MARCH 5TH, 2020
THE REDD ON SALMON STREET

\$170,000
RAISED

26
SPONSORS

350
ATTENDEES

86
NEW DONORS

21
BOTTLES OF BOURBON CONSUMED

25+
SOCIAL MEDIA SHOUTOUTS

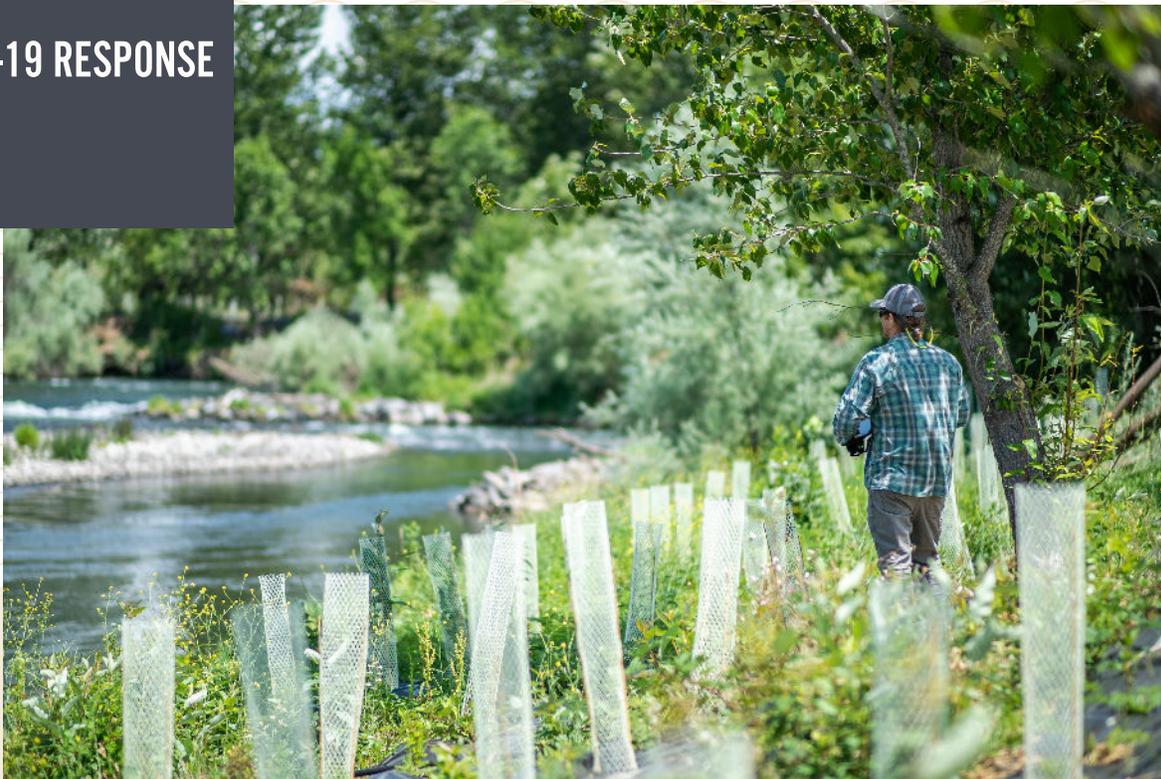
9
BREWERS CHALLENGE PARTICIPANTS

4
RIVERS IN OREGON BETTER OFF

THE FRESHWATER TRUST



COVID-19 RESPONSE



TFT and its subcontractors are closely tracking all federal, state, and local laws and orders pertaining to the protection of human health and safety during the COVID-19 outbreak. With respect to Oregon restoration projects, because of the outdoor, dispersed nature of our work, neither The Freshwater Trust nor its local restoration partners fall into a category of businesses shut down by Oregon's recent executive order. Our subcontractors are a vital aspect of the outdoor and watershed health restoration economies across the state, and we will continue to implement on-the-ground projects for as long as permitted. While doing so, all employees and partners are complying with social distancing practices and guidelines to ensure the health and wellbeing of all involved. The rest of TFT's work is capable of being done remotely. Non-field staff in Oregon, Idaho and California are working remotely, and our offices will remain closed for the foreseeable future.

r e a d | Our latest Streamside blog posts

w a t c h | The latest videos about our projects on Vimeo & YouTube

m a k e | A monthly gift to help us prepare for a busy summer restoration season

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