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**Date:** July 5, 2019  
**To:** Environmental Quality Commission  
**From:** Richard Whitman, Director  
**Subject:** Agenda item M: Tour of 6 Ranch  
July 18-19, 2019, EQC meeting

**Why this is important** The commission has expressed an interest in field visits and tours, when possible, as part of the regular EQC meetings. On July 19, the commission will tour 6 Ranch, a diversified ranch located in Enterprise.

**History of 6 Ranch** 6 Ranch, located in Enterprise, has operated since 1884 as a family ranch. They offer customer-direct sales of specialty beef in addition to retail sales of beef and other ranch products locally near Enterprise.

6 Ranch participates in the Conservation Stewardship Program, operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service. Through this program, 6 Ranch implements modified grazing plans to promote healthy and biodiverse ecosystems on their lands and manages the riparian areas of the property to increase bird habitat and protect the soils and waters of the ranch.

Liza Jane McAlister is the current owner and operator of 6 Ranch. Since 2018, McAlister has been a member of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, applying her expertise earned through work as a land manager, rancher, educator and civic advocate in northeastern Oregon.

**Wallowa River restoration** In 2007, 6 Ranch participated in a multi-entity project to restore two miles of the Wallowa River on the ranch property. The project was implemented between 2007 and 2010, and resulted in a partnership among OWEB, 6 Ranch and the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program to enhance riparian areas along a two-mile stretch of the Wallowa River. Much of the Wallowa River near Enterprise had been channelized or relocated by railroad companies and other landowners. The project restored the Wallowa River to its natural course, and implemented in-river and streamside improvements to fish and wildlife habitat.

In 2014, 6 Ranch completed a second phase of the restoration, again in collaboration with the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program. The second

phase built upon the success of the initial project, to further improve fish habitat, channel form and function, channel and floodplain interaction and riparian condition. 6 Ranch manages its cattle and ranch operations to protect the improvements to the river, and ensure continued success of the restoration and improvement efforts.

**EQC  
involvement and  
next steps**

There is no commission action associated with the tour. Following the on-ranch tour, commissioners and tour participants will reconvene the regular meeting for Item N, to discuss their feedback on the projects at 6 Ranch and opportunities for the Wallowa Subbasin and other waterbodies around the state.

**Supporting  
materials**

Link 1: Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program: <https://www.grmw.org/>

- 6 Ranch Phase I (2007): <https://www.grmw.org/data/project/2/>
- 6 Ranch Phase II (2014): <https://www.grmw.org/data/project/47/>

*Report prepared by DEQ staff from project partner materials*