



100 Valleys

A Quarterly Publication for the Supporters of Umpqua Watersheds, Inc

An Oregon 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit
Winter 2011 | Issue #53

From the President

It's been a busy year, and the horizon is full of challenges and opportunities. As 2011 draws to a close, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the past year and to take look toward the future.

Umpqua Watersheds had another great year gathering the faithful and celebrating the spirit of community as we worked to shepherd our fragile planet through another trip around the sun. Great food, music and thoughtful discourse were enjoyed at our Annual Banquet, the Dance for the Salmon, and River Appreciation Day. And the roaring success of the 2nd Annual Umpqua Brew Fest makes Umpqua Watersheds the proud owner of the coolest event in the county! Huge thanks to those of you who attended and especially to all of the staff, friends and volunteers that made it all happen...

In July, we announced the hiring of our new executive director, Randy Rasmussen, and just last month, we welcomed a new AmeriCorps*VISTA member, Mike Rooney, into our hard-working crew. I've spent many years with Umpqua Watersheds, and I can honestly report to you that the board, staff and volunteers have never worked more smoothly and harmoniously than we are right now. I feel truly blessed to work with such an awe-inspiring group of dedicated professionals (who know how to get the job done AND when a party is in order!)

We continue to draw attention to the unacceptable hemorrhaging of jobs from our county as we ship freighter loads of raw logs to China. In the coming year, we will be actively exploring changes in the tax code to provide incentives to process local forest products in local mills to keep jobs and dollars at home.

We continue to believe that the prevailing economic model is outdated and in need of reinvention. Big Timber has had a stranglehold on our livelihoods for 3 generations – it's time to empower local entrepreneurs and small businesses to break out of that straitjacket so that many can make a living instead of a few making a killing.

We continue to fight for more responsible management of public AND private forest lands, because endangered species are blind to ownership boundaries. We will carry on our efforts to establish a fair and level table for stakeholders to gather around to find local solutions to local problems.

And we continue to be ever grateful for the generosity of our members who roll up their sleeves and pitch in when there's work to be done, and who cut loose with some of their hard-earned cash to help us keep the lights on, pay the rent, and keep on doing the conservation, restoration and education work that makes Umpqua Watersheds such a positive force in our community.

Thank You!

Ken Carloni, *President of the UW Board of Directors*

LNG

Sometimes an activist must wonder why we keep up the fight against political decks stacked by the industrial big boys. Last week those of us involved with questioning and halting the proposed Jordan Cove Energy Project realized some big victories. While the project is not officially dead, it is reeling from serious rejections from elected officials and government agencies and this project is from the biggest of the industrial big boys. News on this issue is breaking daily and by the time this newsletter is printed there could be several sudden developments.

Mary Geddey has been keeping a blog posting on the activities of the Coos County Commissioners and the Port of Coos Bay as these groups maneuver in the shadows and back rooms of government. As the story continues to evolve Mary is there to point out the contradictions. Go to Mgx.com to keep up with the latest. She has carefully tracked and documented the dealings of the Port and shown them to be either shady or incompetent or both. They have quit talking about LNG and their new economic development scam is a coal loading facility with the coal arriving by rail. Ms. Geddey can also see who looks at her postings and as state and federal agencies are frequenting the blog site. As these agencies read over the actions of the Port they have made serious demands for changes in the way the Port does business. This past week the CEO of the Port of Coos Bay just announced a sudden resignation to take the job of City Manager of a hamlet in Oklahoma for half the wages. He is getting out while the getting is good. Mary is directly responsible for serious scrutiny, real changes, and improvements.

Governor Kitzhaber and Attorney General Kroger responding to citizen concerns over the recent revelation the Jordan Cove LNG terminal would be used to export domestic natural gas, on Dec 2 filed a motion with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to set aside their approval and order on the project. "The motion states" the Jordan Cove Project no longer has a basis to satisfy the Natural Gas Act public interest requirement" and "if the project proponents wish to develop the Project to export domestic natural gas, as well as import, they must apply to the Commission (FERC) for that purpose, and the Commission must make its public interest determination based on the stated benefits of export versus the adverse impacts to land-owners, health and safety, the environment, the expected increase in the price of domestic natural gas, impacts on the economy, impacts on the country's energy independence, national security and other adverse impacts." Moments ago we got an e-mail that the Dept of Energy (DOE) just approved Jordan Cove's right to apply to the same FERC for the right to export. FERC hearings, when and if they occur will be historic events between State and Federal agencies.

Continued on page 3

Our Mission: *Dedicated to the protection and restoration of the ecosystems of the Umpqua Watershed and beyond.*

Travel Management Plan

Umpqua Watersheds is laying the groundwork for a positive outcome related to the Umpqua National Forest's "Travel Management Plan." A revised draft plan is expected to be released for public review and comment by March 2012. The plan will determine which roads and trails are to be designated for use by off-road vehicles (ORVs), which include motorcycles (i.e., dirt bikes), all-terrain vehicles, Jeeps and other 4-wheel drive vehicles.

The 2005 Travel Management Rule, issued by the U.S. Forest Service after extensive public comment and with the support of national ORV advocacy groups, required each of the Nation's 155 national forests and national grasslands to: 1) largely eliminate damaging cross-country (i.e., off-trail) motorized travel and; 2) issue a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) that identifies those roads and trails on which motorized travel will be authorized. The MVUM is to be made available to the public free-of-charge. After a "phase-in" period, Forest law enforcement officers will have discretion to issue citations to persons it finds driving ORVs off designated routes. This is a long-needed reform in the management of growing ORV use that—similar to hunting permits—places the onus on the user to know what areas are off-limits in terms of motorized access.

Forest personnel have been working on the Travel Management Plan over the past three years. Umpqua Watersheds and its partners have been engaged in the process each step of the way. Our interest stems from the large body of scientific literature that demonstrates that ORVs can leave lasting physical impacts on the landscape that includes denuded vegetation, eroded soils and hillsides and, thus, reduced water quality in local creeks and water bodies. Noise from the use of ORVs can drive away wildlife, threaten calving, and unnecessarily deplete winter energy reserves of big game and other animals. ORV noise also can shatter and ruin the recreational experience sought by most hikers, hunters, horseback riders and other "quiet" recreationists.

Establishing ORV routes within wildlands and sensitive backcountry areas could prevent future designation by Congress of these landscapes as Wilderness. Many important Roadless Areas in the Umpqua National Forest are proposed to be criss-crossed with ORV trails, including the Bulldog Rock, Mt. Bailey and Williams Creek Roadless Areas. If such ORV trails are approved via the Umpqua Travel Plan, it would prove difficult to counter the hue and cry of ORV industry lobbyists if and when Oregon's congressional delegation seek more protective remedies for maintaining these Roadless lands.

Umpqua Watersheds will continue to closely monitor and influence the Travel Management Planning process. While everyone has a right to enjoy our public lands, we firmly believe that it must not come at the expense of wildlife, wildlands and the majority of forest visitors who prefer quiet recreation.

Randy Rasmussen, *Executive Director*

In Memoriam
Carole Gale
1944-2011

Umpqua Watersheds Volunteer 2005-2008
Volunteer of the Year 2006

Conservation

Added to Interior Secretary Salazar's O&C lands initiative, almost as an afterthought, the Coos Bay Wagon Road "Pilot" Project continues apace.

On November 25, in company with Francis Etherington and others, I visited portions of the 654.38 acre site previously marked for harvest or retention by the non tribal timber managers of the Coquille Nation, in cooperation with the Coos Bay District, BLM. Of this total, some 120.58 acres are slated for regeneration (a modern iteration of the infamous clear cut). Originally proposed by Drs. Franklin and Johnson, of North West Forest Plan fame, as a means to encourage the limited amount of early seral habitat on the Western Oregon landscape, this portion of the pilot paradigm has morphed into something different. Access to merchant able timber was always one goal of Secretary Salazar's initiative. However, now that some two-hundred trees per acre will be replanted in the open harvest areas, a more industrial-like component seems to have been added.

On our visit, we failed to see what environmental benefit would accrue to threatened marbled murrelet habitat from the proposed conversion of a late seral hardwood stand (mostly red alder) to a conifer plantation. Included for falling, in this scenario, were some quite large and healthy Port Orford Cedars, a species itself under attack by a persistent root disease, and several under story myrtle and maples. Another area of concern, was the proposed density management harvest of healthy looking conifers in a riparian reserve.

Having personally observed the less than enlightened harvest practices of some of these same timber "managers" on the already extant Coquille Forest, I remain deeply skeptical of their underlying motives in the Coos Bay Wagon Road proposal, especially once it is expanded to the nearly 60,000 acres in which the tribe has expressed an interest. On receipt of our observations, Dr. Norm Johnson expressed concern and scheduled a field trip to the pilot site to see for himself. The Coos Bay District comment period is closed as of 12/12/11. Stay tuned.

Patrick Quinn, *UW Conservation Committee Chair*

Save the Date!

The 16th Annual Umpqua Watersheds Banquet and Silent Auction will be held on February 11, 2012. There was such positive feedback after last year's event being held at UCC, it has been decided to head back there once again! We are still in the planning stages right now, but will be moving forward at a rapid pace, once the holidays are over.

We are honored to have Dr. Cassandra Moseley, director of the Ecosystem Workforce Program, at the University of Oregon (<http://ewp.uoregon.edu/>), lined up to be our keynote speaker. The Ecosystem Workforce Program links ecological health, economic prosperity, and democratic governance through our applied research and policy education; all of which are germane to life here in the 100 Valleys of the Umpqua.

If you are interested in being part of the banquet committee, please contact board member Chris Rusch, or the UW office.

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LNG Continued from page 1.

Please take a minute to e-mail the Governor, Attorney General Kroger and thank them for taking an important position to protect private property rights, the environment and yes, our economy.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has rejected the Jordan Cove permit for impacts on fish in particular until the applicant gives them the information they have repeatedly requested. From back channel communication with people in a number of agencies they are fed up with Jordan Cove feeding them long vague answers to the specific questions made by the agencies. Jordan Cove has tried to bully the agencies and give them hogwash instead of real answers. This Federal agency has lead the pack in saying NO APPROVAL!! until we get satisfactory answers. Since the applicant does not know what they are talking about when it comes to the fisheries this is going to be a big problem. The other agencies are watching

If this is not enough, Senator Wyden is raising serious questions about how the export of domestic natural gas will affect the many domestic businesses that use natural gas too. The Department of Energy is conducting investigations into what these effects might be and projecting them into the future. Gas prices would certainly rise and could double in the immediate future if export is allowed. Many domestic industries are saying wait a minute! Our cost of business will go up significantly. Congressman DeFazio is seeking information about how this pipeline is adversely affecting land values. He is thinking about legislation concerning the use of Eminent Domain. All of these elected officials deserve praise and support for standing up in defense of Southern Oregon. I wonder if it is a coincidence that they are all Democrats.

All in all this poorly conceived project is getting negative attention because of the many unpaid activists who have kept up the pressure and pointed out the numerous flaws and contradictions in this proposal. Political leaders are keeping an eye on the occupy movement as well. The use of eminent domain to take the right of way coupled with the applicant's arrogant approach to dealing with the regulatory agencies greased by public outrage at a profoundly flawed process is bringing elected officials out into the open to question to need for Jordan Cove. Give them the praise they deserve.

Jordan Cove is not over by a long shot but it is in real trouble. From all over the State of Oregon dozens of citizen activists or every age, type and stripe of life, as well as some wise and hard working attorneys have hung in there to fight Jordan Cove and Oregon LNG up in Astoria. Some people were part of the early organizing and others have joined later in the fray. Some people have had to back off as life and reality calls their names but others were there to step forward and

take their place. These recent events are a result of all those efforts no matter how small or when they got there. We intend to stay with it until it is finished and are working to gather a wider base of support. One of the best things you can do to help stop the Jordan Cove and pipeline is to give Umpqua Watersheds a generous donation. We have key members of the resistance on our board and your donation gives UW the chance to show up and tell our story. There are many worthy groups and causes but Umpqua Watersheds is who stands up for where we live and charity begins at home. Please be generous.

Richard Chasm, *UW Board Member*

Outreach Corner

With the help of Randy and Ken, Outreach has finished the letters for the year-end donor and membership drives, which are underway. If you have not received your letter and envelop by the time this newsletter gets to you, please contact the UW office. Part of the Action Plan and Goals for the Outreach Committee for 2012 is to increase both our general and business memberships. So please, help us meet (AND exceed!) our goals, and get those membership envelopes back!

The Outreach Committee will meet the last Wednesday of every month, at the UW office, at 6:00 PM. This will be prior to the monthly WOW meeting, with the intent that after, we can all go over and hang out with Ms. Applegate. The door is open for you to be part of both committees; so please, come on in!

The 2nd Annual Umpqua Brew Fest

"It's all about the Water" was once again, the theme for the 2nd annual Umpqua Brew Fest. Celebrating clean water, craft beer, and sustainable living in southern Oregon's hundred valleys of the Umpqua, this year's Umpqua Brew Fest brought almost two dozen breweries and over 30 different beers to the Douglas County Fairgrounds, and the over 2000 attendees got to enjoy those brews!

The event was expanded this year to a two-day festival, and featured live music by the Hotqua String Band, Dubious, A Strange Attractor, and last year's hit band, Volifonix. With beer-friendly food put together by former UW board member Kathy Shayler, and many exhibitors stationed all around Douglas Hall, there was more than just beer to enjoy!

We are already looking forward and starting to make plans for next year's Umpqua Brew Fest. If you are interested in being part of the planning committee, please contact UW board member Jasmine Filley, or the UW office, and be prepared to hit the ground running come January. Next October will be here before you know it!

Your Membership Matters

Thank you for your membership to Umpqua Watersheds – your contributions are vital for our work to protect the watershed we all love. We hope that you will continue to support Umpqua Watersheds' work by renewing your membership when your renewal notice arrives in the mail. You also may renew your membership on our secure Web site, Umpqua-Watersheds.org



Get Involved! Join a Committee

Wild On Wilderness Committee Meetings

When: Last Wednesday of Every Month, 6:30pm
Where: Mariachi Loco Mexican Restaurant, Downtown Roseburg

Restoration Committee Meetings

When: 3rd Tuesday of Every Month, 5:30pm
Where: McMenamins Roseburg Station Pub

Education Committee Meetings

When: 2nd Tuesday of Every Month, 5:00pm
Where: Chi's Garden Restaurant, Downtown Roseburg

Outreach Committee Meetings

When: Last Wednesday of Every Month, 6:00pm
Where: Umpqua Watersheds Office, Downtown Roseburg

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Please Join as a business endorser, \$125 for one year - All Contributions are Tax Deductible. Call: 541.672.7065



16th Annual
Banquet & Silent Auction
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