

100 Valleys

Summer 2000

A Quarterly Publication for the Supporters of Umpqua Watersheds

Industry Locks up Public Forests!

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office in Coos-Bay is proposing a new timber sale, called the **Cedar Creek Timber Sale with 189 acres of clearcuts**, on the Coos River, located about 20 miles northeast of Roseburg. One of the old growth forests proposed for clearcutting is **only one mile east of where a clearcut landslide killed 4 people in 1996 in Hubbard Creek**.

UW has not seen many BLM timber sales in this area because there is not much public forest here. Generally, BLM land is "checker-boarded" with private industry land -- every other one square mile is publicly owned and managed by BLM. But in this area of Douglas County, there is a hole in the checkerboard. Decades ago when this forest land was being divided up, Weyerhaeuser scored a big, solid chunk, extending roughly from Hubbard Creek to Coos-Bay. It is called the **Millicoma Tree Farm, 290,000 acres managed under the weak laws of the Oregon Forest Practices Act**, almost all converted from old-growth to clearcuts and tree plantations.

On the east end of the Millicoma Tree Farm there are some widely scattered parcels of publicly owned old-growth forests, managed by Coos-Bay BLM. These are the parcels that BLM is targeting for clearcutting in the Cedar Creek Timber Sale.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires BLM to disclose to the public everything about the proposed sales on our land, including the right to look at the proposal. BLM is currently asking you for your opinion (called Scoping).

Even though we have the right to look at the proposed clearcuts, Weyerhaeuser refuses to allow us access, and BLM is standing up for Weyerhaeuser's rights over

ours. Weyerhaeuser has placed formidable gates to every road that leads into the Millicoma Tree Farm, and posted No Trespassing signs. Weyerhaeuser denied UW's request for access.

Back in the 1960's, BLM and Weyerhaeuser made a deal. **Weyerhaeuser was allowed to block public access to any citizen wanting to use public lands** within the Millicoma Tree Farm. However, if BLM decided to sell the public forests for logging, Weyerhaeuser would provide access to timber executives who wanted to bid on it.

One Time Only!

Access to Our Public Forest

June 20 8am

Please call and notify BLM and let them know you are coming.

(541) 751- 4249

In the 1970's, NEPA was enacted, which requires full disclosure of public forest timber sales to all citizens, not just to the timber executives. In spite of this, Coos-Bay BLM is now claiming their Weyerhaeuser deal trumps NEPA, and the public cannot have complete access to the Cedar Creek Timber Sale. Coos-Bay BLM has even stated that they are taking NO steps to bring their Weyerhaeuser agreements into compliance with current law. It is easier to lock out the public while keeping the gates open to timber executives.

Coos-Bay BLM has reached a very limited compromise with Weyerhaeuser, and succeeded in getting their permission for a quick, one time only, public tour. Weyerhaeuser is unlocking their gates only for government vehicles. BLM told UW this tour will only happen during working hours, regardless if most of the interested public can NOT make it during this time. BLM and Weyerhaeuser will restrict the tour to only one day. Since the proposed sale is over 1,000 acres, widely scattered in 5 separate forest units, BLM stated they can only make "brief stops" at each forest because they must return to their office without incurring overtime costs. There would be no time to inspect most of the old growth forest boundaries, stream side reserves, and other public old growth not seen from the road, etc.

Coos-Bay BLM made it clear that the deal with Weyerhaeuser has **NO provision for public access**. Should we feel lucky Weyerhaeuser is allowing us to visit our imprisoned public forests?

Coos-Bay BLM will conduct this auto tour for any interested citizen on **June 20**. If you are interested in driving through the vast Weyerhaeuser holdings behind their locked gates, with brief moments to see the last remaining old growth forests, call the numbers in the center box of this article. If you can't make it on that date, ask BLM to escort you on another day. ☹

For more information on the BLM Cedar Creek Timber Sale, including aerial photos of the denuded watersheds containing these isolated patches of old-growth, see:

<http://www.umpqua-watersheds.org/blm/BLMcoosbay.html>

Submitted by Umpqua Watershed's Public Forest Monitor, Francis Eatherington

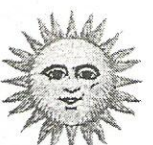


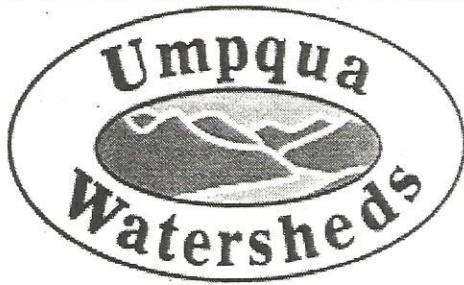
inside

Summer 2000 Hikes!

Umpqua Updates: Right View, Donegan Roadless Areas
From Our Supporters: Notes from the Trail & other Hike Stories
"Working with Watersheds" A Workshop by Jim Long

page 3
page 4
page 5 & 10
page 13





Umpqua Watersheds was incorporated as a private non-profit organization in 1995. Its members are residents of the Umpqua Basin who are dedicated to protecting and restoring the watersheds of the Umpqua River Basin. Many of our past and present, Board of Directors are: forest management professionals, forestry technicians, health care professionals, small business owners, and educators. We build recreational trails, fall and mill timber, and sit on a number of community committees and councils.

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Executive Director's Notes

Dear Supporter,

What an exciting privilege it is to be a part of Umpqua Watersheds' development. The growth and successes that our young organization have accomplished are a credit to us all.

Your contributions to the environmental challenges, we face in our watershed, continue to be inspirational to our board members, staff and volunteers.

That's why I'm asking you to speak out for our trees and rivers in the Umpqua. Everyday opportunities present themselves in the public arena.

Your environmental protection point of view can be presented by writing "**Letters to the Editor**" to your local newspapers; **phone calls** to elected representatives; and my favorite "**one on one**" with your neighbors.

Protection subjects of the day:

- ~ Protect **WILD** Roadless Areas; home to threatened and endangered species.
- ~ Restore native fish runs to wild rivers and their tributaries.
- ~ Re-license North Umpqua Hydro-Project following today's science.
- ~ Protect water quality for fish, wildlife, and communities.
- ~ Diversify our community's economy for our future.
- ~ Concerns about trail fees on public lands.
- ~ Strengthen the Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA); in order to guarantee public safety and salmon restoration.

Please share with your community, personal stories of why you support protection of the Umpqua. Your voice needs to be heard.

Everyday, I feel fortunate to work with you and Umpqua Watersheds protecting the environment we call home. These shared goals are what brought me to Oregon over thirty years ago. To work with my neighbors is always an honor.

Thank you for your support,

Penny Lind, Executive Director of Umpqua Watersheds

Send Letters to the Editor of the News Review, Register Guard and the Oregonian.

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The Public Forum
PO Box 1248
Roseburg, OR 97470
bsmith@oregonnews.com

Register Guard

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PO Box 10188
Eugene, OR 97440-2188
RGLetters@guardnet.com

Oregonian

Letters to the Editor
1320 SW Broadway
Portland, OR 97201
letters@news.oregonian.com

June 22 Your Voice Counts

Decisions Being Made Now On the Fate of Our Wild Forests

If you want to protect our last remaining wild forests for you, your children and future generations, the most important thing you can do is make your voice heard **June 22**. From **5:30-8pm** at the **Douglas County Library**, the Forest Service will be accepting input to determine the degree of protection, if any, to grant our last untrammeled forests.

Last year, in response to broad, vocal support for National Forest protection, President Clinton directed the Forest Service to develop a plan to safeguard the remaining roadless lands in our National Forests. In response, Forest Service Chief Dombeck has issued for public comment a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) that contains several alternatives for managing our undeveloped National Forests. The alternatives range from protecting our roadless forests from destructive activities to not protecting them at all. The Forest Service will only choose a final plan that truly protects our wild forests if the public supports strong protection during the comment period. This hearing is your chance to give an opinion on the fate of wild public forest lands.

Roadless areas represent our last undeveloped forest lands. In the Umpqua National Forest, the roadless areas are islands of natural habitat in a sea of roads and clear-cuts. Our Umpqua public forests contain 1.5 million acres. Eight thousand miles of roads dissect this land, leaving only 109,709 roadless acres inventoried by the Forest Service. Once they are gone, they can never be replaced. These roadless areas provide us with clean drinking water, habitat for fish and other wildlife, places for family recreation and spiritual renewal, and protection from flooding and landslides. Their economic value as recreational assets far outweighs their value for timber production. These roadless areas are currently unprotected, making them vulnerable to logging, road building and other damaging activities.

The current proposed Forest Service plan would effect only roadless areas greater than 5,000 acres. The following are roadless areas greater than 5,000 acres that would be effected: Bulldog Rock, Calf-Copeland Creak, Canton Creek, Cougar Bluff, Donegan, Fairview, Last, Limpy Rock, Mt. Bailey, and Williams Creek. The following are roadless areas less than 5,000 acres that would not be included in the plan: Bitter Lick, Castle Rock, Fish Creek, Hardesty Mountain, Jackson Creek, Lonesome Meadow, Medicine Creek, Rolling Grounds, Sherwood, Skimmerhorn and Thirsty Creek. **Only 2% of the acres in Douglas County are protected as Wilderness (Boulder Creek and Rogue-Umpqua Divide) --making the point it's not much.**

Over the last two decades, nearly a million acres of wild roadless National Forest lands have been logged or roaded each year. Along with the loss of wild forests comes lost recreational opportunities, lost habitat for fish and wildlife and lost sources of clean drinking water. Despite what most people

See **Public Supports Road Moratorium** (Continued on page 9)



Summer Hikes!



July 8th - Raft the River!



Rafters will put in at Amacher Park at 9am and float down to River Forks Park. Bring your own life jackets and rafts.

July 21st - Stewart Mine Slideshow

Friday before the HIKE Larry Tuttle of The Center for Environmental Equity will use an educational slideshow to show how mining can degrade a watershed.

July 22nd - Stewart Mine

Hike the ridges in the upper reaches of the Steamboat watershed for an overview of the effects of patented mining claims, inactive mines, and current and potential mine sites.

(See page 4)

Aug. 5th - Cougar Bluffs



Enjoy breath-taking vistas of the many valleys of the North Umpqua. from this 5000+ acre Roadless Area.

Aug. 20th - Pond Turtle Tour



Explore the South Umpqua's Western Pond Turtle habitat. Hikers will also go to Alligator Lake and Deer Lick Falls.

Sept. 9th - Lemolo Lake

Learn about USFS's plans to log over and near hiking trails in a small unprotected Roadless Area near an important fishing and recreation.

Sept 23rd - Mount Bailey!

Discover one of the Umpqua National Forest's largest unprotected Roadless Areas. Three hours hike to get to the top from the trailhead! Meet at 8am

For more info: **672-7065** or email: **uw@teleport.com**

Hikers will meet behind Douglas Courthouse near Deer Creek at 9am unless otherwise specified.

Umpqua Updates

Right View Forest:

The Final Chapter

It has been a long, hard path for the Right View Forest. Most of the forest has been cut. By the time you read this, the protesters will have left the sale and trees yarded and hauled to the mill. UW can claim no victories for this sad, sad place. But we can feel good for the 33 trees that were saved by the protesters, and we are somewhat vindicated by Roseburg Bureau of Land Management's public apology for illegally logging parts of the Right View Timber Sale.

In 1995, the same year salmon were first listed as endangered, the BLM sold Right View Forest to Herbert Lumber.

In April of 1998, Judge Rothstein ruled in federal court that Right View did not comply with the Northwest Forest Plan, and revoked the Biological Opinion (BO) that allowed BLM to incidentally take endangered fish. The BLM decided to use a loophole, the 1995 "Salvage" Logging Rider, to log Right View Forest anyway. The "Salvage" Rider allowed BLM to violate all environmental laws.

In 1998 the BLM allowed two clear-cuts in the forest and almost immediately the hillside slide away.

In July of 1999 the tree protectors moved in and established a tree-sit, 100 feet up in an old-growth Douglas Fir tree, they named Madre Loca, in the one forest unit remaining uncut.

On March 14, 2000, Roseburg BLM allowed Herbert Lumber to begin cutting the trees around the tree-protectors anyway. Dozens of law enforcement officers were on hand to protect the loggers from the one, frightened, teen-ager sitting up in the tree.

Afterwards the tree-protectors refused to leave because they knew, as soon as they did, their home for the past 8 months, as well as the surrounding safety buffer of trees would be cut down. Now, their lives were more threatened because of the danger of a tree blowing over from the edge of the buffer.

But apparently their lives were not the

See **Illegal Logging** (Continued on page 12)

Hikers Discover Natural Rock Arch near Donegan RA

The original plan was to hike the Donegan Prairie Trail in the southeast portion of the Tiller Ranger District, adjacent to the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness, but there was snow on the road, stopping us far short of the trailhead. However, the alternative that we chose was just as rewarding for the good-sized group of about 20 people.

The first stop was to view the tallest sugar pine tree in the world, 265 feet tall. To get an idea of the diameter of the tree, eight people joined hands and made a circle around it.

The second stop was Cow Horn Arch near the trailhead to Cougar Butte. The vehicle that I was riding in was low in gas, so we didn't go to the Arch, but others said that it was about 50 feet high and very cool and quite unique for Douglas County.

On the Cougar Butte Trail, we hiked through several different habitat types--everything from old growth Doug-fir, second growth Doug-fir growing back after a natural fire, to mountain meadows and springs to small cut-over areas. We saw the markings in the stumps that told us that the trees were cut a long time ago when loggers used cross-cut saws. Someone in the group told us that these trees were probably cut down as the loggers went up the mountain, laying on the ground like shingles on a house. Consequently, the logs cut at the top of the mountain would roll down the mountain over the logs. This cut-over area has not recovered -- there is only brush growing there now.

The trail went up in elevation from 4300 feet to 5500 feet, so we saw a change in the types of trees and other vegetation. The lower elevations were

See **Donegan Hike** (Continued on page 12)

Slideshow

Friday - July 21 - 7pm

With Larry Tuttle at Library on Hwy 138

Mining on Public Land

Mining in the Steamboat

The Umpqua River and its sub-basins are critical reservoirs of clean water, intact forests, and natural diversity. Nonetheless, U. S. Forest Service management plans covering the North Umpqua Ranger District are preempted by past, current, and future mining operations. Fragmentation of habitat and degraded water are insured by nearly three-hundred active, several-hundred inactive, and an unknown number of future mining claims. The basin is also affected by roads serving existing and future mining operations.

Withdrawing the North Umpqua from new claims helps to protect the Steamboat and other North Umpqua drainages while maintaining the private property rights of existing claimants. Claimants would be required, however, to prove that their claims are valid legally and economically before mining; invalid claims would expire. Patenting (the conversion of public-lands mining claims to private ownership) also has significantly affected portions of the North Umpqua. The current patenting prohibition must be renewed annually.

Former Deschutes County Commissioner, Larry Tuttle is the President of the Center for Environmental Equity a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect public land, water and wild places from mining degradation.

Take - A - Hike Saturday July 22

Hike the ridges in the upper reaches of the Steamboat watershed for an overview of the effects of patented mining claims, inactive mines, and current and potential mine sites. Although part of the watershed has been withdrawn from the filing of new claims, there are nearly 300 active, and several hundred inactive, mining claims represent potential future mines.

See next page for schedule...

From Umpqua Watersheds' Supporters

Please email or send articles, poems or quotes to: Umpqua Watersheds PO Box 101, Roseburg, OR 97470 uw@teleport.com

Hiking the Old Growth of the Diamondback Timber Sale

It was the second Saturday in April when Patrick Starnes of Umpqua Watersheds led 22 people, including 11 children, on a hike to the Diamondback Timber Sale, land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). We visited two of the five units of the sale, which is located about 11 miles northwest of Sutherlin. The first forest unit was small, approximately 27 acres, but included several incense cedar trees and mammoth Douglas fir trees over 400 years old.

One incense cedar tree had more than 20 holes drilled by pileated woodpeckers, in search of insects for food.

As the group hiked down a steep slope, several hikers noticed the very fertile soil. Someone commented, "I would like to take some of this home and put it in my garden!" The soil was very dark and airy, common in old growth forests, from the busy microbes creating important organic material.

Some of the Douglas-fir trees bore the signs of historic forest fires. The bark had a mosaic effect of black and brown up and down the bottom portion of the trunk. It was a very unique characteristic, one that I have never seen before. The very thick bark protects Douglas-fir trees from light-intensity forest fires. Some of the hikers went up to these gigantic trees and touched the thick bark, wondering what these trees had seen over the past 400 years.

Some of the beautiful plants we saw in this forest included several trilliums in full bloom, sword fern, Oregon grape, yellow violets and snow queen. As is typical in old growth forests, lots of moss was growing on the forest floor, as well as on the trees both alive and dead. I felt like I was in a room with wall-to-wall carpeting. Several species of colorful fungi were found on some down logs. Alectoria lichen attaches itself and hangs from the trunks of standing trees like hair on a man's leg.

Patrick found a nice flat area at the edge of this unit for the group to eat lunch. He told us about a rare moss that was found in this unit, as well as a red tree vole nest and a wood rat nest. These small islands of old growth are so precious to me and many other people. ❀

Former Forest Service biologist, Christine Masters, now volunteers at UW's office and is a regular nature columnist for Umpqua Watersheds' quarterly, "100 Valleys."

The Land of My Father

Steve Erickson has taught hiking on the Umpqua for several years. This essay is the second of a two part series continued from the Spring 2000 edition of "100 Valleys."

His affection for the land and the native forests he had known would eventually move to my father to leave the farm and study forestry at Oregon State University. Completion of his studies were followed by a call to serve in the allied forces of the Second World War. When the war had run its course, the collective energy once focused on defeating the axis powers was suddenly turned inward. New found technological advances in resource extraction and processing were coupled with a huge demand by recently returned G.I.s eager to build new homes to accommodate an impending baby boom. At the same time, the disappearance of native forests easily accessed by navigable waterways, like the lower Columbia, moved industries' gaze toward the Umpqua. These areas in Oregon were typified by more rugged terrain, slower growing trees, and government ownership. Until this time, national forest and BLM lands seemed to hang suspended, awaiting an uncertain fate. This would all change in the 1950s.

It was as this drama began to unfold that my father brought his new family to the Umpquas, to Roseburg, a town naively vying for the title of "timber capital of the nation." Here, almost two million acres of native forest stood quietly facing the winds of change. For the rest of his days, my father worked as a forester for local mills and managed the flow of public timber to their log decks. Although he never voiced it, I believe in a sense he had come "home." He had returned to a place where once again he could bathe in all that is ancient and native. As you can imagine, there is a paradox in most foresters' stories. My father was drawn to his profession out of a deep respect and affection for the land yet his mission was to transform native forests into more "productive" industrial tree farms.

This never diminished his love for the land nor did it prevent him from passing that on to me. The most powerful tool, he used, was simple. He took me to and immersed me in the native forests. As it is said, *some of the greatest teachings are transmitted without words...one need only be open to receive them.*

Although my father is gone now, the farm of his youth remains in the family, the town, although larger than it was, is still small, a part of it continues to crowd the tidewater tributary. The gently rising slopes of the coast range are no longer host to the majestic forests of a lifetime ago. A carpet of third rotation industrial tree farms stretches to the horizon in all directions. I often contemplate the three generations that have come to inhabit the land since the first pioneers and second wave of immigrants settled the area. I wonder how their lives might have been, had the great forests been left, at least in part, to flourish. I remember my fathers words "...they're all gone now...they rivaled the redwoods...I wish you could have seen them...you'll never know..." ❀



Thank You...

To all who volunteered for the
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Bike Ride**

Special thanks to: Lesa Potter & Clivonne Corbett

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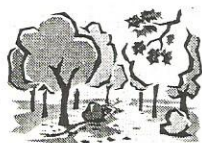
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Robert O. Hoehne

In this world which is so respectful of economic necessities, no one really knows the real cost of anything which is produced. In fact the major part of the real cost is never calculated; and the rest is kept secret.

Debord, from The Society of the Spectacle

Your Comments to the Chief...

Forest Chief Michael Dombeck will be taking YOUR public comments all year...



"It is vital that the most protective measures possible are made now to prevent the further destruction of our last natural areas. Please work to protect Oregon forests! God Bless You."

Sara Butcher, Salem, Oregon

"Preservation of wilderness is one of the fruits of civilization. Freedom cannot exist without wilderness. Where else can people go to feel completely free of the encumbrance of everyday life?"

Ed Cooley, Elkton, Oregon

Please send YOUR Roadless Proposal comments to Umpqua Watersheds
PO Box 101, Roseburg, Oregon 97470 For more info go to : www.ourforests.org

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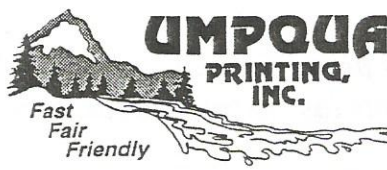
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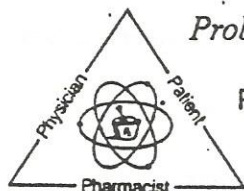


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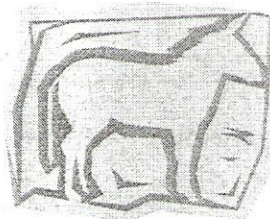
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Protecting our Natural Resources

I have taken the opportunity to hike in the woods with Umpqua Watersheds several times this past year. Each group of hikers roams the land appreciating the great outdoors, and the groups seem to expand on every successive hike. Hiking patrons become fans of protecting resources and the tour guides always help promote deep conversations.

However, as more people enjoy our wilderness hikes, we the people make more impact on the land. While ten people can successfully wander without breaking a new path, fifty people cannot avoid making some noticeable impact. When we move the scenario from the Umpqua National Forest to our national park system, and multiply the numbers 100 fold, we begin to understand the scope of an issue that needs to be addressed.

The national parks belong to all the people. But the promotion by national media leads everybody to Yosemite, Yellowstone or the Grand Canyon. Here in Oregon, the location is Crater Lake. As we decide to move more land into national monuments and roadless areas, we need to figure out a means of turning people onto the beauty of nature in lesser-known places. When we teach no remnant camping, we teach people how to become aware of causing environmental damage on a personal level. We can all learn skills like trail maintenance that add up to promoting natural splendor.

Recently, the huge fire in New Mexico demonstrated misguided federal forest policy. When the controlled burn went awry, the administration in knee-jerk fashion declared a moratorium on controlled burns on federal land all over the country. It does not make me feel safer to know that slash on the ground today, which was scheduled to be burned during a wet spring, will instead be this summer's forest fire fuel. Can we figure out a way to harvest through thinning and then burning a lesser volume of slash?

Our federal natural resource managers are undergoing a paradigm shift. Instead of managing lands for harvest, grazing and mining, we are asking them to manage ecosystems for tourism, preservation and wildlife use. Our goal as environmentalists has to be encouraging sustainable use of natural resources, on the public and private lands alike. We cannot always rely on lawsuits to get our public forests managed properly, we need to be active in living our legacy. ☿

*Written by Dr. Lenmy Schussel who is a local chemist.
He is an alternate on the Umpqua Basin Watershed Council.*

Public Supports Roadless Moratorium

(Continued from page 3)

ple believe, more than 52% of our National Forests have been impacted by decades of forest clearcutting, oil and gas development, mining, and other industrial uses. These 90 million acres are crisscrossed with 383,000 miles of official roads, more than 8 times the U.S. interstate highway system. Just 18% of Forest Service lands are protected.

Voters say **Yes** to National Roadless Area Protection



- Survey results concerning over 1 million acres of roadless areas
- 69% support
- 47% strongly support
- 23% oppose
-
- 86% anglers support
- 83% hunters support

Source: Mellman group 1999 survey

A recent poll indicates that 76 percent of Americans favor a proposal to protect all National Forest roadless areas 1,000 acres and larger. In a statewide survey, Oregon voters favored protection of roadless areas by a 2-to-1 margin. If the plan is done right, more than 60 million acres of our National Forests in 38 states would be protected from road building, logging and other destructive actions.

These important points can be made in your public comments:

- Prohibit road building and logging in all national forest roadless areas.
- Prohibit not just "commercial logging" but also any other removal of living or dead trees from roadless areas.
- Protect roadless areas from off-road recreational vehicle use, mining and other environmentally damaging activities.
- Create no exemptions, including the Tongass, which is America's largest and wildest national forest and the heart of the last great temperate coastal rainforest on earth.
- Don't limit permanent protection to RARE II or forest plan inventoried roadless areas--include areas identified in the Southern Appalachian Assessment and all others for which inventory data exist.
- Immediately provide interim protection from logging, road building, mining and other harmful activities for any non-inventoried roadless areas of 1,000 acres or more that will not be permanently protected until inventories and analyses are completed.

For more information, call Umpqua Watersheds at **672-7065** or visit our website **www.umpqua-watersheds** on how to give comments if cannot attend meeting. ☿

New mother, Jenny Young Seidemann volunteers on Umpqua Watersheds' Board of Directors and Cougar Bluffs Adopt-a-Wilderness Committee.



Thank You to our Protection Partners in 2000 . . .

William C. Kenney Watershed Protection Foundation
McKenzie River Gathering Foundation

W. Alton Jones Foundation
Camp Tye Foundation



Why Worms?



Approximately ten months ago if someone had warned me that I would soon become an avid worm enthusiast I would have quickly dismissed him or her as being delusional. After all, I did not typically seek out worms in appreciation for their contribution to soils and the environment. Earthworms were slimy, sans leg creatures I encountered when working in the garden or on the breezeway at work after a particularly heavy rain. Now, ten months later, I am convinced of the merits of composting solid waste using redworms.

Worm composting is an alternative to filling the landfill with vegetable and fruit waste as well as a tricky way of recycling unwanted newspapers. Though it's a myth that redworms can eat up to half of their body weight in vegetable waste per day, the 2:1 (pounds of worms to food) ratio is a good measuring stick for deciding how much waste a worm bin can handle per week. After feeding the bin and covering the waste with shredded newspaper or office paper (leaves work well as bedding, too) provided the bin's temperature is at it's ideal of 60-70 degrees, you should see the waste and bedding breaking down fairly quickly. The worms eat the bacteria and other microorganisms that help with decomposition. What is leftover, after the worms have done their work is a fine, rich, workable bi-product known as worm castings. The castings should be dark in color. These castings make wonderful fertilizer for the garden or your potted plants.

Worm composting skeptics need only witness the spectacle of rotting garbage covered with shredded paper transformed into rich dark soil-like castings to be sold that composting with redworms is a noteworthy process not to be taken lightly. Avid green thumbs need only experience first hand the results of using worm castings on their ornamental plants or vegetables and they, too, will be in awe of the benefits of this useful product. Those concerned with the amount of waste pelted into landfills at an alarming rate each day can sleep easy at night when they realize that by composting a large portion of kitchen waste using redworms they in fact are reducing solid waste at its source and fostering an active stewardship of the earth.

When I speak to people about worm composting with redworms, people often wonder whether or not they can start dabbling in worm composting using the standard night crawler brand of worm they see most often. Night crawlers, also known to those who fish as fishing worms, are earthworms as are redworms. However, the crucial difference between night crawlers and redworms is the fact that night crawlers tend to be somewhat anti-social and need the burrows they create deep in the soil in order to complete their life cycles. Redworms, on the other hand, prefer to live in a communal setting where trash is on the menu, hence enabling the composting process to flourish.

Worm composting is a relatively simple process to begin in your home or at work. There are many styles of worm bins to choose from, but for the novice worm composter the least complicated of these is the standard worm farm, that handles two square feet of loving worm bedding, and can be purchased for around \$30. The redworms can be purchased from a worm breeder or a distributor who purchases the worms from a breeder. One such place for all your worming needs is *Happy D Ranch*. You may visit Happy D Ranch online at www.happydranch.com. Their telephone number is (559) 738-9301.

There is a wonderful, wild world of worms out there. Along with good comes bad, so be careful for worm charlatans who try to sell needless worm paraphernalia. A tried and true resource for all your worming needs is Worm Digest, a publication that is centrally located in Eugene, Oregon. Worm Digest can be visited on line at www.worndigest.org. Another classic resource is Worms Eat My Garbage by Mary Appelhof. You may also visit our class' worm sites through the Sutherlin School District homepage. Click on *West Intermediate School* and then look for *Ms. Robinson*.

Ten months ago, I was a worm illiterate. Today, by no means am I a worm expert, but I traveled the windy path with my sixth grade class as we experimented, predicted, tested and questioned the why's and where's to our illusive worm bin problems. An 8'X4' wooden worm bin with a peaked roof that services half of our school's vegetable and paper wastes stands as a result of our worm trials. ☼

Jennifer Robinson teaches 6th grade at Sutherlin's West Elementary School. Her class had a display at Earth Day Fair 2000. Her goal for next year is to have Sutherlin become Douglas County's first Green School.

Forest Service wins another victory for Timber Executives

This spring the last of the Paw Timber Sale forests were laid on the ground. The forests of Bear Paw, a unit furthestmost into the Mt. Bailey Roadless Area, crumpled under the chain-saws of Boise Cascade just two weeks ago. This brings to a close one of the most contentious sales on the Umpqua.

In 1997, while citizens protested outside the Umpqua National Forest headquarters, timber executives bought the ancient forest being auctioned inside.

In 1998, citizens blocked the logging road for 11 days. The Paw Timber Sale was sold under the 1995 "Salvage" Rider which suspended environmental laws and legal citizen appeals. Timber executives have removed 5,000 log truck loads (26 mmbf) from our public forest and built ten miles of new roads in the Mt. Bailey area. Over 3 miles of roads cut into the Roadless Area and over 100 acres of forest were stripped from the Roadless Area.

You can help prevent another outbreak of Paw by coming to the Roadless Area hearings at the Douglas County Library on **June 22**, and tell the Forest Service, NEVER AGAIN. ☼

For pictures of the protests and before/after pictures of the forests, see:

www.umpqua-watersheds.org/unf/paw

RECYCLING NIC-CAD BATTERIES

Gainesville, Fla. - Rechargeable nickel-cadmium (Ni-CD) batteries are indispensable to keep your army of wireless gadgets going. After a while they lose their punch and need to be phased out.

Return them for recycling instead of tossing them out, urges the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation, a non-for-profit organization that sponsors the "Charge Up to Recycle!" program. To find a retail site or recycling center, call:

1 (800) 8-BATTERY

website is rbrc.org. A variety of hardware and appliance chains participate in the program, according to the group.

Local sites in Douglas County are every Radio Shack and Sears stores. See Douglas County's recycling website:

www.co.douglas.or.us/recycle

Historic Illahee Lookout

May 6th was a typical spring day in Douglas County. The skies were partly cloudy with a slight chance of rain that never materialized. The temperature was perfect for the Umpqua Watersheds' biweekly hike--this Saturday Illahee Lookout was the destination. The group of 17 people and one dog were treated to Ben Elkus, who worked at the Illahee lookout from 1984 to 1998. Ben told us many things he had seen while on the job, such as the Spring Fire of 1996. The 18,000 acre fire, the largest in Douglas County in this century, was first discovered by Ben at 5:45am and by 7am fire fighters were on the scene to try and put the fire out. Ben said he saw flames as high as 150 feet and had to evacuate the lookout twice during the fire, because of the threat to his life. He also explained how the Forest Service lit a prescribed fire to help stop the original lightning-caused fire. However, the plan didn't work and spread to other areas, resulting in the large fire. Coniferous trees are not always killed by fires, because the bark helps protect the tree during small, cool fires. However, when there is an extremely hot fire, redding-out occurs. The hot fire reaches up into the crown of the trees and burns the needles. These trees are unable to regenerate new needles, so the trees will die.

The group hiked on an historical trail that accessed the lookout from the south. The more well-known trail on the north side was still covered in snow in a few places, making it inaccessible. A short side trip off this historical trail was to a spring. Ben and other lookouts, used to replenish their water supply.

A somewhat pointed rock formation, visible to the southwest of Illahee Rock, is named after the first Umpqua National Forest Supervisor, Smith C. Bartrum. Just off the trail we saw some smaller rock formations, called stovepipe, which look like their namesake.

We ate lunch at the top of Illahee Rock and enjoyed the panoramic vista of Mt. Bailey, Mt. Thielson and even the rim of Crater Lake. The lookout was up on stilts and many of us tried to imagine what it would be like to spend seven days a week, 24 hours a day in this tiny building. The Forest Service is deciding on a plan to rent the lookout to the public and not staff it anymore. The hike down the mountain was easier on our lungs, but much harder on our knees. Mine were shaking from the apparent lack of muscles in my thighs!

We took a short side trip to Illahee Flats at the bottom of the mountain. We walked out into the large meadow and stood under a massive, old oak tree, while someone discovered a chorus frog hiding in the grass. Ben told us that this was the site where the 1500 fire fighters camped until they had to move to Big Camas, because of the threat of fire to the camp. The meadow was lush with grasses that were planted after the Spring Fire, due to the impact the firefighters had on the vegetation.

The group stopped at Steamboat Inn to enjoy a cup of coffee and some wonderful homemade berry pies and berry cobbler. Just before we got in our cars for the last leg back to Roseburg, we wandered around the Inn and enjoyed the beautiful flower gardens and the scenic North Umpqua River. ☼

Former Forest Service biologist, Christine Masters, now volunteers at UW's office and is a regular nature columnist for Umpqua Watersheds' quarterly, "100 Valleys."



COME ONE! COME ALL!

If you are reading this newsletter, you obviously are one of the many who are concerned about the lack of consideration being shown for our environment.

You'd probably like to do something about it, but don't know quite what to do or how to go about it. Hopefully you've taken the first and easiest step by joining Umpqua Watersheds and contributing your \$25. Now you can take the next step.

Starting in July, at 7pm on the 4th Monday of each month, Umpqua Watersheds will be having a membership meeting at the UW's office at 630 SE Jackson Street downtown Roseburg. These meetings will give you the opportunity to find out what's going on, and more importantly, to find out how you can help. See you July 24th and don't forget to bring a friend.

A Philosopher on Nature Writing

"... I try to show ... a way of seeing that is more of an embrace, an alertness, an attentiveness to the natural world."

So says Kathleen Moore, chair of philosophy at Oregon State University, as she explains her nature writing in two books: *Riverwalking* and *Holdfast*.^{*} The first book introduces her reflections near moving water; the second, while she is near still waters. Observing kelp swaying in the sea, she asks: To what do our beliefs hold fast?

Ms. Moore's decision to pursue nature writing to complement her scholarly research was triggered by a conversation with English professor Chris Anderson about living unlived lives. Moore acknowledged that she had always imagined herself in a cabin writing about nature, but found herself in an office writing about ideas.

In 1994, Anderson formed a writing group in which members reviewed each other's work. Moore's *Riverwalking* grew out of this group's experience. "... I'm trying to approach the natural world as if it had something to teach, to try to find meaning in the wilderness experiences. It's kind of ironic that one of the main things the natural world has to teach us is how to create human connections."

Moore writes endlessly. "You really live with an essay. You carry it around, you prop it on the sink when you brush your teeth. You think about it when you go to sleep and you wake up in the morning with a couple of new sentences. It's more like raising a child than building a box."

As a philosopher, she focuses on ways we make decisions; as an essayist, she finds that her nature writing changes the way people see the world. Kathleen Moore's next book will be about "islands"--really, she concludes about, ethics and environmental issues. ☼

^{*} *Holdfast, At Home in the Natural World.* New York: The Lyons Press, 1999.

Adapted by Jim Long from Patricia Filip, "A New Voice in Nature Writing," Oregon States, April 2000

Donegan Roadless Area Hike

(Continued from page 4)

primarily Douglas fir and Incense cedar, but as we climbed we started to see more and more true firs. Other vegetation along the trail included lots of trillium at the peak of bloom, some small, purple-colored Calypso orchids, yellow violets, and blue anemones. The trunks of the Douglas firs were covered with Alecatoria or goat's-beard lichen. Native Americans used this lichen for mustaches and hair when they made masks for costumes.

About half way to Cougar Butte, several of us heard a very deep sound (sounded like whuh, whuh). At first, we thought it was our hearts beating hard from the aerobic exercise, but as we got closer, we realized it was a male blue grouse singing to attract a female. Other birds seen or heard on the hike included a hummingbird, white-breasted nuthatch, pileated woodpecker, northern flicker, and many warblers.

We stopped for lunch in a gorgeous stand of old growth trees and sat on some very large down logs. The group discussed the issues concerning a road project in the adjacent Donegan Roadless Area. The Forest Service is planning on obliterating one road system, which will greatly improve the characteristics of the roadless area. However, another road system that enters the heart of Donegan will remain in place. The Forest Service had originally planned to obliterate this road, as well, but changed their minds after pressure to leave it open. This is unfortunate, because the obliteration of this road would be very beneficial to the values of the roadless area.

As we got higher in elevation, we started to see small patches of snow and thought about having a snowball fight. We also hiked past two springs, one at Paradise Camp and the other at Cow Camp. At these camps we saw remnants of horse corals. There was even a rhubarb plant growing at Paradise Camp.

A few people had to get back to Roseburg, so they turned around at Cow Camp and headed back. The rest of the group hiked all the way to Cougar Butte, six miles round trip. Their extra effort was rewarded by a wonderful view of the Donegan Roadless Area and the lookout on Abbott Butte, as well as Mount Thielson, Mount Bailey, and the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness.

The people in the vehicle that I was in saw a brown black bear in the middle of the road on the way back down the mountain. As soon as the bear saw us, it turned around and ran as fast as it could into the woods. It didn't want anything to do with the very large SUV.

I highly recommend this hike for anyone looking for an alternative to the busy trails in the North Umpqua watershed -- no trail fee passes are required. For those seeking a longer hike, the trail continues on into the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness, including a trail to the top of Abbott Butte and Elephant Head. ☿

Former Forest Service biologist, Christine Masters, now volunteers at UW's office and is a regular nature columnist for Umpqua Watersheds' quarterly, "100 Valleys."

Comments Are Still Needed!!

Ask Tiller's District Ranger, Jill Dufour, to REMOVE the unnecessary road (Road 2950) next to the Donegan Roadless Area.

Call her at: **(541) 825-3201**

or send a brief note to her at:

27812 Tiller Trail Hwy, Tiller, OR 97484

or send her an email at:

Dufour_Jill/r6pnw_umpqua@fs.fed.us

Illegal Logging

(Continued from page 4)

BLM's first concern. BLM forged ahead with plans to build a logging road around the safety buffer and yarding around the tree-protectors. BLM also planned to give the purchaser additional trees in trade for the safety buffer they could not cut. These "retention trees" were not in the original sale because they were needed to protect wildlife and wetlands.

Alarmed that BLM would trade these valuable trees for the safety buffer, and further endanger the lives of the tree-protectors, Umpqua Watersheds did a full, on-the-ground inspection of the Right View Forest units already cut. What UW found was appalling. In forest unit 4 UW found a 6 foot diameter, 200 foot tall tree that had been cut down OUTSIDE the unit boundary. In forest unit 1, UW found that **BLM had sold the purchaser additional trees in a protected stream side buffer** (46,000 board feet for \$6,256 equaling 14 cents per board foot). The Right View contract promised that **NO trees would be cut in stream side buffers**. This contract modification was done secretly in the summer of 1999, with no legal public notice.

Umpqua Watersheds confronted BLM's Jay Carlson about the illegal logging. BLM's respond was historic. He admitted the BLM had made a mistake, the logging was illegal, and the BLM was not going to hide under the loophole of the "Salvage" Rider like they had in the past.

In a letter written to UW on May 11, Carlson said "it is my conclusion that the Bureau of Land Management improperly conducted the commercial thinning in Unit #1 of the Right View Timber Sale.... BLM erred in failing to ensure that the thinning was addressed in a valid consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)... This situation should not have occurred. The public has a right to expect better from its land management agencies and I want to apologize for the Bureau's error in this matter."

In addition to the apology, BLM will NOT give the timber executives any additional trees from forest unit 5. The BLM has bought back the safety buffer instead.

Within a short time, 33 trees in the middle of unit 5 had orange paint sprayed on them, signifying "no-cut". BLM gave Herbert \$23,556 for the 39,000 board feet.

The tree-sitters left the Umpqua. ☿

Submitted by UW Staff.

"Working with Watersheds" A Workshop

"What if we riprap this side of the stream--right here?"

"What if we place large woody debris here?"

"What might happen if we planted willow along this bend?"

Walt Gayner peppered us with questions like these as he demonstrated the portable water-flow table built by the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District with a grant from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The demonstration kicked off an afternoon workshop for teachers, April 14, at Sutherlin High School sponsored by the Umpqua Basin Watershed Council.

The 4 by 8-foot water-flow table on a trailer included several inches of granulated urea with three sizes of particulate--like soils with combinations of sand, silt and clay. Varying volumes of water were run from one corner, across the table and down a "stream" with a 2% gradient. We watched the effects of the water's speed and scouring action on stream banks as we tried several riparian management techniques. In an hour we saw the importance of integrating any management practice into a coordinated plan. We were impressed with how realistically the water-flow table simulated real stream conditions. The demonstration convinced us that the water-flow table is a powerful learning tool for middle and senior high school students and for adults.

Groups and schools may request a demonstration of the water-flow table by contacting Walt Gayner, Manager, Soil and Water Conservation District:

(541) 957-5061

During the next workshop activity, Kim Jones, a researcher from Corvallis with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and his two assistants introduced us to computer programs--ArcExplorer and its more sophisticated sister, Arcview. The computer programs portray data in a spatial context from on-the-ground surveys of 1600 miles of Douglas County's 2000 miles of streams.

Jones invited us to do our own "query" for teaching or making management decisions. We looked at

spatial relationships between shade and fish counts; gravel and redds; ownership and stream vegetation; and between gradient and fish distribution. We examined data at several levels: state, watershed, reach and individual point. We searched relationships for a wide spectrum of fish and other species.

Jones explained that ArcExplorer is designed so new data can be displayed in a spatial context and compared with other information. For example, historical information, new research results and pre-existing data from other sources, such as other government agencies, can be displayed on maps.

ArcExplorer is available at no cost through ESRI GIS Mapping and Software. The software can be downloaded at:

<http://www.esri.com/software/arcexplorer/index.html>

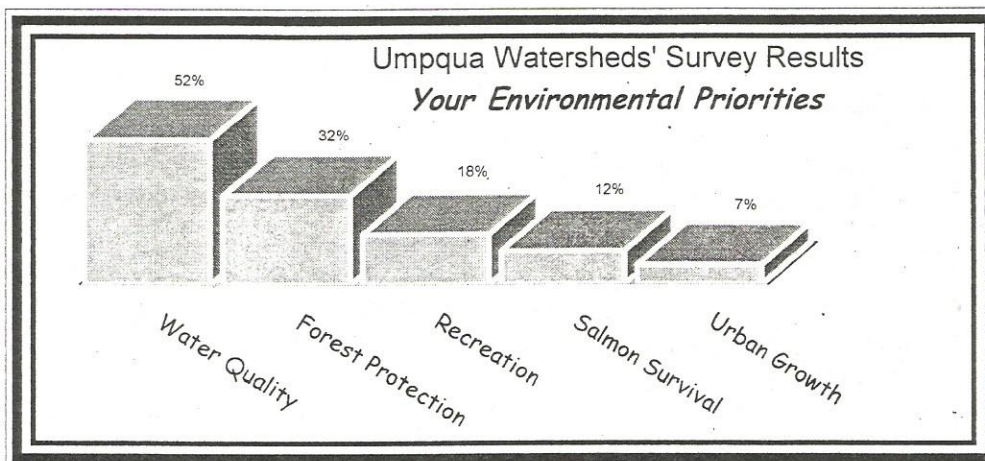
Laura Jackson, workshop coordinator and ODFW STEP biologist, said that the 21 workshop participants were high school science teachers from Elkton, Oakland, Sutherlin, Roseburg and Winston and public resource managers who work with schools and salmon data. She noted that the computer facilities at Sutherlin High School contributed greatly to the hands-on application of this Geographical Information System. Jackson explained that the April workshop was the second in-service training event this year designed by the UBWC for teachers as they adapt curricula for Oregon's new educational standards.

Participants rated the workshop very highly: 4.5 on a five-point scale. Ratings were based on: the location (SHS Computer Lab.), quality of presentations and explanations, interactive nature of instruction, relevance of material for teaching, participants' gaining new knowledge and successfully answering their questions, and new capabilities to find and make maps for teachers, students and resource managers.

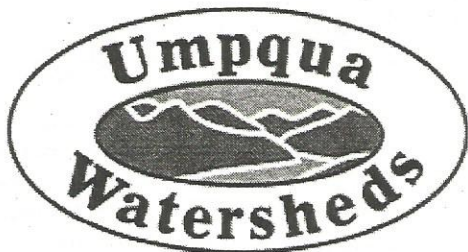
Participants identified several recommendations: schedule regular opportunities to work with the GIS data; arrange for users to demonstrate their research results using these tools; show how to specify data sets to download; prepare a list of abbreviations in this computer program; develop more cooperative projects with ODFW; incorporate data into watershed councils' decision making.

A high school teacher in a one-person science department expressed frustration trying to keep up with physical science, biology, chemistry, physics and health. "Even text books don't keep up." He welcomed the demonstration of ArcExplorer as a tool to introduce up-to-date research that's relevant to local communities. He said he needs more time to familiarize himself with the data and the program and to prepare his students to use this powerful new learning tool. ☞

Submitted by Jim Long, a retired agriculture professor, volunteers on the Education Committees of Umpqua Watersheds, Small Woodlot Owners Association and the Umpqua Basin Watershed Council.

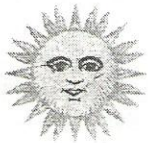


**Data gathered from Umpqua Watersheds' 1999 survey.
These survey results help UW prioritize it's action plan.**



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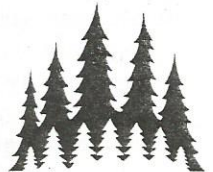
Summer 2000 Hikes!

Umpqua Updates: Right View, Donegan Roadless Area
From Our Supporters: Notes from the Trail & other Hike Stories
"Working with Watersheds" A Workshop by Jim Long

page 3
page 4
page 5&10
page 13



President's Message



I am indebted to my daughter for many things; two come to mind today. The poems of Mary Oliver, Pulitzer Prize winner; and a visit to Costa Rica several years ago to participate in an ongoing Leatherback Turtle Study and Protection Project run by Earthwatch, her then employer.

Taking our turn we sat up several nights watching for the giant females (500 pounds +) to come ashore and safely lay their eggs. I remember following one back to the sea in the darkness touching her shell, and walking out with her into the black water until she disappeared. It was a brief, and for me, mysterious and unforgettable connection. Now, according to an article in last week's Oregonian, scientists like the one with whom I worked briefly are now saying that the great Leatherback Turtles are beyond saving and will probably go extinct soon, victims of driftnets and human folly. In the coming months and years this scenario will no doubt be repeated in other locales and species. It may be that we cannot save them; at least we must protest and work to reverse these horrible trends, bearing witness to the loss and salvaging what is left. ☼

Returning to Mary Oliver . . .

Bob Allen was elected this Spring to be Umpqua Watersheds' NEW President.

A DREAM OF TREES

*There is a thing in me still dreamed of trees
A quiet house, some green and modest acres
A little way from every troubling town,
A little way from factories, schools, laments.
I would have time, I thought, and time to spare,
With only streams and birds for company,
To build out of my life a few wild stanzas.
And then it came to me, that so was death,
A little way away from everywhere.
There is a thing in me still dreams of trees
But let it go.
Homesick for moderation,
Half the world's artists shrink or fall away.
If any find solution, let him tell it.
Meanwhile I bend my heart toward lamentation
Where, as the times implore our true involvement,
The blades of every crisis point the way.
I would it were not so, but so it is.
Who ever made music of a wild day?*