



100 Valleys

Autumn 2002

A Quarterly Publication for the Supporters of Umpqua Watersheds

Issue No. 20

Umpqua Forest Fire Facts

Over 80% of fires were healthy under-burns in forest headwaters

The Oregonian reported September 1st: "The Umpqua National Forest's Tiller fires raced through dense tree plantations with low branches that gave flames a helping hand into the treetops, said Karla Bird, a natural resources staff officer [on the Umpqua National Forest]. In more scattered natural stands, flames kept to the ground, spared many trees and did more good than harm."

The Tiller Fire was started naturally by lightning while this year's Apple Fire was human caused. The Apple Fire reburned some of the 1987 Apple Creek fire. The unsalvaged part of the 1987 Apple Creek fire can be seen from Highway 138. Across the North Umpqua River from the Apple Creek campground there was a cool underburn which killed few of the old-growth trees. On the ridgetop, there was a hotter fire that killed more trees. Because this is in the Wild and Scenic Corridor, it was not salvaged logged in 1987, and the same laws must apply today.

In fact, salvage logging should NOT occur in any native, mature forest within this years firelines. The vast majority of these areas were set aside for wildlife (LSRs), with only limited logging allowed. As of August 26, reserves (not usually open to timber production) and wilderness within fire lines was 91% of the area.

Native Forests should NOT be salvaged

If most of the area within the fire line is usually reserved from logging, and less than 10% of that area had overstory burn, should it be salvaged logged at all? Trees

killed in these reserves are needed in streams and for cavity nesters. The Forest Service has traditionally "salvaged" burned areas by clearcutting trees that were dead and alive. So much salvage logging was done that we now have a huge deficit of dead wood for wildlife habitat.

The 1996 Spring Fire in the Diamond Lake district was also never salvaged. Like this years fires, the Spring Fire also burned largely in reserved and roadless areas. In 1997, the Forest Service proposed large salvage logging, 10 mmbf, and later reduced it to only 4 mmbf on 102 acres. But even that was too much, according to the scientists at the Umpqua National Forest. They cited the Northwest Forest Plan: "The

reserves represent a network of existing old-growth forests that are retained in their natural condition with natural processes, such as fire, allowed to function to the extent possible." The scientists argued that "large snags and down logs are crucial habitat components for many late-successional forest-associated species..." and concluded that "the Spring Fire salvage proposal does not meet the spirit or intent" or follow the requirements of the Northwest Forest Plan. If our current laws are allowed to continue to protect our reserves, the same conclusion should hold for the forests within this years fire lines.

By UW's Forest Monitor, Francis Eatherington

Umpqua National Forest Fires 2002

Tiller Complex * Apple Fire

*Preliminary percentages of
87,374 total acres burned*

Low Intensity
(no burn or cool underburn
with no change in canopy)

82%

71,716 acres

Moderate Intensity
(some fire affects in
Canopy are visible)

11.5%

10,004 acres

High Intensity
(canopy completely
consumed in fire)

6.5%

5,654 acres

(USFS interpretation from satellite photo analysis on September 19th, 2002.
Does not include North Umpqua Complex fire's less than 1,000 acres)

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

Look Inside!

FIRE 101 by Francis Eatherington

Hikes and Events: Schedule for October, November & December

Copper Creek and World Summit Update

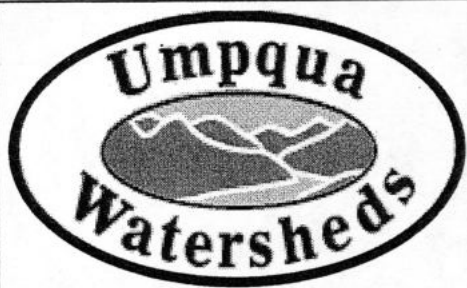
Stories of Discovery and Cautious Thinning

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UW's MISSION:

Umpqua Watersheds is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of the watersheds in the Umpqua River Basin and beyond.

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Visit Our Website!

www.umpqua-watersheds.org

Email us:

uw@umpqua-watersheds.org

STOP Sweeping threats to Environmental Safeguards

Dear Supporter,

Thank you for **YOUR** vital role in protecting our local environment.

You and I need to keep the pressure on to secure the future of our **Wild Forests and Mighty Rivers** during the challenging times ahead

The threats to return to more industrial logging of our native forests and expand special use of our public lands has developed momentum over the past year. Special interest groups, politics, and fire hysteria are driving these threats, along with some legislators and the Bush administration.

The Result: We enter the last part of 2002 fighting for our landmark environmental laws that protect our forests and rivers. The Umpqua also faces unplanned growth projects by user groups like snowmobile expansions, cell towers in sensitive wild areas, off-road vehicle and expansion of gravel extraction in our upland forests. Through these actions we risk the loss of Wild lands which warrant Wilderness designation and provide habitat for threatened species in areas that provide us with our water

Without our important, democratically won environmental laws like the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Northwest Forest Plan and more, citizens lose their **rights**, our environment loses its **security**, and future generations lose their **options**. Most importantly, these threats shortchange wildlife, fish and our communities water quality and quality of life.

Your voice needs to be heard again and again as these threats to our environmental safeguards grow in Washington DC. Your leaders need to hear from you. The Umpqua needs you to speak up in **YOUR** community.

Don't let another tragedy happen in our nation. The losses that the Umpqua watershed has faced for past decades are real. Today, we need to use greater precaution with fire restoration plans and special use growth in our Wild areas while we keep our environmental laws in place.

Umpqua Watersheds, with your help, can make that happen.

Sincerely,

Penny Lind, Executive Director

UMPQUA ACTIONS - YOU can make a difference

CALL Legislators * HIKE the Umpqua * WRITE Letters to the editor
DONATE to UW * VOLUNTEER to protect the environment * READ "100 Valleys"

THANK YOU Mighty River Supporters

Umpqua Watersheds' **River Appreciation Day Committee** would like to thank the many volunteers who helped make this river celebration a success.

* Committee members * Business Sponsors * Douglas County Parks Dept *
* Performers * Partner Organizations * US Forest Service *
* Umpqua Disc Assoc. * Wolf Creek Job Corp * Guests *

We look forward to working with you again in 2003 at the

17th Annual River Appreciation Day - JULY 19, 2003

MAJOR SPONSORS: Steamboaters, KLCC, ONRC, Roseburg Firefighters #1110

FIRE 101

Fires are Part of Ecosystem

Our forests depend on fire for their natural ecosystems to function.

Fire has always been a part of our forests and we will never be successful in totally suppressing this natural process.

The usual pattern of forest fire is a "mosaic" pattern, where some trees are killed and many are not. The thick bark of mature Douglas firs makes them particularly resistant to death by forest fire. Fires started by lightning or humans in older forests will crawl around the forest floor, consuming small trees and cleaning up debris. It's nature's way of house cleaning, as well as making small openings in the forest canopy to allow for a diversity of tree species and ages. The standing dead trees (called snags) left after a fire will explode with wildlife -- birds making cavity nests, and other creatures living in the openings afforded by the soft decaying

FireWalk

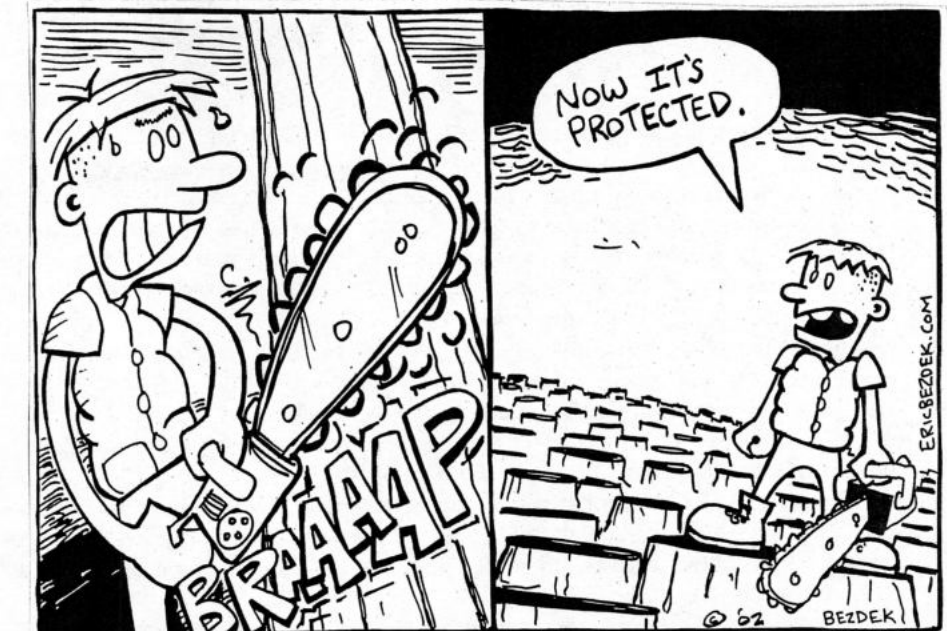
OCT 26

(see HIKE insert)

wood. (Wildfires in even-aged plantations, on the other hand, often explode into dangerous hot fires that kill every planted tree in their path.)

The watersheds of the Umpqua River are unique because we are in a transition zone between two different types of natural fires, the fires of wetter, coastal/northern forests, and the fires of dryer, eastern/southern forests.

Where the mighty Umpqua meets the ocean, it travels through the Coastal Mountains. These wet forests shrouded in fog burn hot only about once every 300 years or so. Because of the naturally dense brush near the ocean, the basic mosaic pattern of fires are larger, killing larger



Forest Fire Protection Plan?

chunks of trees, resulting in a "stand replacement fire". (This is what the timber industry refers to when they say their clear-cutting is like a stand-replacement fire. But, clearcutting doesn't leave bountiful wildlife snags and natural fires do not leave roads and compacted/eroded soils. A clearcut and a fire have virtually nothing in common).

On the other extreme of natural fire behavior, the South Umpqua River near Tillier flows through the south Cascade Mountains with less rainfall and more open pine forests. In this country natural fires burn more frequently (perhaps as often as every 20 years), keeping the brush low, and producing smaller patches of dead trees. Typically fire kills less than 20% of the overstory trees, even during the most severe fire weather. This low level, patchy disturbance pattern increases the structural diversity of forest landscapes and sustains the astounding biodiversity that Southwest Oregon is famous for.

Native Americans often started fires in the inland valley's and lower Cascades to keep the brush down, create better habitat for the plants and animals they depended

on, or to make travel easier. We can thank them for maintaining our beautiful oak forests and oak woodlands that surround our homes around Roseburg today. Early European settlers also influenced the Coastal Mountain range with a large number of human-caused stand-replacing fires during the 19th and early 20th century. In the early 1900s the practices that were developed to manage European forests were adopted by American land managers and ushered in the period of aggressive fire suppression.

While all fire must be suppressed around our houses and special areas, it is a mistake to continue to suppress fire in the backcountry. Suppressing fire is suppressing the life and growth of our native forests and wildlife. Some species of plants and trees can't even germinate until the wildfires have swept the forests clean and cracked open the seedpod. If a wildfire were to get through our massive suppression efforts (like this summer), we should not blindly "salvage" all dead trees, nature's offerings to the wildlife and new forest.

By UW's Forest Monitor, Francis Eatherington

National Forest Protection Alliance; 4th Annual National Convention in OR

JOIN grassroots activists from across the nation to strategize for permanent protection of our **National Forests**.

October 10-13, 2002

**Suttle Lake Retreat Ctr
Sisters, Oregon**

AGENDA * DIRECTIONS * FEES * FOOD/LODGING * REGISTRATION
INFO AT: nfpa@forestadvocate.org or CALL: 406-542-7565

Wyden Proposes Old-Growth Protection

Linking eastside logging with westside protection alarms conservationists

Just before the summer recess, Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) released his proposal for protecting old-growth forests on federal lands in western Oregon and Washington.

The Wyden proposal would protect forest stands west of the Cascades that are 120 years of age and older, and redirect Forest Service and BLM logging to younger stands. In addition, Senator Wyden proposes to short-circuit federal environmental laws to expedite logging projects in eastern Oregon, Washington and Idaho, and settle lawsuits that have held up logging on westside forests.

"The protection of mature and old-growth forests in western Washington and Oregon must be tied to watershed restoration and community assistance," said Jasmine Minbashian, Northwest Old-Growth Campaign Coordinator. "It cannot be accomplished by side-stepping federal laws and public involvement, or by sacrificing forests east of the Cascade Mountains."

Umpqua Watersheds and our partners in the Northwest Mature & Old-Growth Campaign have been urging Wyden and others to protect mature and old-growth forests for many years. Polls show that two-thirds of Oregon and Washington residents support protection of forests over 80 years of age.

The Campaign has been pressing the government to stop logging rare old forests, and shift their funding and resources toward much needed watershed restoration. For instance, the federal forest road system was massively overbuilt during the logging frenzy last century, and since that time, thousands of miles of roads have fallen into disrepair and require decommissioning or maintenance. Similarly, there are millions of acres of dense young stands planted after clearcutting in the west Cascades that would benefit from thinning to restore species and structural diversity.

Recent field tours in Oregon, and on the Olympic National Forest in Washington have demonstrated broad support for restoration among forest contractors, county commissioners, conservationists, politicians, and national forest officials.

This fall, the Northwest Old-Growth Campaign will be working to convey the following points to resolve the old-growth forest controversies:

1. Provide solid protection for mature and old-growth forests
2. Decouple eastside and westside forest issues
3. Encourage watershed restoration that revitalizes rural economies
4. Retain federal environmental laws and full citizen participation

Senator Wyden's office has indicated that it is willing to consider drastic changes to the proposal. That's good news, since significant changes are necessary to gain the public support needed to make good law.

The Senator has taken the first important step, and has advanced a proposal to protect the Pacific Northwest's old forests. Now it's up to you and me to make sure that the good parts remain in the proposal, and that the bad parts are left behind.

To review a copy of Wyden's proposal, see:

<http://wyden.senate.gov/SummaryForestRestoration.htm>

Contact Senator Wyden's office at **(503) 326-7525** to express your thoughts about his proposal.

President's Message

It was pointed out to me that UW has so many members that many of you do not know who their president is.

I have lived in Douglas county almost 23 years, worked in the woods, sheared sheep for a living, and have been an Insect Survey Technician for 14 years. I am the owner of Riversounds Music and have taught fiddle for 12 years.

I've been a volunteer in conservation issues in Douglas county for 20 years. I have two beautiful sons John and Lumya And I am a proud member of the Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Church here in Roseburg.

I am honored to be the president of Umpqua Watersheds, a group that stands up and looks out for this very special place here on the planet, The Umpqua.

Thank you for your letters and phone calls to our senators and congress. We are being heard in Washington DC. KEEP THE CALLS and LETTERS COMING.

The Bush administration and the timber industry are working to weaken our environmental laws that protect our public forests, river wildlife and water.

Umpqua Watersheds' membership continues to grow and we have many more supporters than ever. Staff and volunteers at the office know of your support when we read your thank you letters and when you send your checks to renew your membership.

Now the larger community needs to hear from us, too! Letters to the editor really work well to help our neighbors get to know us better.

We all live here together and our basic needs are the same. This would also be very supported to our staff who talk to the larger community all the time. Any one interested in volunteering should give the office a call.

Gerald Wisdom is doing a great job keeping the Outreach Committee going. Outreach folks work on fun and important issues. Your help and input is always welcome. Hope to see yas on one of the hikes or at some events this fall.

Friendship,

Robert Hoehne, President of UW



Gifts to Umpqua Watersheds

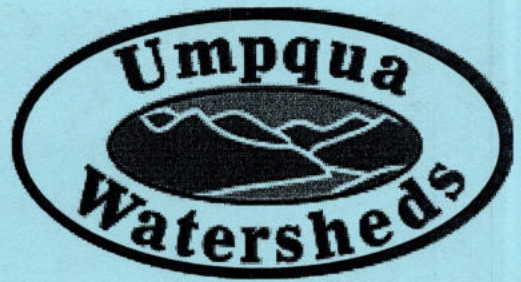
Ways you can support our
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For Info

- o Umpqua Watersheds Membership
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- o Gift Memberships for family or friends
- o Volunteer office support
- o Bequests for Umpqua Watersheds future programs

All gifts to Umpqua Watersheds are tax deductible o MAIL your gift in the enclosed envelope

Autumn Hikes 2002



uw@umpqua-watersheds.org

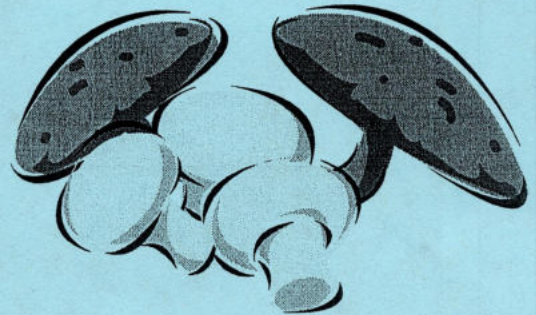
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OCT 5 - Cooper Creek Drinking Water

Discover how the lakes' recreation area will be diminished when private forests will be logged this October in the community's drinking water and their viewshed. Citizens would prefer the company to sustainably harvest and then sell to the public for future water quality and recreation. Meet behind the Courthouse at 9am and at the reservoir's dam at 9:30am.

OCT 19 - Fungus Among Us

Saturday, join Umpqua Watersheds on our 2nd Annual fall mushroom outing. Long-time acknowledged expert in the field Jack Hausotter will again join us and discuss various aspects of mushrooms and fungi in our local forests. We will include a gathering session (the hunt!), followed by an I.D. session with Jack. Folks should come prepared with raingear, basket/bucket, knife, and whistle/compass. Carpool will meet behind County Courthouse at **9am**.



OCT 26 - UMPQUA FIRE FACTS TOUR

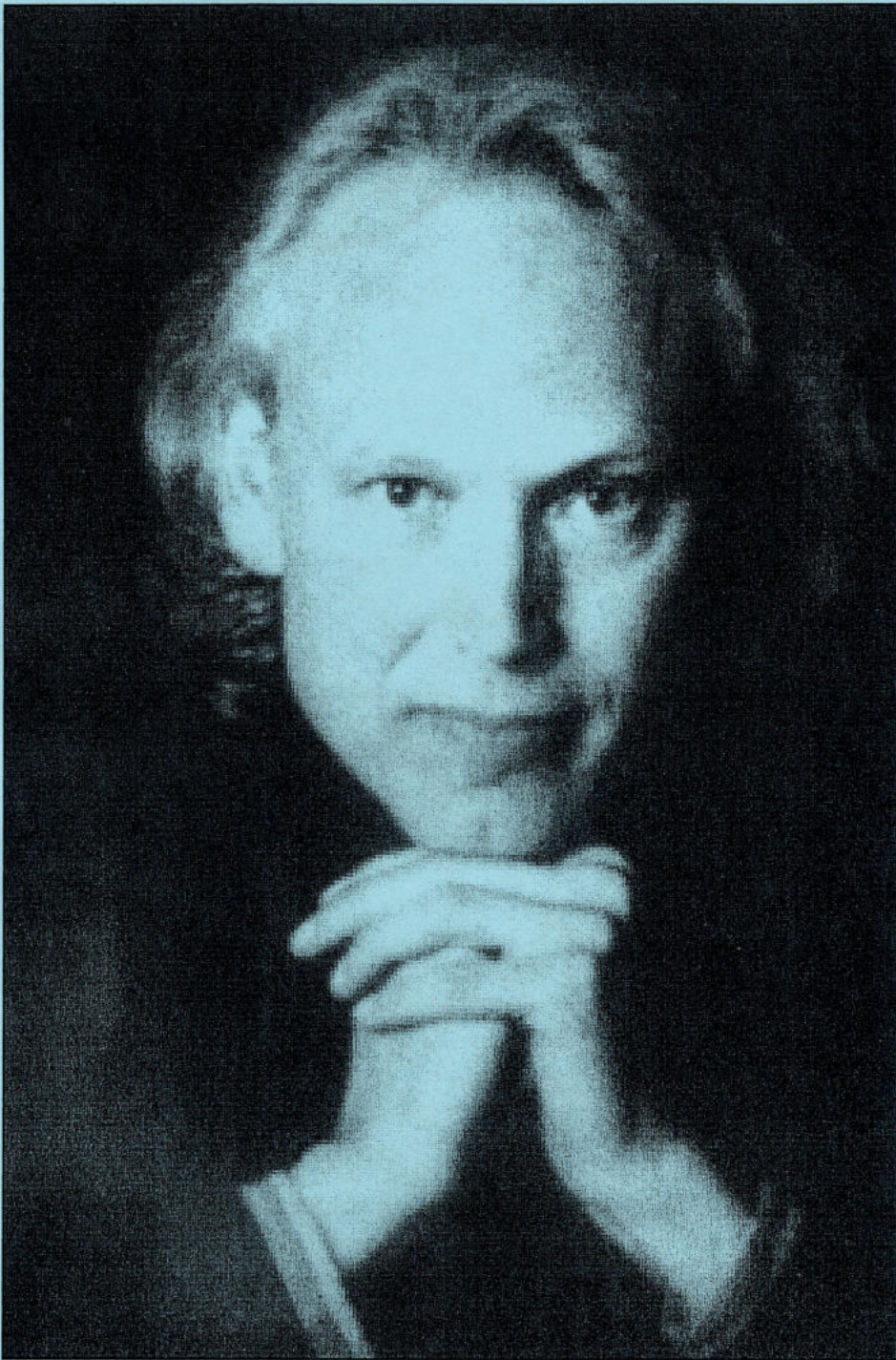
Saturday, join Fire Ecologist, Ken Carloni and UW Staff as we explore the past and present fires on the Umpqua. First we will learn about the Apple Fire (1987 and 2002) followed by a hike thru the Spring Fire of 1996 in the Boulder Creek Wilderness. Carpool will meet behind the Douglas County Library off Fowler Street in Roseburg at 9am or the Glide Ranger Station on Highway 138 at 9:30am.

NOVEMBER 17 - David LANZ Concert

Sunday, Roseburg will enjoy the musical talents of pianist David Lanz at the Pre Downtown Roseburg Presbyterian Church On the corner of Jackson & Lane. Gourmet Desserts will be available. CHILD CARE will be available. TICKETS \$13 in advance \$15 at the door at **While Away Books** on Harvard, **UW Office** on Jackson, **Southbound Sound** or **New Day Groceries** downtown and **Hi 5 Music** on Garden Valley. David's musical career has spanned the globe for 2 decades with his CDs: Heartsounds, Cristofori's Dream, Skyline Firedance, East of the Moon, Behind the Waterfall. David will introduce **Finding Paradise** on Decca Records.

December 14 - Umpqua Dunes and Sparrow Park

Saturday, USFS biologist Cindy Burns will discuss snowy plover habitat, its risks, good and bad beach grasses, dunes, foredunes. Discuss dune policy questions--public access, European beach grass management. Carpool will meet behind Library at 8am or Reedsport USFS office at 10am.



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3 R'S AT WORK AWARD ~ 2002

Application Form

☐ **Business Nomination**

☐ **Employee Nomination**

Business/Employee Name : _____

Business Address : _____

Number of employees : _____

Person completing application : _____

Position : _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail: _____

Please provide the requested information above, briefly answer questions below on additional sheet(s)

1. When and how did your waste reduction program begin? **Or** When and how did the employee become involved in the business waste reduction program?
2. Describe your current recycling program. (Include a list of materials recycled and/or reused in your business). How are materials collected, stored and transported for recycling or reuse? **And** (For employee applications) How is the employee involved in the on-site program?
3. Describe any business-wide policies that reduce waste such as using both sides of paper or reusable items. **And** (For employee applications) How is the employee involved in creating or implementing these policies?
4. Describe steps (such as a waste audit) employed to determine amount and type of waste generated at your business site. What actions were implemented to reduce that waste. Has the volume of trash been reduced? Have you reduced costs associated with disposal? **And** (For employee applications) What role does the employee play in evaluating waste reduction programs?
5. How have employees been informed of the program? How can they participate? **And** (For employee applications) How does the employee share his/her knowledge and commitment for reducing wastes?
6. Describe purchasing practices that encourage waste reduction, ie. buying reusable items, avoiding excess packaging, and purchasing items made from recycled materials.

Please FAX or mail completed application by October 25, 2002 to:

Terri Peterson, Douglas County Waste Reduction Manager

1036 SE Douglas Room 220

Roseburg, OR 97470

FAX: 541-440-4413

Questions? Call 541-440-4350

**Announcing the 5th Annual "3 R's At Work"
and
Employee "Waste Reduction Champion" Awards Competition**

Is your workplace making a successful effort at reducing its waste? Does your business have an employee "recycling champion" that is instrumental in your business's waste reduction program and worthy of recognition? That's what Douglas County wants to find out in announcing the Fifth Annual "3R's At Work" Awards competition.

The awards are given to workplaces with two or more employees for successful, innovative programs that demonstrate a commitment to waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. Commercial, retail, and industrial businesses, as well as large and small offices are encouraged to apply.

This year, a new award has been added to recognize a "waste reduction champion" employee that demonstrates a commitment to the 3R's in their workplace. The top three businesses and the award-winning employee will be recognized with beautifully designed awards at the November 25th Roseburg Chamber of Commerce Noon Forum.

"The twelve award winning businesses from the last four years demonstrate that local firms are making great strides in reducing the amount of waste disposed in our landfill with simple, cost-effective programs incorporated into everyday activities," says Terri Peterson, Douglas County's Waste Reduction Manager. "This year, we are looking for three more outstanding businesses and one special employee to add to the illustrious group."

Interested businesses are invited to complete the application on the reverse side and return to the address provided.

For questions, contact Terri Peterson, Douglas County Waste Reduction Manager, at 440-4350, 1-800-224-1619 ext. 4350, or at txpeters@co.douglas.or.us.



**Deadline for returning applications
~ October 25, 2002 ~**

Business Members and Advertisers Policy

Umpqua Watersheds Business Supporter Policy - REMEMBER: Only \$25.00 of any Business Membership is tax deductible.

\$50 gets you Membership & **1 ad** * **\$100** gets you Membership & **4 ads** @ year

\$25 quarterly payments are **OK** * All ads and articles are due: Dec 1, March 1, June 1 and Sept 1

NEW Business Members also get a FREE T-shirt

ALL Members receive our quarterly newsletter.



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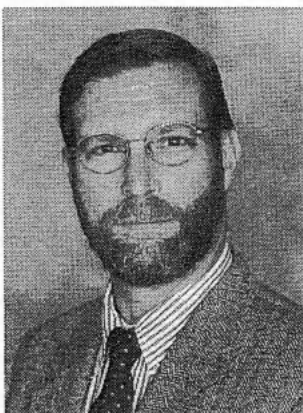
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From Rio to Johannesburg

This year's UN World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg followed the Rio de Janeiro Summit by 10 years. This year, I subscribed to Worldwatch Institute's daily reports of the Summit 8/26 through 9/4.

wssdupdates@worldwatch.org

Skimming these accounts, I looked for examples of certain features:

Promises made in 1992

Here's an example. Ten years ago, industrialized nations pledged to invest 0.7 of GNP annually into development assistance. Four countries—Denmark, The Netherlands, Sweden and Norway—kept that commitment. Australia (0.25%), Canada (0.25%) and the U.S. (0.1%) did not.

Global & Domestic Policy Interface

Example from the field of agricultural trade. Developing nations are unhappy with U.S. and European calls for reduced trade barriers while maintaining agricultural subsidies. Margaret Beckett, UK environment minister and head of the UK delegation, estimated agricultural subsidies reach \$350 billion and international assistance ranged near \$57 billion.

Major issues on the agenda

Water, particularly for drinking and sanitation, attracted a great deal of attention. One estimate calculated three million people—most of them children—die each year from diarrhea and other water-borne diseases. Between 1990 and 2000, 816 million people acquired access to safe drink-

ing water; because of population growth, the number of unserved remained about the same.

Issues not on the agenda

Two examples here. Though population was not an official issue on the agenda at this Summit, the UN Fund for Population Activities and the Forum of Parliamentarians on Populations and Development co-sponsored a major side event—"Populations and Sustainable Development." A second example was Information Communications Technologies: a) Wireless local area networks in rural communities where users barter goods—like chickens—for access to the system; b) Software manufacturing processes such as a kit to turn sisal into ethanol.

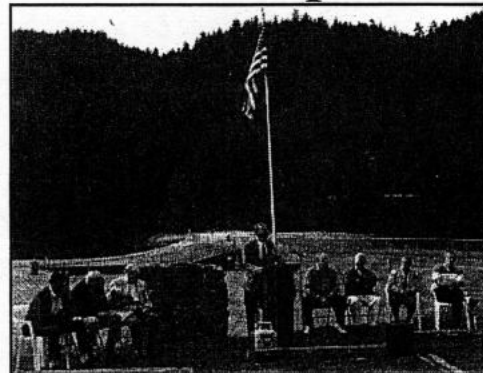
And to the future? WSSD released the "Johannesburg Principles on the Role of Law and Sustainable Development." At a UN Environment Programme symposium, 100 senior judges laid out an action plan to strengthen the development, use and enforcement of environmental laws. (<http://www.unep.org>) Also watch for an announcement from the European Union about its 10-year, multibillion-dollar pledge to support African nations' efforts to supply clean water.

Information for the above nuggets was assembled by Adrienne Greenlees:

agreelees@worldwatch.org

Compiled by Jim Long

Cooper Creek Clearcut Updates



Seven Sutherlin Mayors

display their concerns and disappointment for Lone Rock Timber's logging plans above the Cooper Creek Reservoir.

It was a historic gathering as the current mayor of Sutherlin, joined forces with six previous mayors to speak on a monumental issue. These seven men may never have been in the same place at the same time. So what brought them all to the shores of Cooper Creek on September 6?

The steep slopes above Cooper Creek are scheduled to be shaved by Lone Rock Timber. Cooper Creek is a source of the city's drinking water and an outdoor attraction that brings many outdoor enthusiasts to Sutherlin.

Speaking to the press were current mayor Joe Mongiovi, and past mayors Stan McKnight, Phil Cook, Gil Leinonen, Warren Kadas, Loyd Rapp, and Lyle Seahawer. Former city Manager, Bruce Long, also addressed the media.

A common concern of the mayors was potential of contamination from landslides, pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer.

Another fear expressed by several speakers was the possibility of the clearcut on the forty-five degree incline above the dam sliding and compromising its integrity. According to Sutherlin's Emergency Action Plan, the breached dam would cause an eighty foot high wall of water to hit the first subdivision within three minutes. Most of the city would be underwater within fifteen minutes.

Lone Rock Timber plans to commence clearcutting in October. Join us on a hike OCT 5th. (see insert)

Submitted by Ron Bolt, a retired Sutherlin teacher, who has lived near Cooper Creek for a decade.

Wilderness Conference

Saturday 8am - 8pm

October 19

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Congressman Blumenauer

Reed College - Portland, OR

OREGON still lags far behind its neighbors in percentage of wilderness:

CA - 13% WA - 10% OR - 3.6%

Oregon Wild 2002 - UW has joined 14 partner organizations in Oregon to gain protection for special WILD places in the Umpqua:

**Bulldog Rock - Donegan Prairie - Hardesty Mountain
Last Creek - Lemolo - Wassen Creek**

For more INFO call UW's office at: **672-7065** or ONRC at: **(503) 283-6343**

Listening to Stories of Discovery

We started and ended with stories of discovery that evening this past July 22nd in the Library.

Convener Bob Hoehne introduced Esther Stutzman, Kalappuya story teller. Esther explained her grandmother near Yoncalla believed songs are stories and stories are songs. With drummed rhythm, Esther sang us a story in her grandmother's tongue. Esther told us two more. One was a myth about the formation of the Yoncalla Valley; another a love story about her ancestors. Stories of the Kalappuya elders, she said, were for instruction. Catching the lesson depended on the listener's readiness for discovery.

Bob introduced Ken Carloni. In Little River Watershed, Ken has been "listening" to records of Native American's use of fire for forest management 3000 years before European American settlement in the mid 1800s. Some of the "wisdom from the past that might be applied to the future," Ken said, is the Native American's values of wilderness: islands of refuge for biodiversity, connectivity among these islands and the whole system as a barometer of forest health.

Bob introduced Robin Wisdom. Robin, her husband, Gerald, and Leslie Sherman adopted a proposed Bulldog Rock Wilderness. Robin invited us to catch the story from this "key watershed" by hiking a half mile on the Bulldog Rock Trail #1534 into Bullpup Lake and *listen* to a sparkling spring, its 15 degrees cooler stream flows, the wildflowers, the birds--the silence.

Bob asked us once again to listen. As Lauren James played several piano pieces, Bob showed us photographic slides taken from Chuck Schnautz's plane of the area around Last Creek and Quartz Creek which supply Boulder Creek which, in turn, feeds the North Umpqua.

Bob helped us hear the message: These roadless areas need permanent protection as islands to hold and filter water for fish and drinking; as islands without costly, erosive, fragmenting roads.

The discussion that evening stimulated a great deal of information sharing:

- * Opinion polls consistently show the U.S. public supports legislation to permanently protect roadless areas in public forests.

- * A goal of the Adopt-A-Wilderness Campaign is to legislatively protect roadless areas in the Umpqua National Forest of

5000 acres and urges the FS to consider areas of even 1000 acres.

- * Nationally, public resource management agencies are \$8 billion behind in maintaining roads on public lands. Within Douglas County, UNF is responsible for 5,000 miles of roads and BLM manages 3,000 miles; at an average yearly maintenance cost of \$740 per mile, funds are not sufficient to maintain current roads. Decommissioning—a one-time cost—may run about \$30,000 per mile.

- * A study in the Willamette National Forest indicated 80% of fires were "road-related."

- * Whereas Washington State set aside 10% of its land for wilderness and California reserved 13%, Oregon protects less than 4%. Only 2% of Douglas County's three million acres is in wilderness.

- * Essayist Cat Anderson in his *Before the Wilderness* highlights the Native American's holistic views—without dichotomies common in western management.

- * Public agencies can better support forest management. Here's one example Ken Carloni suggested.

Now, large industrial forest contractors and small contractors compete for logs from public lands. Because larger mills have more resources and more to lose if they don't get enough logs to keep their mills running, larger mills out bid smaller mills. This drives out smaller mills, reducing employment, weakening local economies. On the other hand, if the FS were to sell only to contract loggers and deck all logs in sorting yards, the FS could manage the sale and distribution of its logs to better utilize capacities of all mills, sustain employment and support local economies.

Ken Carloni suggested what for me was a clincher: We don't yet know enough to manage forests sustainably. We need listening laboratories—connected islands of wilderness—to discover how we might some day contribute to management that sustains the wholeness of forests, economies, communities—as did the Native Americans in the Little River Watershed for millennia.

Adopt-A-Wilderness in a key listening opportunity. To learn more, contact Umpqua Watersheds.

Written by Jim Long



Cautious Thinning

Currently congress is debating stripping us of environmental protections by using the excuse that we need to speed-up thinning to prevent catastrophic fires.

The simple fact is that agencies can thin to prevent fuel build-up already, without weakening environmental laws. One good example is what Roseburg BLM did earlier this year to reduce fire hazard in the forest. With a simple "categorical exclusion" (quick and easy environmental analysis), the BLM did a non-commercial thinning on both sides of 15 miles of logging roads, as well as pruned lower limbs from trees and cleared brush. With limited funds, the BLM chose an area near rural residences. The agencies can also reduce fuel build-up and thin anywhere in the forest, now, without changing our environmental laws.

The only reason the Bush administration wants to weaken environmental laws is so that they can log valuable trees which are illegal to log -- these healthy, large mature and old-growth trees (the courts have found) need to remain in the watershed.

Remember?

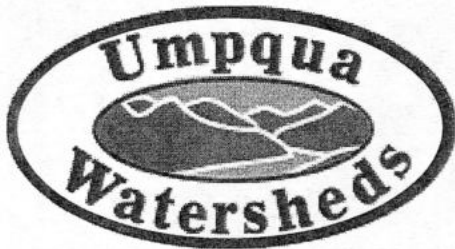
Remember the forest fires in 1994? As a result (in 1995) Congress passed the now famous Salvage Logging Rider. It's purported purpose was to expedite salvage logging of dead and dying trees by suspending environmental protections and laws. On the west side of the cascades, in particular, the Umpqua watershed, the Salvage Logging Rider was heartbreaking.

It ordered that all past timber sales that had been stopped by courts because they were so environmentally degrading, must be logged. Thousands of acres of healthy, green, old-growth forests in the Umpqua watershed that had been found to be illegal timber sales, and had since been set aside for wildlife reserves, were clearcut over the following two years. Our web site has pictures of some of these sales:

<http://www.umpqua-watersheds.org/local/loggingriderlaw.html>

We can thin with existing rules and regulations. We do NOT need to weaken our important environmental laws.

Submitted by Francis Eatherington



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FIRE 101 by Francis Eatherington

Hikes and Events: Schedule for October, November & December

Copper Creek and World Summit Update

Stories of Discovery and Cautious Thinning

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Sunday
Nov. 17
at 7pm

Downtown Roseburg
Presbyterian Church
On the corner of Jackson & Lane

Gourmet Desserts
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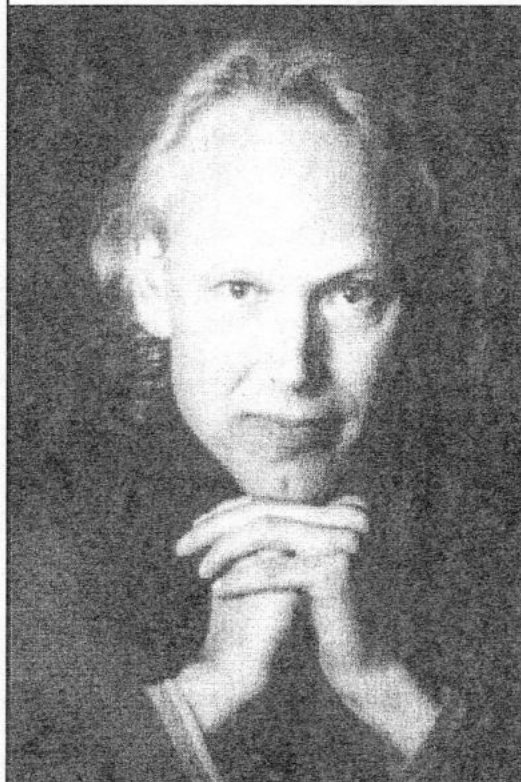
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