

Winter 2002

100 Valleys

A Quarterly Publication for the Supporters of Umpqua Watersheds

Issue No. 21

Roadless Areas Win Again

Judges Uphold Largest Public Process Rule in U.S. History

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule for our nation's wild, native forests was upheld in the 9th Circuit Federal Court of Appeals. In strong language, two of the three judges said, "Given the importance of roadless lands as a resource and the ease with which they may be irretrievably damaged . . . a near total ban on further road construction in the remaining and precious roadless areas within our national forests is not the drastic measure that (opponents) make it out to be."

When this plan is implemented our public natural resources and democracy will claim important victories. The judges agree, **The Roadless areas "help conserve some of the last unspoiled wilderness in our country."**

The people of our nation spoke with over 1.5 million comments for the past two years that this plan was the right decision for our wild, roadless lands and for our nation. Our forest rangers demonstrated this plan to the public with maps, reports, and over 400 public hearings. Because of such overwhelming response to the Roadless Rule Protection Plan the court of appeals responded, "**The public's interest in preserving precious, irreplaceable resources must be taken into account.**" The leftover court challenges will soon be put to rest. The great benefits to our wild forests and the public will be the result.

On the ground, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule will give increased protection to public forest, roadless areas 5,000 acres or more. For the Umpqua, that's the best news for places like **Mount Bailey** in the Diamond Lake Ranger District of the Umpqua National Forest, **Last Creek** in the Tiller Ranger District, and **Cougar Bluffs** a roadless area in the North Umpqua Ranger District. One of our wildest coastal areas such as **Wassen Creek** will also have greater protection from road building and logging.

The Roadless Conservation Rule will now hold onto the special qualities that these wild areas produce for you and me, and for fish, wildlife and water quality. **This is VERY good news.**

This law of the land can now provide additional protection for **58.5 million acres of National Forest across our country.** Included in those protections is the halting of over 30 harmful timber sales in Alaska's Tongass National Forest.

Our democracy has delivered this protection policy through

leadership, science, public comments, and the courts. All the intricacies of what our country was built on. Your help has proven how important grassroots efforts are in our growing democracy. *Keep up the good work!*

The bad news is there are many more challenges in store for our forests and rivers. Recent proposals (see page 3) from Washington, DC expect to roll over some of our hard fought environmental laws and return our forests and communities to greater grid-lock. Those plans, coupled with the international struggles, the build up of national security and the corporate political agenda, have pushed our environmental problems aside. Umpqua Watersheds will keep you informed of these assaults on our wild forests and mighty rivers.

*Written by Penny Lind, UW's Executive Director
She represents the Umpqua on the Oregon Wilderness Coalition.*

Umpqua's Roadless Areas*

1. Wassen Creek	25,000 acres
2. Mount Bailey	18,402 acres
3. Calf-Copeland	15,689 acres
4. Hardesty Mtn.	8,075 acres
5. Fairview	7,408 acres
6. Limpy Rock	6,784 acres
7. Last Creek	7,660 acres
8. Cougar Bluffs	5,572 acres
9. Canton Creek	5,715 acres
10. Williams Creek	5,856 acres
11. Bulldog Rock	6,054 acres
12. Donegan Prairie	5,912 acres
TOTAL	118,127 acres

* 5,000 acres or greater from UNF

What's Inside

Major Threats to Major Landmarks by Francis Eatherington

Umpqua Fires Revisited

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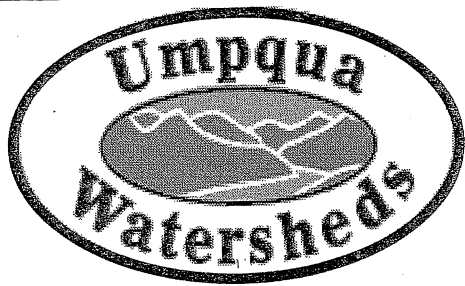
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UW's MISSION:

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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Call First: 672-7065 630 SE Jackson
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Roseburg, OR 97470

Visit Our Website!

www.umpqua-watersheds.org

Email us:

uw@umpqua-watersheds.org

Protect - Organize - Monitor - Change 2003!

Dear Supporter,

What Umpqua Watersheds will do in 2003!

The agenda that our nation is operating from puts the environment at the bottom of the food chain, except where plans to take from our natural resources are involved. It will be our responsibility to keep a "must win" focus on the protection of the Umpqua and beyond this next year. Umpqua Watersheds has its priorities laid out before it...

Protect - Protect - Protect is primary in the Umpqua and beyond. The salvation of our environmental laws will take everyone's interest and actions to keep them strong and in place. We can make that happen with you and our regional and national partners. Wilderness, mature and old growth forests, our mighty rivers and our future depend on broad coalitions for change, litigation victories with our partners, and activist's support day in and day out.

Organize—Organize—Organize is the word for the next year. It's people like you and me who must bring the grassroots together to speak up for our precious "wild forests and mighty rivers." Umpqua Watersheds has already launched its "inreach" program to activate each of us to respond to the problems ahead. Expect to hear from us more often - we want to talk with you; get ideas, answer questions and gather your on-going support.

Monitor - Monitor - Monitor efforts will continue in our forests that provide so much for our wildlife, fish and communities. Logging, road building and special interest projects will be visited, reviewed and appealed when necessary. New ways, that can produce healthy results and old habits that cause damage of our forests and rivers will be monitored and the agencies will be held accountable.

Change - Change - Change is right around the corner with people at work in the Umpqua who have learned, endured and made change during difficult times. We meet new partners every day thanks to you.

Bumpy roads will not deter our mission to protect and restore the watershed we live in, enjoy and depend upon.

Sincerely,


Penny Lind, Executive Director

IN MEMORY

Ted Gordon * Umpqua Watersheds Supporter and Activist

Thank you to an anonymous donor who awarded Umpqua Watersheds with a MEMORIUM in honor of:

Galen and Barbara Rowell

who perished this summer doing the nature photography they loved and produced for years. See their beautiful photos: www.mountainlight.com

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

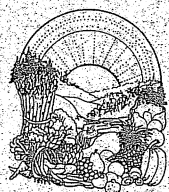
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Family Law

by

Kathryn Johnston

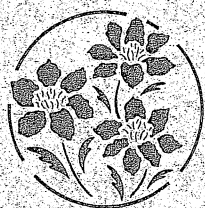
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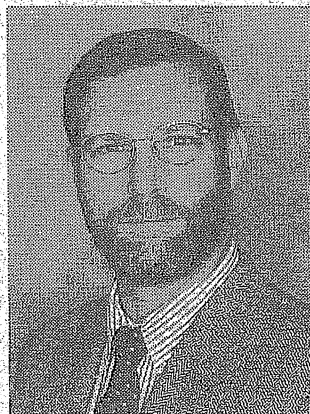
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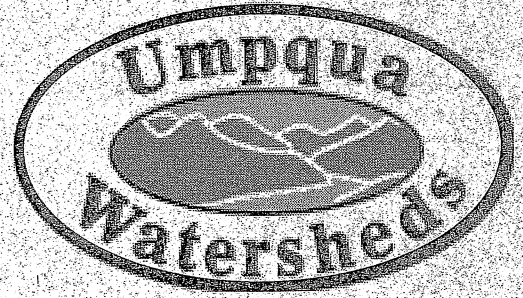
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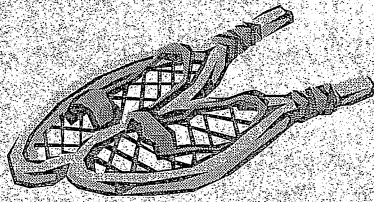
Winter 2003



UW's Winter 2003 Hikes & Events!



January 18 - Snowshoe near Mount Bailey



Explore the beauty and wonders of UW's proposed National Monument around Diamond Lake home of the Umpqua's largest Roadless Area Mount Bailey. Snow shoes will be available to rent for \$10. Call UW to reserve: **672-7065**. Beginners encouraged!
Carpool will meet behind Courthouse at **8am** or at the Diamond Lake Lodge at 10am.

JAN 21 - When the Oceans Boil

Tuesday, join concerned friends and neighbors who want to learn more about the complexity and importance of Global Warming. After a 50 minute video a panel of scientists and experts will field questions. Event is **FREE** and open to the public at the **Douglas County Library** at **7pm**. See green INSERT.

February 8 - Cross Country Skiing



Once again explore UW's proposed National Monument with a Cross Country ski trip into the Diamond Lake and Mount Bailey Area. Skiers will be responsible for their own skis. Call for ski equipment locations: 672-7065. Carpool will meet behind Courthouse at 8am or at the Diamond Lake Lodge at 10am. Beginners encouraged!

Feb. 21 - 7th Annual Banquet & Silent Auction

After work Friday at **5:30pm**, join hundreds of like-minded friends and neighbors for UW's annual gathering. Well-known Oregon Environmentalist, Activist **Andy Kerr** will speak about OUR upcoming challenges. Ticket scholarships are available by calling the UW office at 672-7065. See back cover of newsletter for more details. The **Silent Auction** will feature artist Susan Rudisill's painting, "*Song of Golden Waters*."

March 8 - "The Rock" in Lookingglass

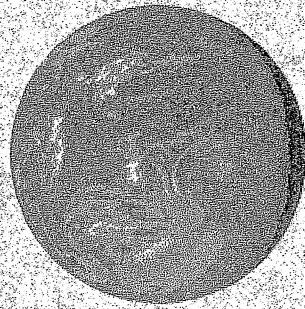
Saturday, climb the amazing geological wonder with great views of Tenmile and Lookingglass Valleys. Hikers will learn how the 1700 feet elevation "conglomerate" rock raised from its ancient gravel river bed. Hopefully the Spring flowers will offer colorful compliments to the spring vistas. Carpool will meet in Roseburg behind the Douglas County Courthouse off Fowler Street at **9am** and meet at the Lookingglass Store at 9:30am.

March 22 - Last Creek Roadless Area near Tiller Fire

Saturday, join outgoing UW President Bob Hoehne who has adopted this South Umpqua Roadless Area when hikers will learn about the importance of protecting this Roadless Area. Meet behind the Courthouse at **9am** or at Canyonville's Promise Bakery at 10am.

For more info: **672-7065** or email: uw@umpqua-watersheds.org

"The Day The Oceans Boiled"



~ A video presentation on Global Warming ~

Panel Discussion to follow

When: Tuesday, January 21, 2003 at 7:00 PM

Where: Douglas County Library

Sponsored By

**The Audubon Society
Umpqua Watersheds
Douglas County Green Party
The Native Plant Society of Oregon**

**For More Information
Please call 541-672-9819**

Science Under Siege

Journalist Todd Wilkinson introduces us to eight public agency scientists who experienced "organizational repression and silencing . . . behind closed doors." The scientists were victimized for trying to protect both the public's natural resources and the ethics of their profession.

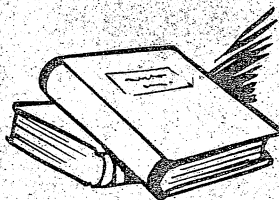
In the introduction, former BLM Director, Jim Baca, says "These problems are paralyzing the government's ability to uphold the law and do its job of acting in our best interests. We are in a position to either lose our natural heritage or help rescue it by listening to the people whose stories are found . . ." in Wilkinson's book, *Science Under Siege, The Politicians' War on Nature and Truth*, Johnson Books, 1998.

Recently, I "listened" to these stories, outlined below:

Scientist	Discipline	Agency
Jeff DeBonis -	forestry -	USFS
David Ross -	herpetology -	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Jeffrey van Ee -	pollution specialist -	EPA in Nevada
Al Espinosa -	fish biology -	USFS on the Clearwater in Idaho
Ron Kerbo -	speleology -	Natl. Park Service, Carlsbad Caverns
Ben Lomeli -	hydrology -	BLM on San Pedro River
Howard Wilshire -	soils geology -	USGS, Mojave Desert
David Mattson -	biologist -	Yellowstone Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team

A tough—but important—read for those who care about "combat scientists" who fight for the public's natural heritage—even at the expense of their employment with public agencies.

Retired Agriculture Professor, Jim Long is a regular writer and book reviewer for "100 Valleys"



BOOK REVIEW

The Calm Before the Warm *Global Warming and the Politics of Denial*

Recently, my brother reminded me of this well known story: If a frog is placed in boiling water, it will jump out in order to survive. But put the same frog in lukewarm water and gradually increase the temperature, it will continually adapt to the change until it dies.

And so it is with the phenomenon of global warming. The latest strategy of the Bush administration is to accept the reality of global warming and learn to adapt.

And here are some of the things which beg for adaptation:

- * The anticipated disappearance of glaciers in the Andes could lead to severe water shortages in Peru and Bolivia.
- * The current record rate of ice cap melts in Greenland could cause a 15 foot rise in the sea level over the next 150 years.

- See Reverse for details -

On Tuesday, **January 21st** at 7pm in the Douglas County Library, Umpqua Watersheds, Umpqua Valley Audubon Society, Native Plant Society and the Douglas County Green party are co-sponsoring a video presentation on global warming "**The Day the Oceans Boiled.**"

This will be followed by a panel discussion on practical solutions. We can no longer afford to let the government do it. We must do it ourselves.

Stuart Liebowitz has been a paid member of UW since '99.

Headwaters & the Ecology Center of the Siskiyou
Present the 12th Annual

Western Forest Activist Conference

Ashland, Oregon

January 24-25

Friday Keynote Address by
Paul Hawken and Julia Butterfly Hill

Skills Workshops and Field Studies on Sunday!

Registration Packets Available Soon

For More Info Call Darcy Cronin:

(541) 482- 4459 or email darcy@headwaters.org

Silent Auction

Feb. 21, Friday

Featured Artist

Susan Rudisill

"Song of Golden Waters"

*Douglas County Fairgrounds
Community Building
Off I-5 on Exit 123, Roseburg*

*Join Umpqua Watersheds' Outreach Committee
if you want to lend a hand in community events that
help protect your environment. Call: 672-6982*

Or email: uw@umpqua-watersheds.org

Spring Concert

Tingstad & Rumbel's
"Acoustic Garden"

(comes in a plant-able CD cover for your garden)

April 6

More Details will be in March 2003, 100 Valleys.

Tiller Fire Forum

(Continued from page 4)

yet. They have requested 45 million as a result of the 2002 fires and are working with 3 million from the current budget.

The timber industry made their harvesting agenda clear. Forest Service folks said there are no clear results which show past salvaged areas did better than areas not salvaged after 1987 fires.

Tiller Fire Meeting by Bob Hoehne

There were 25 to 30 people at the meeting and 10 folks were USFS staff.

There were many questions that the public asked at the meeting. Local folks (loggers, as well as, members of UW) were concerned about safety, timber harvest and impacts on wildlife.

One question was: Is there any "green" (live wood) in the BASH timber sale? The answer was no.

Some people want to log in the old growth reserves (LSRs). Some said let's just cut the reserves in half!

It was ironic to find out that the Douglas Timber Operators (DTO) helped to pay for fly-over photos, for the Forest Service.

The Forest Service is going to be restoring the Matrix areas, first, rather than the LSRs (old growth reserves).

There will be two separate Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) completed within the next two years.

It was a MAJOR disappointment that there were NO wildlife or fish biologists at the Tiller presentation.

More Fire Details will be in March, 100 Valleys.

Wendell Talks of Klamath Farm the Everglades of the West?

Folks recognize the 10.5 million-acre Klamath Basin as the "Everglades of the West." It includes six wildlife refuges; 230,000 acres are farmed; 22,000 acres in Tule Lake and Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuges are farmed. Water for irrigation is used primarily for alfalfa, malting barley, potatoes and onions which leaves little water for waterfowl and endangered suckers in the Basin and for salmon in the Klamath River. That was a message shared at the Umpqua Valley Audubon's October meeting by Wendell Wood, Southern Field Representative of the Oregon Natural Resources Council.

But the question is not only an issue of water quantity, Wendell said. It's also a concern about the *quality* of water remaining for wildlife and fish. Because agricultural chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides and animal wastes) run off of farm fields down stream waters are high in nitrates and phosphorus. One estimate is three pounds of nitrogen and four pounds of phosphorus for each acre in farming. These nutrients contribute to alga blooms; when the alga rot they draw oxygen from the water, depleting oxygen supplies needed for aquatic life.

In addition, 56 pesticide products—insecticides, herbicides, fungicides—are approved for use on farm lands in the Wildlife Refuges. Among these are two neurotoxins, 11 carcinogens and 14 endocrine disrupters. This is very alarming!

More acres in farming and fewer acres left for marshes means fewer acres for "cleaning" run off from farmlands. Dried marshes—high in organic matter—release even more nitrogen and phosphorus into the water when re-flooded. The severity of the water quality problem spirals upward.

A consequence, some believe, was seen this fall in the 33,000 Chinook and Endangered Coho salmon downstream from the Klamath Basin that died because the fish migrating upstream crowded into smaller river pools, which accentuated "gill rot"—a disease that suffocates fish.

One Solution

Wendell urged us to consider an equitable buyout of the farmers' water rights for the land they lease from the Federal

government. He illustrated his point: Land sells for \$1600-1800 per acre. A one-time buyout of water rights might cost the public \$2400 per acre, or \$4000 an acre for land *and* water—in the long term, a far less costly expenditure than the current annual public subsidies for farmers growing crops already in surplus. ONRC is working now with a group of 50 farmers who want to sell their lands' water rights for irrigation water. ONRC is also raising money to bid on commercial farm leases on the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges.

Since the Klamath Project started in 1904, the situation for fish and wildlife has become increasingly dire. Most recently, in June '02 when the Administration reversed priorities, placing water for irrigation over water for wetlands, waterfowl and fish. A major compromise—the 1964 Kuchel Act—allowed farming on the Refuges only if agricultural practices were consistent with broader wildlife refuge purposes.

That was a costly compromise for birds, Wood concluded. For in 1960, at the peak of migration, Tule Lake and Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuges supported 6 million migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway; in 2000, the number was 1 million—1/6th the number of migratory winged critters.

Wendell Wood says YOU can urge....

Senator Ron Wyden (541)431-0229
516 Hart Senate Office Bldg.,
Washington DC, 20510

senator@wyden.senate.gov

....to introduce legislation to phase out the farmland leasing program in the Basin. We can support the efforts of U.S. Representative Mike Thompson in Northern California, who is also interested in reforming the Klamath Project to assure adequate water for the refuges and Klamath River flows.

For more information:

Wendell Wood (541)891-4006
ONRC, POB 8040, Brookings, OR 97415

www@onrc.org

by Jim Long

Ancient Yews Cut and Stripped!

Roseburg Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is allowing contractors to kill Yew trees to harvest bark. They are allowing these ancient Yew trees to be cut inside Old-Growth reserves without any public notice or public comment.

The Pacific Yew is a small, slow-growing tree found under the canopy of old-growth forests. Its bark contains an important component used to make a cancer fighting drug, Taxol.

In the past decade, Yew bark harvest was done with environmental protections in place. The bark was not collected from live, wild trees in the Pacific Northwest. It was taken from trees that were already cut when our forests were clearcut.

In the 1980's the National Cancer Institute bought up to a million pounds of Yew bark and Bristol-Myers was given exclusive rights to manufacture Taxol.

During that era, the federal agencies did an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the cumulative effects of harvesting bark. It was during that time the BLM stopped the practice of burning up the Yew trees in their clearcut slash piles prioritizing these areas for bark collection. Prior to the discovery of the Yew's special healing characteristics it was considered a "waste tree."

Now Taxol is semi-synthesized from Yew leaves, mostly grown on plantations and hedges. In the early 90's, the Yew EIS expired and collections stopped in the Umpqua. In 1994, some old-growth forests were put into protected old-growth reserves (Late Successional Reserves, or LSRs), where all the pieces of these magnificent forests are protected for the plants and animals that depend on them. For instance, the Yew tree provides valuable mid-canopy perches for spotted owls in their "sit and wait" foraging behavior, as well as protection from thermal extremes.

Years passed with the remaining Yew groves less threatened, until the summer of 2002. Roseburg BLM put a small notice in their Planning Update that they had given a permit for Yew bark collection. The BLM considered the impacts from this harvest "insignificant," choosing to only give this project a Categorical Exclusion (CE) designation with no public input or environmental studies.

Umpqua Watersheds and other citizens wrote the Roseburg BLM a letter expressing our concern. The BLM did not answer. In the Fall Planning Update the BLM announced again they had given another permit for bark collection out of the old-growth reserves (LSRs). The BLM had no explanation of why they were permitting the killing of 300+ year old trees in these reserves.

The agency has indicated that more Yew bark collection will be done this Spring. It will be purchased by a German company. In addition to Yew Bark this company wants 4 million pounds of Yew boughs.

The new interest in the Pacific Yew could be related to the charges that Bristol-Myers Squibb has unfairly obstructed distribution of the generic form of Taxol, paclitaxel. On July 30, 2001 a German company (Boehringer Ingelheim International) received Federal Drug Admin. approval to market paclitaxel.

The BLM can not allow further collection of bark from these old trees before considering other alternatives, such as collecting from Yew plantations established for that purpose. There is a question of sustainability of this ancient tree. Also, the BLM must lift their curtain of silence and restrictions on public involvement and input.

Written by UW's Forest Monitor, Francis Eatherington.

THANK YOU Wild Forest and Mighty River Supporters . . .

A generous public attended and welcomed David Lanz back to Roseburg on November 17. Your applause and bravos really made the evening uplifting and has encouraged David to return to entertain us next year.

Umpqua Watersheds Outreach Committee did a fabulous job in coordinating this great event by bringing together so many supporters of our "Wild Forest and Mighty River Protection Programs."

Special thanks to: The best concert hall in SW Oregon, the First Presbyterian Church, Hokanson's B & B, Elmer's Restaurant, While Away Books, Hi 5 Music, Southbound Sound, New Day Quality Grocery, Tom Turner the Tuner, M & M Printers, Ken Carloni and Bob Hoehne, River Sounds, Steve Erickson, Umpqua Watersheds' volunteers and staff who provided delectable desserts, the kitchen crew, and the media for delivering the message of David's world-renowned talents.

And, of course, thank you to David Lanz pianist and composer, along with his wife Alicia for honoring the Umpqua with "so many stunning notes."

UNTIL NEXT YEAR . . . Thank You!

Umpqua Needs Recreation Plan

The Forest Service has agreed to withdraw their decision to allow snowmobile users to build a two-story cabin on public land in the Umpqua National Forest next to the Mt. Thielsen Wilderness and adjoining roadless areas. Umpqua Watersheds put the pressure on the agency to do the right thing and for the time being they have made the right decision.

The wolverines that may roam here will not have to put up with increased snowmobile harassment. Eventually the mysterious Lynx could even move back to this wild region.

This decision does not reduce snowmobile access in the Diamond Lake Ranger District. Fortunately, the decision also does not encourage more snowmobile use like it could have. Umpqua Watersheds had appealed to the Forest Service to consider the current effects of snowmobiles on the environment and on other recreationists before encouraging any expansion of snowmobile use in the Diamond Lake District.

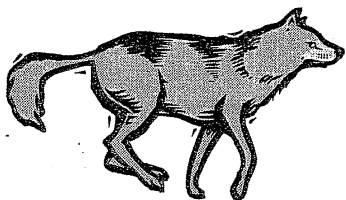
As our region becomes more and more popular to diverse recreationists, Umpqua Watersheds will keep the pressure on the care takers of our wild places to take a long look at how these activities should or should not be broadened. We must ask for a comprehensive Recreation Plan. Stay tuned!

By Penny Lind

Listening for Wolves

Umpqua Cougars Saved

They're coming—whether we bring them back or whether they migrate back to Oregon on their own. That was the message from a December "public listening session" conducted in Roseburg by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).



Several from Umpqua Watersheds attended the forum on the Endangered gray wolf. ODFW biologist, Mark Henjum, ODFW, LaGrande, reminded us the gray wolf was extinct in Oregon by the mid '30s; it was re-

introduced into Rocky Mountain states in the mid-'90s. That population has grown from nearly 100 to more than 550 in 2001.

As wolves mature in two or three years, they migrate, perhaps, as much as 400 to 500 miles in two or three months. It's just a matter of time before they move from Central Idaho to Eastern Oregon and then on to Douglas County, considered by some as "good" habitat because of our deer and elk population.

What is our perspective on wolves' return to Oregon? That's the key question ODFW biologists asked December 10. The small group in which I participated raised a wide range of points to ponder: If the gray wolf is down graded from Endangered to Threatened, because of the success of the re-introduction program, what effect would wolves have on other Endangered species in Douglas County, such as Columbia whitetail deer?

What's been the experience in New Mexico and Arizona with wolves on domestic cattle ranches? Would any compensation for cattle losses be exceeded by increased eco-tourism into a local economy? Any threats on human life and landowners' rights?

ODFW plans to forward public comments to the State legislature this upcoming session.

ODFW Welcomes YOUR Comments:

Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Information and Education Division 503-872-5700
PO Box 59
Portland, OR
97207-0059 ODFW.comments@state.or.us

For more Information:

Here are three web sites identified in ODFW's extensive packet of information distributed at the forum:

[www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/
InfoCntrWild/gray_wolf/wolf_main.htm](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/InfoCntrWild/gray_wolf/wolf_main.htm)

Defenders of Wildlife
(supports wolves' returning to public lands in SW Oregon):
www.defenders.org/waw/quiz/quiz1.html

Gray Wolf web site:
www.expage.com/page/mrsganimalwolf

Written by Jim Long

On October 29, 2002, a federal court enjoined the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) from proceeding with an elk population "study" which involved killing 50% or more of the cougars in two regions of Oregon: the Umpqua and northeastern Oregon.

Nine state and national conservation organizations and a hunter won the lawsuit, filed in February 2002. The project would have cost \$5.2 million dollars, 75% of which was from a federal tax on hunting equipment and ammunition.

Federal Magistrate Judge Dennis Hubel ruled that "there is the possibility of significant cumulative effects of the cougar harvest, there are substantial concerns regarding the impacts of the study . . . , and the study has uncertain environmental impacts." Judge Hubel enjoined the killing of any cougars until a full Environmental Impact Study of the project is completed.

"This so-called research project was nothing but predator control disguised as science," said Lori Cooper, staff attorney with the Siskiyou Regional Education Project, who along with Brenna Bell, staff attorney with the Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center, is representing the plaintiffs in the case. "The judge agreed with us that the effects of killing so many cougars were uncertain and were not adequately assessed by ODFW and USFWS."

Although the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) had cloaked the project as a scientific experiment, wildlife biologists were quick to point out that the project was not scientifically defensible.

"Many factors influence elk populations, and predation is least likely to be the root cause of decline," said Joseph Vaile, staff biologist for the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center.

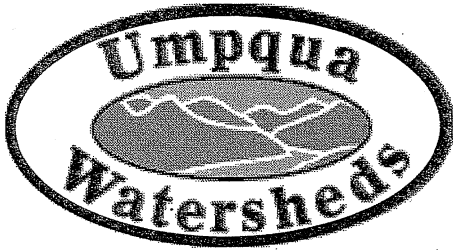
The proposed project was just one more effort to thwart the will of Oregonians who have voted to protect cougars in 1994 and again in 1996.

"Twice, Oregon voters have affirmed that they want greater protections for cougars. This killing plan was not only wrong-headed, but reckless. Thank goodness the judge recognized that," said Mari Margill, Conservation Coordinator of the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The title of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife proposal is "Evaluating the effects of predation and nutrition on recruitment of elk in Oregon." The proposal planned to systematically kill half the cougars in each project area and then to continue killing new cougars that migrated into the area. Since cougars stay with their mothers for up to two years, most female cougars are with young most of their lives. The proposal did not count the abandoned young of killed mother cougars in the death estimates.

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit were the Siskiyou Regional Education Project, the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, the Animal Protection Institute, the Fund for Animals, the Humane Society of the U.S., the Sierra Club, Umpqua Watersheds, Cascadia Wildlands Project, and Al Thieme, an Oregon elk hunter and a conservationist.

Written by Lori Cooper of the Siskiyou Regional Education Project.



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7th Umpqua Watersheds' Annual Banquet & Silent Auction

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Banquet Keynote Speaker:

Andy Kerr

A fifth generation Oregonian, Kerr was born and raised in Creswell. Married to Nancy Peterson since 1984, they are childfree and live with two dogs and one cat. In his free time, Kerr likes to canoe, hike, raft, read, listen to short-wave radio and work on projects that move their home toward energy self-sufficiency.

He is best known for his two decades with the Oregon Natural Resources Council, the organization best known for having brought you the northern spotted owl. He's also Director of the National Public Lands Grazing Campaign and currently runs a consulting business: The Larch Company.

He has lectured at all of the state's leading universities and colleges and at Harvard University. Kerr has appeared numerous times on national television news and feature programs and has published numerous articles on environmental matters.

www.andykerr.net

High Country News ranks Kerr,

***"among the fiercest and most
successful environmentalists."***