In the Umpqua, when the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is addressed most people are reminded of the northern spotted owl. This vulnerable owl, a “web of life” species that relies on old growth forests for its nesting brought high stakes controversy and new ideas to the Umpqua. Along with those outcomes came rooms full of papers, plans, law suits and media attention.

The status of the Umpqua owls has not changed much. It has been determined that the decline of our owls remain at the same high level of loss. A recent region wide review of the northern spotted owl supports the threatened species listing and the continued need for recovery in our region.

For the past decade, the owl’s habitat destruction was slowed by the NW Forest Plan. NOTE: Not by the Plan’s appropriate implementation but by legitimate challenges to illegal implementations. It’s only today that some forest managers have taken steps to correct those illegal practices. Restoration projects like the Steamboat road decommissioning and Tomatillo thinning are good starts in the Umpqua. Salvage and clearcut logging on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, like the Can-Can timber sale harms owls and other species’ recovery.

Along the way to recovery there have been many obstacles. The current administration, forest leadership, local elected leaders and the timber industry have not been the friend to America’s wildlife. Unfortunately, the opponents of the ESA, owls and common sense management are not done yet. The Congress is heating up the fight with bills to weaken the ESA which in turn will weaken “the web of life” for many species in the Umpqua.

Endangered Species Act of 1973 (from original act)
Findings, Purposes, and Policy – Sec.2.(1) various species of fish, wildlife, and plants in the US have been rendered extinct as a consequence of economic growth and development untempered by adequate concern and conservation; (2) other species of fish, wildlife, and plants have been so depleted in numbers that they are in danger of or threatened with extinction; (3) these species of fish, wildlife, and plants are of esthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value to the Nation and its people.

Other Umpqua species at risk are: marbled murrelet, snowy plover, Umpqua cutthroat trout, coho salmon, and other rare plants and animals that need ESA attention and enforcement. Today Umpqua Watersheds appeals for the lamprey an anadromous fish that is an important part of our mighty river’s “web of life.” The pressure to weaken the ESA will continue. With your help, pressure to keep this important legacy ACT also continues. Penny Lind, UW’s Executive Director

We lost some: passenger pigeon, Hawaii’s po’ouli.
We saved some: bald eagle, peregrine falcon, brown pelican, California condor, black footed ferret, sea otter.

Others are still at risk: Florida manatee, coastal coho salmon, northern spotted owl and the marbled murrelet.

Two bills were introduced in the 2003-04 Congress that are the basis of measures likely to be offered in coming months. If passed they would gut the science and weaken habitat protection provisions of the 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA):

* H.R. 1662, introduced by Oregon’s Representative Greg Walden, and its companion bill S2009, submitted by Oregon’s Senator Gordon Smith, propose that political appointees—not scientists—decide what science to use in determining a species’ status.

* H.R. 2933, initiated by California’s Rep. Dennis Cardoza, would reduce habitat protection to what the Secretary of Interior deems “practicable” to merely avoid the extinction - not the recovery--of a species.

As our speaker, Vicki Kaplan, said: The values that underlie these bills do not reflect the hallmark values of Oregonians who seek to leave a legacy for our grandchildren.

At the joint forum of Umpqua Watersheds and Umpqua Valley Audubon Society in the Douglas County Library March 4, most folks penned a letter to Senator Ron Wyden on the spot. For in his desire to maintain unity among the Oregon delegation, Sen. Wyden might go along with diluting the effectiveness of independent science assured by the ESA. Others, too, are urged to contact:

Senator Ron Wyden
700 NE Multnomah St., Ste. 450
Portland OR 97232; (503)326-7525

Contact Vicki Kaplan at Defenders of Wildlife in Portland: vkaplan@greencorps.org or (503)231-4181 ex310. Vicki is a wealth of information about the history of the ESA, this year’s Congressional calendar and partners working to strengthen—not abandon—the ESA.

Jim Long
Dear Supporter,

Winter, a time of reflection . . . Spring, a time of change and action. There have been a lot of dark clouds swirling around this winter that make life for our wild forests and mighty rivers tough and tougher . . .

It’s time for a change in the weather. You and I must make magic out of the current list of monstrous outcomes. Where to begin?

As Umpqua Watersheds says “Hello” to new board members and “Good Bye” to loyal staff and board. I ask you each to Take Action for the Umpqua and beyond. Magic is much better than monsters.

In Action,

Penny Lind, Executive Director

Umpqua and beyond. Magic is much better than monsters.

In Action,

Penny Lind, Executive Director

---

**UW’s Mission Statement:**

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

**Board of Directors**

Bob Allen - Secretary
Gwen Bates - South Umpqua
Sally Browne - Main Umpqua
Jack DeAngeles - Treasurer
Anne Dorsey - North Umpqua
Dale Greenley - Vice President
Jim Ince - Upper Cow Creek
Amelia Kelly - Student
Kathy Shayler - Rice Creek
Leslee Sherman - S. Umpqua
Mike Fisher - North Umpqua
Gerald Wisdom - President

**Executive Director**

Penny Lind

**Conservation Director**

Francis Eatherington

**Conservation Associate**

Tim Ballard

**Membership Development**

Robin Wisdom

**Outreach and Editor of “100 Valleys”**

Patrick Starnes

All contributions to Umpqua Watersheds are tax-deductible. Please send check or money orders to: UW Inc. P.O. Box 101 Roseburg, OR 97470

---

**Come Visit the NEW Office!**

672-7065 539 NE Main Downtown Roseburg, OR

---

**Visit Our Website!**

www.umpqua-watersheds.org

Email us: uw@umpqua-watersheds.org

---

**DONOR News** from Umpqua Watersheds

Modern technology + Umpqua Watersheds

You can now donate to protect and restore the Umpqua and beyond with your handy VISA credit cards.

Access at our website: www.umpqua-watersheds.org

YOUR VISA bill will show: Groundspring for your Umpqua Watersheds’ donation—THANK YOU
Bland Mountain Post-Fire Logging

The Bland Mountain II Fire in August 2004 started in an almost identical way as the Bland Mountain Fire of 1987, which burned the tree plantations created from post-fire logging after the first fire. In 2004, old growth forests on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands on the edge of the 1987 fire, experienced a moderate, natural mosaic burn, creating some areas of dead trees and leaving lots of green trees. This old growth forest is what the BLM now wants to log, up to 150 acres, selling 3.7 mmbf (about 1,000 log truck loads).

Tree plantations are much less resistant to fire than mature forests. Just down the road from the Bland Fire, in the Tiller fires of 2002, the Forest Service reported that "plantations experienced a disproportionately high amount of stand-replacement mortality caused by crown fires as compared to older, unmanaged forests. Plantations had a tendency to increase the rate of fire spread and increased the overall area of stand-replacement fire effects by spreading to neighboring stands."

Before the August 2004 Bland II fire the BLM testified to Congress (July 2004) in support of Bush's Healthy Forest Restoration Act. The BLM gave an example of a "good" post-fire restoration project they did in 1987, after the Bland Mountain I Fire in western Oregon. The long list of "restoration activities" included post-fire logging 55 mmbf of mature and old-growth forests (11,000 log truck loads). The BLM had converted the forests into tree plantations. At the hearing, the BLM bragged to Congress about their success. One month later the Bland Mountain II Fire started in the same place as the 1987 fire and quickly burned up the 15 year old tree plantations.

We should learn from this mistake. Logging live and dead old-growth after a wildfire will NOT reduce future fire risk.

Also, we don't have to log and replant a burned area to have a healthy forest, as industry claims. The 1996 Spring Fire on the Umpqua National Forest burned in LSR and Wilderness. It was never salvaged logged or replanted, even though about 40% of it burned so hot it killed the overstory trees. Four years later, a Forest Service survey showed that over 75% of the Spring Fire area had adequately reforested with over 125 trees per acre. The scattered 25% that was under-stocked is Mother Nature's diversity. The natural, diverse forest is the goal of old-growth reserves, not even age tree plantations which are less resistant to fire.

Why we should NOT be logging in our old-growth forest reserves. About half of the Bland Mountain logging could be in old-growth reserves (aka Late Successional Reserves or LSR), set-aside in 1994 by the Northwest Forest Plan, reserved from logging to assure that wildlife would have someplace to live. The protests down in the Biscuit fire are because the Siskiyou National Forest is allowing logging in the old-growth reserves. While Biscuit will allow 12,000 acres to be logged in old-growth reserves, the Roseburg BLM is proposing logging in 78 acres of an old-growth reserve. But those 78 acres on fragmented, Roseburg BLM land is significant for the two pairs of Spotted Owls that dine there. It is greedy to log in an old-growth reserve because some of it burned, especially when the reserve is surrounded by industrial forestland salvaged logged after the fires. Standing dead trees or dying trees are very important to wildlife, providing many homes in the soft wood, among the live trees. The BLM should let this area recover naturally.

Even logging 91 acres in public forests outside of the reserves ("matrix") is hard on the forest systems. Reputable scientists have recommended leaving a minimal 50% of the burned trees to help protect and replenish the soils, provide shade for the new forest, and provide legacy trees for the new forest to grow into. But Roseburg BLM wants to log virtually all of the dead trees in the harvest units, and even live, green trees that could be injured.

Roseburg BLM proposed 4 alternatives (all in mature and old-growth forests):
1. No action      2. Log in Matrix dead and "dying" trees.
3. Log in LSR, dead and "dying" trees less than 25" wide, and Matrix
4. Log in LSR, dead and "dying" trees over 12" wide, and Matrix.

Umpqua Watersheds prefers #1, no action. But we will be willing to compromise and support alternative #2 IF the BLM will modify it to leave 50% of the dead trees and all of the live trees. Under no circumstances should the old-growth reserve (the LSR) be logged. It will recover much better on its own.

Francis Eatherington

Old Growth Clearcuts

The end is coming close for 520 acres of old-growth forests west of Lemolo Lake in the Diamond Lake Ranger District. Roseburg Forest Products built the roads last fall, and could start to clearcut as soon as the snow melts.

The Umpqua National Forest sold these trees, growing on this high-elevation, fragile ecosystem, in 1998. Even though the two timber sales were right next to each other, the Forest Service failed to look at the cumulative effects to the watershed of clearcutting both at once. They also failed to do the required plant and wildlife surveys.

A court ruling stopped these sales for many years because of the lack of surveys. Eventually the timber industry was able to eliminate the "survey and manage" requirement of the Northwest Forest Plan. We also asked the court to require the Forest Service to look at the cumulative effects of so much clearcutting in the Upper North Umpqua watershed. But instead of ruling on the merits of our case, the court determined that we could have only one judgment against the two sales ("res judicata").

Even though these two sales are illegal, we lost on a technicality in court and these national forests could be logged this spring.

It could have been worse. Jim Caplan, current Forest Supervisor, cancelled the units in un inventoried roadless areas. But there is no protection left for the old-growth facing the chainsaw in the rest of the Whitebird and Upper North timber sales. Roseburg Forest Products (RFP) will soon haul away about 3,500 log truck loads from these two sales. RFP could also log, at any time, 144 acres in the Pigout timber sale near the Umpqua Hot Springs, another 500 log truckloads of public old growth forests.

UW's websites can give you more details:
www.umpqua-watersheds.org
by Conservation Director, Francis Eatherington
President’s Message

Hello Supporters,

As I step down as president of the Board of Directors of Umpqua Watersheds, I’d like to thank the Board for allowing me to serve for the last two years as president of this premier organization. I have grown as an individual through my association here.

The defense of clean water, the remaining ancient forests, native botanical and biological diversity in the Umpqua and beyond is crucial to our future. It has been educational and gratifying working with a band of intelligent, determined, and enthusiastic citizens all from local watersheds spread throughout the Umpqua. This group stands to offer our best attempt at the protection and conservation of the natural beauty of our remaining wild places. We are united with hundreds of local supporters, and regional and national conservation partners which make our work more effective. We must continue to fight on against uncompromising economic greed and shortsightedness of industrial extractors.

Thank you to the Kitchen Staff for the supreme dinner we were treated to at the ninth banquet and benefit auction. Kathy Shayler and her crew worked for three days to produce 14 dishes which were representative of Mediterranean countries, perhaps never done before in Douglas County. Thank you also to the countless volunteers who worked without recognition, but not without gratitude because they love the mission of Umpqua Watersheds Inc. I personally look forward to becoming better acquainted with many of you who are familiar with this one day:

Douglas County’s 1st Annual

One Less Car Day

SUN - APRIL 24

Use alternative transportation this one day: bike bus - walk - carpool

Social gathering at McMenamin’s at 5pm with T-shirts, Food & Fun

Bärbel 673-3385 or Christy 673-1977

Sincerely,

Gerald Wisdom

Umpqua Watersheds’ Board President (2003-05)

Investing in Watersheds

If you realized a return of 500% over three years, would you invest again?

A recent study estimated a 500% return to local communities from 2001 and 2004 on investments in watershed councils throughout Oregon. These benefits are beyond the incalculable values of healthy watersheds for communities and fish.

For each dollar from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) invested for local watershed council support, the local councils attracted another $1.37 from OWEB for other purposes and generated $3.72 from outside sources—a total of $5.09.

The study found that 85% of the local councils’ expenditures, for example to employ staff and contractors, remained in the host counties.

The study of 48 of Oregon’s 58 watershed councils also examined social impacts: levels of volunteering; private landowners’ rallying neighbors’ voluntary support; partnering with government agencies, non-profit organizations and private sector interests; collaborating with adjacent watershed councils; helping the general public become more aware of and involved in sustaining healthy watersheds. In short, watershed councils became effective “catalysts” to help individuals and communities enhance their capacities to engage in public issues.

The study—Understanding the Community Economic and Social Impacts of Oregon’s Watershed Councils—was authored by Michael Hibbard and Susan Lurie. The 29 page report, dated January 2005, is available from the Institute for Policy Research and Innovation, University of Oregon.

The writers refer to the success of Oregon’s watershed councils as a premier national example of CBNRM—Community-Based Natural Resource Management—an approach to environmental stewardship in which regulation and incentives and local voluntary action restore the health of our natural environment. Key tools, Hibbard and Lurie said, are dialogue, education and trust-building to carry out on-the-ground projects. Umpqua Watersheds is an essential ingredient in the Umpqua Basin Watershed Council. UW representatives—Patrick Starnes, Penny Lind, Jack DeAngeles and others—remind me of the “baking powder” in those high-energy baking powder biscuits advertised on Prairie Home Companion.

Page 4
UW’s Spring 2005
Hikes & Events!

APRIL 15 - Umpqua Watersheds’ NEW Office Open House
Friday afternoon, stop by Umpqua Watersheds NEW office on 539 SE Main Street (downtown Roseburg - upstairs above the Wizzards Internet). UW Staff, Board and Volunteers are back to work at our new location thanks to a helpful moving crew. Now it’s time to share our new digs with all of you. Please stop by for refreshments and updates from 11am to 4:30pm followed by a reception at 6pm for Patrick’s retirement from Umpqua Watersheds as Outreach Coordinator and Editor of “100 Valleys” (1997-2005).

APRIL 19 - Dr. Carloni’s “Burning Questions” Native American Fire Ecology
Tuesday night, take a trip through time when Native Americans would burn the rolling oak savannahs and high mountain meadows of the Umpqua with OSU Forestry PhD Ken Carloni. Ken will present his unique idea of how pre-European humans exercised a regular tradition of prescribed burning on the Umpqua. Event is FREE & open to the public at UCC’s Indian Room at 7pm.

APRIL 24 - Wildflower and Wildfire Walk with Dr. Carloni
Sunday, join botanist and fire ecologist Ken Carloni in an exploration of the Boulder Creek Wilderness which was home to the 1996 Spring Fire and has never been salvaged logged. Carloni can talk about the natural underburn in the wilderness as well as the successful natural reforestation. Hikers can meet behind the Courthouse at 9am or meet at the North Umpqua Ranger Station at 9:30am. The hike is rated moderate. Bring small backpack with lunch, water, sunscreen and binoculars.

MAY 3 - “Cinco de Mayo” - 3rd Cooking with Conscience Class
Join your friends and neighbors Tuesday evening at 6pm at the First Presbyterian Church at corner of Lane and Jackson in downtown Roseburg. The class fee of $35 includes instruction, recipes and tastings. Beverages will be provided. Call Umpqua Watersheds to register now, as space is limited: 672-7065 For detailed questions Kathy: 643-0047

MAY 8 - Mariposa Lily HIKE Green Thunder Timber Sale up Little River
Sunday, join neighbors, Vance Faber and Geoff Niles of Little River when they host a hike to the top of Ace Williams Mountain where hikers will learn about the importance of protecting the Mariposa Lily. Meet in Roseburg behind the Douglas County Courthouse off Fowler Street at 9am or at the Glide Ranger Station at 9:30am. RATED: moderate to difficult. The first part is steep but the top is rolling mountain meadows. Bring small backpack with lunch, water, sunscreen and binoculars.

June 4 - Wisdom Waterfall Walk up North Umpqua Trail
Saturday, join UW’s Staff’ Robin Wisdom who leads a mellow exploration to discover Toketee Falls. Hikers can meet behind the Courthouse at 10am or meet at the North Umpqua Ranger Station at 9:30am. The hike is rated very easy and is ideal for young children and seniors. Bring small backpack with lunch, water, sunscreen and binoculars.

JUNE 8 - Spotted Owl TALK with local wildlife biologist
Wednesday night, learn how Spotted Owl populations have been doing over the past decade with a power point slide show presentation led by a wildlife biologist, Janice Reid, who monitors local threatened owls. Event is FREE and open to the public at the Douglas County Library at 7pm. Refreshments will be provided.

JUNE 11 - Spotted Owl WALK with local wildlife biologist
Saturday, learn how Spotted Owl populations have been doing over the past decade with a guided tour led by a wildlife biologist, Janice Reid, who monitors local owls. Hikers can meet in Roseburg behind the Douglas County Courthouse at 9am. Bring small backpack with lunch, water, sunscreen and binoculars. Off trail hiking required.

JULY 16 - 19th Annual River Appreciation Day
Every summer for almost two decades local citizens have been organizing a celebration on various parts of the Umpqua! See how you can get involved to make this year’s celebration the best ever. See contact info below.

For more info call: 672-7065 or email: uw@umpqua-watersheds.org
### River Sounds and the Roadless Slideshow

If you want to help protect these important areas Robert needs help categorizing and typing up info about our **Wild Umpqua places**.

Robert O. Hoehne 679-7077

### Become an Umpqua Watersheds Business Member Today!

For more information call: **672-7065** or email: **uw@umpqua-watersheds.org**
WHEN SPRING COMES
TO THESE GREEN HILLS OF OREGON

Then pound, you piliated
just before the sun can come to light;
cry the ancient forest live from
what remnant night it huddles
on this hill we’ll waken where these
still-wild geese (now) never leave
those ponds dug in that neighbor’s field’s
been carved so cavalier from forest.

Caw loud to meet the first fierce hawks,
you crows! Squawk and fall on
lingering owls all you jet-winged
ravens! Call back and forth each
song bird hungry for Spring love!

But our kind’s only vernal music I’ve
heard (so far) above this pencil’s
stop and go debates (inane, outrageous)
with a page, today: large wheels’ low-
pitched hum on pavement, shifting
log trucks’ barely muffled roars, choruses
of distant saws off surrounding high ground;
greedy gather-round of logs like limb-
less captured flies been caught by those
wove-web steel rope spiders, their
endless hunger told to these bewildered
morning hills by the strident whistle cries
of diesel yarders.

Joseph Patrick Quinn of Camas Valley

Experience a Spring Getaway

If you feel like getting back into the mountains during our
great spring weather, an overnight stay at a fire lookout tower
may be just the ticket. The Forest Service rents some of its tow-
ers when they are not in use for the fire season, and others that
are no longer used for fire detection. I have had the pleasure of
staying at three towers on the Sequoia National Forest in Califor-
nia, and can attest to the magnificent views, quiet and solitude. There is nothing else quite like sitting on a bed with glass insulators on
its legs, on a peak over 8,000 feet high, while a lightning storm passes through. Or watching the sun rise and set from the t

Another Banquet Success
A Most Sensuous Annual Meeting by Jim Long

The aromas teased us into tasting Mediterranean hors oeuv-
res. Sampling culinary treats from Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Leb-
anon, Syria, Turkey, Italy, Greece and Spain became a festive
geography lesson at the Umpqua Watersheds 9th annual meet-
ing, February 12. Chef Kathy Shayler catered both the appetizers
and the organic vegetarian buffet at the Douglas County
Fairgrounds’ largest hall.

The social time also offered opportunities to meet and greet
folks, watch an attractive year in review, enjoy Toby Bates on
his piano and admire—and write silent bids for—crafts and
other items contributed by residents of the Umpqua.

Executive Director Penny Lind told us what challenges her
and what heartens her during these transitional political times.
One thing that heartens Penny is acknowledging The Counting
on YOU award winners: Wendy McGowan and Summers
Stephanos. Another is the cadre of skilled, committed UW
partners, volunteers and staff. Stan Vejtasa was awarded
Umpqua Watersheds’ Environmental Activist Award.

A new twist to this year’s annual meeting was a song-and-
skit with Susan Applegate-Daniel Robertson and Singers who
excited folks to invite others to join Umpqua Watersheds—and
the larger goal of protecting our environment.

UW’s Conservation Director, Francis Eatherington shared a
moving good news/bad news story of 2004. Several at our table
right then and there wrote their post card opinions to BLM
about its Green Thunder Timber Sale proposal. In addition to
her sentiment against plans to harvest old growth on public
lands, Francis also considered the issue of lowering and treat-
ing Diamond Lake with rotenone to kill tui chub—a strategy
that threatens bordering wetland plants—and the issue of im-
proving and decommissioning roads in the Steamboat Creek
“key” watershed.

Keynoter, Jeff Golden, encouraged us—“with respect and
optimism”—to initiate conversations that might help folks
broaden their conception of “self interest” to include at least
their children and grandchildren. He called on politicians “to
speak with authenticity”: If you believe gasoline prices are too
low, say so! JPR’s “Jefferson Exchange” host urged us again to
“Do what you can do.” Even though what each of us does is
unique—maybe because it is unique—it matters, he said. His
new book, As If We Were Grownups, drives home that point.
Patrick’s NEWS . . .

You have seen him on the trail, in the news and next to you at Umpqua Watersheds’ and community events - speaking up for NW wild forests and mighty rivers.

PLEASE join Umpqua Watersheds at a reception honoring Patrick - as we say “Good Bye” to our friend and colleague who will begin his new Umpqua adventure.

Special Reception at 6pm
at Umpqua Watersheds’ NEW Office
539 SE Main on April 15

Time to Celebrate
APRIL 15
Open House at
Umpqua Watersheds’ new office
539 SE Main St. - Roseburg
(Downtown Upstairs above Wizzards internet)

Umpqua Watersheds’ Staff, Board and Volunteers are back to work at our new location thanks to a helpful moving crew.

Now it’s time to share our new digs with all of you.

Please stop by for refreshments and updates on
April 15th from 11am to 4:30pm

NEW Office Needs . . .

If you can not join us, you can still help out by contributing your time, goods or services to keep trees standing and rivers clean.

STUFF:
- Bookcases
- Narrow Display Tables
- Program Office Signs
- Vacuum

SERVICES:
- Recycle/Trash/Cleaning
- Vacuuming
- Reception
- Display Board Art

Thank YOU ☺