



100 Valleys

Summer 2005

A Quarterly Publication for the Supporters of Umpqua Watersheds

Issue #31

Forests, People & Laws WORK LEMOLO & National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Unfortunate; MORE, not less, ⊗ Old-growth logging in our future

Successful changes have been accomplished on the Lemolo Project in the Diamond Lake District of the Umpqua.

The original project was twice the size with aggressive harvest of mountain hemlock forests (**withdrawn**), Lodgepole pine forests (**withdrawn**), harvest in recreational view sheds (**some withdrawn - some modified**), harvest of old growth (**modified**), permanent roads into roadless areas (**modified to temporary roads to be decommissioned**).



Not perfect . . . however, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) did work on this project in the Umpqua.

Agreement was reached with the Forest Service to produce these results:

- * Restoration of damaged areas moves forward.

- * Old growth forests, popular recreation

Old Growth Protected on the Lemolo

sites and

roadless areas are better protected than the original plan.

- * The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) worked through agreement without undermining the law.
- * Restoration of soil compaction areas from past logging and some campground improvements.
- * Extra precautions will be used to protect especially large and ancient trees in unit 67 by locating temporary roads and cutting smaller trees away from the old growth trees

YOU and Umpqua Watersheds let the Forest Service know through 100's of comments that their original logging, including clearcutting of irreplaceable old growth forests and road building plans for this high-elevation forest was not OK.

THANK YOU all for sending in your comments on the Lemolo Project. Your voice did make a difference.

The toughest loss is that some of the smaller old-growth trees (under 32" diameter) will not be spared.

The merits gained for this area do outweigh further challenges. **NEPA does work** . . . and agreement was reached.

Penny Lind, Executive Director Umpqua Watersheds

As recently as 1992, more than 4 billion board feet of timber was being cut annually from our federal forests in Oregon, Washington and Northern California. Enough trees fell everyday to fill a line of log trucks more than 30 miles long.

During the timber wars of the late 80s and early 90s, countless images of giant, ancient trees crashing to the forest floor prompted a public outcry that put an end to those runaway logging levels. In 1994, an agreement brokered by the Clinton Administration, called the Northwest Forest Plan, reduced the cut dramatically, and the spotlight on old-growth logging largely faded from public view.

Our old-growth forests, however, continue to disappear, and with them part of our Northwest heritage. Nowhere in the Northwest are old-growth trees more imminently at-risk than in the Umpqua National Forest where more than 665 acres of old-growth forest could be clearcut or thinned any time, including groves near the popular North Umpqua River Trail.

Current trends promise **more, not less old-growth logging**. The Northwest Forest Plan, which most conservation leaders agree is a major improvement over forest practices of decades past, still allows logging of more than 1.1 billion board feet of old-growth, and the Bush Administration is actively working to dismantle it. Among other growing threats to old-growth forests are the Administration's repeal last month of the popular *Roadless Rule*, for more than 30 million acres of our last unspoiled forests, and a move underway in Congress to de-fang critical habitat protection for threatened and endangered plants and animals.

"Old-growth logging still threatens our precious Northwest forests and raises the same questions today as it did during the Timber Wars," said Penny Lind, executive director for Umpqua Watersheds. "It comes down to values - the irreplaceable value of old-growth forests as a legacy for future generations of people and wildlife, versus their value as dollars and cents that can be earned logging in more appropriate places and ways."

Mark Glyde, Umpqua Watersheds' Supporter

NO more protection for some Diamond Lake Forests

⊗ **Soon to fall!** Jigsaw, White Bird & Pigout
Timber Sales = 665 acres of native forests.

Look Inside

Owls & Murrelets Threatened in the Elliott State Forest
Roadless Rule UPDATE - Still needs your HELP!
Hikes & River Appreciation Day - Saturday, July 16

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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.

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Let the **WILD Ruckus** continue!

Dear Supporter,

Wolverines, Lynx, Bear, Cougar, Owls, Murrelets, Salmon, Lamprey, Cutthroat, Salamanders, Mollusks, Lichens and Beautiful Flora - a list so long and all a part of the Umpqua.

The **WILD** has been pushed and shoved around pretty badly in our watershed the past four decades I have lived here.

The mighty upland mountains in and around the Mt. Thielson Wilderness, a stunning result of The Wilderness Act, is but an island for many like the elusive wolverine that need this type of landscape to survive..

The wetlands, forest and meadows in the Tiller Ranger District have diminished from past management practices without much ado. NOT important enough! #@%&?? A few **WILD** places, like the Last Creek and Donegan Prairie Roadless Areas, still survive, but are threatened.

The Elliott State Forest, an important home to owls and murrelets - another small island of refuge, for now.

Well, the **Ruckus** must continue to keep these islands alive for the **WILD** and for you and me and our generations to follow.

Actions from our national and local leaders can not deter America's voice to honor, protect and restore our natural treasures.

The latest challenges are heartbreaking and not surprising: The Administration's Roadless Rule that can diminish our **WILD** islands further. The wacky actions of local leaders to prevent restoration in the heart of our Wild and Scenic North Umpqua River - The Steamboat Restoration Project. The federal and state agencies' attempts to water down important laws and policies with weak arguments - a shell game really!

Inside the pages of "100 Valleys" you can learn more about what you can do to keep our **Wild Ruckus** alive in the Umpqua.

Voices of support for conservation must speak up for our nation's treasure of water, forests, air and all forms of wildlife. They also must address people's spirits, jobs, community, and future generations.

I love to look to the **Wild Ruckus** to find answers to these challenges. The time it takes to walk a trail, float a river, climb a tree or just sit and observe can show me the path to take.

Connect to the **Wild Ruckus** and raise your voice to keep it.

Sincerely,

Penny Lind, Executive Director

CCC Community Conservation Corps

Communities Who CARE
Value Conservation RETURNS

Your local organization can schedule a speaker to inform its members about Umpqua Watersheds' local conservation programs.

CALL Penny at: 541-672-7065

Email: penny@umpqua-watersheds.org





Coastal Forest and Endangered Species need your help!

Local endangered **OWLS & MURRELETS** threatened

The Elliott State Forest, public land in the Umpqua and Coos watersheds near the Oregon coast, is a haven for Marbled Murrelets, Northern Spotted Owls and several species of imperiled salmon.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is asking for permission to take more of these species in order to ramp up their logging program. The federal agencies in charge of protecting owls, salmon, and murrelets are asking for YOUR opinion this summer.

The Elliott State Forest includes 92,000 acres of forest that burned in 1868. Today about half of this coastal mountain forest has been clearcut and half is approximately 140 years old. Much of the private land in the coast range is clearcut every 30-50 years, so endangered birds, especially Murrelets love the refuge of the Elliott to nest and raise their young.

The federal "Endangered Species Act" (ESA) allows "taking" (aka kill) endangered species if state or private industry complete a "Habitat Conservation Plan" (HCP). The ODF currently has a HCP, but they want a new plan that allows more logging of this native forest.

In 1995, the ODF was given permission to take 46 owls over a 60 year period, because they promised to provide a **good home to 26 owls**. Instead, after 10 years the Elliott is left with less than 20 owls. In spite of this shocking decline, ODF wants to double logging on the Elliott over the next 50 years. This breaks their 1995 promise to provide homes for no less than **26 owls**. They also want permission to "take" Murrelets in their new plan.

PLEASE write the US Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and TELL them:

- ◆ Do not take any more owls than allowed by the 1995 HCP. In just five years the Elliott lost over half its owl population due to the cutting of large trees, the influx of Barred Owls and Weyerhaeuser industrial logging activities.

- ◆ The Elliott is very important to Marbled Murrelets. Do not give permission to harm any of these birds. Their numbers have already dramatically declined. There is simply no other place like the Elliott in Oregon's central coast for Marbled Murrelets to nest and raise their young.

- ◆ To protect salmon the ODF must adopt the same stream-side buffer practices on the Elliott as the adjoining federal lands.

- ◆ The ODF should not shorten the current rotation age for cutting forests. Short rotation forestry increases herbicide use, soil erosion and compaction, and decreases wildlife use. Clearcutting every 30 to 50 years might increase immediate profits, but it lowers long-range profitability and the loss of habitat.

- ◆ The best and oldest forests must be protected. A 70 year old forest is no substitute for a forest twice as old. While endangered birds can sometimes live in a 70 year old forest, studies show they do best in older forests.

- ◆ The ODF failed to implement Adaptive Management as required under the 1995 plan. Two studies recommend increased protections for a productive pair of Spotted Owls called the "Salander Creek" owl pair. Instead of increasing protections, the ODF targeted some of the oldest and best habitat near the Salander Creek pair for clearcutting. This should not happen again.



Diverse Coastal Owl & Murrelet Habitat in the Elliot State Forest

- ◆ The massive herbicide spray program must be halted due to its effects on nesting birds and incremental drift into waterways. Science has recently found that even tiny amounts of herbicides can be detrimental to salmon by interfering with their ability to change from fresh to salt water habitats. Herbicides also weaken their immune system, making fish more susceptible to other diseases. Even if the label directions are followed, herbicides can kill and cause deformities in some species such as amphibians. Recently, some of the most common herbicides, previously considered safe, are now implicated in the onset of Parkinson's disease in humans.

- ◆ All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) use should be evaluated for its effects on the forest and its streams. ODF should encourage other types of recreation; for instance, there are currently NO hiking trails in the Elliott, even though spectacular forests line the beautiful Millicoma River.

- ◆ Managed plantations comprise over half of the Elliott State Forest. Thinning managed plantations should be ODF's #1 priority—and leave the older native forests alone.

THANK YOU for your help. The owls, fish, and murrelets thank you too.

Francis Eatherington, Conservation Director



Send your letters to: Lee Folliard, FWS, 2600 SE 98th Avenue, Suite 100, Portland, OR 97266.

FAXed comments to: (503) 231-6195 **Email comments to:** ElliottStateForest.nwr@noaa.gov

See Umpqua Watersheds' web site at: www.umpqua-watersheds.org/local/elliott_state_forest.html

President's Message



My introduction to Douglas County was via Hwy. 138, arriving from the high desert.

Passing through the Umpqua National Forest, past Diamond Lake and toward Roseburg, I could not imagine the Shangri La I thought must be at the end of this magnificent route. The year was 1972. The huge trees lining the highway, glimpses of snow covered Mount Thielsen and Mount Bailey, the rhododendrons and giant ferns, the glittering Umpqua River, were like nothing I had seen before. I was enchanted.

I decided to stay. Over the years I learned to love and respect all that Douglas County had to offer. My time was spent hiking the trails, kayaking the North Umpqua, and drifting the Main, attending Umpqua Community College, getting to know my neighbors and raising a daughter, who was born in the Umpqua.

The first encounter I had with a federal agency managing our forests was with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In 1973, while I was pregnant with my daughter, The BLM aerially applied a mixture of dioxin based herbicides, silvex and 2,4-5-T to the forested drainage from which I obtained my drinking water. Assured by the EPA that all was well, and these chemicals were undeniably safe, I naively served coffee to the BLM employees in my home as the helicopters flew overhead. Only after doing my homework did I learn that this was surplus Agent Orange left over from the Vietnam War. The chemical was sold to the government by Dow Chemical at a premium for 'forest management' in the Pacific Northwest. This was my first inclination that perhaps the fox needed some help in guarding the chicken house.

As the years went by, there were a number of incidents involving federal (and private) forest management practices which adversely affected me personally, and the community in which I lived. I was not surprised to learn that many folks along the Umpqua and its tributaries felt the same sense of guardianship as myself.

I joined Umpqua Watersheds many years ago. For several of those years I paid my dues, received the Newsletter and attended the banquet. I admired from a distance the hard work and sacrifice of those who were dedicating their time to such a worthy cause. The time arrived for me to join in body as well as in spirit. I have been a member of Umpqua Watersheds' Board of Directors for three years, and have recently accepted the position of president of the board. I am honored and humbled to be a part of Umpqua Watersheds.

The current administration has seen to it that we have our work cut out for us. Because of our awesome members, volunteers and staff, we will continue to assist the fox.

Perhaps we can save some of the chickens.

Sincerely,

Sally Browne, Board President, Umpqua Watersheds

BLM's Westside Project

The Medford BLM has proposed a massive new logging project North of Glendale and west of Azalea in the Cow Creek tributary of the South Umpqua River. It is called the "Westside Project". The BLM is asking YOU for comments before (or soon after) June 27.

The Medford BLM wants to clearcut about 1,000 acres of mature and old-growth forest in this Project, leaving only 7 to 10 trees standing per acre. The Project design would build almost 10 miles of new roads for logging truck access. This is an insane project in this *critical corridor* for the *Northern Spotted Owl*, connecting the mountains on either side of I-5.

PLEASE tell the BLM:

- ◆ Do not convert any more native forests into tree plantations. We already have enough and many are in need of thinning.
- ◆ The forests between Glendale and Azalea have been identified as a critical area for Northern Spotted Owls. The BLM must take into account new owl information since their 1995 forest plan. Barred Owls are moving into the area, so we need every old-growth forest to protect the dwindling owl population.
- ◆ Tree plantations are more flammable. On the other hand, old growth forests slow down fire. The BLM shouldn't do anything that could increase fire hazards.
- ◆ The public does not want any more of our old-growth forests clearcut. We can get the wood products we use from the 95% of the nation's forests we've already converted to tree farms.
- ◆ The "Westside Project" also includes thinning managed plantations and some fire hazard reduction. The BLM should continue with these worthy projects and leave old growth alone.

PLEASE Write to:

Katrina Symons, Medford BLM
200 NE Greenfield
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Or email comments to:

or110mb@or.blm.gov

Include "Westside Project" in the subject line, and don't forget to identify yourself so your comments will be counted. Thank you for helping to protect our Umpqua watershed.

Francis Eatherington, Conservation Director

Volunteers GALORE at UW



THANK YOU May & June folks ☺

Al, Amelia, Anne, Art, Bill, Bruce, Bob, Bob, Carol, Chuck, Dale, Ed, Ed, Gabrielle, Gerald, Geoff, Jack, Janice, Jeff, Jenny, Jim, Jim, Jim, Joanne, Jody, John, John, Jordan, Karen, Kathy, Ken, Lenny, Leslee, Mark, Mary, Mike, Pat, Patricia, Patrick, Polly, Ray, Rebecca, Richard, Robin, Sally, Stuart, Summer, Susan, Tim, Vance, Virgil, Wendy

Roadless Rule

a lot to lose; it's not over yet

Americans have spoken: More than 95% of the 2.6 million comments received by the Forest Service prior to the original **Roadless Conservation Rule** were supportive of roadless protection. Despite another 1.75 million comments from the public, in support of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (including 136,000 Oregonians) the Bush administration ignored the will of the American people and repealed this popular rule.

This spring the Forest Service announced that it had replaced the Roadless Rule with a "state petition process" that eliminates federal protections on millions of acres of national forests. Unless governors elect to complete lengthy forest-by-forest petitions within the next 18 months, roadless areas in their state are threatened with development.

The process of state consultation is nothing more than a flimsy façade for potential resource extraction on nearly 60 million acres of roadless lands on the Umpqua, that includes 22,000 roadless acres threatened by this action.

The science is clear: Opening wild areas to road building harms wildlife. The new rule poses risks for a variety of species that depend on unbroken areas of forest for quality habitat, including elk, songbirds, and threatened and endangered species like lynx and grizzly bears. It is also detrimental to high-quality stream ecosystems and coldwater fisheries, which depend on roadless lands across our nation.

The new rule is bad news for hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts. Roadless areas produce the most abundant populations of fish and game. When roads are cut into wild forests, the loss of habitat goes far beyond the paved areas. Sediment runoff from roads pollutes streams. Roads fragment habitat into smaller pockets, leading to localized extinctions.

Two miles of road in a square mile area leads to a 50 % decline in elk in that area; six miles, causes their virtual eradication. Roadless areas offer refuges where mature bulls can survive to maturity.

Under the new rule, National Forest roadless areas will revert to management under often-outdated Forest Plans. Some of these plans fail to account for the cumulative

Sins of Emission

*Of all the sins that elicit in me scorn and derision
The one that gets my tailpipe out of joint is the sin of emission
Don't mix it up with omission - - the sin that has you acting not
Rather it's the one that's turning the world from cold to hot
So if you are wondering if a sinful contribution to global
Warming may deny you entry into heaven
Well, it depends who is standing at the pearly gates judging
If you've been repentant
If it's George Taylor, the State Climatologist who laughs
With glee at the notion of planet is dying
Then you'll be able to drive through the angelic portals in
Your Humvee without barely trying
But if the judges are the scientists who to Mr. Taylor, they
Take strong exception
Then most likely you'll be left standing at the door in bitter dejection
Like the EPA, NASA, and the National Academy of Sciences
On whose data you can place absolute reliance's
Or the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the
Scripps Institute of Oceanography
Whose recent study showed there's no doubt humans are responsible
For the mess we're going to be
Or the scientists who predict 2005 will be the hottest year ever
Will cast doubt on chances of your wearing a halo forever
So if you want to do your share to undo the sins of emission
Then call and see how you can help the
Douglas County Global Warming Coalition.*

Stuart Liebowitz, Douglas County Global Warming Coalition, 541-672-9819

of these plans fail to account for the cumulative, ecosystem-wide effects of development on wildlife. As a result, forest habitats may experience the death of a thousand cuts.

Roadless areas benefit local economies by offering backpacking, hiking, hunting, fishing and other recreational opportunities. They provide clean drinking water and clean air. Roadless areas are places of solitude, undisturbed by man's influence. The new rule reduces all of these benefits. It ignores science and the public will, sacrificing pristine lands - a short-sighted outcome.

Several governors, including Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski, have expressed strong opposition to changing the original roadless rule. They were ignored too. **Please Contact** Gov. Kulongoski to express your support of keeping Oregon's roadless areas undeveloped. Your voice makes a difference.

PHONE: 503-378-4582

EMAIL at: www.governor.state.or.us/

Tim Ballard, Conservation Associate



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Boulder Creek Hike *Connect People to Places*

It had rained all night. Unsure if the hike would take place as scheduled, we prepared for a day in the Boulder Creek Wilderness and our destination of Pine Bench. The sound of the rain was slackening on the roof as we donned our polypro underwear and packed the car in anticipation of a wet day on the trail. When we arrived at the Court House parking lot, we were joined by a few other hearty souls. We introduced ourselves and arranged to carpool to the Glide Ranger Station, where we would meet Ken Carloni and the others who would join us on our trip. At the ranger station, we met a friendly volunteer manning the visitor center.

He provided us with trail information and we looked through various natural history displays and historical and informational literature, including books on wildflowers, nature coloring books for children, and artifacts of the Umpqua.

Ken Carloni, Ph.D., UCC instructor, gave us a brief orientation in the parking lot of the visitor center (more sun now, no rain!). Ken explained that our first goal would be the Medicine Creek Cave. We were thinking that ol' Ken figured this would be a good objective for a rainy day trip and an honorable goal in case of a "rain out." Ken had given an intriguing talk just a few evenings earlier about the methods native Americans had used to manage these same mighty forests just before the arrival of the "Americans" from east of the Mississippi. As his view explains, the Indians commonly used fire as a way of thinning the forest to their advantage, for hunting and travel, and as a sign of stewardship of their mother and sustainer. Fire was a holy instrument, not simply an uncontrolled force of nature. Anyway...

As we drove into the Umpqua National Forest, a few rays of sunlight broke through the clouds and we found our way to the trailhead parking area.

The Medicine Creek Cave trailhead was just a few hundred feet up the forest service road from where we had parked. We were amazed that such a magical place would have such a hidden (unmarked) trail. Ken dove through the brush at the edge of the road and, sure enough!...we were on a short uphill leg to the cave, a large smoke-stained hollow in a house-sized boulder. What a place! I've lived in the Umpqua for twenty-five years and had been within a hundred feet of this place half-a-dozen times on various climbing and fishing rambles-but I never knew it was there. Huge Sugar Pines, some snags and some living, surrounded us. Quite a few Doug' Firs were in evidence, but this was not a successive regenerative stand seen in modern managed areas. The hand of man was obvious. The old ones had been here.

The pictographs in the cave had that same enigmatic quality seen elsewhere in the American west - understandable, but without common words to speak of the experience of so long ago. Smoke smudged the walls and roof from fires of other humans standing around in the rain many centuries before our own. Fawn lilies, Syntheris and poison oak added to the naturalistic scene. "There's no rain. Let's make for the trailhead."

As we headed up the trail, Ken pointed out the fire scars from the wildfire of 1996. The scars indicated from which direction the fire had come, and its intensity. Many ancient trees were blackened around their entire circumference. Yet they not only survived, they flourished. The fire had suppressed and cleared much of the dense understory, opening the ground for wildflowers and new growth. As we passed Soda Springs, the ground was riven with elk hoofprints. The animal trail down to the spring pool was deeper than the manmade trail on which we walked. This is a healthy forest! We made our leisurely way to Pine Flat, with Ken pointing out the many and varied intricacies of a native forest. We learned the importance of lichen, which grows on ancient trees. The lichen supplies up to 10% of the nitrogen which is available to the native flora. Fire releases minerals in the soil, which are subsequently taken up by ceonothus. The ceonothus fixes nitrogen, which is later released into the growth cycle. Trees which succumbed to the fire provide habitat for native species. The cycle of nature is continuous, complete.

When we reached Pine Flat, Ken pointed out a curious formation across Boulder Creek Canyon. A pile of rocks. Unlike a natural occurrence, these rocks appeared to be carefully placed. An ancient Indian holy site? No one knows. These native forests hold many mysteries. It was our good fortune to accompany a sensitive scientist into this wilderness to explore and learn.

Mark Dwan and Sally Browne, Umpqua Watersheds members and volunteers

YOUR TALES FROM THE TRAILS



Connect People to Places



Let Umpqua Watersheds readers hear from you. Like Mark and Sally, you have interesting stories from your adventures on the Umpqua. Don't be shy! Your neighbors would love to read about places you have visited. Please add to each other's history . . .

EMAIL your story to: uw@umpqua-watersheds.org



Summer Hikes 2005

uw@umpqua-watersheds.org

672-7065



July 13 - Hwy. 138 Clean-Up

PLEASE join Umpqua Watersheds to clean up our "adopted highway" section on Wednesday - July 13 **5:30pm**. Meet at mile post 8 - at the top of Black Top Hill. Umpqua Watersheds will provide vests, gloves and bags.

July 16 - Rafting on River Appreciation Day

Saturday, rafters will float the North Umpqua River to Whistler Bend Park followed by the celebration of the mighty Umpqua at River Appreciation Day. Enjoy live music, booths, fresh food and drinks along the banks of the RIVER. Rafters are responsible for their own equipment. Rafts will be pumped up and ready to float at **9am** at Whistler's Bend Park and return to the Park by noon. Please call 672-7065 for trip info.



July 22 - July 24 Youth Wilderness Camp Out

Umpqua Watersheds' fifth annual Twin Lakes "wilderness adventure" camp out. Limited enrollment. See details on page 9 of this edition of "100 Valleys." Call Robin at **672-7065** for more information.

August 6 - Waterfall Walk to Deadline Falls

Saturday, waterfall enthusiasts who want to stay cool on a warm summer day can explore this massive, block type falls on the North Umpqua Wild and Scenic River in our nation's forested lands. The trail is a quarter mile and rated easy. Hikers will meet behind the Douglas County Courthouse at **10am** or at the Glide Ranger Station on Highway 138 at **10:30am**. Please bring small backpack with lunch, water and sunscreen.

September 10 - Mount Bailey (aka Medicine Mountain)

Saturday, climb the *second tallest peak* in the Umpqua watershed and enjoy awesome views from the middle of the proposed National Monument. From its height of 8,363 feet one can see Diamond Lake, Mount Shasta, Mount Thielsen and Crater Lake National Park. Hikers will meet behind the Douglas County Courthouse at **8am** or the Glide Ranger Station on Highway 138 at **8:30am** or the **Diamond Lake Lodge** at **10am**. It takes 3 hours to hike to the top. Rated doable, yet difficult. Please bring small backpack with lunch, water and sunscreen.

September 23 & 24 Tsalila

Join coastal neighbors in a celebration of Pacific culture at the Umpqua Discovery Center in Reedsport. For more information and a chance to volunteer for the community portion or the Education Day Sept. 21-23 call 672-7065.

September 24 - Douglas County Solar Tour

Join Energy Independence on Saturday to tour local "solar projects" and attend a workshop at Umpqua Community College to acquaint tour attendees with solar interests for their home or business. For more information call Al Walker at: **541-496-3987**.

October 1 - Climb Mount Thielsen

Saturday, climb the *tallest peak* in the Umpqua watershed and enjoy the grandest views of southern Oregon. From its height of 9,182 feet one can see down INTO the crater of Crater Lake National Park! Hikers will meet behind the Douglas County Courthouse at **8am**, the Glide Ranger Station at **8:30am** or the Thielsen trailhead #1456 at 10am. Day long hike is the most difficult hike of the year. At the top you can sign your name on the scroll stored there.

CALL Umpqua Watersheds at: 541-672-7065 for more information

James Liddell

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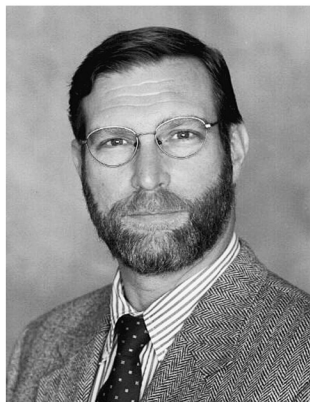
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The Umpqua and Beyond . . .



YOU are well aware of the invaluable work Umpqua Watersheds performs in protecting and restoring the Umpqua River basin, but some of you may be surprised to know of conservation efforts beyond our *100 Valleys*. Umpqua Watersheds staff submits comments on a wide variety of issues, in conjunction with our network of state and national conservation partners.

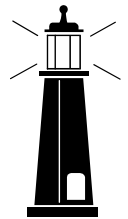
Most recently, Umpqua Watersheds commented on the restoration plan for the New Carissa oil spill of 1999. We sent letters to five senators expressing opposition to the amendment to SB 389 that would legalize bear baiting and hunting cougars with dogs. We also wrote to the Dept. of Transportation in Washington DC and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on a proposal by a private company to build a large Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) shipping terminal and refinery near Coos Bay. Other LNG facilities are proposed near Astoria and the Columbia River. We urged the US Coast Guard to develop safety regulations governing the safe transit of LNG. There are currently no standards for thermal or vapor dispersion of LNG spills over water.

Other issues Umpqua Watersheds' Conservation Program staff has provided input on include:

- ODFW's controversial **Wolf Management Plan**, a carefully crafted plan to reintroduce the gray wolf to Oregon.
- **Supported an alternative** proposed by the Deer Creek Valley Natural Resources Conservation Association for a 7,400-acre project in the Medford BLM area.
- BLM's national **Wind Energy Plan**, particularly as it applies to the Western States.
- The US Forest Service's national plan to regulate **off road vehicles (ORV)** use, citing ORV issues here, such as in the Oregon Cascades Recreation Area.
- Proposed planning regulations for the **National Forest Management Act (NFMA)**.
- Master Plan for the **Umpqua Lighthouse Park**.

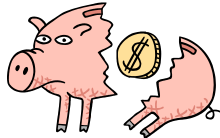
Umpqua Watersheds was instrumental in protecting one of the rarest ecosystems in Oregon by working with the state and the adjoining **Dunes National Recreation Area** to fence a remote section of the park. Now ORV users are clear where the boundary is so the **Oregon Natural Heritage Site** can be protected.

Along with our partners and supporters, Umpqua Watersheds will continue to provide important research, suggestions, and critical input to various government agencies that affect our environment.



Tim Ballard, Conservation Associate

Milltown Hill II Return of The Millstone



Umpqua Watersheds' readers may remember the Milltown Hill Dam Project in Yoncalla **RIP 1998. Now IT'S BACK!**

With the election of a Yoncallan who has long favored this dam the possibility of a reservoir that Yoncalla could call its own has returned.

However; (a big however), there are problems: mercury; limited flood prevention benefits; existing cheap alternatives for North County water, and the enormous cost (approx. \$80 million, but no one knows) at a time of budget tightening.

Commissioner Kittleman recently went to Wash. D.C. with county employees to lobby for dam support. The problems that prevented dam construction eight years ago are only worse now.

Mercury is increasingly seen as an environmental hazard, especially for children and nursing mothers. It is in all the land around the site and will be a serious presence in the water and animals. The lake will be posted as a hazard.

Flooding of Drain has been cited as a big reason to have the dam. In fact, 75% of the water which flows by

Drain comes from below the dam site. In a 100-year flood, the water level would be 12 inches lower in Drain. The Army Corps of Engineers would not recommend the dam for flood control purposes.

Drain, next door, has a reservoir: Bear Creek. It provides them with all the water they need. It is above Yoncalla and 6 miles away. It could be raised 10 feet and would then provide 80 million gallons / year or 200 gallons / person/ day for Yoncallans. This could be paid for by selling the 1,600 acres the County owns in Yoncalla, worth probably \$5 million. That way, no debt, no taxes, lots of water.

The nation is broke, Oregon is broke, and the county is fearful that the county payments (\$25 to 30 million per year) might end next year. This is no time to be building a dam that is going to cost more than we can afford.

What will we have to give up so that this pork barrel project can be built? Care to guess? Let your elected officials know what you think. Let's sink this big tub while its still in dry-dock.

Bob Allen, Umpqua Watersheds Advisor

*"If we did a better job
of managing our resources sustainably, conflicts over them
would be reduced. So, protecting the global environment is
directly related to securing peace."*

Nobel Prize Winner 2004, Prof. Wangari Maathai



Youth Wilderness Umpqua Camp-Out Adventure

Umpqua Watersheds' youth are invited to register to attend this year's annual **Youth Wilderness Campout** on **July 22-24** at Twin Lakes. Registration is \$10 per youth for members; non-member registration is \$25 per youth. Call for Scholarships.

Step #1: Please call or stop by Umpqua Watersheds' office to submit your registration forms, one per child, no later than July 15th.

Necessary items: backpack with waistbelt, lightweight sleeping bag, tent (optional). All supplies will be hiked in. Each person will be responsible to carry his or her own equipment plus a few food items for the group's meals.

All persons who are coming on this hiking adventure are requested to attend a meeting on **July 21st, Thursday, at 5:30 pm** at the UW office. Please bring all equipment ready to go. If you or your child need equipment, please call our office as we have some items to loan.

Upon registering you will be called and asked to bring to the meeting several food items for the group's consumption, i.e., a large plastic jar of peanut butter, or a bag of carrots.

Curriculum this year includes forestry monitoring by Lenny Schussel, scientist, Plant Allies by Annie Ocean, Wilderness First Aid by Karen Beesley, Certified Nurse Midwife, and Leave No Trace by Robin Wisdom. The nature scavenger hunt will also be featured with prizes for all who participate. We are pleased to announce we have hired two college-age members to help coordinate events and act as youth liaisons for the event, Summer Stephanos and Amelia Kelly. For more info call **Robin** at: **541-672-7065**

UW office is at: 539 SE Main St. Roseburg

Robin Wisdom, Membership Development

Renewable and Sustainable

There is a buzz about solar energy these days in Douglas County. Using solar cells, also known as photovoltaic cells, creates electricity from sunlight. These cells are combined into groups known as PV modules and groups of modules are called solar arrays. The electricity is direct current (DC) and, in most homes, converted to alternating current (AC) to match home appliances. Through laws enacted several years ago on "net metering" (OAS 757.300) Oregon homes and businesses can become a powerhouse, generate electricity and "turn their meter backward". They get the full retail value of the electricity they generate by offsetting their own power use and getting credit for what they produce but do not use. These homes are known as "grid tied" being on the solar grid. Other homes are "off grid:" completely independent of the power company and generating their own power. But this takes much design and planning effort. "Zero Net Energy Homes" are being designed and built with the encouragement of Energy Trust and Oregon Department of Energy.

The incentives to make these changes are many. There are financial incentives from the Oregon Energy Trust up to \$10,000 for homes or \$35,000 for business. Bonneville Foundation pays \$.10 per KWH for "Green Tags" – a reward for producing solar electricity. Additionally there are generous State tax incentives for homes and businesses. There are federal tax incentives for businesses but none for residences as yet.

Many of the investors in solar energy look at the national trend of electricity rate increases of 6% annually, and want to "prepay" their electric bills by investing in solar. There is good documentation that investing in the energy efficiency of a home always pays as it increases the value of the home for resale.

Politically and philosophically, many want to make a statement in favor of "energy independence" and eliminate the need to protect foreign sources of energy for this country. Another worry is carbon dioxide and global warming. Seventy-nine percent of our so-called "clean electricity" from Pacific Power is from their coal-fired plants according to Chris Dymond of the Oregon Department of Energy. Solar cells are known to last over 50 years and produce the cleanest energy yet developed.

Douglas County has over 20 new solar electric projects completed in the past 2 years with more in the planning stages. If you would like to see some of these projects, mark Saturday September 24 on your calendar. This will be the fourth annual Douglas County Solar Tour. Part of the National Solar Tour, there will be a workshop at Umpqua Community College in the morning which will answer many questions about solar and the particular homes and businesses on tour. After the two-hour workshop, participants will get a tour list of 8 to 10 sites and choose the ones they want to see. Tours end at 5 PM. Passive solar and solar hot water projects are included. A couple of weeks later there will be a "Solar Design Class" covering design principles of passive solar design, green building materials, solar hot water and solar electricity. Call UCC Community Education to register at: **440-4601**.

Interested in biodiesel? Tyree Oil is carrying 100% biodiesel fuel. \$3.00 gal in 55 gal drums, delivered to your home. Running even 20% biodiesel reduces pollution and increases the life of your diesel engine. Most diesel vehicles need no modification. Call Tyree Oil at 673-6215 to order biodiesel. *Al Walker, Energy Independence*

Logging Live Trees is NOT salvage or fire safety

tree farms planted after the 1987 Bland Mountain salvage sales. But on Roseburg BLM lands, old growth forests on the edges of the 1987 fire burned in 2004. They burned like old-growth forests typically burn, with groups of dead and seriously injured trees, intermixed with lightly injured and healthy trees.

In 2004, on both sides of the South Umpqua River just east of Days Creek, the Bland Mountain fire perimeter included old growth in two major land allocations. **South of the river** the fire burned in "**Late Successional Reserves**" (LSRs), otherwise known as Spotted Owl reserves. **North of the river** the fire burned in "**Matrix**", where most of BLM's timber sales are cut outside of reserves.

This spring the Roseburg BLM did an environmental assessment proposing salvage logging in both areas of the fire, LSR and Matrix. In April the BLM decided to advertise a timber sale in the Matrix area called the **Déjà vu timber sale**. They postponed a decision to salvage log in the LSR. Much of the Déjà vu sale was in old growth forests that contained a mosaic of dead to healthy trees, with everything in between, from heavily damaged live trees, to healthy trees virtually untouched by the fire. The BLM promised to salvage log only dead trees and trees so badly injured they would die from fire injuries within 5 years.

Though we felt the BLM was taking too many dead trees for the health of wildlife, soils and the healing forest, Umpqua Watersheds did not officially object. The current administration's culture of declaring all dead trees useless is so strong we decided to pick our fight defending the Spotted Owl reserves. But after we looked at BLM's version of "dying" trees, we changed our mind. We had to defend the live, healthy trees that the BLM was claiming were dying.

Many live trees marked for cutting were healthy and not going to die within five years. Some were almost untouched by fire. Some were in new road and yarding corridors, and many were simply mis-marked, healthy trees included in the sale. Centuries-old monarchs that survived two fires (1987 and 2004) were scheduled to be cut and sold. Matrix lands or not, we felt the BLM should do what they promised to do and **only sell dead and dying trees**.

In May we appealed the sale to the Department of Interior asking for a stay to stop logging any live trees until our appeal could be heard. We did **NOT** ask the BLM to stop logging dead trees. But the BLM had called the sale an emergency because, they claim, dead trees would lose value if not cut immediately. Therefore, all the live, healthy, green old growth included within the sale are now being cut and could all be down, before the Department of Interior can consider our request to stop the logging of just the live trees. BLM was wrong to cut these live trees.

Umpqua Watersheds will carefully monitor and update you on the owl reserve that could be at risk in the future.

Francis Eatherington, Conservation Director

The **2004 Bland Mountain Fire** burned through private lands as well as Roseburg BLM public forests. Most of the fire burned the young

Partners for

A recent tour of watershed restoration projects along North Myrtle Creek illustrated that partnerships are bringing back anadromous fish.

The tour, sponsored by the Umpqua Basin Watershed Council May 21, 2005, showed that replacing culverts along Lee's Creek opened several miles of spawning waters for the listed coastal coho salmon. Between 2001 and 2004, culverts were replaced by Douglas County, BLM and UBWC working with family forestland owners Bill and Clem Rice. Coho are back!

At one stop, Sharon Frazey, fish biologist with BLM, pointed out the newly designed, pre-cast concrete bridge that replaced an impassable culvert. She noted newly placed boulders that provide "stair steps" up stream; she commented on boulder revetments that stabilize stream banks and hundreds of willow plantings that will help prevent erosion and "grow" shade and shelter for young fish.

Along nearby Slide Creek, Bill Cannaday of ODFW showed us projects with Seneca-Jones Timber Company and BLM to restore stream sides and to improve in-stream "complexity" for fish habitat.

During the tour's third major stop, Art and Linda Lund discussed another project to improve fish passage; the project removed an early dam-with-ditches and installed an electrical irrigation system for residents along Buck Fork Ck.

UBWC member Bill Rice, retired mining geologist, spoke about rock formations in the Myrtle Creek watershed and how ancient geological activities influence spawning streams today.

William Michel from Myrtle Creek distributed an attractive handout prepared by Sandy Lyon, UBWC monitoring coordinator. The handout summarizes findings of the yearlong volunteer water quality monitoring in the watershed. Steve Johnson, Myrtle Creek City engineer, spoke about cooperative projects with UBWC that improve the city's supply of clean water.

During the tour with over 20 participants, Bob Kinyon, UBWC coordinator, expressed appreciation to Margaret Fabrizius, Farm Credit Services, for refreshments throughout the morning tour; to Jake Winn, BLM restoration coordinator, for detailed colored photo-maps; and to Oregon Forest Resources Institute for transportation support. Umpqua Watersheds member Jack DeAngeles contributed to the success of the tour when he served on the initial planning team.

Jim Long, UBWC Education Committee

Few are altogether deaf to the preaching of pine trees. Their sermons on the mountains go to our hearts; and if people in general could be got into the woods, even for once, to hear the trees speak for themselves, all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish.

John Muir, naturalist, explorer, and writer, 1838 - 1914



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Look Inside!

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Roadless Rule UPDATE!
Hikes & Events

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Raffle on the River

Drawings will be held at RIVER APPRECIATION DAY - Whistlers Bend Park

Saturday July 16 *Not necessary to be present to win.*



. . . YOU can support Umpqua Watersheds AND
WIN a River Adventure for 6: Guided by George Hutchinson

Promise Foods: Gift Certificate
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Overnight cabin accommodations with meals, full use of facilities; use of hot springs & sauna, and daily Well Being Programs for mid-week reservations.

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