

100 Valleys

A Quarterly Publication for the Supporters of Umpqua Watersheds

Summer 2006

Issue #35

Roadless Areas Umpqua's History & Umpqua's Future ...

by Penny Lind

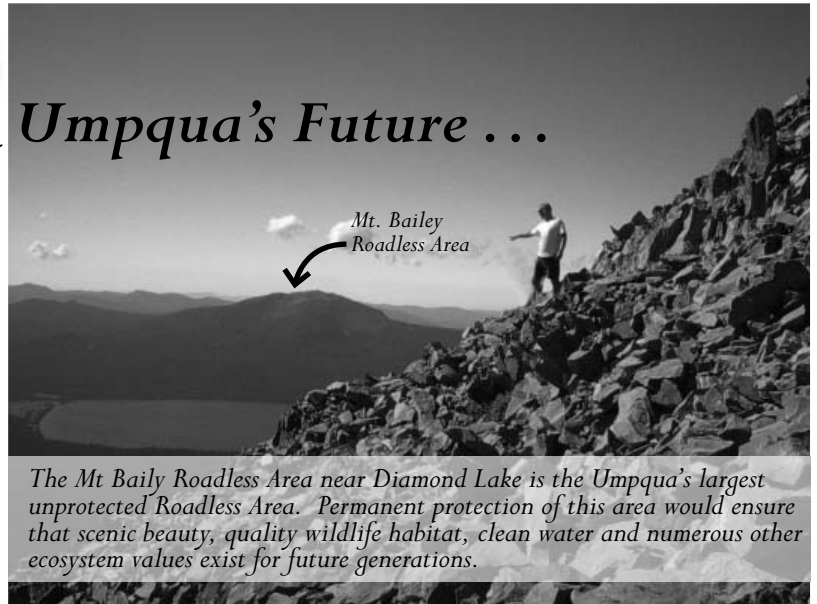
The strengths of our Northwest Roadless Areas, like those in the Umpqua, display a long history of birth, growth, change and recovery for multiple reasons – nature and native people drove these actions before the 19th century.

Like the core of nature in our region, these valuable bio-diverse support systems to our World have been an anchor and national symbol for clean air and water, rich vegetation for wildlife, cool healthy homes for fish and bold, in your face, renewal miracles for you and me.

Even today, we are able to live and work within these forests and on the edge of the rivers, to camp, hike and enjoy their very souls through smell, sight and so much more. These symbols of our Northwest culture are ours to protect for the future.

The 19th and 20th centuries brought major change to these symbolic forestlands and rivers . . . our plans and hands delivered some alarming results that took big bites out of our forests. The 'whole' concept that spread across broad landscapes in the past has been diminished too much smaller 'areas' today. Those valuable, but shrunken wildlife cores are threatened further through the current administration's bigger plans and much bigger hands to reduce Roadless Area protection, and allow road building and logging.

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule of 2001 that protected 58.5 million acres (2% of the U.S. land base) needs support from everywhere and everyone. The Rule's purpose intended to rescue



The Mt Baily Roadless Area near Diamond Lake is the Umpqua's largest unprotected Roadless Area. Permanent protection of this area would ensure that scenic beauty, quality wildlife habitat, clean water and numerous other ecosystem values exist for future generations.

forest values, recreation opportunities, provide privacy and seclusion, deliver sources of water to communities and provide research and education. To attain that purpose timber harvest, and road building and reconstruction activities had to be stopped in our watersheds.

However, the Bush administration's twisted path to reduce Roadless Area protections continues to be relentless. Through the good work and good will of so many leaders and supporters like you, Roadless protection still has a chance.

Today, science and our own hearts tell us those past and future plans to strip away Roadless protections are not in our best interest and that we, the people, need to make a new history in the 21st Century to guarantee what's necessary for the future. *continued on pg. 4*

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Our 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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Francis Eatherington
Conservation Director

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From the Executive Director

With Gratitude . . . THANKS to Umpqua Watersheds' leaders

Dear Supporter,

Conservation Leadership in our community is on the rise and comes from all around the watershed. The wholehearted splash and flow of this growth helps fulfill Umpqua Watersheds' conservation goals to protect and restore our forests and rivers.

For the past 10 years many of your neighbors have put their volunteer, leadership skills to work to build, maintain and expand Umpqua Watersheds' work in Southwest Oregon. Glance to the left of my letter and you'll see the current team made up of veterans and new members.

The leadership roles at Umpqua Watersheds are limitless . . . I invite you to jump in with your enthusiasm and action to write letters, lead & enjoy hikes and field tours, govern at the board table, develop events and volunteer programs, raise support dollars, or lend a hand and your personal vote of confidence to our busy staff.

This summer, I have the privilege to introduce to you two new board members and give our gratitude to four retiring board members.

2006 New Umpqua Watersheds Board Members

Ted Swagerty – Recent Umpqua Community College graduate, journalist, campaigner and member of our Finance Committee.

Diana DeGroot – Original River Appreciation Day Committee member, Massage Therapist, artist and member of our Outreach Committee.

2006 Retiring Umpqua Watersheds Board Members

Sally Browne, Jack DeAngeles, Jim Wolf and Leslee Sherman

Thank you for all of your dedication to the environment: making change happen in our community and getting protection and restoration results on the ground. That's what it takes, people like you who want better outcomes for our wild forest and mighty rivers.

Consider a conservation leadership role for yourself in the Umpqua. Please stop in our office in downtown Roseburg, call or send an email and join our effort to continue the growth of a strong organization that can deliver important conservation goals for the Umpqua and beyond.

In appreciation,

Penny Lind, Executive Director

Umpqua Watersheds Conservation Leaders & Staff

1995-2006

Jim Kauppila, Gwen Bates, Bob Allen, Robin Wisdom, Leslee Sherman, John Lind, Bob Hoehne, Larry Flanagan, Andy Crocker, Karen Henderson, Patrick Starnes, Ken Carloni, Richard Chasm, David Parker, Patricia Gilbert, Tim Ballard, MaryJane Snocker, Jenny Young-Seidemann, Sally Browne, Geoff Niles, Anne Dorsey, Jack DeAngeles, Mike Piehl, Madrone Driecher, Amelia Kelly, Jim Wolfe, Simone Grissette, Jody Ahlstedt, Bryon Sargent, Chuck Schnautz, Dale Greenley, Bill Black, Mike Fisher, Jim Ince, Kathy Shayler, Ed Cooley, Gerald Wisdom, Diana Degroot, Ted Swagerty, Penny Lind, Summers Stephanos, Francis Eatherington and Nelli Williams.



Conservation UPDATE:

by Francis Eatherington
Conservation Director

Dickerson Heights: The Roseburg BLM has sold this 128 acres of mature and old growth forests 10 miles west of Winston, near the spectacular Dickerson Rocks. We are appealing the BLM's decision now.

Green Thunder: In January the Roseburg BLM sold 134 acres of mature and old growth forests in the Little River watershed, south of Glide. We protested, BLM's term for a request for reconsideration, that decision. The BLM has conceded some of our protest points and has issued a revised Environmental Assessment (EA). Unfortunately, the revised EA just further justifies logging this public forest. We will continue to participate in the administrative appeals of Green Thunder.

Can Can: In May we protested the Roseburg BLM decision to sell part of this project, a sale called "Myrtle Morgan", 2-3 miles north of Canyonville that would log 229 acres of mature and old growth forests. When the BLM responds that they will not consider our request to reconsider the decision, we will appeal the decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

Whatagags: We are awaiting a final decision from the BLM to sell this mature and old growth forests east of Sutherlin. We are glad no decision has been forthcoming since you wrote your comments to BLM in January, asking them to spare the



Norris and Field Creek owl pairs who use these forests for foraging.

Pleasant Yankee (part of the East Fork Coquille project): In May the Coos Bay BLM denied our request for reconsideration (protest) for selling this Marbled Murrelet habitat north of

Coquille Oregon. Along with Cascadia Wildlands Project, we appealed that decision.

Thinning sales: We have been involved with the Forest Service and the BLM thinning sales, supporting the restoration components of these projects, as well ask asking for increased environmental protections from the commercial logging by-products. Recent sales include the Umpqua National Forest Lobo timber sale in Steamboat Creek and the Middle Creek Thin II project from Coos Bay BLM.

Umpqua Lighthouse State Park: Thank you to the many people who submitted comments to the state of Oregon, asking for the 200 acres north of the State Park to be sold to the park, and not rezoned commercial/residential. We will keep you informed of the Division of State Land decision, expected later this summer.

ODF Elliott State Forest, BLM Western Oregon Plan Revisions, and FERC 36" Pipeline through southern Oregon: We are awaiting the draft Environmental Impact Statements for all of these projects and will let you know when your voice and letters are needed.



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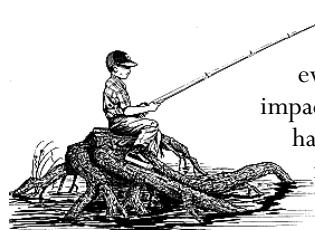
Contact Scott Burgwin for more details or visit the Umpqua Watersheds' office to check out a catalogue.

...where contribution and conscience come together.

From the President

This is my first column as President of the Umpqua Watersheds Board of Directors. It's exciting to think of all that this organization and its predecessors have accomplished working on the Umpqua watershed and beyond. There are thousands of old trees standing, creeks and rivers running clearer because of your work and support. Fish are getting to their historical spawning grounds, and animals are still living in the ancient forests that surround us.

We will always have more work than time, energy, and money, but each year we look back on serious accomplishments. Whenever I get discouraged I just have to walk to the edge of the North Umpqua and look into it's clear waters to appreciate the importance of our mission. We will



never be able to protect all that needs preserving, but every day we have a positive impact on our environment. We have been able to save many of nature's wonders for our children and the generations that will follow them.

So let's roll up our sleeves, give all we can of our time and money, and continue our work to save the best and protect the rest. Give this newsletter to a neighbor or friend when you are finished and ask them to join our work.

Chuck Schnautz
Umpqua Watersheds
Board President

Roadless *(continued from page 1)...*

This summer and early Fall you will have the opportunity to join with Oregon's Governor in that effort. Our Roadless Areas like Bulldog Rock, Cougar Bluff, Last Creek, Dread & Terror, Donegan Prairie, Mt. Bailey and others will need your voice as protection of these treasures become harder to hold onto. Umpqua Watersheds will keep you informed as opportunities to act develop.

This past year, Oregon's Governor has sorted through much of the Bush administration's obstacles to Roadless Area protection, and remains committed to gain 100% protection for Oregon. Umpqua Watersheds applauds Governor Kulongoski as he wages administrative, legal and policy challenges to regain Roadless Area protection for our futures.

Specifically, the Governor's recent public and legal efforts to turn around unwise management in the Biscuit fire Roadless Area brings back wisdom into this complicated arena. U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio has also joined the Governor to halt these bad plans for our Roadless Areas to the South.

Like anything political in our heady democracy, these challenges need you to help bring about permanent protections for our old, wild forests in the Umpqua.

ACT NOW: You can begin with hardy thank you calls, letters or email to the Governor and Representative DeFazio. You can also demand other leaders act in consort to bring about Roadless Area protection in Oregon.

Oregon will begin another round of public participation while the Governor prepares for our state's Roadless Area petition. Let Governor Ted Kulongoski know how important 100% Roadless Area protection means to you.

Roadless Area Conservation Rule – Chronological Summary

- 2000 Clinton administration drafted the Roadless Area Conservation Policy
More than 2.5 million public comments were received to support the Policy
- 2001 Policy signed by USDA Secretary Glickman
Legal challenges filed to oppose Roadless protection Policy by states & industry
Counter challenges filed by conservation groups
Bush administration files for new rulemaking for Roadless Policy
More than 800,000 comments received; majority support Roadless protection
- 2002 Legislative & legal support of original 2001 Roadless Policy filed
- 2003 More legislative & legal support of 2001 Policy filed
- 2004 Forest Service decides to log Roadless areas in the Siskiyou National Forest
Governor Kulongoski of OR objects to Siskiyou Roadless logging
Bush administration proposes Policy replacement with state petition process
More than 1.7 million comments oppose petition process and support 2001 rule
- 2005 Governor Kulongoski of OR asks the Forest Service to defer logging Roadless Areas
Governor Kulongoski of OR challenges the petition process in court with other states
Conservationists challenge the petition process in court
- 2006 More legislative, legal and state support of 2001 rule
Governor Kulongoski petitions the Administration to allow OR to implement the 2001 Rule
The Siskiyou National Forest auctions off Roadless Area timber sale – BOO!!
Governor Kulongoski & Rep. DeFazio takes action to halt harmful timber sale – YEAH!!
November 13th is the deadline for Roadless Area petitions under the Bush rule.

What to Expect: Public comment periods, public hearing, media coverage and Bush shenanigans, before and after the November deadline. YOU will be able to make a difference – stay tuned.

THANK YOU!

Governor Kulongoski

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Representative DeFazio

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Roseburg, OR 97470
Phone: (541) 440-3523
1-800-944-9603
<http://www.house.gov/defazio/>

Mollusks Create Partnership between BLM and UW

In a collaborative effort, Umpqua Watersheds has partnered with the BLM to perform a survey of a Sensitive Species. Nancy Duncan, a longtime BLM Wildlife Biologist and recognized expert on mollusks, approached Penny Lind, Executive Director of UW, about working on a Challenge Cost Share Project that was available. Penny asked me, Tim Ballard, former Conservation Associate, if I was interested in performing the survey work. I was, and after some home study, classroom and field training with Nancy on species identification and survey techniques, I began working.

The project focused on locating *Helminthoglypta hertleini* (HeHe), a terrestrial mollusk. These rare snails, whose common name is the Oregon Shoulderband, prefer rocky habitat. Nancy had selected 36 rock quarries for searching, and additional miles of road and other projects where rock from those quarries has been used. We are trying to determine what land management activities have affected the species, and how. It may be that some BLM projects associated with rock such as culvert installation, rip-rap placement and bridge repair/construction have actually helped increase the distribution of the species by incidentally carrying live snails or eggs with the rocks, starting new colonies where they are placed in suitable habitat. In addition, results may indicate where some portions of occupied quarry sites should be managed for the continued occupation by the species.

This project also included identifying and cataloging 11 other associated mollusk species. The survey methodology is confined to spring and fall by temperature and moisture parameters; I have completed most of it, with the remainder to be done this autumn. For me, the work was at various times fascinating,



by
Tim Ballard
Restoration Technician

difficult, tedious, rewarding, and surprising. It involved driving over 1,800 miles (many on gravel roads), climbing up steep slopes and loose talus, and dealing with ticks, poison oak, and bad roads. But it was very interesting to focus on small creatures in a micro habitat. I had surprise encounters with scorpions, snakes and salamanders, as well as a spotted owl and bobcat. Overall, it was a terrific experience, and I look forward to helping analyze the preliminary results, for a possible publication in the future.

Hopefully, this cooperative experience will strengthen the working relationship between the BLM and UW that will continue with other projects in the future.

For Those Left Standing: Cow Catcher 2006 *by Francis Eatherington*



The Roseburg BLM “Cow Catcher” timber sale, just west of Riddle, is in danger. This mature and old growth forests contains some of the best Northern Spotted Owl habitat in Cow Creek, even habitat considered “Critical” by the US Fish and

Wildlife Service. Old growth here is doubly important because it provides a connection between owl populations in the Coast Range, the Klamath/Siskiyou Mountains, and across Interstate 5 to the Cascade Mountains.

But in spite of the importance of this habitat, the BLM insists the old growth must be cut down and converted into a young tree plantation. When the BLM first sold the forest to DR Johnson Umpqua Watersheds sued, because the BLM did not do the required surveys for rare species, including the Red Tree Vole, an important food source for the Northern Spotted Owl. Earlier the BLM had decided that the Red Tree Vole did not need to be protected, even in this critical habitat for the owl.

The 9th circuit court of appeals won't hear our case until fall. Meanwhile, DR Johnson has announced they will build the road into unit 5 this summer, cutting down many old-growth trees in their path, including the tree shown on the left. Logging will probably be underway in July. As heartbroken as we are about losing these ancient, irreplaceable trees, we still hope that we can save the rest of the 146 acres of the timber sale after our case is heard in court this fall.

BOARDERS & BEYOND

... brings you information on diverse challenges in the neighborhood.

by
Dan Seeres
FLOW Program Coordinator

Pipeline Proposed...Location: Your Backyard

In a proposal largely driven by the California energy market, PG&E, Fort Chicago of Canada, and Williams Pipeline Company are jointly proposing to build a \$750 million natural gas pipeline connecting the proposed Jordan Cove liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal near Coos Bay to the pipelines at Malin, OR near the California border. The 223-mile, 100'-wide projected right-of-way crosses the Umpqua, Coos, Klamath, and Rogue Rivers as well as many smaller streams and tributaries, threatening to severely disrupt the quality of fish and wildlife habitat throughout SW Oregon.

The "Pacific Connector" route demonstrates that California's market is targeted for LNG imported in North Bend's proposed Jordan Cove terminal. Rory Cox, coordinator of the coalition Ratepayers for Affordable Clean Energy (RACE), recently visited North Bend to urge Oregonians to oppose the pipeline, which the RACE coalition opposes in favor of renewable alternatives. In his view, "The Pacific Connector isn't about you in Oregon; it's about us in California." Rory and local opponents of Jordan Cove and the Pacific Connector note that Oregon is now the recipient of energy proposals that failed in Northern California, most notably in Eureka and Vallejo.

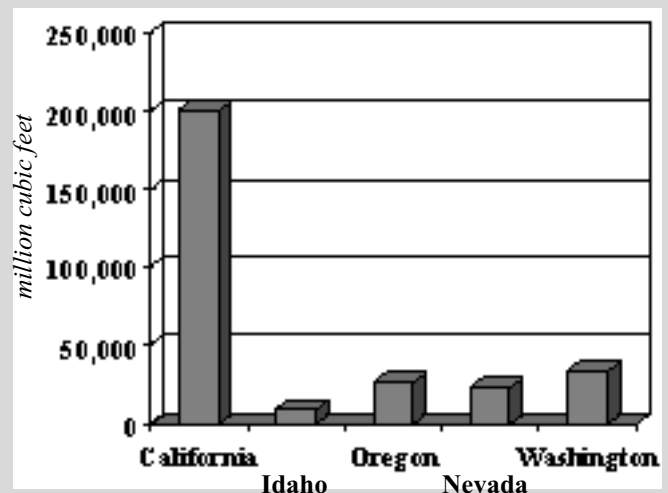
Even as California, Oregon, and many other states ponder measures for increasing renewable energy use, PG&E and its partner companies are planning to use Oregon as a back door for California's fossil fuel addiction. Most of SW Oregon will see little or no economic benefit from the project, although the economic and environmental impacts of this huge, speculative bid on California's energy market will persist for decades in the affected watersheds. Additionally, the Connector will require the use of eminent domain on local

private lands, and many owners have already vowed to refuse access or rights-of-way to their lands for a California-driven project.

Concerned Oregonians in the Umpqua River watershed and beyond will be organizing to oppose the Pacific Connector in the coming months by participating in federal hearings, supporting landowners along the pipeline route, and educating more Oregonians about the negative impacts of the project. Particularly when Oregon's weak natural gas demand does not justify this huge pipeline, the Pacific Connector is an extreme and unnecessary alteration of Oregon's landscape and the Umpqua River watershed.

For more information please see F.L.O.W.'s website:
www.oregonwaters.org

Natural Gas Consumption, Western States, December 2005



(Source: U.S. Dept of Energy, EIA)

Wilderness Youth Campout 2006

Calling all Youth! Join Nelli Williams, Umpqua Watersheds' Outreach Coordinator, for the annual Wilderness Youth Campout July 21-23rd. It is a weekend full of wilderness summer fun including swimming, hiking, campfire cooking, camping and learning about wild places. Below are a few details you can talk to your parents about.

What: A weekend of camping fun featuring educational activities, outdoor recreation and of course...S'mores!

Where: Twin Lakes Shelter, Umpqua National Forest

When: July 21-July 23rd, 2006

Cost: FREE for Umpqua Watersheds members, \$10 for non-members. Scholarships available.

Who: Ages 12-20

Summer 2005



How to sign-up: Call (672-7065) or email (nelli@umpqua-watersheds.org) Nelli at Umpqua Watersheds and leave your name and address. An information packet will be sent to you, which you fill out and return. Space is limited. There will also be a pre-trip meeting on Thurs. July 20th, 6pm at the Umpqua Watersheds office (539 SE Main St. in Roseburg).

RARE BIRD:

Pursuing the Mystery of the Marbled Murrelet

Book Review!

The little marbled murrelet is a most extraordinary bird. It behaves both like a seabird and a forest nesting bird, but has a way all its own. If you read *Rare Bird: Pursuing the Mystery of the Marbled Murrelet* by Maria Mudd Ruth, you may find yourself laughing with joy and admiration that such a sturdy, non-conformist, modest, little seabird continues its hard-working life despite overwhelming odds.

Picture a robin-sized seabird with webbed feet and a 4-inch long fish in its beak lifting off from the sea and flying inland to a remnant stand of old growth coastal forest. This marbled murrelet parent brings a whole fish to its chick 150 feet up on the wide mossy limb of a huge old tree. The bird works hard, flying as many as five, ten, even 40 miles to reach the chick, wings beating at speeds approaching the whirl of hummingbirds, fighting the drag of the fish and its own chubby shape. Observers affectionately describe the murrelet as “a flying baked potato with a beak”.

The parent crash-lands on the wide limb because its webbed feet are designed for swimming, not walking or clinging to branches. It can sit motionless 11 minutes while the chick begs to be fed, apparently recovering from its long flight, then suddenly pass the whole fish over and depart again for the sea. Alone, the tiny chick moves the fish (looking longer than itself) by opening and closing its beak, until it can flip the tail up and swallow the fish headfirst, whole.

Most Auks, the murrelet’s seabird group, breed on rocky shores or cliffs in noisy colonies. Not the murrelet. Sometime in the distant past, murrelets survived better flying into coastal forests and using large moss-covered limbs on huge trees for their nests. There, parents keep their single egg warm in 24-hour shifts, changing places at dawn after one has fed at sea.

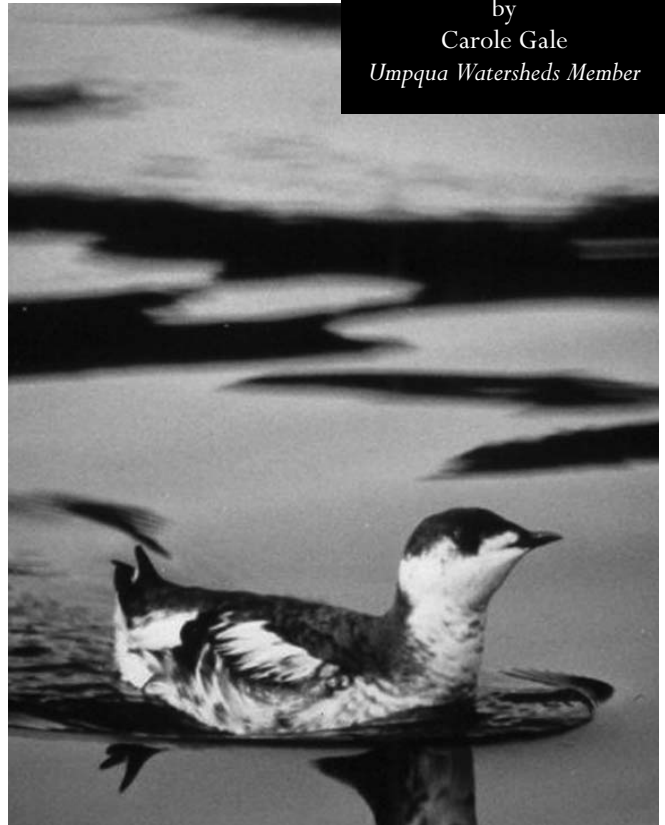
He moved his pruning saw towards it hoping it would fly away, but the tiny bird wouldn’t budge and pecked at the saw!

Once the chick hatches, both make the arduous flights with fish from the sea to the high nest. A truly egalitarian pair.

Due to this atypical nesting behavior, humans couldn’t find a murrelet nest for nearly two centuries after the 1779 discovery of

the species in Pacific Northwest coastal waters, where marbled murrelets spend 95% of their lives. People searched the shore and others watched murrelets flying with fish into the forest, but they looked in both places for nests on the ground.

Finally, a nest was accidentally discovered in 1974, during a safety trim in a state park campground. An experienced logger-turned-tree-trimmer, Hoyt Foster, scaled a 220 ft Douglas fir with his pruning saw. On a limb where he was about to place his foot, a little creature he’d never seen before confronted him. He described it as “a squashed up porcupine with a beak.” Foster had never heard of marbled murrelets. He moved his pruning saw towards it hoping it would fly away, but the tiny bird wouldn’t budge and pecked at the saw! Then he



by
Carole Gale
Umpqua Watersheds Member

photo courtesy of US Fish & Wildlife Service

saw its webbed feet. Foster was no birder but he knew this was strange: webbed feet 148 ft up and 6 miles from the ocean, the nearest open water. This pugnacious little chick made scientific history.

Nests remain difficult to find; the second took another 15 years. Still, with huge effort, scientists, park rangers, and amateur naturalists have developed ways to locate and monitor nests, count populations at sea, and measure the murrelet’s decline...everywhere. Old growth logging, industrial commercial fishing, and ocean oil pollution take great tolls on murrelets, their nest sites and food supply. As if that’s not enough, corvid populations (ravens, crows, jays) have exploded with habitat fragmentation and access to human garbage, and corvids eat murrelet chicks. There’s a 72% failure of murrelet nests – half the failures due to corvid predation. Now, the Bush administration wants to remove the marbled murrelet from the protection of the Endangered Species List on a legal technicality.

Extinction of such a heart-warming, resourceful little seabird will not only impoverish the Earth, it will diminish human imagination. This beautifully written book leads us on a research mystery, into the imaginative and physical difficulties of finding and studying this heroic little bird, and lets us meet the humans who puzzled over it and now work to save it from its enemy: us. *Rare Bird* is delightful, full of humorous and amazing stories, a work of real love for the marbled murrelet.

20th Annual

River Appreciation Day Festival

July 15th

Whistlers Bend Park

1-8pm

Rivers Wild, Clean, and Free!

Live Music all day!

- Virgil Robinson
- Kim Angelis
- Enjuh
- Mr. D.J.T

Raffle

Tickets on sale now at *While Away Books, New Day Grocery, Promise Foods & Umpqua Watersheds.*

PRIZES:

- Breitenbush Springs Stay
- Terry Woodall carved fish
- River float trip for 6
- Many more!

Need not be present to win

Booths & Vendors

Featuring local organizations, businesses, artisans, & crafters. Kids activities throughout the day.

Food, Camping, & Fun!

Food and drinks will be sold throughout the day by Chief Cheezers and Innerspace Cafe. Camping is available for \$5/tent/night call Umpqua Watersheds for more info.

RAFTING & DISC GOLF

Rafting shuttle leaves at 7:30am from Whistlers Bend. Bring your own gear. Call Umpqua Watersheds to sign up. Disc golf course at park - FREE.

Contact Umpqua Watersheds for more information:
541-672-7065 • uw@umpqua-watersheds.org
www.umpqua-watersheds.org

**WHISTLERS BEND PARK
JULY 15TH
RIVER DAY**

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