Western Oregon Plan Revision: Turning Back the Clock

Francis Eatherington

In response to a timber-industry lawsuit the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is planning to dramatically increase clearcutting of public forests around Roseburg, Coos Bay, Medford and Eugene. The "Western Oregon Plan Revisions" (WOPR), would replace the Northwest Forest Plan that currently guides BLM management.

In August the BLM released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the new plans, and identified their "preferred alternative". In the 2.6 million acres of BLM land in western Oregon, the agency's preference is to triple its logging, up to 727 mmbf (million board feet - 150,000 log truck

loads annually). Clearcutting of trees over 200 years old would increase by 700%. Stream-side buffer acres would decrease by 400%. The BLM's preferred alternative would allow clearcuts near small streams with a no-tree buffer.

The timber-industry lawsuit claimed, and the BLM agrees, that a 1937 law (the O&C Act) forces the BLM to treat all their public forests in western Oregon as timber-dominant. The BLM claims it will protect some endangered animals such as, spotted owls, marbled murrelets and salmon, in museum-like forests of large trees. This goes against current peer-reviewed science and leads them one step closer to extinction.

The BLM proposes to reduce reserves for endangered species from 470,000 acres down to only 34,000 acres. 90% of currently protected critical habitat for marbled murrelets and 22% of critical habitat for spotted owls would be removed and made available for clearcutting. Today's spotted owl recovery science does not agree. The BLM is asking you, the American people, for your opinion



photo by Robin Wisdom

before November 9, 2007. See below for the address where you can send your comments.

A Better Way Forward

Oregonians don't have to choose between a healthy timber industry and their old-growth forest heritage. The vast majority of the public who commented on WOPR in "scoping" asked the BLM to protect all remaining old-growth and focus management in thinning plantations and second-growth forests. Focusing on previously logged

public forestlands provides wood to local mills while actually improving conditions for fish and wildlife and keeping saws out of old growth forests.

It is disappointing that at a time when public consensus for old-growth protection and second-growth thinning has never been stronger, the BLM is proposing to clear-cut forests older than our nation and turn complex ecosystems into more tree plantations that are susceptible to severe wildfire.

IT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE THIS WAY. YOU CAN BE HEARD

Please send your comments into the BLM before **November 9**. Mail to WOPR, PO Box 2965, Portland, OR 97408. Please copy your congressional representatives. You can get more information, or email comments from: http://www.oregonheritageforests.org

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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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From the President

Umpqua Watersheds Supporters,

2007 will be looked back on as a watershed "year of change" for Umpqua Watersheds leadership. It began with the announced retirement of Penny Lind, our first Executive Director since 1998. After that came a thorough search, and the hiring of our second director. Now she also has left the front office of our organization, and we are actively looking for a replacement. We have learned a lot over the past six months, and I know it will assist us in selecting a new ED.

No matter who is in the director's chair, be assured that Umpqua Watersheds will continue to monitor and intervene in issues that affect the forests, critters and rivers of our watersheds.

Francis Eatherington will continue to work on the issues of the Umpqua, Coos, and Coquille watersheds as an independent contractor working in collaboration with Umpqua Watersheds staff.

Meanwhile, big changes were announced in recent months at the national and regional level, concerning WOPR, BLM, Spotted owl habitat, increased funding for US Forest Service logging operations, and decreased funding for US Forest Service recreation initiatives. In order to meet these new demands for conservation work, Umpqua Watersheds' board has hired Tim Ballard to coordinate our work on the public lands of Douglas County. Tim previously worked for us as our conservation associate in 2005 and 2006, and has continued to participate in forest issues through independent comments on recent timber sales.

These changes have put added stresses on staff, board, and volunteers, but all have risen to the challenges at hand. The board has taken on added responsibilities for coordination, event planning, and funding strategies. To those of you who responded to our August appeal, or who have volunteered to assist Seth Kirby our outreach coordinator with events such as River Appreciation Day and the Youth Camp-out, our heartiest and most appreciative thanks.

Another change we have seen in 2007 is the level of support and interest amongst our members and partners. This critical element has continued to grow and expand.

Two things that haven't changed are, first, the need for proactive, engaged conservation work in the Umpqua. And second, the fact that the large community of people who make up Umpqua Watersheds will continue to defend our unique and precious forests and rivers. Thank you all for your support.

Upqua Watershed Board President,

Chuck Schnautz

1 of 2 things YOU can do to help

1. Make a generous contribution to UmpquaWatersheds. Use the envelope or go to our website to donate on line: www.umpqua-watersheds.org

It cost Umpqua Watersheds a minimum of \$20.00 to bring you a year-full of important conservation updates. Please be generous to keep the news from the Umpqua and beyond flowing your way.

2. Please call and give any updates on your contact information: 541-672-7065 or email: uw@umpqua-watersheds.org

We want to make the best use of our outreach dollars. Please let us know if you no longer want to receive 100 Valleys. If you want to be added to our Umpqua News listserve please email that request to uw@umpqua-watersheds.org

How will the BLM's Plan Revisions Affect the Umpqua?

Francis Eatherington

photos by Robin Wisdom

The Western Oregon Plan Revision proposes to eliminate almost 950 acres of special areas along the Main Umpqua River, known as the "Umpqua River Wildlife Area of Critical Environmental Concern" (ACEC) because they are O&C lands. This includes six places between Roseburg and Elkton: Woodruff Mountain, Martin Creek, Lost Creek, Golden Bar, Cougar Creek and Brad's Creek. The fate of the six sites is unclear. Perhaps many acres will still be protected because they are within 100 feet of the Umpqua River or protected as Bald Eagle habitat. But specific questions to the BLM on how many acxres could be designated for timber, to be clearcut, went unanswered as of this printing.

These places are popular camping and fishing spots for boaters on the Umpqua River. In spring and early summer groups of people and Boy Scouts can be seen camping in these beautiful wild, undeveloped places next to the river. One area is next to Crow Rapids at Woodruff Mountain. This charming place has big trees and a wild,

remote feel. Logging here will not only ruin the camping, it will also downgrade the fishing.

Golden Bar and Brads Creek are also very popular for fishing and boaters who camp overnight. This was designated an ACEC because it includes "Class A scenery, some of the highest in Roseburg District", critical habitat for endangered species and "cavity dwelling wildlife." Removal of ACEC protections because it is on O&C lands gives this old growth forest an uncertain future. Not even the BLM personnel could confirm its fate. All of the areas that make up the "Umpqua River Wildlife ACEC" deserve to be protected, not only for their position next to the Umpqua River with important wildlife habitat, but also for their dispersed, wild, camping opportunities for boaters.

Much of the Umpqua riverbanks in this area are privately owned. That leaves these few irreplacable public places for citizens to use. People from around the state come to this stretch of the river to fish, camp, and boat down to the Pacific Ocean. Reducing protections for these rare and treasured forests near the river, because the BLM claims a 1937 law is forcing them to, is outrageous.

Another special area near the Umpqua River, north of Scottsburg, is the remote and beautiful 3,394 acre "Wassen Creek ACEC". This roadless area, would also be eliminated. Virtually everything that isn't too steep to log will be clearcut under BLM's preferred alternative. The BLM claims the Wassen Creek Special Area is on O&C lands so they must return to timber-dominant use, logging. Elsewhere in Coos Bay BLM, the 400 acre Brownson Ridge and 240 acre Euphoria Ridge protected areas would be loose ACEC protections. In Roseburg BLM, the "China Ditch ACEC" and "Stouts Creek ACECs" would loose protections and could also be available for clearcutting, according to BLM's interpretation of the 1937 O&C Act.



Looking for a new computer? Umpqua Watersheds is selling one of

its Mac desktop units:

Macintosh Power PC G4
Operating System 10.4.10; 640 MB RAM
2 internal hard drives: 20 GB and 75 GB
DVD/CD reader; Firewire CD Writer/reader
Ports: SCSI, USB, Firewire, Ethernet

Speed: 400 MHZ

Monitor: 15" Dell Color.

Yours for only \$550

OUTREACH CORNER

Umpqua Watersheds kept busy this summer hosting and attending a variety of events around the county. It was nice too see your friendly faces showing support for the forests and the 100 Valleys.

There were two great days of music this summer celebrating our rivers. First came the 21st Annual River Appreciation Day. This year the event was a one day affair held at Douglas County Swiftwater Park on the North Umpqua. With some great music performances for the kids and the grown-ups, everyone had something to enjoy. A few Weeks later Umpqua Watersheds participated in the 1st Rock The River Festival. This was a hard rocking festival at Stewart Park featuring local bands supporting our Umpqua River. It was a good chance to talk with people who might not be familiar with Umpqua Watersheds but support the work we are doing.

The last weekend in July we hosted our **Youth Wilderness Campout**. Several families, kids and volunteers came together to enjoy the Twin Lakes area in the Umpqua National Forest. Volunteers were on hand to teach youth about the wilderness, our forests, and outdoor adventure. Many participants commented on how great the event was and they are all looking forward to next year.

Upcoming Events:

This fall we have several fun and educational events coming to the Umpqua.

Tingstad and Rumbel will be bringing there wonderful Grammy winning sounds back to Roseburg. They are playing the Roseburg Presbyterian Church on November 4th (see cover for more info). If you are interested in helping to promote the concert, sell tickets, or help with concessions and deserts please contact Seth at Umpqua Watersheds.

Several wonderful hikes will be happening this fall. We will be visiting Toketee Falls this fall and and seeing Wassen Creek, one of the areas that is threatened by the BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revision..

We are also begging preparation for our 12th Annual Banquet and Silent Auction. We are looking for volunteer leaders to help with all aspects of the event. If you are interested in helping with outreach, auction, help, decorating, or planning, please call Umpqua Watersheds office at 541-672-7065 or email: seth@umpqua-watersheds.org.

Wild On Wilderness: Spotlight on Bulldog Rock

On July 25, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee passed the Lewis and Clark Mount Hood Wilderness Act of 2007. The next step for this legislation is a vote in the Senate. Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Greg Walden (R-OR) have said they will introduce their version of the bill in the House following Senate passage.

That was a good day for Oregon's wild lands. Now we can move on to protect even more wilderness for enjoyment and for future generations to come; perhaps even in our

Bulldog Rock (photo by Robin Wisdom)

own backyard. We must encourgae our representatives that Orgonians want more protections for their wild lands and old forests.

One such place that a group of wilderness proponets would like to set aside as wilderness is an area called the Bulldog Rock Unroaded Recreation Management Area (URMA). The URMA is across Road #3850 from the Boulder Creek Wilderness and was set aside in 1984 with help from activists back then. We have much to be happy for for their achievement in '84 and much work to do in order to

continue their legacy to save more wilderness today.

Robin Wisbom

To the west of the Bulldog Rock area is the Steamboat recreational and fish-protected area. Therefore, some say this area does not need further protection. But many of us do not believe that. Wilderness designation is the very best protection that can be afforded to valuable land. The creeks in this area are some of the best cold water producers that contribute to the North Umpqua River. Cold water is necessary for fish and other aquatic life to survive, as well

as humans. Water is rapidly becoming a survival issue around the world. We must firmly protect our water sources now and our other natural resources we have in our care.

If you would like to get involved protecting Oregon's wild and roadless areas contact the Wild On Wilderness Committee at Umpqua Watersheds (541-672-7065). The committee meets the last Wednesday of the month at McMenemin's at 7:00 pm.



October 20th - Hike Toketee Falls

Visit Toketee Falls early this fall and enjoy the cool water on a chilly day. The falls are in two-tiered with an upper 40 foot falls and the lower 80 foot falls. It is a short hike of about 1 mile, but can be difficult due to a plethora of steps to reach the viewing area that can become slippery in wet weather. Meet behind the Douglas County Courthouse at 9am or the Glide Ranger Station at 9:30am. Wear appropriate clothing and bring plenty of water and snacks, and expect to contribute to the carpool. Call **541-672-7065** with any questions.

October 24th - Wild On Wilderness (WOW) Meeting

Join local wilderness enthusiasts in an ongoing community discussion about protecting the last remaining roadless areas in the Umpqua. Discussions include working towards more wilderness areas, expanding roadless areas and statewide outreach. Meet at McMenemin's Roseburg Station (700 SE Sheridan St) at 7pm. Call Umpqua Watersheds office 672-7065 for information.

November 4th - Tingstad and Rumbel

These amazing Grammy Award Winning instrumentalists return to Roseburg!! Grammy Award winners Eric Tingstad and Nancy Rumbel have performed, recorded and touring together for over 22 years with 19 albums to their credit. Traveling to as many as 70 concert venues a year, they are friends who enjoy each other's company and truly love making music. Historic preservation and the environment are just a couple of the many special interests Eric and Nancy share and lend their names to - all part of their love for nature, beauty, and creativity that takes center stage in their music. Tingstad and Rumbel will be performing at the Presbyterian Church in Roseburg (corner of Lane and Jackson) at 7pm. Umpqua Watersheds volunteers will also be preparing some tasty desserts for intermission. Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$18 at the door; \$10 for students with a valid ID and are available at Umpqua Watersheds office, New Day Quality Grocery, While Away Books, Harvest Store (Winston), Promise Natural Foods and Bakery (Canyonville). For information call Umpqua Watersheds at **541-672-7065**.

November 3rd - Hike Wassen Creek

Umpqua Watersheds is leading a hike to this area that is at risk of logging due to the recent Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR). We will be hiking through a currently protected Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) that is threatened by the WOPR. The hike will be on a 5,100 acre BLM roadless area and somewhat difficult. Meet behind the Douglas County Courthouse at 8am or Tomaselli's Pastry Mill and Cafe in Elkton at 9:00am. Wear appropriate clothing and bring plenty of water, lunch, and snacks, and expect to contribute to the carpool. Call **541-672-7065** with any questions.

November 27th - WOW Meeting

December 8th - Hike the Doener Fir

Join Umpqua Watersheds on this moderate hike to see this world famous Douglas Fir tree. Meet behind the Douglas County Courthouse at 9am or the Lookingglass Store at 9:30am. Wear appropriate clothing and bring plenty of water, lunch and snacks, and expect to contribute to the carpool. Call **541-672-7065** with any questions.

Idea for a hike? Call the Umpqua Watershed office at 541-672-7065.



Boarders & Beyond

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

Stuart Liebowitz

THE WAVE AND WIND ENERGY FORUM IS COMING!! BUT WHAT DO I CALL IT?

Okay. The Douglas Copunty Global Warming Coalition is holding a forum on wave and wind energy. And we've got the basics down: Wednesday, October 3rd, Noon to 4 P.M.

Douglas County Library — Ford Room

Speakers? They're all set. Among them are:

• Justin Klure- Executive Director, Oregon Wave Energy Trust

•Robin Hartmann- Ocean Program Director of the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition

•Paul Woodin- Executive Director, Community Renewable Energy Association talking about community wind based projects

As you can see, we've got great speakers. But there is a problem. We have a forum without a title. So here are my 10 suggestions (not yet elevated to commandments) with commentary.

•Wave Energy- Fit To Be Tide (offends the lunar goddess)

•Wave Energy- More Than Just A Hair-Do (out of fashion)

*Buoy Oh Buoy!- Wave Energy Is Here! (makes me seasick)

•Wind Energy- Renewable Energy Community Comes To Blows (too violent)

•Wind Energy-The Prince Of Tides (too undemocratic)

•Wind Energy- Congratulations! It's A Buoy! (too sexist)

•The Energy Answer Is Blowin' In The Wind (means nothing to those under 50)

•Wave Energy- Not Just A Ritual At A Baseball Game (offends Seattle Mariner fans)

Better An Ocean Wave Than A Heat Wave (potential lawsuit from Martha and the Vandellas)

•It's Time To Wave Hello (only if your mind works backwards)

So if you are interested in positive solutions to global warming, come hear the latest on wave and wind energy. And we can talk about what to call the forum as well.

For more information, call Stuart Liebowitz, Douglas County Global Warming Coalition- 672-9819.

LNG Comments due October 4th!!!

Francis Eatherington

More important information regarding the pipeline

There is a new opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal proposed for Coos Bay, and the associated 230-mile gas pipeline to California.

Comment before October 4 (soon) on the proposed pipeline through Douglas County. You must submit comments before October 4, 2007 to obtain legal status if you ever want to sue to protect your rights, or to appeal a FERC decision, or to get more information on the project. This is called filing for "intervener" status.

Otherwise, please continue to submit your thoughts to FERC, even after 10-4-07. Continue to give your concern that this project increases our dependence on foreign governments for a cheap source of fossil fuel, increasing global warming, and setting back competitive alternative energies like solar power. The huge ships carrying the LNG from Russia or Iran disrupt whale migration routes, pollute the oceans and spread invasive species across the seas.

The energy companies are marching ahead, determined to push this project through. On September 4, they moved from the "pre filing" mode into the official application to proceed and to receive a "certificate of public convenience and necessity", allowing them to eventually enforce eminent domain on unwilling landowners.

The filings can be viewed in the eLibrary at the FERC Web site, www.ferc.gov. Enter the docket numbers (CP07-441, CP07-442, CP07-443, CP07-444) to access the document. Note that the docket numbers have changed. *If you were receiving FERC email notices of documents, you will have to re-sign up under new numbers*. For assistance, call (866) 208-3676.

To comment, (or to "intervene" before 10-4), write to FERC, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20426. You can also file electronically by going to www.ferc.gov. Under "Documents and Filings" click on eFiling. Call their support number at the bottom of the page if their antiquated, slow, and confusing web page gives you problems.

Persevere - do it for the whales, for the creatures of the forest, and for your neighbors who could have to endure many lifetimes of an ugly and unsafe pipeline corridor through their property.

Non Controversial Thinning: Long Term Results For Forests

Although Douglas County has recently received a one-year extension of the Safety Net, long term funding remains a problem.

Just as County Commissioner, Joe Laurence, has a "treasure map" for biomass, I have received a few treasure maps that lead to part of our funding solution. Recently, I asked the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to map out all of their old clear cuts.

These maps use color shades to show the age of these clearcuts from 1913 to 2005. In the Umpqua National Forest, we have roughly a quarter million acres (245,000 acres) of old clear cuts. There are 138,000 acres on the Roseburg BLM lands and 62,860 acres on the Coos Bay BLM's portion of Douglas County. We are still waiting for the Medford BLM maps which will show their clearcuts around Glendale and the Siuslaw National Forest near Scottsburg and Smith River. Once the other maps are received, it is estimated we will have more than 400,000 acres clearcuts on federal lands in Douglas County.

The reason I call these "treasure maps" is because they can lead us to a sustainable economic future here in Douglas County. By actively thinning these 400,000 acres we could receive a steady, predictable one hundred million board feet of second growth timber each year for the next 30 years. From this, the Douglas County government would receive a steady paycheck for decades.

Active thinning of these federal lands can be embraced by both the conservationists and the timber industry. This plan balances the needs of traditional polar opposites and provides a win-win-win resolution. In this scenario, timber families, endangered species and all of Douglas County win!

Since the Late Successional Reserves (LSRs) for the Spotted Owl are already 40% clearcut, the conservationist groups want to see those plantations thinned to speed up old growth characteristics. Since the beginning of the Northwest Forest Plan, the timber industry has simply wanted a steady, predictable supply of timber. Mill owners

Patrick Starne

need this kind of predictability so they can plan their investments in their mills and workers.

We all want to reduce the chance of catastrophic files, and thinning these dense plantations would help reduce that risk as well.

The lack of lawsuits is the real positive to these secon I growth thinning sales. These proposed thinning sales are far less likely to be bogged down with lawsuits, especially when consensus is reached beforehand. Consensus was achieved on previous projects like the BLM's "Upper Umpqua" thinning sales and the Forest Service's "Tomatillo" thinning sale. One BLM forester told me he was shocked when the "Upper Umpqua" sales were competitively auctioned for much more than they expected.

The other plus is that these old clearcuts already have the roads and landings in place, eliminating the need to go into the Roadless Area controversy any longer. Controversy equals gridlock. Also, since logging technology has vastly improved since the 1940s, fewer roads are needed for logging.

Conservation groups from across the Northwest are open to the idea of active thinning of second growth. Our Congressman Peter DeFazio and Senator Ron Wyden have also been encouraged by this kind of forest restoration consensus. I look forward to achieving consensus with industry leaders as well.

As you may have noticed, there has been increased pressure for more logging on federal lands with the Safety Net in jeopardy. Yet we don't want to continue with controversial clearcutting of old growth because lawsuits typically prevent it.

Conservation groups are concerned with how much is left behind and industry is worried we are not taking out enough. I believe we can satisfy both constituencies. We can meet in the middle and keep a reliable revenue stream coming into the County from our federal lands.

The Future of County Payments and Services

Francis Eatherington Seth Kirby

Before the Northwest Forest Plan the Bureau of Land Management paid the county 50% of federal timber reciepts, in —lieu of taxes. For the past 7 years, the Secure Rural Schools payments were based on the peak levels of old-growth clearcutting that occurred for a few years in the late 1980s. This amount was unreasonably high.

This excessive level of logging was reached because of congressional appropriation riders (314 and 318) that set aside environmental laws and forced through literally billions of board feet of old-growth logging that otherwise would never have complied with our nations laws.

Now the BLM's attempt to return to the unsustainable levels that lead to endangered fish & wildlife are proposed in the WOPR. Instead we need a fair payment from the federal government, not an unreasonable gift to the timber industry.

There is much at stake for our outdoor, clean water and wildlife heri-

tage. The nearly 2.6 million acres covered by the WOPR encompasses much of Oregon's last remaining old-growth forests, Wild and Scenic Rivers, municipal drinking water supplies for cities and towns, some of the state's most prized fishing and hunting grounds and habitat for rare and imperiled species including all five species of Pacific salmon.

A steady source of income to make up for the loss of the timber safety net is needed. Thinning second growth gives us the opportunity for a stable long term funding source. There is no need to begin logging old-growth with the back long of overgrown plantations in our watershed. Douglas County should not be forced to choose between our legacy forests and keeping our libraries, sheriffs, and other local services in place.

Please contact your law makers and write letter to the editor to express your desire to have a better future provided for our SW rural counties in Oregon.

Formosa Mine Listed as National Superfund Site

Recently the Formosa Mine outside Riddle was listed on the national Superfund list for environmental clean up. This is a positive step forward towards restoring the land to a level that is healthier and safer for the community.

The mine was originally mined in the 1930's and was reopened in the early 1990's. The Asian company that operated the mine closed it several years later using tailings from the mine. Over the past several years, the wet Oregon weather has cased the mine to begin leaking into the Middle Fork of Cow Creek, contaminating the water for several miles. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Bureau of Land Managment at-

tempted to fix the problem with little success. The current system in place does little to stop the contaminated waters from flowing into the creek and on into the South Umpqua River.

Formosa Mine is considered one of the most toxic areas in the country. Its listing on the national Superfund list will help ensure that the work to

clean up the mine will be done properly, restoring the land to the best possible conditions. Umpqua Watersheds wishes to thank Larry Tuttle and the Center for Environmental Equity for their work: www.nevermined.org



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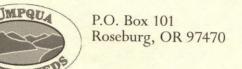
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Please Join as a business endorser - Reach More People through 100 Valleys \$50 for one issue of 100 Valleys; \$100 for one year (4 issues)

All Contributions are Tax Deductible. Call Seth at **541-672-7065**.



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Tingstad & Rumbel

November 4th 7:00 PM

Umpqua Watersheds is pleased to welcome back this *Grammy Award* winning duo.

Join us at the First Presbyterian Church in Roseburg (corner of Lane and Jackson) to enjoy and evening of wonderful music. Fine deserts will also be available.

Tickets ar \$15 in advance \$18 at the door; \$10 for students.

Call Umpqua Watersheds for more information 541-672-7065.