

# 100 Valleys

A Quarterly Publication for the Supporters of Umpqua Watersheds

Winter 2008

Issue #41

## HELP STOP THE WOPR

Francis Eatherington

Thanks to everyone who submitted comments to the BLM urging them to scrap the WOPR and start over. Known as BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR), the preferred alternative would increase logging of old growth forests by 700%, while drastically reducing stream side buffers and reserves for endangered species.

We still need to keep the pressure on our Congressional delegation (both Senators and your Representative in the House) and urge them to publically speak out against the clearcutting our nation's old-growth. Tell the BLM that none of their alternatives are acceptable because they all increase logging of old-growth forests.

For Roseburg BLM, the WOPR proposes to increase logging from what is currently legally allowed (34 mmbf 2006 sales successfully awarded, or 7,000 log truck loads) up 300% to an incredible 107 mmbf annually (22,000 log truck loads).

We would see increased logging around places like Iverson Park (Coos Bay Wagon Road), Tyee Mountain (near Umpqua), and the forests north of Camas Valley. These areas currently contain beautiful old growth forests in spotted owl Reserves that would lose their protective status and be converted to tree plantations. This increase in old growth logging is in spite of a 24% reduction in spotted owl pairs in just 10 years on the Roseburg BLM district.

For Coos Bay BLM, logging would increase from the currently allowed 27 mmbf to 143 mmbf annually, an increase of over



Wasson Lake; photo by Richard Sommers

500%! Increased cutting is proposed in Wasson Creek north of Scottsburg. Wasson Creek is currently the largest roadless area in the Umpqua basin, 25,000 acres shared by the Siuslaw National Forest and Coos Bay BLM. The BLM acres are currently protected as a spotted owl Reserve, but under WOPR, they would lose that protection and be available for clearcutting.

BLM's old growth forest east of Loon Lake, just outside the campgrounds, will also be moved from protected reserves into timber cutting. After all, when logging is increased 500%, some big sacrifices will have to be made.

One of the big sacrifices is in stream-side buffers. In small, headwaters streams above salmon habitat, the BLM is proposing to leave a 0 foot tree buffer. One small tree could be left every 170 feet. The forests would be clearcut right over these streams, even while they are running at full bank during the winter.

For fish-bearing streams, the BLM has proposed to reduce stream-side buffers by 60%, except in 15,000 acres of forests near the Coquille Tribal forest (near the towns of Powers and Remote). There, the BLM will reduce buffers from 440 feet down to only 50 feet.

Pass it on. BLM's forests are America's public forests. We entrust the federal government to manage them on our behalf. Please contact your friends and family across the nation and encourage them to speak up on behalf of old-growth forests, rivers, salmon and future generations who deserve a living legacy. Sending an automatic email from the [www.oregonheritageforests.org](http://www.oregonheritageforests.org) website is an easy and quick way for people to speak up. Oregon Wild also has information and a place to comment here: [www.oregonwild.org/oregon\\_forests/old\\_growth\\_protection/o-c-lands/wopr-action-page](http://www.oregonwild.org/oregon_forests/old_growth_protection/o-c-lands/wopr-action-page).

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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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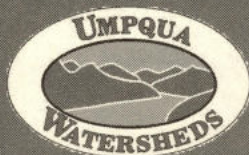
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## From the President

*After two years of leading Umpqua Watersheds in its work to ensure a forest legacy for our children and grandchildren, I am writing my last column as President of the organization. Looking back, in many respects little has changed during the last two years. The US Forest Service has increasingly focused on thinning sales and leaves the old growth and roadless areas of the Umpqua National Forest off the sale planners' agenda, but we remain wary. A proposed new management plan (the WOPR) for BLM forestlands looms threateningly before us. We still scramble to provide dollars to support our staff as they monitor the public agencies. We still count on all of you to volunteer, write letters, sign petitions, talk to your neighbors, and give your scarce time and hard earned dollars to our joint endeavor.*

*This is not to say that nothing has happened during this time. We continue to succeed in getting the public agencies to be held accountable to the laws protecting our forest habitat and water quality. We have been asked to the table to discuss forest and water issues, rather than having to elbow our way in as in the past. Agency personnel more frequently seek our input before they pursue a course of action, rather than after. Our arguments for thinning have found new advocates, and a broader examination by both the agencies and the public. We have started to build an endowment with the Penny's Pearls Fund.*

*Some things that I had hoped would happen haven't. After we searched for, and selected, a new Executive Director for Umpqua Watersheds, the fit was not right. We are now reexamining the role of the ED, and working on a job description that will insure success of both the next director, and the organization itself. We have not yet increased our emphasis on restoration work to go along with our historical monitoring regime. We must still improve ways to effectively organize and oversee our volunteer resources. We struggle to keep our website current. Funding our current work continues to challenge us.*

*In the end, we are still here and viable, still providing a voice for the forest, the rivers, and the critters, and still speaking out for the values we all hold dear. We will always have more work to do than resources to do it, but we are a success nonetheless.*

*Thanks to all of you, Umpqua Watersheds will continue to be a success story.*

*See You On the Trail*

*Chuck Schnautz*

### *In Memoriam*

*1938-2007*

*Gyan Surya*

*To celebrate her life we would like to extend an invitation to gather*

*on: Sunday, January 13th, 2008  
time: 1:00pm-4:00pm  
at: Glide Community Center.*

*This will be a potluck.*

*RSVP to Synnove 541-229-0941/917-312-7190  
Wendy and Paul Antos 541-496-0377*



# Getting Ready for the 12th Annual Banquet

Betsy Dean

The time is rapidly approaching for Umpqua Watersheds 12th Annual Banquet and Benefit Auction, Saturday February 9th, 2008 5:00PM in the Community Building at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Roseburg. Our theme "Wilderness Rocks! Rivers Roll! Watersheds Rule!" will celebrate our launch for the Wild on Wilderness Campaign; our goal is permanent Wilderness Protection for roadless areas of the Umpqua National Forest.

Since 1984, no Wilderness areas have been designated in the Umpqua. The continued population increase in Douglas County puts further pressure on current natural resources. We have a treasure which is unique to the local community, the state of Oregon, the nation and even the world and we should do whatever we can to protect it.

The festivities will begin at 5:00 PM with delectable appetizers, sampling organically crafted wines from Wild Rose Vineyard and Ninkasi micro brew. Entertainment will be Our Own Irish Band. We welcome Dr. Dominick A. DellaSala, Executive Director and Chief Scientist of the National Center for Conservation Science & Policy in Ashland, Oregon as our keynote speaker. Dominick is an internationally renowned author of over 150 technical papers, co-author of four books on biodiversity and sustainable forest management, as well articles in many magazines including National Geographic. While with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) for 13 years, he was instrumental in the federal roadless conservation policy and the designation of new national monuments. For his achievements in conservation, Dr. DellaSala received WWF's President's Award in 2000 and 2004 and the Wilburforce Foundation Conservation Leadership Award in 2005.

The Benefit Auction last year was a huge success, so remember to gather your gently used items or that framed artwork you haven't hung on the wall since you painted it three years ago. We always appreciate baskets and items to put in our famed "theme baskets" that have been such a hit in the past. Do you have that creative urge just waiting to be realized? Come join us! You can drop off your auction items at the office- 539 Main St, Roseburg, or give us a call and we would be glad to pick them up.

If you would like to help with the Banquet please call Betsy Dean, 459-3602; for the Auction, Ed and Mary Cooley 584-2693; or Seth Kirby at the office at 672-7065.

## LNG Update

Francis Eatherington

Southern Oregon is facing one of the most destructive and dangerous industrial projects in our lifetime. Energy corporations want to build a liquefied natural gas import terminal in the North Spit of Coos Bay and a pipeline across Coos, Douglas, Jackson, and Klamath counties, to transport the gas to California (known as the Pacific Connector Pipeline).

Natural gas, produced in countries like Russia, is compressed by cooling, converting to Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) for transportation across the ocean in huge tankers that would dock at Coos Bay. There the gas would be piped to the California market. The 3' diameter buried pipeline would require a 100' to 200' wide clearcut corridor, 230 miles long, over two mountain ranges, through family farms and public forests, through marbled murrelet and spotted owl habitat, across hundreds of salmon streams, and through 5 major rivers (Coos, Coquille, twice through the South Umpqua, the Rogue, and Klamath).

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is concerned about the two South Umpqua crossings. At Clarks Branch Road the crossing is within a designated fall Chinook spawning area. Diverting the river to an overflow channel, which may need to be widened to accommodate the extra stream flow, and work areas located in the river, would have major impacts on this gravel spawning bar.

For the crossing at Milo, the ODFW notes that this section of river is not only within a designated spring Chinook spawning, but also a rearing habitat area. "The South Umpqua spring Chinook population averages approximately 200 adult returns per year and spawning habitat and adult holding pools are

extremely limited. Spring Chinook adults return in April - June and hold in available resting pools until October. Adult spring Chinook could very likely be holding in the vicinity of the proposed crossing."

Families living on the pipeline route are also worried. The energy companies have applied to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for a "certificate of public need and necessity", giving them power to take other's private property through eminent domain. People will be offered a one-time payment only, even though their land and forests will be lost forever. The easement could be sold again, to other international companies without landowners' permission.

Liquefied Natural Gas is not a clean, "transitional energy". It is simply another crutch, slowing our conversion to renewable energy like solar, wind and wave power. Unlike domestic natural gas (one of America's most abundant energy sources, with pipelines across the nation already in place), Liquefied Natural Gas is dirtier because of leakages of methane, as well as the added energy cost to liquefy, ship, regasify, and pipe it to California. LNG will increase our dependence on unstable foreign governments for a non-renewable, global-warming energy source.

Citizens of Douglas County should thank our county commissioners for speaking out against the use of eminent domain. When the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is released by the federal government in March 2008, there will be more opportunity for you to comment.

For more information, see <http://www.nocaliforniapipeline.com> or  
<http://lngwatch.com/>



## OUTREACH CORNER

Umpqua Watersheds wishes to thank everyone who made the Tingstad and Rumbel concert a success. We are fortunate they hold the Umpqua Valley just as dear as all of us and treat us to some special concerts whenever they are in town.

Join Umpqua Watersheds this winter for some wonderful activities throughout the Umpqua.

We will have our annual snow shoe hike on February 2nd. This is always a fun time for beginners and experts. It is a great opportunity to try it if you never have.

On February 16th we will be leading a hike to the wonderful Grotto Falls. This is a nice short hike with lots of opportunity for exploration around and above the falls.

On March 15th we will have our annual pilgrimage to The Lookingglass Rock. This hike affords the opportunity of a great view of the valley you have probably never seen.

Thanks to our members support, Umpqua Watersheds continues to have a strong voice in regional land management issues. This only happens when you, our members, actively participate in the process. Many of our most successful victories happen because of the comments you write, your voices heard by elected officials, and your letters to the editor being read by the community.

We must continue reaching out to our friends and neighbors and discussing the the importance of our remaining untouched forests. Only with strong community support will we begin to see changes in the way our lands are managed.

We look forward to seeing everyone and hopefully some new faces at the Banquet and other events this season.

*If you have any suggestions for events or hikes please contact  
Umpqua Watersheds at 541-672-7065.*

*To volunteer at the office or for an event contact us at 541-672-7065.*

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## Wild On Wilderness:

WOW Committee

### Working Toward Permanent Protection

Wild on Wilderness committee has been busy working on the wilderness campaign for this year's banquet on Feb. 9th. Much excitement is building about this citizen launch for more wilderness in the Umpqua National Forest. This campaign advocates setting aside certain roadless areas as permanent designated wilderness. Just as in 1984, when Boulder Creek, Rogue-Umpqua Divide and Mt. Thielsen areas were designated by Congress as permanent wilderness, we hope to protect the last remaining roadless areas. If not protected, these federal forest lands still remain vulnerable to new roads, mining, logging, and other destructive activities. Congressionally protected wilderness refers to areas protected under the terms of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Some areas that the WOW committee are working toward designation of permanent wilderness protection are: Bulldog Rock, Wassen Creek, Last Creek, Cougar Bluffs, Calf Copeland, and Donegan Prairie. We are consulting with many of the different interest groups including scientists and government agencies to get as much involvement as possible.

A healthy environment is the basis for a healthy economy. Wilderness provides a wide and important variety of economic benefits to Oregon, including clean drinking water, essential habitat for fish and wildlife, outstanding opportunities for recreation, as well as a setting for scientific and educational research. At this time of Douglas County's questionable economic future, there is an urgent need to protect these ecologically pristine areas. On Jan. 8th the WOW committee presented the wilderness slide show

with speaker Kristin Lee from ECO Northwest. Her presentation focused on how wilderness areas can benefit our economy.


As part of the launch, the WOW committee has drafted endorsement forms. These forms are for businesses, organizations, and individuals to sign and demonstrate their support for more wilderness protection in the Umpqua National Forest. Completed endorsement forms have been coming in as a result of the last newsletter insert as well as WOW committee members' visits to local businesses and organizations. Local businesses are excited to be a part of the campaign for more wilderness. These completed endorsement forms will help lobby Congress for the wilderness protection. If you have or know a business or organization interested in signing an endorsement form, please call the UW office at 672-7065.

People in the Umpqua and around the region are well aware how unique and special these wild roadless areas are in the U.N.F. Some people call these areas the Noah's Ark, or the original blueprint. Many local families have spent years recreating in these areas and are quite familiar with how special they are.

As different administrations come and go permanent wilderness designation is critical. The Wilderness Launch Campaign at this year's banquet will be letting the world know that local citizens are standing up and saying the time for more wilderness in the Umpqua National Forest is NOW!

*To get involved with the Wild On Wilderness Committee contact Umpqua Watersheds at 541-672-7065*





# Winter 2008 Events and Hikes

## January 8th - Wilderness Slideshow

Come enjoy an entertaining and educational slideshow about the roadless areas in the Umpqua. Local wilderness experts will be on hand to discuss why these areas are important and what we can do to protect them further. Slideshow will be held at the Ford room in the Douglas County Library at 7pm. Call Umpqua Watersheds at **541-672-7065** for information.

## January 26th - Clearcutting the Climate Conference

10 am – 5 pm, University of Oregon; Eugene, Oregon, Lawrence 177 (School of Architecture). Burning fossil fuels - petroleum, coal and natural gas - is not the only cause of global warming. Clearcutting forests also disrupts the climate. Join expert scientists and environmental leaders for a groundbreaking one day conference to bring together citizens concerned about climate change and about forest protection. Presentations from this conference will be posted at [www.forestclimate.org](http://www.forestclimate.org) for local, bioregional and global distribution. Clearcutting the Climate is a free event open to everyone, but we request pre-registration to be able to plan adequately for the size of the audience. For information call 541 688-2600 or email [info@forestcouncil.org](mailto:info@forestcouncil.org).

## January 30th, February 27th, and March 26th - 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 **541-672-7065** for more information.

## February 2nd - Snowshoe Hike

Join Umpqua Watersheds on a pilgrimage east to Diamond Lake for a day of snowshoeing. Beginners and experts are all welcome to join us for a day in the snow. To reserve a rental of snowshoes (\$10) call Umpqua Watersheds office at 541-672-7065 by January 25th. Wear appropriate clothing for snow and bring water, lunch, and expect to share carpool expenses. Meet behind the Douglas County Courthouse off Fowler Street at 9am or the Glide Ranger Station at 9:30am. **NOTE:** *Due to changing winter weather, a go/no-go decision will be made 24 hours. Please call 541-672-7065 between 10am and 5pm to confirm.*

## February 9th - Umpqua Watersheds 12th Annual Banquet and Benefit Silent Auction

Join Umpqua Watersheds at their 12th Annual Banquet as we begin a new year. This last year has brought some great success and big changes to Umpqua Watershed. Come join your friends and family in the Umpqua for an evening of merriment and good times. There will be wine tasting, appetizers, and a tasty dinner. Also bid on some amazing and unique items at the Silent Auction. This year's keynote speaker will be **Dominick Dellasala, Ph.D. Executive Director of National Center for Conservation Science & Policy.** Dominick is an internationally renowned author of over 150 technical papers, co-author of four books on biodiversity and sustainable forest management. He has also appeared in National Geographic, Science Digest, Time Magazine, NY Times, LA Times, CNN, MSNBC, "Living on Earth (NPR)," and Public Radio and TV. Dominick received World Wildlife Fund's President's Award in 2000 and 2004 and the Wilburforce Foundation Conservation Leadership Award in 2005. Festivities begin at 5pm at the Conference Hall on the Douglas County Fairgrounds. *Tickets cost \$30 one ticket in advance, \$55 two tickets in advance, \$35 one ticket at the door and are available at While Away Books, New Day Grocery, Harvest Store (Winston), Promise Foods (Canyonville), and at Umpqua Watersheds (539 Main).* Call Umpqua Watersheds for information or to get involved **541-672-7065**.

## February 16th - Grotto Falls Waterfall Hike

Grotto falls is located on the south side of the North Umpqua Ranger District. The plunging waterfall invites you to walk fully around it and then continue up the trail to two more waterfalls. The hike is short and can be difficult due to weather and trail conditions. *Meet behind the Douglas County Courthouse off Fowler Street at 9am or the Glide Ranger Station at 9:30. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear and bring lunch, water, and expect to share fuel expenses. Call Umpqua Watersheds at 541-672-7065 for information.*

## March 15th - Hike The Rock

Climb this amazing geological wonder with us for great views of Tenmile and Lookingglass Valleys. Learn how this unique feature was formed and hopefully some wildflowers will be up to paint a colorful backdrop for the day. Wear weather appropriate clothing, and bring lunch, water and expect to share carpool expenses. Meet at 9:00 behind the Douglas County Courthouse off Fowler Street or at 9:30 at the Lookingglass Store. Call Umpqua Watersheds at **541-672-7065** with questions.

## March 28th, 29th, and 30th - 33rd Annual Spring Fair

This year marks the 32nd Annual Spring Fair in Douglas County. There will be over 100 craft booths from around the state. Umpqua Watersheds will be hosting a booth that will need to be staffed by a team of enthusiastic volunteers who are looking to have some little fun. The Spring Fair will be at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. Entrance is \$2 or free if wearing a costume or you bring your instrument. Contact **541-430-0124** for information.

*For more information, call 672-7065 or email [outreach@umpqua-watersheds.org](mailto:outreach@umpqua-watersheds.org). Hikes are weather dependent, please contact the UW office on the Friday before a hike between 10a-5p to confirm.*





**WILDERNESS Rocks! Rivers Roll! Watersheds Rule!!!**

**You're invited...**  
**Umpqua Watersheds**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet &**  
**Benefit Auction**  
**Sat. February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

Douglas County Fairgrounds, Community Building  
I-5, exit 123, Roseburg, Oregon  
Welcome all...5:00PM

**Silent Auction All Evening!**

Appetizers ❖ Organically Crafted Wild Rose Wine tasting  
❖ The Wild Wetlands Bar (no host)  
❖ Ninkasi Brewing Company  
Entertainment featuring Our Own Irish Band

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER - Dominick DellaSala, Ph.D,**

Dr. Dominick A. DellaSala is the Executive Director and Chief Scientist of the National Center for Conservation Science & Policy in Ashland, Oregon. He is an internationally renowned author and co-author of many technical papers and books on biodiversity and sustainable forest management. Dominick was instrumental in the federal roadless conservation policy and the designation of new national monuments while with the World Wildlife Fund. For his achievements in conservation, Dr. DellaSala received WWF's President's Award in 2000 and 2004 and the Wilburforce Foundation Conservation Leadership Award in 2005.

**Tickets Available At:** While Away Books, New Day Grocery, Harvest Store, Promise foods, Umpqua Watersheds office (539 SE Main St., Roseburg) **CALL - 541.672.7065 to reserve your WILL CALL tickets or if you have any questions.**

Please return ticket request form (below) & Check or Credit Card info by February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008. You may also visit [www.umpquawatersheds.org](http://www.umpquawatersheds.org) to pay online

**Thank you!**

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**Please Return For Reservations** (PO Box 101, Roseburg, OR 97470)

PLEASE reserve \_\_\_\_\_ number of tickets      Card# \_\_\_\_\_  
My check is enclosed ☐? Please charge my: VISA ☐? MasterCard  
☐? Name \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sec.Code  
(3digits) \_\_\_\_\_

TICKETS-      \$30.00/one in advance      Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
                 \$55.00/two in advance      Address \_\_\_\_\_  
                 \$35.00/one at the door      City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
                 Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# BORDERS & BEYOND

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

Stuart Liebowitz

## WE INTERRUPT THIS NEWSLETTER

This is Crass Mathews reporting and... we interrupt this newsletter to join Dan I'd Rather Not with this late breaking news story. Dan?

Dan I'd Rather Not: Thanks, Crass. The Douglas County Global Warming Coalition will be holding a major event called "Focus The Nation", a day long symposium on global warming. Co-sponsored by Umpqua Community College's Community Education, it will be held at UCC's Centerstage Theater on Wednesday, January 30th from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Crass: Gee, Dan I'd Rather Not, can we work Britney Spears into this somehow?

Dan: It is critical this issue become part of the national debate during this election year. Over 1000 colleges, high schools and institutions will be taking part- including 17 colleges in Oregon alone.

Crass: Boy, Dan I'd Rather Not, I hope that doesn't affect Paris Hilton. Do the panels have any celebrities?

Dan: Ken Carloni and nine other faculty members will speak on global warming from a variety of academic perspectives. Community members such as Robin Wisdom will also speak. Democrat and Republican elected officials will answer questions at the end of the day.

Crass: I don't know, Dan I'd Rather Not. Is Britney pregnant? Or was that Tom Cruise? That can't be right. Where are my notes?

Dan: We'll be voting here and across the country on solutions. The results will be sent to our elected officials. Solutions like renewable energy and increased gas mileage standards.

Crass: Sorry, Dan I'd Rather Not. Maybe you could spice it up by having Oprah give away a few cars. Meanwhile, in the OJ Simpson trial....

For More information on "Focus The Nation" and the Douglas County Global Warming Coalition, call Stuart Liebowitz at 672-9819.

## Focus The Nation

January 30, 2008

## Umpqua Community College Centerstage Theater

### 9:00 AM

Emery Smith, *Social Movements: Grass Roots Resource Mobilization*  
League of Women Voters, *Promoting Citizen Participation in*  
*Global Warming Solutions*

### 10:00 AM

Ken Carloni, *Northwest Forests and Carbon: Source or Sink?*  
Eileen Parrack, *Henry's Law and the World's Oceans*

### 11:00 AM

Charles Young, *Meeting the Challenges of the 21st Century: A Modern Historical Perspective*  
Jason Aase, *Climate Change: A Geological Perspective*

### 12:00 PM

Rev. Annie Holmes (Umpqua Unitarian Universalist)  
Minister Dan Jacoy (Tri City Church of Christ)  
*Spiritual Perspectives in Global Warming*

### 1:00 PM

Bill Armstrong, *The Cost of Global Warming to Individuals and Countries*  
Chally Kruse, *Global Warming, Global Health*

### 2:00 PM

Rick Coen (Smith Barney), *How to Invest in a Sustainable World*  
Al Walker (Energy Independence), *Solar and Green Building Solutions*  
Chris McCullough (Douglas County Waste Management and Recycling), *Waste Reduction: Impacting Global Warming*

### 3:00 PM

Susan Rochester, *Art Can Save the World*  
Paula Marie Usrey, *The Rhetoric of Global Warming: Campaign 2008*

### 4:00 PM

Representative Chuck Burley (Oregon House of Representatives),  
*Legislative Solutions*

*Town Hall Meeting on Solutions to Global Warming*

Rep. Chuck Burley  
County Commissioner Doug Robertson  
County Commissioner Joe Laurance

### 5:00 PM

National Focus the Nation Webcast: "The Two Percent Solution"



# RESTORATION EFFORTS:

Tim Ballard

## Forest Stewardship Council

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is broadly recognized as the most credible forest certification program in the world. They are an international organization based in Germany which certifies wood ranging from logs to finished products like furniture and flooring. The FSC emblem assures consumers that the wood came from sustainably managed forests that meet stringent environmental standards. You may have noticed the label on some lumber in Home Depot or Lowe's. (FSC should not be confused with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, which is a much more relaxed standard backed by the timber industry).

Umpqua Watersheds staff has met with Trout Mountain Forestry, a Portland based company with an office in Corvallis, that operates a landowner group certified through the FSC. The group has about 40 members with a total total land area of 15,000 acres. Trout Mountain's fee structure differentiates between Clients and Associates. Clients are landowners that hire them to conduct forest planning, harvest layout, log marketing or other services. There is no annual fee or monitoring fee, just a 1% FSC marketing commission. Associates are landowners who have joined the FSC group but have not directly hired Trout Mountain to manage their forest. They pay a \$100 annual fee and a \$250 monitoring fee if they conduct forest operations in a given year, and a 2% marketing commission (Neither type of member is charged a commission if they have their own FSC market).

The full FSC standard is very detailed and may be challenging for a non-technical reader, but a good summary can be found at [www.troutmountain.com](http://www.troutmountain.com). More information can be found at the FSC website or by calling the UW office. Trout Mountain will be inspecting a client's property in the Oakland area next spring, and interested UW members will be invited to take a tour and see responsible forestry practices first hand.

as fuels reduction, restoration thinning of Pine Oak habitats, riparian restoration, removal of fish barriers in streams and related work, Umpqua Watersheds recommends Lomakatsi. Building on their experience of working on about 5,000 acres of forest and woodlands, Lomakatsi is setting new standards for stewardship forestry across this region and the Sierra Nevada.

## Lomakatsi Restoration Project

You may have heard of Lomakatsi, a non-profit organization based in Ashland. Their name comes from the Hopi term meaning

life in balance, and they specialize in creating a new economy based on restoration of degraded landscapes. The group grows 45 native species at shade-house nurseries set up at four schools and two community sites, totaling 15,000 plants. Last year they provided classroom lessons coupled with field work for 12 classes in five schools.

"Restoration Site Adoption is a key part of our Full Circle Schools program," co-founder and director Marko Bey explains. "Students adopt a particular area, along a stream, or oak woodland, or mixed conifer forest, and they help maintain that site. Restoration is not a one-shot deal. We give the kids an opportunity to see the whole ecological restoration process — making an investment in their future, and the future of the forests and fish."

Lomakatsi started out 12 years ago with a crew of five, and now employ up to 40 skilled workers. They have raised well over a million dollars for fuels reduction projects across the region since 2001. Ecological restoration is defined as the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. "The same way we work to restore the whole ecosystem from the ridge tops to the valley bottoms, we work to organize the whole community in an effort to rebuild healthy ecosystems and sustainable communities" Marko explains. Lomakatsi crews help landowners make their properties more fire-safe by thinning out dense brush and overstocked, small diameter stands.

A recently completed Stewardship Project on the Tiller District is a good example of demonstrating that an ecological approach can create healthier forests while still producing wood products. Lomakatsi worked closely with the Forest Service and local residents of the Tiller and Drew area to make this project a success.

If any readers are considering projects on their property such



*Lomakatsi crew training*





# Conservation UPDATE:

## Wasson Creek Roadless Area

Richard Sommers

On Saturday November 17, 2007 Umpqua Watersheds viewed Wasson Lake and Creek. The hike was attended by several individuals and one Baxter the Dog. After a half mile hike from the trailhead the lake appeared. WOW! The dark stumps had a crown of greenery, the windfalls in the lake looked golden, canine tracks in the sand, they were not Baxter's, twigs in the water completely stripped of bark, grass trails matted down; beaver? plops turtle? splash fish frog?

We then bush whacked down Wasson creek canyon taking the high route until it got too difficult, then headed down to the creek and located a soon to be trail flag. We all followed the trail ducking under and climbing over huge downed trees through patches of salmonberry, thimbleberry, and vine maple. Without the leaves one can see the varied footing below, the thorns above.

Soon we were in the gentle terrain near the lake where we settled down on mossy sunshine patches for lunch followed by some more looking at the lake with me dawdling in the forest taking advantage of the sunshine filtering in to capture photos. We hiked back to the van and down logging road to DFPA station at Wells Creek just east of Scottsburg on Hwy 38 for trip back to Roseburg with me in the front taking in the sunny fall scenery.

Wasson Lake is in section 17T21S, R9W and is in a 25,000 acre (39 sections!) roadless area, administered by BLM and the Forest Service. The watershed is rugged with a few roads along the ridges and none in the steep creek canyons. Salmon, steelhead and cut-throat trout may come to Wasson Lake and marbled murrelets may nest in the old growth on the ridges. It is a temperate coast rain forest well worth preserving for us and kin.

I think it is well worth further exploration, especially along Wasson Creek to see if there are any falls above its terminus on the Siuslaw River. See Umpqua Watersheds if you want to adopt this priceless watershed.

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