Trouble for the Elliot State Forest

Francis Eatherington

In February the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) released their logging plans for the Elliott State Forest (ESF) 2009 timber sales. The Elliott, 93,000 acres between Coos Bay and Reedsport on the Oregon coast, is one of Oregon State's oldest forests and a special haven for marbled murrelets and coho salmon.

The 2009 logging plans is one of the worst ever considered for the Elliott. It includes seven proposed timber sales that clearcut 518 acres of habitat for spotted owls and marbled murrelets (MM) and seven alternate timber sales in case some of the proposed timber sales are

found to have nesting murrelets. The ODF must do two years of murrelet surveys before clearcutting their nesting habitat. Most of the proposed sales have only one year of surveys so far. Out of the seven proposed sales, five of them (392 acres) fragment continuous stands of old forests, in violation of the 1995 Habitat Conservation Plan. The ODF's excuse is that they have run out of isolated forests and marginal murrelet habitat to clearcut, so now they are going after the really good forests.

Marbled murrelets are not the only species to be affected by the proposed sales. 13 of the sales would clearcut in High Landslide Hazard Locations, and 11 of those, ODF says, are likely to deliver sediment into fishbearing streams. Seven sales line the beautiful and very special West Fork Millicoma River, with only a 100' buffer. Four of those are across the road from, or right next to, "Forest Park" areas and campgrounds. Some of the proposed sales



The remaining parts of the Elliott are mature, 145 year old forests, with scatted old growth trees. There are some of those scattered old growth in this proposed sale.

clearcut the best hiding cover and calving habitat for Roosevelt Elk on the Elliott.

The Elliott State Forest is flush with mature forests, regrown from the 1868 forest fire. Many old growth forests that survived were the first forests targeted for logging in the 1960's. Today, most of the unlogged forests (about half of the Elliott) are 120 to 140 years old, big enough to provide quality habitat for owls and murrelets. There are occasional old growth trees and groves still scattered through the Elliott. Some 2009 proposed sales appear to clearcut rare old-growth groves, especially the Stulls Ridge and Millicoma Cougar sales.

Old Growth on the Elliot:

In 2003, the ODF clearcut several of these old growth groves in the Lone Surprise timber sale. Afterwards, a western hemlock log had rings showing it was over 500 years old when Roseburg Forest Products cut it down. After the public out-cry, the ODF announced they would never again log the occasional old growth tree on the Elliott. If a tree was born before 1830 (178 years old), it would be defined as old growth and marked for retention if found in a proposed clearcut. When we pointed out last year that the Panther Headwaters sale had potential old growth, the ODF responded they would evaluate it at the time of sale. But the sale was sold March 19 and the big old trees were not marked for saving.

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EVENTS

Umpqua Wilderness Week June 18-28



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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.

Board of Directors

Betsy Dean Ed Cooley President <u>Se</u>cretary

Shannon Applegate Dale Greenley Jim Ince Anne Dorsey

Staff

Francis Eatherington
Forest Monitor

Seth Kirby Outreach Director

Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 A.M - 5 P.M. call for off hours

Contact Us

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From the President

2008! May this be the year Roadless Areas within the Umpqua National Forest be designated as Wilderness! Umpqua Watersheds & the Wild on Wilderness (WOW) committee will be working hard to promote the preservation of our natural heritage for future generations. I urge everyone to become involved, together we can make a difference. Donate your time, expertise, support!

There are wilderness endorsement forms at the office and also postcards to send to Senators Wyden and Smith and Representative DeFazio, stating support for wilderness designation in the UNF. Stop on by the office and pick some up for yourself and others.

On February 9th we held the 12th Annual Banquet & Benefit Auction, Wilderness Rocks! Rivers Roll! Watersheds Rule! Once again the event was a huge success. It is always a delight when the conservation family of the Umpqua comes together. Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who are the heart and soul of Umpqua Watersheds.

Our keynote speaker Dr. Dominick Della Salla from the National Center for Conservation Science & Policy addressed the issue of widespread political interference with endangered species listings and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recovery plan for the northern spotted owl. He also spoke about the Bureau of Land Management's plan to ramp up logging in Western Oregon with the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR).

There are many highly qualified dedicated individuals who have expressed genuine interest in joining the board. The Board of Directors will be bringing them on board at the April meeting as well as appointing new officers.

Upcoming events include Earth Day April 19th and the 22nd Annual River Appreciation Day to be held at Whistlers Bend Park Saturday July 19th. Come celebrate the Umpqua, listen to wonderful music, swim, and enjoy our wonderful Umpqua River.

The economy of Oregon is undergoing a transformation, from relying on logging, to relying on the unspoiled landscapes, clean water and abundant wildlife that support recreation and tourism. If we protect them now, they will provide a powerful economic asset for generations to come.

Please join in the lasting work to save our wild places. Betsy

Umpqua Watersheds has certificates for goods and services that were not bid on at the Silent Auction. If you missed out at the Banquet, they are being offered again for the minimum auction bid. This is a great opportunity for any interested persons on some amazing deals. This is what we have:

A Lifesong Wilderness Adventure Mini-camp for one person - a \$275 value offered for a mere \$150. Please see www.lifesongadvertures.com for details.

AWaldron's Outdoor Sports certificate good for 2 winter sports rentals for 2 days - an \$80 value for only \$50.

An incredible deal on a J.V. Media Design "Business Design Package" - a value of \$550-850, depending on services needed. A steal at \$200. If you're interested please call Sherry Holub at 677-7440.

A senior pet package, canine or feline, including a full exam, blood-work, x-rays, etc. A \$365 value offered for \$200 from Sutherlin Veterinary Hospital. This is a service any mature pet would benefit from.

Also from Sutherlin Veterinary Hospital, we have an equine dental procedure including exam, power float and sedation. A \$200 value for \$120 to you horse lovers out there who know what an equine dental float is! You can call Dr. Mary Herrera at 459-9577 for information on these two items.

A Dulce Phelps Photography gift card worth \$150 for only \$100

And last, but not least, a body-soul-pampering 90-minute massage by the gifted Cathy Pascale! A \$65 value for only \$40.

These are all fantastic deals. Grab them while you can and benefit yourself and the important work of Umpqua Watersheds.

We wish to send a big thank you out to everyone who attended our banquet and contributed to it being a huge success. This year over 300 community members attended and showed their support for the efforts of Umpqua Watersheds and the work they are doing to protect and restore the public lands of the Umpqua.

We wish to thank all of the volunteers who contributed to the success of the event. An extra special thanks goes to Dr. Dominick DelaSalla, Our Own Irish Band, and Jasmine's Catering for the excellent atmosphere which made everyone feel at home.

The auction and "pass-the-hat" fundraisers at this years event helped contribute to raising over \$8,000 for general funds that Umpqua Watersheds can use for work to protect the Umpqua.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Citizes' Wilderness Campaign for more Wilderness Areas on the Public Lands in the Umpqua River Basin, Call Umpqua Watersheds at 541-672-7065 or email at uw@umpqua-watersheds.org



PACIFIC LAMPREY (LAMPETRA TRIDENTATA)

Bob Allen (UW member)

Readers who swam in the Umpqua in the 70's may remember their first sight of the "snake-like eels" that were in the waters in abundance. They are rare now. Few on the Umpqua fish for them and they have little economic value. Still, they and several other species of lamprey, important parts of the ecosystems of the Umpqua and other western rivers, have been in decline and and the reasons are not clear. At last a full scale investigation is underway to understand and hopefully arrest this decline. Several UW and Umpqua Valley Audubon members recently attended the Western Oregon Lamprey Workshop in February at Seven Feathers in Canyonville. Initiated by Amy Amoroso, then Natural Resources Director for the Umpqua Band of the Cow Creek Indians, hosted by the Cow Creek Band, and sponsored by a variety of agencies and organizations concerned with river and fishery issues, over 140 attended.

UW and Umpqua Valley Audubon joined nine other environmental organizations in 2004 to petition the U.S. Fish & Wildife Service to list four species of lamprey as threatened and endangered. The U.S. F & W declined the petition to list on the grounds that not enough in formation was available about these species to warrant a listing and a plan for recovery. As it turned out, the attempt was worth the effort because it prompted the agency to begin efforts to "prove that a species could be investigated and reinvigorated without the legal push of a listing".

Many western states are proceeding with research projects and money is being made available for them. Some of the investiga-



tions and monitoring of habitat and populations are happening right here on the Umpqua. Winchester Dam has the most accurate and comprehensive count of lamprey populations on record. From a count of over 45,000 in the 70's to a count of 145 last year; it has helped to show that something is seriously wrong. It may be small-mouth bass predation, changes in water quality, use of chemicals that flow into streams, or all of them and more. To stay in touch with the efforts to return the lamprey in abundance to the Umpqua call Craig Tuss at the Roseburg office of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service or get on the e-mailing list of The Columbia Basin Bulletin (Fish & Wildlife News).

OUTREACH CORNER

Umpqua Watersheds remained busy this past quarter with a wide variety of hikes and events. Kristen Lee from ECONorthwest, with offices in Eugene, gave a presentation showing the economic benefits of wilderness. She explained how wilderness is an overall boost to the local economy, not just timber production but through improving the quality of life for the people and the area around it. The Douglas County Global Warming Coalition held a local Focus the Nation conference at Umpqua Community College where Dr. Ken Carlloni illustrated the relationship between old-growth forests and carbon sequestration. The Wild On Wilderness Committee has taken the first steps toward more Wilderness Areas on the public lands in the Umpqua Watershed. The biggest event in early 2009 was the success of Umpqua Watersheds 12th Annual Banquet.

There were a variety of hikes to some of beautiful areas of the Umpqua. In February we went to Wolf Creeks Falls. It was a beautiful day to be hiking among some wonderful old-growth on the Roseburg BLM. The sun peaked from behind the trees and clouds to take the chill off the forest floor where we hiked. Several people also came out and made the trek up the Lookingglass Rock. The recent sun caused several early wildflowers to show themselves on the way both up and down the rock. From the top we were able to observe first hand the unique history of the rock and view virtually the entire Lookingglass Valley.

This season looks to see Umpqua Watersheds lead many wonderful hikes and visit some excellent community events. On April 12th we will be going to Cougar Bluffs Roadless Area. The next weekend is the Earth Day and Energy Fair at the Douglas County Fairgrounds where we will have our always popular Earth Day Jeopardy booth. On May 10th we will hike to see the Wonderful Susan Creek Falls. On May 31st we will visit Rock Creek Caves in the Camas Valley area.

The end of June finds Umpqua Watersheds hosting a variety of wonderful activities during Wilderness Week. We will begin with the Wilderness Slideshow at the Douglas County Library on June 18th. On the 21st Oregon Wild will join us on a trip to Twin Lakes in the Calf Copeland Roadless Area. We will lead a rare weekday hike to the Castle Rock Roadless Area on Thursday June 26th. Wilderness week will conclude on Saturday the 28th with one of my favorite hikes near Bulldog Rock. Preparations have also begun on the 22nd Umpqua River Appreciation Day Festival which will be on July 19th so save the date to join us at this wonderful and fun family event.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming activities. Come join us in the woods and see why we work so hard to protect these last of our untouched public lands. If you have any questions or would like to lead a hike to one of your favorite areas please call Umpqua Watersheds at 541-672-7065.

Wild On Wilderness:

Citizens' Wilderness Campaign

The Citizens Wilderness Campaign is on! Our goal is permanent wilderness protection of the roadless areas in the Umpqua National Forest (UNF). Wilderness designation is the only way we assure these special places are protected for future generations. The launch at this year's banquet energized the people of the Umpqua for more wilderness areas on the public land in the Umpqua. Postcards were filled out at the banquet supporting more wilderness areas on the UNF and have been sent to Peter DeFazio, Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith.

The only way there has ever been forest protection is by people raising there voices for wild places. Your voice can make all the difference. The letters to the editor section of local papers is where lawmakers get to see what their constituents are thinking and what issues, concerns and topics are being debated in their communities. Also, letters to the editor can make a real difference in efforts to protect wilderness and influence lawmakers, while informing our neighbors about issues and generating support for legislative efforts.

WOW Committee

The end of June is Wilderness Week and there will be several activities to connect people to our remaining wild lands. With several hikes to several roadless areas and a showing of the Roadless Area Slideshow, there are plenty of opportunities to learn about our public lands. If you know of an organization or group who is interested in holding a viewing of the slideshow please call Umpqua Watersheds main office 541-672-7065.

Much work is needed in gathering information about the areas we are proposing for wilderness. As the snow melts, it will be time to do more citizen research. But do not wait, Call NOW! If you are interested in volunteering to help for more wilderness and old growth protection join us the last Wednesday of each month at McMenamin's Station and Brew Pub (700 SE Sheridan St) at 7 P.M. for the Wild On Wilderness (WOW) meeting or call the Umpqua Watersheds office at 541-672-7065.



April 12th - Cougar Bluffs Roadless Area Hike

Cougar Bluffs is one of the closest roadless areas to Roseburg and one of the most utilized. We will be hiking to the top and learning about the importance of protecting the Umpqua's last remaining roadless areas. *Meet behind the Douglas County Courthouse off Fowler St. at 8:00am or at the Glide Ranger Station at 8:30am. Wear appropriate clothing and footgear and bring water, lunch, raingear, and expect to share fuel expenses. Call 672-7065 with questions.*

April 19th - Earth Day and Energy Fair

Umpqua Watersheds will be hosting the ever popular Earth Day Jeopardy Booth at this year's county Earth Day festivities. This is an excellent opportunity to see what Umpqua Watersheds, the county, and other organizations are doing to keep our Earth a safe and healthy place for the future. Umpqua Watersheds is looking for some volunteers to help us work the booth we will have, call 541-672-7065 to volunteer. If you have questions about the Earth Day and Energy Fair call 440-4350.

April 30th, May 28th, June 25th - Wild On Wilderness (WOW) Meetings

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 McMenemins Roseburg Station (700 SE Sheridan St) at 7pm. Call **541-672-7065** for more information.

May 10th - Hike Susan Creek Falls

Invite your mother out on a nice waterfall hike with Umpqua Watersheds. Susan Creek Falls is a wonderful short hike, under 2 miles and for people of all ages. The trail is well maintained and can have a wonderful display of wildflowers and also offers great photography opportunities. Meet behind the Douglas County Courthouse off Fowler St. at 9:00am. Wear appropriate clothing and footgear and bring water, lunch, raingear, and expect to share fuel expenses. Call 672-7065 with questions.

May 28th - WOW Meeting

May 31st - Hike Rock Creek Cave

The Rock Creek Caves are located in the Camas Valley area. This member led hike will visit the caves and talk about the BLM WOPR plan which would effect much of this area. *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.*

June 18th - 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. <u>Slideshow will be held at the Ford room in the Douglas County Library at 7pm</u>. Call Umpqua Watersheds at **541-672-7065** for information.

June 21st - Hike Twin Lakes

Umpqua Watersheds has been leading our Youth Wilderness Campout to Twin Lakes for several years. Come see why we choose this as the place to introduce people to the wild areas of the Umpqua. *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.*

June 25th - WOW Meeting

June 26th - Hike Castle Rock

Castle Rock is located just north of the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness Area. Umpqua Watersheds is working toward permanent wilderness designation for the Castle Rock Roadless Area. It is a critical area to the health of the South Umpqua River watershed. 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.

June 28th - Hike Bulldog Rock

Located next to the Boulder Creek Wilderness area, Bulldog Rock is a wonderful example of the Umpqua's roadless areas. Come see why Umpqua Watersheds is campaigning for Wilderness Protection for this area. *Meet behind the Douglas County Courthouse off Fowler St. at 8:00am or at the Glide Ranger Station at 8:30am. Wear appropriate clothing and footgear and bring water, lunch, raingear, and expect to share fuel expenses. Call 672-7065 with questions.*







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Sunday April 20th, Noon

BORDERS & BEYOND

WHAT'S FAIR IS FARE

Stuart Liebowitz

"I'm your local reporter, Bill D. Rhodes. I'm talking with a man at an old bus shelter that was used for Umpqua Transit before it ended five years ago. Your name, Sir?"

"Beckett"

Rhodes: "And you've been here how long?"

Beckett: "Since July, 2008."

Rhodes: "Mr. Beckett, the bus ended five years ago when the county and the cities stopped funding it."

Beckett: "They did? But there were over 117,000 rides taken in its last year. Why, that's an average of 320 car trips each day. Think of what that means for global warming or our dependence on foreign oil."

Rhodes: "I'm sorry but people were asked to come to County Commission meetings on any Wednesday at the courthouse at 10 A.M. to ask them to not cut off funding. Or they could have gone to the Roseburg City Council on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7 P.M. and asked them to support public transit, but..."

Beckett: "Didn't anybody point out how seniors and disabled depend on the bus for basic needs? Or students who need the bus to get to UCC?"

Rhodes: "I'm afraid we all have our priorities."

Beckett: "Or the quality of life in Roseburg or how businesses relocate here if a good transit system is in place. Five years? Why didn't they start it up again?"

Rhodes: "Once a bus system is gone, it's almost impossible to start it up again. So I guess I'll be leaving you now."

Beckett: "No, I think I'll stay. I'm waiting for a friend, a bus driver."

Rhodes: "What's his name?"

Beckett: "Godot."

Rhodes: "Well, if you don't mind, I'll join you in waiting for Godot."

If you prefer not to wait for Godot but wish to help save the transit system, call Stuart Liebowitz, Douglas County Global Warming Coalition -672-9819.

Conservation UPDATE:

In the last year the number of old growth trees falling on BLM public forests in southern Oregon came to a virtually standstill. Through the years, various lawsuits have forced the BLM to follow the law, gradually slowing down the old trees falling, while increasing some good thinning sales in managed plantations (old clearcuts). After all, when so few native forests are left, some laws do kick in to help slow the destruction of the wildlife that depend on them.

Lawsuits have focused not only on BLM, but their enabler, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), whose job it is to make sure the BLM doesn't kill too many endangered species.

In 1999 BLM was found guilty of violating the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS), which requires that healthy watersheds are maintained and degraded watersheds are restored. The BLM is not allowed to further degrade watersheds. But when the BLM tried to push through hundreds of clearcuts, threatening to increase water-runoff and erosion, Judge Rothstein stopped the enabling agency from allowing the BLM to harm salmon.

The Bush administrations answer was to eliminate the ACS, but after wasting millions of dollars, they were unsuccessful. Then they tried to remove Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections for salmon. Again, after many years and millions of dollars, salmon are still protected by the ESA. The 1999 timber sales remain standing today, spectacular forests like Diamond Back west of Sutherlin, and Christopher Folly near Glide.

Old growth forests in our area also harbor the spotted owl and marbled murrelet, both protected as threatened species under the ESA. To eliminate these impediments to logging, the USFWS and the BLM were spending millions of your dollars trying remove their legal protections; by reducing designated critical habitat, or trying to remove the marbled murrelet from endangered status (there are plenty in Canada), or by trying to put in place a weak "recovery plan" for the spotted owl (logging reserves are not necessary). These attempts have so far been unsuccessful.

Meanwhile, the USFWS had given BLM permission to clearcut tens of thousands of acres of timber sales in southwest Oregon with no scientific foundation it would not harm spotted owls. The USFWS did not know how many owls would be killed, and if that would be too many.

So last year the courts ruled the USFWS must do a better job and their permission (called biological opinions) to BLM for logging was rescinded. Our old growth sales like Cow Catcher, Dickerson Heights, Whatagas, and Emile were stopped. And just in time! Some of the logging roads were being built when they were stopped.

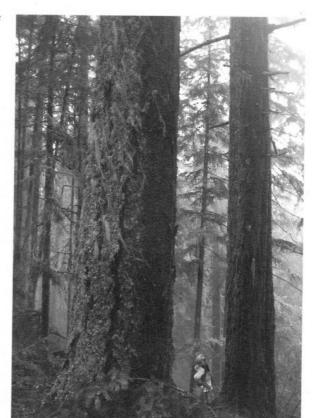
The really big attack on laws protecting endangered species is the attempt to change the BLM's forest management goals, known as the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR). However, we don't have to wait for a WOPR decision to worry about the big trees starting to fall.

Every court victory is a challenge for BLM to work around. We can win over and over and over again, but we only have to loose once for the big trees to fall.

In April the USFWS will come out with a new set of permissions (biological opinion) for the BLM to continue to clearcut old growth forests. They just keep trying. The most immediate danger is the logging this summer of Cow Catcher and Dickerson Heights, because these sales have been sold and the chain saws are warming up.

Thank you for your support so we can continue to fight in the courts for the homes of the spotted owl, marbled murrelet, endangered salmon, red tree voles, and hundreds of other little critters that depend

on these public forests.



Dickerson Heights Timber Sale

trouble on the Elliot (from page 1)

Marbled Murrelets:

The ODF is currently writing a new Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Elliott so that marbled murrelet habitat can be clearcut without two years of surveys. But the due-date for the HCP Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been postponed so many times that ODF has to continue to survey for murrelets.

The old murrelet HCP, which expired in 2001, required ODF to clearcut the marginal murrelet habitat first. But even in the marginal murrelet habitat, many nesting birds were found when surveys began in 2001. Every time a murrelet was found, a new Marbled Murrelet Management Area (MMMA) had to be designated, putting more and more of the Elliott off-limits to logging. Big trees close to the Pacific Ocean are needed by the little sea bird for nesting, and the Elliott State Forest has the biggest trees around.



Now, after 7 years of trying to find murrelet-free timber sales, no more marginal This tree is 65" in diameter at breast height (DBH) murrelet habitat is available and the ODF wants to start in on the best murrelet habitat,

and thus the awful 2009 timber sale proposals. A little trick of the proposed new HCP is to protect only the MMMAs found before 2004. So now the ODF can survey for murrelets in the best habitat and not lose more forests to permanent murrelet reserves.. They will just keep surveying murrelet habitat until they can find 518 acres of murrelet-free annual clearcuts. They no longer have to worry that every found murrelet nest will have to be protected later.

Unfortunately, this results in marginal murrelet habitat being protected under the new HCP, while the best murrelet habitat will be unprotected. This is actually called a "Habitat Conservation Plan" for murrelets, even though it will increase logging by 40%

Pictures of some of the forests proposed for 2009 clearcuts, as well as some recent clearcuts, can be seen at: http://www.flickr.com/photos/15074242@N00/sets/72157604115830466/detail/

In May we are going to take a hike in the Elliott. Hope you can join us.

Umpqua Watersheds Sends a Big THANK YOU to our **Business Endorsers**

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BUNYARD'S BARNYARD - Nursery Herbs and Native Plants. 1201 Harlan Street, Roseburg. 672-9380

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June 21st - Hike Twin Lakes June 18th - Wilderness Slideshow Umpqua's last remaining wild areas.

on hikes to some of the Join Umpqua Watersheds this June

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June 28th - Hike Bulldog Rock June 26th - Hike Castle Rock June 25th - Wild On Wilderness Meeting

call 541-672-7065 Citizens' Wilderness Campaign, or wish to get involved in Umpqua Watersheds If you have any questions about these hikes



Twin Lakes on June 21st Join us for a hike to the