

Fall 2008

Issue #44

## Steps to Achieve Wilderness Designation

*Robin Wisdom, WOW Committee Member*

The steps to achieve wilderness designation include persistence, group support and action, and years of dedication. But, hey, what else have you got going on?

We start by choosing a roadless area that should be referred to as wilderness. These roadless areas that you can count on your hands here in Douglas County may not be officially declared 'wilderness', but these are all the wilderness areas we have left. And they qualify to be referred to as genuine wilderness areas.

Once the area is chosen, share it with others. Visit it often with great respect. Learn about 'Leave No Trace'. Take notes and photos. Read the following and you will gather more and more of what is needed to gain greater security for your chosen special wild place.

Once we have our data, we may begin to compose a wilderness proposal. Examples exist on the internet or are readily available at local libraries. This document should demonstrate grassroots knowledge of the area and why it qualifies for designation. It should include such information as maps, research resources such as in-the-field and existing documentation of the watershed, fisheries, wildlife, flora, timber, soils, recreation, archeological information and history, historical uses, boundaries, and roads and other development intrusions (impacts of people).

The text of our proposal needs to contain an introduction to the adopted area, location, physical description, list of resources, any relevant agency planning, a list of wilderness support, opposition (if any), boundaries, an appendix for outside material often referred to and any other relevant information. A nice touch is to include a personal history of wilderness experience or inspired poetry.

An important aspect of this movement is documenting the time and care spent in gathering data of an area. Create a good looking notebook that you can use to persuade individuals, even Congressmen and women, to back wilderness legislation. For this we need clearly labeled color photos of sensitive areas and information about them. This is an especially effective tool when presenting to public officials and groups and in Washington, D.C.

In creating a notebook we will also collect information on a large spectrum of issues surrounding favorite wild places. We will become experts and build our knowledge of a place and be able to talk about wilderness values. It's a good idea to develop a Wilderness Area Fact Sheet to have on hand. After becoming familiar with the Wilderness Act of 1964, we may want to meet with key Forest Service personnel to learn more about the area; the forest supervisor, land management planners, specialists, district rangers and ODFW. We also gain expertise also by attending training sessions and conferences.

While doing all of the above we also build public support for wilderness legislation in general. Public support is critical to achieving wilderness designation. We need to enlist volunteers including the recruitment of students and young adults. We need to develop a volunteer database and project checklist card. Other things to consider the use of a fair booth, hikes and other outings, newsletters, flyers, buttons, web sites and letters to the editor. WOW has and does participate in nationally and regionally organized events, such as Wilderness Week and regional wilderness conferences. Many slideshow presentations have been offered to the local community and those will continue. Please contribute any photos you may have of wilderness areas.

*continued to the right*

# Wild On Wilderness (WOW) and Outreach Update

This summer was very busy for both the WOW Committee and the Outreach Program at Umpqua Watersheds. The WOW Committee was lucky enough to have an intern from the University of Oregon and was also able to have two ground-truthing campouts. Outreach kept busy with several hikes and the 22nd Annual River Appreciation Day.

The WOW Committee had a very productive summer. They were able to have two weekend long campouts in order to gather information on several nearby roadless areas. On these outings, volunteers camp in an area that is central to several roadless areas. They then split up and gather as much information as they can, such as flower species, types and sizes of trees, local wildlife, and unique photographs. This information is then compiled into a notebook specific for each area. These notebooks are helpful in explaining the importance of each area and a good place to gather information from many different sources.

Umpqua Watersheds was also able to acquire an intern for the summer dedicated to working on wilderness issues. Ethan Devitt joined us twice weekly to help organize the wilderness notebooks and to research roadless areas with the Forest Service and the BLM.

***Umpqua Watersheds and all of its supporters wish to send Ethan a big THANK YOU for all of his hard work this summer.***

The Outreach Program had a fun summer as well. We started it off with a bang in the 22nd Annual River Appreciation Day. With live music all day, a cool river, and wonderful food how could anybody not have a good time. We also had some great hikes to Lemolo Falls, Mt. Bailey, and Mt. Thielsen. A big thank you to Richard and Patrick for helping lead our two biggest climbs of the year.

There are some great hikes and events planned for this Fall. Come join Umpqua Watersheds and see some of the beautiful place in the Umpqua.

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## *Steps to Achieve Wilderness Designation, continued*

For a wilderness area to achieve Wilderness designation the area needs a congressional advocate whether a U.S. Representative or U.S. Senator. Think about meeting with key elected officials and their aides. Letters and visits to other key congressional leaders such as Committee Chairs of Public Land and Agriculture, etc, are also necessary. We are in constant touch with Oregon Wild, a statewide organization regarding strategy and information about the wilderness campaign in general. We need to keep in contact with national environmental organizations such as American Lands, The Wilderness Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Sierra Club, and provide testimony at public hearings whether local, regional or in Washington D.C. on any of our areas included in a wilderness bill.

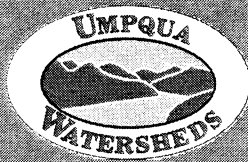
Until a roadless area becomes a piece of legislation it needs to be protected from agency mismanagement and anti-wilderness legislation. We need to monitor, comment, appeal, and/or sue development activities (timber sales, roads, grazing, mining, etc.) planned for the area. Not that they're doing a bad job. It's just up to us to know what's going on in our forests, the headwaters of our drinking supply.

Also, we will actively oppose any proposed legislation that threatens to weaken environmental protection laws, such as NEPA, The Endangered Species Act, the Wilderness Act of 1964, etc. We support service projects that will maintain the areas natural resource integrity such as the removal of scotch broom and identifying problems that might be threatening water, soils, plants and animals. We are also acutely aware of global warming predictions and what it may mean for our forests and water supplies.

It takes time and vigilance, but it is also fun and inspiring to take an area under one's wing to watch over and protect it. It's a favorite place to go to get away from it all. Where is that place for you? Contact us for specific wilderness areas that have not been spoken for yet. There's still room for you. Come and stretch yourself emotionally, physically and spiritually by having lofty, far-reaching, unselfish and beautiful goals. Call the UW office, 541-672-7065, for more information.

## Our Mission

*Dedicated to the protection and restoration of the ecosystems in the Umpqua Watershed and beyond.*



## Contact Us

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## Fall 2008 Events and Hikes

**November 8th: Hike the Doerner Fir.** Join Umpqua Watersheds yearly Fall trek to the Doerner Fir located East of Roseburg. The Doerner Fir is the largest known standing Douglas Fir tree.

**November 22nd: Hike the Boulder Creek Wilderness.** In late November Umpqua Watersheds will lead a hike through the southern area of the Boulder Creek Wilderness. This summer the Rattle fire burned much of the area. It will be an interesting hike to see first hand the effects of a wildfire on some of the old-growth areas of the Umpqua.

**Wild On Wilderness Meeting November 26th.** The WOW Committee has monthly meeting to discuss ways to improve protections for the remaining roadless on public lands in the Umpqua River Basin. The Group meets at McMenamin's Roseburg Station at 7pm.

**December 5th David Lanz in Concert.** 7:00 PM at the First Presbyterian Church of Roseburg. Ticket prices are to be determined and will be available at the Umpqua Watersheds office. There will also be a dessert sale to benefit Umpqua Watersheds. *Umpqua Watersheds will send out a listserve with all of the information as it becomes available. To join our listserve, call the office at 541-672-7065 or send an email to [uw@umpqua-watersheds.org](mailto:uw@umpqua-watersheds.org)*

**December 13th:** Hike Location To Be Announced

**Wild On Wilderness Meeting December 17th**

*All hikes meet in the parking lot behind the Douglas County Courthouse off of Fowler Street at 8am. Please bring water, a lunch, proper clothing and footwear, and expect to contribute some money for fuel. Call 541-672-7065 for more information*

# Rattle Fire of 2008

Seth Kirby

## How Will it Affect Boulder Creek Wilderness

Summer the Rattle fire burned through most of the Boulder Creek Wilderness. For the most part it was a slow-moving under-story burn. Due to burning primarily in the wilderness area, salvage logging should not be allowed. We know there will be call from the timber industry to open this land up for salvage logging which would violate the Wilderness Area rules. The topic on whether or not to salvage after a burn has long been debated. What follows are excerpts from a report prepared by a team of respected scientists from Oregon State University called "Wildfire and Salvage Logging: Recommendations for Ecologically Sound Post-Fire Salvage Logging..." known as the Beschta Report after its lead author, Dr. Robert Beschta:

*"A common thread throughout the recommendations is that most native species are adapted to natural patterns and processes of disturbance and recovery in the landscape and that preventing additional human disturbance generally will provide the best pathway to regional ecological recovery."*

Dr. Beschta and the team of OSU scientists make recommendations on salvage logging after a fire. They warn: *"Human intervention on the post-fire landscape may substantially or completely delay recovery, remove the elements of recovery, or accentuate the damage."*

*"... there is little reason to believe that post-fire salvage logging has any positive ecological benefits... There is considerable evidence that persistent, significant adverse environmental impact are likely to result from salvage logging... soil compaction and erosion, loss of habitat for cavity nesting species, loss of structurally and functionally important large woody debris."*

*"... some argue that salvage logging is needed because of the perceived increased likelihood that an area may reburn... We are aware of no evidence supporting the contention that leaving large dead woody material significantly increases the probability of reburn."*

The scientists conclude that: *"Although post-fire landscapes are often portrayed as "disasters" in terms, from an ecological perspective, fire is part of the normal disturbance regime and renewal of natural forest ecosystems."*

To us it seems obvious that the best step to take for ecological recovery after a burn is not to salvage log. This is especially true in one of the only three wilderness areas in the Umpqua National Forest. The best step we can take to ensuring a healthy future for the area is to let nature take its natural course. This will give a greater chance to species survival, a healthy ecosystem, and a great future for our Wilderness Areas.

## Grammy Nominated Artist David Lanz is playing a benefit for Umpqua Watersheds on December 5th!!

Umpqua Watersheds is pleased to welcome back David Lanz to the Umpqua Valley. David is a Grammy Nominated Artist for his wonderful 2000 recording "East of the Moon". It has been several years since David has partnered with Umpqua Watersheds and we are thrilled to have him support our organization with his incredible talents.

Lanz started his performing career in his early teens back in the mid 1960s playing keyboards with local rock bands and then years later as a solo act, deftly playing blues and jazz songs in small smoky clubs, until he "stumbled" onto a different path in the early 1980s.

"A friend of mine was leading a seminar on the energy centers of the body and wanted music to illustrate the flow of energy through these areas sometimes referred to as chakras," Lanz says. "I was also interested in the healing qualities of music and it's effect on body and soul, so I made a little tape of piano music for the seminar and just about everyone who heard it, to my utter surprise, wanted a copy!"

"There was no musical style quite like it in those days," he says. "And it certainly wasn't called New Age. I used the music I composed for this seminar as the basis for my first solo piano album for Narada, HEARTSOUNDS."

Please Join Umpqua Watersheds on December 5th to welcome David to Roseburg.

*Umpqua Watersheds is in the planning stages for our 13th Annual Banquet and Silent Auction. We are still in need of leads for several key committees. If you are interested in volunteering to help continue the successful tradition of these great banquets, please get in touch with us at 541-672-7065 or [uw@umpqua-watersheds.org](mailto:uw@umpqua-watersheds.org). We will also begin collecting for the Silent Auction soon, so gather up anything that you wish to contribute and be ready to bring them to the office.*

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