

100 Valleys

A Quarterly Publication for the Supporters of Umpqua Watersheds

Winter 2010

Issue #43

The Little Things that Run the Forest

Survey and Manage Species Victory in Court

On December 17, early holiday cheer came in the form of a WIN for a group of forest life called "Survey and Manage Species". Judge John Coughenour issued an order supporting Conservationists' challenge of the US Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management effort's to sweep survey and manage requirements of the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) under the rug. So what is this whole survey and manage thing anyway? Let's review a little history about what these species represent and how this all ended up in court.

These species represent a mandate under the Forest Land Management Planning Act to protect biological diversity. The regulations stated the USFS was to ensure that all species populations and distributions throughout a forest are maintained. While some of the survey and manage species were not very well known and thought to be rare, many of these species are the "worker bees" of the forest ecosystem conducting vital forest processes. Judge William Dwyer, not yet convinced the agencies had addressed the viability of all the forest species in their regional forest plan for the northern spotted owl, required the agencies to answer concerns about the viability of all species dependent upon late successional forest (LSR = old growth). The agency convened a scientific analysis team and completed a report in 1993.

In the report the Scientific Analysis Team describes the process they went through and the assumptions they made in responding to the Judge's request. In the analysis process the science team "tiered" or layered the protections that were already in place for northern spotted owls (LSRs) and for fish (Riparian Reserves) as helping these other species. Once they had assumed this they

still could not ensure that all of the species would be protected due to a severe lack of information about the species.

This Scientific Analysis Team report led to added standards in the NWFP that required project level surveys and various additional mitigation measures such as tree width buffers to reduce impacts to prevent these species from trending toward extinction. The ink was hardly dry on the NWFP with its added Scientific Analysis Team supplemental to address these species when the agency began an all out effort to get rid of the survey and manage requirements not because of significant new information but because it slowed down progress toward commercial timber harvest. Obviously, then, some of the assumptions that went into

survey and manage species protection also were being undermined.

The key points in Judge Coughenour's recent ruling were:

- * No new information justified eliminating the survey program (50 species, or 1/8th of the species still need protection).
- * The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) failed to disclose the flaws in the fire-regime condition-class methodology.
- * The EIS failed to consider other barriers that may impede fuel projects.
- * The EIS analysis of the cost of fuel treatments was flawed.
- * Two-thirds of the data on species sites used to justify eliminating protection for individual species, were derived from non-random surveys that are unreliable.

Truth told, there exists no reliable information about the status of 99% of the populations of species in our forest, but I digress. CH

Wildlife Biologist, Cindy Haws is the Executive Director for Umpqua Watersheds

Red Tree Vole Child & Parent photo by Bert Gildart



CONTENTS

Survey & Manage Victory	pg. 1
From the Executive Director	pg. 2
Elliot Forest Update	pg. 6

In this Issue...

RESTORATION PARTNERS pg 5



GET INVOLVED!

Wild Conference Success	pg. 3
Conservation Updates	page 4 & 7
Hikes & Events	see insert
14th Annual Banquet FEB 13	see insert

Our Mission

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

Board of Directors

Ken Carloni	President
Ed Cooley	Vice President
Jemma Crae	Secretary
Leslee Sherman	Treasurer
Chris Rusch	Fundraising
Dale Greenley	
Thomas McGregor	
Jim Ince	

Staff

Cindy Haws
Executive Director

Betsy Dean
Organizational Coordinator

Patrick Starnes
Banquet & Auction Coordinator

Hours

Monday-Thursday
1:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
call for off hours

Contact Us

Umpqua Watersheds, Inc.

PO Box 101
539 SE Main St.
Roseburg, OR 97470
Ph: 541-672-7065
Fax: 541-672-7652

www.umpqua-watersheds.org
uw@umpqua-watersheds.org



From the Executive Director.

100 Years of Forest Recovery

100 Years of Forest Peace

2010-2110

This year Umpqua Watersheds celebrates its 15th year protecting and restoring the forest and rivers of the Umpqua and beyond! Let's share a vision of our next 7 years.

Think Like a Mountain. Let's start here. **Restoration** is one of three focus areas in our strategic plan: Identify, plan, design and monitor ecologically-based restoration for aquatic and terrestrial habitats in the forest and rivers of the Umpqua and beyond.

Conservationists are not interested in short-sighted rehabilitation for development interests. It is costly and doesn't last. Fact is we are all developed out. We must humbly and respectfully restore our public lands to their productive conditions perfected by years of natural selection to be resilient. All the complex creatures that run the world, doing work that humans cannot replace, need our support. *The Mountain* knows that.

Upper Cow Creek and Upper Cavitt Creek watersheds are two areas slated for thousands of acres of hazardous fuels logging. Umpqua Watersheds has other plans; restoration plans. We have developed restoration plans for Upper Cow Creek that would reduce fuels on approximately 5,400 acres using ecological principles designed to prevent damage. These plans provide opportunity for local enterprise but not at the cost of the forest. This restoration plan is called the *Neighbors' Alternative* (see page 5).

The aggressive proposal by the Umpqua National Forest (UNF) and industry insists on logging big trees in prime, spotted owl habitat (late successional reserves or LSRs) previously off limits to commercial logging to help pay for the other work. A better model is happening on the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest with Lomakatsi, Inc. Forest restoration contractors, Lomakatsi are partnering with Umpqua Watersheds and the Upper Cow Creek Forest Committee on the *Neighbors Alternative*. Please stay tuned.

Aldo Leopold's essay *Thinking like a Mountain*, describes an experience that precipitated a long-term change in attitude toward nature. He became aware of the "green fire" and the mountain (see below). This kind of change does not just happen. This is where our role in education comes in.

Education is another of our strategic planning areas. Aldo Leopold came to a tipping point that changed his mind forever about man's relationship to natural systems. I call it green fire. In studying environmental education, I have learned it takes certain experiences to predispose such a change. It involves getting people into wild places, seeing parts and connections never before noticed, paying attention to the way one feels, experiencing awe while nurturing a caring relationship.

Our **Wilderness** campaign remains a major focus and priority. In 2010 we continue our work with our local community and our political representatives to support designation of these last wildlands. This work includes inventory & mapping tasks, habitat analysis, evaluations of forest management and activities, continued endorsements and the fun part...hiking trips and our stories as we visit these areas.

The Umpqua National Forest, like those next to it, serves as biological corridors from Alaska to Mexico. The Umpqua & Siuslaw National Forests and Roseburg BLM are also a strategic east-west biological link to the Coast Range. There are very few places that have both enough federal land and a river like the Umpqua that connect the Cascades so readily to the Coast Range. *That is why protecting unroaded forests is crucial!*

In light of global climate change, Umpqua Watersheds knows these areas are needed as refuge habitat. How much more interesting and valuable the Umpqua National Forest, your forest, would be with these jewels in our community pockets compared to without!

In closing, I feel very lucky to be a part of Umpqua Watersheds in its 15th year. I hope to see you at our annual banquet **February 13th** so we can toast our success.

Current UCC science teacher and former Biologist for the Umpqua National Forest, Cindy Haws started in July 2009 as the new Executive Director of Umpqua Watersheds.

Aldo's Mountain and the Green Fire

For Aldo Leopold it began as a child but came down to a moment with wolves. He and a friend of his working for the agency opened fire on some wolves, never wanting to pass up a chance to kill a wolf in those days. When their rifles were empty, the old wolf was down. They reached the old wolf in time to watch "that fierce green fire dying in her eyes. I realized then," wrote Leopold, "and have known ever since -- that there was something new to me in those eyes -- something known only to her and the mountain." He saw the green fire in the wolf's eyes die, and since then he recognized his brutal error. Leopold's imperative is that humans must move environmental ethics out of a "conservation mentality" that he described as managing as a resource (game, fish, logs, recreation) into an ecological age where humans are a part, but not the central part, of an interdependent community of life. Are we there yet?

Wilderness Conference a Huge Success!

On Saturday, November 7th, Umpqua Watersheds hosted the Umpqua Wilderness Conference, titled *Wilderness: Our Community, Our Future*, in the campus center of UCC. Throughout the day more than 200 people gathered to discuss the value wild places hold for our community, and the reasons for protecting more wilderness on the Umpqua.

This was the first specifically wilderness-centered gathering in Douglas County in over three decades, and brought together a number of specialists in the field, including climatologists, fire scientists, fish biologists, environmental lawyers, and county commissioners, as well as citizens, activists, and local advocacy groups.

Panels were organized thematically and highlighted several ways in which wilderness areas can safeguard our community in Douglas County, such as providing fresh, cold drinking water, healthy salmon and steelhead fisheries, and slowing climate change by sequestering carbon from the atmosphere.

The Conference's first panel, *Salmon Strongholds*, started with David West, a Native American who heads the Native American Studies Program at Southern Oregon University. After an extended introduction in his native tongue, Mr. West shared a spiritual argument about the need for wild places.

The Native Peoples of this region, he said, have settled here for centuries and know how to take their living from the land without damaging it beyond repair. He reminded everyone in attendance to include the local tribes in our campaigns to heal our watershed, and underscored the common primitive ancestry that we all share and unites us as citizens of Planet Earth.

The Wild On Wilderness (WOW) Committee of Umpqua Watersheds presented their slideshow of potential wilderness areas on the Umpqua, stunning viewers with shots of mountain vistas, salmon runs, waterfalls, and historic trees, all from our very own Umpqua River.

At lunch, Roseburg native Ted Swagerty gave an inspiring report by live video feed from the Wild 9 World Wilderness Congress in Merida, Mexico. Ted attended the conference through a combination of scholarship funds and charitable donations, and brought an international aspect to our local conference.

The conference ended with a panel entitled *Beyond the Politics of Wilderness*, which featured long-time environmentalist Andy Kerr, Lane County Commissioner Peter Sorenson, and Douglas County Commissioner Susan Morgan discussing political challenges for achieving wilderness protection for beloved areas. Morgan stressed the difficulties facing the county as Timber Safety Net funds are set to expire in four years, and Sorenson offered as a possible solution what is called "PILT," or *Payment In Lieu of Taxes*. Under such a system, the Federal Government would send subsidies to regions in the U.S. that protect wild places which

all Americans can enjoy.

Volunteers from the WOW Committee organized the conference to raise awareness in Douglas County about the few remaining wild areas on the Umpqua and to galvanize participants into taking action to defend these places for the sake of future generations. Some participants recognized the conference as "one of the best" they'd been to in years.

As a result of the conference, the WOW Committee obtained several signatures from potential future volunteers, and there is a lot of excitement growing about our Wild Umpqua Wilderness Proposal as we head into the New Year. With Senator Merkeley's aide saying that our conference and organization has raised the priority of the Umpqua in the list of potential wilderness areas, things are looking very promising for 2010.



Director of Native Studies at SOU, Dr. David West



Photos by
Daniel Amos

200 Attend Conference
at Umpqua Community College

If you are interested in joining Umpqua Watersheds in its campaign for more Wilderness on the Umpqua, contact WOW Committee Co-Chairperson Hudson Spivey at 541.391.2435 or email him at: umpquawilderness@gmail.com

LNG: A Fossil Fuel with Huge Negative Impacts

LNG is the acronym for liquefied natural gas, impure natural gas that is super cooled to condense it for shipment by specialized tanker ships from overseas countries like Russia, the Middle East, Peru, or Papua New Guinea. Once at its destination, it is re-gasified, the impurities taken off, and the natural gas is run through large high pressure pipelines to market. Recent advances in drilling techniques for natural gas in the US and Canada and continued development of renewable energy means the US now has a glut of domestic natural gas for the foreseeable future. LNG clearly is not needed here.

A legacy left over from the Bush administration, the push to build LNG terminals all along the coastline of the US began in earnest after the 2005 Energy Act made it easier to site LNG terminals by taking away that authority from individual states and giving it to the federal government under the Federal Energy Regulatory Administration (FERC). California fought successfully for years to stop LNG from coming to its shores. That's when speculators financed by Big Oil turned to Oregon.

Three LNG terminals are currently proposed for Oregon, two on the Columbia River and one, Jordan Cove, on the North Spit of Coos Bay with a connecting 234 mile, unodorized pipeline. Called the Pacific Connector, it would cut through forests, streams, and endangered species habitat on its way to the California border. Only about a half a percent of the gas supplied by this pipeline is earmarked for Oregon, while the majority of the gas is going to PG&E in California.

Because of LNG's energy intensive process and long supply chain, its greenhouse gas emissions are 25% higher than domestic natural gas. LNG comes from some of the world's most pristine and unprotected ecosystems. Russia's Sakhalin Island LNG supply chain puts the Western Gray Whale at risk, and has destroyed a robust salmon fishery. Peru and Papua New Guinea LNG endanger both indigenous people and wildlife by opening up irreplaceable habitat to development and military conflict.

At home in Southern Oregon, the Pacific Connector would impact Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet, and many other

endangered or threatened species. So great is the impact, the Forest Service and BLM must amend their forest plans for the pipeline to be built. The Pacific Connector would affect (mostly by clear-cutting) 1055 acres of late successional or old growth forests, 779 acres of forty to eighty year forests, 131 acres of riparian habitat, and destroy 252 acres of wetlands. It would cross 218 water bodies (several multiple times), including the Coos, Coquille, South Umpqua, Rogue, Klamath, Lost River, and larger Coos Bay estuary. For the enormous LNG tankers to deliver their gas, Jordan Cove and the Port of Coos Bay propose to dredge 5.6 million cubic yards of upland, intertidal, and subtidal habitat to build an access channel and deep water docking basin. On the human side, 386 private properties will be subject to the threat of eminent domain by the pipeline, while 17,000 residents in Coos Bay will be living in the "at risk" zones for accidental or intentional explosions from the transport and storage of this highly explosive condensed gas.

Jordan Cove and the Pacific Connector are far from a done deal, despite FERC approval on December 16th. Umpqua Watersheds along with a coalition of others, including the State of Oregon, have vowed to appeal their decision. FERC approval of Bradwood on the Columbia is now being appealed by the State. The decision to approve the Conditional Use permit through Douglas County's Coastal Zone Management (CZM) area in Camas Valley is also being appealed. Besides these permits, there are many others that need approval before the project can go forward under the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Zone Management acts.

You can help defeat this proposal by sending letters or making phone calls to the Governor, your federal and state legislators, and those candidates are running for office. Attending one of the three 3rd Friday concerts or sending donations directly to WERC will help fund the legal fight.

We need your involvement! For more information, contact Umpqua Watersheds: 541.672.7065 or email Diane at dphillips77@frontiernet.net or call her at 541.837.3690

Calling all faithful VOLUNTEERS!

Umpqua Watersheds is updating our volunteer data base and we need YOUR help. There are many areas in which YOU can help us. Please let us know where you can lend a hand.

Newsletter Production

- writing articles
- folding/stuffing mailings

Events

- Booths ~ example Spring Fair, Earth Day, etc.
- Poster hanging for various events
- Organize concerts

- Help kitchen & desserts at concerts

Office Support

- Data entry
- Organizing
- Research
- Phoning during membership drive
- Graphic design

Banquet/Auction

Join the fun ~many needs here!

- Organizing event
- Auction mailing & tracking donations
- Set-up, clean-up
- Decorations.....and more

Just let us know where you can help and we'll put you to work!

Wilderness Activist

- Lead a hike
- Take photos
- Mapping
- Research roadless areas
- Trail maintenance
- Slide show presentations & more!

Call Betsy@UW office: 541.672.7065
Email: uw@umpqua-watersheds.org

Clearcuts for Kids? or the Elliott State Forest an Archaic Way Forward

Slaughtering whales for blubber and killing elephants for ivory is no longer tolerated by society. How about clearcutting older rainforest to fund our children's educations? This practice continues unchecked on the little-known 93,000-acre Elliott State Forest, just southeast of where the Umpqua River meets the Pacific Ocean.

The origin of this archaic, but well-intentioned, scheme dates back to Oregon's acceptance into the Union. The 1859 Admission Act granted Oregon every section 16 and 36 in every township for the sole purpose of funding public education. By 1930, State Forester Francis Elliott and Governor Oswald West had brokered sales and trades of scattered grant lands to form the Elliott State Forest.

For decades, the Elliott's stately forests have been leveled to maximize timber revenue for our schools. The clearcutting, chemical spraying and roadbuilding have taken a toll on the environment. The federally endangered coastal coho salmon continues to hang on here as does the marbled murrelet, a seabird that nests in older coastal rainforest. The northern spotted owl continues to precipitously decline across its range, especially on the Elliott. Ongoing logging and new stressors like climate change and the aggressive barred owl pose recovery challenges for these species in peril.

Management of the Elliott is at a crossroads. The State of Oregon intends to increase the cut on the Elliott over the next 30-50 years by way of its proposed long-term management plan, which still requires approval from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service, the federal agencies that oversee endangered species recovery. Much of this increased logging is planned for the unfragmented western half of the Elliott, which provides the strongest prospect for endangered species recovery on the forest and perhaps the most intact habitat in the entire central Oregon Coast Range. At this point, the only thing certain for the future of the Elliott is that increased clearcutting will continue to generate public controversy, legal gridlock and school revenue uncertainty. Isn't there a better way

forward for the Elliott and our kids?

We believe it is possible to keep the old forests of the Elliott standing and also adequately fund our children's education. It will, however, require keen interest and an unwavering commitment from our leadership in Salem, and the strong will of the public. The State Land Board (made up of Governor Kulongoski, Treasurer Westlund and Secretary Brown), which oversees management of the Elliott, should be encouraged to immediately appoint a task force to explore establishing the Elliott State Forest as a Carbon Reserve and leverage the forest's incomparable ability to store carbon for school dollars. As mitigation to global climate change discussions broaden, markets will continue to emerge for this concept.

Similar out-of-the-box ideas must materialize. In the late 1990s, community members in Washington State came together to buy the 25,000-acre Loomis State Forest and preserved it for its habitat values and recreational opportunities. Like the Elliott, the Loomis was also mostly trust forestlands, and the purchase of it helped invest with certainty in education. Forest trust organizations exist to fundraise for and broker these kinds of transactions, and the Loomis template could be used on the Elliott.

Moreover, many of the previously clearcut stands in the Elliott are online to be commercially thinned. By restoratively thinning these dense Douglas fir plantations, we can accelerate the development of older forest characteristics, put people to work in the woods and generate dollars for schools, all while avoiding controversy associated with older forest clearcutting.

Rather than fragmenting the intact, primeval rainforest on the Elliott's westside over the next 30-50 years, it is imperative that an innovative look be given at ways to generate school revenue outside of sawing down our heritage forests. Our kids deserve no less.

Josh Laughlin is the Conservation Director of Eugene-based Cascadia Wildlands (www.cascadwild.org) and a proud father.

State of the Beaver 2010 FEB 3, 4 & 5

Canyonville, Oregon Seven Feathers Convention Center

The South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership's Beaver Advocacy Committee, the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR) and the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indian Tribe, along with many other sponsors proudly presents the State of the Beaver 2010 conference.

Beavers are keystone species because they are experts at aquatic habitat restoration. They are the ancient engineers of our riparian zones providing wetlands development and fertile salmon rearing habitat. In the past there were millions of them in the Umpqua Basin watershed supporting the once famous abundant salmon runs.

They are designated as predators by the State of Oregon when they are located on private lands. What can we do to address Oregon's love/hate relationship with the beaver? Come get a perspective of the benefits of this almost-forgotten and yet valuable rejected species. For more information concerning beavers and this event please visit us on-line at: www.surcp.org/beavers or email: beavers@surcp.org

Remember the Alamo

from page 5 stands. It provides for the creation of temporary new roads as well as re-opening (and subsequently re-closing) closed roads. And it prescribes roadside fuel breaks ranging from three hundred feet to four hundred meters.

The NAP allows no new road construction; no removal of any trees 12" DBH or larger in maturing stands; and no entry at all into old growth stands. Removal of ladder fuels, brushing and non-commercial thinning proposed only along the borders of maturing stands and the edges of any existing roadways to a distance of 300 feet.

So what would the forest in the Upper Cow Creek watershed look like under each of these proposals? The biggest differences will be in the maturing and old growth stands, essentially the last remaining spotted owl habitat, in the LSR.

Under the FSP, new roads will be built, disrupting the natural courses of ground water for years. The canopy openings, where trees up to 20" in dbh would be removed, are not likely to be filled in by older trees branching out, but by woody sub-species and seedling trees, resulting in greater competition for less water and an overall drier forest. One which is likely to have a higher fire danger; just the opposite of the increased fire resiliency which is the FS's main goal. But fuel reduction is only one value supported by the NFRA. What about the protection of critical habitat?

These larger understory and co-dominant trees are just getting to the point where they provide the first flush of dead and down biomass to these aging stands. This is very important for spotted owl prey abundance and other old growth functions. It will take another 60 to 80 years to grow this kind of structure back. If there is a need to do anything it would be to let these important structures die and fall. After all, recognizing that everything can burn under the right conditions, these larger trees are far from being a major player in fuels and fire risk but are definitely critical players in ecosystem function.

The planned removal of so-called ladder fuel trees make no allowance for the fact that many of these trees are critically important for developing spotted owlets. These are, in fact, nursery trees where owlets spend their time after leaving the birth nest, jumping from branch to branch, developing leg and wing muscles. Remove them and you have effectively eliminated this critical habitat for up to 40 years.

Furthermore, telemetry work tracking spotted owl behavior in the USFS Upper Cow Creek Resource area in the 1990s showed that spotted owls avoid areas treated even with light thinning. Add to this the invasion of the more aggressive barred owls, plus competition and predation by goshawks and great horned owls and any chance for spotted owl survival is greatly diminished. And finally, red tree voles, a main prey species for

spotted owl, need continuous canopy to survive.

Then there are the fuel breaks. At this point, the FS is claiming that a quarter-mile wide fuel break is necessary along

the Wildcat Ridge road in order to bring canopy fires down to ground level and to allow the safe insertion of fire-fighting teams in the event of a catastrophic fire.

But if a fire does get into the canopy it is very likely to spot fires as much as a mile and a half ahead of the main fire body. So what then? Fuel breaks even a mile wide wouldn't serve the purpose of containing a wildfire.

But, if the FSP goes forward as it currently stands, the maturing and old growth stands will be drier and bushier. Much of it will no longer be viable

Spotted Owl habitat. Not being viable habitat, it will no longer qualify for the protections it is now supposed to enjoy. And there will be no reason not to make it a part of the timber industry's 'inventory' because it will no longer be a healthy, self-sustaining forest. It will be an industrial forest, there to be harvested for timber, maybe to ride ATV's in.

If, on the other hand, the NAP is adopted, the only areas of the maturing stands that will be thinned at all will be the borders. The heart of these stands will remain intact. Owls, and all the other species for which they are an indicator, will have a fighting chance to survive. The natural course of water will continue uninterrupted. Natural attrition of understory trees will replenish habitat as currently downed wood rots its way back into the soil. This wetter forest will continue its slow but steady return to a completely natural and naturally fire-resilient state.

In the first decade or so after either proposal's prescriptions are applied, there won't be much apparent difference. The differences described above will take decades to fully reveal themselves.

But what may seem like not so wide a gap between the two proposals will, over the coming four to five decades, leave either an industrial woodlot, or a thriving natural forest. And even this is not the biggest issue at stake.

If, in the name of fuel reduction, millions of board feet of timber can be harvested in one watershed's LSR, how long do you think it will be before similar harvests occur throughout the national forests of the Pacific Northwest?

Make no mistake, this isn't about just one watershed, or one forest. The future of all our national forests will be impacted by the precedents set on the Upper Cow Creek. Either a new direction will be taken by the Forest Service in putting the long term health of the forest above the shorter term desires of the timber industry, or the protections of Late Successional Reserves everywhere will be drastically weakened.

The fight to protect the natural integrity of the Upper Cow Creek watershed isn't just a local skirmish — it's the Alamo.



Mature Forests Need No Restoration

Remember the Alamo Neighbors' Restoration Alternative

What happens in the Upper Cow Creek watershed will impact the very meaning of Late Successional Reserve and the fate of LSRs everywhere.

When Col. William Travers drew a line in the sand in the open courtyard of the old mission in the middle of March, 1836, every man there knew they weren't being asked to defend a strategically insignificant old building. Today a line is being drawn around the watershed of Upper Cow Creek (UCC), and anyone who thinks that only the fate of this one watershed is up for grabs couldn't be more wrong.

In keeping with the mandate of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (NFRA), the UNF published the Upper Cow Creek Timber Sale and Fuels Reduction proposal. Cliff Dils, Supervisor of the Umpqua National Forest, agreed to accept a Upper Cow Creek Neighbors' Alternative proposal for consideration. The ostensible purpose of this proposal is to reduce the extreme fire hazard that has built up through decades of clear-cutting and fire suppression. There are numerous old timber sale units that are densely over-grown and present the most serious fire hazards to the UCC watershed. To date the agency assumption that the remaining unmanaged forest has fuels build up that poses serious hazard has not been evidenced by any on-the-ground data.

The original Forest Service proposal encompassed some 15,000 acres and projected a harvest of some 90 million board feet of timber. The current proposal is down to around 7,000 acres with a projected 40 million board feet to be harvested.

According to Debbie Anderson, the ID team leader, this reduction is largely due to input the Forest Service received from members of the small rural community of Upper Cow Creek, as well as findings by various USFS scientific teams concerning unsuitable soil types, owl habitat and other considerations. This is a considerable reduction, and points to what may very well be a new spirit of actual collaboration between the Forest Service and the public — at least that part of the public which lives in the Wildlands-Urban Interface (WUI). And to the extent that this is true, it could be a very welcome change in how the Forest Service interfaces with the public.

At this point, while there are differences in the canopy cover to be left, the prescriptions dealing with thinning the plantations and densely overgrown young matrix stands are very similar in both the Forest Service Proposal (FSP) and the Neighbors' Alternative Proposal (NAP). But there are some very significant differences in what these proposals prescribe in other parts of the LSR. A few areas of dispute are:

1. Timber harvest in late maturing stands (60 to 80 years old) and mature stands (80 to 150 years and older)
2. New road construction and re-opening of closed roads
3. The size and scope of fuel breaks.

The FSP would allow harvest of merchantable timber up to 20" DBH within maturing stands and old growth stands in the LSR, as well as thinning throughout these

continued on page 6

Partnership Examples Restoration on the South's Boulder Creek

The South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership (SURCP-www.surcp.org) is a regional, community based, 501(C)3 non-profit organization dedicated to building community bridges for the purpose of ecological, cultural and economic revitalization of the South Umpqua basin region. Our Charter was founded on the premise that community self determination in rural South Umpqua should be based on collective interests related to good stewardship practices and restoration ecology.

We need the forest and the forest needs us. Since we were first granted our non-profit status we have been building momentum. Initial projects related to stream restoration in the upper reaches of the watershed basin. In tandem with this we began participating in a co-operative venture with the Lomakatsi Restoration Project to train a local work force in forest restoration technology.

The Boulder Stewardship Demo Project engaged community members in Late Successional Reserve revitalization. Participants were retrained to use the skill sets and equipment once used in the timber heyday of Douglas County, Oregon to renew an overstocked plantation stand of Umpqua National Forest. This "boutique" wood extraction technique brings a monoculture crowded tree stand to late successional forest characteristics with minimal impact from equipment or practices. The emphasis was placed on ecologically sensitive management practices. The acreage, located in the Boulder Creek drainage in the Tiller district of Umpqua National Forest, was the first piece of ground to be released in this manner from the detrimental impact of previous logging practices.

The Lomakatsi Restoration Project is well experienced in a broad range of activities related to ecological services and restoration projects. They are an Ashland, Oregon-based organization scaled to engage large restoration projects with a broad selection of operational options. Their activities include training, education, project implementation and ecological services. Their place on the web is:

www.lomakatsi.org

REMEMBER *to Save the Date* **Sat. FEB 13**

Umpqua Watersheds'

14th Annual Winter Celebration
Banquet & Silent Auction
at the Douglas County Fairgrounds - see insert

UMPOUA WATERSHEDS BUSINESS PARTNERS

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

HARVEST GROCERY 541.679.4524
501 Highway 42, Winston OR

GOLDEN CONSTRUCTION 541.679.4303
Licensed, Bonded, & Insured (CCB#57219)

MEHL CREEK FARM 541.584.2693
Grass Finished Beef: No Growth Hormones,
No Antibiotics. Mary & Ed Cooley, Elkton, OR.

RYS ENVIRONMENTAL LLC 541.391.1262
Competent service at Competitive prices

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE 541.496.3987
Power from Sun, Wind & Water.
www.energyindependenceco.com

BIG LICK FARM 541.860.5008
Buy Fresh, Local and Organic! Weekly box delivery

PICTATIONS BY DAVID 541.556.4509
Professional photographer- Pictures with sensation-
www.pictations.com

WILD ROSE VINEYARD 541.580.5488
Denise & Carlos Figueroa. 375 Porter Creek Road,
Winston, OR. cfigueroa@directway.com

COMMONWEALTH GARDEN SHOPPE
127 Third Street, Canyonville 541.839.6067

BUNYARD'S BARNYARD 541.672.9380
Nursery Herbs and Native Plants. 1201 Harlan St.

KATHRYN JOHNSTON - 541.464.0821
Family Law. 840 SE Rose St. Roseburg, OR.

CASCADE PAINTING 541.430.6514
residential - commercial - industrial BB# 74711

Please Join as a business endorser - Reach More People through *100 Valleys*

\$50 for one issue of *100 Valleys*; \$125 for one year (4 issues) All Contributions are Tax Deductible. Call: **541.672.7065**

Save the Date!
UW Banquet
FEB 13

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
Roseburg, OR
Permit No. 18

P.O. Box 101
Roseburg, OR 97470

