

Coho Still Threatened Report Concludes

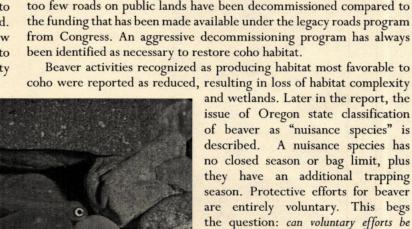
Findings of the Status Review for the Oregon Coast Coho Salmon

By Cindy Haws, Executive Director, UW

For those of us who are passionate about restoring coho salmon to the Umpqua, the National Marine Fisheries Service May 26, 2010 publication in the Federal Register is an important read. The report concludes that freshwater habitat complexity, a key piece of coho survival and recovery, has not shown improvement in any significant way and has a reasonable likelihood to continue to decline or stay the same, particularly in the Umpqua Watershed. Of concern is that summer and winter rearing capacity show negative trends in the Umpqua River Basin primarily due to industrial timber harvest. Some estimates were a summer capacity decline of 8 percent and a winter capacity decline of 3 percent.

Basically, the report states that for the most part stream complexity decreasing. Patterns of disturbance examined show that timber harvest activities are continuing to impact coho, particularly in the Umpqua Basin on private lands. The report states that the Oregon Forest Practices Act standards are not sufficient to protect riparian and stream habitats and it also mentions that the National Marine Fisheries Service is not in agreement with the State Department of Forestry in their management of the Elliot State Forest.

Agricultural lands, particularly those in the low gradient stream sections, continue to have significant effects on water quality due to water use. They conclude that road densities remain high, affecting stream quality through hydrologic effects like runoff, siltation, water holding capacity and drainage efficiency by providing access for human activities. Road densities on private timberlands in the Umpqua Basin are noted as very high.



Coho Babies on North Umpqua photo by Rich Grost

agencies' abilities to conduct effective restoration. Without restoring and preventing more loss of habitat capacity, populations of Coho cannot recover and are likely to continue to decline below survival levels.

Hydrologic concerns and roads identified by NMFS also bring to

mind the Umpqua Forest's Travel Management plan proposal to open

up low maintenance roads that were closed to motorized use. This use

will continue to negatively affect hydrologic processes. Although we

appreciate the decommissioning efforts done on the Umpqua Forest,

On a positive note, there have been major declines in hatchery Coho releases throughout most of the Coastal streams, which decreases competition and increases the survival of wild Coho in the ocean.

UW's Executive Directo, Cindy Haws retired is also a Wildlife Biologist.

effective? The scale of participation and

commitment would have to be huge. Is

stream habitat restoration activities may be having a short-term positive

effect in some areas but the quantity

of impaired habitat and the rate

it possible? What is the best approach?

The Status report concludes that

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Our Mission

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

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IN MEMORY OF TONY DEAN

Tony Dean loved the Umpqua River and celebrated River Appreciation Day with us for over twenty years. We will miss him and we will remember his wonderful smile.

From the Executive Director.

Greetings and many Wildland adventures to you!

I have been participating in the Roseburg BLM's pilot collaborative process over the past 5 months. I saw a dynamic change I have never seen before in my lifetime. Immediately and consistently at every one of the meetings "we" (conservation community) were present in force like never before. We were all articulate, well-educated and prepared. People sacrificed their evenings after long workdays and gave their time and gas money to show up and engage. We got together outside the public forum to discuss information with our new Science Advisory Council. This helped us gain greater understanding and communicate more effectively so as to not be baffled by "agency speak". There were so many of us, so many voices, that we could not be drowned out by county commissioners stating they represent the people, by industry representatives pushing to log more old trees as the answer to "our" economic woes, or retired BLM foresters wanting to maintain old paradigms.

Does our small, grassroots Umpqua Watersheds, have the knowledge, ability and energy to purposefully move our greater community to a New Mindset? Can we adventure together with purpose, passion, and have a good time doing it? What gives us power? Most of us have much to do in our personal lives. Can you make Umpqua Watersheds one of your big 3 priorities? Instinctively, you and I know, that our collective knowledge and effort strategically focused and passionately engaged will keep our ecosystem (our community) healthy and resilient. The Gulf oil spill brings home how closely we are tied to our natural landscape. One impacted father said in a choked voice how not being able to take his son to those places his family went for generations to view wildlife and soak in the natural beauty was what hurt the most. It's gone. I know a Watersheds member who had that same experience here on the Umpqua years ago when he and his father went to their special hunting camp in tall old growth trees only to find the entire area had been clear cut and was gone, forever. This mans father sat down and cried. Both father and son lost for the rest of their lifetime memories to be made, a bond to be established, now devoid of all the life it once contained that they knew well in that place. It is Gone.

Our many voices create a powerful tipping point, a cultural change. There is an opening in time right now that requires your engagement. This is our watch. We can connect real world events such as the Gulf oil disaster to cause the community to reflect and think about their own homeland and the loss of what is special here. These many voices, many skills, is what will lead to changing minds, laws, policies, people.

We are a pathway to link our community to their natural sense of place. We are neighbors and this is our home. Many of us will die here. Our children see the Umpqua as their home. Mine do. Even though I was not born here, I feel connected as my great, great grandfather; a Captain of a wagon train brought 28 families to Oregon in 1847. He traveled south through the Umpqua. I have little doubt he met with those already here then whose descendents are still here today. There is no greater gift you could give than a true healthy life that helps overcome the marketing of false needs and fears by those who seek to steal our natural assets from under us to gain more than any one man needs. How about envisioning a future news headline that goes like this in the News Review:

"A community undermined by loss of its most valuable assets, wild forests, clean waters and abundant fish and wildlife embrace an innovative plan to protect and restore, a return to a people of place."

Please become a committee member in one of our 4 program areas: Conservation, Restoration, Education, and Wilderness (CREW).

Join the CREW!

See you at River Appreciation Day,

Cindy

CONSERVATION UPDATE continued

Umpqua Roads Gone Crazy Help inventory bad roads

With its proposed Travel Management Plan, the Umpqua National Forest intends to open its peaceful and largely silent forest to the mosquitolike noise of ATVs, in a big way.

Such an officially sanctioned invasion by more motorized and unsupervised traffic almost guarantees that we, the taxpaying visitors to our public lands, will increasingly encounter the kinds of habitat destruction pictured here. In this time of budget constraint, where will funds be found to repair ATV-damaged roads and trails, or to pay for the back-country law enforcement to prevent it?

Not only will the added noise annoy folks who enjoy the quiet beauty of the Umpqua National Forest, but the very survival of the wildlife that



depend on relief from human-caused disturbances may well be adversely affected. And, although forest supervisors maintain that any recreational motorized trail designations are not necessarily permanent, realistically, what are the odds such mistaken decisions would be rescinded any time soon?

As a matter of fact, the Environmental Assessment upon which the Travel Management Plan rests is flawed. It lacks much of the specific, requisite information concerning the actual condition of the affected roads, trails and dispersed camping areas. Although UW and other concerned groups have offered to provide these critical facts



Photos courtesy of Francis Eatherington

at no charge to the agency, director Cliff Dills has declined their input and is determined to forge ahead, regardless.

If you would not like to see more destruction and listen to more racket on your public lands, please get involved with Umpqua Watersheds' summer "road-truthing" campouts and weekend outings (see Action below).

for more Silent Summers in the Sylvan,

Cindy Haws,

UW Executive Director

HEADS UP and HELP NEEDED!

July –August - The Umpqua National Forest's travel management plan THREATENS to eliminate large areas of quiet recreation and impact both existing and proposed wilderness areas. Wildlife, such as the endangered Pacific Fisher and Wolverine, will also be harmed. The plan proposes to create motorized 4-wheeler/ATV recreation over hundreds of miles of closed roads and trails. We need your help to go out in July and August and conduct an inventory of the "Maintenance Level 1 roads", dispersed camp sites and proposed motorized trail areas with a simple protocol. We need this to effectively address the agency's proposal.

Please contact Cindy Haws at the Umpqua Watersheds Office for more information:

541-672-7065

1:30-5:30 M-Th

cindy@umpqua-watersheds.org

CONSERVATION UPDATE

Another Bridge Over North Umpqua River?

Rob Bowler is th North Umpqua River Steward, Native Fish Society



North Umpqua Wild and Scenic Management Plan

The 1992 Wild and Scenic Management Plan for the North Umpqua River designated five "Outstanding Remarkable Values" (ORV's)--water quality and quantity, fisheries, scenery, and cultural values (Native American)-- and emphasized that these ORV's should be protected and enhanced for future generations. Moreover, the 1992 Management Plan also designated the North Umpqua as a "Recreational Wild and Scenic River," which of course allows lots of recreational activities, i.e. camping, hiking, fishing, rafting, horseback riding, etc. The Management Plan also included a one quarter mile wide strip on each side of the river that would be free from logging specifically on Federal lands (Forest Service and BLM). Private commercial timber-owners would have to apply to log in the corridor.

The debate in 1992 for this Management Plan primarily revolved around how much development would be allowed in the Wild and Scenic Corridor and that debate continues to the present. The corridor, about 35 miles long, especially on the road side (north bank) is almost fully developed with day-use parking areas, campgrounds and launching areas for rafts and kayaks. There are numerous paved turnouts and the amount of asphalt that has been deposited in the corridor is overwhelming. Recently, Baker Park received prodigious amounts of asphalt.

On the south bank, huge legal clear cuts on private land near mile markers 28 – 29 have seriously degraded the corridor's scenery and fifteen acres were clear-cut within the quarter mile corridor very close to the North Umpqua Trail. BLM could have objected to this private 15 acre logging site, but as supposed protectors of the corridor, they did not!

Lastly, any further major development within the corridor is governed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the existing ORV's must be protected from further degradation. To put it bluntly: Are we loving this segment of the North Umpqua River to death?

A Large Bridge Violates Wild & Scenic River Plan

In the 1992 Wild and Scenic Management Plan for the North Umpqua River there was a proposal for a small footbridge across the North Umpqua at the Susan Creek Campground. The site was chosen because it had parking, the bridge would not be easily seen from Highway 138, and if extra parking was needed the Susan Creek Day Use area could be accessed on the existing trail to the campground. UW supports a small footbridge.

Instead, BLM proposed a foot and horse bridge utilizing two old bridge piers at mile marker 28 on Highway 138. Their project would include a proposed trail about a mile long, from the Susan Creek Day Use Area and a bridge on the old piers. In addition a 100 ft. bridge across Susan Creek and a loop road were proposed at the Susan Creek Day Use parking area at, a total cost of 4 million.

The Tioga Bridge project must comply with NEPA, which requires BLM publish an EA (Environmental Analysis) or an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement). BLM published an EA in July 2009, and it was obvious to the few who read the entire document that BLM was in violation of NEPA because they did not provide alternatives to the Tioga Bridge location as required. The only alternative provided was a "no action alternative". An alternative that could have been proposed was a footbridge at Susan Creek Campground. The EA was full of mistakes, contradictions, assumptions, and false statements. There was a distinct possibility that four of the five ORV's--water quality, fisheries, scenery, and cultural values--would be impacted and thus degraded. BLM formed a partnership with ODOT in order to obtain funding for the project and because the Tioga Bridge site was so narrow, Highway 138 would have to be moved north in order for the proposed trail to be constructed to the bridge site.

All of these concerns and many other comments were sent to BLM during the comment period following the publication of the EA. BLM ignored these comments, again a violation of NEPA. BLM then published a FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) on just part of the project – geotechnical drilling. Eventually BLM withdrew this FONSI. In the latest public meeting held by BLM in November 2009, BLM admitted that they could not significantly change the project, because they would lose their funding from ODOT. So that is why BLM ignored public comments and did not provide an alternative to the Tioga site. Thus, the whole NEPA process became a required farce. If BLM loses the funding for the project, the fault really lies with BLM. At this writing, BLM has not come out with a new EA, EIS or any other alternatives.

WATERSHEDS UPDATE

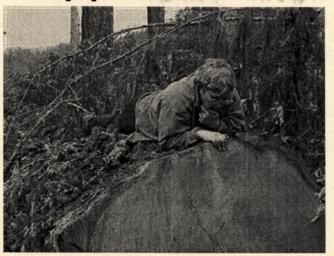
Covering the Umpqua National Environmental Policy Act work continues

Umpqua Watersheds, with forest monitor work from Francis Eatherington, and regional partners, have made it possible for the survival of intact wild forests and rivers in our watershed for the last 15 years.

Thanks to past foundation support that this work brought

Umpqua Watersheds, the forests, the community, the organization and Francis are able to take steps to broaden conservation work in the region.

Francis will continue to do her conservation work in the Umpqua, Coos, Coquille, and Siuslaw watersheds as the conservation director for Cascadia Wildlands in Eugene, Oregon. This shift provides coverage of our region with broader legal and organizational objectives. Francis' National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) expertise will continue to provide opportunities for the forests that she so dearly loves.



Francis will continue her work in the Umpqua on the Elliott State Forest, Liquefied Natural Gas Pipeline, and your public forest lands with expanded Endangered Species Act (ESA) challenges such as, marbeled-murrelets, spotted owl and at-risk fish.

Umpqua Watersheds past and present leadership and supporters thanks Francis Eatherington for her on-going

dedication to conservation work across our watershed.

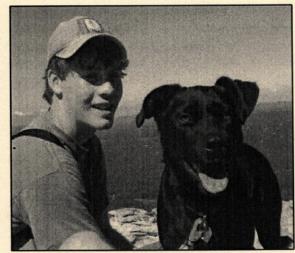
Umpqua Watersheds continued conservation goals and objectives will include the protection of mature and old growth forests, roadless areas, forest restoration in plantations and cut-over forests, road reconstruction and decommissioning and the invasion of motorized traffic in public forests.

A high priority will be Umpqua Watersheds' *Wild on Wilderness* (WOW) campaign to educate and connect the public with the wonders of the Umpqua's remaining wild areas.

New Faces at UW Positive Changes in Umpqua Watersheds

AmeriCorps VouInteer Grant Ruhlman Joins UW Team

Hi Watershedders, this is me! I was born in the grand year of 1987 in the great state of North Carolina. Throughout my life I have enjoyed physical activity, the outdoors, and a growing passion for music. I have played the acoustic drumkit since he sixth grade and continue to do so. Traveling and seeing ive music is a passion of mine that has taken me to mysterious places and molded me into the person I am today. After taking an Environmental 101 course at my high-school I knew my passion for the earth could be pursued not only personally but rofessionally, although I didn't know how at the time. In Deember of 2009 I earned an Environmental Studies degree from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington with a concentation in Natural Resource Management. During this time I



ocused on water quality and worked with a local non-profit, the Cape Fear River Watch. I look forward to ocusing my passion for people, ecosystems, and the possible harmony between them into a productive outlet or the greater Roseburg community.

RESTORATION PARTNERS

Beaver Restoration Coming to the Umpqua

In the aftermath of the State of the Beaver 2010 conference held in Canyonville last February a lot has transpired. Beavers are now being highlighted in a big way and recognized as a key missing component in the aquatic habitat restoration efforts in the State of Oregon. The attention the beaver is receiving is rightly deserved.

Of great significance is the fact that Castor Canadensis (the beaver) is critical in stabilizing salmon populations in our watersheds. Recently the National Marine Fisheries Service of NOAA reaffirmed the listing of Coho Salmon as a threatened species. One of the main reasons for the poor condition of the salmon runs is the fact that essential habitat established and maintained by beavers is woefully lacking in the State. Currently the Oregon State animal is designated as a nuisance. Yes, in this the "beaver State" they carry the ominous status of "predator" when they are found on private land. This allows them to be dispatched without any concern using lethal management practices.

It turns out that we have been shooting ourselves in the foot! Beavers provide just the right environment needed to increase both the size and survival rate of our ocean going anadromous fish species. It only makes sense that salmon have existed together in the Oregon ecological system with beavers for millenia and have adapted their life histories around the abundant riches of food and high quality water beaver ponds provide. The State has recently released its very long awaited translocation guidelines to allow beavers to be moved rather than methodically killed when they cause problems with human infrastructure. Up until now death was the beavers only option as a result of them applying their engineering genius near our road systems.

Another key aspect of beaver ecology is the impact of beavers on aquifers. They recharge them. Many of Oregon's perennial streams are drying up in late Summer and early Fall. Apart from climactic changes one of the main missing ingredients is the beaver. In ages past literally millions of beavers held back Oregon's abundant winter rains for usage of all creatures as the web of life waited for the Summer dry to pass. There was water for all. That is one of

the main reasons beavers are considered a "keystone species". So much depends on their hard work of expertly impounding water to protect themselves from predation. Here we see nature's economy at its best.

It is exciting and exhilarating to see Umpqua Watersheds actively engaged in pioneering restoration work by helping beavers "do their thing".

New UW Board Member, Stan Petrowski is chair of the Restoration Committee.

A BIG THANKS

Thank You Brainerd Foundation for helping Umpqua Watersheds participate in the Roseburg BLM's

Collaborative Forestry.

Your Conservation voice is being heard! www.brainerd.org

Give Back to the River Help Restore Where Deer Creek meets the South

Tired of being inside? Too many meetings, not enough action? Come get your hands dirty with us! Spring is here, the beautiful weather is OUTSIDE, and YOU should be, too!

When? The 2nd Staurday on JULY 10 Where? Deer Creek Park, at the end of Pine St, past the Lane House.

To do What? Restore the ecological diversity of a park within our city's borders! This natural greenway is in serious need of an overhaul, from invasive plant removal to litter cleanup, we'll stay busy.

Contact Grant Ruhlman for more details, or visit http://www.umpqua-watersheds.org, then join our facebook page!
grantuw@gmail.com
704.213.6777 (cell)

JULY 10 from 8:30am to noon

Annual Winter Celebration a Huge Success!

Change was in the air at Umpqua Watersheds' fourteenth annual banquet: change, appreciation for the past, and excitement for the future of our precious natural communities.



Director of Native Studies at SOU, Dr. David West

More than 250 folks were entertained by original guitar and vocal pieces by Mark Baratta while the Celtic jigs, reels and ballads of the ensemble Irish Crème seemed to fire folks' anticipation of the evening's scheduled presentations. The wonderful wines of vineyards and the outstanding brews donated by Ninkasi only made joining lively discussions, making new acquaintances and renewing old friendships that much easier. Wonderful hors d'oeuvres created by Kathy Shayler and a scrumptious dinner were fare worthy of any celebratory gathering, anywhere, any time!

The banquet's theme, "Think like a Mountain," was a recommendation that aptly characterizes UW's intimate connection with our varied and unique landscapes and underlines its watchful focus, not just on today's concerns, but also emphasizes Watershed's hopeful and determined outlook toward all of our wild tomorrows as well.

In this post WOPR climate, Lomakatsi's Marko Bey well-illustrated his description of the marvelous restorative work undertaken by Lomakatsi in a spirit of cooperation across political, economic and social divides. Given Roseburg BLM's recent announcement of a sea change in its management outlook, this articulate guest speaker's information could not have been timelier.

David West capped our annual gathering by helping to reconnect all present with the power and importance of our land and waters¹ spiritual presence and history. He accomplished this challenging task with deep feeling, poetic expression and great good humor. What a unique, inspirational, yet down to earth choice for keynote speaker.

The many unique, creative and beautiful donations that graced the silent auction tables drew a crowd of excited browsers, whose generous bids rose to help underwrite UW's many vital activities going forward. Sincere thanks to all participants and to the many donors, whose repeated generosity makes this important and fun part of the banquet possible.

Being part of such an uplifting and fun event only whets the memberships' appetite for the many more years of celebration and community still to come.

UW Board Member, Patrick Quinn is the Chair of Outreach Committee

The River Needs YOU! JULY 10

Hello friends!

As a new member of the Umpqua Watersheds family, I would like to take a moment to highlight the Deer Creek Park Restoration site that I have been tasked to plan and manage. While we all know the vast beauty of the greater Roseburg area, it seems that some of the potential for natural greenways inside the city borders has been ignored. Deer Creek Park has the potential to be a lush pathway only a stone's throw away from downtown Roseburg. With the right management, an ecological and cultural restoration could take place that would highlight the area's beauty and bring vitality back to downtown Roseburg.

The site is currently over-run by a variety of rampant invasive plants. A small list of these includes Himalayan blackberry, Vinca minor and major, English ivy, Meadow napweed, Teasel, Japanese knotweed, fennel, milk-thistle, tree of heaven, and prunus trees. Native species that have survived the noxious onslaught are ninebark, snowberry, sword ferns, sitka willow, ash, big-leaf maple, cottonwood trees, red osier dogwood, Oregon myrtle, and small patches of Oregon grape and Solomon seal. With the right management, these natives can be freed up and once again thrive along the riverside.

Other objectives in the project include the installation of lights along the pathway, a bird-viewing deck, trash and recycling bins, interpretive signage, a wildlife themed mural on the 99 bridge over Deer Creek, and the removal of cars that were thrown into the river as supposed "stream-bank stabilization." If you are interested in helping in any way, or have resources that can move this project along faster, please contact Grant Ruhlman. We will be at the river site weekly getting our hands dirty, so come join us!

Grant Ruhlman grantuw@gmail.com

Phoenix Charter School / Umpqua Watersheds. Restoration Education and Volunteer Coordination. 1.704-213-6777

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