



100 Valleys

A Quarterly Publication of the Supporters of Umpqua Watersheds, Inc. Winter 1998-99



Canton Creek Clearcuts Kill Fish

Clearcutting near the Prime Fish Habitat of Canton Creek

A Lesson in Doublespeak

The BLM is proposing to clear-cut 215 acres in the watershed of Canton Creek, selling over 2,500 log trucks loads (12.7 mmbf) of irreplaceable ancient forests. This could be one of BLM's worst timber sales of 1998/99. It is all "regeneration harvests," the federal governments Orwellian term for CLEARCUTS. It proposes to wipe out rare plants, animals and damage a popular recreation area. All of this is on unstable soils, in an already degraded Key Watershed which is designated to save our imperiled fish.

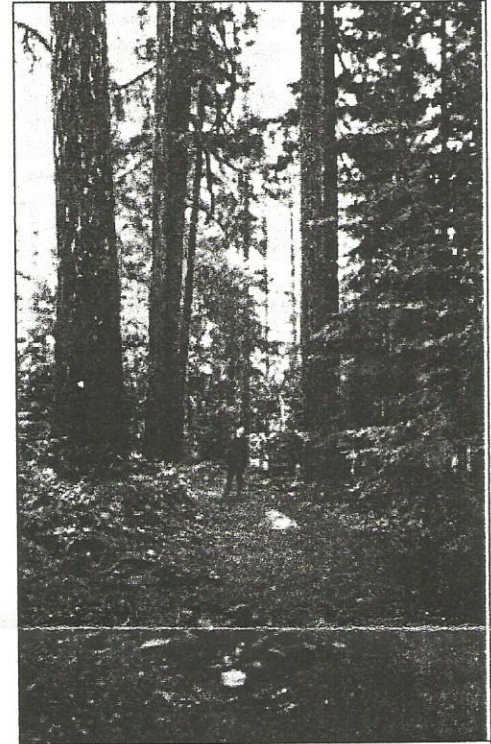
Key Watersheds, as defined by the Northwest Forest Plan, are supposed to be top priority for restoration of watersheds feeding endangered fish habitat. Steamboat creek, along with its tributary, Canton Creek, was selected as a "Key Watershed". Even though huge clearcuts degrade the watershed by allowing faster runoff of water and greater erosion, in an incredible twist of logic, BLM claims that if they can't clearcut, they won't maintain the logging roads currently in the area.

It is a form of blackmail. The clearcutting project includes road repair projects. BLM writes that if they don't clearcut, "drainage improvements on existing roads ... would not occur". This will cause "gradual increase of sediment transport and delivery into the streams; primarily due to plugged and collapsed culverts, and also due to rutting of the road surfaces." The no-logging threats continue: "The sediment would be carried via ditches and ruts in larger quanti-

ties and longer distances, significantly increasing sediment delivery, especially during rainy periods". This amazing logic has BLM concluding that "Not Logging" will result in "significant amount of sediment into the streams over time, resulting in negative environmental effects and would degrade stream conditions."

In addition, BLM states that if they did not clearcut this portion of the watershed, "natural processes" such as "fire, windthrow, disease and insects, and landslides" would take it anyway. The timber industry expects to be able to clearcut public forests. They've been doing it for so long, they feel a right to it. Thus, the old logic is still pervasive in BLM - why let a bug have it if we could sell it instead. And if we sell it, we must clearcut. BLM states that "Single tree or group selection, partial cutting or thinning were considered", but were rejected because it "retains a substantial amount of the origi-

(Continued on page 10)



Scaredman Campground will be surrounded by the clearcuts!

UW's 3rd Annual Banquet

Former US Congressman Jim Weaver

co-sponsor of the Oregon Wilderness Act will be Keynote Speaker

Jan. 29th - Fri. Nite - 6pm

*Come Join Members and Citizens of the Umpqua
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Elk Lodge 749 SE Jackson

DOWNTOWN Roseburg

For more info call: **672-7065**

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WHO IS Umpqua Watersheds?

Umpqua Watersheds was incorporated as a private non-profit organization in 1992. Its members are residents of the Umpqua Basin who are dedicated to protecting and restoring the watersheds of the Umpqua River Basin. Many of our past and present, Board of Directors are: forest management professionals, forestry technicians, health care professionals, small business owners, and educators. Together we own and/or manage over one thousand acres of timberland. One or more of us have been involved in almost every phase of forest management from theoretical landscape analysis and planning, to setting chokers in the brush. We have planted over a million trees on the Umpqua. We build recreational trails, fall and mill timber, and sit on a number of community committees and councils.

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 Larry Flanagan
 Dale Greenley
 Robert Hoehne
 Jim Ince
 Leslee Sherman
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Public Forest Monitor & Editor of UW Website

Francis Eatherington

Outreach Coordinator & Editor of "100 Valleys"

Patrick Starnes

Please Come Visit Our Office!

630 SE Jackson
Downtown - Roseburg, OR

Please call: 672-7065 or Page: 677-5100

All contributions to Umpqua Watersheds, Inc. are tax-deductible. Please send check or money orders to:

Umpqua Watersheds

PO Box 101
Roseburg, OR
97470

*Come Visit Our
Award Winning Website!*
www.umpqua-watersheds.org

President's Message

December 1998

Umpqua Watersheds has had a great year. We've been productive in the conservation arena and involved in social change in the community throughout 1998.

Our conservation successes were gained through diverse pathways, just like the challenges that confronted us. Many of those challenges we planned for and some surprised us. Each of them were opportunities that helped UW take steps to protect the forests and waterways of the beautiful Umpqua Basin.

This basin still abounds with magnificent rivers, streams, mountains, lakes, trails and, YES, even untouched areas. In 1999 UW will take action by keeping its eyes on those natural wonders, for increased aquatic habitat and preservation of its unprotected wilderness complexes. UW will use more energy, have more events and involve more people to reach these objectives.

It's easy for the Bureau of Land Management or the U. S. Forest Service to design timber sales and other activities on public lands without the public fully understanding what is lost by the outcome. Why is that? It's like so many processes these days; *the complexities involved are overwhelming.*

Umpqua Watersheds' experienced, Forest Monitor Program Director, Francis Eatherington, along with valuable volunteers, monitor these complex challenges and keep the state and federal land management agencies aware that the public does have concerns. The appeals and protests that were filed by UW in 1998 have brought positive results, such as, timber sale modification (*Warm Springs*), postponement (*Cobble Creek*), and planning improvements (*Environmental Impact Statements EIS and Biological Opinions BO*).

These interventions alone are not enough to accomplish UW's job of **protection and restoration**. Thus, our Forest Monitor Program also includes steps to strengthen land management laws, rules and practices. And when it's necessary, UW applies those laws that our democratic process has established to

protect the environment.

UW heads bravely down another path as well, and that's to promote a safer community for individuals to become involved in conservation supportive activities. UW's skilled Outreach Program Coordinator, Patrick Starnes, along with enthusiastic volunteers, helps make this possible. This "100 Valleys" newsletter, educational presentations, hiking opportunities, and community event participation raise the awareness of the whole community regarding local and regional environmental issues.

Through the efforts of its staff, volunteers and board members, UW gathers expert scientific knowledge, regarding endangered species and their habitat. UW applies this knowledge to assist in their efforts to support changes in the way forest lands and waterways are treated.

UW recognizes, with excitement, how good the outcome of these changes can be. What a good celebration our community will have when the runs of salmon are abundant, old growth forests are protected homes for owls and other creatures and people can share the benefits of this priceless bio-diverse landscape.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank W. Alton Jones Foundation, Patagonia Inc., McKenzie River Gathering Foundation and our many individual and business supporters for stepping forward to assist Umpqua Watersheds in the past years as well as its crucial 1999 mission *to protect and restore the watersheds of the Umpqua River Basin.* 🌲

Thank you,

Penny Lind

Adopt a Roadless Area

UW Members Adopt Cougar Bluffs and Wright Creek Waterfall

Cougar Bluffs in the Umpqua National Forest is the closest roadless area to Roseburg. This 6,255 acres of pristine undisturbed forest is just 45 minutes from Roseburg near Steamboat Inn. The roadless area encompasses the entire watershed of Cougar Creek and part of the Timber Creek watershed. The streams from these areas offer critical contributions to the health of the anadromous fish of the Umpqua. "Anadromous" refers to fish born in fresh water, who migrate to salt water and return to fresh water to spawn. These include the salmon, steelhead and Umpqua Cut-throat trout.

Several trails wind through the roadless area. Rocky basalt bluffs, old-growth Douglas fir, and western hemlock help create unique habitat for wildlife including the cougar. These public lands are not protected!

Right next to the Cougar Bluffs roadless area is a magnificent waterfall on the east fork of Wright Creek. This beautiful waterfall drops about 50 to 60 feet between steep rock walls covered in emerald green moss. The rock features an overhanging face and a small cave. A huge clear-cut lies only 100 feet or less from the waterfall. The Rumble Timber sale designed this recent clear-cut on very steep ground. This is exactly why we the public need to watch over the U.S. Forest Service. How disgusting of the North Umpqua Ranger District to allow a timber sale clear-cut right next to this exquisite waterfall. This type of negligence destroys our natural heritage.

Right now the proposed Felix Timber sale threatens the integrity of the Cougar Creek watershed. Some of the units in the Felix sale come within less than 100 feet of the Cougar Bluff roadless area. The proposed harvest activities would reduce the habitat connectivity for many species in the area.

Upland old growth corridors would be mostly eliminated. The U.S. Forest Service's botanical report indicates there are more unique and diverse plant species in this area than in the Limpy Rock Botanical area. Great care must be taken with such a hot spot of biodi-



versity, especially since it is adjacent to a rare and valuable roadless area.

Cougar Bluffs and the other roadless areas in the Umpqua National Forest are islands of natural habitat in a sea of roads and clear-cuts. Once they are gone, they can never be replaced. These roadless areas provide the gene pool needed to propagate the biodiverse species of plants and animals. They also provide us with clean drinking water, and protection from flooding and landslides. The list of essential values offered by our native forests goes on and on... What can we do to protect them? Oregon Natural Resource Council (ONRC) has begun an Adopt-a-Wilderness program. Achieving "Wilderness" status provides an area with permanent protection. This program helps local communities to monitor unprotected roadless areas and to advocate for their inclusion as Wilderness. Some Douglas County citizens and Umpqua Watersheds members have adopted the Cougar Bluffs roadless area. They also seek to add the east fork Wright Creek waterfall to the

roadless area. Members of the Umpqua Valley Audubon Society and Umpqua Watersheds have adopted other roadless areas in the Umpqua National Forest. You can have fun exploring the beauty of these roadless areas, and help protect these world-class forests. If you want to help adopt Cougar Bluff and Wright Creek waterfall or a different roadless area, call Bob Hoehne 679-7077, or contact Rick & Jenny Young Seidemann 440-9910, email ricknjen@wizzards.net.

How to get to the Cougar Bluffs

After turning right off Highway 138 at Wright Creek Road (five miles before Steamboat Inn). There are several ways to get to the roadless area. Here are three:

- 1) Park at the N. Umpqua River trail. Walk east to Cougar Bluff trail, Mott Trail. The trail goes from the North Umpqua river to the top of Cougar Bluff where there is a shelter. There are some bluffs toward the top that overlook the roadless area. At the top there is a very big rock bluff overlooking much of the roadless area and Cougar Creek watershed. NOTE: This trail is not well-maintained between the North Umpqua trail and F.S. road 480.
- 2) Drive up Wright Creek Road, Forest Service (F.S.) road 4711, then turn east on F.S. 480. After about a mile, you cross the east fork of Wright Creek. You can park here and bushwack downstream about 200-300 feet to the waterfall. To get to Cougar Bluffs, drive over the Creek and look for trail with sign on the right. This will take you to the top.
- 3) Drive up Wright Creek Road, Forest Service (F.S.) road 4711, then turn east on F.S. 600 and drive to the summit of Cougar Bluffs. 🚗

*Written by
Bob Hoehne and
Jenny Young Seidemann*

A Local History of EcoForest Certification

Is it our future?

Twenty eight years ago an English intellectual was given approval by some wealthy alternative educators to buy four hundred acres of rural Oregon. Their dream was to build a farm boarding school based on Indian philosophy with British progressive, non-violent discipline. The labor force and potential staff were recruited from the large college "counter culture" population. Several of us were trying to do alternative service to Vietnam, some actually were. We worked our butts off farming and building. A sense of real community was fleeting - the friendships have lasted.

In the mid-eighties, after the founder had died, the trustees of Mt. Grove Center for New Education decided it was time to start managing the 350 acres of productive timberlands with as much environmental sensitivity as possible. Orville Camp, known then as the "father of ecoforestry" was contracted to build an access system where most of the forest could be harvested from narrow roads while protecting the other vital resources. The learning curve was immense! Individual tree selection, timber-cruising, road design, habitat identification and protection, directional falling, minimum impact skidding, slash disposal and a host of other stewardship tricks were all being learned by several people without many books. The inevitable economics were in our faces, too: bad timber prices from greedy mills mixed with high roading, logging and clean-up costs. In the short-term, it is easy to see why greedy people prefer clearcuts. Forests are not short term though.

The best thing to happen to Mt. Grove, aside from making the last land payment, was cooperating with a small group known as the **Ecoforestry Institute**. Two of EI's directors chose to physically move to **Mountain Grove Center (MGC)** to start practicing what they had been advocating for years: sustainable

forestry with a heart for entire systems, from man to mushrooms. With extensive networking contacts and skills along with funding from generous grants, **EI** successfully hosted several classes and workshops with faculty including ecologist Chris Maser, the "grandfather" of ecoforestry



**Shall we certify sustainable
eco-forest products?**

Merve Wilkinson from British Columbia and OSU forest ecologist David Perry. Students from all over the world spent a week immersed in forest ecology, assessment and restoration, another week in practicum: timber-cruising, falling and scaling. A certified "eco-forester" would then write a thesis paper after completing a long distance learning course created by one of EI's founders.

As we were learning how to relook at very complicated systems and teaching how to walk in the woods, the **Rouge Institute for Ecology and Economy (RIEE)** was forming to retrain laid-off mill workers in different forestry skills. When **EI** was designing **MGC's** and Medford BLM's Woodford Creek watershed for long term management, **RIEE** was affiliat-

ing with the Forest Stewardship Council and SmartWood to certify forests in the northwest.

SmartWood, based in Vermont, has been certifying timber stands throughout the world for a number of years. Outdoor mahogany furniture sold by Smith and Hawken was some of the first certified wood sold. So **what is certified?**

The list of criteria is long but basically certified wood comes from truly sustainable forests. Not only is the timber harvested to a fraction of the growth rate but wildlife habitats, soils and the human labor force are approached with sustainable plans. The certification document that the **EI** team wrote for the Mt. Grove forest was 80 pages long. Part of this was due to the high standards **SmartWood** demanded of the team. A step the **EI** team is taking is to become a certified "resource manager". That would make all of the private timber lands that the team has contracts to plan and manage certified. As the certification market grows, all of the products coming off those lands will potentially demand a 15% to 25% premium in price. This is true in Scandinavia right now. **Cascadia Forest Goods**, an offshoot of **EI**, is focusing on local products and markets. Certified madrone to Martin guitars and certified fir 2 x 6s to Eugene Builder's Guild.

Industrial paper companies are working on their own certified sustainable plans, maintaining that 40 year rotations are a sustainable practice. Parts of Europe, where forest soils have been drastically depleted after two rotations, are testament to those fallacies.

The discussion has been long and will continue; new paradigms are hard to establish and I feel we're getting somewhere. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be interested in a certified forest please give me a call. ☎

Thanks,

David Parker

957-1556

Or email:

patdave@teleport.com

Timber market "glutted with trees," says RFP

The local public frequently has environmental issues presented to them in these terms: What do you want? An unspoiled environment or to feed your babies? No one is going to let their children starve.

The species who share this planet with us have a biological and intrinsic value of their own, but to shift the support of the public, we need to demonstrate the best way to earn a sustainable living is with a healthy environment. When the local businesses see that a healthy environment encourages a prosperous economy, they will support Umpqua Watersheds.

The big issue in this county for decades has been the boom to bust swings of the timber economy. **Diversity is the remedy.** Sport and commercial fishing industries are a vital part of that remedy. When we restore the fisheries this will create a more stable economy. A sustainable forestry where the fish return and prosper is also a forestry which will endure for generations. The cold, clean water the fish require is the same clean water our children and their children's children need as well. **Clean water is good for business.**

Many private timber owners are wondering why the federal government is selling timber on a market Roseburg Forest Products **RFP** has called, in a recent company newsletter, "glutted with trees." The price of private timber is being forced down by these unnecessary federal timber sales. The folks who feel this pinch the most are the small woodland owners. The foresters and technicians, despite their years of education and diligence to know the facts, are apparently unaware of the law of supply and demand. That, friends and neighbors, is bad for business.

Richard Chasm is a small woodland owner and Realtor, UW Business Member and former UW Board Member. He currently serves on the Outreach Committee.

Commonwealth Garden



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Days Creek, Or. 97484
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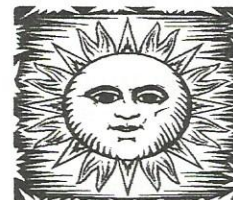
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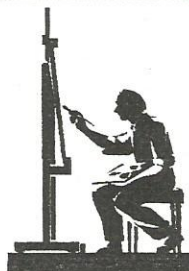
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Wash-Dry-Fold Service Available

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"We Recycle All Empty Containers"

WANTED: Cartoonist



Volunteer your talents and humor to the pages of OUR growing quarterly "100 Valleys." There are many issues which need to be captured in graphic caricatures.

Please call Patrick at 672-7065



House in Order



Here at Umpqua Watersheds Inc. we are trying to get our Membership house in order.

First of all we want to thank all of you who have come to our banquets, fair & college booths and many other events. These are the places where we gather your names and addresses. Secondly, we send you our Newsletter, free, for awhile. Finally, we invite you to become a paid member. Every year we hope you will renew your membership and continue to support our growing efforts.

Now, we understand many of you have renewed this year's membership (1998) and are waiting to receive your T-shirt, yet, we may need more info....

Please Help!

by filling out the surveys below

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Choose Your Membership (please circle dollar amount below)

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\$100+

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As an Individual Member, you'll receive one sturdy 100% cotton UW T-shirt and receive a year's subscription to our Newsletter. More T-shirts can be ordered (below).

\$25+

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Become a full member and stay in touch with a year's subscription to UW's Newsletter. **Great for Students!** More T-shirts can be ordered (below).

\$15+

Order Your T-shirt (please circle BOTH size and color below)

X-Large

Large

Medium

Small

Large Sleeveless

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Light Gray

Black

Deep Sky Blue

Forest Green

I would like more than one T-shirt @ \$12 ea. # _____

Choose a Volunteer Committee (please circle volunteer committee below)

Monitor Committee

Help gather data in the field by hiking, measuring, photographing and other means of monitoring our precious and diminishing Public Ancient Forests and their watersheds.

Office/Membership Committee

Help in the office: answering the phone, data entry, mass mailings and other various chores.
Help recruit members by staffing our Outreach Booth which travels around the county: registering and educating voters about conservation issues which they CAN change!

Education Committee

This newly formed committee looks forward to creating (or gathering pre-existing) educational materials which can be used in classrooms or with our Outreach Booth. This committee could also sponsor public forums, retreats and conferences for the sake of community education and discussion.

Jim Weaver & Satin Swing

Where:

Elk Lodge 749 SE Jackson Downtown Roseburg

When:

January 29th Friday Night at 6pm

Why:

Annual meeting of the Board, Staff and Members to review the past year and to share a vision of the New Year. Nominations for new Board members will be taken from the floor.

Food and Beverages

A Gourmet Vegetarian Buffet will be prepared by our Business Members **Umpqua Brewing Company** and **Sulawesi Juiceworks**. Organic salad, fresh-made bread and delightful desserts will be served as well. The Elks will serve Hillcrest wines and UBC brews at their NO-Host Bar.

Seating will be limited

The \$15 tickets (2 for \$25) will be sold at the following locations:
Sulawesi Juice Bar - Downtown Roseburg across from County library
Umpqua Brewing Co. - Downtown Roseburg across from City Hall
Harvest General Store - Leaving Winston west on HWY 42.
South County folks will be able to purchase tickets at:
Elona's Circle - Downtown Canyonville
Promise Natural Foods - Downtown Canyonville

Keynote Speaker

Weaver served Douglas, Lane and Coos Counties for 16 years in Washington, DC as our Congressman. He will review the history of Wilderness legislation and discuss his hopes for the future.

Music

The diverse talents of vocalist and pianist Lauren James, fiddle serenader Robert Hoehne, clarinetist Les Shepard, bassist Dan Glicker, guitarist Bruce Gordon and drummer Dave Parker make up the fabric of Satin Swing. The band plays a wide variety of music besides Swing, such as Southern Rock (Delbert McClinton), blues, cajun, glyssmer and gypsy music.

*Come Join Members and Citizens of the Umpqua
Celebrate Our World Class Rivers and Forests!*

Western Forest Activists Conference

February 5-7, 1999

Stevenson Union, Southern Oregon University
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Native American Speakers & Botanist/Author
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For more info call Headwaters at 541/482-4459 or headwtrs@mind.net

Letters

from the
Trail

Diversity

I n my silence, I pondered the rich, diverse forest I visited this fall, the great forests of the Umpqua. Hiking along the Dread and Terror Trail, I was struck by the tremendous variety of plant and animal life. Since my hike with UW, I have often thought how diversity is healthy for the balance of life, all of life bringing its goodness to its surroundings. I imagined the effect logging would have on the area. I imagined only one tree species being replanted. My heart went out to all that life in that majestic place. The plants and animals would be losing so much to have diversity taken away from them. It occurred to me that we humans are like a forest in our interaction with each other. Our lives are greatly enriched, broadened, and blessed by the diversity of people. Each person different from ourselves blesses us with greater knowledge and experiences, which we must be open to. Imagine if we were all the same! Imagine if our forests had no diversity!

Thank You for your time,

Robin Hill

Robin is a first year student at Umpqua Community College. She is a single parent who lives in Roseburg with her two sons.

UW Hikes will continue in the Spring.

See Spring newsletter for dates and details.

Snow by Robert Leo Heilman

The below is an essay excerpted from local writer Bob Heilman's book: *Overstory Zero: Real Life in Timber Country*, published in Seattle by Sasquatch Books. To order, please call: 1-800-775-0817

The snow always comes as a surprise, even when you smell it coming, and the weatherman tells you it's coming, and you see the sleet splattering on your windshield at sunset. Somehow you're never prepared for the reality of snow.

It comes so quietly in the night, in soggy clumps at first and then as tiny drifting flakes, each whirling crystal unlike any other that ever was or will be again. Snowflakes have the carefree innocence of all things brief and beautiful, which fills us with sadness because they remind us of our own short stay here.

Of course, it's only us who feel that way. Watching the snowflakes fall, it's hard to imagine them carrying anything but joy in their whirling hearts. They are born in the bellies of clouds, tiny specks of earth's dust that clothe themselves in glittering sea moisture like debutantes dressing up in lace and jewels for a waltz on the winds. Believe me, though they never speak, they have their own soft songs as they dance, singly or holding hands in the sky, before they settle on the valley.

Even though we mutter about inconvenience as we make our way to the woodpile, or sit listening to icy road reports and school closures over over a cup of coffee in the morning, our first and deepest reaction is delight. Like children bursting forth from the house to play, our hearts jump at the sight of the world transformed.

Local Essay



How strange it is to look out of windows edged in feathery crystal patterns of frost, to see sunlight split into

rainbows by the icicle prisms dangling from the roof's eaves, to look out on fields of unbroken white snow.

The leafless fruit trees, oaks, and maples, so stark in winter rains, reveal their delicate tracery when clothed in snow. Fence rails and posts, so common that they're almost invisible, stand out suddenly when piled high with white powder. How green and vulnerable the small patches of grass look, in sheltered nooks surrounded by the frozen snow. How warm and cozy it seems inside by

Professional storyteller and writer Robert Leo Heilman began to write after a roofing accident prevented him from continuing seasonal labor. He lives with his wife and son in Myrtle Creek, Oregon. Heilman was awarded the Northwest Writers 1996 Andres Berger Award for Overstory: Zero.

UW, Inc. would also like to thank Karen at While Away Books for donating a brand new copy to our office. She has many more copies to sell.

Finally, UW gives an obvious and huge Thank You to YOU, Bob, for sharing.

"The only cure for cynicism and sarcasm is ACTION."

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IN WINSTON ON HWY 42

What is a Wetland?

Forested swamp. Tidal mudflat. Peat bog. Vernal pool. Salt marsh. Stream bank. Wet meadow. Pond. What do these very different habitats have in common? They're all wetlands.

Because wetlands occupy the transition zone between upland forests or grasslands and open water, wetland habitats share characteristics of both. This can make it hard for a casual observer to determine the actual boundaries of a wetland. However, no matter what a wetland looks like, it shares three traits with all other wetlands: water saturation, hydric soils, and hydrophytic, or water-loving, plants.

Water Saturation

By definition, a wetland will have standing water for at least two weeks during the growing season. In Southern Oregon, late winter-early spring may be the only time some places actually look like the wetlands they really are. In those few short weeks, microscopic plants and animals, newts, frogs, sometimes even small fish, emerge from

hibernation, reproduce, and either die, move on, or return to sleep in the mud until next year.

Hydric Soils

Standing knee-deep in mud or squishing through a boggy meadow, it probably seems obvious that wetland soils are... wet. However, when they do dry out, other features become important in determining what is or isn't a hydric soil. Bacteria and other microscopic organisms living in water-logged soil change the soil's nature by concentrating certain types of minerals and gasses. Their activities can create a rotten-egg smell, reddish-colored dirt surrounding plant roots, and soil flecked with rusty-red and greyish-blues. Hydric soils also contain lots of decaying plants.

Hydrophytic Vegetation

Vegetation is the easiest aspect of a wetland to see and describe. Although some species like Doug fir occasionally grow in wetlands, others such as willow may only exist in this environment. Wetland plants must be able to tolerate low

oxygen, very wet conditions, and grazing animals attracted to the lush green of a wet area. In the Umpqua Watershed, willows put out prop roots, while rushes have hollow stems allowing them to get oxygen down to their roots. Sedges are tough and fibrous and have razor-sharp leaves to deter grazing elk, deer, and even cows. The waxy coating of *skunk cabbage* leaves keep water levels inside the plant constant, while smelly poisons warn predators away -- at least during the growing season.

The United States has lost slightly more than 50% of its wetlands since 1610 -- that's 116 million acres paved, drained, and filled of the original 215 million acres. In Oregon, we've done better at only a 38% loss of our state's original 880,000 acres, but wetlands support the health and livelihood of both human and wild communities. We cannot afford to lose these valuable places. ❖ (To be continued next issue)

Jen Shaffer is a graduate student in Environmental Studies at the University of Oregon. She is writing her thesis on wetland mitigation in the Coos Watershed. Jen and her husband live in Roseburg.

UPDATE on North Umpqua Trails

The last issue of our newsletter told you about the Upper North and Warm Springs timber sales near Lemolo Lake in the Diamond Lake Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest. This is almost 10,000 log truck loads of old-growth forests (48 mmbf), much of it from roadless areas, like the Dread and Terror Ridge. (Where logging units are planned right over the Dread and Terror recreation trail). An incredible 21 miles of new roads and 16 acres of helicopter landings will be built and used to haul our forests away.

In our last report we told you that the logging could come to within 800 feet of the very popular North Umpqua hiking trail. **We were wrong.** We have since found out that the logging could be immediately adjacent to the

North Umpqua hiking trail, in the section above Lemolo lake!

The Forest Service did not disclose this information previously because they "*did not think it was a significant issue*" since the unit adjacent to the trail is "*only*" a thinning unit.

In our last report, we told you that the high elevation Mountain Hemlock forests were to be "*regenerated*" (AKA clearcut), in spite of the Forest Services' own study that recommended not clearcutting in the Mountain Hemlock Zone. The importance of this was confirmed when we visited a site where some of the units are proposed for logging, and immediately adjacent to them were decades-old clearcuts that have NEVER regenerated -- have virtually never grown back any trees. They were "*failed plantations*".

The Umpqua National Forest responded that the study recommended something different than what was being logged. "*A Mountain Hemlock Stand is not a Mountain Hemlock Zone*". In our appeal, we quoted from Jerry Franklin, a very respected Forest Service scientist (for instance, he engineered the DEMO study projects on the Umpqua). Jerry Franklin wrote a book defining "Forest Zones" and our appeal quoted his definition of the Mountain Hemlock Zone.

The Umpqua National Forest responded: "*Jerry Franklin has his opinion, and we have ours.*"

Current Status

Our appeal is currently undergoing formal review. We should have the results within 45 days. ❖

Written by UW's Forest Monitor, Francis Eatherington

Prime Fish Habitat Endangered on Canton Creek

(Continued from page 1)

nal mature stand" and "reduces the wood volume production".

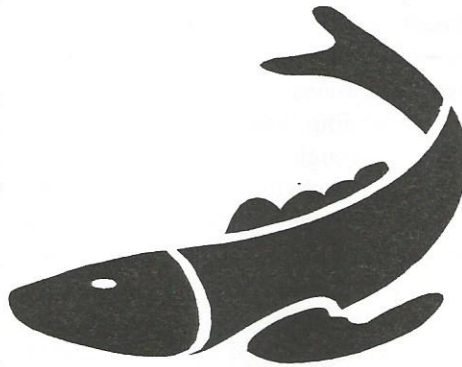
We contend that "wood volume production" on public lands should take a back-seat to protection and restoration of Key Watersheds. Following environmental laws must be the top priority instead. The law says that production targets for public land must be considered *"an effect, not a goal"* of the Northwest Forest Plan. *"Therefore, harvests within areas specified for habitat protection will be greatly curtailed."*

In spite of the law, BLM says that clearcutting Christopher Folly *"would best meet the land use objectives"* that *"Cash flows occur now..."*. BLM never once considered the long-term monetary and ecological benefits of retaining old-growth forests. Instead, BLM puts forth the incredible statement that by clearcutting this forest, *"Stand growth and health are maintained."* Even more alarming, BLM recommends that *"chemical herbicides... will be prescribed at the earliest possible time"* in this critically important Key Watershed.

Protect the Best, Restore the Rest

Protection of the best places first is the number one rule of conservation biology. In spite of the already degraded condition of Canton Creek, it is one of our best places left. The Fisheries Report says that most of the streams within the Christopher Folly

units *"serve as important contributors of cool water and gravel"* to Canton Creek. *"Canton Creek is an important watershed for both steelhead and cutthroat,"*



especially summer steelhead. During one monitoring period, Canton Creek appeared to have even better fish habitat than either Rock Creek or Little River. Because imperiled fish depend so heavily on Canton Creek, recreational fishing is prohibited.

The Forest Plan says that *"Key Watersheds"* like Canton Creek, *"are highest priority for watershed restoration."* BLM is not fulfilling their *"highest priority"* obligations by clearcutting 215 acres. In BLM's own assessment of Canton Creek, they say: *"Where canopy has been removed or altered by timber harvesting in Canton Creek, snow pack accumulation is expected to be greater with loss of interception, and heat transfer to the snow would be more efficient, which accelerates melt during a warm rain-on-snow event. This condition has the potential to*

produce greater water delivery to the soil which could contribute to increased peak-flow."

Fish have evolved to bury their eggs to a certain depth in the gravel based on moderate peak flows of the past. But as studies have pointed out, the legacy of past road-building and timber harvest has caused significant and long-term increases in peak water flow. Higher flows mean higher energy levels, which means greater ability to carry sediment, which means that spawning gravels will be scoured deeper and more often and that sediment will be delivered in different patterns. This degrades populations of fish and aquatic invertebrates as well as our drinking water.

BLM's watershed analysis continues: *"Flood peaks, especially the largest floods caused by warm air and rain on melting snow, have accompanied landslides and debris flows in Canton Creek. These large accelerated sediment pulses have impacted the watershed aquatic habitat, water quality, and created chronic winter sediment sources."* 80% of Christopher Folly's proposed clearcuts are in the transient snow zone -- very sensitive to *"warm air and rain on melting snow"*.

But when it comes to BLM's #1 priority, clearcutting our forests, the findings of the Canton Creek watershed analysis are simply word-smithed away. One of our Last Best Places is in jeopardy.

Watershed has 273.5 miles of roads

The three sub-watersheds containing most of the Christopher Folly tim-

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273.5 miles of roads

(Continued from page 10)

ber sale (Coon, Scaredman, and Camp Creek) have an **average of 6.7 miles of road criss-crossing every square mile**. Scientific studies have identified anything over 2 miles of roads per square mile to be detrimental to the watershed.

As we said earlier, BLM has pointed to some road repairs and decommissioning as their 'mitigation' for the degrading clearcutting. Specifically, BLM states they will decommission 2.7 miles of roads, and another 1.2 miles of roads will be removed from the road inventory because they *"decommissioned themselves."* Some road work will happen outside of the sale area, further north in Canton Creek. Even if BLM does count this decommissioning as part of the Christopher Folly sale, BLM is removing an insignificant amount of roads. The Canton Creek watershed has 273.5 miles of recorded logging roads (plus an unknown amount of "ghost roads" not in the database). BLM is removing about .01% of the known roads. This is insignificant when compared with the degrading nature of the large clearcuts proposed.

Highly-used Recreation Area

This timber sale violates the requirement that BLM *"visually manage"* areas of high recreation use. This is an area (close to Steamboat) that is one of BLM's highest-use recreation areas. **Scaredman campground will be surrounded by the proposed clearcuts** units within 1/4 mile. In addition to the campground, hunters and other recreationists camp right within one of the most beautiful units to be clearcut (unit 24d, picture on front page), where there is a well used fire ring and parking area. However, BLM says that just a few more clearcuts would go unnoticed by us: *"Hunters and other backcountry drivers would notice these cutting units in passing, but since this entire area has a history of logging as evidenced by other cutting units, these additional units would not be remarkable."* BLM is wrong. When we return next year to our favorite camping spots, there will be many remarks on their liquidation.

Say Something

Public forests such, as Christopher Folly, are the only refuge for imperiled fish and wildlife, our best hope for clean water sources, as well as the best recreation areas for people. Since private forests can never offer us these services, our public forests must be held to a higher standard. BLM can not continue with large old-growth clearcuts like the Christopher Folly timber sale. The official public comment period for Christopher Folly has ended, but you can tell BLM anything you want, whenever you want. 🗣️

Help Stop Christopher Folly!

Write them:

Bureau of Land Management
777 NW Garden Valley Blvd.
Roseburg, OR 97470

Written by Francis Etherington for UW's website.

Volunteers' Report

It is with enthusiasm that we begin this new year at Umpqua Watersheds Inc. Earlier this last summer I accepted an appointment as volunteer coordinator. Since that time I have been fortunate to meet and get better acquainted with many old and new friends, and supporters of our organization. Over the last several months a volunteer survey in conjunction with recruitment efforts has been conducted. The time donated to UW by the board, staff and members achieves results; timber sales stopped, court cases won, quarterlies printed and mailed, special events, info-booths to staff at the local events, web pages designed, articles to write, phone trees to staff!

This year we will begin to maintain regular scheduled hours at our Downtown office. Beginning **Friday Jan. 8th** Umpqua Watersheds office (**630 Jackson St. Roseburg, OR**) will be open every Friday from **10am to 8pm**. Come by for a visit, get the scoop on the latest hot issues, have a hot cup of java. Penny Lind (UW president) extends an afternoon invite to bring your sack lunch. We look forward to meeting our members as well as engaging the community in a positive manner that increases public awareness of watershed and resource extraction issues.

Let me take this time to remind all that UW extends it's welcome to any of our friends that would like to become more involved with the organization, please feel free to contact me if you'd like to discuss future volunteer involvement. As time goes on, it is my wish that the office be open five days a week (Tue-Sat) before the year 2000. 🗣️

Presently we are in need of volunteers for:

1. Membership Banquet (set-up, clean-up, security, etc.)
2. Francis Etherington (UW Inc. staff forest monitor) is seeking an experienced, dedicated, and dependable part time office assistant.
3. Help staff Spring Fair booth, phoning and other events.

Thanks For Your Support,

Terry Kilcullen

672-1298

terryk@wizzards.net

Memorable Quotes

"So many people are demoralized by politics these days, it's tempting to just shut down and give up. The reason I've stayed active in so many fights over the years is that I get to see the courage and the victories won in small communities all over the country by people with just one voice, like you and me. We are so lucky to live in this country, to have a voice. Use it or we lose it. Democracy means nothing without informed consent. Far too many have paid too high a price to have us just whine and walk away. I suggest donating time or money to the organizations working on those issues that concern you most. That's where my holiday gifts go."

Bonnie Riatt, environmentalist and political activist

UW's 3rd Annual Banquet

Former US Congressman Jim Weaver

co-sponsor of the Oregon Wilderness Act will be Keynote Speaker

Jan. 29th - Fri. Nite - 6pm

6pm - No Host Bar

7pm - Gourmet Vegetarian Dinner

8pm - Guest Speaker & Dessert

9pm - Dance to *Satin Swing* until midnight

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For more info call: 672-7065

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UW's 3rd Annual Banquet

Friday 6pm

January 29th

Elk Lodge - Roseburg

inside...

A Local History of EcoForest Certification *by David Parker*
Timber market "glutted with trees," says RFP *by Richard Chasm*
What is a Wetland? *by Jen Shaffer*
UPDATE on Diamond Lake Timber Sales *by Francis Eatherington*

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