



# 100 Valleys

A Quarterly Publication for the Supporters of Umpqua Watersheds, Inc  
An Oregon 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit

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## The US Forest Service Planning Rule Revision

One of the major policies that directly impacts all that you hold dear about our wild and scenic public lands is about to change. The many years of strident work exerted by the conservation community at large, and Umpqua Watersheds, in particular are a result of addressing issues associated with the Planning Rule utilized by the US Forest Service.

The Planning Rule is the product of Congress under the National Forest Management Act. The last time this management policy was changed occurred in 1982. Much of the clear cutting and ecological degradation of our National Forests were a direct result of previous planning rules and its USFS multi-use mandate. The loss of critical species and habitat, the preservation of what remains of native landscapes, the litigations and the continual effort to raise awareness in society at large regarding your stake in our publicly owned National Forest Lands often hinged directly on the Planning Rule. Even those areas of the past rules that did reasonably negotiate problems we are concerned with often fell to neglect or misinterpretation. To sum this up, the planning rule is something the conservation community should have at the front and center of its attention. It's important. The old rules didn't work and evidence of that is all around us.

For this reason Umpqua Watersheds has been tracking and participating extensively in the rule revision development. The new rule and planning process has the potential to change the way things are done. Untold valuable resources have been expended in the past because of lack of communication at best or a malicious attempt to end run conservation interests by resource industries at the worst. Law suits, although critically needed, are not cheap and should be a last resort. They are time consuming, require a high level of legal expertise and captivate the energies and attention of all stake holders on a large scale.

The Forest Service has been in the middle of all this. It created a culture of ambivalence toward actually accomplishing the stated purposes of its management act because of the courts. Much of what the agency does is done merely to meet procedural obligations rather than fulfill the NFMA mandate. Since this has been acknowledged, a totally new model for decision making is being proposed by the Agricultural Department of the US Government. This new model is based on

a framework composed of three phases; assessment, amendment and monitoring. The entirety of this new process is to be science based with stakeholder input on every level throughout a project's development. The hope is that participation and evaluation takes place early on and continually as a project goes forward.

**Restoration** is the stated goal of the new plan! The Forest Service Chief and the main organizers in Washington emphasized this over and again. From my perspective this presents a enormous change in direction. Although the agency has done a tremendous amount of restoration work it was never stated as the *primary goal* of the planning rule

### Be Careful What You Ask For

Members of Umpqua Watersheds Staff and Board have attended both regional, Portland based, and national, Washington DC based forums for the planning rule revision. At first look the new rule has tremendous potential for good or ill. The rule itself is designed to allow for the reallocation of funds to be spent on often neglected but essential aspects of monitoring the impact of entry into forest lands instead of litigation. Currently lawsuits are disgorging the coffers instead of meeting policy mandates and the forests' needs. In a real way this new development is a push back from the agency. One of our biggest complaints is that we have not been allowed to know the intentions of the agency until a proposal for action has been fully developed and released for the Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) process. Now we will have early participation.

Because projects are to be science based, Umpqua Watersheds is somewhat ahead of the curve. The UW Board of Directors has been developing a Science Advisory Council for over a year. Yes, scientific consensus can be hard to come by. Better to spend our money in the pursuit of a solid scientific base for right action than immerse ourselves in a political quagmire and go nowhere. The needs of the watershed are too great and political winds are too fickle.

This new plan offers the prospect of building a deeper level of understanding between stakeholders and the agency also. We tend to speak and see from the context of our own

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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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# From the Executive Director

Dear Umpqua Watershed Community,  
**Oh the Water, Get it My Self from the Mountain Stream, Van Morrison**

I would like to share some very important reasons why we need you to use whatever resources you have available to stand up and go out there no matter how many times you have done it before.

As a user and resident of Myrtle Creek, I have been concerned about summer low flows for many years and even more so with the new occurrence of toxic blue green algae – the same toxic algae that killed dogs in the Elk Creek drainage pacific lamprey larvae last summer at the mouth of Myrtle Creek. A recent OSU Department of Geography Master's thesis (Perry 2007) evaluated 54 years of water flow data from 8 paired watersheds on federal lands (including the Tiller Ranger District Experimental Forest) to determine how different harvest techniques affect stream flows. The results were not encouraging.

These long term data document dramatic reductions in summer flows resulting from too much regeneration harvest on the landscape. Apparently it causes a landscape full of unthrifty, young forest trees that suck the life out of the rest of the watershed sending the water into the air. Of course this results in lower summer flows. For me this is interesting since it is the opposite of what I was always told. That is, I was always told when you cut you get more water in the summer. Well yes, BUT not for long. The young trees use much larger amounts of water compared to the mature and older forests that are far more efficient and miserly in their water use. My deceased father in law having lived in the area since the 1930s observed this. He and his sons used to fish and water their garden from Big Lick Creek for many years but it went dry after extensive clear cut logging of the watershed in the 1960s and 70s.

This paper describes major loss of water when it is needed most, during summer low flows. Thirty years of my own experience has been that the forestry culture insists that you can't wait for science to tell you something but instead we just have to act (cut forest) and experiment as we go then figure it out later e.g. "adaptive management". Fifty four years of stream flow data tell us something is very wrong, but in the meantime the cutting continued. Huge monetary costs to the Treasury, water pollution that affects us all, and loss of our wildlife heritage taken from us for profits that a very few still enjoy.

Will the landscapes around us and the water they produce continue to be dominated by this condition?

Many of us live here because of the sense of freedom and independence we get from the wild and rural amenities the Umpqua Basin has to offer. These are all gifts of nature that others forget in their greed and efforts to create illusions of jobs. Imagine then how you can take this and all of the lessons learned and insist upon one very critical very important conservation practice, the Precautionary Principle that requires before any of these practices are done on any land that affects all of our waters there must be clear independent proof it will do no harm.

Without evidence or a proper landscape scale habitat inventory, we are told that the Myrtle Creek watershed needs to be a demonstration of more regeneration cutting to create "early seral" habitat. This logging would cut down 100 year old forest stands (now thrifty in their water use) and add to the young forest landscape that will use more water. Having 30 years of experience as a wildlife biologist who knows about "early seral" habitat, along with other forest habitats, this is an elixir of false hopes that will do more harm than good.

Oregon congressional representatives are threatening to pass a law to support more logging of this kind if the conservationists do not compromise to "break the log jam". Your creativity, willingness to be show up and be counted, and your precious time and resources are all needed to make this community a model of sustainability.

I hope you will  
Cindy

# Conservation

## The Curse of the “Three Legged Stool”

The terms and analogies that have traditionally been used to discuss ecological and social aspects of forest issues have in many cases become barriers to innovative thinking rather than tools for communication and understanding. A case in point: *The Three Legged Stool*.

This metaphor pops up in human discourse from time to time to represent three concepts that are perceived to be mutually dependent on each other – if one leg is missing, the stool falls over. A Google search of “three legged stool” returns over three hundred thousand hits referring to taxes, marketing, religion, sustainable development, etc. While this image resonates with our human sense of physical equilibrium, it doesn’t always reflect reality.

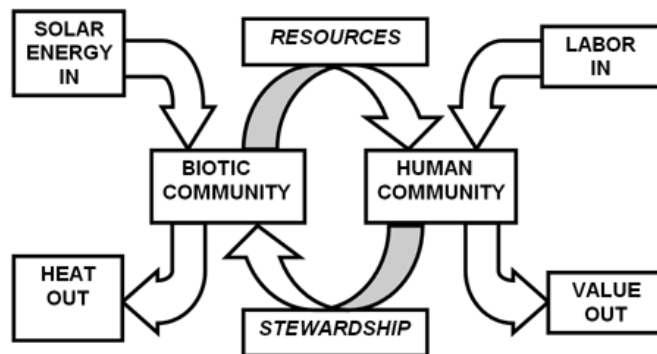
The three legged stool has struck again close to home. Umpqua Watersheds members are now actively engaged in yet another BLM initiative: “The Secretarial Forestry Pilot Project” initiated by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar at the request of our Oregon congressional delegation. As in earlier meetings, we have again been told by Secretary Salazar, our congressional delegation, BLM officials, the lead scientists, and members of the public that we need to consider the three legged stool of *economic, ecological* and *social* contributions from our forests (e.g. Roseburg BLM Collaborative Pilot, 2010; Franklin and Johnson, 2010; many others).

Unfortunately, this model obscures the fact that economics are a subset of social needs, and that a healthy economy is dependent on a healthy environment. In their excellent critique of this worn out metaphor, Dawe and Ryan (2002) point out that “... the environment is not and cannot be a leg of the sustainable development stool. It is the floor upon which the stool, or any sustainable development model, must stand. It is the foundation of any economy and social well-being that humanity is fortunate enough to achieve.”

In contrast to the familiar meaning of “community” as a cultural construct, ecologists use the term to mean “any ecologically integrated group of species of microorganisms, plants and animals inhabiting a given area.” (Sadava, et al., 2011). Unfortunately, neither concept of community acknowledges the other. The schism between humans and nature that began during the Renaissance still remains firmly embedded in our collective unconscious: humans stand apart from nature. The disconnect between the two communities allows western society to ignore the loss of the very biodiversity that sustains societies.

So how can we change our thinking to reintegrate these two communities? A more useful model than the three legged stool might be one that focuses on the inputs and outputs of an integrated *socioecological* system. This figure below is a graphic illustration of such an integrated system showing the links between humans and their environment.

### A SIMPLE SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM



**A Simple Socioecological System.** Note that human and biotic communities are linked by inputs of solar energy and labor, and produce heat and value as a result of those relationships.

This system requires *labor* and intelligence (*stewardship*) from the **human community**, and produces *resources* from the **biotic community** that add *value* to society ranging from hard cash to intangibles like fulfilling work, clean water, great recreational opportunities, and accessibility to wild places. Rather than isolating the three realms of society, economy and ecology, a socioecological approach emphasizes the interdependence between the human and biotic communities and the need to balance both for the health of each. Societies will have to begin discussing and calculating debits and credits to the environment to make sure we are increasing biodiversity, carbon storage, soil fertility and the quality of the forest products we harvest.

There is little argument that our forest landscapes are beyond the extremes of their historic conditions. Industrial forestry and fire control have dramatically changed the landscape in terms of forest demographics, wildlife habitat quality and distribution, and patterns of stand flammability (Colombarlo and Gavin, 2010; UNF WEEP Report, 2003).

Umpqua Watersheds’ position on this is clear: fix the broken parts first.

We continue to work with regional scientists and will soon release a set of restoration principles aimed at bringing our forested landscapes back to conditions that will stabilize and reverse their historic declines in native biodiversity over the last century and a half. In some cases, doing no harm will be the best policy. But in many cases, restoration will require activities that will produce logs, biomass and/or other forest products.

We believe that decisions on restoring and managing public lands, and what to do with the forest resources produced as a consequence, are most appropriately made by local stakeholders. That’s why we support the formation of local forest councils modeled after the highly success-



# Conservation Cont

ful watershed councils instituted by John Kitzhaber in the mid 1990s.

We also believe in adding maximum value to our forest products close to their source, and in maintaining the high skilled, high tech jobs to meet that goal. We support small-scale stewardship contracts that allow local forest workers to make a living wage doing fulfilling work. Merchantable logs and biomass should be first brought to local log sorting facilities to minimize hauling and handling and maximize quality and value. Log sorting makes more types and quantities of product available to a wider array of local small businesses than the current system that caters to a few large corporations.

The cultures that peopled these lands before the arrival of Europeans made no distinction between nature and themselves – their lives and deaths were completely entwined with those of all of the other species in their communities. It's interesting to note that the terms "ecology" and "economics" are both derived from the same Greek root: *oikos* or house. Abandoning the three legged stool will free us from artificial constraints on our thinking and allow us to envision a world that brings humans and their natural environment back under the same roof.

It's time we start becoming indigenous people in the Land of the Umpqua.

*Ken Carloni, President of the UW Board of Directors*

## AND BEYOND

The watersheds of the Coquille River System have been under assault by extractive interests for a long time. Beginning in the late 1880's and continuing to the present, logging has contributed large volumes of sediment to the river. Before 1878, the head of tide was located at the confluence of the Middle and South Forks, just upstream from Hoffman Wayside, on Highway 42. Today, it is near Myrtle Point, having been forced downstream nearly four miles by the accumulation of sediment on the river bottom.

At the January meeting of the Executive Board of the Coquille Watershed Association, it was reported that the South Fork of the Coquille owns the worst case of riparian erosion on the West Coast. The other forks are similarly degraded. Clear cut harvest practices conducted under the aegis of the Oregon Forest Practices Act continue to contribute sediment and high winter flow rates to these important salmon, trout and steelhead streams. Water quality samples gathered by the Oregon DEQ indicate unacceptable levels of pollution, including high temperatures, low summer flows, poor dissolved oxygen values, e coli contamination and more.

Rather than conduct their harvest operations so as to ameliorate this unfortunate condition, industrial timber companies and their real estate investment trusts continue to conduct extensive, short rotation clear cuts on private lands in the Coastal Range. This, when more enlightened methods, such as variable retention harvests and longer

rotations, larger riparian buffers, etc. are readily available. They persist in the aerial application of many tons of herbicides and petroleum based fertilizers annually. Shamefully, to try and prove that their practices do not harm our watersheds, these entities, often with cooperation from our public universities, invest in paired stream studies that remind this observer of the infamous testimony of tobacco company shills, who tried to prove the harmless nature of cigarettes.

Adding insult to injury, The Coquille Tribe, having been ceded over 5,000 acres of BLM forest land in the Middle Fork drainage, has chosen to "manage" it primarily for timber extraction. To date, they have conducted extensive harvest of increasingly rare low elevation, moist, mature and old growth forest. Despite stipulations from Congress to abide by the same strictures as adjoining federal holdings, they actively log in prime Northern Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet and salmon habitat. They insist on smaller stream buffers and want to log as much as 50% of the trees in those reduced riparian stands.

Alarmingly, the Coquilles have applied to Secretary of the Interior Salazar for inclusion in the BLM pilot program, currently being led by Drs. Jerry Franklin and Norm Johnson. One of the Coquilles' proposals calls for ceding ownership and/or management control of the Coos Bay Wagon Road lands, currently held by the Coos Bay District BLM, to the tribe to "manage" as they see fit.

Objections to this proposal and past and future tribal timber practices have been filed. Stay tuned to these pages for more information on tribal and private land clear cuts in the Coquille Watershed.

*Patrick Quinn, UW Board of Directors  
and Chair of the Outreach Committee*



Entrance to the Coquille Forest, Chu-aw Clau-She timber sale clearcut seen in the background. Photo by Francis Eatherington

## Planning Rule Revision Cont.

world view. Each agency has its own culture and it is not uncommon to distance stakeholders when the agency culture is alien. There really is a chance to build trust in the new matrix. Certainly there is plenty of opportunity for accountability all the way around.

The steps taken to bring actions forward that not only protect but restore ecological function on the landscape are very complex from a knowledge and process base. The new planning rule makes the way for stakeholders to actively participate in every step. Are we ready for that?

### We Should Be

Here is my appeal to you, dear reader. We have asked for and received the opportunity to be profoundly engaged in all matters that impact our National Forests and Wilderness lands. Our level of participation is directly proportional to our capacity to fully fortify the influence of our science panel through staff skills and time. To take full advantage of this new paradigm we will need a thorough financial commitment on the part of the conservation community. There will need to be a full time staff positions provided for conservation and restoration initiatives. It is pure folly to think our current staff could handle the immense work load the opportunities the new planning rule will afford. We have fought hard for this change. Now we must meet the challenge.

Our science council at present is operating on the largess of notable members of the academic community. We need to build a capacity that supports their work to holistically address the multifaceted needs of the forest and the community at large that impacts it. We have real dreams with viable answers because of you and your input.

All of our hard work to conserve and restore is coming to fruition in the form of genuine participation in restoration ecology. That's what the new planning rule affords. It has the potential to be a truly visionary step forward; only with our intimate and sincere commitment will it be successful. We must have a strong funding base to uphold our end of the commitment. Building this cooperative base now will insure readiness when the new planning rule is implemented.

### Do You Want to Discuss This?

As Chair of the Restoration Committee I would like to invite any and all of you who have an interest in taking advantage of the new planning paradigm to discuss it with me. The ball is in our court. Let's not let this opportunity to express ourselves as people of place pass us by.

I have reasonably detailed documentation and notes from the planning rule forums. Presently we have a window of time to comment on the current draft of the rule. That period ends May 16th of this year. Current projects developed under the old planning rule will go forward but the new rule is proposed to be released by the end of this year. Let's hit the ground running!

I can be contacted at stanley@surcp.org

*Stanley Petrowski, UW Vice President of the Board of Directors  
and Chair of the Restoration Committee*

## Changing Roadside Spray Policies

Spring time roadside spraying will begin again around Douglas County in April and May. When herbicides are used along roadsides, people can be exposed while driving, walking the dog, bicycling or spending time in their yards. People are becoming concerned about how this use of herbicides is impacting human health and the environment. More and more, a roadside strip of brown and dying vegetation is not an acceptable sight.

You can establish no-spray zones in your neighborhood as well as demand adequate notification.

First you must enter into a "No-Spray Agreement" with the County. This agreement can be obtained at the Douglas County Public Works Department on 433 Rifle Range Road in Roseburg. After completing the simple form you will be issued signs to be placed on your property boundaries along the road. The road crews will not honor homemade signs, only the county issued signs.

I encourage and challenge communities in Douglas County to pursue changing the roadside spray policies in their neighborhoods. Wouldn't it be terrific if hundreds or thousands of people posted their properties?

Together we can make a change.

*Chris Rusch, UW Board of Directors*

## Dodging a Nuclear Bullet on the Umpqua

The Japanese Tsunami which overwhelmed six nuclear reactors this month should remind Umpquans about how close we came to having our own reactor on the Umpqua River. In the mid 70's Pacific Power and Light began to implement plans to build four Nuclear reactors on the Main Umpqua River in Umpqua. They also planned to build a dam on Little River which would have provided the extra water needed during the summer months. An Oakland woman, Charlene Nichols, with her family only a mile from the planned site, began inquiring about PP&L's plans. She even visited the Trojan Nuclear Plant on The Columbia River in NW Oregon. What she saw did not convince her to support their plans. She organized opposition and PP&L eventually dropped their attempt to build a nuclear reactor on the Umpqua 15 miles from Roseburg. It would have been 35 years old now; the same age as the Japanese facilities. As the northwest prepares for the possibility of a major earthquake we can be grateful for the group led by Charlene Nichols who kept us from having to face a potential disaster.

*Bob Allen, UW Board of Directors*

Thank you to McKenzie River  
Gathering for helping continue  
Umpqua Watersheds important  
conservation and education  
programs.



# Restoration

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## State of the Beaver 2011

The State of the Beaver 2011 Conference held once again in Canyonville, Oregon this year was another resounding success. Presenters and attendees from around the globe participated in the event. Tremendous strides are being made in recognizing the critical role beavers play as nature's ecological engineers in habitat restoration and species population viability. The social and environmental value of beavers stands out not only as a focal keystone species but as a real solution to the multitude of issues confronting the conditions of our wild and natural landscapes. Castor canadensis is truly a species whose rejected and despised status in our society must be changed and is changing through efforts like this conference.

This is in no small part as a result of Umpqua Watersheds partnering with local and national institutions to raise awareness and actively participate in projects on the ground that focus on beaver ecology. Indeed, Cindy Haws, Umpqua Watersheds' Executive Director and on staff Biologist/Educator was a major supporter of the conference this year. 60 High School students attended the conference through no small exercise of Cindy's organization skills. The students were able to hear and engage scientists from Canada, Europe and all over the USA as they addressed climate change and the impact beavers have on drought conditions.

Beavers are able to retain water in our watersheds allowing for the waters' slow and natural release over the hot summer months. This means cool clear water for fish, wildlife and humans when we need it most. Beavers uphold and maintain critical ecological functions in our world and it needs to be shouted from the roof tops. They are natural and elegant problem solvers.

Thank you Umpqua Watersheds for helping make this year's conference more than worth the effort.

*Beaver Advocacy Committee*

*South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership*

*beavers@surcp.org*

## Volunteer Work at UW

"When in the course of human events..." are very true and profound words in the context of the document they are originally found. Currently we (Umpqua Watersheds), are in a whole bunch of courses of human events, along with all kinds of flora, fauna, and mineral events too! This is both an exciting time and a growing time, for UW, and we need your help. Yes, everybody paying their yearly dues or making charitable donations is always welcome because your membership helps to keep the doors open and keep things chugging along. The Board of Directors and the staff of UW all know and realize that people have important priorities and responsibilities, like their families, career, and a myriad of other events that tug at us and that make life challenging and complex. We are all right there with you on that score!

We do need help though – and by that, I mean volunteer help. Over the history of UW, people have stepped up in many ways, to make the organization progress and move forward. So many facets have helped to grow UW into an organization that has maintained its focus and position in the conservation community...the most important of which are our volunteers! People like Ed and Mary Cooley, Betsy Dean, Jim Ince, Kathy Shayler, Leslee Sherman, and Patrick Starnes, to name a few, have all created some big footprints for others to follow, and follow we will, but we need more people to come forward and fill the gaps and voids. We have a small core network of volunteers that needs to broaden its numbers, widen its scope, and deepen its commitment to the many issues and matters that are occurring.

Take for instance this newsletter you're reading right now. The hours of research and work put into some of these articles, is mind-boggling, and yet volunteers do the bulk of it. It's amazing the effort it takes to edit, layout, print, collate, fold, label, and tape the newsletter...but volunteers do that and make it fun! More volunteers would make it easier and more fun! Plus there's the pizza...

So here's a suggestion that may help with the transition into volunteering. We have 4 committees; Restoration/Conservation, Education, Outreach, and Wild on Wilderness (WOW). Join one or all of those committees and discover what is going on, what stirs your passion, where you can fit in, and where you can help. From there, maybe you could help with accounting and budgets? Or perhaps help with grant writing and reviewing? Or maybe you have an inner Martha Stewart that can organize a closet or a storage room - because we could use that kind of help too. As you all know, we have events like the annual banquet, River Appreciation Day, and the Umpqua Brew Fest that are always in need of both take-charge hands and helping hands.

As a place to go where everybody knows your name, the UW office is never going to pass for Cheers, at least not at first. If I hadn't become first a volunteer, and later a Board member, it would not have become the place where I do things that I firmly believe are for the greater good of our community and our organization. It can be the same for you. We need your help and while there may not be a lot of glory in what needs done, it is very much appreciated and satisfying.

*Buzz Long, UW Board of Directors  
and Board Liaison to the WOW Committee*

## Volunteers Needed

For more information contact us at **541.672.7065**, email us [uw@umpqua-watersheds.org](mailto:uw@umpqua-watersheds.org) or visit the office at 539 SE Main St, Downtown Roseburg.



# Wilderness

## Wild On Wilderness

The WOW committee is gearing up for events that highlight our Crater Lake Wilderness proposal.

WOW and UW landed two tables at the UO Public Interest Environmental Law Conference where we were able to commit at least one person at the table at all times. Our volunteers continually offered information about the Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal and other activities UW undertakes. The Crater Lake Wilderness Banner that was unveiled for the UW Banquet in February was a visible draw.

At the Spring Fair, the WOW committee shared a table that provided the passers-by with information about Umpqua Watersheds and the Crater Lake Wilderness proposal.

The Earth Day, "Dance for the Salmon" to be held at the Glide Community Center, (the same place that the famous Glide WildFlower show is held) is scheduled for Saturday, April 16th with the doors open at 6pm. The event showcases 4 musical groups, and will have delicious food and beverages available for purchase.

The actual Earth Day celebration in Douglas County will be the following Saturday, March 23rd at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. WOW will be sharing information at the Umpqua Watersheds table. These events provide an opportunity to familiarize our neighbors with the proposal and the reasons why it is ripe for this time.

WOW continues to refine our work plan, outlining our plans for the slide show presentation that will entertain and inform people in 10 urban centers throughout Oregon through stunning photographs of the areas within the Umpqua National Forest that are part of the Crater Lake Wilderness proposal. This tour will engage the audience in explaining some of the critical needs for this wilderness expansion. More of our committee needs include targeting funds for development of a new brochure that we will inform people interested in supporting our efforts.

We are also looking to contact our wilderness sponsors with fresh updates on our proposal and ways to further engage their interests.

## Wild Wilderness Meeting

On Thursday, February 17th, Bob Allen, Bob Hoehne, and I took a drive north to Eugene to attend a meeting of wilderness advocates. This quarterly meeting is sponsored by Erik Fernandez of Oregon Wild. Eric hosts these meetings of like-minded organizations to keep everyone up-to-date on wilderness initiatives around the state.

We arrived a little late, as Mother Nature decided to dump 4" of snow on Roseburg the evening before. We were also missing our fearless wilderness leader, the lovely Ms. Susan Applegate, as she was dealing with a severe bout of the flu. We were not the only folks that got snowed in though but all-in-all there was a great representation from around the state.

Seated at the table though were representatives from Oregon Wild, American Rivers, The Wilderness Society, Oregon Natural Desert Association, and the Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, to name a few. All had a great deal of knowledge with what can and needs to be done to preserve wilderness for future generations.

Our time of arrival couldn't have been better because we were barely seated when Erik asked what was going on in the Umpqua. This is where Bob Hoenhe, who has been involved with both UW and wilderness issues for a very long time, can really shine! Bob took the floor and gave a great introduction to what has been done here, what is in progress, and what we hope to see happen in the future – that being the Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal. I believe we gained some new-found respect from our colleagues when he was done.

Aside from a lot of passionate talk about specific areas that people are trying to create or preserve as wilderness, there was a great deal of information put forth about the current/new members of Congress and how they are (or more likely, ARE NOT!), going to be onboard with creating new wilderness areas – particularly in the western states. This is something that we all are going to have to watch.

We left the meeting with a great deal of information, new names and contacts, and a positive outlook on the future. Erik will be hosting another of these in the months ahead, and we offered that if it meant a day trip to Crater Lake, we would be more than willing to host the meeting in Roseburg. If and when that happens, we will keep everyone posted.

*Buzz Long, UW Board of Directors  
and Board Liaison to the WOW Committee*

## Dues For News

Umpqua Watersheds will be updating our membership list in the near future. A number of you who have not renewed your membership have still been receiving courtesy copies. In order to make the best use of our member's generous contributions, we will be deleting non-paying supporters from our mailing list. To stay informed of conservation issues that threaten **YOUR** forests, please renew your membership today – we can't do it without you!

### Update Your Membership

Visit [www.umpqua-watersheds.org](http://www.umpqua-watersheds.org) and click the Donate Button  
Come by the UW Office and pick up a membership envelope.

## COME JOIN US!

The WOW committee is held at 7pm the last Wednesday of each month.

Contact Susan Applegate for further information:  
541-849-3500

# Education

## February and March have been full of field work for students in the Green Fire and Wild Roots Program.

In February, Over 40 students from local and non-local secondary schools to Umpqua Community College Wildlife Biology students attended the 2nd annual State of the Beaver Conference in Canyonville, Oregon to learn about the importance of restoring beaver to water quality, quantity, and salmon restoration. Many proven techniques were demonstrated that address land owner and agency issues. Scientists from around the world gave presentations of studies quantifying the reasons why we can and must bring this keystone species back to do the jobs it once did to restore our once healthy and productive ecosystems. Students from Douglas High in Winston, Oregon are responding to this need as a part of the Green Fire Project, and are gearing up for a habitat restoration evaluation on Olalla Creek. The community of Myrtle Creek, Oregon is also working with Umpqua Watersheds and the Green Fire program to identify opportunities for students to do similar research and restoration in their local watershed.

On March 9th Umpqua Watersheds' (UW) wildlife biologist Cindy Haws led twenty one high school students, a Douglas High Science Teacher, and Wildlife Safari Field Science Education Coordinator in the completion of amphibian surveys at Blue Bluffs Pond and adjacent wetlands in the Burnt Creek drainage of the Tiller Ranger District. The purpose of this endeavor was to establish baseline monitoring information of amphibian population condition before the Ranger District and UW, with its school partners, begin restoration efforts.



This wetland is one of many in the Tiller Forest district impacted by dredging. The area was dynamited in the 1970s and 80s to deepen ponds in order to create fishing recreation in what once was a complex fishless pond wetland. In addition to simplifying the wetland habitat structure and loss of riparian vegetation (due to B horizon soil left on top of the banks surrounding the pond), the pond has experienced recreational impacts such as shooting western pond turtles, a sensitive species, and impacts to the native amphibians from introduction of fish. Heavy timber harvest surrounding the pond has also caused high sediment loading and changes in water availability and understory moisture conditions.

Students broke into three different survey crews where each surveyed separate ponds and wetlands in the area. After a rewarding survey, Leonard and Lois Huston of the South Umpqua Community Rural Partnership Beaver Advocacy Committee [beavers@surcp.org](mailto:beavers@surcp.org) joined the class during lunch in a short discussion about beaver restoration program in the area.

On March 10th, 2 college student volunteers accompanied UW wildlife biologist Cindy Haws to the Upper Andreioff Pond to monitor amphibian populations. This pond serves as a reference pond due to its relative intact condition compared to others impacted by development and harvest activities. It is one of only a few known wetlands that still have fairy shrimp due to not having been stocked with fish. Red Legged Frog egg masses were counted along with fresh Cascade Frog egg masses (a place where both species breeding habitat overlaps) and Pacific Chorus Frog masses. Now trained in the use of the protocol for survey these students will be leading other students in the upcoming weeks to continue surveying as many of the ponds as we can before the breeding season ends. This is one of the best, most efficient means to estimate amphibian populations.

On March 11& 12th, Cindy Haws lead a 2 day trip to the Klamath National Wildlife Refuge where Umpqua Community College students and High School students



could practice bird field identification skills and learn about wetland history, issues in protecting them and the significant biological diversity they provide. Student's, comments after the trip were about how unaware they were of how an experience like this would make them feel. They never imagined how they could become skilled at seeing and experiencing so many different beautiful birds and how enjoyable it could be.

Student's, comments after the trip were about how unaware they were of how an experience like this would make them feel. They never imagined how they could become skilled at seeing and experiencing so many different beautiful birds and how enjoyable it could be.

**We are grateful for the contributions of  
Charlotte Marten Foundation and  
the Tiller Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest for  
helping making these education programs possible.**





# Watersheds

## Oregons River Appreciation Day

By 1987 the Roseburg Urban Sanitary Authority had finished its new sewage treatment plant along the S. Umpqua River in Roseburg. At the time they thought that having a back-up electrical generator system would be a needless expense and scrapped the idea. During several subsequent power outages, untreated sewage overflowed and flooded the river system. Concerned local "greens" protested this situation in front of the county courthouse and brought pressure to bear through the media. R.U.S.A. gave in and purchased a system of emergency power for failures. No power failures have re-occurred in 24 years.

The same "greens" decided to honor the river's value to the community by holding a free music festival on the river at River Forks Park. They decided to make the third Saturday in July an annual River Appreciation Day, and asked John Kitzhaber, then Oregon Senate President, to try to pass a bill which would make this a day to honor rivers throughout the state. He did just that. The third Saturday in July is RIVER APPRECIATION DAY throughout the state of Oregon. Hoping to see the recognition spread to other communities, Umpqua Watersheds adopted the event, moving it around Douglas County each summer. This year will celebrate the 25th anniversary of River Appreciation Day at Whistler's Bend Park in Glide.

*Bob Allen, UW Board of Directors*

*Bob Hoehne, Wild On Wilderness Committee*

## Join Us at the Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of River Appreciation Day

Come join Umpqua Watersheds members and friends at the 25th Annual River Day and River Float in Glide on July 16th, 2011. We will be celebrating the values and legacy of Oregon's and the world's rivers alongside the North Umpqua at Whistler's Bend Park. There will be food, music, a river float, educational and craft booths and a Disc Golf Tournament throughout the park for three days. We will be camping at the park on Friday the 15th and Saturday the 16th. The float will begin at Colliding Rivers Boat ramp and end at about noon at the stage area at Whistler's Bend Park. The stage will open at noon and here will be a variety of music and fun until 8pm. Bring your picnics, boats, lounge chairs, camping gear and dancing shoes. Our event is free but there will be a special reduced rate for camping per tent. Last year it was \$5 and we hope it will be the same this year. Join us on the fabulous North Umpqua River this summer. See you there!

*Bob Allen, UW Board of Directors*

*Bob Hoehne, Wild On Wilderness Committee*

## UW & WOW at PIELC

On the weekend of March 4th-6th, Umpqua Watersheds (UW) and the Wild on Wilderness (WOW) Committee had its presence felt and known at the 29th annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC) at the University of Oregon. The theme for this year's conference was, Turning the Tides: Creating a Clean and Green Future. With keynote speakers ranging from Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer, to Cuba's Humberto Rios Labrada, to India's Dr. Vandana Shiva, and with over 100 panels convening on a wide range of topics, it was truly a gathering of people that have great concern for our environment. The incredible amount of energy and passion for what they are doing to make a difference was in the air, every minute of every day!

UW and WOW had tables right in the thick of things and we could not have asked for a better location to put our literature, maps, and sign-up sheets. What was most impressive to me was that it seemed that everyone that stopped to talk to us had genuine interest in the things we are doing. Those of us that manned the tables – Anne Dorsey, Cindy Haws, MA Hansen, Susan Applegate, Tullia Upton, Bob Allen, Ken Carloni, Paddy Quinn, and I, had a great time getting re-acquainted with familiar faces and meeting new folks that are on the same page with us.

Along with the incredible array of A-List keynote speakers, the 116 panels (I counted them!) that were presented covered the gamut of environmental concerns and issues at the international, national, regional, state, and local levels. A few of the topics covered were:

- Environmental Impact Assessments in Estonia, Hungary and Slovakia.
- BP Oil Spill Litigation;
- Federal Forest Policy Folly: Privatization of the Commons (which featured both our ED, Cindy Haws, and President, Ken Carloni as panelists);
- Why Nestle Should Not Be Allowed to Bottle Water in the Columbia River Gorge – Including Legal Arguments and a Track Record of Corporate Irresponsibility;
- Oregon's Coastal State Forests: Safeguarding Our Ecosystem Services;
- Klamath-Siskiyou Discussion and Documentary: A Wild American Forest.

Believe me, though some of the above titles may read or sound a little dry, nothing could have been farther from the truth! The speakers all conveyed an incredible amount of energy, knowledge and passion for what they are fighting against and for.

Next year, and we will assume it will be the 1st weekend in March, my wife and I are going to be there all four days and take in as much as we can! This is quite possibly one of the most important environmental events in this country, and it's right in our backyard! Go...and be prepared to be inspired!

*Buzz Long, UW Board of Directors*

*and Board Liaison to the WOW Committee*

# Watersheds Update

## Visitor from Canada



Hello All:

My name is Tullia and I'm a new volunteer at UW. I've been brought on to help with outreach but have bigger plans for creating a monitoring position here at Umpqua Watersheds.

Let me start by telling you all a little bit about myself. I have a B.A. Geography from the University of Ottawa and a M.Sc. (Natural Resources and Environmental Studies) from the University of Northern British Columbia. My research interests are broad and include arctic and alpine hydrology, soil science, snow science, meteorology and water quality analysis. I love water, frozen, liquid or vapor.

My M.Sc. project involved characterizing the contribution of snow melt to soil moisture and quantifying the persistence of moisture from liquid (rainfall) events versus snowmelt in spring. The study area I worked in was in a forest management area, where the Ministry of Forests was running a long-term study on harvesting to preserve 'optimal' caribou habitat. As such, I was able to observe from a qualitative view how vegetation affects water storage and view, first-hand, the effects of deforestation on water supply and peak flows.

These days, I am interested in water quality monitoring and validating new tools for looking at sediment transport and composition. I have plans to start my Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences at Oregon State University this upcoming September. I will be using mineral magnetism to monitor in-stream sediments. This technique is currently used to determine source type and origin of sediments from sediment cores (taken from lakes, ponds, marine sediments, etc...). My project would use this method to look at fluctuations in sediment yield and composition over time, allowing for determination of point and non-point sources of pollution and more informed decisions for planning and remediation of polluted sites. I look forward to working with you and if anyone wants to volunteer some hands to build sediment traps or deploy them... let me know.

## Introducing New and Returning Board Members

Umpqua Watersheds is pleased to announce the addition of four members to our Board of Directors: Bob Allen, Richard Chasm, Anne Dorsey and Jasmine Filley.

Bob and Richard were on the board when UW first incorporated in 1995, and both have roots in the environmental movement that go back beyond that. Bob is a retired nurse and was an early treasurer for UW. He was instrumental in securing our 501(c)(3) non-profit status and is returning after a several year break. Bob will be working to strengthen the lines of communication between the Board of Directors and past UW leaders on our Council of Advisors.

Richard was raised in Douglas County and is a wealth of information on the history of timber industry, having worked in area mills and forests before becoming a realtor. He is a member of the Partnership for Umpqua Rivers, and has remained active in that organization for the last 7 years. With his real estate background, Richard has a keen interest in bringing a land conservation trust to fruition on the Umpqua.

Anne Dorsey is an artist, teacher, community activist and small woodlands owner. She served ably on the board for a number of terms during the last decade and is re-joining the board after a few years' hiatus.

Jasmine brings welcome youth and enthusiasm to the board along with a background in wildlife biology and college administration. She and Exec. Dir. Cindy Haws are working on a promising collaboration between UCC and UW to develop a Wildlife Technician program at the College.

We are thrilled to have such a wonderful mix of deep environmental history and fresh perspectives to keep our board nimble and energized. If you happen to run into any of these folks, please thank them for stepping up and taking a leadership role in our community!

**Thank you to The Tides Foundation for helping continue Umpqua Watersheds important conservation programs.**

**TIDES FOUNDATION**

# 15th Annual Banquet & Silent Auction

This year's annual banquet was held 12 February, 2011 at Umpqua Community College. Volunteers successfully orchestrated the event under guidance of UW's Operations Manager, Chris Roe. Good job, Chris and thanks a bunch volunteers! Also, a special thanks goes out to UW's, Courtney Gallimore, who was also on-site to assist with managing the front of house displays and 'money' tree.

The Silent Auction was abound with beautiful baskets, books and interesting excursion packages such as a fishing trip and a night in a tree-house. There were several pieces of unique art and furniture available for auction, all donated by our faithful volunteers, members and supporters. Many of the items were handmade, reflecting the love and care our supporters have not only for the watershed but for their own hobbies and interests that help make Umpqua a special home for all of us.

Keynote speakers for the event included Mr. Chris Maser and Dr. Dominick DellaSala. Dr. DellaSala, spoke about the destruction of rainforests, showing lovely pictures from around the world. His message was clear, we have already lost too much of these precious places to ignore that clear-cutting is still going on. He urged us to take note of how deforestation affects people, wildlife and the Earth as a whole and urged us all to act in such a way as to 'let the trees be heard'. As he ended his presentation with a Bruce Cockburn song..."If a tree falls", the common sentiment of loss resonated through the room. For anyone who hasn't heard this song before, please go to YouTube and listen to it NOW. You might cry a little and that's okay.

Chris Maser spoke of language and changing how we use it so that our words reflect reality and iterate the connections between things. Drawing on examples from his own childhood he explained how our language shapes the actions we take to conserve or restore our surroundings. He talked about his mother teaching him not to waste, referring to darning his socks when he was a boy. Chris advised the audience to listen to children and be aware of how wasteful actions and empty meanings influence their actions and hence the overall health of our ecosystems. His last comment was that we should replace the word 'watershed' with 'catchment', as the latter word describes the ability of the watershed to capture and retain water as opposed to the implication of shedding that is inherent in the current descriptor, 'watershed'. I'm not too sure about this... 'watershed' has a nicer ring to it and if we really want to encompass both meanings (water and storage), perhaps the word 'basin' is more appropriate. That's just my opinion.

Overall, the banquet was a huge success. Umpqua Watersheds Inc. raised approximately \$7000 from the event, an improvement over last year. A very special thank you goes out to all our volunteers and supporters. Without you, there is no Umpqua Watersheds.

*Tullia Upton, UW Outreach Volunteer*

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