



# 100 Valleys

*A Quarterly Publication for the Supporters of Umpqua Watersheds, Inc*

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## Changing Hats...

Esteemed friends and colleagues: After four years as President of Umpqua Watersheds' Board of Directors, I am stepping down from that position to switch hats with Thomas McGregor. I'm proud to announce that Thomas has taken on the Presidency, and I will be moving to his former position chairing the Education Committee.

It has been a real honor to serve with Thomas and the rest of my dedicated colleagues on the UW Board. The last four years have seen many challenges for Umpqua Watersheds, but our hardy little organization continued to evolve and grow in effectiveness throughout that time. While Monitoring and Conservation continue to be important concerns of the Board, we have broadened our work to include more Restoration and Education work along with a growing campaign for a dedicated Crater Lake Wilderness lead by Susan Applegate and the Wild on Wilderness Committee.

Under Stan Petrowski's able leadership, the Restoration Committee continues to work with the Umpqua National forest, the South Umpqua Rural Community Project, the Partnership for Umpqua Rivers, the Cow Creek Band, Lomakatsi Restoration Project and other partners toward implementing restoration forestry practices in the Elk Creek watershed. At the same time we continue to build partnerships for positive change, we strongly oppose the continued use of suction dredge gold mining and the severe damage it does to spawning gravels for Pacific Lamprey and other fish runs that are in steep decline. Stay tuned to Buzz Long's wit and wisdom in the Watersheds Moments to follow these developments and to learn how you can help.

Thomas McGregor has been instrumental in bringing the youthful drive and energy of VISTA/AmeriCorps mem-

bers to Umpqua Watersheds' Education program -- our second VISTA, Roland Wang, has been successful in winning grants that will continue to serve hundreds of Douglas County Youth in the coming year. And with the help of a Title II grant written by our newest board member, Kasey Hovik, we now have a crew of 6 youth and an experienced crew leader hired to work with Forest Service biologists to do wildlife surveys on the Umpqua National Forest. The crew is currently enrolled in Wildlife Biology and Field Botany courses at UCC funded by that grant, with more hands-on training to follow in the coming weeks.

I can't tell you how excited I am to have Thomas' energy and experience at the helm of Umpqua Watersheds -- I believe that he is uniquely suited to lead UW forward to a greater level of community leadership. I am also looking forward to devoting more of my time into chairing the Education Committee, and continuing to put my shoulder to the Restoration wheel.

The thanks I have for the support and encouragement we get from our dedicated members, the energy of our cheerful volunteers, and the critical donations we get from our White Knights over the last four years cannot be overstated. It is what keeps us going when the meetings get long, the nights get late, the politics are fierce, and the going is hard. Keep standing with us and helping us usher in a stronger community based on mutual respect for our neighbors and for the lands that sustain us.

Ken Carloni

Umpqua Watersheds Board Member

## Our Mission:

*Dedicated to the protection and restoration of the ecosystems of the Umpqua Watershed and beyond through education, training and advocacy.*

## Conservation Committee News

Increasingly, Umpqua Watersheds has been looking to the future. In that vein, the critical disciplines of education and restoration have moved to the forefront of the UW board's attentions. However, to paraphrase the old saw: history ignored is history repeated.

With that in mind, the conservation committee has been active on several fronts over the past few months. We have applied our energies to various issues related to the outdated and poorly functioning Oregon Forest Practices Act. We continue to attend meetings and communicate our disapproval of the act's current configuration to the Department of Forestry and political figures and of the need for rapid adaptation and change. Needless to say, that agency, in its rule making capacity, moves at a glacial pace. ODF is concerned, it often appears, more with not inconveniencing the timber industry rather than with the true long term health of the private timberlands, whose harvests it, supposedly, oversees.

The Conservation Committee, in company with Buzz Long, have also been participants in an ad hoc gathering known as the North West Forest Group. Through monthly conference calls and occasional meetings, we are able to communicate information from our local area to other conservation folks across the region and in the nation's capital. Likewise, they share their insights with us. New threats to existing environmental policies and laws, the political landscape vis-à-vis conservation issues, strategies, etc. are discussed at length. In addition, UW is regularly afforded the opportunity to participate in advocacy efforts with agencies and elected officials by means of cosigning letters generated by regional and national players.

On March 7, the UW Board welcomed Dr. Norm Johnson, two of Norm's graduate students and Dr. Gordon Reeves to the UW offices for a presentation of their research paper on modifying riparian buffers on BLM lands. Of course, this was and remains a complex issue, depending heavily on the best scientific data. The meeting was both interesting and informative, with new, and potentially very useful, digital mapping tools being a highlight of the evening. While much of the used to support their con-

tention that riparian buffers established under the North West Forest Plan may be reduced without significant harm to aquatic species, we remain unconvinced that such a reduction could go forward without negative effects on upland and other terrestrial species.

In April, representatives of the Cow Creek Tribe of Umpqua Indians and the Confederated Tribes of the



Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw met with the UW Board. They sought our endorsement of proposed land grants from the United States to their nations. After listening carefully to these presentations we offered our qualified support to the proposed legislation currently under consideration by Senators Wyden, Merkley and others. In making our decision, the board felt that the question of historic justice for these long suffering first nations was of the highest significance. At the same time, we suggested to lawmakers that environmental considerations and safeguards not be undermined by any such transfer. The tribal folks we met with, for their part, assured the board that they were interested in taking the long view and managing these lands as a legacy for the future rather than for short term profit. Although it might seem ironic coming from the wider society to native peoples, given the shameful history of violated treaties and promises made to them, trust remains of the essence here.

## Board of Directors

Thomas McGregor.....President	Buzz Long.....Operations
Stan Petrowski.....Vice President	Ken Carloni.....Education
Bekki Brownfield.....Treasurer	Kasey Hovik.....Outreach
Patrick Quinn.....Conservation	Ben Erickson

## Staff

Bob Allen	Kasey Hovik....Director of Operations
Anne Dorsey	Buzz Long..... Office Manager
Alan Bunce	Roland Wang...AmeriCorps VISTA



## 4th Annual Umpqua Brew Fest



Only 22 weeks and counting until the Umpqua Valley Brew Fest, our autumn celebration of clean water, craft beer, and sustainable living! The planning committee is very busy lining up breweries, recruiting sponsors, donors and vendors, selecting bands, negotiating contracts, and generally trying to stay organized and on schedule, because it all has to happen October 19.

Great craft beer knows no borders, so as the steward of beer synergy in the Umpqua Valley, the UBF will not only continue to be the premier expo of local brewers, but will also seek out beers from Portland, central Oregon, and the Rogue Valley. We renewed and made new contacts with breweries and cideries at the recent Sasquatch Brew Fest in Eugene, and will attend the North American Organic Brewers Festival in June, the Oregon Brewers Festival in July, and the Bend Brew Fest in August. (Ah yes, the call of duty.) How about joining us? If you have a passion for beer or for local events, the planning committee could always use another member. Contact Buzz Long @ [buzzbike@msn.com](mailto:buzzbike@msn.com) or call the UW office at 541/672-7065. Also, over 100 beer servers and other volunteers will be needed, so at the beginning of July, please sign up for one of the fun shifts.

Visit the UBF website: [www.umpquabrewfest.com/](http://www.umpquabrewfest.com/)  
Also visit and like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UmpquaBrewFest>

## 2013 Twin Lakes Youth Wilderness Camp

Umpqua Watersheds will host its annual Youth Wilderness Camp at Twin Lakes July 29th - 28th. Camp is open to youth ages 12-20. Younger children may attend with an accompanying adult. This year we have a fun-filled weekend planned with lots of opportunities for learning. Cost: \$25/UW member; \$45/non-member. This fee covers food and travel expenses for the weekend.

We are also looking for adult volunteers.

Scholarships Wanted. Please donate \$25-\$45 so that kids can go to camp. Please contact Roland Wang at 541-672-7065 or [roland@umpqua-watersheds.org](mailto:roland@umpqua-watersheds.org) to register or for more information.



## WHAT'S UP WITH WOW

So the last time we looked in on the workings of WOW, we watched as a Power Point Presentation entitled: "Crater Lake Wilderness: A Proposal", was given to the Fremont-Winema National Forest Staff — and later that same day to the general public at the Klamath Falls Library. Following those presentations, another was given May 5th at the Douglas County Library. Among the majority of neutral, curious or enthusiastic supporters, in both the Klamath Falls and the Douglas County Library Presentations, there were some attendees from the snowmobile recreation community with concerns regarding their ability to access traditional snowmobiling areas. We encouraged those who wished to continue being informed and dialoguing on the issue, to sign a list of others with similar concerns. At some point in the near future, we will create a venue for a discussion on those issues with Erik Fernandez from Oregon Wild.

The next public presentation will be in Medford at the Jackson County Library on May 22nd. In all our presentations, we talk about the natural beauty both within and outside Crater Lake National Park and the need to protect the ecological integrity of the park by protecting areas bordering it. We talk about the health of our fisheries and the economic sense it makes to provide our communities with clean clear water, and quiet recreation enthusiasts with increased wilderness area. As well we discuss the importance of providing biologic migration corridors toward higher elevations and northward, as more and more climate change stresses are experienced on the landscape.

WOW still has grave concerns about the UNF's Travel Management Plans, (TMP), with plans to show trails through roadless as areas having motorcycle use clearance. We also have concern over another forest logging project that would wipe out one of our unroaded additions to the CLW proposal — in the Dread and Terror Ridge area — now headed toward a final decision and implementation. Both the TMP and the Loafer Timber Sale will be a topic for discussion at an upcoming meeting with Deputy Supervisor Owens and key staff persons.

The Crater Lake Wilderness Campaign (CLWC) continues to gain sponsorship and endorsement from the business community within the reaches of Douglas County. We want to provide immediate gratification for businesses who sign on to this forward

thinking proposal with our membership thinking of and going to them FIRST whenever they need to buy a computer, organic vegetables, enjoy a great wine, have their hair cut, take their pet to the veterinary or have the automobile or OHV fixed.

With two board members signed up for advanced web page design at UCC, we will be better able to produce a CLWC webpage that encourages responding to Action Alerts, allows for businesses to sign up on-line, and more.

With the new addition of The National Park Conservation Association joining our collaborative partnership of Umpqua Watersheds, Environment Oregon, Oregon Wild, and the Crater Lake Institute, we now have a total of five working to make Crater Lake Wilderness HAPPEN NOW!

From any vantage point, it looks like WOW is cookin'! We encourage anyone to come join our meetings at the UW office on the last Wednesday at 6PM of the month for a potluck meeting. If you own a business and would like to support the CLW proposal, Contact Susan Applegate at 541-849-3500 for additional details

## Get Involved! Join a Committee.

### *Education Committee Meetings*

**When:** 2nd Tuesday of Every Month, 5:00pm

**Where:** Umpqua Watersheds Office, Downtown Roseburg

**Contact:** Ken Carloni - ken.carloni@gmail.com

### *Restoration Committee Meetings*

**When:** 3rd Tuesday of Every Month, 5:00pm

**Where:** McMenamin's Roseburg Station Pub

**Contact:** Stan Petrowski - Stanley@surcp.org

### *Outreach Committee Meetings*

**When:** Last Wednesday of Every Month, 5:00pm

**Where:** Umpqua Watersheds Office, Downtown Roseburg

**Contact:** Kasey Hovik - kasey@umpqua-watersheds.org

### *Wild On Wilderness Committee Meetings*

**When:** Last Wednesday of Every Month, 6:00pm

**Where:** Umpqua Watersheds Office, Downtown Roseburg

**Contact:** Susan Applegate - susan309@centurytel.net



# The South Umpqua Battle of Resources

## A look at history

Let's have a look back at some history. It will do us good to consider the present in that context. This will seem somewhat like a tale of woe but be patient with me. It can have a happy ending.

populations. Where there are beavers there are large numbers of healthy juvenile salmon heading to the sea each year. We have never recovered from that action. Beavers to this day are deemed nuisance specie and actually have the status as a predator in the State of Oregon.



## The 49ers

In 1849 gold was discovered in the western United States. As a result, major changes took place in population demographics and natural resources management. The records give accounts of the slaughter of Native Americans when gold was found on lands allocated to them. It is a blight on human history that some called progress. Prior to that time the western United States still sported comparatively strong native fish runs. The indigenous people of the land had, through trial and error, navigated the undulating rhythms of nature's cycles. Though comfortably sustained by the abundance of fish species that annually and by all accounts continually

We rarely want to review some of the sordid things our society has done. Those memories are often relegated to professional historians, anthropologists and academics. Bear with me in reviewing some of the past that relates to diminishing trends in Umpqua fish populations. This simplified rendition will help to give us a clearer perspective for the purpose of evaluating the present.

## The French Trappers and the Hudson Bay Company

The first main European attraction to the Pacific North West that radically altered our ecology was a massive extraction of beavers from our waterways. Europe was in the middle of the Little Ice Age (1700's) and beaver pelts were at a premium. European diseases rose to withering heights in the Native American tribes. The economic significance of trapping beavers in Oregon continued on until the Hudson Bay Company (the oldest corporation in the North America) decided that it needed to erode a potential competition from the newly formed Oregon Territory, a part of the United State. They ordered the indiscriminate destruction of all beavers out of the region. The impact that it had on our ecology and the salmon runs in particular is incalculable. We now know that the health of our sea run and fresh water fisheries is inextricably tied to our beaver

filled the rivers and streams, they never depleted the opulent outpouring of their aquatic cornucopia. If they did, they died, and are not here to tell the tale.

It wasn't long after gold's discovery that destructive mechanized hydraulic mining practices began to take place. Streams that once flourished were transformed into mud slurry ditches. Entire watersheds were left ravaged and overturned. Stable deposits of mercury and other heavy metals were loosed into the system. Entire fish runs were eliminated. Lamprey and salmon alike took a major hit up and down the coast.

In the 1850s gold was discovered in the South Umpqua basin. The tribes were allocated 800 square miles of reservation land as long as they did not go to war. With the discovery of gold on these lands, miners were want to take what they pleased and claim what they could. War soon ensued. The greater majority of the area's tribal members were decimated in the Rogue/Umpqua Indian Wars. The rest were rounded up and relegated to small reservation lands that could not sustain their inhabitants. Mining claims abounded. The rivers and streams suffered under the weight of human intervention. The fish took another huge hit.

## The 1872 Mining Act

Shortly after that time a law was put in place called the

1872 Mining Act. Through it, liberal license was given to innovative mining endeavors to claim and develop mining operations wherever possible. We were a growing nation and industriousness was respected and often paid off. There were no restrictions with regard to the impact of these operations on fisheries or other natural ecological processes. The development and settlement of the west was a top priority for our nation. The mining act was an instrument devised to inspire national territorial expansion through natural resource extraction. Just like the trapping of the beavers in the 1700s, the legacy of from which we have yet to recover ecologically, mining became a magnet to the west by European and Oriental peoples. It was the next wave of human intervention to undermine the salmon and lamprey runs.

### **Go West Young Man**

It was during this time also that young folks from all over the east side of the continent were encouraged to migrate west. The United States government had just claimed large swaths of land west of the Mississippi River and it needed to be “settled”. The railroads were given huge tracts of land at the largess of Uncle Sam pay for the rails that were needed to harvest the abundant natural resources of the west. Logging and pioneering, dangerous and hard work, were rewarded with plots of land through the Homestead Act. With the increase in populations, mechanical fishing with fish wheels and large seines at the mouths of rivers were set up. They supplied the new burgeoning need for food and a new open market from Europe with Pacific salmon. The wild fish took another serious hit in their ability to survive.

### **The Hatchery Program**

By the late 1800s and early 1900s Pacific fisheries had dramatically fallen to a fraction of its former glory. The proposed solution at the time was to attempt, through extensive investments in hatchery programs and artificial rearing, to compensate for the diminished wild fish runs. This also included importing exotic species from the east coast of the US. Wild fisheries took another serious hit by the weakening of its genetics through human breeding programs and the introduction of exotic invasive species.

### **The ESA**

Post World War II was an era of unprecedented development. A lot of industrial logging began in earnest. The heavy hand of mechanization had been perfect during the war. Instead of tanks we now build skidders. Post war timber harvest excelled into the billions of board feet annually by the late 1980's and early 1990's. Clear cutting and road building on private industrial lands, and

on millions of acres of public lands, heavily impacted stream ecology. Native fisheries took another severe hit. We began to see wild salmon listed under the Endangered Species Act. Fish runs along the west coast are now forever gone. Because big money was involved the entire process began to be politicized and polarized.

The good news is that more and more people from every walk of life began to wake up and care. An awareness of the practices that were damaging fisheries became common understanding in many places. Organizations like the Umpqua Watersheds came to the fore to guard what remained of our forests and aquatic national treasures.

### **The New 49ers**

That brings us to the present and the cause for the long introduction to this article. With the long strong recession that started in 2008, the price of gold skyrocketed. Folks all along the west coast began investing in mining and dredging equipment. Old mines were reopened and new mines were prospected for. Who isn't amazed at the current spot price for gold? With hard times at hand and the potential for an income through dredge mining, west coast streams and rivers were once again being heavily disturbed. Only this time it wasn't the pristine untouched waterways that once laced our watersheds that were being hammered. The fragile ecology of challenged riverine systems already damaged by previous human disturbances was once again being assailed.

There is a ray of hope. Things are a little different now. In California, the Karuk Tribe sued for a moratorium on dredge mining when they saw what was happening to the last of their fisheries. It was basically a battle in the courts between the 1872 Mining Act and the Endangered Species Act. California ruled that there was to be a moratorium on dredge mining. The system was working. The fisheries of the State would have a reprieve of history repeating itself on the downward slide of adverse impacts on salmon populations. The group, The New 49ers wasn't going to take it sitting down. They submitted an appeal to the Supreme Court regarding the matter. The Supreme Court upheld the initial lower court ruling and refused to hear the case.

### **From California to Oregon**

The year the court ruling was instituted, hundreds of California dredge mining operations moved to Oregon. Southwestern Oregon was hit hard and the Umpqua Basin in particular. Dredging permits are inexpensive and rarely even examined by the State. As soon as the dredges started cranking up, the levels of mercury embedded in the crevices of bedrock and gravel bars of the Umpqua

started rising in the water. Long laying sediment bars were disturbed. The nightmare for native fish was started all over again in Oregon. Conservation organizations began to meet to address the challenge. Would the strategy that worked in California work here in Oregon?

### The South Umpqua River

As Restoration Chair of Umpqua Watersheds and NFS River Steward of the South Fork of the Umpqua River, I became very alarmed at the number of dredging units I was seeing along the main stem. Areas that are arguably not properly designated by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for ESH (Essential Salmon Habitat) along the main stem of the river were covered with dredging units. Even areas of the upper reaches of the river were claimed for mining. There was an estimated 400 to 500 dredging units on the river last summer. To boot – I personally saw illegal riparian bank mining going on all over the place. Creek side vegetation often harbors gold in its



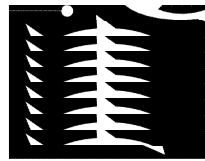
root. These are dug up and washed to release their precious yellow flakes. Mining equipment was being sold out of hardware stores. Web sites associated with gold dredging clubs and equipment sales were

touting the South Umpqua River as the place to go.

Then it really stoked the fires. I have been working with the Tiller Elementary School kids (5th, 6th and 7th graders) doing a South Umpqua restoration project up river from the school. The school kids have adopted a threatened Spring Chinook run and decided to revitalize a very valuable slough for summer and winter refugia for the fish. The “Springers” are holed up in a series of pools all summer. They are very vulnerable. The run once sported many hundreds, if not thousands of fish. Now they were averaging 170 individuals. Some years only twenty Spring Chinook show up. The area is home to winter steelhead, coho and sea run cutthroat also.

The USFS hires a retired State Trooper yearly to guard the precarious fish run. Before long the New 49ers had staked mining claims on each one of the pools and also at the school's restoration site! Alarms went off in my head.

I gained a quick education on agency turf wars and the ridiculous mishmash of laws associated with mining and mining claims. The 1872 mining laws are still in force and carefully protected by industry. Although the claims were made within National Forest boundaries, they come under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management. The Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior are therefor in the mix. One had authority



over the 1872 Mining Law and the other has been spending millions of dollars doing aquatic habitat restoration work in the area. What took hundreds of thousands of dollars to restore with large wood placing, boulder weirs and riparian planting could be undone with one hundred and fifty dollars – the cost of a mining claim permit. It was crazy.

Not only that, but the State of Oregon is spending millions of dollars addressing noxious invasive species that threaten to enter the State's waterways and further degrade aquatic habitat. Agency personnel are even restricted in the type of waders they use and are mandated to treat equipment used in the river systems to avoid spreading contamination. However - none of the mining equipment is inspected when permits are issued. Dredges can be taken from one watershed to another without incident! There isn't enough money in state coffers to cover the costs.

Conservationists proceeded to challenge the invasion. Fishing guides and fishermen organizations jumped on board. Legislation on two fronts were introduced, one associated with the Wild and Scenic River designation and the other calling for a moratorium of dredging in Oregon. The Oregon Chapter of the Native Fish Society chimed in with a white paper clearly spelling out the effect of dredging on fisheries. Currently these bills are going through various mutations in the halls of Salem, Oregon. Essential Salmon Habitat is still vulnerable to these practices and fisheries minded folks need to take note.

With the ruling of the Supreme Court regarding California behind us, we are hoping that common sense will prevail in Oregon also. Sportsmen, scientists, academics and conservation minded folks are banding together to preserve and restore our rivers. We dare not let history repeat itself regarding gold fever and its adverse impact. We need to change our society's views on resource consumption. We are barely digging ourselves out from under the negative influences of the Oregon Forest Practices

Act. It promotes clear cutting and herbicide spraying all around us. Allowing the continuation of the practices is nothing but short term vision and careless. Our wild fish runs are incalculably valuable and we know in our hearts that, “There are no sacrifice rivers”.

Stan Petrowski is the Vice President of Umpqua Watersheds. He chairs the Restoration Committee, is the Native Fish Society River Steward for the South Umpqua River, and serves on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of several NGOs associated with conservation and restoration. [stanley@surcp.org](mailto:stanley@surcp.org)

## 2013 Earth Day Energy Fair

Once again, the annual Earth Day Energy Fair, held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Douglas Hall, was a smashing great time for those that were able to attend. Some great raffle prizes were to be had for everyone that came through the door and entered, but more importantly, there was abundant information for everyone to gather, learn from, and put to good use! This year had many new booths and tables, to join in the fun with all the old standbys.

Every exhibitor we spoke with agreed that the crowds this year were larger and more engaged with them with respect to wanting to know more about what they are doing, and how can they help or be involved. That is good news for those that are trying to make a difference, and grow and perpetuate a more environmentally friendly mindset to the area.

A great big thank you goes to those that volunteered their time and energy to sit at the UW table and talk with any and every one that came by. Larry Filosi and Chad and Katie Roose did a wonderful bit of volunteer work for UW that day, engaging folks in conversations about the Crater Lake Wilderness, what bass mean (negatively!) to our watershed, and how restoration of wetlands can be done faster with proper beaver management. It was a fascinating day for all of us! Really looking forward to the event going to a higher level in 2014!

## Women on the Trail

Join Umpqua Watersheds and The Friends of Crater Lake to hear Kit Barnhart and Robin Hartmann present their stories and pictures of their adventures hiking the full-length of the Pacific Crest Trail. Kit was the first woman to hike the whole length of the trail alone. Robin did the full trail with her sister. A recent account of hiking the Pacific Crest Trail, *WILD* by Cheryl Strayed, became a national best-seller. As of this writing Kit was in California conducting a Women Trekkers Conference for Trail Initiates.

The presentation will be held on Monday, June 10th at 7pm at the Douglas County Library.

It should be a most enjoyable evening and light refreshments will be served. For more info call Bob Allen at 541-580-5269 or [ballen316@gmail.com](mailto:ballen316@gmail.com).

## 2013 Earth Day Celebration and Dance

Much like previous years, when we congregated at the Glide Community Center after the Earth Day Energy Fair for the Salmon dance, UW hosted a celebratory dance for our Mother Earth. This time though, we hosted it at the Zen Mongolian Grill and Lounge in Roseburg. Bob Hoehne had lined up his own Hotqua String Band to play, but had also dialed in a band from Eugene, Satori Bob, to come down and play as well. This was one of the most eclectic and electric evenings of music to be had in Roseburg for quite some time!

Satori Bob is a 4-piece band that mixes acoustic guitar, banjo, bass guitar and electric guitar (with the occasional harp solo), underneath vocals that can only be described as Tom Waits without the mumbling! These guys are all masters of their instruments and music and their CD has not left the rotation from my car's CD player! They absolutely rocked the house and their virtuosity was something to really behold.

Now you would think, following an act like that, the Hotqua String Band would be a little intimidated, maybe even reluctant to go on? WRONG! Bob Hoehne and his guys came out smoking and produced to set the dance floor on fire! Their creativity and talent is on par with anybody and when it comes to an eclectic mix of tunes that get people tapping their toes, singing along, and putting their best moves out on the dance floor... well they set the bar for this town!

And what can we say about the great folks at the Zen Mongolian?! Everyone there was just super! Great food, the beer, wine, and mixed drinks flowed, great servers, and a great atmosphere! It blows me away how that waterfall in the middle of the room, creates this sound barrier and filter that make the whole room a really great place to sit and listen to great music! Really makes me look forward to the next event/opportunity to hear music there! A great time can be had by all (especially those over 21!) at the Zen Mongolian Grill and Lounge!



## The 17th Annual Umpqua Watersheds Banquet and Silent Auction

The annual banquet and silent auction has been the backbone of IUW's fundraising events. It has always featured inspiring speakers, delectable food, and auction items that cover an incredible range of people's talent and ability and willingness to give to our great cause! This year's annual banquet was no exception and was once again hosted at UCC and catered by our friends from River Rush Catering.

In keeping with, or trying to give everybody a lead-in to St. Patrick's Day, our emcee for the evening was none other than our own board member, conservation committee chair, and Irish poet extraordinaire, Joseph Patrick "Paddy" Quinn! Paddy did a great job keeping the evening on schedule and moving forward. President, Ken Carloni went through a list of accomplishments for this past year that seemed to go on forever. As an organization that has had its fair share of transitions in the past few years, we are still able to look forward with a great deal of enthusiasm and passion for our watershed and everyone that lives in it!

This year's keynote speaker was former Lane County Commissioner and state gubernatorial candidate, Jerry Rust. Jerry is no stranger to our little watershed, having grown up in Glide and graduated from Glide High School. His take on the O&C Lands situation and basically calling out all of the politicians that have taken this form of "welfare" for granted for so long, was truly inspiring! I wish we had recoded the whole speech for posterity. It would be nice to be able to play back some of his comments to our own county commissioners when they make their claims that the environmental movement is at fault for all their problems and not being able to "get the cut out".

This year's auction, as it has every year, had so many items in it that were truly works of art. Which, given the amount of incredibly talented people there are in this area and in our organization, really should come as no surprise. Their willingness to donate and share their pieces is so appreciated by all of us. As were the other incredible items that were donated. And let's not forget the great restaurant gift certificates and wine baskets that

were donated and bid on! The generosity of all of our local artists and merchants for our event is just mind-boggling! Saying thank you just does not seem to be enough, but when it comes right down to it...those are the only words that you can say that mean the most.

It is with a great deal of thanks too that we must recognize Steve Johnston from the Harvest Store in Winston, for their willingness to donate the various beers for the evening; and Carlos Figueroa and his servers, from the Wild Rose Winery. Every meal deserves the correct and proper beverage...and Carlos and Steve made sure we had that base covered!

Lastly, a very big thanks to our volunteers that helped to put the event on: Anne Dorsey and her crew of volunteers that traveled to some far distances to put together the various baskets, set up the tables and displays, and also put together the centerpieces on all the tables, are to be commended for having so much talent and vision to make everything look so perfect! We also have to say thank you too to all those members that went out and asked people (friends, relatives, and in some cases, total strangers!) to donate something for this year's event. It is so hard to ask for something for nothing...but the end result is always the same; a lot of very happy people went home with full stomachs and items they really appreciate and want! Thank you all for supporting our annual banquet!

### River Appreciation Day

Our 27th Annual River Day Celebration is coming up and all are welcome to join us for a day by, in, and around the Umpqua River in Elkton. This year we will locate on the grounds of the Superb Elkton Community Educational Center on Saturday, July 20th. Camping Friday and Saturday nights along the river will be available free of charge, we will use the river stage which has power, and there is a road down to the river for boats to be picked up and launched and for swimming. Educational and Food Booths are being arranged, there will be music, music, music and lots of fun. Watch for further announcements but, gentlemen and ladies, mark your calendars.

For more info, call Bob Allen at 541-580-5269 or [ballen316@gmail.com](mailto:ballen316@gmail.com).

## Umpqua Watersheds VISTA Voice



It's hard to image that I'm five months into my VISTA service with Umpqua Watersheds (UW). The experience thus far has been both eventful and rewarding. My duty, for those unfamiliar, is to develop experiential-based programs in schools

throughout Douglas County that will engage students while whetting their interest in careers in natural resources management. This is a challenging but significant task. Many public schools in the county have cut Friday from their school week due to budget cuts, putting impacted students at a disadvantage to others who experience the typical five-day school week. My goal is to fill this need from schools with outdoor activities that will supplement the current school curricula while meeting Oregon's education standards.

Finding a starting place from which to achieve my duty and goal was my primary undertaking during the first three months. Mike Rooney, last year's VISTA member, implemented and established many successful activities and contacts that have helped guide me towards establishing the Environmental Education Initiative this past March. The Initiative aims to bring together individuals, teachers, nonprofits, and agencies to develop and promote environmental education (EE) as a key component in school curricula for students throughout the county. I hope the Initiative will help emphasize that EE should not be confined to the sciences, but should be interdisciplinary by incorporating all subjects such as the social sciences, humanities, and arts. Only through a holistic framework can EE be effective to help instill a sense of hope for the educational future of youths in Douglas County.

The Initiative has met twice with a diverse representation of groups including: Bureau of Land Management, OSU-Extension, Native Plant Society, Umpqua Bio-alternatives Cooperative, Partnership of Umpqua Rivers, Phoenix Charter School, and McGovern Elementary School. The initial meetings involved discussions on strategies to implement EE in schools; potential grants; partnership agreement terms; and potential EE curriculum topics. Our upcoming meeting this month (May) will involve marketing and outreach methods.

In terms of my other accomplishments, UW received funding from the Bessie Minor Swift Foundation for \$575 to support a six-week, wilderness education curriculum in high schools with Phoenix Charter School as the pilot school. The goal of the curriculum is to improve literacy by having students read and critique works by American nature writers like Aldo Leopold, John Muir, and Henry David Thoreau along with works by Native American writers and modern scholars (William Cronon and Roderick Nash). In addition, I am thankful to have support from teachers and administrators at McGovern Elementary School to work with them to develop EE programs for their 4th to 6th students.

## 2013 Earth Day Energy Fair

Once again, the annual Earth Day Energy Fair, held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Douglas Hall, was a smashing great time for those that were able to attend. Some great raffle prizes were to be had for everyone that came through the door and entered, but more importantly, there was abundant information for everyone to gather, learn from, and put to good use! This year had many new booths and tables, to join in the fun with all the old standbys.

Every exhibitor we spoke with agreed that the crowds this year were larger and more engaged with them with respect to wanting to know more about what they are doing, and how can they help or be involved. That is good news for those that are trying to make a difference, and grow and perpetuate a more environmentally friendly mindset to the area.

A great big thank you goes to those that volunteered their time and energy to sit at the UW table and talk with any and every one that came by. Larry Filosi and Chad and Katie Roose did a wonderful bit of volunteer work for UW that day, engaging folks in conversations about the Crater Lake Wilderness, what bass mean (negatively!) to our watershed, and how restoration of wetlands can be done faster with proper beaver management. It was a fascinating day for all of us! Really looking forward to the event going to a higher level in 2014!

## **\*Summer Hikes In the Proposed Crater Lake Wilderness\***

Happy 111th birthday today to Crater Lake National Park! It was on this date in 1902 President Theodore Roosevelt signed into law Crater Lake as the nation's fifth National Park, and while Crater Lake may be Oregon's only National Park, what a park it is.

With hiking season upon us and summer just around the corner, today's anniversary is the perfect time to announce our summer calendar of hikes and outings to the proposed Crater Lake Wilderness. These hikes, along with a service trip and photography workshop, are not only intended as social outings and a chance to stretch your legs in some of the most scenic terrain in Southern Oregon, but also as a means to highlight the natural gems in the greater Crater Lake region proposed for Wilderness protection.

Some of these treks lie within the boundaries of Crater Lake National Park, while others explore the scenic vistas and wildlife corridors stretching outside the park's boundaries. The outings are designed to feature the most scenic and unique wonders in the region, as well as threatened areas in the proposed Crater Lake Wilderness.

Almost all of these hikes are free and open to the public. With some exceptions, hikers in reasonable condition should find all of these outings at easy to moderate levels of exertion.

**June 1st:** Green Springs Mountain Wild Area – Join local Rogue River valley naturalists in exploring the ecologically diverse Green Springs Mountain Wild Area in Jackson County. This trek is typically a moderate hike (depending on the date), ranging from three to five miles with some off-trail hiking, and sometimes including the Pacific Crest Trail. Additional trips to this area will be held on June 9th and June 29th.

**June 15th:** Grizzly Peak – Wildflowers and local ecology are the focus of this moderate, six-mile hike up this iconic 5,920 ft. Jackson County summit with incredible views of the Rogue Valley, made all the more popular by being located in Ashland's "front yard."

**June 29th:** Donegan Prairie Hike – Explore the wildflower meadows along the Rogue-Umpqua Divide on this easy 3.7 mile hike. This trip also includes a bonus excursion to one of Douglas County's most unusual natural features, the Cowhorn Arch.

**July 6th:** Grizzly Peak Fire Ecology Hike – Join the team from KS Wild and local fire ecology expert Dennis Odion for a moderate, four to five mile round-trip hike around the rim of Grizzly Peak, in the BLM's Medford district.

**July 20th:** Garfield Peak – This Crater Lake National Park trail offers one of the best vistas of namesake Crater Lake, as it gains 1,000 ft. of elevation over a three mile round trip. Oregon Wild

will be leading this hike up Garfield Peak, named by President Theodore Roosevelt for James Garfield, the man who would become his Interior Secretary in 1907.

**July 27th:** Twin Lakes – Join fellow wilderness advocates and outdoor fans for a scenic five mile hike to the Twin Lakes portion of the Crater Lake Wilderness proposal. This trail offers views of the area's lakes and meadows, and with only 500 ft. in elevation gain, this is an easy outing.

**August 17th:** North Umpqua River Trail – Join Oregon Wild on a spectacular six-mile round trip outing through old-growth forest along the North Umpqua River, encompassing several waterfalls and 500 ft. of elevation gain.

**August 29th to September 2nd (Labor Day Weekend):** Crater Lake Wilderness and Klamath Refuge Service Weekend – Enjoy and explore the trails, old-growth forest and waterfalls of the proposed Crater Lake Wilderness, and spend Saturday the 31st assisting Klamath Refuge staff with the removal of barbed wire fence at the Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. This weekend outing involves three to four miles of hiking per day, and moderate physical exercise.

**August 31st:** Mount Bailey Summit Hike – A classic Cascades hike, the summit of Mount Bailey offers epic views of Mount Thielsen, Diamond Lake, Crater Lake National Park, and the spine of the Southern Cascades. With 3,000 ft. in elevation gain in only five miles, this can be a strenuous outing, but also endlessly rewarding.

**September 4th to 5th:** "Chasing the Light at Crater Lake" Photography Workshop – Led by Robert Mutch, the Crater Lake Institute's professional photographer, you'll learn tips on how to best frame the ultimate shot of the spectacular Crater Lake landscape over the course of this two-day excursion.

**September 14th:** Castle Creek – Led by KS Wild, this late-summer hike will delight hikers with its cool waters and a natural bridge. Along one of the tributaries of the Rogue River, the Castle Creek trek will explore the edge of Crater Lake National Park with a two to three mile trek, some of which is off-trail.

**September 28th:** Mount Thielsen Summit Hike – One of the most uniquely sculpted peaks in the Cascade range, views from the summit of the "lightning rod of the Cascades" include Crater Lake National Park, Mount Bailey, Diamond Lake, and the entirety of the Southern Cascades. Like Mount Bailey, this is a strenuous undertaking. With 3,800 ft. in elevation gain and a round trip of 10 miles, this is the most demanding hike listed here. It is also infinitely rewarding, and a hike you'll be bragging about all winter.



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