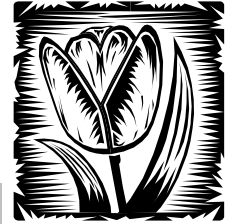




100 Valleys



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

Spring 1998

Small Islands of Refuge in Yoncalla

Yoncalla, an Indian word that means Land of the Eagles. The only eagles I have seen are a pair of immature Bald Eagles perched on a snag. This particular snag is in the BLM's Pipeline Timber Sale.

The Hayhurst Valley has potential for excellent salmon habitat. The problem is the private timber industry owns the majority of land. Large companies have little regard for the environment. The watersheds in the Hayhurst valley look like a war zone. Logging is still done right up to stream banks. I can show you a massive landslide on the South Fork of Billy Creek. There are numerous other slides that have devastated this sensitive and critical salmon habitat. These irresponsible logging practices happen every day.

BLM manages small parcels of old growth in the Yoncalla area. BLM has initiated a timber harvest called the **Pipeline Timber Sale**. This timber harvest consists of four 40-acre units and two other small parcels in highly sensitive watersheds. BLM justifies their right to harvest these parcels since private industry already destroyed the surrounding areas. The only suitable habitat for endangered and special status species is on BLM property. This is the part I do not understand. Why does BLM want to contribute to the extinction of endangered species? BLM should set the example and put the environment first. The acreage in the Pipeline is not a lot but it is still significant to the surviving wildlife that exists there.

I live close by two of the 40-acre parcels. These old stands of trees are powerful. Each tree has its own story. These trees have supported wildlife for generations. Several trees have large stick nests in them. I have had the honor to watch a pair of red tail hawks and pair of great horn owls share this 40 acres while raising their offspring. Being the witness to this natural wonder has been extremely uplifting. The Pipeline Sale is habitat for the Spotted Owl. Last April I helped tag an owl that was in the sale.

Time and time again I have been touched by the spirits of the trees. I have been watched by the Bald Eagles. I continue to visit these forests knowing the answers are there. Owls are only one species. There are many more species that stand to loose by harvesting this old growth. It is time for more people to stand and say the old growth in the Pipeline Timber Sale belongs to all of us. We in the valley of the Eagles would love to preserve our heritage. 🌲

See *Valley of the Eagles* (Continued on page 12)



This diverse, old forests in Yoncalla provides important habitat which needs to be protected. These healthy Cedars and Douglas Firs are to be logged.

Umpqua Watersheds Celebrates Earth Day



Saturday April 24th

Ecotopia Cafe - Idleyld Park

6pm - Social Hour

(no host bar)

6:30 - Gourmet Vegetarian Dinner

7pm - Guest Speaker: Chuck Jackson

Cow Creek Native American

8:30 - The Accelerators - Eugene SKA Band

All Ages Welcome!

Prize for Best WILDERNESS Poem

inside...

Spring Hikes!

Outdoor Education Provided by Volunteers *by Robin Wisdom*

Glide's 33rd Wildflower Show

Report from the Beach: The Saga of the New Carissa *by Michael C. Tighe*

Bearing Witness: Non-Fictional Accounts of Nature *A booklist by Jen Shaffer*

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Who is Umpqua

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

President - Jim Kauppila
Secretary - Robin Wisdom
Treasurer - Gwen Bates

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Bob Allen
 Andy Crocker
 Larry Flanagan
 Patricia Gilbert
 Dale Greenley
 Robert Hoehne
 Jim Ince
 Leslee Sherman
 Gerald Wisdom

Executive Director
 Penny Lind

**Public Forest Monitor &
 Editor of Website**
 Francis Eatherington

**Outreach Coordinator &
 Editor of "100 Valleys"**
 Patrick Starnes

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

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Downtown Roseburg, OR

Umpqua Watersheds Inc.
P.O. Box 101 Roseburg, OR 97470

Visit Our Website!
www.umpqua-watersheds.org

Message from the Office

Calling All Supporters!

UW has expanded its efforts to bring public citizens into the democratic arena where voices can be heard and where problems can be viewed with diverse solutions.

How do we do that? First, we start where we are; we must hold back any further decline to **"watersheds and wildlands"** in every way possible. Second, we state our values, work hard, have fun and help educate with a difference. THAT IS **ACTION**, with a capital **A**.

We stay on that path by monitoring the agencies charged with managing the forests and rivers, **your heritage**. We're not only concerned with public lands but also the critical private lands that connect our rivers, our streams, our homes, and the wildlands of the Umpqua.

UW's supports this path with field work in the forests and at the table with partners and with adversaries. In 1998, it included more timber sale responses than ever. The results have been important court and administrative rulings that support UW's goals to protect critical habitat.

What can **you** do to help? Where should **you** begin? Umpqua Watersheds beckons you to go to the source. Go to the **FORESTS!** Go to the **RIVERS!** Go to the **WILDLANDS!** Get your directions and answers there, be they science, economics or a magic that you name yourself. Then, you can inform UW, your neighbors, and decision makers about your experiences at these special places.

It's a difficult time for our forests and rivers. These systems are dependent on the management that humans shape. We must look in the mirror, decide to step forward, state our opinions and live with the outcomes. UW is committed to help citizens bring their environmental concerns and ideas to the forefront.

UW sponsors outdoor


programs and events that bring groups of supporters, students and specialists together to experience and learn about the Umpqua's natural systems.

In addition, UW is encouraged by the traditional community's ability to actually stop and listen to environmental concerns, of late. Does that mean our work has been accomplished? Hardly. It means our responsibility just got bigger and our work has expanded.

Thus, UW has chosen to move forward. We won't take the default option of what comes easiest. UW will act, we'll plan, we'll celebrate, and we'll change our strategies to meet the challenges. The losses that the Umpqua has already suffered are our constant reminder to keep the pressure on.

Continued species and habitat loss: **IS NOT ACCEPTABLE!** So...
...let's get to work.

Umpqua Watersheds has heightened its visibility in your community through staff and office hour expansion. Please stop by our office at 630 S.E. Jackson St. (second floor) or call our office anytime at (541) 672-7065. Our **office hours** are Monday, Tuesday and Friday **10am - 5pm**. We welcome visitors for work and discussion.

Together, our goals for protected wildlands and restored watersheds are attainable. 

Sincerely,

Penny Lind,
 UW's Executive Director

"The nation that destroys its SOIL destroys itself."

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Spring Hikes!



Roseburg hikers meet behind Douglas County courthouse near Deer Creek at 9am.

April 3rd - Mystic Mountain - Little River

Up river hikers meet at Bottom of Mystic Mt. Ln. on Little River Road at 10am.

April 10th - Final Ed.Com.- Canton Creek

April 17th - BLM's Pipeline - Yoncalla

North County hikers meet at Yoncalla Store on hwy. 99 at 10am.

April 24th - Adopt-A-Wilderness - Cougar Bluffs

Please call for more info: 672-7065

The Importance of Wetlands

What happened in the 1970s that changed national wetland policy from drain and fill to preservation and conservation? The evidence pointing to wetlands as an important part of a healthy watershed grew stronger. Until that time, only a few voices had been raised in support of wetland protection and conservation. The prevailing attitude was that wetlands -- marshes, swamps, and bogs -- were smelly wastelands which contributed to flooding and to outbreaks of malaria, cholera, and typhoid.

But wetlands support the health and livelihood of both human and wild communities. Spongy wetland soils absorb flood waters and storm surges. These habitats are also sites where aquifers recharge. Wetlands act like giant water filters by removing impurities like toxic substances, fertilizers, and pesticides from agricultural, urban, and industrial runoff. The water entering rivers, streams, and groundwater reservoirs in the watershed, after moving through a healthy wetland, is often cleaner than water leaving a sewage treatment plant.

In the Umpqua Watershed, swampy streambanks, crowded with alder, Oregon ash, sedges, sword ferns, and small herbs, slow down water moving into the stream. As the water slows, heavy particles like sand and soil sink and get trapped among plant stems and leaves. Plant roots hold the streambank together. By retaining sediments and slowing erosion, healthy wetlands help keep streams from turning a chocolate milk color. Salmon and other aquatic organisms breathe a lot easier as a result.

Many people still think of wetlands as wastelands, but wetland plant production can exceed that of prime farmland in the Midwest. Some wetlands have greater biological diversity than tropical rainforests. In the United States, 45% of all endangered and threatened species use wetlands during some part of their life cycle, including 75% of federally listed birds and mammals.

Whether it is a flock of Canada honkers circling in for a landing on the South Umpqua, or a great blue heron fishing for

Please see *Wetlands Importance*, page 12

Oil and Eco-Systems Don't Mix

Ten years ago, the wreck of the Exxon Valdez spilled over 10 million gallons of oil into Prince William Sound. The New Carissa disaster, dumping approximately 107,000 gallons near the mouth of the Coos Bay, Alsea Bay, and 206 miles out in the Pacific, seems tiny by comparison. Clean up has already cost Oregon at least \$12 million. The ship's owners could face criminal prosecution. But oiled birds, oyster bed closures, and tar balls washing up along the Oregon coast, and potentially at Long Beach, WA, may just be the beginning of the impacts the New Carissa grounding will have on Oregon's coastal environments.

What can an oil spill do to coastal habitats like beaches, rocky shores, and wetlands? Oil gummed beaches are shoveled into trash bags and carted off to landfills. The effects to rocky shores are not as damaging as could be expected. Wave action and tides help to remove and disperse the oil coating rocks, algae, and immobile critters like barnacles. Some seaweed and sea creatures still die. However, tidepools and rocky shorelines probably suffer less damage when the ocean cleans up than when these habitats are hosed off with high pressure water by humans.

In bays and estuaries, oil damage can be heavy. There isn't enough wave action to disperse the oil. So the oil collects and coats the outer surfaces of plants and animals as it is carried into marshes and mudflats with the tide. Massive plant die-offs can follow. Plants are the base of the food chain. With their death, animal populations starve. Certain chemicals in oil are suspected to lower disease resistance in fish, inhibit plant growth, and interfere with reproduction and development in

Please see *Too Early to Tell* page 9

Aquatic Conservation Strategy- ACS

In 1994 President Clinton authorized the Northwest Forest Plan as the guiding principles for managing our public forests, including land in the Umpqua National Forest and Roseburg BLM. A major component of the Northwest Forest Plan is the Aquatic Conservation Strategy, otherwise known as the ACS. This strategy was developed to restore our watersheds, and to help slow the rate of extinction for endangered native fish species, such as the Coho Salmon and the Umpqua Cutthroat Trout.

The ACS says that management actions, such as timber sales, *"that do not maintain the existing condition or lead to improved conditions in the long term would not meet the intent of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy and thus, should not be implemented."* The ACS then lists 9 specific parts of watersheds that the agencies must *"maintain and restore"*, such as the diversity of plant life, connectivity between watersheds, water quality and species composition.

The land managers of the Umpqua National Forest and Roseburg BLM must use the *"four cornerstones"* of the ACS to accomplish its goals: **Riparian Reserves** (buffers next to streams), **Key Watersheds** (highest priority for restoration), **Restoration** (e.g. decommissioning roads), and **Watershed Analysis** (analyzing a broad landscape

before managing a small part of it).

The ACS says: *"These components are designed to operate together to maintain and restore the productivity and resiliency of riparian and aquatic ecosystems."*

Clearly, these are all goals that we share. We had the highest hopes that the managers of our land would implement the ACS with the spirit and intent of restoring what we have lost, and maintaining what we still have.

Unfortunately, timber extraction from our public forests has been the dominant use for so long, it's hard to change direction over night. Yet, so many of our species are on the brink or extinction, we have no choice but to change quickly. We need to save our ecosystems immediately, and timber extraction must take a back seat. Indeed, the Northwest Forest Plan says that timber targets are *"an effect, not a goal"* of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. We must first meet all the laws for protecting our environment before we sell one more tree from public forests.

In 1997 we felt like the agencies were making timber sales a priority over the goals of the ACS, so we took them to court. In April of 1998, Judge Rothstein ruled that our public land managers: *"could not have rationally concluded, based on the evidence of adverse effects and lack of evidence of significant miti-*

gation before it, that the proposed actions were consistent with the ACS's mandate that agencies maintain and restore aquatic systems."

As a result, most timber sales were withdrawn, and pondered. Wiggle room and loopholes in the ACS were diligently sought, and the timber sale analyses were re-worded to miraculously prove that clearcutting restores watersheds, and not clearcutting degrades watersheds. Routine road maintenance was held hostage, and timber targets were the ransom. If logging roads fail, they will pour tons of sediment into fish habitat, and BLM won't fix them unless they can tie it to clearcutting, even in Key Watersheds. All the timber sales that Rothstein found had evidence of adverse effects, and more were re-released this fall without one on-the-ground change.

We've taken them back to court. We filed in mid-January. We've been assigned Judge Rothstein, and she will hear our case this spring. Judge Dwyer originally approved the Northwest Forest Plan in 1994. At that time he said, *"The effectiveness of the ACS is still subject to debate among scientists. If the plan as implemented is to remain lawful, the monitoring, Watershed Analysis, and mitigating steps called for by the Record of Decision ROD will have to be faithfully carried out, and adjustments made if necessary."*

Written by Francis Eatherington,
UW's full-time Public Forest Monitor.



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DOWNTOWN ROSEBURG

Outdoor Education Provided by UW Volunteers

A series of three educational hiking events sponsored by Umpqua Watersheds' Education Committee began in February involving students, teachers and volunteers in Douglas County.

This series provides hands-on and minds-on experience in how our forests and watersheds work and how they are impacted by human management and natural change.

On February 20th the series kicked off with an outdoor class entitled **"Geology and Forest Ecology Day."** Cindy Shroba, geologist, and Ken Carloni, biologist, spoke about the origin of rock outcroppings and habitat in forests that surround the Lookingglass valley. The class included a two-mile hike for 22 participants with instruction and comment along the way.



Students learn about wetlands on private property.

On March 13th, **"Riparian Enhancement Day,"** the class visited two Umpqua basin private properties in Dixonville. Presenters were Don Morrison and Jim Harris, property owners, along with US Forest Service hydrologist Mikeal Jones.

April 10th, **"Aquatic Ecology Day,"** ends the series with a visit to Cedar Creek, near Canton and Steamboat Creeks, tributaries of the North Umpqua River. Jeff Dose and Glenn Harkleroad, local fish biologists, will guide.

Certificates of completion and t-shirts will be given to participants. This educational project is funded in part by the **Camp Tyee Foundation.**

Written by Education Committee Chair Robin Wisdom. If you are interested in getting involved with education events and/or forums please call
672-6982.

Jim Weaver Enjoys Annual Meeting Success

The annual meeting and membership banquet was held at the Elks Lodge in downtown Roseburg the evening of **January 29, 1999.** The keynote speaker, former Congressman Jim Weaver, spoke to an enthusiastic full house. The meeting was attended by almost 200 of its supports.

A delightful dinner buffet was enjoyed by all. Vegetarian lasagna and homemade bread, was prepared by Umpqua Brewing Company. Salad and dessert was presented by Sulawesi Juiceworks.

Ken Carloni, Advisory Board member, welcomed the membership to the annual meeting. Penny Lind, Executive Director

of Umpqua Watersheds, recapped the year and looked ahead into the future. The membership gasped as Francis Eatherington, Forest Monitor for Umpqua Watersheds, recounted statistics regarding timber sales and the Forest Service's refusal to follow through with the recommendations of their own environmental assessments, and other atrocities in the forests.

The annual meeting was brought to order by James Kauppila, President. Jim asked for nominations from the floor for new board members. Several nominations were made. The action committees, education, membership/outreach, and forest monitor, are in need of new members also. People interested in becoming committee members should contact the Umpqua

Watersheds' office at 672-7065.

The highlight of the evening was keynote speaker, Jim Weaver, who spoke for 40 minutes about his terms in office, how he helped pass the **Oregon Wilderness Act**, and how the timber industry is responsible for its own shortage. His closing statement, that called for no more logging of public lands, brought the membership to its feet for a standing ovation.

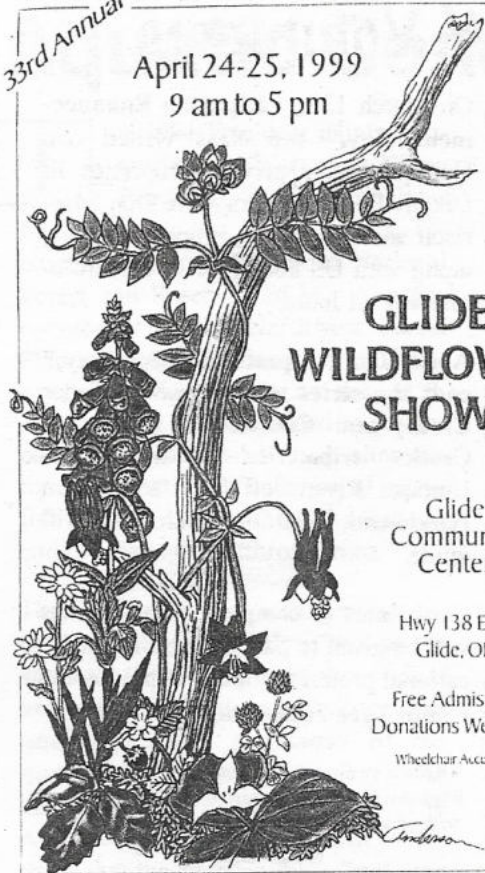
Thank you from the Umpqua Watersheds' board for your participation in making this the best-attended annual meeting ever. *Written by Board Member, Robin Wisdom, UW's secretary and Chair of Education Committee.*

All this will not be finished in the first one hundred days, nor will it be finished in the first one thousand days, nor in the life of this administration, nor even perhaps in our lifetime on this planet. But let us begin.
-John F. Kennedy

33rd Annual

April 24-25, 1999

9 am to 5 pm



GLIDE WILDFLOWER SHOW

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Community
Center

Hwy 138 East
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Free Admission
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Each year, the small community of Glide, Oregon celebrates spring with the Glide Wildflower Show, the largest display of wildflowers in the Pacific Northwest. GWS is a unique blend of world-class botany and small-town tradition, delighting and educating thousands of visitors. This year's Show, our 33rd, is scheduled for April 24 and 25.

642 species of native flowers, trees, shrubs, grasses, mosses, lichens, and ferns were shown last year, a glorious array of Southwest Oregon's floral diversity. Each year's collection is slightly different, as unpredictable spring weather awakens plant communities in varying rhythms. Trained collectors visit dozens of habitats, including coastal marshes, valley meadows, fields in the Cascade foothills, riverbanks, and forest and mountain microclimates, selecting blooming samples from abundant populations. Collectors follow strict conservation guidelines; rare or endangered plants are never collected. Instead, these are shown in a display of field photographs by renowned wildflower expert Alice Parker. Each fresh specimen of the more abundant species is artfully ar-


anged in a vase complementing the color, form, and natural stance of the flower. Specimens, labeled with both common and scientific names, are grouped in their botanical families arranged in order of their evolutionary development. Professional botanists donate hours of work to insure accurate identification, and 200 community volunteers prepare the display and welcome visitors.

Slideshows and talks throughout the weekend add another dimension to the Show. Presenters this year will share knowledge on edible fungi, natural plant dyes, wild plants for food and medicine, gardening to encourage backyard wildlife, and other topics of interest to fans of the natural world. Watch for the speakers' schedule to be posted in local newspapers and other media in April.

With the eye of an artist and the zeal of a naturalist, educator, and activist, Reggie Miller, Glide Wildflower Show's founder, rambled over the landscape east of Roseburg, Oregon in the 1960's, enjoying and studying wildflowers and spreading a message of appreciation and conservation. In 1965, she presented a modest wildflower exhibit at a fundraising "Silver Coffee" sponsored by the Glide Community Club. She collected, identified, and arranged 71 species growing on the "back forty" of her property on Buckhorn Road. Three dozen visitors attended. They raved about the exhibit and clamored for a repeat performance the next year. This was the "seed" of the Glide Wildflower Show, now in its 33rd year. (GWS disappeared briefly in the early 1990's: the Show's organizers, by then well along in years and wearying of the work, asked for new volunteers. Too few appeared, and the Show was "permanently" canceled. One sad spring without GWS was all it took to convince the "younger generation" in Glide to revive the event, and the "new" GWS Council--mentored by

some of the older volunteers with decades of experience--is in its fifth year of work. Replenishing the volunteer pool is an ongoing necessity.)

Reggie Miller's mission still guides the Glide Wildflower Show: appreciation, education, and conservation. Reggie knew that "many of our loveliest [wildflowers] are in danger of extinction by our carelessness." Throughout the year, GWS volunteers scout plant habitats and note changes of wildflower distribution and abundance, contributing to scientific understanding of the impacts of weather patterns and human activities on wild plant populations. As volunteers collect specimens, they study and come to understand that many floral treasures are tied to unique habitats: the vernal pools that dry up by midsummer, the rocky outcroppings crowned with miniature blooms, the slanted mountain meadows and seeps, and even cutbanks along roadsides. Habitat preservation is key to wildflower survival, and GWS volunteers are habitat advocates.

The first hour of the Show is reserved for photographers only (8 to 9 a.m.); GWS advises wildflower enthusiasts to shun picking flowers but to "capture" them photographically, for study and enjoyment. The GWS Flora Book, available for nominal cost, lists species found in Southwest Oregon and exhibited at the Show, with annual variations of course, and many people take notes in the book or sketch the flowers. Many visitors return year after year, building a record of wildflowers studied at the Show and then observed in the wild. Monday is Children's Day, when school groups, by pre-arrangement, visit the Show and engage in flower fun (pressing flowers from the display is one popular activity) and environmental studies (in past events, children have learned about different soil types, Native American uses of wild plants--"Would you be willing to eat skunk cabbage if you were really, really hungry?"--and many other topics). As Reggie Miller said, our mission to children is to open the eyes of youngsters, to show them some of the small wonders they may find in their own backyard, to learn how to play a part in the environment, to help nurture appreciation, [and] to give promise to our future. 



House in Order



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

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

Please Help!

by filling out the surveys below

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\$15+

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Choose a Volunteer Committee (please circle volunteer committee below)

UW Office: 672-7065

Office Volunteer

Help in the office: entering data, labeling & mass mailings, making copies, phoning, and other various chores.

Membership Events

Help recruit members by staffing our Outreach Booth which travels around the county: registering and educating voters about conservation issues which they CAN change!

Outdoor Education

Create Outdoor Education programs and gather materials which can be used in classrooms. This committee may sponsor public forums, retreats and conferences for the sake of community dialogue.

Adopt Wilderness

Join many friends, neighbors and churches in Adopting your favorite roadless areas so these wild places can enjoy permanent Wilderness Protection.

100 Valleys Hiking Club

Help organize, sponsor or simply attend weekend hikes year round. UW hikes take you on trails and timber sales where you meet specialists and neighbors who share your concerns. A great way to learn about conservation while enjoying the outdoors.

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Robert O. Hoehne

Too Early to Tell



(Continued from page 3)

invertebrates like crabs, oysters, and clams. These long term effects may haunt Coos Bay and Alsea Bay for years to come.

Spilled oil floats on the ocean's surface, washes on shore, and coats anything it comes into contact with along the way -- birds, plants, mammals. Remember those rainbow-sheened puddles in the supermarket parking lots? Spill clean up depends on weather, wave action, currents, and sheer luck. Experts maintain that despite huge advances in clean up technology, the most effective method is still the single worker with a shovel. Slow work.

A lot of the New Carissa spill is washing up as tar balls, but these can still harm wildlife as much as oil slicks. Tar ball contact can gum up feathers, fur, and gills. Smaller balls of oil could be swallowed by unsuspecting animals. Alsea Bay, a protected conservation area, will probably experience more problems than Coos Bay.

Oil in urban and industrial runoff and from regular marine traffic centers Coos Bay, an estuary having deep-draft management, on a daily basis.

State biologists are encouraged that Oregon's coastal ecosystems appear to have limited damage. But it is too early to tell how extensively Oregon's coastal habitats will be impacted by the New Carissa debacle. 🐉

Roseburg citizen, Jen Shaffer is an Environmental Studies graduate student at University of Oregon. Her thesis is on the wetlands of Coos Bay.

Report from the Beach

The Saga of the New Carissa

No man can tether time or tide," the poet Robert Burns reminded us two hundred and fifty years ago, and, as the ship New Carissa has taught us this past month, it's also pretty darn tough to tether a beached wreck. But as of this writing, the good ship has at last reached its watery grave in the cold depths of the Pacific, and the ship that wouldn't go away from Oregon's beaches has finally gone, or at least the half of it that carried its beach-threatening load of sticky black bunker fuel.

As a member of First Strike Environmental's initial twenty-person strike team that joined the effort to minimize the environmental threat to Coos Bay's coastal habitat, I got a first-hand view of the teamwork required for the task. While the Navy's demolition experts and the Coast Guard's salvage specialists made headlines doing spectacular battle with Mother Nature, an army of yellow and blue suited cleanup crews carried out the mundane work of scraping, shoveling, blotting, and bagging up the tar balls and oil-coated debris and driftwood that washed up in the early days of the recovery effort.

There was no doubt that the cleanup effort was organized along military lines. Each morning, as First Strike's responders lined up with the other two hundred or so workers, we were broken down into squads with specific assignments and sectors of the beach to cover and received our orders from the "beachmaster," who did his best imitation of a Marine gunny sergeant dressing down a gang of bonehead recruits. Then we'd hurry up and wait for Mother Nature to make up her mind when she'd let us start, as she seemed to save her highest tides and stormiest seas

for our mornings on the beach with the smoking hulk of the New Carissa ever hovering over our shoulders.

When we weren't on the beach blotting, scraping, shoveling, and bagging, we'd spend time stringing together literally miles of oil-grabbing pom-poms, which we'd later put in place to absorb the next assault, or humping heavy sand-laden bags from collection points to dumpsters for eventual disposal.

But, as another great poet once said, "All's well that ends well," and while I came back from the front lines after a week on Coos Bay's beaches. First Strike's crews stayed on the job, chasing the derelict ship and her oily aftermath to Waldport and beyond.

The final chapter of the saga is yet to be written, as the New Carissa's stern section sits stubbornly where she washed up more than a month ago, but early news reports of "blackened" beaches were definitely exaggerated, and dispatches from the beach today confirm my own first-hand observation. The visual damage is limited to plumes of oil, and cleanup effort continues.

Michael C. Tighe is a Certified Environmental Specialist and is Marketing Manager for First Strike Environmental, a Roseburg based firm involved in all aspects of hazardous materials management, including oil and hazardous chemical spill response, tank removal and remediation and illegal drug lab cleanup.

SALMON FACTS:

1998 Spawning Season count of **wild coho** salmon in coastal streams **15,856**. Historically there were 1.5 million.

Logging
Farming Pollution
Dams
Artificial Fertilizers
Where is Science?

Poor Coastal Conditions
Over Fishing
Urban Development
Herbicides and Insecticides
Where is Mother Nature?

"It does not do to leave a dragon out of your calculations, if you live near him."

J.R.R. Tolkien

Black Wings by Robert Leo Heilman

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

Visitors to the Umpqua valleys are always a little disappointed when they find out that the big soaring birds they've been admiring aren't eagles after all but turkey buzzards—what we call buzzards here.

"Oh...", they say. "Buzzards, huh?" and then they change the subject, embarrassed at having mistaken a common carrion eater for the Lord of the Skies.

You can't blame them really. It has to be a let down when the bold, sharp-eyed hunter you thought you saw turns out to be someone who dines on road-kill possum. They suspect that somehow they've made the kind of mistake that country people enjoy seeing their city friends blunder into.

Of course, we never tell them how right their first instincts were, that we often pause to watch the birds ourselves, because their spiral soaring fills us with delight. It's a local secret, something we don't often mention to each other—let alone admit to outsiders—but buzzards are beautiful.

Springtime comes to the valleys on black wings when the first buzzards return from their winter vacations in the deserts of Arizona and California. They come in from on high, tiny specks riding

the wind, dropping lower and lower to sail along the rock faces and cliffs, wobbling like kites as they spread out over the valley.

Local Essay



On sunny mornings after a rainy night they sit in snags and spread their wings, drying their feathers. They're sociable birds, patrolling with their friends and relatives or just roosting together, five or six to a tree. They don't seem to mind sharing a meal. There's plenty to go around, and besides, in their line of work I'd imagine one can't be too proud or fussy.

Though the buzzards migrate, they spend the better part of the year, nine months, right here, breeding and nesting and raising their young just like

we do. Like good country folk everywhere, they don't ask for much, just a chance to live quietly and peaceably among their friends and neighbors, getting by on what the land has to offer.

In late fall, when the cold comes and the valleys cool, no longer sending up thermal drafts for the buzzards to ride, they gather together, fifty or sixty in a flock, waiting for the right wind to take them south. One morning you wake up and they're gone, and the skies are suddenly emptier and more lonely.

Professional storyteller and writer **Robert Leo Heilman** lives with his wife and son in Myrtle Creek, Oregon. Heilman was awarded the **Northwest Writers 1996 Andres Berger Award** for *Overstory: Zero*.

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

Finally, UW gives an obvious and huge

Bearing

Non-fictional Accounts of Nature

Reading list prepared by Jen Shaffer

Bearing witness to the beauty and the destruction of Nature has long been a focus of the nature writing genre. Books line the shelves of the local library and bookstores, but where do you start? While the following list is far from complete, you may discover a kindred

spirit among these authors who describe their ties to the world around us all. At least one title is listed for each author, but a quick search at your local library will turn up more.

** Indicates an Oregon connection*

Abbey, Edward - Desert Solitaire

Bass, Rick - Wild to the Heart

Berry, Wendell - The Unsettling of

America, What Are People For?

Bowden, Charles - Blue Desert

Dillard, Annie - Pilgrim at Tinker Creek

(Continued on next page)

KUDOS

I have had the honor of serving on the board of Umpqua Watersheds for several years. There have been many aspects of this volunteer job which make it worth doing. Knowing that I am part of an organization which is helping to protect the wild places I love is one of the biggest rewards. Another reward is having the opportunity to work with and get to know some very wonderful people. John and Penny Lind are two people who have dedicated much time to helping UW become an effective organization. Their work, as board members, will be hard to replace.

As some people change their involvement with the organization, others step forward to help in their own ways. I am excited to have the opportunity to welcome Patricia Gilbert and Gerald Wisdom to the board. I know that they both will bring energy and a fresh perspective to the tasks

facing UW.

Being on the board is not the only way a person can contribute. Terry Kilcullen, as volunteer coordinator, has been very valuable to the mission of UW. Terry has decided that his contribution to the organization should take a different form and I look forward to working with him in whatever capacity his volunteerism should take. Thank you, Terry, for your hard work and positive energy.

I also see a place for you to become involved in UW. With your help there are no limits on what we can do to improve life within the valleys of the Umpqua.

by Jim Kauppila, President of UW

Bearing Witness

Non-fictional Accounts of Nature

(Continued from previous page)

Dinesen, Isak - Out of Africa
Douglas, Marjory Stoneman - River of Grass
Erlich, Gretel - The Solace of Open Spaces
Eisley, Loren - The Immense Journey
Haines, John - The Stars, the Snow, the Fire
Heilman, Robert* - Overstory-Zero: Real Life in Timber Country
Jackson, Wes - Becoming Native to This Place
Kittridge, William* - Hole in the Sky
LaBastille, Anne - Woodswoman
Leopold, Aldo - A Sand County Almanac
Lopez, Barry* - Artic Dreams
Maclean, Norman - A River Runs Through It, Young Men and Fire
Manning, Richard - Last Stand, Grasslands
Marshall, Robert - Alaska Wilderness
Matthiessen, Peter - The Snow Leopard
Momaday, N. Scott - The Way to Rainy Mountain
Moore, Kathleen* - Riverwalking: Reflections on Moving Water
Muir, John - A Thousand Mile Walk to the Gulf, The Mountains of California
Murie, Adolph - A Naturalist in Alaska
Murie, Margaret - Two in the Far North
Nabhan, Gary - The Desert Smells Like Rain
Nelson, Richard - The Island Within
Olson, Sigurd - The Singing Wilderness
Peacock, Doug - Grizzly Years
Roosevelt, Theodore - Wilderness Writings
Snyder, Gary - Mountains and Rivers Without End
Stegner, Wallace - The Sound of Mountain Water
Steinbeck, John - The Log from the Sea of Cortez
Teale, Edwin Way - Journey into Summer
Thoreau, Henry David - Walden, Faith in a Seed
Turner, Jack - The Abstract Wild
Wallace, David Rains - The Klamath Knot*
Williams, Terry Tempest - Refuge
Zwinger, Ann - Beyond the Aspen Grove

Umpqua Watersheds Starts Writers

Many of us, who spout off in letters to the editor and other forums, have expressed the need to produce more articles of better quality. One idea kicked around is to form a writer's workshop. With a little encouragement from the board the Membership Committee has decided to issue a request to Umpqua Watersheds' supporters to participate.

We propose an evening meeting once a month in Roseburg, at a comfortable location. Everyone could bring refreshments. We will select a facilitator and a structure. There will be short writing assignments and then a critique.

From time to time we hope to have accomplished writers and guest editors visit to read their works and to comment on the craft of writing. We will have writing exercises in poetry, essays, news reports, and personal journals. We will also explore interview techniques, research into local history and write commentary on issues of interest to Umpqua Watersheds. Such letters and commentary can be submitted to many different publications including UW's "100 Valleys" Newsletter.

The Membership Committee's intention is to form a habit of writing, to hone the skills of a citizen writer and to develop a capacity to present our positions to the public. Please call me, Richard Chasm, **679-7560**, for more information. If I am not near the phone, please leave your name and number and I will return your call. We will set a time and place for our first gathering.

Incidentally, there will be a prize for the best WILDERNESS poem at the Earth Day celebration. We hope to attract some writers eager to refine their talent.

This contributor, Richard Chasm, first bought timberland in his early twenties at which he became outspoken on environmental issues. During the years since he has worked as a tree planter, mill worker, forest consultant and at the present time is a Realtor. He has been a past member of the UW Board and is currently a serving on the Membership/Outreach Committee.

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Save the Valley of the Eagles



(Continued from page 1)

only one species. There are many more species that stand to lose by harvesting this old growth. It is time for more people to stand and say the old growth in the Pipeline Timber Sale belongs to all of us. We in the valley of the Eagles would love to preserve our heritage. 🌲

Written by a concerned citizen who lives with her family in Yoncalla. If you and your neighbors have similar concerns call Umpqua Watersheds office 672-7065.

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.....Get The Picture.....

TAKE - A - HIKE

Sat.
9am



April
17th

Join us on a hike
to the "Pipeline" timber sale
home to Bald Eagles,
Spotted Owls, Red Tail Hawks,
the Great Horned Owl and many
more wildlife Refugees.

Meet behind County Courthouse
near Deer Creek Saturday at 9am.

North County Folks will meet at the
Yoncalla Community Center at 10am.

Bring lunch, water and all necessary clothing.
For more info call UW Office: 672-7065

Wetlands Importance

(Continued from page 3)

cycle, including 75% of federally listed birds and mammals.

Whether it is a flock of Canada honkers circling in for a landing on the South Umpqua, or a great blue heron fishing for dinner in downtown Roseburg, wetlands in the Umpqua basin support many kinds of birds.

Migratory birds and waterfowl use wetlands for feeding, resting, and breeding grounds. Oregon's wetlands are recognized as a national priority area for preserving flyway and over-wintering habitat for birds, particularly waterfowl.

Wetland habitats provide nursery and spawning grounds for amphibians, fish, and other aquatic species like shellfish. Coastal wetlands fringing river mouths provide food, shelter from predators, and clean water for local populations of fish

and other organisms. In the Umpqua basin, commercially important species like salmon, dungeness crabs, and clams depend on the coastal wetlands near Winchester Bay. In the upper watershed, streamside wetlands supply food, shelter, and clean water for frog tadpoles, newts, trout, and salmon fingerlings.

In addition to these regular ecosystem services, wetlands provide intangible benefits which cannot be adequately valued under our current economic system. Green open spaces. The arguments of the frogs at night throughout the Umpqua basin. Fields of camas lilies reflecting the clear blue sky of an Oregon morning. A lone snowy egret standing in the river shallows waiting for the silver flash of breakfast. Quiet places to rest and reflect. 🌿

by Jen Shaffer

Roseburg citizen, Jen Shaffer is an Environmental Studies graduate student at University of Oregon.



Remember Hardesty Trail?

You all remember the Judi timber sale, just south of Eugene on the Cottage Grove Ranger District of the Umpqua National Forest. Under the salvage logging rider, the Umpqua NF tried to enter the Hardesty RARE II roadless area with a timber sale. Due to public outrage, the timber sale was canceled (and has since been bought back).

However, before the cancellation, the purchasers built a nasty road into the roadless area (about one mile). The road obliterated a historic trail, the Hardesty Way Trail. 🚗

Now the Forest is taking comments on what to do with this road. You can email comments to the District Ranger at:

wkleckner/r6pnw_umpqua@fs.fed.us

Written by Francis Eatherington.

Pesticides Effects on Salmon

Pesticides not only kill Northwest salmon directly, but they also can have profound, delayed effects that threaten the survival of salmon populations, according to a new 50-page report written by a noted fisheries biologist Richard D. Ewing, Ph.D.

The report, **Diminishing Returns: Salmon Decline and Pesticides**, was published by the Oregon Pesticide Education Network (OPEN), a coalition that includes Umpqua Watersheds and other environmental and fisheries organizations.

Local and regional environmentalists joined Umpqua Watersheds as they hosted one of four press conferences around the state at their Roseburg office on February 24th.

"Efforts to restore salmon have failed to address how water pollution caused by pesticides contributes to the diminishing returns of these legendary fish," said Dr. Ewing. "Based on the extensive scientific literature reviewed in the report, I think this is a significant oversight."

"This report shows how even low levels of pesticides can alter swimming and migration behaviors in ways that prevent fish from reaching the ocean or returning to their spawning beds," explained Ewing. "Additionally, certain pesticides can cause abnormal sexual development, preventing fish from

reproducing. Also, pesticides can alter the aquatic environment by reducing the food supply for salmon."

"This study documents strong laboratory evidence showing the harm pesticides can do to salmon," concluded Ewing. "However, there is still much to learn about how pesticides impact salmon in the real world. We need more information on actual pesticide use in the watersheds of the Pacific Northwest, so we can better understand the relationship between contaminants and population survival."

Need to Track Pesticides

One of the recommendations made in the report is to track pesticide use and sales. **Oregon Pesticide Education Network (OPEN)** backs Senate Bill 617, a pesticide tracking bill introduced in the Oregon legislature.

Lev Anderson, Environmental Associate of **Oregon State Public Interest Research Group**, (OSPIRG) agreed with the need to track pesticides in Oregon's watersheds. "Millions of pounds of pesticides are used throughout rural and urban Oregon every year," said Anderson. "Many of these chemicals end up in our streams and rivers, putting salmon at risk. Remarkably, Oregon doesn't have basic information about which pesticides are used, where, when, and in what amount."

Ken Ferguson, Steamboaters added, "There are a lot of pesticides used in urban areas, but we're in the dark as to where what and how they're used."

Penny Lind from Umpqua Watersheds stated, "Dr. Ewing's report is a wake-up call, and shows the need to know what is going into our rivers. To bring back our wild fish, we need to protect Oregon's waters, and a positive way we can do that is to understand the sources of pollution. If we're serious about saving salmon we must restore and keep clean water for this species. 🚗

by Jen and Penny

Bridget Wolf

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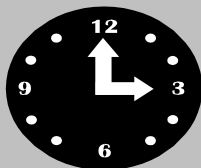
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**Give One Hour
a Month**



*Umpqua Watersheds has many opportunities for **YOU** to get involved. Call our office to find out where and when you can contribute time to causes which are important to you:*

Please call office 672- 7065

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Umpqua Watersheds Celebrates Earth Day



Saturday April 24th
Ecotopia Cafe - Idleyld Park

6pm - Social Hour (*no host bar*)

6:30 - Gourmet Vegetarian Dinner

7pm - Guest Speaker: **Chuck Jackson**

Cow Creek Native American

8:30 - **The Accelerators** - Eugene SKA Band

All Ages Welcome!

Prize for Best WILDERNESS Poem

For more information call EARTHDAY COMMITTEE: 679-7077

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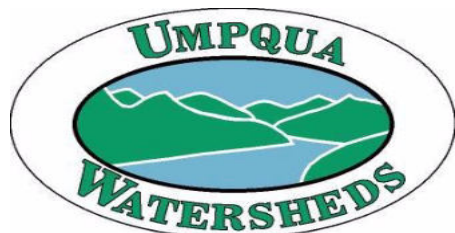
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Glide's 33rd Wildflower Show

Report from the Beach: The Saga of the New Carissa *by Michael C. Tighe*

Bearing Witness: Non-Fictional Accounts of Nature *A booklist by Jen Shaffer*

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