

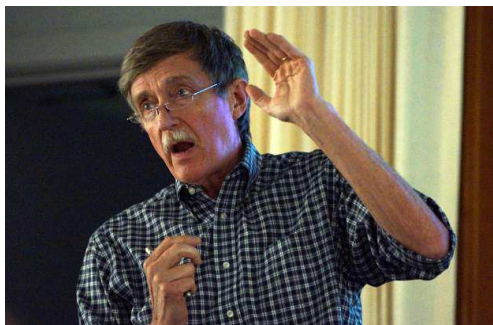


100 Valleys

A Quarterly Publication for the Supporters of Umpqua Watersheds, Inc

An Oregon 501(c)(3) Non-Profit

Spring 2014 | Issue 60



Umpqua Watersheds 18th Annual Banquet and Silent Auction

Umpqua Watersheds, Inc. will host its 18th annual winter banquet and silent auction on March 1st, 2014 at the Umpqua Community College Campus Center. The social hour, with beer and wine, begins at 5 pm and dinner is served at 6:30 pm. Dinner is roasted chicken breasts, roasted potatoes, garlic and herb wilted kale, stuffed portabella (vegan no cheese option available), and a surprise dessert. The topic of the banquet theme this year is **"There is No Free Lunch!"** and features economist Ernie Niemi as the keynote speaker. He specializes in applying the principles of cost-benefit analysis, economic valuation, and economic-impact analysis to describe the economic importance of natural resources. In addition to this inspiring speaker, the banquet will feature a silent auction of terrific items donated by area businesses and artists. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

There is
No Free
Lunch!



For more information call
541-672-7065

18th Annual
Umpqua Watersheds, Inc.

BANQUET & SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, March 1, 2014

5:00 pm Social Hour

6:30 pm Dinner

Umpqua Community College
Campus Center

Tickets ~ \$25 in advance / \$30 at the door

From the President...

2014, the year of the horse, is off to the races! With our annual banquet on the near horizon, congressional bills being saddled, and many of our committees converging on their targeted goals, Umpqua Watersheds is in a full gallop! Hold on tight!

From the stables of the US Capitol, our congressional representatives have brought to the track their solutions for our communities and our nation's public forests via two bills in Congress. Governor Kitzhaber currently has heavy bets we will see legislation crossing the finish line this year mandating an annual cull of 400 million board feet from O&C lands. Our voice to Congress calls for ecologically-based, restoration forestry to jockey management of our public lands not quotas. We also have heard loudly from the grandstands of our membership how we cannot support any bill which sells our nation's public lands or softens current environmental laws' ability to give the public voice in management decisions. Be assured we will be heavily monitoring the odds and will never forget the purse at-stake: true sustainable robust, local economies, and our heritage of old growth forests to stand for generations yet to come.

Out of the gates, our organization's committees have taken the lead on many activities in our community. Wild on Wilderness has placed many local organizations and businesses onto the roles of our Crater Lake Wilderness proposal supporters. Mildred Kanipe Park has also nosed up to be a great place to camp in the future and enjoy long hikes through tall stands of heritage trees. The restoration committee has been showing more and more projects promise with ideas around bio-char and collabora-



Our Mission:

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

tive forestry. A personal favorite in the winner's circle recently was the solidifying of our partnership with Umpqua Community College to provide local youth with tuition scholarships and summer employment as part of Natural Resource Technical Youth Corps crews.

So please, show your support for this great organization with your time, your checkbook, or both whenever possible to this great organization. I hope to see you all on March 1st with Ernie Niemi at Umpqua Community College. I am assured his presentation will not be one to miss! I have also heard the silent auction is once again an extravagant chance for great getaways and special buys!

I wish you all the best this year. In 2014, be assured your local, grassroots conservation organization will be here for you, engaging our community in order to *'Protect the Best and Restore the Rest.'*

Thomas McGregor
President, Umpqua Watersheds, Inc.

From the Director of Operations

On December 28th the board of directors of Umpqua Watersheds met for its annual strategic planning meeting. It gave us the opportunity to reflect and discuss the many challenges we face as an all-volunteer organization. We made a decision to reformulate our strategic plan from a document which lays out the vision and goals of the organization over 3-5 years to one which provides a narrower, more refined focus of 1-3 years.



Each of the areas which encompass what we are about as an organization; education, conservation, restoration and operations and outreach was given the task to take its part of the plan and refine it in a way we can better measure our progress throughout the year. Our strategic plan will be rolled out at our annual banquet on March 1st and committee members will be on hand to talk about and answer questions related to our goals. Over the course of 2014 we will provide our members with a quarterly assessment of the progress we are making in relation to the strategic plan in our newsletter, website and Facebook page.

One of the keys to our success as an organization will be our ability to utilize an integrated approach to our projects in order to create effective programs while maximizing our re-

sources as an all-volunteer organization.

The articles in this newsletter are a great testimonial of what we are trying to accomplish. In the strategic planning meeting we talked about our goal of being a vibrant, dynamic force for good within our community by providing important information which reflects Umpqua Watersheds' position on the critical issues facing our community and ideas to provide effective, implementable solutions to the problems at the heart of those issues. Our letter to Senator Wyden represents a perfect example of this strategy. Our restoration principles in this newsletter provide another example of who we are and what we are trying to accomplish. Finally, our learn, earn and serve approach to providing life-changing opportunities for young people by working with multiple organizations underscores our integrative approach to making a difference in the community we love.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and friendship. Umpqua Watersheds is a special community made possible because of your passionate commitment to make a positive difference.

In Your Service,

Kasey Hovik, MBA
Director of Operations
Umpqua Watersheds
Kasey@Umpqua-Watersheds.org

Don't forget to join Kasey for a birthday celebration at Dakota Pizza in Sutherlin and to benefit the Friends of Kanipe Park. Bring the form received in the Watersheds Moments for Dakota Pizza fundraiser. February 10, 2014 6pm.

Board of Directors

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

Anne Dorsey
Alan Bunce
Cheyanne Rico

Staff

Kasey Hovik....Director of Operations
Roland Wang..AmeriCorps VISTA



Conservation Corner by Joseph Patrick Quinn

CONSERVATION REPORT/FEBRUARY NEWS LETTER

Here, at the beginning of 2014, we recall the old Chinese curse: "May you live in interesting times."

Well, needless to say, we've got 'em. This year promises to be interesting and more!

Senator Wyden's long awaited O & C Act of 2013, S. 1784 has finally made its debut, and it ain't pretty.

Among many down sides to the proposed legislation are de facto attacks on the Endangered Species Act, NEPA, The Administrative Policy Act, North West Forest Plan and more. Opportunities for the concerned public to comment on and/or object to sale proposals for individual stands would be all but eliminated. Yes, there are some positive aspects included in the bill, but they are outweighed by the negative. A particular area of concern for UW is how Wyden's bill has failed to address the violations, by the Coquille Tribal timber management program, of its agreement with the original legislation credited to the late Senator Mark Hatfield, whereby they were granted their present holdings. In that document, the tribe promised to abide by the environmental constraints in effect on adjoining Federal Forestlands. This they have not done, prompting UW to join, however reluctantly, with Oregon Wild and Cascadia Wild Lands in bringing suit against them and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, in Federal District Court at Eugene. Much to its chagrin, UW's Conservation Committee reads that portion of S. 1784 as supporting this violation, codifying it in law and thereby at least seeming to encourage it. The Umpqua Watersheds Board of Directors has joined with numerous sister conservation groups, local, regional and national in voicing our collective disappointment to both Senators Wyden and Merkley. By the time you receive this issue of 1000 Valleys, we will have delivered our own, local perspective on this issue to Senator Wyden, hoping that he and his staff and colleagues might reconsider.

This, so far, very dry winter has reminded all of us of the extensive wild fires that burned on our watersheds this past summer. UW's Restoration and Conservation Committees have continued their active participation in post-fire planning with the Tiller District of the Umpqua National Forest and with the Medford and Roseburg Districts of the BLM. We have tried to encourage a sensible, eco-forward attitude by the agencies with regard to salvage logging, replanting, etc. There is strong pressure from county governments and the timber industry to conduct widespread recovery of burned trees. We find that UW can support some limited logging along forest roads for safety and recovery of economic value. While UW re-

mains wary of salvage operations away from roads, especially in Late Successional Reserves and Riparian Zones, we are willing to at least consider some carefully planned operations that would offer clear, long term benefits to these special areas. We are doubly wary of salvage logging in areas identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as of critical concern for the recovery of Spotted Owls. However, the Service seems to acknowledge the possibility of proposals for some of these areas that have been impacted by fire. If this is going to happen, the Conservation and Restoration Committees want to stay closely involved so as to help limit these operations and, in the event, steer them in an eco-forward direction. This is also true of ideas for salvage in BLM holdings within the fire perimeter that are designated Matrix, where conservation folks have less leverage, legally speaking. That is, they are intended as ongoing sources of logs, under the Northwest Forest Plan.

As always in these pages, if there are policies or actions implemented by the Board that you object to or would like to modify in some way, do not hesitate to communicate these feelings and all of your ideas to us. Remember, we are hard pressed volunteers using our best lights and brightest ideas to help protect and restore our beleaguered landscapes. It does no good to grumble behind the scenes. Get involved, become active and if you get really wound up, throw your name in the ring as a candidate for the Board. Fresh blood and new perspectives are critical to any conservation group's effectiveness.

See you at the banquet!

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

Recently, Umpqua Watersheds and the Umpqua Valley Audubon Society signed on to a letter that was also signed by 24 other conservation organization (mostly from Oregon) opposing Senator Ron Wyden's "O&C Act of 2013". The Senator is touting this legislation as a "jobs bill" that will dramatically increase logging on O&C lands currently managed by the BLM. While this bill contains significant improvements in its approach to forest management, there are aspects of the bill that violate Umpqua Watersheds' Restoration Principles (also included in this issue of 100 Valleys). The following is an open letter to Ron Wyden that expresses our support and concerns from a local perspective. We include it here so that our membership has a clear understanding of the Umpqua-centric issues we raise to Senator Wyden, and more importantly, the solutions we support.



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

Umpqua Watersheds, Inc., PO Box 101, Roseburg, OR 97470 / 541-672-7065

uw@umpqua-watersheds.org / www.umpqua-watersheds.org

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
Washington, D.C., 20510
January 27, 2014

Dear Senator Wyden:

Umpqua Watershed's, Inc. (UW) has represented the conservation interests of residents in the Umpqua, Coos and Coquille watersheds since 1995. We want to congratulate you on the elements of the "O&C Act of 2013" that strengthen ecosystems and communities. But we also need to point out the components of the legislation we are unable to support, explain why, and suggest ways that the ultimate law can be improved.

We enthusiastically support the conveyance of lands back to the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians and appreciate your efforts to redress a wrong committed generations ago. We also are pleased to see more wilderness areas in a state with only 4% of its unique landscapes so designated. We applaud your commitment to both of these ideals and believe that these actions will bring jobs, opportunity and equity to the Umpqua.

We are also encouraged to see that you have defined "ecological forestry" to mean forestry that "(A) incorporates principles of natural forest development (including the role of natural disturbances in the initiation, development, and maintenance of stands and landscape mosaics; and (B) is based on the application of the best available ecological understanding of forest ecosystems in managing those ecosystems to achieve integrated environmental, economic, and cultural outcomes." This aligns perfectly with UW's Restoration Principles (attached). We have great respect for Drs. Johnson and Franklin on whose work much of your bill is based and are glad they are advising you.

However, we believe improvements must be made on a number of important aspects of the bill as it is currently written concerning:

- the application of ecological science to management policies and practices,
- the primary social benefits of public lands, and
- the generation of revenue needed for county services.

1. Ecological Concerns

We believe that the document upon which you base much of this bill (Franklin & Johnson, 2013) is as much a political document as an ecological one. For example, using the age of trees to determine which should be cut and which protected is not related to their ecological function -- it is based solely on the tolerance of society for their cutting. Size, species, distributions, decay conditions and other ecological factors are far more important to dependent wildlife than arbitrary age

limits.

We agree that restoring forests to their historic conditions requires us to understand their disturbance history. In the vast majority of O&C forests, the predominant disturbance agent was fire. However, local data show that using plant associations to create two over-simplified categories -- “moist” and “dry” forests -- does little to help us reconstruct historic fire regimes. For example, the Little River watershed is mostly designated as “moist forest” and therefore deemed to have experienced infrequent, standing replacing fires. Actual data from three analyses (Little River Watershed Analysis, 1995; Van Norman, 1998; Carloni, 2005) all indicate that fire was much more frequent, patchy, and less intense in this watershed than assumed by a “moist” categorization.

Umpqua forests were created largely by mixed severity fires that were often deliberately ignited by Indian land managers (Carloni, 2005). But local data indicate that there is little correlation between plant association and disturbance history – plant associations were chosen as a proxy for disturbance history simply because those GIS data layers already existed and therefore allowed simpler modeling of how much volume could be produced.

Besides the obvious problems with the moist/dry forest classification, the maps provided to you by the BLM have many inaccuracies. A number of our members can provide hard data to prove that their neighboring forests fit your bill’s definition of stands that belong in the “old growth reserve” system. This gives us even less confidence that plant associations have been mapped correctly. All maps *must be thoroughly ground-truthed* before any management decisions are made.

We also have great concerns that a major genetic corridor that runs through the Umpqua from Crater Lake to the Coast will be compromised by a large proportion of it being designated as “Forestry Emphasis Areas”. This swath of habitat is already heavily impacted by clearcutting in the recent past, and the remaining native forest is critical to maintaining connectivity among sub-populations of a number of rare species.

UW board members faithfully attended the “collaborative” meetings of the “Secretarial Pilot Project” process convened by Secretary Salazar held at the Roseburg BLM Office and in the field, and provided input at every step. We strongly advocated running the logging pilots in the Little River Adaptive Management Area -- a designation specifically reserved for such projects under the Northwest Forest Plan. We were told that there wasn’t enough native forest left for a “restoration” demonstration there. The focus was clearly on getting big timber out and not on restoring acres of forest.

We agreed with Drs. Franklin and Johnson that many types of critical habitat are nearly extinct on private lands and must be maintained on federal lands. But we argued that it makes little sense to convert one rare habitat into another rare habitat when we have so many plantations (that mimic nothing in ecological history) needing treatment for fire resiliency. The White Castle Timber Sale is one such rare habitat.

The White Castle sale is a “pilot” project that aims to create “complex early seral habitat” (as distinct from the simplified early seral monoculture plantations on adjacent private industrial tree farms) that was historically created by fires that left behind “snag patches” of shrubs and large burned trees. This habitat is to be generated by creating clearcuts of varying sizes with patches of retained trees to mimic “rare” complex early seral habitat (although no data were referenced to indicate that this is actually a rare habitat type on the Umpqua). The White Castle sale sits in one of the most age- and species-diverse native mosaics you will find in the Northwest -- far rarer, we believe, than complex early seral habitat.

Ironically, complex early seral habitat was being created much more authentically by several small, ecologically valuable wildfires that burned on the Umpqua while we sat and talked. Given recent firefighting history, an abundance of this type of habitat will continue to be created despite our best efforts to stop it. But perhaps the biggest irony here is that at the insistence of timber industry representatives, the openings in the White Castle sale are to be replanted with 200 trees to the acre, thus defeating the ecological purpose and shortening the functional longevity of that habitat.

While Drs. Franklin and Johnson were early proponents of “Adaptive Management”, that phrase does not appear once in this legislation. Adaptive Management is an iterative, scientific process that requires well-designed, long-term monitoring of results before a management tool is applied more widely. Not even a year has passed since other pilot project areas were logged, and White Castle is still on the stump. Without long-term data from these experiments, it is too soon to scale up.

Ecological Solutions

Use Historic Range of Variability (HRV) to determine stand and landscape histories.

Data from the Umpqua show that plant associations are a poor proxy for disturbance history. There is no substitute for real, site-specific data. Many methods are available to reconstruct stand and landscape histories. Data should be gathered in a systematic way to predict and influence future stand and landscape trajectories to stay within historic extremes.

Restoration needs should drive harvest schedules, not artificial harvest quotas.

The focus should be shifted from board feet logged to acres restored. By “restoration” we mean returning both stands and landscapes to high levels of ecological function in terms of habitat quality and forest productivity consistent with UW’s Restoration Principles.

Genetic corridors need to be built into landscape plans.

Management should concentrate on improving habitat on BLM plantation stands rather than risking the degradation of already-functioning primary forest habitat. While it is true that under some conditions, stands with heavy in-growth can burn more intensely, the recent Douglas Complex fires have shown that native stands are at much higher risk from surrounding highly flammable plantations than they are from the fuels within them. Improving fire resiliency of plantations first will best protect native stands and the important habitat they contain.

Ecological forestry principles should be demonstrated on plantations first.

Although estimates vary on the number of years the BLM can produce timber volume through thinning existing plantations, no one believes that we have less than ten years of sustainable harvests that will produce a steady, predictable flow of logs to mills while at the same time improving habitat and fire resiliency. Despite assertions to the contrary, conservationists strongly support these efforts and have NOT appealed thinning sales in second growth stands. Therefore UW recommends that the BLM be directed to concentrate on previously managed plantations while only limited, adaptive management experiments in primary stands are conducted.

Reincorporate Adaptive Management into management regimes.

Scaling up the White Castle style of experimental forestry before we even see its *short term* ecological effects is simply irresponsible. While we support small-scale experiments in designated Adaptive Management Areas, we cannot support the wide-scale application of unproven management practices until they are thoroughly vetted by a broad range of scientists.

2. Social Concerns

UW urged the BLM to limit pilot projects to stands that had already been managed, but again, restoration appeared to not be the top priority. The White Castle forest -- however it is officially defined -- is an evocative, multi-generation primary forest that grows along a major Indian trail. In one important way, the White Castle experiment has already been a success: now we know the limits to social tolerance for this style of forestry in this type of forest. More White Castles will only create more tree villages -- with or without this legislation.

UW takes fundamental issue with referring to this legislation as a “jobs” bill by providing timber for the mill owners who influenced this bill. These forests are the natural heritage of the American people, not a storehouse of surplus logs for industry to use to replace the logs they are shipping to Asia. These forests are invaluable sources of clean air and water, habitat for diminishing species, stores of carbon for a faltering atmosphere, and places of recreation and spiritual renewal.

UW is gravely concerned with the legal “streamlining” in your bill designed to make citizen challenges to management plans difficult or impossible. These forests belong to the citizens of the United States, and closing off their rights to defend their land is just plain un-American. And the 10 year duration of the two mandated (moist and dry) Environmental Impact Statements with restricted opportunity for modification will not only limit public participation for that period, it will also hinder the flow of new science into the discussion.

While we applaud your successes in building collaborations on Eastside forests, restricting public participation will close the door to similar efforts on the Westside. Shutting a major stakeholder group out of management decisions on public lands is highly divisive and counter-productive to durable solutions.

One of our board members is a veteran of the Umpqua Land Exchange Project of the mid-1990s and watched as well over a million inflation-adjusted tax dollars were spent on an effort that resulted in no land exchanges and only served to enrich several OSU engineering professors. The O&C checkerboard will simply never be “blocked up.” All past attempts to do so have either ended in failure or in a net loss of ecological value on public lands. We urge you to abandon this historic dead-end.

Social Solutions

Follow the law, don’t subvert it.

We believe that limiting public participation will only fuel public resistance to ecological forestry instead of helping us become partners in shaping it. Therefore NEPA, ESA and the other bedrock environmental laws need to stay in full effect. This will encourage more dialog and the kind of collaborations that have had success on the Siuslaw NF and on the Eastside. The Elk Creek Project on the Tiller Ranger District of the Umpqua National Forest involving the USFS, UW, the Partnership for Umpqua Rivers, the Cow Creek Tribe, and other stakeholders is a collaborative model for Westside mixed conifer restoration that is already working and can be emulated on nearby O&C lands.

Don't trade the checkerboard.

Rather than trying to “block up” O&C lands, UW believes that the dispersed pattern of land ownership allows federal lands to provide islands of habitat refuges necessary to “rescue” subpopulations of species that have been displaced from private lands. Creating large blocks of private land will simply create large biological deserts that will impede gene flow and exacerbate forest-dependent species decline. This language should be dropped from the final law.

3. Economic Concerns

Living in Douglas County, we are acutely aware of the withdrawal pains the county is experiencing from the reduction of historically high but unsustainable logging receipts. We are also aware that the funds that flowed from the liquidation of much of the Nation's old-growth forests have spawned an entitlement mentality and a refusal to raise local taxes (Douglas County's tax base is currently the 4th lowest of the 33 Oregon counties). The pervasive belief that “if we can only return to the [unsustainable] logging levels of the past, everything will be fine” has been a disincentive to diversify our economy and move away from timber-dependency.

In the face of sharp declines in forest-dependent species, rising CO₂ levels, and uncooperative private owners who refuse to share responsibility for mitigating these problems by improving ecological function on their portion of the landscape, federal lands provide the only buffers we have against these larger biosphere-level problems. Pretending that we can cut our way back to prosperity is an illusion, especially when more appropriate funding solutions exist (see below).

Economic Solutions

Investment in America's natural heritage rather than “safety net” handouts.

As noted, 50 years of receipts from unsustainable logging has led to an entitlement mentality in Oregon's southwestern counties that is unlikely to change (witness Josephine County's unwillingness to raise taxes to fund even the most basic of county services). While we greatly appreciate your efforts to continue to reauthorize safety net funding for formerly timber-dependent communities, we know that this, too, is unsustainable. Rather than continually asking for more county welfare from US taxpayers, it makes more sense to ask for funds to repair America's broken forests.

Many well-paying jobs can be created with federal funds to restore our forests and increase their future values to the nation. Reauthorizing the Stewardship Authority so that stewardship contracting and Stewardship Agreements can support restoration work on the landscape would be a big step in this direction. Local workers will send local logs to local mills and generate timber receipts for local governments -- everyone wins.

Invest in educating and training the ecological workforce of the future.

Training and education in ecological forestry theory and practice will be critical to the success of this new approach. Increased funding to train and educate the new ecological workforce will strengthen high schools and community colleges in the region as they serve as conduits of skills and knowledge to students who will be the vanguard of this new forest management paradigm. UW is currently training, educating and paying crews of young, at-risk youth to do wildlife surveys mentored by Umpqua Community College professors and agency biologists -- dozens more youth could be included in these life-changing efforts with increased federal funding.

Promote non-destructive means of making a living in Oregon's forests.

Although the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (funded by timber harvest taxes to promote the industry) derides the promotion of recreation as a replacement for timber jobs, these are well-paying jobs with high “second paychecks” including job satisfaction and high quality of life benefits. A recent study conducted in Douglas County concluded that every steelhead caught on the Umpqua is worth \$1500 to local businesses. Any realtor in Douglas County will tell you that the natural beauty of the area attracts new buyers and beautiful surroundings contribute significantly to a property's value. The ecotourism industry is growing in many ecologically unique parts of the world and should be promoted here as well. More effort needs to be invested in secondary wood products -- restoration activities will be generating lots of small diameter logs and poles that need markets, and there is great promise in the production of biochar from non-merchantable biomass.

Create other sources of County funding from Oregon's forests.

In 2011 alone, over one billion board feet of raw logs were shipped to the Asian rim, denying Oregon's workers over 11,000 jobs. This is unconscionable. While Congressman DeFazio is correct when he points out that attaching an export tax to raw log exports is prohibited by the US constitution, UW believes that Oregonians can solve this problem without any help from Congress.

The Oregon Forest Products Harvest Tax and the Forestland Special Assessment Program formulas are way out of date and extremely low (at the moment, roughly \$3.75 per 1000 board feet), and the severance tax was eliminated for large landowners. Oregonians could choose to increase the tax on timber harvested from large industrial timber tracts and

earmark those dollars for county services, but refund those taxes if the logs are delivered to a mill within the borders of our state.

Increasing the harvest tax on logs exported from industrial timberland would have several positive impacts on the local economy:

First, the rising cost of export logs would make our finished lumber more attractive to overseas buyers, allowing us to add value to our forest products on this side of the Pacific.

Second, if export prices continue to rise, then industrial timber sellers will simply build the harvest tax into their cost of doing business, and more tax revenue will become available to fund county services and community transition.

Third, if export prices drop, then there will be a greater financial incentive to deliver logs to Oregon mills in order to avoid the increased harvest tax. Increasing the supply of private logs to the mills will make raw material less expensive and increase the competitiveness of our finished products on both domestic and overseas markets.

In Conclusion

With hearings coming up in a few days, we assume that your legislation will pass the Senate with little if any modification from its current form. However, we predict that your bill and the one sponsored by Reps. DeFazio, Schrader and Walden are destined to meet in a House/Senate conference committee where the improvements we suggest can be adopted. We urge you to seriously consider the vital ecological, social, and economic solutions we have recommended and incorporate them into the final law.

Sincerely,

Thomas McGregor, President

Ken Carloni, Ph.D., Education Chair

Patrick Quinn, Conservation Chair

Stan Petrowski, Restoration Chair

SAVE THE DATE!

**March 1, 2014 at Umpqua Community College.
Umpqua Watersheds Annual Banquet and Auction.**

**Items are needed for the
auction. Contact Umpqua
Watersheds to donate.**

541-672-7065

For many years, Umpqua Watersheds has stood firm and has loudly and clearly said "no" to logging in old growth forests, "no" to clearcutting, "no" to salmon-destroying dredge mining, and "no" to the further degradation of habitat for many other diminishing species. As we move from destructive commodity extraction to a restoration forestry paradigm, UW is increasingly showing the world what "yes" looks like, including the true collaborative efforts we are involved in with the Forest Service, BLM, Umpqua Community College, the Partnership for Umpqua Rivers, the South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership, and the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians to restore damaged lands and to train and educate the ecological workforce of the future. Toward this end, the Conservation Program, chaired by Stan Petrowski, has developed a set of Restoration Principles that we would like to share with our membership. These are the kinds of proactive principles that we wholeheartedly support to usher in a new ethic that respects both the environmental and social needs of our community.

UMPQUA WATERSHEDS, INC. RESTORATION PRINCIPLES

LANDSCAPE LEVEL RESTORATION PRINCIPLES

Planning:

- Plan at the 4th and 5th field watershed levels
- Consider the whole landscape regardless of ownership.
- Use ecological, historical and archaeological data to map current conditions and reconstruct historic landscapes.
- Base decisions on the Historic Range of Variability of local landscape reference conditions.
- Use adaptive management principles to design and monitor management activities.

Practices:

- Manage toward average historic landscape patterns and proportions.
- Manage toward average historic abundance and distribution of native plant, animal and fungal species while suppressing invasive species.
- Manage to increase carbon storage, nutrient capture, and biotic diversity.
- Use prescribed fire in proportion to its historic size, frequency and intensity.
- Maintain or reestablish gene flow connectivity across the landscape.

Priorities:

- Prioritize restoration of previously logged stands over primary forests.
- Prioritize restoration projects based on current landscape needs, *not* on stand history alone.
- When warranted, convert uncharacteristically common stands (e.g. even-aged plantations) into rare communities (e.g. oak/pine savanna).
- Use fire as the preferred active management tool in primary forests.

SITE BASED RESTORATION PRINCIPLES

Planning:

- Action spectrum:
 - No action -- This keeps the site on its current trajectory.
 - Restoration -- This moves the site toward a historic configuration.
 - Conversion -- This converts a site to a significantly different plant community.
- Incorporate local Traditional Ecological Knowledge in stewardship planning and implementation.

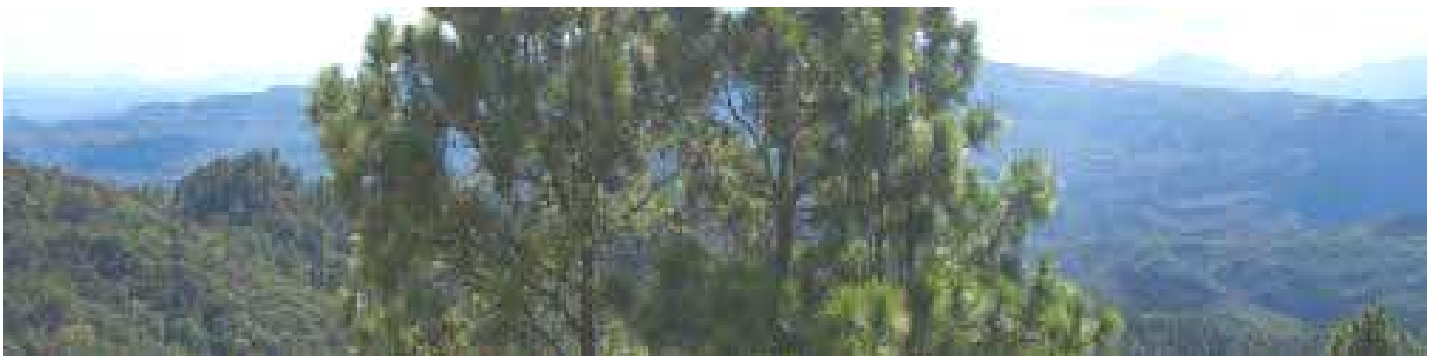
- Delineate sites into **managed stands** and **primary forest** based on disturbance history.
- Survey pre-management site conditions and conduct post-management monitoring to assess effectiveness of treatments.

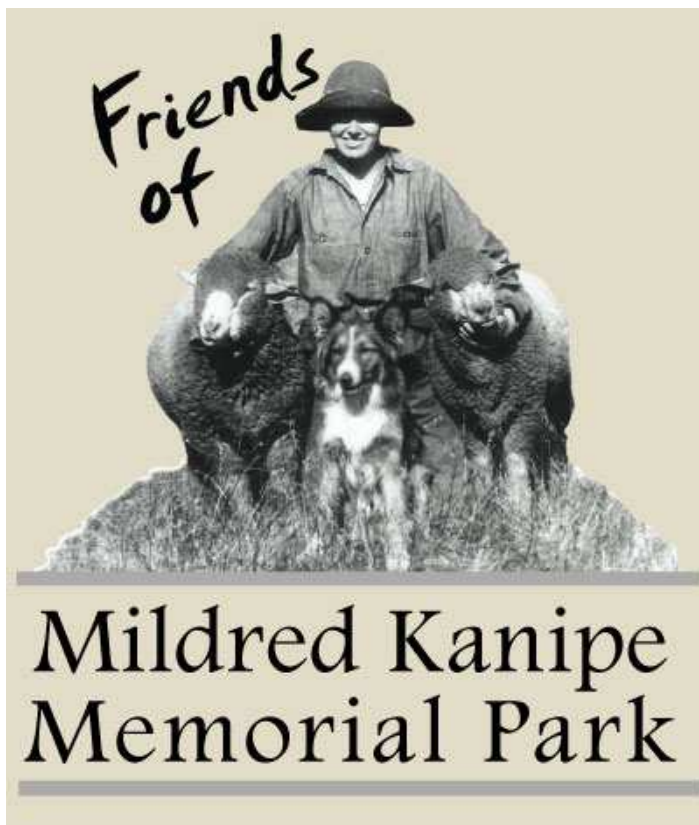
Practices:

- In **managed stands**, recreate biotic and structural diversity by encouraging:
 - multi-layered stands.
 - multi-aged stands.
 - patchy canopy cover.
 - species diversity in all layers.
 - the development of large trees.
- In **primary forest**, restore historic conditions only if they:
 - are out of their Historic Range of Variability.
 - are unable to be created on previously managed stands.
 - will maintain or improve critical habitat for the rarest species first.
 - are likely to increase the fire resiliency of rare stands and habitats.
 - are likely to persist without frequent ground reentry.
- In **all sites**, monitor for evidence of stress caused by climate change. Specific treatments to pre-empt climate change should only be undertaken if:
 - climate-related stresses are directly measured (not modeled).
 - a pattern of stress is observed at the landscape level.
 - treatments are first applied on a small, experimental basis before scaling up.

Priorities:

- Conserve and/or reintroduce keystone species on all sites.
- Prioritize conservation of rare species by
 - status (e.g. Threatened and Endangered, Survey and Manage species).
 - importance to keystone functions.
- Conserve legacy structures and plan for adequate future replacement of:
 - large trees, snags and down logs.
 - Hardwoods, shrubs patches and other diverse species.
- Protect unique site features (e.g. seeps, outcrops, cultural areas) on all sites.
- Survey and monitoring data must be a product of every activity.





In 1983, Mildred Kanipe willed her 1,100 acre ranch northwest of the town of Oakland to the people of Douglas County, from here on out known as “County.” A trust fund was established for the future management and sustainability of the property. The will stated that logging should be conducted “only as necessary,” and that all funds earned in the park must be used for the park. Over the next 30 years the money dwindled, and in 2012 the trust was dissolved. The County became the sole owner and manager.

The County has consistently indicated that it has funds for minimal operation of Kanipe Park. Over time, historic buildings began to deteriorate and invasive plant species began to overtake local areas of the park. The County has proposed logging of the forests in the park, but deferred it for another time because the terms of the will and because of the opposition of citizens. In 2005, a local woman formed a Friends group (Friends of Mildred Kanipe Park) and obtained 501c3 (non-profit) status, and many projects like restoration of the old schoolhouse, building of a nature trail and horse trails, restoration of the oak savannah and cutting of invasive brush were implemented with other groups and individuals such as Oregon Equestrian Trails and Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District (See www.mildredkanipepark.org.)

Upon dissolution of the trust in 2012, the County, again, began planning to log in Kanipe Park. This time the proposed area of harvest was on 20 acres in the northwest

corner. Financial self-sustainability of the parks is a mandate of the Douglas County Commissioners (although Kanipe is apparently the first to have to do this). In order to accomplish this, the funds from the sale of this timber were to go toward building both equestrian and non-equestrian campsites. Over the next six months as the County Planning Committee met, it became clear that the County believed only clear cut logging would provide the needed revenue of \$130,000. The message was that Kanipe Park might have to close if any other course of action was chosen. In the end, 80% of the Committee voted “yes” to proceed with the clearcut.

A few of the Planning Committee members disagreed. One member proposed an alternative to the harvest suggesting that grants and contributions could be generated to pay for campground construction. It took much persistence and public support to persuade the planning committee and the County commissioners and there were many discouraging setbacks. The Parks Advisory Committee finally recommended logging to the County Commissioners, a crushing decision. Yet, an alarmed citizenry again protested, bombarding the County Commissioners with mail, personal visits, newspaper articles, letters to the editor, and phone calls. Commissioner Doug Robertson then took the lead, and brokered an agreement with the Friends of Mildred Kanipe Park to grant the organization until July 31, 2014 to raise \$65,000 for the campground construction; the County would then match this with \$65,000, most likely from the remaining trust funds. The agreement can be viewed on the Friends website, www.mildredkanipepark.org. All three County Commissioners and two representatives of the Friends signed it on January 29, 2014.

By its terms, the logging of the 20 acres of natural forest will not go forward (unless the Friends cannot raise enough money). The County does not agree to abandon the idea of logging in Kanipe, but has signed an agreement to postpone the action until other options have been “considered and exhausted.” Some challenges that lie ahead, besides the need to raise money for the campground and for other issues facing the park, are being vigilant in noting what Douglas County is proposing in Kanipe Park, what its long range management plan (yet to be developed) entails, and how well it’s succeeding in protecting and enhancing the Park. We also hope that all groups who love the Park, some of whom were in favor of the logging, can come together in cooperation toward our common goal.

We may have to fight future battles against harvest, but this success has strengthened our trust in the public process and in the power of citizens to influence their government to do the right thing (or at least what we view as the right course of action), and that is a good feeling. If you wish to join in the effort, please contribute whatever is comfortable by writing a check to “Friends of Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park Association, Inc.” and mail to P.O. Box 105, Umpqua, OR 97486, or use PayPal via the website. Thank you!

Mike Burke, Member, Friends of Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park Association, Inc. Celia Scott, Board Member, Friends of Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park Association, Inc.

It's a new year and a new AmeriCorps term with Umpqua Watersheds. This is the last year of a three-year AmeriCorps VISTA project for UW. As such, most of my time will be devoted to sustaining our current programs. In the past year, we have made significant progress in developing our educational activities, which include:



VISTA Voice Roland Wang

- Piloting an environmental education curriculum (“Science Friday”) at McGovern Elementary School in Winston with a group of sixth grade students during the fall 2013 term. The students were taught subjects such as water chemistry, the water cycle, weather systems, and topography.
- Piloting a wilderness-themed literary arts curriculum with English students at the Phoenix Charter School. The students are reading and analyzing essays by Aldo Leopold and John Muir. They will also be creating their own anthology of creative writing based on their experience of wilderness.
- Educating, training, and managing a crew of six Umpqua Community College students for seven weeks during the summer Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC) program in 2013. The crew helped professionals at the United States Forest Service collect field data for their projects.

Our OYCC program represents an important trend in the direction of UW’s educational goals that steer towards collaboration. Just last month I helped submit a grant to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support the **Umpqua Natural Resources Pathway (UNRP)** program, established last year, for the summer OYCC program. In the past week, Ken Carloni submitted a grant to the Oregon Department of Education for

STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) related activities to further support the Pathway program for this summer’s OYCC crew.

UW is part of a larger multi-organizational effort – Phoenix Charter School, UCC, BLM, USFS, Cow Creek Tribe, and SURCP – to provide youth with a pathway towards natural resources careers through a “Learn, Earn, and Serve” model of education, skillset development, and work opportunities. Specifically, the pathway is tiered in that the youth will gain career-specific skills in the natural resources field as well as be placed in more demanding training, education, and field activities with each year of experience in the program.

Another key component of the Learn, Earn and Serve model is the service aspect of the program. Participants in the program are asked to donate 16 hours to community service projects such as UW’s Twin Lakes Youth Campout or leading hikes at Mildred Kanipe Park to utilize wildlife and botanical skills learned in class at UCC and experienced in the field while working their summer jobs.

The Pathway and our other educational programs are just one of many steps towards shaping the educational future of youth in Douglas County. I look forward to the remainder of my AmeriCorps service to influence that future.

Something Fishy on the Umpqua

The Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP)

The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife recently unveiled their Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP), which has been developed to address conservation and management of the remaining anadromous salmon and trout on the Oregon



Restoration by Stan Petrowski

coast. The CMP is the latest chapter of ODFW’s Native Fish Conservation Policy (NFCP) that was adopted in 2002 to ensure the conservation and recovery of native fish. While the description of the plan sounds good, the plan is not without serious controversy.

Native Wild Steelhead

For many years, friends and members of Umpqua Watersheds have worked with ODFW and various other agencies to help stop the dramatic decline of our native species. Umpqua Watersheds Board members contributed as observers, and some of our members were participants of the Stakeholder Team Group that contributed input to the CMP. From the start, it was clear that the ODFW had an agenda that was not in alignment with the Stakeholder

Team. Their plan was not even aligned with their own native fish conservation policies. That left many on the Stakeholder Team jaded. For example, the ODFW's plan was to allow for the killing of wild Steelhead. The Stakeholders nearly unanimously up and down the coast said "NO", and were befuddled when the ODFW continued to push this idea. It was also very frustrating to have the ODFW state to the public that the decisions of the CMP were reached by consensus. It was not.

Wild vs. Hatchery

Looming very large, by way of misrepresentation, was the idea that hatchery fish were considered wild native fish after one generation. True, the offspring of hatchery program fish are virtually indistinguishable because they are not fin clipped and their brood stock is harvested from wild fish runs. The fact remains that hatchery fish and their offspring have serious detrimental impacts on wild native fish populations. It is double speak to blur the line between *Native Hatchery* and *Native Wild Steelhead or Chinook*. It has been scientifically well established that hatchery programs undermine wild fish runs. Once again the South Umpqua River is being thrown to the sacrifice zone in this regard. The CMP calls for an increase of 30,000 more hatchery fish to be released at the Canyon Creek tributary on the South Umpqua near Canyonville. The quota already assigned to be released there is 120,000 hatchery smolts and 30,000 more are proposed to be added to this. These fish genetics heavily impact the wild population because of an estimated stray rate of 1% that reaches those segments of the river relegated for wild fish. In addition, the brood stock for the hatchery program is harvested on the Upper South Umpqua fish trap from wild fish stocks there, further undermining the wild run. Add to this the critical losses due to predation from non-native invasive Smallmouth Bass and we are poised for disaster in the Umpqua Watershed. We are slowly and inevitably undermining the wild steelhead and native fish runs of the South Umpqua. The Summer Steelhead run on the South Umpqua is considered extinct.

South Umpqua Chinook

There are a number of other serious problems within the CMP. In addition to the wild Steelhead issue, there is the matter of the forlorn condition of the wild South Umpqua Spring Chinook run. This once thriving fish run helped sustain the Umpqua Native Americans located in the south fork basin. Currently there are on average 174 Spring Chinook returning each year. You heard correctly: 174 individual fish on average make it to the spawning grounds. It is a pathetic remnant of very important coastal genetics. The State solution to this issue is a nominal reduction of Chinook take during the fishing season. Although ODFW acknowledges the plight of the South Umpqua Spring Chinook, there is absolutely no program in place to protect or recover this run. None! When various viable solutions were suggested they

were summarily rejected. In the past two years mining claims have been made on the summer refuge and spawning area habitats of this run. Once again the South Umpqua River is offered up as a sacrifice zone. From the beginning of the process of developing the plan it was very apparent that it was not actually a Coastal Multi-species **Conservation Plan** but rather a hatchery/license sales program to shore up revenue for the State from the coastal river system. It is nowhere more evident than in the way they are addressing the plight of the South Umpqua Spring Chinook.

Predation

The Umpqua basin fisheries issues are significantly affected by native and non-native predation conditions. We have set up an ecological imbalance in and around our aquatic habitat regions. Native "nongame" fish are going extinct (Umpqua Chub and Lamprey are good examples), from predation by invasive, non-native Smallmouth Bass. Hazing and/or killing of predatory birds and marine mammals without seeking to discover and address the actual causes of this imbalanced predation is not a reasonable answer.

Give Us a Hand, Comment on the CMP

The flawed CMP was quickly met with opposition from various conservation organizations. The Native Fish Society, the Steamboaters and others put together a blue ribbon panel of aquatic academia to review the plan.

Both, that science panel and the *Independent*



Smallmouth Bass

Multidisciplinary Science Team (IMST), found major flaws in the CMP. What these science panels have produced is summarily being ignored at present. The ODFW has wrapped up its travelling open house public review process, but is still taking public comments until February 10th. For more info on the CMP, visit: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/coastal_multispecies.asp

To comment visit: <http://ODFW.CoastalPlan@state.or.us>

Chime in for the good of the Umpqua. There is much to protect and restore in our homeland.

Stanley Petrowski

(Umpqua Watersheds Vice President, Umpqua Watersheds Board of Directors, and Restoration Committee Chair)

Alan Bunce (Umpqua Watersheds board member)



February 8, 2014

Dear Supporters,

Plans for the **18th Annual Umpqua Watersheds Banquet and Benefit Auction** have begun. Please save Saturday, **March 1st, 2014** and plan to join friends and neighbors in the Campus Center at Umpqua Community College to celebrate our beautiful rivers and mighty forests.

Ernie Niemi, an economist from Natural Resources Economics will be our keynote speaker and will provide a captivating overview of the economic impact of the O&C legislation currently pending in Congress. His presentation called "There is No Free Lunch," brings to light the true economic impact of the proposals and who will pay for it. You won't want to miss it!

Many people share their time and energy to make this evening a success. We are calling on you to help us make it a financial success as well. This is your chance to contribute to this memorable event, as the funds generated enable Umpqua Watersheds to continue our pursuit toward healthy forests, clean rivers, and healthy habitat for the many wildlife species found in the 100 Valleys of the Umpqua.

The Silent Auction continues to grow each year with charitable donations from individuals and businesses. This can be an opportunity to "re-gift" something wonderful. Or perhaps you would like to put together an auction item with a theme; a spa gift certificate, a mellow CD and some slippers. Use your creativity and provide an item or service for the auction and/or donate money to help us with the special costs associated with putting on this great event.

Umpqua Watersheds is "dedicated to the protection and restoration of the ecosystems of the Umpqua Watershed and beyond." Make this your opportunity to support our mission, and make a difference in our community. Be a part of this great challenge!

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Kasey Hovik

Director of Operations

541.672.7065

Kasey@umpqua-watersheds.org

DONATION REPLY FORM

Umpqua Watersheds Gift Donation Guidelines

Umpqua Watersheds is grateful to accept your donation to use in our fundraising activities. Our major fundraising event and largest need for donated items is our silent auction at our Annual Banquet in February of each year. However, we have a need for items at many of our events for raffle drawings, door prizes, and volunteer awards. By contributing a donation, you acknowledge our discretion to use your gift in the way most beneficial to Umpqua Watersheds.

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

YES! I would love to help Umpqua Watersheds by...

Donating the following auction item:

Value of your donated item: _____

- ☐ Please have someone from UW contact me to pick-up this item.
- ☐ I will deliver this item to the UW office ____ in person, ____ by mail.

Donating the enclosed check or money order in the amount of \$ _____

Name: _____ Business name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Website/Email: _____

*****Please provide promotional information (bio, flyer, business card) if you would like that displayed with your donation*****

Thank you for your generous contribution!

We thank you for your continued support of our valuable work.

Umpqua Watersheds is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. EIN 93-1165587

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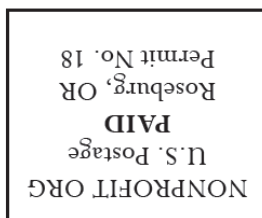
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