



# 100 Valleys

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

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

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## From the President

Stan Petrowski

It is with great pleasure and humility that I have received the vote of confidence by the Board of Directors of Umpqua Watersheds to serve you as President. Over the years working with Umpqua Watersheds, I have marveled to watch the organization evolve, grow and come alive with a fresh vision for the future. UW is keeping pace with the tumultuous challenges that face all living things on our planet and forging ahead to make right the wrongs. We are on the verge of a historic social battle in the defense of clean air, water and what remains of our diminishing wild lands and the failing fish runs. We need your commitment as much as ever.

Those who know me well realize how passionate I am about restoration work. I give it my all and encourage its progress wherever it appears, both in the public and private sector. This May 18th I was privileged to receive one of the "2014 Rise to the Future Awards" given by the USDA US Forest Service in Washington D.C. This was a special award category given for the first time called **"The Private Citizen Committed to Watershed Restoration Award"**. I was pleased to take advantage of my time in Washington to advocate on your behalf and on behalf of the many hard pressed species, the forests and river systems of our part of the world. Whether it was the diminished or listed salmon runs, the tiny Umpqua Chub or our proposal for the Crater Lake Wilderness, it seemed I had the attentive ear of the Forest Service leadership.

The NW Forest Plan planning rule revision process was also of keen importance in our discussions with regional Forest Service leaders. The fact is that all that we have gained stands a chance of being undone at this critical stage of the Plan. You remember all of the hard work that it took to get it in place originally. Well now, twenty years on, it is under its scheduled review. Things can go wrong. You can bet your bottom dollar that those who would exploit the precious ecological assets of our region are pushing hard to undermine the protections embodied in the Plan. On our part we are asking for the strengthening of the good parts of the NW Forest Plan and for corrections on the part of its weak points. Let's not be complacent. Let's be diligent to stay awake and on guard on behalf of



Umpqua Watersheds President with the US Forest Service "Private Citizen Commitment to Watershed Restoration" Award

all life in our region.

In Washington I was proud to say that I was a part of Umpqua Watersheds and a part of its nature loving committed community. On behalf of Umpqua Watersheds I am asking you to stand strong with us by supporting the organizations fiscal needs. We have always trusted your passion to keep the organization going and our needs are as great now as ever. Our **conservation, restoration and education** efforts are gaining positive momentum all the time. It is encouraging to see it here in Douglas County, one of the most intransigent places on the West Coast. It takes your financial support to make all of this creative energy, planning and implementation process happen. On behalf of your volunteer Board of Directors I am asking you to remember us often with your donations. Consider the positive changes we are making on the landscape and in the understanding of our community. It's hard work and we are glad to do it.

What in particular are YOU passionate about? Join us. We will empower your volunteer efforts to make our community and our watersheds healthy.

## Our Mission:

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

## Conservation Corner



With apologies to Neil Young, conservationists these days can't be faulted for exclaiming: "Look at Mother Nature on the run, in 2015!" Seems as though many in the industrial timber industry and elsewhere, often backed by co-opted politicians, are determined to squeeze every bit of cash value, down to the last possible penny, from our beleaguered natural world.

Despite input from UW and its sister conservation organizations conveyed to the Umpqua National Forest (UNF) at meetings and in writing over the span of a few years, that agency has stated its preference for what is, in our view, the least eco-friendly of the options proposed for its Travel Management Plan. If formally adopted, this alternative would allow motorized travel by vehicles up to 50" wide on trails which cross as yet un-roaded portions of the forest. Some of these are important components of the Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal. UW's "Wild On Wilderness" sub-committee, in cooperation with Cascadia Wildlands, Oregon Wild and others, has been working tirelessly for a number of years to move this legacy proposal forward. At this late date, to allow dirt bikes and other off road vehicles to impact the rare solitude and silence of some of these very landscapes is disquieting, indeed. The UNF will be accepting written objections to its unfortunate choice until June 5. UW will object.

The Forest Service has begun the long process of reformulating its long range management plans for those National Forests that have been operating under aegis of the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) since 1994. The Forest Service has openly stated its intent to maintain the regional characteristic of the NFP rather than try to Balkanize it, forest by forest. Obviously, such an individual planning approach might well run counter to the region-wide restoration intent of that landmark resource management plan. The Forest Service, while its planning process has officially commenced, will postpone any

firm decisions for a year or more, until the results of a "science synthesis" process are in, we are told. Not so the BLM, whose Western Oregon districts have also been subject to the overarching protections of the NFP.

Just a few short years since the infamous Whopper (Western Oregon Plan Revision) was put out to pasture, its offspring, aka Whopper Jr., has arrived on the scene to take up where its reviled parent left off. BLM's draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for this latest Resource Management Plan (RMP), officially presented to the public on April 24, 2015, includes four principal alternatives, plus two sub-alternatives and a no-action choice, as required by law. Those concerned about the effect of the various proposals on BLM holdings of particular interest to them can access an interactive map at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/interactivemap.php>

The entire Draft DEIS may be obtained at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/index.php>

With allowed sale quantities proposed from 176 to 486 million board feet annually, BLM's preferred option is "B" at 234 mmbf. This choice, as all of the others except for the no-action alternative, would reduce the riparian buffers currently re-



Community involvement in forest management.

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quired by the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) of the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) by about half. Logging in these reserves would account for much of the increased timber harvest volume BLM wants to realize. The UW Conservation Committee takes particular exception to this change, in part, because of the very nature of the “checkerboard” arrangement within which the O & C and Coos Bay Wagon Road lands are situated, especially in the Coast Range. The outdated riparian buffers currently required by the Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA) on private forest holdings range from zero to inadequate. Often headwater, non-fish bearing streams, both perennial and intermittent on these private lands are left, post harvest, with no buffer whatsoever. As a result, such negative impacts as solar warming, sedimentation, decreased minimum and increased maximum flows, contamination from aerial herbicide applications and more are imposed on adjacent public forest lands as well. In April, UW filed comments with the Oregon Department of Forestry requesting the immediate improvement of those stream protections. Still waiting, we are most reluctant to see the current ACS riparian buffers on BLM lands halved while those observed (or not) by the industrial timber industry remain so obviously inadequate.

In addition to several public workshops, BLM will be accepting comments on its draft DEIS until July 23, 2015. We encourage all concerned members to take a look and speak up. These are your lands too, held and managed in trust for you and your offspring.

### Get active!



able to deliver a predictable and sustainable supply of timber,” said BLM State Director Perez. “The BLM is committed to these environmental protections, as well as providing predictability and sustainability to communities in western Oregon.”

Following publication of this Draft RMP/EIS, members of the public will have 90 days to provide written comments. The BLM encourages all interested members of the public to submit comments and participate in the upcoming open houses and workshops:

May 19<sup>th</sup>: Open house, Roseburg, OR  
 May 20<sup>th</sup>: Open house, Eugene, OR  
 May 21<sup>st</sup>: Open house, Salem, OR  
 May 26<sup>th</sup>: Open house, Klamath Falls, OR  
 May 27<sup>th</sup>: Open house, Medford, OR  
 May 28<sup>th</sup>: Open house, Coos Bay, OR  
 June 9<sup>th</sup>: Socio-economics workshop, Salem, OR  
 June 10<sup>th</sup>: Socio-economics workshop, Roseburg, OR  
 June 11<sup>th</sup>: Recreation workshop, Roseburg, OR  
 June 16<sup>th</sup>: Forest management workshop, Salem, OR  
 June 17<sup>th</sup>: Forest management workshop, Medford, OR  
 June 18<sup>th</sup>: Recreation workshop, Medford, OR  
 June 23<sup>rd</sup>: Riparian workshop, Eugene, OR  
 June 24<sup>th</sup>: Recreation workshop, Eugene, OR  
 June 25<sup>th</sup>: Recreation workshop, Salem, OR  
 June 30<sup>th</sup>: Elected officials workshop, Salem, OR

For more information on the times and locations of public meetings, please visit our website at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/meetings.php>

BLM  
Oregon State Office

## AmeriCorps Voice

By Katrina Keleher



This past April has marked the end of an era with the departure of UW’s AmeriCorps VISTA member Roland Wang, who has served as a leader, educator, grant-writer, and—most of all—a friend to all of us at here at UW. Roland’s hard work has left UW in an era of positive growth. The Forest Stewardship curriculum continues to thrive and mature, and is now being taught at two schools as well as the YMCA summer camp. The curriculum is reaching six times as many Douglas County youth compared to when it was piloted in 2013, and this scope will only grow in the coming year. I am honored to carry the torch Roland has passed along, and I will continue to work towards doing justice to his program vision.

UW’s Douglas High School Science Olympiad team competed in the 2015 Oregon State Science Olympiad competition on April 18<sup>th</sup> at Oregon State University, and two team members earned second place medals in an engineering event called “Wright Stuff” and two students earned a fourth place in the “Entomology” event. I am beyond proud of the team for all of their hard work, focus, and determination. Most importantly, though, I am especially impressed with the high level of teamwork they displayed during the 6-months of practice and competition. Their hard work certainly paid off!

The McGovern Watershed Tour came to a successful completion with a trip to the South Slough National Estuarine Reserve on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The students’ understanding of watershed education came full circle with an adventurous day of exploring wildlife, plants, and geographic features within the estuary. UW is so thankful to the Gray Family Foundation for providing funding for this exciting opportunity. We couldn’t have done it without their generous support!



The UW education committee is gearing up for the summer season, and we are getting so excited for the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Wilderness Campout at Twin Lakes, which will be held from July 17-19. Get in touch with me if you’re interested volunteering or learning more about the trip!! You can e-mail me at [katrina@umpqua-watersheds.org](mailto:katrina@umpqua-watersheds.org) or call the UW office at 541-672-7065.

## **Ancestral Skills Gatherings: Using the Ancestral Arts as a tool for reconnecting to the land where we live.**

By Paige Heron

Howdy y'all, I'm Paige Heron, one of your newest Board Members. I live on the South Branch of the Umpqua about halfway between Days Creek and Elk Creek and just downriver from the Covered Bridge in Milo. The timing of my move to this area makes it so that for at least the next twenty years or so, I will still be considered a newcomer to these parts by most of you. It is my intention to stay that long, and longer. In fact the reason I bought land in the first place was so that my children, and grandchildren, and their grandchildren, and so on... will know where they come from.



Looking at a piece of land this way may be a somewhat foreign concept, but I learned it from elders native to this continent. It's the idea that every decision that you make is made only after considering how it will affect the people seven generations from now. This is a different kind of time than were used dealing with in the smartphone age, but I believe it is a time that you as members of this organization are familiar with. It is Old Growth time, Geologic time, Watershed time and I believe that if we as humans do not start acting in accord with this kind of time then our time as a species will soon run out in an easily predictable amount of our precisely measured nanoseconds.

But all of this is old news, and that's not what we want to be printing (these trees are too valuable for us to be printing anything, so I better make this worth your while). We are all aware that our connection to the Living World is important. You give money so that this organization can defend what hasn't been destroyed yet, and restore what has been. We all spend as much time in the woods as we can, and many of us live in the woods. But how do we actually start living the way an old growth forest does? How do we create a culture that is completely intertwined with every facet of the ecologic system that we are a part of?

I would argue that there are examples of human cultures that have conducted themselves with a similar degree of beautiful complexity as a watershed. In fact there were cultures of people living in this very watershed that could not conceive of themselves as separate from it. Unfortunately, devastatingly, much of the cultures that lived in the valleys of

the Umpqua for thousands of years in true ecological abundance were systematically destroyed, and the cultures were so changed that there is little that distinguishes what remains of them from the culture that "colonized" them. Though there are records and there are even folk that remember a different way of living with the land. These people live in every watershed, though they are not always easy to find.

There is no substitute for learning about the land from someone who has become endemic to the place you are learning about and I encourage everyone to seek those people out. Learn how to make yourself into a basket that is strong and beautiful enough to carry the old stories they give you. Until you do find that mentor, there are training wheels you can use that I have found to be quite useful. What I am speaking about are Ancestral Skills Gatherings. You might have heard them called "Primitive Skills Gatherings" or "Earth Skills Gatherings" or "Rendezvous" or "Knap-Ins" and they are all of those things and more.

At these gatherings you will find craftspeople from all walks of life sharing skills that were common to indigenous people all over the world. If you go back far enough in anybody's family tree you will find that there were ancestors who all had basic skills that many of us have forgotten or no longer value in the "modern age". These are skills such as making fire with friction, making cordage with plant and animal fibers, tanning hides with bark or smoke, knapping stones to make stone tools, being able to identify which wild plant is good for eating/medicine/dying, making ceramic cookware, using willow, pine-needles, or cattails for making baskets. These are just some of the general themes. At every gathering there are many skilled instructors that teach very specific skills that have specific tools, techniques, and stories that accompany the skill you will be learning.

There are literally dozens of gatherings similar to these springing up all over like mushrooms after the first rains of the fall. You may have seen some of the folk practicing these ancestral arts in the "Ark Park" at the Oregon Country Fair, or you may have seen any of the number of survival scenario TV shows that have cropped up of late, featuring many of the people who teach at and attend these gatherings. The point is that there are lots of folk who are learning these skills and there are even a few gatherings that happen pretty close to our area. Check out a nearly complete list on this website: [www.earthskillsgathering.org](http://www.earthskillsgathering.org)

I have been going to these gatherings for the last five years. For the last two years I have been helping a friend of mine teach at many of these gatherings. One of the classes we have been

teaching is how to make leather out of salmon skins by using the tannins present in bark and leaves of plants. Fish leather of this sort was made by indigenous peoples all around the northern oceans for millennia, and there are a few people who still do.

You might be thinking at this point, "Ok those are interesting skills, but how does learning them create a culture that is connected to the land and is so stable that my kids won't ever want to leave?" To be honest with you, I feel like it is too early to say. I don't know how, because I haven't yet done it. What I do know is that staying connected to the Living World is fundamental to being able to live in harmony with it. I have found that when I practice these sort of skills, I achieve that connection. What I am betting on is that if more people start living in a way that requires them to interact with the Living World then eventually a culture will emerge again that just might have a hope of growing as old as the oldest of the old trees.

**WANTED:**  
**UCC NATURAL RESOURCE STUDENTS**  
Must have an earnest desire to save the world.



(One salmon fry at a time.)  
Email: [Ken.Carloni@Umpqua.edu](mailto:Ken.Carloni@Umpqua.edu)  
[www.umpqua.edu/natural-resources](http://www.umpqua.edu/natural-resources)  
Phone: (541) 440-7641

**WOW Committee** is responding to the Forest Service Travel Management Plan. They want to open up hiking trails to ATVs. Some of these trails are in the Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal. Susan Applegate has been working hard on this issue and will keep us posted.

This summer, there are some great hikes into the proposed Crater Lake Wilderness areas. Watch for the announcement of a hike in to the beautiful Limpy Rock Natural Research Area on the North Umpqua. Steve Erickson will lead this hike. Steve knows the area well and its rich history.

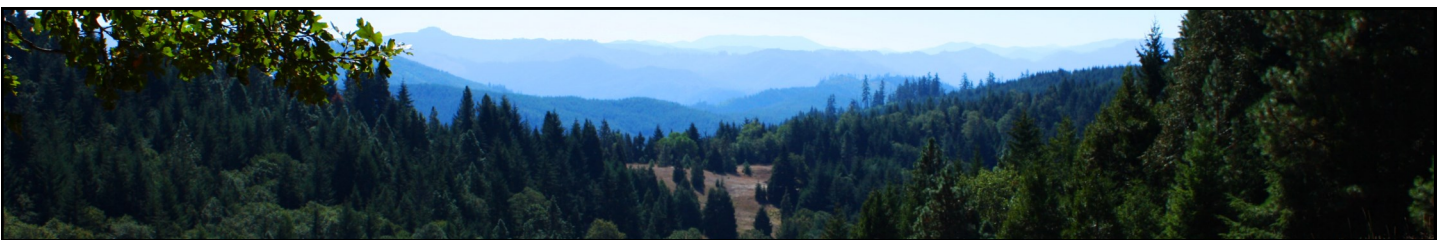
Speaking of Limpy Rock and its rich history, the WOW committee is working on a presentation about the "Four Ladies in Tennis Shoes" who worked to protect this area back in 1975. It is a inspiring story about these ladies who found many rare flowers there. Jeanne Moore is the last lady alive of the group. She was recently interviewed about how they protected the area and all of the work that went into it. Stay tuned for this interesting and important story about our history here in the Umpqua.

Thanks to a grant from Patagonia, Umpqua Watersheds was able to hire Araya Jensen as our Crater Lake Wilderness Coordinator. Araya is doing a great job talking to the community about the importance of protecting Oregon's only National Park and the headwaters of our rivers. We are proud and impressed with the job that Araya has done already.

And another big thank you to Alysia Gaye, for her generous donation to the cause! Alysia, owner of Medicine Flower, an herb farm here in the Umpqua, is one of our most recent business endorsers of the Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal.

We are excited about the support from groups and businesses for this very important Wilderness Proposal. Your support is making it happen. Let us know how you can help out: attending meetings, going on our hikes, financial contributions, and/or writing letters to the editor in support of these special places.

For WOW Committee Bob Hoehne



## Restoration Committee

“Protect the Best, Restore the Rest”

Stanley Petrowski

President and Restoration Chair



### Restoration Through Collaboration

Umpqua Watersheds (UW) has been involved with collaborative dialog in various capacities for a very long time. I can remember as far back as 2006 being on a collaborative council before I was on the Umpqua Watersheds' Board of Directors. I often met with the UW and conservation organization representatives in an effort to move forward solutions to the many threats facing all levels of plant and animal life in the Umpqua basin. Dialog regarding forest and watershed issues is complicated. For instance, the skills and tools needed to restore the landscape are in part the same ones that had been used to destroy it. A good example of that is the case of distributing large logs in stream systems for restoration. It is often done by Chinook helicopter. The same machine used in war is now being used to heal the land. Politics often clouds discussions and impairs good solutions or plain talk.

We keep trying. We are constantly on the lookout for partners from all walks that are willing to sit down and make positive differences socially and ecologically. Most often collaborative dialogs that are facilitated by a professional facilitator or agency personnel use a concept that underpins the agreement to meet and talk. It is the concept called the “three legged stool”. The idea here is that a three point structure based on **social**, **economic** and **ecological** balance is stable and benefits everyone. It is an attempt to balance all of the elements that are essential to meet the needs represented at the stakeholders table. It sounds good and may even be an incentive to get folks of diverse interests to dialog that normally wouldn't. In terms of discussions of **forest management** the three legged stool idea has always come up and has been the assumed appropriate grounds for productive talks.

### Awkward Imbalance

This three-leg stool concept has been promulgated by some to mean that each of the “legs” in the stool is equal in footing. However, I have always seen a rather awkward imbalance whenever the simple analogy has come up - especially in regard to discussions that revolve around restoration ecology or forest management. Something seems askew in the world

view expressed by it and might explain why our forest-based

ecosystems are in such poor shape. I will go so far as to say it sets the stage to maintain the high level of polarization we see in the socio/political arena associated with watershed issues.

Placing economics and social needs on par with ecosystem ecology undermines the fact that the proper functioning of our ecosystems are what supports all economic and social infrastructures man has made. The world has been changing economically, politically and socially since the beginning of recorded history. Humans, and systems they create, have come and gone for the good or ill of humanity. But if you undermine ecological function you undermine the basis for all life on earth. Not just our society is destroyed but the very underpinnings that provide us and all living things with clean air, water, food and shelter are destroyed. The reality is that nature's ecosystems are **not** on par with social and economic values. Thus, the stool topples.

### A Simple Idea That Makes Sense

Just recently I attended some presentations that were centered on restoration work and human intervention on forested watersheds. I walked away with, what appeared to me to be, an alternative principle upon which to build a

collaborative dialog on watershed management. It is not a new idea and it truly embodies the results of the long hours and effort Umpqua Watersheds has put into developing its working model of habitat restoration and watershed function. The image seen in this article illustrates the concept quite nicely. Here you can see the ideal interaction of ourselves with nature. Intuitively we do this all the time when gardening. The quality of what we derive from our gardens is directly proportional to what we put into them. The same is true with our intercourse with nature on a watershed scale. In a perfect world, balance

should be maintained. We should not take too much and we should compensate for what we take.

Different civilizations and cultures have sought to embody various expressions of this resiliency model and nature herself has been kind enough to adjust to our mistakes. At least that was the case until the industrial revolution empowered humanity to override the safeguards life intrinsically maintained. With the onset of powerful machines and blind aggressive resource extraction, species began to disappear. This is the first and most evident expression of nature thrown out of balance. Ice ages, continental subduction quakes, flooding and fire have often shaped the ecology of our world. Nature's resiliency principle has always adapted. These adjustments often took place on geological time scales. Unless humanity transcends its propensity for rapacious resource



consumption and greed it will go the way of the dinosaur.

### **Making Amends**

Modern society has been draining natural resources and not giving back. Our civilization is beginning to recognize what we have done and it sees that we've gone too far. We have set laws and policies in place in hopes of correcting these errors. These laws are not perfect but they are a good start. It is also obvious that those who have benefited most from resource extraction are in strident opposition to this trend. I don't mean it in an absolute sense because there are companies that do give back. Patagonia, for instance, comes to mind -- and there are others.

However - without a doubt, deeply entrenched resource extraction economies don't want the game changed. Thank goodness that the hard work of conservationists over time has begun to have a good effect on our society. People are learning what is right. Yet, there are huge gaps in our understanding. You would be very surprised, for instance, to know that many of the people living on the east coast are shocked to know that clear cutting is still standard practice on industrial timber lands. They don't realize that there are still strident efforts to use these clear cutting and heavy handed practices on public lands; lands that are a part of our public trust. It is astounding to them when they hear of it.

Millions of dollars are being spent annually to restore the degraded habitat on public and private lands that is the legacy of unrestrained unsustainable "growth". Bigger houses, more roads and the creation of synthetic needs and by product waste have left an expensive debt to our natural balance. There is abundant evidence that restoration efforts are effective, but they are expensive. There is also abundant evidence that habitat degradation is out pacing habitat restoration. Try as we might, we are being out-gunned by industry. We, and our children, will pay the price. In order to effectively gain balance we must make up for lost time and begin accelerating our pay back. This image shows what must happen now to restore much of what we have lost. We must, within reason, give back more than we are taking away in order to play "catch up".

Often the conservation movement is accused of undermining society. In some rare quarters that may be the case. By and large, in my estimation, it is not. We use the roads, utilize paper products and work our electronic devices like everyone else.

In actuality our insistence that the brutal mishandling of the earth should stop is often misrepresented in order to undermine the wisdom of our intent. It is a political ploy often used in the media against us. If we could be heard out - what we really want and insist on is a just and fair balance of give and take, both socially and ecologically. At this stage, restoration ecology is the order of the hour. It is a field filled with potential good for every aspect of our world and life. In future articles we will explore creative ways to get the job done.

### **The 19th Annual Umpqua Watersheds Banquet and Auction**

Once again, our supporters came through in a big way, donating a plethora of items and once again making this year's auction truly memorable. Thank You! to all who donated.

Founding Board Member, Dr. Ken Carloni took the podium as this year's emcee and introducing Crater Lake Wilderness Campaign Coordinator, Araya Jensen, who spoke about the virtues of wilderness. Outgoing President Thomas McGregor spoke about our many accomplishments of the past year and also announced our annual award recipients.

#### **VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR – Janice Reid and Roland Wang**

#### **CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR – Chris Rusch**

#### **LIFETIME VOLUNTEER - Jim Long**

#### **LIFETIME CONSERVATIONIST – Richard Chasm**

#### **THE LORAX AWARD – Francis Eatherington (Special Award)**

The finale of the evening was a documentary film celebrating our first 20 years created by our AmeriCorp Member, Katrina Keleher, who worked tirelessly for many weeks to edit and produce a great educational, uplifting, and inspiring video. To see the video visit <https://vimeo.com/122171085>. For a small fee, DVD copies can be available at our office.

Much thanks this year to Cheyenne Rico, who stepped up to take on the role of Banquet Committee Chair for this year's Banquet. Also, a big Thank You to all of our many volunteers, who once again stepped up to help out where needed.

Thomas McGregor announced that he would be stepping down from the Board of Directors, and as UW President. He will continue to volunteer with Education, WOW, Brew Fest, and various other Committees .

The UW Board of Directors voted Stan Petrowski as the new UW President. Stan comes in with an extensive list of leadership accomplishments, being the Founder and President of the South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership (SURCP), and having served as President of the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR).

The Board also voted in Anne Dorsey as Vice President. Anne has been on the Board and involved with UW for many years.

Two new Directors were nominated – Robin Hartmann and Paige Heron. At the last Board Meeting, Robin and Paige were unanimously voted in as new Directors.

Umpqua Watersheds presents the 14<sup>th</sup> annual

# YOUTH WILDERNESS CAMPOUT

JULY 17-19, 2015

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**Twin Lakes, Umpqua National Forest**

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**COST: \$25 REGISTER BY JULY 10**

Enjoy the splendor of the Umpqua with a weekend full of outdoor activities!  
Hiking \* Camping \* Swimming \* Learning about plants, spotted owls, forests  
Open to youth (12-17 years old); parents strongly encouraged to participate

For application & information, contact Katrina Keleher

[katrina@umpqua-watersheds.org](mailto:katrina@umpqua-watersheds.org) \* 541-672-7065

## THE ECOLOGICAL WORKFORCE OF TOMORROW -- TODAY!

### ***UCC Launches New Degree in Natural Resource Monitoring***

In the waning days of the last congress, a bi-partisan bill sponsored by Senator Ron Wyden took its last breath and died. While the "Oregon and California Land Grant Act of 2013" had some significant flaws (see UW Spring 2014 Newsletter), it represented a huge paradigm shift in the way O&C lands (managed by the Bureau of Land Management) were to be treated. "Ecological Forestry" was to be the overarching management principle, and the word "ecological" appeared in the bill's language 30 times -- unprecedented for a bill that came very close to becoming law.

Even though that bill died, Senator Wyden's office has signaled that something like it will re-emerge in this congress, and ecological forestry will likely again be the driving principle. As more Americans demand science-based stewardship on their public forests, the pressure to manage sustainability and equitability continues to grow. State employment statistics project a significant increase in demand for conservation and natural resource scientists and managers locally and regionally.

This raises an important question: Who will train and educate the ecological workforce for these jobs? The answer: Umpqua Watersheds, Phoenix School, public land management agencies, and now *Umpqua Community College*.

Three years ago, Umpqua Watersheds began its *Learn, Earn and Serve* program, partnering with UCC, Phoenix School, Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, the South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership, the US Forest Service and the BLM to pair crews of youth with agency specialists to do ecological surveys using standardized protocols. After early successes, we applied for and received a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to scale the program up and create the *Umpqua Natural Resources Pathway* from high school through community college and on to a Bachelor of Science degree program at OSU.

At the time, the middle step of the pathway was uncertain -- Natural Resource programs were available at Phoenix School and at Oregon State, but not at UCC. After discussions with the College administration last August, the UCC Science department began planning such a program, and in November, met with representatives from OSU's Natural Resources Dept. in the College of Forestry. After very positive discussions, UCC was encouraged to develop a unique Natural Resources program option that best matched the area's educational resources and the needs of the local and regional workforce.

After 9 months of planning at UCC and coordinating with OSU, that new degree program has just been unanimously approved at UCC -- an **Associate of Science Degree in Natural Resources: Landscape Monitoring Option** (<http://www.umpqua.edu/natural-resources>). This two-year (95

credit) program will prepare students for careers in conservation science, wildlife biology, fisheries science, botany, forestry, watershed management and other fields related to natural resource science and conservation. It takes advantage of UCC's small classes, well-equipped facilities and the diversity of natural resources available on nearby public lands to provide a mix of classroom, lab, and field experiences *not found at any other institution*.

Classes begin this fall term, and UCC is now in the final stages of completing an articulation agreement with OSU to create a seamless path from UCC's program to OSU's. After completing their Natural Resources Associate of Science degree at UCC, all of the remaining classes students need to fulfill requirements for OSU's 4-year Bachelor of Science degree can be taken at UCC and through OSU's online *Ecampus*. This makes it possible to **earn a Bachelor of Science Degree from OSU in Natural Resources: Landscape Monitoring Option** *without leaving Douglas County*.

It took many hands and many hours at Umpqua Watersheds to pull together an impressive, inclusive community partnership to support local Natural Resources education and to take the baby steps toward this now full-fledged, high school-to-university pathway. Along with all of Umpqua Watersheds' K-12 initiatives (see this and other newsletters), we are creating opportunities for youth of all ages to get on the pathway to careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math -- especially as they relate to Natural Resources. The Education Committee extends a heartfelt thanks to our brave and dedicated VISTA/AmeriCorps members Roland and Katrina, to our thoughtful and visionary Board of Directors, and to all of you who continue to give time and treasure to help us train and educate the ecological workforce of tomorrow.

Ask about our education program (the committee meets every 2nd Wed. at 6:00 at the UW office), and about opportunities available for you to help support natural resource students in our community. Help them save the world.

Ken Carloni, Ph.D.

Education Committee Chair



*This could be your last newsletter!*

*Unless you are receiving this newsletter as a complimentary copy, you may not receive the next one unless you renew your membership. Don't miss out and support*



*"Earth and sky, woods and fields, lakes and rivers, the mountain and the sea, are excellent schoolmasters, and teach some of us more than we can ever learn from books." - Sir John Lubbock - Vice chancellor, University of London*

Carrying on our long tradition of leading forays into the great wild spaces of our majestic Umpqua region, we have had a fantastic time this year on outings. Not only have we continued to reach out and invite the public on our hikes and campouts, our Wild Roots program has paved the way for at-risk and disadvantaged youth to attend as well. Our goal is to mentor, inspire, and provide life-changing experiences to youth who would not normally get the chance to experience the great outdoors.

Our **Valentine's Day Snowshoe Hike at Crater Lake** was a great success, as over 50 people showed up to learn about winter-time ecology from the staff at Crater Lake National Park. The weather couldn't have been better, although I would've liked to see more snow before and after the trip. Crater Lake and the Cascades have received very little snowpack this year, but I'll save that topic for a future article.



The trip marked the first time we've collaborated with the Douglas County Juvenile Dept. to bring their kids along. It

was a pleasure to meet these young adults, most of which had never been to Crater Lake. I've learned that Douglas County takes kids from other counties throughout the state because of budget cutbacks and overcrowding at other facilities, thus, many of these kids hail from bigger cities throughout the state. We also had a great group of youth from Casa de Belen, who have been collaborating with us since last year's Twin Lakes Youth Wilderness Camp.

At the end of the hike, we seized the opportunity to talk to the youth about possibly looking at careers in Natural Resources Management, and tell them of our Learn, Earn & Serve program, and of UCC's new Natural Resources Program. Most of them were keen to the idea of working outdoors, especially at the thought of working at someplace as special as Crater Lake. I've heard through various sources that the trip was indeed a big hit with the kids, so hopefully we did our job to inspire them.

The **Dread & Terror Ridge Hike** on April 19<sup>th</sup> was led by Chad Roose, and was well attended, with several new faces along. Hikers were treated to old-growth Douglas-fir stands and a great variety of other trees and flowers along a moderate hike. Once again, the weather cooperated, giving us great views of the valleys and mountains of the upper North Umpqua area, and made for a very fulfilling trip.



Dread and Terror hike

Dr. Ken Carloni led a hike to the “**Magic Forest**” on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We are still working on our hike schedule for this year, so keep in touch for details. If you’d like to accompany us on our adventures, please contact me at – [alan@umpqua-watersheds.org](mailto:alan@umpqua-watersheds.org) to get on our Hiker List.

## Get Involved! Join a Committee.

### **Education Committee Meetings**

**When:** 2nd Tuesday of Every Month, 6:00pm

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

**Contact:** Ken Carloni - [ken.carloni@gmail.com](mailto:ken.carloni@gmail.com)

### **Restoration Committee Meetings**

**When:** 3rd Tuesday of Every Month, 5:30pm

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

**Contact:** Stan Petrowski - [Stanley@surcp.org](mailto: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](mailto:kasey@umpqua-watersheds.org)

### **Wild On Wilderness Committee Meetings**

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

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

**Contact:** Bob Hoehne - [oho937@hotmail.com](mailto:oho937@hotmail.com)

### **League of Umpqua Climate Youth (LUCY)**

On Tuesday April 7th, LUCY went to Eugene to watch the oral arguments for a court case brought by a group called Our Children's Trust against the State of Oregon for the state's failure to adequately reduce global warming pollution. At the courthouse, we were fortunate enough to meet Kelsey Juliana, a college student from Eugene who is a plaintiff in the lawsuit.

Also, LUCY recently launched a website, [leagueofumpquaclimateyouth.weebly.com](http://leagueofumpquaclimateyouth.weebly.com).

Check it out! :)

Or Facebook: [facebook.com/climateyouth](https://facebook.com/climateyouth).

Lastly, we are still looking for more members to keep LUCY going next year. If you know anyone aged 13-20 who would be interested, have them give me a call at 541-570-1716 or email me at [alexloznak@gmail.com](mailto:alexloznak@gmail.com).

Thanks, Alex



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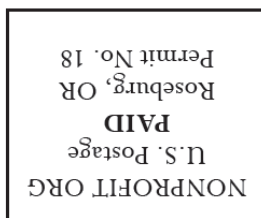
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