



100 Valleys

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From the President

Stan Petrowski

In the aftermath of the timber wars there has been a continued disinformation campaign concerning conservation, environmentalism and restoration ecology. Allow me to articulate what the battle looks like now from the Umpqua Watersheds perspective.

Many folks think that the trend to minimize the onslaught of timber grabbing on public lands is over with. That couldn't be further from the truth. Currently the US Forest Service and the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) are in what is known as a "Planning Rule Revision" process. When the Northwest Forest Plan (the Plan) was finalized, it was with the understanding that in a couple of decades there would be a transparent and science based review of the success or failure of the Plan. Having attended the recent public input sessions for this revision process, I have been consistently confronted by County Commissioners and industrial timber advocates. The basic thrust of their effort is to remove the strong restrictions imposed by the Plan and make the rules a set of suggested policies. Environmentalists are still seen as the enemy rather than guardians of both public and natural health.

The polarization between conservationists and the industry is intense and tiring and has not diminished since I have been involved. There's money backing industrial logging that keeps the battle alive. Why? There are billions of dollars to be made by cutting down our federal forests. Wild lands are the backbone of the planet's vitality and that is yet to be acknowledged by the forces that seek to destroy it. The old infrastructure of O&C County politics and society relies on gleaning a fraction of those resource extraction dollars to stay alive. Significant accomplishments toward changing the economies of these regions is lacking. Many politicians support the industry, not just locally but on a State and Federal level. On the other hand many environmentalists, whose tireless often volunteer hours are spread thin, are tenacious about defending what is left of our clean air, water and wildlife ecosystems. Society is starting to recognize this and it is becoming no longer socially acceptable to liquidate the resources of Federal and State lands. That doesn't stop it from happening on private industri-



al lands. We see the Oregon Forest Practices Act as a miserable "green wash". We see our role in this social conversation from a life and death perspective. One that is worth fighting for.

Nevertheless over the past twenty years and even more so in the recent decade, efforts have been made to dialog and resolve some of these issues. There's been a lot of hope placed on collaborative work to address the social and ecological polarization that exists. Umpqua Watersheds heartily supports collaborative dialog. As do many of our sister organizations. We've been advocates of dialog for a long time and it has been squarely on our agenda as long as I have been a part of the organization. We plan to continue. In spite of that, we have noticed a troubling trend to use collaboration as a tool to undermine sound environmental science and the policies of forest management that are its result. Collaboration is hard daunting work as it is. It is even more burdensome when some of the players at the table want to use it as a "green wash" for a timber grab. At the same time they seek to undermine the rules that have slowed the progress of habitat degradation associated with resource extraction. We carry a heavy burden on your behalf. Anyone who thinks these collaborative sessions are "huggy fun fun" needs to refresh their world view. Many hours are spent traveling, sitting in meetings, confronting uncomfortable opposition to our ideas. That said, if we participate without keeping alive our idealism and hope for the future for ourselves and all of the stakeholders, we are destined to become jaded and fail.

It is tough going and we are in it for the long haul with your support. We have a strong, sound science base upon which to support our ideals. A commitment from you to shore up the organization financially will provide critical fundamental infrastructure needed to support your volunteers and staff. We rarely badger you for help in this way. It isn't because we don't need your assistance. It is just that we are all too busy doing what needs to be done. Please take on the task of being mindful of our labor on behalf of our common wisdom. Don't make us constantly appeal for your help. That's not how it should be. Carry the burden with us. Commit to regularly donate so that our effort doesn't take on the air of commercialization. Who needs more of that?

(continued on page 11)

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

Whew, what a summer. For that matter, what a world! As dry as extended drought and record breaking high temperatures might leave them in need of real restoration following decades of gross over harvest and total fire suppression, our forested landscapes seem vulnerable, indeed.

Conservation Corner

by Joseph Patrick Quinn



It is understandable then, if from time to time, we environmental volunteers become discouraged. After all, the propaganda noise emanating from the timber industry only continues to increase in volume and intensity. Meanwhile, they and their political facilitators in local, state and national government are only too pleased to pretend that the actual history of abusive forest management in Western Oregon never happened. The public is led, by this palaver, to believe that endangered species were created from thin air just to obstruct productivity; that muddied, degraded streams and rivers and the once abundant fish runs they hosted are a delusion. (We've got our hatcheries, who needs habitat?) Trumpeted across our media, we hear how all that public land managers need do to correct the current imbalance in extractive logging and county funding is to emulate the private sector and clear cut the public lands, yet again.

Once more, federal forest management agencies find themselves under intense pressure to "get the cut out." The Roseburg District, after an absolutely necessary hiatus of some two decades, has the temerity to propose over 800 acres of regeneration harvest (aka clear cut) for the Olalla, Camas Valley areas of Douglas County. UW's Conservation Committee has filed comments with the district, explaining why the creation of more large openings in landscapes already littered with huge clear cuts and monoculture plantations is precisely the wrong direction in which to proceed if environmental healing is ever to be realized.

The BLM's current draft effort to craft long range policy, its Resource Management Plan (RMP or aka WOPRjr.) wound up a 120 day public comment period on August 21st. Regional BLM planners are now processing the many criticisms and suggestions sent their way from all quarters, representing the varied perspectives that have always, it seems, surrounded management of the infamous O&C and related public lands, by the Department of the Interior.

Over the late Spring and Summer, UW joined with regional environmental organizations in a united effort to bring real and rigorous science to bear on this deliberative process. In addition, the UW Conservation Committee filed its own particular criticisms of "WOPR jr." and offered more eco-friendly alternatives; choices, which we believe, reflect the real, on-the-ground ecological situation of these vast landscapes and their management implications.

In these more local comments, we endeavored to state clearly and openly, for the public record, that current landscape conditions on the O & C and other BLM administered lands in the checkerboard, along with all of their unfortunate ecological fallout, are the direct

result of past extractive practices. Practices we believe grossly overemphasized a perverted version of the infamous "sustained yield" harvest management; a paradigm so often cited, out of context, from the 1937 O & C Act. As UW strongly asserts, that mistaken emphasis facilitated the vast clear cut harvest of primary old growth forest up and down the Oregon Coast Range and Cascade foothills, for decade after decade.

During this extended period of sustained yield's prominence, the O & C Act's simultaneous requirement to protect watersheds, regulate stream flows and provide recreation facilities ran a distant second to extraction, if it was even in the running at all. Our watersheds and the creatures dependent upon their continued high functioning, including we human beings, paid the price for that short-sighted and greatly mistaken choice. We are still paying the price and will continue to if the "timber beast" again gets its way. As UW has recalled to the BLM's attention, in this and other documents, the Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) is almost guaranteed to be upgraded, and soon, to "endangered" from its current threatened status, under the Endangered Species Act. At the same time and sadly, many of our area rivers continue to be "503c" listed under the Clean Water Act, variously for high temperature, low dissolved oxygen content, etc. These include the South Umpqua and the Coquille River Systems. Adding environmental insult to past injury through misguided and out of date management activities on these watersheds, will most certainly not help to maintain or recover any endangered species. Nor are such out of step actions likely to aid in the eventual and very necessary restoration of these important water ways. Also, these activities are unlikely to mitigate the rapidly advancing effects of anthropocentric climate change by means of reduced green house gas emissions through conservation and expansion of old growth and mature forest stands, and continued and improved carbon storage therein.

Yes, there are certainly those in our society, who would persist in exchanging the intrinsic and priceless value of in-tact, high functioning watersheds in return for the quick cash greatly increased harvest volumes may provide in the short term. And yes, all too often those forces have the financial resources to purchase the assistance of political and media power. On the other hand, we, the "people of place," who are the members of Umpqua Watersheds, don't have a lot of money to throw around so as to influence the media and politicians. However, what we do have is our collective voice, the power of objective science, and freedom from the mercenary constraints that both compel and fuel the advocates of clear cut logging and its related suite of harmful treatments. Thus, while ecological justice for us, our progeny and our abused landscapes continues to be a struggle, we must not fail to speak up and act as each of us is able. From good conscience, we environmental volunteers must not surrender to despair at each new assault on the natural world; a world that is the very *sine qua non* of our species' continued evolution and survival. Take up the challenge! Back what you believe! Get active!

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AmeriCorps Voice

By Katrina Keleher

It is finally September in the watershed, which means it is Fall and a new school year has begun! We are gearing up for an exciting year of environmental education programs at UW.

October will be the start of Science Wednesday at Eastwood Elementary and Science Olympiad at Douglas High School, as well as three field trips to bring nearly 300 McGovern Elementary students to Crater Lake National Park. The start of Winter will bring Forest Thursday to Roseburg YMCA and Science Friday to McGovern Elementary, as well as a showcase of student artwork at the Umpqua Valley Arts Association in March.

Along with the continuation of our existing education programs, this year brings an array of exciting new changes and upgrades. UW's Science Olympiad students will be competing in several innovative academic events this year, including "Invasive Species", "Hydrogeology", and "Wind Power." The students will compete against top schools in Oregon in these events and 19 others for the State title in April 2016.

UW will also be implementing our new climate-science program at Eastwood and McGovern Elementary Schools to increase science literacy through original data-collection and analysis. The curriculum will integrate quantitative information with 21st century technology so students can visualize and interpret their data with models, graphs and tables. Students will not only be learning about the scientific method, but we will actually be providing them with the opportunity to *use it*.

The 14th annual Youth Wilderness Campout was held from July 17-19 at Twin Lakes in the Umpqua National Forest, and it was a great success. Twenty local youth and nearly 20 adult volunteers joined the event, making it one of the most well attended campouts. The weekend was filled with



educational activities, swimming, and hiking. It was a joy to expose youth to our wild places, and I'm already looking forward to the 2016 campout.

As always, the UW education team is looking for volunteers! If you, your child, or someone you know is interested in getting involved with us, please reach out to me at 541-672-7065 or Katrina@umpqua-watersheds.org. Happy learning!!

League of Umpqua Climate Youth (LUCY)

By Alex Loznak and Jacob Lebel



Over the past year and with the help of Umpqua Watersheds (UW), we have launched the League of Umpqua Climate Youth (LUCY). Our mission statement is: "LUCY seeks to raise awareness of the climate crisis while demonstrating that clean energy and climate solutions can work for Douglas County." In our first year of operation we have done just that! From promoting solar energy for schools to supporting youth-driven lawsuits over climate change, LUCY is making a difference in our community and beyond.

LUCY's biggest effort has been Project SOS (Solarize Our Schools), an initiative to advocate for the installation of solar panels at local schools such as Roseburg High. With the help of Charles Lee, a local attorney and Roseburg School Board member, Project SOS has been received positively by the school. Other schools have shown an interest in solar: Phoenix School installed solar panels 5 years ago, and Umpqua Community College recently announced its commitment to go solar. Hopefully Project SOS will inspire more local schools to install solar energy systems. We are also embracing wind energy and with help, have designed a wind turbine for Mt. Nebo (displayed at the 2015 Douglas County Earth Day and Energy Fair and featured on the front page of the News-Review).

Youth understand change and growth in a way that is personal and intuitive because we live it every day. We are uniquely positioned to realize responsible change to counteract the destructive and chaotic change facing the global community today. The global community's awareness of the need for such individual and community-led change is growing as evidence by the Pope's historic call to environmental action and the increasing awareness that climate change is triggering social unrest such as the Syrian migrant crisis. The new LUCY leadership is uniquely qualified to understand the demands of day to day life of youth and sees it as an invaluable opportunity and challenge. With the change in leadership, the incoming leader is focused on ways to increase the LUCY presence in the community and establish a firm structural base for other youth leaders, while remaining true to the group's original spirit and values. Accordingly, the following reflection on LUCY's future will be guided by the four foundational concepts contained in its name: Youth, Climate, Umpqua, and League.

Youth - - Youth today, whose horizons are limited sometimes are extremely focused on the near term day to day (continued on page 9)

Restoration, Ecological Debt and Nature

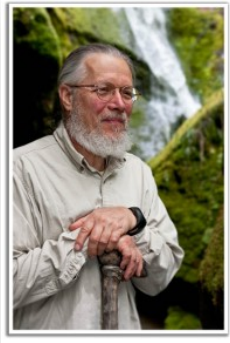
Close to Disaster

Umpqua Watersheds has been actively engaged in the Elk Creek South Umpqua Restoration Project (ECSURP) for several years. The recent human caused Stouts Creek fire put years of collaborative work at risk. Currently the EA (Environmental Assessment) is in review by the Supervisors Office of the Umpqua National Forest. It would have been released this September for public comment. That has all changed. The ECSURP will be pushed back six months to a year. It was delayed once before by the Whiskey Complex fire in the Tiller District a couple of years ago. Each time this happens the potential for the project to get scrubbed increases. More vegetation grows each year. The stretch of years with hot, dry summer drought conditions marches on. Even if we have a 50 year flood event as a result of the super El Niño this winter, the summer can still be inordinately dry. The landscape is not ready for this.

It's important to get an idea of the scope of this project. Consider that it encompasses almost an entire fifth field watershed (Elk Creek catchment is almost 56,000 acres in size). Of that acreage 6,000 was destined to be treated for ecological restoration not including the stream tributaries slated for aquatic habitat restoration. After almost five years of work which included input from stakeholders as well as many field tours with interested people, the entire area was on the verge of going up in smoke just a few short weeks ago. Those living anywhere near this area spent weeks breathing toxic levels of phenol laden air pollution. Living next to the fire zone, I can assure you that the exposure dulled the senses.

It Could Have Been Worse

The image from the Northwest Forest Plan 15 year monitoring report (see next page) was modeled to illustrate where the most significant fire potential was on the forest in Elk Creek basin. The dark line shows the boundary of the Elk Creek watershed. The outline of the Stouts fire is the checkered line. The two dark blobs are the areas that could have the highest potential for catastrophic stand replacement fire. The area on the right is an uninventoried roadless area with some of the best undisturbed natural habitat of the watershed. The shaded area on the left of the image has an extremely



high biomass concentration and very steep slopes that place it very high for intense hot fire possibilities.

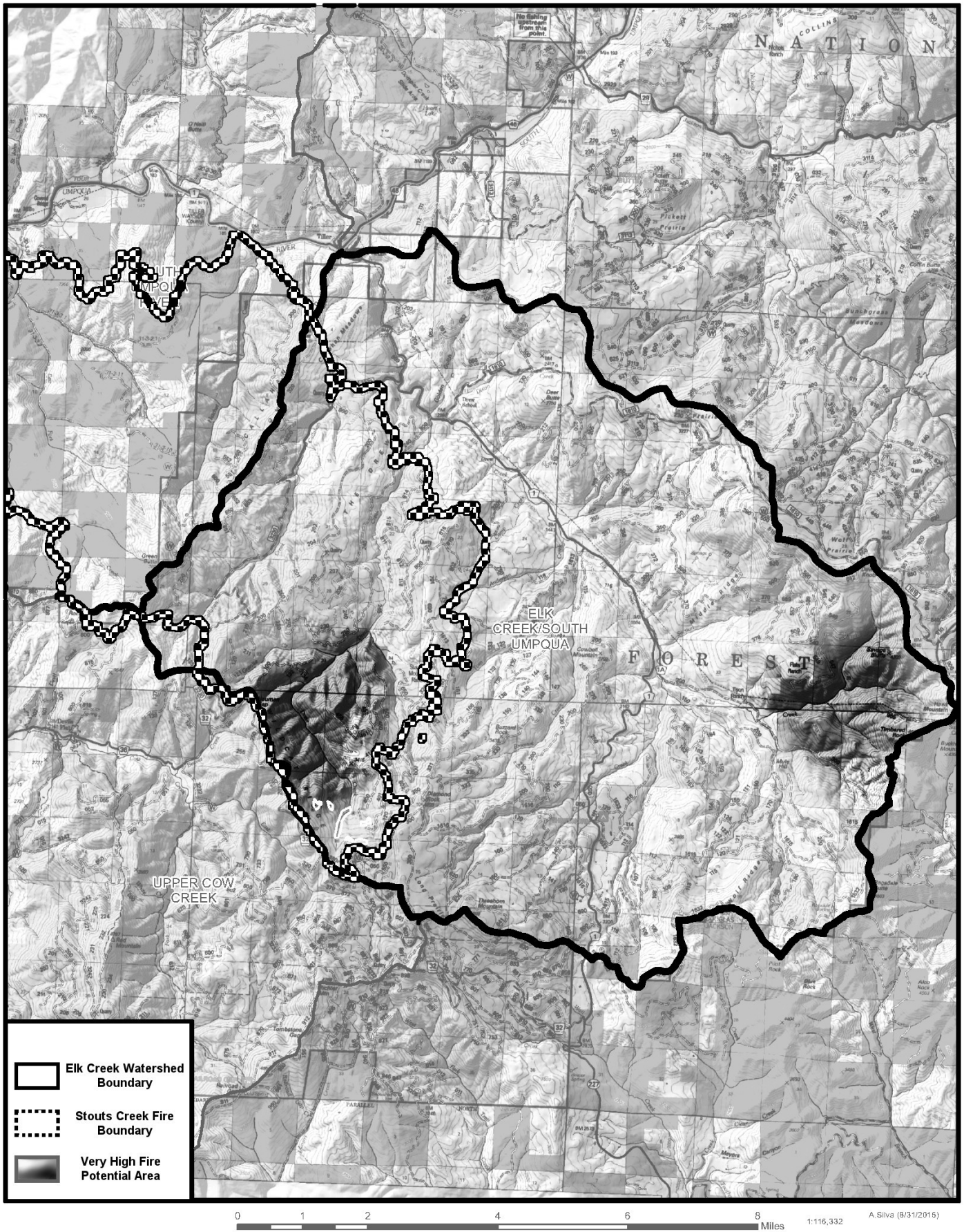
Before the fire reached Elk Creek it had been in an explosive mode. Having lived in the woods for most of my adult life I have experienced exposure to many large fires both here in Oregon but also in Montana and Colorado. On the list of fires to be remembered in my mind - Stouts creek fire is now number 1. In the first two days, the intense heat rose 45,000 feet into the air and formed a pyro-cumulus cloud that was seen as far as Roseburg and beyond. Many stated that it looked like an



atom bomb had dropped on Tiller, Oregon. Some thought it was a development of thunderstorms, The complex cloud system was a catalyst to create lightning strikes that increased the size of the conflagration. In the first five hours 6000 acres were consumed in a flash. The desolation was profound. Mostly BLM Late Successional Reserve and private industrial timber land were rendered to ash and black sticks. The *fire potential index those first two days was in the 95% zone*. This index is determined by humidity levels, heat temperature, wind and moisture levels in vegetation and the ground. The timing couldn't have been worse for a fire to start. Add to that the O&C checker board scenario with the late successional reserves surrounded by the plantation stands of the private industrial timber companies and you have a formula for over the top unnatural fire conditions on the ground. Devastation ensued.

By the time the fire reached the confines of Elk Creek, the surrounding areas had been laced with whole Madrone and Mountain Maple leaves toasted pitch black. Foot long branches of Douglas Fir limbs and pieces of bark, lichen and moss toasted pitch black gently descended from the sky amongst a snow of white ash. It was crazy. Spooky even. Elk Creek watershed fared much better than Stouts Creek and some areas of Upper Cow Creek. There were old growth stands that

NWFP 15 Year Monitoring Report (Fire Suitability) - Elk Creek Watershed and Stouts Creek Fire Perimeter



were wiped out, but a lot of the watershed burned in a mosaic pattern. The high potential fire areas within the boundaries of the Stouts fire zone did not burn as hot as they could have. A controlled fire management practice called a “burn out” was used to reduce fuels. This technique is far different than the old school “back burn” method. It's more controlled and less damaging to the landscape and reduces the fuel load using fire as a management tool.

Of the 26,000+ acres directly impacted by the fire only 650 of the acres that were to be treated by the ECSURP were affected. The ecological debt that has accumulated over the past 120 years of forest mismanagement was not collected on. We were lucky. Nature, and I include the human influence of fire management here, spared our restoration project a bankruptcy. Yes, old growth stands and highly valuable Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) habitat are gone. Wiped out in a few hours. The Oregon Forest Practices Act was once again proven to be an abject failure because it just doesn't include the reality of fire ecology in a warming drought stricken world.

The Good News

Any restoration ecologist worth his salt knows that appropriate fire levels are a good thing on the landscape. Indeed, we understand it to be as essential to forest health as rain. For that reason we have incorporated a measure of “fire management” scenarios in the ECSURP. Our vision for restoration is based on a high level of ecological function on the landscape. In particular we seek to support the type of ecosystems that old growth forests sustain. They are rare and important. We lost some of that in Elk Creek. On the other hand, it is the impacts of fire that helps form the characteristics common in old growth forests. Those gnarly old trees with distorted trunks and limbs are used by red tree voles and other denizens of ancient landscapes as shelters. Broken tops and cavity containing large snags are a direct result of fire. Fire has been and should be our flickering friend.

It just so happened that the fire went through an area that we planned would be treated with prescribed fire. Both the listed Kincaid Lupine (*Lupinus oreganus*) and the unique Umpqua mariposa lily (*Calochortus umpquaensis*) are located in areas that were part of the planned burn. These plants require a periodic purging of organic debris from their environment. Job done!

An unintended consequence of crisis management

related to the Stouts fire falls into the department of the amazing. The US Forest Service does its best to protect the resources associated with ecosystems when fire ensues. Fire is a wild card. Not everything turns out the way we want when it hits. The agencies responsible for managing ecosystem resources spend a lot of effort to minimize losses born of the anxious, often chaotic events that are a product of fire control. During the fire, as a result of the drought, water in the stream systems was very low. Every available pool of water was a fair target for fire suppression and required that the water source be evaluated. During one of those surveys on the main stem of Elk Creek a pair of Spring Chinook salmon were discovered. The “Springers” of the upper South Umpqua River system are a rapidly diminishing population. We are working diligently to preserve this critical and rare fish run which is averaging 170 fish per run annually. In times past there were thousands of Springers that sustained the Umpqua Native Americans. Now they are almost gone out of the South Fork and its tributaries. To find a pair of Chinook in Elk Creek is both exciting and awe inspiring. It is a testimony to the tenacious desire for life to continue in spite of the heavy hand of modern society. Needless to say that segment of the Elk water system was left untouched. We are encouraged to excel in our aquatic habitat restoration efforts. We might not have discovered this Chinook stronghold nor preserved it had not the money been spent to evaluate water sources for fire fighting. This is no small thing. It illustrates the tenuous nature of what is left of the natural world that surrounds us. We see strength and weakness all at once. One slurping scoop of a helicopter water bucket and the Elk Creek Springers could have been gone.

You Can Help

Please consider joining our efforts to accelerate ecosystem restoration. Your support of our collaborative process of working with conservation organizations, stakeholders and public agencies is meaningful and powerful. Let's not turn restoration ecology into just another co-opted money gig. Your engagement and observation of the process will be what prevents this expensive challenge from becoming just another political tool that motivates the greedy and the powerful into positions of control. Get involved on some level. It will help. Nature will not wait for us to pay the ecological debt we owe as a society. Our actions and interventions will help prevent the benign process of fire ecology from becoming a raging unforgiving monster.

Stanley Petrowski, President
Restoration Committee Chair

NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM UP AND RUNNING AT UCC!

The UW Education Committee has put a lot of energy over the last 4 years into developing the “Umpqua Natural Resources Pathway”: a seamless program that will put students on a path from a high school diploma to an Associate’s degree at Umpqua Community College, and then on to a Bachelor’s degree from Oregon State University. Our efforts have been bearing fruit, and we couldn’t be more excited about the progress we’ve made.

Getting on the Path. The “baby step” we started out with was our innovative “**Learn, Earn and Serve**” youth crew program. This partnership with UCC, Phoenix School, Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, the South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership, the US Forest Service and the BLM pairs crews of youth with agency specialists to do ecological surveys using standardized protocols. This program has allowed dozens of high school and UCC students to get education and training in Natural Resources monitoring, putting them on a pathway to a rewarding career.

This year’s crew spent 3 weeks doing stand exams for the Forest Service, 2 weeks doing Western Pond Turtle surveys, and a week doing Whitebark pine surveys in the Mt. Thielsen Wilderness area. They also put vent covers on outhouses to exclude bats, and attended four Career Exploration Days with the USFS (spotted owl surveys, amphibian surveys, red tree vole surveys), and with BLM (timber exploration day).

I got to know this summer’s youth crew members as we toured southwestern Oregon and northern California on our annual



Field Botany tour -- the “Learn” part of the program -- as part of UCC’s BOT 203A course. This is the same wildflower tour I offer to the public each summer if there are empty seats on the bus. This year we were able to drop the cost in half without compromising the comfort by using UCC vehicles rather than a tour bus. The tour was an unqualified success -- the students were bright, hardworking, and thoughtful, and the community riders were helpful, engaging and fun.

Next year’s tour will take place from Tuesday June 14th to Sunday June 19th. The cost for community riders will be \$325 including all transportation, camping and food -- seats will be available first come, first served after student enrollment is over. If this is the year for you to do the tour, email me at ken.carloni@umpqua.edu and I’ll put you on the waiting list.

The Next Step. In our last newsletter, we were pleased to report that the middle step in the pathway had just been established: 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 students are enrolling in the introductory classes. 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*. If this sounds like a program you or someone you know might be interested in, please contact me at ken.carloni@umpqua.edu.

The Destination. UW’s considerable investment in time, energy and dollars in the Umpqua Natural Resources Pathway has a simple objective: we want to help committed local youth find a pathway to a fulfilling career in natural resource stewardship. Who better to care for our natural heritage than dedicated professionals who grew up here?

For an inspiring story of one of UW’s “youth pioneers” visit <http://www.umpqua.edu/success-stories/858-spotlight-on-student-success-cris-salazar>. Cris Salazar got his start in research surveying invasive species in a set of ponds on the Tiller Ranger District under the mentorship of former UW board member Cindy Haws. He received his Bachelor’s degree from OSU in 2014 with a focus on Fisheries Conservation, and plans on beginning a Master’s degree program there soon.

Want to get involved in UW’s education initiatives? The Education Committee meets every second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 at the UW office. Help make a difference in these kid’s lives so they can make a difference in 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.

Support Umpqua Watersheds!

THE FIRE NEXT TIME

"Messed-up forests will only yield messed-up fires." S. J. Pyne, 2004

These words were penned by Dr. Stephen Pyne, one of the foremost authorities on fire in American forests. One needs only to look at recent fires on the Umpqua to see Pyne's warning become reality.

Stan Petrowski's eloquent recounting of the ecological impacts of the Stouts Creek fire in this issue of *100 Valleys* serves as the most recent reminder that to a great extent, the industrial forest management practices of the past century have left a legacy of ecological degraded and fire-prone stands in their wake. Recent rains have slowed that fire where hundreds of firefighters and dozens of hulking machines could not. The heat intensity satellite data have just become available, and they show a familiar pattern: the fire was unstoppable as it crowned through highly flammable Roseburg Forest Products and BLM tree farms, but was far more manageable when it burned under old growth stands in federal forests.

This is the same pattern we saw in the 2013 Douglas Complex fire (see the Summer 2014 edition of *100 Valleys*, <http://www.umpquawatersheds.org/newsletters.html>) and in almost all of the other fires that have scorched the Umpqua in the last 3 decades: plantations burned hot with extreme mortality while trees in public native stands survived at much higher rates (except for the edges of old growth stands adjacent to incinerated plantations).

But don't take my word for it -- simply type "Rabbit Mountain, Douglas County, Oregon" into the search box in Google Earth (if you don't yet use Google Earth, you can download it for free at <http://www.google.com/earth/download/ge/agree.html>).

This takes you to the northern part of the Douglas Complex fire. Click the historical imagery icon at the top of the page (looks like a clock). A slider appears that allows you to see sat-



ellite images back to 1994. Compare the images from 5/2013 (just before the fire) and 5/2015 (May of this year). The BLM checkerboard clearly pops out of the imagery -- the private blocks are nearly devoid of the "rough-looking" dark green patches characteristic of primary forests and instead



show the "smooth" texture of uniform even-aged plantations (or gray-brown bare ground in the post-fire image). Although much of the BLM acreage was also logged and planted to monocultures in past decades, clearly the greatest number of surviving green trees are found in the primary stands in the public's forests.

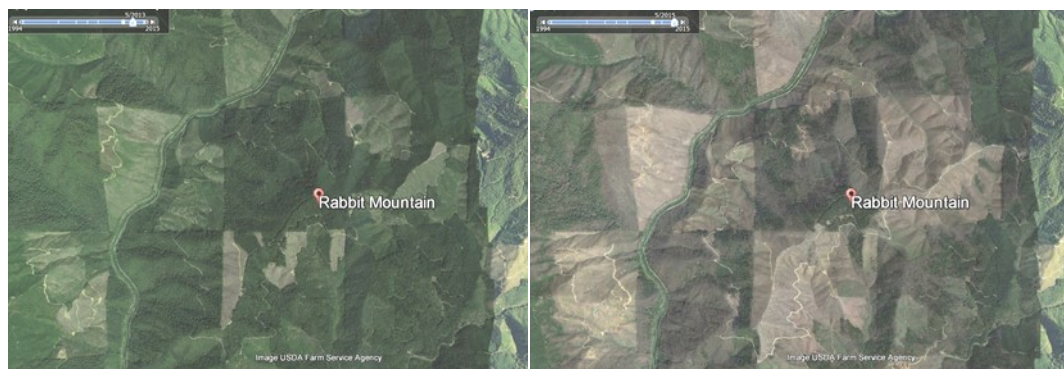
Try this with any other fire that has burned in the western Cascades within the last decade or two and you will see the same pattern. Satellites don't lie.

Replanting immolated plantations with another monocrop will simply set the stage for another dangerous conflagration. For example, the 1987 Bland Mt. fire burned mostly in young second growth near Canyonville and was replanted in closely spaced soldier rows only to burn hard again in 2004, with two smaller fires since.

Unfortunately, corporate timber managers have not learned from history: RFP immediately clearcut and replanted after the Douglas Complex fire, and have announced that they will do the same to their plantations in Stouts Creek. Given historic fire regimes and a warming climate, these plantations WILL burn again. And each time they do, they will likely take more of the public's old growth with them while taxpayers continue to foot the bill.

So -- how do we get out of this predicament? The solutions are two-fold:

First, we need to fix our "messed-up" forests. Unfortunately, the outdated Oregon Forest Practices Act encourages environmentally damaging management practices on private lands and does nothing to protect public forests from conflagrations roaring through industrial monocultures. But the messes are not only on private lands -- federal forests are also burdened by vast acreages of plantations created in the past several decades. Variable density thinning in these highly flammable stands is of paramount importance to improve the fire-resiliency of the increasingly rare and vitally important stands of public old growth. Innovative initiatives like the Elk Creek South Umpqua Restoration Project (again, see Stan's articles in this and previous newsletters) are critical to creating models of public-private partnerships focused on restoring ecosystem functions to these even-aged stands while producing saw logs as a byproduct.



Second, in the words of Dr. Timothy Ingalsbee, director of the Western Fire Ecology Center, "It is up to the conservation community to articulate to the American people and Congress the many sound economic and ecological arguments for reforming fire/fuels management policies, programs, and practices, with a goal of converting firefighters into fire-lighters (my emphasis)." Getting routine prescribed fires back into the forests is



paramount to recreating healthy forest ecosystems.

Unfortunately, fire-fighting is currently funded from the same budgets as programs to treat forests for fire-resiliency -- when lightning (or lawnmowers) strike, funds for proactive thinning projects literally go up in smoke. And with the proliferation of plantations and the build-up of fuels in fire-suppressed primary forests, the situation continues to worsen -- more than half of the U.S. Forest Service's budget is currently being used to fight fires, compared to just 16 percent in 1995.

There is some good news on the horizon -- Congress is finally looking at funding large wildfires through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, similar to relief efforts after tornadoes, floods and hurricanes. Through this type of funding reform, restoration projects can move forward regardless of the money spent on fighting active fires.

It is incumbent on the conservation community to create the standards for authentic collaboration on public lands to serve as a model for restoration on private industrial lands -- including the re-introduction of fire into the ecosystem. Fire has always been an important catalyst for maintaining complexity, diversity and resiliency in our forests -- we need to emulate the Native American land managers of the past and treat fire as a friend to be employed rather than an enemy to be fought. The fire next time should be an elegant tool to sculpt landscapes, not an object of fear to be destroyed by military machines at all cost.

We encourage you to go beyond the glib headlines, educate yourselves on fire in your forests, and get involved. Stay tuned to our "Watershed Moments" email alerts, and join an Umpqua Watersheds committee. And if you can't do any of those things, please make a financial contribution so that the committed volunteers at UW can continue to soldier on in your stead. We're depending on you!

(LUCY continued from page 3)

activities of school, college, and finding a job. The virtual world allows us all too easily to relegate dreams and their associated responsibility to the future. Adding to the problem is a labyrinthine of bureaucratic government that feeds cynicism, disillusion, and a growing feeling that we have no say in what happens in the world outside of our personal bubble. The reality is that we have power. We participated in a lawsuit targeting the Federal Government of the United States. Twenty-one young people ranging from 8 to 19 years-old, backed by a team of lawyers, scientists, and experts under the leadership of Our Children's Trust, took action to challenge our government to protect the rights of its citizens over those of mega-corporations. Our fluorescent green shirts were seen on national television when PBS News covered the case! A recent and similar youth driven case in the state of Washington, resulted in the court ordering the Washington Department of Ecology to implement more aggressive emission limits. We are seeing a powerful and creative alliance between the experience and knowledge of the adult world and the clear-sighted and enthusiastic approach of children and youth. It is what this world needs and it is why we feel compelled to take up the responsibility associated with LUCY.

Climate -- Creating and applying solutions to climate change and combating the destruction of our environment is what ties LUCY together. As we look to the immediate future, there are several major areas of focus for LUCY: 1) continuing to work with all parties associated with the Roseburg High School solar energy installation project to ensure its success. 2) Partner with the Sustainability Club at Umpqua Community College to work on projects such as solar arrays to power campus facilities and better waste-management practices for the campus, possibly including a groups promoting composting and on-campus gardening. We are especially interested in the effects of our inefficient and destructive agricultural industry on climate change and the possibilities of having LUCY members connect with local farmers and other community gardeners. 3) Under the guidance of UW, LUCY should continue to be deeply involved with forest and river conservation work in the Umpqua region.

Umpqua -- The Umpqua River watershed is the lifeblood of our community and defines LUCY's immediate arena of those people and officials with whom we collaborate. It also includes



infrastructure challenges. However, there are no limits to what we can accomplish. Often the local challenges we face stem from global and national forces and should be addressed as such: a case in point is the Jordan Cove Energy Project which involves a Canadian company and many permits at the federal level. We were in Washington, D.C., fasting in front of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) office to ask for no new permits for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and fracking operations. We also attended an interfaith vigil and a rally to raise climate change awareness. It is our hope for the future to see LUCY move beyond a purely local sphere of action and gain the capacity to connect with other youth groups and communities in the U.S. and beyond.

League - - LUCY members will each have different interests, skills, motivations, and opinions. This is a good thing. The essence and responsibility of a league, such as LUCY, is to value and promote this difference and diversity while building strong team-work and cooperation based on the common goals and values which we share. Another challenge of a youth group involves maintaining continuity and a sense of purpose. The lives of young people, especially teenagers, are in a constant state of flux and this can include new duties, work-loads, or moving on to attend higher education. From the viewpoint of LUCY, this rhythm of change needs to be embraced while also somehow maintaining an operational base and a consistent structure. To accomplish this, several changes will be made to the League: a membership system, a calendar of events, and perhaps most importantly, a system of yearly donor funding for specific LUCY projects and work-themes is being developed. These are just a few of the projects and activities as the League begins to grow and we look forward to seeing members bringing their own ideas to the table.

Getting involved in environmental management involves fearlessly stepping into our role as individuals, community leaders, and future citizens. It means learning how to balance our enthusiasm with realistic solutions, build networks, reach out to elected officials, and communicate a message. It means understanding that complex issues and differences of opinions must be faced with an open mind and a view towards the common good. And it goes hand in hand with a clear sense of social responsibility, empathy and personal wellbeing. Our hope is that the LUCY becomes synonymous with a group of friends getting together to plan, laugh, eat organic pizza, and work together to save the world.

<http://www.umpquawatersheds.org/lucy.html> or

<https://www.facebook.com/climateyouth>.

NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF MILDRED KANIPE MEMORIAL PARK

Kanipe Friends has received a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant for restoration of Mildred Kanipe's home, which will be a multi-stage process. After Portland-based "Restore Oregon" listed the building on its Most Endangered List for 2015, Friends also applied for and received a grant from that organization. Currently Friends is working closely with the Douglas County Planning Department to obtain bids for the initial phase of the project, which consists of working up an overall plan for restoration. We're very excited about Mildred's home finally getting the attention it deserves, since it is one of the few surviving examples of early homesteads in north Douglas County, and also turns out to have some very unusual structural and design features which make it, in the words of a University of Oregon restoration specialist, "a jewel."

Announcements and Events

October 3. 2015 Solar Tour The cost is \$10. Register by emailing solartoursignups@gmail.com. Meet at Phoenix School at 9am. Homeowners who purchased solar power describe financing and savings. Tour also includes homes with innovative insulation and passive-solar technologies.

October 4 Mount Thielsen Hike. See UW website for details on where and when to meet.

October 10! Umpqua Brew Fest VI - Volunteers and sponsors needed for our annual good time celebration. WANT TO HELP? Contact us .

October 23 Science & Environmental Education Discovery Seminars (SEEDS) 6:00-8:30 PM, the Natural Resources Program at Umpqua Community College will hold its first Science & Environmental Educational Discovery Seminar to promote the program in local high schools and the surrounding community. Our first seminar will feature a presentation and will be followed by an overview of the Natural Resources Program and an opportunity to talk to various local agency professionals about careers in the field of natural resources. The seminar will be held in the Campus Center Dining Room. Pizza and beverage will be provided

October 24 Waterfall Hike Dr. Ken Carloni will lead a hike to see 3 local waterfalls. See UW website for details on where and when to meet.

(President continued from page 1)

There is hope. Umpqua Watersheds is forging ahead to support educational and training programs that will add to the workforce that is needed to address the monumental task of restoration work. Education is the true arena for collaborative work. Industry tapped the human potential of this community and used it to destroy vast tracts of the landscape. It is that same human potential that is needed to heal the land. The skills and tools of well-trained forest restoration technicians are not dissimilar to those that were used to clear cut the landscape. The difference rests in the realm of our world view, of a commitment to long term community stability by using a gentle hand and the ability to maintain a high level of life in our natural world. Education will be the arena of common ground for science, skill, social stability and abounding rich landscapes that we sustain and that sustains us. The driving force of human greed must be tempered with an awareness that the web of life is not as invincible as many portray it to be. Education is the tool that brings that reality to light. Restoration ecology is the function that makes the education process real on the ground level. We need some mills. We need the tree fallers who know when to cut and when not to cut. Their eyes will know, see and preserve ecological treasures. We all need a clean healthy world. Finding truth in the quagmire of pernicious greed, political banter, science and intractable idealism is where we are today. Isolating that truth and giving it the light of day, is the only way forward. It is the clear path out of the mean bitter folly of mindless power. Join us.

Get Involved! Join a Committee.

Education Committee Meetings

When: 2nd Tuesday of Every Month, 6:30pm
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

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

Outreach Committee: Contact Alan Bunce at alan@umpqua-watersheds.org or office 541672-7065.

League of Umpqua Climate Youth (LUCY): young adults dedicated to changing the environment for their future meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Brew Fest VI

The sixth annual Umpqua Brew Fest is coming to the Douglas County Fairgrounds on Saturday October 10, 2015! We will be celebrating clean water, craft beer and sustainable living with *music, brews, and community*.

Music! Goldfoot, a rock and funk band from Portland, will be headlining the event. Marimba-styled band Kudana and local jazz guitarist Neil Gregory Johnson will also be playing.

Brews! The Fest will showcase craft beers, ciders, and wine from across the county and the country. Local Brewers will be competing for the 2015 People's Choice Award title, and the Iron Chef competition will challenge local brewery/restaurant teams to create the tastiest food and brew pairings.

Community! The most extraordinary part of the Brew Fest tradition is the collaborative, community nature of the event itself. It takes a crew of volunteers, event-goers and sponsors to make it all happen every year, and we understand that the Fest is a success because of everyone involved. So, THANK YOU in advance for enjoying our event!

We are also proud to announce that we will be partnering with the Susan G. Komen Foundation in honor of Breast Cancer



Awareness Month, so be sure to show them your support while you're enjoying your brews.

Keep checking www.umpquabrewfest.info for all things Umpqua Brew Fest related, and don't forget sign up for a volunteer shift! Lastly, spread the love and the latest updates by sharing our Facebook page with your friends (www.facebook.com/umpquabrewfest).

See you on October 10th, Brew Festers!!

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