



# 100 Valleys

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

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

Winter 2015 | Issue 67

## From the President

Stan Petrowski

I am going to state the obvious.

Umpqua Watersheds has been a hearty advocate of helping in the immersion of its members and the community at large in the wonderful experience of the out of doors. Whether it is hikes to the unique forest, mountain and ocean attractions of our region or one of Prof. Ken Carloni's botany tours, it is important for us to have experience with wild places.

The psychological benefits of time in the forest and along streams and rivers or off the coast have long been known. There have been many troubled veterans, inner city youth and people in general who testify of the life changing turning point fishing, hiking and the enjoyment of forest ecology etc. have been to them. There are a multitude of organizations who have built their mission around facilitating these very opportunities for those in need in our communities. Apart from the rejuvenating influence on our health that exposure to nature gives us, there are many other reasons for us to give ourselves time to touch and be touched by our natural surroundings.

Treks to forests and mountains allow us to be taught by nature. Nothing stimulates the imagination more than the abundance of miracles laden in our natural surroundings. Just knowing how nature works has the profound effect of keeping us oriented mentally by grounding us and growing us in the way life should be. Watching nature work strikes a fundamental chord that balances us in our entirety. Our emotions, mental processes and sense of well-being are enriched through the conscious experience of the part we play in a living world. Many of the insights we receive while out of doors have practical applications in our everyday life. By that means, we often extend the harmonious rhythms of nature into our communi-



ties and homes.

Part of the reasons our immersion into the wilds is so strikingly valuable is because we connect to those processes that also provide us with the critical essentials of life; clean fresh air, pure water and a connection with the primal sensitivity ingrained in our very DNA. The bubbling gurgle sounds of a pure mountain stream

sooths the soul. The rush of the wind passing through the tops of ancient trees whispers something to us that words often fail to express.

It is no secret that our region is filled with a copious richness of opportunities when it comes to touring the wilds. There are so many wonders to behold in the Umpqua Basin and there are many more to be discovered! These attractions have the benefit of drawing tourists from the world over to our region. Did you know that tourism to Oregon far out paces the natural resource extraction businesses of our State with regards to its positive economic and social impacts on our communities? I've met so many people who have moved to Oregon just to live and work in close proximity to the wild lands. Tourism is a symptom of the wealth of natural wonders in our region.

One marvels at why such valuable assets need to be protected. It seems obvious that they should be but what are the forces that constrain Umpqua Watersheds to be so hard pressed when it comes to its mission in Douglas County. Well...it is the County government itself. The ability for the county to function has long been based on a myopic view of natural resource extraction. The hills and valleys surrounding our towns and villages, our farms and ranches, especially those on designated "public" lands, are seen as the economic source of political and social empowerment. It's all about receipts obtained from cutting down trees. Lots of trees. The county government infrastructure is designed to be sustained by this means. It is intrinsic to the history and present reality of Douglas County

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Our Mission:

*Umpqua Watersheds is dedicated to the protection and restoration of the ecosystems of the Umpqua watershed and beyond through education, training, advocacy and ecologically sound stewardship.*

# POISON MINDS

By Alan Bunce

Office Manager and Outreach Coordinator

Much has come to light the last few years regarding the misuse of pesticides in the state of Oregon, and nowhere has it been more prevalent than right here in Douglas County. We lead the rest of the state by a large margin with over 14,000 known chemical applications in the last ten years. After fielding a plethora of calls from members regarding spray issues and hearing their testimony, we reached out to Lisa Arkin of *Beyond Toxics* and others to help inform the public. We sponsored a forum on April 8, 2015 that was well attended, drawing a large and diverse crowd of concerned citizens, legislators, and timber executives (See Spring 2015 UW Newsletter). All the presentations from the forum are available by navigating to the Youtube.com website and typing "Roseburg Town Hall Aerial Spraying" into the search box.

The timber industry did their due diligence to downplay the issue in the weeks prior to the event; meeting with the publisher of our local newspaper to convince him of the necessity of spraying. The paper then published a pro-spray article, and a pro-spray editorial. After the event, editorials from timber industry executives were published which contained factual errors.

In a show of solidarity with the timber industry, one aerial spray company proudly parked its spray truck at the library and attended the forum with them. Heeding the warnings from Arkin and others of the dangers of the chemicals, one new employee of the spray company quickly turned into a whistleblower and subsequently videotaped spray application wrongdoings and posted them on the Internet (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHUgqJJgp7w>). The company has since been fined, suspended, then caught working while suspended and is now facing an \$180,000 fine.

After the Forum and In an attempt to set the record straight, Arkin sent a response editorial to the paper. Her response was never published in the local paper, but we are including it here.

Umpqua Watersheds continues to work closely with Beyond Toxics and we are planning another public forum this coming Spring. In the meantime, we are helping them collect more accounts from spray victims and witnesses of abuses. If you witness a spray event, please contact UW or Beyond Toxics.

*Note: The article contained here was designed to be published in the local newspaper as a response to editorials and letters to the editor, but it was never published. The author is Lisa Arkin of Beyond Toxics..*

On April 8, *Umpqua Watersheds* and *Beyond Toxics* co-sponsored a town hall meeting in Roseburg titled "Forestry Herbicides and Health". The two organizations share a keen interest in protecting the water quality of our rivers and streams. *Beyond Toxics* is an Oregon-based non-profit working to protect Oregon's environment and public health.

Our goal is to advance the cause of public health, which we accomplish through a series of informative presentations. The Roseburg meeting was the fifth in an ongoing series of town halls held in rural communities. These public events are responsive to a growing public concern over herbicide exposure from aerial helicopter sprays used in the logging industry. In just the past year and a half, more than forty Oregon residents and forestry workers have filed complaints about illness and property damage from aerial herbicide sprays.

The meetings are always planned around the principle of mutual respect. Each town hall has had the same structure: a panel of presenters and a moderator. Presenters include representatives from state agencies, non-profits, an economist and the local impacted community. The Roseburg event showcased presenters from the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon Health Authority. There were speakers from a non-profit, a local resident and an economist. Previous meetings in Rockaway Beach, Newport and Blachly have averaged 150 attendees. The attendance in Roseburg topped 100. With a full program of speakers lasting over 110 minutes and a packed room, each event is arranged so that audience members submit questions on index cards to the moderator. The volunteer moderator asks as many questions as time allows. All panelists are invited to answer the questions. The process can take time.

The Roseburg crowd was attentive, polite and inquisitive throughout the evening. Lots of index cards were collected and passed to the moderator. Nonetheless, Eric Geyer of Roseburg Forest Products, implied in an April 21 guest editorial that some kind of manipulation was at play. He was unhappy that the

## Board of Directors

Stan Petrowski.....President	Kasey Hovik.....Secretary	Alan Bunce...Outreach
Anne Dorsey....Vice President	Ken Carloni..... Education	Robin Hartmann
Bekki Brownfield.....Treasurer	Joseph Patrick Quinn....Conservation	Paige Heron

## Staff

Alan Bunce...Office Manager
Katrina Keleher...AmeriCorps
Cheyenne Rico...CLWP Coordinator

event ended before all questions could be asked. I would have welcomed staying there until the wee hours of the morning getting through each and every question. As it happened, the event lasted from 6:30 to 9:00, a big time commitment from working folks on a weeknight. True enough, we ended at 9:00 sharp with a stack of index cards yet unanswered. The same situation was true at the previous town hall meetings.

For everyone's benefit, we try to videotape and post each town hall meeting so that anyone can have the benefit of watching the presentations. The Roseburg town hall will also be posted by June 1. Anyone can watch it on the Beyond Toxics YouTube channel.

Geyer insists that the event was manipulated and goes



on to misquote my answer to a question from the audience. For the question "has anyone who claimed to be recently sickened by spray visited a physician," Geyer claims I answered "No." His statement is false. Anyone can verify my answer by watching the video recording. I clearly explained the range of responses we have seen when someone gets sprayed on, ranging from emergency room visits, calling Oregon Poison Control and convalescing at home due to lack of money or insurance.

Beyond Toxics advises anyone who calls us for guidance to seek medical care immediately. That is paramount. At the town hall, I addressed the problem of accessing medical care in rural working class communities. I discussed that some folks don't have medical insurance or the money to pay for the emergency room. Despite our advice, some people think they will "hunker down and just get through it." Quite often people don't immedi-

ately make the connection that their rash, cough, vomiting, sore throat, heart arrhythmia or other symptoms may be related to that helicopter spraying herbicides on the adjacent property. Pesticide exposure symptoms often mimic common illnesses, so it might take days before a person made sick from breathing or absorbing a chemical realizes their symptoms are not from the flu. Another common problem is that emergency room doctors need to know what chemical is associated with their patient's illness and symptoms. Oregon has no requirement to disclose what herbicides are used in aerial spray operations. Spray victims who are asked by an emergency room doctor to identify the herbicide often reply "I have no idea, but that is exactly what I would like to know too!"

There is a common misconception that herbicides are "safer" for humans because they are designed to kill plants. Nothing could be farther from the truth. David Farrer, a toxicologist from the Oregon Health Authority who spoke on the panel at the Roseburg town hall explained that herbicides can damage the human hormone system, can cause neurological impairment and can threaten our health at very low exposure levels.

In a recent pesticide exposure case in Douglas County, loggers were exposed to the herbicide Velpar (active ingredient is hexazinone), which carries a warning labeling of "Danger!" The federal government posts this level of warning on the product label to indicate severe health problems could occur if exposed. For example, this herbicide is a corrosive that can cause irreversible eye damage. According to the Oregon Health Authority, the risk to human health can increase when mixing other herbicides and additives. Yet helicopter pesticide applicators commonly mix two to five toxic chemicals in a single tank mix.

The fact that folks have been misled to believe that herbicides are bad for plants but safe for people and animals is one reason Beyond Toxics hosts informative town hall meetings. I encourage people to become informed about poisons. Spraying herbicides by helicopter creates problems because it can result in drift, deposition and run-off. It can cause irreversible harm to your health. Children and the elderly are more vulnerable because their immune systems are not as strong as adults. Cutting timber and spraying herbicides from a helicopter are not tied at the hip! We believe that Oregon can have a vibrant timber industry with good paying jobs without poisoning workers, neighbors and wildlife with poisons drifting on air currents and settling on Oregon's rivers.

Lisa Arkin  
Executive Director  
Beyond Toxics



## 2015 IN REVIEW

### Dear Friends and Supporters:

It's been another busy and productive year at Umpqua Watersheds, and we want to thank you for your continuing support! Your donations, volunteer hours and encouragement have been critical to our successes in 2015, many of them reviewed in the pages of this and previous UW newsletters -- here are a very few of the highlights:

**Conservation:** Paddy Quinn continues to serve ably as our Conservation chair, and has done an outstanding job parsing agency documents, ground-truthing conditions in the field, and consulting with our partners. His hard work and diligence has been critical for informing UW Board actions, and his excellent newsletter articles continue to keep you informed of local, regional and national conservation issues.

The clearcutting of Busenbark Park by the County has outraged our community (see article in this newsletter). Because notification of such actions are minimal and cryptic, and because decisions are typically made at meetings during hours that make it difficult for working people to attend, Paddy and the UW Board are exploring legal avenues to compel future County land management decisions to be made in a more open and transparent way, so that 500 year old trees will never again be cut without a much more robust conversation with the community first.

Our youngest Board member, Cheyanne Rico, has just moved to a new position as the Wild on Wilderness Committee's Crater Lake Wilderness Campaign Coordinator (see article in this newsletter). She will focus her youthful energy on counter-acting the misinformation being promulgated by the County and the timber industry to derail the momentum we are gaining with this initiative.

**Restoration:** UW's President and award-winning Restoration Program Chair Stan Petrowski continues to focus on maintaining our collaborations with local and regional stakeholder groups to advocate for UW's vision of restored ecosystems. We continue to be encouraged by the open lines of communication and high level of trust we've built with District Ranger Donna Owens and her excellent staff at the Tiller Ranger District of the Umpqua National Forest on management planning for the Elk Creek watershed.

This summer's Stout's Creek Fire has brought intense pressure by the County and timber industry to salvage log sensitive federal lands (including some in Elk Creek). We continue to work with our public and private partners to protect these already disturbed lands from the compounding damage of industrial logging.

**Education:** We continued all of our very successful K-14 programs this year. Our "Learn, Earn, and Serve" program educated, trained and employed 6 more youth this summer, and we have funding for two more crews this year thanks to grants from the US Forest Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The "Umpqua Natural Resources Pathway" is now complete: just this month, officials from Oregon State University and Umpqua Community College signed the agreement that aligns UCC's new Natural Resources Associate of Science degree with OSU's Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources degree. Students will now be able to complete an OSU BS in Natural Resources entirely at UCC!



Our K-12 initiatives continue to grow and thrive under the dynamic leadership of Katrina Keleher, UW's gifted AmeriCorps member (see article in this newsletter). Katrina has sustained our flagship "Science Friday" program in the Winston School District, has formed the only Science Olympiad team in southern Oregon at Douglas High School, won a grant to take all of the 5<sup>th</sup> graders in the Winston school district to Crater Lake, and has continued to be the agent of meaningful change in the lives of countless kids in our county. Katrina and our stalwart

Office Manager, Alan Bunce, again partnered with Phoenix School and Casa de Balen to create another magical Youth Campout at Twin Lakes for local kids -- many of whom had never camped in their lives.

**Outreach:** UW continued our outreach efforts this year hosting speakers and events related to timely conservation issues from toxic spraying to wilderness economics. As noted above and elsewhere in this newsletter, the drumbeat of misinformation on the effects of wildfire and how to respond to them is drowning out the voices of reason in our community. Look for UW to conduct a series of public events early in the new year to present a science-based response to the hysterical rhetoric.

We also hosted two smashing community events: our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Umpqua Watersheds Banquet and Auction, and the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Umpqua Brew Fest! Your attendance at both of these events went a long way toward keeping our doors open and lights on for 2015. The "Battle of the Breweries" beer and food pairing event raised another \$1200 for the Richard Sommer Scholarship Fund to support UCC Natural Resource students.

In 2014, we added "101 Wildflowers of Crater Lake National Park" to our list of fundraising initiatives. With Grant and Wenonah Sharpe's line drawings and my photographs, this modern update of a classic guide book sold out of its first run and is now in its second printing. They've been selling well in a variety of locations from Crater Lake to Roseburg, Eugene and beyond with all proceeds going to UW. We have plenty in stock, so stop by the UW office and pick up a copy for the nature-lover on your holiday gift list!



We're proud of these and all of our other accomplishments this year. But we need your help to keep up the momentum!

If you support what we are doing, *please* consider bolstering that support with a tax-deductible financial contribution. As we've noted in the past, we've responded to hard economic times by diversifying our fundraising strategies, running a very lean, mostly volunteer, organization, and against the odds, continuing to be very successful with our grant writing efforts. We have the dedicated staff and volunteers, and the can-do spirit to accomplish even more. Please help us as we continue to

**"PROTECT THE BEST AND RESTORE THE REST".**

Sincerely,

Ken Carloni, for the Umpqua Watersheds Board of Directors



## Update from Friends of Mildred Kanipe Park

By Landa Baily

### GOAL TO FIX UNDERWOOD BARN REACHED

A large crowd helped The Friends of Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park Association raise the \$4,000 the Douglas County Parks Department requested to fix the Underwood Barn roof. The collaborative event featured Triple Oaks Wine tastings, an on-line and silent auction, and music by Neil Johnson and Steve Erickson in historic downtown Oakland. "We are grateful to the many contributors who are helping prevent the deterioration of the Underwood barn," said Karen Roberson, a founding board member.

Mayor Bette Keehley and Oakland Economic Development Chair Kristofer Tripp spoke about the barn's importance to economic development in the County. Parks Director Gary Groth is thankful for the work that Friends of Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park does for the Park.

The late 1800's era Underwood Barn is the only surviving building of the 633-acre Underwood farmstead, which Mildred Kanipe purchased in 1949. The barn is in the center of the English Settlement area, where English emigrants, in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, brought customs and farming techniques and built a lasting ranching legacy. The Underwood barn is a treasured feature of the 1100 acre park in the County where equestrians, hikers, birders, native plant enthusiasts, bicyclists and others gather for special events and to recreate with their families and friends. Visit Friends' Facebook page [www.mildredkanipepark.org](http://www.mildredkanipepark.org) information about the Park.



**Save The Date!**

## Umpqua Watersheds Banquet

Saturday, March 12, 2016



## UCC Campus Center

**Seeking donations for the auction!**

**Stay tuned for more details in the next newsletter.**



On Wednesday, November 18th, the Tiller Ranger District of the Umpqua National Forest

## Conservation Corner

by Reverend Professor Joseph Patrick Quinn, Esq.

hosted a public post-fire field tour on a portion of this summer's Stouts Creek Fire. While more than 26,000 acres were contained within its perimeter, the Forest Service issued an initial assessment showing that approximately 25% of that area was heavily burned. The remainder of the fire ranged from a no/low to moderate impact.

Extensive empirical research informs the unbiased observer that such a mixed severity fire regime is most definitely not the disaster so often trumpeted in the media by spokespersons for the industrial timber industry and its political enablers. (Tellingly, two of our county commissioners, Chris Boice and Susan Morgan, arrived at the ranger station and toured part of the fire area in close company with, and in the same vehicle as representatives of big timber.) Indeed, the high quality early seral forest that succeeds such fires is one of the most diverse and biologically active habitats anywhere. There exists an entire suite of plant and animal life finely tuned to this pulse of new life, without which these forbs and creatures cannot thrive. A visit to the recovering Tiller Complex Fire (2002) reveals just such a vibrant, early seral landscape, including a good number of young and growing conifer species. Surprisingly, during the Stouts Creek tour, it was easy to spot new green already sprouting, phoenix like, from the ashes and blackened stems of the summer's blaze. Against occasionally loud, sometimes bullying opposition from a few of the aforementioned timber representatives, the UW Restoration and Conservation Committees spoke up, emphasizing the ecological value of such habitats and the inadvisability of widespread area salvage of burnt trees. Apparently, the Forest Service, perhaps for these and other reasons, must agree as there will be no extensive salvage logging conducted here.

By now, most of the membership of Umpqua Watersheds is all too painfully aware of what happened at Busenbark County Park. In part, to provide revenues so that our own vaunted county planning department might begin the process of developing a county-wide parks management plan, our parks department sold the timber on the twenty-two odd acres at Busenbark. Straddling the Coos Bay Wagon Road as it switchbacks up into the Coast Range, this stand included some very old and very large trees. They are stumps now, each and every Douglas-fir, Red Cedar, Grand Fir and all of the various hardwood species clear cut and hauled to the mill or burned in very large slash piles. Some as ancient as five hundred or more years, this area will not see their height and girth again soon; not in our lifetimes, nor until several generations of our progeny have come and gone.

***Still searching for holiday gifts? Why not support the local businesses that support us? Check out our business sponsors to see what they have to offer. Find contact info on the last page of this newsletter.***



How did such a regrettable and short-sighted event come to pass? How did we at UW allow it to happen without so much as a word of protest? To gain some understanding of the process that converted a once precious and increasingly rare grove of primary old growth/mature forest to a muddy stump field, one must recall to memory the recent imbroglio that resulted when the same county parks department proposed logging at Mildred Kanipe Park.

You see, ideas such as these, more typical of industrial logging outfits, originate with our parks management. As we understand it, they are presented to the citizen volunteers of the Parks Advisory Board at their monthly meetings, who then weigh in with their opinions, for and against. Apparently, in both of these cases, that board raised no strong objection to logging the parks. At Busenbark, the sale went ahead. However, when trees at Mildred Kanipe were previously found to be on the chopping block, a corps of concerned and alert citizens sounded the alarm, gathered public support and raised funds to stave off the extraction of trees from their beloved park. Unfortunately, when it was Busenbark's turn to be thrown onto the "tender mercies" of the very retrograde Oregon "Forest" Practices Act and be slicked off, all of us including we, who should have wakened the dead with our shouted objections, were silent. Ever attuned to the various management proposals and planning efforts of the United States Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Oregon Department of Forestry, etc. this more local and draconian approach to county parks funding slipped quietly under our conservation radar.



Of course, an outcry ensued when UW was finally alerted. Sadly, at that point, and to our eternal regret, all of Busenbark's trees, great and small, lay on the ground. Adding insult to injury, the perennial spring-fed stream that has been a source, since time out of mind, of clean cold water for area residents, when their wells taper off and run dry in these droughty summers was left with no forested buffer whatsoever. None. Feeding directly into the salmon bearing Ten Mile Creek, whose waters eventually find their way into the South Umpqua River, this year-round stream will, most certainly, be exposed to solar warming and sedimentation for decades. Worse yet, residue from whichever suite of toxic herbicides the county decides to apply from a helicopter will likely find its way into the water and downstream. Folks will drink this water at their possible peril, for an unknown period of time. The damaging effects of such a chemical



witches brew on the fish, amphibians, insects and human beings of this watershed are not precisely known but extensive independent research informs us that deleterious consequences may be reasonably assumed.

It is true that the Oregon Board of Forestry recently acceded to years of pressure, brought to bear by federal and state agencies and conservation organizations, including Umpqua Watersheds, to increase the width of riparian buffers on timber lands harvested under the outdated regulations of the Oregon Forest Practices Act. On small and medium fish bearing streams those reserves have been widened from the current twenty feet to sixty and eighty feet respectively. However, these improvements still fall well short of scientific recommendations for protecting such streams. Sadly, even these new regulations would not have provided any protections to such perennial but non-fish bearing streams as the one flowing through the now denuded Busenbark "Park". By rights, as the designated steward of such priceless holdings, the Douglas County Parks Department should most certainly have had a care for the natural amenities, living and otherwise, once so vibrantly present here, and regardless of the shortcomings so evident in Oregon forest management rules. While



not required to, strictly speaking, as a public park, surveys for threatened and endangered species ought to have been conducted for Northern Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets. Instead, the Busenbark clear cut was begun during their nesting season.

There is some question as to whether the county followed all of the mandates of Oregon law, as they relate to the sale of park property and/or the timber standing and growing upon it. We await further official input in that regard, a legal opinion that would come too late for Busenbark but which might dissuade our parks department from clear cutting neighboring Iverson Memorial or other "undeveloped" but locally treasured county parks. Located just down the Coos Bay Wagon Road from Busenbark, Iverson has hosted numerous area weddings, memorial services, family picnics and reunions of all kinds over the decades since it became part of the Douglas County Parks System, as once did Busenbark itself. Whether the public process preceding this action followed the law or not, the vociferous and understandably angry public turnout at November's Parks Advisory Board meeting is proof positive that adequate area outreach did not occur. For the most part, the citizens of Douglas County, including

this Conservation Committee, were unaware of and, indeed, dumbfounded that such a draconian fund raising model would even be considered, no less carried to execution, by county government, most especially by its parks department.

In the end, "Remember Busenbark!" might serve as a useful rallying cry for the preservation of Iverson. Further, it might well serve as a reminder that a few over extended and aging volunteers at UW cannot, by themselves, always mount an effective defense against the many ongoing challenges to conservation and eventual restoration facing the damaged watersheds of the Umpqua and beyond. It is essential that our membership rise to the challenge and offer their much needed assistance. A dedicated, revolving corps of volunteer observers in attendance at such board and county commissioners meetings would have been in a position to alert UW before the fact. So informed, and together with sympathetic community members, we might have prevented the environmental tragedy that occurred this summer and fall at



Busenbark, and which might yet befall other natural areas in our region. At the very least, those great old trees would not have gone down without a fight. So, please take a few deep breaths, stand up, step forward and help us shoulder this load! It goes without saying that the Umpqua Watersheds Board of Directors, though comprised of dedicated and hard-working volunteers, simply cannot cover all of our region's environmental bases on its own.

*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!*

## Restoration Committee

**"The Oregon Forestless Practices Act"**

The real name is called the Oregon Forest Practices Act. What can we say about it?

The Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA) is woefully insufficient as a standard of timber land management. California and Washington States have far surpassed Oregon regarding their standards of management on timber lands. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other water quality monitoring agencies and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) have emphatically declared that habitat degradation is eclipsing our strident efforts to restore Oregon watershed habitats. The fact that habitat degradation on this scale is still occurring is second only to our dying fish runs and extinction bound wildlife species as a witness against this green-wash regulatory charade. I call it the Oregon Forestless Practices Act. Plantation stands are not functioning ecosystems. They are the terrestrial equivalent of dead zones in our coastal oceans. They are fiber farms designed to extract wood fiber at maximum efficiency, at the least expense and to prepare the resulting clear-cut landscape for the next short rotation cycle of wood fiber harvest. The impact on wildlife and fish runs is decimating. To compound the problem they are regularly sprayed with pesticides. Not just pesticides cocktails but a toxic mix of herbicides and rodenticides.

Perhaps we should rethink our designation of conifer plantations. Again, these are not functioning forests. They are wood fiber farms. They are fire traps that severely damage old growth forests adjacent to them when they explode like petrol during fire season. These mono-culture even-aged stands support very little in the way of wildlife. They rarely reach maturity and tend to transpire large quantities of ground water. None of the complex diversity associated with natural forest conditions can be found in them. The old growth and early seral forests where I live have an abundant and flourishing array of plants and animals within their boundaries.

The road infrastructure that supports industrial timber practices is a huge negative influence on the natural hydrological processes. Road gullies become extensions of stream systems bypassing the purifying influence of natural filtering and enrichment that stable forest floors provide which increases the



turbidity of the resulting waterways. Our partners in the scientific community dedicated to fish biology and wildland hydrology are continually telling us that the road systems on public and private lands are second to none in their deleterious impact of anadromous fish runs. The cost of this socio-political cabal of County government and the Timber industry and its resulting policies on fisheries and fish runs is incalculable. It has resulted in the decline, decimation and extinction of many salmon runs in our State. These are hidden taxes that we all pay for one way or another. These are hidden costs that create an ecological debt to the bank of life that may never be able to be repaid. Nevertheless the Oregon Forestless Practices Act hardly addresses the problem.

Restoration work is nothing short of exorbitantly expensive. The impact of modern forestry on the ecosystem is devastating. These modern land management practices only pass the hidden tax of habitat restoration figuratively "downstream" to the public at Local, State and Federal levels for generations to come. The correlation and COST of habitat degradation must be coupled with the industry's practices. The timber industry is not paying for the damage it is doing on public or private lands. We are. If we don't connect the cost of restoration to the timber industry then we are in the position, once again, of subsidizing the timber industry. To add insult to injury, the industry does not pay a severance tax on its timber extracts as small woodland owners do. Some of the taxes that are gleaned from the industry are spent by the State to produce fancy propaganda films to give the illusion that the Oregon Forestless Practices Act, the Emerald Curtain as it where, is doing its job. "There are more trees in Oregon than ever". Pfffft!

Modern industrial timber practitioners ignore the impact of their heavy hand on so many levels in our watersheds. We have basins throughout Oregon that are known as "transient snow fed systems". The rivers in these watersheds do not have large lakes or prolonged high mountain snowpack to keep their waters abundant and cool. In such systems, beavers





(*Castor canadensis*) play a significant role in recharging aquifers and prolonging critical water volume flows. The State favors the use of rodenticides to poison this keystone species. These sprays destroy our main sustaining and revitalizing influences on wetlands. Yet nary a whisper regarding them in the OFPA. Oregon still considers beavers Predators and Nuisances. Rodenticides also destroy the food prey base for species such as Northern Spotted Owls and other raptors as well as predatory mammals. Why do we tolerate this?

Carbon stored in real forests, forests that are a treasured aspect of the public trust located on federally managed lands, is mercilessly whacked down, year after year by mandates imposed on Federal agencies. Mandates created by political pressures rather than scientific influences. All this and much more is sanctioned by the Oregon Forestless Practices Act.

So I've gotten some of that off my chest. It needed to be stated (again) to place our restoration efforts in proper context. Even with the millions of public dollars that are spent annually in the Pacific Northwest; there aren't sufficient funds to make a dent at the restoration task at hand. When funds are available, they are extremely competitive to acquire. One of the most important aspects when applying for government grant dollars for restoration projects is the contribution of non-Federal dollars to the project. In the past decade, of federal grant applications that I have applied for or reviewed, every single one specifically asks for the amount of money that is being contributed from sources other than government. When private dollars are committed to a project it is a positive signal to funders that there is public support for the project. When you consider this year's contributions to nonprofit organizations, consider making a substantial donation to the Umpqua Watersheds restoration work. We are volunteers. Coming to the table of a collaborative restoration project as a partner with a serious commitment reflected in the money for the project goes a long way to multiply those dollars in the form of Federal and Foundation matching funds. The burden of this labor is profound. We are undaunted but need your help. A small fraction of what you donate will go for UW administrative costs. The rest will be a declaration of our commitment together with you to go above and beyond our action to defend the best. With your help we can and will move forward to restore the rest.



## AmeriCorps Voice

By Katrina Keleher

The K-12 education world here at UW is exciting, fun, and continuing to grow. This Fall we have taught local youth about geology, environmental health, air pollution, local and global climate change, forest ecology and water chemistry. The Science Olympiad team at Douglas High School has elected student leadership to guide the team in their individual events—ranging from Wind Power to Protein Modeling, and the team received financial support from Cascade Credit Union to pay for building supplies and team registration costs. That being said, we still have plenty of fundraising to do before the State competition in April!!

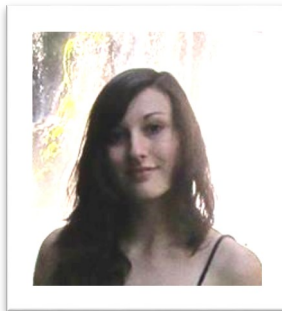


As January nears, I am gearing up for one of our “classic” programs to start up at McGovern Elementary School: Science Friday! Thanks to funding from the Bessie Minor Swift Foundation, this year’s program will involve an exciting new “climate-change science” component. The students will collect their own original weather data for nearly four months, analyze their data, and create a “climate blog” which will be available for parents and community members to view and explore in mid-April. The students will compare their weather data with long-term climate trends, and create hypothesis’ about the significance (or insignificance!) of their research. Even though four months isn’t enough time to make conclusions about a particular climate, it is enough time to compare weather trends with past and projected climate history!

I am always looking for volunteers to help me with these programs—whether it’s presence at a lesson or merely a helping hand to transport some science equipment to a school—so if you or anyone you know is interested in getting involved, contact me at [Katrina@umpqua-watersheds.org](mailto:Katrina@umpqua-watersheds.org) or 541-672-7065. As always, happy learning!!

## Wild on Wilderness (WOW)

Hello again! Many of you may have met me previously as the Secretary on the Board of Directors for Umpqua Watersheds. I am very pleased to announce my new position as staff member, Crater Lake Wilderness Campaign Coordinator. It's an absolute honor to work alongside Oregon Wild and so many other organizations who work so hard to make this wilderness designation happen.



On October 20th, representatives from UW, Oregon Wild, Environment Oregon, Crater Lake Institute, The National Parks Conservation Association, and our biggest sponsor and funder of the campaign, Patagonia, met with Senator Wyden and his staff. Environment Oregon presented over 30,000 signatures of support along with written quotes and statements from local business supporters collected by UW. Wyden has already expressed interest in the designation of Crater Lake Wilderness (CLW) and the meeting was a productive step in the campaign.

On November 25th, executive director of Douglas Timber Operations Bob Ragon presented the resolution opposing the designation of Crater Lake Wilderness to our Douglas County Commissioners. The resolution was first on the agenda for Wednesday's meeting and received little publicity prior. Douglas County Commissioners unanimously voted to oppose the designation of Crater Lake Wilderness. Since then, the issue has caused a considerable uprising in the area from supporters and opposers alike.

Being a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, my position at UW is oriented around educating our community about the Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal. Many of the concerns and opposing arguments seem to have developed from a level of misinformation. I hope to change that. Through the collaborative

effort and support of the Crater Lake Wilderness Coalition (Environment Oregon, Umpqua Watershed's Wild on Wilderness Committee, Oregon Wild, KS Wild, Cascadia Wildlands, National Parks Conservation Association, The Crater Lake Institute, and Soda Mountain Wilderness Council), we will continue spreading aware-



ness of the value of Crater Lake to the State of Oregon for people and wildlife alike, and the importance of its protection through the designation of wilderness.

You can help considerably by writing to the editor of The News Review voicing your support of Crater Lake Wilderness. We need your support more than ever, as residents of this community, to positively influence this campaign:

Editor Jeff Ackerman  
345 NE Winchester  
Roseburg, OR 97470

Other ways you can help: Contact Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley encouraging them to support Crater Lake Wilderness

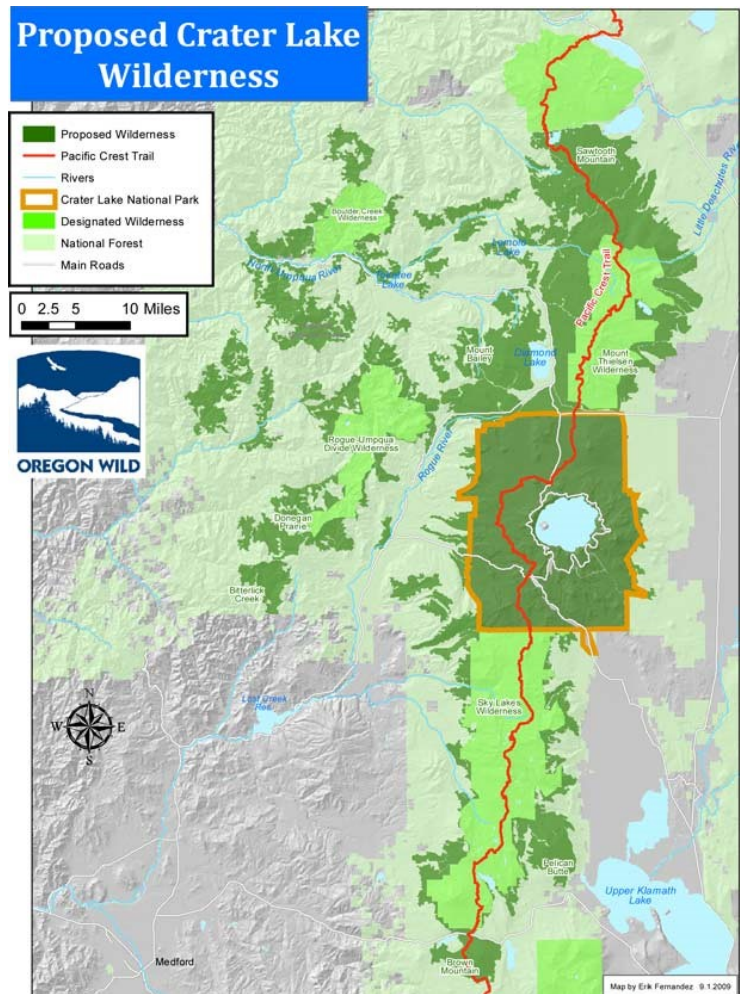
Senator Wyden 911 NE 11th Ave, Suite 630 Portland Oregon 97232 (503) 326-7525	Senator Merkley 121 SW Salmon St., Suite 1400 Portland, OR 97204
--	--

Become a business endorser or sponsor

Stop by the UW office and sign a petition in support of CLW

Join our Wild on Wilderness (WOW) committee.

For more information contact Cheyanne Rico (541) 530-0933





**From the President** *(continued from page 1)*

and most other O&C county governments. It should not be. It is not sustainable for a multitude of reasons. Until the county can be supported by some other means, the dark cabal of the timber industry and county government will always be a threat to the majesty and wonder of the natural world of our region.

Straight away it must be recognized that plantation stands are not functioning forests. They are not what attracts tourists to our region. They are a green wash cover up for the next 35 to 45 year clear cut cycle. The aftermath of short term harvest intervals on the health of our landscapes is evident each year as massive quantities of valuable top soil and silt are washed out into the ocean. It is evident each year when the inadequate shade of streams and rivers and the scorching effect of thousands of acres of barren vegetation stripped hillsides raises water temperatures killing our salmon runs. Our pesticide sprayed homeland is drenched time and again to kill every deciduous plant, shrub or tree to make room for the next round of the fiber farm. This does not help the county. Especially if it is done on industrial timber land. The old rhyme that "there are more trees in Oregon now than there ever was" belies the barren life zones that the green tree tops hide. The overstocked monoculture even aged Doug Fir landscape is more like wasteland than

a forest.

The county is in a squeeze. The end result is its effort to clear cut its parks and ravage the public trust within its borders. The Secure Rural Schools act was the Federal government's attempt to provide an economic buffer during near two decades for counties to figure out an alternative to its previous dependence of timber receipts. Millions of dollars were also spent from other sources in an attempt to find alternative solutions to the pressure. Business development plans and a multitude of other contrivances have all failed miserably to remove the threat to one of Douglas County's main assets; that which remains of its once burgeoning life sustaining ancient forests. The county has invested millions of dollars to maintain the status quo. It has sued for the delisting of threatened Coho. It has spent much by way of lobbying to extend its reach into the public trust to glean those "all important" timber receipts. To this day it has devoted incalculable time and energy to push back on conservation defenses to grasp what it can of the single focus of its attention: trees. Not trees that help stabilize soils and the life processes they nurture. Not trees that assist in shading the hills and valleys to slowly release springs of clean, clear water. Not trees that harbor an abundance of wildlife shelter and self-revitalizing natural processes. No, its single focus is dead trees that will bring much needed receipts.

Until WE as a community circumvent this lust to consume our forests, the real forests that surround us, the county will expend more and more to allow the ravaging of the countryside. It will leverage the wealth of the timber industry to keep its allies in power. If you are expecting the Commissioners to come up with a viable alternative, you are going to be woefully disappointed. There is too much for them to do and the old way is the easy alternative. They cannot help but not see the forest, the real forest, for the trees. You and I must rally to the cause and provide answers, real answers, to this crushing dilemma.

Since the county started requiring payment for trash disposal the rate of trash dumping into the forests has increased at an alarming rate. This is a symptom of what is more to come. It is not enough for us to defend what remains. Our resources to defend through the courts and the field of public opinion will not provide the answers we need to empower the county to function. The courts are merely a stop gap measure. They are not a solution. Political differences aside, we are all the county. There are resources enough among us as a community to come up with a collective answer. Join us in our quest.

## **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.

# Umpqua Watersheds Business Partners

## Umpqua Watersheds sends a Big THANK YOU to all our Business Endorsers

**Brandborg Vineyard and Winery**  
541.584.2870 [brandborgwine.com](http://brandborgwine.com)

**Commonwealth Garden**  
541.839.6067 [commonwealth452@gmail.com](mailto:commonwealth452@gmail.com)

**The Harvest Store**  
541.679.4524 [www.harveststore.biz](http://www.harveststore.biz)

**James A. Arneson, P.C.**  
541.378.4674 [arnesongroup.com](http://arnesongroup.com)

**Medicine Flower**  
541.492.1607 [medicineflower.com](http://medicineflower.com)

**Newcastle Solar**  
541.396.2100 [newcastlesolar.net](http://newcastlesolar.net)

**O'Sullivan Distributing /Dean Sullivan**  
541-680-6677 [www.zirconazul.com](http://www.zirconazul.com)

**Patricia Ferrell-French, Attorney at Law**  
503.656.4154 [willamettelaw.com](http://willamettelaw.com)

**Kaul Family Chiropractic & Massage**  
541.672.8831 [kaulfamilychiropractic.net](http://kaulfamilychiropractic.net)

**Umpqua Spine and Sports Medicine**  
541.677.9700

**The North Umpqua Foundation**  
<http://northumpqua.org>

**Richard Chasm, Timberland Owner**  
541.430.2161 [Richard.chasm@earthlink.net](mailto:Richard.chasm@earthlink.net)

**Golden Construction, John Hunter**  
541.679.4303

**River Sounds Music**  
541.679.7077

**River's Edge Winery**  
541.584.2357 [riversedgewinery.com](http://riversedgewinery.com)

**Sutherlin Veterinary Hospital**  
541.459.9577 [sutherlinvethospital.com](http://sutherlinvethospital.com)

**While Away Books**  
541.957.1751 [whileawaybooksespresso.com](http://whileawaybooksespresso.com)

**Wild Rose Vineyard**  
541.679.1433 [wildrosevineyard.com](http://wildrosevineyard.com)

**Workmates Copy Center**  
541.673-5506 [workmates@rosenet.net](http://workmates@rosenet.net)

Please Join as a business endorser, \$125 for one year - All Contributions are Tax Deductible. Call: 541.672.7065

Be sure to  
Join or renew  
your membership

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Roseburg, OR  
Permit No. 18



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

