



# 100 Valleys

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## From the President..... Stan Petrowski

Activity at Umpqua Watersheds is ramping up. I won't be able to capture everything in this report but I will do my best to hit the highlights.

First on the list is the sweet and sour awareness that Katrina Keleher is moving on to complete her education. What a powerhouse of a woman! She has gone above and beyond the call of duty in her service here at Umpqua Watersheds. Her contributions to our organization will be long lasting. That's how she designed it! I don't think there is an aspect of our work that hasn't been positively impacted by her influence. Really, it is hard to fathom her departure. Live long and prosper sister Katrina. You are destined for great things.

Another huge vacuum is being made by the departure of Cheyanne Rico who is stepping down from the Board to focus her energy even more directly on the Crater Lake Wilderness proposal. Her service on the Board has always been much appreciated. She will be sorely missed in that capacity.

We are not being left high and dry. Umpqua Watersheds is proud to announce the addition of the very capable Diana Pace to the Board. We are looking forward to working with Diana. Welcome aboard Diana!

Many of the Board Members have their nose to the grindstone regarding issues facing public lands. The BLM and the Forest Service are in the throes of huge changes in their management plans. The Northwest Forest Plan was destined to be reviewed after 20 years of scientific data gathering. That process is going on right now and the polarizing forces that caused its existence two decades ago are still alive and well. From our perspective much good has come as a result of the Plan. In particular the pace of habitat degradation on public lands has slowed considerably since the days of pillage that existed before the plan was established. Nevertheless, there are still strident efforts being made to take, take and take more of the beneficial life supporting resources of public lands.

The BLM in particular is under an unbelievable amount of pressure by County and State governments to get the cut out. Their newly released resource management plan RMP is noth-

ing short of shocking. There is still no genuine recognition that too much was taken too quickly out of our watersheds.

Streams and rivers of the Umpqua are still consistently much too warm to support the desperately needed healthy salmon runs. As a result, the largely ecologically detrimental and extremely expensive State of Oregon hatchery program continues to try and compensate for the damage that has been done. The iconic Northern Spotted Owl population is continuing its decline in numbers. Whole classes of species populations are going the opposite direction than what we had hoped. More must be done but money is standing in the way on several fronts.

Please let me reiterate something I mentioned in our last newsletter. Until there is a clear and adequate fiscal provision to sustain O&C County governments, the pressure to destroy more habitat is only going to intensify. I do not know whose brilliant idea it was to put into law that western States Counties' should live off of lands that belong to ALL U.S. citizens. It was a bad idea from the beginning, founded on ignorance and without the foresight of the unexpected development of our capacity as a civilization to destroy large amounts of our environment quickly through technological development. It still amazes me that these laws and others like it have not been amended to adjust for rapid mechanization and its potential adverse impact. This past winter I watched a single man on a single piece of equipment clear cut 40 acres in two weeks. That included staging the timber and loading it on trucks for transport. Don't be fooled when County governments complain about missing jobs. To be sure the skills needed to manage forests appropriately are needed. Loggers must be re-trained to become forest restoration technicians. We've entered a new arena of management that requires a new set of stricter rules to minimize the adverse impact of our very capable heavy hands. We have a great potential for regeneration ecology in the social infrastructure that is presently used to degrade watershed habitat. Simply put, "What broke it can fix it."

Speaking of old laws, we can hardly ignore what happened at the Malheur Refuge recently. There are still people living in



## 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.*

the old world wild west paradigm and they want to keep it that way. This year the State of Oregon placed a 5 year moratorium on dredge mining in our river systems. Those who are in opposition to this are relying on the 1872 mining law in their court cases. We, along with others in the conservation community, attempted to work out an agreement that would allow for the protection of Essential Salmon Habitat (ESH) and the expensive multi-million dollar investments that are being made to restore aquatic habitat. We worked long and hard to hammer out a solution. In the end the mining interests just refused to cooperate. Some are now refusing to recognize the hiatus and plan to dredge anyway. Watch for them and don't let them get away with it. Just don't intervene directly. Report it to the land management agency.

All of Umpqua Watersheds key objectives are coming to fruition. Conservation, Education and Restoration continue to actively engage the community in worthy endeavors. The only way to truly affect change is to lead by example. To be sure there is a steep learning curve but through sincerity, trial and error, our alternative options to resolve the problems facing the natural world are taking form.

Be sure to check your "Watershed Moments" for the latest in hikes, committee meetings, and project activities. We're already gearing up for the Umpqua Brewfest this autumn. Contact the office if you'd like to get involved.

Your enduring support is meaningful and most appreciated. Consider getting actively involved in the many aspects of this work. You will be contributing to a legacy of life.

## Restoration Committee... by Stan Petrowski

We are amazed at the capacity of our bodies to heal. Once, long ago and earlier in my life, I was a certified Emergency Medical Technician. Part of this service was an obligation to volunteer to serve in some capacity at a hospital. During one of my service days, an elderly man walked in the emergency room with four of his severed fingers wrapped with ice. The result of a table saw incident. His main complaint was that he had been a cabinet maker his entire life and never had an accident. As I assisted the physician, he began judiciously putting the man's hand back together. I saw bone, muscle and skin realigned; blood vessel to blood vessel, top to top, and bottom to bottom. After some hours, I watched white, dead looking, reattached fingers turn red and swell in a process of



healing. With nurturing care, cells began to regenerate and find some level of functionality.

Single celled species as well as large landscape ecosystems are capable of regenerating. It is my persuasion that, on some level, we as humans intuitively understand these restorative dynamics. In fact, I think it is our tendency to lean very heavily on regenerative processes for economic advantage. Resource extraction has very clear limits in the short term. You can only take so much out of the system without permanently altering it. In terms of geologic time it eventually bounces back in one form or another.

Because human intervention in natural processes is not understood and our propensity to focus on "making bank" is so strong, we are pressed into a situation that does not allow us the luxury of waiting for geologic epochs. We must intervene and intervene quickly. The regenerative process can be and has been stymied. It seems that each step we go forward we go two steps back.

The task of restoration ecology is to reset the stage for natural processes to kick in and regeneration to ensue. We're late in the game. For the last few decades, through trial and error, we have forged an awareness of SOME of the things that need to be done to set the stage for regeneration. Habitat degradation happens from the business of accumulating wealth. It only stands to reason that it will cost large sums of money to "stem the tide" toward irreparable damage to ourselves as a civilization. Self-healing has its limits. To compensate (and we can) will require focused attention. We must not approach restoration ecology from the stand point of the minimum. It won't work.

What can be done and what it will take is a point of contention. Some, who focus almost entirely on self-interest, say that nothing needs to be done. Others say that we should not act until we know more. The timber industry, for example, says that they are planting trees. The hills are alive with green. Yes, well, gangrene is green and alive too. The short rotation tree plantations prepared for the next wave of clear cutting are not part of the restorative/regenerative processes we are discussing. They are part of the disease and are recognized as such by many, including some in the industry.

The complex living systems that make for a healthy forest cannot exist in plantations at the level needed for regenerative functions to work. These tree farms do not support the dynamic equilibrium that is found in a self-healing landscape. A holistic approach to restoration ecology takes into account micro scale to landscape scale in its evaluation of regenerative potential. Industrial timber land will have to be managed in an

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entirely different manner. Mushroom filaments and bacteria are as significant a player as geology and hydrology in restoration work. Rarely are these taken into consideration when restoration projects are implemented. Industry folks do not seem to be aware of it at all.

In our efforts to move renewal forward through a collaborative process I found that industry stakeholders and others who have been involved with carriers in the corporate business world find the regulatory regime associated with forest treatments frustrating and painstaking. It is very telling. A common statement heard from them is, "If we ran our business like that we would have gone bankrupt." Indeed the rules and regulations governing restoration work or any human intervention in public forest lands are very complex. A veritable soup of acronyms are at play; NEPA, ESA, WUI, Survey and Manage, on and on. The regulatory process certainly isn't perfect but it also most certainly needed. True life and living landscapes are never simple.

Some complain that it is too time consuming. Others complain that it is too cumbersome and complicated. We have found to the contrary. If ecological restoration is the true goal then first and foremost a careful assessment of present conditions is required so that we do no harm to the ecological assets that are already in the watershed. Secondly, a thorough evaluation of the treatments that are planned must be done. There's nothing worse than breaking what you hope to help fix in the process of fixing it. In our view it is the height of human arrogance to assume we know even a fraction of what nature is doing while we are not watching. Our carefulness in project preparation hits only the highlights of our concerns; but it is better than nothing at all. And time consuming. We'll get better and more efficient at it as we move forward.

This past April the long awaited Elk Creek Restoration Project EA (Environmental Assessment) was released. Grassroots and organizational collaborative partners have worked for years to meet the above mentioned standards. We worked closely with the Forest Service who, from our standpoint, were model professionals exhibiting due diligence in their scientific evaluations. The community in the area was well informed and supported the direction of the project. Umpqua Watersheds Board members attended a plethora of meetings over the past few years to evaluate and help guide the process. We played by the rules and were able to meet our objectives on multiple levels if the project goes forward as planned.

There's still a major hurdle to mount. Douglas County Commissioners are adamantly in opposition to the utilization of

stewardship contracting in this project. Stewardship contracts are a very powerful agreement tool that allows payment receipts from trees taken from overcrowded plantations to be utilized for fixing ecological problems in the watershed that otherwise would not have funding support. The County Commissioners have consistently applied pressure on the BLM and Forest Service to not utilize Stewardship Contracting because they feel they own a portion of every tree that comes off of the public trust. They even have gone so far as to litigate and lobby against stewardship contracts for many years. If they have their way, it has the potential to undo all of the careful effort that went into designing the restoration work. In my view, County political intervention into forest restoration is a much greater hurdle than the regulatory process that went



into designing the project. Will the Umpqua National Forest cave to the political pressure?

There is not a law that says Stewardship Contracting cannot be used. We felt we were contributing to the social needs of our community by providing jobs and supplying the mills with logs. There will be an estimated 60 million board feet of timber coming from overcrowded plantations and neglected landscapes. It seems that is not enough for the Commissioners. Is it really fair for them to come into this project with the single goal in mind of getting their "cut of the cut"?

They have shown no support of the ecological goals or the complex process of achieving it whatsoever. In fact, they have opposed it and sought to undermine it from its inception with the onset of the Northwest Forest Plan. They are still of the mindset that caused the problem in the first place. It is a complex politically charged problem that must be resolved if restoration and fire resilience are going to happen on the level that they must.

Our shoulder is at the wheel and we continue to push up hill. Come join us in these worthy efforts.

## Conservation Corner .....by Joseph Patrick Quinn

As promised, the BLM has released its long awaited Proposed Resource Management Plan for Western Oregon ("WOPRjr."). Umpqua Watersheds, in consort with its brother and sister conservation organizations, tried mightily to discourage regional planners from realizing proposed increases in the overall extractive volume from the O&C and

Coos Bay Wagon Road lands at the expense of riparian or other reserves. That, however, is precisely what has happened: the proposed sale volume will rise by approximately 37% over present volumes to about 278 mmbf/year. At the same time, riparian buffers on many streams would be reduced from two "site height potential tree" to one, a significant reduction that also eliminates agency wiggle room, so to speak, given the accelerating and palpable consequences of anthropocentrically generated climate change.

Regarding climate change, many comments on WOPRjr were submitted to BLM to do more in the way of carbon sequestration as a prophylactic against this onrushing threat. BLM's almost droll response, in part, consisted of maintaining that such a prescription would be too much competition with their perceived need to produce logs, more or less. In our protest we identified this out of step response as being both illogical and unethical. That is doubtlessly how future generations of citizens on this beleaguered planet will likely see it.

This and other notable features in the multiyear management proposal represent a clear departure from the regional, multi-agency approach initiated by adoption of the Northwest Forest Plan, in 1995. Despite calls for BLM to maintain this unified, three state recovery model and to cooperate with the Forest Service in formulating a more unified, science based approach, the BLM has chosen to go it, alone. This complicates and possibly compromises the regional planning efforts of the various National Forests of the northwest, whose own planning efforts are currently in the preliminary stage.

In its comments on the draft RMP, UW emphasized to regional BLM planners the absolute necessity to fully consider the tremendous volume of primary old growth/mature forest that was clear cut, in the decades before adoption of the Northwest Forest Plan, from the Coast Range and Cascades holdings managed in trust by the BLM. As far as we were able to determine, they failed to do so. This is important, because such a wide-spread strip mining of the concentrated wealth of centuries has left a considerable environmental debt for which future generations will make repayments. It is long past time when the BLM (as well as the Forest Service) and society in general started "making good" on this debt in real earnest. In light of past ill-advised actions, the watchword at the BLM should be: restoration. We further tasked them with fully considering the suite of deleterious impacts imposed upon so many watersheds by the numerous large private land clear cuts created under aegis of the Oregon Forest Practices Act. We insisted to them that it would be environmentally damaging and even unethical to propose the creation of still more large openings, however construed, on adjacent or proximate public lands managed by the BLM. This comment, as others, failed, it seems, to register with the planning team, or if it did, it was



discounted.

UW has filed a limited protest of its own against WOPRjr and has joined with the wider conservation community in co-signing a protest collated by the Western Environmental Law Center and Earth Justice. In the meantime, the Association of O&C Counties has filled a common pot with precious tax payer money from various counties. This fund is being used to retain what is reported to be the most expensive law firm in the state. Our own Douglas County has thrown fifty thousand dollars of scarce public monies into this slush fund, in anticipation of suing the BLM. Their demand is for the agency to harvest a minimum of 500 mmbf/year! You see, by law counties are granted what is termed Cooperating Agency (CA) status if they agree to non-disclosure rules. This status gives them, should they chose to participate, complete prior knowledge of data and plan proposals and formulations. Environmental groups do not enjoy such a privilege. Of course, prior knowledge might well provide "get out the cut" county commissioners and/or their attorneys with all the advance notice they need to prepare the groundwork for still another suit against the BLM and its parent agency, the Interior Department.

Word as to the fate of all of the various protests filed should begin to filter back from Washington D.C. at any time. Depending upon the result, the only further avenue available to address unmet objections to the RMP will be the federal judiciary. The O&C Counties have already promised court action. It remains to be seen what final position the conservation community will adopt.

It was with chagrin and anger, and over our oral objections, that UW witnessed the award by the Douglas County Commissioners, of still more tax payer money to the Communities for Healthy Forests (CHF). This organization appears, to our studied eye, to be little more than a thinly disguised mouth piece for industrial timber and other boosters of the retrograde Oregon Forest Practices Act. Our commissioners outdid themselves this year, gifting CHF \$300,000 of Secure Rural Schools (aka safety net) funds to be used for such partisan activities as lobbying against BLM and F.S. management actions, and busing public school students onto the Roseburg Forest Products portions of last summer's Stouts Creek Fire, where the kids will enjoy the great privilege of planting trees for that company, while listening, we strongly suspect, to how beneficial clear cut logging and complete salvage of burned acreage is for the environment and the local economy. Hogwash!

CHF has dedicated \$200,000 of this new grant of your tax money to a California firm, who will, we are told, produce a documentary highlighting why public land management falls so far short of the "wise" management model used on private industrial forest holdings. We can't help wondering if CHF's showings will include cartoons; something with Daffy Duck or Goofy might mesh well with the tenor of this possible Academy Award nomination in the fantasy category! There is, of course, the slim chance that the creators of this tax payer funded production will attempt a more objective, even-handed approach, but at this writing, we sincerely doubt it.

Interestingly (or maddeningly) CHF has been the beneficiary of about \$1.5 million dollars in such grants over the years. Members who find themselves appalled at such an apparent misdirection of precious tax money should express their dissatisfaction to Senator Ron Wyden. As the proud author, in large part, of the Safety Net legislation, one would think that he would be intensely concerned. One wonders.

In addition, along with a number of concerned county residents, UW filed comments directed at the draft Douglas County Parks Master

Plan. Since it really covers only the seven more highly developed parks, we suggested plan authors rename it accordingly. The other sixty or so parks are really no more than a list, with no guarantees anywhere that the clear cut fate that befell Busenbark will not, in future, befall such beloved parks as Iverson and others. Interestingly, this so-called master plan has the temerity to list Busenbark, post-clear cut, as a passive park! Perhaps, using that term, they meant to encourage folks driving the Coos Bay Wagon Road to pass that field of king sized stumps as quickly as possible? Given what we have seen so far, it would not surprise us. Several commenters took umbrage with the absence of an ad hoc citizen committee empowered to help organize and formulate such a wide ranging planning effort. Not in Douglas County, unless, that is, one sees the Parks Advisory Board filling that role. As is well known now by all, the appointment process for new citizen members of that august body was virtually a farce from beginning to end. Doesn't give one much confidence in the fairness and wisdom of our county government, does it? Likewise, we very much doubt that grantors of needed outside funds for parks improvements, such as the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation, will see it that way either. Too bad for all concerned.

## Outreach .... By Al Bunce

For many of us, rivers are special. It's where we find relaxation, recreation, and rejuvenation. Where one can witness life-giving elements course through the veins of our natural world.

Umpqua Watersheds has celebrated our rivers for many years, leading riverside hikes and campouts, floats, the annual Umpqua Basin Cleanup, and hosting our River Appreciation Day (RAD) event.

Unbeknownst to many, River Appreciation Day is an official day in the state of Oregon that has its beginnings here in the Umpqua. For more on the history of River Appreciation Day, we asked UW Great, Bob Allen, to reminisce about the efforts of river conservationists before Umpqua Watersheds was formed. Here is his *RIVER DAY RETROSPECTIVE*

*In the summer of 1987 Umpqua Watersheds as an organized community environmental force was still six years away. Nonetheless feelings ran strong about protecting the vulnerable local natural world and preventing further degradation of field, forest, and stream. In that year, Roseburg built a new sewage treatment facility on the S. Umpqua River near the end of Harvard Avenue. They spent \$12 million on this "state of the art facility": leaving out a crucial element, a backup generator for possible power outages. The outages happened and the usual apologies were issued. Outraged by the outage, a group of concerned citizens picketed the Douglas County Courthouse with signs, music, and speeches. Nothing changed however, until the next power outage caused by a lightning strike. This time other community organizations joined in and an editorial appeared in the News-Review. The Roseburg Urban Sanitary Authority (RUSA) stated that a generator would cost at least a million dollars.*



*When citizen pressure continued, the city somehow found a surplus military generator from the Federal government in Washington State for \$125,000. It was installed and has worked well ever since.*

*The original band of protesters, or "Riff-Raff" as some called them, decided to do something more positive on and about the river and organized a music, fun, and educational festival at River Forks Park in September of that year. They called it "River Appreciation Day". The day happened to be cool and cloudy so a summer day was chosen for the next one to be the third Saturday in July, 1988. John Kitzhaber, then Oregon State Senate President, was the keynote speaker at both events. He was asked by the founders to introduce a bill to the state government to make the third Saturday in July RIVER APPRECIATION DAY in the State of Oregon. He submitted a bill to the senate and then state representative Norm Gershon did the same in the house. It passed with only token opposition: e.g. Senator Larry Campbell stating: "if Sen. Kitzhaber played golf would he want Golf Appreciation Day?" The bill passed and the group sent notices around the state to media and other possibly interested organizations encouraging them to start events of their own.*

*Over the years that followed, the annual celebration of the rivers and their value to us and the life in them has been held around the county at Camp Tyee Park, River Forks Park, Whistlers Bend Park, Canyonville's Stanton Park, Elkton's excellent park facilities and even in the Rogue- Umpqua Divide Wilderness where violinist Kim Angelis played entrancing Gypsy Melodies around the campfire as the full moon rose in the trees.*

*Next month will be the twenty-ninth anniversary of this designated Oregon State Holiday celebrating all the states rivers. Umpqua Watersheds' energies and focus has changed with the times and the needs for attention to the many issues, facing what has become a mainstream environmental organization, are pressing. While it may not be possible now to field a full-fledged day-long festival with all the trappings as we have in the past, the day remains as a reminder and call for all of us to remember the gift of these rivers and the need to appreciate, protect, and preserve them. On the third Saturday in July especially, or wherever you are and whenever you can in the State of Oregon, get out, get on, enjoy and take care of our official 84 wonderful rivers.*



*~Bob Allen, one of the Founding Members, River Appreciation Day Committee*

Over the years, the RAD celebration has come in many forms; from intimate, close-knit gatherings, to huge public outreach events. This year we plan to do a bit of both. We'll publicize the message to the masses, through press releases and on radio, to encourage folks to honor our rivers. Our gathering will be more of the intimate variety occurring at Whistler's Bend Park on the North Umpqua.

So if rivers are important to you, please help to advocate for them however you can. Get out and use them, but don't abuse them, as they provide so much and only ask in return for a little appreciation.

## ON BECOMING INDIGENOUS..... Ken Carloni, Ph.D.

*vin-’di-jə-nəs\* 1. Occurring naturally in a particular place; native. 2. Innate; inherent; natural.

*Where did we come from? Where are we now? Where do we want to go?*

By coincidence, Umpqua Watersheds had booked the Douglas County Library for a talk I planned to give entitled “Fuels, Fire, and the Future of Oregon’s Forests” on the same day as a tour of last summer’s Stouts Creek Fire offered by Communities for Healthy Forests (CHF) <https://www.facebook.com/CommunitiesForHealthyForests/>. So I went along on the tour, heard some heated dialog, ran home, put my gear together, set up the Library (with a lot of help from my friends), and began my presentation with three questions: *Where did we come from? Where are we now? Where do we want to go?*

A County Commissioner, several CHF board members, and other folks with timber interests were there along with many of our conservation-minded friends and neighbors.

I began with an overview of the ecological history of our landscapes (“Where Did We Come From?”). Using historical, archaeological and ecological images and inventories, I documented a significant shift in forest structure from Aboriginal times into the Industrial era. Those shifts in management footprint include:

- **“Corridor and camp” pattern => dispersed plantations**
- Focus on **ridge and river => whole landscape**
- **Extensive management => intensive management**
- Major disturbance agent from **fire => logging**
- Systematic **fire ignition => systematic fire suppression.**

As I’ve illustrated in previous issues of the *100 Valleys*, these changes in resource management outcomes have created forests that are out of balance with past conditions at stand and landscape scales (“Where are we now?”). Shifts in reference conditions that are out of their historic ranges include:

- **multi-aged stands => even-aged stands**
- **high fire resistance => low fire resistance**
- **fire-tolerant species => fire-intolerant species across landscapes**
- **increase in stand densities at all ages**
- **decrease in large, old trees at stand and landscape levels**
- **decrease in structural and biotic diversity at stand and landscape levels**

But the biggest issue on everyone’s mind right now is fire. Satellite images, mortality statistics, and site visits reveal changes in forest structure that have resulted in shifts in fire size, frequency, and mortality. Fires have gone from:

- **many small => few large**
- **frequent => infrequent**
- **low-intensity => to high-intensity**

The scientific evidence for the shift toward more flammable forests is corroborated by direct observation of recent local fires -- the simplified stands created by industrial forest practices have suffered far more tree mortality in recent fires than older, unmanaged forests. The conversion of a significant amount of our diverse, fire-resistant primary forests has left us with a historically high proportion of highly flammable even-aged plantations with little value to endangered wildlife or other natural amenities. These stands are dangerous places to control fires, and can generate extreme fire behavior that increases risks to adjacent public and private forests.

But don’t just take my word for it -- many of the roads through the 2013 Douglas Complex Fire in the lower Cow Creek watershed are open, and the 2008 Williams Creek Fire has some awe-inspiring trails that weave in and out of the burn mosaic. A visit to any of our recent wildfires will corroborate what I’ve outlined above.

### *Two Sides of the Same Coin vs. The Three-Legged Stool*

There is a persistent metaphor that is too often used to discuss society’s use of natural resources: *the three-legged stool*. The legs represent *social, economic and environmental concerns*. This model assumes that the social and the economic issues are separate while in reality, they are indivisible.

I suggest that a more apt metaphor is the familiar *two sides of the same coin*, i.e., the two complementary halves that complete the whole (humans and the ecosystems that sustain them). The nurturing of the surrounding environment creates challenges and provides rewards to an integrated *socioecological community*. Using that concept, *Figure 1* provides a simplified graphical model of an economy both enabled and constrained by historic conditions.

Indigenous peoples were integral parts of nature and active land managers. Native Americans and beavers were the chief “ecosystem engineers” in most PNW ecosystems by tending *fires* and building *dams*. These two ecosystem keystones had dramatic positive impacts on the diversity and productivity of their environment.

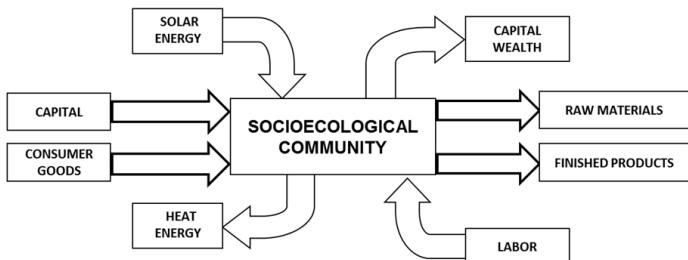
Indigenous economies were based on local goods and services going to local and (to a much lesser extent) regional markets. During Aboriginal times, outflows of resources from one region to another were very minimal because of transportation limitations. Obsidian in local archaeological sites was sourced from locations in central Oregon, and *Dentalium* shells from offshore islands were used for currency. But most of the economy was internal, and material cultures reflected the local resources available. “Wealth” in the form of capital or goods could not easily flow to distant populations, so it was rarely accumulated.

### Aboriginal Economics



**Figure 1. Aboriginal Economics.** In pre-European cultures of the Pacific Northwest, there was no categorization of the world into things natural or unnatural. American Indian societies were theocracies where the mystical and the rational blended seamlessly. Their culture was integrated into the landscape and was sustainable only to the extent that the rest of the biotic community on which they depended remained productive and resilient. Markets were limited to how far one could travel on foot with a load. Although capital existed in the form of *Dentalia* shells, rarely was much capital amassed – “wealthy” individuals accumulated status and affection.

## Euroamerican Economics



**Figure 2. Euroamerican Economics.** In post-European cultures, humans are separated from "nature" and no longer rely on it for day to day survival. World markets are open for raw materials from the biotic community as well as finished products from the social community. Jobs are created when value is added to raw materials but exported as raw logs. Invested dollars grow faster than trees – "wealthy" individuals accumulate capital wealth that confers political status.

Most often it was exchanged for status and affection.

When Euroamericans replaced the indigenous population of our region, a dramatically new economic system was ushered in (*Figure 2*). Standardized banking conventions and bulk shipping technologies made it possible to export raw materials and finished products around the world, and to have access to capital and consumer goods. The global economy had begun.

Land ownership -- incomprehensible to Native Americans -- now allows a few individuals to control far more resources than they could ever convert to merchantable goods themselves. The high returns on exotic investments incentivize owners to convert forests to dollars in the shortest possible intervals -- cleverly invested dollars always grow faster than trees...

### "Would Indians Have Traded with the Chinese"?

A commissioner who was at the talk asked this thought-provoking question to make the point that we now live in a global economy. My answer? Certainly.

Native toolstones and shell currencies often show up many miles from their origins. Native people used the full extent of their stamina and ingenuity to acquire the materials they needed to improve their lives and ensure their survival. But aboriginal imports and exports were limited by the ability to haul cargo by foot or canoe. (Ironically, there is growing archaeological evidence that trade between Chinese explorers and West Coast Indians may have actually happened decades to centuries before Columbus.)

My point in comparing the two economic systems is not to hold up one as a model and denigrate the other. I am simply pointing out the historic shift in the *economic* landscape that has driven the shifts in the *ecological* landscape. But it is worth noting that the aboriginal system -- whether by physical constraints or social organization -- did not (and arguably *could not*) create the great disparity of wealth we see in the current system. Without high-denomination currency, electronic funds transfers, and secure off-shore banking institutions, it was simply not possible for individuals to amass a significant fortune.

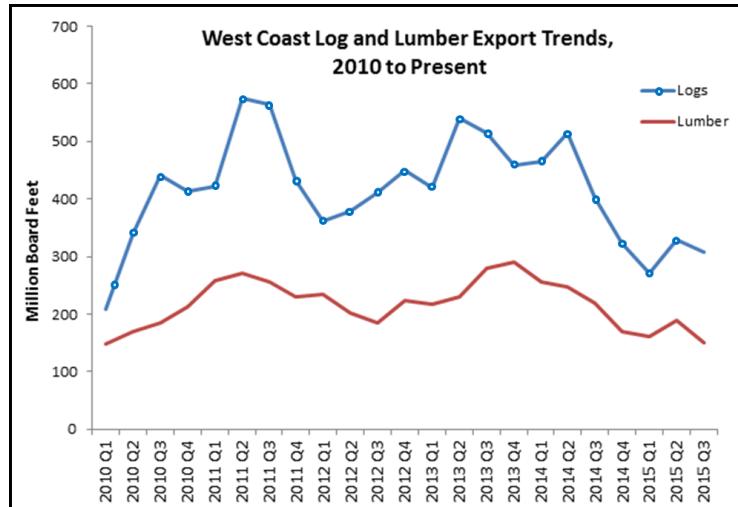
The individual clans that banded together into larger, culturally cohesive tribes numbered in the 50-150 range, and those groups typically met with other clans seasonally. There would have been few anonymous deals -- business was done between neighbors who were very likely to meet again. Wealth was measured not in monetized assets, but in the esteem of your peers and the respect for your counsel in the clan and tribe.

Whether by circumstance or design, this created very "flat" societies -- the highest-ranking individuals did not control signifi-

cantly greater wealth than the lowest. Therefore when the clan was successful in hunting, gathering and/or trading its products and resources, everyone benefitted, not just the person who cut the deal.

After the loss of the indigenous culture, the socioeconomic system in Douglas County entered what I refer to as the "Euroagrarian Phase". The means of converting commodities and labor into cash and securing it in bank vaults was established. Draft animals, wheels and ships could move agricultural and industrial products to distant markets. Deep water ports and the railroad increased the access to distant markets for the fruits of our labor, but they also accelerated the hemorrhage of raw materials from our landscapes to unsustainable rates. As the 20th century dawned, Oregon's forests were open for business, and America's robber barons took full advantage.

In today's industrial economy, accountants calculate risks and benefits to determine when tree farms get clearcut and converted to capital. With easy access to foreign markets and high-volume shipping, a high proportion of logs harvested on private lands get exported to China and other Asian rim countries (*Figure 3*). Using accepted job multipliers, 11-12 thousand jobs are exported with every billion board feet of unprocessed logs. Every time an anonymous timberland owner sends a load of



logs to China instead of Dillard, a face he's never seen loses a job.

**Figure 3. Log and Lumber Exports By Quarter 2010-2015.** Note that the upper line represents raw log exports and the lower line represents lumber products that have at least been minimally processed. One to two BILLION board feet of raw logs typically leave our region and have value-added far from their forests of origin. <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/news/2015/12/log-lumber.shtml>

While most county governments benefit proportionally when business is good, things are different in Douglas County. Even though the County's unemployment rate is the lowest it has been since 1990 (6.1%), County government is slashing services and warning of catastrophe. Why is this?

Roughly half of the timberlands in the Douglas County are publicly owned and managed mainly by the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Decades ago, the Federal Government made agreements with western counties that a percentage of all receipts from trees harvested on federal lands would go to county governments: 50% from BLM, 25% from USFS (see article by Daniel Robertson in this issue). This means that if logging decreases on federal lands, money for county services drops with it.

And drop it has. During the unsustainable heyday of the late 1980s, logging on BLM and USFS lands could exceed three quarters of a billion board feet a year in Douglas County alone. But because the entire burden of keeping species from going extinct has fallen on public lands, harvest has dropped to 60-70 million board feet today.

Having become addicted to federal timber receipts, property taxes in timber-dependent counties failed to keep pace with other counties. And unfortunately, Oregon ballot measures limiting property tax growth (5, 47 & 50) have prevented Douglas County from raising property taxes commensurate with other Oregon counties to make up the difference.

Federal “safety net” funding through the Secure Rural Schools Act was authorized in 2000 as a temporary measure to mitigate the abrupt loss of funds, but after 16 years it is doubtful that this legislation will be reauthorized. Rather than coming up with creative solutions to replace federal logging receipts, County officials and industry executives continue to lobby congress to get the cut up on the Public’s forests (see article by Patrick Quinn in this issue).

The Public’s logs represent cash to County coffers, but they are also gold to local mill owners. Federal law prohibits the export of raw logs from public lands. Therefore, with no Chinese buyers to drive up the price, those logs typically cost \$25-100 less per thousand than private logs.

### **Looking Back, Moving Forward**

This brief summary of our socioecological history brings us to our final question: “*Where do we want to go?*” How can we harmonize our economic and resource management systems to create the most robust socioecological system possible?

The work of rebuilding the resistance and resilience of our landscapes in the new economy will require science-based design, innovative engineering, and systematic monitoring. Although ecosystems are notoriously difficult to predict and guide, there are plenty of tested solutions that could be implemented given a unity of will within the community.

But the challenges in restoring ecosystems pale in comparison to the work we’ll need to do to build resistance and resilience into our social systems. No one thing is going to replace the revenue stream provided to the County by historic logging on public lands. It will take many small changes -- ones that should have begun decades ago when the overcutting of our forests led to dramatic declines in species from salmon to owls. Our failure to heed the warning signs then has greatly limited our options today.

If an economy with the lowest unemployment rate in a generation doesn’t generate enough tax revenue to fund public services, and if property tax increases are limited, what can County Commissioners do to avoid the fiscal cliff that will loom if the safety net is not reauthorized?

There are many potential partial solutions, but for a start, I would like to suggest that Douglas County explore levying a *log export tax* on raw logs exported from County lands.

*Figure 3* and other export data clearly show that there is no shortage of logs available to Douglas County mills: far more raw logs are being exported with no local value added compared to finished lumber. Douglas County (and other Oregon counties) could choose to increase the harvest tax on

timber from large industrial timber tracts, but *refund* those taxes upon delivery to a mill within the borders of our county.

Currently, the price of logs at Coos Bay is \$25-100 per thousand higher than local mills pay for federal logs. An increase of, say, \$50 (or more) per thousand in the harvest tax on just the logs that left Oregon counties in the previous several years could have generated \$50-100 million in revenues per year. We could choose to have a rolling 2 year sunset clause, and reevaluate and/or adjust the amount every biennium depending on current economic conditions.

The revenues from a substantial harvest tax increase could be used to fund programs closely tied to natural resources -- sustainable workforce training, innovative forest products business incubation, community log sort yards, and restoration of public and private lands -- thus creating the engines of a more sustainable economy.

Increasing the harvest tax on logs exported from industrial timberland would have significant positive impacts on the local economy regardless of whether export prices are rising or falling.

If export prices continue to rise, then industrial timber sellers will simply build the harvest tax into their cost of doing business, and more revenue will become available to fund county services, forest restoration and community transition. The rising cost of raw logs would also make our finished lumber more attractive to overseas buyers, allowing us to add value to our forest products on this side of the Pacific.

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

### **On Becoming Indigenous**

After 5 generations of Euroamerican-style management on the Umpqua, it’s time that we start becoming indigenous people by reintegrating our society into the ecosystem. Balancing societal needs with ecosystem services would help maintain the stability of both. And the more value-added we do with our raw materials, the more dollars will circulate among our neighbors long before they end up in the pockets of the financial class outside our borders.

Our forebears were ecosystem engineers in their environments for thousands of years, and judging by the material culture unearthed at local archaeological sites, the societies of the PNW were stable for at least the last 3000 years of their ~15,000 year tenure in the region. And cultural stability implies a sustainable environment. But while the past can help us understand our socioecological trajectory, there is no going back -- the social and ecological structures that supported those economies are gone. Soon we will have no choice but to sit down as a community and make the hard decisions that will take us into a sustainable future.

Local indigenous cultures took care of people first and profits second. When one or more individuals in the clan did well, everyone else benefited. And because everything came from the immediate environment, cultures that overexploited their ecosystems vanished while those that lived in balance with their landscapes thrived. Surely the lessons of the past can help us navigate the obstacles and take advantage of new opportunities as we emerge from an era of overexploitation and



## AmeriCorps Voice

By Katrina Keleher

As river-swimming season approaches here in the Umpqua, my time in this community is nearing a close.

My two years of AmeriCorps service at UW has been a period of great growth for me. I have acquired skills in teaching, grant-writing, event-planning, and I have even perfected the extraordinary art of sharing an office with the most “interesting” man in the world (I put those quotation marks in the right place, right?) I have been able to expand Roland Wang’s education programs to reach more schools while creating curriculum for and establishing new programs throughout our community. And to top off a great two years of teaching our youth outdoors, Gray Family Foundation has recently granted us with \$9,000 to send every fifth grader in the Roseburg School District to Crater Lake National Park this fall.

While many of our education programs have grown and matured, others are young and mighty with potential. I have recently created a new environmental education program at the Douglas County Juvenile Department. We have worked on several projects—including a biochar research project, solar-car-building, and most recently, we are taking the helm on a sweet potato greenhouse project. The youth are a joy to mentor, and I’m excited to learn with them for another two months.



What's next for UW? A new, dynamic AmeriCorps member will be entering the UW family in September to pick up where I will be leaving off, all while continuing the expansion and evolution of our educational presence throughout our community. I foresee this organization continuing to thrive and change for decades to come.

What's next for me? I will be moving 330 miles north to become immersed in the

Olympia, Washington community. I'll be back for visits—especially since it's only a 5-hour drive and 29-hour bike ride to Roseburg (and those of you who know me well may not be surprised if I show up for a visit via my bike over a long-weekend next year). After establishing WA residency, I will be getting my Masters degree in Environmental Studies at Evergreen State College starting in Fall 2017. I plan to focus my research on ecosystem ecology while completing a graduate assistantship in environmental education.

Umpqua Watersheds will always hold a special place in my green heart. Thank you to everyone who has played a role in making this experience so special for me, and thank you to all of you for fighting the good fight here in Douglas County. Keep it up!

Kamp Katrinal Come join us in a campout/send off for Katrina at Hemlock Lake, Umpqua National Forest, June 23-26. Saturday, 25th at 1 pm is a potluck so bring something to share, and normal picnic items....



## Education Update: SEEDS

The first Science & Environmental Discovery Seminar (SEEDS) was held on May 6 at Umpqua Community College (UCC) followed on Saturday May 7 by a hike to Toketee and Watson Falls. The program was organized by Kasey Hovik and Ken Carloni. The purpose of the program is to connect recent graduates and high school juniors and seniors in Douglas County and provide them with an overview on UCC's Natural Resource Program. Approximately 30 people attended the seminar on Friday and 15 people attended the waterfall hike on Saturday. There were 3-4 students who are now definitely interested in attending UCC's Natural Resource Program in the fall and hopefully the “seeds” will germinate and will spread as the program continues. The next SEEDS event will be in October.

During the seminar on Friday, Dr. Ken Carloni gave an out-



standing PowerPoint presentation of the Natural Resource program and how it is fully articulated with the Oregon State University Natural Resource program. Representatives from the USFS, BLM, OSU and the Natural Resources Conservation Service shared information about how they got into their profession and the education they needed. Several presenters graduated from local schools including UCC.

### Upcoming events:

#### **June 18 - Elliot State Forest Hike**

We're hiking with Cascadia Wildlands to discuss the history of the area, including the fight to save it from being clear-cut.

**July 9 -The 7th Annual Mildred's Trail Dash.** 5k fun walk/run or 9k trail run to be held Saturday, July 9th at Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park. Visit the website ([www.mildredkanipepark.org](http://www.mildredkanipepark.org)) for more details.

**July 15-17 -Annual Twin Lakes Youth Wilderness Campout!** Contact [katrina@umpqua-watersheds.org](mailto:katrina@umpqua-watersheds.org) to RSVP. Space is limited.

**July 16 – River Appreciation Day**

**July 29-31 - Green Valley Music Fest**

**August 6th - Tipsoo Peak Hike**

**August 20 – 28 Crater Lake Hike Bonanza!**

**October 8 - The 7th annual Umpqua Brew Fest** at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

*Guest Column .... By Daniel C. Robertson*

## The O & C Railroad Timber Lands: A Short History

How much do we know about the history of the O & C checkerboard patterned 2.6 million acres of federally owned land?

Prior to 1860, federal lands were sold primarily for revenue. In the 1860's the government began to de-emphasize development and emphasize settlement. The Homestead Act and other legislation required settlers to improve lands. This policy led to the character of the land grant made to the O & C Railroad which gave the company 3.7 million acres that could only be sold to settlers in small parcels for a set price.

Wealthy timber barons, after cutting over the forests of Midwest, wanted to obtain holdings of west coast timber lands. They funded fraudulent claims on federal lands that appeared to meet federal settlement requirements and accumulated large tracts of land. In 1900 nine of ten land claims in Oregon were fraudulent. Much of the existing private timber land in Oregon's coast range had its origins in these fraudulent claims.

Theodore Roosevelt ended land claim fraud by sending a special prosecutor to pursue criminal trials resulting in the convictions of a US Senator and others including state and land office officials, an attorney general, and middlemen.

The land fraud trials focused attention on the O & C Railroad Company's sale of land to timber barons in large parcels violating their grant. As a result, Congress "revested" the remaining 2.6 million acres held by the railroad. The company sued and the Supreme Court ordered the payment to the railroad of \$2.50 per acre for the "revested" lands.

Between 1922 and 1937, O & C counties attempted to get the federal government to pay property taxes. They argued that these lands had been on the tax rolls and should continue to be. The federal government rejected this demand but made "in lieu" of payments.

The solution was the O & C Lands Act of 1937. The act provided that the lands were to be managed for sustainable timber harvest, protection of watersheds, and economic stability for communities and recreation. A percentage of the revenue generated by these activities was paid to the counties. The counties, preferring property taxes, opposed this but the Act was made law.

The Act required that O & C land revenues first reimburse the government for payments made to the railroad for the

land. Therefore, only minimal payments were made to the counties until 1953. Even then the counties received very little in receipts. There was a large surplus of timber being harvested from private lands in the 1950's and insufficient road access to the O & C lands limited harvest. The counties agreed to a one third reduction in their share of the receipts with the aim of improving access and management of the lands.

Revenue increased modestly in 1960's. From 1937 to 1969 the O & C counties received a total of \$300 million in receipts. Beginning in 1970, revenues significantly increased until between 1979 and 1981 revenue received equaled that received between 1937 and 1969. Revenue fell in the early 1980's due to a national recession but grew rapidly until be-

tween 1988 and 1990 revenue received reached a record of \$350 million. Timber harvest in the late 1970's and late 1980's on O & C lands reached one billion board feet annually.

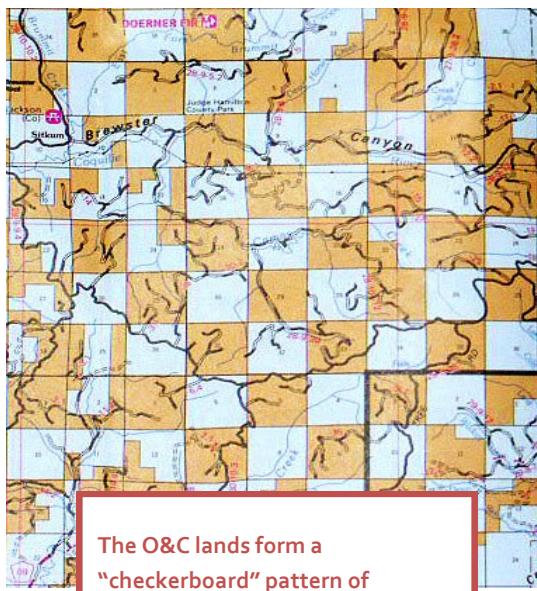
The O & C counties received significant revenues under the O & C Act for only a period of 25 years and 40% to 50% of the total revenues received over the entire history of the Act were received in only six years.

The controversy concerning timber harvests on the O & C lands is complex. It is simplistic and debatable to assert that these lands are dedicated solely to timber harvest. The act charges the managers of these lands to protect watersheds, provide for recreation and to provide economic stability through a sustained yield of timber.

The conservation ethic of the O & C Act is significant. What is a "sustainable" timber harvest from these lands? What level of activity would provide economic stability in our communities? What management is required to protect the watersheds in which they exist? How do subsequent acts of Congress such as the Endangered Species Act impact O & C land management? These are questions that are still being hotly debated and no doubt will be as long as society has divergent values.

**Conservation. What does it mean to you? Many of us believe in conservation as a long-term plan for generations to come; a plan for the longevity and health of our planet, and in turn, the health of its inhabitants and for society as a whole.**

**If the mission of Umpqua Watersheds is something you wish to support now and well into the future, please consider your options for planned giving. We can aid you in developing a plan that accommodates your wishes of protecting the Umpqua and beyond.**





## Wild on Wilderness (WOW)

### Greetings!

We are all gearing up for summer here at Umpqua Watersheds with some amazing hikes in store for you! The WOW committee, specifically, is organizing another Crater Lake Hike Bonanza

in the third week of August, with seven consecutive days of hiking and camping options within the proposed Crater Lake Wilderness area. These hikes will vary in distance and difficulty, and may include places like Windigo Lakes, Cowhorn Mountain, Limpy Rock, and more! Please stay tuned for the complete list of hikes available for registration soon.

We would also like to remind everyone that August 25th will mark the centennial of the National Park Service this year! It was on this date 100 years ago that President Woodrow Wilson signed into law a Congressional Act that created the National Park Service, to "preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations." Today there are close to 400 places managed by the National Parks Service, enjoyed by over 275 million people worldwide. This historical event we are all a part of reminds us of the value our public lands have to the American people and why it is important to protect them.

# 2016

## National Park Service CENTENNIAL™

On this date we hope to visit and give homage to our mothership, the Great Blue, the one and only, CRATER LAKE. Please join us! As you may know, it is Oregon's only National Park! The centennial also provides a great opportunity to encourage our congressional leaders to support Crater Lake Wilderness. See their contact information below.

Senator Ron Wyden  
911 NE 11th Ave., Suite 630  
Portland, OR, 97232  
tel (503) 326-7525

Senator Jeff Merkley  
PO Box 14172  
Portland, OR 97293  
tel (202) 224-3753

Representative Peter Defazio  
405 East 8th Ave. #2030  
Eugene, OR 97401  
tel (541) 465-6732

Walden for Congress  
P.O. Box 1091  
Hood River, OR 97031  
tel (541) 387-4820

Other projects the WOW committee have been working on include the "Four Ladies in Tennis Shoes," an exhibit and presentation held at the Douglas County Museum on May 7th. Frank and Jeanne Moore told the amazing story of the four ladies who worked tirelessly to classify flora in the Limpy Rock area, which eventually led to the declaration of Limpy Rock as the Limpy Rock Natural Research Area. This area is also now included in the Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal, to give it even more protection. In case you missed it, the event was very successful!

Lastly, the WOW committee is continuing to work toward addressing the concerns of the Diamond Lake Resort. After some skepticism, we were finally able to meet with two of their staff in May and had a very progressive meeting. This was a big step in the right direction for both organizations and we are hopeful that in the near future we can devise a collaborative solution that both parties can favor.

### 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](mailto: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

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541.430.2161 [Richard.chasm@earthlink.net](mailto:Richard.chasm@earthlink.net)

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