



# 100 Valleys

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

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

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## President's Corner

Needless to say, we at Umpqua Watersheds are gearing up for the traumatic impact of the political changes that have taken place in the high offices of the nation. Anyone who has followed the relentless work we, at Umpqua Watersheds, have diligently pursued realizes what is ahead of us. The hits keep coming.



All of the venues that we channel our energy and resources in over the years have shown promise of a healthier more natural world. We have not dug ourselves out of the ecological hole that has been foisted on us by greed, political chicanery and ignorance. There is so much more that needs to be done and now the task has gotten immensely more difficult. Dr. Ken Carloni will update you on this years' accomplishments (see Education Report 2016, this newsletter). That said, I would like to express my personal appreciation to our hard working Board of Directors and Committees.

Our Conservation Committee, headed by Joseph Patrick Quinn, has taken on the monumental task of monitoring and officially commenting on the continuing tragic pursuit of under-regulated natural resource extraction from our forests, rivers and ocean. Paddy has been a stalwart advocate for the voiceless denizens of the wild. Please consider giving him a hand by being his eyes and ears. Knowledge is power and we need assistance on our watch.

The WOW Committee, Chaired by Bob Hoehne, and supported by the long time core supporters of Umpqua Watersheds, is working passionately to promote the Crater Lake Wilderness proposal. Their consistent and strident efforts are making the importance of wilderness to our clean air, clean water and carbon sequestration known far and wide.

The Education Committee, Chaired by Ken Carloni, continues the important work of teaching a framework of a science based approach with our watershed. The Natural Resources program at Umpqua Community College, SEEDS (Science and Environmental Education

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday March 11, 2017

Umpqua Watersheds Annual Banquet and Auction

Discovery Seminar) and other vital venues are being developed and maintained by our team.

Habitat restoration is still heavily undermined by habitat degradation. Look around on the mountain sides and in the rivers. We continue to collaboratively support viable restoration efforts where we can. Our attention is focused on innovative ways for our civilization to live in the natural world without destroying it. The key word for the Restoration Committee is collaboration. Dialog and sincerity are what we bring to the table.

The latest community contribution at Umpqua Watersheds is our DCPARC Parks Committee. Precious wild spaces owned by the citizenry of Douglas County are being clear cut to pay for County fiscal woes. Our parks watchdog group is passionate about sheltering the County's public lands from the ravages of inappropriate misuse of the public trust when it comes to County services.

We received good news that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission rejected the Jordan Cove's application for the Liquefied Natural Gas pipeline that was due to cross Oregon for exporting LNG to Asia. The company plans to reapply. So while this is a victory, we are prepared to continue to oppose this project.

There's a lot more going on that would take way too much space for this report. Umpqua Watersheds has operated as a volunteer organization for years. Still, there are serious monetary needs facing the organization. We'd very much like to build capacity for staff to assist our volunteers. Too much drops through the proverbial cracks in our tasks and more environmental concerns arise each day. Please consider year-end contribution to this, your local, conservation organization. We are here for you and the natural world and your donations are needed more than ever. All of your gifts are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

Stanley Petrowski

## 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.*

# Restoration Committee... by Stan Petrowski

## Beavers and Bass - Bunkum and Balderdash

Late last Summer I attended an American Fisheries Society Native Fish Committee Nongame Workshop. The two day workshop took place at a Forest Service campground in the Upper South Umpqua River watershed.

Before I address the enlightening information revealed in the workshop I'd like to explain the title of this article and create an arena of context for understanding it. First let's get some definitions out of the way.

*Bunkum - noun - insincere or foolish talk: nonsense*

**Origin:** *Mid-19th century (originally buncombe): named after Buncombe County in North Carolina, mentioned in an inconsequential speech made by its congressman solely to please his constituents (c.1820).*



*Balderdash [bawl-der-dash] - noun - senseless, stupid, or exaggerated talk or writing; nonsense.*

*Bunk, piffle, poppycock or twaddle, nonsense.*

*Origin: 1590s, of unknown origin; originally a jumbled mix of liquors (milk and beer, beer and wine, etc.), transferred 1670s to "senseless jumble of words."*

Now I would like us to turn our attention to two very significant species related to the existence (or not) to all of our Umpqua Basin fish.

*Beaver - (genus Castor) is a large, primarily nocturnal, semiaquatic rodent. Castor includes two extant species, the North American beaver (Castor Canadensis) (native to North America) and Eurasian beaver (Castor fiber)*

*(Eurasia). Beavers are known for building dams, storing water, building canals, and lodges (homes).*

*Bass- Smallmouth Bass (Micropterus dolomieu) is a species of freshwater fish in the sunfish family (Centrarchidae) of the order Perciformes. One of the black basses, it is a popular game fish sought by anglers throughout the temperate zones of North America, and has been packed in by stock to many cool-water tributaries and lakes in Canada and the United States. The maximum recorded size is approximately 27 inches and 12 pounds. The smallmouth bass is native to the upper and middle Mississippi River basin, the Saint Lawrence River–Great Lakes system, and the Hudson Bay basin. Its common names include smallmouth, bronzeback, brown bass, brownie, smallie, bronze bass, hog, and bareback bass.*

### Back to the Workshop

The gathering was very well attended with highly respected scientists and professionals in the form of cross agency fisheries biologists, independent researchers and an occasional fish guy wannabe. The topic of concern consisted of three species of fish endemic to the Umpqua Basin river system. They are:

The Umpqua Chub (*Oregonichthys kalawatseti*). This little guy lives nowhere else in the world but in the Umpqua basin watershed (endemic). That amazes me. It is currently declining in our watershed. Please take the time and go here (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/15454/0>) to catch up on the Umpqua Chub and why it is near being listed as a Federal Threatened and Endangered Species (TES). This little fish once was located throughout the basin and now is estimated to be located in just a few side channels. Take a look at this map. In recent surveys it was only found in 5 tributaries. <http://fishmap.org:8080/species/Umpqua-Oregon-Chub.html>

Next on our list is the Umpqua Dace (*Rhinichthys evermanni*). The Dace isn't in as bad a shape as the Umpqua Chub. It is a specie that is being intensively monitored by the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). It faces many of the similar threats that the Chub does. It is also unique in that it is not found anywhere else in the world. Listed as "Least Concern" (LC) by ODFW.

Finally our attention was drawn to the Umpqua Pike Minnow (*Ptychocheilus umpquae*). This Pike Minnow finds its place in the world in the Umpqua and



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Siuslaw river drainages. It is listed as a specie of least concern (LC) by ODFW also since its level of decline is much slower than our other two native Umpqua fish.

### The Core Point of the Workshop

Over and again the American Fisheries Society Native Fish Committee reiterated one fact: these rare small indicator species are critically important to the survival of our larger culturally and commercially valuable salmon runs. Time and again the threat of listing these little fish under the TES was mentioned.

There are two culprits killing off our unique Umpqua fish. Water conditions and predatory Smallmouth Bass. The questions I kept asking myself during these presentations was, "Why does it always come down to this? Why does the State of Oregon wait until the last minute to address serious problems like this? Why does the Federal US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service seem to be asleep at the wheel?"

Thanks to the unwavering work of Umpqua Watersheds, Bass are now to be freely taken in the Umpqua Basin. These aggressive, predatory non-native fish are slaughtering our native aquatic environment. Taking the limit off of catching Bass is nothing but a band-aide to a gaping wound. The State of Oregon still has Bass listed as game fish and as such many sport fisherman catch and release them. This fish needs to be designated a noxious predatory threat to our native fish. There needs to be a bounty placed on them and they need to be removed from the system. ODFW says that it is not possible. So the removal of native fish like lamprey, salmon and the chub (keystone species) is possible but the removal of a non-native predator isn't. Bunkum and Balderdash.

### Next on the List

That brings us to the North American Beaver. Water conditions in our rivers and streams would be much improved if our native aquatic engineers were allowed to exist in the ecosystem without being under threat. Beavers retain water, recharge aquifers, build and support our important wetlands and improve water quality in general. There are multiple scientific papers that have been published proving unequivocally that streams systems containing beaver promote the size, health and quantity of Coho salmon in those environments. They also are in fact a keystone specie. Yet the State of Oregon designates the beaver a *predator* when they show up on private land and fur bearers in the wild. They are considered a nuisance rodent and are killed without permits or any concern at all by State and Federal agencies. This is the very definition of insanity in our opinion. The status of the beaver in the State of Oregon, the Beaver State, is nothing but Bunkum and Balderdash. It needs to be changed.

### What's the Problem Here?

I know a lot of good scientists working for the State and Federal governments. These dedicated biologists get it. They've told us time and again (under anonymity) that the Bass and Beaver policies (along with others of course) of Oregon and the Fish and Wildlife Services are completely the reverse of what they should be. I know the environments these folks work under and they will only do what they can within the scope of their jobs. Decision makers do not always do what is best. Politics and money are standing in the way.

We at Umpqua Watersheds think that it smells as if Bunkum and Balderdash are setting the policies of the State. Could it be that the Warm Water Fish lobby is applying pressure on the State to keep the Bass fishery at a world class level? Could it be that it's much easier to kill a beaver than to educate the public on how to interface with the beaver and to protect them? If that's the case then we can change it. We can let sound science and nature sit in the seat of policy making instead of Bunkum and Balderdash.

### State of the Beaver 2017

Umpqua Watersheds sponsors the biannual State of the Beaver conferences. If you would like to be an agent of change regarding our rare and critically important fisheries please register and attend. Got to <http://stateofthebeaver.org> to learn about the conference.



**Beavers = Salmon**

**THE STATE OF THE BEAVER  
2017 CONFERENCE**

**MARK THE DATE**  
**February 22nd, 23rd and 24th**  
**Cow Creek Tribal Convention Center**  
**Canyonville, Oregon**

**Theme: Beaver-Agents of Regeneration**

**The focus of the this, our 5th international conference, will be on the revitalizing role of beaver. We will look at their part in both natural regeneration and ecological succession. Don't miss this local event with international beaver ecology experts and restoration by natural design.**

**Review the agenda, the exciting group of presenters and register at:**

**<http://stateofthebeaver.org>**

**Register Today To Secure Your Seat**  
**Contact: [beavers@surcp.org](mailto:beavers@surcp.org)**



## Reaching Out .... By Al Bunce

In regards to our work of conservation, restoration, education and outreach, our mission statement reads, “the Umpqua watershed and beyond.” While the vast majority of our work is within the Umpqua basin, from time to time we’re compelled to reach outside of our immediate area.

The environmental and social justice issues surrounding the saga at Standing Rock, North Dakota is hard to ignore, and hit a nerve with many here in the Umpqua, especially those facing a the threat of a pipeline being forced across their land and streams.

A week before Thanksgiving, I was contacted by a gentleman named Collin who was heading to the Standing Rock protests in North Dakota to deliver provisions and had room for more. As it turns out, Collin is a Douglas County success story; graduating college post Oakland High School, and now running a successful business in Tahoe. Compelled by the horrific stories of injustice leaking out about the standoff, he could no longer sit on the sidelines and made the decision to brave bad weather to make the trip from Tahoe via Douglas County.

Even with a limited timeframe, Umpqua Watersheds members headed the call, flooding the office with supplies to help the peaceful, non-violent protesters on the frontlines survive the brutally harsh conditions. We managed to fill Collin’s truck and trailer and supply him with some gas

*of the camp raids. They were rounding up buffalo and herding them towards camp to interrupt the raid when a team of unmarked ATV’s opened fire on them and the horses with rubber bullets. Horses were pushed into the fences, one was lethally shot, and four horses ran away. The buffalo were rounded up by law enforcement and, as of today, continue to be held in corrals near the pipeline construction site. Despite the losses, spirits in camp continue to be strong.*

*Lots of confusion surrounding the recent news of the Army Corps decision to deny the easement for the permit to drill under the river. Some think it is a political maneuver to trick those at camp into going home, and construction will resume once the new administration comes in January. Others think that it really does stop the pipeline for now and the focus should be shifted into providing input on the Environmental Impact Statement. Regardless, a large number of campers are staying at camp to maintain the momentum that has been building for months, including those from Crow Creek. Police have set up very effective barricades between the camps and the construction sites. This has essentially terminated any possibility of protectors directly shutting down construction. Prayer is what keeps the movement alive.*



*Donations included warm clothes, food, propane, heaters, a wood stove, a tipi, rope, warm boots, and medical supplies. Most of what we brought went directly to the Crow Creek crew, but some also went into the general donations pool. Alan, can you reach out to the individual who sent the box that contained sweaters, sage, and dyed cloth and ask her to contact me? I would like to extend a special thanks for the*

money to help him on his long journey.

The following is a report from Collin:

*I want to thank you and all of the Umpqua Watershed members who so generously donated supplies and funds for Standing Rock. During our stay, we were fortunate enough to be welcomed by the Crow Creek Tribe of the Sioux Nation. Their camp consisted of mostly horsemen and they have lineages of painted horses that can be traced back to their ancestors. Most of the riders of these beautiful animals are young men in their 20's, and they all ride bare back. This crew was one of the original camps, and they have suffered some setbacks along the way. The most significant being the loss of a horse during an encounter with law enforcement during one*

*thoughtfulness of the package.*

*Please keep them in your thoughts, and continue to donate what you can. We have set up a gofundme page that directly funds the Crow Creek camp with whatever supply needs arise (we are in direct communication). They are currently in need of round bale feeders, tack, and feed for the horses. Any contributions are very much appreciated.*

*To keep up with current events at camp, visit the following pages on Facebook:*

*Oceti Sakowin Camp, Sacred Stone Camp, Red Warrior Camp, Indigenous Rising Media, Digital Smoke Signals, Standing with Standing Rock, Standing Rock Rising*

[Click here to support Crow Creek Sioux Horse Camp by Bret Leake](#)

*These funds will be used to purchase wood stoves and horse supplies for the Crow Creek Sioux horse camp.*

*Sincerely,  
Collin*

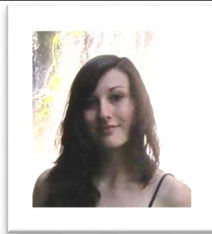
Umpqua Watersheds remains dedicated to helping out however we can, and will continue our donation drive and reporting. (We're currently sharing reports from the field by our LUCY Committee Chair, Jacob Lebel) We're thankful to Collin, Jacob, and others who have travelled to North Dakota, and to everyone who donated to the cause. As long as issues outside of our beloved Umpqua basin are important to our members, we'll continue to reach "beyond."

## Wild on Wilderness (WOW)

by Cheyenne Rico

Winter greetings from the WOW committee!

We are happy to report that we recently shared a huge success on November 21st with our coalition members Oregon Wild and Environment Oregon as we took part in a petition drop of more than 37,000 signatures collected by volunteers of Environment Oregon to Senator Wyden's staff in Portland. Congressmen Earl Blumenauer graciously spoke of the value of our public lands and the importance of protecting them. The event was definitely one of many milestones in our campaign and was covered by several newspapers including The Oregonian. Review the article on [www.oregonlive.com](http://www.oregonlive.com).



We are also very proud of the recent article published in our local paper The News Review ([www.nrtoday.com](http://www.nrtoday.com)). We arranged a meeting with the editorial board to express the need for truth in the media, and were surprised and pleased that they were interested in the history of our Crater Lake Wilderness Campaign and our current efforts with the intention of writing

an article. The article articulates the many reasons for establishing a Crater Lake Wilderness and the challenges we face.

The WOW committee has also recently become involved with the relatively new sub-committee of the Conservation branch of Umpqua Watersheds, DCPARC, who work to protect our county parks. Together we organized a rally on December 13th outside of the Douglas County Courthouse against the Parks Master Plan, which we feel is incomplete and inadequate as a comprehensive Master Plan. The rally included approximately 20 concerned citizens and was covered by KEZI the same night. The next morning on December 14th the commissioners held a public hearing regarding the Parks Master Plan and despite the many comments of public concern, moved to pass the resolution.

As we adjust with the new presidential administration and the closing of our local library, we recognize a need to strategize our efforts toward Crater Lake Wilderness in the coming days. Our strategic planning meeting is planned to take place this January. If you are interested in attending, please contact us. For now we are still awaiting the word from our beloved Portland Patagonia to know if we will receive funding for Crater Lake Wilderness for the next grant fiscal year, as well as from the Ben and Jerry Foundations' Grassroots Movement for Social Change grant that we submitted in October. Cross your fingers and a HUGE thank you to our local business sponsor Medicine Flower for their recent contribution to the campaign. Please support her amazing business.

In closing, I am sad to announce that I will soon be resigning from my position as Crater Lake Wilderness Campaign Coordinator. It has been an incredible opportunity and journey working on this campaign over the last year. I have gained a wealth of wisdom and experience, along with relationships that I will forever hold dear to my heart. I fully intend to remain an active part in the campaign, the WOW committee, and Umpqua Watersheds family. For now I just hope to focus on my studies as I finish my arduous degree in Natural Resources.

Best wishes and happy holidays from Wild on Wilderness!

### Auction items needed

Please consider donating items for the banquet auction. You can bring them by the UW office anytime during the week or call and schedule a pickup.

Check out the "Donate" button on Facebook

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



On Election Night, it felt as if the world's axis had unexpectedly spun a bearing. Our planet seemed to wobble some, her spin gone eccentric, those electoral results forcing Earth's orbit a bit farther away from the sun's wholesome light. Needless to say, neither

November nor December's cold and dark can be relied upon to brighten one's post-election outlook much. And yet, as poet Robert Frost, meditating on his own deep sorrow, wrote: *"Not yesterday I learned to know the love of bare November days before the coming of the snow..."* Yes, these declining days do possess a natural beauty all their own. And again, we've all experienced enough of winter's long nights/short days to know that spring will surely bring a sweet relief for which we have only to nurture patience and wait. Gardeners live this truth: in the depths of winter 2017, many will again start the first of next season's seeds not long after the new president's inauguration.

As ominous as the long list of potential post-election threats may appear to us right now, we conservationists cannot afford the luxury of caving to despair, staying in bed, so to speak, and pulling the covers over our heads. After all, environmental storms have blown across our watersheds before. Volunteers of a certain age may well recall the seismic thud of ancient trees hitting the ground, and the too frequent sight of "one log loads" being trucked down our highways and byways to one or another mill. It is painful and yet also useful, perhaps, to recall that between the years 1962 and 1994, the Bureau of Land Management alone accounted for some 16% of the timber extracted from the ancient forests of Western Oregon. On average, low bidders of BLM timber sales clear cut just under one billion board feet of primary old growth and mature trees annually during this period! Simultaneously the United States Forest Service, State Forests and the private sector accounted for most of the remaining 84% of slicked off ancient stands, year in and year out.

Such myopic management schemes can only be conceived and practiced by forces that operate in the dark, environmentally speaking. Entities and individuals, that is, who cannot or will not admit that native, unmanaged, ancient forested watersheds possess immeasurable intrinsic environmental, social and financial value just as they are (or once were, as the case may be). If such value is denied or heavily discounted, while at the same time a certain sector declares that such forests' only true worth can be measured by their convertibility to ready cash alone, then that society and its industries may again consider

themselves ethically free to do what they have done so well since European settlement commenced in the Americas, centuries ago. In short, that is, to liquidate those vast natural assets as though such primary sylvan resources stood in endless supply just over the next hill; that done "right," a day of environmental reckoning need never come. Degraded streams, rivers and anadromous fish runs have put the lie to this perverted view. Blasted watersheds and the disappearing denizens that once made their homes therein do not lie.

Some elected and industry leaders would have us forget this environmental injustice. Worse yet, if Oregon's timber industry and its political facilitators at the county, state and federal levels are successful now in their lobbying and legislative efforts, there is a good chance that the DeFazio, Schrader, Walden O & C bill will again pass the House, will find acceptance in the Senate and will be signed into law by the Trumpster. Enacted in its present form, among other obvious evils, this legislation would transfer some 1,500,000 acres of public forest lands from Northwest Forest Plan, ESA, etc. harvest rules to the very backward and inadequate regulations of the Oregon Forest Practices Act. That would mean up to 120 acre clear cuts, aerially applied poisons and petroleum based fertilizers, mono-culture replanting, and minimal to nonexistent riparian buffers, just as on private industrial lands today.

How to stop, slow, modify this and similarly retrograde developments becomes the challenge. Citizens, state-wide, nation-wide must be alerted to what is proposed for their public forest lands. Hindsight clearly shows that what was done in past decades was not only mistaken, it was ethically, environmentally, scientifically, financially and, over the long term, socially wrong. To reintroduce a massive clear cut, over-harvest of public lands into watersheds already cancerous with private land clear cuts would, in our opinion, be morally and ecologically indefensible. In effect, we as a society, would have learned nothing. Or rather, we would have learned to successfully ignore the ecological knowledge so hard won from such extended and bitter experience. It would amount to doubling down on a scientifically and socially discredited paradigm. Despite the academic hucksterism surrounding over-application of sustained yield, a management paradigm, to some extent, shamefully propounded over the years by our tax supported schools of "forestry", destructive over-harvest might again be sustained for years, as in the past. Most certainly, however, it would be no more sustainable now than it was back when. Sustained/sustainable: those two words are similar yes, but they carry two very different meanings. Grossly degraded streams and rivers along with extirpated and listed species are the sad proofs of this truth.

The fact that our county government functions, to a

significant and, in our opinion, to an inappropriate degree as an adjunct of industrial timber is known and appreciated by citizen supporters/dependents of that industry. That is no surprise, of course, and is even understandable. In their defense, citizens are caught up in the daily demands of economic survival, here in the 21st century. It appears that most are quite unaware of the lopsided revenue demands made on public forests *vis-à-vis* comparable or better private industrial lands. They may also be unaware or in denial of the history of gross over-extraction of primary forest from all lands, public and private and of the negative consequences that currently flow from that past activity. Too often they have been persuaded to discount the social, economic, biologic and, given climate change, the existential value of intact forested watersheds. Indeed, many have been schooled by disingenuous public relations campaigns to doubt the nearly universal scientific consensus that underpins the most current assessment of the relationships between human activity, greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

Television ads, paid for by the Oregon Forest Products Harvest Tax (BLM and USFS harvests are subject to this state tax, as well.) reinforce this misguided purview of our landscapes and their management or mismanagement, as the case may be. These tax funded ad campaigns, conducted on behalf of this same timber industry by the Oregon Forest Resource Institute, are aired statewide. Many long-time residents, as well as newcomers are subsequently indoctrinated with the propaganda that the clear cut, herbicide, monoculture management model, as practiced under the Oregon Forest Practices Act, benefits our common watersheds, when, arguably, they are among the very worst harms that can be imposed by human beings on a forested landscape. Clearcut/herbicide/monoculture are among the most environmentally destructive forest practices.

Thus, we in the conservation community are on the right track when we strive toward the environmental education of our fellow citizens, though not just here in Douglas County, but statewide and nationally. Big timber is the beneficiary of tax dollars to get its message out. In addition, they are gifted thinly disguised federal tax dollars through Secure Rural Schools Title III grants, which are meant primarily for wildfire fuel mitigation in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and were never intended to be used to finance propaganda films to further the timber industry's too often distorted message. Even without such crony capitalism subsidies, big timber has lots of money to fund the wide dissemination of their view point. Most locally based environmental groups, such as Umpqua Watersheds, which is 99% volunteer

staffed, cannot go head to head with big timber's financial resources. Still, we must strive to educate our fellow citizens about these critical environmental and political truths to the greatest extent possible.

Despite what folks may think, here in the 21st century, government in Oregon is still strongly influenced by the power of big timber. Currently, the conservation community has few allies in elected government, whether at the county, state or federal levels. Thus again, the need to educate the public proved correct, for perhaps the greatest hope for watershed preservation/restoration lies in showing Oregon's changing demographic just how destructive past, present and proposed forest management as conducted under the Oregon Forest Practices Act truly is. After all, it was just such a "get the word out effort" in the late 1980s and into the '90s that helped to create the grass roots groundswell of public opinion that forced a sudden halt, for the most part, to the clear cut extraction of native, old growth forests in the Pacific Northwest.

In brief: can we allow vast swaths of the Coast Range and Cascade foothills to be further transformed into environmental sacrifice zones? For our own sakes and for that of our children and theirs, I believe the answer must be a resounding NO! In the event, whether or not like-minded citizens and their children are able to muster the physical, financial, intellectual and emotional energies required to counter the well-financed and well disseminated message brought to you by big timber and its allies in elected government remains to be seen. So, please back what you believe; help how and where you can. The preservation and/or restoration of our county, our state, our nation and, indeed, our world will surely depend on all of us pulling together, each contributing what he or she can.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**January 16<sup>th</sup> – Umpqua Watersheds MLK Day River Cleanup**

**Jan 21 and Feb 11– Hawthorn Removal Party at Kanipe Park.** [www.mildredkanipepark.org](http://www.mildredkanipepark.org)

**February 12<sup>th</sup> - Crater Lake Snowshoe Hike**

**March 2-5 - Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC)**

**March 11<sup>th</sup> – Umpqua Watersheds annual Banquet & Auction at UCC**

**July 15<sup>th</sup> – River Appreciation Day at Whistler's Bend Park**

## ODF Stream Buffer Hearings-

The impacts of climate change are being felt by our aquatic life in the Umpqua, as streams in our basin are setting record highs, with many of them exceeding temperatures considered fatal to salmonids. UW member, Mike Burke stated the case well when he commented: *“Water is our greatest resource and affords all the protection we can give it. With increasing demands on our water resources for agriculture, fisheries and domestic use we can't afford to continue to destroy our watersheds with inadequate riparian areas, more road construction and the continuing practice of clear cutting.”*

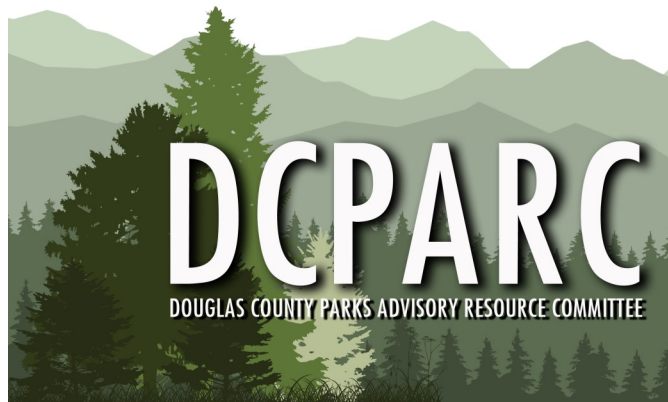
The public has an opportunity to comment on proposed rulemaking that would increase stream buffers by 10 feet and approximately double standards for trees left after harvest to protect salmon, steelhead and bull trout in western Oregon. The proposed rulemaking would affect streams that are west of the crest of the Cascades but not in the Siskiyou region, are classified as small or medium fish-bearing streams, and are determined to have salmon, steelhead or bull trout present. For all other streams, the current rules will continue to apply.

Umpqua Watersheds strongly supports the Board of Forestry's finding that Oregon's current forest practice law causes water quality issues and that the rules need to be improved. Although much, much more is needed, the proposed new streamside buffers are a step in the right direction towards providing cold water for fish.

Many of you attended the recent Roseburg meeting, and we encourage folks to send in comments to speak out in favor of our streams and aquatic life, as natural resource extraction entities are citing their own “science” in opposition.

Public comments can be submitted online **through March 1, 2017** at [RiparianRule@oregon.gov](mailto:RiparianRule@oregon.gov) or by mail to Oregon Department of Forestry, 2600 State St., Salem, Oregon 97310, Attn: “Stream Rules”. After public comment is received, the Board of Forestry will consider final proposed rules in April, 2017.

More information on riparian rulemaking can be found on the Oregon Department of Forestry's public website [www.oregon.gov/ODF](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF) at Streamside (Riparian) Buffer Rules.



Douglas County Parks Advisory Resource Committee (DCPARC) formed after the 2015 clear cutting of Busenbark Park in order to raise the awareness about the history and status of our County Parks. We are determined that there will never be another Busenbark! Our goal is to encourage park management founded on volunteerism, collaboration, public involvement, government transparency, consensus building and good stewardship for the benefit of future generations

Last summer, we joined the other five committees under the umbrella of the Umpqua Watersheds. We hope that we can continue their dedication to the protection of the Umpqua watersheds and its ecosystem. We oppose exploitation, over development and resource extraction from our parks solely for a short term capital gain business model that calls for running our parks “like a business.”.

In our quest for transparency we have spent the past year maintaining a constant presence at the County's Park Advisory Board (PAB) meetings and the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) meetings. We have also attended meetings of the Planning Advisory Committees, Committee for Citizens Involvement, and the Douglas County Planning Commission.

We also promote field trips to educate the public about the park's issues. These have included viewing the magnificent primary forest of the “passive” parks: Smith Springs and Upper and Lower Honey Creek Park. The Friends of Mildred Kanipe Park have hosted tours of their park twice. On our second tour on October 5, we visited the Fern Woods Forest. This is a special primary forest, almost entirely 300 year old Douglas-fir trees, that the County wanted to log in 2014. Despite the Friends of Kanipe raising \$65,000 to prevent this from happening, it may still be under consideration for logging! We worked with The Friends of Iverson Park in their celebration of Iverson's 50th anniversary and hosting Umpqua Watershed's fall mushroom hike.

Despite our efforts and unanimous citizen criticism against it, on November 17th, the Planning Commission approved the flawed and convoluted Parks Master Plan and the BOC approved it on 12/14.

Visit our website: [www.DCPARC.com](http://www.DCPARC.com) or on Facebook: Douglas County Parks Resource Advisory Committee.

Or contact John Hunter at [goldenarchie46@yahoo.com](mailto:goldenarchie46@yahoo.com). RE-MEMBER BUSENBARK!!



## Open Letter to the Douglas County Board of Commissioners

I attended the Board of Commissioners (BOC) meeting on 12/14/2016. At the end of the BOC meeting, outgoing Commissioner Morgan used her time to lecture the attendees in her opinion about the current fiscal situation of the county. She opined that the budgetary deficiencies are the result of the spotted owl listing. I have heard the same claim from Commissioner Boice. I have studied the spotted owl for over 30 years. It is time that the BOC and other public employees stop blaming the spotted owl for something that was a combination of poor planning and short sightedness. The commissioners have expressed their opinion but the facts can be found in documents exploring the history of the timber industry in Douglas County (<http://www.company-histories.com/Roseburg-Forest-Products-Company-Company-History.html>).

In the mid 40's Kenneth "Ford made large purchases of Douglas County timberlands, which he was able to get for as little as \$2 an acre. He soon owned some 160,000 acres in Douglas County. Rather than cut on his own land, however, Ford secured rights to cut timber on nearby government-owned land."

"In the early 1980s, the timber industry suffered a downturn as the housing market slumped. The downturn hit Roseburg particularly hard. Because it had contracted to cut government timber while prices were high, it was liable for significant losses when prices fell over the next few years. During the late 1970s, Roseburg signed contracts with the United States Forest Service worth \$383 million for 1.3 billion board feet. The company's average cost worked out to about \$300 per 1,000 board feet. By 1983, however, the going price per board foot was only \$120. Roseburg stood to lose a huge amount of money if it harvested the wood at this price, and his was not the only lumber company in this position. Scores of companies in the Northwest were affected, and total possible industry losses were estimated at \$2 billion, according to *Forbes* magazine (January 30, 1984). "The federal government bought back those high bid sales. Douglas County Commissioners apparently did not object even though three sales would have resulted in quite a bit more revenue for the county budget.

The tired argument of blaming the spotted owl for the fiscal woes is nothing more than deflection of the real issue that improper leadership when the county really needed it is to blame.

The company rebounded enough that they "...bought an interest worth \$750 million in International Paper's area forests. The arrangement brought Roseburg 214,000 acres of second-growth timber in the mountains between Reedsport and Eugene. Though Roseburg again offered no comment on the deal, it seemed to be part of a long-term strategy to supply the company with enough timberland so it would no longer need to rely on government-owned trees." The company then experienced competition in the market that resulted in layoffs in their plywood plant. None of it related to the spotted owl listing.

More recently when the timber companies fought to decrease their contribution to county budgets, the Douglas County Commissioners did not object, siding instead with the industry. Ernie Nieme ([http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2014/06/logging\\_expansion\\_wont\\_help\\_ru.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2014/06/logging_expansion_wont_help_ru.html)) writes about the reasons for the decline of revenue in the counties, among others are: "The industry also has directly grabbed from county coffers money that could support public safety and other social

services. Timber companies operating in Oregon used to pay timber-harvest taxes similar to what they paid in Washington and California. They don't now. In 1993, using the spotted owl as an excuse, their lobbyists convinced the Oregon Legislature to phase out the tax. They still pay it in California and Washington, and many companies operate profitably in all three states. If Oregon had a similar tax, it would have provided counties in western Oregon about \$40 million in 2011.

Increased logging on federal lands will not fix these problems. Instead, it will diminish jobs in one of Oregon's fastest growing industries, outdoor recreation. The outdoor recreation industry employs about 140,000 workers in Oregon (logging and wood-products manufacturing employ fewer than 30,000). Nationally, jobs in outdoor recreation are growing 5 percent annually. High-quality recreation attracts middle- and high-income families to settle in rural counties, too, boosting local economic activity. There is abundant research and data showing that our federal forests would do far more for workers, families and local businesses if managed for ecosystem and human health rather than as tree farms. Yes, rural economies are suffering. But reduced logging on federal lands is not even close to being the main culprit. In the 1990s, lawmakers phased out what was called the "privilege tax" on timber. According to analysis by InvestigateWest, that decision has saved Oregon's timber companies an average of \$59 million each year, adjusted for inflation. ...Restoring the privilege tax on private timber companies could provide nearly \$50 million a year for schools and \$25 million for Oregon counties."

The spotted owl was listed over 25 years ago and even without the listing of the spotted owl, the harvest rate of the 1980's could not be sustained. The listing of the spotted owl led to a comprehensive and scientifically based and peer reviewed document called the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP). The 1937 Oregon & California Railroad Act contained provisions for "...protecting watersheds, regulating stream flow, and contributing to the economic stability of local communities and industries, and providing recreational facilities (sic)..." essentially protecting an ecosystem. The NWFP was designed to do just that, protect an ecosystem. Economists have pointed out that the spotted owl has been used as a convenient scapegoat to hide the real culprits. Blaming the spotted owl for deficiencies in the county government 25 plus years later is nothing more than deflection of the real issues of improper leadership.

As the timber industry thwarts regulations that could contribute to the county budgets, shouldn't the county leaders object to that as well? While the counties continue to get revenue from federal lands (there is still harvest on federal land), more concern should be focused on the more recent reduction of revenue from private lands. More support should be given to ideas for other forms of revenue, including legislation that could alleviate the budget deficits. It is time for the Douglas County elected officials to accept that we cannot keep hoping that timber receipt levels from the 1980's will be resurrected. It is possible to institute changes that could increase revenues from private timber lands that were historically owned by Douglas County. Our county needs fresh ideas. There have been a lot of good ideas that have been expressed by members of the community with little support of the commissioners. Even if the harvest of Federal lands were to resume at an unprecedented rate, what is the plan for when harvest of merchantable trees is no longer possible on federal lands? Continuing to focus blame on the spotted owl is counterproductive.

Janice Reid, Roseburg, OR

## EDUCATION REPORT WINTER 2016

Our **Education Program** has been busy with initiatives aimed at inspiring and immersing local students in the natural world. We continue to build on the educational foundations created and sustained by our previous VISTA/AmeriCorps members Roland Wang and Katrina Keleher including *Science Fridays*, the *Science Olympiad*, *gardening with homeless youth from the Douglas County Juvenile Corrections Facility*, the *Twin Lakes Youth Campout* with homeless kids from *Casa de Belen*, and many other initiatives. Although Roland and Katrina have moved on in their very promising careers, we are thrilled to have Bailey Stein, our newest AmeriCorps member, take the reins of those projects to continue to create life-changing experiences for the youth of Douglas County.

One of Bailey's first tasks was to organize and implement a

bold new UW initiative: to take every 5<sup>th</sup> grader in Douglas County to Crater Lake! This project was originally conceived by Katrina, who was then instrumental in securing a Gray Family Foundation grant to fund it. She handed the project off to Bailey who brought it to a resoundingly successful conclusion.

The News Review did a great article full of quotes from awe-struck kids. We could not be more proud of the accomplishments of our VISTA/AmeriCorps members who work hard for little pay to make the lives of others in our community richer and more rewarding.

Beyond K-12, our *Umpqua Natural Resources Pathway* connects high school students to Umpqua Community College (UCC) programs with seamless paths to Bachelor of Science degrees at Oregon State University (OSU). We will soon begin selecting promising youth for the 2017 "Learn, Earn, and Serve" youth crews. This will be our sixth year partnering with Phoenix School, Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, Umpqua Community College, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to enroll 16-24 year-olds in UCC classes, and then pay them to work with professional land managers to monitor ecological conditions on our public lands. For many kids, those UCC classes begin a "culture of college" and open up horizons that are invisible to many other local youth.

With the creation last year of the *Associate of Science (AS) in Natural Resources* degree at UCC, the pathway from a high school diploma to a university degree is now completely paved. Agreements signed between UCC and OSU cemented an Associate of Science degree that mirrors the first two years of OSU's BS in Natural Resources. That AS degree can be taken directly into the job market, or it can be the gateway to higher degrees at OSU. The program allows students who are unable to relocate to Corvallis to "Dual Enroll" at UCC to complete their entire OSU Bachelor's degree through a mix of face-to-face UCC classes and OSU online classes. We are now in the second year of the program, and several former members of our youth crews are currently enrolled as full-time students.



As you can see, the focus of all of our Education and Outreach efforts at UW from K-College is on getting learners of all ages out into the field to be immersed in new ecosystems. At the upper end of the Pathway, a new series of "hybrid" UCC classes (taught partly online and partly on a field tour) will be blended with our classic Field Botany tour to educate and inspire more intrepid learners. *NR 141: Tree and Shrub Identification*, and *NR 242: Ecosystems of SW Oregon and N California* will also be taught on the standard route through those stunning landscapes. This year's tour will be June 20 - 25.

I'm also excited to announce that on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, I will begin teaching the online portion of another new hybrid -- *BI 101A: Evolution, Diversity and Ecology of the Baja Peninsula* that will culminate in a 10-day tour to connect with Mexican students, professors, and their outstanding landscapes over spring break from Mar. 23 to Apr. 2. We piloted the route last March with UCC students and instructors, former youth crew members, and UW volunteers, and I have a unique and spectacular **edu-tour** planned! In our current political climate, we believe that it has never been more important to connect teachers and learners from both sides of the border.

So how can you help us keep the momentum going?

**Donate to UW.** Pretty simple. There is a donate button on our Facebook page. Your donations are tax deductible, and we can't keep our education programs going without an office, phone, internet, etc. With the exception of a half-time office manager and an AmeriCorps member, UW is an all-volunteer outfit. Flip through the pages of the last few newsletters, then ask yourself where your charitable dollars can do more direct good for youth and the environment. We are confident that your list will be exceedingly short.

**Donate to the Richard Sommer Fund.** This fund, set up in honor of a long-time UW friend and supporter, directly supports the Natural Resources program at UCC.

### **Buy the Umpqua Ale Trail bandanas for only \$10.**

They make great stocking stuffers. Profits directly support the Natural Resources program at UCC. Available at local breweries or UW office.

### **Enroll in a Field Class.**

Watch the *Watershed Moments* emails for opportunities to fill seats on field tours that have last minute vacancies. These tours are a bargain, and by joining us, you will help make the tour more affordable for students and more viable for UCC.

**Volunteer.** Let us know if you have teaching experience or ideas for educational outdoor opportunities. Email me at [ken.carloni@umpqua.edu](mailto:ken.carloni@umpqua.edu) if you would like to attend *Education Committee* meetings at 6:00pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

Thanks for your continued support of excellent teaching and learning in the 100 Valleys!

Ken Carloni -- Education Committee Chair



## AmeriCorps Voice

By Bailey Stein

As winter sets in and the fall programs come to a close I've gotten to witness extraordinary change here in the Umpqua. I started out my service year with the intimidating, yet exciting task of taking all of the 5<sup>th</sup> graders on a field trip to Crater Lake. Most of the students have never had a chance to witness this fantastic natural beauty that is right in their backyard (literally only a 2 hour drive away)! As we corralled all the students on to the buses and began our trek up Hwy 138, we saw their faces change and their anticipation grow as we drew near to the park. Some days we had sun, some days we saw ice and snow on the ground. Each field trip was more amazing than the last because we continuously saw the lake exceed the students' expectations. The trips were a fantastic success and will continue on into the spring, as we branch out to more outlying school districts! Thanks again to the Gray Family Foundation for providing the funding to make these trips possible.

The mature programs of Science Olympiad at Douglas High School and the Science Wednesday program at Eastwood Elementary have continued thriving and the students are excited by the opportunity to have access to more science programs. Newly created and expanded partnerships with the Boys and Girls Club, DC Juvenile Detention Center and Casa de Belen have allowed new programs and opportunities to flourish! Every Thursday at the Boys and Girls Club I teach a Forest Thursday class, where we create environmental art pieces while learning about the forest and its dynamic s. Furthermore, we have been able to take detention youth from Douglas County Juvenile Detention Center on a variety of field trips and educational hikes; including a tour of the PacifiCorp hydroelectric dam and a hike up to the world's tallest Douglas-fir tree on the Doerner Fir

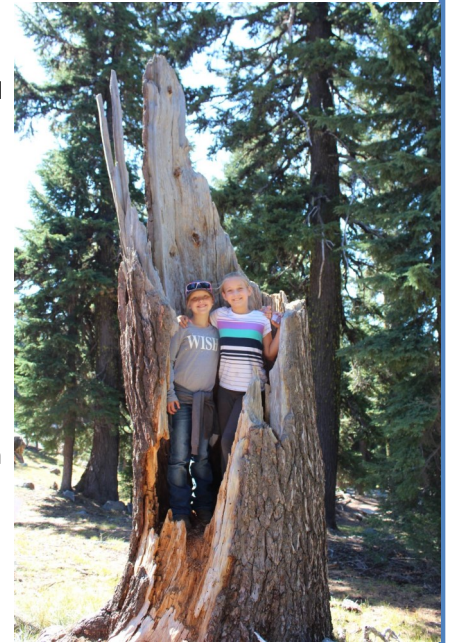


Trail. These newly developed programs have been instrumental in expanding the Umpqua Watersheds education goals and image within the community!

It has been a pleasure to continue, expand and develop new programs with Umpqua Watersheds as the AmeriCorps Environmental Education Team Member and I hope

that the spring holds just as much joy, learning and amazement about science and the natural environment!

We will be hosting a Martin Luther King Jr. River Clean-Up Service Day on January 16<sup>th</sup>! Stay tuned for more details.



## Get Involved! Join a Committee.

### ***Education Committee Meetings***

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

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

**Contact:** Ken Carloni - ken.carloni@gmail.com

### ***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

***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.

***DCPARC:*** meets on the third Wednesday of each month. 6pm at 713 SE Jackson St.

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

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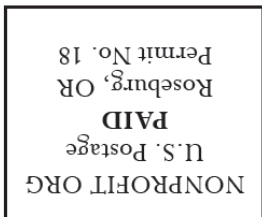
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