



# 100 Valleys

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

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

Autumn 2017 | Issue 73

## Brew Fest VIII

One of Umpqua Watersheds major fundraising events is only a few weeks away! Our all-volunteer Brew Fest committee has been busy getting all the various details worked out from music, food, sponsors, volunteers, merchandise and of course BEER!

We need your help and support! On October 14th, 1-10 pm will be a culmination of months of planning and countless hours of work by YOUR Brew Fest Committee. Volunteers and helpers are still needed for various tasks before, during and after the event.

[www.umpquabrewfest.info](http://www.umpquabrewfest.info)

We are also excited to partner with the Treva Hoffman Foundation during Breast Cancer Awareness month. Treva Hoffman was a Douglas County native who succumbed to cancer. The Treva Hoffman Foundation will be available to discuss their program and how they continue honor and remember all those who have lost loved ones to cancer with their program to support cancer research.

This event gets bigger and bigger every year and so we need more support from our members. Our Brew Fest has become a premier event in Douglas County with great music, great beer, and wonderful food. This year **Umpqua Brew Fest VIII** will feature music from *the Antonucci Collective*,



*Phamous Phaces* and *Cast of Clowns*. We are excited about the music. It is often one of the main reasons people stay and listen. Join us! At the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Roseburg, Oregon.

## President's Corner

Stanley Petrowski

### New Conservation Committee Meetings

We've been very busy. Our committee meetings have been consistent going forward. UW is pleased to announce that the Conservation committee chaired by Vice President and volunteer Joseph Patrick Quinn. His work load responding to timber contract proposals has been piling up. Careful documentation and insight into the workings of agencies and the laws that govern them is arduous work. Paddy's now meeting on a regular basis with interested members to shore up that aspect of UW's work load. If you're interested in working with Paddy, send him an email. It's plain to see that our work is mounting and will continue increasing as the weeks and months of the current administration in Washington D.C. rolls out their anti-regulation agenda.



Great progress has been made in cleaning up and transforming our newly acquired office building. In the not too distant future we plan to use one of the smaller rooms as the KQUA radio studio.

### KQUA-LP Non-Commercial Community Radio

*"Just enough wattage to enlighten your cottage"*

If you have an interest in underwriting our radio programming please send your support to the Watersheds' headquarters specifically mentioning the purpose of your gift. All donations to the station are tax deductible. KQUA is Umpqua Watersheds' flagship radio station. We recently requested a frequency change from the Federal Communications Commission. We found our signal crowded out by a commercial classic country station out of Bandon, Oregon. The FCC has just granted us permission for the change from 96.5 to 99.7 FM on August 11th. We're ready to roll. Some of Umpqua Watersheds' programming will begin transmitting this month. We're starting out slowly and hope to grow into a real community asset in the coming year. Our first programming efforts might seem to need a little polish but over time you will

*(Presidents Corner....Continued on page 4)*

## 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.*

Umpqua Watersheds' education initiatives have been going strong and continue to touch the lives of hundreds of students a year from K-12 through college. The educational programs,



originally developed by our VISTA member Roland Wang and expanded by AmeriCorps member Katrina Keleher, offer after-school "Science Friday" programs, Science Olympiad, and other fun and innovative educational opportunities to local elementary, high school, and college students.

These programs were taken to new heights by our 2016-17 AmeriCorps member Bailey Stein, who continued to make connections with students, teachers and administrators across the county. New partners were developed or strengthened with homeless youth at Casa de Belen and the Douglas County Juvenile Detention Center.

Through a grant from the Gray Family



Foundation written by Katrina, Bailey organized educational tours of Crater Lake National Park for every 5<sup>th</sup> grade student in Douglas County. These tours were a resounding success! Students (the majority of whom had never been to Crater

Lake) completed lessons organized by Bailey and the Crater Lake educational staff that opened their eyes to the minerals, plants and animals that comprise the delicate and fascinating web of life that holds this unique ecosystem together.

Just completing its sixth year, our Learn, Earn and Serve Summer Youth Crew program employed another six young folks to work alongside Forest Service scientists to collect ecological data on the Umpqua National Forest. Mentored by Bailey and UNF Botanist Bryan Benz, the crew collected baseline stand data in the Calf-Copeland Roadless Area in advance of the

implementation of the Calf-Copeland Restoration Project whose goal is to "...restore habitat for legacy trees including sugar pine, ponderosa pine and white oak and increase landscape resiliency to uncharacteristic fire, pest and pathogens."

Our youth crew's work could have special significance in the near future – as I write this, lightning-sparked wildfires are burning through parts of the Calf-Copeland planning area. Paired with data already gathered from these sites by our youth crew, these fires will provide site-specific data for comparing models of how fire "should" behave to how it actually does on the ground. How well did/will areas predicted to burn hot or cool follow the models? How will Northern Spotted Owl habitat be affected now and in the future?

The silver lining to the expense and danger of controlling these fires is that a serendipitous, landscape-level experiment is happening that will increase our knowledge of wildfire behavior and the predictive capabilities of our models. Integrating the effects of these fires in the Calf-Copeland area into future management plans will be important and exciting work going forward, and will be a lasting legacy of these dedicated young folks.



Bailey and UW Outreach Coordinator, Alan Bunce, were also a great help to the UCC students who joined us on the annual Botany tour in June and on our second Baja tour in March. Both of them put in long hours driving the buses, and Bailey's command of Spanish was invaluable south of the border.

Every year we finish another Botany tour, Alan and I agree it was the best one yet, and this year was no exception. Every year has its minor issues (last year, first rain ever; this year, triple digit temps in some spots), but the ride through the Siskiyou, Redwoods, Trinity State Beach, the Trinity River, Castle Crags, Mt. Shasta, McCloud River, Burney Falls, Lava Beds and Crater Lake is ALWAYS an inspiring "edutour". Several members of the youth crew were in the class, and the whole group became a big, happy, helpful, enthusiastic family.

And the Baja tour was spectacular! It was the hands-on component of a new hybrid UCC class I've spent years developing: *Evolution, Diversity and Ecology of the Baja Peninsula*. Students learned course content online during winter term, and applied their new knowledge on the tour. Along with Bailey, Alan, Zoe Broder, and other UCC staff and volunteers, we all loaded into two UCC minibuses and headed south during spring break. Jenny Carloni organized all of the meals, and Juliet Palenshus provided Spanish skills and kitchen help (we ate REALLY well!). We were regaled by gracious and passionate local academics and natural history experts along the way. We visited

## Board of Directors

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the fossil collections, tidepools and botanical gardens at the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California, patted a friendly baby gray whale in Laguna Ojo de Liebre, camped at an oasis near the old mission of San Ignacio, visited 7,000 year old rock



art in the Sierra de San Francisco, snorkeled with stingrays in the Gulf of California, walked where an arroyo had created a natu-

ral cross-section through a fossilized coral reef at Punta Chivato, hiked among house-sized granite boulders to visit another painted cave near Catavina, and saw California condors in the pine forests surrounding Baja's tallest mountain in Parque Nacional San Pedro Martir.

If you're one of those folks who tells me that "one of these years" you'd like to go on one of these tours with us, please let me know. I keep a list of interested community riders who may or may not want to take the course for credit. The first seats go to tuition-paying students, but if there are any extra seats after student enrollments are over, I will open a seat for you in the order that you email me at [ken.carloni@umpqua.edu](mailto:ken.carloni@umpqua.edu). The next Baja tour will be from March 29<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, and the next Botany tour will be June 19<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The Baja tour fee is \$790 and the Botany tour will be in the \$325 – \$350 range. Both fees cover all food, transportation and camping – no other tour companies could touch these prices. Filling an open seat on one of these tours will ensure that we will be able to keep costs down and continue to offer students truly memorable educational field experiences.



All things must pass, and that includes the privilege of having Bailey to continue her great work with us. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, Bailey has moved on to a Peace Corps position in Paraguay. She has been a rock-solid member of our team for the last year, and although we are all sad to see her go, we are excited for her as she moves into the next phase of her service to the planet.

While Bailey joins the ranks of our beloved *former* UW VISTA/AmeriCorps members, we are thrilled to introduce our newest AmeriCorps member, Christine Smith. Although Christine has only been in town for a few days, her energy, enthusiasm and impressive resume leave me no doubt that you will be reading future newsletters filled with more uplifting news on our ever-evolving educational initiatives.

## The Upper South Umpqua Spring Chinook by Stan Petrowski

The month of August has been a banner month for the harassed remnant of Spring Chinook on the upper South Umpqua river. As most of you know, this unique fish run is hanging on by a biological thread to survive. Although the USFS has invested millions of restoration dollars on the upper segment of the river these unique sea going salmon only have 120 individuals retuning on average. This run was once considered a critical life sustaining food source for the Umpqua Native Americans.

Record heat of summer has stressed the salmon. Low flows and higher water temperatures are detrimental to native NW fish species. Add to that the extensive fire fighting traffic and chemical-laden air from fire fighting. The probability of survival under these recurring conditions will adversely impact this fragile and rare population of salmon.

It's not all gloom and doom though. Our collaborative effort to support habitat restoration to preserve these fish has had some great success. Umpqua Watersheds has supported a collaborative partnership between SURCP.org and the USFS to replace the Emerson Creek bridge. This bridge was a perennial problem on a couple of fronts. It was built as a mid span bridge that accumulated large quantities of large wood each year. The agency would have to send an excavator many miles up river to remove woody debris that had jammed up on the mid span threatening to take out the bridge. More importantly, the bridge was built in a era when wooden bridges were soaked in caustic chemicals to preserve them. This bridge was especially endowed with a saturation of this toxic creosote waste. Each summer large amounts of the tarry substance would leak out of the bridge into the river. As of August, the old bridge has been removed and a new concrete structure full spanning bridge was placed further up river to accommodate traffic. The unnatural impediment has been removed. The cost of the project was over one million dollars and well worth it.



Another fantastic plus was the publication of a scientific paper illustrating what we already knew. The Spring and Falls Chinook, Summer and Winter Steelhead are genetically distinct. See: <http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/3/8/e1603198.full> Important because NOAA Fisheries tends to lump fish species into large ESUs (Evolutionarily Significant Units) and not according to individual fish runs. Perhaps this will bring a little more pressure on the agency to regard individual fish runs rather large biological zones. The Lower Oregon and Northern California Spring Chinook are protected under the Endangered Species Act. We need to make sure the Oregon Coastal Spring Chinook are considered to have this protected status also. Otherwise we stand to loose our precious remnant of Spring Chinook.

We managed to push for restrictions on fishing the South Umpqua Springers successfully. They must still pass the gauntlet of the main stem of the river to find refuge on the South Fork. ODFW allows these fish to be vulnerable by letting them be caught while they head up river from the ocean. The only reason this is allowed is because the Oregon Coastal ESU seems to have a "viable" population of Springers. This has got to change. Let's fight to protect this unique fish family.

## Reaching Out .... By Diana Pace

Besides being Secretary for Umpqua Watersheds I also am the Volunteer Coordinator. This is a function that I cannot do without volunteers. To inspire you to volunteer with this wonderful organization I will tell you about the proven benefits of volunteering for all ages. We lead busy lives and the thought of adding another task to our schedules can be dismissive. We also know that volunteering makes a difference and has positive impact. Volunteering is rewarding and helps us find purpose at any age. When we volunteer we experience improved health and well-being and self-esteem. We make new friends and improve our minds. We learn new skills. We make a difference. The opportunity to get involved enables us to look beyond our own circumstances which can help us to solve problems and improve our community. Young folks can gain experience and new skills that can be used on a resume for a potential job or college application.

Umpqua Watersheds functions with volunteers such as the board of directors and the committees-WOW, Restoration, Conservation, Education, Outreach and DC Parc. We now also have a Facility Management Committee. We need volunteers to help plan and implement our big events such as River Appreciation Day, Brew Fest and UW Banquet. But we also need assistance at the office with simple tasks such as housekeeping, office aide or tech support. Come hang out with us!

I wandered in here one day and told them I really wanted to volunteer here. When I was accepted to the board in July 2016 I felt insecure and unknowledgeable. I wasn't sure how I could be beneficial. Let me tell you, these folks are so encouraging and grateful for any kind of assistance. I can be me and help in the ways that I can best be of assistance and be valued and so can you. Please don't think you have nothing to offer. Anything you are willing to do will be greatly appreciated. This is a great organization to be part of and participate in. Volunteering improves and supports our community by giving of your time and energy which helps Umpqua Watersheds meet our objectives. Contact me at [pacedf@gmail.com](mailto:pacedf@gmail.com) and let me know what you are interested in and when you are available. You and your time are valued and appreciated.

*(Presidents Corner...continued from page 1)*

be able to grow with us and watch our skills and content mature. We're grass roots and learning. Your feedback is welcome. Contact information etc. will be announced on the station as we proceed. Be patient with us as we roll over the bumps.

### The Upper South Umpqua River

We are hoping to get the upper South Umpqua River, from Tiller on up to Black Canyon Creek designated as a State Scenic Wild Waterway. It certainly deserves that status. Apparently ODFW and significant others in our region are opposing this.

Our only hope to move that effort forward is an up swell of grass roots support. Those of you who know how special that segment of the National Forest is should let the State know that you want that designation for the upper South. Contact:

Alex Phillips

Oregon Parks and Recreation

[alex.phillips@or.gov](mailto:alex.phillips@or.gov) <[alex.phillips@or.gov](mailto:alex.phillips@or.gov)>

(503) 986-0631

### Eco-Tourism

It's unfortunate that down town Roseburg is fading like an autumn leaf. Look at our surroundings. Roseburg is nestled in one of the most beautiful and diverse eco regions of the world. People from all over the world flock to the Umpqua. Crater Lake, Diamond Lake, the wonders of the coast and what remains of our ancient forests draws people like a healing magnet. People come and marvel at their experiences and the therapy forest bathing affords.

Notwithstanding, the businesses continue to close downtown and the County continues to focus all of its attention on cutting down the forests of our national public trust as the sole solution to its fiscal woes. We so need to get past this. The war to protect the natural world will never abate until a viable solution is found. Let the brain trust of concerned environmentalists in our region come up with a solution. It's time for us to go on the offensive in this struggle.

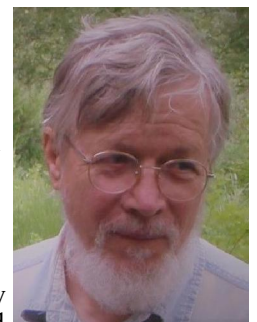
### Special Thanks and Gratitude

I want to send a personal thank you and acknowledgement for those of you giving us your support. You know who you are. Your volunteer time and contributions are invaluable. We couldn't make it without you. I sincerely hope you enjoy this newsletter. There's so much going on we couldn't possibly put it all in this format. We're thrilled to be aligned with life and guarding and restoring the precious treasures of the natural world around us. We're grateful that the community of likeminded individuals is growing in our region. It is meaningful, rewarding, healthy and beautiful to engage our mission and vision. We're glad you are part of it as we go forward.

## Restoration Committee... by Stan Petrowski

### Restoring Vital Signs

As a young man newly 20 years of age and just home from the war in Vietnam, I hit bottom. It wasn't a pleasant experience because it was full of terror and lifelessness. From that bleak place, a slow but steady emergence began – and a healing, though gradual, took place. My diet changed. Life practices changed. An intuitive conscience was revitalized. Sensitivity to the natural world and a wary eye toward all that was clambering around me for my attention soon developed.



Years of isolation in the far reaches of the wild and far corners of the world gradually made space for me to adapt to my forever

altered world-torn psyche. I found a wife who could tolerate my proclivity to live high in the mountains and away from the bustling centers of our civilization. I tasted of – and began to live in the physical and spiritual realm of “restoration.”

Those years were filled with challenging and enriching experiences. As a newlywed, one of my original occupations consisted of working as an Emergency Medical Technician. Transporting the injured and sick was no easy accomplishment. It was altruistically rewarding.

Training as an EMT gave me a new and deeper appreciation for the maintenance and restoration of health of the human body. The responsibilities and focus of attention required of me as an EMT were often stretching. There were fundamental indicators of what was taking place in the injured or ill person in my care. I had to continually pay attention to what are known as the vital signs. Pulse rate, temperature, respiration rate, and blood pressure, all indicate the state of a patient's essential body functions. Break the normal rhythm of these systemic activities and soon some form of shock will set in.

**Restoration Ecology** is a science that is based on gathering the best available data related to an ecosystem, analyzing the data and responding accordingly with remedial actions that are also based on sound science and safety. In many ways restoration and concern for ecosystem health has at its foundation the analytical techniques of medical emergency care. Just as the body's vital signs show symptoms when they are disrupted, so the natural world around us starts revealing conditions of decline and pointing toward the problem. These signals that are expressed by nature can go a long way to reveal what to do to bring health back into the environment.

**Hypovolemic Shock** One sure sign our bodies aren't working correctly is a condition called hypovolemic shock. A simple description of it is that a person's blood pressure drops or liquid levels fall to such an extent that their head spins and they faint. Many of us have experienced this. The initial symptoms include dizziness, fainting or skin pallor. It is a critical condition and can lead to a fast heart rate, insufficient urine production, mental confusion, sleepiness, or weakness etc. If not corrected a person dies or suffers severe brain damage.

**Umpqua Watersheds** We at Umpqua Watersheds have been observing for quite some time the rapid decline of native fish runs. The streams of our region express a shocking level of reduction of species diversity and overall health. Conditions associated with the inability of the aquatic ecosystem to resist invasive species and diseases all point to our watersheds suffering from a kind of hypovolemic shock i.e. low flow water levels. The outbursts of toxic cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) are appearing throughout the main stem and tributaries of the Umpqua river system. Examination of Macroinvertebrate species tells a tale of greatly diminished stream health in the majority of the waterways.

Intuitively most of us see these conditions - and react. We shake our heads and bewail the beleaguered state of the aquatic environment. The influence of low river system flows seems apparent to us all. At the extreme low flow rates of the river and tributaries, native species are forced into small warm pools and narrow channels. Small Mouth Bass are waiting there to eat their fill. They along with other invasive plants, diseases and species thrive in the warm shallow waters. This stresses our wild indigenous species only further.

**Low Flows and Timber Sale Comments** UW's Conservation and Restoration committees have been

corroborating. We've been marveling at the unbelievable lack of science associated with the impact of low flows on our waterways. It was only this year that we became aware of the lack of concern by agency personnel regarding this very obvious problem. Recently there was a Perry-Jones paper released relating low flows to clear cutting, plantation stand growth and the Oregon Forest Practices act. Time and again our objections have been rebuffed based on one or another spurious reason. Umpqua Watersheds has made it its policy to interject the results of the Perry-Jones paper when timber extraction will obviously further influence the flow rates of streams.

Much to our surprise there is very little that has been done to challenge Federal and State agency proposals that only exacerbate the poor stream flow rates. How can we recover our threatened native fish runs without a comprehensive review of the current science around low flows caused by short tree farm rotations and concurrent road systems? A change in forest management policy for public and private forest health is needed before it is too late. Before the proverbial natural world hypovolemic shock develops into a greater terminal state.

**We Have a Plan** Umpqua Watersheds has consulted with reputable scientists and academia regarding these latest findings. It is clear to us that greater emphasis must be paid to the influence of management of our watersheds on low stream flow rates. We would like to contract with an aquatic scientist to create a compendium of data, science and further research on the topic of low flow rates associated with clear cutting, tree stand age and federal, state and county timber management. We are convinced that no matter what, true restoration will always be limited within those watersheds that include heavy handed corporate timber and forest management practices. Presently the public agencies design their timber harvests based on a myopic view, not considering the influence of industrial timber around their project designs. They ignore the surrounding landscape.

Our vision sees the need to include the influence of young tree stands holistically in watershed analysis - especially the ones trapped in the *box* of O&C checkerboard landscapes. We are initiating a campaign to turn the tide and bring industrial and public land management into the twenty first century.

I am soliciting both financial and volunteer support of the campaign. What needs to be done is substantive and costly. Success will require a deep commitment on the part of regional conservationists. There is little, if any, grant money to support this work.

**Feedback from You** This effort won't go forward without feedback from you. If you are tired of looking at massacred clear cut mountain sides and desire a reasonable management practice in our watersheds - the time is now for you to support our plan. Pushing the fiscal responsibility of damage done onto the public must stop. Sound science and research must be done. There's no other way to move forward. If this piques your interest, email either myself or Joseph Quinn. We will keep you informed with progress if any. Keep in mind that Board of Directors and Committee Chairs at Umpqua Watersheds are volunteers. Any financial support will go to support UW's Low Flow Science Campaign.

Thank you in advance for your interest in what we are all about, as well as your contributions to making this work.



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



In the last issue of 1000 Valleys, your Conservation Committee received a copy of a scientific study that analyzed more than fifty years of Forest Service paired stream data. The Perry-Jones Special Paper (2017), concluded that conversion of primary old growth and mature forest to plantation has led to long term depleted summer flow

conditions. We have attempted to bring this to the attention of the BLM, as they proceed to offer more timber sales which would impose more large canopy openings on these already badly degraded landscapes.

Unfortunately BLM dismisses our concerns and the peer reviewed data. It appears that the obvious relevance of Perry-Jones to their management proposals is being ignored. In the coast range of the Klamath Province near Camas Valley, Umpqua Watersheds first protested the Semaphore regeneration harvest sale. That objection, was significantly based upon the reasonable inferences we made from Perry-Jones. When BLM denied our protest, we reluctantly submitted an appeal of that decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, in Arlington, Virginia. At this writing, we await word as to whether we will be granted formal standing, a stay of the proposed timber falling, and of the overall success of our appeal. Given the discouraging track record of appeals brought to this board by the conservation community, we are not overly optimistic. That said, this depleted streamflow issue has wide implications for the maintenance and ultimate recovery of imperiled fish runs on nearly all of the rivers and streams in our area. Water availability for residential, recreational and agricultural uses is also diminished, as we believe, by the long history of vast conversion of primary forest to plantations on both public and private lands. Likewise, we see the past and present clear cut/fiber farm plantation model practiced on the intervening private industrial timberlands on these watersheds as only making this dire situation worse.

Despite UW's repeated highlighting of this critical issue, BLM persists in maintaining that the troubling hydrological inferences deriving from Perry-Jones have little to no bearing on what they do. We also featured our analysis of this flow issue in our comments on the agency's Days Creek-South Umpqua Harvest Plan Environmental Assessment (EA). Therein we suggested the suitability of a thorough examination of historic low flows as compared to current summer flows; this suggested research being accompanied by direct consultation on the issue with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. We felt that this "hard look," stipulated in fact by the guiding parameters of the National Environmental Policy Act, ought to culminate in a true Environmental Impact Statement. In announcing the Daydream Timber Sale, the first offering of the Days-Creek-South Umpqua Harvest Plan, BLM signaled to us its determination to forge ahead regardless, thereby ignoring or failing to acknowledge

the certain environmental consequences of its actions. Therefore, and however reluctantly, we have filed a formal protest of this proposal, as well.

For us, as for others possessing excellent scientific credentials, it is difficult to see how such cold water, small-stream-reliant species as the Coastal Coho Salmon, the Pacific Lamprey or the greatly imperiled South Umpqua Spring Chinook as well as others can ever be conserved, no less satisfactorily recovered under this depleted water regime. At the same time, such warm water species as Small Mouth Bass continue to advance their colonization farther up area anadromous fish rivers, seemingly every year. Perhaps the only hope for amelioration of this degraded hydrological situation lies in a strong resort to the Federal Judiciary. Time will tell.

On a more positive note, UW has been pleased to submit encouraging scoping comments to the North Umpqua Ranger District concerning its proposed restoration work in the Calf-Copeland basin. Goals here are the conservation of imperiled legacy Sugar and Ponderosa Pines, as well as restoration of streams and wetlands. There are wildfire mitigation ideas being discussed here too; a timely discussion, no doubt, given the wildfire situation, ongoing as this is written, some affecting Calf-Copeland.

While the lingering smoke, reports of involved acreage, money and manpower expended are quite alarming, it is useful to recall that the forests of our region developed in the presence of fire. Interestingly, recent careful research suggests that, historically speaking, wildfire intensity, frequency and impacted area may well have been considerably greater before Euro-American settlement in the northwest. The prospect of dealing with more than a century of fire suppression and subsequent fuel accumulation by mechanical means alone; that is by logging forests in order to save them, is unrealistic. The area needing to be treated across the forested west is simply too vast, the task much too expensive, ever to be achieved. For better or worse, fire will do much of this work for us. Nonetheless, as firefighting costs spiral out of the control, perhaps concentration of preventive efforts on the wildland urban interface (WUI), for the protection of homes and other resources, might prove to be more cost effective than expending so much time and treasure in the back country, where fire can serve its historically useful and much needed ecological role.

As this is being written, retrograde elements in the Congress, often at the behest of Industrial Timber, and its enablers in local, state and national government, are hard at work introducing one draconian "get the cut out" bill after another. Needless to say, the increasingly palpable impacts of accelerating climate change are already all too evident. Renewed BLM proposals that would impose more large canopy openings on public forestlands, along with those being proposed by Congress, in combination with the clear cut barbarity currently all too evident on private industrial timberlands within the unfortunate checkerboard of alternating ownerships, mean that already degraded environmental conditions can only be exacerbated, including the streamflow issue discussed above. These dire assaults on ecological functioning, along with the myriad other ecological impositions

human activity has inflicted on these, the watersheds we all call home, represent an enormous challenge for all those individuals and organizations involved with the conservation and restoration of our priceless natural systems. Please do what you can to help. This Conservation Committee is in great need of volunteer activists to aid in field and data research and other tasks. To paraphrase the old Madison Avenue public service announcement: the world you save might just be your own.

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## THINK ABOUT IT... by Stan Petrowski

### Fire Fire Fire

It has been a common practice for a long time to blame conservationists for all of the woes resulting from trying to save the Northern Spotted Owl, Coho salmon and a host of other species from extinction. Once again this year we are facing over doses of smoke in the valleys and hillsides resulting from forest fires. I've been hearing loggers and fire fighters alike blaming the conservation-restoration communities for the tragic overly hot roaring firestorms racing through the landscape.

### Suppression Costs

The annual Federal budget for fire suppression alone has gone from more than 250 million dollars in 1985 to a mind boggling 2 billion dollars today. Fire fighting has become big business. More often than not these monies are drained from the annual budget of Federal agencies that should have gone into managing the forests to keep them healthy and accessible to the public.

### Ask Yourself This Question

Who put the fires out before Europeans arrived? The first visitors from Europe were spell bound by the rich beauty and majesty of the North American forest ecosystems. Giant trees, like watchful sentinels, over storied coastal forests on both sides of the continent. How is it that these forests survived the frequent fire regimes of these regions?

A look at old growth tree stumps will answer your question. The fire history of these lands is written in the growth rings of the trees. In the South Umpqua basin fire intervals were anywhere from 10 to 25 years. Who put these earlier fires out? No one. In fact when nature itself didn't ignite the forest, the aboriginal people of the land would do it. They understood the need for it to maintain forest health.

### Fire Resilience

How is it then that we once had trees throughout the forest that ranged from 400 to 800 years of age? The truth is that the forest was made up of fire adapted species that depended on frequent fires to keep them healthy. It was the perfectly natural process of cyclic fire that kept brush and debris levels at manageable condition. Most fires throughout the millennia were of mid to low intensity. On occasion there were stand replacing fires. For the most part these fires formed a mosaic pattern throughout the forest. The result was a grand diversity of animals, plants and aquatic species richly dispersed and thriving in many complex ecosystem types.

## What Has Changed

The giant trees of North America contained a lot of fuel. The few remaining stands of primary forests far outweigh the amount of fuel in plantations covering a comparable geographical area. These large quantities of flammable stored energy from the sun, though abundant, were mostly fire resistant.

From the times of the industrial revolution until now the efficiency of "resource" extraction from the earth and from the forests has increased proportionally to the growth of fire intensity and damage. What has changed is the **fuel structure** of our forests. We now have large swaths of even aged, over stocked, monoculture plantation stands instead of forests. What has changed is the fuel structure - an unnatural type of fuel load. Young stands of trees (0-80 years of age) cover the mountains and valleys of our temperate forests. These are not only a fuel hazard to themselves. I have seen the remnants of old growth stands severely damaged when catastrophic firestorms on adjacent *plantations* pass through.

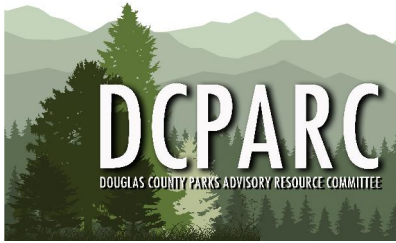
## What to Do

We've got to change our management practices on private and public lands. It is untenable and disgusting that so many view our forests and natural world solely as "resources" to be extracted. There is no doubt - the societal view of the natural world must be changed. The ancient forests tell us a story of fire resilience. Vast sums of tax dollars are being spent to suppress fire so that the timber industry can once again pass on the costs of the risk of forest mismanagement to the public and keep the profits for themselves.

My view on the current dilemma: let's not keep *taking, taking, taking*. There is a discovery of ancient wisdom needed to bring us to a harmonious interaction of *give and take* within the cycles of life. We do not need to bleed the forest to death because of our rapacious greed. We do not need to turn our world into a desert before we awaken to an appropriate interface between us as a specie and the natural world. Let's turn the grinding machine off long enough for the land to heal. Let's learn what we must do. Let's find our place in true life. Let's give and receive as part of the design of living.

## Next Time

The next time you are confronted by the media, your logger neighbor or County Commissioner with blame for the nasty fires draining your tax dollars - let them know it is not the Spotted Owl, or the conservationist that is to blame for the problem. Let them know that you can't cut the forest to save it. Let them know that they are oblivious to nature's ways and that they will not win this fight against nature. The creation itself will make sure of that. Tell them to wake up before it is too late.



By John Hunter

This past spring and summer months have been extremely busy for the members of DCPARC. Besides our continuing monitoring and attendance

at County meetings, many of us volunteered our time to gather signatures to get the Home Rule Charter on the ballot. Now, thanks to so many dedicated volunteers and concerned voters, measure 10-159, will be on the November ballot.

In June we attended the Parks Advisory Board (PAB) community meeting in Sutherlin and their tour of Mildred Kanipe and Cooper Creek parks. We are always amazed at the lack of interest and curiosity the majority of the PAB members display at these tours. Is this the type of people we want to make decisions about our County Parks? A new position has opened up for the "central county" area. Please consider applying. As we have discovered, the PAB believes that Parks are not considered places of tranquility. Unfortunately, the main theme in the PAB meetings is "Revenue". Not about maintaining the natural beauty of our County parks or preserving the peaceful and tranquil experience they provide. This is what happens when the County declares that the "parks, actually the entire County Government, be run like a business".

June 24, Joe Coyne of Winchester Bay, graciously hosted a "Money Pit Tour" of our Coastal County Parks (Scottsburg Park, the Lighthouse Museum, Windy Cove (A and B) RV parks, Discovery Point RV Park (part of which the County wants to purchase) as well as the Crab Dock. We also looked at Sparrow Park, logged in 2012 and Southside Park which



was cruised for timber in 1978. Named "The Money Pit tour" because the Parks department insist on investing so much money on the coastal parks (\$50,000 from the logging of Busenbark Park went toward improvements at the Crab Dock), We plan to continue our tour of County parks this month with a hike of Honey Creek and others that may be sold.

June 21st, the Board of Commissioners approved the Comprehensive Review of "The Parks Master Plan" (it included only three parks) as a County fiscal year 17/18 budget item. Kat Stone and myself attended this meeting and voiced objections to both.

The Comprehensive Review Plan will make it easier for the County to change the uses of many of our County Parks without further public input.

We attended a public meetings at the Lookingglass Grange on July 20 about the proposed OHV Park at the closed Lookingglass Transfer site as well as the first public hearing before the Douglas County Planning Commission on August 17th. The proposed plan has been revised to accommodate a 5-mile rocked road to be used by four wheel drive trucks as well

as "side-by-sides." It will take two hours for one to travel the course. It will impact about 40 adjacent, and angry landowners. It is estimated that it will reduce their property values by 15 % and is being proposed in a former landfill that was shut down because of hazardous landslides. This proposal will benefit a few at the expense of many, comes with no cost analysis, no sure funding, no architectural drawing, and no engineering, geological or environmental impact studies. Confusion exists amongst County Employees as to which department will be in charge of it (the Land Department or the Parks Department). Yet we are being told that this is a good and necessary park! A continuance hearing will be held at the 9/21 Planning Commission Meeting. We will be there in support of landowners and according to some: "This is a proposal that will probably end up in the Courts."

Our meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at the McMenamins conference room at 6pm. We will have a table at the Brew Fest on October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Fairgrounds. Come in, taste craft beers and visit us!

And please vote in November!!

## Wild On Wilderness.... by Susan Applegate

The office for the WOW committee, housing our maps and documents for the proposed Crater Lake Wilderness, now has the ceiling repaired and has been freshly painted. A huge "Thank You" to **Keith Lance**, — local fisherman who knows the quality of water that wilderness provides for the best fishing, — repaired the ceiling. And "Thanks" to an excellent job by **Kevin Barrett**, of Barretts Sheet Rock, for sheet rocking the room. Another big "Thank You" to Bob Bergen, (Long Song), of **Cascadia Painting** who painted the room, which looks amazing. WOW members Bob Hoehne, Bob Allen, Al Walker, MA and Alan Bunce also volunteered, making the WOW office a great place to pursue our mission. With renewed commitment to protect the remaining road less areas that have never seen the saw blade; that provide shelter for the cold clear streams that join both the North and South Umpqua Rivers, we are again preparing to place an ad for a Crater Lake Wilderness Campaign Coordinator. If you or someone you know may be interested in grassroots organizing, please tell them about our work.

The raging fires that are filling the 100 Valleys of the Umpqua with smoke and showing us the blood red sun also was the reason for us to cancel our Crater Lake Wilderness Hike Bonanza planned for the week of August 21<sup>st</sup>. We can hope and pray that by September 30<sup>th</sup>, the fires will have been extinguished and we can hold our annual Mt. Thielsen Hike. Look for a later announcement.

The WOW Committee meets on the last Wednesday of the month, 6pm at the Umpqua Watersheds Office. Come join in, we'd love to share the effort to protect the best, — from the back country of the Crater Lake National Park, to other wilderness-worthy islands of road less back country in the Umpqua, Rogue, Little Deschutes and Klamath.

You can help by becoming a monthly supporter to WOW. Even a \$10 monthly contribution is tremendously helpful. Payable to the WOW committee of Umpqua Watersheds for the Crater Lake Wilderness Campaign. Thank You in advance.



**Umpqua Watershed's Environmental Option to Stations  
Polluting the Airwaves**

Roseburg's newest radio station has finally arrived. In Early March, KQUA went on the air at the 96.5 signal. The station plays a blend of Adult Alternative and Alternative Rock music.

On September 1, 2017, KQUA moved to a new signal. KQUA can now be found on the 99.7 signal. The new **KQUA 99.7** plays fresh new music along with the great songs we already play. The new 99.7 will also feature thought provoking talk shows.

Part of the goal of KQUA is education and information. Not only is this a subtle requirement of the license, it is a goal of Umpqua Watersheds to provide that content. KQUA will begin broadcasting its first community talk shows in the coming weeks.

Two shows are currently in production. Stanley Petrowski, president of Umpqua Watersheds will host the show "Radio Active Restoration." A show that highlights the work of UW and great things to come, along with environmental news and guest speakers. "Umpqua Brew Talk" is another show in production. Umpqua Brew Talk will be hosted by Trick Schneider and Kasey Hovik. The show will talk about craft brewing, local brewers and local events.

Other great shows will be produced that promote positive topics like, preserving the environment, community events, and left-leaning politics. The new 99.7 will also run various types of music programming such as an unsigned artist show and other types of music similar to current format.

KQUA is currently seeking volunteers. If you would like to host a show, edit audio, or promote the station on the streets, contact us. KQUA is a non-profit entity, it relies solely on donations and community support. Soon, listeners will be able to show their support via [www.kqua.org](http://www.kqua.org). Businesses can provide support, and in return, their business will be mentioned on the air as a donor.



Patrick (Trick) Schneider (left) and Stan Petrowski (right) re-tune the antenna for the new frequency.  
Don't forget to turn the power off guys!

**Get Involved! Join a Committee.**

**Brew Fest Committee (until October 6)**

When: Every Friday, 2:00pm

Where: Umpqua Watersheds Office, Downtown Roseburg

Contact: [kchovik@gmail.com](mailto:kchovik@gmail.com)

**Monthly Board of Directors:**

When: 3rd Monday of Every Month, 6:00pm

Where: Umpqua Watersheds Office, Downtown Roseburg

Contact: For board and staff members only. If there is a topic you feel the board should broach let us know so we can put it on the agenda! Reach me at [alan@umpqua-watersheds.org](mailto:alan@umpqua-watersheds.org)

**Education Committee**

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

Where: Umpqua Watersheds Office, Downtown Roseburg

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

**Restoration Committee**

When: 3rd Tuesday of Every Month, 5:00pm

Where: McMenamin's Roseburg Station Pub

Contact: Stan Petrowski - [Stanley@surcp.org](mailto:Stanley@surcp.org)

**Conservation Committee**

When: 1st Monday of Every Month, 6:00pm

Where: Umpqua Watersheds Office, Downtown Roseburg

Contact: J. Patrick Quinn - [jquinn@mydfn.net](mailto:jquinn@mydfn.net)

**Building Maintenance**

When: 1st Tuesday of Every Month, 6:00pm

Where: Umpqua Watersheds Office, Downtown Roseburg

Contact: Kasey Hovik - [KCHovik@gmail.com](mailto:KCHovik@gmail.com)

**Wild On Wilderness Committee**

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

Where: Umpqua Watersheds Office, Downtown Roseburg

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

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

**Douglas County Parks Resource Advisory Committee (DCPARC):**

When: 3rd Wednesday, 6:00pm

Where: McMenamins.

Contact: John Hunter, [goldenarchie46@yahoo.com](mailto:goldenarchie46@yahoo.com)

Monthly snapshot of committee meetings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
1 <sup>st</sup> week	Conservation 6pm	Building 6pm			2pm Brew Fest
2 <sup>nd</sup> week		Education 6pm			2pm Brew Fest
3 <sup>rd</sup> week	BOD 6pm	Restoration 5pm	DCPARC 6pm		2pm Brew Fest
4 <sup>th</sup> week					2pm Brew Fest
Last week			WOW 6pm		2pm Brew Fest



# Kasey's Corner

By Kasey Hovik

Executive Director

It has been a very busy summer for Umpqua Watersheds and I am proud and very grateful to everyone who spent many hours volunteering to make our events successful. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, approximately 70 of the Umpqua Watersheds faithful gathered to celebrate the donation of our building from John Stadter. It was the largest donation UW has ever had and we continue to marvel at John's generosity. In addition to being a great landlord over the years, John and his company, FCR, has been the title sponsor of the Umpqua Brew Fest. Umpqua Watersheds will be recognizing John at the Brew Fest with a plaque and awarding him a lifetime membership with Umpqua Watersheds. We have big plans for the building but our immediate priorities are to fix the roof over the kitchen, repair and refurbish the kitchen. If you are interested in being our building maintenance committee please let us know!



On Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, UW celebrated River Appreciation Day at Whistlers Bend County Park. It was a splendidly beautiful day and it was wonderful to see so many people attend. Many thanks to our WOW Committee who took the lead in making it happen. Special thanks to Ken Carloni who, once again, worked all day as sound guy for the four bands that played at RAD including the Sons of the Soil, Alice DiNicle, the Antonucci Collective and A Strange Attractor.



Bob Allen holds the first Twin Lakes Campout

On the weekend of July 22<sup>nd</sup> Umpqua Watersheds held its annual Twin Lakes Youth Wilderness

Campout. The opportunity to spend time with young people at this beautiful location and to teach them about nature is something very special. Bailey Stein and Alan Bunce did a great job organizing the campout. Janice Reid did a presentation on spotted owls, Chad Roose told Native American stories, Ken Carloni led a botany hike up to the overlook and I did an astronomy under the stars on the rock where we were dazzled by a surprise visit by the international space station. No Al, we still don't believe you called that one in!

## Kamp Bailey



On the weekend of July 29<sup>th</sup> Umpqua Watersheds celebrated our second annual AmeriCorps campout entitled Kamp Bailey. We occupied 9 campsites at Hemlock

Lake Campground in the Umpqua National Forest. Approximately 16 AmeriCorps joined Kamp Bailey and several Umpqua Watersheds members joined in the festivities. We hiked, sat around the campfire and took time to say thanks to Bailey for her service to Umpqua Watersheds over the last year. She did an amazing job from organizing trips to Crater Lake for 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Douglas County to teaching environmental lessons at local schools as well as the Douglas County Juvenile Detention Center. She was truly inspirational with several kids at the Casa de Belen home for homeless youth and left her mark in our community in countless ways I like to call "planting seeds". We also got to know many of the other AmeriCorps who served this past year and it was great having the opportunity to say express our appreciation for their work. A special thanks to Patrick Schneider for going up early to get the group site, to Janice Reid for buying and preparing most of the food and to Umpqua Watersheds for paying for all of the campsites.





## AmeriCorps Voice

Summer is a beautiful time here in the Umpqua. We see connections come full circle. The weather is sunny, nights are cool and summer camps are all around.

This year we created some new connections with different schools around the county. I got a chance to work with Eastwood Elementary at their end of the year 5<sup>th</sup> grade school campout. I spent 3 days camping on their beautiful 40 acre campus; leading a group to different lessons and activities throughout the day and playing, dancing and singing during their nightly activities. It was amazing to see the students having so much fun learning outdoors about their natural environment and using their campus as a teaching tool. The students participated in activities like panning for gold, tree identification and compass/map navigation. I had a wonderful time meeting new students and getting to see some of the former students from my Science Wednesday class I had taught there last fall. I got to see familiar faces and some even said "Hey were you my after school science Wednesday teacher?" Watching their eyes light up in recognition at getting to see me again and putting it all together was amazing. As their school year and classes came to an end they had mixed emotions about moving on to another school and adventure with new friends. I got the chance to see these 5<sup>th</sup> grade students through a true circle, starting with leading their class on a Crater Lake National Park trip funded by the Gray Family Foundation, teaching an after school Science Wednesday class and then camping with them for their last few days of school. I know I have changed so much throughout this year and it was wonderful to be able to be present for that change in this group of students as well.

Furthermore, Hucrest Elementary held their first ever Camp Kellogg Science Camp this past June. I got the opportunity to teach their 5<sup>th</sup> grade students about different properties of water through some hands on experiments. The competition was on. One girl in the first group of the day placed 9 paperclips on the water's surface tension of her cup!

We continued running science programs with Casa de Belen and Boys &

Girls Club throughout the summer; teaching lessons and concocting fun experiments. This included making bouncy balls from scratch, mixing lava lamps together and



Surface tension demonstrated with paper clips (left), homemade lava lamps (right).



blowing bubble snakes from water bottles.

Umpqua Watersheds hosts an array of summer activities for both members and youth. I got to participate in our 31<sup>st</sup> annual River Appreciation Day event held at Whistler's Bend County Park where we had a salmon tent set up with story time for kids as well as a color table for whole family fun. On top of that we also had our 16<sup>th</sup> annual

Twin Lakes Youth Wilderness Camp-Out. We hiked into Twin Lakes and hosted a 2 night camping trip with lots of wilderness activities, including hikes, swimming, botany, owls, astronomy and more!

Although my time in the Umpqua is coming to an end there is always another adventure to be had and I'm certain I will come back and visit. I am sad to go, but I know that the AmeriCorps program and our next Education Outreach Coordinator member will carry on the legacy of this amazing organization and bring their own talents into the system. Every year this program grows and has so many opportunities for the local community. I believe that it will continue to expand and exude its passion for many years to come and I hope to come back and visit and witness its growth.

This unique region and its amazing people have left an imprint on my heart. Thank you for everything!

By Bailey Stein (outgoing AmeriCorps)

Hi my name is Christine Smith and I'm the new AmeriCorps member at Umpqua Watersheds. I'm originally from Ventura, CA, but I spent the last four years in Salem, Oregon pursuing a degree in environmental science and falling in love with the Pacific Northwest. I graduated in May 2017 from Willamette University and am excited to work with youth in environmental education! We're often seeking volunteers for our education programs. If interested, please contact our office at [541-672-7065](tel:541-672-7065).





# Umpqua Watersheds Business Partners

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

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Commonwealth Garden

541.839.6067 [commonwalth452@gmail.com](mailto:commonwalth452@gmail.com)

The Harvest Store

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Richard Chasm, Timberland Owner

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

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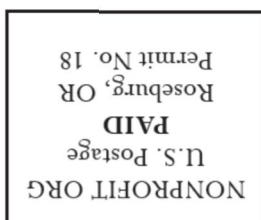
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