



# 100 Valleys

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

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

Winter 2017 | Issue 74

## President's Corner

by Stanley Petrowski

Greetings one and all. I hope you are enjoying the Holiday season. No rest for the weary here at Umpqua Watersheds. That's not a complaint. It's just a description of the reality we live in as modern day conservation/restoration advocates, especially here in Douglas County. Amidst the onslaught from the political arena to undo the many years of notable achievements by the conservation community, we continue to hope for the best. Our all-volunteer Board of Directors, most of whom sit as Committee Chairs within our growing organization, are constantly busy. The current social climate has galvanized our community to come together like never before.



Recently we did the Umpqua Watersheds' annual strategic plan review. Visionary ideas and an extensive aggressive agenda are the hallmark of this year's focus. The winter edition of the *100 Valleys* contains some of the major projects we are working on, but it by no means covers everything.

As we gathered as a Board to explore Umpqua Watersheds' future, one thing became very clear. Your financial support is the linchpin to success, both yours and ours, as we strive together for the health and well-being of our surrounding natural world. We hope this edition of the *100 Valleys* will inspire you to consider Umpqua Watersheds in your year-end giving.

Below is a list of critical projects which need financial support. Feel free to designate a particular project that you have a keen interest in seeing successfully implemented. If you would rather give to the general fund to help us keep the lights on - that would be most welcome. Let me remind you, whatever you give goes a long way to move this important work forward. Large donations or small, they are all important to us. We are a lean and mean organization. There are no frivolous expenditures in our budget.

Do you know friends and family that are also aware and concerned for the needs of our ecosystems? You can help us and them by building up our membership base. A membership application is included in this edition of the newsletter.

## Kasey's Corner

By Kasey Hovik, Executive Director

It has been a great year for Umpqua Watersheds. I am continually amazed about the dedication and persistence in the face of much opposition, and the heartfelt love for our community from the Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers of Umpqua Watersheds. Given the current state of politics in our country and county, it is easy to get discouraged and overwhelmed by the task of protecting the Umpqua Watersheds and beyond but we carry on and UW continues to make a difference. As I look back on the year, the faces of these people, the smiles and the energetic discussions we have had about how to move forward with limited resources and greater challenges to our mission than we have ever faced flash through my mind. In July we accepted a wonderful donation of the building from long-time supporter, John Stadter. It was the biggest donation Umpqua Watersheds has ever received and his contribution continues to inspire and enable us to accomplish great things for our beloved UW and the community. We have much to look forward to as we move together to ensure that the best is yet ahead for Umpqua Watersheds.



We hosted Umpqua Brew Fest VIII on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Close to 1,000 people attended the event. The Brew Fest not only serves as one of the major fundraisers for UW it also provides an opportunity to connect with people and organizations in our community. Once again FCR (John Stadter's company) supported the Brew Fest as our Title Sponsor. In addition to FCR, we had more event sponsors than ever before which helped us ensure a profitable event. We also had tremendous support from our local and regional breweries and distributors. For the first time, the Iron Chef competition sold out. The Brew Fest could not have happened without nearly 100 volunteers. Many thanks to our sponsors, volunteers and vendors who helped make UBF VIII a great success!

The challenges UW faces in 2018 to protect our watersheds is daunting but with your support we can achieve our lofty goals to protect and restore the Umpqua Watershed and beyond through education, training, advocacy and ecologically sound stewardship. We need your help! Our membership is half of what it was ten years ago. Please become a member or renew your membership today! The Staff and Board of Directors wish you Happy Holidays and a very prosperous New Year.

## 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.*

## Critical Projects Needing Support:

**Conservation:** Chronic Summer Low Flow Research: \$20K

**Restoration:** Umpqua Chub Data Research \$10K

Upper South Umpqua Spring Chinook Campaign \$10K

**KQUA-LP Radio:** Recording Studio and Equipment \$6K

Paid Program Manager \$15K

**WOW Committee:** Crater Lake Wilderness Campaign

**Education:** Consider a donation to SEEDS or Richard Sommer

**Douglas County Parks:** Donations needed to defend our parks.

**Outreach Committee:** 'Rejuvenation' Campaign

**Facility Management :** funding for building repairs and maintenance.

**Care to volunteer?** Have some extra time on your hands and want to use those hands with some of the organization's projects? We can always use your help.

## Something Fishy Going on Here

This is the first time I have written two restoration committee articles in one of the 100 Valleys newsletters. This topic is so critically important that I felt it necessitated special attention.

Recently Umpqua Watersheds held its annual strategic planning session for the Board of Directors. During that time, each Board member is asked to outline the top projects of importance for which they are focusing in the area of responsibility. As Chair of the Restoration Committee, I had three issues that demand my immediate attention. **The Umpqua Chub** (*Oregonichthys kalawatseti*) is one of them.

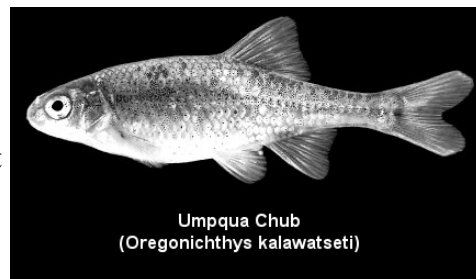
Most of you who receive this newsletter are sincere and deeply concerned conservation minded naturalists and environmentalists. We are grateful for that. Most of you are also familiar with the beautiful wilds of our eco-region and want to know what issues are most in need of our attention. Protection of our wildlife, vegetation and aquatic species have long been the rallying point of our supportive members. Restoring habitat and the abundance of its beleaguered residents is the *raison d'être* of the restoration committee. We face many wicked challenges here in the Umpqua watershed basin and its surrounding bio-region.

Since the 1990's it became apparent through the work of Douglas F. Markle and others that there was a unique chub specie found nowhere else in the world except in the Umpqua basin. It is the Umpqua Chub (*Oregonichthys kalawatseti*). The once Federally

listed Oregon Chub has recently been delisted thanks to the strategies applied by the science, academic and restoration ecology communities. The listing of the Oregon Chub brought the Umpqua Chub to the attention of agencies and stakeholder groups. This precious little minnow is experiencing a precipitous decline in its range of distribution and its population numbers.

Comparing the two images above it is plain to see that this rare little fish is on the verge of blipping off of the

radar screen of the natural world. My hope is that you will become as concerned about this tragic situation as I am. Time is of the essence.



## Here's What We Know

All of the government agencies that I am aware of understand that there is a decline of this specie. NGOs like the American Fisheries Society (AFS) and others are also watching what is going on in our basin. The Umpqua Dace and the Pike Minnow are also a matter of concern according to non-game species biologists. AFS held a work shop focusing on the Chub and other Umpqua non-game fish at an Upper South Umpqua river national forest camp ground some time back. It was a privilege to interact with knowledgeable people for the three days of that meeting.

It was then that I engaged the regional agency folks to see if there was any way for me to support the conservation plan for the Umpqua Chub. The biggest problem facing us is a lack of data. Some surveys have been done. The map images are a product of that. If you take a map of where the Umpqua Chub are located and overlay it with a map of where the Small Mouth Bass are located they are almost a 100% positive/negative of each other.

## What We Need

We can't do much for the Umpqua Chub without a clearer picture of the entire river system. We need more data! The Umpqua Basin is the largest geographical Oregon coastal ESU watershed. The strat-

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egy to date has been to survey the larger tributaries of the system and extrapolate to the entire system to determine the POTENTIAL population level. Previous surveys have been extremely useful but a survey of the entire basin needs to be conducted by an independent professional institution or contractor. So far no one has volunteered.

### What Is Being Done

Six key tributaries are marked for surveys. That effort has been thwarted by the responsible agency because they are constantly being called away from their projects, year after year, to deal with forest fires. There should be a release of newer results in the not too distant future. The problem is that we need hard data rather than extrapolated numbers based on modeling.

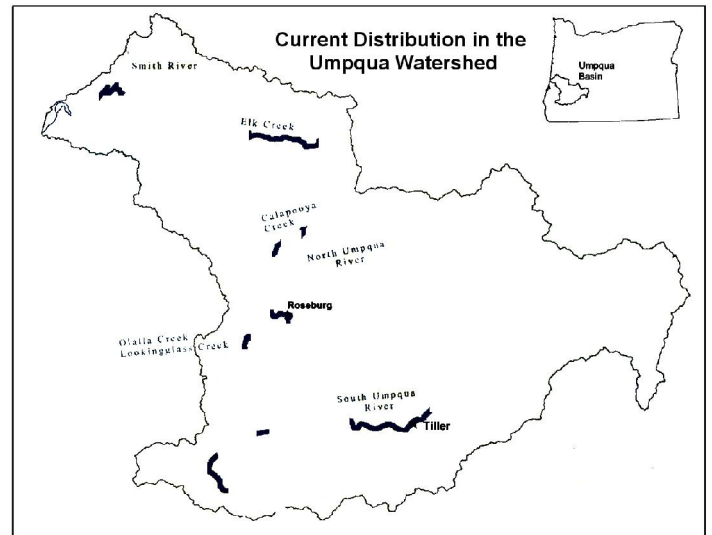
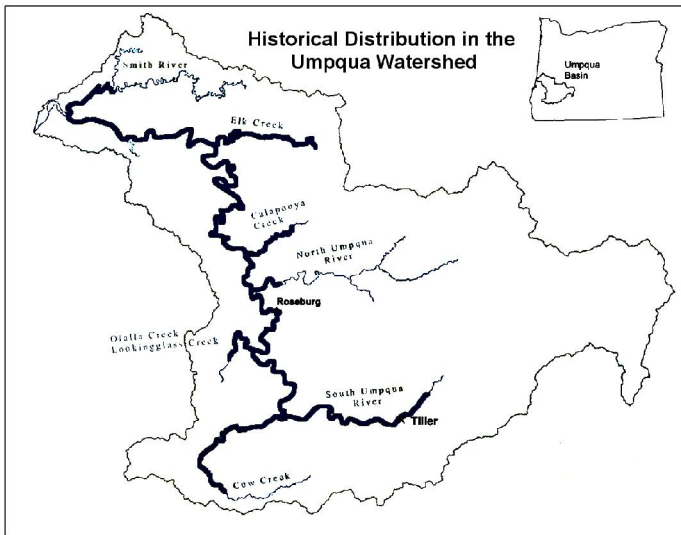
ODFW has at long last removed the limit of bass that can be caught in the Umpqua. This has been a long hard struggle for Alan Bunce, the UW outreach coordinator. He's seen the adverse impact of the bass for some time. As an avid snorkeler, he's

atory specie and taken off the status of "Game Fish" by the State of Oregon. Until the nightmare of the bass population is addressed, we are going to be hard pressed to find a solution to our quickly diminishing native fish species. Put a bounty on the accursed fish. Kids will be catching them all summer long. Organic farmers would love to use them as fertilizer.

I would be a hard thing to do since the Bass Fishing Lobby holds a lot of sway in the State of Oregon. Some of its greatest advocates have been federal and state agency people. It's crazy. We've got the proverbial fox guarding the chicken coop on that one.

### How to Move Forward

As stated previously - we need a full scale survey before any real action can take place. I doubt very much if the agencies have the time or money to do it. We need concerned members to form an action group. There needs to be a clear strategy and the initiation of a campaign. Any donation to the campaign would be tax deductible through an Umpqua Watersheds 501 (C) 3 non-profit status. If you are already inspired to give, specifically designate it to "Umpqua Chub" on the check or an attached note. You can send money



seen first-hand the voracious appetite these non-native predators have.

Here's the problem. There are **millions** of bass in the Umpqua river system. On top of that, most of the serious bass fishermen I know catch and release. Yep. You read that right. Their theory is that the big fish eat the little fish. If we catch and keep the large ones it will only cause the small ones to multiply all the more.

That's a faulty premise as far as I am concerned. Why don't we handle all of the noxious invasive species that way? We don't. We aggressively seek to eliminate them. It should be the same for the bass. They need to be recognized as a noxious pred-

via your PayPal account to Umpqua Watersheds with a note citing the Umpqua Chub Fund. Visit the Umpqua Watersheds website ([www.umpquawatersheds.org](http://www.umpquawatersheds.org)).

If you are not able to contribute financially - you can still help us by encouraging others to contribute to this vital work or actively building the campaign. I want to remind you that the heart and soul of Umpqua Watersheds is based on the volunteer work of Umpqua Watersheds members and especially the Board of Directors. A small fraction of all donations goes to keep the lights on at the office. Finally, please, please, do not let this fish disappear in our days.



## Restoration Committee... by Stan Petrowski Regaining Some of What Has Been Lost

Beginning in 2012 (I know, that seems like a long time ago), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) began its process of developing the latest version of the Oregon Coastal Multi-species Conservation and Management Plan. It took two years to come to the final iteration of “the Plan”. Stakeholders meetings were held across the State. Input was received from many venues. Tribes, anglers, fishing guides, commercial interests, scientists, scholars and conservationists all chimed in to submit their point of view. Policies were reviewed and the viability of fish populations was vetted over and again.

### A Voice for the Voiceless

We at Umpqua Watersheds were deeply involved in the process. The targets of our interest had a wide range. Of first consideration was the status of currently listed **species** throughout the Oregon Coastal ESU (Evolutionary Significant Unit). Long discussions were had regarding the metrics by which a population of fish should be considered viable. A ball park estimate of the current standard consists of the likelihood of particular fish species or fish run lasting 100 years. I know 100 years **sounds** like a long time. When I consider the fact that I am seventy years old and that my mother-in-law recently passed to the other side at the age of 94 years and four months, a century isn't that far out of reach after all. Consistently we pushed for the recognition that historical fish count numbers reaching as far back as the European pre-contact era are the only real true standards by which the health of our fish populations should be judged. Our view did not gain much traction. If that standard were used, the miserable conditions of our fish populations would be too well known. The argument against it was that historical numbers would never be attainable since the environment has been too much altered.

That view is cynical. It seems to me that we are not being careful enough. The complexity of the formula used to set this standard is being created in a historical vacuum. We're not setting the bar of the goal high enough for the comfort of many conservationists.

### The South Umpqua Premature Migrating Chinook-Our Springers

Among many other targets we were particularly concerned about was our own Umpqua Basin South Umpqua Spring Chinook run. I have been shouting the alarm bells regarding this most precious fish population for many years. When “The Plan” was being developed, the upper South Umpqua run was

considered in the “Green” or healthy category. This idea was based on the premise that the Spring Chinook run of the Coastal ESU was “viable”. A significant problem also is the fact that all Chinook are lumped into one specie category. *A Chinook is a Chinook regardless of its migration cycle* was the fundamental premise guiding decision making. Fall and spring Chinook were gathered into one specie category. With the support of other conservationists and against much resistance a review was made of the South Umpqua Spring Chinook run numbers. We persisted and managed to persuade the State to make a change. The Springers were shifted to the “Amber” category. That meant that they agency was concerned somewhat at the state of that particular fish population.

### A History of Decline

Annual counts have been made of these fish for many years. Studies and surveys done in the 1930's showed a fully seeded fish population. Come to the present and the average number of Chinook over summering throughout the entire upper south fork (many pools) is 177 fish. Let that sink in. *An average of 177 Spring Chinook represented the total population in the entire south river fork.* With the voice of the Cow Creek Umpqua Indians along with other voices (including much further wrangling), ODFW placed the Upper South Umpqua Spring Chinook in the “Red” category.

That meant that they could not be fished in the South Umpqua fork. It meant that this run was considered a matter of concern. Still, the springers could be fished for on the main stem of the river without a problem, which translated that some of these Spring Chinook could inadvertently be caught during the annual Chinook fishing season in the Umpqua.

ODFW wouldn't budge. There would be too much push back from anglers, guides and businesses if the South Umpqua springers would be protected by the State by blocking Chinook fishing on the main stem of the Umpqua River too.

### Strongholds of Limitation

The concern and struggle for the Upper South Umpqua “premature migrating” Chinook continues. Can you fathom losing these fish on your “watch”? I cannot. In the midst of the din of the world's problems it's easy to lose sight of the concerns most near us.

Another factor is our tendency to place the responsibility of change on those charged by us to watch on our behalf. This cultivates a sense of distance from the reality that we are people of place. This is *our river system*. These are *our fish*. The agencies do not own them. (Continued on page 10)

## WE NEED YOU!

More specifically, we need your eyes and ears. Umpqua Watersheds has long relied on community involvement to notify us of harmful activities within our region. We are now seeking help from volunteers to perform both terrestrial and aquatic monitoring to ensure the health of our forests and rivers.

Surely you've heard stories of industrial activities that have harmed residents, and even whole communities, in rural Oregon. Fatal landslides from steep, saturated hillsides left barren; the spray drift incidents in Tiller, Triangle Lake, Rockaway Beach, and Gold Beach to name just a few, happen far too often, and with very little pre/post monitoring. Many times residents have no idea that there's a spray activity happening in their area, leaving their families, pets and livestock, as well as their water supply vulnerable to harmful overspray.

Here's where you come in. Using the new FERNs system of the Oregon Department of Forestry, citizens can now monitor forestry-related activities that fall under the Oregon Forest Practices Act, such as logging, road building, and spraying. And unlike in the past, you will not be forced to pay for the information. Furthermore, you can now draw out a map, or maps, of exactly where you want to monitor, and receive email alerts, notifications, related maps, and written plans sent to your computer or mobile device. You'll then be able to file comments within 14 days of a notification.

In the coming months, Umpqua Watersheds will hold a class for those interested in learning the FERNs system and becoming volunteer monitors. We hope to have enough people to monitor the entire Umpqua Basin and beyond.

On the Aquatic side, we are currently coordinating with state and federal agencies to create a volunteer water quality monitoring training program. Volunteers will collect data on such things as temperature, sediment and turbidity, e-coli, pH balance, pesticides, and macroinvertebrates.

So, if you'd like to help with water quality monitoring, or adopt and area via the FERNs system please contact us at [Alan@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:Alan@umpquawatersheds.org), as your eyes and ears are needed.

Looking back over the year's outreach efforts, the first thing that I must say is.... THANK YOU! Thank you to all of those who came out in support, donated to our efforts, or volunteered your time and energy to make our events truly special. We can't thank you enough.

Some of the highlights of 2017: 3 Crater Lake Snowshoe hikes, MLK Day and St Paddy's Day River Cleanups, tabling at the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, annual Banquet & Auction, the movie showing of *Uncage the Soul Productions'* MENDING THE LINE featuring our beloved Jeanne and Frank Moore,



booth at Earth Day and Energy Fair, River Appreciation Day, Twin Lakes Youth Wilderness Camp, Umpqua Brewfest 8, and the Fall Mushroom Hike.

Mother Nature visited us this year in the form of wildfires and inclement weather, causing several events to be cancelled. A full RSVP list revealed that many were looking forward to the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Crater Lake Hike Bonanza, only to have it cancelled due to the fires.

All in all, I'm pleased with the effort for the year, as we once again reached over 2,000 people and that's not counting the hundreds of youth from our Classroom at Crater Lake education trips or our radio outreach via KQUA, which reaches all of Roseburg and beyond!

Once again, it truly takes a village, and it's uplifting to see the community support we've had this year. To all of those who have offered support this year.....THANK YOU...Alan Bunce

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT by Ken Carloni

Your Education Committee continues to work hard to create opportunities for student of all ages to learn about their natural world and put that knowledge to work. Here are a couple of highlights:



### New Pathways for Natural Resources Students:

I'm pleased to announce that just last week Umpqua Community College (UCC) approved a new two-year Associate of Science degree program in *Fisheries and Wildlife Science*! This will complement our existing *Natural Resources* and *Restoration and Fire AS* (Associate of Science) degrees, and give students another pathway from high school, through UCC and a seamless transfer to OSU (Oregon State University) to complete their Bachelor's degree. In the coming months, I will again be working with my counterparts in OSU's College of Forestry to develop a *Recreation Resource Management AS* degree, and will be working with UCC colleagues to develop a *Tourism, Recreation and Adventure Leadership AS* degree that will complete a suite of programs aimed at future land stewards.

**Baja Ed-venture March 22 to Apr. 1, 2018:** We will be heading south of the border for our third Baja tour over spring break! This year I'm excited to be joined by another UCC professor: Matt Hunter. Matt is an expert birder and zoologist, and I'm looking forward to teaching and learning with him on the tour. Last year we petted baby whales (really!), saw California Condors close-up, botanized through 7 ecoregions, snorkeled with colorful fish in the Gulf of Mexico, gazed on 7000 year-old cave paintings, on our awe-inspiring edutour. Students are signing up now, and I will know in early January if there are any extra seats. If you would like to join us on the tour, please let me know ASAP and I will put you in the cue on a first come, first served basis. The tour fee of \$790 covers all, transportation, food, camping, whale watching and park fees. Email me at [ken.carloni@umpqua](mailto:ken.carloni@umpqua) for a draft itinerary and links to maps of our journey.





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



### CHRONIC LOW SUMMER STREAM FLOWS AND WHAT WE AIM TO DO ABOUT IT

#### Background

Umpqua Watersheds (UW), the South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership (SURCP) and other individuals and organizations in the wider

Conservation Community, have long been concerned with the apparent depleted summer flows so much in evidence on watersheds in the Coast Range, on the West Slope of the Cascades and beyond. Needless to say, records show that anadromous fish runs were strong and varied before the vast conversion of primary old growth and mature forest to Douglas Fir plantations occurred, over decades, on millions of acres of forested lands public and private.

Anecdotally, we have heard long time area residents say that water well levels were higher and more persistent, and that many smaller streams ran all year, while river flows were colder, cleaner and higher during typical summer months, before so much of our native forests were liquidated.

Intuitively, we have long suspected a myopic adherence to the vaunted sustained yield paradigm, and its repeated and continuing clear cut imposition on the private industrial lands in the checkerboard of alternating ownerships, as being a significant factor in unnaturally low summer stream flows. Now, pouring salt into past environmental wounds, the BLM (including in our area the Roseburg and Coos Bay Districts), has begun, once more, to propose and offer timber sales, which would impose yet more large canopy openings on the public lands in this unfortunate “checkerboard” of alternating ownerships.

#### A New Paired Stream Study Published

In 2016, we received a preliminary copy of a seminal academic paper that collated and interpreted paired stream studies, of some 40 to 60 years duration, conducted by the USFS on the H.J. Andrews (Willamette NF) and the South Umpqua (Umpqua NF) Experimental Forests. After carefully reading the final iteration of this important paper, the Perry-Jones 2017 study, we at UW experienced what might well be called an “a ha!” moment.

Originating out of OSU, and based upon decades worth of hard USFS paired streamflow data, Perry-Jones 2017 shows, conclusively, that if the primary forest on a given watershed is converted to plantation at a rate of half or more, that watershed's attendant stream, the “treated” stream, exhibits only 50% of the summer flow present on its unlogged “reference” stream. This alarming result was consistent across all of the stream pairs and

harvest configurations included in the study, on both experimental forests. Perry-Jones indicates that this depleted summer flow is persistent in the data throughout its 40 to 60 year duration. How long it persists is as yet unknown, as longer running data, insofar as UW is aware, has yet to be acquired and made public.

Needless to say, the hydrological implications of Perry-Jones are dire and, as we and others fear, are very likely being felt region-wide, where so much of the primary forest has been liquidated and converted to monoculture, fiber farm plantations. Sadly, watersheds that have not been similarly subjected to this myopically applied sustained yield paradigm are few and far between. One needn't look very hard or long in either Douglas or Coos Counties for graphic evidence of this condition. Repeated requests from UW and others to examine, recognize and address chronic summer low flows resulting from forest management practices have consistently been rebuffed by the BLM, while modest riparian improvements to the archaic Oregon Forest Practices Act are simply not enough to satisfy outstanding aquatic needs. Clearly, these beleaguered watersheds cry out for change.

In fact, we are convinced that the well supported implications of the Perry-Jones paper have the potential to effect significant and much needed change, landscape-wide. Indeed, we are convinced that they may well have powerful implications across all forest ownerships: federal, state and private industrial, going forward. After all, is it any wonder that a small-stream, cold water dependent species like the Oregon Coastal Coho Salmon is struggling to recover its past vigor and abundance, at the same time that a warm water interloper like the Small Mouth Bass continues to colonize rivers like the Coquille and South Umpqua? Moreover, in its most recent published plan for the recovery of Oregon Coastal Coho, NMFS identified habitat destruction in the uplands, especially timber management, as a continued impediment to the conservation and ultimate recovery of this benchmark salmon species. Low flow is very much a part of this restoration barrier.

And, as much as we are all deeply concerned with the impacts of chronic low summer flows on imperiled aquatic species, ESA listed or not, we must also be mindful of the constraints, over

time, chronically depleted summer flows must impose upon human water needs as well: abundant clean, cold water for drinking, irrigation, industry and not least, recreation.

UW has had opportunity to bring this seminal science to the fore in several instances, and we



have not hesitated to do so. UW's comments and formal protests of the Daydream and Woodchuck Timber Sales (parts of the Days Creek-South Umpqua Harvest Plan) on sites barely thirty miles downriver from where a good deal of the Perry-Jones flow data was collected, as well as our comments, protest and appeal of the Semaphore Timber Sale (part of the Olalla-Camas Regeneration Plan) are still pending. In the case of Semaphore, and against strong opposition, UW has been granted formal standing to bring this appeal before the Interior Board of Land Appeals, in Arlington Virginia. To date, the BLM has denied that the well supported hydrological conclusions of Perry-Jones have any relevance to any of their extractive proposals, a denial UW strongly disputes.

## WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR

Umpqua Watersheds has been spreading the word and working hard to gather support for this effort from the regional Conservation Community. We feel that this seminal issue deserves to be heard by the wider public, and, if necessary, addressed in federal and state courts, as well. With that latter strong possibility in mind, we have reached out to such well known experts as Dr. Christopher Frissell, a freshwater aquatic ecologist of the first order, and Jon Rhodes, a hydrological expert of long experience and high standing, seeking professional science based confirmations of our strong surmise of a current and chronic low flow condition. An envisioned outcome of this research would be to firmly establish the relevance of the Perry-Jones conclusions to areas outside the boundaries of the two experimental forests, even region-wide. After all, how many of our regional watersheds have not seen widespread conversion of native forest to plantation over past decades? Few that we are aware of! How many landscapes within the western Oregon "checkerboard" are not scarred with new and recent private industrial clear cuts today?

Frissell and Rhodes estimate a cost of some \$25,000 and a time frame of approximately eight weeks to accomplish the research requisite for making a powerful and convincing case to public land managers and, if necessary, before the federal (and perhaps state) judiciary, as well as in the all important court of public opinion. Three members of the UW Board of Directors have made a personal collective commitment of \$4,000, intended as "seed money" in the effort to attract funding. We have been actively reaching out to various possible sources and remain hopeful that we can acquire the funds necessary to move this campaign forward. We ask for your support.

In the last issue and in this issue, we mention the considerable time and energy Umpqua Watersheds' Conservation and Restoration Committee Chairs have invested in the effort to bring what we see as a chronically depleted summer flow condition in area streams and rivers to the attention of management agencies, the wider conservation community and the general public.

We also reported on the several protests and one appeal we filed against certain timber sales offered by

the BLM. We have objected to yet more relatively large public land openings on watersheds already rife with large clear cuts on the intervening private industrial lands within the "checkerboard" ownerships. UW has cited a suite of harmful negative impacts to the high functioning of these natural systems. These are the legacy of a sad, decades-long history of the conversion of millions of acres of primary old growth and mature forests to corn row, monoculture plantations, across all ownerships. These environmental harms are repeatedly worsened, even magnified, by the short rotation clear cut, herbicide, fiber farm, forest road spider web, plantation system on lands owned and managed by "Big Timber". We have emphasized the above-mentioned low summer flow depletion prominently in these protests.

UW's referral of the Semaphore Timber Sale to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) remains in a holding pattern, as this is written. On the plus side, and against strong arguments made by a bevy of well supported attorneys representing the Department of the Interior Regional BLM, Seneca Jones, County Commissioners and others, I have been granted formal "standing" to bring this appeal, before that board on UW's behalf. However, defying simple logic, the IBLA simultaneously denied our petition for a "stay" of the actual logging prescribed for Semaphore. This sale is comprised of what foresters euphemistically call "regeneration harvests." While these public land versions of the infamous clear cut, do require some scattered green tree retention and riparian buffers that are far better than what may be seen following private land clear cuts, it is critical to recall the above-mentioned history of vast old growth extraction on these watersheds, and the actual current condition of the alternating private ownerships. We are convinced that it is a breach of the public trust, not to mention the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Water Act for the BLM to proceed as planned.

We had hoped that the Semaphore logging would be postponed until after the rainy season, in the hopes that our appeal of Semaphore would prevail. However, a portion of that sale, Unit #5 has already been cut. In the decision document awarding the Semaphore to a subsidiary of the Seneca Jones Corporation, the Roseburg BLM declared this unit to be an 88 year-old stand. You may well imagine our shock and disappointment on seeing large, old growth trees among the stems



cut and decked along the paved forest road that bisects Unit 5. Two representative logs we paused to carefully count rings on, totaled some 250 years! Please understand, there is never a valid ecological reason to cut old growth trees of this stature and importance. For reasons



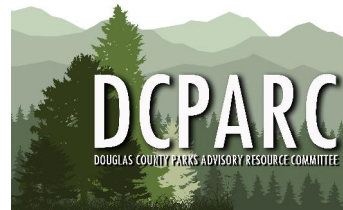
of human safety? Yes, perhaps. For the further financial enrichment of mill owners and others? Some might well say yes. To aid in the desperate need for restoration of ecological function on these beleaguered watersheds? Never!

Various districts of the BLM are under pressure to offer more of these relatively large canopy openings into the landscapes of the “checkerboard.” Coupled with this current threat to conservation and restoration, BLM’s new Regional Management Plan (RMP), has effectively halved the width of many of the riparian buffers instituted under the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) of the Northwest Forest Plan. The new RMP also allows the cutting of old growth/mature trees below 40 inches measured at breast height, and younger than 160 years. (Umpqua Watersheds is currently an intervenor in a case before the Federal Judiciary, challenging the legitimacy of this regional plan.)

As if these diminished environmental protections were not harmful enough, retrograde legislation pending in the Congress insists on greatly increasing the allowable cut on BLM and USFS holdings, while also greatly expanding the acreage opened for extraction under what are called Categorical Exclusions (CE). These CE timber sales would be conducted mostly outside the NEPA and other regulatory processes, by which the public and their representative organizations provide input and, if need be, criticisms, protests and appeals of what they see as counterproductive public land management activities.

UW members and friends will recall that the 1937 O&C Act’s historically over-applied sustained yield extractive provisions have been, and continue to be, cited as reason enough to resume greatly increased logging on public lands in the Oregon Coast Range and West Slope Cascades. However, the O&C Act also insisted that our watersheds be protected, streamflows regulated and recreation provided for, across all ownerships. These, the ancillary “environmental” mandates of that dated legislation, are too often effectively ignored within the infamous checkerboard but, most definitely, they have not been congressionally removed from the language of the act. We at UW continue to highlight the degree to which they may have been circumvented by past, gross over-extraction of native forest across the watersheds of Western Oregon. We continue to insist that these ecological considerations, which were seen as environmentally necessary in 1937, are even more critical today.

Current extractive actions, on public and private lands, which we believe only add to the already degraded condition of so many of the streams and rivers of our watersheds coupled with the veritable tsunami of reactionary legislative threats emanating from the Trump Administration and its allies in the Congress, lend a good deal of urgency to UW’s conservation efforts, as well as to its proactive strategies. Prominent among these is our campaign to fund the research that will help to prove the widespread relevance of the long term low flow data acquired by hydrological scientists of the Forest Service, (Perry-Jones 2017 study, from OSU). Again, in this hour of increased threat to the priceless and already degraded watersheds we all call home, UW asks for your support.



By John Hunter

2017 has been a busy year for DCPARC, our first full year as a committee under the Umpqua Watersheds umbrella.

We continue to attend meetings and presentations and are active in writing to our elected representatives in continuing our efforts to bring greater transparency and better representation to our County government in order to protect our County parks and natural resources.

We had a booth at the UW Brewfest in October. We were honored to have Dr. Dave Braun, world renowned Arboriculturalist, at our booth. He had a display of samples from 5 conifer stumps he collected last spring from Busenbark. (See photo) Upon completion of this project, UW will have a permanent record of some of the truly Majestic trees that once stood at Busenbark. Thank you Dave!

In November DCPARC was proud to be part of the Watersheds annual mushroom hike at Iverson Park. Thirty seven people from around the County attended and enjoyed the beauty of Iverson Park as well as the mushroom harvest education.

Thanks to Kat Stone we have been able to have a recurrent presence at the twice weekly Board of Commissioner (BOC) meetings, monitoring their activities is of paramount importance.



Also, we have maintained a monthly presence at the Parks Advisory Board meetings. The turnover on their board has become an issue. As of this writing, 2 positions have yet to be filled. Two applications have been received. Both are attorneys, educated and passionate about Parks, with varied experience. Diana Wales, once again applied, and they chose to seek more applicants. Robert Johnson, a Douglas High JV Basketball coach and a practicing Roseburg attorney had also made an early application. It is

curious to note that the PAB meetings for November and December were canceled, (Makes one wonder what 2018 will bring?) By attending meetings of Committee Citizen Involvement (CCI), Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), and Planning Commission allows us to track the activities of the County Planning Dept. On December 14th there will be a 2nd hearing on the proposed OHV Park at the former Lookingglass transfer site. We plan to attend, and urge others to attend as well. No matter the decision that night, this controversial issue will probably end up in court.

2018 promises to be a challenging one for everyone in the Umpqua Watershed. Both Commissioners Chris Boice and Tim Freeman are running for reelection in May. The 2018-2019 Budget Hearing “informational” meetings have already started and the parks are still being run “like a business.” With your support DCPARC will continue to monitor these issues. As well as to continue questioning the BOC about their use of Title III funds. Join us the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 pm at the Watersheds office for monthly meetings. Remember Busenbark!



## Volunteer Corner ....



Do you make New Year Resolutions? If you do, please place volunteering with Umpqua Watersheds high on your list. If you haven't made New Year Resolutions in the past, please consider making just one. **Umpqua Watersheds committees are in need of your support and help to make progress and succeed in the work being done.** The committee meetings schedules are posted in the newsletter. You can decide to check out a committee meeting and learn first-hand about the issues and projects Umpqua Watersheds is working on. You will not be put on the spot. There is strength in numbers. Please fortify Umpqua Watersheds. Thanks.. Diana Pace, Volunteer Coordinator

All good things....Well, the dust is settling from our building acquisition and the realization is setting in. Now that Umpqua Watersheds owns the office building, we have a few maintenance and upgrade items that we need to address. The Facility Management Committee has been busy getting a list together. Monetary contributions are not the exclusive way that we think that you can contribute. We would like to ask our members who have skills, materials and/or funds to help with these upgrades or maintenance. If you have skills that can help us with **plumbing, roofing, interior repair (dry wall or plaster), cabinetry, carpentry, renovation or building security** and would like to donate your time or work for a reduced rate, we could use your contribution. If you would like to help with a cash donation instead, indicate the building maintenance fund on your contribution. Our first priority is the roof repair and then the interior restoration resulting from the leak in the roof. Please contact John Hunter at [goldenarchie46@yahoo.com](mailto:goldenarchie46@yahoo.com) if you would like to help.

## Get Involved! Join a Committee.

### 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)

### Facility Management

**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
1 <sup>st</sup> week	Conservation 6pm	Facility Mgt 6pm		Radio 530pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> week		Education 6pm		Radio 530pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> week	BOD 6pm	Restoration 5pm	DCPARC 6pm	Radio 530pm
4 <sup>th</sup> week				Radio 530pm
Last week			WOW 6pm	

(Restoration, continued from page 4) They are charged to care for them on behalf of the public. They get paid to do this. When shortfalls occur and standards fail, it is our duty to rise to the occasion. I will be the first to admit that the agencies are swamped with work. It is all the more reason for us to be vocal and active when we see something seriously overlooked. Don't get me wrong. Many agency personnel I have worked with really do care. The scope of their task and limited budgets goes a long way to cripple them. Add to that the intransigence of archaic policies and the dimension of politics and we have a formula for a stagnant system.

### Science and the Courts

Sometimes the forces working against the preservation of some critical component of our ecosystem just becomes too unwieldy to address by negotiation. That is the case with the Northern Spotted Owl and many other listed species. Or perhaps there just aren't enough resources available to properly solve a problem of critical concern. In times like those, science and the courts become the only venue to compel the system to respond to the emergency.

This is relevant to the very precarious situation our premature migrating South Umpqua Spring Chinook are in. Last November I attended the annual Native Fish Society River Stewards retreat. We had a fantastic presentation from Tasha Thompson, a UC Davis salmon genetics grad student. Her talk on the genetic differences found in Fall and Spring Chinook populations filled me with fear, awe and hope. The stunning results of the research show that indeed the premature migrating Chinook are distinctly different. What makes them different from the Fall Chinook is a mutation that took place **once**, long ago, in geologic time scales. There are serious implications. Once the Springers die off, Chinook salmon are not likely to experience the change that secured this unique life history mechanism for survivability. The loss of this biodiversity would be tragic. The same is true for the South Umpqua Summer Steelhead and they have already been declared extinct!

### Agencies to the Rescue! Not Quite

I know reputable scientists and biologists that have been saying for years what this study proved and yet the agencies refused to list the Springers under

the Endangered Species Act (ESA.) The Karuk tribe of Northern California sought to have their imperiled Spring Chinook run protected under the ESA but was rejected by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Their petition was turned down on the basis that there wasn't a distinction between Fall and Spring fish. As of late last summer the tribe is resubmitting their petition based on the new findings.

### Who is Concerned About the Umpqua Spring Chinook Run?

With the long history of agency reticence to list various species as threatened or endangered I wonder what the outcome of our springers will be. The situation gets spookier since the current administration in Washington is doing all it can to undermine the Endangered Species Act and the NEPA process.

I intend to keep raising my voice for the Umpqua fish. As a proponent of restoration ecology, and Chair of the Restoration Committee at Umpqua Watersheds, I am asking all of those who love this exceptional majestic keystone specie -- and this fragile fish run specifically, to join forces with us to make sure they are not lost forever. This fish run is a particular focus of the restoration committee. We have a strategy to move forward but we need boots

on the ground and resources to implement it. Interested? Send me an email or visit us at our Restoration Committee meetings. You are needed.

### The Story On Line

Below are a series of links that will give you the scope and scale of the science and its results.

<https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/study-reveals-evolutionary-history-imperiled-salmon-stocks/>

<http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/3/8/e1603198.full>

<http://www.times-standard.com/article/NJ/20170817/NEWS/170819830>

## Wild On Wilderness.... Bob Hoehne

The Wild On Wilderness Committee "WOW" is a team of mostly volunteers working toward permanent wilderness protection of some of the back country areas of the Umpqua National Forest.

This effort is called "The Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal" since it also includes Crater Lake National Park. It would add a layer of wilderness protection for the park and the designated additions. The named areas outside of the park are the very headwaters of the North Umpqua, South Umpqua, Rogue and Klamath Rivers and part of the



Deschutes River. Wilderness status will provide a number of economic benefits to Oregon. These include clean drinking water, essential habitat for fish and wildlife, outstanding opportunities for recreation, and scientific and educational research. Recreation itself is a major business in this state bordered by the ocean. Our forests and rivers have been evolving slowly over the millennia and deserve all we can do to protect them to ensure our survival. We know that most of the salmon and steelhead runs in the area are either threatened or endangered. One example is the barely surviving

Spring Chinook run on the South Umpqua River. This proposal will help ensure protection and survival of these forests which provide the cold clean water these fish need to survive. Readers have many opportunities to volunteer and help out with this important and crucial project. Contact the Wild On Wilderness Committee of Umpqua Watersheds.



### AmeriCorps Voice...Christine Smith

The first couple of months with Umpqua Watersheds have really flown by! Continuing educational programs created by my predecessors inspires me every

lesson and gives me hope for the future. Students are engaged in the lessons they are learning and are excited to learn more about our remarkable planet.

Science Wednesday has been a fun six week program with fifth graders at Fir Grove Elementary and I will continue this program with Eastwood elementary in the spring. Students at Fir Grove have experimented with the properties of water, created rain clouds to see the water cycle in action and learned more about weather and climate.

Classroom at Crater Lake has been an awesome opportunity for fifth graders of Douglas County thanks to the continued generosity of the Gray Family Foundation. It has been a truly incredible experience to witness students experiencing the Crater Lake National Park for the first time. Students marvel at the deep blue of Crater Lake and learn from the rangers to respect



themselves, others and nature. One class of fifth graders was greeted by inches of snow, allowing us the opportunity to snowshoe along the rim of Crater Lake. I overheard one student exclaim that they wanted to repeat fifth grade just to go on the Crater Lake trip again and it warmed my heart. My own path to environmental education began at a national park and has led



me to this amazing path of witnessing and mentoring future environmental stewards.

Forest Thursday is an environmental art program

at the Boys & Girls Club of the Umpqua Valley. We have a lot of crafty fun while completing art projects related to science and forests. The youth are so bright and curious about the workings of the planet.

I am currently working on a volunteer clean-up project on Monday, January 15; this is Martin Luther King Day: "A day on, not a day off." I look forward to bringing the community together to keep our parks and rivers clean and beautiful. Stay tuned and come volunteer outside with us! .

With the upcoming Science Olympiad program at Douglas High School and continued education programs with Science Wednesday and the like, I am always looking for additional volunteers. Do you have a lot of knowledge about remote sensing? Are you an expert in another scientific field? Please contact me if you can share your knowledge of a scientific topic and mentor a Science Olympiad student or volunteer in another way. My email is [uw.americorps@gmail.com](mailto:uw.americorps@gmail.com). Want to keep up with what we are doing in the education world?

Follow the education blog: <https://umpquaeducation.wordpress.com/>

## KQUA for the Holidays....Patrick Schneider

This year, give the gift that keeps giving. Ask your friends and family to listen to 99.7 KQUA this holiday season. Unlike many gifts you'll receive this year, only 99.7 will be something that can be cherished every day.

The one gift KQUA will give this year to its listeners will be a Christmas music-free holiday season. The results from our Facebook poll showed 54% didn't want to hear Christmas music on 99.7 KQUA. We also considered a scientific report that suggests that [Christmas music is bad for people's health](#).

However, that didn't stop us from planning the biggest New Years on-air party. Beginning New Years eve and into New Years day, 99.7 KQUA will be spinning dance and electronic music by as many as five local DJ's. Tune in at 9 p.m. New Years eve and be prepared to dance those holiday pounds off.

We will have another special gift for our listeners. After the first of the year, 99.7 KQUA will have bumper stickers to give out. Details on how a person can get their very own 99.7 KQUA bumper sticker coming soon.

99.7 KQUA can be found online at [KQUA.org](http://KQUA.org) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/KQUARadio](https://facebook.com/KQUARadio). If you haven't liked us yet, do so now. Unfortunately we aren't streaming at the moment.

After the first of the year, 99.7 KQUA hopes to be streaming online. However, that can only be accomplished with the community's help. 99.7 KQUA needs to raise funds to make this happen.

99.7 KQUA is currently seeking volunteers to help us. By joining now, you can be a part of a rewarding experience and something which could prove to be very huge in the future.



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