



# 100 Valleys

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

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

Summer 2018 | Issue 76

## AmeriCorps Voice...Christine Smith

I have spent hours reflecting on my experience in Roseburg as my AmeriCorps year approaches the end of its season. The sun has finally broken through the clouds of the gloomier seasons and illuminated what a life changing experience living in Roseburg has been for me. Finding a sense of place is an essential part of the human experience. When one feels ties to a place, they are inclined to act as a steward towards it. My niche in Roseburg has expanded and I love experiencing the community here.

I came into this position with many goals for my time here. First and foremost, I wanted to develop my skills in working with youth. I dream of one day working at a national park, donning that ranger cap every morning and inspiring the bus loads of youth as they arrive to the park, in the same way that I was first inspired in fourth grade. Once I graduated college, I knew I needed more experience with youth to be fully qualified for such a position and environmental education at Umpqua Watersheds was the perfect fit. I've jumped on every opportunity to work with youth in the area that has come my way and that has made this position so fulfilling. In the last few months, I completed my 10 week Science Wednesday program at Eastwood School, attended the Science Olympiad competition at Oregon State University, went to Crater Lake with North Umpqua Elementary, and kicked off the start of summer camp season, among other things.

The most recent field trip with fifth graders to Crater Lake thanks to the



grant from the Gray Family Foundation was especially marvelous. North Umpqua Elementary picked me up on Diamond Lake Boulevard on the way to the park and when I hopped on the bus, the students were so excited that I was joining them. They could hardly contain their excitement to get to the park. As the bus trucked along, one student turned to me and said "I'm the first one in my whole family to go to Crater Lake! My parents and siblings have never gone; we couldn't afford it."

This struck a chord with me; this is why we create such opportunities for students! The student continued to be enthusiastic the rest of the day and was eager to capture photos of every moment so they could share it with their dad who couldn't chaperone the trip because he was at work.

An approaching thunderstorm made the lake look extra gorgeous with the surrounding clouds. The students hung onto every word the ranger told them. She taught the class about environmental stewardship before we

snowshoed along the rim. The students then had a unique opportunity to be citizen scientists in the park and study the hemlock trees. It was so neat to see the gears turn in their head as they processed the adaptations trees have. It is sure to be a lasting memory for all of them.

If you attended our wonderful banquet in April, you heard me gush about how much I love Science Wednesday. I got to spend so much time with fifth graders at Eastwood teaching them about tree rings, compass navigation, water chemistry, and many more topics throughout the 10 weeks of the after school



## Our Mission:

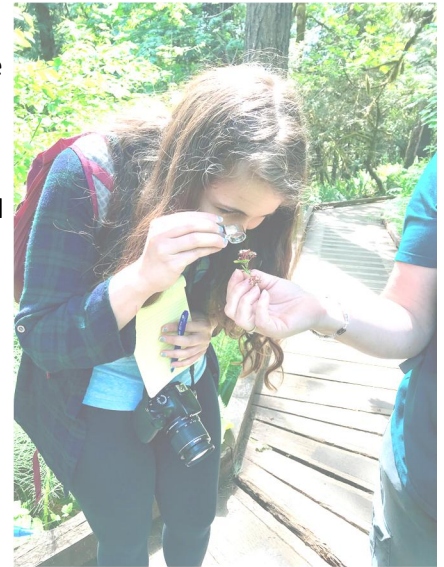
*Umpqua Watersheds is dedicated to the protection and restoration of the ecosystems of the Umpqua watershed and beyond through education, training, advocacy and ecologically sound stewardship.*

program. The weather was often in our favor this season, allowing us to venture outside and explore some topics we were discussing firsthand. The weather also allowed us to practice our compass and GPS skills for a final week of a review game in the form of geocaching.

A couple weeks after our final Science Wednesday at Eastwood, I returned to the beautiful campus for Camp Eastwood. I led a group of 12 students to their classes for the week and on hikes on the nature trails. The students explored topics such as “Tree Talk”, fire safety, Fibonacci in nature, and many more. I also camped out with the students and was amazed by the awesome community atmosphere among the students and the wide variety of topics that were shared with them in the outdoors.

Another unique experience in the community was with Science Olympiad at Douglas High School. This extracurricular is a bit like academic decathlon in that it is

surrounded by friends all of the time to moving to a town where I didn’t know anyone, but I have found supportive and passionate individuals who have enhanced the experience and I am constantly learning from them. This community reaches into my work too. I have created new connections with groups like Blue Zones Project and these connections have introduced me to more people who are excited



about better living and a better world. I also have worked with Tracy Pope many times in the last few months, most recently when she donned her botanist cap through her consulting agency Streamside Flora LLC and led our event “Guided Forest Hike”. Some bright aspiring botanists gathered at Swiftwater Park to learn about the plants of the area and then moved on to Susan Creek Falls to learn even more. It was a beautiful day and there is

nothing like experiential learning.

This year has been an amazing year of growth. I am excited to say that I will be returning next year for another year of environmental education and outreach in the community! We are also recruiting another AmeriCorps member at Umpqua Watersheds so that even more schools can be reached next year with environmental education programs. This is an awesome opportunity and I think next year will be even better than this one!



a rigorous academic competition that students spend months preparing for, but Science Olympiad is strictly scientific topics. They studied topics such as ecology, remote sensing, chemistry, and beyond. Some students developed mousetrap vehicles and hovercrafts that were tested at the competition. The competition in April was at Oregon State University and the challenges were extremely difficult, but the students seemed to enjoy themselves and succeeded in topics such as their awesome mousetrap vehicle!

Another goal of mine was to find a community here. I struggled immediately coming from college,

## Staff

Office hours are 1-5 M-W, 9-1 Th-F.

Kasey Hovik-Executive Director  
Melanie MacKinnon-Office Manager  
Christine Smith-AmeriCorps  
Patrick Schneider- KQUA Program Director  
Robbin Schindele- CLW Coordinator

## Board of Directors

Stan Petrowski-President/Restoration Chair  
J. Patrick Quinn-Vice Pres./Conservation Chair  
Diana Pace-Secretary/Volunteer coordinator  
Kat Stone-Treasurer

Ken Carloni-Education Chair  
John Hunter-DC Park Chair/  
Facility Management Chair  
Bob Hoehne- WOW Chair



## Kasey's Corner ...Kasey Hovik

### Executive Director

It's hard to believe that 2018 is almost half over! I am very proud and grateful for everything Umpqua Watersheds staff, board of directors and volunteers have accomplished in the first half of the year. In April we had our 22<sup>nd</sup> annual banquet. I was so proud of the presentation our team put together of the accomplishments of each of our committees in 2017 and I am amazed at what we have done so far this year and what we hope to accomplish in the next year exceeds our accomplishments in 2017. None of this would be possible without the generous financial support of our members. When we were concerned we might not sell all of our tickets to the banquet, members stepped up and gave sponsorships for AmeriCorps serving in our community and students attending UCC so that they could attend the banquet. Many people stepped up to contribute to our Silent Auction and as a result of the tremendous support we received from donors for the auction, sponsorship tickets and our "Friendzee" giving campaign the banquet and auction raised over \$10,000 to support Umpqua Watersheds.



As I mentioned earlier, the second half of 2018 will exceed our lofty goals for the year. Thanks to the tremendous support of one family we will be able to totally revamp our website so that it will match or exceed the websites of other cutting edge environmental organizations in the Pacific Northwest. This is extremely important because grant makers, foundations and individuals utilize what is presented on organizational websites in order to understand the mission of the organization and whether the organization has the capacity to be successful.

Another extremely important accomplishment I am very proud to share with you is that for the first time ever, Umpqua Watersheds will have two AmeriCorps service members in 2018-19. For the third time we have an AmeriCorps member who has decided to come back for a second year. Christine's article says it all. We are so very grateful for her service and commitment to our community and organization and know, with her leadership, our environmental education and outreach initiatives will enable us to do so much.

On Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm we will sponsor the first of what we hope will be many concerts in the parking lot behind our office. Lance Canales and The Flood will be playing in an event we are calling "Concert for the Kids" because 100% of the profits from the concert will go to support our environmental education programs. Over the past 4 years we have been able to give every 5<sup>th</sup> grader in Douglas County the opportunity to go to Crater Lake National Park. We have enabled many UCC students to have the opportunity to learn, earn and serve in the process of becoming the next generation of wildlife and natural resource professionals.

While we face enormous challenges because of the current political environment, the best is ahead of us as we find ways

to bridge the divide in our community and we move forward with our mission to protection and restoration of the Umpqua Watershed and beyond through education, training, advocacy and ecologically sound stewardship. Join us for work parties,



March 17, 2018 Lookingglass Hike.

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committee meetings, events, hikes, concerts, fundraisers and more. As members, you are a part of our community. Be a part of activities so we can get to know you. You won't be disappointed.

## President's Corner ....Stan Petrowski

With the wonderful help of our volunteers, Staff, and Board of Directors, Umpqua Watersheds continues on its journey to fulfill its vision for the Umpqua region. Our internal reorganization is having a reinvigorating impact on our morale and capacity to respond to the waves of challenges facing the natural world. Political and social actions that destroy the complexity and beauty of our planet seem to come in unending stream. We are unrelenting in our commitment to answer the call. UW is compelled to be strategic, lean and resourceful to address the rapidly changing shifts in our society. I can hardly express the wealth of confidence my colleagues here at Umpqua Watersheds inspire in me. We are working together as a team on an unprecedented level since my participation as a Board member began a decade ago.

With the support of our committed donors, the Board, staff and volunteers we are entering a new phase of outreach that will be seen in our new website, radio programs and educational activities. One of the biggest complaints our supporters have expressed is our lack of communication with regard to the highly impactful work being done behind the scenes every day here at Umpqua Watersheds. We've been so swamped with projects and commitments in service to our mission that little time has been available to keep our organizational family fully informed. That is all about to change with our renewed commitment to meet our outreach obligations. All of the Board's work is voluntary. We sincerely hope you will patiently await this new effort to keep you informed. Thanks for your continued engagement and contributions to this critical work. We can't continue without you.

**Restoration Committee** Stanley Petrowski

## Restoration in the Age of Ecological Chaos

I am often challenged during agency and non-agency interactions regarding the efficacy of restoration work. Anyone even remotely aware of what it costs to conduct ecological restoration knows that the costs are exorbitant. The questioning of restoration efforts has caused me to take pause for evaluation. After all, experiments in futility are rarely rewarding. The good news is that the expenditure of resources, both monetarily and sociologically, have reaped measurable results in many of the complex and daunting aspects of restoration work. In that context I would like to put down some random thoughts for your consideration.

### The Chaos of Species Extinction and Invasive Species

One of the most compelling forces driving restoration ecology is the extirpation of species on an unprecedented scale in human history. It is estimated that over geological time scales, four species a year have gone extinct. Much of that is due to the spread of humanity through the world's ecosystems. Of course that number is excluded when we talk about extinctions due to rapid environmental changes brought about by nature. Ice ages, volcanic ages and massive asteroid extinction events are unique and should always be in the back of our minds as a point of reference.

Extinction is part of the reality of the natural world and something to be avoided if possible because complexity and diversity in the natural world promotes resilience. The instinct to survive is strong. Rarely do species welcome being eliminated from the wondrous experience of being alive and part of the magic of the natural world. Even the smallest creatures act with skill and wisdom. Honey bees for example are marvelous and their extinction would be a tragedy to the human race and the natural world.

Presently, we see something new. Since the dawn of human existence our species negatively impacted the natural world. It is apparent today that through technology and innovation, our negative impact on nature has increased exponentially. It's true that we incorporate environmental change wherever we go. Even in ancient times, the mega fauna, such as the mastodon and mammoths, were driven to extinction by our voracious appetites and skill to survive. However, in our time, let's estimate since the inception of the industrial revolution, that we have irreversibly and radically changed our world. Our existence and expansion as a species has raised the level of man caused extinctions to an estimated 100 species per day! We have created an imbalance in the natural world tantamount to ecological chaos. Coral reefs, insects, mammals and plants are all in a disheveled state. We influence nature it seems such that we keep it

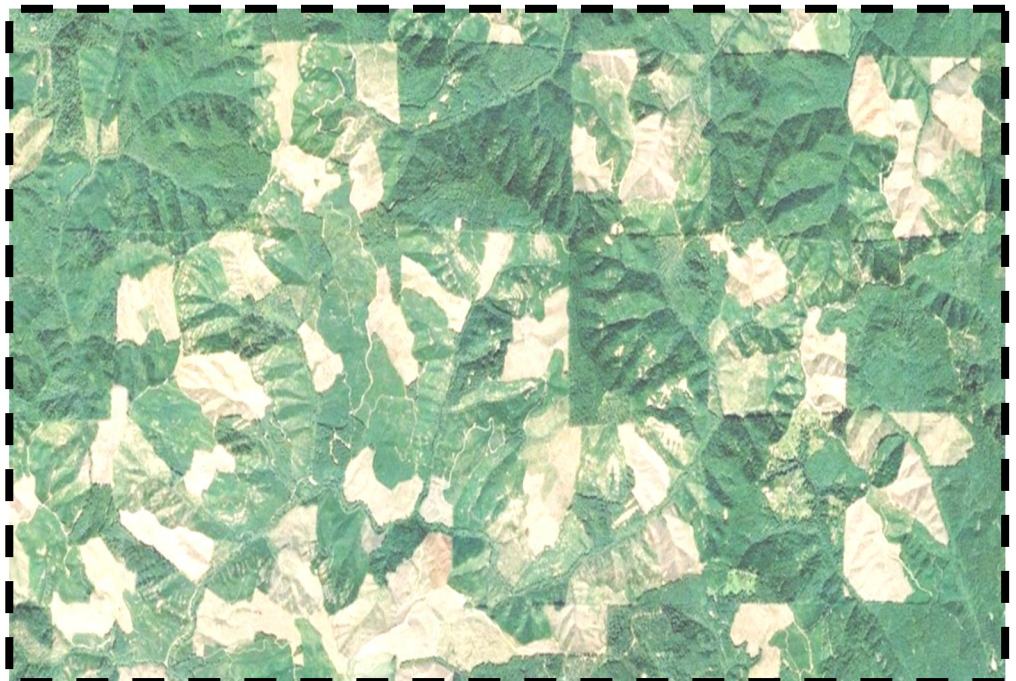


in a continual state of imbalance. This adverse impact on natural processes tends to gain momentum and then multiply by taking on a life of its own. Drought, floods and crazy weather in general also tends to stress and knock off various parts of the web of life.

Imbalances in nature bring about an up-swell of species also. Soon insects and animals begin to multiply because the natural forces which kept them in check are eliminated. The same is true of our forested landscapes. Present practices are drying up streams, poisoning animal life and fragmenting the biosphere. For the sake of convenience, hardwood species are cut to make room for monoculture Douglas-fir stands. All of the species that depend on those hardwoods are effectively removed from the food web. That in turn leads us to the topic of introducing invasive species into the ecosystem. Through world travel we have managed to mix up delicately balanced natural cycles and order by transporting invasive plants, animals, insects, diseases and fungi. Of course humans have always done this and it hasn't always been bad. Europeans brought Mediterranean honey bees and horses to the new world. It is very questionable if the good has outweighed the bad. The old world incursions also brought small pox, syphilis, bubonic plague, chickenpox, cholera, the common cold, diphtheria, influenza, malaria, measles, scarlet fever, typhoid, typhus, tuberculosis, and pertussis (whooping cough). Epidemics ensued and wiped out entire tribes of aboriginal people and Europeans.

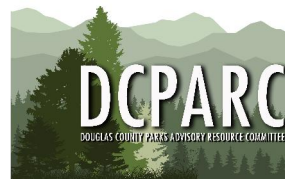
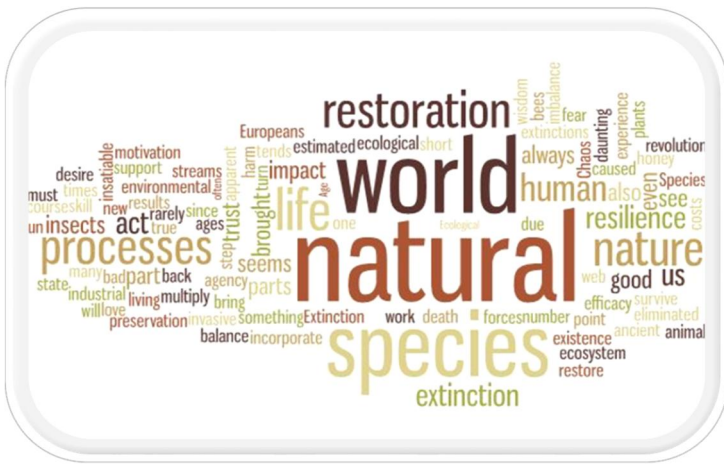
### Faith in Nature

We lean on nature far more than we realize. Some part of the human psyche is wired to trust in the resilience of the living world in spite of our insatiable desire to dominate it regardless of the results. It seems apparent that such trust is based on the fact that our impact as a species was relatively limited until the industrial revolution. I do not believe that nature is capable of unending disruption of its rhythm and flow. Our chaotic



Degraded watersheds require commitment and effort from restoration ecologists.





The Highlight for DC Park this spring was our booth at the Earth Day/Energy fair in April. Arboriculturist David Braun brought finished stump samples from Busenbark. These donated samples will become a permanent part of the Busenbark history along with Ken Carloni's 7 foot

storyboard of the 500 year-old Busenbark stump. These generated a lot of interest and were educational. Thank you to everyone that stopped by to visit and/or bought raffle tickets. Thanks also to Joanne Gordon who



donated plants from her nursery and volunteered at our booth.

Dealing with the county on Parks and other issues is a frustrating experience. The Parks Advisory Board (PAB), although now more diverse, has become neutralized by the Board of Commissioners and Parks director Rocky Houston. In the last nine months, they have only had five meetings. The last time they voted on an item was February 2018. They voted down the proposed fiscal year 2018-19 Parks Department budget. Despite the no vote, the budget will be presented to the County Budget committee for approval. Most of the PAB's agenda consists of updates and spending on the coastal RV parks. The county is spending thousands of dollars to improve Umpqua Dunes, formerly called Discovery Point RV Park. This was a run-down, rat infested Park that they purchased for \$1.5 million.

The proposed Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) park at the former Lookingglass landfill was scrapped. However, by an in-house decision it has been leased to the Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue group. Some members of this group were the same backers for the OHV park.

The Rural Open Spaces (ROS), 20 acre subdivisions on marginal lands, which the Board of Commissioners approved in March has been appealed to the Land Use Board of Appeals by four groups: Thousand Friends of Oregon, Friends of Douglas County, the Ore. Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as the Department of Land Conservation and Development. It is very unusual for these groups to all appeal a proposed land change. The Board of Commissioners determination to defend their proposal will cost taxpayers millions of dollars.

We will continue to monitor the County's efforts to log 10 acres on Bollen Island near Reedsport. The proximity to an active Eagles Nest may prevent this from happening in the short term. Many Reedsport residents are upset at the proposal.

We hope to have a presence at the spring County budget hearing if we can find the notifications for them.

We will have our second Riverside trail clean-up day for the Roseburg Parks department on Saturday June 16th at 10 am We will meet at the parking lot by the American Legion building.

It is obvious that monitoring our County Government is very time consuming and we can use your help. Join us at our monthly meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month 6 pm at the UW office.

Remember Busenbark

intervention must at some point end before our own extinction ensues.

What compels the desire of the restoration ecologist to act under such daunting challenges? Foremost is idealism buffered by wisdom and knowledge. One of the most powerful human experiences is to see life come out of death. It is an invigorating experience associated with the recovery of a fish run or the preservation of a species. It's nothing short of miraculous when the trust in life is allowed to blossom into resilience and renewed efficacy of natural processes. Few rewards or accolades by mankind can compare to the satisfaction of witnessing resilience in the natural world. Second is the intrinsic awareness that we are undermining the very underpinnings of the natural world that sustain us. When we see the support structures of our world disintegrate, we are compelled to act with self-preservation. The combination of the love of life and the fear of death becomes a bulwark of motivation to restore life to balance. Both emotions of 'love' and 'fear' – though contrary in many ways – seems to be a mighty motivation for humankind to be both courageous and resourceful to bring back balance.

## Reactions and Adaptations

Strategies to restore are built on the fundamental principle of doing no harm. Mindful interaction with the natural world is the first step to restoring equilibrium to what remains of a natural system. Some of our actions do more harm than good because we act out of impulse instead of reason. We must learn to understand the natural processes surrounding us. From there it is a short step to devote oneself to implementing the emulation of ecosystem processes. We discover through science the component parts of historical natural processes. These parts we incorporate and support hoping they will be a catalyst to reigniting the beautiful processes that nature has used in the past. We focus on keystone and indicator species and their environments knowing that they will, in turn, reinvigorate the natural processes dependent on them.

We reap the reward of hearing a song bird once long silenced – or the return of a salmon run to its ancient living and dying ritual in our streams. These kinds of victories in the natural world are what gives the restorationist both strength and hope. Our goal of aligning ourselves with life and understanding, excluding the insatiable greed that blinds us to be damaging, heals the creation. In so doing we live.

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

Eco-terrorism! This misleading and insulting label was applied to conservation organizations by uninformed individuals.

Participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process is not only a privilege under the law, it is also a responsibility to its membership that Umpqua Watersheds takes very seriously. These careful, well considered actions are not vindictive or intended to harm residents of our region, human and otherwise, quite the opposite. Thus, when an egregious request for yet another 1,400 ft of road through old growth on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in order for Lone Rock Timber (LRT) to access 6 acres of their second growth near Susan Creek Falls, we objected. Despite meeting with supervisors at the Roseburg District of BLM, and suggesting reasonable alternatives, ancient trees were felled, so that machinery designed to greatly automate clear cutting could gain access. However, as of this writing, LRT has put their harvest of that particular 6 acres on hold. The devastating road built for access to their land, apparently is not being used for that at all for the initially stated purpose.

Ecological Terrorism! That is the more complete and correct term for the barbaric and relentless clear cut butchering of vast portions of the Western Oregon watersheds we call home. This latter form of environmental terror is a policy war; a long-running conflict between environmentally responsible management of forested landscapes and a Silvan financial model designed for the highest monetary return on investment, delivered in the shortest possible amount of time. In this "Wall Street Equation" the integrity of intact natural systems do not compute. The health, happiness and quality of life of human beings is also directly impacted by this management style; a model that requires large acreages to be "slicked off", replanted in sterile monoculture corn rows, and sprayed with toxins and immense quantities of synthetic nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers. Using funds acquired by the Oregon Department of Revenue from Oregon Forest Products Harvest Tax, timber industry organizations produce TV advertisements telling us how wonderful this clear cutting is for watersheds. There is no other way to characterize such



shameless and self-serving timber industry propaganda: a lie. And paid for by funds which should be returned to support county governments or school districts, where those trees were cut.

When Big Timber and its enablers in elected government call for more extraction from our Federal lands, we remind the federal agencies of this inappropriate relationship, both environmental and financial. We offer strong objection to federal projects that propose to introduce large canopy openings onto landscapes already badly degraded by private land clear cutting. We remind the BLM of its statutory obligation to protect watersheds, regulate streamflows and provide for recreation as quoted in the 1937 O & C Act which does not stipulate the protection and regulation of only public lands, but of watersheds, period! Despite UW's relentless citation of these obligations, the BLM persists in a myopic overview of landscape conditions, a perspective that encompasses only the public lands it manages, effectively ignoring the landscape-wide ecological and revenue inequities. We protest that blindness, and when denied, appeal those denials. Such advocacy is not any kind of terrorism but a fulfillment of the duty our organization owes to the present and future communities and to the ecosystem on which they depend.



We believe our persistent citation of the Perry-Jones Study on the relationship of low summer flows to clearcut logging has led to a scientific forum on April 4th at the Pacific Northwest Research Station, in Corvallis. Conservation organization representatives, including UW were in attendance. A panel of hydrologic and sylvan experts explained what has been so far determined by means of painstaking empirical observation. No theory nor sound evidence presented by anyone present, was able to gainsay the dire conclusions of Perry-

Jones. Indeed, the best that a hydrologist for the Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Investment Trust (Weyerhaeuser was one of the several forum sponsors) could do was to declare rather testily: "Well, people want two by fours!" So much for the hydrology of depleted summer flows. We continue to seek funds to underwrite sound research to assert the relevance of the conclusions of Perry-Jones to Western Oregon watersheds. Please stay tuned.

As another wildfire season arrives, we have been assessing post-fire operations in watersheds adjacent to the Umpqua. The 4090 ac salvage of the Chetco Bar Fire on the Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF) includes over 2,000 acres in primary stands, some intensely burned. We have asked the RRSNF to abstain from building roads and clear cutting where such activities have not occurred before.



Nearly 10,000 acres of private industrial holdings within this fire footprint will be clear cut and heavily restocked impacting streamflow and water quality. UW insists that this RRNF forest must take these contextual facts into serious consideration. We have applied the same logic to the even more extreme post-fire salvage logging proposals made by the Klamath National Forest. Judging by these extractive plans, strongly opposed by the resident indigenous peoples, we have joined with the Geos Institute and other credible environmental groups in formally opposing this environmentally harmful activity. Challenges such as “old growth thinning” west of Grants Pass, proposed by the RRSNF, the endless efforts to install a 231 mile long, three foot diameter high pressure gas pipeline through area properties and under and through rivers and streams, and the increasing impacts of climate change are daunting, indeed. Considering the actual environmental condition of Oregon's world class forested watersheds, all is not as Big Timber and its political enablers would have us believe. Nevertheless, folks who are aware of the truth of what is being done to our precious watersheds must join with UW's Conservation Committee in shouting to the state, the nation and the world that the emperor has no clothes!

## WILDERNESS

**COMMITTEE** By Robbin Schindele,

The Wilderness Committee has been actively promoting the Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal (CLWP) locally and throughout Southern Oregon. We recently erected a sign

beside Hwy 138 in Glide that can be seen from both directions and is a direct call to action to support the CLWP. The colorful and bold sign definitely grabs your attention as you drive past. A big shout out and a ton of “THANKS!” to Alysia Gaye for allowing the sign placement and her generous contributions to UW and the CLWP. We have applied to participate in the “Adopt a Highway” with Oregon Department of Transportation requesting a length of Highway 138 for two miles between Roseburg and Glide. We will pick-up trash 4 times a year and have signs with our name on them along the highway.

We have signed three new local business sponsors and continue seek others, including 8 businesses in Ashland. If you own, or know someone that owns a business and believe they might be interested on endorsing the CLWP please call the Crater Lake Wilderness Campaign Coordinator Robbin Schindele at 208.365.1789 (or the UW office) or reach out via email to Robbin@umpquawatersheds.org .

Crater Lake Trolley Company in Klamath Falls which sells tours of Crater Lake, has agreed to give away our Crater Lake Wilderness brochure in their ticket office this summer, potentially reaching thousands of people.



We are excited about the attention and support our window mural at the Portland Patagonia store has gotten. Social media has also been very successful. We have two different Facebook pages, Crater Lake Wilderness and Crater Lake Wilderness Campaign, and post once or twice a week. We average 4-600 views per week and 100-200 likes on our posts. A highpoint in May was when one post reached over 1300 people. Please visit and like the pages.

The Wilderness Book Club is doing well with regular attendance from the Roseburg Community where discussions are thoughtful and lively making for a fun evening. If you like to read about America's great Wilderness areas, the origin and effect on people and the world please join us on the last Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at Cascadian Coffee Company, 732 SE Cass St, Roseburg.

Much of May was spent working on a grant proposal to Patagonia for a 2018-2019 Communications Plan. Susan Applegate helped craft the language into a concise and appealing document. The plan is to provide presentations to civic and business groups of the gateway communities surrounding Crater Lake, create 8-12 videos about the people who visit Crater Lake and use the lands and waters within the CLWP for a YouTube channel, a “Protect the water science” symposium in Roseburg and launching a new radio show, “Voice of the Wild” on KQUA, UW's radio station. The project will make for a fun and busy year.

If you'd like to volunteer for the Wilderness Committee, we meet on the last Wednesday of every month at 6:00 at the UW offices.



Please join us on our hikes to learn more about the ecology surrounding Oregon's backcountry.

### 2018 WILDERNESS HIKE SCHEDULE

Location	Leader	Date
Limp Rock	Gary Dever	June TBD
Boundary Springs	Ken Carloni	June 30
Bull Dog Rock	Larry Filosi	July 15
Council Rock	Bob Hoene	June 24
Indigo Lake-Sawtooth	Richard O'Neil	August 11
Crater Lake Wildflowers	Ken Carloni	August, TBD

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 9:** UW Facility Committee Work Party 9 - 1pm. UW office

**June 16:** League of Women Voters Garden Tour, Tickets are \$15, see [www.lwvuv.wordpress.com](http://www.lwvuv.wordpress.com)

**June 16:** Riverside trail clean-up day. We meet at 10 am in the parking lot by the American Legion building.

**June 24 :**Lance Canales and the Flood "Concert for the Kids", 4pm behind UW Building

**July 20-22** Camp Christine (place TBA)

**July 21:** River Appreciation Day (Place TBA)

**July 27-29** Twin Lakes Youth Campout

For more details please see the **Umpqua Watersheds Website** or call the office at 541-672-7065

[www.umpquawatersheds.org](http://www.umpquawatersheds.org)

**Outback Music Festival:** Lance Canales and the Flood will be playing in Roseburg June 24th, behind Old Soul Pizza and UW office. Tickets are \$15 and profits benefit UW's education programs. Plus 21 event. "Concert for the kids"



Repairing and painting the ceiling and walls in the kitchen as well as replacing the carpet will enhance its ambiance and provide our members and staff with an enjoyable and communal eating space. We are seeking donations for cabinets, counter tops, and a small refrigerator. Other areas of our ceiling need repairing and repainted, and there are always the unexpected repairs on both floors. An asbestos survey revealed the presence of asbestos below the furnace in our storage shed. Until we secure more funds, removing the furnace will not be possible. However, we hope to rebuild and replace the shed's leaking roof in September. We are awaiting completion of a sign with the Watersheds logo on it. This will be installed below our second story office to announce our presence to all of Douglas County.

There have also been a few setbacks. Our grant proposal to install solar panels on our roof did not make it past the first round. There will be more opportunities. We will learn from experience and be ready for the next grant.

In preparation for the June 24 concert, work sessions in June include power washing and painting the wall behind

our parking lot. Ownership requires responsibility. We welcome your help!! **Join us on second Saturday work sessions from 9am to 1pm.** We also meet the first Tuesday of every month, 6 pm at the Watershed's office.

### Facilities Management Committee..... John Hunter

It has been an exciting and busy spring for the Facilities Management Committee. As we continue to improve Umpqua Watersheds' major asset - our building at 539 SE Main St. As of April 1, all four of our office spaces have become rented. We are fortunate to have honest and dedicated tenants.

In May, Matt Leaton of Big X Fabrication and Metal Art installed the long needed metal cap and counter flashing on the parapet walls above our roof. This should alleviate our roof's chronic leaking problem. We are grateful for Matt's quality workmanship. We



Before the flashing



After the flashing

also had our first monthly work session. Inspired by the roof repairs, we sorted and cleaned out our kitchen and mechanical room. (Between the radio room and the kitchen). Thanks to the efforts of Kasey Hovik, Janice Reid, and Diana Pace, we organized the mechanical room and the kitchen.





Roseburg's newest radio station is one year old. In that time, a lot of changes have taken place. KQUA plays more music than before and has also

added some specialty programming.

99.7 KQUA is the only station that focuses on environmental programming. Every weekend morning, KQUA airs Conservation Today starting at 9 am hosted by Francis Eatherington. The show focuses on environmental issues concerning Douglas County.

Another Environmental program on KQUA is Radio Active Restoration which currently discusses extinction in the Anthropocene era. For almost a year, the show has been on the air and currently airs Saturday and Sunday at 10 am.

If you are tired of the same old music KQUA plays, we offer a small handful of alternative music programming. Every Saturday night, local businessman Eric Andrews features electronic music from DJ's around the world. Every Sunday night, Unsigned Sunday plays up-and-coming music artists at 8 pm followed by an hour of Reggae and World Beat music.

If you miss an episode of one of these shows, a podcast can be found at [www.Mixcloud.com/KQUARadio](http://www.Mixcloud.com/KQUARadio).

KQUA continues to seek underwriters for the radio station. Do you have a business and desire to support the radio station of Umpqua Watersheds? Underwriting is a perfect way to both support Umpqua Watersheds and promote your business. Contact Patrick Schneider for more details.

[info@kqua.org](mailto:info@kqua.org)



## 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 [kasey@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:kasey@umpquawatersheds.org)

### Education Committee

**When:** 2nd Tuesday of Every Month, 5:30pm

**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@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:Stanley@umpquawatersheds.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:** John Hunter at [goldenarchie46@yahoo.com](mailto:goldenarchie46@yahoo.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)

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

**When:** 3rd Wednesday, 6:00pm

**Where:** McMenamin's.

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

Monthly snapshot of committee meetings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed
1 <sup>st</sup> week	Conservation 6pm	Facility Mgt 6pm	
2 <sup>nd</sup> week		Education 5:30pm	
3 <sup>rd</sup> week	BOD 6pm	Restoration 5pm/ Radio 630pm	DCPARC 6pm
4 <sup>th</sup> week			
Last week			WOW 6pm

## FIRE IS NOT THE ENEMY PART II:

### The 2013 Douglas Complex Fires Revisited

**New science reverses conventional wisdom that old growth forests burn more severely than plantations.**

Four years ago, I wrote an article for the Summer 2014 *100 Valleys* entitled “Fire Is Not The Enemy” analyzing the Douglas Complex fire that burned through a BLM/private industry checkerboard northwest of Glendale, OR in 2013. This was in response to a number of articles in the Roseburg News Review and elsewhere decrying the “destruction” of the forests burned in those fires. Those sympathetic to the timber industry were calling for aggressive snag removal on public lands and for the conversion of old growth forests to tree farms to supposedly prevent such fires in the future. I provided a number of satellite images of forest stands and compared them with fire intensity maps showing this thinking to be *exactly the wrong approach* to creating and maintaining healthy, fire-resistant forests.

In the years since, I have given several public presentations expanding that analysis to most of the major fires that have burned on the Umpqua since 2002. In all of them, the visual evidence is striking: dense, even-aged plantations with their



**Fire Spout.** This image from the Douglas Complex shows the kind of extreme “firestorms” that can develop when even-aged plantations burn.

contiguous, highly flammable fine fuels are far more likely to suffer high mortality crown fires than uneven-aged, multi-canopied primary forests. Rather than contributing to the spread and severity of the fire, old growth forests did just the *opposite* by “knocking down” the flames and turning them into ground fires.

These low to moderate intensity under-burns create valuable habitat for fire-dependent species while removing built-up fuel to create fire-resilient landscapes. The majority of the Douglas Complex fire *increased* the ecological health of unmanaged public land, but *decreased* the health of plantation stands. This same scenario played out again in the Stouts Creek fire, the Cable fire, the North Umpqua Complex, and other fires in the region.

While that pattern is clearly visible to the eye, no rigorous

scientific study had been done to provide the spatial statistics necessary to debunk the conventional “wisdom” that fuel *volume* is what determines fire spread and severity rather than fuel *structure*. I had already upgraded my GIS software with plans to do that spatial analysis on Umpqua fires this summer when I received a copy of an April 2018 paper by Harold Zald from Humboldt State University and Christopher Dunn from Oregon State University entitled “**Severe fire weather and intensive forest management increase fire severity in a multi-ownership landscape**”. The “multi-ownership landscape” they analyzed? The Douglas Complex fire.

The Zald and Dunn study confirms what I and others have been saying (and the industry has been denying) for years: after weather, the biggest predictor of fire severity is “stand age and ownership” and that “...pre-fire forest biomass [was] not an important predictor of fire severity”. The researchers conclude that “...intensive plantation forestry characterized by young forests and spatially homogenized fuels, rather than pre-fire biomass, were significant drivers of wildfire severity.”

Immediately after the Douglas Complex fire was out, private industry began to aggressively log the burned timber, including the non-merchantable young plantations, and replanted them in the same tightly spaced rows of seedlings. Replanting damaged plantation stands with another dense monocrop will simply set the stage for another dangerous



**“Dog Hair”.** This is the term used by foresters to describe dense, highly flammable stands of young timber. This plantation in the Douglas Complex experienced complete mortality.

conflagration. For example, The 1987 Bland Mt. Fire that burned mostly in young second growth near Canyonville was replanted in closely spaced soldier rows only to burn hard again in 2004, with two smaller fires in recent years.

The call for systematic snag removal on public lands (repeated again just last week in a News-Review letter to the editor) doesn’t make sense either -- snags don’t “attract” lightning. The strikes that started the Douglas Complex hit on the ridges (the highest points on the landscape) in *both* primary forest and plantations in about equal numbers. In a heavily managed landscape, snags are more likely to be hit simply because the surrounding trees have been logged and those snags are now the tallest objects on the landscape by default.

Felling snags that are burning and/or are a serious danger to firefighters is necessary for safety reasons, and no one argues that they shouldn’t be cut under those circumstances. But aggressive pre-fire snag removal will do nothing to prevent future fires and will remove a critical ecological resource: large snags are home to cavity nesting birds (who feed on tremendous numbers of potential pest insects) and a myriad of



other animals and fungi that play important roles in maintaining healthy ecosystem dynamics.

Rather than continuing to fight a losing battle against wildfire, it's time to change our mindset from fire *fighting* to fire *management*. Bringing prescribed fire back into our forests in a systematic, ecologically beneficial manner will be far cheaper and more effective than letting lightning or careless humans dictate when and where fires burn.

The Zald and Dunn study is a timely antidote to the steady drumbeat of disinformation from county commissioners and Wall Street corporations that continue to fan the flames of fire hysteria and drown out the voices of scientists and historians who remind us that fire has and will continue to play an integral role in the health of our forests. I end this article with the same quote from noted fire historian Stephen J. Pyne that I began my 2014 article with:

*"Messed-up forests will only yield messed-up fires."*



**Fire Mosaic.** This image shows the difference in the effects of the Douglas Complex on different stand structures. The only green trees in the burned areas are in the old growth BLM stands. The private plantations suffered almost complete mortality.

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## Editors Choice... A few things left out along the way that the editor would like to be sure to mention.

The Umpqua Brewfest 9 is coming up in October and we will start having regular meetings.

Over the years we have heard great suggestions for the event and would like to be able to continually improve the event for the better. So if you have ideas, energy, and interest, please consider volunteering for the Brewfest. The next newsletter will be out in September and will be on the heels of the event. We will need to start our planning efforts well before the next newsletter. Watch for details of the meetings in the Watersheds Moments email or message [umpquabrewfest@gmail.com](mailto:umpquabrewfest@gmail.com) to get involved. We will be having discussions on music, Brewfest 9 theme, sponsors, volunteers, and more.

Have you been to one of our events? The Banquet or the Brewfest? Maybe you have seen us struggling with the phone to make Paypal work. A big help would be to have 4 tablets, ready made for Umpqua Watersheds events instead of individuals struggling with their personal phone. If you would like to help provide one or more tablets to potentially make the events smoother, please contact us. We appreciate any help, monetary or direct purchase of supplies needed.

Facilities Management has mentioned the need for a small refrigerator and other office furniture. There are so many ways to help where you can make a difference. The feeling of accomplishment is always uplifting.

The color version of the newsletter will be posted online. Many of the previous editions are available on the website.



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