



# 100 Valleys

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

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

Summer 2020 | Issue 84

## Executive Director Update:...Kasey Hovik

These are historic times with challenges which were unimagined by many of us just a few months ago. While we grieve the loss of life, the incredible stress and strain on our front-line medical providers, we must strive to find ways to manage and even improve in our organizations and in our personal lives. I couldn't be prouder of how resilient and determined the staff and board of directors of Umpqua Watersheds has been since the Covid-19 emergency was declared. Our Board of Director meetings and monthly committee meetings have been online since March. Melanie

an opportunity to update everyone on what we are doing to move our mission forward, to recognize contributions of our amazing volunteers and to mingle with the faithful. The staff, board and volunteers always feel rejuvenated after spending time with "our clan". As Kermit the Frog says, "It isn't easy being green" but when we have the opportunity to spend quality time together, we all are left with a feeling of hope and determination to continue to work together to protect, preserve and celebrate our beloved Umpqua Watershed and beyond.



While we can't meet together this year, the staff and board of directors of Umpqua Watersheds have been working hard to create a "Virtual 25th Anniversary Banquet" which will be a Facebook Live Event on **June 16th at 7pm**. We will also make the video of our presentations and that of our keynote speaker, Dominick DeLaSalla available for people not on Facebook via a link on our website. We hope that all of you can invest an hour, grab some dinner and your favorite beverage and join us. We have put a lot of work into the program and I am sure you will enjoy seeing what we have to share.

We are very excited to announce the addition of Angela Dawn Jensen to our staff as our new Conservation/Legal Director (see Angela's article in Conservation Corner). She will be working to fill the huge shoes of Joseph Patrick (Paddy) Quinn who led our Conservation efforts for the past decade. Nobody can replace the passion and the eloquence of Paddy but we know Angela will add so much to our organization. Thanks to a grant written by Melanie MacKinnon, we received \$12,000 from the Burning Foundation to support this position. Angela will be writing comments and participating on several Google Groups with our environmental conservation partners on pending legislation and policy issues related to issues ranging from updating the Oregon Forest Practices Act, Wildfire mitigation to Aerial spraying. We also have some dedicated volunteers who will be working hard to provide ground-truthing data for Angela's work. Through the combined effort of Janice Reid and Steve Cole, all of the Watershed

MacKinnon, our Office Manager and Robyn Bath-Rosenfeld, our AmeriCorps member and myself have been working from home since March and have weekly check-ins to coordinate work on ongoing projects and day-to-day operations. Melanie and Robyn, along with UW treasurer, Mark Eason, have been taking the lead to upgrade our accounting software, QuickBooks, as well as our new membership database, Bloomerang which will enable us to accomplish much more than ever before. We have utilized Zoom and other online meeting platforms to coordinate and collaborate on major projects.

We were disappointed that we had to cancel our 25th Anniversary Membership Banquet in April at Umpqua Community College. Gathering together with our members and supporters is such a boost to the organization. It gives us

## 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.*

## Board of Directors

**Ken Carloni**

*President/Education Chair*

**Diana Pace**

*Secretary/Wilderness  
Chair/Conservation*

**Mark Eason**

*Treasurer*

**Stan Petrowski**

*Restoration Chair*

**Janice Reid**

*Outreach Chair/Science  
Advisor*

**Eric Stauder**

*Board Member*

## Staff

**Kasey Hovik**

*Executive Director/  
Operations*

**Melanie MacKinnon**

*Office Manager*

**Robyn Bath-Rosenfeld**

*Environmental Education  
& Outreach Leader*

**Angela Jensen**

*Conservation/Legal  
Director*

**Robbin Schindele**

*Crater Lake Wilderness  
Coordinator*

**Diana Larson**

*Bookkeeper*

**Patrick Schneider**

*KQUA Radio  
Program Director*

Office hours via Ap-  
pointment:

1-5 M-W, 9-1 Th-F.

analysis' and all of the comments and letters from the last 25 years are now available online and available for Angela, and others, to use as they pursue every option to counter the increasing pressure to increase timber harvests on public lands.

Finally, I want to recognize the tremendous effort of Robyn to advance our Environmental Education initiatives, despite not being able to provide in class instruction because schools are closed. Almost immediately, she came up with the idea of creating a weekly online environmental instruction program called "Home Explorers". Because of her efforts, children, not only in our community but also across the country have the opportunity to learn about and actively participate in environmental education. (see Robyn's article) Robyn is driven to make a positive difference for our organization and for young people and she never disappoints. Our AmeriCorps program continues to be one of the jewels of the United Community AmeriCorps program and we couldn't be prouder of our partners at UCAN and all of the young people who have chosen to travel to our little piece of paradise to serve in our community. I am very happy to announce that we have already chosen our next AmeriCorps member, Ryan Kincaid for the 2020-21 program year. She won't be joining us until September but has agreed to work with Robyn over the summer to ensure a smooth transition.

In closing, please know that all of us at Umpqua Watersheds hope that you are safe and well. Please stay in touch with us during these difficult times and let us know if you need help. Our greatest strength as a country, state, community and as a small, nearly all-volunteer organization is to come together and help each other when times are tough. We are here for you and appreciate your support.

### President's Corner...Ken Carloni



OK, everything's different... Now what?

Like everyone else, we at Umpqua Watersheds are trying to navigate the Coronavirus landscape in a safe and proactive way. Face to face meetings are a fading memory, replaced by small pixelated images on screens from our home offices. Traditional social events are canceled or postponed indefinitely, and we've all had to add masks to our ensembles. And no one knows how long this will go on. And like everyone else, we are watching our cash flow slosh around, and trying to figure out how to channel it back into a predictable flow. Thanks to a successful Brew Fest and your awesome response to our year-end donor appeal, we are keeping our lights on and our staff paid. But with the loss of revenue from our Annual Banquet and Auction, and with few prospects for our signature fundraising events in the foreseeable future, we clearly need to redesign our funding strategies.

We also appreciate that many of you -- our financial supporters -- are in the same situation, and we certainly encourage you to make sure your oxygen mask is secure before you assist others. But for those of you who are still able to work or who have income from investments or retirement plans, please consider donating some of your stimulus money to UW.

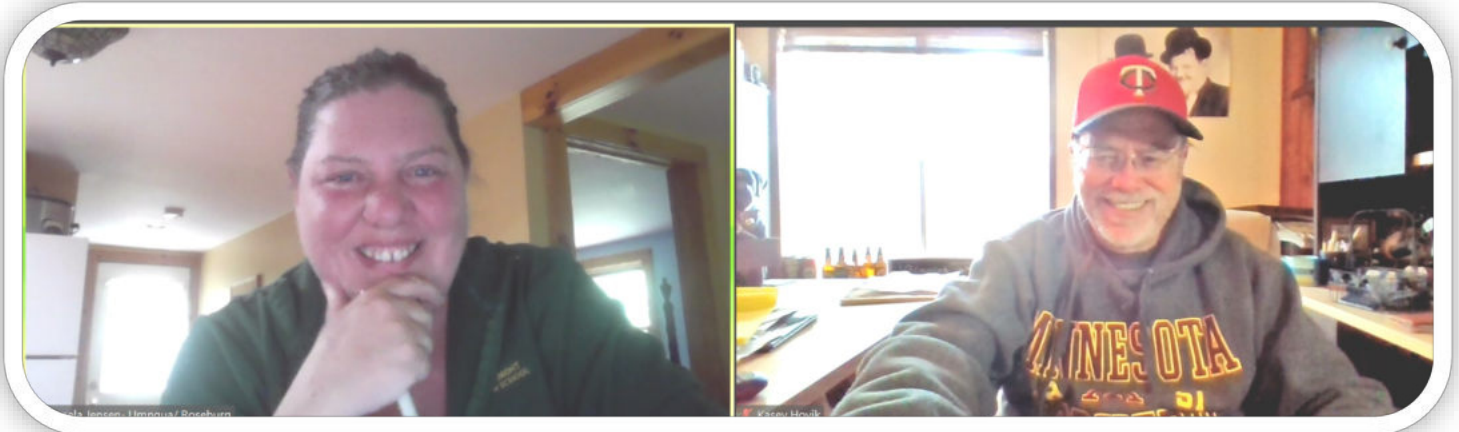
Better yet, consider setting up a monthly auto-deposit to Umpqua Watersheds' account at Cascade Community Credit Union. Many of you are reminded to give to UW at our various annual events, and we are truly grateful for your sustained support over the decades. But this has always created peaks and valleys in our cash flow, and things have gotten a tad stressful here and there over the years. You've ALWAYS come through, and we're going strong at 25 years because of that loyalty. But sporadic influxes of event revenue and random acts of generosity make budgeting very challenging. So even if you only give the minimum **\$35/year membership fee**, considering setting up an automatic transfer of \$3/mo. to our account. Ten dollars a month will provide \$120 over the year that we can count on as we plan for the future. Our new membership and donor tracking software, Bloomerang, will assure that any and all of your tax-deductible donations are recorded accurately, with direct acknowledgement and documentation back to you.

Through our donor appeals, these newsletters, our Watershed Moments emails, and KQUA radio, we will continue to keep you informed of the progress we make in our Conservation, Outreach, Restoration, and Education initiatives. For a quarter of a century, you have recognized the important role Umpqua Watersheds plays in protecting our natural heritage and maintaining our quality life in the 100 valleys of the Umpqua. Please consider continuing that support by adding UW to your monthly budget. Thank you!

## From the Conservation/ Legal Director ....Angela Jensen

As a new member of the Umpqua Watershed team, it is an honor and privilege to write this as my first article for our newsletter. First, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Angela Jensen. I am a native of the Deer Creek watershed and Kalmiopsis region of Southern Oregon. It is here that I developed a keen interest in finding a way to protect what I love- healthy forests, clean waters, and native wildlife in Oregon.

In the summer of 2013, I met Umpqua Watersheds Executive Director, Kasey Hovik, while we pursued the same course of study through Vermont Law School- Environmental Law and Policy. My correspondence and friendship with Kasey continued even after I extended my education for three additional years. And so, it was with great excitement that I accepted an offer to fill a most rewarding part time position for Umpqua Watersheds.



Angela Jensen and Kasey Hovik on a recent Zoom Conference Call

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The Conservation/ Legal Director position is a new role for me entirely, but one that is essential to our vision- to protect and restore the ecosystems of the Umpqua watershed. One important way we do this is through advocacy. Therefore, in this position I will closely monitor agency proposals concerning land use and forest management decisions. During Notice and Comment periods, I will write comments invoking the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and other environmental laws to ensure that agencies remain in compliance with the mandates and principles of these laws. I will also periodically write letters to the legislature to lobby for “climate smart” legislation. These writings will include discussions of the relevant science in support of changing laws and policies so that they reflect our changing climate. And finally, I will continuously monitor final agency actions that may be ripe for legal challenges.

Over the last couple weeks, I have been collaborating with other nonprofit and like-minded interest groups on behalf of Umpqua Watersheds. One such group is the Forest Waters Coalition. This group convenes to discuss key issues of environmental concern and to address advocacy and legislative strategies in resolving these issues. Other activities that I have engaged in are recent discussions with other Google groups and webinars. The “Oregon Forest Strategy” discussion was most informative concerning Executive Order 20-04 and Oregon Department of Forestry’s implementation of the EO. The “Northwest Forest & Carbon; Science and Solutions” webinar provided a wealth of information regarding the need to protect carbon reserves and increase carbon sinks if we are to properly address the climate crises.

In addition to these collaborative and educational tools, I am very excited that Umpqua Watersheds will be organizing a team of volunteers to engage in “ground-truthing.” As we anticipate an escalating number of timber sales on BLM and Umpqua National Forest lands, ground-truthing will allow us to document and address the successes and failures of agency forest and land management. A picture may be worth a thousand words, but for Umpqua Watersheds it may very well mean the difference between a healthy, late-succession forest habitat and one that succumbs to forest farming at the hands of exploitive interests. Ground-truthing will undoubtedly assist us in our mission to hold Federal and State agencies accountable.

At this critical time, it is imperative to take proactive steps to hold agencies accountable and to protect and restore our forest ecosystems. Our communities rely on forest and biodiversity health for the ecosystem services they provide. While these services include a sustainable and resilient economy, they must also include clean water, clean air, viable soils, carbon sequestration, and habitats supportive of great biodiversity. In a word, a healthy forest is a resilient forest. It is resilient and more adaptable to climate change. The services provided by a resilient forest will help ensure a resilient community- a community better equipped to withstand ill health and other negative implications of our changing climate that most certainly lie ahead.

On a final note, I would like to invite interested individuals to attend and engage in our monthly Conservation Committee meetings. Information can be found at <https://umpquawatersheds.org/get-involved/committees/>. Together, we will learn and realize a better way of forest and watershed management. Together, we will stand strong and resilient.



Did you know?..... if you are a non-profit organization and would like to have air time on our low power community radio station, KQUA 99.7 FM (<https://radio-locator.com/info/KQUA-FL>), you are eligible. We can also use help with the radio station. Do you want to be a voice on the radio or help with other administrative tasks? If you don't have time but have a business, KQUA is always seeking underwriters. Email us at [kqua@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:kqua@umpquawatersheds.org)



#### Get Involved! Join a Committee

Until further notice, our committee meetings are being held via Zoom Conferencing. If you are interested in participating in any of the committee meetings, please email [Kasey@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:Kasey@umpquawatersheds.org) for the latest schedule of meetings.

#### Monthly Board of Directors:

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

For board and staff members only. If there is a topic you feel the board should broach let us know!

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

#### Education Committee

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

Ken Carloni - [Ken@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:Ken@umpquawatersheds.org)

#### Restoration Committee

**When:** 3rd Tuesday of Every Month, 5:30pm

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

#### Conservation Committee

**When:** 2nd Tuesday of Every Month, 11:00am

Angela Jensen - [Angela@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:Angela@umpquawatersheds.org)

#### Facility Management

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

Kasey Hovik - [Kasey@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:Kasey@umpquawatersheds.org)

#### Wilderness Committee

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

Diana Pace - [Diana@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:Diana@umpquawatersheds.org)

#### Outreach Committee

**When:** Last Thursday of every month, 5:30pm

Janice Reid- [Janice@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:Janice@umpquawatersheds.org)

"High above the world of people and their dramas, lives the world of the wild. Where the lengthened light at sunset sets aglow the towering firs and hemlocks at the ridges, and the wind makes its music with the trees. I'm in reverie remembering that time in June, when the light lingered at its zenith; when we camped up in the Rogue Siskiyou Divide, and watched the setting sun cast vivid, searing colors in phantasmal shapes upon the timbered land. With silence interrupted only by the owl's call as sunlight pierced with green vanished and night was allowed its occupancy. We reveled in the beauty and thanked our lucky stars that came out in striking contrast to the velvety night sky that we had this sanctuary, this Wilderness to remind us of our sanity, our humanity."

Susan Applegate remembering a trip taken seven years ago up into the Rogue Siskiyou Wilderness.



**Umpqua Watersheds is participating in Bottle Drop Donations.** There are Two ways to give.

- 1) If you already have a Bottle Drop Account you can donate from your balance online. Search the list of participating nonprofits for Umpqua Watersheds and click 'Donate' to transfer funds from your BottleDrop account to Umpqua Watersheds.
- 2) *Give Blue Bags* are a long-term, sustainable way to raise funds for Umpqua Watersheds. Barcoded Blue Bags are available at the UW office. Fill bags with empty containers and drop them off at any BottleDrop location at your convenience.



## Wilderness Committee update. Robbin Schindele

I hope this finds everyone well after the events of the past few months. Summer is upon us, the Covid-19 restrictions are easing and its time for Wilderness Committee to get active again. We have some hikes planned and we'll be back at the Umpqua Valley Farmers Market on Saturdays to spread the word on the Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal asking people to sign postcards to send to our Federal Legislators. We are also in the early planning stages of a couple more fun projects.

**Hikes:** In line with the Corona virus social distancing restrictions the following Guidelines apply for all hikes. Hikes may resume as of June 5 and will be open to UW members only. Destinations will be within Douglas County and we will not be advertising to general public such as on Facebook or in the newspaper. Preregistration will be required to limit the group size to 10. Unlike the past, we will not be encouraging carpooling, except for couples/family members who live together. Meeting place is Fowler St parking lot by the library and participants will observe 6 feet social distancing while signing our participation waiver. Hikers will maintain a 6 ft distance at trailhead and on trail from others outside their immediate household.

Scheduled Hikes:

**Saturday, June 13** This will be a mostly on-trail and a bit off-trail (~0.25 mile one way). We'll hike a couple miles from the Wright Creek Trailhead of the North Umpqua Trail (NUT), walk along a ridge and drop down to a creek. There is a short crawl up the creek into a waterfall area and geologic formation then a very short climb (with steps) up a rock. From there, it's pretty easy to the waterfalls. There is a protected pool that requires wading/swimming across to get the best view of the waterfalls, but it's clear of debris and easy. Getting wet is probably going to happen. Wear hiking boots/shoes and bring water shoes with you. It's one of the best locations in the Umpqua National Forest (UNF). This hike is limited to 5 people + hike leader. Text Tony Cannon, 541.378.8312 to register.

**Sunday, June 21** NUT Lemolo Falls (from Lemolo dam area). 3 miles round trip hike to a 120ft horsetail style falls and Warm Springs Falls then a 0.6 miles round trip to 70ft block style falls. Driving distance is about 80 mi each way. Text Diana to register 541-784-5004

**July Date TBD** Limpy Rock Cave (this is not to the Dog Creek Petroglyph cave). This is a simple walk through the forest and a bit of side-hilling (~100 yards) right before the rock. It's a huge 2-compartment cave and one of the two biggest caves the hike leader has found on the UNF. Bring the brightest flashlight and headlamp you have, though it is definitely not dark. Hiking poles might be helpful. If time permits, we can poke around inside the cave. Initially, there's a bit of steep coming off the road and back up but the rest is a gentle walk through the forest. There is a gate that is usually open, but if the gate is closed, it will add a ~2.25 mile round trip walk along

the road. The off trail portion is ~0.3 miles and is really pleasant.

Watch the UW website for information on more late summer and fall hikes.

**Farmers Market-** This is one of the most pleasant ways to spend Saturday mornings in Roseburg. There is lots of fresh local produce and flowers, some great food and people watching. Wilderness Committee members will be there to hand out brochures, inform people about the Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal and ask people to sign custom postcards asking Senators Weyden and Merkley and Representatives DeFazio and Blumenauer to support the proposal. Last summer over 1000 postcards were mailed. Stop by for a chat and sign a few post cards.

We are in the early planning stages for two other fun public events this summer. In late July or early August we're hoping to sponsor a fishing derby in cooperation with Oregon Fish and Wildlife on the Main Umpqua to help fight the invasive Small Mouth Bass. These fish are voracious predators who are having a devastating affect on the Salmon and Steelhead smolt heading to the ocean. There will be prizes for the most fish caught, biggest fish and other categories. Hopefully we will attract enough people to have some impact on this non-native species. More information will be forthcoming. In August, we plan to hold a Natural History Scavenger Hunt. We will create a list of specific flora, fauna and geological features and invite the public into the forest to photograph the list of items over a period of weeks and submit them to an online gallery. We will have prizes for people who complete the list. Watch for more information in your email box.

### Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal.

Two years ago we put up a 4x8' sign in Glide alongside Hwy 138 which still looks great. The sign asks passersby to support the Crater Lake Wilderness

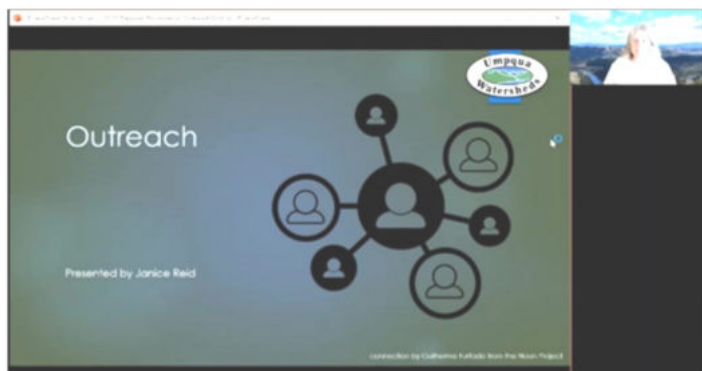


Proposal. If you live on a busy road in the area, and have space, please consider having a similar sign on your property. The Wilderness Committee will produce and put it in place. If you're interested please email [Robbin@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:Robbin@umpquawatersheds.org) Stay well and we'll see at the Farmers' Market or one of our hikes or events.



## Outreach Update... Janice Reid

Outreach activities over the last few months and some that were planned for the upcoming months have been postponed or cancelled. Most notable is the Annual Banquet and Silent Auction that was planned for April 4, 2020. The Coronavirus has made it impossible to hold or plan for events for large groups but like most of the world, we are adapting to the new reality and planning a virtual banquet. Our members are always so excited to attend our banquet and receive the update from our organization and we miss that excitement.



Join us **Tuesday, June 16th at 7 pm** when we will release our virtual banquet and post it on our Facebook page LIVE (<https://www.facebook.com/UmpquaWatersheds/>) and on our website [www.umpquawatersheds.org](http://www.umpquawatersheds.org).

We are also planning on having our annual **River Appreciation Day on July 18th at Steamboat Ball Field** on the Umpqua National Forest near Steamboat Creek. This is a tentative plan since we have not received word that the campground is open. We will restrict it to Umpqua Watersheds members, donors, and AmeriCorps. We will also require that participants bring a mask, honor social distancing, and bring their own food, water, hand sanitizer, chairs etc. There will be no sharing.

It is exciting to report that KQUA has a **new logo**. We were going to unveil it at our fundraiser for the live streaming

campaign, Friends and Family, at McMenamins on April 21 but the event was cancelled. We are actively working to proceed with our plans make KQUA live streaming and welcome any contributions to our cause. Funds are needed for the cost associated with live streaming and equipment. If you have a desktop computer with Windows 7 or later that you

would like to **donate to the cause**, we would be happy to have your tax-deductible donation. Patrick Schneider has been busy keeping the community up to date on important information related to Covid-19 on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/KQUARadio/>) and he organized and aired Public Service Announcements (PSA's) for many of the non-



profit businesses in the community. We have been fortunate that we have had a few underwriters to help with deferring costs associated with the radio and we could use more underwriters. It costs Umpqua Watersheds thousands of dollars every year to maintain and keep 99.7 KQUA on the airwaves and underwriting us to continue providing commercial-free public radio to our community by paying for our licensing to play all types of music, engineering costs, electricity, and other programming needs. Supporting 99.7 KQUA can also be used a tax write-off. If you are a business and would like to be an underwriter, please contact us: [Patrick@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:Patrick@umpquawatersheds.org) or [KQUA@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:KQUA@umpquawatersheds.org). Underwriting costs are just 50 cents for each mention with a \$100 minimum. That's 200 mentions on the radio! As we are all spending more time at home, radio listening has gone up and the name of your business could be mentioned on our community radio.

We are excited to get our hiking schedule back on track and have a few hikes planned. See our website for schedule of events and for signup <https://umpquawatersheds.org/events/>.



We will be adding events as the plans firm up. Our social distancing and limit to the group size will apply to our hikes.

If you are interested in volunteering, visit our website <https://umpquawatersheds.org/get-involved/volunteer/> and find an opportunity that is right for you.

### Umpqua Watersheds could use your skills!

Are you unable to contribute to Umpqua Watersheds monetarily? Do you have skills related to construction, electrical, remodeling, plumbing, building maintenance or property management? You can contribute your skills! Don't have any particular skill but would still like to help? Not to worry. We have many projects that don't require any skills as long as you are willing to learn. Your contributions can be tax deductible. We could use you! Email: [kasey@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:kasey@umpquawatersheds.org) or [mark@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:mark@umpquawatersheds.org).



## AmeriCorps: Education Spotlight.. Robyn Bath-Rosenfeld

This Spring, Umpqua Watersheds' is working hard to continue education and outreach during Stay at Home orders. In March, we began our @Home Explorer Series to bring outdoor-minded activities to Umpqua youth at home. Three new activities are posted weekly on our website, with topics ranging from birds to slugs to fungi. Our mission is to create a variety of experiments, crafts and activities that can be completed with nothing but household items and access to a backyard or local park. Even though we can no longer be in classrooms, engaging

they went fast! Within a week of sharing this resource to parents and teachers we were all out! We are currently in the process of fundraising and creating more kits for distribution for students over the summer. We can't wait to get more of these kits rolling and keep our Umpqua youth excited to spend time outside this summer!

We are still partnering with the Boys and Girls Club of Umpqua Valley to distribute fun activities, like nature scavenger hunts and bird BINGO through the lunch drop-off program. We are so grateful to have the opportunity to continue reaching out to youth, even if it's not in person, and hope that programs can start up again in the fall! Thank you to all for your generous support of these programs and supplies!



with youth in person, it is still important to cultivate their creativity and interest in the outdoors. These activities are designed to require minimal screen time and get them outside in their watershed!



Here are two of our Explorer Kit participants enjoying their new binoculars and compasses.



To supplement these activities, UW pulled together its educational resources and created free @Home Explorer Kits that could be distributed to kids around Douglas County. This first round of kits included binoculars, a magnifying glass, a compass, craft supplies, pipettes, a nature journal, stickers, and an animal print mold from a local mammal. We initially had supplies for 36 kits, and

### Upcoming Events

June 13: Wright Creek Hike

June 16: Annual Banquet LIVE 7pm

Jun 27: Yew Creek hike

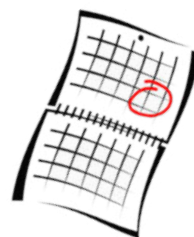
July 11: TENTATIVE. Limpy Rock hike

July 18: River Appreciation Day

July 25: Twin Lakes Youth Camp

July& August: Bass fishing derby and Scavenger hunt

In person events are subject to change. Check [www.umpquawatersheds.org/events](http://www.umpquawatersheds.org/events) for additions and more details. Please send updates to [webmaster@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:webmaster@umpquawatersheds.org)





## Restoration ... Stan Petrowski

### Declarations of Drought

Regional County Commissioners in the Pacific northwest are appealing to their respective State governors to ratify declarations of drought for their counties. Indeed, during a recent presentation by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) that I attended (via zoom) it was clear that we are once again way below average for precipitation this year. My own weather station indicates we have received only 50% of

populations for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed salmonid fisheries recovery. She was the first to let me know that the State of Oregon has designated beaver a nuisance predator species! I'm still in a state of shock 20 years later that it is still the case. Suzanne asked me to work with her and a handful of dedicated conservation enthusiasts to embark on a campaign to bring about a strategic change desperately needed in the beaver's status in the State. Embark



we did. In a phenomenally short period of time, an impressive list of scientists, agency professionals, and academics from across the State of Oregon, have signed on to our letter of request to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC).

A similar letter crafted for conservation organizations was signed on in short order by 30 of its representatives. Retired Forest Supervisors, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Park employees have signed too. Professors, climatologists and a significant array of professional doctorates from a broad spectrum of disciplines added their names. Even former Secretary of State Bill Bradbury has signed.

### What Are We Asking For?

Here is a copy of the letter we have sent to various Federal agency managers as a "heads up" on our request.

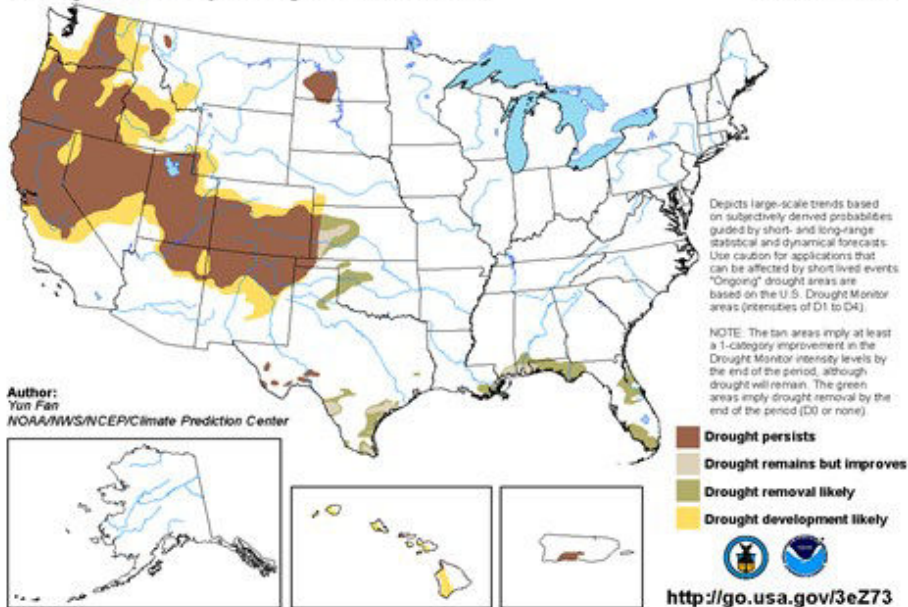
Dear XXX

*We wanted to give you a heads-up that a citizens' led effort is underway to end commercial and recreational beaver trapping and hunting on federally managed public lands in Oregon, including: National Forests, BLM managed areas, National Grasslands, National Monuments, National Parks, and USFWS Refuges. We have sent a similar heads-up to Mr. Jose Linares, BLM OR/WA Acting State Director, Mr. Paul Henson, USFWS Director of Oregon Fish and Wildlife Field Office, Mr. Michael Tehan, Assistant Regional Administrator, NMFS West Coast Regional Office, and Mr. Kim Kratz, Assistant Regional Administrator, Oregon Washington Coastal Office, NMFS West Coast Regional Office.*

*This request has broad support from citizens, and the scientific and conservation communities and it addresses the goals and objectives of the 2016 Oregon Conservation Strategy, the Governor's 100-Year Water Vision, and ODFW's mission statement. Furthermore, it helps bring ODFW policy related to management of beavers on these federally managed public lands into compliance with best available science. The request to end trapping will come before the Oregon Fish and Wildlife*

### U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for May 21 - August 31, 2020  
Released May 21



average rainfall for the year and from the projected drought maps it is evident that the long-term, above average dry that we are experiencing will continue. A well informed acquaintance of mine in discussion with an agency hydrologist was told that they considered our bioregion to be in a 30 to 40 year drought cycle. God forbid!

Recently, the power company meter reader commented on the plethora of dead and dying conifer trees in the surrounding national forest. There are many thousands of them in every direction outside the windows of my house. Fortunately I live in a Firewise community that is cooperating with the Federal agencies treating the surrounding National Forest and private property inholdings for fire resilience.

### It's Time To Make A Change: A Restoration Action Alert

Dr. Suzanne Fouty, PhD hydrologist recently retired from the US Forest Service (USFS), called to say that she is keenly aware of the drought cycle especially east of the Cascade Mountains where she spent most of her career. I've known Suzanne since the early 2000's. We met at an regional American Fisheries Society meeting where I happened to be giving a presentation on beaver ecology. My topic was our need to restore beaver



Commission at their meeting on June 12, 2020. It is on the agenda and will go to a vote.

*You are all aware of the many benefits beavers bring to water, fish and wildlife habitat, and climate change related concerns and therefore to our cities, towns and ranching and agricultural communities. In the case of climate change, the amount of atmospheric carbon captured and stored will increase as expanding wetlands and wet meadows extract carbon from the air and store it in the abundant riparian vegetation above ground, in the roots and decaying matter below ground, and in the beaver ponds. This natural process is currently an underutilized climate change response strategy.*

*While beaver can provide a wide range of ecosystem benefits, they can sometimes bring challenges such as blocked culverts and flooded roads. However, there are non-lethal solutions to these conflicts that allow beavers to remain and continue to contribute to water, fish, and wildlife as they restore stream function and expand the structural complexity, distribution, and abundance of riparian and wetland habitat types. The citizens' request being brought before the Commission would not affect the Agency's ability to lethally manage beaver, since OAR 635-050-0070 applies only to commercial and recreational harvests. Our hope is, however, that federal agencies in Oregon will take advantage of expanding beaver populations and work with local watershed councils, Soil and Water Conservation districts, and NRCS to find the funds and knowledge to successfully implement non-lethal solutions.*

*We understand there is not much time between now and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission's meeting on June 12, but should you be interested in providing input to the Commission we would certainly encourage you to do so. Access to the request materials submitted to the Commission will be available to the public by close of business Friday May 29<sup>th</sup> at <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/> as well as the letters of support from the scientific and conservation communities. Should you or your staff have questions with regard to this request to the Commission, please feel free to contact us.*

*Sincerely,*

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## The Tidal Wave of Pushback

Needless to say even though the request has not formally been reviewed by the Commission the cat is out of the bag. Opposition from across the country is pouring in to the commission via email and phone calls. Politicians are being contacted. Agency managers are being called. A veritable tidal wave of opposition is swelling from across the United States from trappers and anti-conservation individuals and groups. Won't you please consider supporting this effort and provide a counter voice to this knee jerk reaction to a common sense solution to our drought situation. Beaver, as ecosystem engineers, have acted as beneficial mitigators of flood and drought in the natural world for ages. We are not proposing the end of beaver trapping as a management tool on public or private lands. Our ask is that they be allowed to provide their ancient unique benefits to the headwaters of Oregon's Cascade Mountains. We need to irrigate. We need to drink and cleanse. Where there is no water there is no life. There's very little conflict between beaver and private lands in our headwaters, wildernesses, and parks. Where there is conflict we have viable solutions.

## Letters of Support and Comments

We've already sent our requests to the Commission. That doesn't mean you can't chime in at this time. As aforementioned, the Fish and Wildlife Commission doesn't formally vote until June 12<sup>th</sup>. Your voice is a critical component to restoring the profoundly important part of our ecosystems. The Commission can be contacted via email here: [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us) Information related to the Commission can be found here: <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/>

**Comment and add your voice of reason to the fray.**

Be wise. Stay strong. Stay healthy.



## Conservation Update.. Diana Pace

### Moore Steamboat Restoration Project North Umpqua Forest Service District

The Forest Service (FS) is planning a big timber sale in the heart of the Steamboat Creek and the Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Sanctuary. The project involves 2600 acres of logging and 120 miles of road reconstruction. It's mostly thinning young stands that were previously clear cut. Conservation supports careful thinning of dense young stands due to the potential ecological and economic benefits.

The potential problems with this project include: a lot of this area was already thinned in the Tomatillo timber sale. Heavy repeated thinning of the same stands precludes natural competition and recruitment of snags and dead wood which are so important to fish and wildlife. After the Tomatillo thinning in 2002, the trees have grown and are larger than 20" dbh and serving their intended large tree



functions within the Late Successional Reserve and the Moore Steelhead Sanctuary. To justify this timber sale the FS claims that there are too many large trees and they want to remove many of them. This is outside the norm for Late Successional Reserve (LSR) thinning which may require approval from the regional office. Removing large trees is not necessary or desired. Even if the trees do compete and later die they will provide great value to the fish, the watershed and forest wildlife. The FS proposes to commercially thin trees greater than 20" diameter within the riparian reserves with perennial stream buffers no less than 85 ft and 25 ft on intermittent streams. Limited thinning of small trees in riparian areas is acceptable but this is excessive in our opinion. Unacceptable trade offs include altering the microclimate and capturing biomass that should end up in streams. The science is clear that removing trees within 1 tree site potential tree distance of the stream deprives the stream of needed wood. In addition, the FS will reconstruct 120 miles of haul roads. Temporary roads will be decommissioned after use. Half acre lands would be created throughout the project and helicopter landings could be up to 1 acre. The FS needs help finding the

proper balance between roads and fish. Umpqua Watersheds is planning site visits and will submit comments on the project.

### Elliott State Forest (ESF) update

The ESF local collaborative group had a virtual meeting April 30. The group contributors were Teresa of Coast Range Forest Watch (CRFW), Maria CRFW, Haley of Coos Watershed Association, Mark Petrie Coos/Coquille tribal representative, Ed Hughs of Trout Unlimited and Diana Pace for Umpqua Watersheds. The latest from Oregon State University (OSU) is the Watershed Allocation with stand age distributions and buffers of 150 feet on fish bearing streams and 50 feet on non-fish bearing. Trout Unlimited is working on a Riparian Management Strategy.

The collaborative discussed OSU's Extensive Forest Management plan and proposes to integrate age diversity across the forests. The Coos and Coquille tribes are developing a notable holistic management plan that OSU could model and suggest OSU plan a tour of the Coquille Tribe's Forest.

The collaborative discussed gaps in the management and research plan such as broadening the focus on adaptive management to biodiversity especially sensitive species and less on production. Adaptive management integration is essential. Other priorities would be for OSU to consult more scientists since they have not yet utilized the diverse Science Advisory Panel. More information is also needed on OSU's Aquatic Plan including buffers, old stands and management of riparian areas. Conservation plan sustainability is integral to the design and the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to set the bar for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species adaptive management. There is a need to account for the impact of chemical spraying to soil, water and wildlife as well as tribal food sources and to protect sensitive species in the long term in the light of climate change. The collaboration asks for a definition of Extensive Forestry and requests that the increase in biodiversity be central to the research design.



OSU's response June 8 to Extensive Experimental Treatments on Elliott State Research Forest (ESRF): ESRF goal of the 'extensive' experimental treatments will be to explore the implementation of a new set of alternatives to intensive plantation management and unmanaged reserves. Research on 'extensive' alternatives will aim to accomplish diverse characteristics



to meet a broad set of objectives and ecosystem services.

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) recently asked the community stakeholders for input regarding a Recreation Plan for the ESF. That input will soon be submitted.

### **New Conservation Senate Bill to support (information provided by the National Park Conservation Association).**

Congress has a new opportunity to meaningfully address the climate crisis by setting an ambitious land and water preservation goal for the US. Sens Tom Udall (D-NM) and Michael Bennet (D-Co) introduced the bill Oct 2019 and Rep Deb Haaland (D-NM) introduced a companion bill in the House Feb 2020. You can urge your members of congress to cosponsor these bills. Hearing from constituents is one of the single most important factors lawmakers consider when deciding what bills to prioritize. The resolution known as the “Thirty by Thirty Resolution to Save Nature” is a motion to set a goal for the US to preserve 30% of its lands and waters by 2030. Currently 12% of lands and 26% of oceans waters under US jurisdiction are protected, and they play a critical role in addressing the climate crisis. We must expand the acreage of public lands that are safe from development and deforestation.

Climate change may seem overwhelming but there are smart solutions that Congress can enact that would start



to address this catastrophe and one of them is a resolution to slow the loss of species and protect lands and waters now and for the future. The resolution recognizes that this goal must be achieved in an equitable and inclusive manner rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. The resolution encourages the federal government to work with local communities, tribes, states and private landowners to conserve natural places and resources through economic incentives, management partnerships and other cooperative strategies. The health of the planet depends on green spaces and healthy oceans and protections ensure these spaces can continue to store and absorb CO2 contributing to the climate crisis. The loss of America's natural places has worsened

climate change and caused dramatic shifts in wildlife habitat and deterioration of natural environments such as forests and wetlands. Many politicians, scientists and advocates endorse 30 by 30 because it also supports a strong economy. Biologist E.O. Wilson noted that clean air and water, productive food system and healthy natural world will benefit financial health as well. Our public lands and waters are an economic boon to the nation and provide stable benefits of nearly \$900 billion in consumer spending and 7.6 million jobs. The resolution recognizes sovereign rights of tribal nations, upholds private property rights and supports the critical role farmers, ranchers and other private landowners play in conserving healthy natural systems. About 60% of the lands in the US are privately owned. It's imperative that federal land managers forge cooperative partnership and offer fiscal incentives for conservation to encourage willing land protection. The US should be a leader in the global effort to conserve nature.

### **Oregon Department of Forestry EO 20-04**

ODF is working on climate change and development of climate offset markets and participating in statewide carbon research and policy development. They are working with multiple partners and stakeholders to develop the science behind measurement and quantification of carbon storage and sequestration in forests. They are also working with federal, academic partners and neighboring states to assess and account for forest carbon and impacts of climate change. All state agencies are directed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The stated goal is “Improve carbon sequestration and storage and reduce carbon emissions in Oregon's forests and forest products.”

The Forest Carbon Coalition and its Oregon partners have the following recommendations to offer as the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) begins to fulfill its duties under Executive Order 20-04 (EO 20-04). We are encouraged that Governor Brown has exercised her authority to accelerate climate action in Oregon through this measure. Given that the industrial logging and wood products sector is Oregon's most carbon intensive and presents one of the state's most serious threats to climate resiliency, we believe it is imperative that ODF exercise any and all authority and discretion to:

- (1) Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from industrial logging activities;
- (2) Restore biodiverse forests to help mitigate the impacts of climate change, and;
- (3) Implement these tasks in the most cost-effective manner possible.

There will be public outreach throughout the process. You can view the entire document at [Oregon.gov EO 20-04](https://oregon.gov/EO/20-04)

**BLM proposed rule change** will be open for comments soon. Check UW website <https://umpquawatersheds.org/action-item-blm-rule-change-could-limit-public-input/> for more information.



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