



100 Valleys

A Quarterly Publication for the Supporters of Umpqua Watersheds, Inc

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

Winter 2021 | Issue 90

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT...Kasey Hovik

[Umpqua Watersheds](#) (UW) has accomplished many things over the course of 2021. For a second straight year our social fundraisers: the Annual Banquet and Silent Auction, the Umpqua Brew Fest and Outback Concerts had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Yet, thanks to tremendous generosity from our members, supporters, and grant funders we have not just persevered, we have thrived. This year, as in 2020, we logged over **3,000 volunteer hours!**

In 2020, thanks to a grant from the **Burning Foundation** we were able to hire [Angela Jensen](#) to be our first Conservation and Legal Director and in 2021 we were awarded another grant from the Burning Foundation to continue this work. Angela has done tremendous work in assembling and leading our Conservation Committee, writing comments to agency timber sales and actions, representing UW on various state environmental conservation alliances and working with legal challenges related to federal agency actions.

In September we were able to hire our first **Director of Education and Outreach, Ryan Kincaid**, thanks to a grant from the **C. Giles Hunt Charitable Trust**. Ryan did an outstanding job as our 2020-21 AmeriCorps member continues to amaze us with her work ethic, creativity, and organizational skills. She leads both our Education Committee and our newly formed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Over the last year we have put together a coalition to help in the restoration of BLM, Forest Service, and Private Land impacted by the Archie Creek Fire. Thanks to grants from the **Rosso Family Foundation**,



the [River Network.org](#), and the **National Forest Foundation** we, along with our partners at **Phoenix School** have raised thousands of dollars for plants, seed, and equipment. We have also hired a **Post Fire Recovery Leader/intern**, [Spencer Dieterich](#), an **Umpqua Community College** student in the Natural Resources Program started in October and we held our first restoration event on November 19 on the Umpqua National Forest. We are proud to be working with Phoenix School, the Bureau of Land Management, the Glide Revitalization Project, the National Forest Foundation, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Partnership for Umpqua Rivers, the U.S. Forest Service, Umpqua Community College in collaborating in the restoration of lands impacted by the fire and to build community support and recognition that we can work together to solve difficult ecological problems in a sustainable way.

Aerial view of the Archie Creek Fire zone.



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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.



Also in September, we welcomed UW's 10th **AmeriCorps** member, **Jane Maloney**. She was a perfect fit for the position but sadly had a family emergency and had to leave the program in October. Fortunately, thanks to a lead from former UW executive director, **Cindy Haws**, we were able to find our current AmeriCorps and another perfect fit for UW, **Viviana Young**, who started with us in November. We couldn't be happier to add her to our organization. She is the first UCC and OSU graduate to join us as an AmeriCorps member.

We are extremely happy to announce a new partnership with **Umpqua Valley Audubon Society**! Starting in February 2022 they will host their first AmeriCorps member who will be working out of the UW office. As part of the agreement, UW will provide office space and supplies as well as mentoring and supervisory support. Look for some exciting opportunities from this wonderful collaboration in 2022!

As you can see from the articles in this newsletter our committees have been very busy in 2021 and expect that 2022 will see some very special events and activities because of the hard work of the volunteers and staff who support them. All of our committees;

conservation, education, outreach, restoration, wilderness, grants and facilities spend many hours each month working on programs, events and activities that support our mission. Our board of directors and myself sit on those committees along with staff and other volunteers. None of the things we get accomplished would be possible without our Office Manager and Grant Coordinator, Melanie MacKinnon. She keeps the office humming and coordinates with everyone to ensure we are all on the same page.

An important part of what Umpqua Watersheds does is to represent the Umpqua basin and beyond in many coalitions and alliances that help shape public policy at local, regional, and national levels. I am very heartened by the great work that is conducted and the results the groups are producing. In the last two months we have seen improvements on how private land is being managed related to timber harvests. The **Forest Accord** reached by 13 conservation groups (including Umpqua **Watersheds**) and 13 timber industry groups gives us hope that progress can be made in improving the Oregon Forest Practices Act which provides some of the weakest environmental protections on the west coast and pacific northwest.

One of the coalitions we really enjoy working with is the **Forest Waters Coalition** (www.forestwaters.org). It is a leading group that is influencing state and federal policy and serves as a model for how environmental organizations can work together to accomplish positive things for our ecosystems. Their mission is to "To build public support for and secure increased protections for Oregon's private and state-owned forestlands for the benefit of fish, wildlife, water, people, and communities, including frontline communities most impacted by poor forest practices."

The **Forest Waters Coalition** includes 22 local and state-wide organizations: 350 PDX, Audubon Society of



Portland, Beyond Toxics, Cascadia Wildlands, Friends of Breitenbush, Cascades Institute for Fisheries Resources, Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands, North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection, Northwest Guides and Anglers, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Oregon Wild, Our Forests, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, Rogue Riverkeeper, Trout Unlimited, Tualatin Riverkeepers, **Umpqua Watersheds**, Wild Salmon Center, Willamette Riverkeeper and the Williams Community Forest Project.

Another very important coalition Umpqua Watersheds is involved in is the **Pacific Northwest Forest Climate Alliance** (www.forestclimatealliance.org). This group was instrumental in helping to get the **Oregon Board of Forestry** to approve the first ever **Climate Change and Carbon Plan**. The plan includes:

- Longer logging rotations,
- Deferring harvest in the mid-term,
- Incentivizing climate-smart practices for private landowners,
- Shaping forest policies through the lens of social justice and equity,
- Identifying and protecting climate refugia,
- Using the **Oregon Global Warming Commission's** Natural and Working Lands Proposed sequestration goals to guide the Department,
- Revising the **Oregon Forest Practices Act** to better prioritize climate change,
- Restoring ecological function when managing forests for increased wildfire severity and develop a prescribed fire program within the Department.
- Incorporating climate change into the Forest Management Plan (FMP) process, including through:
 - ▶ Extending harvest rotations;
 - ▶ Identifying areas that have high carbon storage potential, and establishing priorities for these areas that include long-term carbon storage; and
 - ▶ Establishing an Internal Carbon Pricing Process and using this to inform future forest management planning and decisions.

Pacific Northwest Forest Climate Alliance includes 47 individual organizations at the local, regional, and national level: 350 Eugene, 350 Washington County, 350PDX, Applegate Neighborhood Network, Bark, Beyond Toxics, Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project, Breach Collective, Cascade Volcano Chapter, Cascadia Forest Defenders, Cascadia Wildlands, Center for Earth Ethics, Center for Responsible Forestry, Clackamas Indivisible, Climate Action Coalition, Climate Justice League, Climate Reality Project, Coast Range Association, Crag Law Center, Deer Creek Association, Environmental Protection Information Center and Nature Rights Council (EPIC), Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology (FUSEE), Forest

Web, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Illinois Valley Section Sierra Club, John Muir Project of the Earth Island Institute, Klamath Forest Alliance, Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center, Lane County Audubon Society, Lane County Mutual Aid, Metro Climate Action Team (MCAT), Oregon Chapter Sierra Club, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, Oregon Wild, Our Forests, Rogue Climate, Sierra Club, Stop Fracked Gas PDX, Stop Zenith Collaborative, Sunrise Movement Beaverton, Sunrise Movement Eugene, Sunrise Movement PDX, [Umpqua Watersheds](http://UmpquaWatersheds.org), UO Climate Justice League, Wild Heritage Foundation, and Williams Community Forest Project

The last alliance we are extremely proud to be a part of is the **United Communities AmeriCorps (UCA)**. UCA has been a fantastic partner for Umpqua Watersheds and our organization would not exist in its current form without the dedication and service of the young people from all over the country who have travelled to the Umpqua to make a difference in the lives of students by teaching environmental education. We work closely with the other host sites to mutually promote events and activities. Five years ago, Umpqua Watersheds started a three-day campout in conjunction with River Appreciation Day to celebrate the service of our AmeriCorps member. We then expanded it to include all current and former AmeriCorps members and program staff who are part of the **United Communities AmeriCorps** program. In July of 2022, we will host Camp AmeriCorps at the Steamboat Ballfield in the **Umpqua National Forest** and will incorporate a celebration of the restoration work conducted in the areas impacted by the Archie Creek Fire. This will be a major event that we hope will garner state-wide recognition for the Umpqua.

Working with alliances and coalitions are a key to our success. It involves much time, communication and collaboration. In the process we stay informed on the latest developments and issues and add meaningful contributions to the process.

As you can see, my friends, **Umpqua Watersheds** is thriving. We are doing good work together and making a difference in our community and for our beloved Umpqua watershed. We are small but we are fearless and relentless in our pursuit of our mission. Thank you for your support, encouragement and friendship. Please continue to support us financially and by volunteering. Stay safe and well. ~Kasey

IN THE NEWS!!!

Pembina Pipeline told the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission today that it [will not move forward](#) with its proposed Jordan Cove liquefied natural gas export plant in Oregon.



NO PIPELINE

Board of Directors

Janice Reid

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*Vice President/
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Melanie MacKinnon

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Ryan Kincaid

*Director of Education &
Outreach*

Viviana Young

*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
Appointment:

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT....Janice Reid

Lately, I have been reviewing some of the newsletters from 20 years ago. Three aspects jumped out at me:



1. Some of the stories from those years were about the struggles to preserve the remaining old-growth forest, prevent clear-cut harvest methods on federal land, and protect roadless areas (umpquawatersheds.org/wp-content/uploads/4-UW-Newsletter-Winter-1998.pdf). It is obvious that those struggles have not ended and will never end. So long as those trees remain upright, short-sighted and greedy people will only see those trees as a source of monetary wealth. The struggle to keep those trees upright is constant and so is our need for support, encouragement, and involvement in [Umpqua Watersheds](http://umpquawatersheds.org). A lapse in awareness and participation in the public land management decisions that affect our watershed have and will continue to have an irreversible destructive impact. The **Archie Creek Fire** was an epic devastating event, not because of the fire, but because of its extent and intensity. The entire Rock Creek drainage, a tributary of the North Umpqua River, was hit hardest. Public agencies, including the **US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Oregon Department of Forestry** have facilitated the speedy removal of burned and green trees by circumventing current laws. Many of the decisions being made by these agencies are driven by monetary gain rather than ecological protection.
2. There was more member participation in the leadership part of the organization. Members were actively seeking ways to help. I realize that we are in a pandemic and that the outreach and member participation has declined, and I am hoping that we can remedy that when we can interact face to face again.
3. We had a lot more paid staff. Currently, we are mostly a volunteer organization with limited training to deal with the scope and onslaught of issues that we need to address. We currently have grants for a ¼ time **Conservation and Legal Advisor** and a ¼ time **Outreach and Education Director**. Our board would prefer to have a full-time paid staff. We continue to work toward finding funding opportunities through grant writing. Full-time paid staff would allow us to meet our mission and goals more effectively. It is astounding what we have been able to do with volunteers, but that can only continue for so long. Our organization needs full-time paid positions for a radio program manager, legal advisor, outreach, executive director, and office manager. One way that you can help is to donate monthly. A secure funding source will enable us to focus on a longer-term strategic plan rather than short-term funding needs for our basic operations. If you have grant writing skills, you could be very helpful with those efforts. It is a challenge for sure. It is not easy being green, but thanks to our many generous supporters and donors, it can be easier. [Consider joining us](http://umpquawatersheds.org/who-we-are/newsletters/). View our past newsletters on our website at umpquawatersheds.org/who-we-are/newsletters/



Introducing our NEW Environmental Education and Outreach Leader!

Hello, Umpqua Watersheds community! My name is **Viviana Young** and I am the new Environmental Education and Outreach Leader for Umpqua Watersheds via the United Communities AmeriCorps



program. So far I have gotten to know several colleagues, all of whom have been wonderful, helpful, and welcoming. I will soon be running the “Living

other less tangible benefits, such as inherent value, it is vital to protect the environment and do our part in reducing further damage and restoring what can be saved.

We have a responsibility to actively protect our planet. I am glad to be working here with those goals in mind and alongside like-minded people and I hope that through our efforts, we can bring more people to engage with nature in a positive way.



Downstream” podcast for KQUA 99.7, and I look forward to interviewing great scientific and eco-friendly minds!

I am a graduate of Umpqua Community College, where I got my AAOT, and of Oregon State University, where I got my Bachelor of Science in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. I have lived in Roseburg, Oregon for about 18 years so I have the good fortune to already be familiar with the wonderful community here. Even so, I have met many new people recently and have heard great new perspectives! For example, I and a few other Watersheds members got to attend a presentation by Susan Anstey of Common Grounds Remediation about communication techniques and conflict management. This was an opportunity for me to learn a little about some of the people I’m now working with and hear engaged discussion about a topic that impacts our work and home lives every day. Thank you to Susan for a wonderful presentation and for being so open to questions!

I have also already had an opportunity to see the Umpqua Watersheds teamwork dynamic in person when I visited Archie Creek with several others and planted native greenery. You can read more about Archie Creek and the restoration efforts happening there in Kasey’s current article.

I have always loved the outdoors and I know many others do as well. I believe it’s important to recognize that the natural environment is a key part of our community, bringing people together and sustaining us both mentally and physically. Because of this and



Do you want to spend your days “connecting people with nature to inspire protection of our natural world” while serving as our Outreach Coordinator with [Umpqua Valley Audubon Society](#) (UVAS) in Roseburg, Oregon? UVAS is expanding our conservation outreach and education programs using local and migratory bird species as a focus. You will be part of the UVAS team, building program capacity and mobilizing volunteers to engage people of all ages in our community. Benefits include:

- Living Allowance
- Education Award
- Loan Forbearance
- Health Insurance
- Child Care Assistance
- Professional Development



We are currently recruiting for a 6-month AmeriCorps position that begins February 1, 2022, with the potential for an additional 12 months.

For more [information](#) (tinyurl.com/UmpquaAudubon) about the position or to [apply](#), visit AmeriCorps where you can register. For questions about this position, contact UVAS President, Diana Wales dwales215@gmail.com or United Communities Coordinator Rachelle Mills Rachelle.Mills@ucancap.org.

Conservation Committee Update: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly....

Janice Reid & Angela Jensen

Let's start with a few "good" news items. In 2019, Oregon conservation groups filed ballot initiatives to reform Oregon's outdated **Forest Practices Act** (Act). Concerned with the lack of environmental and habitat protection afforded by the Act, conservation groups signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** (MOU) with the timber industry (who had filed competing ballot initiatives) to come together in negotiations. To realize some worthwhile changes, parties to the MOU have negotiated tirelessly this past year. On October 30th, parties signed the [Private Forest Accord](#) that will now advance to the legislature to be formally codified as law. Some of the most important highlights of the agreement are expanded riparian buffers, limited industrial logging on steep slopes, new standards for building and maintaining forest roads, and special attention given to Small Forestland Owners. While there is still much to be done to reform the Act, we are heartened that these forward steps can be considered progress (see the **Executive Director's** article for more).

Participation in the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change/Conference of Parties](#), or UNFCCC COP 26 is



exciting. Preceding this international climate summit and its negotiations, [Umpqua Watersheds](#) worked with coalition members to draft and sign on to various letters imploring the Biden Administration to take serious action toward carbon-reduction commitments that would include the conservation and preservation of our Pacific Northwest Forests. Specifically, we sought the protection of old-growth and mature forests on public lands for climate change mitigation. Unfortunately, federal agency climate action plans include little on this topic. Thus, we have more work to do in this area of conservation.

Efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change, will not discourage us. We have advocated tirelessly with state agencies and decision-makers to adhere to Governor Brown's Executive Order requiring Oregon's administrative agencies to prioritize climate action in their decisions. In October, the [Oregon Global Warming Commission](#) released its "Natural and Working Lands Proposal" as the centerpiece of which was to sequester no less than five million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents per year in Oregon's working lands by 2030. According to the Proposal, sequestration capacity would only increase in subsequent years. The **Oregon Board of Forestry** has since approved the **Climate Change and Carbon Plan**, the content of which was summarized in the Executive Directors summary. While the Plan is not perfect and there is still work to be done, we are seeing steps forward.

We provided comments on the **Elliott State Forest** transition to a research forest, and we continue to monitor those developments and management decisions. [Diana Pace](#) will continue to stay engaged and provide the much needed monitoring of the process.

One big effort we are undertaking and requires more detail, is the monitoring of the **Archie Creek Fire** and related agency projects. In September 2020, the Archie Creek Fire started from a downed power line. The unusual forecast of high westward winds combined with elevated temperatures created a situation that would prove devastating to residents and our local forests. Federal, state, county, and private landowners joined forces to keep the fire from spreading. Federal and private land burned intensely and when it was over, the area encompassing the burn was 131,580 acres. Approximately 25% of the area was classified as low severity or unburned. Roughly 70% of the area was medium or high severity, half of which was federal land.

The fact that 30% of the area was unburned or low severity burn is heartening. Recovery is happening. Vegetation is regrowing, wildlife is returning, and the soils are starting to rebuild. Nature is rebounding and restoration efforts are underway from various community organizations including Umpqua Watersheds. Our **Archie Creek Restoration** coordinator has put projects on the ground and enabled volunteers, agency employees, community organizations, and students to participate.

Many burned trees are being harvested as evident from the number of log trucks coming out of the burn area. Unfortunately, there is also harvest of live trees within the fire perimeter on both federal and private land. This is not only unnecessary, but it is counterproductive to the restoration efforts. Natural reforestation is much gentler on the environment and every live tree out there is contributing to the re-establishment of native forest.

Private landowners are harvesting large areas - larger than what would normally be allowed under the antiquated **Oregon Forest Practices Act**. Whole sections have been cleared of every standing tree, dead or alive, with no mandate to maintain or increase forest diversity by retaining minor species such as hardwoods. This will lead to monoculture stands in the future, the same type of forest that contributed to recent high-intensity burns.

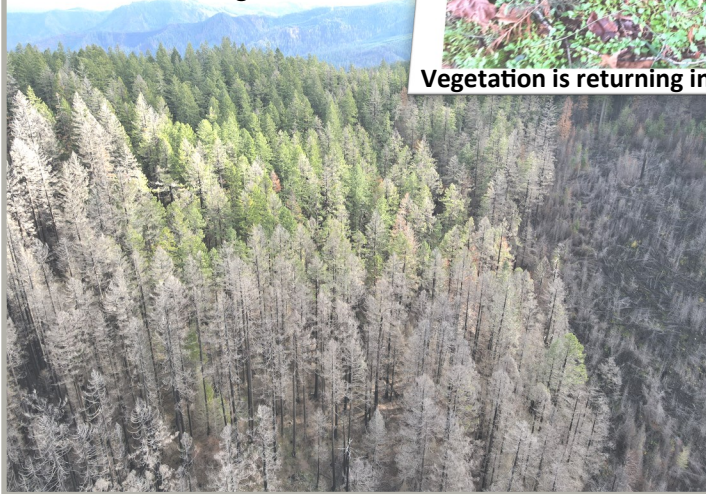
Normally under **Oregon Department of Forestry** rules, certain streams would be buffered with standing trees, and wildlife trees would be retained in the harvest area. Even dead trees are valuable to wildlife and fish. Standing trees provide shade, among other amenities, which is evident when one drives through the harvested and unharvested areas of the burn. Road construction leads to soil runoff and degradation of water quality, affecting our fisheries as well as our recreational enjoyment.

The damage is not restricted to private land. We found evidence that private contractors had used live trees on public land for tying cables to secure equipment. These cable tie-offs are preceded by notching the tree so that the cable does not slip, effectively cutting through the protective bark of the tree. This action will result in more mortality on public land. Damage to public forests also occurs when trees on adjacent private land are removed. Even dead trees can help block the wind that can topple live trees.

On these public land within the fire perimeter, much of the older forest remains. While some areas did burn intensely, many others were barely affected by the fire. Federal agencies made plans for “danger tree” removal along roads within the perimeter, citing a provision intended only for road maintenance called a “**Categorical Exclusion.**” This decision by the federal agencies was neither reasoned nor lawful. As such, Umpqua Watersheds is now the lead Plaintiff in litigation against the Forest Service asking that the agency proceed lawfully by fulfilling its obligations under the **National Environmental Policy Act** (NEPA) and complete the required Environmental Assessment. We have filed a joint motion with our co-plaintiffs and the **Forest Service** to postpone any deadlines with the court pending a potential settlement agreement. This agreement will hopefully serve notice that we expect federal agencies to abide by their statutory obligations, while simultaneously leaving the door open to develop harmonic conservation and restoration efforts.

Some of these “danger tree” removal projects are in areas of **Late Successional Reserve** (LSR). It is certainly not vital to reopen these roads in the short term and could prove less expensive to simply temporarily close these roads as recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Aerial view showing dead trees.



(FEMA). **Umpqua Watersheds** does not dispute that danger tree removal may be necessary along more heavily trafficked routes, but we believe that removal should be selective and only employed where appropriate. Commercial harvest of large old growth trees along short, dead-end roads is a travesty. In some cases, on O&C lands, these roads exist in the first place due to a right of way which agencies are unable to deny (called a non-discretionary right of way). Road construction and forest clearance occur in LSR and near currently occupied spotted owl sites. Private timber companies can, and often do, place right of ways through some of the most economically valuable stands of trees on our public land, ignoring the ecological implications. Agencies and the public are powerless to stop them. We observed trees over several hundred years old commercially harvested from public land, some of which had clearly been alive. Riparian areas

had not been protected, and roads were built so hastily that they lack proper drainage culverts.

Our faith in the ability of public land managers to protect the ecological values of the forest continues to decline when we discover such blatant misuse of a provision designed with the

The contrast between public and private lands.



Vegetation is returning in the burn area.

legitimate goal of protecting the public. This tactic could be used in future fire areas, including the recent Jack Creek Fire area. Hopefully, concerns expressed about the Archie Creek Fire will be used to better inform decisions regarding project proposals within the Jack Creek Fire perimeter and other similar projects, and those projects will be more ecologically sound and based on legitimate needs.



Harvest of old-growth tree in LSR. This was within a recently occupied spotted owl site.

Please remember that your year end donation is tax deductible. A special tax deductible amount of \$600 is available even if you do not itemize.

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/special-600-tax-deduction-helps-most-people-give-to-charity-this-year-even-if-they-dont-itemize>

KQUA update...Patrick Schneider



It's been a productive year for **99.7 KQUA**. We have launched new programs, expanded our playlist, and have been working to improve our signal strength.

In the last year, **99.7 KQUA** launched three new radio programs. President of Umpqua Watersheds, Janice Reid

launched a music program called **Earth in Tune** which features nature-inspired songs. The show features a new theme each week. Earth in Tune is on every Saturday at 11am to noon and Sundays 4pm-5pm.

Ryan Kincaid, UW's Director of Education and Outreach and our former AmeriCorps created a show called **Living Downstream**. The show is hosted by our current AmeriCorps member, Viviana Young. Living Downstream is a program for anyone who'd like to learn about environmental topics of interest in the Umpqua Watershed of southern Oregon, and the larger Pacific Northwest region.

Our third new program is Sunday Selecta hosted by local music DJ Eric Yo. **Sunday Selecta** is an hour-long program every first and third Sundays at 11am. The show features reggae music focusing on sub-genres of reggae music.

99.7 KQUA features other programs dedicated to music or the environment. Every Saturday and Sunday Stan Petrowski hosts **Radio Active Restoration**, an hour long program that discusses environmental issues. Frances Eatherington is the host of **Conservation Today**. There is no set schedule for Conservation Today. When there is a new episode, it airs next to Radio Active Restoration. Francis interviews people in Oregon about the environment. Our other environmental topic program is hosted by Andrew Collins called **Coast Range Radio**. The show is a half-hour program featured twice monthly.

99.7 KQUA is working on developing new programs. We are seeking people who enjoy discussing topics regarding the environment, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) issues, and voices from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQI+) community. We're excited to utilize our radio station, KQUA, as a platform for marginalized voices. If you are interested in hosting a radio program honoring diverse perspectives and elevating those who have been oppressed, please email your idea to ryan@umpquawatersheds.org. Shows can be music or talk programs.

99.7 KQUA is a Low-Power FM signal that reaches the majority of Roseburg. The station is only allowed to broadcast at 100 watts which does not cover much area and large parts of our community are left out. We tried to remedy this situation with a new antenna. Unfortunately, where the antenna is mounted, the antenna does not operate at its peak performance. To further remedy this issue we took advantage of an opportunity to upgrade our power output by filing for a new **Federal Communications Commission (FCC)** license.

We are excited about the recent announcement from the FCC that applications were being accepted for full-power educational FM's

- ◆ KQUA is always seeking underwriters: We have \$125 and \$50 underwriting deals!
- ◆ Do you have an idea for a radio show on KQUA? Send us your idea.
- ◆ Get your sticker for \$5 and support our community radio.
- ◆ Email kqua@umpquawatersheds.org for more information.

known as NCE or Non-Commercial Education stations. These stations can put out larger amounts of wattage which would end up covering a large portion of Douglas County if we were to get it. Currently, the license has not been granted but it looks as if we will be awarded the license. If we receive the license and get it on air, KQUA will move to a different spot on the dial. The station will have coverage from Yoncalla, south to Canyonville and will be heard at least 10 miles east and west of I-5.

For those that can't get 99.7 KQUA on their radio, 99.7 KQUA is working on a phone app for listeners to connect with KQUA via their smartphone. We reached out to Catchafire for the design and were able to get a nice, slick looking app for development. However, further development has been slow due to the company we contracted. The company employs college students and appears to only have one full-time employee. There is no timeline for completion as of now. But, 99.7 KQUA streams online at kqua.org. You can find podcasts of previous episodes of shows we air on the website.



We do announcements for non-profits and public institutions as well as underwriting spots for business supporters. 99.7 KQUA is a collaborative, work-in-process. We are thankful for the people who are currently contributing or have contributed to the station in the past. It takes a community to do this. People interested in contributing to 99.7 KQUA, either physically or financially can reach out to us via our website. If you are interested in providing community content or underwriting the radio, email kqua@umpquawatersheds.org.

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 or mark@umpquawatersheds.org.

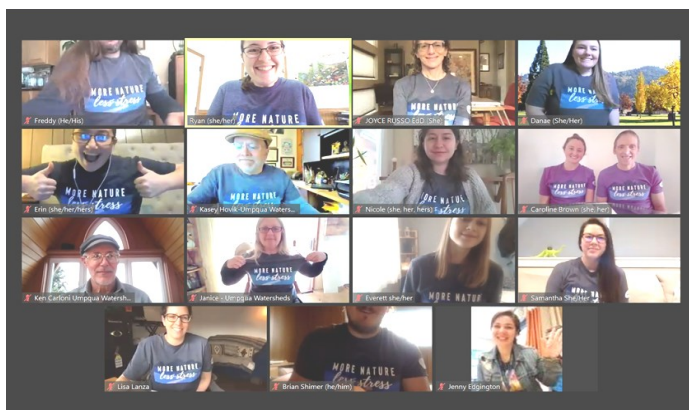


Lots of Learning in 2021

Director of Education & Outreach ~ Ryan Kincaid

2021 saw lots of change and growth in terms of Umpqua Watersheds' educational programs! With COVID still going strong, we created new opportunities for youths and adults to learn about local environmental issues. Here are a few highlights from the year:

- ["Living Downstream,"](#) an educational radio show, began airing on Umpqua Watersheds' station - 99.7 (KQUA). Past episodes feature artists, authors, biologists, hydrologists, and other scientists, and are available via PodBean.
- We hosted our first annual "Learning in the Umpqua Watershed" training for local educators.



- Our website now features an ["Educator Resources"](#) page with recordings of workshops as well as standards-aligned lessons/activities.



- We began offering quarterly virtual volunteer training.
- Our annual Camp AmeriCorps celebrated the service of local AmeriCorps members and was a great kickoff to our annual [River Appreciation Day](#).
- We relocated our Youth Wilderness Campout to North Bank Habitat Management Area and had a fun learning experience at the new location.
- Our "Eco Innovations Challenge" provided an opportunity for local youths and adults to present their ideas of how to solve environmental challenges. From this emerged our new summer

program "Kids for Nature", which was brainstormed by a 9-year-old-girl from the area!

- Our new environmentally themed book club "Turning Over a New Leaf" began convening every other month.

- We hired a part-time Director of Education & Outreach.



Attendees at our "Learning in the Umpqua Watershed" training for local educators learned about nature journaling, how to teach about climate change, local environmental challenges, creative problem solving, and more!

Coming Up in 2022

We are excited to continue expanding our offerings in the new year. Here are a couple of exciting events to mark on your calendar for the coming months:

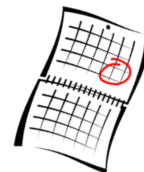
- [Book Club](#) ~ On Saturday, January 22nd we'll start the year with a discussion of *As Long as Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice, from Colonization to Standing Rock* by Dina Gilio-Whitaker.
- [Teacher Training](#) ~ In April of 2022 we're expanding our reach to include fifteen educators from Douglas County with five additional spots reserved for homeschooling parents and teachers from surrounding counties. The 2022 training will offer workshops on flora and fauna, post-fire restoration, local indigenous history and culture, STEM, ethical decision-making, citizen science, and field surveys, as well as teaching about climate change. If you're interested in being a part of this event - whether as a presenter or participant - please email ryan@umpquawatersheds.org.
- [Other Exciting Events!](#) ~ In 2022, we're hoping to host additional film screenings, panel discussions, campouts, and other engaging learning opportunities! Have a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season. We'll see you in 2022!

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Dec 18- Archie Creek Fire Restoration & Recovery Event

Saturday, January 15th **Volunteer Training**

Saturday, January 22nd: **Turning Over a New Leaf Book Club:** We're starting the year with a discussion of *As Long as Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice, from Colonization to Standing Rock*, by Dina Gilio-Whitaker.



Join our New Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee!

Umpqua Watersheds values both human and ecological diversity. We celebrate the strengths and perspectives that different people have to offer and believe that organizations, communities, and ecosystems are all more resilient when they embrace the unique gifts various individuals can contribute.

We are dedicated to making our programs and events more inclusive, and have created a DEI committee to explore the ways in which we can incorporate more diverse perspectives and increase accessibility so that anyone and everyone interested in supporting our efforts to protect and restore the lands and waters of the Umpqua watershed – and beyond – is able to do so.

If you are interested in being a part of our newly formed committee, please reach out to our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Chair **Ryan Kincaid** (ryan@umpquawatersheds.org) to learn more!



On Friday, December 3rd, Umpqua Watersheds hosted an online video showing of "Dancing Salmon Home" via Zoom. Following the film, we had an informative discussion with **Winnemem Wintu Chief Caleen Sisk** about the intersection between environmental degradation and the threats to indigenous culture. We had a great turnout for this virtual event and will be doing another event early next year to support the Winnemem Wintu and indigenous cultures. **We are committed to moving beyond land acknowledgements to support social justice.**

BIOCHAR COMES TO MARTHA'S VINEYARD! Ken Carloni



We had just completed a 12-acre biochar project at the Yew Creek Land Alliance property west of Riddle in the fall of 2020 when a young journalist from the [Capital Press](#) (Oregon's newspaper for farmers, loggers and ranchers) came to visit to report on our work. Maggie Craig had heard about our project from UW board member Eric Stauder who was part of our biochar crew. Eric and Maggie had spent time together on a USFS botany crew and had kept in touch. Eric suggested that the innovative work we were doing integrating biochar into our habitat restoration efforts might be of interest to CP readers. Maggie pitched it to her editor who gave her the go-ahead.

Eric and I showed Maggie around and explained how we used flame cap kilns to char logging slash from our thinning work and return it to the soil where it becomes biologically active. In her article "[Biochar to go: New process will make carbon-rich soil supplement on-site](#)", Maggie explained to her readers that biochar increases soil water holding capacity, keeps nutrients from leaching, and provides habitat for beneficial soil microbes thereby increasing soil productivity. Not only does the resulting increase in tree growth capture more carbon from the atmosphere, but the pyrolyzed biomass changes to a form that locks its carbon in the soil for centuries to millennia.

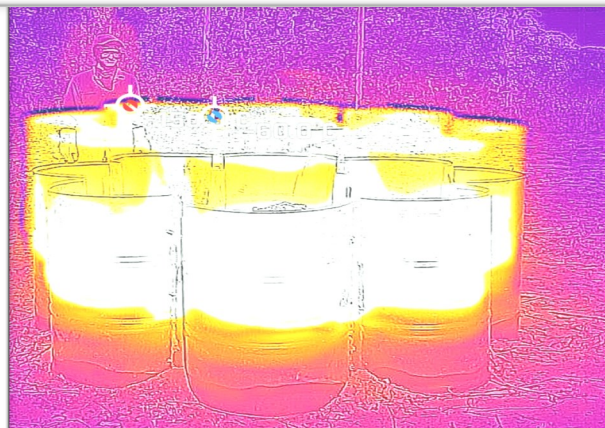
Several months after the article was published, Maggie returned to her family's home on Martha's Vineyard off the coast of Cape Cod, MA. Inspired by what she learned about biochar from her visit to Yew Creek and her subsequent research, she became intrigued by the idea of bringing biochar production to the island. We kept in touch, and worked out a plan for me to visit in October to do a webinar and hands-on demonstration for interested island folk.

Although I am an avowed biochar evangelist, I was initially a bit skeptical. Coming from the expansive western forests of towering conifers, how would biochar production be anything more than an inconsequential hobby in the highly fire-resistant hardwood forests of New England? But Maggie was enthusiastic and sent me a couple of research papers on historic fire in New England and a recent study of the surprisingly high fire risk on MV and nearby islands. Once I dug into the literature, I too was hooked.

It turns out that the original Wampanoag inhabitants of the island (close kin to the Indians that famously befriended the Pilgrims on the mainland) had underburned the forests there for millennia to encourage wild huckleberries, cranberries and grapes (hence the “vineyard” part of the name that “discoverer” Bartholomew Gosnold gave to the island). After most of the original hardwood forests had been cut centuries ago for firewood and European-style agriculture, about 10% of MV (now a state forest) was planted to red and white pines (not native to MV) in a misguided depression-era attempt to create a lumber industry. Unfortunately, decades of nor’easters and hurricanes have beaten the trees

but the pandemic prevented me from joining my colleagues on Guam for a hands-on demonstration (someday...). Maggie secured the barrels and cut them to shape, and I grabbed the hardware to bracket them together from a Home Depot on my way to the ferry.

We fabricated the kiln on a Sunday, and on Monday I did a Zoom presentation that was attended by folks from the state forest, organic farmers, county officials, landscapers, shellfish growers and others – many of whom came to the demonstration the following Tuesday. The weather cooperated and a burn using brush and invasive bamboo went off



up to the point that there is “nary a strait log” in the forest. This has left an economically nonviable and uncharacteristically flammable forest surrounded by charming wood frame historic houses and multi-million dollar McMansions. The fire risk analysis showed that many of these structures are now highly vulnerable to wildfire.

Removing the flammable ladder fuels from the understory and gradually converting the forest back to a native hardwood ecosystem would reverse this problem, and producing biochar from the resulting slash would recharge depleted forest soils.

We decided to build a kiln based on a design I developed for a project on Guam using surplus 55 gallon drums. I had tested the design at Yew Creek,

without a hitch against a beautiful backdrop of Menemsha Pond surrounded by New England fall foliage.

In mid-November, another nor’easter hit the island and brought down a major trove of biomass. Maggie and a colleague who manages the grounds of a large estate are preparing to turn the storm damage into more biochar rather than simply piling it, torching it, and sending another plume of greenhouse gas into the atmosphere.

Maggie and I are hoping that the biochar seed we planted on Martha’s Vineyard will grow like wild grape vines, inspiring others to ramp up the production of biochar on the island and spreading its tendrils to the mainland.



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