



100 Valleys

A Quarterly Publication for the Supporters of Umpqua Watersheds, Inc

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

Spring 2022 | Issue 91

Teaching Teachers and Connecting Kids with the Environment

Last year, we held our first training event for local educators, which we called “Learning in the Umpqua Watershed: Engaging K-12 Students through Nature Connections & STEAM Activities.” This is now an annual event, and this year it will take place over three days (April 13th - 15th), allowing us to focus our attention on particular grade levels during each session. Thanks to funding from grants awarded by the **Clif Family Foundation** and **The Roundhouse Foundation**, we are able to offer this program for free to educators and provide each participating teacher with books and other materials, as well as a \$100 stipend. We greatly appreciate these funders’ support, because it allows us to demonstrate our gratitude toward educators and offer much-needed resources to help their students to thrive! We are also *so grateful* for all of the time, effort, and creativity that local teachers contribute to the youngest members of our community.



Another great program that began last year was Kids for Nature. This summer camp, originally presented by a local 9-year-old during our Eco Innovations Challenge as a way to connect youths with the environment, is expanding in exciting ways! Like last year, we will visit various local parks and engage in educational and nature art activities, but this year we are hoping to offer the program to more youths, have sessions run **throughout the summer**, and include one or two camping trips. This is a big undertaking so we are looking for people to help facilitate it.

To learn more about how you can participate in or help facilitate either of these wonderful programs, please email our Director of Education and Outreach at ryan@umpquawatersheds.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

~Ryan Kincaid

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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.

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Newsletter Editor

Office Hours by Appointment:

1-5 M-W & 9-1 Th-F

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



To many of us, the past two years have seemed more like five. While we have continued to work hard to fulfill the mission of Umpqua Watersheds and have accomplished so much in the process, not being able to have regular in-person events where we can meet with our supporters has taken a toll on all of us in the organization. Finally, it appears that things are getting better and that very soon we will be able to create a new normal. As I mentioned a year ago, I couldn't be prouder of how UW volunteers and staff have responded to the challenges of the pandemic and feel we are coming out of the pandemic much stronger than when we went into it.

One of the critical committees of Umpqua Watersheds is the grant committee. Over the last two years, we have written several successful grants and I feel confident that we will double our funding support through grants for our programs this year. It takes a lot of information and a team effort to write a successful grant. Melanie MacKinnon, our Office Manager and Grant Coordinator, has been invaluable in organizing our online grant resources and helping us stay organized and focused on following through with reports related to grants. Mark Eason, our treasurer, has also played a very important role by helping us to provide critical financial information and working with team members to create budgets. Each committee develops projects that support our mission and appeal to grant funders. It is exciting when one of our projects gets funded and especially exciting when we get support for operations because nothing could happen without our paid staff. For each of the grants we write, it takes between 20-40 hours to develop a program, carry out research, and coordinate elements with committees.

As I write this update, Ryan Kinkaid is putting the final touches on an Oregon Community Foundation grant that will dramatically expand the Kids for Nature program created by Emily Cannon, a 10-year old who won first place in the Eco Innovations Challenge program that Ryan created in 2021. When we are writing grants, the group is exchanging emails, phone calls, and texts in order to get it just right, and once submitted, we all take a collective huge breath of relief. I don't have adequate words to express my appreciation for everything Ryan does except to say I am very proud of her. We are anxiously waiting to hear if grants submitted earlier this year to support our radio station, KQUA, will be funded.

We applied to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for a noncommercial education radio license last fall, and we are very excited that it was approved. This will allow us to dramatically expand the reach of our terrestrial signal from a 10-mile radius of downtown Roseburg to the entire Umpqua basin! It will also enable us to pay our volunteer program manager, Patrick Schneider, and provide much more original programming in addition to excellent music for our listeners. The station will continue to be available over the internet, but with the antenna on a tower on Scott Mountain most people in the Umpqua will be able to tune in on their car radios.

We have also submitted grants that will support the development of a multimedia conference room and radio studio. This will help to expand the breadth and variety of our programs. It will also enable us to provide these resources to other nonprofits and individuals in the community, and by doing so find ways of leveraging our shared resources to make a difference in our beloved community and to the beautiful natural resources that make the Umpqua a special place to live.

We will keep you posted on our projects with our monthly Watershed Moments and at upcoming events. As always, we greatly appreciate your support and all of us are looking forward to seeing you soon. Thank you!

~Kasey Hovik

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I recall on social media that progressives were being referred to as “snowflakes.” I am not sure where the term originated. However, judging by who was using it and knowing that it was meant as an insult, I believe it means people who melt under pressure or heat. Well, it also has another meaning, and I can tell you for sure that those involved with Umpqua Watersheds (UW) are not the type to melt under pressure.



Each snowflake is unique, just as each member of UW is, and when our team bands together we form snowballs. Once these snowballs get going, they become an avalanche of action, activities, ideas, and energy. Our unpaid Executive Director, **Kasey Hovik**, always has something going on, such as organizing events, participating in partnerships, providing input, asking questions, supervising employees, and more. He does all of that while holding a full-time job outside of Umpqua Watersheds. Our quarter-time Outreach and Education Director, **Ryan Kincaid**, takes organization seriously and is the queen of color-coded Excel spreadsheets. Her energy is seemingly endless. We are fortunate that she can work for UW while residing on the east coast. Another east coast employee is quarter-time conservation and legal director **Angela Jensen**, who also holds a full-time job outside of UW. She formulates letters, studies the legal aspects of forest and conservation laws, and provides feedback to agencies and legislative sessions. We are lucky to have a full-time AmeriCorps member, **Viviana Young**, who jumped into the position when the previous member left unexpectedly. Viviana operates independently and confidently, keeping programs going, including the Living Downstream radio show, science classes at schools, and outreach activities. Little dynamo, **Melanie MacKinnon**, works for UW 30 hours a week. She keeps the office’s administrative functions sailing smoothly while providing thoughtful input into key aspects of the organization, such as managing grant coordination. Our new Archie Creek Restoration coordinator, **Spencer Dieterich**, attends school full time while coordinating restoration events and seeking volunteers, supplies, and equipment. And that is just our staff...a snowball of energy!

Then there are UW volunteers. **Patrick Schneider** has been our 99.7 KQUA radio program manager for five years now. He coordinates our station shows and music while ensuring we comply with federal, state, and local regulations. He keeps up on the latest music use licensing

requirements and also coordinated the station’s vision as we sought a new Non-Commercial Education license that will allow us to reach further into our community. We are excited that we will be able to transition Patrick to a paid staff position. **Eric Stauder** works full-time at Phoenix School while finishing his Natural Resources degree at Oregon State University. He is on the UW Board of Directors (BOD), where he helps with grants, restoration activities, and education programs. He is a man of ideas and action. I don’t think Eric can sit still! **Diana Larson**

Stone slips in and out of the office to handle the bookkeeping. We only know that she has been there when the pile of paperwork diminishes. Our treasurer **Mark Eason** is phenomenal. His finance knowledge and facility management skills are invaluable. He is self-employed and semi-retired and is always available to help with grants, building issues, financial statements, and more. He and **Ken Carloni** manage a large tract of forest called Yew Creek Alliance. Their focus is on restoring the property by conducting biochar events, thinning, and other valuable forest hardening activities. Ken, a retired UCC instructor and founding member of UW, is currently Vice President. As our restoration chair, he is involved in many partnerships representing UW and Yew Creek Alliance. He focuses his attention on hatcheries, dams, and fire projects to restore watersheds to a more natural state. Our Secretary, **Diana Pace**, is a retired nurse and member of the Wilderness Committee, a group that advocates for the Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal, and the Conservation Committee. She lives for hiking and camping but has had to sideline those activities due to a recent health issue. Rest assured that she will hit the trail again and get those hikes scheduled. And the last “snowflake” is me. I am a retired wildlife biologist and volunteer full-time as president. I also serve on the conservation committee, where I strive to protect the non-monetary outputs of our forests.

We do what we do because we have a deep passion for protecting our local ecosystems. We appreciate all of our members’ contributions and could not do this without you - one of the many integral “snowflakes” making up the avalanche that is Umpqua Watersheds. Let’s keep the momentum going. Thank you!

~Janice Reid



THE FATE OF NORTH UMPQUA SUMMER STEELHEAD: The Problem and the Solution

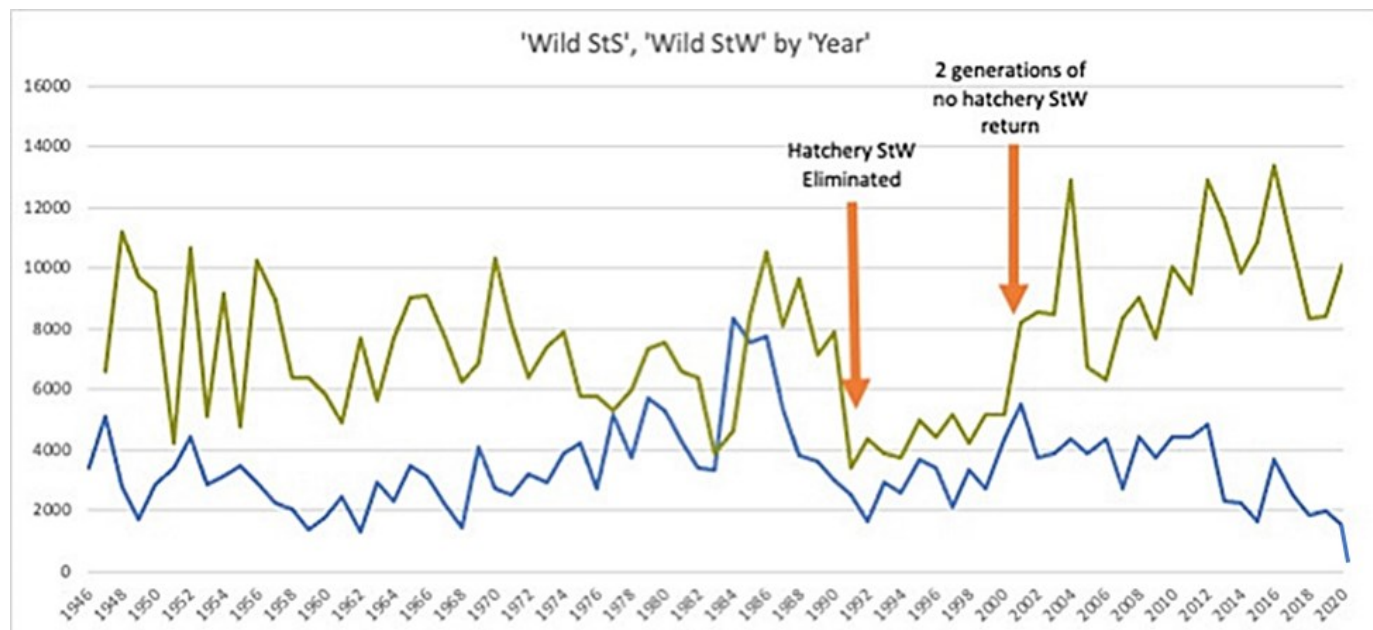
In 2021, 347 summer steelhead crossed the Winchester Dam to head up to their ancestral spawning streams in the upper reaches of the North Umpqua River. When settlers first arrived, a man could catch a wagon load with a net in one morning. Even when accurate counts began in 1948, after decades of habitat loss and dam building, summer steelhead consistently numbered in the thousands through most of the late 20th century. Now, these 347 fish are all that stand between this iconic run and extinction.

In recent decades, winter steelhead have done comparatively well, with numbers typically in the six to twelve thousand range. Why have these two very similar runs fared so differently? The graph below tells a compelling story.

First, a bit of background: There's an old saying among fish biologists that the abundance of anadromous fish (fish that hatch in freshwater streams, migrate to the ocean, and return to their home streams to spawn) is affected by the four Hs: habitat, harvest, hydropower, and hatcheries. I would add a fifth H for "heredity". Although all of these factors are operating in the North Umpqua, the different fates of summer and winter steelhead runs can largely be explained by looking at how the last two Hs – hatcheries and heredity – interact.

In the last few decades, geneticists have discovered that the traits inherited from a pair of parents are affected not only by the information encoded in the DNA of each set of genes, but also by environmental signals that can turn those genes on or off. This phenomenon is referred to as epigenetics, and epigenetic changes can be passed to offspring for at least two generations. For example, a [2013 study](#) found that when mice were exposed to the scent of cherry blossoms (something they had never encountered in their laboratory cages) and were then shocked, their offspring and their offspring exhibited fearful behavior when exposed to the same scent¹.

A more [recent study](#) has shown that hatchery conditions, including feeding practices that accelerate growth and result in early maturation, can alter the epigenetic developmental programming of steelhead trout². This epigenetic re-programming happens when steelhead are raised in concrete tanks and fed artificial diets. Crowded conditions and numerous small injuries also contribute to changes in gene expression in hatchery steelhead. These epigenetic changes result in "...decreased fitness of hatchery-reared fish and offspring in the wild, and changes in age at spawning, morphology, growth rate, brain morphology, anti-predator behavior, and migration" leading to reduced reproductive success in the wild. The authors conclude that "The impacts of hatchery exposures are not only important to consider on the fish exposed, but also on future generations and on the evolutionary trajectory of fish in the river populations."



Wild Steelhead Counts at Winchester Dam from 1946 to 2020. Note the increase in numbers of wild winter steelhead (StW – green line) after Rock Creek Hatchery stopped rearing them. Summer steelhead (StS – blue line) continue their steep decline. (Source: ODF&W data)

So, what happens when wild fish cross with hatchery-reared fish? A study [published last month](#) that looked at the relative biological fitness of hatchery vs wild (natural-origin) pink salmon (closely related to steelhead) in Prince William Sound concluded that reproductive success was significantly lower for hatchery vs natural-origin fish³. The data suggested that the offspring of two hatchery-origin parents have the lowest reproductive success, with hybrid offspring having intermediate success. Epigenetically altered genes are potentially heritable in salmonids, with alterations found to extend to the sperm of adult male steelhead and salmon^{2,4}. Although this is not the only factor affecting the fitness of hatchery-raised fish and their offspring - heritable genetic traits, as well as behavioral, phenotypic, and ecological differences, are also influential - it clearly has serious implications for wild runs that spawn concurrently with hatchery-reared fish.



Hatchery managers attempt to keep wild and hatchery stock separated – hatchery-reared fish theoretically should return directly back to their hatchery rather than moving upstream to where wild steelhead spawn. But this is often not the case, possibly due in part to epigenetic modifications affecting migration behavior. In fact, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has documented that nearly one-third of summer steelhead spawning in North Umpqua upland streams are of hatchery origin.

So, what is the solution to the precipitous decline in North Umpqua summer steelhead? Another look at the graph reveals the answer.

Notice that the *winter* steelhead hatchery program was discontinued in the early 1990s. Interestingly, two generations later wild winter steelhead populations rebounded to their highest abundance since counts

began in 1948, while wild summer steelhead continued to decline. This is strong evidence that hatchery fish are detrimentally impacting the wild run by reducing biological fitness and increasing direct competition for food and habitat.

Based on these fish counts and the latest science, the North Umpqua Coalition (a partnership that includes Umpqua Watersheds, the Native Fish Society, the Steamboaters, The North Umpqua Foundation, the Conservation Angler, and Trout Unlimited) is demanding that the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission direct the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to **immediately discontinue the summer steelhead hatchery program on the North Umpqua**. Beyond the failure of the program to support wild fish, there is no economic reason to continue rearing hatchery steelhead. They do not make up a significant proportion of salmon species caught by the commercial fishing industry, and they are rarely caught by any but the most skilled sport fishers. The North Umpqua is a world-renowned steelhead river, and anglers come from all over the world to test their skill against these wily creatures. An all-wild steelhead river with healthy year-round runs would drive even more sport fishing dollars to our economy.

Discontinuing the summer steelhead hatchery program will give the remaining wild run a fighting chance to survive and once again thrive in the North Umpqua. We owe nothing less to this iconic natural treasure. Look for ways to help in upcoming issues of our online *Watershed Moments*.

~Ken Carloni

1 Callaway, E. Fearful memories haunt mouse descendants. *Nature* (2013). doi.org/10.1038/nature.2013.14272

2 Nilsson, E, Sadler-Riggelman, I, Beck, D, Skinner, MK. Differential DNA methylation in somatic and sperm cells of hatchery vs wild (natural-origin) steelhead trout populations. *Environ Epigenetics* (2021). doi: 10.1093/eep/dvab002.

3 Shedd, KR, Lescak, EA, Habicht, C, Knudsen, EE, Dann, TH, Hoyt, HA, Prince, D. J., Templin, W. D. Reduced relative fitness in hatchery-origin Pink Salmon in two streams in Prince William Sound, Alaska. *Evolutionary Applications* (2022). doi.org/10.1111/eva.13356

4 Leitwein, M., Laporte, M., Le Luyer, J., Mohns, K., Normandeau, E., Withler, R., Bernatchez, L. Epigenomic modifications induced by hatchery rearing persist in germ line cells of adult salmon after their oceanic migration. *Evolutionary Applications* (2021). doi.org/10.1111/eva.13235

OUTREACH UPDATE

In 2020 and 2021 we had to cancel most of our in-person events because of the pandemic. We had several virtual events, including our banquet both years, and I am very proud of our staff and volunteers for pulling those off and for the support it generated from our members. We are very excited that we will be able to return to our normal in-person events in 2022, while monitoring the level of disease in our community and taking appropriate steps to ensure the safety of participants and supporters.



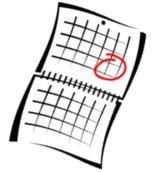
Our first major in-person event of 2022 will be the 26th Annual Membership Banquet on April 10 from 3-7 pm. The event will be held outside behind our building at 539 SE Main Street. We will have awnings over the seating area and heaters if necessary. We are working to cover our stage and will be having live music as well as updates from our committees. **Juliete Palenshus** will be our keynote speaker and will be talking about the importance of community. The theme of the banquet will be “Giants – Legacy Trees and People of the Umpqua” and will celebrate people we have lost over the last two years and recognize people who have supported our mission over the years.

The Umpqua Brew Fest will be returning this year! We will be having a smaller event, the “Umpqua Brew Fest Redux” on Saturday, June 4th in downtown Roseburg and our regular Umpqua Brew

Fest on Saturday, October 8th. We are also planning concerts on the Outback Stage behind our building, hikes, campouts, and many other activities so please stay tuned!

~Kasey Hovik

Upcoming Events



Douglas County Global Warming Coalition

Presentation: Accelerating the Transition to a Clean Energy Economy

[Zoom meeting](#) on Wednesday, March 23rd at 6:30PM PT

Turning Over a New Leaf Book Club: Saturday, March 26th at 5pm PT via Zoom. We'll be discussing the book "Waste: One Woman's Fight Against America's Dirty Secret" by Catherine Coleman Flowers.

Annual Membership Banquet on Sunday, April 10, 3-7 pm

Learning in the Umpqua Watershed training event for educators: April 13th - 15th. Hybrid event (in-person portion at UW office, online portion through Zoom).

Turning Over a New Leaf Book Club: Saturday, May 28th at 5pm PT via Zoom. We'll be discussing the book "Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest" by Suzanne Simard.

Umpqua Brew Fest Redux on Saturday, June 4th



WILDERNESS COMMITTEE UPDATE



The Wilderness Committee is updating the Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal (CLWP) to incorporate current environmental issues such as climate change, carbon sequestration, clean water, and drought. The committee argues that the proposed wilderness areas will sequester carbon and protect the headwaters of the following rivers: Rogue, North and South Umpqua, Little Deschutes, Klamath, and Spring. In this time of drought and fire, the protection of waterways will be crucial to both ecosystems and local communities. Protecting biodiversity is critical also.

The Wilderness Committee is continuing to enlarge the platform and scope of the CLWP by collaborating with larger organizations that support the proposal. These efforts resulted in Chandra LeGue, of Oregon Wild, including the CLWP in her February presentation about Oregon's role in the 30x30 campaign, also known as America the Beautiful. This is a national conservation initiative proposed by the Biden administration as part of the presidents' 2021 executive order on tackling the climate crisis. The initiative recognizes that many uses of land and water can be consistent with the long-term health of natural systems and contribute to addressing climate change and environmental injustices.

The Department of the Interior recently sought comments on how the American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas, a new tool that will be used to reflect baseline information on the lands and waters that are conserved or restored, can best serve the public and reflect a continuum of conservation actions. The Atlas is part of the America the Beautiful initiative. Susan Applegate responded on behalf of the Committee with

an impressive document about admitting the Crater Lake Wilderness to the Atlas. Susan also wrote to Oregon native, Mr. Chuck Sams, the new National Parks Director, to inform him about the CLWP. She will be working on an article for the National Parks Conservation Association on the historical relationship of the Applegate family with Crater Lake and tie it in with the current day CLWP.

Robbin Schindele is updating the Wilderness Committee site on the UW website and Tony Cannon is finalizing his wonderful video to put on the site. Bob Hoehne is planning a write-up about the CLWP to submit to several national organizations he is a member of. Bob has also been asked to write a tribute about Douglas County's beloved Frank Moore for a national fishing magazine. We are having great meetings and discussions and enlarging our scope. Please join us if you are curious or interested. We meet on the last Wednesday of every month at 6 pm. We have been meeting on zoom. You can contact me for the link at diana@umpquawatersheds.org.

~Diana Pace

LARRY'S STORY

Umpqua Watersheds lost a dear friend recently. Larry Flanagan, known and loved by many in the greater Roseburg and environmental community, has died. Larry was a Watersheds board member in 1998 and 1999. Every organization could use a psychologist and peacemaker on their board. For us he was also a sage, councilor and a stand-up guy. Professionally he was the former Director of the Dept. of Mental Health in Douglas County. Known as a person who enjoyed people, he always had a ready smile, easy laugh, and listened to others. An activist, he became the mouthpiece and navigator for the 20 foot salmon puppet which became a feature of the Glide-Last Creek timber sale demonstration in the late 90's. (Bob H. was the fish). He was a scholar and seeker of truth who studied happiness, Deep Ecology, and admired the wisdom of native cultures. He served his country in the military, his home in New Orleans, and the community of Roseburg. A mentor and helper to many, he believed in service to humanity.

"When I am good, I am very good, but when I am bad I'm better." MAE WEST—one of Larry's favorite quotes.

Submitted by Bob Hoehne

AMERICORPS UPDATE

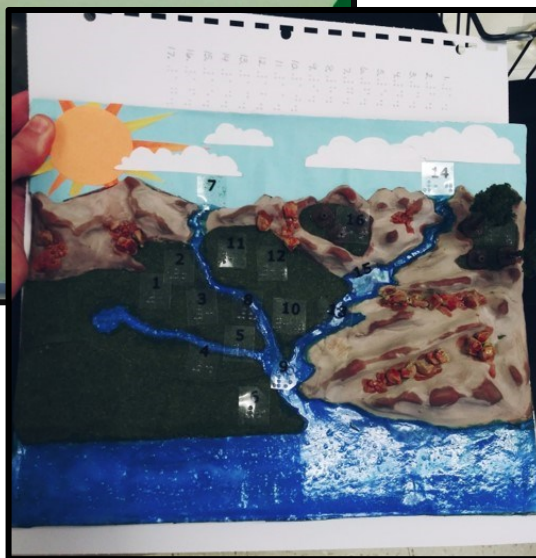
It's been almost four months since I joined the United Communities AmeriCorps and Umpqua Watersheds teams as an Environmental Education and Outreach Leader. In this time, I've had the delight of being introduced to all sorts of fun and important indoor and outdoor activities, such as helping to host 99.7 KQUA Living Downstream and assisting with the Archie Creek restoration project.

Through my work alongside colleagues, students, and community volunteers, I've met new and interesting people of all ages and backgrounds! As important as Umpqua Watersheds' work is for the environment and our community, it has also had a great impact on me. I've already gained a great deal of life and career experience, such as the opportunity to practice my organizational skills, networking skills, leadership, and more.



Living Downstream Radio Show

I've had the opportunity to interview some amazing people in my new hosting role. The first episode that I had a hand in making was an interview with a member of the Forest Waters Coalition, Samantha Krop. This was my first taste of preparing questions, editing audio, and of course, actually interviewing someone! The position of host was one of the roles I was most apprehensive about, but Sam and every interviewee since have been wonderful and I'm grateful for their patience as I learn, adapt, and build confidence. Following Sam, I had a wonderful interview with Mark Lenihan, the founder of PFLAG Roseburg, a group for members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies, along with Danielle Wene and Jamie Osborne, owners of a small art business called Passion Drawn in Ink who will be at the pride parade this summer.



This was our first foray into Diversity/Equity/Inclusion content, and we want to include more in our activities going forward. Returning to more environment-related topics for the next two episodes, I interviewed two members of Wildlife Images Rehabilitation and Education Center, Kaitlynn Scheffler and Billy Crawford, about their work and conservation knowledge. That episode also featured David James, lepidopterist and WSU professor, who shared information about butterflies and moths. Most recently aired was an interview with Alan Lacy, a wildlife videographer, who shared some insight into his line of work.

Education

I have been developing my leadership skills with the help and guidance of Fremont Natural Resources Teacher, Robyn Bath. Together, we planned and initiated "Environmental Detectives," a series of activities for middle school-aged students that educates about river health and pollution in a fun and imaginative way by assigning students the role of detective to investigate a mass fish die-off event in a fictional area. To maximize engagement and accessibility, I created a map diorama of the fictional landscape so that vision-impaired

students could touch and feel the area.

While I am not very familiar with that type of crafting, it turned out well and was much appreciated! I also crafted small aquatic creatures out of clay so that these students could determine species abundance in the fictional waterways.

The clay creatures are more suited to handling than the live river snails and caddisfly larvae that I also brought in for the students to interact with! The live aquatic invertebrates were well received and opened up conversations around filter-feeding, camouflage, and shell building that I was pleased to be a part of.

In addition to my work at Fremont Middle school, I'm preparing to get involved with Alexandra Harding's class at Jolane Middle School. We've discussed ways in which Umpqua Watersheds can contribute, including activities using animal skull models,

Environmental Detectives, and owl pellet dissection. Whatever we end up going with, I can't wait to support Alexandra in the education of our local youth about fun environmental topics! Also coming up is Umpqua Watersheds' Kids for Nature program which is making a return this year. I will be discussing the details of that return soon with Emily, the originator, and her father, Tony Cannon. There's a lot of cool education work happening, and I look forward to all of it.

Martin Luther King Jr Day Park & River Cleanup

Coordinating the Martin Luther King Jr Day Park and River Cleanup event in January was my first experience organizing a large team of volunteers. Over the course of four hours, we made a breathtaking difference at Stewart Park. We picked up everything from unidentified piles of goop to an entire waterlogged sleeping bag and shopping cart, and by the time we were finishing up volunteers were struggling to find trash to pick up! I personally consider that event a great success, both for the environment and for myself. A coordinator does more than meets the eye to organize such an event. I filled out paperwork, sourced materials like trash bags and coffee-making supplies, and contacted a worker from the City of Roseburg for help with things like permits and dumpsters. Thank you to Tracy Pope! Another piece of the puzzle was advertising. I got to practice making and posting both physical and virtual posters, reached out to green-minded friends to ask them to attend and spread the word, and of course, aired the information on the Living Downstream! It all came together in the end, and I came out of it with more knowledge and confidence to face the next event that I'll coordinate.

~Viviana Young

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.



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 for the latest schedule of meetings.

Monthly Board of Directors:

When: 3rd Tuesday of Every Month 5 pm

For board and staff members only. If there is a topic, you feel the board should broach, let us know! Email kasey@umpquawatersheds.org

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

When: 1st Tuesday of Every Month 5:30 pm

Ryan Kincaid - ryan@umpquawatersheds.org

Education Committee

When: 2nd Tuesday of Every Month 5.30 pm

Ryan Kincaid - Ryan@umpquawatersheds.org

Restoration Committee

When: 1st Tuesday of Every Month 5:30 pm

Ken Carloni - Ken@umpquawatersheds.org

Conservation Committee

When: 1st Saturday of Every Month 9 am

Angela Jensen - Angela@umpquawatersheds.org

Wilderness Committee

When: Last Wednesday of Every Month 6 pm

Tony Cannon Tony@umpquawatersheds.org

Outreach Committee

When: Last Thursday of every month 5:30 pm

Kasey Hovik Kasey@umpquawatersheds.org

Volunteers can track hours using the website. Visit umpquawatersheds.org and click on the "Get involved" tab to find the "Track your volunteer hours" selection. Fill in the information and we will take it from there!



♦ 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.



CONSERVATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our Conservation Committee has a great deal to report since our last newsletter, but I want to first share some personal news.

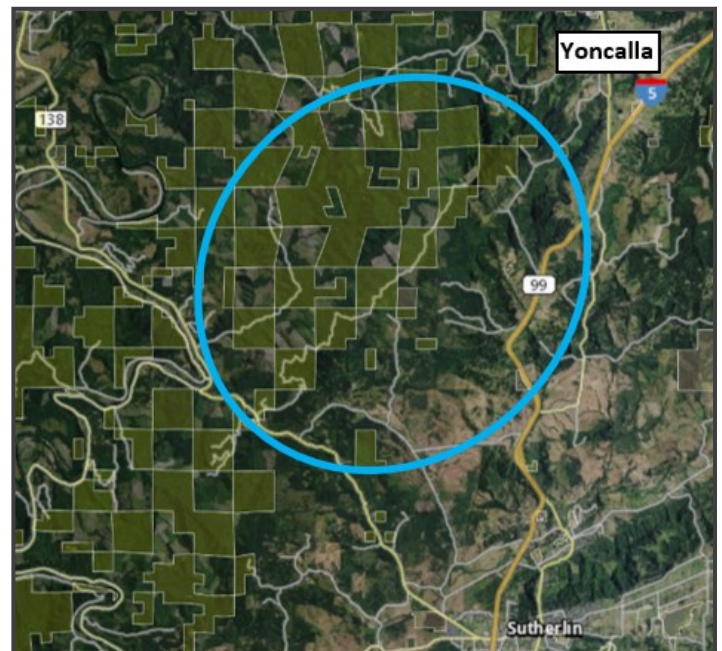
July to December of last year was a very difficult time for me. Along with the ongoing pandemic, life presented many personal challenges that distracted me from the work I love. As such, my time and contribution to Umpqua Watersheds were not all I hoped they would be. However, I am happy to report that I have made some positive, and dare I say, brave, changes in my personal life that will allow me to focus on the work I love with Umpqua Watersheds.



In October of last year, as many of you know, we filed a complaint against the United States Forest Service for utilizing a categorical exclusion to support its record decision to remove alleged hazard and danger trees along USFS roads. Standing with Oregon Wild and Cascadia Wildlands as co-plaintiffs, our challenge was successful. While details cannot be forthcoming until the proposed settlement is formalized, we are excited that a favorable agreement that halts the indiscriminate harvesting of roadside trees within the Archie Creek Fire area has been reached.

Our Conservation Committee remains watchful of the proposed Blue and Gold Harvest Plan. In December 2019,

the BLM proposed “regenerative harvesting” of approximately 2100 acres of 40 to 140-year-old stands in the Upper Umpqua River, Elk Creek, Calapooya Creek, and Lower North Umpqua watersheds. In July 2020, the BLM proposed an additional 1418 acres for treatment - mostly in the Upper Umpqua River and Elk Creek watersheds. We diligently submitted scoping comments articulating the need for a full environmental review and the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement. Specifically, we asserted that the unprecedented amount of acreage burned in recent years far exceeded the modeling used to support the Resource Management Plans applicable to the Blue and Gold. As such, the effects of recent wildfire events on the Northern Spotted Owl and other wildlife must be fully understood before a final decision can be made. We are anxiously waiting for the Environmental Assessment and stand ready to challenge a Finding of No Significant Impact.

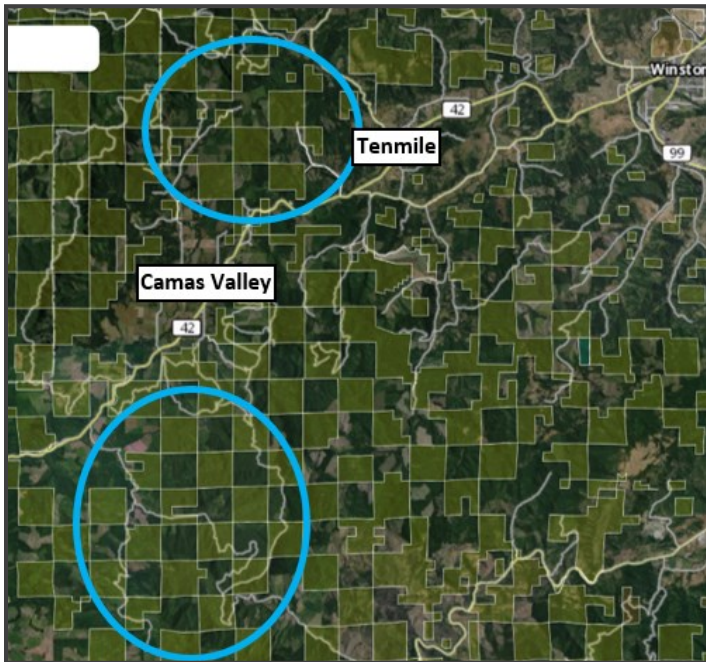


Area containing BLM units affected by the Blue & Gold Harvest Plan. Detailed map & documents can be found on the [BLM National NEPA Register](#) website.

We are also watching the BLM’s 42 Divide Stand Management Plan. The BLM is proposing aggressive commercial and non-commercial treatments within Late Successional and Riparian Reserves alongside the Harvest Land Base of over 5000 acres in the Olalla Creek-Lookingglass Creek, Middle Fork Coquille River, Lower Cow Creek, and West Fork Cow Creek watersheds.

In addition to meeting its Allowable Sale Quantity, BLM claims there is a need to address fuels reduction concerns and improve spotted owl habitat. We are gravely

concerned that proposed treatments of stands in this area, some up to 200 years old, are counterproductive to ensuring spotted owl habitat and fire-resilient forests. Again, we anxiously await the agency's Environmental Assessment.



Areas containing BLM units affected by the 42 Divide Harvest Plan. Detailed map & documents can be found on the [BLM National NEPA Register](#) website.

Finally, our Conservation Committee has teamed up with the Living Downstream radio program on 99.7 KQUA. We are now airing a Climate Radio Show every other weekend to discuss the science, the consequences, and the keys to addressing the climate crises we face. During these episodes, we will bring on notable experts to help us understand the complexities and uncertainties of what our climate-impacted future may look like, and how we can mitigate the worst climate change impacts and adapt to inevitable changes. We will discuss effects on our local watershed and communities, and how individuals can make small changes that will result in positive impacts. These issues will be discussed on the UW Climate Change web page in the near future.

So let us move forward together! Join us for Living Downstream! Come be a part of our Conservation Committee and help us work together toward conserving, restoring, and protecting the ecosystems of our Umpqua Watersheds... and beyond.

~Angela Jenson

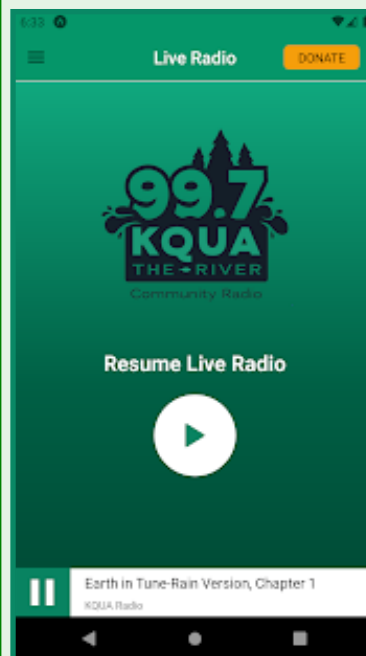
UW IS PROUD TO PRESENT TWO AWESOME NEW FEATURES!

Check out the new Climate Change page on the UW website...



It contains lots of great information about the ins and outs of the climate crisis, how it affects us here in the PNW, and how we can mitigate against it. Includes links to other credible information resources.

...and the new 99.7 KQUA Android app



Download it now from the Google Play Store

Don't despair iPhone fans...an Apple app is coming soon!

Protecting the earth...



together.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Update

The time of our DEI committee meetings has changed. We now meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm Pacific Time. If you are interested in joining this

committee, please reach out to the committee chair ryan@umpaquawatersheds.org

We'd be happy to have you!



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