



# 100 Valleys

A Quarterly Publication for the Supporters of Umpqua Watersheds, Inc

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

Spring 2023 | Issue 95

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## OUTREACH UPDATE..... By Kasey Hovik

The Umpqua Watersheds Outreach Committee is active and works closely with UW's other committees, Education, Conservation, Wilderness, and Restoration, to recruit new members and participants and keep people informed. We also collaborate with multiple organizations in the pursuit of our mission. Working with our community partners helps us leverage our shared resources and maximize our impact. We continue to re-establish in-person programs and activities we participated in before the Covid-19 Pandemic.

While planning, organizing, and executing events can be exhausting and sometimes stressful because of all the things that must come together to make a successful endeavor, seeing old friends and making new ones simultaneously is very rewarding. On February 11th, we held our annual Valentine's Day Snowshoe at

Crater Lake National Park. It was a perfect day, and we were delighted that several AmeriCorps members joined the ranger-led hike.

We look forward to several upcoming



events in the next couple of months. Several UW members attended the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC) on March 2-5. Umpqua Watersheds participated in a Panel Discussion called "Seeing the Forest for the Trees" The presentation was about field surveying for conservation and restoration. It was recorded and can be found at <https://pielc.org>. We also tabled at the event. It was the first time



since the pandemic that the event was held in person.

We will attend the Oregon Nonprofit Leaders Conference in Ashland in April, where there will be several useful presentations and an opportunity to connect with many foundations supporting our work.

We will also participate in Earth Day events throughout April, including on **April 22, Earth Day**. We are one of over 100 nonprofit organizations (the only one in Douglas County) participating in Earth Day Oregon. We are partnering with Two Shy Brewing, Oregon Serigraphics, and Medicine Flower to

## 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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**Robbin Schindele**

*Crater Lake Wilderness  
Coordinator*

**Cindy Haws**

*Education Chair*

## **Office Hours:**

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

support our work to save the planet. We will also be tabling at the Saturday Market 8-noon and at the Earth Day event 1-5 pm at Aviva Healthcare (next to Costco), where the Umpqua Transportation Electrification Team will provide people with the opportunity to drive several types of electric cars.

On Sunday, May 7th, Umpqua Watersheds will host the 27th Annual Banquet. Our keynote speaker will be renowned Oregon author [Marcy Cottrell Houle](#). The theme of the Banquet will be "Ecosystems: Natural and Community – the Importance of Connectivity." We will provide more details soon, so save the date!

We are also partnering with UNLSH and Gwen and Bruce Bury for a conference on the Ecology and Management of Amphibians and Reptiles of SW Oregon. (See the Education Update).

We're very close to launching our full-power radio station, KQUA 90.5. It has been a very challenging project because of significant delays related to the manufacturing and delivery of our antenna. The antenna manufacturer is in Pennsylvania and delayed delivery of the antenna because of supply train problems and other issues. Our engineer and installer are testing the 700-pound antenna, and we anticipate broadcasting across the Umpqua sometime in March, so stay tuned! In the meantime, listen at 99.7 when you are downtown and anytime on the web at <https://kqua.org>.

Finally, I want to share some important news about a new project we are working on called the Umpqua Outback Project. Last year we had our annual banquet outside behind our building, and it was a great success, although we needed more shade because it was a bright sunny day. The Umpqua Outback Project will create a large stage and a covered balcony along the back of our building, creating sheltered seating for events and increasing accessibility. We have many organizations writing letters of support for the project, which we will use for grant applications. Much of the lumber and labor will be donated for the project, so that we will start with a significant amount of in-kind match for grants.



The Umpqua Outback Stage and Community Space in downtown Roseburg will provide various community benefits beyond just being a space for community events. Potential benefits include:

1. Community Engagement: It will provide a public space for community events, such as concerts, festivals, and theatrical performances, encouraging engagement and promoting community.
2. Educational Opportunities: It will be used for educational events and activities, such as science fairs, historical reenactments, and other community and educational events. It will help foster a sense of curiosity and learning and contribute to our community's comprehensive education and enrichment.
3. Economic Development: It will attract tourists and visitors to the area, boosting local businesses and promoting economic growth. It will provide a much-needed outdoor venue for downtown events and activities.
4. Cultural Preservation: It will provide a venue for local artists and performers to showcase their



talents, preserving the community's cultural heritage.

5. Youth Development: It will provide opportunities for youth to participate in theater, music, and other performance arts, encouraging creativity and promoting personal development.

6. Accessibility: It will offer a safe and accessible venue for people with disabilities and older adults to participate in cultural and recreational activities.

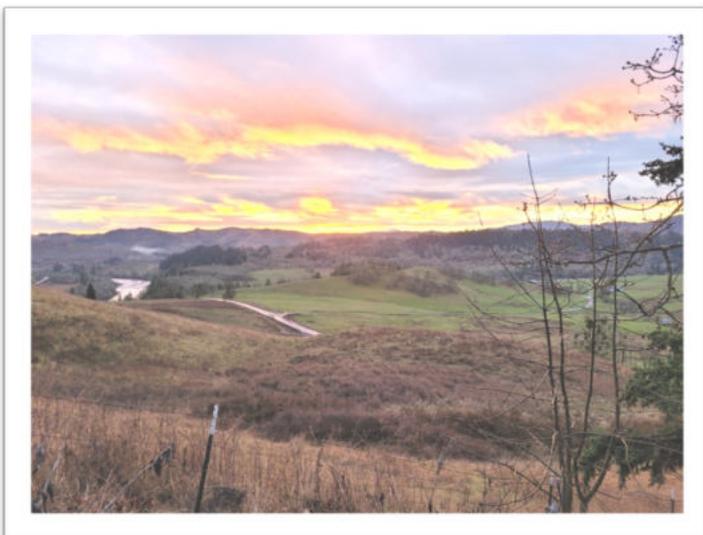
7. Environmental Stewardship: It will promote sustainable practices and environmental stewardship by minimizing energy use, promoting recycling and waste reduction, and incorporating sustainable design features.

8. Increased Collaboration Among Nonprofits and Community Organizations: It will provide an affordable space for local nonprofits and community organizations to host events, such as fundraisers, awareness campaigns, and educational events.

9. Improved Quality of Life: It will enhance the quality of life by bringing people together for community events, increasing a sense of social kinship, and fostering pride in being part of a vibrant downtown community.

If you have questions about the project or want to help support the project, please contact [Kasey@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:Kasey@umpquawatersheds.org).

not one of Umpqua Watersheds' missions, homelessness negatively impacts our environment and concerns conservation organizations such as Umpqua Watersheds. Many of the homeless in our area live in tents near our waterways. The lack of proper sanitation and refuse disposal is becoming a huge contributor to the degradation of our water quality and, thus, our quality of life. Seeking quiet solitude takes more effort recently to find places to enjoy nature. The number of homeless individuals has noticeably increased in the last few years. Because of the scope of the problem, Umpqua Watersheds lacks the ability to tackle it. Eventually, we have to realize that we, as individuals, cannot do more than we are already doing. We need to do what we can, focus on what we are passionate about, and support others tackling issues we cannot.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Janice Reid



We have a lot to be thankful for in this beautiful valley, especially to our sponsors, donors, and supporters. Big things are happening in every corner of the organization. As you will read in this newsletter, our motion is forward, and our momentum is building. We are especially excited to have Cindy Haws rejoin the organization. In the past, she has been president and Executive Director. She has now agreed to chair the education committee, and what a natural fit. Seamless really. Cindy has already spearheaded numerous educational activities and restoration work in the Umpqua Valley. With the collaboration of Umpqua Watersheds, the education committee has widened its reach in the community. We've held a few events recently, including planting trees on a parcel of land within the devastated area of the Archie Creek Fire of 2020. Martin Luther King Day River Cleanup turnout kept a lot of trash out of our rivers. We wish we could do more. Sometimes it seems that issues in our community do not relate to Umpqua Watersheds and the mission. Although tackling the homeless issue is

In the words of Edward Abby:

*"One final paragraph of advice: do not burn yourselves out. Be as I am - a reluctant enthusiast...a part-time crusader, a half-hearted fanatic. Save the other half of yourselves and your lives for pleasure and adventure. It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can. While it's still here. So get out there and hunt and fish and mess around with your friends, ramble out yonder and explore the forests, climb the mountains, bag the peaks, run the rivers, breathe deep of that yet sweet and lucid air, sit quietly for a while and contemplate the precious stillness, the lovely, mysterious, and awesome space. Enjoy yourselves, keep your brain in your head and your head firmly attached to the body, the body active and alive, and I promise you this much; I promise you this one sweet victory over our enemies, over those desk-bound men and women with their hearts in a safe deposit box, and their eyes hypnotized by desk calculators. I promise you this; You will outlive the bastards."*

## CONSERVATION UPDATE

By Janice Reid

Here in the Umpqua, we have so many entities that make policies and decisions about the land. Federal, state, county, private, city, tribal, and non-governmental organizations comprise most entities. It is often hard to keep up with all the planning and prioritize projects. Sometimes it can seem as if we are swimming upstream with all of the political and economic forces pushing us downstream. Yet, we continue trying, just as the salmon struggles against the current. Eventually, we will prevail when we are in the right spot at the right time, and we arrive above the rapids of turbulent political and economic forces to find a respite in the calm waters. Just over a year ago, we joined a challenge to the [USFS Archie Creek Roadside Danger Tree removal projects](#). We did our field outings to check the area, called the USFS (who did not return our call), and discussed it with our board. We decided that the project contained elements that were far-reaching and unnecessary. The plan lacked protection for green trees and Late Successional Reserves (LSR). The potential for irreversible harm was enough for us to join the lawsuit to prevent unnecessary destruction. We had no interest in preventing roadside hazard reduction where it made sense: through roads, high-traffic roads, and recreational spots. We enjoy traveling in the forest and exploring, camping, and hiking. Our concerns were focused on

whether it was necessary and legal to do so. In our estimation, the need to treat roads that are dead ends and in LSR was not a need of the agency. The process bypassed the environmental laws by using "categorical exclusion" not intended for large-scale projects. Because of our strong legal stand on this, the Forest Service agreed to a settlement, and they started the process utilizing more legal procedures.

The [new plan](#) contained the same roads (except those already treated under the previous plan) and the same treatment proposals. The concerns are the same for this new plan as the last. The need to treat the last 0.1 miles of road as it enters LSR (see photo 1) is difficult to comprehend. The consistent purpose for removing hazard trees along the roads in the project area is for reforest access and future surveys. These roads are already recovering.

Reforestation is a short-term activity, but

roadside hazard tree removal is dangerous and would negatively impact the

landscape for years. Green trees in the area are already reseeding the landscape. In LSRs, the Northwest Forest Plan expected wildfires [recommending that landscapes recover naturally](#). As of Feb 17, 2023, the North Umpqua Trail in the [Panther Section remained closed](#)<sup>4</sup>, yet, the reasoning for opening some of these roads is for trail access. One of these trails ultimately leads to the Panther section of the North Umpqua Trail. If it is so hazardous to walk on these roads that trees need to be removed so that they don't fall on

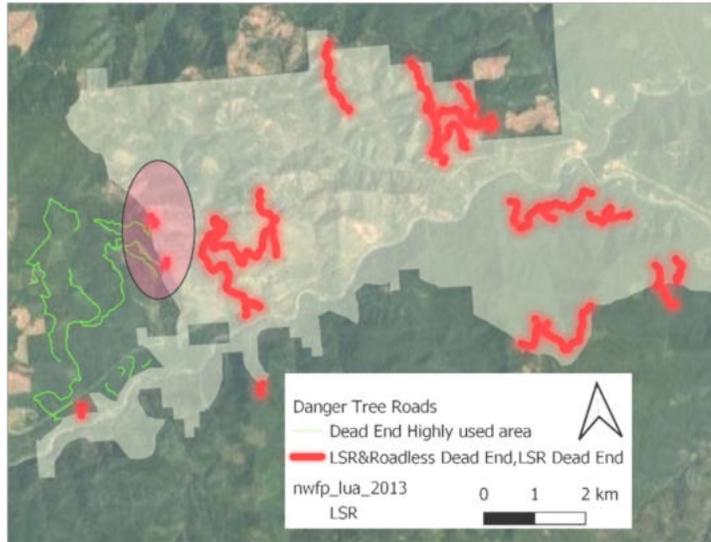
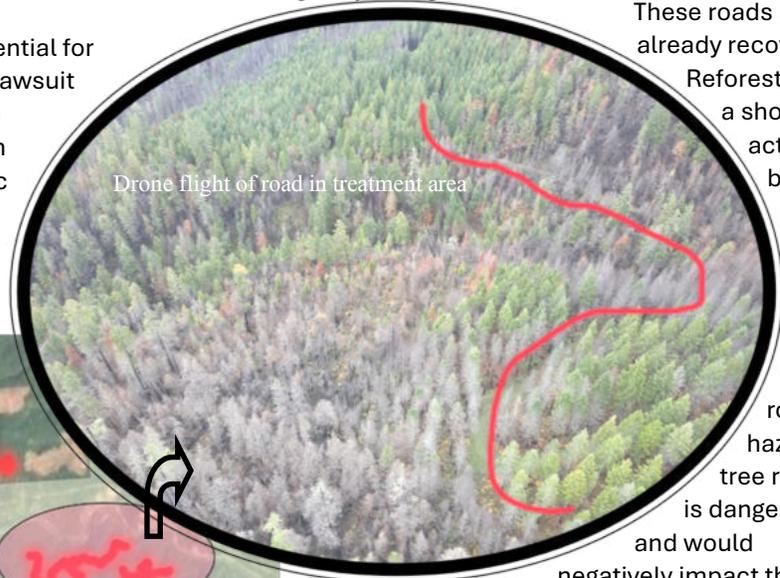


Photo 1: 0.1 mile road section in LSR targeted for danger tree removal.



Drone flight of road in treatment area

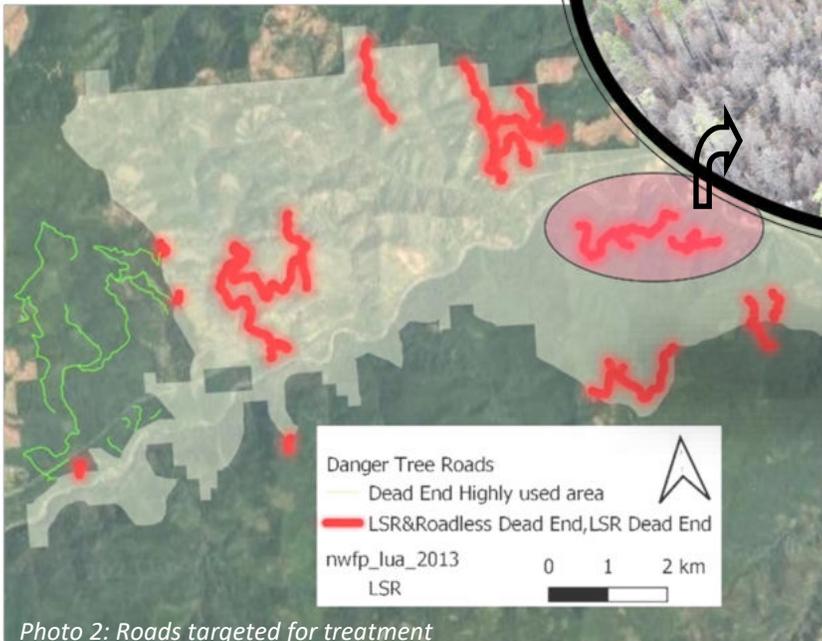


Photo 2: Roads targeted for treatment

people, would it not be more hazardous for hikers to walk off the road onto trails in the burn area?

Hazard tree removal along forest roads can positively and negatively impact the environment, depending on how it is carried out. It can be necessary to ensure public safety along forest roads, as trees can pose a significant risk of falling onto roads and vehicles. Almost all of the roads listed for treatment of roadside hazard tree removal justify it for "Reforestation area access and subsequent future year surveys." I understand the need for the employees to access the area safely, but at what cost to the environment? Hopefully, there is some sensical evaluation of those trees that truly pose a hazard and in areas employees frequent, not just areas where periodic surveys occur. Opening up roads currently closed to the public could increase the odds of a tree injuring or killing a person as it allows increased access to more people.

In addition, removing trees and road renovation can have ecological impacts, including soil disturbance, disruption and loss of wildlife habitat, and changes to forest structure and composition. Roads in western Oregon are responsible for the fragmentation of natural habitats, which can lead to biodiversity loss and the displacement of wildlife, including endangered species. Roads also contribute to changes to forest structure and composition and increased erosion and sedimentation in waterways, leading to the degradation of water quality and the destruction of aquatic habitats. Trees play a crucial role in ecosystem processes, such as nutrient cycling and carbon storage. Leaving dead trees, also known as snags, can benefit the environment after a wildfire. Although dead trees may seem like a hazard, they play a vital role in forest ecosystems and can contribute to the recovery and resilience of forests following a wildfire. Even without a canopy, these trees provide a significant amount of shade on the forest floor, protecting recovering landscapes from excessive solar radiation. The Forest Service has to contend with competing interests on how best to manage the area. To their credit, they have tried to discuss the issues with conservation organizations. Ultimately, they decided that any modification would likely cause disagreement with those whose interests are not in ecological protection. Reducing hazardous conditions is our obligation. Nothing is hazard free in life. We don't drain the river to prevent drowning.

## We Need Your Help:

Remote Volunteer Position  
Newsletter Editor  
Quarterly production  
Computer skills necessary  
Great way to learn about the Organization  
Email [kasey@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:kasey@umpquawatersheds.org)



## Upcoming Events:

**March 8** ~ "Survival in an Unpredictable world: How birds respond to environmental stressors" 7:00 pm Roseburg Public Library.

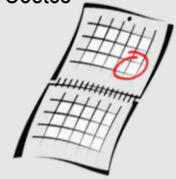
**March 24-26** ~ Spring Fair at the Fairgrounds

**April 22** ~ Earth Day! Table at Farmers Market and Electric Car Show at Aviva Health Center on Stephens next to the Costco

**April 29-30** ~ Glide Wildflower Show

**May 7** ~ Annual Banquet

**May 12-13** ~ Herpetology Workshop



## 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 Tuesday of Every Month 5pm  
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)

### KQUA Committee

When: Every Wednesday at 3pm  
Patrick Schneider [patrick@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:patrick@umpquawatersheds.org)

### Conservation & Restoration Committees

When: 1st Thursday of Every Month at 6pm  
Conservation:

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

Restoration:

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

### Education Committees

When: 2nd Tuesday of Every Month at 5:30pm  
Cindy Haws [cindy@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:cindy@umpquawatersheds.org)

### Wilderness Committee

When: Last Wednesday of Every Month at 6pm  
Robbin Schindele [robbin@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:robbin@umpquawatersheds.org)

### Outreach Committee

When: Last Thursday of every month at 5:30pm  
Kasey Hovik [kasey@umpquawatersheds.org](mailto:kasey@umpquawatersheds.org)

Volunteers can track hours using the website. Visit [umpquawatersheds.org](http://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!



## AMERICORPS AND EDUCATION UPDATE

By Jessica Saxton

It has been roughly six months since I joined United Communities AmeriCorps and Umpqua Watersheds as the Environmental Education and Outreach Leader. During this time, I have gained many new skills and look forward to learning more during the rest of my service. I've met many new and interesting people through my work alongside colleagues, students, and community volunteers. I look forward to participating in upcoming projects and activities. During February, I worked alongside Jon Blalock and Jeff McEnroe with the BLM and Rebekah H. Malone from the City of Roseburg to clip willow trees along Deer Creek Park. The willows are very thick along the river embankment and needed a bit of trimming. Fortunately, these clippings will be used by the BLM along Rock Creek in the Archie Creek burn area. Hopefully, within a few years, these cuttings will become young trees that provide shade and protection to aquatic life. I truly enjoyed working on this project and am excited to participate in upcoming restoration projects!



Left to right: Rebekah Malon, Jessica Saxton, Jon Blalock, and Kirk Blaine gathering willow trees along the South Umpqua river at Deer Creek.

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### Living Downstream Radio Show

I've interviewed some amazing people as host of the show and gained confidence in my communication skills. I enjoyed interviewing Ken Carloni, vice president of Umpqua Watersheds and a long-time educator, about

the Rock Creek Fish Hatchery and the impacts of the Winchester Dam on the Salmon and Steelhead population. I also interviewed Steven Rumrill—the Shellfish Program Leader for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Over the past 20 years, Steven has studied diverse groups of organisms (primarily echinoderms, mollusks, and crustaceans). These organisms occur in various habitats, including central and southern California's rocky intertidal zone and subtidal kelp beds, the nearshore Pacific

Ocean waters above the continental shelf, and several semi-enclosed estuaries in the continental shelf of Oregon, California, and Washington. Steven spoke about the impacts of the sea star wasting disease on Sunflower sea stars and other species. The sea star wasting disease only impacts Sunflower sea stars, and their population has significantly decreased since the appearance of the disease.

The next interview featured guest speaker Chris Rusch with the Douglas County Master Gardeners. We spoke about the upcoming events, spring gardening practices, and plant species for the Pacific Northwest. Some upcoming activities put on by DCMG include Spring into Gardening Workshop (March 11, 2023), Plant & Garden Expo (May 6, 2023), and Trash to Treasure Sale (June 3, 2023). The next episode featured Al Walker, who spoke about restoration work and progress on their property since the Archie Creek burns—planting trees, rebuilding their home, and restoring the land. The Umpqua Tribe of Indians once managed and lived upon the land. Al spoke about the history of the land. The most recent episode features a local Douglas County band called Face for Radio. The members Erik Schnautz, Lowell Smith, and Mark Rochester discuss their new music release and the inspiration behind the music. If you want to listen to any of these episodes, don't hesitate to check out Living Downstream on the KQUA website!

### Education

I have been working to develop new activities for local schools and clubs. The help and guidance of Fremont Natural Resources Teacher Robyn Bath-Rosenfeld have allowed me to improve my leadership and education skills. I look forward to working with more teachers in our community and providing resources. Fremont's seventh-grade students learned about tree rings. They had the opportunity to explore real tree rings and learn how to determine tree age. They also learned about micro and

macroinvertebrates by using a microscope. They explored different species and recorded them in their nature



journals.

Recently, the Boys and Girls Club students tried a new activity called The Incredible Journey. They traveled through different ecosystems as a water molecules, collecting beads at each location to document their journey. The students enjoyed this fun physical activity that made them question where water molecules travel. They also created a caste of animal tracks to explore and compare. They discussed what type of animals would



have different feet structures and why they are different. They especially enjoyed comparing the bear paw to the rabbit and bird feet. This past week the kids had the opportunity to paint leaves and imprint them on paper. They enjoyed exploring the different types of tree leaves and printing them on paper.

In April, Alexandra Harding's class at Jolane Middle School will participate in our "Environmental Detectives" series. The activities are for middle school students and are designed to educate them in a fun and imaginative way about river health and pollution. Students are assigned

the role of detective to investigate a mass fish die-off event in a fictional area.

In other news, Umpqua Community College Natural Resource Club is officially up and running. We had our first meeting in February and will continue to have them twice a month. I look forward to the upcoming activities and volunteer projects we will work on together!

### **Martin Luther King Jr Day Park and 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 four hours, we made a magnificent difference at Stewart Park. We picked up everything from unidentified piles of goop to an entire soaked sleeping bag, waterlogged jackets, a shopping cart, and a "family of socks" one of the kiddos found. When we finished, volunteers struggled to find trash to pick up! The event was a great success for the environment, myself, and all the volunteers who gave their time. A coordinator does many things to prepare for an upcoming event. I filled out paperwork, sourced materials like trash bags, coffee-making supplies, and bagels, and worked with SOLVE to receive materials for the event. I also contacted a worker from the City of Roseburg for help with permits and dumpsters. Thank you to Tracy Moser and Rebekah H. Malone! I also had the opportunity to broaden my advertising skills. I practiced making and posting physical and virtual posters. I contacted community members to ask them to attend and spread the word. It all came together in the end, and I came out with more knowledge and confidence to face the next event I'll coordinate. Thank you to all the volunteers who donated their time to help clean such a beautiful community park!

### **Crater Lake National Park Snowshoe Hike**

Oregon has received much snow in the last few months, and Crater Lake was perfect for my first snowshoe hike. It was breathtaking and an incredible experience. Along with 18 other volunteers, we trekked out on 10 feet of snow with an awesome park ranger. The ranger's information along the trip was interesting, including some fun sound effects! After trekking for a while, we reached the rim of Crater Lake and took a group picture.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Kasey Hovik

I celebrated my 65th birthday in February. It is a "milestone birthday" because, for many, it marks a retirement age. I have spent time pondering what 65 means to me, and I can sum it up in one word, grateful. I've lived in the Umpqua since March 2011, when I met the love of my life. Shortly after moving here, Janice introduced me to Umpqua Watersheds. Over the past twelve years, I have developed more friendships than ever. During my work with Umpqua Watersheds, I have been able to work alongside my friends and develop friendships with young people in our AmeriCorps program. These young people give me great hope that today's generation will help solve the many difficult problems we face in our community and the world. Our great common denominator is our earnest desire to protect and celebrate our planet.

The most difficult part of my job as executive director for Umpqua Watersheds is finding the resources to support our staff and programs. As you can see from this newsletter, we have a LOT going on. I often wake up at night worrying about how we can continue supporting our staff and programs. Time after time, the answer is that we need more people and organizations outside of our community to understand just how important the Umpqua Basin is to the planet. I call it the Umpqua Amazon because, in many ways, the trees we seek to protect here are equally important to sustaining the planet as those in the Amazon. Our community members and supporters have given so much through the years, and we are grateful. We would not be here without you! But, increasing awareness of Umpqua Watersheds within and outside our community is key to sustaining and growing



our staff and programs. We will accomplish this through continued collaboration with our community partners and dynamic community projects such as our full-power radio station, KQUA 90.5, and the Umpqua Outback project. Both projects will dramatically expand awareness of who we are and

what our community partners and we are trying to do to improve our community and protect the natural resources which sustain the life we enjoy in the Umpqua.

It can be disheartening when we aren't selected for funding from a foundation. We believe strongly in our projects and work hard on our grant applications. The competition is steep, and we are comparatively smaller than our sister organizations in the larger metropolitan areas. And yet, everything is put into perspective when I get to work with people who have lost everything but move forward with steadfast courage and determination to continue to be beacons of light in our community. Al and Trudy Walker are two people I am grateful to call friends. They purchased 80 acres of land near Idleyld in 1985 and, over several years, built their dream home, which was off-the-grid, using solar and hydro energy. In September 2020, they lost their dream home and most



possessions in the Archie Creek Fire. When we learned that the Archie Creek fire had engulfed the area around their home, we were so worried about their safety and then relieved when we found out they were safe. Al and Trudy have been supporters of Umpqua Watersheds since it was established. Many of us reached out to them and felt helpless as they struggled through the fire's aftermath. It took over a year for them to decide to rebuild and restore the land they called home. In February, Jessica Saxton and I interviewed Al about his and Trudy's experience.

Umpqua Watersheds is honored to be a part of the Dreamcatcher Restoration Project. Al and Trudy are in the process of replanting trees and vegetation on their property. We talked to Al and Trudy about bringing people together over many events to help them, just as pioneers did when work was needed. Neighbors would gather to build a barn, and people would work hard to support the project. After working hard, everyone would gather for food, drink, and music and share stories. We hope over the coming months that, we can help rekindle that spirit. Al and Trudy named their property "dreamcatcher" because of the history the area has to the native people of the Umpqua. When we visited the property, we understood why it was a sacred place to the people of the Umpqua. Stories. Distinguished local historian Lavola



Mace Tipton, photo courtesy of the Douglas County Museum



McMillen Bakken had a cabin on the Dreamcatcher property and shared stories of Mace Tipton, the last Chief of the east

Umpqua Indians. It is a special place, and being part of the restoration is an honor. Please consider joining us for events this spring and summer.

You can listen to the podcast of the Living [Downstream radio show](#).



## MORE ON FOREST THINNING FOR WILDFIRE RESISTANCE (OR NOT)

### A Deeper Look by Dominick DellaSala

My wife Jenny and I are currently in Cabo Pulmo on the southern Baja Peninsula exploring the only coral reef system in the Gulf of California. As the climate crisis worsens with no resolution in sight, we wanted to take the opportunity to see it before its potential demise. Therefore, I will not be submitting a full article this quarter, but instead, I would like to direct you to an excellent presentation by one of the Pacific Northwest's preeminent forest ecologists and climate scientists, Dominick DellaSala, Chief Scientist with Wild Heritage, a Project of Earth Island Institute, that he recently gave to his local League of Women Voters chapter. You can find it [here](#).

Passcode: H7n7r.t6.

Dominick is a long-time friend and supporter of Umpqua Watersheds and has twice been the keynote speaker at our annual banquet. He reaches similar conclusions to the ones I did in [my last 100 Valleys article](#):

We both agree that because of the increase in extreme fire weather brought on by what many



scientists are now referring to as the “climate emergency”, thinning is no panacea for protecting our ancient natural heritage. Dominick’s talk presents great graphics to support his arguments, and is a “must see” for those interested in going deeper into the research.

Thanks to Dominick for allowing me to make his excellent research available to our readers in an engaging and well documented presentation.

Ken Carloni, Restoration Chair

## Umpqua Valley Audubon Society AmeriCorps Update.....by Tracy Maxwell:

The new year is rolling along. I am about halfway through this 11-month service year. We have made a lot of progress in these 6 months. A lot of the work has been foundational to the goals I developed with Audubon at the start.

Currently, I am in contact with four local fifth-grade teachers who want us to provide curriculum for their science camps this Spring. Our goal was to be able to say “yes” to teachers requesting lessons and we are there! Umpqua Watersheds will also be with us at these camps providing curriculum for these events as well. We are also now working with Jeff Plummer and participating in the 4-day program at Eastwood called “Eastwood Nature Days” Jessica Saxton (UW) will join me at this



event as well. We will be serving 8 different schools during the week of this event!

Earth Day was established as a target event for me in my Workplan for this year. As it turns out, Douglas Co. Global Warming Coalition (DGGWC) is not sponsoring the event at the fairgrounds this year. Since I found this out, I have been exploring options. One option currently being considered is to table at the Farmers Market (FM) with UW and other community nonprofits. Wait, hold your horses! Hot off the press!!! Farmers Market just said “yes” to hosting us from 9-1 pm on April 22, 2023!

I spoke with an individual with another DMO (Destination Management Organization) like Experience Roseburg, but this one is a regional DMO, called Travel Southern Oregon (Douglas Co. is 1/7th of their region) They are proposing to create, “**The World’s Largest Dark Sky Sanctuary**” In Lake Co Or. He gave me great resources for getting a Dark Skies program moving in Douglas County. In my opinion, this could be a great effort to work towards with a small volunteer group. Let me know if anyone reading this is interested in this project!

Finally, I was happy to attend the Winter Wings Festival in Klamath Falls this month! I was able to get in and sign up for classes because I was volunteering to help there. Getting into classes at the festival is VERY

competitive! I went to go to see how other professionals are teaching beginning birding and bird identification. I brought back some great ideas for future public and school programs.

This month I am adding an item here that is something I am hoping for: We could use a nice round office table and decent chairs for our UW office space. If you can keep an eye out for these items it would be great. We would be thrilled to inherit someone's office furniture! Thanks for taking the time to read all of this!

Onward and Upward, for the birds!

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## EDUCATION UPDATE.....By Cindy Haws

As the new Education Chair at Umpqua Watersheds, I have started in high gear. Over a decade ago, I was Executive Director and president. Since leaving the leadership of Umpqua Watersheds, I started an educational group for youth called UNLSH (Umpqua Natural Leadership Science Hub). UNLSH's mission is to provide hands-on learning and leadership opportunities to students and communities in south Douglas County, Oregon, by providing educators with resources, training, and mentorship to develop natural science curriculum. I rejoined the CORE team in January as the Education chair. I currently teach wildlife biology at Umpqua Community College (UCC).

It has been a busy beginning in 2023. Our education partnership community is growing in volunteers, teachers, natural science professionals, and supporters. Many educational events are planned, and many more opportunities for effective participation thanks to the expanded capacity partnerships have afforded. We are implementing our programs and planning new ones with our



partners and the mobile science lab we are building. Our partners include Umpqua Valley Audubon, Umpqua Natural Leadership Science Hub, Friends of Mildred Kanipe Park, State and Federal Agencies, Umpqua Community College, and an expanding list of participating schools and student volunteers.

In January and February, we accomplished seven wetland monitoring surveys with our partners at two different wetlands in connection with the removal of invasive species and wetland habitat revitalization. Participants include student volunteers from UCC and other higher education organizations, Yoncalla High School, teachers, and educators.

Another exciting event was the arrival of the Emriver EM2 portable stream table. We will be integrating this table into our outdoor and school events. The Emriver stream table is perfect for demonstrating river science and conservation principles to audiences of all ages. The table is one of many learning tools and materials we will stock this year in the mobile science lab. We are still looking for a 5x8 cargo trailer to serve as the lab vehicle.

### Some key Northwest stream-associated amphibian species



Cascade torrent



Columbia torrent



Olympic torrent



Southern torrent

In the second week of May, we will cohost the Ecology and Management of Amphibians and Reptiles of SW Oregon, focusing on stream amphibians. The non-profit Northwest Ecological Research Institute in Portland is the main host, funded by the Oregon Wildlife and Recreation Program. The one-day conference will be at UCC and is spearheaded by Dr. Bruce Bury, a retired herpetologist, and his daughter, Dr. Gwen Bury, a post-doc with US Forest Service. Community professionals in wildlife at various agencies and educational institutions will be invited. A field trip is planned for the following day. We will have more information in Watershed Moments in the next few months. UCC, Umpqua Watersheds, and UNLSH are supporting the event.

## WILDERNESS UPDATE

By Robbin Schindele.

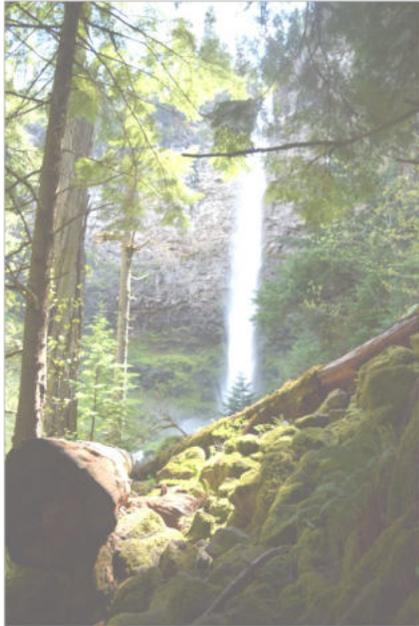
I sit writing this amid the worst weather of the Winter of 2022-23 (so far.) It is cold, windy, and snowy, so let's all move on and look forward to the coming Spring.

Before that, though, I want to tell you about an exciting new activity for us this winter; tabling at UCC. Finding new volunteers is always challenging for any organization, and finding younger volunteers is even more so. UW AmeriCorps volunteer Jessica Saxton is also a UCC student, and she was able to create a student interest group at the college and arrange a once-a-month tabling opportunity at the Student Center. And was generous enough to include the Wilderness Committee in her plans. We have done this for two months and garnered much interest. We'll be back again this month.

The Wilderness Committee has been working on plans to make the next few months fun and exciting for our loyal and new supporters of the Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal (CLWP.)

As in the past, there are some familiar programs we will revive this year; we will be at the Umpqua Valley Framer's on the second Saturday of each month, May through September, tabling for the CLWP. The way it works is, we ask market visitors to sign picture postcards in support of the proposal. The cards have a preprinted message urging the legislators to put forward a bill to congress to create the wilderness on one side and a scenic view of Crater Lake on the other. Market visitors sign with their name and city of residence, and the committee then mails the cards to our federal legislators. It takes just seconds to do, and it's free to the signatory.

We're also working on our list of summer hikes into the CLWP. Again, our goal is a minimum of one hike per month. We like to sponsor a variety of distances and



levels of difficulty. From family-friendly shorter trails to longer, more challenging day hikes.

Both these activities are fun and tried and true ways to foster interest and education in our goal of creating an understanding of the importance of protecting Oregon's public lands.

On the new side of things, we plan to have a night at the movies featuring the current state of Pacific Northwest salmon. This informational evening explores the state salmon as they are today and what we can do to help them survive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in two movies and a fisheries expert speaker. The location will be the Roseburg Public Library, and the exact date has yet to be determined. Watch for more news in the monthly Watersheds Moments and the Umpqua Watersheds FB page

We are planning a weekend campout for September 16. Called the Dark Sky campout. Saturday, September 16, is the only weekend this summer when there will be no moon, and we want to see the sky in all its splendor. We are in the planning stages right now, but we'd like to gather some folks, go up into the hills and learn about the Oregon night sky. We'll have a guide to the stars join us for guidance and information and have a fun night under the stars—more information to follow.

**SHOUT OUTS** to Bob Hoehne for the work he's doing gathering more information on the drainages within the CLWP; Diana Pace for her constant work on keeping our committee running smoothly; Jessica Saxton for including us in her tabling efforts at UCC and Alanna Baumann, our newest committee volunteer!

And as Bugs used to say: *"That's all folks."*

**Lead your own SOLVE project.**



The Oregon Spring

Cleanup will be held statewide in celebration of Earth Day April 22. Events to be held April 15 to 23. Gather friends, neighbors and family. In your neighborhood you can pick up litter, remove invasive weeds or plant native plants. You can register your event with SOLVE and they will work with you to engage volunteers and collect supplies. Contact [info@solveoregon.org](mailto:info@solveoregon.org) or [emily@solveoregon.org](mailto:emily@solveoregon.org) You can lead your own SOLVE project or if you'd like you can join an already organized solve team.



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Banquet May 7th!

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