



100 Valleys

A Quarterly Publication for the Supporters of Umpqua Watersheds, Inc

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

Summer 2023 | Issue 96

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CHANGES IN LATITUDE: Evolution, Diversity and Ecology of the Baja Peninsula ...by Ken Carloni



Desert Vervain

Ensenada, patted gray whale calves from a panga in *Laguna Ojo de Liebre*, gazed in awe at 10,000 year old rock art in the *Central Desert*, snorkeled with colorful reef fish in the azure waters of *Bahia Concepcion*, explored an arroyo that blasted its way through a fossilized coral reef near *Punta Chivato*, and walked through snowy pine forests reminiscent of southern Oregon on *Picacho del Diablo*, Baja's tallest peak.

This issue's installment, *Super Bloomin'*, walks you through a rare desert "super bloom" that Ken and Jenny came across in late February in the southern reaches of the *Valle de los Cirios Biosphere Reserve* ("Valley of the Candles") in Baja's Central Desert. Umpqua Watersheds hopes to soon revive edutours in partnership with the Green Tortoise. Stay tuned to this newsletter and to Watershed Moments

emails for opportunities to join us on future eco-quests!

This issue of *100 Valleys* introduces a new occasional column on the spectacular natural history of the Baja Peninsula: *Changes in Latitude*. It is written by botanist/ecologist Ken Carloni who has made numerous trips to this unique and enigmatic strip of our planet over the last 25 years. Ken and his wife Jenny first discovered Baja on tours with the [Green Tortoise Adventure Travel](#) company beginning in 1998, and led student classes there during spring breaks for the last 3 years Ken taught an Umpqua Community College course: "Evolution, Diversity and Ecology of the Baja Peninsula". Students were guided through tide pools by marine biologists from the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California in

Upcoming Events:

June 27~ 4pm at the Library. The Lost Salmon

July 1~ Pride Festival (tabling)

July 15~ River Appreciation Day River Forks

July 21-23~Twin Lakes Youth Campout July 21-23
Contact Jessica Saxton for more info and registration
541-670-9577 or jessica@umpquawatersheds.org

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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President's Corner by Janice Reid

It is so encouraging to have supporters continue to give to Umpqua Watersheds so that the programs, events, and activities can continue. The recent Annual Banquet showed the dedication of so many of you as you stayed even through the rain. Many of the programs at Umpqua Watersheds have been a part of the organization for decades. Some programs are relatively new. We know that we can only continue or expand our programs with you—a big THANK YOU to all who continue donating.

A suggestion at the banquet came from **Alysia Gaye** to make your donations monthly. This is a great way to help the organization by providing a stable and reliable source of income. Shortfalls in funding can shift our time and resources from programs to fundraising. The good news is that there are several ways to do that. Our donation page at umpquawatersheds.org/donate has a check box where you can indicate a recurring

donation. You can make this weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly.

While this is an easy way to make a recurring donation, your donation could have a bigger impact by donating directly to the UW bank account from your bank account as a payment. This transaction will save

UW the fees associated with the online giving platform, and your donation will have a bigger impact. If you have trouble or want to know more about how to make a bank-to-bank transfer, please call the UW office and speak with Melanie. She will walk you through it and get it all set up.

On our website is a page specifically dedicated to legacy giving. When you visit umpquawatersheds.org/legacy-giving, you will find information on ways to set up donations from your retirement account, will, or life insurance policies.

Many businesses sponsor Umpqua Watersheds as well with their donations. **Our Earth Day Oregon 2023** campaign received donations from **Oregon Serigraphics** through t-shirts, **Medicine Flower** donated 10% of sales in April, and **Two Shy Brewing** donated proceeds from beer sales of their popular Umpqua Trail IPA on Earth Day. Every little bit helps, and we cannot exist without their support.



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



Executive Director's Update...by Kasey Hovik



It is amazing to me how every year after our Annual Membership Banquet, I come away with so much energy, gratitude, and determination because of the support we receive from our members and supporters. Part of it is that in the process of creating our presentations and looking back over the past year, I am amazed at how much we accomplish as an organization and with a small group of people. Another aspect of preparing for the banquet is we also reflect on the history of Umpqua Watersheds and how many of these same people have served or supported the organization for decades. I am humbled to work alongside our staff, volunteers, and supporters.

For the past couple of years, we have had our Annual Membership Banquet in early May and that really works out well as we gear up for Summer Activities and prepare to submit grants seeking funding to support our projects and our staff. In April we attended the **Oregon Nonprofit Leaders Conference** in Ashland. It is an incredible opportunity to meet other nonprofit leaders and meet with several foundations which provide grants to support important work throughout Oregon.

The "Meet the Funders" breakout sessions are interesting and fast-paced. Each foundation provides an overview of their Foundation and the different types of grant programs they offer. Nonprofits also get an opportunity to discuss their organizations and their programs. In a sense, it feels like speed-dating

programs. Two of our strategic outreach programs, **KQUA Community Radio Station** and the **Umpqua Outback Project** designed to create Community Space in downtown Roseburg really got a lot of comments and interest. Another really positive development is that Foundations are now funding general operations and not just programs because there is now the recognition that programs can't be sustainable unless they have staff and not just volunteers to sustain them.

While it is exciting and encouraging to receive positive feedback and support for what we are doing it is also



because you only get 2-3 minutes to present. I really felt proud of the interest and enthusiasm we received from several funders as well as several other nonprofits we met with during the conference. Umpqua Watersheds was also one of 12 nonprofits (out of 130 organizations across Oregon) to table during the conference. We got a lot of feedback and recognition because of our tabling materials including our brochures about UW and our

stressful and not without some anxiety when we have so much happening that falls on the shoulders of a few people. An acquaintance from another nonprofit asked me, "What do these outreach projects have to do with your mission"? I responded that for Umpqua Watersheds to be sustainable, to grow and expand our work we must reach more people. We do a marvelous job of working with people who are already passionate about conservation, restoration, wilderness, and education but how do we bring in new people? Both the **Umpqua Outback Project** and the **KQUA Community Radio Project** expand our footprint by enabling us to collaborate with other organizations as well as the general public who we would not be engaging were it not for an event on the Umpqua Outback Stage or listening to KQUA or one of our podcasts. It does take a leap of faith, as well as determination but like the line from the movie Field of Dreams: "If you build it, they will come!"

Education updateby Janice Reid

Umpqua Watersheds recently teamed up with **Umpqua Community College** and **Umpqua Natural Leadership Science Hub** to participate in a conference on Stream Amphibians and turtles of Southwest Oregon on Friday, May 12, and Saturday, May 13. Responding to an invitation from renowned herpetologists **R. Bruce Bury**, Ph.D., and **Gwen Bury**, Ph.D., to help host and organize the conference, UW was eager and excited to be involved. Bury received a grant from **Oregon Conservation Fund** and **Northwest Ecological Research Institute** to conduct field surveys at historic survey locations in the Umpqua. The conference was part of the grant application to provide an educational component to the community. Over 70 people signed up for the event, 60 people attended the conference on Friday, and 40 people participated in the field training exercise on Saturday.

Those with extensive knowledge in herpetology presented their recent findings on the topic. **Umpqua Community College's** Jacoby Auditorium was the setting for the conference. **Jason Reilley** of Medford BLM, **Karen Kiemnec-Tyburczy** of Cal Poly Humboldt, **Mark Leppin** of OSU, **Justin Garwood** of Calif DFW, **Michael Parker** of SOU, **James Bettaso** of USFS Six Rivers, **Simon Wray** of ODFW all presented valuable information.

Many amphibians in our area are sensitive to major environmental changes such as timber harvest. Turtles are sensitive to rivers that are dammed.

young professionals and interested community members learned about our area's sensitive stream amphibians and turtles. Over 50% of the attendees were from Douglas County, but many from Lane and Benton County, Southern Oregon, and coastal communities attended. A few individuals from out of state were present as well. Most attendees were federal employees, but many state, non-profit, tribal, and academics attended.

Gwen Bury gave detailed instructions to avoid damaging the amphibian community while conducting surveys for presence. The project is seeking field technicians. The pay rate is stipend level. For more information, contact Bruce Bury at clemmys@gmail.com. We hope this will be a regular event, as it was very informative.



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 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

KQUA Committee

When: Every Wednesday at 3pm
Kasey Hovik kasey@umpquawatersheds.org

Conservation & Restoration Committees

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

Janice Reid janice@umpquawatersheds.org

Restoration:

Ken Carloni ken@umpquawatersheds.org

Education Committees

When: 2nd Wednesday of Every Month at 5:30pm
Cindy Haws cindy@umpquawatersheds.org

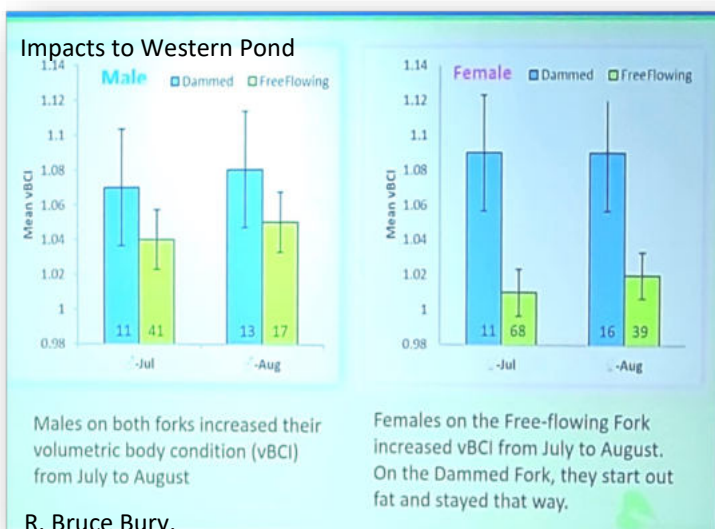
Wilderness Committee

When: Last Wednesday of Every Month at 6pm
Robbin Schindele robbin@umpquawatersheds.org

Outreach Committee

When: Last Thursday of every month at 5:30pm
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!



Iverson Memorial County Park and surrounding BLM lands were the setting for the field workshop. Many

Outreach Update ...by Kasey Hovik

On Sunday, May 7th we celebrated the 27th Umpqua Watersheds Annual Membership Banquet. As always, it was great to see so many of our friends and supporters. For the second year in a row, we had the event behind our building. We rented a 20' x 20' tent to provide shelter from the sun and/or rain. Unfortunately, the rain poured down about 30 minutes before our committee updates and keynote presentation. Sadly, we were unable to utilize the big-screen television to provide our updates, but I am happy to report that we will have the presentations up online soon. We were able to provide an overview of the Umpqua Outback Project which will create a covered stage and covered seating areas along the side of our building. We launched our Capital Campaign for the project and have already raised over \$16,000 of our \$50,000 goal to match the in-kind \$50,000 of labor and materials we have committed.

The theme of the event this year was “Ecosystems, Natural, and Human – the Importance of Recognizing Interconnectivity.” Our keynote speaker, **Marcy Cottrell Houle** gave an impassioned presentation of



how people have come together to do great things that have improved the quality of life while protecting and celebrating our environment. Her book, “**A Generous Nature**” captures what people and communities can accomplish when they come together to focus on our shared connections.

Annual Award recipients this year included:



Chuck Schnautz accepting the Lifetime Conservationist award from Susan Applegate.

Volunteer of the Year – **Tracy Maxwell**
Lifetime Volunteer – **Francis Etherington**
Conservationist of the Year – **Kirk Blaine**
Lifetime Conservationist – **Chuck Schnautz**

In my organizational update for the banquet, I discussed how much Umpqua Watersheds has accomplished over the last year as reflected in the updates of our committees of Conservation, Wilderness, Restoration Education, and Outreach. We have a very small paid staff including our Office Manager and Grant Coordinator, **Melanie MacKinnon**, and our KQUA Program Manager, **Patrick Schneider**, both are part-time. Our 11-month AmeriCorps Environmental Education and Outreach Leader, **Jessica Saxton** continues to tradition of outstanding service to our organization. Once again, our organization exceeded over 3,000 hours of volunteer time! Our staff and volunteers work hard to support our mission to protect and celebrate the Umpqua Watersheds, but we need to grow in terms of financial support and volunteers to meet the challenges ahead. Our Outreach Programs are the key to accomplishing those goals and the Umpqua Outback and our KQUA Noncommercial Educational Radio station are strategic initiatives that will enable us to dramatically expand our outreach.

We would like to thank Abacela Winery, Party Time Rentals, Lookingglass Brewery, North Forty Brewing, Two Shy Brewing, Caldera Brewing Co, Ohm Grown, Old Soul Pizza, and Wild Rose Vineyard for contributions to the banquet.

CHANGES IN LATITUDE

Super Bloomin': Baja's Central Desert Puts on a Rare Show ...by Ken Carloni

As a botanist and ecologist, experiencing a desert super bloom has been high on my bucket list, but has proved to be an elusive prize. Exacting weather conditions must be met in the preceding year, and timing must be precise to produce a profusion of synchronous wildflower blooms. Unfortunately, with a job, a home, and gardens to keep up with, I couldn't just pick up and race off to the desert when one occurred (about every 10 years in different deserts). Over the years, our pre-arranged trips to the deserts of North America tended to align with droughts. Stark beauty, indeed. But "stark" and "wildflower" are words that are not often associated...

Fortunately, retirement has expanded our travel timing options, and this February we got lucky in the *Valle de los Cirios* ("Valley of the Candles") Biosphere Reserve in Baja's Central Desert.

Why are desert super blooms so rare?

To the uninitiated, deserts are often regarded as arid, barren landscapes devoid of life and color. However, every so often, these seemingly desolate regions transform into vibrant tapestries of blooming wildflowers. This captivating event is the result of a perfect convergence of environmental conditions. Below, we will explore the key factors that must align to bring this breathtaking spectacle to life.

1. Adequate Rainfall:

The primary prerequisite for a desert super bloom is an exceptional amount of rainfall. Deserts are known for their low precipitation levels, making water a scarce resource. However, when unusually heavy rains occur, they saturate the parched desert soil, awakening dormant seeds and triggering germination. These seeds may lie dormant for decades, patiently awaiting the right conditions to germinate. The "atmospheric rivers" that pummeled the West for the last two years met this condition in spades.

2. Timing is Crucial:

Timing plays a crucial role in the desert super bloom phenomenon. The rain must arrive at the right time -- usually in the winter or early spring -- when the desert plants are in their dormant or semi-dormant states. If the rain comes too late, the plants may have already exhausted their stored energy reserves or entered their reproductive cycle, missing the chance to capitalize on the newfound moisture. Alternatively, if the rain arrives too early, or is followed by an extended dry period, winter annuals may not survive to bloom in the spring. This happened after the heavy fall "monsoons" in the Sonoran Desert in 2021-2 were followed by a dry spring. Seeing all of the rain sweeping across the Southwest on the weather maps, Jenny and I made plans to visit friends and family in the Tucson area that spring. But alas -- another swing and another miss. The landscape was awesome, but hardly a bloom was to be seen.

3. Temperature and Sunlight:

Following rainfall, favorable temperature and sunlight conditions contribute to the success of a desert super bloom. Mild temperatures and abundant sunlight are crucial for photosynthesis, the process by which plants convert sunlight into energy. Consistent moderate temperatures provide an optimal climate for the growth and development of flowers, allowing them to blossom and flourish. Extreme heat or frost can hinder the bloom by causing stress or damaging the delicate flowers.



4. Lack of Grazing:

To witness a desert super bloom, it is essential that livestock grazing be limited or absent, and native grazers managed effectively, at least during the bloom period. The more growth plants can keep each year, the more energy they can put into flowering and dispersing their seeds for future generations. Fortunately, the Valle de los Cirios is a UNESCO-designated [biosphere reserve](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biosphere_reserve) (https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biosphere_reserve) where livestock grazing and other human activities are highly restricted.

The right place at the right time.

As often happens in life, you find what you are looking for when you are not looking for it. Our previous trips to Baja were always constrained by our academic schedules, so Spring Break was always late March. We've seen some great botany down there, but always in the oases or other nooks and crannies in subdued numbers. So we planned our trip this spring to better coincide with gray whale calving in Laguna Ojo de Liebre (always a thrilling experience), with only the faint hope of better than average flora.

On Valentine's Day 2023 we scraped the snow off the roof tent on our trusty Tacoma and turned south. Alternately camping one night and staying in a motel room (with something like hot showers) the next, we cruised south through mostly familiar territory with some fun side explorations. The weather was unusually cool and overcast, and we got deluged in Mulegé. Our botanist friend Debra Valov kindly put a mattress on the floor for us, and remarked on how unusually heavy the rain had been.

Free of spring break constraints, we had the time to go all the way south to *Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park*, the only hard coral reef on Baja's Gulf of California shoreline. I wrote the [brief article](https://umpquawatersheds.org/more-on-forest-thinning-for-wildfire-resistance-or-not/) (<https://umpquawatersheds.org/more-on-forest-thinning-for-wildfire-resistance-or-not/>) for the previous issue of 100 Valleys sitting outside a bungalow in Cabo Pulmo, and noted that we were there to see the reef while it is still relatively healthy. The day after I sent that in, we caught a break in the weather and snorkeled with at least 25 species of many-colored fishes. A big check off on the bucket list, but I can't remember the last time I shivered that hard from the unseasonably cold water. I'll tell the rest of these stories in future Changes in Latitude installments... Stay tuned!



On our way back north, we passed through the area that had rained so hard on us. We had glimpsed some color on the way south, but time obligations and the Trans peninsular Highway (that generally has no shoulder and few pullouts) had kept us from investigating. I was looking hard, and just when I thought we had missed it, the desert exploded in color. And what made this carpet of vibrant color on the desert floor even more other-worldly was the backdrop of "trees" that dotted the landscape. The main "overstory" species can reach over 60', and include a gang of bizarre characters straight out of a Dr. Suess book.

The iconic Cirios (*Fouquieria columnaris*), for which the reserve is named, are also known as Boojum Trees in English. The name means "Candles" in Spanish, and is descriptive of the plant's shape, which has been described as a giant pale green upside-down carrot. Most branches are less than 2 feet long and form a thin brush up the length of the gradually tapering spire. Older trees often branch into several umbrella-like fingers at the top.

Often mistaken for Saguaro cactus, the massive Cordón (*Pachycereus pringlei*) has many "arms" that stay close to the

main trunk in a columnar form. These bat pollinated cacti provide large, sweet fruit to the desert community, and were a staple of Baja's indigenous peoples' diets.

The spiky Baja California Tree Yucca (*Yucca valida*) and the squat Elephant Tree (*Pachycormus discolor*) round out this fantasy forest. Tree Yuccas have lance-like, sharp-tipped leaves that surround their few large branches and bend downward as they age to form skirts below the living leaves. The elegantly gnarled Elephant Tree has a broad, contorted trunk, with thin greyish peeling bark. Its large, snaking branches support comparatively small leaves that are produced and dropped according to soil moisture.



Most desert landscapes have blooms dominated by one species of herbaceous flowering plant (think California Poppies in the Mojave Desert) mixed with several other common species. In Baja's Central Desert, this is often the Desert Vervain (*Glandularia goodingii*). These striking clusters of magenta blooms are interspersed with bright red Hummingbird Flower (*Justicia californica*), orange Apricot Mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), deep purple Baja California Nightshade (*Solanum hindsianum*), canary yellow Thick-Leaf Groundcherry (*Physalis crassifolia*) along with a couple of dozen smaller, but no less striking, wildflowers tucked into the mix. The photos here are selections of the several hundred shots I took while

wandering in awe of this desert wonderland.

Gritty Central Desert soils are derived from coarse granite crystals eroded by wind from the dramatic boulders strewn across the landscape. These soils have lots of pore space to absorb water, but their porous structure also causes water to drain away quickly. Plants have to be primed by previous rain to build the roots and leaves necessary to capture that water to power profuse blooming. The atmospheric rivers that hammered the west coast all the way down to Baja produced the steady water supply and cool, even temperatures that had blessed that particular high-diversity microclimate in a reserve managed for biodiversity.

The occurrence of a desert super bloom is a mesmerizing testament to the resilience and adaptability of nature in a harsh and demanding landscape. This ephemeral spectacle not only enchants those lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time, it also provides essential nourishment for pollinators, a subsequent burst of seed for birds and other animals, and a large deposit into the soil seed bank for future generations. Although we saw beautiful wildflowers in other parts of our tour, a series of extraordinary circumstances happened to intersect with our journey --abundant rainfall, optimal timing, favorable temperatures, and limited grazing -- that caused a stark desert landscape to burst into a magnificent display of colorful wildflowers.



Conservation Update...by Janice Reid

Timber harvesting and related activities such as road building can devastate forest ecosystems and biodiversity. Monitoring public land and the activities in our forests is of utmost importance from a conservation organization's perspective to minimize the negative impact on the environment. Monitoring projects and activities on our public land allows conservation organizations to expose activities that do not comply with established guidelines, regulations, and management plans that often result in habitat loss and the disruption of ecological balance. By actively monitoring projects on public land, organizations can identify discrepancies between project expectations and the outcome enabling the organization to alert management agencies about infractions. This oversight helps protect vulnerable forest areas and preserves biodiversity as long as the perpetrators are held accountable. We rely on our public land managers, law enforcement, and prosecutors to follow through on the information acquired to safeguard our forests for future generations and ensure our planet's long-term health and resilience. Allowing illegal activity to go unpunished leads to further infractions as



perpetrators learn that the risk is minimal. If the law is not enforced, our civil and legal system is eroded.

At Umpqua Watersheds, we would like to work with the agencies to prevent illegal activities, discourage ecologically destructive practices, and hold those accountable for not safeguarding the public trust. Communication is important, and



there is no substitute for an in-person meeting. Dialogue can be informative for all parties and can help save time and resources. My interest and dismay in right-of-way laws have revealed a system of deeply destructive practices by private landowners to perpetrate an egregious act of destruction on our public lands circumventing environmental laws, current management plans, and public scrutiny. In some cases, the agencies are unable to prevent the destructive activities. But in other cases of illegal activity, which they can do something about, they refuse to press charges. How utterly irresponsible. Our monitoring team recently discovered an illegal activity of large old-growth trees cut and milled on site. The agency was alerted, evidence was gathered, and the case was referred for prosecution. But the agency solicitor declined to do what is required: hold the perpetrators accountable.

Monitoring can be a tireless and unrewarding process. Is shame enough if we don't have the law on our side? I recall the line from the movie Jurassic Park where the mathematician, played by Jeff Goldblum, essentially states something to the effect that just because you can, doesn't mean you should.

AmeriCorps Update ... by Jessica Saxton

The last few months have been pretty busy, which means there are lots being done! UW joined the **Roseburg Parks and Recreation** for their Arbor Day event on April 1st. Thanks to **Long's Building Supply**, who donated a large plywood board to be used for the art piece on Arbor Day. Residents had the opportunity to write messages on madrone leaves, many wrote about their love for trees and nature, in celebration of Arbor Day. The art piece was stored in the **Roseburg City Library** for the month of April, and many more leaves were added. **Umpqua Valley Audubon** and **Umpqua Watersheds** partnered with **Umpqua Valley Farmers Market**



from returning home. UW also attended Eastwood Science Camp where students participated in nature journaling. They learned how to document the sounds they hear, and draw plants, animals, and insects they see while out in nature. At **JoLane Middle School** the students participated in the Environmental Detective Series where they got to be detectives and solve an environmental issue. At the **Boys and Girls Club** the kids participated in learning how to do nature journaling by following the steps on how to draw items they find in nature. The kids enjoyed drawing leaves, branches, and flowers in their journals and



determining the names of all these plants. During the last few months, I also chaperoned on a few different field trips, **Elkton Community Education Center** was a popular location. **Alex Harding's** class

and other partners to celebrate Earth Day. This was a great event, many residents engaged with UW and participated in making seed bombs. UW also attended **Umpqua Community College's** Earth Day celebration, the students had the opportunity to make seed bombs and learn about UW.

The month of May kicked off with a science camp at **Eastwood Elementary School** called Eastwood Nature Days. Over the course of four days, UW taught over 400 students about the salmon life cycle and how salmon return to their home streams. The students learned about how salmon use scent to return to their original stream, they participated in an activity where they smell bags with different scents and try to find matching scents which lead them to their home stream. Afterward, we discussed the importance of clean water, salmon habitat, salmon facts, and obstructions that could prevent salmon



(JoLane Middle School) and **Robyn Bath-Rosenfeld (Fremont Middle School)** went to ECEC during May to learn about butterflies and native plant species. Another field trip was to Dorena Dam with Robyn's class, where the students went on a hike, explored the dam, and learned about restoration

projects from the **Parks and Recreation Department, US Army Corps of Engineers, and BLM.** I also helped to chaperone a field trip to **Iverson Park and North Myrtle Creek**, where **Douglas High School** students surveyed crayfish. Upcoming in July, UW will be hosting the **Twin Lakes Youth Campout** on July 21-23. Participants will get to enjoy a summer weekend in the outdoors



exploring nature and outdoor activities.

There were some great interviews for **Living Downstream** in the last few months. At the beginning of March, I interviewed **Lisa Owens-Viani** from **Raptors are the Solution**. She discussed the impacts of rodenticides on predators, their prey, and humans. The second interview features **Chriset Palenshus**, a local resident who discussed the impact of white supremacy on land use and forestry management. She wears many different hats, a mom, business owner, indigenous rights advocate, birth worker, and community organizer. She spoke about the importance of land back, language back, and culture back to the indigenous communities and the impact this will have on forest management. The third interview features **Theresa Barbour** with the **Oregon Wild Horse Organization**, she spoke about the impact of BLM management practices on wild horses and burros. We discussed the impact of climate change impacts and the role the horses play in the food chain. **Living Downstream** also featured a special Earth Day episode where we discussed the history of Earth Day and Earth Day events. We also featured interviews with a few members of the current **AmeriCorps** cohort, we discussed their projects and programs since they started serving. I truly appreciate their interest in the radio show and loved hearing about their service projects.

Wilderness Committee Update ...by Robbin Schindele

Members of Umpqua Watersheds and the Wilderness Committee went on a fine hike this month on the Jesse Wright section of the North Umpqua Trail. It was a beautiful day, and the trail is in good shape all along the 4+ mile segment. A good time was all. There will be more hikes coming up this summer so watch the Watersheds Face Book page or the event calendar on our website.



Every second Saturday of month through September the Wilderness Committee will be at the Umpqua Valley

Farmers Market proselytizing for the Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal. We will be informing market goers on the details of the proposal and the benefits that the creation will bring to the planet and the citizens of Douglas County. Stop by our booth and sign a post card to our federal legislators in support of the proposal (we'll mail it for you) or GET A FREE WILDERNESS

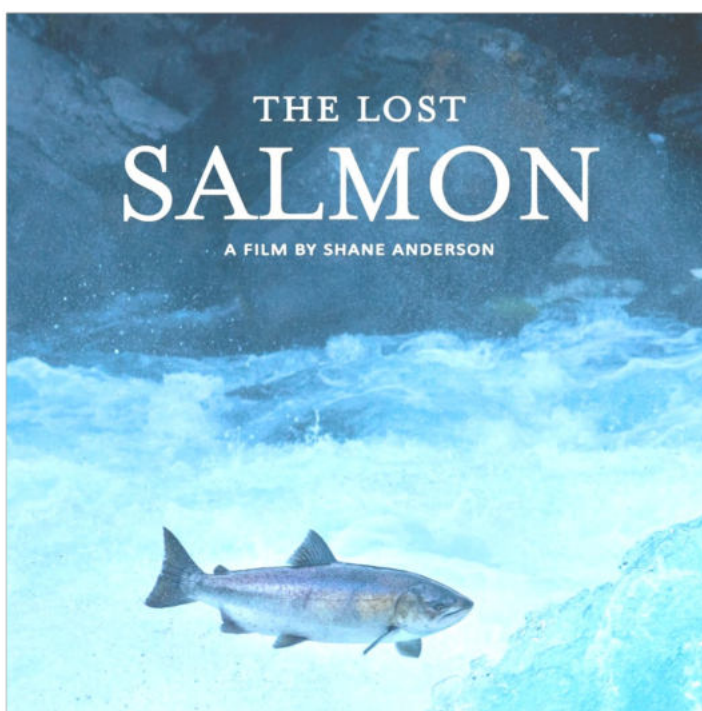


CAP OR T-SHIRT (for a \$20.00 or more donation to the wilderness committee.) We'll have plenty of literature with more information on the proposal and Umpqua Watersheds as well as our ever popular free UW refrigerator magnets. Or just say HI!

On June 27 we're have an event at the Roseburg Public Library from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. We'll be showing the movie, "The Lost Salmon." It documents the tragic loss of salmon populations in the Pacific Northwest from Northern California to the Canadian border. The movie will be followed by a presentation by Evan Leonetti from ODFW on the current state of Salmon in the Umpqua drainage.

We are planning on doing this kind of event frequently in the coming months on a wide variety of subjects so watch the UW Facebook page and your monthly Watersheds Moments for more information.

Thanks for your interest folks and have a great summer.





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