



100 Valleys

A Quarterly Publication for the Supporters of Umpqua Watersheds, Inc

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

Winter 2023 | Issue 98

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WINCHESTER DAM UPDATEby Ken Carloni

Faithful readers of this newsletter will recall that for the past several years, UW has been actively involved with our North Umpqua Coalition (NUC) partners to hold the Winchester Dam owners (the Winchester Water Control District or WWCD) accountable for the ecological harm their dam has caused since they took ownership of the dam in the late 1960s. The time, effort and funds we have expended on this "[slow-motion ecological disaster](#)"¹ have begun to pay off:

Because of our vigilance, WWCD was hit with a whopping \$27.6 million fine by the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODF&W) in late October for negligently causing the deaths of over a half million [Pacific lamprey](#). Shortly after that, the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) fined the WWCD an additional \$106,778 for violating at least 10 conditions of its Water Quality Certification during their [work on the dam](#).

Umpqua Watersheds provided many of the eyes and ears that caught numerous violations for which the WWCD has been fined – including water quality monitoring in

the wee hours of the night, drone flights over the dam, and photographic and video documentation of ecological damage. The NUC made calls and provided documentation to state elected officials that led to legislative hearings on the Winchester Dam debacle. We believe that it was this legislative "sunshine" that gave the DEQ and ODF&W the support they needed to levy such significant fines.

Not surprisingly, the DEQ confirmed recently that both WWCD and TerraFirma (the contractor that conducted the "repairs") have chosen to contest their water quality fines related to the 2023 violations. The much more

consequential ODF&W fine will almost certainly also be contested, and will be tried before a Douglas County judge.

Umpqua Watersheds was an intervener in the last DEQ-

contested case regarding botched Winchester Dam repairs back in 2019-2020, and will again join WaterWatch of Oregon, the Native Fish Society, the Steamboaters and other NUC member organizations to intervene in these new cases. WaterWatch is taking the lead in developing an agreement with [Crag Law Center](#) to again represent our coalition.

Becoming interveners in these cases will allow our coalition to:

- Have a say in any settlement between the WWCD and either the DEQ, ODF&W or both,
- Bring local environmental experience and expertise to the case,
- Keep the state agencies from buckling under political pressure,

Even though Crag Law has always worked for the NUC at very reasonable rates, UW must shoulder our share of the costs of intervening. We have committed to provide \$250 to \$300 per quarter to help pay for Crag's work on the DEQ case. The ODF&W case will present a more significant financial burden if the intervening groups are to be successful. More time will need to be spent by Crag on discovery and other aspects of this complex case – we expect UW's share to be in the range of several thousand dollars.

Please consider making a donation to Umpqua Watersheds to help us keep our shoulders to the wheel and put what may be the final nail in the Winchester Dam coffin.



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

President's Corner... by Janice Reid

Wow, where did 2023 go? Time is something that we cannot get back, and we must use it wisely. We all reflect on things we are grateful for at Thanksgiving: our friends, family, and health. We often take health for granted until something stops functioning well. Sometimes, we are so focused on "doing things" that we forget that we must acquire resources to do them. The health of our organization is doing quite well. Thanks to our office manager Melanie, who is akin to the organization's doctor, she maintains appointments, ensures a proper influx of key ingredients, and sends reminders when we go off track with our wellness plan. Her time is valuable, and we use every minute of it. We need her and her energy, but we need a continuous flow of donations to use her services. Even small monthly contributions are helpful. The consistency of the donations is key to having our regular office staff on hand for needed services to operate the office.

Melanie helped get the year-end appeal letter out to our membership by planning, being ready, and pitching in with a smile. A big shout-out to our Office Manager, Melanie MacKinnon, for being there for the organization and keeping it moving in the right direction.



In memory of Martin Gonzales,
OCSO-Trappist Abbey
A poem by Daniel Skach-Mills

How Might Our World be Different

if, like Trappists, we professed vows to valleys, reclaimed Forest as our first language, widened our prayers wingspan to include the ruby-crowned kinglet's littlest litanies nesting in the thickets of our ears?

If, like monks, we strove to rise each day earlier than ego, made no distinctions between holiness and humus, love and lark. Bowed, morning, and evening, to the waning wick of how little endures.

Imagine, if you will, what it would be like to live as landscape, pace your life to leaves. Speak, and when you do, enter each word the way you would a monastery, silently and slowly as the growth of a tree.

Upcoming Events:

- Dec. 14th 3pm-5pm Holiday Open House at Umpqua Watersheds Office
- Jan. 31st, 2024 4-6pm Watershed Wednesday- Last Wednesday of every month at Old Soul Pizza Annex 533 SE Main Street starting
- Jan. 15th Martin Luther King Jr. Day river clean up
- Feb. 10th Snowshoe hike
- Feb. 23 Benefits of Wilderness event at the Douglas County Library

Executive Director's Update...

by Kasey Hovik

On December 2nd, the Umpqua Watersheds Board of Directors and Staff held our Annual Strategic Planning Meeting. It's a great opportunity to spend time together and reflect on what our committees have accomplished over the past year, how those accomplishments align with the existing Strategic Plan, and what adjustments, if any, to make to the Plan.

I can't properly express my appreciation for our Board and Staff. I've had the privilege to work with most of them for over ten years, and every year, our group can accomplish more together despite the many challenges we face as a small, underfunded conservation nonprofit organization. Many of the 4,000 volunteer hours logged in 2023 came from people gathered around the table. The group also makes up our organization's top 10% of donors. Most of us are now retired and have busy lives beyond Umpqua Watersheds. Still, we keep returning because of our passionate love for the Umpqua Basin, our community, and our desire to make a positive difference. Another reason we keep returning and trying to do more is our friendships with each other, our members, and many others who serve our community in one way or another. The camaraderie we feel is special.

We are a well-traveled group and have seen places of unimaginable beauty, but we come home to the Umpqua, realizing just how special the Umpqua is. It makes us more determined than ever to protect, restore, and celebrate it.

We also realize that what we are doing



could be more sustainable. We need to add to our membership, increase our support, and find new leaders to move the organization forward for the years to come because the challenges we face to protect the ecosystems of the Umpqua are more challenging and complex than ever before. We need to do a better job of "telling our story," reaching out beyond our community, and connecting with more foundations to support our important work to protect, restore, explore, and celebrate the ecosystems of the Umpqua Watershed.

As discussed in the Outreach article in this newsletter, we plan to increase our outreach, add more people, increase the organization's diversity, find additional revenue streams to support operations and bring new leadership to Umpqua Watersheds. One of the things I am excited about is that we will have a monthly gathering downtown to check in with our supporters, talk about our work and issues we are facing, and get feedback and ideas.

Thank you for your support in 2023. We wish you special times with family and friends during the holiday season and look forward to the good work we'll do together for the Umpqua in 2024.

Warmest regards from the Executive Director and the Staff and Board of Directors of Umpqua Watersheds.



Executive Director's Update Continued....



WE NEED YOU!

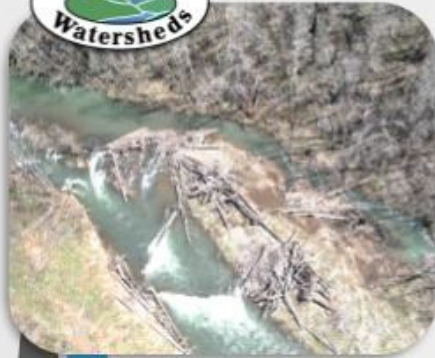


As the year draws to a close, we reflect on the incredible strides we've made in preserving and protecting the Umpqua Watershed and beyond. With your unwavering support, Umpqua Watersheds has been at the forefront of environmental conservation, outreach, restoration, education, and preserving wilderness areas.

In the past year, our dedicated team and volunteers have worked tirelessly to address critical issues facing the Umpqua Watershed. From restoring vital ecosystems to engaging in educational initiatives that empower the community, your contributions have driven our success.

However, our work is far from over. Our environment's challenges continue to evolve, demanding innovative solutions and sustained efforts. This is where your continued support becomes more crucial than ever.





Here's how your donation can make a difference:

- 1. Conservation:** Your contribution enables us to implement strategic initiatives that protect the delicate balance of the Umpqua Watershed's ecosystems. In 2023, Umpqua Watersheds spent hundreds of hours doing field surveys on the ground and air via drone, writing comments on agency actions, and informing our membership and the public about important conservation issues.
- 2. Outreach and Education:** Your support helps us expand our outreach programs, ensuring that more individuals are educated about the importance of environmental conservation. In 2023, our AmeriCorps member engaged hundreds of kids in the classroom and outdoors. Our Annual Banquet, Amphibian Workshop, River Appreciation Day, Hikes, Campouts, and the Umpqua Brew Fest enabled us to connect with our members and community.
- 3. Restoration:** Your donation fuels our restoration projects, enabling us to revitalize critical areas affected by human impact. In 2023, we collaborated with partners to restore and protect ecosystems while providing critical information to public agencies to ensure compliance with legal protections for our environment.
- 4. Wilderness:** Our commitment to preserving and expanding wilderness areas remains steadfast. Your support allows us to advocate for policies that protect these untouched landscapes. In 2023, we engaged state and federal representatives and the public about the Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal. We sponsored hikes and presentations highlighting the importance of wilderness.

As we approach the end of the year, we invite you to join us in securing a sustainable future for the Umpqua Watershed. Your tax-deductible donation will directly impact the health and vitality of our region, leaving a lasting legacy for future generations. To contribute, please visit our website at <https://umpquawatersheds.org/donation-by-fund/> or send your donation to **PO Box 101, Roseburg, OR 97470**. Your generosity makes our mission possible, and we are profoundly grateful for your partnership in preserving the natural beauty of the Umpqua Watershed.

Thank you for being a vital part of Umpqua Watersheds' success. Together, we can ensure that the Umpqua Watershed remains a beacon of environmental resilience and a source of inspiration for years to come.
Warm Regards, Kasey Hovik, Executive Director.

Education updateby Cindy Haws



The education program highlight for this quarter had to be tending a booth at the international State of the Beaver Conference on November 13, 14, and 15th. This biannual

effort planned and implemented by the South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership Beaver Advocacy Committee brought over 200 professionals, including many agency staff, tribes, and nonprofits worldwide, to share information and progress to restore beaver populations. The *EM River* stream table and *Creative Labworks* groundwater model UW/UNLSH purchased thanks to The Gray Family Foundation was a huge hit. While stream tables have been out there for education for years, the *EM River* is more mobile, easier to store, and more accurate in modeling stream processes. Many at the conference saw its value as an educational tool given the difficulty in getting managers, land owners, students, and the public to understand how their activities, including the loss of effective beaver populations, affect stream processes, water quality, water abundance, and salmon. Thank you to Julie Lowe, UW AmeriCorps, and Diana Pace for helping with the models at the booth. In the demonstration, we convey that our mature and old forest, groundwater, and streams are our water catchment and storage "tanks." We describe how logging, logging roads, and plantations have caused a huge loss of water in the winter (with an increase in flashy damaging peak flows) and summer (50% loss of summer low flows for many years), as evidenced by years of research data on paired watersheds (Jones, 2017).



The models are also very relevant in demonstrating current issues in Oregon regarding the

condition and vulnerability of the groundwater, including in Douglas County.



A slew of recent news articles have been published about the loss and

contamination of groundwater. Many Douglas County residents could benefit from understanding the human activities impacting their water's abundance, storage, and quality. Another related educational topic to use with the models is the exciting removal of the Klamath River dams. In addition to the beaver conference, we took the models to Yoncalla High School Natural Resources classes for two days. We took the groundwater model to Tri-City Elementary during an evening of science activities. We expect to use these models again in 2024 at many K-12 schools and events. This December, the education committee will work on 2024 programs. If we have funding, we hope to implement new project-based education programs, including resolving beaver/human conflicts and the benefits of beaver habitat surveys and Western pond turtle conservation and surveys. We would

also like to accomplish field trips with youth to places such as the Klamath Wildlife Refuge during the Winter Wings Festival, Crater Lake, etc. Come join the committee. We need help planning and implementing our projects and writing grants to fund these valuable programs.



AmeriCorps Update...by Julie Lowe

What a difference a couple of months can make! As the “new” Americorps member of Umpqua Watersheds, I feel I have found my home. I am so excited about the work that has been accomplished and the efforts to which I’ve been able to contribute. As the temperature drops and the watershed transforms into a serene and enchanting wonderland, I feel like we are stepping into top gear as we begin our Strategic Planning process, implement new programs, and take critical next steps to enhance the impacts of our current endeavors. To maximize my contributions to the mission of Umpqua Watersheds, we are implementing a new program that will expand my efforts beyond the classroom to address the interests and needs of the greater community. The new watershed Science and Environmental Education and Discovery Series (SEEDS) program is designed for the whole community as a multifaceted campaign to inspire, educate, support, and entertain each member of the watershed family from the very young and up. Many efforts under this comprehensive initiative are underway, with others still in the planning and implementation phase.

This umbrella program will inspire our community members with opportunities and experiences that celebrate the beauty and richness of our watershed. For example, our Mushroom Walk was attended by over 50 enthusiasts ranging from 3 years old to over 75. Guided by enthusiast Geoff Niles, we explored and identified mushrooms at Iverson Park for two hours. Other experiential events such as foraging, nature journaling, tracking spawning salmon, forest therapy, and snowshoeing at Crater Lake are being planned.

SEEDS also provides interactive and educational opportunities as we visit classrooms, conferences, and other forums to educate students and adults alike about the workings of an effective watershed. Knowledge is power, and we are committed to empowering our community with insights into watershed dynamics, environmental best practices, and sustainable living.

For example, the working Water Stream and Water Table models are portable, hands-on, practical demonstrations of fluid dynamics that explore how water moves, forms, and structures our watershed, emphasizing water catchment. These models allow participants to actually see and manipulate pieces of our water catchment system to watch in real time how an effective watershed should work or, conversely, doesn’t work. The water table model allows participants to track contaminants in our



water table, demonstrating how contaminants spread throughout the watershed, moving down and up through sediment. Thanks to Cindy Haws of the Umpqua Natural Leadership Science Hub (UNLSH) for leading us with these models and training me in their use!

I am continuing the “Living Downstream” radio program and am seeking input from the community about what they would like to hear. Already this year, I have featured interviews on the Pacific Lamprey (Ralph Lampman and Dave’y Lumin), Invasive Species (Samuel Chan), Maintaining Your Private Property with Ecology in Mind (Matthew Hunter), The Art of Communication (Jean Erickson Walker), Make Art not Trash (Elizabeth Roberts), Water Catchment and the Watersheds (Cindy Haws), Mushroaming (Daniel Winkler), and Forest Therapy (Jesse Remer).

The SEEDS program supports hands-on, field restoration work as we facilitate efforts to “protect the best and restore the rest.” Survey work on Drew Lake in the Umpqua National Forest and restoration work on the Applegate wetland area near Yoncalla continues to remove invasive species, reseed with native species, and encourage the recovery of native fauna as we work to return these places, as much as possible to their original, healthy working states. Our hands-on educational opportunities will continue with focused sessions in the field for college-aged students with a partnership with UCC on technologies surrounding biochar, GIS, aquatic buffers, and fire mitigation. We are also continuing our efforts to get students into the field to learn firsthand about the beauty of their watershed.

Finally, the SEEDS program provides community engagement opportunities to unwind and celebrate the Umpqua Watersheds community with entertaining events such as the Umpqua BrewFest, Martin Luther King Jr. River Cleanup Service Day, Umpqua Outback Stage and Music Events, Twin Lakes camping weekend, Living Downstream Radio program, and Artist Exhibits. SEEDS is meant to “protect the best and restore the rest” of our beautiful Umpqua Watershed and is designed to enrich, engage, and strengthen our community bonds. I’m so excited to see where this year will take us and am thrilled to be involved!



Conservation Update: A “Good” Fire

by Janice Reid

The high severity of the Archie Creek Fire in 2020 was a real shock to most of us who live, work, or play in the area affected by the fire. Conditions were extreme,

and a catastrophic event unfolded. This year, in September, another fire occurred in our beautiful Umpqua Watershed. The Tye Complex Fire occurred in the Coast Ranges just northwest of Roseburg. Unlike the Archie Creek Fire, the Tye Complex Fire had a low severity. The fire rarely affected the crowns of the trees. The largest area affected by the fire was in the Cougar Creek drainage. Water from Cougar Creek flows directly into the



Cougar Creek Fire. Dots represent log decks on BLM. Pink area is fire perimeter.

Umpqua River. Late Successional Reserves identified in the Northwest Forest Plan are the dominant land use category in the area. Salvage operations were implemented just as they were with the Archie Creek Fire. Unlike the Archie Creek Fire, much of the forest remains intact, and hazardous tree removal along roadways will be minimal.



Drone picture of mosaic and SPI cutting

The Tye Complex Fire created a mosaic of unburned and burned, including high, medium, and low-intensity fire. In essence, it did what fire has historically done for eons. Because of the fire suppression activities, some decisions made by the firefighters along the fire's perimeter included cutting live trees. Some of these activities were opening previously closed roads, creating fire breaks, and initiating backburns, a technique to remove the fuels ahead of the fire to decrease the intensity and potential spread of the fire. Some firebreaks included heavy equipment entering Late Successional Reserves and cutting live trees along a ridgeline. Other activities by the fire suppression group were unclear. I attempted to understand why large live trees were cut in older forests near the perimeter, but I could not get a clear answer. The trees cut



“Log deck” in LSR. Several small piles of logs are scattered along the road.

on federal land are mostly consolidated into decks near roads and will be removed under a categorical exclusion process. According to the Roseburg District Manager Heather Whitman, these logs are to be removed to prevent firewood cutters from being tempted during inappropriate times of the year, which could lead to another fire event.

These logs are primarily from young stands. Umpqua Watersheds commented to the BLM on this categorical exclusion process, expressing concern about the process involving older forests. We hope our concerns are considered in the final process, and those logs in older forests remain to provide needed down woody debris for ecological purposes.

The only harvesting of live trees within the Cougar Creek area of the Tyee Complex is being conducted by Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), the company that purchased Seneca Sawmill, acquiring 131,000 acres of land in Douglas County in 2021. The trees they are harvesting are small young trees from a plantation. Presumably, because of the purchase of the timberlands, SPI needs to generate some revenue and has turned to liquidating its timberland resources. On one field outing, the company appeared to have overstepped its property line and cut live



Right of Way markings

young trees on federal land. Verification from the federal agency is pending. It is unclear what the federal agency's next steps are, but signs indicate a planned

sale, salvage, or right-of-way. We will continue to monitor and comment on the activities to prevent unnecessary damage to the ecosystem and the Late Successional Forest.



Large live trees cut in green area of burn.



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 Wednesday 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!

Outreach Update ...by Kasey Hovik

2023 has been a great year for Outreach at Umpqua Watersheds. It is the first year since 2019 that we were able to return to “normal” pre-pandemic activities and move forward with some special projects which we hope will expand our ability to connect with our membership and community.

Our Outreach Program is critical to the success of Umpqua Watersheds. Key elements of our program include:

Education: The outreach program educates the public about the importance of protecting and restoring the natural environment.

Collaboration: The outreach program brings together a diverse group of stakeholders, including volunteers, partners, and community members, to work towards common goals.

Engagement: The outreach program inspires action among community members to take steps to protect our natural resources.

Fundraising: By reaching out to community members and businesses, the outreach program can secure donations, sponsorships, and grants to support the organization's work.

Events this year included the Annual Snowshoe Hike, Annual Membership Banquet, River Appreciation Day, the 12th Annual Umpqua Brew Fest, the Mushroom Identification Hike and Talk, and an

Outback Fundraising Concert featuring renowned folk singer, Jonathan Foster.

We have mentioned most of these events in previous newsletters this year, so I want to highlight our collaboration with the second annual Roseburg Blocktober Fest. Since 2010, we held the Umpqua Brew Fest (UBF) at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. The UBF was always a fun and successful event at the fairgrounds, but it was also quite expensive and a lot of work getting all our UBF things moved from our building downtown to the fairgrounds and back.

Setup and takedown this year were so much easier.

We enjoyed working with Neighbor Works Umpqua and all the folks associated with Blocktober Fest. We estimated that over 8,000 people came downtown on October 7th, and everyone had a marvelous time. It was the first major community event we held on the new Outback Stage and it was a great “proof of concept” event for future events, including UBF XIII next October.



Our major Outreach Projects fall under what we call “**Main Street Initiatives**”. Three major projects fall under this umbrella. They are **KQUA Community Radio**, **The Umpqua Outback Project** which is creating a community space for events behind our building, and **Operation Access**, in which we share our resources (radio, Umpqua Outback Stage and Pavilion and our building) with community partners. We will also continue and expand our regular special events and add new ones.

All the projects are designed to increase our footprint within the community, expand our outreach to our membership and community, and share resources with our nonprofit partners, and maximize our resources while minimizing costs.

One of the things that we love the most about our events is the opportunity to reconnect with our members. We are uplifted by the support, encouragement, and feedback we get from these events. At our Annual Strategic Planning meeting we decided to have a monthly “open house” where people can get together, talk about issues and ideas, and just spend some quality time together. Our first monthly “**Green Gathering**” will be on **Thursday, December 14th from 3-5 pm** at our office downtown. Please consider joining us to celebrate the holiday season. Going forward, these events will be at the Old Soul Pizza annex in our building on the last Wednesday of the month from 4-6 pm.

2024 will be an exciting year for the Umpqua Watersheds Outreach Program. Please stay tuned as we move into the new year for more exciting announcements!



Wilderness Committee Update ...

by Diana Pace



On the Umpqua Watersheds website Wilderness Committee link, there is now an interactive [Crater Lake Wilderness Map](#) that allows you to zoom in or out and view the details of the proposed wilderness areas. While on the site, view the Water video by Tony Cannon. It's informative and inspirational.

The committee has been working with a conflict resolution specialist to help us proceed with some problematic areas of the wilderness proposal with promising direction. We have been planning exciting winter indoor activities. **February 1st:** The Ladies in Tennis Shoes historical display will be moved from Steamboat Inn to the Roseburg library lobby. We plan to coincide with an event about the Benefits of



Wilderness on **February 23rd** with exciting guest speakers and Bob Hoehne's updated Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal PowerPoint. Stay tuned for details. While on the website, please sign up to volunteer with the Wilderness Committee. You are needed and can make a difference.



Spirit Walk A Poem by Karen Monk

*While the stream badgers the solemn
hemlocks, I stop to touch the fallen tree.*

*It is remarkably alive in its decomposing. I
fancy I see a pulse under my fingertips,*

*As the tree gives its life over to new forms-
moss and grub worms.*

*The blond, damp splinters witness to
surrender, to the yielding of life to life, and
death to life.*

*Receiving the gift of the tree, I bow and walk
on.*





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