



## KS WILD

Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
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# KS WILD NEWS

The Journal of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center

Spring 2011

**INSIDE:** Spring Hikes alongside the Middle Fork Applegate River, into the flower-filled Illinois Valley and into the Lower Rogue River Canyon!

**SAVE THE DATE:** September 10, 2011 is KS Wild's 6th Annual Dinner & Auction

**PRINTED ON SAKURA 100% POST CONSUMER WASTE, CHLORINE-FREE PAPER**

Cover photo: The *Kalmiopsis leachiana* is a rare plant endemic to the Siskiyou Mountains. It was first documented in 1930, in what is now part of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. Sometimes referred to as a "Pleistocene azalea," this flower is an ancient relict. Photo by Forrest English.



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# SPRING HIKES

## MARCH 26: MIDDLE FORK APPELEGATE

Hike along this lush riverside trail that's actually in California, but is most accessible from Oregon. The Middle Fork trail in the Upper Applegate offers stunning beauty, diverse wildflowers, old-growth forests and cascading water that originates on the Siskiyou Crest. Moderate, 6 miles. Carpools leave Evo's Coffee in Ashland at 9am; Ruch Country Store at 10am.

## APRIL 16: RAINIE FALLS, WILD ROGUE

Enjoy a spring hike in the Wild and Scenic Rogue River Gorge to Rainie Falls. Moderate, 4 miles with steep and narrow sections of trail. Carpool leaves Evo's Coffee in Ashland at 10am; Graves Creek Boat Ramp at 11:30am.

## MAY 7: WILDFLOWERS, ILLINOIS RIVER

Easy hiking near Eight Dollar Mountain to enjoy the May flower bloom in this botanical paradise. Carpool leaves Evo's Coffee in Ashland at 9am sharp. Call George at 488-5789 to arrange meeting in Selma if so desired.

## JUNE 18: WHISKY CREEK, WILD ROGUE

Hike in the Wild and Scenic Rogue River Gorge to Whisky Creek. Moderate-difficult, 7 miles with steep and narrow sections of trail. Carpool leaves Evo's Coffee in Ashland at 10am and meets at Graves Creek Boat Ramp at 11:30am.

## KS WILD'S MISSION:

*KS Wild is an advocate for the forests, waters and wildlife of the Klamath and Rogue Basins of northwest California and southwest Oregon. We use environmental law, science, collaboration and education to defend healthy ecosystems and help build sustainable communities.*

# TWO ANCIENT FORESTS OFF THE CHOPPING BLOCK!

We are thrilled to report success in protecting hundreds of acres of ancient forests in two BLM timber sales that KS Wild has been working on for years.

## GOOD BYE CHEW CHOO!

KS Wild supporters may remember the Medford BLM's "Westside" old-growth timber sale in the Grave Creek and Middle Fork Cow Creek watersheds west of Glendale, Oregon. The BLM proposed logging over 3,000 acres of native forest stands and constructing 5.7 miles of new logging roads in watersheds serving as essential fish habitat for at-risk Coho salmon.

A portion of the Westside timber sale called the "Chew Choo" project was purchased by Rough and Ready, which still operates an old-growth mill near Cave Junction, Oregon. KS Wild led an administrative appeal that included forest conservation, fisheries and recreation organizations committed to protecting the magnificent ancient forests and salmon streams that were on the chopping block. In response to those efforts, the Medford BLM recently canceled the old-growth timber sale as part of its new focus on thinning small-diameter stands instead of slicking off ancient forests.

## HELLO RESTORATION!

As reported in the last issue of *KS News*, the Klamath BLM District recently offered the Replacement Gal timber sale in the little-known Spencer Creek Key Watershed east of Ashland, Oregon. Spencer Creek is a special place supporting a rare species of red band trout and towering old-growth conifers in which spotted owls still thrive. The BLM's plan was to "downgrade" (log) over 550 acres of old-growth forest, including stands serving as critical habitat for nesting and breeding spotted owl pairs. According to the Fish and Wildlife Service, the timber sale would have resulted in the "take" (death) of owls in the area. These days it's rare to see public lands timber sales that call for the "take" of breeding spotted owl pairs because such pairs are so rare.

KS Wild filed a lawsuit challenging the Replacement Gal timber sale, and to the BLM's credit, they came to the negotiating table and hammered out a settlement to protect the owls, old-growth and water, while allowing thinning of small-diameter conifers that were encroaching into older stands due to continued fire suppression. We owe much gratitude to Earthjustice, Western Environmental Law Center, Cascadia Wildlands and Oregon Wild. Thank you!



**SPARED FROM THE AX:** Old-growth in the Chew Choo timber sale.

# WORLD CLASS BOTANICAL AREAS UNDER THREAT

It's no secret that the Klamath Siskiyou are a botanist's dream come true. Mix metallic serpentine soils with geographic diversity and a Mediterranean climate, let simmer for 5 million years and the result is a botanical wonderland that supports a diversity of wildflowers and plant communities that occur nowhere else on the planet.

The Forest Service and BLM have recognized a few special places as crucial for preserving the rare and unique botanical values of the region by designating the best as Botanical Areas and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). While these designated wildflower hotspots make up a tiny fraction of the public lands in the Klamath Siskiyou, they are nevertheless still at risk from mining and off-road vehicle damage.



**SAFEGUARDING RARE HABITAT:** A few botanical areas have been closed to motorized recreation, but some people don't always respect the closures.

## THE EIGHT DOLLAR MOUNTAIN BOTANICAL AREA

Boasting *Darlingtonia* (Cobra Lily) fens and an astounding diversity of rare and unusual plants, the popular Eight Dollar Mountain Botanical Area is renowned among wildflower enthusiasts. Unfortunately, it is also known for widespread off-road vehicle use in which unscrupulous drivers go "muddin" in the serpentine meadows and tear-up slopes with extreme "hill climbs" in their rigs. Forest Service gates are routinely vandalized, and signs asking the public not to drive through the meadows have been repeatedly destroyed. KS Wild and our friends at the Siskiyou Project are working to protect the values of this Botanical Area through the Forest Service Travel Management planning process.

## FRENCH FLAT AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

The French Flat Area of Critical Environmental Concern contains some of the last, best habitat for the extremely rare and endangered Cook's Desert Parsley (*Lomatium cookii*), yet off-road vehicles have seriously scarred meadows throughout the area. BLM attempts to protect the botanical values with gates and law enforcement have enjoyed mixed success. Perhaps the greatest threat to French Flat is a recent proposal to strip mine the northern portion of the Area of Critical Environmental Concern. In a bold stroke of greenwashing, the miner has named his strip mine proposal the "Logan Wetlands Restoration Project." KS Wild and our friends will do everything within our power to prevent further damage to this botanical jewel and to help the BLM restore and prevent off-road vehicle damage to French Flat.

## ROUGH AND READY BOTANICAL AREA

The most-visited of any of the botanical hotspots, Rough and Ready contains a Forest Service Botanical Area, a BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern and an Oregon State Park, all near the banks of fabled Rough and Ready Creek. While most visitors come to enjoy the wildflowers and the wild river, a few are determined to ruin it for everybody else.

For years the same fellow who is proposing to strip mine the French Flat Botanical Area fought to dig a massive nickel mine in Rough and Ready. While the nickel mine was stopped in its tracks, the miner nevertheless built a house in the BLM Botanical Area on public lands, which he has used for decades. A few off-road vehicle tracks and mining roads have been punched through the Botanical Area over the years.

## OREGON MOUNTAIN BOTANICAL AREA

While the threats and ongoing damage to rare botanical areas can be discouraging, recent conservation successes at Oregon Mountain provide reason for optimism.

The serpentine soils of Oregon Mountain support a dazzling array of rare and unusual plants. The Forest Service estimates that one quarter of all of the sensitive plant species in the region are found here. Yet for years these irreplaceable meadows have drawn off-road vehicles that have turned pristine savannas into trashed mud pits.

The good news is that an emergency petition filed by KS Wild has resulted in construction of a fence to protect the Botanical Area and a dramatic reduction in off-road vehicle damage. While the fence is still a work in progress, it is a huge step in the right direction and some of the meadows are already recovering.

As always, you can count on KS Wild to stand tall for the wildflowers and wildlife of the Siskiyou. Please check us out at: [www.KSWild.org](http://www.KSWild.org)



Keir Morse

**BIOLOGICAL WEALTH:** The Siskiyou Mountains are one of the greatest reservoirs of biological diversity in North America. Pictured above is the Siskiyou Mountain pennycress (*Thlaspi montanum* var. *siskiyouense*).



Norm Jensen

**UNIQUE BEAUTY:** The Del Norte Willow (*Salix delnortensis*) is a rare willow found on serpentine soils and riparian habitat in the Klamath-Siskiyou region. Pictured here is the female catkin of the willow.

# LEAVING THE SISKIYOU CREST BETTER THAN WE FOUND IT

Most everyone can agree that the Siskiyou Crest is an ecological gem that needs better management. So, why have fears and misconceptions come to dominate the discussion over the future of the public lands on the High Siskiyou mountain range?

For the past 15 years, KS Wild has worked to protect and restore the magnificent Siskiyou Crest mountain range at the heart of the Klamath-Siskiyou region. Two years ago we proposed that establishment of a Siskiyou Crest National Monument could be a way to protect the most ecologically intact public lands while also encouraging active restoration of the crumbling road system and previously logged forests.

The crest has fantastic recreation opportunities, off-the-charts biodiversity and amazing views that go on forever. But, three different National Forests in two different U.S. Forest Service regions and a BLM District all contribute to a confused and uncoordinated management system on the Siskiyou Crest. A monument would be flexible enough—through the development of a comprehensive management plan—to allow coordinated, yet multi-purpose management to address the various needs on the Crest.

## STOP THE CONSPIRACY!

Unfortunately, there are now wild conspiracy theories about the Siskiyou Crest, some of which are being fueled by newly formed groups like “Stop the Land Grab” and by Congressmen Greg Walden of Oregon and Wally Herger of California. As “Stop the Land Grab” implies, the most common misconceptions being thrown around are about private lands.

It is hard to be more clear: One hundred percent of the land proposed for monument designation is federal land! There is no private land included in the monument proposal. Said another way, all private property within the proposed area is excluded from our proposal. People that live adjacent to the BLM or Forest Service would continue to live adjacent to federal lands were a monument to be designated. The difference would be in the management of those adjacent federal lands. The lands included in any concept of a better-managed Siskiyou Crest are already federal land. Only the manner in which those adjacent federal lands are managed is in question. A monument would not, repeat, **WOULD NOT** take anyone’s private land.



Martha McCord

**SCENIC VIEWS:** The Siskiyou Crest affords exceptional views from many peaks, including Dutchman, Red Mountain and Condrey Mountain.

## BACK TO REALITY: WHY WE PROPOSED A MONUMENT

What has been lost in much of the debate lately are the reasons that management is broken and needs to be updated and unified on the Siskiyou Crest:

**FIRE PLANS:** There is no unified plan for fire and fuels management. We need integrated fire planning, fuels reduction and emergency response in rural communities.

**FIRST RATE HABITAT:** The Siskiyou Crest sits at the center of the world-class, ecologically rich Klamath-Siskiyou region. The Siskiyou Crest deserves cohesive, coordinated management that protects and highlights these world-class ecological qualities, especially in the face of climate change.

**FOREST AND HIGH MEADOW MANAGEMENT:** Decades of fire-suppression, logging and overgrazing have taken a toll on the forests and watersheds of the Crest, yet the three National Forests and one BLM District have widely different management strategies. A unified plan for these public lands could help prioritize and fund needed forest thinning and restoration activities.

**FLEXIBILITY:** Management on the Siskiyou Crest needs to be flexible. National monuments are all unique, including their designation and management plans (which have extensive public process). A monument on the Crest could protect deserving lands and support active management on the areas in greatest need.

**FAILING ROADS:** Un-maintained roads can be unsafe for the public, and crumbling roads are bad for water quality. The Forest Service just doesn’t have the budget to maintain roads and trails, and the four different management units have no unified plan to prioritize road access to meet recreational or management needs.

**FISCAL ENGINE:** Public areas with a sustainable recreation emphasis are economic engines that improve the quality of life and make communities desirable for businesses and homeowners. Across the American West, counties with protected areas have stronger and more diversified economies than neighboring counties.

All of these issues could be addressed through the creation of a Siskiyou Crest National Monument. They could also be addressed through other possible designations. Whether through a monument designation or another means, unified protection and management of the Crest is what the Crest needs. Until then, it will never get the attention and resources it deserves. To provide input or for more information, email [siskiyoucrest@kswild.org](mailto:siskiyoucrest@kswild.org) or visit [www.siskiyoucrest.org](http://www.siskiyoucrest.org).

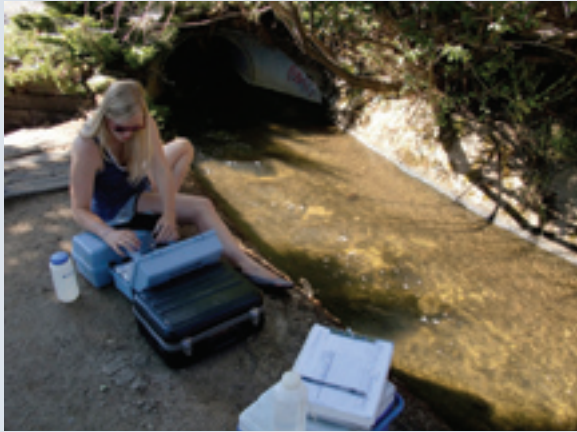


Ron Wolf © 2009

**IMPORTANT BIRD AREA:** The white-headed woodpecker reaches its western range limit on the Siskiyou Crest, which has been identified as an “Important Bird Area” for global conservation efforts.

# SEARCHING FOR THE SOURCE OF BACTERIA POLLUTION

Throughout the Rogue River basin's approximately 5,000 square miles, we have almost 600 stream miles that have documented *E. coli* pollution problems. *E. coli* (short for *Escherichia coli*) is a bacteria that is found in the lower intestines of warm-blooded animals, and some strains can cause gastrointestinal infections and other health problems in humans. *E. coli* is an indicator of recent fecal contamination. In other words, there's poop in the water.



**INVESTIGATING POLLUTION:** Rogue Riverkeeper is looking for the source of chronic bacteria pollution in the Rogue Basin.

One of the streams in the basin regularly posted with health notices for exceeding Oregon water quality standards for bacteria is Ashland Creek, a Bear Creek tributary that flows through popular recreation spots such as Lithia Park. Due to health concerns, the City began sampling for *E. coli* in 2003 and Ashland Creek has exceeded those levels five years out of seven.

As Rogue Riverkeeper has a keen interest in water quality in the region, we wanted to take a closer look at where this chronic pollution was coming from. We quickly found out that we weren't the only ones. In 2010, we designed and implemented a study on Ashland Creek in collaboration with Southern Oregon University, the City of Ashland, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and many concerned residents to answer questions about chronic bacteria pollution in this popular and accessible spot for both locals and tourists alike.

[Download the 2010 Ashland Creek \*E. coli\* report at www.rogueriverkeeper.org](http://www.rogueriverkeeper.org)

With all the enthusiastic help we received from the community and generous equipment loans from DEQ, we were able to design a study to look at and isolate contributions from likely bacteria sources. We focused on swimming areas in and above the upper park, the storm drain system where it discharges to the creek and an irrigation discharge to the creek.

Many volunteers gave up part of their Saturday and Wednesday evenings from June through October to sample a total of 15 sites along the creek and the irrigation ditch four times a week. The samples were taken to SOU, where students and faculty performed *E. coli* tests on our water samples. We could not have done this without an inspiring amount of community participation.

The project culminated in the Ashland Creek *E. coli* Bacteria Study report, and the results are fascinating. The overwhelming majority of the bacteria is entering the creek from the Talent Irrigation District (TID) water outfall, which dumps into the creek in the middle of Lithia Park. The ditch water was relatively clean when it entered city limits and got increasingly polluted as it flowed through town alongside a popular walking trail.



While we didn't determine what creatures' fecal matter is causing this problem, our study contributes helpful insight into the chronic pollution that afflicts Ashland Creek. The recommendations in our 50-page report aim at minimizing bacteria from TID entering Ashland Creek: 1) Public education that the irrigation ditch flows into the creek; 2) Install dog waste stations along the ditch trail; 3) Pipe the irrigation ditch within city limits; and 4) Conduct further study of the ditch and other areas with smaller bacteria contributions.

Rogue Riverkeeper thanks the many volunteers who contributed so much to this study, which we could not have done without them!

This project taught Rogue Riverkeeper a lot, and we are now setting our sights on other creeks in the Rogue Basin that have even worse *E. coli* problems than Ashland Creek. Based on DEQ documents we have identified our top five priorities for bacteria sourcing study in 2011: Little Butte, Evans, Jackson, Griffin and Larson Creeks.

Please contact us if you are interested in assisting with future bacteria sourcing projects in the Rogue Basin: [forrest@rogueriverkeeper.org](mailto:forrest@rogueriverkeeper.org)

## MANY THANKS TO DR. KATHLEEN PAGE

Kathleen is a professor of Biology at Southern Oregon University where she teaches Microbiology, Cell Biology and Immunology. Dr. Page's research is focused on Environmental Microbiology, including her studies on the impacts of abandoned mine pollution at the Blue Ledge Mine in the Upper Applegate.



Kathleen Page

Her interest in assessing microbial pollution problems that occur in regional waterways became apparent to Rogue Riverkeeper when we found 10 year-old bacteria studies on Wagner, Little Bear and Ashland Creeks authored by her students, and then again when Dr. Page attended the initial meeting to assess community interest in a sourcing study for Ashland Creek's chronic bacteria problem. Kathleen was instrumental in designing, executing and analyzing the 2010 Ashland Bacteria Study by providing expertise, SOU resources and extensive time. She and her students spent many hours collecting data, analyzing samples and contributing major pieces to the final report. We couldn't have done it without her. Many thanks to Kathleen and students Megan Plankenhorn, Karen Coffelt and Jen Damon-Tollenaere.

*See page 13 to read about another instrumental person in the Ashland Bacteria project in our "Focus on the Family."*

# ROGUE RIVERKEEPER ACTS TO PROTECT SALMON STRONGHOLD

Tumbling down the western Siskiyou Mountains near the Oregon Caves National Monument, Sucker Creek is widely recognized by fisheries biologists as a critical stream for Coho salmon in the Rogue Basin. The Illinois River sub-basin is one of the most important areas of the Rogue River for wild Coho salmon, and Sucker Creek is one of the most important spawning and rearing tributaries for Coho in the Illinois River sub-basin.



Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**ROGUE SALMON:** Sucker Creek is one of the most important tributaries for Coho salmon in the Rogue Basin.

Sucker Creek is designated as a Key Watershed for salmon recovery under the Northwest Forest Plan and provides critical habitat for Coho, which is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Sucker Creek also supports Chinook salmon, which is designated by the Forest Service as regionally sensitive. Sucker Creek is designated Essential Salmon Habitat by the Oregon Department of State Lands, a Coho Core Area by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and an Aquatic Diversity Area by the American Fisheries Society.

Unfortunately, Sucker Creek has taken quite a beating since the 1850s Gold Rush. Aquatic resources have been severely degraded by logging, road construction and historic mining activities. Channel modification from historic mining is especially intense along Sucker Creek, and landslide activity and severe flooding of the watershed in 1964 and 1997 accentuated pre-existing channel damage. In response, the public has invested significant money to restore this important Coho stream.

**Sucker Creek is a linchpin for Coho recovery in the Rogue Basin and all activities in the area should adhere to the Clean Water Act and other laws that protect public resources like salmon.**

In 2010, we received calls from supporters who found recent mining activity on public lands in the Sucker Creek floodplain. After investigating through file reviews and site visits, we determined that the operator of the Reelfoot mine was impacting Sucker Creek and its fish habitat without state or federal permits. Rogue Riverkeeper sent notice of the violations to the miner in October of 2010, but he ignored them and did not clean up the site. In February, Rogue Riverkeeper filed suit against the Reelfoot mining operation in federal district court due to ongoing violations to this salmon stronghold.

The suit challenges actions that violate the Clean Water Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The miner has been operating without obtaining necessary permits, dumped fill into public waters to drive heavy equipment through Sucker Creek, diverted public waters, and altered winter flows and critical habitat for salmon by building pits, dams, and mounds of excavated alluvium across the Sucker Creek floodplain.

As the price of gold has risen, mining impacts on Sucker Creek have accelerated and cumulative impacts remain a concern. According to the Forest Service, in August 2007 a different mining pond created a continuous link of subsurface flow that resulted in muddy water flowing subsurface from the mining pit into Sucker Creek. In yet a different area in August of 2009, Mr. Clifford Tracy illegally bulldozed through Sucker Creek, diverted tributary creeks and dug holding ponds on federal lands without legal permission or permits.



**HARMING CRITICAL HABITAT:** Coho salmon over-winter in off-channel habitat where mining pits were built in the Sucker Creek floodplain.

Sucker Creek is a linchpin for Coho recovery in the Rogue Basin, and all activities should adhere to the Clean Water Act and other laws that protect public resources like salmon. Rogue Riverkeeper is hopeful that this matter can be resolved through discussions rather than the courtroom, but we are also prepared to defend public waters and salmon from illegal activities.

Many thanks to the Crag Law Center and Bahr Law Offices for representing us.

## ROGUE RIVERKEEPER MISSION:

*To protect and restore water quality and fish populations in the Rogue Basin and adjacent coastal watersheds through enforcement, field work and community action.*



## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR WORK

Yes, I want to support KS Wild's efforts with a tax-deductible membership donation of:

\$35     \$60     \$120     Other \$

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Mail this form along with your membership donation to: KS WILD, P.O. Box 332, Williams, OR 97544 or visit [www.kswild.org/JoinNow](http://www.kswild.org/JoinNow) to donate with a credit card

# OREGON CAVES AND WILD ROGUE NEED A PUSH

For more than five years, KS Wild has been working with allies to protect the Wild Rogue and Oregon Caves. The Zane Grey roadless area and tributary streams of the Lower Rogue are important fish and wildlife habitat and significantly contribute to southern Oregon's tourism and recreation economy. Unfortunately, this area is threatened by logging, mining and road-building. The Oregon Caves was recognized in 1909 for its spectacular marble halls, yet proposals to fully protect this natural treasure date back to 1939.

Federal legislation was introduced in the last two Congresses to expand the unmanageably small Oregon Caves boundary to one based on the Cave Creek watershed, designate the River Styx as America's first subterranean Wild and Scenic River and permanently remove cattle from a botanically rich watershed that provides drinking water to the Oregon Caves. In 2009, that legislation passed through both House and Senate committees. Similarly, legislation for the Wild Rogue was introduced in the last two Congresses. As reported in the Fall 2010 issue of *KS News*, the Save the Wild Rogue coalition struck a deal with a large timber industry lobby group to re-gain momentum for the stalled effort to protect the Wild Rogue in Washington D.C. The deal would protect the most important land as Wilderness, and designate deserving streams as Wild and Scenic rivers.

Regrettably, Congress adjourned in 2010 without finishing the Oregon Caves or Wild Rogue business. KS Wild and Rogue Riverkeeper are gearing up to get this done in 2012, working with allies on both the Rogue and Caves to chart a successful course. Stay tuned for how you can help achieve protections for these Oregon treasures.



Barbara Ullian

**BIGELOW LAKES:** These flower-filled lakes and meadows make for a great hike.



**FEEDING THE ROGUE:** Streams that flow through the Zane Grey roadless area and dump into the Rogue provide cold water to the river and adventure opportunities for exploring wild tributaries.

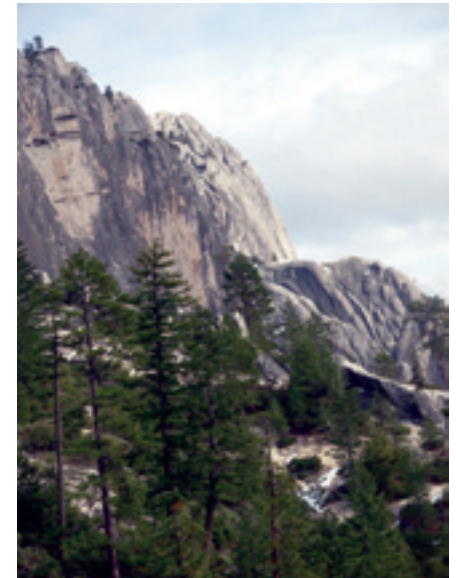
# FEATURED HIKE: CASTLE CRAGS WILDERNESS

The iconic Castle Craggs of Northern California are seen by millions of motorists whizzing north on I-5, and a lot of year-round campers and hikers utilize the Castle Craggs State Park. Yet the nearby Castle Craggs Wilderness trails in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest provide nearly limitless opportunities for backcountry exploration and solitude away from the crowds.

One of the easiest ways to jump right into the Castle Craggs Wilderness backcountry is to take the "Castella" exit off I-5 just a few miles south of the town of Dunsmuir. Drive the paved road west past the State Park and look for a pull-in to an old gravel pit on your right about 1/2 mile past the Shasta-Trinity National Forest sign.

The former gravel pit has lots of free parking (unlike the State Park that costs \$8) and an access trail at the north end leads to a series of uphill switchbacks taking you to the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT).

After ascending several hundred feet to the PCT, one can leisurely hike either direction and enjoy gorgeous views of the Craggs and the surrounding landscape. Should you choose to take the right turn (south) one quickly drops down to the West Fork of Sulphur Creek and a pristine series of little pools and falls. Less than a mile further is the East Fork of Sulphur Creek. Here experienced backcountry navigators may be tempted to bushwhack uphill towards the Craggs themselves. Such off-trail travel can be difficult, dangerous, and extremely rewarding.



**YOSEMITE? Nope, Castle Craggs!**

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**Castle Craggs Wilderness trails in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest provide nearly limitless opportunities for backcountry exploration and solitude away from the crowds.**

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For those looking for an easier wilderness experience, driving up to the Vista Point trailhead from the State Park entrance provides access to a well-maintained and heavily traveled route to Castle Dome. Take the short side trail to Indian Springs to see the source of Winton Creek literally springing out of the granitic mountainside.

Be sure to get a copy of the Forest Service map called "A Guide to the Mt. Shasta Wilderness & Castle Crag Wilderness" and always take plenty of water and a compass.

# FOCUS ON OUR KS WILD FAMILY

## COHO SALMON - *ONCORHYNCHUS KISUTCH*

Coho salmon is a species of anadromous fish also known as silver salmon due to their silver-colored sides during their ocean phase. During their spawning phase, the jaws and teeth become hooked, and they develop bright red sides. In their freshwater stages, Coho feed on plankton and insects and switch to a diet of small fishes as adults in the ocean.



The natural range of the Coho runs along both sides of the North Pacific Ocean, from Japan and eastern Russia, to Alaska, and south to Monterey Bay, California. While the larger Chinook salmon requires big water, often low in a watershed, for spawning, Coho are drawn to the next level of tributaries. Typical Coho freshwater habitat are small, relatively low-gradient tributary streams for spawning and rearing, and they like to over-winter in off-channel alcoves and beaver ponds.

Salmon species on the west coast of the United States have experienced dramatic declines during the past several decades, causing Coho to be listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Scientists note a variety of human causes affecting Coho including habitat loss, low summer stream flows, blocked passage, harvest, hatchery releases and a changing ocean environment.

*See page 9 to read about Rogue Riverkeeper's work to protect critical Coho habitat in the Rogue Basin.*



## JEFF HEGLIE

Jeff is a valued part of the KS Wild family. Over the years he has lent his hand and mind to a variety of projects—from his sharp building skills to beautify the Annual Dinner to his brilliance in hydro-geology to assist in a local water quality study. Everyone loved the unique decorations so much at the 2009 Annual Dinner that guests asked if they could

buy the manzanita candelabras that Jeff built for each of the 30 tables. In 2010, when Rogue Riverkeeper began designing the Ashland Creek bacteria study, Jeff's training in hydrology was instrumental in developing a metric for stream flow so we could determine the contributions of irrigation flows on the creek. In between his job as senior hydro-geologist at Acton-Mickelson Environmental and remodeling his kitchen in their family's farmhouse, Jeff designed and installed equipment that collected critical data in our study. In addition, he and his wife have raised two exceptional teenagers who are prized KS Wild and Rogue Riverkeeper volunteers, helping with envelope stuffing, event preparation and water sample collection. We are lucky to have Jeff, and his family, in our community and are grateful for his contributions to our work.

# MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

**VOLUNTEERS AND ALLIES:** Kimberly Baker, Bob Barker, Karen Coffelt, Jen Damon-Tollenaere, Tom Dimitre, JoAnne Eggers, Roger Flynn, Andrew Hawley, Aubyn, Jeff & Rowan Heglie, Carolyn Hottle, Bob Hunter, Robyn Janssen, Maria Kelly, Andy Kerr, Jerry & Janet LaFountain, Sally Mackler, Erin Madden, Duane Martinez, Autumn McIvor, Kristi Mergenthaler, Kathleen Page, Amy Patton, Megan Plankenhorn, Donna Rhee, Mark Riskadahl, Ben Shelton, Isaac Skibinski, Opie Snow, Diana Spade, Sherry Straus, Chant & Susanna Thomas, Paul Torrence, Craig Tucker, Sarah Vaile, Pete Wallstrom, Greg Walter, Jan Wilson and others.

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