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# KS WILD NEWS

The Journal of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
Summer 2011

Check out our new websites: [www.kswild.org](http://www.kswild.org) [www.rogueriverkeeper.org](http://www.rogueriverkeeper.org)

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KS News is produced by the KS Wild staff

Cover photo of the Wild and Scenic Chetco River taken by George Sexton.





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Forrest English

# SUMMER HIKES

## JUNE 18: WHISKY CREEK, LOWER ROGUE

Hike in the Wild and Scenic Rogue River Gorge to Whisky Creek and enjoy this celebrated river canyon. A moderate to difficult hike of 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.

## JULY 30: MT. ELIJAH, BIGELOW LAKES

Visit this rich botanical area and enjoy a peaceful hike through the Kangaroo Roadless Area above the Oregon Caves National Monument. Learn about legislation that would expand the Caves Monument to include the Caves Creek watershed, remove cattle from grazing this botanical wonderland and designate the nation's first subterranean Wild and Scenic River, known as the River Styx. Carpools leave from Evo's Coffee in Ashland at 9am, and Coffee Heaven in Cave Junction at 10:30am. Moderate, 7 miles.

## AUGUST 27: UPPER ROGUE RIVER TRAIL

Visit the Rogue headwaters and see how the river cut through pumice that was deposited by the explosion of Mount Mazama, which formed Crater Lake. Learn about Rogue Riverkeeper's work to protect this extraordinary watershed. Carpools leave from Evo's Coffee in Ashland at 9am. For a meeting location in Medford or Shady Cove, call Lesley at (541) 488-5789. Moderate, 6 miles.

### 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.*

# KS WILD & ROGUE RIVERKEEPER LAUNCH NEW WEBSITES

After months of brainstorming and working with local artist Opie Snow, we are proud to announce new websites for KS Wild and Rogue Riverkeeper.

The new websites embody our vision to engage the public through grassroots organizing to protect and restore the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion, its forests and rivers. The new websites reflect the values that many people hold dear—healthy forests and rivers, protected wildlands and vibrant wildlife—while providing new ways for the public to engage in the activities of the organization.

At [www.kswild.org](http://www.kswild.org), you'll find an introduction to our rich forests, rivers, wildlands, and wildlife, alongside an overview of threats, as well as profiles of threatened species and news about conservation from across southwest Oregon and northwest California.

At [www.roguekeeper.org](http://www.roguekeeper.org), you will find maps, information and news about the Rogue watershed, details about our new Riverwatch volunteer program and an easy reporting form for pollution problems in the region.

We hope you like the new websites, and we hope you'll visit often!



## ANNUAL DINNER: SEPTEMBER 10

Mark your calendars! KS Wild's Annual Dinner and Auction has become a wildly fun event that you don't want to miss! A seasonally-themed dinner will feature foods from local farms, ranches and bakeries accompanied by delicious local wines and beer. Celebrate with us as we present on KS Wild accomplishments and look to the future, and get in on great silent and live auctions that will include a diversity of wonderful items—from raft trips and outdoor clothing to art and jewelry. Invitations will be out this summer. For questions, contact [monica@kswild.org](mailto:monica@kswild.org).



Scott Harding

# FIRE RESILIENCY PROJECT IN CALIFORNIA MOVES FORWARD

## A LEGACY OF LOGGING

The Goosenest Ranger District of the Klamath National Forest is far different than most of the public lands in the Klamath Siskiyou. Located well east of Interstate 5 in very northern California, the Goosenest was extensively railroad logged in the early part of the 20th Century. Almost no old-growth forests remain on the District. Prior to widespread logging, wildfires were common in the Goosenest, which helped encourage open-grown pine stands in many locations. After the initial logging, Forest Service fire suppression policies kept fire from playing its natural role, which resulted in the establishment of extremely dense second-growth stands.



## NOW WHAT?

How do we bring these dense young second-growth stands back into a more healthy and natural condition? Unfortunately, it's easier to knock a forest out of balance than it is to fix an ailing ecosystem. The Forest Service has proposed a number of thinning timber sales and follow-up prescribed burning projects on the Goosenest. The most recent of these projects was called the Hi Grouse Timber Sale.

KS Wild and our friends at the Klamath Forest Alliance and the Environmental Protection Information Center appealed the Hi Grouse Timber Sale due to the adverse impacts it would have had on Northern spotted owl habitat, and because of the plan to use tractors and bulldozers to complete fuels work that is usually (and better) done by hand.

## TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS TO REACH AN AGREEMENT

After long and difficult talks during the "appeal resolution" process, the Forest Service agreed to protect additional spotted owl habitat, construct fire-lines by hand rather than with bulldozers, and limit the amount of tractor slash piling on sensitive soils. While KS Wild didn't get everything we'd hoped for, we are glad that the second-growth forests at Hi-Grouse will be treated in a manner that will bring them closer to their natural condition and that fires can be better accommodated in this fire-dependent landscape. We are also pleased that the environmental impacts of the timber sale have been reduced.

# POISON BY DESIGN: KEEP OUR WATERS SAFE FROM PESTICIDES

Treating pesticides as pollutants is common sense. Pesticides are designed to be toxic to living things and have caused significant harm to public health, waterways and ecosystems. Pesticides discharged into our waterways directly harm fish and amphibian life in particular. They also move up the food chain and contaminate drinking water. So it makes sense that pesticide use in public waters would be regulated under the Clean Water Act.



Unfortunately, while the EPA and Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality are developing a Clean Water Act permit to regulate pesticides in and around public waters, a powerful and well-funded chemical lobby is pushing Congress to undermine the Clean Water Act by exempting pesticide applications to public waters from the safeguards of water quality monitoring and permits. Under the industry groups' proposal, discharges of pesticides would evade Clean Water Act permitting.

Pesticides in our waterways can kill or cause severe reproductive and developmental harm and cancer in aquatic life. The spraying of the pesticide carbaryl in Washington State has killed millions of fish and crab, including endangered Chinook salmon. In southern Oregon in 1996, the Talent Irrigation District discharged an herbicide into irrigation canals to kill aquatic weeds and killed 92,000 juvenile steelhead salmon when the pesticide flowed from the canals into adjacent Bear Creek.

More than 1,000 waterways in the U.S. are impaired because of pesticide pollution—and many more may be polluted but are not sampled. In a nationwide survey, the USGS found pesticides (or their by-products) in every stream they sampled. In California, pesticide pollution is responsible for 27 percent of the state's waters being designated as unfit for drinking, swimming, and fishing under the Clean Water Act.

**HELP KEEP THE CLEAN WATER ACT STRONG:** Rogue Riverkeeper is working to ensure a strong pesticide permit is developed in Oregon for pesticide applications in and around water, including the aerial spraying of industrial forests. We need your help! Visit [www.rogueriverkeeper.org](http://www.rogueriverkeeper.org) to learn more about efforts in Congress to weaken the Clean Water Act and find out how you can help protect public waters from dangerous chemicals.

## 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.*





# COWS GONE WILD

Have you ever hiked deep into the Klamath-Siskiyou backcountry expecting a wild-lands experience only to be confronted by a herd of noisy cattle trampling the shores of your mountain lake destination? If so, like many of us, you too can attest to the shock and sheer disappointment of such encounters. As cattle grazing continues to take its toll on some of the wildest areas in the KS, one often wonders: Are these cows really supposed to be here? In many cases, the answer is no.



KS Wild archives

**TRAMPLING MEADOWS:** Cattle grazing on high elevation meadows can harm rare flower habitat and pollute streams.

One landscape in the KS where cattle grazing is an acute problem is the Siskiyou Crest. The Crest is a distinct east-west mountain range on the Oregon/California border, but three separate National Forests and a BLM district manage different portions of it in very different ways. For example, cows that are turned out on the Klamath National Forest (KNF) side of the Siskiyou Crest regularly travel onto meadows intended to be off limits on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF) to the north. These cows are trespassing, but the KNF has not taken appropriate action to solve the problem. While these cows are off their permitted area, the KNF refers to off-allotment grazing as cattle “drift.”

Recently, KS Wild obtained a letter through the Freedom of Information Act showing that the RRSNF does not share the KNF’s laissez faire approach to cattle trespass. Instead of mere drift, in a letter to the KNF, a clearly frustrated RRSNF calls the trespass “chronic incidental unauthorized use” and states that they have “documented reports of unauthorized use by KNF cattle and had conversations about such unauthorized use with the KNF dating back to the early 1990s.” Reporting that certain areas have “exhibited signs of heavy use” from impacts of KNF cows, including sensitive areas intended to be off limits to grazing, the RRSNF is quite obviously concerned with the lax grazing management of their neighbors to the south.

While KS Wild monitors many of the crest allotments, the East Beaver Allotment on the south side of Mount Ashland extending west past Dutchman’s Peak is of particular concern. The KNF recently doubled down on this allotment and plans to continue similar permitting practices that have led to trespass problems for many years. KS Wild is watching these allotments closely and is prepared to develop legal challenges if need be, and we could use your help. If you can get around Forest Service roads and hike off trail in search of trespass cows, contact Joseph Vaile at [joseph@kswild.org](mailto:joseph@kswild.org) or (541) 488-5789 and help monitor cows on the Crest this summer.

# BLM: CONTRASTING VISIONS

It seems like Oregon BLM forests have been stuck at a crossroads for decades. Timber companies ruled these 2.6 million acres of BLM forests for many years, leaving a wake of clearcuts and logging roads. Since the early 1990s, BLM forests have been recognized as critical to the Pacific Northwest Forest ecosystem, and were an essential part of the Northwest Forest Plan in 1994. They still contain some of the most impressive old-growth forests in the world and are scattered among many Oregon communities, providing clean water, recreation and wildlife habitat. Yet, radically different visions for how to best manage Oregon’s BLM forests continue to this day.



Joseph Vaile

**PILOT JOE FIELD TRIP:** Stakeholders discuss the BLM pilot in the Middle Applegate.

## THE ZOMBIE WOPR

Long-time KS Wild News readers know too well one vision for BLM management: the Bush-era Western Oregon Plan Revision. You probably thought it was dead. But oh no, this plan to open up BLM forests to large-scale increases in clearcut logging—even near streams and in currently protected forest reserves—is alive again. While the Bush administration signed the WOPR in its waning days, the Obama administration threw it out in 2009 calling it “legally indefensible.” Shortly thereafter, the timber industry sued and a federal court in D.C. recently agreed with their claim that Obama needed more process before withdrawing the plan. Now, WOPR is back on the books, and it is not yet clear how the BLM will proceed. KS Wild will continue fighting against this timber dominant vision of BLM lands using all of our political, legal and scientific resources.

## PILOT PROJECTS – THE JURY’S STILL OUT

A different vision of BLM management has emerged from the Obama administration in the form of three “pilot projects” to demonstrate forest management techniques. Over the past year, KS Wild has monitored and helped shape (as best we can) a high profile forest project on public lands in the Middle Applegate Watershed in southwest Oregon. Called “Pilot Joe,” this 600-acre project is being advanced by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to demonstrate the restoration principles of forest scientists Jerry Franklin and Norm Johnson.

Pilot Joe, along with two much more controversial BLM pilots that include small scale clear-cutting in younger, wet forests near Roseburg and Coos Bay, have been floated as a potential model for future management of public forests in western Oregon. Many

# OFF-ROAD VEHICLE MAYHEM

## KS WILD SPEAKS UP FOR WATERSHEDS AND WILDLANDS

Where most Americans see wildflower meadows, pristine mountain streams, and wildlife habitat, a few off-road vehicle (ORV) enthusiasts see our National Forests as a place to spin doughnuts and go “muddin.”

While the Forest Service struggles to maintain its vast network of crumbling logging roads, some unscrupulous ORV users are busy blazing new routes through public lands and trashing watersheds and wildlands in the process. Currently, KS Wild is hard at work trying to limit the damage that ORVs do to lands that belong to all of us.

### KLAMATH FOREST PUTS ORVS AHEAD OF WATER QUALITY

The Klamath National Forest is renowned for the cold clear mountain creeks that flow into the Klamath River, providing clean water and salmon habitat to a watershed that desperately needs it. Generations of forest visitors have shared their love of the creeks, rivers, swimming holes, and fishing spots that define the mid-Klamath. Future generations may not be so lucky.

A recent survey by the Klamath National Forest found that about 1% of forest visitors indicated that ORV use comprised their primary activity on the Forest. Unfortunately, that 1% seems intent on harming the forest values that the other 99% of the public would like to see protected.

The Humbug Creek Watershed is a particularly painful example of extreme ORV damage to a salmon-bearing tributary. For years, the Forest Service turned a blind eye to off-road routes located in highly erosive decomposed granitic soils that crisscross the watershed, harming both water quality and forest health. Now that the Forest Service is required to address the damage that has occurred to these public lands, their solution is to reward those who created the illegal routes by designating dozens of trails in Humbug Creek as official ORV routes. In essence, the Forest Service would like to give the watershed over to those who already trashed it. KS Wild doesn't think that's such a great idea.

We are challenging the Klamath National Forest's "Travel Management Plan" that caters primarily to the 1% of the public that sees the Forest as a racetrack for their ORVs. Our legal strategy is to get the Forest Service to follow the law by protecting: (1) Salmon habitat; (2) Riparian values; (3) Botanical hotspots; and (4) Highly erosive soils from ORV damage.



George Sexton

**MUD IN WATER:** Forest road culvert delivering sediment to waterways.



Forrest English/Joseph Valle

**KEEPING WATCH ON THE KLAMATH-SISKIYOU:** KS Wild is engaged in travel management planning on four National Forests to minimize ORV damage on public lands.

### SMITH RIVER RECREATION AREA TARGETS ROADLESS AREAS

The Smith River watershed is widely recognized for its world-class salmon and steelhead fishery and its unique botanical diversity. These values are so special that President G.W. Bush signed the Smith River National Recreation Area Act in 1990 to specifically protect the water quality and rare wildflowers for posterity. Now, twenty years later, the Forest Service seems intent on allowing a handful of ORV users to put at risk the very values that the National Recreation Area was established to protect.

The Six Rivers National Forest is proposing to add over 53 miles of ORV trails and roads to the Forest's road system. Most of these routes are located in: (1) Roadless Wildlands; (2) Botanical hotspots; and (3) Watersheds containing rare Port-Orford cedar trees which are dying out due to a root fungus often spread by vehicles.

Conservationists were hopeful when in 2005 the Forest Service completed a comprehensive "Roads Analysis Process" for the Recreation Area that identified which roads and ORV routes presented "high" risks to watershed and botanical values and which routes had a "high" land management value for the Forest Service. We thought the Forest Service would use that analysis to develop an ORV plan that encouraged motorized recreation on routes with a "low" risk to environmental values that offered a "high" recreation value to the public. How wrong we were.

Under pressure from the national ORV lobby, the Six Rivers National Forest has thrown the results of its analysis out the window and is proposing to encourage ORV use in the very areas identified as "high risk" to rare plants, water quality and wildlands. KS Wild intends to stand up for the botanical and fishery legacies of this special area.

**ORV MAYHEM** continues on next page



## SHASTA-TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST GETS IT RIGHT

Not every National Forest is willing to sacrifice watersheds and wildlands to the ORV crowd. The Shasta-Trinity National Forest added 32 miles of user-created off-road routes to its transportation system and caught hell for it. Oddly, it was the ORV users who were upset by the decision. Access to the thousands of miles of existing Forest Service roads and the addition of 32 more miles just weren't enough for them. They literally want to ride everywhere on the Forest and seem intent on filing a lawsuit to do so. More reasonable people appreciate that the Shasta-Trinity only added new ORV routes where they wouldn't harm roadless, watershed or wildlife values.



Elizabeth Spaulding

**IN THE FIELD:** KS Wild field checking ORV-caused erosion in Humbug Creek.

## ROGUE RIVER-SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST GOES BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

Back in March of 2010, KS Wild successfully appealed a decision of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest that encouraged ORV use in designated Botanical Areas, Roadless Areas, and Research Natural Areas. The Forest Service's rationale for throwing these special places under the wheels was that some ORV users had been breaking the law for so long that it would be unfair to ask them to stop now. Well, KS Wild thinks it's high time to protect the last, best, special places from further ORV damage. Our appeal has sent the Forest Service back to the drawing board where they are hopefully re-thinking their decision to hand over these fragile meadows and wildlands to the small minority of Forest visitors who seem unable to stop and smell the flowers.

of Drs. Franklin and Johnson's principles for the dry forests are rooted in sound science and attempt to restore overly dense forests. However, KS Wild and nearby neighbors remain concerned that our dry forest pilot is cutting too many larger trees and building roads, so we continue to work with the BLM to address these concerns.

## COMMON SENSE APPROACH

KS Wild hopes that one day the BLM will embrace restoration, where large trees and older forest ecosystems are preserved, rare species are protected and restoring degraded forests through thinning is the management paradigm. While Oregon's BLM forests are stuck at a crossroads, the Obama administration should have enough vision to take the path toward protecting our valuable public forests and restoring those in need.

# VACUUMING OUR CREEKS SUCTION DREDGING HEATS UP IN THE KS

Technologies have advanced since the 19th century gold rush, and today, miners use giant vacuums called suction dredges to suck up gold from river bottoms. Suction dredges are powered by gas or diesel engines that are mounted on floating pontoons in the river. Attached to the engine is a vacuum hose used to suck up the riverbed. The material passes through a sluice box where gold particles can settle out while the rest of the gravel is dumped back into the river.



Scott Harding

**MINING IN STREAMS:** Suction dredging harms aquatic resources.

As with all in-stream mining, suction dredging impacts streams, fish and aquatic life—from hydrology and geomorphology to water quality, toxicology and the aquatic food chain. Not only does it destroy fish habitat, it can reintroduce mercury left over from historic mining operations—putting that mercury into the food chain and threatening communities downstream. Depending on size, location and density of these machines they can turn a clear running mountain stream into a murky watercourse.

In recent years, suction dredging in the streams of California and Oregon has gained more attention. In California, a suction dredge moratorium was put in place in 2009 while the state Department of Fish and Game (DFG) analyzed impacts to salmon. According to DFG's report, which was out for public comment this spring, the dredging program raises \$373,000 a year in permit fees, but under the newly proposed regulations would spend nearly \$2 million in administration and enforcement. In May, a California legislative committee proposed to block funding for dredge mining permits, which would effectively extend the moratorium for five years. Due to the state's budget crisis, lawmakers are reluctant to subsidize mining that negatively impacts our streams.

In Oregon, there has been nearly a doubling of suction dredge mining over the last two years. In 2010, there were approximately 1,100 miners registered to use suction dredges in Oregon's streams, up from 650 in 2008. Most suction dredging in the state occurs in southwest Oregon. Rogue Riverkeeper, alongside the Northwest Environmental Defense Center, filed suit in 2010 against the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for issuing a suction dredge permit that violates the Clean Water Act. The permit does not require miners to submit annual monitoring reports on their activities, which prevents agencies and the public from understanding the extent and impacts of this mining on our streams. Thanks to the Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center and the Western Environmental Law Center for representing us. Stay tuned for developments and learn more at [www.rogueriverkeeper.org](http://www.rogueriverkeeper.org).

# OREGON CAVES AND CHETCO RIVER BILLS REINTRODUCED

This April, Senators Wyden and Merkley and Representative DeFazio reintroduced bills that would more fully protect the Oregon Caves National Monument and the Chetco River in southwest Oregon.

The Chetco River Protection Act would strengthen Wild and Scenic Rivers protections and ease the threat of mining on this world-class salmon river. In 2008, a proposal was submitted to mine over half of the 44.5 mile National Wild and Scenic Chetco River, including six miles within the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. This legislation would prohibit new mining claims and require existing claims to be proven valid before being mined.



Forrest English

**WILDFLOWER MEADOWS:** Bigelow Lakes, above the Oregon Caves, is a botanical wonderland.

First proposed in 2008, the Oregon Caves Revitalization Act would expand the 400-acre National Monument boundary to encompass the Cave Creek watershed—offering a larger recreation destination to help the local economy. It would also designate the River Styx as America's first subterranean Wild and Scenic River and allow the removal of cattle from a botanically rich watershed that provides drinking water to the Oregon Caves. KS Wild is in our third year of an agreement wherein the rancher has not grazed livestock while the proposal makes its way through Congress. The Senate held a hearing on this and other public lands bills in May.

KS Wild appreciates the delegation's tenacity and hopes we can get the job done this session. We encourage our supporters to get thee to the wildlands to enjoy and celebrate these special places (see page 1 for a July 30 hike to the Bigelow Lakes).

## RIVERWATCH: VOLUNTEER FOR THE ROGUE

The Clean Water Act depends on involved communities to take action for clean water. Our Riverwatch program is designed to engage and empower the community in helping to make the Rogue watershed a safer, cleaner place. Help Rogue Riverkeeper keep watch in the Rogue Basin by becoming a Riverwatch Volunteer today! We will equip you with information, maps and tools to be an effective Riverwatcher for your adopted stream segment. To learn more, contact [forrest@roguekeeper.org](mailto:forrest@roguekeeper.org).



# FEATURED HIKE: ROUGH AND READY CREEK

The Rough and Ready Botanical Wayside is a familiar stop for many who drive the 199 Redwood Highway. Located 4.5 miles south of Cave Junction, the botanical site accesses a State Park, a Forest Service Botanical Area, and a BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The fine work of the Illinois Valley Garden Club in the 1930s left future generations the benefit of this intact botanical hotspot.



George Sexton

Far fewer people know about the nearby old Forest Service trails and mining roads that provide rugged hiking routes from the Rough and Ready watershed into the wildlands and wilderness of the Kalmiopsis. Rugged is the operative word here—rugged terrain, rugged views, and a rugged post-fire ecosystem.

The best route into the backcountry is an old unmarked trail that starts upriver of the Botanical Wayside. It is reached by driving two miles south of the Botanical Wayside on Highway 199 and turning west on the paved road at the flashing light in the town of O'Brien. Follow this road for one mile and when it curves sharply to the left, take a hard right on the still-paved road for another mile and take a left as the road becomes a gravel track. The gravel track ends at a closed gate with several nearby parking spots. Walk around the gate and follow the Forest Service road past a few houses for several hundred yards. Near the end of the route keep an eye out for an unmarked trail on your left heading uphill.

The trail provides immediate views of Rough and Ready Creek, the surrounding wildlands, and the extensive network of old mining roads that continue to threaten the watershed. For decades, conservationists, led by the Siskiyou Project and Barbara Ullian, have defended Rough and Ready from massive nickel laterite mining proposals that would turn the watershed into an industrial mining operation.

About a mile in the hiking trail is overlaid by an old mining road. Follow the roadbed to a ford of the North Fork of Rough and Ready Creek. Once across the creek the route becomes a (unmaintained) trail that will take adventurous and sturdy backcountry hikers all the way to the trail system around Buckskin Peak. The natural post-fire forest recovery is fascinating, but makes the trails much more challenging. Good backcountry preparation is essential for a successful and enjoyable trip.

Like our ancestors in the Illinois Valley Garden Club, it would be a wonderful legacy if we were to be the generation to protect this rugged landscape for those who come after us.



# FOCUS ON OUR KS WILD FAMILY

## MONICA VAUGHAN

With great excitement, KS Wild hired Monica Vaughan as our new Grassroots Organizer in March. Monica is a skilled community organizer with a passion for building relationships between impacted communities, advocates, politicians, and the media. For the last four years, Monica has played a key role in building a diverse coalition and gaining public support for the campaign to stop liquefied natural gas (LNG) development in Oregon. Monica grew up in northern California, is a graduate of SOU, and has a masters degree in Communications and Society from the University of Oregon.



Jeffrey Jackson Scroggin

For the past year, Monica has been working independently out of the KS Wild office, helping residents challenge the Jordan Cove LNG import terminal and Pacific Connector pipeline proposed for southern Oregon. We were thrilled to bring her on as staff when Laurel Sutherlin accepted a job with Rainforest Action Network in San Francisco. Monica is excited to get to know the KS Wild community better. If you would like to volunteer, or have thoughts about an event or issue you would like to see KS Wild involved in, please contact her at [monica@kswild.org](mailto:monica@kswild.org).

## FRANKLIN'S BUMBLEBEE (*BOMBUS FRANKLINI*)

Franklin's bumblebee has the most restricted range of any bumblebee in the world. Its entire distribution centers around the Siskiyou Crest straddling the Oregon/California border. Populations of Franklin's bumblebee have declined precipitously since 1998. Readily found throughout its range in the 1990s, subsequent yearly surveys have suggested this bee is nearly extinct. Threats to this species include: 1) Exotic diseases introduced from the trafficking of commercial bumblebee queens and colonies for greenhouse pollination of tomatoes; 2) Habitat loss due to destruction, degradation, conversion; and 3) Pesticides and pollution.



Peter Schroeder

Although *B. franklini* is widely recognized as a vulnerable species, it currently receives no protection. Since many plants rely on bumblebees for pollination, their population declines have far ranging ecological impacts. In 2010, the Society for Invertebrate Conservation and a U.C. Davis entomologist petitioned to protect the insect under the Endangered Species Act. The petition is part of an effort to reverse the decline of bumblebees and other native bees around the world.

# MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

**VOLUNTEERS AND COLLABORATORS:** Kimberly Baker, Bob Barker, Tom Dimitre, Francis Eatherington, Roger Flynn, Allee Gustafson, Scott Harding, Kavita Heyn, Carolyn Hottle, Shane Jimerfield, Maria Kelly, Andy Kerr, Jerry & Janet LaFountain, Josh Laughlin, Sally Mackler, Erin Madden, Autumn McIvor, Kathleen Page, Mark Riskadahl, Melissa Schweisguth, Dan Serres, Opie Snow, Paul Torrence, Craig Tucker, Barbara Ullian, Pete Wallstrom, Greg Walter, Dave Willis, Jan Wilson and others

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