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KS WILD NEWS

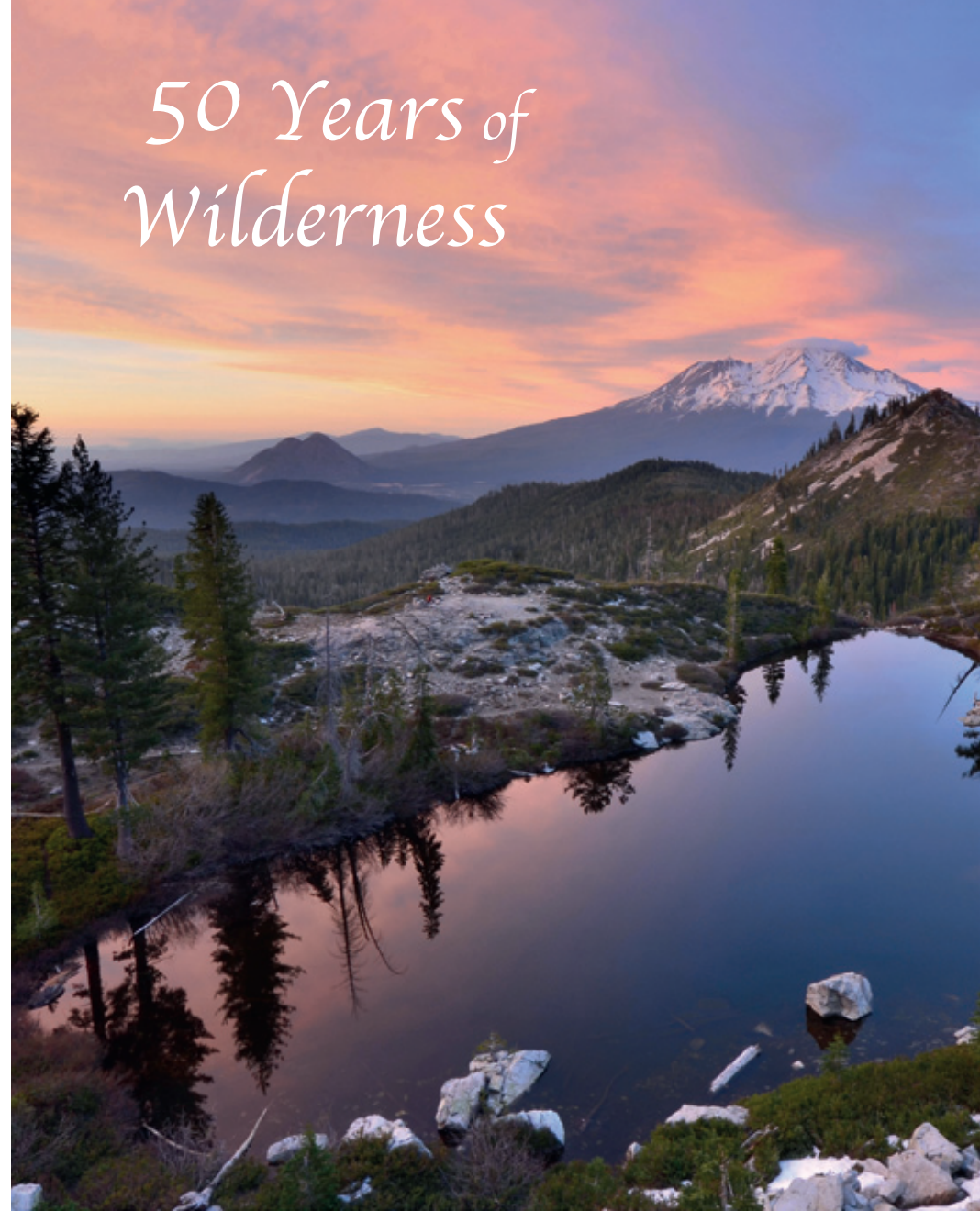
The Journal of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Summer 2014

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Cover photo: A sunset view of Heart Lake in the Castle Crags Wilderness Area with Mount Shasta in the background. Photo © Mike Shoys, www.onefinity.zenfolio.com.

*50 Years of
Wilderness*



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UPCOMING HIKES

Saturday, July 12: Takelma Gorge Hike

Explore the fascinating geology of the Upper Rogue watershed in the Takelma Gorge. Carpool meets at the Ashland Outdoor Store at 9am and the Bear Creek Lock & Safe kiosk at the North Medford Fred Meyer at 9:30am.

Saturday July 26: Kid-Friendly Mount Ashland Hike

Explore summer wildflowers with the whole family. This youngster-friendly hike is perfect for young families and will take a relaxed, flexible pace to explore about one mile of trail. Carpool meets at the Ashland Outdoor Store at 9am.

Saturday August 9: Marble Mountains Wilderness Hike

Explore the majestic wonder of the Marble Mountains with this moderate hike to one of the gems of northern California. Carpool meets at the Ashland Outdoor Store at 9am.

Saturday August 23: Grayback Mountain Hike

Enjoy a moderately strenuous 5 mile hike to this landmark peak in the Applegate Valley. We'll explore historic cabins and beautiful meadows on the way to the peak. Carpool meets at the Ashland Outdoor Store at 9am.

For all hikes, bring plenty of water, comfortable walking shoes, warm layers, and a lunch. Call Morgan at (541) 488-5789 or email morgan@kswild.org for more information and to sign up for a hike.

KS WILD'S MISSION

The Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center is an advocate for the forests, wildlife and waters of the Klamath and Rogue River Basins of southwest Oregon and northwest California. We use environmental law, science, collaboration, education and grassroots organizing to defend healthy ecosystems and help build sustainable communities.

NEWS AROUND THE KS

Covering nearly 11 million acres, the Klamath-Siskiyou region stretches from the Umpqua in the north to California's wine country in the south, from the Pacific Ocean to the mighty Cascades. The mountain ranges and river valleys that define this region harbor renowned biological diversity and are some of the most spectacular in America.

1) SMITH RIVER

The wild Smith River National Recreation Area is threatened by extreme off-road vehicle use. See Page 10.

2) KALMIOPSIS RIVERS AT RISK

Mining companies want to develop large industrial nickel strip mines in the pristine headwaters of the Smith and Illinois Rivers. See page 5.

3) MORE ROGUE WILDERNESS

Congress could take action this year to designate over 50,000 acres of new wilderness on the Wild & Scenic Rogue River. See page 7.

4) SALVAGE LOGGING FRENZY

After fire, forests naturally create important habitat for insects, birds, and mammals. Yet, agencies continue to aggressively push devastating post-fire logging. See page 11.

5) WILDERNESS CELEBRATION IN THE TRINITY ALPS

Join the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act with a hike in to the majestic Trinity Alps Wilderness. Go wilderness!

6) PARKS CREEK AND EDDY CREEK RESTORATION

The Shasta Trinity National Forest is giving two watersheds a helping hand with the Parks Eddy Restoration Project. KS Wild supports restoration work on meadows and streams damaged by off-road vehicles.



Joseph Vaile

A WILDERNESS CELEBRATION

Have you been thinking it might be time for a wild party? You're in luck because this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, a forward-thinking law that created a way for Americans to protect our most pristine wildlands for future generations.



MAGNIFICENT MARBLE MOUNTAINS: This beloved wilderness area in northern California dazzles with high alpine lakes, rushing streams, and views that just won't quit. Time to lace up the hiking boots and get out there.

Wilderness is not unique to the United States. But, through the Wilderness Act, we have taken a proactive approach to preserving some of the best examples of the American landscape. Today, so much of our planet is domesticated—we've created great cities, built railroads, highways and bridges to connect vast areas, and transformed much of our native landscapes into farm and ranch land to feed a growing population. Wilderness areas are untamed wildlands where nature still reigns and people are visitors—where natural systems, forests, rivers, and wild animals have a place. In wilderness, nature is in charge.

WHAT IS WILDERNESS?

President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law on September 3, 1964 after sixty drafts and over eight years of work. On signing the act, Johnson made the following statement: *"If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it."*

This law defined wilderness in the United States and created a formal mechanism for designating new wilderness areas. It defined Wilderness as an area *"where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."*

*"I have guided and traveled around the world and there are spectacular wild places. **But nobody does 'wilderness' like the U.S. does**—it's wild, remote, roadless, vast, mind-bogglingly diverse, achingly beautiful and, with vigilance, protected for generations to come. It is something to be very proud of."*

— Pete Wallstrom,
Momentum River Expeditions

WHY DO WE NEED WILDERNESS?

Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit, and as vital to our lives as water and good bread. A civilization which destroys what little remains of the wild, the spare, the original, is cutting itself off from its origins and betraying the principle of civilization itself. — Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire*

Wilderness provides enormous benefits to society. Recreation, clean water, and beautiful scenery are all valued by our society and offer great economic benefits to communities that are adjacent to wilderness areas. Wilderness is a place where nature is relatively undisturbed, where people can get away from the hustle and bustle of modern society and connect with something deeper.

But what is more important is that wilderness offers something more than just its value to humanity. In wilderness is the essence of all life; it is where complex biological systems continue to function in ways that humans are only beginning to understand. Saving the remaining pieces of wild nature is part of our duty to ourselves, our children, and for all life on the planet.

TIME TO CELEBRATE

KS Wild invites you to join us in celebrating wilderness this year. We will keep you informed about events this fall where you can celebrate wild nature. Even as we enjoy the wilderness that has already been designated, KS Wild is working hard to ensure the protection of new wilderness in the future.

Due to its steep, rugged terrain and distance from big cities, the Klamath-Siskiyou is home to some of the most spectacular designated wilderness areas and wilderness quality landscapes. The value of the Klamath-Siskiyou wilderness landscape is immeasurable. KS Wild's work to protect this region and advocate for the designation of more wilderness is a core part of what we do every day. Join us.

"Wilderness itself is the basis of all our civilization. I wonder if we have enough reverence for life to concede to wilderness the right to live on?" — Margaret Murie



BREWER SPRUCE - A SPECIAL CONIFER: The Brewer Spruce (*Picea breweriana*) is endemic, meaning it is only found in the Klamath-Siskiyou mountains. This unique conifer is easily identifiable by its vertically hanging branches.



KALMIOPSIS WILDERNESS

THE METAL MOUNTAINS

There is no place on Earth like the Kalmiopsis Wilderness; it is a botanist's dream, a geologist's classroom, and a hiker's ultimate challenge.

The mountains of the Kalmiopsis emerged from the ocean floor as result of geological uplift (rather than volcanism) and have been subject to folding and faulting ever since. As a result, the unique soils are packed with heavy metals including nickel, iron, chromium and magnesium that make life hard for most plant life. To survive in this environment plants have had to evolve and adapt to get by in circumstances that would normally kill most flowering species. More than any other wilderness in the region, the Kalmiopsis is the home of oddball survivors.

The Wilderness derived its name from an unassuming pink-flowered shrub discovered in 1930 by botanist Lilla Leech. Growing nowhere else in the world, *Kalmiopsis leachiana* is the oldest member of the Heath Family and a pre-ice age relic that thrives in botanical hotspots scattered throughout the wilderness.

THE WILD RIVERS

One would be hard pressed to name three more wild and scenic rivers than the Illinois, the Chetco and the North Fork Smith. All three boast water of breathtaking clarity and beauty. All three are undammed from their wilderness headwaters to the ocean. All three are remote, spectacular visions of the West before bulldozers, roads, and logging turned our watersheds into commodities.

The Illinois is the most visited of the three mighty Kalmiopsis rivers. The Illinois River Trail is the last and only trail the Forest Service still bothers to maintain in the 180,000 wilderness. It is a challenging, storied and rewarding 3-day backpack that rivals any hike anywhere. The Illinois also gets the most river traffic. It is a highly technical run that draws experienced river rats wanting to experience the challenge of the "Green Wall" rapid.

The North Fork Smith also boasts a world-class river run. Accessible only during spring high flows, the North Fork Smith's beauty is simply stunning. There are places where carnivorous *Darlingtonia* plants literally drip down the canyon walls. Words cannot do justice to the secret wonders of the North Fork.



HOME OF THE ODDBALL SURVIVORS: Carnivorous *darlingtonia* plants overhang the canyon wall on the North Fork Smith River.

Nate Wilson

Most wild of all is the headwaters of the Chetco River. Just getting to the headwaters is a serious adventure for serious hikers. Believe it or not, some adventurers not only hike the brutal 10 miles in, they also bring pack rafts and head to the wild heart of the wild wilderness.

THE BURN

Much of the Kalmiopsis was burned in the 2002 Biscuit Fire. The 500,000-acre blaze was (at the time) the largest in Oregon's recorded history, and it was long overdue. The forests and flowers of the Kalmiopsis evolved not only with metallic soils, but also with the influence of wildfire. Without fire, meadows would disappear, knobcone pines would not propagate, and the botanical diversity of the wilderness would be reduced. The Kalmiopsis is a fire-dependent wilderness.

The Biscuit Fire changed the wilderness tremendously. Forest canopy was lost on thousands of acres, particularly on the east flank of the wilderness where the Forest Service utilized backburn and burnout operations that were designed to burn at high intensity.

THE HIKE

The experience of starting at one of the ridgeline trailheads and hiking down into the wild wilderness can be daunting. Burned forests offer little shade, tanoak and brush response make trails hard to find and even harder to follow, and the terrain is almost unimaginably rugged. Much like hardy rare plants that grow out of the harsh soils, or the wild rivers that have carved a path through the rock, hiking the Kalmiopsis requires toughness. Preparation, hardiness and gumption are prerequisites. In a time when most of the world can be driven to, or seen through a computer screen, the Kalmiopsis offers something so rare as to be almost non-existent: wildness on its own terms.

THE THREATS

There are those who would like the greater Kalmiopsis to go the way of most of the rest of North America. Industrial nickel mines are proposed for the headwaters of the North Fork Smith watershed. Off-road vehicles frequently cause illegal damage to the area's watersheds and wildlands. And the Forest Service only seems to show interest in the Kalmiopsis and its surrounding roadless areas when it sees an opportunity for "salvage" logging. But the Kalmiopsis has many rough and ready friends who will stand for this most wild of wildlands. Would you like to be one of them?



CHETCO CANYON: The magnificent Chetco River, along with the Illinois River and the North Fork Smith, are all Wild and Scenic Rivers of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness.

George Sexton

MORE ROGUE WILDERNESS

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and what better way to celebrate than by designating more wilderness?

In 1964, the landmark Wilderness Act created the National Wilderness Preservation System, which set aside an initial 9.1 million acres of wildlands for the use and benefit of US citizens. Over the years, Congress has added over 100 million acres to the original 9.1 million acres including the Rogue Wilderness in 1978 along the Wild and Scenic Rogue River.

In 2008, a bill was introduced into Congress to expand the Rogue Wilderness from 35,000 to nearly 93,000 acres. At that time the Rogue watershed was threatened by massive ancient forest logging proposals along the river's tributary streams. Since then, the bill has been reintroduced three times, most recently in 2013 by Oregon Senators Wyden and Merkley and has seen very little movement due to a stagnant Congress. We hope that this year will be the year to protect the Wild Rogue in its entirety.

The current Rogue Wilderness encompasses only 35,000 acres and is not wilderness until 20 miles downstream from the Grave Creek put-in along the Wild and Scenic river corridor. The bill would add an additional 58,000 acres of upstream forest and 143 miles of tributary streams, 93 of those designated as Wild and Scenic. Expanding the wilderness will forever protect the creeks that feed into the river providing cold, clear water and habitat for salmon and steelhead. Rivers depend on wild forests.

According to a poll taken in 2009, 70% of Rogue Valley residents support this bill and added protections for the Wild Rogue. In addition, more than 120 local businesses that see value in the Rogue Wilderness and the tourism economy made possible by the river's fishery and world-class whitewater rapids. By protecting this unique and important area, we not only help the land, water, and wildlife, but we also sustaining a local tourism economy and enhancing our quality of life.

The Wild Rogue Bill still has a way to go and must get through a Congress that has largely ignored public lands protection over the last three congressional sessions. It is crucial that we continue to advocate for an expanded Rogue Wilderness.



Robbyn Janssen

TIME FOR ACTION: The Wild and Scenic Rogue River is next in line for more wilderness protection.

ROGUE RIVERKEEPER MISSION:

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

www.rogueriverkeeper.org — (541) 488-9831



IT'S SUMMER! (AND SUCTION DREDGE MINING SEASON)

Suction dredge gold mining uses a gasoline-powered vacuum to suck up stream gravels to find gold. Dredge mining can harm aquatic habitat, fish eggs and offspring, and can mobilize toxic materials including mercury.

Last year Rogue Riverkeeper celebrated the passage of legislation that reduces the number of permits available for dredge mining in salmon streams. Additional temporary regulation changes will remain in place while a study group convened by Governor Kitzhaber—with Rogue Riverkeeper's ongoing participation—takes a hard look at how Oregon's laws could be improved to fully protect salmon and clean water.

However, suction dredges will be back in our rivers, backyards, favorite swimming holes and rafting spots this summer starting as early as June 15 and we need your help to monitor mining activity. We have a waterproof reference card that lists what to look for and who to contact should you see anything that seems a threat to our waterways. Take it with you on your raft trip, picnic, hike or any outing.



Forrest English

SEE SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING: You can help protect salmon from suction dredge mining.



Save the Date!
3rd Annual
Celebrate the Rogue Raft Trip & BBQ!
9.13.14



WOLF OR-7 IS A FATHER

Good news for wolves! The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reported in June that Wolf OR-7 and his mate have at least two pups, seen peeking out from a log to the right. While OR-7's female companion is not as well known, her untold story is just as miraculous.



Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

WILD WOLF PUPS: Just in time for Father's Day In June, a wolf biologist captured this photo in southern Jackson County, confirming that OR-7 and a female wolf have dened and have at least 2 pups.

Who would believe that a pair of wolves could discover each other hundreds of miles from where they were born and produce a litter of pups? This story gives us hope. It shows us that wildlife long missing from our landscapes can recover. Wild nature can be restored.

But we need our elected leaders to embrace wolf conservation. Wolves have just begun to take their first steps back on the West Coast. Stay engaged in wolf conservation efforts. You can check out the Pacific Wolf Coalition for more about KS Wild's work to protect wolves as they return to the Pacific Northwest.



~ SAVE THE DATE ~

10TH ANNUAL DINNER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11



SMITH RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA: OFF-ROAD VEHICLE PLAYGROUND OR BOTANICAL WONDERLAND?

It's now or never for the wildflowers, wildlands, and watersheds of the remote and spectacular backcountry in the Smith River National Recreation Area of Northern California.



George Sexton

WILDER THAN WILDERNESS: Extreme off-road vehicle use threatens the spectacular Smith River National Recreation Area.

The public lands in the Smith River Watershed are legendary for their unique botanical diversity and for providing clear, cold water to the largest un-dammed river system on the West Coast. It is a stunning and spectacular part of America's natural heritage that is literally like nowhere else on Earth.

Many fishermen, botanists, hikers, birders, hunters, boaters, and campers breathed a sigh of relief back in 1990 when then-president George H. W. Bush signed the Smith River National Recreation Area Act into law. It seemed that a social consensus had been reached that the botanical and watershed values of the Smith River Wildlands should be protected and handed down to future generations.

But 1990 was a long time ago, and in the past 24 years an explosion of extreme off-road vehicle use has trashed many of the special places that the Smith River Recreation Act was designed to protect. Meadows have been turned into mud bogs, streamside vegetation has been destroyed and creeks have been turned into 4 wheel drive obstacle courses.

Now the Forest Service is finally considering placing some limits on where and when extreme off-road vehicles can go in the Recreation Area, and predictably the Tea Party and the anti-public lands crowd are hopping mad.

In the coming months the Forest Service will decide whether or not to permanently designate remote botanical hotspots in the Smith River headwaters as off-road vehicle play areas or as protected wildlands. Right now these special places are wilder than wilderness, but it is up to us to ensure that we are not the last generation to enjoy the wonders of these wild public lands.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA & SOUTHERN OREGON THREATENED BY SALVAGE LOGGING

The forests of the Klamath-Siskiyou depend on fire to provide the diversity that makes the region so unique and the forests so resilient. Our forests are both fire evolved and fire dependent.

Yet after each wildfire season the Forest Service and the BLM attempt to throw out the rulebook and “salvage log” recently burned stands regardless of the impacts of such logging on water quality, soil health, and forest stand development.

The science is becoming increasingly clear that after fire, forests are best left to recover naturally. Salvage clearcut logging strips away the building blocks needed for nutrient cycling, soil retention, and wildlife habitat.

The Douglas Fire in southern Oregon burned across one of the most heavily logged landscapes on the west coast. The checkerboard landscape of BLM and industrial timberlands contained hundreds of dense young second-growth fiber plantations that burned at high severity. In contrast, many of the remaining patches of old-growth burned at moderate or low severity.

Both the BLM and the timber industry are now proposing to double down on the mistakes of the past and clearcut stands throughout the Douglas Fire Complex and establish yet another crop of fiber plantations. Logging roads are being punched across sensitive post-fire soils as tractors drag logged trees up and down the bare slopes. KS Wild and our allies are working hard to get the BLM to recognize and incorporate science and sustainability into their plans, but it is an uphill and difficult effort to say the least.

On the **Klamath National Forest the Salmon River Salvage** timber sale is being proposed in forests that are protected as old-growth habitat reserves and streamside riparian reserves. The Forest Service wants to reward arson and essentially clearcut native forest stands adjacent to the west edge of the Marble Mountains Wilderness. Please stand with us in our efforts to ensure that watersheds, wildlife, and wildlands aren't sacrificed in the rush to log as much and as fast as possible.



George Sexton

“SALVAGE” LOGGING IS A HOAX: This photo shows tractor-based clearcutting following the Douglas Fire. The Douglas Fire burned hot and swept quickly through dense tree plantations which were the result of previous clearcuts on private land. Clearcut “salvage” logging following wildfires harms soils, watersheds, and wildlife.

FEATURED HIKE: WHETSTONE BUTTE & EAGLE MOUNTAIN A KALMIOPSIS WILDLANDS ADVENTURE

This is a special hike in a special place, but it's not for everybody. The Whetstone Butte Trail is an exposed, dry, rugged route that leads up and down several peaks and saddles along the Kalmiopsis Rim that divides the iconic Illinois and Chetco watersheds.

Like most hikes in and around the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, the going is tough and the terrain is unforgiving. The Forest Service has pretty much walked away from maintaining trails, roads, and signs in the area, so even getting to trailhead and locating the right route can be a challenge.

Your best bet is to purchase a Kalmiopsis Wilderness or a Wild River District map and follow the 4201 road to an unsigned junction that leads to Onion Camp and the Kalmiopsis trailhead. Without a good map you aren't likely to find it.

From the parking lot take the overgrown trail heading due west through a snag patch that was the result of aggressive Forest Service backburning operations during the 2002 Biscuit Fire. Through the course of the hike you will see an ocean of dead trees that are the building blocks providing shade, nutrient cycling and habitat while the forest renews itself.

Keep a sharp eye on the trail as it curves north and heads uphill into more open, rocky country. Here's where things start to get interesting. While walking the ridgeline adventurous experienced hikers will be rewarded with views of two of the wildest watersheds in the world. Those with a nose for exploration might sniff out a spring supporting a population of carnivorous darlingtonia flowers or locate a green grove of drooping Weeping Spruce—one of the least-seen conifers in North America.

The hike is difficult, the route is faint, and the wildlands are wondrous.



George Sexton

GO WILD OR GO HOME: Metal mountains, never-before-seen conifers, and carnivorous plants? Go on, I dare you not to fall in love with the stark beauty and one-of-a-kind vistas of the wild Kalmiopsis. Don't forget to bring the camera, a good map, and your sense of adventure.

FOCUS ON OUR KS WILD FAMILY

CLEAN ENERGY BENEFITS KS WILD

“We’ve been wanting to put in solar for a long time, and this seemed like the perfect opportunity” said Pat Smith & Jennie Watt, longtime KS Wild members posing with their new solar panels to the right.



Aaron Moffat

Last year, KS Wild began an exciting new partnership with True South Solar, a longtime KS Wild Business Member and supporter. True South Solar now offers a \$200 discount to all KS Wild members who order a new solar system. True South Solar will also make a \$200 donation to KS Wild for each new customer. Protecting the natural heritage of the Klamath-Siskiyou region in the face of impacts like climate change is at the heart of KS Wild’s efforts. Local renewable energy systems both support the local economy and make the energy supply for our entire region more resilient and sustainable. Call (800) 947-1187 or visit truesouthsolar.net/kswild to request your free site evaluation today.

FAREWELL LISA FORCE, WELCOME JEANINE MOY

Goodbye Lisa Force — If you know Lisa, you know she is a force FOR nature. As KS Wild’s Associate Director for the past 4 years, Lisa helped launch our Adopt-A-Botanical Area volunteer program, grow our Annual Dinner event into a smashing success and reform out-of-date cattle grazing practices on public land in the region. Lisa is continuing her work on behalf of the conservation of animals as a consultant, but plans to stay in the region. You will probably still see Lisa around at events or up on the Siskiyou Crest taking in the beauty that surrounds us. Thank you Lisa for your years of dedication and hard work, we know you will carry a little bit of the KS Wild salamander spirit in you forever.



Keith Henry

Hello Jeanine Moy! — We are so excited to welcome Jeanine Moy as Conservation Associate and coordinator of our Adopt-a-Botanical Area program. A graduate of Cornell University, Jeanine holds a Masters degree from Southern Oregon University in Environmental Education. Jeanine is an expert naturalist and educator with a passion for the environment, teaching and the wild places of the Klamath-Siskiyou. You can catch her working with kids, volunteers, and activists around the Klamath-Siskiyou educating new advocates and protecting the flora and fauna of our spectacular region.



Jeanine Moy

The Adventures of Bigfoot!



Episode 3



Bigfoot loves the jagged peaks of the Castle Crag Wilderness.

Bigfoot loves the Darlingtonia fens of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness.

Bigfoot LOVES Wilderness! Happy 50th Anniversary to the Wilderness Act.

Robyn Janssen

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US!

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THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS & COLLABORATORS: Lesley Adams, Kimberly Baker, Bob Barker, Jordan Beckett, Emily Berlant, Ralph Bloomers, JoAnne Eggers, Ken Gosling & Jane Tama, Andy Kerr, Dave Lacy, Jay Lininger, John MacDiarmid, Ayani Mikasi, Eric Peterson, Mary Reynolds, Lara Scablon, Mike Shoys, Vicki Simpson, the OR-7 Family, Kaitlin Tidwell, Barbara Ullian, Ann Vileisis, Daniel Pasley Wakefield, Greg Walter, Dave Willis, and Nate Wilson.

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