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KS WILD NEWS

The Journal of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Fall 2015



www.kswild.org

www.rogueriverkeeper.org

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Cover photo: Sunset at Diamond Lake, Matt Witt Photography.



COMING HOME
TO WILD PLACES

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Oregon Department of Forestry/Wikipedia

UPCOMING HIKES

September 25: Takelma Gorge Hike

Fall colors and a steep river canyon along the upper Rogue River. Carpool from Northwest Nature Shop in Ashland at 9am.

October 11: Kalmiopsis Rim Trail

Enjoy vistas of the Chetco watershed and landscapes recovering from the Biscuit Fire. Moderate hike and family-friendly. Meet at Coffee Heaven in Cave Junction at 9am.

October 17, 18 & 21: Bear Creek Salmon Hike

Explore Bear Creek to see spawning Chinook salmon from 1-3pm. Hike meets in the Lynn-Newbry parking lot in Talent.

October 24: Illinois River Salmon Hike

See Chinook salmon spawning in the Illinois River from 1-3pm. Hike meets at Illinois Forks State Park near Cave Junction.

October 25: Bear Creek Salmon Hike

Explore Bear Creek to see spawning Chinook salmon from 1-3pm. Hike meets in the Lynn-Newbry parking lot in Talent.

October 31: Applegate River Salmon Hike

See Chinook in the Applegate River from 1-3pm. Hike meets at the north entrance of Fish Hatchery Park near Grants Pass.

November 1: Illinois River Salmon Hike

See Chinook salmon spawning in the Illinois River from 1-3pm. Hike meets at Illinois Forks State Park near Cave Junction.

November 14: Sterling Mine Ditch Trail Hike

Stunning views along this Little Applegate trail system. Carpool meets at the Northwest Nature Shop in Ashland at 9am.

For all hikes: Bring plenty of water, comfortable walking shoes, warm layers, and a lunch. Call Morgan at (541) 488-5789 or visit www.kswild.org/hikes for more information, directions, and to sign up for a hike.

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) HIKE THE PIPE TO STOP LNG

Hike the Pipe is an adventurous educational opportunity to experience first hand the beauty and wonder threatened by the proposed Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline and the Jordan Cove LNG Energy Project. Hikers are traversing the entire pipeline route from Malin, Oregon to Coos Bay. Follow their journey at the coalition website: www.nolng-exports.org.

2) KALMIOPSIS WILD RIVERS

Proposed legislation provides opportunity to prevent industrial nickel mining in the headwaters of the Smith and Illinois Rivers. See page 7-8.

3) WOLVES RETURN TO CALIFORNIA

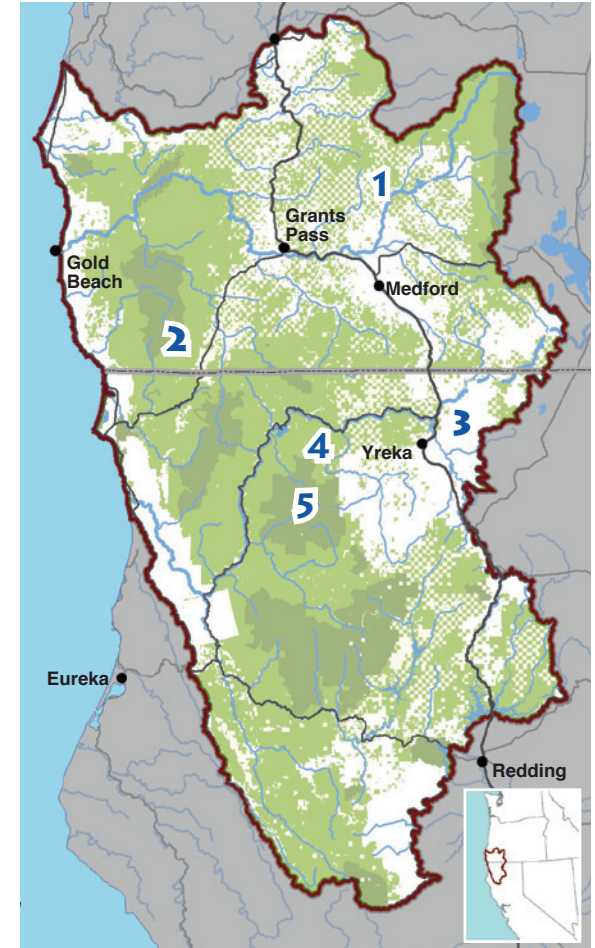
Gray wolves have once again crossed the border into Siskiyou County. Hello Shasta Pack and welcome to the Klamath-Siskiyou!

4) WESTSIDE SALVAGE LOGGING

The Klamath National Forest is proposing to clearcut public forests after fire. We are standing with the Karuk Tribe and allies to support a science-based alternative that doesn't sacrifice clean water and turn ancient forests into timber plantations. See page 5-6.

5) ELK CREEK FEATURED HIKE

The crystal clear cold water of Elk Creek and the towering old-growth firs and pines along this trail provide a low elevation scenic entryway into Marble Mountain backcountry that can be accessed year-round. See page 12.



HOMECOMING

Musings from KS Wild's Executive Director, Joseph Vaile

So much has changed since the last gray wolf called California home. In early August we heard news that the first resident California gray wolf was captured on camera in 90 years. Talk about a homecoming!

After decades of trapping and poisoning, the last wolf in California was shot in 1924. Since then, roads and highways were built and huge tracts of forest have been converted to industrial tree farms. Today, the wolf re-enters a landscape filled with strip-malls, subdivisions, climatic shifts and severe drought. It will take work with residents in areas where wolves migrate to ensure co-existence.



We have learned a lot in 90 years. We realize that there is an end to the seemingly limitless wilderness. As a society we saw a need to protect species like the wolf and other wildlife, so we passed laws to protect dwindling habitats and clean up the environment for our needs—laws like the Wilderness Act, Endangered Species Act, and Clean Water Act.

This issue of *KS Wild News* explores the campaigns to protect our magnificent home—the Klamath-Siskiyou. You will learn about our efforts to protect the Smith, Illinois, and Pistol rivers from nickel strip mining. You can also catch up on the effort to protect our region from a massive gas export pipeline.

With 90 years of fire suppression and industrial logging added to a changing climate, we can expect more forest fires. Your support enables KS Wild to collaborate with tribes and fire safe councils to restore fire-adapted forests. You can help KS Wild stop a plan to convert some of the wildest country in northern California into more tree plantations.

The author Thomas Wolfe was famous for his book, "*You Can't Go Home Again.*" While gray wolves will never come home to a landscape unchanged from 90 years ago, they will help restore the balance of nature. What Mr. Wolfe meant was that home is always changing. We are always changing. We are not static and we need to embrace the impermanence of home.

In the literal sense, homecoming is a part of nature. Birds and mammals migrate home, the salmon spawn in their natal streams and species like the gray wolf, long absent from our landscape, can return home.

PROTECTING OUR BLM BACKYARD FORESTS

Western Oregon's BLM lands support salmon, steelhead, and wildlife while delivering clean water and recreational values to the public. These forests are source-drinking watersheds for hundreds of thousands of Oregonians, they sequester large amounts of carbon, and they provide crucial ecological functions. The natural amenities found on these public lands are highly valued and sought after, from local residents to tourists from around the world.

Right now, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is in the process of updating their plan for public forests found throughout southern Oregon including special places like the Wild Rogue River, Applegate Valley, and Illinois Valley.

The Good News: In the plan, the BLM recognizes that recreation is the means by which most Americans experience these lands, and that recreation provides the greatest economic benefits to local communities. Also, one alternative discussed in the draft plan would protect some roadless landscapes, special recreation areas, and habitat for threatened wildlife.

The Bad News: Unfortunately, most alternatives in the plan would resume clearcut logging, reduce streamside buffers, increase road construction, and reward damaging motorized off-road recreation on BLM forests. We're especially concerned that the BLM is proposing to disengage from the Northwest Forest Plan—the landmark coordinated federal management plan that has governed western Washington, Oregon and northwestern California for the past twenty years.

The stakes are high. The BLM's new Resource Management Plan will decide the ultimate fate of our public forests. As this newsletter goes to press, thousands of KS Wild members and supporters have educated themselves, signed petitions, written to their local newspapers and have spoken out at public meetings. Thank you to each and everyone one of you. KS Wild is committed to elevating the voices of southern Oregon residents. Together, we will continue to protect our BLM Backyard Forests.



AGE BRINGS FIRE PROTECTION: Older trees with thick bark are better able to survive wildfire and store increasing amounts of carbon as they age. It's time for the BLM to protect our oldest forests, not target them for clearcutting.

KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST CLEAR-CUTTING BONANZA

The author of the Northwest Forest Plan has asked the Klamath National Forest not to clear-cut old-growth “Late Successional Reserves” that are targeted for post-fire logging by the Forest Service in the Westside timber sale.

Over 12,000 Americans submitted comments during the Westside timber sale planning process requesting that the Forest Service focus on restoration near homes and communities and refrain from logging the Marble Mountains Wildlands.



GROUND-TRUTHING: KS Wild Conservation Director George Sexton field-checks proposed “salvage” logging and road building.

The Karuk Tribe developed a science-based alternative to the massive Forest Service logging plans that would have focused on the continual use of prescribed fire rather than reinforcing the cycle of clear-cut forestry and tree-plantation establishment.

Conservation organizations from around the country asked the Klamath National Forest to respect wildlife and watersheds rather than only focusing on timber production above all other public lands values.

FOREST SERVICE REACHES A NEW LOW

Yet the Klamath National Forest has chosen to ignore science, ignore its own Forest Plan, ignore the public, and ignore its neighbors in its desire to turn thousands of acres of old-growth reserves into timber plantations that will increase future fire hazard.

While most Forest Service planners have joined the general consensus that wildlife, watersheds and wildlands are important values to be incorporated and considered in management decisions, the Klamath National Forest has made it clear that after natural fire events timber volume is their first and only concern.

It’s difficult to understand the decision of the Forest Service to clear-cut old-growth reserves and log riparian reserves deep in the backcountry of the Marble Mountains without acknowledging the overwhelming power that the timber industry has played.

Indeed the term “recovery” in the so-called “Westside Recovery Project” refers solely to economic “recovery” through clear-cutting. Actual forest and watershed recovery are not included in the Forest Service proposal.

Watersheds and wildlands valued by the Karuk tribe for tens of thousands of years and that have been handed intact from one generation of Americans to another are now being sold off to the last remaining old-growth mills on the west coast. Ignoring neighbors and the best science is a new low for the Klamath National Forest.



FIRE FORESTS: The Klamath Mountains have evolved with fire for millennium.

PUSHING BACK

KS Wild is standing shoulder to shoulder with the Karuk Tribe, the Western Environmental Law Center, EPIC, the Center for Biological Diversity and the Klamath Riverkeeper to challenge the clearcutting plan and chart a new course. Stand with us!

CHECKLIST:

KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST, WESTSIDE “SALVAGE” SALE

- ✓ Suppress and exclude fire from a fire-adapted, fire-evolved forest for decades. *Check!*
- ✓ Spend millions dumping slurry from airplanes and blasting dozer-lines into the backcountry in a never-ending war on wildfire. *Check!*
- ✓ Work hand-in-glove with the Timber Industry to develop post-fire clearcutting plans across thousands of acres. *Check!*
- ✓ Target thousands of acres of otherwise protected old-growth “Late Successional Reserves” for post-fire clearcutting. *Check!*
- ✓ Ignore thousands of years of local fire-ecology knowledge and reject the Karuk Tribe’s input into the planning process. *Check!*
- ✓ Propose thousands of acres of tree plantations that will increase future fire hazard. *Check!*
- ✓ Ignore science and law. *Check!*
- ✓ Focus on logging remote backcountry forests instead of locating work near homes and communities. *Check!*
- ✓ Ignore 12,000 public comments requesting real restoration instead of clear-cut exploitation. *Check!*

A CLOSER LOOK: KALMIOPSIS RIVERS

Local communities band together to prevent nickel strip mine proposals in special watersheds



GET TO KNOW ROUGH AND READY CREEK

Regularly visited by botanists, it boasts the highest wildflower diversity in Oregon. Fisher folk appreciate the habitat it provides for steelhead and cutthroat trout, and it is well known by locals for always running clear. Before entering the Wild and Scenic Illinois River, it flows through a rugged, beautiful wilderness landscape. Part of this area, the South Kalmiopsis Roadless area was recommended as an addition to the Kalmiopsis Wilderness in 2004. A major threat looms over this landscape: RNR Resources has proposed to develop a nickel mine of approximately 4,300 acres, complete with a strip mine, nickel smelter and ore haul roads.

GET TO KNOW THE NORTH FORK SMITH RIVER

The North Fork is a major tributary of the National Wild and Scenic Smith River, with pure waters and a renowned salmon fishery frequently fished by guides, residents and tourists. The Smith River provides drinking water for the communities of Gasquet, Crescent City and Hiouchi, and is hailed as the largest undammed river flowing in California. The wild North Fork Smith carves through a beautiful and remote canyon, with 14 miles of river that provide opportunities for remote backcountry whitewater experiences.



Northwest Rafting Company

The Smith River is threatened by the Red Flat Nickel Corp (a foreign owned company) that has submitted a plan to do test drilling across key tributaries to Baldface Creek and the NF Smith and approximately 2,900 acres of the South Kalmiopsis Roadless Area.

GET TO KNOW HUNTER CREEK AND PISTOL RIVER

Along the Wild Rivers Coast, these rivers serve as a stronghold for native salmonids: Chinook salmon, Coho salmon (which are listed on the Endangered Species Act), Winter Steelhead, Coastal Cutthroat trout and Rainbow trout. These rivers are not only a part of a watershed that provides clean drinking water, but also support a vibrant recreational economy for local communities.

Red Flat Nickel Corp, a foreign owned mining company, proposes to develop a nickel laterite mine on approximately 2,000 acres in the headwaters of Hunter Creek and the North Fork Pistol River. The method of processing will likely be acid heap leaching.



Regina Castellon

NOW IS THE TIME

We have a unique opportunity for protection of the Kalmiopsis Rivers and Wild Rivers Coast from industrial nickel strip mining. Conservation groups from the fishing, native plant and public land fields have joined with river enthusiasts, local businesses, and commercial outfitters to support protecting the area through federal legislation.

We are thankful that Oregon Senators Wyden and Merkley, and local Congressional Representatives DeFazio (OR) and Huffman (CA) have shown their support for these beautiful lands and introduced legislation to permanently withdraw the areas from mining in order to protect these watersheds. Now is the time to see the legislation through and ask for further protection!

TAKE ACTION TODAY

Visit www.kalmiopsiswildrivers.org and sign the petition to protect the headwaters of the Illinois and North Fork Smith Rivers, and Hunter Creek from toxic nickel mining. Speak up for clean water and thriving salmon runs!



Amy Schlotterback

SUNDAY FLOATS A BIG SUCCESS!

This summer, Rogue Riverkeeper introduced our Second Sunday Float Trip series where we floated a section of the Rogue and focused on local issues each month, including dam removal, the proposed Pacific Connector gas pipeline and salmon and steelhead. The trips were a huge success and we'd like to thank everyone who joined us, became a new member and learned a bit about the river. We'd like to thank our volunteer guides Michael Dotson, Mark Newberger, Adam Elson and Orea Roussis as well as the SOU Outdoor Program for providing us with extra gear. We look forward to next year's series and can't wait to see you all on the river again!

Rogue Riverkeeper Presents...



WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL
A WILD LIFE

Save the date!

November 8, 2015

Happy Hour 5-6pm, Films 6-9pm

FILMS FOOD SILENT AUCTION BEER SPEAKERS



Legacy in the Klamath-Siskiyou

The Klamath-Siskiyou is one of the last wild places where salmon still spawn in their native streams, where wildlife still finds refuge in old growth forests, and where wild rivers still flow through abundant wilderness. Every donation you make helps protect these special places. As we build a grassroots movement for conservation in the Klamath-Siskiyou, we begin to see wildlife, wilderness, and clean water as gifts themselves. They become something of value that we leave to our children and grandchildren.

Your annual donations help sustain the organization year to year, but we build a legacy of conservation when donors like you plan ahead. While we handle planned gifts like donated stock or bequests, we also work with lawyers and financial advisors. Contact Michael at (541) 488-5789 to learn more about planned giving options.



KS Wild's
11th Annual
Dinner & Auction
For the Wild
Saturday
October 3, 2015
Historic Ashland Armory
Doors Open at 5pm

Get your tickets today!
kswild.org or (541) 488-5789

BOTANICAL BULLETIN

VOLUNTEER ADOPTERS ARE LOCAL LAND STEWARDS

This summer featured explorations of colorful wildflower meadows as more great volunteers became involved in land stewardship.

In June, our Adopt-a-Botanical Area program partnered with the Friends of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument for a second year of “Hike and Learn” along with the Native Plant Society of Oregon (NPSO) and Medford BLM. We paid a visit to the Mariposa botanical preserve and enjoyed the rare *Calochortus greenei* in bloom, while also working to rid an area of invasive star thistle.

In July, we again joined with NPSO to celebrate the beauty of rare wildflowers atop the Siskiyou Crest with wine, cheese and the setting sun. This event was both extremely pleasant and exemplifies effective stewardship of our public lands. Just after the evening hike, volunteers detected cattle trespassing and facilitated a quick alert to the Forest Service.

Thank you to all the Adopt-a-Botanical Area volunteers for successfully supporting public lands monitoring. We couldn't protect the dozens of special places and botanical gems scattered throughout the Klamath-Siskiyou without your help.

For more information on becoming involved with the Adopt-a-Botanical Area Program, visit our website at kswild.org/get-involved.



FEATURED HIKE: ELK CREEK GATEWAY TO THE MARBLE MOUNTAINS

The crystal clear, cold water of Elk Creek and the towering old-growth firs and pines along this trail provide a low elevation scenic entryway into the Marble Mountain backcountry that can be accessed year-round.

The Elk Creek trail starts at a charming walk-in campground called Sulphur Springs that makes for a comfortable base-camp. Sure enough a smelly sulphur pool springs up on the banks of Elk Creek near the campground.

From Sulphur Springs the easy trail heads upstream for a little over three miles before reaching the official boundary of the Marble Mountains Wilderness Area.

Once in the wilderness the trails get steeper and several gorgeous routes offer adventures up into the mountain backcountry. Long routes up Rainy Creek, Granite Creek or Tickner Creek all traverse magnificent forests to reach high elevation lakes and meadows. Challenging day hikes and longer overnight loops are possible throughout the Elk Creek Watershed portion of the Marble Mountains.

While the beauty, botany and wildlands of the Marble Mountains have been treasured for generations, the Forest Service still views much of the forests surrounding the wilderness as places to clearcut and build logging roads (see pages 5-6).

In particular, the Klamath National Forest seems intent on logging the primary habitat connectivity corridor connecting wildlife populations in the Red Buttes Wilderness with those in the Marble Mountains. There is no time like the present to enjoy and protect the Marble Mountains!

GETTING THERE

Take highway 96 to the town of Happy Camp and then follow the paved and winding Elk Creek Road south to the sign for the Sulphur Spring Campground. Bring a Klamath National Forest map and a Marble Mountains Wilderness map.



HEAVENLY FLOW: Beautiful and crystal clear Elk Creek would be called “Elk River” in many parts of the country!

FOCUS ON OUR KS WILD FAMILY

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: MARGUERITE MERRITT

Marguerite Merritt moved to Ashland a few months ago from Bishop, California where she was working with the Eastern Sierra Land Trust.

Marguerite has been avidly exploring the wild Klamath-Siskiyou, became a Botanical Area adopter of Cook and Green Pass, as well as Hinkle Lake, and has been spending time to support our Kalmiopsis Rivers Protection campaign. We are so glad for her support. Thank you, Marguerite!



Jeanine Moy

To volunteer and help support our work at KS Wild, send an email to jeanine@kswild.org.

CAMPFIRE CLASSICS

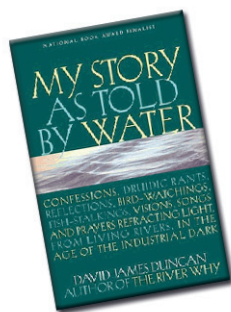
BOOK REVIEW

MY STORY AS TOLD BY WATER BY DAVID JAMES DUNCAN

Want to learn more about the incredible biodiversity of the Klamath-Siskiyou region? The KS region has inspired iconic writing from compelling yarns like “Rogue River Feud” by Zane Gray to beloved non-fiction including “The Klamath Knot” by David Rains Wallace. Our new book review section will share KS Wild staff’s favorite titles to our members and supporters.

A memoir set in the Pacific Northwest, “My Story as Told by Water” is a collection of essays connecting various topics ranging from the history of the 1872 Mining Act to the life cycles of anadromous fish.

Duncan’s writing has the eloquence and power to, in turn, tickle your funny bone, rile you up, leave you in a state of breathless wonder, or inspire you to more fully cherish and protect your local rivers. If this book changes you or makes you want more, he has penned several books, or you can watch him in the inspiring film, Damnation, which Rogue Riverkeeper screened at the Wild & Scenic FilmFest event.



Do you have a recommendation for a book we should review? Give us a call at (541) 488-5789 or email info@kswild.org.

The Adventures of Bigfoot!



Episode 8



Welcome back
Salmon!

Thanks Bigfoot.
It's good to be home.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Acupuncture Health & Healing, American River Touring Association, Ashland Alternative Health, Ashland Center For Women’s Health, Ashland Commons, Ashland Integrative Care PC, Ashland Mind Matters, Ashland Remodeling/Stokes Built, Inc, Aquatic Ecosystem Sciences, Berryvale Grocery, Big Tree Farms, Carlos Delgado Architect LLC, Cecelia Howard Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, Chris Duval Nerd 4 Hire, Computer Doctor of Ashland, Dan the Backhoe Man, EcoTeas, Expressive Voice Dynamic, Fly Water Travel, Four & Twenty Blackbirds Baker, Full Circle Real Estate, Grateful Meds Oregon, Healing Way Hypnosis, Herb Pharm, Inner Synergy, Jahfirm Productions, Jani Rollins MD, Jefferson State Financial Group, Jive Mountain, K & C Environmental Services, Inc, Kathy A. Sprick D.D.S, Kentro Body Balance, Kindler Stout Piano Service, Kleiman & Stamper Physical Therapy, KSKQ, Mark Machala Chiropractor, Master Craft Wood Floors Inc, Momentum River Expeditions, One Voice Associates LLC, Patagonia, Plant Oregon, Richard Billin Attorney at Law, Rogue Valley Counseling, Rogue Valley Runners, ROW Adventures, ScienceWorks, Southern Oregon Mediation Center, Standing Stone Brewing, Downey Company Home Builders, Falkner School for Homeopathy, True South Solar, Upper Limb-It Tree Service, Village Shoes, Wessler Design Associates, Wild Rose Herbs, Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon.

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.

KSWILD.ORG

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