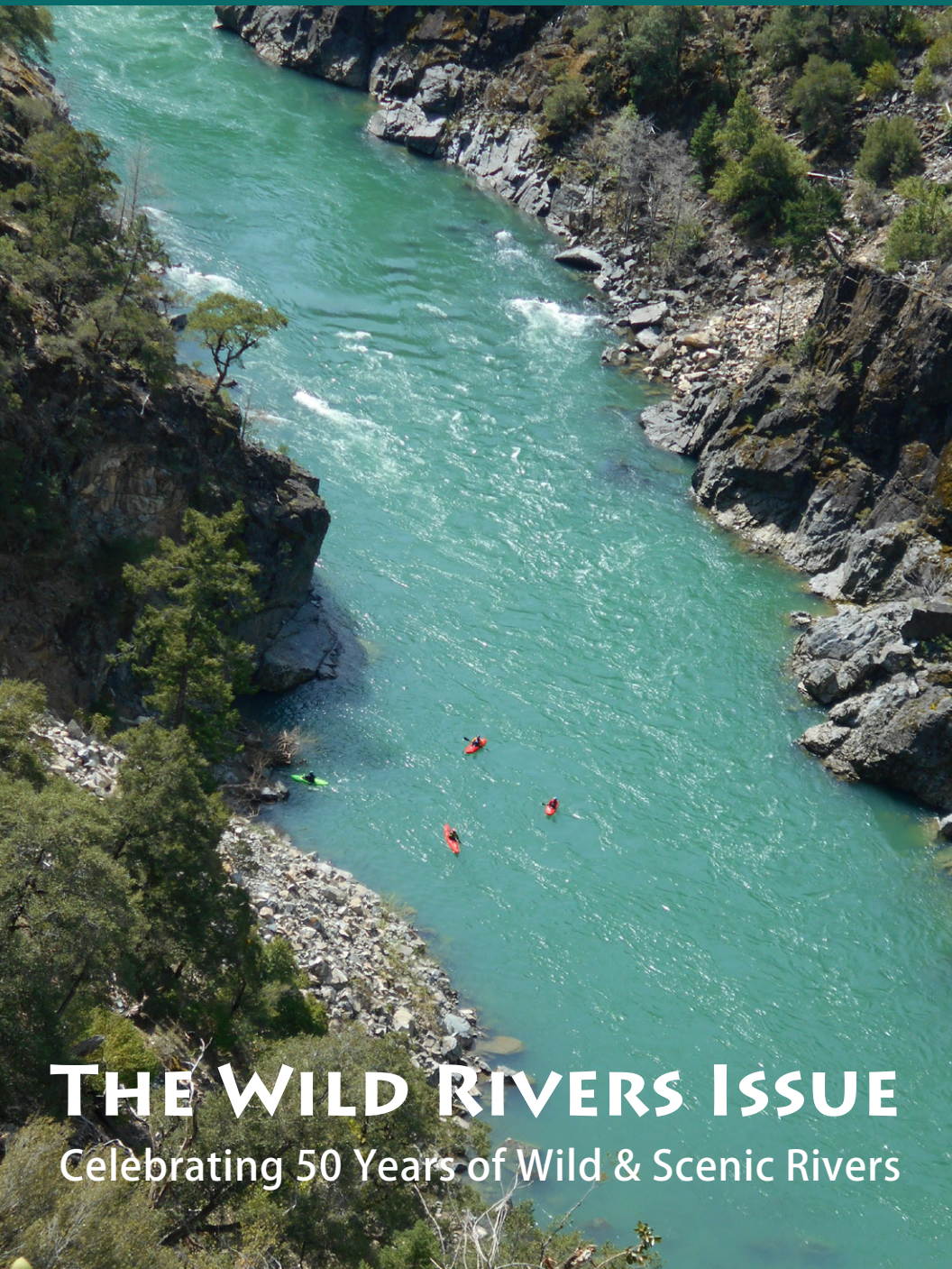


# KS WILD NEWS

The Journal of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center

Summer 2018



## THE WILD RIVERS ISSUE

Celebrating 50 Years of Wild & Scenic Rivers

## KS WILD

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# GET OUTSIDE

For more information or to sign-up online visit [kswild.org](http://kswild.org).  
*Once you sign-up you will receive more details including  
carpool location and what to bring.*

### DEER CREEK WILDFLOWER HIKE

**Sunday, June 17: 9am-4pm**

This is a moderate difficulty, family-friendly hike starting on Deer Creek Rd in the Kalmiopsis and hiking down to the beautiful Illinois River for lunch. We will see and identify many flowers in bloom, including pitcher plant, orchids, azalea, blue lupine, stone crop, and others. We will have a wildflower identification book but bring yours too, if you have one. This is a mostly flat trail with one hill near the trailhead.

### MONUMENT DRAGONFLY WALK

**Saturday, July 14: 11am-2pm—Members Only**

Oregon is host to 93 species of dragonflies and damselflies, half of which can be found within the borders of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Join KS Wild Staff on an outing to get to know these amazing creatures. We will share information about dragonflies and their life cycles and will have a few nets to capture and observe different dragonflies. This is an easy walk over uneven terrain along creeks with frequent stops. Bring your binoculars if you have them!

### BOUNDARY SPRINGS TRAIL HIKE

**Sunday, July 22: 10am-4pm—Members Only**

Join KS Wild's Michael Dotson and Rogue Riverkeeper's Robyn Janssen on a moderately strenuous 5-mile round trip hike to Boundary Springs. We'll hike through old growth forests of pine and fir and alpine meadows on our way to the source of the Rogue River. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up early online.

### HIKE-N-YOGA

**July 28: 11am – 2pm**

Bring yoga off the mat and into nature! Yoga is 'union' and when it's practiced outdoors the union with nature, humanity, and the universe can be truly felt. Together we can merge our yoga practice with our work to stop the Clean Slate Timber sale, which targets old growth forests here in the Deer Creek Watershed.

# WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS OF THE KS

## ROGUE RIVER

Steelhead all the way from the Ocean to KS Wild's door on Neil Creek? You betcha.

## RIVER STYX

The National Park Service is currently developing a management plan for the Wild and Scenic Rivers within the Oregon Caves National Monument.

## SMITH RIVER

While most Wild and Scenic Rivers are just mainstem river segments, many Smith River tributary streams were designated as Wild and Scenic.

## KLAMATH RIVER

A River Upside Down. Water quality improves as the Klamath River gets further downstream of dams and agriculture and is fed by clear cold mountain streams.

Pacific  
Ocean

## SALMON RIVER

Wild salmon or stream-side strip mining? The proposed China Point Mine threatens water quality.

Map by Manuel de Aquino

The Klamath-Siskiyou has the highest concentration of wild and scenic rivers in the lower 48. The outstanding values of these rivers include recreation, tourism, clean drinking water, and opportunities to observe free flowing streams in their natural state.



## NOTES FROM THE TRAILHEAD

*Flamboyant rivers careening through my mind, gathering all material stored in times of harried distress, taken out now on rafts of wildness. Featuring footholds, disappearing in white waters, floating through canyons of loneliness. Sheer walls, reaching towards tops of mountains, heightening and expanding limits of multitudes into creative forces on brand new shores of life.*

- RoseAnn V. Shawiak

This year we are excited to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act! In this edition of *KS Wild News* you'll find a tribute to what many understand is the very best collection of wild rivers anywhere in the nation. From the Trinity and Eel in the south, to the Rogue and Elk in the north, the Klamath-Siskiyou is defined by this collection of spectacular rivers. These rivers are distinct, filled with sparkling emerald waters, and some of the last, best wild salmon runs in the lower 48.

Thanks to the tireless work of countless river activists, fifty years ago Congress recognized that we were losing America's wild rivers. Dams and development were running roughshod over America's rivers. As euro-settlers expanded westward, one river after another was lost to the unquenchable thirst of what was called progress.

On October 2, 1968, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was signed into law, stating "... certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable...values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations." This awakening was the real progress.

The Wild Rogue River northwest of Grants Pass was one of the original eight rivers in the nation designated under this law. This alone is testament to the amazing collection of rivers surrounding the communities in northern California and southern Oregon. In the past fifty years, several other stretches of river have been designated by Congress in our region, including the Chetco, Illinois, Smith, Elk, Klamath, Salmon, and Trinity Rivers.

The fact that there are so many designated rivers – many more are, of course, deserving – demonstrates how lucky we are to live in such a special area for wild rivers. Just look at the most recent addition to the Wild and Scenic system: the River Styx. This is

the first underground stream to receive this coveted status. It is the stream that flows through the cave system at the Oregon Caves National Monument.

Dams, mines, and development have transformed our rivers and many rivers will never be as wild and free as our Wild and Scenic Rivers. Others are well-deserving of protection, but sadly are threatened by new development proposals. KS Wild and our community partners will continue working to protect our streams and rivers, the very core of our communities and our lives. They provide us with drinking water, irrigation, recreation, and so much more.

Do you want to learn more about Wild and Scenic Rivers and celebrate the anniversary? Read on and find out about upcoming events and ways to get involved. You should also make plans to get on a National Wild and Scenic River this summer.



Joseph Vaile is KS Wild's Executive Director

## What is a Wild and Scenic River?

Wild and Scenic protection is generally a ¼-mile buffer along a river or stream. Protection of the river can sometimes extend further if the river's outstanding values will be harmed. Wild and Scenic status is often accompanied by wilderness to achieve stronger protection.

### In the Klamath-Siskiyou, we go big on wild and scenic...

While the KS is less than 1% of the land area of the Lower 48 states, it is home to 11% of the Wild and Scenic Rivers!

**Nine species of salmon**

**Drinking water for thousands of people**

**Pristine water quality**

**Millions of dollars flowing into the local economy**

**Highest concentration of Wild and Scenic designations in the Lower 48**

**A lifetime of adventure and recreation**





# TAKE A WILD RIVER TOUR

— From North to South —



While the Klamath-Siskiyou is home to the highest concentration of wild rivers anywhere in the lower 48, the Wild and Scenic status only protects a small portion of these watersheds. Here is a snapshot of some of the issues facing the Wild and Scenic rivers in our region.

## ELK RIVER

Wild and Scenic expansion on the Elk has been proposed for several years and is needed for this basin; it is home to one of the most productive salmon fisheries for a basin its size in the U.S.



## ROGUE RIVER

Protection of the Lower Rogue is necessary as long as the Bureau of Land Management pushes a “timber first” agenda on their lands surrounding the prized river canyon.

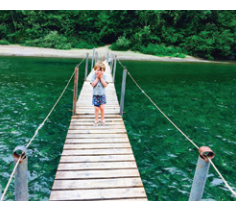


## ILLINOIS RIVER

Nickel strip mines in the river’s headwaters along Rough and Ready Creek are on hold for now, but many of the roadless wildlands in this watershed remain unprotected.

## CHETCO RIVER

Mining proposals and a salvage timber sale threaten this wild river.



## SMITH RIVER

Strip-mining proposals on the Smith River have been pushed back for now, but protection of the North Fork Smith outside of the National Recreation Area is needed.



## KLAMATH RIVER

Lack of cool water and the presence of large dams have harmed fisheries and water quality in the Klamath River Basin. Tribes and others are working to remove the dams, ensure enough water stays in the river, and protect the cool water tributaries in the lower river canyon.

## SALMON RIVER

This tributary to the Klamath has its headwaters in the Trinity and Marble Mountains, but is often threatened by mining plans.



## SCOTT RIVER

This tributary to the Klamath has so much water removed that the river goes completely dry in the late summer, harming fisheries.

## TRINITY RIVER

Water is removed and sent far south for industrial agriculture, but Tribes and commercial fishing groups are pushing back to keep more of the Trinity’s water in-stream.



[www.kswild.org/wildrivers](http://www.kswild.org/wildrivers)

*River photos: Thanks to Tim Palmer, Northwest Rafting Company and Momentum River Expeditions.*

# Brookings—Chetco Effect

Hot, dry  
winds

Brookings, OR

The Chetco Effect happens when inland high pressure air masses funnel down the Chetco River Canyon toward the coast. As the air descends in elevation, it rises in temperature producing the Chetco Effect. These winds helped fuel the Chetco Bar to become a substantial wildfire.

## CAN'T NEGLECT THE CHETCO EFFECT

The Wild and Scenic Chetco River Watershed is a wondrous anomaly...

An Un-Dammed Pacific Coast River with unparalleled salmon and steelhead runs? Check! A Wild and Scenic River with some of the clearest water on the planet? For sure! Remote rugged wildlands and forested headwaters in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area? Definitely!

While those marvels may have been what inspired generations of Oregonians to revere the Chetco, don't neglect the Chetco Effect. What is the Chetco Effect you say? The Chetco Effect is when inland high pressure creates extremely strong winds that race down the Chetco River Watershed and warm up as they get closer to the Ocean. It is a stunning phenomenon to witness. Camping near the Chetco Pass and seeing the winds rush down the wilderness canyon, literally creating their own weather, is an unforgettable sight.

### WITH WINDS COME FIRE

In the summer of 2017, a small wildfire in the Chetco River backcountry was stoked by the Chetco Effect into a major wildfire (called the Chetco Bar Fire) that was driven by extreme winds and responded with extreme fire behavior. No amount of "management" (or logging) could have prevented or altered this weather driven fire event. Indeed, the Chetco River forests are evolved to require and adapt to such fire events.

### WITH FIRE COMES LOGGING

Now the question is whether the world-class watershed and fisheries values of the Chetco Watershed will be tossed aside in a post-fire logging rush. Over 9,500-acres of private industrial timber lands have already been clearcut, and the Forest Service is proposing 4,000 acres of "salvage" logging and 13 miles of new logging roads. Stick with us to stand up for this special watershed!

# THE WILD ROGUE:

## *An Original Wild and Scenic Treasure*

**A river is a conduit for life.** Along the Rogue River, you'll find exceptional fisheries, magnificent birds, and amazing water quality. Fifty years ago, eight rivers in the U.S. were selected to become part of an elite group because of their outstanding Wild, Scenic, and Recreational values: the Salmon, Feather, Eleven Point, Rio Grande, Wolf, St. Croix, Clearwater, and Rogue. These were the



original rivers protected under the milestone Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968.

Our Rogue River has long been appreciated for its wildness. Dignitaries and celebrities floated its waters in the 1950s and 60s bringing it notoriety as a world class destination. It has been written about in the works of author Zane Grey and showcased in films like *The River Wild*. It is a river with a torrid past full of war, extraction, and abuse. Today it is a bastion of revival, dam removal, wilderness designations, restoration, and promise.

While we celebrate fifty years of protections for this Wild and Scenic river in our backyard, we must stay vigilant in protecting this place we hold so dear. The Rogue River is the lifeblood of southern Oregon. It is a driving force for our economy, drawing thousands of people a year to float its whitewater and fish for salmon and steelhead.

Rogue Riverkeeper Presents

16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
SYRCL'S **WILD & SCENIC** FILM FESTIVAL  
WHERE ACTIVISM GETS INSPIRED

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**11.9.2018**  
At The Historic Ashland Armory

**GROUNDWELL**

Senators Wyden and Merkley have introduced a bill that would increase the size of the current Rogue Wilderness, designate tributary streams as Wild and Scenic and create a 95,000-acre National Recreation Area. On top of this, the Oregon Wildlands Act would designate four other Wilderness Areas and Wild and Scenic rivers, protecting much loved waterways and wildlands throughout Oregon. The Wildlands Act includes the Mollala River, Devil's Staircase, Franklin and Wasson Creeks, as well as the mystical Elk and Chetco Rivers.

These special places deserve protection. Please show your support for our rivers and streams so that the people and fish have what they need now and into the future.

Sign your support for the Rogue and Oregon Wildlands Act: [www.wildrogueriver.org](http://www.wildrogueriver.org).



# Celebrate 50 Years of Wild & Scenic Rivers and the National Trails System

**Saturday June 16—Noon to 7pm**  
Valley of the Rogue State Park (I-5, Exit 45B)

Come join us for a **FREE** day of fun as we celebrate 50 years of Wild and Scenic Rivers and the National Trails System! Join federal agencies, conservation non-profits, local businesses, and your community for a day of fun and celebration at Valley of the Rogue State Park.

This family-friendly event is free and open to the public. There will be informational booths, food trucks, beer, wine, kids' activities, guest speakers, music, river trips and more! Come on out, join in the fun and celebrate our rivers and trails!

**Wild & Scenic RIVERS**  
**50 YEARS**  
**NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM**  
**50 YEARS**

*Celebrating 50 years of*  
Southwest Oregon's  
Wild & Scenic Rivers  
and  
National Trails System!  
**Free event!**  
when: June 16, 2018 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
where: Valley of the Rogue State Park  
#FindYourWay

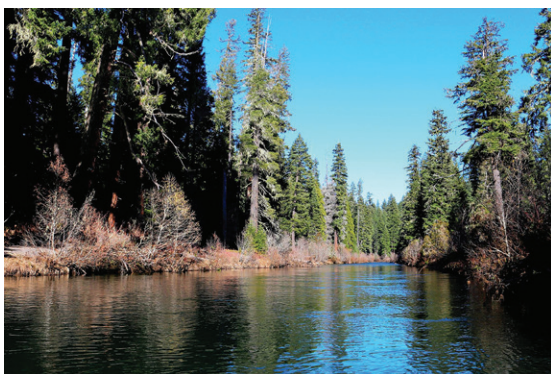
## Upper Rogue Trail Work Weekend!

**Saturday and Sunday, June 23-24: 9am—5pm**  
Hamaker Campground and the Upper Rogue River Trail

Join Rogue Riverkeeper and the High Cascades Ranger District Trail Crew for a weekend of trail work along the Wild and Scenic Upper Rogue River! The Upper Rogue gets very little recognition for its 40 miles of Wild and Scenic status designated in 1988. The Upper Rogue River Trail is in need of some TLC after winter.

Forest Service trail crews will give a short training each day on proper trail maintenance and etiquette. Tools will be provided but you are also welcome to bring your own. Please bring a lunch, water (we will have water as well), durable work clothes, closed-toed shoes, sunscreen and gloves.

Join us for a BBQ celebration Saturday night. Camping for the weekend is optional. Please RSVP at [www.rogueriverkeeper.org](http://www.rogueriverkeeper.org).





Holly Christiansen

# THREE DECADES OF RIVER DEFENSE

*A chat with KS Wild Staff Ecologist Rich Nawa*

**KS Wild:** How long have you lived in the Illinois Valley?

**Rich Nawa:** I moved to the Illinois Valley 26 years ago to work with the Siskiyou Project as Staff Ecologist. I live here still for friends and access to healthcare nearby, but mostly for the driving access to large wild areas, gorgeous views, and few people. The Illinois watershed has no dams and the fish are all wild – the water purity is remarkable. Cave Junction does not discharge treated sewage into Illinois as does every city in the Rogue Basin.

**KSW:** What was the biggest accomplishment for rivers while you were working for the Siskiyou Project?

**RN:** During a time of ongoing destruction of riparian habitat from agriculture and urbanization, we made some significant progress. The Siskiyou Project and others sued the Grants Pass irrigation district, which eventually forced them to remove the savage rapids dam on the Rogue, and then like dominoes, other dams started coming out as well. This was hugely beneficial to the river, having all the old dams removed from the mainstem.

**KSW:** What are some of the biggest changes in land management you have seen in the last three decades?

**RN:** Since the 1990's, the imminent threat of massive logging in roadless areas has diminished greatly. When I started working for the Siskiyou Project, clearcutting old growth on public lands was considered a legitimate practice by the agencies, but today old growth clear cutting is off limits except for old growth that has burned. Somehow the Forest Service finds this acceptable – we have a prime example right now, with plans for 2018 Chetco post-fire logging.

**KSW:** What are the most important things for our rivers from right now?

**RN:** Stopping the Pacific Gas Connector pipeline from being built across southern Oregon – this is huge. Also, after the recent ban on destructive motorized suction dredging was upheld in court, I continue to work for essential salmon habitat designation in important tributaries like Briggs Creek, Silver Creek, Canyon Creek, and the Little Chetco.

**KSW:** Can you tell us a fishing story from Oregon's "Wild River's Coast."

**RN:** I took a veteran fishing for his first time, and we saw a steelhead jump six times. Then, incredibly, he caught this 32-inch steelhead on his first cast. He realized how fortunate he was to bring in a big fish on his first cast, and now appreciates where he lives more.

**KSW:** If you could designate any river as Wild and Scenic, which would it be?

**RN:** West Fork Illinois River. It has pristine areas with large Cobra Lily ferns and rare plants adjacent to the river, very little destruction, and good swimming holes for family fun. The water clarity is amazing, with wild Steelhead, wild Chinook, wild Cutthroat, Pacific Lamprey, and Pond Turtles. A community of people, including one of our KS Wild board members, live along it and defend its integrity, reporting any abuses. I work with land managers to protect it from harmful activities such as logging, mining, and illegal water withdrawals.

**KSW:** For someone looking to explore more rivers in this region, what would you recommend?

**RN:** My top three spots; the confluence of the Forks of Blue on the Klamath, the Illinois River Canyon, and Silver Creek Canyon. The Siskiyou Mountain Club is the best source of hiking access to Kalmiopsis. The Wild Rivers District map is good, as well as hiking guidebook by Justin Rhode. The hike into biscuit hill via road 4402-112 to trail 1215 leads to an incredible ridge with panoramic views of some serious wild country. There are literally hundreds of such wilderness opportunities within an hour drive from Cave Junction. Many wannabe explorers underestimate the Siskiyoues and get their butts kicked – make sure to bring a compass and let people know where you are going!



# THE WILDEST OF THEM ALL?

## *Backpacking the Wild and Scenic Chetco River Is Not For the Faint of Heart*

There is no place like the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. The fascinating geology of this wild country intertwines with unique botanical values, evidenced by its namesake flower: the *Kalmiopsis leachiana*, which is found nowhere else in the world.

But for many backcountry explorers, the heart of the Kalmiopsis can be found in its Wild Rivers.

Both the Illinois River and the North Fork Smith River are renowned and beloved by those who have been lucky enough to float or hike them. But the Chetco River is perhaps the wildest, and most challenging, of them all. No matter how seasoned the hiker or hardened the kayaker, all those who have reached its azure waters deep in the Kalmiopsis can boast a story of adventure and challenge.



The backcountry of the Chetco River has also been the setting for significant conflict, as the desires of some to establish gold and nickel mines on these remote public lands has clashed with the world-class salmon runs and botanical areas that many others treasure.

While the Forest Service has largely walked away from maintaining the Kalmiopsis trail system, thanks to the hard work of volunteers with the Siskiyou Mountain Club, there is still a passable, but not easy, hiking route through the wilderness to the stunning canyons and rapids at the headwaters of the Chetco River.

The challenging backpack into the Chetco starts just outside the wilderness area at the Babyfoot Lake Trailhead, which was clearcut by the Forest Service following the 2002 Biscuit wildfire. The trail then follows the Chetco Rim south before following an old mining track west towards Bailey Mountain, eventually dropping sharply through a long hillside stretch of Kalmiopsis flowers to the confluence of Carter Creek and the mainstem Chetco River.

It is a rugged and challenging 10 miles just to reach the Chetco from the trailhead. Once there, the adventure, and the challenges, are just beginning. Otherworldly canyons and crystal clear pools can be found downstream, some require fording the river. Difficult upstream routes are possible to the Little Chetco and Fresno Creek. None of it is easy. All of it is rewarding. May the Chetco always remain Wild and Scenic.

# NEW ADDITIONS TO THE KS WILD FAMILY!

We are excited to announce the latest additions to the KS Wild Staff and Board:

## WELCOME TOMMY AND BRODIA TO THE STAFF!

Tommy Brown has adventured outside in forests, streams, and mountains his whole life. He studied geography and cartography at Appalachian State and West Virginia Universities where he took on the challenge communicating complex information in easy to understand maps and graphics. He enjoys whitewater kayaking, mountain biking, mushroom forays, and old growth trees. You can find him looking at clouds, weather models, or researching the latest digital communication strategies for KS Wild.



Brodia Minter has a JD with a certificate in sustainable environmental, energy, and resource law from Willamette University College of Law. She holds a BA in criminal justice from University of New Haven in Connecticut. Brodia has loved biodiverse forests and wildland critters her whole life. When not reading up on proposed agency actions, you can find her hiking ridge lines and summitting peaks in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, her favorite place on earth.



## WELCOME BONNIE TO THE BOARD!

Bonnie Johnson is active in conservation groups throughout the region, including Rogue Riverkeeper, Rogue Climate, and Soda Mountain Wilderness Council. Bonnie attended UC Berkeley and the University of Washington and earning Masters in Library Science. Her career included reference expertise in the environmental sciences. Bonnie served as an officer with local Sierra Club and League of Women Voters groups. She's an avid hiker, snowshoer, and civic activist.



## THANK YOU SHELLEY ELKOVICH!

Shelley Elkovich has been a KS Wild volunteer, long-time board member, and activist for the wild places in the Klamath-Siskiyou for nearly 20 years. She was instrumental in efforts to defend the wild Kalmiopsis from the Biscuit post-fire timber sale and has helped KS Wild immensely over the years. While she is looking forward to staying plugged into work to preserve the Klamath-Siskiyou, she is planning to focus on her writing full time.



A close-up photograph of a damselfly resting on a vibrant green leaf. The damselfly has a dark, almost black body with a prominent green stripe running down its side. Its wings are dark and have a fine, intricate pattern. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural, outdoor setting.

# SUPPORT KS WILD

# SUPPORT WILD RIVERS

Holly Christiansen

**This *KS Wild News* is our love letter to rivers.** The Klamath-Siskiyou is defined by wild rivers, with the distinction of having the highest concentration of Wild and Scenic Rivers in the U.S., outside of Alaska. These rivers are the lifeblood of our communities.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, **we honor the effort by tribes, communities, and river advocates who spent their lives protecting rivers they love.** More than 200 rivers have been designated as Wild and Scenic, which totals more than 12,700 river miles. It's an impressive number...until you realize that this only makes up about 0.3% of all river miles in the U.S. In contrast, more than 600,000 miles (17%) of rivers and streams are impounded by dams!

**Mining, industrial logging, and road building continue to pose a great risk to river health.** Wild and Scenic status protects the river channel and a quarter-mile on the river's banks. Outside of the river corridor for example, along the Rogue River, old-growth forests along tributaries feed the river with cool water. These forests are managed by the Bureau of Land Management and remain susceptible to industrial logging and road building in the Trump administration.

**The future of river conservation must extend beyond the riverbeds.** We need to advocate for the protection of our watersheds. Designations such as Wilderness and National Recreation Areas can go hand-in-hand with Wild and Scenic Rivers. KS Wild and partners are doing just that with a renewed campaign to protect old-growth forests and free-flowing tributaries of the Wild Rogue: [www.wildrogueriver.org](http://www.wildrogueriver.org).

**The future of our rivers is in our hands.** As our region experiences hotter and drier conditions with climate change, our rivers will play an ever-important role. Consider supporting KS Wild's efforts to protect cold streams and wild rivers in the Klamath-Siskiyou. Your contribution will go towards efforts like the Wild Rogue campaign, which would permanently protect our rivers and ancient forests for future generations to enjoy.



# PLEASE SUPPORT BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT US

Amy Schlotterback

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Wessler Design Associates Inc • Wild Rose Herbs • Wild Wines

## ***KS WILD MISSION***

*KS Wild's mission is to protect and restore wild nature in the Klamath-Siskiyou region of southwest Oregon and northwest California. We promote science-based land and water conservation through policy and community action.*

**KSWILD.ORG**

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Ashland, OR 97520

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info@kswild.org



**KS WILD ANNUAL DINNER**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6TH**

NEW LOCATION: THE ASHLAND HILLS HOTEL

[www.kswild.org](http://www.kswild.org)

[www.rogueriverkeeper.org](http://www.rogueriverkeeper.org)

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Cover: Kayakers on the Wild and Scenic Illinois River. Photo by George Sexton.

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