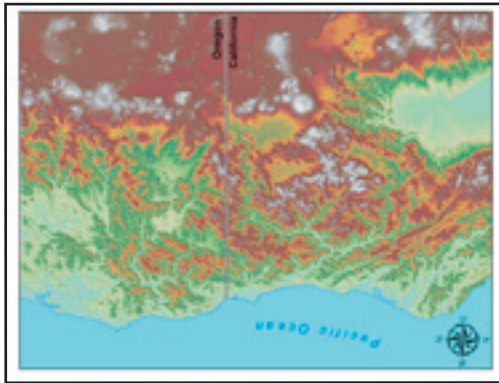




# KS WILD

Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
PO Box 332, Williams OR. 97544  
[www.kswild.org](http://www.kswild.org)

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*The Klamath-Siskiyou region is a world-renowned hub of biological diversity. From ancient old-growth forests to dry desert climate - and everything in between - the KS is a refuge for wild nature.*

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CHLORINE-FREE PAPER, WITH SOY-BASED INKS.

# KS WILD NEWS

The Journal of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
Fall 2008

## Forests Need Fire

*“Snags [dead trees] are key habitat for numerous species. They provide forage, cavities for nesting and protection, perch sites, and den sites. Snags are also an important structural component of a forest and large snags are considered to be one of the distinctive features of an old-growth forest.”*

**-Klamath National Forest**

**Inside: Northern California fires  
New Rogue Riverkeeper program  
The “Whopper” is here!  
Annual Dinner a wild success, and more...**

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KS News is produced  
by the KS Wild staff.

## THANKS FOR MAKING KS WILD'S ANNUAL DINNER A WILD SUCCESS!

On September 27, KS Wild hosted our 4th Annual Dinner with another sold-out crowd at the Historic Ashland Armory! Thanks to the businesses, farmers, vintners, cheese-makers, artists, cooks and volunteers who made the event such a grand success. KS Wild is deeply grateful to everyone who pitched in to make such a great night of celebration and community possible. See page 13 for a list of businesses, artists and farmers that support KS Wild - please support them and buy local!



## PATAGONIA'S WILD AND SCENIC ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

**Friday, November 7th at 6pm**  
**Congregational Church, 1801 E Jackson St., Medford**

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival *On Tour* brings together a selection of films from the nationally-recognized annual Patagonia film festival. The films include narratives from people around the world engaged in mobilizing communities to protect our natural resources and wild places. They also highlight the 'tipping points' that the planet is reaching, yet portray the 'turning of the tides' as communities realize and respond to these crises with creativity, resolve and heart. Read about the featured films: [www.kswild.org](http://www.kswild.org)

### 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.*

## MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS



Lesley Adams

### PLEASE SUPPORT THESE BUSINESSES BECAUSE THEY SUPPORT US:

Claudia Beausoleil Mediation, Contempl8 T-Shirts, Crystal Clear Satellite, Dan the Backhoe Man Excavation, Deluxe Awning Company, DeRiemer Adventure Kayaking, EcoTeas, Euro-Mek Auto Repair, Fourth Corner Fine Quilt Gallery, Freeburne's Honey, Full Circle Real Estate, Kalb Chiropractic, Morning Glory, Morningstar Healing Arts, MyCommunityMatters.net, Naturalyards, Northshore Productions, Northwest Biological Consulting, Pacific Domes, Quail Run Vineyard, Sunshine Natural Foods, Talent Cafe, The Manor Motel, Tree Star, Trillium Natural Foods, WCFL Insurance Services.

### THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS:

444S Foundation, Ashland Food Cooperative, Burning Foundation, Cereus Fund of the Trees Foundation, Deer Creek Foundation, Environment Now, Firedoll Foundation, Foundation for Deep Ecology, Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, J.W. and H.M. Goodman Family Charitable Foundation, Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation, Heller Charitable and Educational Fund, Jubitz Family Foundation, Kenney Watershed Foundation, Laird Norton Endowment Foundation, Maud T. Kernan Fund of McKenzie River Gathering, Giles and Elise Mead Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Outdoor Industry Conservation Alliance, Patagonia, Raynier Foundation and Institute, Sangham Foundation, Sperling Foundation, Tides Foundation, Weeden Foundation, Wilburforce Foundation.

**Cover Photo:** Mosaic fire effects two years after the 2002 Biscuit fire near the confluence of the Illinois River and Six Mile Creek. This is an area of the Biscuit fire that the U.S. Forest Service mapped as "severely burned." Photo by Rolf Skar.

## PLEASE JOIN KS WILD TODAY!

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

\$20     \$35     \$50     \$100     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

# THANKS FOR MAKING KS WILD'S ANNUAL DINNER A GRAND SUCCESS!

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Dagoba Chocolate, Eric Strong Furniture, Ex Officio, Geppetto's, Heart and Hands, Longsword Vineyard, Momentum River Expeditions, Nectar Eco Boutique, Opie Snow, Patagonia, Rogue Creamery, Siskiyou Crest Goat Dairy, Sweetgrass Natural Fibers, Tropical Salvage, Weisinger's of Ashland

## SPECIAL DONORS

Abbie Lane Farm, Amuse, Apple Cellar, Ashland Food Co-op, Ashland Custom Frame, Ashland Cycle Sport, Ashland Mountain Supply, Ashland Wine Cellars, Aubyn Heglie, Bamboo Revolution, Barking Moon Farm, Betty LaDuke, Black Diamond, Bejeweled by Blair, Bloomsbury Books, Blue Fox Farm, Blue Ribbon Shoe Service, Bohemia Gallery and Framing, Bonjour! Boutique, Bruce Barnes, Boone's Farm, Bugaboo, Cabaret Theatre, Café Mam, Canyon Way Bookstore and Restaurant, Crystal McMahan, C'est La Vie Inn, Brian Dadisman, Dansko, Deborah Fox, Devitt Winery, Downtowne Coffee, Eagle Creek Travel Gear, Eagle Optics, EMZ Blendz Shop, Fiasco Winery, Fry Family Farm, Full Circle Bison Ranch, Gallerie Karon, Gathering Glass Studio, Goodwyn Creek Gardens, Greenleaf, Herb Pharm, Home Power, Horizon Herbs, Inti Imports, Jacksonville Vineyards, Jahfirm Sound Productions, Jane Hardgrove, Jefferson State Financial, John Berton, Karaina Black, Kirby Hill, Kokatat, Lesley Moehle, Looking Glass Beads and Jewelry, Louisa Lenz-Porter, Luna and Larry's Coconut Bliss, Maggie's Organics, Magnolia Grill, Mary Reynolds, Meadowlark Family Farm, Mori Ink, Naturals of Ashland, Nature Spirit Herbs, Nimbus, Northwest Nature Shop, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Paddington Station, Panache, Pangea, Passionfruit Jewelry, Paula Fong, Phoenix Organics, Pickled Planet, Plant Oregon Nursery, Prana, Queen of Hearts, Reclamation Goods, Rising Phoenix Biofuels, Rising Sun Jewelry and Gems, Rogue Valley Runners, Rose Elkovich, Rowan Heglie, Ruff Wear, Runnymede Farm, Sandy Bar Nursery, Sea Stone Cottages, Scott Harding Photo, Shypoke Vineyard, Soundpeace, Southern Oregon Mediation, Sunday Afternoons, Standing Stone Brewing, Thermal Tracker Paragliding, Thompson Creek Organics, Tofu Shop, Tracie Sage, Trees of Antiquity, Upper Rogue Organics, Valley View Nursery, Whistling Duck Farm, Wild Wines, Wildflower Grill and Wolf Gulch

## SPECIAL THANKS

Kate Dwyer Catering, Mary Driver, Derek Volkart, The Mighty Lonesomes, Becky Gyarmathy, Roxy Hills, Duane Martinez, Tom Peil, Aubyn, Rowan and Jeff Heglie, Stella and Frank Bungay, Michelle Adams, Max and Bronson Samel-Garloff, Anna Boyd, Christina Kleiman, Crystal McMahan, Kathleen Maloney, Sam Whitridge, Will Sears, Regina Castellon, Kat Smith, Deborah Fox, Holly Christiansen, Jen Gannett, Michael Moss, Sarah Elvington, Duncan Hightower, Savel Sabol, Spindle, Geronimo, Sprig, Autumn, Melyn, Silas, Brenda Jackson, Erika Geisen, Danielle Mancuso, Lauren Taylor, Mike Albers, Patrick Dunn, Scott Russell and everyone that attended.

# KS WILD INTRODUCES ROGUE RIVERKEEPER

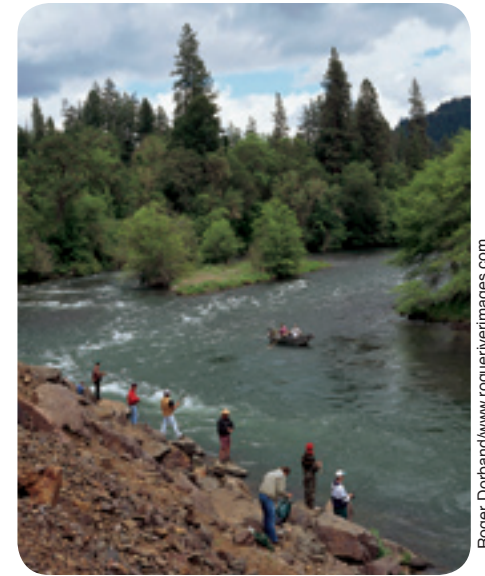
For ten years, KS Wild has been a leader in public lands and wildlife advocacy. Part of our success is based upon our readiness to strategically evaluate and adapt our approach to address the most pressing ecological issues. In 2008, we identified a big gap in aquatic advocacy; there is virtually no public oversight for Clean Water Act implementation and enforcement on the Rogue River. Several excellent entities do monitoring, environmental education and fish passage advocacy, but in the absence of vigilant public oversight, the government has done little to enforce vital water laws. We saw the need, and we took action.

In June, the Waterkeeper Alliance, an international network of water advocates, approved KS Wild as the Rogue Riverkeeper. Lesley Adams, who has served as KS Wild's Outreach Director for the past five years, is transitioning into the new position of Rogue Riverkeeper. Laurel Sutherland was hired as our Grassroots Organizer to take over outreach and organizing responsibilities.

Public trust waters are among our most valuable natural resources, and the Clean Water Act's provisions for public involvement are critical to the implementation of this cornerstone environmental law. The Clean Water Act itself does not ensure clean water. The law depends on an informed, engaged public to speak up for clean water. The Rogue Riverkeeper will work to protect and restore water quality and quantity in the Rogue and its tributaries by engaging and activating river-users, demanding enforcement of water laws and building a groundswell of community support for, and insistence upon, the protection of this outstanding natural resource.

## HELP JUMP-START ROGUE RIVERKEEPER!

The Sangham Foundation generously provided seed money to jump-start KS Wild's Rogue Riverkeeper program. They have also pledged to match all Riverkeeper donations up to \$15,000. Please consider donating generously to this fledgling program to help protect the Rogue River, as we will actually receive double the amount that you are able to give! Send checks, clearly marked for Rogue Riverkeeper, to KS Wild, P.O. Box 332, Williams, Oregon 97544.



*WATER-WE ALL NEED IT: The Rogue Riverkeeper program will keep an eagle eye on river polluters, help enforce water laws, and work to protect and restore water quality and native fish populations.*

Roger Dorband/www.rogueiverimages.com

# NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FOREST FIRE UPDATE

If you live in the Klamath-Siskiyou then you have been smelling smoke all summer. Dozens of lightning started fires have been burning in the backcountry. Some of the largest include the Blue Fire and Siskiyou Complex in the Six Rivers National Forest, and the Lime and Iron Complex in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.



www.scotthardingphoto.com

*FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN: A lightning storm on June 21, 2008 started hundreds of fires in northern California, including this fire on the Salmon River.*

If history is any guide, then it is almost certain that the Forest Service will propose widespread clearcutting of these forests after the smoke clears. KS Wild continues to stay abreast of emerging fire science and uses it to encourage federal agencies to manage our public resources in the most ecologically responsible manner possible.

## NOT ALL FIRES ARE EQUAL

Many of the fires have been burning in the backcountry, far away from homes and communities, in forests that have literally evolved to require fire as a necessary element of forest health. The long absence of fire from these forests - due to Forest Service fire-suppression - can change the tree species composition by allowing young flammable true-fir species to encroach on forest stands that were once dominated by large fire-resistant pine trees. Fire often helps keep these forests in a more natural and resilient condition by burning out encroaching underbrush and ladder fuels while sparing fire-adapted old-growth trees. Even the patches of large trees that are killed by fire make important contributions to forest health by providing wildlife habitat, building soils and adding woody structure to salmon-bearing creeks and streams.

While lightning storms ignited all of this summer's fires in northern California, not all of the acres burned naturally. The majority of land burned in these fires is the result of Forest Service "burnout" operations whereby the agency attempts to deprive a fire of its fuel source by torching off large swaths of forests in the fire's path. Often the burnouts are ignited by dropping napalm-like clusters of ping-pong balls filled with accelerant on the forest from airplanes or helicopters. Many times the Forest Service burnout results in much more forest mortality than the initial lightning-strike fire, which often burns in a mosaic of low, medium and high intensity. In the Blue Fire (Six Rivers National Forest) the Forest Service recently conducted burnout operations in the High Siskiyou Wilderness Area and in salmon-bearing watersheds over the strenuous objection of Karuk tribal members who have managed those forests with prescribed fire for centuries.

# WHERE TO MOTORIZE, AND NOT

The Rogue River/Siskiyou National Forest is an exceptional piece of America's natural legacy. The forest encompasses 1.8 million acres from the Cascade crest, to the diverse Siskiyou Mountains and nearly out to the Pacific ocean. Unfortunately, the Rogue River/Siskiyou is under threat from unmanaged off-road vehicles (ORVs), which cause erosion, watershed and habitat degradation, long-term detrimental impacts to wildlife and cultural resources, and the disruption of peaceful, non-motorized activities. The Rogue River/Siskiyou National Forest is currently undergoing a Travel Management Planning process, whereby the Forest determines which parts of our public lands will remain open to motorized recreation, and which will be closed. The Rogue River/Siskiyou is proposing high quality habitat and recreation areas for motorized recreation, including roadless areas, popular trails (see page 11) and sensitive botanical areas. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the Forest Service to hear from you! Visit [www.kswild.org/ForestWatch/orvs](http://www.kswild.org/ForestWatch/orvs) and take action today.



George Sexton

## FOCUS ON OUR KS WILD FAMILY

### LAUREL SUTHERLIN

KS Wild is happy to announce the latest addition to our staff: longtime supporter, volunteer and former Board Member, Laurel Sutherlin. Laurel has spent more than a decade in the Klamath-Siskiyou region developing environmental education programs, surveying for the Klamath Bird Observatory and inspiring grassroots campaigns to protect forests and the critters that call them home. Laurel was hired in September as our Grassroots Organizer to help build our movement toward a new era of environmental stewardship.



### GREY HECHT

We not only added to staff this fall, but we are pleased to welcome Grey Hecht as our newest member of the KS Wild Board of Directors. Grey has lived in southern Oregon for more than 11 years with his wife and two sons. Grey currently lives on his farm in Talent, is a green home builder and has worked on restoration projects in Maui for more than a decade. In addition to being actively involved in community projects like the Siskiyou School expansion, Grey is an avid outdoorsman who has hiked and floated many a miles of the Klamath-Siskiyou region and beyond.

## FEATURED HIKE: COOK AND GREEN

The Siskiyou Crest is a rugged mountain range that rises more than 7,000 feet between the Klamath and Rogue River watersheds. As an east-west migration wildlife route, and the nexus of several geological anomalies, the Siskiyou Crest offers breathtaking views and a botanical paradise. There are several trails that one can take up either the Klamath or Rogue side, and the Cook and Green Trail is one that will leave you breathless, and likely speechless.



Joseph Vaile

*WEeping SPRUCE: Also known as Brewer spruce, this conifer, which is native only to the Klamath-Siskiyou, lives at high elevations and requires a steady source of snowmelt through the summer. Scientists predict this rare tree will suffer from the effects of climate change.*

Cook and Green is northeast of the Red Buttes Wilderness, south of the Applegate Reservoir. You can tour creek canyons and discover some of the unique plant communities that make the Siskiyou Mountains famous. Once you reach the Crest you can scramble up red rock peaks, side-trip on the Pacific Crest Trail, or soak up quiet time at Echo Lake. Get maps and a guide book before heading out.

**ORVs ON COOK AND GREEN?** All National Forests are undergoing a “Travel Management Planning” process to determine which roads remain open to motorized recreation and which will be closed (see page 12). The Cook and Green Trail is currently being considered as a designated route for ORV use. This is an important time for the Forest Service to hear from you that the Cook and Green Trail should be closed to motorized recreation. Visit [www.kswild.org/ForestWatch/orvs](http://www.kswild.org/ForestWatch/orvs) and take action today.

## OREGON TREASURES THWARTED

It was just over a year ago that KS Wild helped bring together business and conservation interests to help protect two of Oregon’s natural treasures: the Oregon Caves and the Wild Rogue River. In this short time, the outpouring of support has been spectacular. In June, legislation was introduced in both chambers of the U.S. Congress and a hearing was held in September in the U.S. House of Representatives. This momentum demonstrates the strength in communities joining together to garner the attention of elected leaders and persuade them to act on behalf of the environment. Unfortunately, Senator Gordon Smith is blocking increased protections for Oregon’s Treasures, making it unlikely that the legislation will become law this year. KS Wild and our allies will continue this effort in 2009 and are confident we will secure protections for these special places. Please contact Senator Smith and ask that he support protections for the Rogue River and Oregon Caves. Senator Gordon Smith: 541-608-9102; <http://gsmith.senate.gov/webform.htm>.

Another Forest Service activity that has resulted in increased fire behavior is the clearcutting of old-growth stands, which are then replaced by dense, young fiber plantations in which fire spreads quickly. Fiber plantations almost always burn at a stand replacing severity. As an example, following the Timbered Rock fire on Medford BLM land, the post-fire report indicated that 100% of plantations in the fire burned at a stand replacing intensity. By contrast, less than 10% of the old-growth stands in the fire were killed.



George Sexton

*PLANTATIONS BURN HOT: Klamath National Forest plantation killed by fire. Note the green old-growth in the background.*

## A PRELUDE TO CLEARCUTTING

While ecologists praise the role of wildfire in creating stand diversity and forest health, the timber industry views this summer’s fires as a political opportunity to press for clearcut logging on otherwise protected public lands. Longtime KS Wild supporters may remember that following the massive Forest Service burnout operations in the 2002 Biscuit Fire, the timber industry logged thousands of acres within the fire perimeter that had been set aside as old-growth reserves, inventoried roadless wildlands and botanical areas. They even “accidentally” logged within the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area.

The political drumbeat to exploit the California fires of 2008 as a way to increase clearcutting of fragile post-fire ecosystems has already begun. George W. Bush flew into Redding, California to use the fires on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest as photo-op to promote his logging agenda. Do you recall the last forest fire that attracted a visit from George Bush? The Biscuit Fire, after which the Forest Service proposed the largest old-growth clearcutting timber sale in modern history.

## LEARNING FROM THE PAST

While the timber industry and their allies in the White House see the post-fire forests of Northern California as merely a piggy-bank to be raided, fire ecologists are starting to get the word out about the forest health benefits of fire. Dr. Chad Hanson of the John Muir Project and Northwest Forest Plan author Dr. Jerry Franklin have identified un-logged recently burned forests as one of the rarest, and most biologically diverse, ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest.

Until recently, the Forest Service often attempted to justify the clearcutting of burned forests by referencing the danger of “re-burn” of fire-affected forests. Then in 2007, Oregon State University published a study indicating that previously burned stands that had been logged and replaced with fiber plantations were much more likely to burn at stand replacing severity than were previously burned stands that were allowed to recover naturally. **Check out reports referenced here and other fire science at: [www.kswild.org/fire](http://www.kswild.org/fire).**

## KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST BACKS OFF SALVAGE LOGGING, FOR NOW...

For the past year, KS Wild has been working to protect post-fire old-growth stands above the salmon-bearing tributaries of the Klamath River from Forest Service logging plans. Following Forest Service “burnout” operations in the summer of 2007, the Klamath National Forest immediately proposed to clearcut recovering forests on extremely steep slopes in the Little Grider and Independence Creek watersheds. These streams provide outstanding salmon habitat and quality recreational opportunities - values that would have been jeopardized if the forests had been clearcut and converted into fiber plantations.



George Sexton

*FIELD CHECKING: While the trunks of the old-growth trees are blackened, the canopy is alive and green.*

### HARD WORK PAYS OFF

KS Wild wasn't going to let the Forest Service trash these special watersheds without a fight. Immediately following the fires we began to “groundtruth” the proposed salvage logging units to document the irreplaceable fisheries and wildlife values that would be harmed by the proposed logging.

One of the things we discovered was that the aerial mapping relied on by the Forest Service to identify “dead” stands for logging was inaccurate. The agency had brought in an inexperienced employee from Alaska to fly over the forest and look for snags (dead trees) to clearcut. The employee, unfamiliar with Klamath-Siskiyou fire behavior, mistakenly selected hundreds of acres of forest for clearcutting despite the fact that the old-growth overstory of most units was alive and green.

KS Wild submitted detailed technical comments establishing the scientific basis for natural recovery of fire-affected forests. We also worked collaboratively with the Forest Service to identify opportunities for thinning fiber plantations and fire suppressed small trees prior to wildfires occurring. The combination of field-work, commenting and collaboration paid off, and the Forest Service agreed to throw in the towel on these two ill-conceived timber sales and work with us on legitimate forest health projects instead.

Unfortunately, there are many powerful lobbyists in the timber industry who really don't like the idea of the Forest Service working with KS Wild to protect post-fire ecosystems while thinning small diameter green trees. Look for the timber industry to pull out all the stops to promote salvage clearcutting in 2009. And watch KS Wild take it on.

## BLM PROPOSES OLD-GROWTH LOGGING AGAIN, AND AGAIN...

The Medford BLM is once again planning a massive industrial timber sale in the remaining pockets of southern Oregon's old growth forests. This latest assault, the Wolf Pup project, proposes to log over 2,000 acres of healthy, fire resilient forest in the beautiful Wolf Creek and Graves Creek watersheds.

The logging would occur within stream-side riparian reserves, and within forests designated as critical habitat for the threatened Northern spotted owl. Winter steelhead and Coho salmon rely on the clean, clear water produced by the intact ancient forest now in jeopardy from chainsaws.

528 acres of the proposed logging consists of “regeneration harvest” in which native old-growth ecosystems are clear cut and converted into dense young fiber plantations.

Typically, the BLM includes at least a cover story of restoration or fire hazard reduction to legitimize a project of this magnitude. But this time the BLM has made it clear that maximizing timber volume is the sole driving purpose of this sale.

The BLM proposes over three miles of new road construction, which would further fragment habitat and bleed sediment into creeks. Road building introduces invasive non-native species and is detrimental for soils, wildlife, water and big trees.

Even the timber planners in the BLM now acknowledge that fire hazard increases when the agency cuts down an ancient forest and replaces it with tightly spaced second-growth. Yet the BLM refuses to learn from its past mistakes and continues to propose timber sales that decrease forest resiliency and increase fire hazard. Rather than create new matchstick fiber farms, the BLM should focus on thinning existing plantations near communities to reduce fire risk. Thinning fire-suppressed forests and reintroducing fire through controlled burning would go a long way toward making these forests more resilient as we enter an era of climate change.

KS Wild continues to keep an eagle eye on the Medford BLM's logging plans. You can view BLM maps and documents detailing this proposed project from a link on our website: [www.kswild.org](http://www.kswild.org).



George Sexton

*TARGETING OUR LEGACY: Despite overwhelming public opinion that old-growth should not be logged, the Medford BLM continues to schedule our natural heritage for the chopping block.*

# COLLABORATION CORNER

It might surprise people to learn that advancing restoration goals on federal land often leads KS Wild to work with timber companies and small scale timber contractors. We engage diverse interests in groups with obscure names like the Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative and the Josephine County Stewardship Contracting Group. Here is what our collaboration effort has been up to:



Joseph Valle

*SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL: Jack Leroy, the operator on the Lazy Lightening small diameter timber sale on the High Cascades District of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.*

## HIGH ON THE CASCADES

One exciting project that has caught our attention is on the High Cascades Ranger District of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. The Young Managed Stands project would thin 30-60 year old plantations across more than 10,000 acres near Prospect.

In order to develop a project that is both economically viable and ecologically desirable, collaborative partners are grappling with issues such as the types and sizes of trees to cut, which trees to leave behind and which logging methods to employ. For example, helicopter logging is prohibitively expensive, but it does little damage to the soil. On the other hand, tractor logging is cheaper, but leads to erosion and damage to streams.

## OH DEER, WILLY

While more often than not we find ourselves on the opposite sides of the battle over old-growth forests, KS Wild has to commend the Medford BLM for the recently announced Deer Willy project. This is an innovative approach to managing hazardous fuels along roads while strictly targeting small diameter trees for removal. The focus of the fuel treatments within 200-feet of existing roads could greatly decrease the cost of fuels reduction.

Deer Willy includes 4,571 acres of strategic roadside and ridgeline fuel hazard treatments, road maintenance, and 400 acres of Port-Orford cedar (POC) treatment. POC is an endemic species that only occurs in northwest California and southwest Oregon and has been decimated by a non-native root disease.

Because the Deer Willy area is a designated Old-Growth Reserve, several measures are proposed to ensure that the project is purely focused on forest restoration. Namely, the project will have a diameter limit placed on the size of trees to be cut so that only small trees are the target of thinning operations.

# LOGGING PLAN SUSPENDED

## CALIFORNIA PAUSES TO LOOK AT CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

On September 5, the comment deadline for the Walla Walla Timber Harvest Plan (THP) expired. Regular readers may recall that addressing the Walla Walla plan has been a top priority for KS Wild's industrial timber monitoring program.

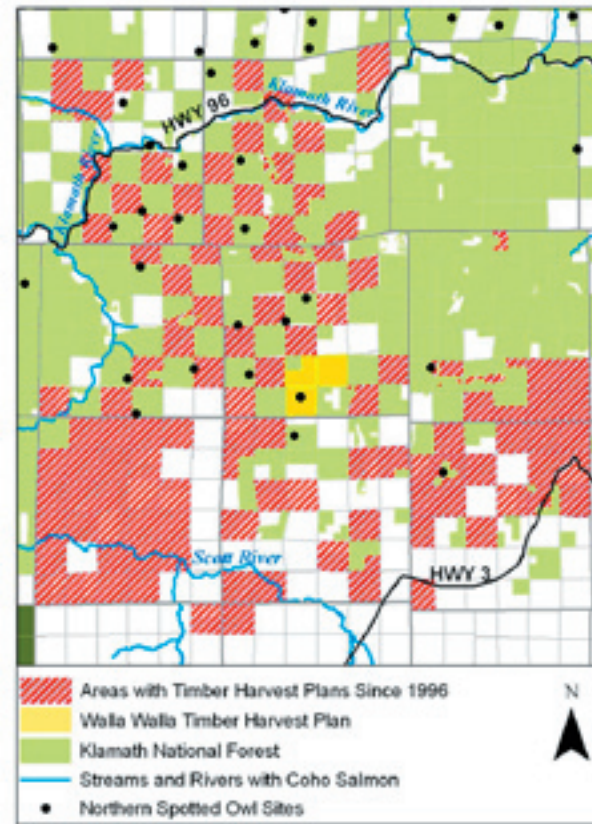
The Walla Walla THP sits northwest of Fort Jones, California in the Scott Bar Mountains. The Plan was delayed for several years after a nesting pair of spotted owls was discovered by chance during the state's pre-harvest inspection. These owls had somehow evaded detection despite landowner Fruit Growers Supply (FGS) allegedly diligent survey work.

Close review of the THP by KS Wild revealed that FGS's cumulative impacts analysis for spotted owls was limited to an assessment area of 1.3 miles – as though owls never traveled further than 1.3 miles from their nests.

By expanding the review of THPs to just the surrounding townships, a rough 9-mile radius, we discovered that 53% of the sections containing private land have been logged in just the past ten years.

There is also a high density of spotted owl activity sites – 20 in the nine-township area, and of Pacific fisher – 24 sightings according to the California Department of Fish and Game. The Pacific fisher is not once mentioned in the 200 page harvest plan.

After reviewing our comments, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has moved the project off timeline and demanded additional cumulative effects analysis from FGS. While the ill-starred project is currently indefinitely on hold, it could be restarted on short notice whenever FGS completes its response to the cumulative impacts questions our comments raised. Whenever this occurs, and whatever Cal Fire determines, KS Wild will be prepared.



Joseph Valle

# THE "WHOPPER" IS HERE!

The BLM just released its Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR). Since the Bush administration first announced it would revise the plans for 2.6 million acres of Bureau of Land Management forests in western Oregon, reactions have been fairly constant: the timber industry loves it, and everyone else hates it.



## THE BUSH LAND MANAGEMENT LEGACY

When the BLM released the WOPR draft plan in 2007, 30,000 people commented; over 90% asked the BLM to save the remaining older forests, protect clean drinking water, and concentrate forest management on restoration and thinning small trees to protect communities from wildfire. The BLM ignored this common ground, common sense approach to forest management.

*TREASURE CHEST: Old-growth forests provide vital services such as water filtration, fish and wildlife habitat and climate regulation. Moon Prairie, east of Ashland.*

## MORE OF THE SAME

The final plan will mirror the draft in most regards. It will: 1) remove BLM forests from the scientific framework of the Northwest Forest Plan; 2) ramp up clearcut logging across hundreds of thousands of acres; 3) remove streamside buffers that protect clean water and fish; and 4) log some of the last remaining older forests in western Oregon.

## BY THE NUMBERS

The WOPR will: increase logging by nearly 400% compared to current logging levels; get over 70% of the timber volume from clearcutting; shrink streamside reserves by 50%; add 180 million tons more carbon to the atmosphere compared to no logging (equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions from 1 million cars driven for 132 years) and result in 1,300 miles of new roads.

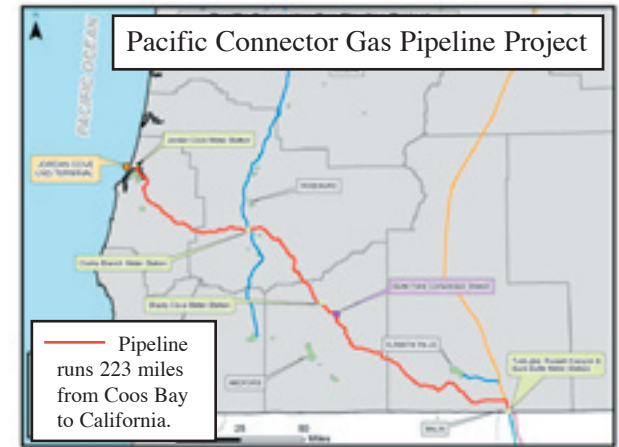
## TAKE ACTION TODAY!

The Final Plan outlines a destructive management strategy that KS Wild and our allies will continue to challenge, but we need your help. Under law, Governor Kulongoski is allowed a 60-day consistency review. It is imperative that the governor hears from you today! **Please contact Governor Kulongoski and ask that he help protect all of Oregon's remaining public old-growth. 503.378.4582. 160 State Capitol, 900 Court St., Salem, Oregon 97301-4047; [www.governor.state.or.us](http://www.governor.state.or.us). Visit [www.kswild.org](http://www.kswild.org) for more information and talking points.**

# FEDS RELEASE PLAN FOR LNG

PUBLIC COMMENTS ACCEPTED THROUGH DECEMBER 4TH

In September, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project in southwest Oregon. FERC is acting on a proposal submitted by energy companies that would like to import more foreign fossil fuels at the expense of the environment, private property and national security.



The Jordan Cove proposal would build a LNG port in Coos Bay and a 223-mile pipeline across Coos, Douglas, Jackson and Klamath counties to serve the voracious California market. The pipeline would cross two mountain ranges, five major rivers (including the Rogue) and hundreds of streams containing imperiled salmon. It would cross 72 miles of public forests, clearcutting hundreds of acres of reserves for endangered species and condemn private property. But perhaps the core issue is that we should not increase our dependence on unstable foreign governments for more global warming fossil fuels. It is time to fully invest in green energy. LNG is just a scheme for big companies to get richer at the expense of our atmosphere and our communities.

**TAKE ACTION:** FERC is accepting public comments through December 4. Please take a few minutes to weigh in on this important topic. Visit [www.nocaliforniapipeline.com](http://www.nocaliforniapipeline.com), [www.ingpollutes.org](http://www.ingpollutes.org) and [www.kswild.org/ForestWatch/Ing](http://www.kswild.org/ForestWatch/Ing).

## COUNTY PAYMENTS PASSES

BAILOUT PROMPTS CONGRESS TO ACT FOR RURAL COUNTIES

In early October, the world watched as the U.S. Congress bailed out a hemorrhaging Wall Street in an historic governmental intervention. Less known was that the Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act, also known as "county payments," was attached to the bailout. Originally passed in 2000, the law authorized funds for rural counties that were dependent on logging public lands to maintain libraries, law enforcement and other public services. The law expired in 2006, and the Oregon delegation has been working tirelessly to renew it, under nearly insurmountable opposition. In all, payments go to 700 counties in 39 states, with the majority in the West. This four year extension of county payments offers Western Oregon counties an opportunity to wean off federal payments and develop a sustainable economy. Please contact Governor Kulongoski today (see page 7).