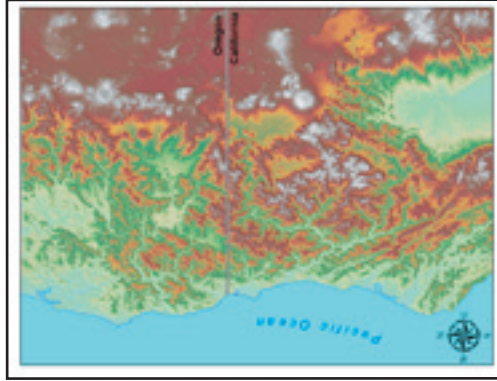




KS WILD

Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
PO Box 332, Williams OR. 97544
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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Cover Photo: Unit 6-4 of the Upper East Kelsey Timber Sale, canceled in October 2008 due to the vigilance of KS Wild. The sale would have logged old-growth and built roads into the Zane Grey roadless area. Photo by George Sexton.

KS WILD NEWS

The Journal of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Winter 2009



The Tenacity of Hope

Victory for the Zane Grey Roadless Area
Oregon's BLM forests and Bush's legacy
Update on Travel Management Planning
Winter Hikes, Films, and more...

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KS News is produced
by the KS Wild staff.

WINTER HIKE SERIES

January 24: Sterling Ditch Trail, Little Applegate Valley. This wonderful, low-elevation trail travels through a diverse array of ecosystems.

February 21: Siskiyou Crest Snow Shoe! Join us for an adventurous day snow shoeing behind Mt. Ashland.

March 21: Mule Mountain, Applegate Valley. This is the perfect place to find the first wildflowers of the season!

Carpool meets 10am at Evo's Cafe in Ashland (376 East Main). For the 1/24 and 3/21 hikes we will also meet at 10:45am at the Country Store in Ruch (7350 Highway 238). We hike in light rain, but will cancel for severe weather. Bring food, water, warm clothes, sturdy shoes, rain gear and binoculars if you have them! Please RSVP to laurel@kswild.org or call 488-5789.

WINTER FILM SERIES

January 15: HEAT: A documentary on climate change
A PBS Frontline global investigation into one of the greatest crises mankind has ever faced. Ashland Public Library (410 Siskiyou Blvd.), 7pm.

February 13: A Snowmobile for George
A rambunctious road trip that collects the stories of fishermen, cowboys and firemen who have to face the consequences of environmental de-regulation by the Bush Administration. Ashland Public Library, 7pm.

March 27: Patagonia's Film Festival
A selection of films from Patagonia's Wild and Scenic Film Festival shown at the Congregational Church in Ashland (717 Siskiyou Blvd), 7pm.

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

VOLUNTEERS AND COLLABORATORS: Ralph Bloemers, David Calahan, Cascadia Wildlands Project, Holly Christiansen, Roger Dorband, Marianne Dugan, Francis Eatherington, EPIC, Kyle Haines, Lyndia Hammer, Melanie Jessee, James Johnston, Andy Kerr, Steve Lanusse, Spencer Lennard, Sally Mackler, Erin Madden, Duane Martinez, Malena Marvin, Beverly Moore, Benji Nagel, Rich Nawa, Oregon Wild, Oregon Sierra Club, Savol, Stephanie Parent, Tim Ream, Red Buttes Wilderness Council, Liza Tran, Barbara Ullian, Greg Walter, Sarah Wilson & many others.

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Adams Chiropractic, Ashland Food Cooperative, Blue Ribbon Shoe Service, The Book Exchange, Contempl8 T-Shirts, Crown Woodworks, Dan the Backhoe Man Excavation, Carlos Delgado, Architect, Cold Creek Inn, Crystal Clear Satellite, Dagoba Chocolate, Deluxe Awning Company, Downtowne Coffeehouse, EcoTeas, Euro-Mek Foreign Auto Repair, Evo's Coffee Lounge, Fourth Corner Fine Quilt Gallery, Full Circle Real Estate, Get in Gear, Greenleaf Restaurant, Herb Pharm, Jefferson State Financial, Jega Gallery & Sculpture Garden, Jerry Nutter Residential Builder, KenCairnLandscape.com, Master Craft Wood Floors, Mihama Teriyaki Grill, Morning Glory, Morningstar Healing Arts, Naturalyards, Northwest Nature Shop, On Purpose, Pacific Domes, Patagonia, Plant Oregon, Quail Run Vineyard, Rising Phoenix Biofuels, Southern Oregon Mediation Center, Eric Strong Furniture, Sunday Afternoons, Sunshine Natural Foods, The Manor Motel, Tree Star, Trillium Natural Foods, Video Explorer, WCFL Insurance Services.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS: 444S Foundation, Ashland Food Cooperative, Bullitt Foundation, Burning Foundation, Cereus Fund of the Trees Foundation, Deer Creek Foundation, Environment Now, Firedoll Foundation, Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation, Heller Charitable and Educational Fund, Jubitz Family Foundation, Kenney Watershed Foundation, Maud T. Kernan Fund, Laird Norton Endowment Foundation, Lazar Foundation, McKenzie River Gathering Foundation, Giles and Elise Mead Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Outdoor Industry Conservation Alliance, Patagonia, Raynier Foundation and Institute, Sangham Foundation, Sperling Foundation, Weeden Foundation, Wilburforce Foundation.

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 \$ _____

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

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

FOCUS ON OUR KS WILD FAMILY

GREEN STURGEON (*ACIPENSER MEDIROSTRIS*)

Green sturgeon are among the largest and longest living species found in freshwater, living up to 70 years and weighing up to 350 pounds. They are truly a prehistoric creature, possessing a skeleton that is more cartilage than bone and rows of bony plates for protection rather than scales. Since the age of the dinosaurs, green sturgeon have roamed the inshore bays and major rivers of the West Coast, remaining almost entirely unchanged in their appearance for more than 200 million years. Until recently, green sturgeon migrated in huge numbers, but now they are slipping quietly towards the brink of extinction. The American Fisheries Society recently released a status review that concludes that the species has declined by 88% throughout most of its range.



ODFW

Green sturgeon are anadromous; they live much of the time in marine waters, but return to freshwater rivers to spawn. This species only spawns in three rivers in the world: the Rogue, Klamath and Sacramento. The largest threat to green sturgeon is an almost total lack of information regarding their behavior, life history, and migratory patterns. Decisive action must be taken to preserve the quality and abundance of cold, clean water in the rivers that this species depends on for survival.

The southern population of green sturgeon is listed as “threatened” on the Endangered Species Act and the northern population is a “species of concern.” The Rogue River-keeper program advocates for habitat protection for the southern population in the Coos Bay estuary, which is threatened by the proposed LNG project, as well as for monitoring the northern population in the Rogue Basin.

GARY POWELL



Those of you in the Ashland area may be familiar with a friendly and energetic fellow knocking on your door for KS Wild. That friend of the Klamath-Siskiyou is our star door canvasser, Gary Powell. For more than two years, Gary has tirelessly walked in the heat, the rain and the cold to talk with community members about the conservation work of KS Wild. He has helped to build our membership, distribute our newsletters and inspire people to take action on a variety of issues such as supporting restoration, opposing road-building projects and encouraging the Governor to reject the BLM’s WOPR. We are grateful and lucky to have Gary on the team!

A NEW HORIZON

For years those of us who prioritize environmental protection have been compelled to play defense, and, like a frustrated gardener constantly battling weeds and pests, we might have difficulty remembering what it’s like to sow seeds and reap the harvest.



Clay Bennett

“We’ve come to help you pack.”

The historic elections this past November leave us tantalized at our opportunities.

A party that has made resource extraction a cornerstone of its platform and ridiculed the environmental movement at every opportunity has lost the White House and suffered heavy losses in the federal Congress. In particular, Senators Stevens, Craig and Smith will need to find a new way to bedevil the environmental community; like Richard Pombo in the last cycle, they have lost their jobs. At the same time, Oregon democrats picked up several seats in both state houses.

These changes in political leadership present us with new opportunities. Many of these new public servants will not be as hostile as the politicians they replace. However, we must guard against under-reaching. At both the federal and state level, legislators have not yet realized the power they possess to move environmentally friendly legislation forward. They fear backlash, and frankly don’t hear from enough conservation-minded constituents to prioritize environmental protection.

The Oregon legislature has placed a high priority on education, the economy, health care and energy issues; surely in times like these such priorities are well chosen. They have not, however, placed a high priority on environmental reform. Peter Buckley plans to introduce a common-sense Environmental Policy Act for Oregon – Washington and California already have one – but without constituent support he has little chance of getting it passed. If Peter is your representative, call him and voice your support and enthusiasm - if he is not, call your representative and demand action.

The federal level may have more hope for quicker action. The change from President Bush to President Obama will likely wreak huge changes in policy at the EPA, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife and (hopefully) the BLM. Talk of fixing the holes that the Supreme Court has punched in the Clean Water Act is rampant; we expect that some version of our Oregon Treasures legislation will pass early in the first sessions of the new Congress, and we have future legislative initiatives already in planning stages.

November was a great victory for the environmental movement, but we cannot be satisfied with leaving our defensive posture. It’s time to plant a vibrant garden and nurture new growth.



PROTECTING OLD-GROWTH ECOSYSTEMS

The Klamath-Siskiyou is one of the most biologically rich regions in North America, and the most diverse conifer forest in the world. The salmon that swim from these mountains, the old-growth trees that tower on ridges and the wildlife that roam canyons are incomparable treasures worthy of the greatest levels of protection. Ancient forest ecosystems in this region have suffered from a century of boom and bust extraction, but KS Wild is working to protect the last vestiges of our old-growth heritage.

THE TENACITY OF HOPE

UPPER EAST KELSEY TIMBER SALE CANCELED!

BLM BACKS OFF LOGGING
ZANE GREY ROADLESS AREA

KS Wild is nothing if not tenacious. For over six years we have struggled to protect the old-growth forests and wild and scenic tributaries of the Rogue River from the BLM's plans to clearcut one of the most spectacular wildlands in the lower 48 states: the 46,400 acre Zane Grey roadless area. Home to salmon, steelhead, Pacific fishers, northern spotted owls, towering Douglas firs, diminutive Pacific yew groves, and hidden waterfalls, the Zane Grey is a refuge for wild nature and a glimpse of the rugged beauty that once defined the Klamath-Siskiyou.

A LONG AND DIFFICULT (ROADLESS) TRAIL...

In 2002, KS Wild was fighting the BLM's illegal Mr. Wilson old-growth timber sale with everything we had. We wrote letters, filed appeals, documented harm to watersheds, owls, salmon and rare Port-Orford cedar. We sued to stop the illegal logging only to have the Federal District Court refuse to implement an injunction while the ancient trees fell. Finally, in 2006, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that we had been correct all along, and that the BLM had indeed broken the law in order to log the Mr. Wilson timber sale. But by then the old-growth had already been cut.



Te-na-cious, *adjective*.
From the Latin *tenac*,
tenax, tending to hold fast.

1a: not easily pulled apart:
Cohesive <KS Wild's legal
arguments are just too
tenacious your honor> b:
tending to adhere or cling
especially to another sub-
stance <KS Wild is like a
tenacious bur in the BLM's
saddle>

2a: persistent in main-
taining, adhering to, or
seeking something valued
or desired <KS Wild is
an extremely *tenacious*
advocate of biodiversity>
b: Retentive <KS Wild
has a long and *tenacious*
memory of illegal BLM
timber sales>

in history. While KS Wild doesn't hold much hope in them pulling it off under the present daunting conditions, the progress and dedication have been inspiring. We truly hope that the momentum can be sustained as the Obama Administration takes the reigns, for it is past time for the Klamath to once again flow freely. To read the AIP, go to: www.klamathriver.org/AIP.html.

COALITION PUSHES BACK ON LNG

The past eight years have sort of felt like driving 100 mph toward a brick wall with our eyes closed. Such reckless behavior has damaged our economy, our environment and our global standing. The new administration has a huge task ahead in reversing policies that were not made with the public interest in mind. Overhauling our energy policy is perhaps the biggest of such jobs. Charged to regulate the very industry that has authored recent energy policy, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is giving energy companies the green light to railroad shortsighted projects so that multi-national corporations make billions while the public suffers the losses.



KS Wild's Rogue Riverkeeper program is working in coalition with Citizens Against LNG, Columbia Riverkeeper and others to stop the Coos Bay Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) proposal that would pump foreign fossil fuels to California via Oregon's fragile coast and a 230-mile pipeline across southwest Oregon. In November, FERC released a ridiculously flawed and insufficient Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Reading the proposal kind of felt like pressing on the gas as the brick wall gets closer.

Along with many others, KS Wild submitted comments on the Draft EIS. Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski submitted a letter to FERC, along with comments from the Department of Environmental Quality, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other state and federal agencies, many of which requested a Supplemental EIS. The Governor criticized FERC for not properly analyzing the need for the project or its environmental and public safety impacts. He noted that many conclusions were founded on unenforceable promises, not sound science.

While the project would have dramatic environmental impacts on Coos Bay, water quality and struggling salmon populations, the larger issue is our lack of an unassailable, progressive energy policy. FERC is proceeding with numerous projects in isolation without a comprehensive analysis of America's energy needs, climate change or the impacts of the global market (due to high global demand, the world price of LNG is now almost three times that of U.S. natural gas). Further investment in fossil fuel infrastructure undercuts an emerging green economy by diverting funds away from renewable development, while keeping America reliant on exporters like Russia and the Middle East. Our coalition remains vigilant in stopping this proposal, and we look forward to a new, visionary energy policy that will put these types of dinosaur projects to rest.



OPPOSING HARMFUL ENERGY POLICY

As energy consumption continues to rise, and the realities and effects of climate change become impossible to ignore, we desperately need comprehensive and visionary energy policy in America. Public lands and the resources they hold are often the target for energy development. KS Wild advocates for sensible and responsible use of public lands, while supporting renewable energy infrastructure.

WILL THE KLAMATH RIVER FLOW FREE?

Less than a century ago, the Klamath River was the third most prolific salmon-producing river in the Lower 48. Today, four major dams, and the toxic algae and temperature pollution they incubate, are suffocating this vital Pacific Northwest artery. While dammed tributaries, industrial agriculture, concentrated livestock grazing, failing sewage systems, mining, logging and roadbuilding have all contributed to its degradation, these dams are the largest cause of the Klamath's declining water quality and salmon runs.



Northcoast Environmental Center

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS: The removal of four dams on the Klamath River would be the largest restoration project of its kind ever.

Removing the dams, which are owned by Warren Buffett's PacifiCorp, has been a priority for tribes, conservationists, and fishermen for years. Ongoing settlement negotiations amongst these groups, the agriculture industry, the government, and PacifiCorp have been the focus of much debate, creating some rather surprising alliances and divisions. As the federal relicensing process drags on, and the Bush Administration's stranglehold on our environment finally draws to a close, the pressure is on to reach a resolution. Thus, in late 2008, PacifiCorp, the feds, and the states of Oregon and California announced an "Agreement in Principle" (AIP) with much fanfare.

Theoretically, the AIP outlines a plan for removing the dams in 20 years. However, it gives PacifiCorp so many 'off-ramps' for pulling out of the deal that it is unlikely to result in either agreement or dam removal. However, its very existence alone is cause for celebration, as it represents the first time that PacifiCorp and the government have publicly acknowledged that dam removal is in the best interest of not only the river but also PacifiCorp's customers.

Dam removal advocates are working overtime to remove the most problematic components of the agreement in order to ink a deal to begin the largest dam removal project

Time to give up? Nope. Time to get tenacious. For another year and a half we negotiated, argued and fought with the BLM and the District Court (that had denied our injunction) to craft a remedy to the illegal logging of hundreds of acres of ancient forest at Mr. Wilson. Finally, we reached a settlement in which the BLM agreed to cancel the Upper East Kelsey old-growth timber sale in the Zane Grey roadless area and return the money of the timber purchaser as a partial remedy for the illegal logging that occurred.

DOES THIS MEAN THE ZANE GREY ROADLESS AREA IS PROTECTED?

We have done our best to protect this bastion of wildlands and wild rivers. Through litigation we have made it much more difficult for the BLM to clearcut areas like Upper East Kelsey that are designated as "critical" for the survival and recovery of the spotted owl, who serves as an indicator for the health of old-growth ecosystems. Through outreach and organizing we have taken people from around the planet to the spectacular Zane Grey roadless area. We have gotten the New York Times to cover our efforts to protect these last, best places. And, we have introduced legislation to permanently protect the watersheds of the Zane Grey as Wild and Scenic rivers.



U.S. Forest Service

FOR THE CRITTERS: KS Wild doesn't give up, and with your help, we can secure important safeguards for at-risk plants and animals.



Dang Ngo

LONG LIVE THE ZANE GREY: The Rogue snakes through the largest forested roadless areas on BLM land in the nation.

Unfortunately, the BLM is unable to recognize the special values that so many Americans find in these wildlands. Two old-growth timber sales called Mari Kelsey and West Whisky still threaten to nibble away at the edges of the Zane Grey with new roads and clearcuts. Indeed, the BLM is in a fevered sprint to finalize plans to greatly reduce stream-side logging buffers and ramp-up clearcutting in the last days of the Bush Administration through the Western Oregon Plan Revisions.

The iconic Zane Grey roadless area and all of the ancient forests and wild rivers of southern Oregon will not be truly protected until the BLM is changed from an agency devoted to resource exploitation into one that strives for healthy forests, watersheds and communities. Sound like a tall order? Definitely. But we are a very, very, tenacious bunch. Special thanks to Ralph Bloemers of the CRAG Law Center for his tenacious legal representation.



REVERSING THE LEGACY OF DESTRUCTION

The Bush Administration refuses to see the 2008 election as an outcome of its unpopular policies. Rather, his staff is working feverishly to cement even more new rules and regulations that could take years to unravel. While there are exciting opportunities on the horizon, KS Wild anticipates much work ahead to reverse the legacy of the worst environmental administration in modern times.

WHAT CAN STOP THE WHOPPER?

Avid *KS Wild News* readers are familiar with the infamous Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR, say “Whopper”) - a scheme generated from a backroom deal between the Bush Administration and the timber industry. While the WOPR looks likely to be headed into a lengthy court battle between the timber industry and conservationists, there is hope that the incoming Obama Administration could change course and direct federal agencies to toss the WOPR in the trash and start with plan to protect and restore western Oregon’s federal forests.



Duane Martinez

MOVING BACKWARDS: The BLM wants to return to the days of rampant clearcutting even though we know that it’s dangerous for ecosystems and communities.

The WOPR would ramp-up clearcutting and diminish stream protections across 2.6 million acres of western Oregon’s public forests, negatively impacting water quality, salmon and wildlife. By cutting mature and old-growth forests that store carbon, the WOPR would result in millions of tons of more carbon in the atmosphere, exacerbating the effects of an unknown climatic future. Climate change is an issue that Obama intends to tackle, and the President-elect has pledged to focus federal agencies on thinning projects for fire safety, not on backcountry logging like that advocated in WOPR.

KS WILD KEEPS THE PUBLIC IN PUBLIC LANDS

In a rush to finalize WOPR before Obama takes office, BLM cut short the plan revision process by prohibiting administrative protests. In immediate response to the November announcement, KS Wild sued BLM for cutting the public out of the process. Knowing it acted illegally, BLM reversed course just days after our suit and allowed administrative protests. Thanks to stellar attorney Kristen Boyles and her team at Earthjustice, who skillfully represented KS Wild and allies in WOPR litigation.

Stopping the Westpoint timber sale from further degrading the Scott River watershed was not the end of our work however. We then engaged with the Forest Service to develop a collaborative restoration project to replace the old timber sale. In 2007, we joined with the agency to promote the Point project which addressed fire hazard by carefully thinning some small diameter trees and re-introducing fire into this fire-evolved landscape through underburning 1,800 acres. And near the end of 2008 we came to an agreement with the Forest Service to implement the Deep timber sale near Tompkins Creek. Through our negotiations, the Forest Service “un-marked” old-growth trees slated for logging, dropped clearcutting units, added 1,136 acres of prescribed fire, and agreed to decommission 5.4 miles of logging roads that currently dump sediment into the Scott River watershed.

SEE FOR YOURSELF

Tompkins Creek and the Scott River are well worth a visit. They are perfect low-elevation watersheds for a frosty winter visit. The nearby historic Kelsey mule trail into the Marble Mountains is also a must-see. You can get a map and directions at the Forest Service office in Fort Jones, California.

RESTORATION PLAN FOR THE ROGUE BASIN

Rural communities throughout the Rogue Basin historically relied on federal lands for jobs in extractive industries. In the 1990s, many jobs were lost to increased mechanization at mills, a global trade in timber, and the listing of threatened species associated with rapidly diminishing old-growth forests. In 2009, KS Wild is preparing a restoration plan that will quantify and prioritize activities to restore National Forests and BLM lands in the basin. KS Wild is partnering with diverse interests in the Rogue watershed to advance both forest restoration and rural community revitalization. Common ground between KS Wild, agencies, and timber interests has emerged around thinning forests that have been converted into monoculture tree plantations or are uncharacteristically dense due to a century of fire exclusion. Development of an ecologically appropriate thinning program, coupled with road decommissioning, stream restoration, noxious weed control and controlled burns will go a long way in restoring degraded forests and waterways and employing people in the woods. The time has come to nurture this common ground and move forward in the woods.



Joseph Valle



COLLABORATING AND RESTORING

While KS Wild continues to oppose projects that harm old-growth forests or clean water, we are excited to work collaboratively with federal agencies and diverse stakeholders to develop restoration projects on federal land. We need a new relationship with our resource base in the 21st century that accounts for all aspects of these complex systems, not just their potential for short term profit from mining, logging or development.

SCOTT RIVER TRIBUTARY GETS A HELPING HAND

Of all the major tributaries to the Klamath River, the Scott River may be in the worst shape. Its meager flows are so over-allocated that the Scott can resemble a series of industrial agriculture settling pools more than a wild and scenic river. Clearcut logging, sloppy road construction and excessive riverside mining have left the Scott River a shell of its former self.

But all is not yet lost. Old-growth forests still provide habitat for at-risk critters and shade for the tributaries to the Scott River. The word-class Marble Mountains Wilderness is but a stone's throw away. Salmon and steelhead still fight their way upstream despite all odds. And the Scott River is increasingly attracting the attention of those who want to repair the damage that has been done.

A BIG STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

A prime example of the changes taking place in the Scott River watershed is occurring on Tompkins Creek, a cold-water tributary that flows into the Scott from the Marble Mountains. KS Wild supporters may remember that in 2005 we prevailed in litigation challenging the illegal 1,026-acre Westpoint old-growth timber sale. Westpoint would have built roads and logged hundreds of acres of ancient forests along Tompkins Creek.



George Sexton

RECLAIMING THE OLD-GROWTH: At the urging of KS Wild, Klamath National Forest staff remove blue "cut" paint from old-growth trees in the Deep timber sale.

TIMBER INDUSTRY WANTS TO SAVE THE OWL?

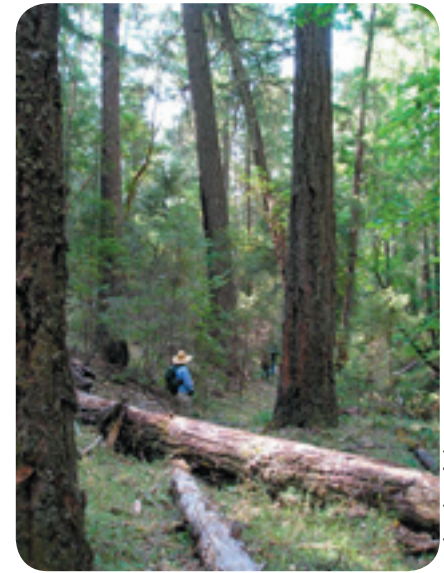
An ironic twist in the WOPR saga has many heads scratching – timber companies recently sued over WOPR, arguing BLM should consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service regarding impacts of WOPR on the northern spotted owl. You may ask, as we did, "Since when does the timber industry work to protect the old-growth dependant owl?" Most agree that the only reason the timber companies filed suit was to set the legal venue and have all WOPR cases heard in the District of Columbia, where they believe they will fare better.

GOVERNOR JOINS THE MASSES

On December 8, Governor Kulongoski released his "consistency review" of the WOPR whereby he determined if the management plan is consistent with state laws and regulations, including the state's mandate to implement the federal Clean Water Act. In his statement, the Governor asked the BLM to not adopt its proposed forest management plan, citing numerous concerns including endangered species consultation, carbon sequestration, old-growth and clearcutting. While the Bush Administration is frantically trying to wrap up this revision before leaving office, the Governor's response to the final draft puts some significant brakes on the runaway train, which will hopefully carry us into the next administration.

There is hope that Obama will change course on WOPR, but for now it is a race against the clock. If BLM finalizes WOPR before Obama takes office, it will be a lengthy, cumbersome process to undo the plan. Rest assured knowing KS Wild will not stop working on WOPR until WOPR is gone.

Thanks to everyone who has made phone calls, hosted presentations, wrote letters and spoke on behalf of old forests, clean water and wildlife habitat on western Oregon BLM forests. It is this type of momentum that encouraged the Governor and other decision-makers to look twice at the WOPR and stand with the masses to say this is simply not good enough. But we may still have a long legal battle ahead...stay tuned.



Lesley Adams

TARGETING SPECIAL PLACES: The BLM's plan would harm old-growth forests, water quality, salmon, carbon storage, wildlife and recreation.



STAY TUNED, STAY ACTIVE

From commenting on timber sales and grazing allotments to communicating with elected officials and joining us for hikes, the KS Wild website is a valuable resource for those who love the Klamath-Siskiyou region. Visit us online at www.kswild.org and stay updated and active!



CLOSING ROADS, PROTECTING FISH

After years of opposing road-building projects that would further degrade sensitive watersheds, KS Wild jumped at the opportunity to systematically close unnecessary roads that bleed sediment into salmon-bearing streams and severely fragment sensitive landscapes. We have embarked on a multi-year process to remove old, crumbling logging roads and repair damaged waterways.

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Public land managers throughout northern California and southern Oregon are deciding where to encourage motorized recreation and where use must be restricted to protect wildlands and watersheds. With your help, KS Wild is encouraging local Forests to protect rare plant species, sensitive wildlands and riparian areas while allowing Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) use on many existing logging roads and motorized trails.



George Sexton



Scott Harding

A CRUMBLING INFRASTRUCTURE IMPACTS WATER QUALITY

So why is something that sounds as dull as “travel management” such a big deal? During the logging boom on public lands during the 1970s and 1980s the BLM and the Forest Service built hundreds of thousands of miles of logging roads that the agencies now cannot afford to maintain. The financial backlog of road maintenance on BLM and Forest Service roads is now approaching several billion dollars! The Klamath National Forest alone has a backlog of \$55.5 million in un-met road maintenance. The lack of maintenance is leading to plugged road culverts, road failures (such as slides and blowouts), and the delivery of massive amounts of sediment into streams and rivers. Badly built, poorly maintained logging roads are one of the most direct threats to water quality and fish habitat on our public lands.

RARE PLANTS AT-RISK

Travel Management is also directly impacting many rare plant species. Port-Orford cedars, an extremely rare endemic conifer that is a vital part of streamside ecology in the Siskiyou, are succumbing to a fatal root disease that is commonly spread by mud hitching a ride on vehicles. Meadows and wetlands that are hotspots of biodiversity

are an almost irresistible lure to irresponsible ORV riders who like to go “muddin.” Many old logging and mining routes lead into and through rare plant habitat and Forest Service designated “research natural areas.”

WILDLANDS UNDER THE WHEELS

Some of the last, best, pristine wilderness quality landscapes in the Klamath Siskiyou are seeing more and more extreme backcountry off-road travel. Wildlands proposed by the Forest Service for wilderness designation on the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest have been the frequent scene of conflict between ORV riders and hikers and equestrians. Landscapes once known for their remote solitude and rugged biodiversity have been turned into motorized playgrounds.



George Sexton

ROADS BLEED INTO RIVERS: Public lands are riddled with old logging roads that harm fish.

SNAPSHOT OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

MEDFORD BLM - The BLM is proposing to turn thousands of acres of public forestlands into ORV playgrounds through a planning process called the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR). The WOPR sets the stage for the BLM to begin designating large swaths of forests as “ORV emphasis areas.” There will be no corresponding “hiking emphasis areas,” “wildlife emphasis areas,” or “watershed emphasis areas.” ORVs and logging are primarily what the BLM envisions for your public lands. For more on the WOPR please see www.oregonheritageforests.org

KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST - The Klamath is proposing to add 90 miles of illegally-created ORV routes to a road system that it can simply not afford to maintain. KS Wild will be working to get the Forest Service to identify and implement a sustainable transportation system.

ROGUE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST - The Rogue-Siskiyou is proposing to close some of the most environmentally harmful logging roads (yeah!) while also proposing to allow motorized use in botanical areas, roadless areas and research natural areas (boo!).

SIX RIVERS NATIONAL FOREST - The Six Rivers is all over the map. The Orleans District has already implemented a travel decision that closed some of the worst roads. The Smith River National Recreation Area has been caught up in appeals over allowing motorized use in roadless areas and botanical areas. And the rest of the Forest is far behind in their planning process.