



KS WILD

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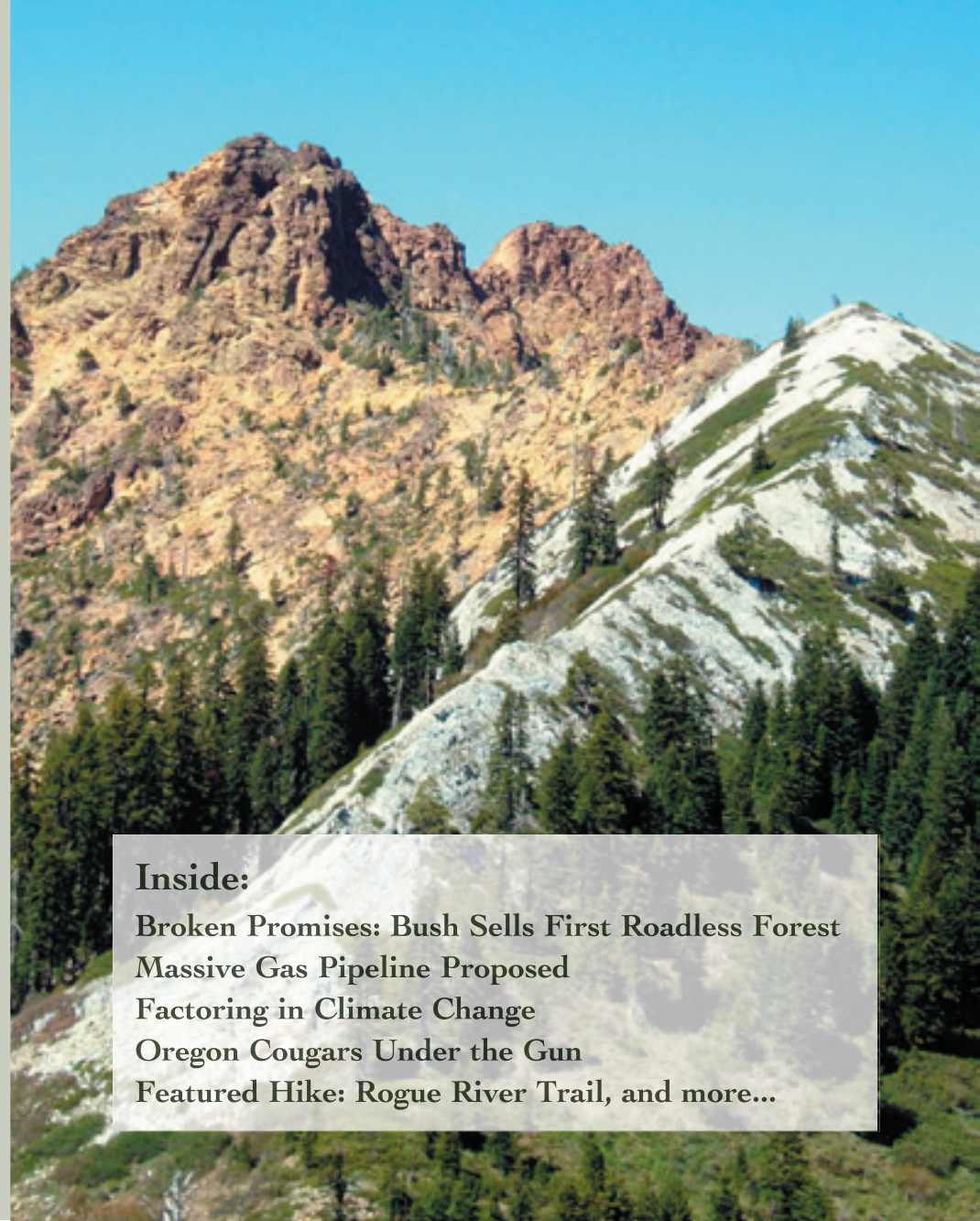
Please visit www.kswild.org
for our schedule of hikes and
other events...

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KS WILD NEWS

The Journal of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Summer 2006



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the Foundation for Deep Ecology and Island Press...

WILDFIRE:

A Century of Failed Forest Policy

Join us for a book-release celebration about one of the hottest environmental topics in the western United States.

October 2, 7pm

Carpenter Hall

44 S. Pioneer Street, Ashland



Wildfires are an awe-inspiring natural phenomenon that have shaped landscapes since the dawn of time. They are a force that we cannot really control, and thus understanding, appreciating, and learning to live with wildfire is ultimately our wisest public policy. With more than 150 dramatic photographs, "Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy" covers the topic of wildfire from ecological, economic, and social/political perspectives, while documenting how past forest policies have created the tinderbox of problems we face today. More than 25 leading thinkers in the field of fire ecology provide in-depth analyses, critiques, and compelling solutions for how we live with fire in our society. **Book contributors Dr. Timothy Ingalsbee, Andy Kerr and George Wuerthner will speak and take questions on October 2nd. Dozens of free books will be available for distribution.**

SAVE THIS DATE:

October 21, 2006

for KS Wild's Annual Dinner & Auction!

KS Wild's Mission:

The Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center works to protect and restore the outstanding biological diversity of the Klamath-Siskiyou and south Cascadian Ecoregions of southwest Oregon and northwest California. We use environmental law, science, education and collaboration to defend healthy ecosystems and help build sustainable communities.

Cover Photo: The Red Buttes, straddling the California/Oregon border, are a stunning example of the wild, rugged beauty of the Klamath-Siskiyou region. Photo by Lesley Adams.

Salmon River Update

Knob Timber Sale Going to Auction

All legal appeals have been exhausted in our attempts to save over 500 acres of old-growth, including Spotted owl critical habitat, on the Salmon River in the Klamath National Forest. These spectacular old-growth forests may not be standing for much longer. **Please join KS Wild for a hike in August to visit them before they are gone. For more details visit KSWild.org...**



Many thanks to all our supporters:

Volunteers, Collaborators, Artists and Musicians:

Brenna Bell, Ralph Bloemers, Susan Jane Brown, Anna Boyd, David Calahan, CWP, Regina Chichizola, Holly Christiansen, David Disney, Marianne Dugan, Sharon Duggan, Francis Eatherington, Elkovich & Heglie family, Forrest English, EPIC, Shanna Foley, Scott Greacen, Noah Greenwald, Kyle Haines, Scott Harding, Tracy, Frank and Stella, Nurelle Harrigan, Lindsey Holm, Andy Kerr, Spencer Lennard, Tim Lewis, Jay Lininger, Ivan Maluski, Crystal McMahon, Northwest Ecosystem Survey Team, ONRC, Oregon Sierra Club, O2 Collective, PEAC, Stephanie Parent, Boyd Peters, Tim Ream, Red Buttes Wilderness Council, Lauren Regan, Russell Sadler, Savol, Melissa Schweisguth, Michael Sikorsky, Siskiyou Project, Rolf Skar, Travis, Amaroq Weiss & many others.

Please support these businesses because they support us:

Ashland Food Co-op, Bikram Yoga of Ashland, Boone's Farm, Claudia Beausoleil Mediation, Dagoba, Dan the Backhoe Man Excavation, Freeburne's Honey, Inc., Herb Pharm, Inc., Kalb Chiropractic, Momentum River Expeditions, Morning Glory, Morningstar Healing Arts, MyCommunityMatters.net, Naturals of Ashland, The Northwest Nature Shop, Patagonia, Sandy Bar Nursery, Trillium Natural Foods, Williams Store.

Deep gratitude goes to:

Rex and Deanna Bell, Laurel Steinberg, Alexandra C. Dilworth, Bud Lininger, Gene Rhough, Tom Powell and Maud Macrory, Elizabeth Coker, Brad Horwitz, Walter and Conny Lindley, Margaret Purves, Jesse McNamara, Edward and Gloria Robin, Matt Riley, Paul Safady and the Sticks & Stones Theater, Eric Strong, Suzan R. Mackler Fund, Katherine Mechling, Astrov, James Grey Hecht, Linda "Lake" Connolly, Steve Connolly, Donald & Allie Brown, David Wertz & Jasmine Minbashian.

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Focus on our KS Wild Family

Derek Volkart - Walking the Talk

Have you ever wondered why Forest Service and BLM employees who “love the forest” tolerate agency destruction of the forests that they love? Perhaps it is because it takes a special person to choose integrity over a life of what Thoreau might describe as “getting along.”

After working for the agencies as a forestry technician, soil monitor, species surveyor and timber marker, Derek followed his conscience, and went to work defending the Earth full-time. Disappointed by the inaction of ‘mainstream’ environmentalism, Derek again followed his conscience, leaving his job and devoting his energies to volunteering with KS Wild.

Derek has been invaluable as a KS Wild board member and volunteer. His field experience, dedication to biodiversity, and his hunger for justice will be sorely missed. KS Wild’s loss is the Peace Corps’ gain. Derek’s forestry and restoration skills will be put to good use in Paraguay for the next 2 1/2 years. The world is a better place for the example that Derek sets in how to walk your talk.



Derek has documented many timber sales, as pictured here in Key Elk on Medford BLM.



Hermit Warbler (*Dendroica occidentalis*)

Despite their striking yellow, black, and white plumage, Hermit Warblers are often difficult to see, as they forage high above the forest floor in the canopy of coniferous forests.

Hermit Warblers winter in Central America, then migrate to the west coast of the United States for breeding season. They have a relatively limited breeding range confined to the Coast, Siskiyou, Cascade and Sierra

Nevada mountain ranges of Washington, Oregon, and California.

The major threat to this species is the degradation and destruction of breeding habitat. Hermit Warblers are habitat specialists, breeding only in coniferous forests with a well-developed canopy. As habitat specialists with a limited breeding range, Hermit Warblers are threatened by logging, especially clearcutting, in the Pacific Northwest.

The California Partners in Flight Coniferous Forest Bird Conservation Plan recommends Hermit Warbler conservation measures include managing forests for closed canopy and for tree species diversity.

SOLD: Unprecedented Roadless Timber Sale

On June 9th, the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest auctioned off the first roadless area timber sale since the popular Roadless Area Conservation Rule was approved in 2001. Mike’s Gulch timber sale, part of the Biscuit “Recovery” Project, would cut into the largest roadless area in Oregon: the 105,000-acre South Kalmiopsis. The Blackberry timber sale, located in the North Kalmiopsis Roadless Area, is scheduled for auction later this summer.



Selling Our National Heritage For a Song

The 650-acre roadless timber sale sold for a pittance: \$160 a log truck, which is cheaper than firewood. The winning bidder, Silver Creek Timber, rose to notoriety in 2005 for illegally logging the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area and clearcutting the protected Babyfoot Lake Botanical Area.

Old-growth trees in this roadless forest were auctioned off in early June after the Forest Service broke its promise.

...and Breaking Promises in the Process

In 2005, the Bush Administration repealed the Roadless Rule, replacing it with a process that forces Governors to petition for roadless protections in their states. The administration promised that roadless areas would be protected until each state was able to petition, but Mike’s Gulch was auctioned off before Oregon had a chance to complete its petition by the November 2006 deadline. Under Secretary of Agriculture (and former timber industry lobbyist) Mark Rey defended the action by saying there are always exceptions to the rules (Interview with Mark Rey, Washington, DC - 5/12/06).

Oregon’s Governor Takes a Stand

Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski disagrees. Hours after the auction, Kulongoski announced he would file a court motion to protect the state’s roadless areas. He says the Mike’s Gulch sale forecloses his ability to protect Oregon’s roadless areas. He intends to petition for roadless protection for all 1.9 millions acres of inventoried roadless lands in Oregon later this summer.

The Nation Speaks Up for Roadless Areas and Honesty

The auctioning of Mike’s Gulch has caused the ire of citizens across the nation, leading The New York Times to editorialize: “The administration broke that promise [interim protections] earlier this month when it took bids on a logging project in Oregon’s Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest,” then suggested that Mark Rey, “would be well advised to reconsider his strategy, beginning with a cancellation of the Oregon sale.”

As we go to print, news continues to unfold as to the future of roadless lands in Oregon and across the country, stay tuned by visiting www.kswild.org.

Oregon's Cougars Targeted for Comprehensive Killing Program

by Stephanie Tidwell

In April of 2006, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife approved the regressive Cougar Management Plan, a program that would kill up to 40 percent of Oregon's cougars. Based upon flawed population models and citizen complaints, the plan claims that cougars increasingly threaten domestic animals and humans. In truth, this plan is little more than a political bone thrown to 'sport' hunters still bitter about the 1994 citizens' ballot initiative banning hound-hunting of mountain lions and black bears.



Gerald and Buff Corsi © California Academy of Sciences

The cougar is a shy, solitary animal. Atop the food chain, cougars help balance wildlife populations such as deer and elk.

Federal Wildlife Killing Machine

Implementation of the Oregon plan relies heavily on the use of Wildlife Services agents. Notorious for its dangerous and brutal wildlife eradication programs, this little-known federal agency exists solely to kill wild animals. Agents use baited poisons, traps, snares, and even aerial gunning to kill public wildlife for special interests. Numerous pets and non-target species have been killed and at least two citizens have been hospitalized due to the actions of this rogue federal agency.

Taking on the State Plan

KS Wild has joined with other conservation groups to challenge the cougar-killing plan. This June, attorney Marianne Dugan filed our claim in district court, arguing that such a killing program, conducted by federal agents, constitutes a major federal action and thus was illegally approved at the state level. Our thanks go out to Marianne and Spencer Lennard, KS Wild founder and current director of Big Wildlife, for spearheading this lawsuit.

Jackson County Wants in on the Game

In southern Oregon, Jackson County Commissioners are moving forward with a separate plan to hire a trapper to kill cougars and other wildlife. In early June, the Commission approved \$30,000 of general county funds for the position and is currently seeking an additional \$30,000 in federal funds to implement the program.



www.banlegholdtraps.com

Non-target animals are harmed by traps, poisons and snares.

What We Can Do

Check out www.oregonheritageforests.org to learn more about Oregon's BLM forest legacy. Please write to the BLM at Bureau of Land Management, Western Oregon Plan Revisions, P.O. Box 2965, Portland, OR 97204. The BLM will accept any public comments on the revisions through 2007.

...Climate Change continued from page 4

Researchers say that the forests we know and love today are unlikely to be with us in the future, and our efforts to "restore" degraded forests and return them to their "historical range of variability" are likely to be in vain. We are also likely to see plant and animal species becoming extinct in some areas, but reappearing in others, based on precipitation, elevation, latitude, longitude, soil composition, prey, and myriad other factors. What exactly will happen where is almost impossible to predict.

Again, what does this mean for the forests and wildlife of our region? The take home message is, "we just don't know." Instead, the only thing that we can do is ensure that the landscapes that we leave behind for future generations are resilient and diverse.

To that end, perhaps the most disturbing thing about the NCSSF symposium was the attendance list: not a single federal land manager with decision making authority in sight. The conservation community is often accused of being alarmist, or moving the goal post in terms of what our "end game" really is; and global warming is an issue ripe for this accusation. However, it is often the conservation community that most bring to light developing science on forest management. If federal land managers aren't willing or able to address new research on their own, then it is up to us to make sure that global climate change is foremost in the minds of these decision makers.

The Forest Service and BLM are hesitant to hear that they must consider how a timber sale will affect global warming, or that attempting to return a forest back to "historical conditions" may in fact be the wrong thing to do, or that "hazardous fuels" really aren't "hazardous" at all. Conservationists may have to come to terms with the disappearance of beloved species, and their habitat. It will be up to organizations like KS Wild to lead the way in educating decision makers, the public, and ourselves on global climate change issues, and then, to cautiously move forward.

Please Join KS Wild Today!

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

\$20 \$50 \$100 Other \$

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Address

City State Zip

Email Phone (.....).....

Mail this form along with your membership donation to: KS WILD, P.O. Box 332, Williams, OR 97544

BLM Moves Closer to Removing Protections

by Joseph Vaile

The Bureau of Land Management continues to push forward with a revision of management plans for 2.6-million acres of federal land. In pursuing the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR), the BLM places Oregon's treasured public forests at risk of widespread clearcut logging.

The Plan Revisions - the result of an out-of-court settlement between the Bush administration and the timber industry - would wipe away old-growth and streamside forest protections and nearly every other protected status on some of Oregon's most majestic public forests.

Sugar Coated Science

On June 15, the BLM held a "State of the Science" workshop at Oregon State University to strengthen the case for the Plan Revisions. Many in the audience were perplexed when the BLM avoided hard scientific questions. For example, as it moves toward unregulated old-growth logging, citizens are concerned about the survival of the Northern spotted owl, the production of clean water to nearby communities and providing habitat for imperiled salmon stocks. Unfortunately, questions about these topics were left unanswered.

Green Economics

The workshop did shed some light on economics, however, as an expert economist spoke about the health of Oregon's rural communities. Ellen Donoghue told the audience that most Oregon communities are doing better today than they were 20 years ago, when the timber industry was at its height. She showed that Oregon communities that have shifted away from logging and diversified their economies are now more stable. It is no surprise that the BLM did not contract with her and is now working with a timber industry economist instead.

Wrong Way Down a One Way

The June workshop did nothing to calm fears that the BLM is headed down the wrong path in forest policy. Recreation, rare species habitat and clean water are a few of the many reasons why Oregon's remaining old-growth forests should be saved. Unfortunately, the BLM appears set on weakening old-growth protection. KS Wild and our allies are working on behalf of Oregon's BLM forests, and we hope you will join us.



East Fork Coquille Timber Sale, Roseburg BLM.

Property owners can already legally kill cougars causing damage or threatening safety, without a permit. They can also hire professional services to do this. The public should not pay for such private services.

What You Can Do

Please write to the Jackson County Commissioners at Jackson County Board of Commissioners, 10 S. Oakdale, Medford, OR 97501 or boc@jacksoncounty.org to let them know that you oppose the killing of innocent wildlife.

It's Time to Start Factoring in Climate Change

by Susan Jane Brown

Signs of global climate change are all around us. Whether its 90 degree days in February, or more severe hurricanes like Katrina, there's no question that our planet's weather is changing.

So, what does that mean for the forests of the Pacific Northwest?

At the 2006 National Commission on Science for Sustainable Forestry's (NCSSF) national symposium, scientists from around the world gathered to discuss this pressing issue. In particular, the findings of two presentations – "Is it possible or desirable to restore 'natural' forests and fire regimes in the face of rapid global change?" and "Climate change and disturbances in the future" – have implications for the forests of the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion.

Check out the abstract of Nathan Stephenson's (who works for the United States Geological Survey, so you know he's no crackpot) presentation:

Rapid global changes are creating environmental conditions that simply have no precedent in Earth's history, suggesting that it may be impossible to maintain forests in their "natural" state. In fact, efforts to maintain a semblance of natural conditions might result in forests that are inherently unstable to these novel environmental conditions, potentially leading to the sudden loss of some of the resources we are trying to protect. Useful management alternatives might instead focus on maintaining biodiversity by enhancing forest resistance and resilience to stresses, even if the resulting forests have "unnatural" structure and composition.

Climate Change continues on page 12...



LNG Pipeline Threatens Old-Growth Forest, Salmon Spawning Streams

By Erin Madden, KS Wild and Brent Foster, Columbia Riverkeeper

California investors have joined with energy speculators to propose a massive Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) import terminal just north of Coos Bay and a pipeline running across southwest Oregon to the California border. A high-pressure LNG pipeline would stretch 223 miles across private land as well as the Rogue River-Siskiyou and Fremont-Winema National Forests and four BLM Districts.



The proposed pipeline would extend 223 miles from Coos Bay to the California border at Malin.

LNG is natural gas that has been cooled to minus 260 degrees Fahrenheit and condensed to 600 times its normal volume. The Pacific Connector pipeline would likely consist of a 3-foot diameter pipe, and its installation would have dramatic impacts on forests, fish and wildlife, including clearing a swath of forest 100 feet or more in width along its route.

Because of staunch environmental and public safety opposition in California, LNG developers have been run out of communities where LNG terminals have been proposed.

PG&E, Williams Pipeline, and Fort Chicago (Canada) recently initiated the siting process with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Although energy speculators are eyeing Oregon for five LNG import terminals, nearly all of the imported gas is expected to go to California where the demand is greatest. Because of staunch environmental and public safety opposition in California, LNG developers have been run out of communities where LNG terminals have been proposed. These companies are now attempting to locate facilities in Oregon.

The pipeline would cross salmon and steelhead streams, including the Coos, Coquille, Rogue, South Umpqua and Klamath rivers. Pipeline installation would involve removing forest, building service roads, and high-impact drilling under streams, which frequently results in large quantities of drilling mud polluting the affected streams. Additionally, because of the large diameter of the pipeline, many streams would likely be crossed by large-scale trenching, placing bulldozers and other equipment in some of the most sensitive salmon spawning streams in the Northwest.

stages of the Six Rivers National Forest's Orleans District Transportation and Road Analysis Project. At the outset of the project, the Orleans District had identified almost 250 miles of roads that needed to be decommissioned. The OHV community weighed in hard and fast, and when the public scoping period opened last month, 40 of those road miles, 30 of which are in designated key watersheds and old-growth reserves, had already been dropped from the proposal. Thus, it is vital to clearly demonstrate that ecological needs outweigh industry wishes.

Roads Increase Fire Risk

An additional concern is agency assertions that roads are needed for fire suppression. This stance ignores evidence that the agency can and has engaged in effective fire suppression and fire management activities in unroaded landscapes and that roads are the primary source of human-caused fire ignition. Over 52 percent of human-caused fires are started within 33 feet of a road.

Hitting the Roads

This summer, KS Wild will analyze preliminary Forest Service maps and GIS maps from the Forest Service and California Wilderness Coalition, identifying roads and trails that need to be evaluated. We will take that data and hit the ground in late summer to field-check all of these routes/roads, identify unmapped roads and trails, and take GIS notations, photos and exhaustive notes of the conditions along the way. We will collate the data and use it to make recommendations for closures, decommissioning, designations, and repair, prioritizing the closure of user-created trails and 'temporary' logging roads. Once the on-the-ground analysis is completed, we will use the Forest Service's public participation process (NEPA) to propose road closures and decommissioning.

*Our National Forests alone have over 500,000 miles of roads
-- 11 times the size of the U.S. interstate system.*

That is enough miles to circle the earth more than 20 times!

(www.wildlandscpr.org)

Ecological Concerns

Roads cause an astounding number of adverse ecological impacts. To address this, KS Wild will use this process to advocate for the closure of all routes that are 1) illegally created; 2) cause erosion or otherwise damage riparian and aquatic habitats; 3) are located within Forest Service inventoried roadless areas; 4) are located in the roadless areas identified by the California Wilderness Coalition's Citizen's Wilderness Inventory; 5) cause significant damage to habitat that is critical to endangered and threatened species; and 6) duplicate existing routes.

How You Can Help

Volunteers are needed to help with documenting road conditions and to write individual comments on district route designation proposals. **Please contact KS Wild if you would like to be involved.**

KS Wild Puts Forest Service Roads Under Scrutiny This Summer

by Stephanie Tidwell

In 2005, the USDA announced that all National Forests must undergo a process to designate motorized travel routes and prohibit all motorized use off of this route system. Not surprisingly, some National Forests have indicated that they will use this process to 'grandfather' virtually all of their existing roads and trails into the motorized travel system. However, there is also an opportunity to use this process to decommission a significant amount of illegally-created and ecologically-destructive roads.



Many OHV-users keep roads open that were supposedly closed.

Many Forests have not started the process yet, but all those in Region 5 (California) are concurrently doing so via the creation of "Motor Vehicle Use Maps." A network of environmental advocacy organizations has come together to coordinate statewide coverage. KS Wild will ensure that road and trail conditions on the Klamath, Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests are properly documented, and where needed, recommend roads for closure and decommissioning. Our participation will provide both evidence and a voice to counter the unreasonable demands of the Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) lobby.

It's About Time

Due to years of logging, poor enforcement, and a dearth of funds for road maintenance and removal, public lands in the Klamath-Siskiyou, like most places in the West, are scarred by an ecologically destructive road network that serves no real purpose. In northern California in particular, a poorly regulated road network is causing erosion, water pollution, disruption of wildlife, spread of Port Orford cedar root rot disease, spread of noxious weeds, and encroachment into previously unroaded areas. Many of these routes are illegally-created user trails and old logging roads that were supposed to be decommissioned. The Forest Service is finally undertaking the appropriate process to address the problem, but, as always, citizen participation is needed to ensure that stopping environmental degradation wins out over industrial 'wreckreation.'

Motorhead Lobby Flexes Its Muscle

The OHV lobby is organizing to ensure that as many illegally-created roads as possible be designated open, so a well-coordinated strategy by conservationists is vital to ensure that ecological considerations drive the process.

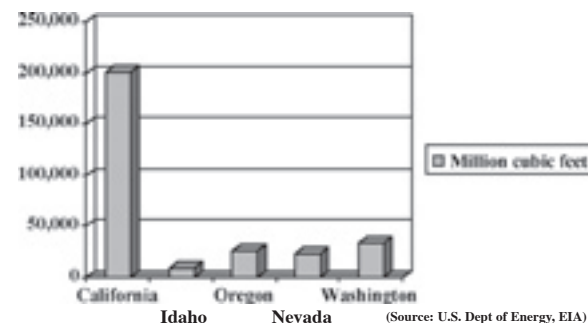
A site-specific example of this need has been clearly demonstrated during the early

The BLM issued a decision allowing the energy companies to stake out the proposed route on the ground, cut trees and use disruptive equipment within habitat for imperiled species such as spotted owls, bald eagles, marbled murrelets and pacific fishers. Allowing the BLM and energy companies to invest millions of dollars in surveys on the companies' preferred route effectively limits the scope of the proposal as well as the choice of reasonable alternatives in the pending Environmental Impact Statement.

The Pacific Connector will also require the use of eminent domain on local private lands, and many owners have already vowed to refuse access or easements over their lands for a California-driven project. Concerned Oregonians are organizing in opposition to the Pacific Connector in the coming months by participating in federal hearings, supporting affected landowners, and educating others about the negative impacts of the project. When Oregon's natural gas demand does not justify this huge pipeline, the Pacific Connector is an extreme and unnecessary alteration of Oregon's landscape.

The natural gas industry has long touted natural gas as a "clean fuel." Yet when the realities behind the extraction, transmission and combustion of natural gas are considered it becomes clear that natural gas is anything but clean. Increasing our reliance on natural gas is simply continuing U.S. reliance on foreign fossil fuels. Plans for natural gas pipelines are not just threatening southwest Oregon,

Natural Gas Consumption, Western States, 12/05



California consumes the lion's share of natural gas.

but pipelines stretching thousands of miles are also being planned through Canadian forests and wetlands. Although burning natural gas is preferable from an emissions perspective, natural gas still has significant carbon emissions and also releases high-impact air toxins such as formaldehyde.

TAKE ACTION: Contact Governor Kulongoski and urge him not to approve any water rights or other permits for the Coos Bay LNG project and to ask his Port Commission in Coos Bay to find safer, environmentally sound, and more equitable means of promoting economic development!

Governor Kulongoski: 160 State Capitol, 900 Court Street, Salem, OR 97301
PHONE Governor's Message Line 503.378.4582; FAX 503.378.6827

UPDATE: You Helped Put a Bad Idea to Rest

In the spring of 2006, we reported on the Bush administration's proposal to sell 300,000 acres of public land in its 2007 budget. We are happy to report, that due to overwhelming public outcry, our public lands will remain public...for now! In early July, newspapers reported that the proposed land sale was, "all but dead," after a U.S. Senate committee passed a key spending bill that excluded the provisions. In May, the U.S. House also rejected the proposal.

Featured Hike: The Wild Rogue River Trail

by George Sexton

While the Rogue River is spectacular all the way from its headwaters in Crater Lake National Park to its mouth at the Pacific Ocean, the 40-mile stretch from Grave's Creek to Illahe provides the best hiking and floating. Here untouched old-growth forests still line the riverbanks, salmon and steelhead still jump Rainie Falls and cold clear tributaries still cascade into the river.



Tye Rapids in the heart of the Zane Grey Roadless Area.

This Congressionally-designated "Wild and Scenic" 40-mile stretch of the Rogue is the most famous whitewater-rafting trip in Oregon. Every year upwards of 80,000 people apply for the 10,000 available permits to float the Wild Rogue, and for good reason; the scenery is simply breathtaking.

Fortunately, you don't need a permit to hike the Rogue River Trail. Backpacking this historic river trail is still a largely undiscovered joy; you are likely to see more osprey and river otters than hikers as you follow the trail downriver. While those who float the river tend to camp at large established sites close to the water, an adventurous hiker who is willing to take side trails and explore the Rogue's tributaries can still find solitude as well as scenery in the Wild Rogue Wilderness.

From the Zane Grey Roadless Area to the Rogue Wilderness

The first 20 miles of the Rogue River Trail follows the river through the heart of the 46,600 acre Zane Grey Roadless Area. The Zane Grey is the largest intact native forest administered by the BLM on the planet. It currently provides much-needed "source habitat" for rare old-growth dependent species like the Northern Spotted Owl. Unfortunately, the timber sale planners in the Medford BLM are busy drawing up plans to nibble away at this last, best wild forest and hope to log the old-growth currently found at the headwaters of Whiskey, Kelsey and Mule Creeks. KS Wild is working hard to protect these irreplaceable forests.

The roadless area is named after famed western writer Zane Grey who bought a miner's cabin at Winkle Bar in 1926 where he wrote and fished, and wrote about fishing. His 1930 novel entitled Rogue River Feud is simply a must-read for Rogue River enthusiasts. The Zane Grey cabin still stands today and can be visited by hikers and floaters on their way down the river.

Upon leaving the Zane Grey Roadless Area, the trail follows Mule Creek Road for a few miles before entering the designated Wild Rogue Wilderness at Marial. This stretch of trail provides great views of the "Coffeepot" (a swirling, roiling section of the river) and Stair Creek Falls on the opposite shore. Experienced hikers may wish to leave the trail to explore Mule Creek Canyon where the Rogue is compressed into a swirling chute between the canyon walls. A side trip up the West Fork of Mule Creek allows hikers access to forests renewed by the 2005 Blossom fire.

Here untouched old-growth forests still line the riverbanks, salmon and steelhead still jump Rainie Falls and cold clear tributaries still cascade into the river.

Finally, some 40 miles from your starting point, the trail ends near the Illahe Lodge on Forest Service road 33. Shuttles can be arranged from outfitters in the towns of Merlin and Galice to get you back to your starting point.

Be Prepared Anyone contemplating hiking the Rogue River Trail needs to get a Glendale Resource Area map from the Medford BLM and a Wild Rogue Wilderness Map from the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. A copy of William Sullivan's book Exploring Oregon's Wild Areas will greatly enhance this hike and many others for the wilderness explorer.

The Rogue River Trail is often on an exposed north-facing slope and can get brutally hot during the summer months. Be prepared for heat and sun. Poison oak and ticks are common. Black bears are also common. Be sure to keep a clean camp and to hang your food at night. Jet boats are permitted below Blossom Bar and greatly reduce the wilderness character of the river below this point.

Current Threats to the Wild Rogue

Kelsey Whisky Timber Sale The timber sale planners in the Medford BLM have been chipping away at the Zane Grey roadless area for years. The fact that some of their fiber plantations never took hold, and dirt and brush-fields have replaced the ancient forests that once stood, have not prevented the agency from targeting the remaining native forests for conversion into fiber plantations.

KS Wild has been fighting the Kelsey Whisky old-growth timber sale since it was first proposed in 2003. Thus far we have been successful in keeping the roads out and the trees standing. Unfortunately, the BLM plans to offer hundreds of acres of old-growth in the Mule Creek watershed for sale this summer. Please visit www.kswild.org to see how you can help protect your forests.

August Knob Timber Sale In the summer of 2005 the Blossom fire burned in and around portions of the Wild Rogue Wilderness. Such fires are a natural and necessary part of the ecology of Rogue River forests. The Medford BLM is using the fire as an excuse to propose salvage logging spotted owl critical habitat adjacent to the Wilderness in the vicinity of August Knob. KS Wild will do everything we can to protect these irreplaceable forests. We will post more information at www.kswild.org as it becomes available.