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KS WILD NEWS

klamath-siskiyou wildlands center

Winter 2003

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The Big Wild of the Klamath-Siskiyou

By Regina Chichizola

The Northwest forests are in dire condition. It is hard to find a mountainside that is not littered with clear cuts and many streams that run muddy. The Klamath-Siskiyou (K-S) region, however, still has areas where rivers flow free, forests go untouched for miles, and wild animals roam unfettered. The Klamath National Forest of Northern California is especially wild. The Klamath National Forest hosts undammed rivers, 375,000 acres of unprotected roadless areas and 407,284 acres of Wilderness in both the K-S and southern Cascades. This equals 46% of the 1.7 million acre National Forest, and provides wildland connectivity rarely seen in the U.S.

Adjacent national forests such as the Six River, Modoc, Rogue and Siskiyou have large connecting Wilderness and roadless areas, and many of the roaded areas still host remaining native and old-growth forest. However, due to pressure from the Bush administration, many of these irreplaceable wildlands are threatened with timber sales, herbicides and energy projects, and many may soon be gone.

Threats to Klamath Roadless Forest: The Prized Salmon River Proposed for Cut

The Salmon River is a rare jewel. It flows in between the Marble Mountain, Russian and Trinity Alps Wilderness areas, and is very important habitat for plants and wildlife. It remains dam-free and crystal clear, and much of its headwaters begin in wilderness.

The Knob timber sale on the Salmon River would log 7.1-million board ft from 578 acres in ten watersheds of the world famous Salmon River, including in the Wild and Scenic River corridor. It threatens the Marbles South (20,000 acres), Marbles East (40,000), Trinities North (25,000 acres), and the Trinities West (48,000 acres)

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roadless areas. Most of the sale is classic old growth forest, and much of the surrounding area is fragmented by past logging and road-building. The Meteor Sale, (formally the Comet Administrative Study) is also district-wide and adjacent to many Knob units.

An old growth fir slated for harvest within a Knob unit.



Northern Trinities Logging Threats

The Whittler timber sale is almost entirely in the Trinity North roadless area (25,000 acres), adjacent to the 11,000-acre Russian roadless area. Whittler is high elevation in the most diverse conifer forest of the Klamath-Siskiyou, and therefore the world. This area serves as a corridor between the Marbles, Trinities and the Russians.

The 1026-acre Westpoint timber sale is in the Marbles East roadless area. The Marble Mountains are famous for their unique geology. The marble rim is a coral rim remnant of higher sea levels and hosts an abundant variety of rare wildflowers and trees.

Roadless Area Threats Abutting the Klamath National Forest

The Weaver timber sale is in the 48,000-acre Orleans Mt. roadless area in the Six Rivers National Forest, which is continual with the Trinity Alps and many other roadless areas. Weaver proposes to build 2.6 miles of road and cut 680 acres of native forest.

The Marble Mountains.



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3. Return the completed form with a check for your first month's gift to:
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KS Wild is establishing the KS Wild Endowment Fund. Tax deductible donations to KS Wild, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit, will go entirely towards protecting the wild places of the Klamath-Siskiyou Ecoregion.

KS Wild Board of Directors: Oshana Catranides, Shannon Clery, Lori Cooper, Michael Hawk, John Roach, Zach Stevenson

KS Wild News is produced by Shannon Clery & Liz Crosson (editors), Eric Grisen (layout and design) and the KS Wild staff.

FOR THE WILD, THE KS WILD STAFF...

Brenna Bell, Staff Attorney

Regina Chichizola, Klamath Forest Watch

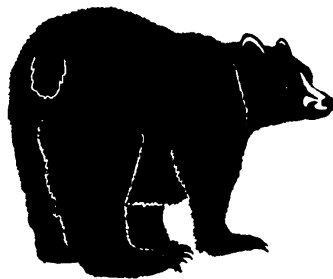
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Uncertain Future for Condrey

On the north slopes of Black Mountain in northern California, in the heart of the Condrey Mountain Roadless Area (20,000 acres), Fruit Growers Supply (FGS) of Hilt, California owns a 240-acre parcel of land. This remote spot represents some of the most beautiful old growth forests the Siskiyou have to offer. FGS has an approved Timber Harvesting Plan to the California Department of Forestry and intends to helicopter log these pristine forests this summer.

On December 18th, a scoping notice was released by the Rogue River National Forest for the development of a helicopter pad on national forest land to facilitate Fruit Growers' logging of some of the best old-growth habitat on the Siskiyou Crest. Citizens are being asked to put the pressure on elected officials to strive towards a land acquisition of the private parcel within the heart of the Condrey Mountain roadless area.



This old growth cedar in the Condrey roadless area needs our help.

Medicine Lake Threats Mount

The Medicine Lake Energy Projects (Telephone Flat and Fourmile hill) on the Klamath and Modoc National Forests propose to build 24 miles of power lines, two plants, cooling towers, between 10-25 production wells, miles of pipelines, and numerous chemical laden slumps. The Telephone Flat Project is on a volcanic caldera that is sacred to the Modoc, Pitt River and Shasta tribes. It was denied due to historical and environmental consequences, and then overturned by the Bush administration at the end of 2002. It threatens the 10,300-acre Mt Hoffman roadless area. These projects could turn the largest shield volcano in the Cascades into an industrial wasteland.

Herbicide Alert

The Klamath National Forest in Northern California is proposing to spray 4 types of toxic herbicide chemicals on several species of invasive plants identified on up to 27,000 acres of public land. In watersheds over the entire Klamath, including the Salmon, Smith and Shasta, the Forest Service proposes to degrade critical habitats and communities along the way.

Protect the Big Wild of the K-S

The Klamath National Forest and its connected wildlands represent some of the wildest places on the planet. Due to its distance from large population centers and political focus, it often remains forgotten. The fight for wilderness and wildland integrity in this area is one that we can not afford to lose. But, as citizens of the K-S region, it is our responsibility to take a stand for the forgotten wild—the remarkable Klamath and its wild critters.



Klamath Connections

By Joseph Vaile

The Klamath-Siskiyou (K-S) is one of the most biologically rich places on Earth. It houses more conifer tree species than any other region and an outstanding array of rare plants. The region features some of the grandest wildlands fit for bears, mountain lions, the forest dwelling fisher and other majestic critters in the West. Conservation of this biological diversity in an increasingly degraded landscape presents many challenges. How are the plants and critters dependent on so many habitats sustained in a world with power-lines, highways and clear-cuts dissecting once unbroken habitats? Conservation biologists have wrestled with this question for decades and some answers have emerged.

Habitat Connectivity: Networking Wilderness

Habitat connectivity is what describes a landscape condition allowing species to persist in fragmented habitats. When populations of wide ranging mammals, for example, are able to move about and breed with other populations, connectivity is achieved. If there is a barrier to movement, however, once connected populations become isolated. Many serious problems occur when species are prevented from freely moving, such as inbreeding disorders.

Large mammals are often the focus of connectivity studies because of extensive habitat requirements. Top-level carnivores like mountain lions, wolverine and wolves are critical to maintain. One researcher notes these species provide “governance,” and without carnivores ecosystems unravel with too many deer grazing, too many small mammals hunting and a cascade of other reactions.

**Habitat fragmentation causes population isolation,
spelling doom for many species.**



Focus on our KS Wild Family



The Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), the largest member of the weasel family, once ranged across the northern states from Washington to Maine and as far south as Arizona and California. The “wilderness-dependent” wolverine thrives in large contiguous habitat blocks at high elevations in mountain ranges such as the Cascades and Rocky Mountains. Their home range can be anywhere between 30 and 500 square miles. The greatest numbers of these predatory scavengers are found in areas that have healthy populations of other carnivores, like wolves, who help produce a steady flow of carcasses to scavenge. Wolverines are known to eat just about anything including ants, grubs, mice, grouse and ground squirrels; as well as large carrion killed by starvation, cold, disease or other predators.

Although unconfirmed, sightings throughout Oregon and California continue to be reported years after populations have been claimed locally extinct. Being an elusive species, wolverines are incredibly hard to track and biologists fear populations are rapidly declining. Populations are only certain in the northern Cascades of Washington and the Rocky Mountains of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. KS Wild and other groups recently filed a lawsuit to require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to move forward on their consideration for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

**David Calahan in the field,
advocating for fire resistant forests.**



David Calahan is a retired Medford Firefighter and Middle Applegate resident. His efforts to protect and encourage true restoration in his watershed and across the region represent his incredible courage and dedication. From ground-truthing timber sales in his backyard to lobbying in Washington D.C. this past summer in support of true fuels reduction on our public lands, David is a leader in the proactive restoration movement. He has been an active voice in the media and to our state and federal representatives on fire and forest management. With his years of experience, David is able to effectively communicate the mission of protecting old, fire resistant forests and concentrating on small diameter thinning near homes and communities. KS Wild is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work with David and we look forward to our future endeavors together. Thanks David!

KS Wild Regional Update: Medicine Lake Power Plants

High in the California Cascades east of Mt Shasta, the Medicine Lake Caldera is a wonder of nature. Obsidian flows, lava tubes, large craters, a giant lake, native forests and rare species grace this sunken volcano. This sacred land believed to be the place of origin for Modoc, Shasta and Pitt River Tribes is a step closer to decimation.

The Energy Bill Hits the Cascades

Approval for the Telephone Flat Geothermal Power Plant was originally denied by the Modoc National Forest and California BLM due to broad opposition. The decision was reopened in July 2002 in response to Bush's Energy Bill and a lawsuit brought on by Calpine Corporation, an energy company intricately tied to the infamous Enron Corporation. On November 26th, 2002 the Telephone Flat Geothermal Power Plant on the sacred and ecologically significant Medicine Lake Caldera was approved.

The Telephone Flat power plant would cover 100-200 acres, build 10-12 wells, cooling towers and pipelines, and include 13 miles of transmission line in a popular recreation area. It would release many toxins and directly kill or destroy habitat for endangered wildlife, and possibly pollute and/or drain the aquifer. A partner project, the Fourmile Hill project on the Klamath National Forest, was also approved and is currently in litigation. In the future, the potential resource development could span over 134,254 acres.

Medicine Lake is a prime example of why we must repeal the Energy Bill. Devastating projects are being sold as green, and the taxpayer is subsidizing the destruction of public lands to benefit a few mega-energy companies.

What You Can Do:

Contact: Bonneville Power Administration: 503 230 7334

Calpine: 408 995-5115

Randall Sharp at BLM: 530 233-8848

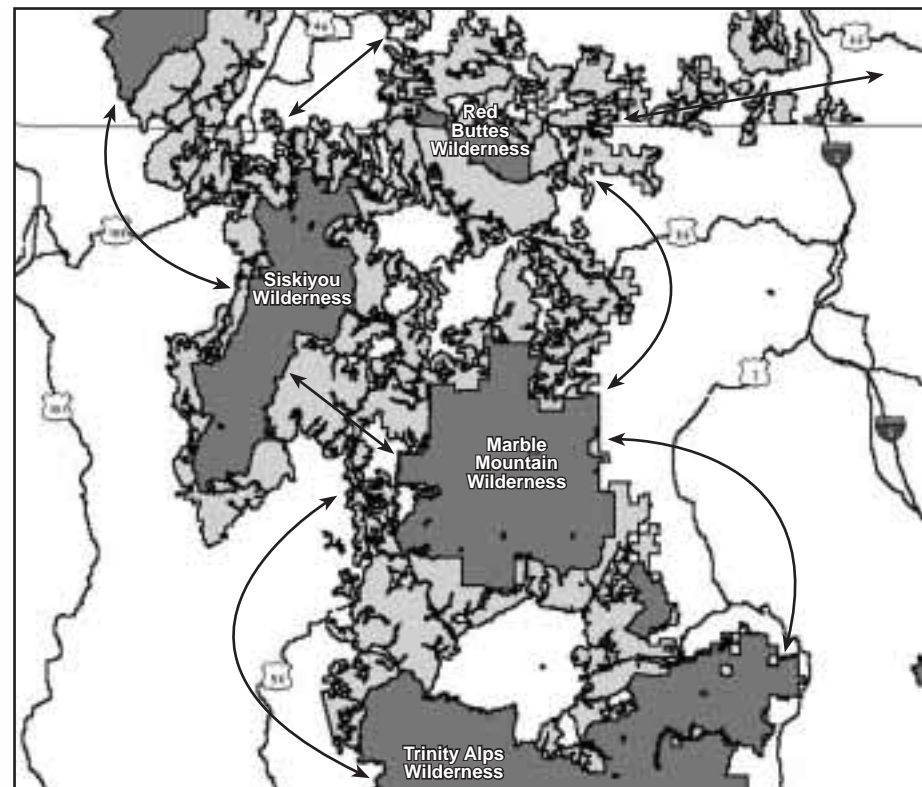
To get involved call Regina Chichizola @ 503-957-5572 or e-mail at regina@kswild.org or the

Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center at shastamedicine@mountshastaecology.org or <http://www.mountshastaecology.org>



KS WILD ACTION UPDATE!!!

KS WILD FILES SUIT ON ANOTHER ILLEGAL TIMBER SALE — The Grants Pass Resource Area of the Medford Bureau of Land Management is hoping to log more than 1000 acres of old growth forest in the Pickett Creek tributary of the wild and scenic Rogue River, harming rare plants and threatened wildlife and degrading the wild and scenic qualities of the river. On January 15, KS Wild, along with the Siskiyou Regional Education Project, ONRC and Headwaters, filed suit against the BLM because the sale violates both NEPA and the BLM's own management guidelines.



**Habitat connections identified by conservation biologists
for the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion.**

Notably, plant migration, less mobile species and ecological processes (like natural wildfire) often get left out of connectivity planning, but these are very important ecosystem elements.

Habitat Connectivity within the Klamath-Siskiyou “Klamath Core”

Planning for habitat connectivity starts by looking at current conditions on the ground. In the K-S, designated Wilderness Areas in the region's center: the Trinity Alps, Marble Mountains, Siskiyou, Russian, Red Buttes and the Kalmiopsis, are big, intact habitat anchors. Along with the largely unaltered adjacent roadless lands, these Wilderness Areas create a several million-acre wilderness network, one of the biggest remaining de facto temperate forest reserves on the West Coast. KS Wild refers to this network as the “Klamath Core.”

Unfortunately, the fragmentation of forests by roads and clearcuts is steadily compromising the Klamath Core. Recognizing this, in the early 1990's conservationists proposed protecting large habitat “corridors” to link core areas and provide access to disconnected protected areas. While experimental in nature, this approach recognizes the loss of many species from reserves around North America, including Yellowstone

and Glacier National Parks. Most reserves are simply not large enough to sustain all species and must be linked with other nearby reserves.

Habitat Connectivity with Nearby Ecoregions

The preservation of large core Wilderness Areas, corridors, carnivores and isolated rare habitats (rare plant and animal sites, or endangered habitats like old-growth forests) has emerged as the premier strategy to preserve nature. But that is not enough for many critters that live in more than one region, such as salmon, wolverine or the recovering gray wolf. Thus, we must take a multi-region approach. For instance, the Klamath River has been identified as an important aquatic linkage with the nearby Cascades, whereas the Siskiyou Crest straddling the Oregon/California border and the forests around Cow Creek (north of Grants Pass, OR) are two terrestrial linkages. Unfortunately, several of these connecting areas are already compromised. Dams on the Klamath, and a roaded and logged matrix in Cow Creek are impenetrable barriers for many species.

Protecting core areas and establishing and restoring corridors holds promise for conserving biological diversity in the K-S. But more research is needed. We must determine exactly what species are using these linkage zones, what size of corridors are required, and what other species and ecological processes must be taken into account. This research will enable land managers and the public to make sound decisions that will protect the outstanding K-S region.

Recommended reading about habitat connectivity in the K-S:

Pace, F. 1991. The Klamath Corridors: Preserving Biodiversity in the Klamath National Forest. Pp. 105-116 in W.E Hudson (Ed.) Landscape Linkages and Biodiversity. Defenders of Wildlife.

Stritholt, J. R., R. F. Noss, P. A Frost, K. Van-Borland, C. Caroll, G. Heilman, Jr. 1999. A conservation assessment and science based plan for the Klamath-Siskiyou. Conservation Biology Institute.



KS WILD ACTION UPDATE!!!

WE WIN AGAIN! — KS Wild, along with Umpqua Watersheds, ONRC and the American Lands Alliance recently settled a lawsuit against the Bureau of Land Management, ending the BLM's practice of felling "sample trees" to determine the timber volume of a potential timber sale. This practice was unique to the BLM, as the Forest Service simply took measurements of live trees for their calculations. The key issue in this case was that the BLM was logging before it complied with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. In the settlement, the BLM essentially acknowledged that it had been violating the law, and promised to stop this practice. Another win for the forests!

wildlife crossing structures. Wildlife friendly overpasses, underpasses and culverts have shown tremendous promise in providing animals areas where they can cross busy roads with relative safety. Though still experimental, these structures provide a ray of hope in conservation attempts at keeping habitat tracts of the Klamath-Siskiyou connected to each other. For long term viability, many mammal species will need to be able to cross from the roadless lands of the Marble Mountain, Trinity Alps and Red Buttes Wilderness Areas to both the Coastal Mountains and the Cascade Range. This will require crossing structures for all of the major north/south routes.

What you can do to prevent roadkill:

- Drive slower — Studies show conclusively that vehicle speed is one of the most significant factors in driver inability to avoid wildlife.
- Advocate against any new roads — Write to State and Federal managers imploring to suspend development of new roads.
- Ride a bike, walk, and carpool — Vehicle collisions with wildlife can be reduced to lowering the number of cars on the road.
- Avoid driving at night- Studies have shown that most roadkill occurs during night-time hours as many wildlife species are nocturnal.
- Advocate for wildlife crossings — Demand that state transportation departments retrofit existing roads with wildlife crossings and build them on all new roadways.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.wildlandscpr.org/>

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/wildlifecrossings/main.htm>

<http://www.grizzlybear.org/>

<http://www.predatorconservation.org/Home.htm>

<http://www.consbio.org/>



KS WILD ACTION UPDATE!!!

KILLING BLACK BEARS FOR PRIVATE TIMBER INDUSTRY PROFIT—The federal government's agency of predator killers, Wildlife Services (formerly known as Animal Damage Control) has been killing over 100 black bears in western Oregon every year for the past decade, and they are finally letting the public in on their secret. Wildlife Services recently released an environmental assessment for their program, that uses public funding to kill bears who eat the inner bark from trees on private timber plantations. The proposed alternative, supported by the timber industry, is to keep killing bears, although one of the alternatives would be to end the program altogether.

Please call Kim Wagner at Wildlife Services, at (503) 326-2346, and let her know how you feel about this project.

The Wrath of the Road

By: Spencer Lennard

On a recent trip through the town of Jacksonville I encountered a freshly killed black bear on the edge of the road, hit by a speeding motorist moments before. Deeply shocked at the horror just witnessed, I was faced with the realization of one of the most serious threats to biological diversity worldwide: the automobile.

Here in the Klamath-Siskiyou region, irreplaceable wildlife continues to be lost needlessly in collisions with vehicles. Roadkill is the leading cause of death for most wild mammals in North America, far greater than the hunter's bullet.

The wrath of roadkill does not stop with ungulates like deer. Roadkill is the leading cause of peril for both the Florida Panther and Black bear, both critical species in their respective habitats. Dangerous numbers of grizzly bears, black bears, mountain lions, bobcats and other top carnivores are dying on North American highways every year. Vehicles on high-speed highways pose the greatest threat to all wildlife species.

Because large carnivores like bears and mountain lions are wide ranging with low birth rates they are prone to population losses. Carnivores perched at the top of a complex food chain are Keystone Species, and indicate the health of the entire system. Direct roadkill comprises only one part of road impacts to top carnivores. Road avoidance, a learned behavior, prevents carnivores from following their natural migration patterns, and is therefore a significant means of species isolation. Transportation systems such as roads and railways threaten the existence of such species by preventing them from moving from one habitat tract to another, leading to population isolation. The proliferation of roads through wildlife habitat presents a serious threat to the survival of carnivores over the long term.

Here in the Klamath-Siskiyou Interstate 5, the primary north/south highway, takes a terrible toll on many wildlife species including carnivores. Interstate 5 separates the Klamath-Siskiyou from the northern Sierras and the Cascade Range, and poses a serious, if not impenetrable barrier for wildlife attempting to migrate. Other high-speed routes such as Highway 199 and coastal route 101 routinely take the lives of many ungulates and carnivores. Over the last decade thousands of deer, black bear, mountain lions, bobcats, foxes and other species have lost their lives attempting to cross these highways. Populations of wildlife on both sides of the highways have become genetically weaker as the species refuse to cross such an impermeable wall to migration.

Hope for the critters

Over the last decade, transportation departments in Canada and the United States have begun addressing the impacts to species from highways by constructing



Help save wildlife—prevent roadkill. This black bear was victim to a hit and run.

The Timbered Rock Fire: Big Timber Companies Trash Their Own Lands and Look To Log Federal Old Growth Reserve

By George Sexton
Fire Returns To A Special Watershed.

The summer of 2002 saw the return of wildfire to the fire-evolved native forests of the Elk Creek tributary to the Rogue River. The Timbered Rock fire brought flames back to 27,000 acres in a watershed that has accommodated fire for millennia. And the chainsaws are already roaring.

Located 20 miles NE of Medford, The Elk Creek watershed is a stronghold for anadromous fish runs, including coho in addition to summer and winter steelhead. The publicly owned forests of the watershed support 18 Northern Spotted Owl activity centers, and was supposedly protected as a "Late Successional Reserve" under the Northwest Forest Plan in order to protect its outstanding old growth and riparian resource values.

In the wake of the lightning caused wildfire, industrial timber companies who own property in the watershed have begun clearcutting burned timber with little regard for hydrological impacts. Meanwhile, the BLM is preparing to release its plan to exacerbate impacts to forests and water by logging up to 40 mmbf in the Late Successional "Reserve" (LSR).

A Healthy Burn Exploited For Politics.

The Timbered Rock fire exhibited the classic burn "mosaic" that defines wildfire on the wet West slope of the Cascades. On the BLM (public) forests, 428 acres burned hot while 1,347 acres burned with moderate intensity and 3,583 acres burned cool. While 3,103 acres didn't burn at all. That is a perfect wildfire.

So why is the Timbered Rock fire being used by the Bush Administration to call for ramped up logging and the elimination of environmental protections? One explanation is that the same timber companies who are now trashing their own lands in the watershed, hope to next log the formally protected Late Successional old growth "reserves" on adjacent public lands in the burn. And those same timber companies were some of the biggest financial supporters of Bush's 2000 election campaign.



Commercial logging in the Timber Rock fire zone didn't leave much behind.



Unprecedented Attack on Forest Laws Under Way

By George Sexton & Brenna Bell What Good are Environmental Laws?

When watching wild steelhead return to your favorite creek, or hiking in an intact ancient forest, the debates surrounding the laws and regulations that govern how our public lands are treated can seem trivial. Its often not until those steelhead are gone, and the forest has been turned into a stump-field, that esoteric laws like the National Forest Management Act seem relevant to the places and critters that make the Klamath-Siskiyou so unique. Many of the environmental laws that govern management of federal forests may soon disappear, and it is likely that many struggling fish runs and at-risk forests will disappear with them.

Bush Administration Targets Rules Designed to Protect Forests

It is hard to overstate the hostility with which the Bush administration is attempting to gut the laws and rules designed to protect federal forest lands in Northern California and Southern Oregon. It is difficult to find a rule or law that protects federal lands that is not under assault by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service right now.

What's At Risk?

- The Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) standards and guidelines of the Northwest Forest Plan. These rules prohibit timber sales that will harm the health of riparian areas. They are designed to protect rivers, creeks, wetlands, fish and some terrestrial species from harmful logging and roadbuilding.
- The Survey and Manage standards and guidelines of the Northwest Forest Plan. These rules require that the Forest Service and BLM "look before they log" old growth habitat. These surveys are designed to find and protect rare species that live in older forest types.
- The National Forest Management Act (NFMA). NFMA governs how individual forests like the Klamath, Siskiyou and Rogue River plan where and how to log. NFMA also contains substantive requirements for protecting biodiversity across public lands.
- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA is the law designed to ensure that the public can monitor and participate in the planning process for agency projects such as timber sales and grazing allotments.
- Similar to NEPA the Forest Service Appeal Regulations allow citizens to challenge illegal Forest Service projects and timber sales.
- The Roadless Rule provided some protections for the largest unspoiled wilderness areas remaining in our national forests.

What To Do?

There's no question that all of these assaults on our wildlands and the laws that govern them can feel overwhelming. KS Wild will continue to fight to protect our forests and rivers in the courtroom and in the forest. You can help us in a number of ways:

- Volunteer to check timber sales on the ground or spend some time in the office getting to know how to defend the environmental laws that defend our forests.
- Write letters to the editor, and educate your friends and family, about the Bush administration's attack on the environment and how it will affect us and our forests.
- Check KS Wild's website for more information about the regulatory changes and the addresses to send comments. <http://www.kswild.org>
- Contribute much needed financial support to KS Wild that enables us to keep fighting for you and your forests.

While the future of the forests looks bleak, there is hope when we all do as much as we can to protect them. Keep fighting!

