

# Fish Tales

Maintaining water quality and fish populations from source to sea in the streams of the Umpqua

2nd Issue



## Upcoming Events

- Jan. 19th **PUR Board Meeting**  
 Tuesday Roseburg ODFW Office  
 9 am Presenter: Jeff McEnroe
- Jan. 28 **PUR TAC Meeting**  
 Thursday PUR Office  
 1 pm Roseburg
- Feb. 5th **Derby Banquet**  
 Friday Contact Donna Scholl at  
 5 pm 541 672 0757
- Feb. 3-5 **Beaver Conference**  
 Weekend Learn more at  
[www.surcp.org/beavers](http://www.surcp.org/beavers)



## Project Spotlight

### Lutsinger Creek Structure Placements

One of summer 2009's most exciting projects is the restoration of Lutsinger Creek, located near the town of Scottsburg. With the collaboration of Coos Bay BLM biologist Glenn Harkleroad, logs and equipment were staged just in time for the inwater work season to end. The watershed has no road access from Scottsburg and all the logs and equipment had to come in from Loon Lake or from Elkton, which took more time than anticipated. Boulders used for the project were from the on-site quarry, which saved time and money to haul the rocks. We completed the project work under a waiver and were able to finish the project before the fall rains began. In total, we replaced two culverts in the watershed in 2008 and placed about 300 cut logs and 50 trees into Lutsinger Creek in 2009.

PUR has the privilege to work on fish habitat and fish passage restoration with the best group of biologists, landowners, contractors, and agency staff anywhere in Oregon. Thanks to you all!! Only with the dedication of these individuals is work accomplished. This group works to support each other both personally and professionally. Each day of work was truly enjoyable and we all look forward to next year's projects.

## State of the Beaver Conference Coming Up!

The South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership, PUR, and the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians proudly presents this conference. A panel of internationally recognized experts will show you how to enjoy the positive effects of an active beaver population while minimizing their negative impact.

Visit [www.surcp.org/beavers](http://www.surcp.org/beavers) for details.

## Notes from the Executive Director

The “changing of the guard” or transition to a new president occurs every two years at PUR and is firmly embedded in the bylaws of the organization. With each new officer and director comes a different personality of the whole with vitality and eagerness to accomplish great things.

In my twelve years as executive director, I have seen numerous roll-overs in the executive committee and board of directors. It’s like opening a box of chocolates – you know the rest. The staff is always anxious for this “new birth” and work diligently to adapt to new ways.

We have been blessed at PUR with excellent officers, staff and directors who have a passion for improving the Umpqua’s fisheries and water quality. The current board of officers, Stanley, Tracy and Darin, are top notch. Watch for more great things to come from this organization.

The staff recently welcomed Matt Ruwaldt, a wetlands consultant residing in North Bend, who will fill in for Eric Riley, doing estuary restoration. Eric is in Iraq with the Oregon National Guard – see accompanying article. Prior to Matt coming on board, Lisa Winn was managing the estuary work. She is now the District Silviculturist with the Forest



In our world (council staff) we’re always looking for money, money to fund our projects, money to keep us working and of course money to pay our operat-

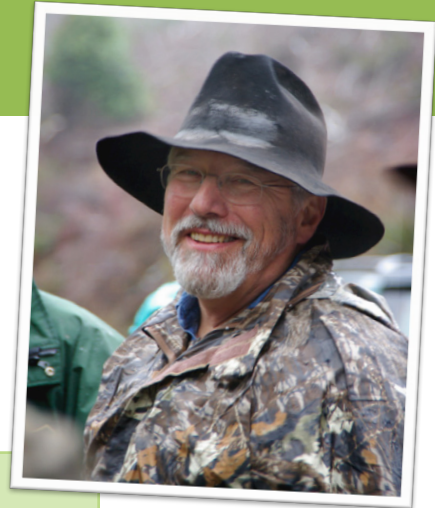
Service at Cottage Grove. Lisa worked for PUR for the past six years.

The Partnership has established a solid financial foundation with over \$2 million in grant funding this past year. The organization continues to grow as state and federal agencies realize the benefits of using PUR as a hub for restoration funding in the basin. The Partnership has a track record of leveraging foundation and other grant funding to stretch tight and reducing agency budgets. The engine that propels this council is a staff with a positive attitude and an eye toward finding unique opportunities to grow the business.

With job creation being a critical national priority, the Partnership has risen to the occasion. The council continues to hire consultants, seasonal staff and numerous restoration contractors. We will be using stimulus funding from Roseburg BLM to hire contractors to install six fish passage culverts in 2010.

PUR has embarked on a collaborative effort with the Smith River Watershed Council to assist with the mentoring and training of Brian Swift, the new SRWC coordinator, who will manage the day-to-day affairs of the Smith River group. PUR staff will train

**Bob Kinyon**  
(541) 673-5756  
[info@umpquarivers.org](mailto:info@umpquarivers.org)



Brian in grant writing, project development and implementation and assorted council management techniques. In return, Brian will assist PUR planners with projects in the lower Umpqua Basin.

The accomplishments of PUR have not gone unnoticed. The Umpqua National Forest recently presented the “Partners in Conservation” award to PUR. In July, the ODFW awarded our group the “Good Neighbor Award” at the agency’s regional meeting. The USFS, Region 6 Office of Aquatic Management, presented us the “Friend of the Program” award at its annual managers meeting in Hood River.

As my retirement draws near in 2011, I feel confident the Partnership will continue to prosper. I never forget that it’s the fine people who work for me and with me that makes all this possible.

## Money Talk with the Fiscal Manager

ing expenses. When we are successful with our grant applications we know we can keep working for a finite amount of time. The grantors typically don’t just send us a check. We have to either, spend the money and then request it from them or wait to pay the contractors and suppliers until our fund request is processed. It is always a challenge to stay on top of the funding stream, especially when we have so many projects. Throughout the year of 2009 approximately 63 fund requests were

submitted for a grand total \$1,984,624. This was from 41 different projects and/or grantors. Some of the projects had more than one grantor in order to fund it completely. The money never stays in our account for long though as we must pay our contractors as soon as we receive it. We’re moving on to new challenges in 2010!

*Debbie Thornton*  
*PUR Fiscal Manager*

# Dean Creek Estuary

“The goal is to restore the wetland to the spruce swamp that historically occupied the site. This type of planting, to our knowledge, has never been done before.”



One of the most exciting projects that I have worked on is taking place right now on Lower Dean Creek. Eric Riley wrote in the July 2009 issue of *Fish Tales* about the log placement project on the tidal wetlands owned by Wayne Shammel and Mark and Lisa Hitchcock. Well, the project is moving along nicely. The logs were dropped by helicopter in early October, but they needed to be secured so as to not float away on the next high tide sequence. Contractor Mark Villers, his crew, and myself worked for a solid week cabling the logs to the bottom with 5/8-inch cable, and large cable clamps. The cables were attached to a five-foot long mobile home anchor with a pull rating of 5,000 pounds. The lo-

and precipitation. Thus, we are taking every precaution to keep these logs in place, where they will be of maximum benefit to fish and wildlife.

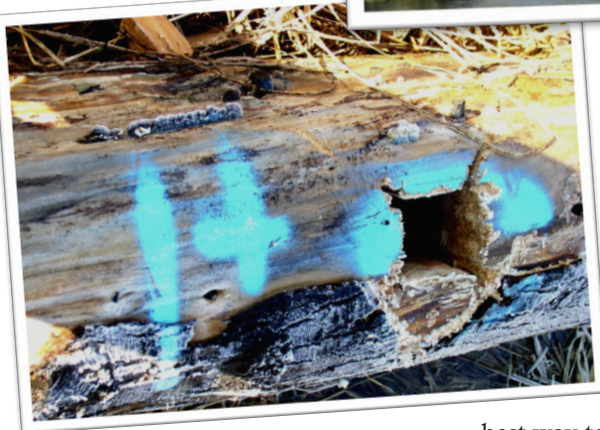
While we were securing the logs, we also cut holes in some of them as planting sites for spruce trees. The goal is to restore the wetland to the spruce



Above: A log is carefully guided into place by a skilled pilot. Left: One of the 150+ tree planting sites that were cut in the nurse logs at Lower Dean Creek.



Above: A grapple suspended from the bottom of a Chinook helicopter holds a log as it flies towards Dean Creek Estuary



swamp that historically occupied the site. This type of planting, to our knowledge, has never been done before, so we are trying a variety of “treatments” to find the

best way to grow spruce trees. The holes were cut with a chainsaw in four different ways. For ease of cutting and data collection, the methods were named 1,

cal landowners tell stories of the water rising to four feet or more above the wetland at times of high tidal exchange

1+, 2, and 2+. We cut about 40 of each type, and this should be enough to have a good sample size for a comparison study. We will return in one year to determine survival, and in five years to determine growth. It will be very interesting to see which was the most effective method! The results of this study will be of benefit for many other groups on the coast, where the spruce swamps have been severely depleted. The trees are going to be planted in January or February, and are of local genotype from Roseburg Forest Products.

*Matt Ruwaldt*  
*PUR Estuary Biologist*

## President's Corner: Stan Petrowski

The Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR) is one of Douglas County's best-kept secrets. Hopefully that won't remain the case. The watershed council's strategic plan directs us to extend the news of our success to the communities of the Umpqua Basin watershed.

The role of the watershed council is not simply to restore water quality, improve fish passage and restore prime salmon spawning habitat. One of our greatest contributions to the county is to buttress its economy. The council has brought millions of dollars of contributions and grant funds to our region as a result of its aquatic habitat restoration projects. Those dollars have been distributed in a wide range of channels. Equipment, materials and manpower are all needed to correct degraded stream conditions. Fortunately, most of the skill sets and equipment needed to accomplish these tasks are easily met by local businesses. Some of the work must be done with helicopters because of terrain access issues. Even then, local businesses are economically benefited. (For example, by chopper crews staying in the region - inns, restaurants, gas stations, super markets, etc., benefit.) A resilient healthy environment induces a healthy community both psychologically and economically.

Fulfilling the council's mission mandate has also inspired new local businesses to develop. Many of the more remote rural communities that have been hit the hardest by the economic downturn are receiving an extra economic boost through our work. Federal and State agencies, County government, agricultural and timber interests are all benefiting directly from the stream restoration activity the council engages in. We function to mutually benefit each other as we repair instream conditions.

We all share the benefits of good water quality and healthy fish runs. The degradation of the aquatic systems of the Umpqua watershed basin has had many sources and causes. No one entity should have to carry the load of repairing it. Water knows no boundaries. Our mutual responsibility and interest in

the watershed has mutually beneficial economic returns.

Another arena of considerable impact by the council is its cultural influence. Douglas County is made up of many hardworking family-owned businesses that derive their sustenance by interaction with the region's prolific natural resources. Other stakeholders in the watershed are involved because of the intrinsic value of water resources and fisheries specifically. Still others are drawn in because of concerns with the overall health of our environment and conservation issues. We build bridges in relationships and grow together.

PUR reflects a great measure of maturity in the processes of interaction among these diverse interest groups. Many years of strident effort and commitment have gone into discovering the common ground each participant shares. This in turn has forged effective channels and methods of communication. Scientific information from many sources are a powerful driver in the council. As our knowledge and methods of restoration grow we have learned to adapt.

The council has evolved into a model solution addressing the complicated nuances of change and exchange. It is not all wine and roses, but our forum has been very successful. Whether your interest is ecological, industrial or fisheries related, there is a place of common mutual benefit to be found in our midst. By advancing projects together, a greater measure of direct dialog and understanding is experienced between often opposing views. Hope to surmount problems, discover and realize common goals and restore the watershed and its fisheries are the result.

The Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers holds a very high reputation for success with the government agencies addressing watershed issues. We are citizen based and have been able

to accomplish much more than mere government regulation could ever hope to achieve. It is the one-on-one personal relationship of neighbors and acquaintances that makes us so successful.

The Council and its staff have received numerous awards and recognition for these reasons. We provide non-regulatory, science based, agency approved, community orchestrated answers to pressing ecological issues affecting all of us. It is the way problems in a free society should be solved.

I can honestly say as a rancher/landowner that the Council has played a very valuable role in providing me with operational solutions that were non-threatening to my

lifestyle, including solutions that were previously out of fiscal reach. Ecological concerns were always of keen interest to my spouse and I, and being able to address them in the context of a non-regulatory citizen-based body has been a wonderful, very productive experience.

In these times of uncertainty it has been very satisfying to say that not one aspect of the finished work done within the boundaries of our property has fallen short of the promised results. My neighbors and acquaintances have watched the development and implementation of stream restoration work on our ranch. It has been wonderfully contagious. Currently twelve landowners in our watershed have committed to engage in restoration work on their ranches and holdings.

The altruistic, yet down to earth participation of council members needs to have the attention and engagement of more of our local neighbors, friends and communities. The Watershed Council is something Douglas County and we as individuals can be proud of. Don't be shy. It is time to grow. Spread the word around!

*Stan Petrowski  
PUR President*





Eric Riley



Matt Ruwaldt and Fish



Lisa Winn and Terry Burseson

## Staff Currents

While Eric remains overseas, Lisa Winn moved on to the Forest Service, and Matt Ruwaldt stepped in as PUR's estuary biologist.

This has been, without a doubt, an important year for the Partnership and the council has seen many changes.

Eric Riley, PUR's estuary biologist, left in April 2009 to prepare for deployment with the Oregon Army National Guard to Iraq. Major Riley was home on R&R in November for two weeks and he hopes to return to work at PUR in May or June, 2010. Eric had made numerous landowner contacts, submitted several grant applications, laid out projects on the ground, but didn't get to see the implementation of any of the projects.

Lisa Winn, who has worked as a consultant for PUR for the past 6 years, took over Eric's responsibilities for salmon restoration in the Umpqua Estuary. Lisa did an exceptional job

of planning and executing two large-scale helicopter log placement projects in Dean Creek and Harvey Creek. She also coordinated a ground-based log placement project in Upper Dean Creek with Randy Smith of ODF. Lisa left our employ recently when she was hired by the Forest Service as silviculturist on the Cottage Grove Ranger District.

Matt Ruwaldt was hired in early October as the new consulting estuary biologist. He moved to Oregon from Wisconsin about two and a half years ago, and currently lives in North Bend. Before joining PUR, he spent two years with Plum Creek Timber Company, doing spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and fish surveys. Prior to that, Matt worked for ODFW on Elk River as a creel clerk and spawning ground surveyor. The

majority of his wetland restoration experience was gained in Wisconsin, while working for a small non-profit, restoring wetland and prairie habitats on private and public lands. Matt has a BS in wildlife ecology from the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Matt's first three months have been spent gaining valuable experience with the PUR partners. He has also worked on several projects that were started by Eric and Lisa, as well as planning new projects. "We have several excellent projects for 2010 in the planning stages that I am spending a lot of time on as well. I am continually looking for new projects in the estuary, so if you have any ideas, please contact me!" Matt said.

## Cross Sections

### Formosa Mine Superfund Site

EPA staff have been sampling water quality in test wells at the site, located in the headwaters of Middle Creek, for the past six months. Planning for cleanup of the site was on track until the downturn in the economy forced the administration to re-evaluate which superfund sites would receive funding in 2010. They had to pare the list down, so the sites that are a potential detriment to human health rose to the top of the priority list.

It appears the Formosa Mine site may not make the cut. PUR has a signed EPA Technical Advisory Grant (TAG) in hand, to be used for public outreach, but it is on hold. It will be recalled if federal funding for cleanup is not forthcoming.

### Instream Water Right Leasing

Are you irrigating just to maintain your water rights? Here is a tip for you. You can temporarily lease your water rights to "instream" use. This means

that the water stays in the creek for use by all of the riparian critters, including salmon, while you protect your water rights without ever having to move a single irrigation pipe! You can choose to continue to renew the lease or let it expire and resume irrigating.

For more information visit: [http://www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/mgmt\\_leases.shtml](http://www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/mgmt_leases.shtml) or contact the Watermaster's Office at (541) 440-4255 or (800) 477-0991.

## Memories of Don Ollivant

On August 19th, 2009 PUR lost one of our most wonderful and loyal friends: Don Ollivant. He has been a vital part of our organization for many years and we can't imagine our meetings and functions without him. He was truly one of a kind and we will miss him. The following are comments by PUR Members and staff.

"I will miss Don's passion for the Umpqua Basin and its fish, his detailed questions, and, yes, even his cantankerous side. I first met him a few days after I started my job here. We were both at a smolt trap site on Ollala Creek and Don talked to me for a long time about local geography, fish, and much more. Since then I have had many more conversations with him and sat through many meetings with him. I will miss him."

"There were times I did not agree with Don Ollivant but there were many more times when I wished I had said what he just did. He always spoke from both knowledge and conviction and the community of local citizens seeking to restore the salmon runs just lost an important voice. Rest in peace Don and the rest of us need to get to work."

"I recently spent quality time with Don. He remarked that, 'I usually stick with something until I'm sure it is going the right way. Then I let it go...'" Don, you are loved, respected and will be missed as a wise elder of the community."

"Don's passion for fish and his historical perspective for the area will

be greatly missed. I always appreciated his willingness to swim upstream at our meetings even when the current was running strongly against him. Don will be missed by all regardless of what direction you are traveling in the stream. I think he will be thought of frequently as PUR moves forward with its work in the future."

"This is a very sad day for all who ever had contact with Don, which has to be a large portion of Douglas County. Don's ability to ask tough questions and still be curious and respectful of all others was truly unique. He is someone I would call with an obscure forest resources question since it was highly likely that if he had not dealt with it himself, he had spoken to someone in the County who had. You will be sorely missed Don."

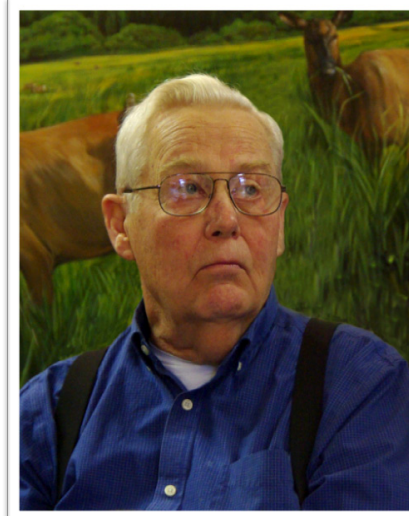
"When God made Don, he didn't make him with a rubberstamp. He was his own man with a viewpoint that brought credibility to any discussion, whenever he spoke. This is real loss. His wisdom and advice will be sorely missed."

"I suspect our meetings will never

really be "without" Don. He has infused us, each uniquely, with his special brand of inquisitive charm and courage, and has mentored us in the ways of thoughtful, challenging, yet always respectful discourse. I know I'll be seeking his opinion and council, still."

"I will really miss Don, he spoke his mind openly and if he disagreed with you he was always willing to go to the field with you or spend time together to find common ground (rare qualities now a days). In the restoration world he was a straight shooter who supported wise restoration and would

let you know if he thought you were on the wrong track but was willing to work with you to find an alternative that he could support. I will also miss his life wisdom ..... I used to ask him for guidance on everything from "non published combat techniques" for yellow star thistle eradication (on my place) to potential ag ventures ..... you name it. Wish I could have spent more time with him, this loss will hurt the council. Hopefully enough of him rubbed off on us that we can make him proud."



## Richard Sommer

On July 28, 2009 PUR lost another long time member, one who like Don Ollivant, was often not shy about speaking up at Council Meetings and sharing his opinions. Richard Sommer was one of a kind. As the News Review wrote in summarizing comments from some of Richard's many friends, "He was poetic, artistic, humorous, an independent thinker. He was erratic, stubborn and quirky. He knew it and he didn't care. He was a visionary. He was a pioneer."

A student of horticulture and a 1948 graduate of the University of

California at Davis, Richard wasted no time utilizing what he had learned. He was known in the Umpqua for introducing European-style grapes into the valley in 1961 and establishing the beginnings of the modern wine industry in Oregon when he established HillCrest Vineyards. After 42 years working his beloved grapes, Richard retired but this did not stop him from expressing his devotion to nature and horticulture. He was very active in many clubs and

organizations such as the Native Plant Society, Umpqua Watersheds and PUR. In 2006 Richard was awarded the Umpqua Watersheds Lifetime Conservation Award. We will miss seeing Richard's passion for life and for the land, plants, waters and creatures of the Umpqua.



# Monitoring Updates

## Volunteer Monitoring

Our volunteer monitoring group is working away at continuing to gather water quality trend data at 50 sites monthly in our four target areas: Myrtle Creek, Elk Creek above Tiller, the South Umpqua from Tiller to Dillard, and the Umpqua River from Umpqua to Reedsport. We had to say goodbye to Jean Blair, one of our valued volunteers, who moved to Portland to fulfill grandmotherly duties. I will miss her on our regular Elk Creek run, but special thanks go to M.A. Hansen and Diane Phillips who are stepping in to fill this run in addition to carrying the weight of the other three runs.

## Umpqua Temperature Study Phase II

This summer PUR participated in the second summer of temperature monitoring with Kent Smith on the Umpqua River. This year Kent, Sandy and our intrepid volunteer boatman Vince Fox drifted the Umpqua River for 33 miles from James Wood Boat Ramp above Wolf Creek to the Circle K Ranch near Elkton.

In early summer, we placed temperature data loggers attached to cement blocks in the main flow of the river every mile. As some of the blocks sank to the bottom out of site, Kent really began to wonder if we would ever see them again and admitted to many sleepless nights worrying about them over the summer. Come time to retrieve them though, Kent was pleasantly surprised to find that with Vince's expert boating, Kent with his GPS, and Sandy on PUR's Trimble, we were able to retrieve many of the visible ones by boat. The rest required some getting wet. Kent and Sandy dove for the shallower ones while Alan Bunce was thankfully able to recover the deeper ones. Alan kept free-diving to 20 feet and more at some sites until he located the block in low

light and then swam it, not only to the surface but to shore! Thank you Alan. You were awesome and we never would have ended up recovering 30 out of 33 without you! Kent is busily analyzing the data and coming up with some awesome graphical presentations. We'll be hearing from him soon at a future council meeting.

## Wolf Creek Hyporhiec Flow Study and Little Wolf Long-term Monitoring

Again this summer we participated in BLM's ongoing study of the Little Wolf Creek restoration project. We placed temperature data loggers above and below the four study reaches. In addition we repeated cross-section measurements at established sites to record any change in gravel build up.

New this summer was the actual placement of boulders with gravel augmentation in Wolf Creek where we had been monitoring for two years to gather pre project information.

We recorded cross-section data before and after the project placements at two-gravel augmented and two non-augmented sites. We also placed numerous temperature data loggers above and below each structure to determine if

the water moving through the gravel and the boulder weirs was cooling the water. No change was detected this year, but this is an ongoing study and we hope to begin to see some temperature reduction as sediment fills in around the gravel and slows the transport through the bed. Stay tuned for this summer's results!

*Sandy Lyon  
PUR Monitoring Coordinator*



Top: A group of council members inspecting one of our boulder weirs with gravel augmentation during a tour at Wolf Creek this summer  
Bottom: M.A. Hansen and Diane Phillips monitoring at Reedsport

"It was a very busy summer with two major research projects and with expanded volunteer monitoring. We couldn't have accomplished all that we did without the help of our volunteers."



Jean Blair recording data before her departure to Portland



Bottom: Vince and Kent preparing to deploy five loggers across the river Top: Kent Smith retrieves a data logger



## Our Mission

Through collaboration with diverse participants, the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers maintains and improves water quality & fish populations from source to sea in the streams of the Umpqua.

We educate people about the value of healthy streams; we work with willing landowners to improve stream conditions; we monitor the health of the streams and their fish populations.

Through these actions the Partnership contributes to the ecological and economic well-being of the basin.

### Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers



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## Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

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