

# Fish Tales

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

3rd Issue



Kris Lyon monitoring the stream channel in Wolf Creek

## Upcoming Events

July 17th **River Appreciation Day**  
Saturday Whistler's Bend Park  
12:00 pm See PUR Table

July 20th **Annual Meeting**  
Thursday Big K Ranch, Elkton  
1-5 pm 1-3 business, 3-5 social

Aug. 17th **PUR Upper South Umpqua Tour**  
TBA Watch for Flyer

Aug. 22nd **Smith River Fair**  
Sunday Smith River Grange  
10 am See article on page 6

## Wolf Creek Project

### Receives Prestigious Riparian Challenge Award

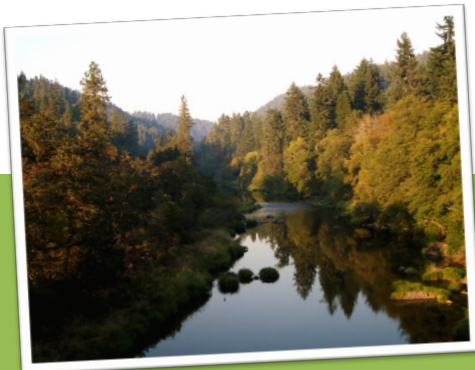
An on-going project in the Umpqua's Wolf Creek drainage won the American Fisheries Society's (AFS) prestigious Riparian Challenge Award for the western division. Richard Grost, AFS Oregon Chapter president, presented the award May 18th to the Wolf Creek Watershed Restoration and Effectiveness Monitoring partners: the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR), ODFW-Umpqua District, BLM-Roseburg District, Roseburg Resources Timber Company, and Seneca Jones Timber Company.

The project's goal is to restore and monitor 15 miles of fish spawning habitat within the Wolf Creek drainage, located near Tyee. This system once had strong runs of salmon and trout but became extremely degraded due to past land management practices and flooding. Since 2008, work at 130 sites has restored 10 stream miles and more work is planned for 2011.

"What really makes the Wolf Creek project stand out is its strong focus on monitoring," said Bob Kinyon, PUR Executive Director. "Before we started any on-the-ground work, we spent three years collecting data in Wolf Creek, and post-project monitoring will be on-going." One of the primary monitoring goals is to make all data available to the (Continued on page 3...)

### What is a partnership?

A partnership is defined as a relationship between individuals or groups that is characterized by mutual cooperation for the achievement of a specified goal. PUR's board of directors is comprised of individuals representing many diverse groups in Douglas County, including private timber companies, landowners, state and local government agencies, fishermen, and many other private organizations.



## Notes from the Executive Director

On December 8th, 2010, I will celebrate my 13th year as the first full-time coordinator for the watershed council. In December 1997, at my first meeting with the executive committee, at the time Rick Sohn, Jim Donnellan and Noel Groshong, I promised I would give the council 5-10 years of service. My, we have achieved a lot over that time period. Kent Smith reminded me the other day that I had to borrow a computer from the USFWS to write my first grant application for the council.

Our full-time staff has grown from one to five during that period. Much of the success of the Partnership can be attributed to the quality of employees we hire. We have been careful to employ staff and consultants who have the same vision, self-motivation and leadership skills as our core group.

On his return to work from a tour in Iraq with the Oregon Army National Guard, Eric Riley assumed the role of Restoration Coordinator, a newly-created position to manage the capital construction functions of the council. He supervises the hydrologists and biologists doing the project planning, design, implementation and reporting.

In May we hired a consulting grant writer, Amy Pinson Dumm, who had



Not only am I thrilled to be back at work, but I am truly excited to see where this watershed council is headed. It has been an exciting spring with the establishment of the Restoration Coordinator (RC) position here at the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR). Over the past 13 years the Council has

been writing NEPA documents for the USFS in Idaho from her home in Roseburg. Amy had a chance to edit and comment on BLM RAC grant applications submitted by PUR this spring. She will work mostly from home, researching grant opportunities to expand the funding base for the council.

Jeff McEnroe, Roseburg BLM fisheries biologist, submitted an award application to the Western Region American Fisheries Society, for collaborative instream work in the Wolf Creek watershed. Competing against 8 other organizations, the Roseburg BLM received the Riparian Challenge Award for the second time. Jeff picked up the award for the agency at a meeting in Salt Lake City. He then awarded individual plaques to the project partners at the May WC meeting. Those receiving the award were ODFW, Seneca Jones TC, Roseburg Resources Co. and the Partnership.

Looking at the larger picture, a recent article in the LaGrande Observer newspaper printed an article on recent research by the Ecosystem Workforce Program regarding the economic impact of restoration work. In a report to OWEB, the researchers had the following to say:



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- “Watershed restoration projects create jobs on a par with public infrastructure projects,
- Every million dollars of public investment in restoration projects supports about 17 jobs in Oregon,
- 90 percent of money spent on watershed and reforestation projects stays in the state, and 60 percent stays in the counties where work is done”

It makes me proud to have been associated with such a successful program. We are not flashy, loud or flamboyant. We continue to weigh the pros and cons of each decision we make as a council. It would not have been possible without the enduring support of our Board of Directors through these 13 years. I have worked with 75 individual board members and have found each of them willing to go out of their way to go the extra mile for the Partnership.

## Restoration Coordinator's Corner

relied on the Executive Director (ED) to coordinate all capital and non-capital projects. Over this time the Council has grown considerably, as has its staff. As PUR's workload has increased, it has become less effective to rely solely on the ED to coordinate all projects, hence the creation of the RC position. The RC is charged with overseeing all capital on the ground projects; to include work prioritization, project planning, grant writing, permitting and coordination with our various partners. During the 2010

field season, PUR will complete five fish passage, three instream restoration and three fish passage/instream restoration projects. As PUR continues to grow, the RC position will become increasingly vital to the Council's continued success. We have become the model that others strive to become and there is no reason we should not continue to grow.

*Eric Riley*  
*Restoration Coordinator*

# Harvey Creek Instream Project

“We were able to complete an important project that will benefit salmonids and other species in perpetuity.”



Last October, shortly after beginning work for PUR, I was involved in a very exciting project--the Harvey Creek Instream Restoration. Harvey Creek, with its tremendous gravel deposits and high water quality, was an ideal candidate for large wood placements. This project was a classic example of how years of planning come together in a few short days of implementation. PUR staff Eric Riley, Terry Bureson, and Lisa Winn did an outstanding job of working with USFS staff member Paul Burns, and ODFW staff member Dan Jenkins, to coordinate all aspects of the project. When it was time for the helicopter to take flight, everything went very smoothly. The pilots and ground crew were true experts - with huge Chinook helicopters they were able to place 20,000 pound trees within

a foot of where we wanted them. In total, we placed 121 trees in 20 sites. I revisited the sites in March, and am pleased to report that juvenile salmonids were already using the complex habitat created by the



Left: A crew discusses the next placement Right: A log is flown towards a structure site by a Chinook



trees. At that time we also installed five tree revetments, augmenting them with willow plantings for additional bank stabilization. The project was funded by OWEB, USFWS, and the BLM RAC Title II. With cooperative landowners, outstanding partners (USFS donated all trees used), and a great working relationship with Columbia Helicopters, we were able to complete

an important project that will benefit salmonids and other species in perpetuity.

*Matt Ruwaldt  
Estuary Biologist*

## Wolf Creek Project Award Continued ...

public through the Umpqua Explorer website ([www.umpquaexplorer.info](http://www.umpquaexplorer.info)), maintained by Oregon State University. “Monitoring a project of this scale has to be a cooperative effort because it’s a lot of work” said Sandy Lyon, PUR Monitoring Coordinator, “but only through intensive monitoring can we understand the effectiveness of our restoration efforts, so it’s worth it.”

The AFS is the oldest and largest professional society representing fisheries scientists. The western division includes 13 states, British Columbia,

Yukon Territories, Mexico, and U.S. western Pacific islands. The purpose of the Riparian Challenge Award is to encourage government agencies, private industry, and conservation groups to strive for excellence in riparian and watershed habitat management.



Laura Jackson, Dave Archambault, Dave Russell, Jeff McEnroe, Terry Bureson, and Richard Grost

## President's Corner: Stan Petrowski

The recent Federal ruling acknowledging that the Oregon Coastal Coho runs are to remain on the threatened salmon species list comes as tough news. Monitoring efforts across the Coastal ESU indicate that restoration work is very effective. We just are not keeping pace with the impact of human activity on our river systems.

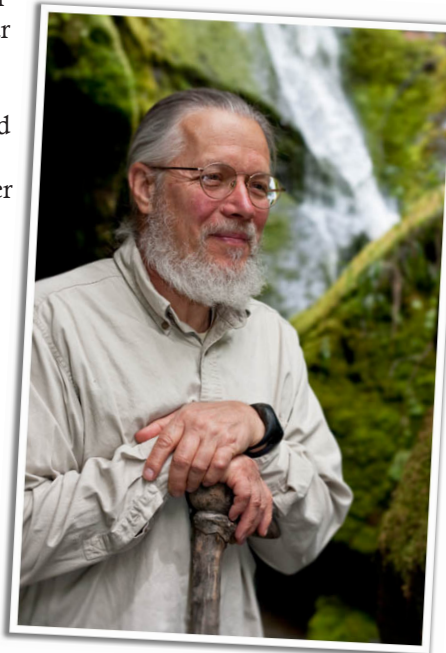
Here at the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers we are undaunted by the ruling. We have a first hand look at real progress in achieving our goals in those areas that we have been able to accomplish our tasks. The rivers system is resilient and responds quickly to our efforts. Our mission is built around a long term vision of restoration work that will produce the following results.

1. A clean abundant supply of water is essential for Douglas County community residents. It is foremost of our goals. The very same water quality conditions that are essential for the healthy salmon runs are necessary for a healthy community. Where there is no water there is no life. A reliable source of water to meet the biological and community needs of our region is a product of a restored aquatic habitat system in our watershed basin

2. The Umpqua Basin river system will never stabilize until we learn to include the framework of the county's populace and its economic activities in our plans. Restoration efforts must

include a positive economic context for county residents. Until we learn to live with and see ourselves as part of the ecological context of our watersheds our economy will suffer and eventually collapse under the weight of mismanagement of our natural resources.

3. The salmon runs of Douglas County are one of its greatest treasures. Salmon are more than a source of food. Healthy runs of the various native fish species are a sign of a healthy environment. They have a social, economic and ecological impact far beyond the borders of our lives and our county. Salmon are a keystone species required by every aspect of the natural order of our bio-region to maintain its viability. Without them the framework of biological processes that sustain human activities in this area degenerates. Our culture



would be doomed to become synthetic and dependent on resources outside of our control. The fishing industry is only the most visible element to be negatively impacted by the diminished salmon runs.

Reestablishing those conditions in the river system that have long been recognized as the natural means by which the river historically maintained its vitality will go a long way to help us achieve the above goals. The Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers is a fully functional volunteer citizen based organization equipped with the staff and the skills to get the formidable task ahead accomplished. Your participation is essential. Together we can do this. We need your positive and creative energy to help us keep our shoulders to the work. Contact the PUR office to see the ways you can become a part of this important work. There's a place for you in some aspect of the many faceted activities we are engaged in. See you at the next council meeting?

*Stan Petrowski*  
PUR President

## Scholfield Wetland Restoration

One of the upcoming projects that I am excited about is the Scholfield Creek Restoration project. This project has five parts— instream wood placement to improve salmon habitat, three livestock fences, two bridges, road reconstruction, and wetland



*Ditch in need of improvement*

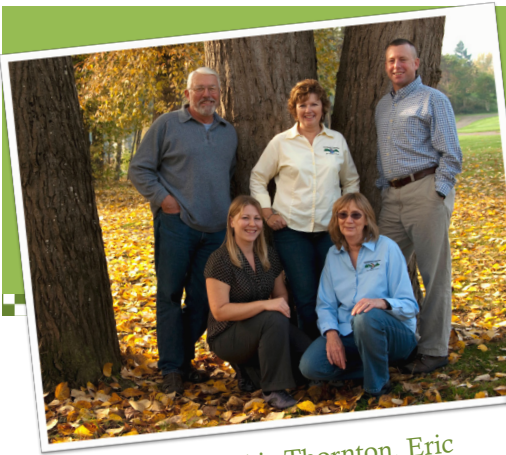
restoration. Much of my experience has been with wetland restoration, and that

is what has me so thrilled. The wetland on this property is drained by a small ditch, that is impacted by sediment influx from the surrounding uplands. During the rainy season the southern end of the wetland still functions well, and is full of waterfowl. On a visit last January, I counted 9 species of ducks. A quick review of the biology of these species shows that they employ many different

feeding strategies. Thus, we can tell that currently this area of the wetland pro-

vides a variety of good habitats in the winter. However, the site does not hold water during the late spring through mid fall months, and the northern end of the basin is dominated by invasive plant species. To fully restore this area, we intend to fill in the ditch that is draining the site and remove about 3,000 cubic yards of sediment from the northern end of the basin. This will restore hydrology and wetland function to the site, and provide even better habitat for the waterfowl and other wildlife that use it.

*Matt Ruwaldt*  
Estuary Biologist



Bob Kinyon, Debbie Thornton, Eric Riley, Terry Burlison, Sandy Lyon



Stretch of Wolf Creek



2-162 Infantry Battalion  
Change of Command Ceremony

## Staff Currents

### Eric returns from Iraq and many new faces join PUR

Within the past year, there have been several personnel changes in the Partnership. When Eric Riley deployed to Iraq with the Oregon Army National Guard in February 2009, we assigned Lisa Winn, who was already employed as a consulting project manager, to fill the void. She jumped right in to manage four instream log projects in October in the estuary. Three were helicopter and one was excavator and line-pulling machine. Lisa worked on these 4 projects while beginning her new career with the USFS as the district silviculturist at the Cottage Grove Ranger District.

Shortly after Lisa left us, Bob Kinyon was contacted by Matt Ruwaldt, who had just finished a Survey Supervisor job with Plum Creek Timber Company. Matt had recently moved to the coast from Wisconsin where he was a wetlands project manager for a non-profit organization. He started work for PUR on October 5th as a consulting estuary biologist. Matt has been working on projects that Eric started two years ago as well as planning and developing additional projects of his own.

At a ceremony held at the Lane

County Fairgrounds, on April 23, Eric and the rest of 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment was welcomed home from their tour of duty in Iraq. Eric, currently a major in the National Guard, also assumed command of the battalion at the ceremony. Along with his new position, a promotion to Lieutenant Colonel is currently pending.

The Partnership got involved in the interview and hiring process for a coordinator with Smith River Watershed Council (SRWC). Brian Swift, a masters student at the University of Missouri, was selected from six candidates. The two councils developed a Memorandum of Understanding whereby PUR offered to pay 1/3 of Brian's salary and mileage in exchange for training, mentoring and using Brian on PUR projects. He has been working at PUR periodically on grant writing for the SRWC and helping with project development on several PUR projects.

It seems like Terry Burlison, PUR planner, has spent the last four months in the grant writing driver's seat without letup. She did a yeoman's job of getting a multitude of restoration grant applica-

tions out the door. However, that should not be 100% of a hydrologist's work. As a consequence, we hired a consulting grant writer, Amy Pinson Dumm, who just completed a two-year NEPA writing contract for the USFS in Idaho. Amy has two small children and has been doing that work from home. Now that there is a break in the grant cycles, Amy will be researching opportunities for agency and foundation support to expand the PUR funding base.

The Partnership has had a functioning education committee for over a year, but with no clear leadership. We hired Nancy Geyer as the Education/Outreach Program Manager to focus our outreach efforts more effectively. Nancy has an education background, an expansive imagination and is well suited for this kind of work.

And last but not best; at an executive session on June 15th, the PUR Board of Directors approved Eric Riley to succeed Bob Kinyon as Executive Director of the Council. This change will be effective upon Bob's retirement on June 3rd, 2011.

**The Partnership is always in need of volunteers for water quality monitoring, organizing fundraisers and events, and other areas of work.**

**If you are interested please contact us,**

**(541) 673-5767 [info@umpquarivers.org](mailto:info@umpquarivers.org)**

## Cattle Ranch Becomes Fish-friendly Thanks to Fish Derby

When Russ and Sandy Lyon purchased their 300-acre Days Creek ranch in 1990, they knew they had a big challenge ahead of them: finding a way to both run cattle and restore salmon habitat. Approximately a mile of Fate Creek and a mile of Days Creek flow through the Lyons' ranch. "We were told Fate Creek once had salmon runs, but that was a long time ago" said Sandy Lyon. Water from Fate and Days creeks is critical to operating the ranch, but accessing the water came with a cost. "The same concrete diversion used to irrigate our pastures also blocked salmon" said Lyon, "and in many places, cattle had wiped out the riparian vegetation, and crossings were a muddy mess."

What started out as a simple project to install a stock water system turned into a 16-year program to make all aspects of their ranch fish-friendly while keeping their operation functional and profitable. One of the first projects was renovating a 50-year old water diversion blocking fish passage. "Adult salmon would get as far as the concrete diversion and get stuck" said Lyon, "so fixing it was high on our list." The concrete structure was re-fitted with a large metal head gate that could be winched up and down, allowing it to be closed during the irrigation season and opened to allow

free fish passage the rest of the year. "We were so excited the first time we saw salmon pass through it" said Lyon, "it inspired us to keep doing more for fish."

Thanks to help from PUR, the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District, ODFW,



Top: Invasive blackberries are cleared by a mower attached to an excavator. Below: A cleared riparian, planted with native plants

BLM, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Lyons have nearly completed all of their fish habitat improvement projects. In addition to

renovating the diversion structure, the Lyons have installed two livestock crossing bridges, replaced a fish-blocking culvert, planted and fenced their property's riparian areas, constructed a mobile stock water tank, developed a spring for livestock water, and implemented in-stream projects to improve fish spawning habitat. Because of the Lyons' vision and dedication, Fate Creek is a salmon stream again. "You can have a productive cattle ranch and help fish" said Lyon. "We hope our story will inspire more ranchers to become partners in salmon habitat restoration."

"The Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby was really an important grantor for the Lyons' program" said Bob Kinyon, PUR Executive Director. "Although most of our UFED grants were small [\$500 or less], UFED's support helped us leverage grants from other sources because it showed local interest in the project. That's just as important as the actual dollars given, and that's why UFED grants are so important to this type of work."

Pleased with the result on their property, the Lyons have remained strong PUR supporters: Russ Lyon served on the PUR's Board of Directors and Sandy was hired in 2003 as PUR's Monitoring Coordinator.

## Cross Sections

### Smith River Country Fair

Summer is officially here and there is exciting news from Smith River. The annual "Smith River Country Fair" will be held at the Smith River Grange on August 22nd, 10 am to 5 pm. There will be all the old favorite pastimes; sno-cones, live local musicians, large zucchini contest, raffles, BBQ-Beef, egg-toss, critter-scramble and much more. The Smith River Watershed Council is glad to partner with the Smith River Grange #585 in keeping the fair's tradition alive. Come learn about the work the Smith River Watershed Council has been doing for coho salmon and the local economy!

### State of the Beaver

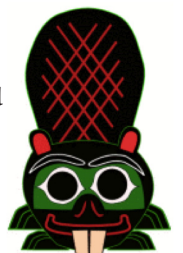
Beavers can be an unwanted nuisance to landowners, but are also needed to improve stream health in other areas of the watershed. Relocating beavers to these areas is a win win situation for everyone. In the past three years Lois and Leonard Houston, of the Beaver Advocacy Group, have translocated 21 beavers, founding 6 new colonies within the South Umpqua Basin.

"Beavers greatly improve water quality and quantity through their dam-building activities, and habitat for fish, wildlife and avairian species is greatly expanded with the presence of beavers" said the Houstons.

"Beavers are the most cost effective tool we have in riparian restoration, managing beavers is inexpensive and the rewards are immeasurable."

They are currently working on three projects in the watershed and hope to expand their efforts.

As well as on the ground projects the advocacy group educates stakeholders on the benefits of beavers. In cooperation with PUR and the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians they recently hosted a very successful international beaver conference.



## Common Threats



Quagga and Zebra Mussels are very small and feel like a grain of sand when they first attach to a solid object



Mitten Crab - Large juveniles and adults have white tipped claws, covered in hair



Hydrilla Plant - A submerged green weed, look for small "potato-like tubers" attached to the roots



Mud Snail - These very small aggressive snails swim and attach to gear, 5mm in length but can be as small as grain of sand

# Aquatic Invasive Species

and what you should know ...

Across the state of Oregon, a war is being waged against aquatic invasive species. Unsuspecting boaters can easily transport invasive species between waterways - creating a very annoying and expensive problem.

"These non-native organisms can proliferate, displacing native species and damage the water resource" says the Oregon State Marine Board. Once these species are established, they are very difficult and costly to remove and their spread is harmful to everyone associated with Oregon's water.

For example, the hydrilla aquatic plant is known to clog irrigation ditches and intake pipes, costing landowners and farmers precious time and money. The slowing of water creates a perfect hatching ground for mosquitoes, the number one vector for disease. Even native fish and water quality are harmed by increased water temperatures, lowered concentrations of dissolved oxygen, raising pH levels, and loss of habitat.

Invasive species can also interfere with recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, boating, and water skiing. It is truly remarkable how the introduction of only a few individual organisms can transform a beautiful popular lake into an almost unusable and dangerous tangle of submerged plants and sharp mussels that cling tightly to every rock.

Even though the threat is definitely

real, and the species are spreading, there is a simple preventative measure we can all take. Since the majority of the invaders are spread by humans be sure to thoroughly clean, drain, and dry your boat, trailer, boots, waders, and other equipment! If you suspect that you have found one of these invasive species call 1-866-INVADER immediately to report it.

PUR has hired Brendan Karr, a seasonal worker at Diamond Lake, to help boaters learn about invasive species and properly clean their boats.

**CLEAN:** It is advised that boaters wash their boats before and after entering a water body with a hot-pressure washer. If one is unavailable a garden hose would also work. It is important to wash the entire outside of your boat and trailer, paying special attention to the hitch, rollers, motor/propeller, trailer axel, and bilge.

**DRAIN:** Be sure to drain your motor, live well, and bilge on land, at the same waterbody, before leaving.

**DRY:** Finally, dry your boat and all equipment for as long as possible. Five days is optimal.

Visit the following website for more information: [www.boatoregon.com/OSMB/Clean/ANS.shtml](http://www.boatoregon.com/OSMB/Clean/ANS.shtml)

Visit [www.protectyourwaters.net/prevention/](http://www.protectyourwaters.net/prevention/) to learn how to properly clean your waders and other equipment.

Stop  
Aquatic  
Invaders

**CLEAN  
DRAIN  
DRY  
YOUR BOAT**

The threat is real...prevention is easy.

MOTORIZED BOATERS -Automatically pay into prevention efforts when registering their boat (\$5 surcharge).

PADDLECRAFT-Need to purchase a permit online at:

[www.dfw.state.or.us](http://www.dfw.state.or.us)

or from any ODFW license agent -\$7 (\$5 permit + \$2 agent fee)




For more information about the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Permit, visit [boatoregon.com](http://boatoregon.com)



## 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



• (541) 673-5756 • [www.UmpquaRivers.org](http://www.UmpquaRivers.org) •

## Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

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