KS WILD NEWS

The Journal of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Spring 2017



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SPRING HIKES & EVENTS



KALMIOPSIS CELEBRATION DEER CREEK CENTER, SELMA

Friday, April 7 at 6pm-9pm

We're throwing a party in honor of the wild Kalmiopsis rivers and all the people who have stood up to protect them from threats of strip mining. Come on out for a potluck, music, merriment, and continued actions to defend the places we love. RSVP required at kswild.org.

RAINIE FALLS HIKE

Sunday, April 30, 9am-5pm

This moderate 4-mile round-trip hike takes us along the Wild and Scenic Rogue River where we may catch of glimpse of eagles, osprey, heron or otters.

CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT

Saturday, May 13, 10am-2pm

This hike follows the Pacific Crest Trail and meets the Pilot Rock Trail for a total of 5 easy-moderate miles. We will see sweeping vistas of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and talk about the expansion area. Enjoy identifying trees like Juniper and seeing wildflowers pop up along the trail.

ILLINOIS VALLEY WILDFLOWER HIKE

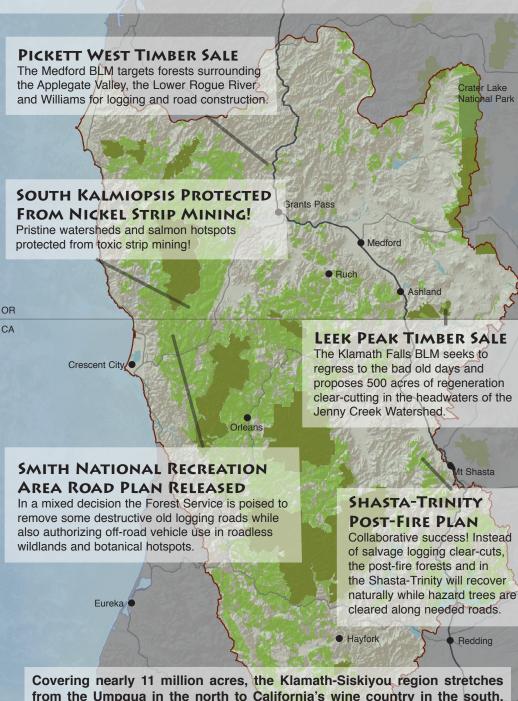
Saturday, May 27, 9am-4pm

This easy hike near the Illinois River will focus on finding and identifying serpentine wildflowers. Be sure to bring along your favorite wildflower identification books!

FOR ALL EVENTS AND HIKES

Visit kswild.org to learn more, sign-up online and get carpool details.

2017 NEWS AROUND THE KS



from the Umpqua in the north to California's wine country in the south, from the Pacific Ocean to the mighty Cascades. The mountain ranges and river valleys that define this region harbor renowned biological diversity and are some of the most spectacular in America.

TRUMP AND PUBLIC LANDS

4 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. KS Wild is Ready for the Coming Challenges

Like flying squirrels, KS Wild likes to soar when times are dark. In the late 90's we formed in response to the suspension of forest protection laws and successfully defending thousands of acres of old-growth forests. Since then we've taken on multipational pickel mines, corporate timber lawyers, and climaters.



multinational nickel mines, corporate timber lawyers, and climate naysayers. By working with folks like you, we are giving a voice to wild nature and the communities that depend on them. Together, we will continue to prevail for the Earth and its critters.

2. Extractive Industries are Running the Show

When an Exxon executive is picked for Secretary of State it sends a clear message that the health of the Earth's climate, forests, and oceans are going to take a back seat to corporate interests. We expect the BLM and the Forest Service to be under intense pressure from political appointees to maximize corporate profits from public lands. The goal is clear: Trump's billionaire buddies will gain, while the protections for public input, wildlife, and clean water will suffer.

3. Walden: Oregon's Mini-Trump

Don't expect Oregon's 2nd District Congressman Greg Walden to be a needed voice of reason and moderation in the coming years. Walden has defended Trump as he champions the giveaway of National Forests to their shared political allies and campaign contributors. In southwest Oregon, Walden has hopes to hand over management of BLM forests in Oregon to the timber industry.

4. We Stand Together

Most Americans love our public lands. You are part of a movement that upholds the values of compassion, stewardship, and rational thought. KS Wild makes it possible for people like you to get involved in decision-making actions that affect our public lands. Your commitment means communities can protect clean water, wildlife habitat, and access to outdoor recreation opportunities. Future generations will look kindly on your efforts to ensure a healthy, sustainable, and peaceful planet.



NATIONAL MONUMENT OR CLEARCUT STUMPFIELD?

Jenny Creek in the Cascade-Siskiyou is a meandering trout stream that is prized by many. But now it is at risk.

Local scientists, businesses, and landowners all recently rallied together to support an expanded Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument that would include the remarkable Jenny Creek. Forest biologists determined that Jenny Creek should be protected as part of the Monument to retain its unique habitat values. Fish biologists conclude Jenny Creek should be protected as a valuable cold-water, fish-bearing tributary to the Klamath River. The Talent and Ashland Chambers of Commerce value its recreation opportunities, while local landowners want to see Jenny Creek protected to prevent increased fire hazard from clearcut logging.

That's a lot of local support for monument expansion and it should serve as an endorsement for forward-thinking management of our region's public lands.

Meanwhile the Bureau of Land Management has been busy planning to clearcut forests in



Jenny Creek is home to redband trout populations. Photo: Brandon Breen

the headwaters of the Jenny Creek watershed via the Leek Peak timber sale. Jenny Creek is universally acknowledged as one of the most biologically diverse and important watersheds in this region and is home to an impressive array of plants and animals. Jenny Creek is an important corridor from the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument summit and highlands down to the Klamath River.

The BLM knows that most Americans don't want our remaining native forests to be clearcut and converted into unhealthy tree plantations that increase fire hazard. Of course the BLM thinks *regeneration* sounds better than clearcutting, but the result is the same: 95% of the big, old fire-resilient trees are removed, fire hazard is increased, and clean water, wildlife and forests are gone.

The Klamath Falls BLM is listening to the voices in the timber industry who have expressed that our public lands exist primarily for profit. The good news is that portions of Jenny Creek were recently protected as part of the newly expanded Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (see page 5-6). The bad news is that the BLM is still hoping to "regenerate" hundreds of acres of your public forests in this special place.

With your help, KS Wild is standing for the protection of the many values that Americans find in our public lands, including the ancient forests in the headwaters of Jenny Creek.



The Lower Jenny Creek Area was protected by the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Expansion. Photo: Pepper Trail

CONSERVATION SUCCESS CASCADE-SISKIYOU MONUMENT EXPANDED

After four local public hearings and thousands of letters to elected officials, support for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument has been heard! On Thursday, January 12, 2016, President Obama used his authority under the Antiquities Act to expand the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in southern Oregon.

As President Obama wrote in the monument proclamation, "Expanding the monument... will create a Cascade-Siskiyou landscape that provides vital habitat connectivity, watershed protection, and landscape-scale resilience for the area's critically important natural resources."

President Obama's action grants a layer of protection to the spectacular public lands near the Oregon California border. Recognized as one of the most significant biological crossroads in North America, protection of the Cascade-Siskiyou helps ensure a future for plants, animals, and local communities far beyond the monument boundaries.

In 2000, President Clinton created the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, the only U.S. national monument designated for protection of biological diversity. It is a place where ecosystems collide, and is home to species found in the Great Basin, Sierra Nevada, Siskiyous, and Cascades Mountains. Expansion of the boundaries creates more complete protection of watersheds and wildlife corridors, and buffers against effects of climate change.

The most distinguished landmark in the monument is Pilot Rock, but the expansion adds areas to the south, including Horseshoe Ranch and lower Jenny Creek in California. To the west are the Rogue Valley foothills, rolling slopes of rare and threatened oak savanna habitat draped across the Cascade Mountain Range.

To the north, the expansion includes impressive stands of old growth fir forest at Little Hyatt Lake, Moon Prairie, and Hoxie Creek along with upper Jenny Creek and the highly visited Grizzly Peak. To the east is Surveyor Mountain and the stunning Tunnel Creek

wetlands. Together, the expansion represents 48,000 acres of our public land, which is a tiny fraction of 1% of the over 60,000,000 acres of both private and public land that make up the State of Oregon. It has been called a biodiversity bargain.

The proclamation came after hearings where the Department of Interior, Senator Jeff Merkley (OR), as well as local elected officials received testimony. While county officials opposed the expansion, the public input into Senator Merkley's office was 3 to 1 in favor. The mayors of Ashland and Talent, the two closest towns to the monument offered their support, along with Chambers of Commerce, state representatives, the Governor of Oregon, and many others. Support for expansion also came from dozens of people that live adjacent to the monument.

As this newsletter goes to print, the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument's future hangs in the balance. A congress that is hostile to the environment and an unpredictable president are likely to put special places like this one on the chopping block. We need everyone that cares about this monument to speak out on behalf of protecting what we love: clean water, ancient forests, and public land access for all citizens.

While we all work to protect the planet from human-induced climate change, the expanded monument prepares future generations for the coming climate changes. Scientists suggested a much bigger expansion to help plants and animals move across the landscape to withstand the coming changes. While the politically pared down expansion is not what was scientifically recommended, it is a huge step in the right direction. *Thank you* to our elected leaders.

Who we work with – The Soda Mountain Wilderness Council has tirelessly advocated for this victory and is the key organization working for conservation of the Cascade-Siskiyou. KS Wild also worked with the Rogue Valley Audubon Society, The Wilderness Society, The Conservation Lands Foundation, and the Friends of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.



We are defending the monument! As we go to print, the timber industry has sued in court to strip protections of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Extractive industries are going after our public lands, but KS Wild and partners have intervened on behalf of protecting the Cascade-Siskiyou. *Grizzly Peak Photo: Shane Stiles Photography*



Since we were founded in 2009, Rogue Riverkeeper has been advocating to reform harmful suction dredge mining practices that are particularly concentrated in southern Oregon on the Rogue and Umpqua Rivers.

Suction dredge mining is a form of hobby mining that involves a floating, motorized vacuum that sucks up river beds and sifts through them for gold. This practice can harm or kill juvenile fish, destabilize spawning habitat for salmon and other sensitive species, and can even mobilize mercury from historic mining operations.

Although we made progress in 2013 with a bill that established the current five-year moratorium on suction dredge mining in sensitive habitats, we still have a lot of work to do. This summer, with the passing of Senator Alan Bates, we lost one of our most dedicated champions to reforming suction dredge mining.

In 2017, however, there is renewed energy to finally pass long-term reforms. In January, Senate President Peter Courtney introduced Senate Bill 3, named in honor of Senator Bates district. This bill would put in place long-term protections that restrict suction dredge mining in habitat for salmon, lamprey, and bull trout as well as other sensitive places.

HELP US GET SUCTION DREDGE REFORM ACROSS THE FINISH LINE!

To read up on SB3, go to http://gov.oregonlive.com/bill/2017/SB3/ and to submit your own comments in support of the bill, go to www.rogueriverkeeper.org



Have some free time and want to help others learn about water quality?

Rogue Riverkeeper is looking for volunteers for our summer water quality monitoring program. Help collect water samples to test and share data with the public so our community knows where it is safe to recreate. Sampling is Monday-Thursday, a few hours a day, a couple times a month depending on the site. Sites range from Emigrant Lake to Graves Creek and everywhere in between. We could especially use a volunteer to bring samples from the Selma and Galice areas to Grants Pass or Ashland. To volunteer or learn more, contact Frances Oyung: frances@rogueriverkeeper.org or 541-488-9831.





CONSERVATION SUCCESS

KALMIOPSIS AND WILD RIVERS COAST

Southern Oregon and northern California are bursting with wild rivers. On Friday, January 13, 2017, the Obama Administration announced the completion of a multi-year process to remove the strip mining threat to 100,000 acres and 100 miles of rivers on the Kalmiopsis Wild Rivers region of Southwest Oregon.

We are celebrating the recent victory to protect some of our most prized rivers from proposed industrial strip mining for a period of 20 years. We are hopeful that this victory will stand, even in the Trump administration.

Straddling the Josephine and Curry County border and extending west towards the coast, this area is just outside the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area. It contains portions of the Smith River, Illinois River and Hunter Creek watersheds.

The Kalmiopsis and Wild Rivers Coast are host to off-the-chart botanical diversity and some of the purest waters found anywhere in the world. These waters tumble through wild streams and rivers and flow to the Pacific Ocean. The streams appear bluish-green because the water is so clear that the serpentine rock gives it an emerald appearance.

This region's soils contain nickel and other minerals, and have attracted mining corporations, including a foreign investment firm, to use the 1872 Mining Law to push for strip mining. Air pollution, smelters, and potentially toxic runoff in the Smith, Illinois, and nearby streams alarmed nearby residents, fishermen, and conservation groups.

These rivers are home to wild salmon and provide critical drinking water. Communities in and around Gold Beach and Cave Junction, Oregon and Crescent City, California opposed the strip mines, along with Native American tribes, dozens of businesses, and elected leaders.

Senators Merkley and Wyden (OR), along with Congressmen DeFazio (OR), and Huffman (CA) also pressed for interim protection while Congress considered more permanent protection. During the public comment periods for the temporary ban, over 70,000 comments were received, almost unanimously favoring river conservation!

Though the Obama Administration finalized a 20-year mining "time-out" for this region, the effort to protect these rivers is not over. We expect the mining companies to push back, but we will continue to work with our partners to permanently protect these wild rivers from strip mining.

Who we work with – Friends of the Kalmiopsis was central to this effort and has been dedicated to defending this special place for decades. KS Wild also worked with the Kalmiopsis Audubon, Native Fish Society, American Rivers, American Whitewater, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Smith River Alliance, and many others.



SMITH RIVER WATERSHED AND OFF ROAD VEHICLES

The Smith River Watershed is literally like no place else on Earth. Salmon and steelhead still thrive in its undammed pristine pools. Rare endemic plants proliferate. And large expanses of untrammeled backcountry forests endure.

Yet, where most Americans see a unique natural heritage, a handful of folks hope to turn large swaths of the Smith National Recreation Area into a playground for extreme off-road vehicles. Only 1% of visitors to the Smith identify ORV recreation as their primary activity, and yet the Forest Service is proposing to encourage ORV use in roadless areas and botanical hotspots. KS Wild is working with allies and supporters to ensure that the unique natural values of the Smith Watershed are retained for future generations just as they were handed to us.

10

STEWARD'S CORNER

Spring time may make your feet long for a walk on forested trails and your heart yearn for mountain vistas. In much of the West, you are likely to enjoy these activities on public lands. While we can take refuge and seek a deep connection with nature, our public lands also provide sustenance for clean water and wild edibles. They provide us with an outlet to recreate, contributing to a healthy way of life.

Public land is accessible to everyone, providing beautiful places to visit with little to no cost and without discrimination. Public lands offer a reason and place for community to come together. However, we are starting to see efforts in Congress to restrict the use of public lands to benefit large multi-national corporations and their stockholders. It is a critical moment for the public to come together and take a stand against the ruthless few who threaten to take away one of America's best ideas, our public lands.



Cascade Siskiyou National Monument supporters show up en masse to a hearing.

SPRING INTO ACTION

Activist Toolkit training session

March 29, 5-7:30pm at Pioneer Hall, Ashland

Join KS Wild to learn about our Activist Toolkit! Learn how you can be involved and take action in local environmental protection efforts while resisting national threats to our public lands. Starting with a potluck and stories of activism, we'll learn about urgent issues on local public lands and take actions that matter. This is a great time to commit to your community!



Supporters line-up to show their appreciation for wild rivers. Photo: Matt Witt Photography









FEATURED HIKE: STONEY CREEK

WILDFLOWERS OF THE NORTH FORK SMITH RIVER

Spring has a magical feel to it on the North Fork Smith River. Crystal clear cold water tumbles out of the rugged South Kalmiopsis Wildlands while water ouzels dance on the rocks and wildflowers blooms beckon pollinators.

The special magic of this place starts with what you stand on, the heavy metal serpentine soils of the Joesphine Ophiolite. The Ophiolite is a massive sheet of orange peridotite rock pushed up from the seafloor by



plate tectonics. Unique plant communities have evolved over millennia to tough it out and at least 70 endemic species that exist nowhere else are found on these strange soils.

Two flowers found at Stoney Creek have developed an intriguing method for supplementing nutrients that are in short supply in the serpentine soils. The Horned Butterwort and the California Pitcher Plant have turned carnivore and regularly digest insects. The Butterwort accomplishes this by trapping and squeezing bugs that land on its sticky leaves while the Pitcher Plant digests insects that are trapped in its stem by "hairs" that prevent escape.

In addition to the bizarre bug-eating flowers, Lady Slipper Orchids, Labrador Tea and Western Azalea can be spotted along the 0.8-mile trail along the North Fork Smith to the confluence with Stoney Creek. The fragrant Western Azalea can often be smelled before it is seen.

The short Stoney Creek trail offers a small taste of what the immense North Fork Smith Wildlands have to offer. In addition to being a hotspot for rare plants, the pristine watershed is a renowned haven for salmon and steelhead. This magnificent watershed was recently protected from a proposed massive nickel strip mine through the efforts of KS Wild and our allies (see pages 9-10).

Access to the Stoney Creek trailhead involves finding Middle Fork Road in the town of Gasquet and then turning onto the Gasquet Toll Road. The Smith National Recreation Area map (available at the Forest Service Ranger Station) will help with getting oriented.



Over the last 15 years, the Siskiyou FilmFest has proudly served the southern Oregon community with inspiring and award winning films that highlight activism, science, and history of the environmental movement. This year we were excited to showcase a suite of local films produced in our own backyard, including "Speak for the Trees," "NoWhere," and "Walking the Wild Applegate."

Beyond the excitement of gathering with a few hundred community members and more than 25 local organizations, the annual event is a way to honor the spirit of the FilmFest's late founder, Barry Snitkin. The event is a success each year thanks to volunteers and local business sponsors. This year we were honored to host Takilma elder Agnes Baker Pilgrim who graciously welcomed the crowds and reminded us of our deep roots to the land, to the water, and our duty to protect our Earth.

To all of those that joined us at this year's Siskiyou FilmFest, we'd like to thank you for supporting local filmmakers and KS Wild's conservation projects.

JOIN AND SUPPORT

HELP DEFEND YOUR PUBLIC LANDS

As a donor to the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, you are helping protect the wild places and wildlife of the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion. Your donation helps build a grassroots movement to protect backyard forests and rivers, not only for wildlife, but for future generations. Membership benefits include:

- · A subscription to our quarterly KS Wild News
- · Invitations to members-only hikes and lectures
- · Discount tickets to special events

Visit www.kswild.org/donate to contribute and help defend our public lands.



Our trusty steed, a 2002 Toyota Prius has been driven off into the sunset and we are currently looking for a used vehicle so staff can drive to all corners of the Klamath-Siskivou and beyond in support of conservation efforts.

Did you know that donating a used car to a non-profit is considered a tax-deductible donation? According to the IRS, when you donate a car to a qualified non-profit, you can deduct the fair market value of the price of the car at the time it's donated. The IRS has some great tools on their website to help donors better understand the value of non-cash donations like your vehicle. While numerous online car donation sites off tax deductions in exchange for your car, the best bang for your buck is to donate your car directly to a non profit organization.

If you are looking to upgrade to a newer vehicle, consider donating your old one to KS Wild. Please give us a call today to discuss how your trusty steed can live on as a part of the KS Wild family.

SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT US

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KS WILD'S MISSION

KS Wild mission is to protect and restore wild nature in the Klamath-Siskiyou region of southwest Oregon and northwest California. We promote science-based land and water conservation through policy and community action.



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Annual Dinner October 14, 2017

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www.rogueriverkeeper.org

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Cover photo: Morel Mushroom in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Amy Schlotterback



