KS WILD NEWS

The Journal of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center



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SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR



SPRING CLEAN UP AT REEVES CREEK

Thursday, June 8, 10am -1 pm

Reeves Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Selma OR This high priority location for the federally endangered Cook's Lomatium flower has been damaged by illegal dumping. Come out and help clear away the trash! Join KS Wild and friends for a few satisfying hours of stewardship on your public lands.

CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT STAR THISTLE REMOVAL

Thursday, June 15, 3pm - 6pm Mariposa Preserve, near Ashland OR

An invasive weed pull in the Mariposa Preserve just outside of Ashland. We will continue to clear yellow starthistle in the habitat of the rare Green's Mariposa Lily and observe wildflowers growing along the way.

RARE PLANT TREASURE HUNT

Monday & Tuesday, June 26 & 27, 10am - 4pm Horseshoe Wildlife Area, Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Come join us for an exciting group search for flower species that are rare, and in this case need to be documented and samples of seeds stored.

PEAKBAGGING IN THE KLAMATH-SISKIYOU

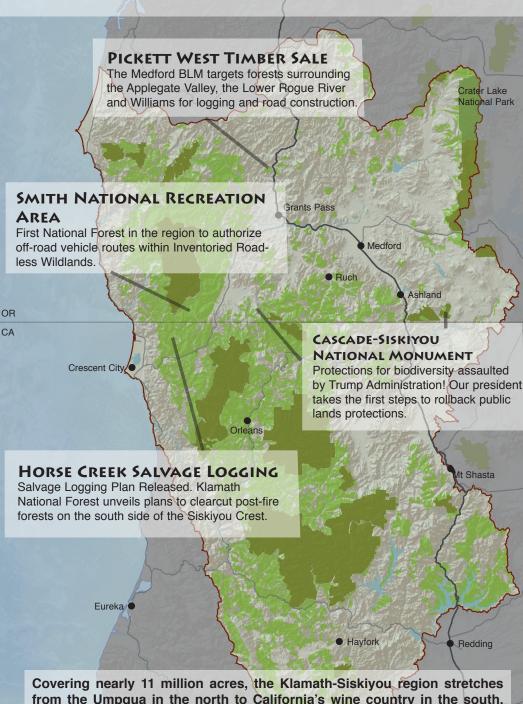
Thursday, June 29, 7pm - 8:30pm

A talk at GEOS Institute, 84 4th St. Ashland OR

Join KS Wild's Jeanine Moy, for a photographic tour of some of the most rugged mountain ascents in our bioregion's designated Wilderness backcountry areas and thoughts on the future of our wild landscapes.

For all event details visit www.kswild.org

NEWS AROUND THE KS



Covering nearly 11 million acres, the Klamath-Siskiyou region stretches 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.

SCIENCE: A PRIMER

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOSEPH VAILE

I admit it, I'm a science geek.

I couldn't be more proud that science is one of the foundations of KS Wild's conservation advocacy.

I learned early in my life that science is neither good nor bad; it is simply a tool we humans use to study the natural world through observation and repeatable studies.



Cartoon by: Joel Pett

As the astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson said, "The good thing about science is that it's true whether or not you believe in it." The scientific method allows us to investigate our world. Scientific consensus can help us establish what is true. Science is also about admitting that there are things that we don't know, and changing our minds about what we thought we knew.

Admittedly, humans have used science to justify greed and arrogance to exploit the natural world. Cruel experiments on defenseless animals have been justified for scientific progress. Some of the world's best scientists developed atomic bombs that were used to kill more than one hundred thousand people.

But, we also use the scientific method to understand the impacts of our actions on the environment, and that is where it is most valuable to KS Wild's advocacy.

Science tells us which types of forestry will harm wildlife. Studies can help us predict what to expect with coming climate changes, and research on our watersheds shows us that sediment pollution is harming aquatic life in our rivers.

But today, scientific facts are being challenged. Policies are being pursued to elevate corporate profits over the proven impacts of pollution and loss of habitat. The lack of political support for science by our elected leaders is so troubling that it recently led to the March for Science where hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets.

The politicization of science is not new, but it is worse now than ever. Since just 2001, the Union of Concerned Scientists has tracked over 100 incidents of politically motivated decisions to interfere with or to muzzle scientists, or to suppress data. Today the head of the EPA, an agency in charge of protecting citizens from pollution, discounts the thousands of studies that have formed the consensus that greenhouse gasses are causing rapid changes to the climate and oceans we see today.

Read on in this edition of the KS Wild News about how we can use science to understand and protect our natural world. Here at KS Wild we will employ science to make our world a better place and not to subjugate our planet's life support systems. We hope you join us.



SALVAGE LOGGING & SCIENCE

MOVING TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY

The Northwest Forest Plan of the early 1990s introduced much needed change such that the sustainability of ecosystems and watersheds gained equal footing with timber production in the management of our public forests. The days when biologists, soil scientists and hydrologists could just be ignored by timber planners are thankfully long gone.

THE FOREST SERVICE BLIND SPOT

Unfortunately, one area where the Forest Service remains stubbornly resistant to change is in its management of public lands following wildfires. The science is clear that so-called "salvage logging" has severe impacts on forest soils and watershed values. In particular, local peer-reviewed studies show that post-fire logging reduces natural forest recovery and increases future fire hazard. We know also know that stands that have been "salvage logged" tend to re-burn at a higher fire severity than burned stands that are allowed to naturally recover.

Yet many Forest Service timber planners still view post-fire forests as an opportunity to throw out the

rulebook and clearcut otherwise protected forests and watersheds. Concern over this agency blind spot led over 250 scientists to sign onto a letter to policy makers urging them to recognize that post-fire habitats created by fire "are ecological treasures rather than ecological catastrophes and that post-fire logging does far more harm than good to the nation's public lands."

FNTFR KS WILD

When the Forest Service backslides and places short-term greed in front of ecological and community sustainability, KS Wild goes to work. We are committed to ensuring scientifically sound protections for post-fire forests and watersheds through education, advocacy and the use of our nation's environmental laws.

WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN

The memory of devastating salvage logging in the Klamath Siskiyous is written across the landscape.

While the Klamath National Forest has largely moved away from old-growth logging, in 2016 they slicked off entire hillsides following the West-side Fire Complex. KS Wild stood with the Karuk Tribe, and 12,000 concerned citizens to defend the fisheries and forests from clearcutting, but again the Forest Service ignored the law and the science and clearcut recovering post-fire public lands.



CASCADE-SISKIYOU A MONUMENT BUILT ON SCIENCE

Science (alongside history) is the very basis, declared by Congress, for protecting national monuments. The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is no exception. In fact, it is the only monument ever protected on the basis of, in President Obama's words, its "ecological wonders and biological diversity."

You'll read, just a few pages on, about the wealth of species found on this unique land-scape. To protect these rare species, scientists have determined that landscape-level protections like the Cascade-Siskiyou are critical, especially in the face of climate change. This is doubly important in an area that connects regions as diverse as the volcanic Cascades, the ancient Siskiyous, and the juniper and sage of the Great Basin.

Obama's proclamation, expanding the monument on the strength of an extensive, independent scientific report, came just this January. The expanded Monument now stretches from Grizzly Peak above Ashland and Talent, past Pilot Rock south into California, and all the way east into parts of Klamath County.

ETHICS AND SCIENCE

Our moral obligation to stand up for plants, animals, ecosystems and rivers is grounded in ethics. We feel an ethical duty to defend the things that we most care about. The fact that we care deeply about nature and that we respect the creatures with whom we share the Earth are testimony to the emotional bonds we feel towards living things and their relation to one another. These ethics are a uniquely human trait to be treasured beyond words. But ethics are not science.

Science is a way of exploring and explaining the world around us that is independent from our preferences and emotions. The Scientific Method can inform decision-making by providing clarity and objective information about the likely consequences of the actions that we choose to take on public lands.

Read the full online article at: http://tinyurl.com/KSWildMonitoring

Cascade-Siskiyou Photos Courtesy: Shane Stiles

WE'RE NOT REPEATING THE MYTHS, JUST THE FACTS.

ACCESS – No one will be locked out of the Monument! Not recreationists, not private property owners, not hunters. No one. It is true that sometimes on public lands unneeded roads are closed to benefit wildlife. In this area, there are already far more roads than our government can maintain and that sad fact will be true far into the future

FIRE – This is simple. Natural landscapes present far less fire danger than industrial tree farms. Even the Forest Service and BLM's own studies admit that. Nothing in the Monument proclamations prevent fighting forest fire. Everyone is safer with the Monument.

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LOCAL INPUT –Sure, there are people on both sides of the issue. Everyone had a chance to be heard, both during the original proclamation and during the expansion.

protection even included many landowners in and near the Monument.

Of course, it wasn't long after that proclamation that a new President--one whose respect for science might best be exemplified when he calls climate change a "hoax"-took control. By Executive Order, 27 monuments across 11 states, including our beloved Cascade-Siskiyou, are now on the block for gutted protection. This new development is on top of industry lawsuits filed to completely remove Cascade-Siskiyou protections.

In nearly all cases, the public was clear--they wanted increased protections. Calls for

The Cascade-Siskiyou expansion is hated by timber lobbyists in Portland, by a timber company in Eugene, and by extremists that want all public lands privatized. But their propaganda doesn't change the facts. Monuments are good for wildlife. They are good for clean air and water. They are good for recreation. And they are good for local jobs, local business, and local economies.

With your help, we are fighting back on every front. That means thousands of public comment letters, intervention in the industry lawsuits, and countering the lies told by the Trump-Timber alliance. These are big challenges to critical progress in our region, but they are challenges we can confidently overcome.

Again quoting President Obama's praise: "Towering rock peaks covered in alpine forests rise above mixed woodlands, open glades, dense chaparral, meadows filled with stunning wildflowers, and swiftly-flowing streams." You really should get out and experience the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, and once you have, take a moment to protect it with a comment letter. Learn how at kswild.org.



NO LNG:

IN 2016 WE CELEBRATED THE DENIAL OF THE PACIFIC CONNECTOR GAS PIPELINE

After over 10 years of fighting for the health of the Rogue and nearly 400 other waterways, private property rights, tribal lands, our climate, and our communities, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) denied the Pacific Connector Pipeline and associated Jordan Cove LNG Export Project. You helped make this possible! Together with landowners, climate activists, conservation groups, Native tribes and our local communities, we cheered when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) turned down this multi-billion dollar liquefied natural gas (LNG) export project -- putting clean water and the rights of Oregonians before corporate profits.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE PIPELINE PROJECT IS BACK WITH A VENGEANCE Emboldened by our new administration's support for pipeline projects across the country, Veresen (the Canadian company behind the proposal) submitted a pre-filing request to FERC in January 2017. FERC approved the pre-filing request which starts round three for this zombie project. Efforts on behalf of the company are also ramping up in the form of meetings with the new administration in DC with the hopes of fast-tracking the permitting process. However, local opposition continues to grow and mobilize

HUNDREDS TURN OUT IN OPPOSITION AT RECENT OPEN HOUSES

In late March, Jordan Cove held Open Houses in all four impacted counties to tout the so called "benefits" of the Pacific Connector Pipeline and LNG exports from Oregon. Hundreds turned out to rally in opposition to the project while paid "supporters" were bused in from the Portland area. In Medford, nearly 300 people gathered outside of the Library where the Open House was being held. Local tribes, landowners, climate activists, and concerned citizens chanted, spoke, and eventually took over the meeting space inside to show the company that this project is not welcome in southern Oregon. If you were there, we thank you!



ROUND 3

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

There will be many opportunities this spring and summer to engage, comment, and help build efforts to keep fossil fuel exports out of Oregon. Soon, our administration should be nominating new FERC commissioners and it will be important to keep an eye on these nominations and to pressure our U.S. senators to do the same. The longer FERC is without a quorum to make decisions, the less likely Jordan Cove will move forward. Stay tuned for email updates and opportunities!

WE ARE DETERMINED TO STOP THIS

Your efforts and energy made a huge difference in this fight before and we are going to need you now more than ever! Together with a coalition of partners like Rogue Climate, local tribes, private landowners, and other conservation advocates, we will continue to organize at the grassroots level, monitor the regulatory process every step of the way, and build opposition to LNG exports from southern Oregon.

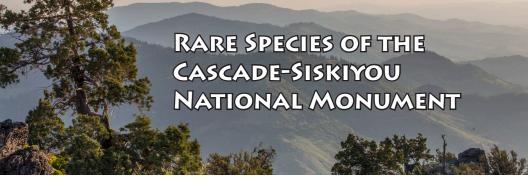
THIS IS THE BATTLE OF DAVID AND GOLIATH

We are up against multi-billion dollar corporations who are threatening our rivers and the safety of our communities. Several hundred private landowners will be impacted by eminent domain. Veresen seems determined to push this project through against the overwhelming opposition from local communities. This is the only gas export pipeline proposed for the west coast of the United States and with associated infrastructure would become Oregon's largest greenhouse gas emitter.

Your commitment and involvement to support this work will benefit clean water, private property, public lands, the climate, and southern Oregon communities. We won once and we plan on doing it again. But we cannot do it without you. No LNG, No Pipeline!

GO TO WWW.NOLNGEXPORTS.ORG TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED.





The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is a diverse melting pot of habitats at the crossroads of three ecoregions. Since the designation of the Monument in 2000, there have been continuous discoveries of rare species. There are likely many more species in the Monument that wait like hidden treasures to be discovered. Considering the world-wide decline of species, we are fortunate to live near a national monument managed for the protection of biodiversity.

PLANTS:

The Gentner's Fritillary, *Frittilaria genteri*, is endemic to our region and has only about 35 known populations. It is officially listed as federally endangered and is at the easternmost extent of its range in the Monument.

The Greene's Mariposa Lily, *Calochortus greenei* is another rare lily, designated in Oregon as a "Species of Concern." It may be even more difficult to find than the fritillary owing to the fact that it is capable of entering a dormant phase and then reemerging under the right conditions.



Gentner's Fritillary Photo: Howard Erbb



BIRD:

Great Gray Owls, *Strix nebulosa* (at left), are uncommon in the U.S. We are thankful that the Monument expansion now protects several of their known roosting sites. They spend their time quietly in dense evergreen pine and fir forests with small openings or meadows nearby.

LICHEN:

After the Monument was designated in 2000, Rostania quadrifida, a unique lichen with

square-shaped spores was discovered at lower elevations and subsequently listed as rare in Oregon. It is seldom found anywhere in the broader Pacific Northwest.

Just last year, local biologists surveyed white oak habitats in the Monument and found a hefty 103 species of lichen living just on the oaks! In a true testament of the mixing of ecoregions, lichenologists observed patterns of species that represent the Cascades Range, as well as species previously known only from the Intermountain West



Lipstick Lichen
Photo: John Villella

AMPHIBIAN:

While on a field trip, students at Southern Oregon University (SOU) were fortunate to find the Oregon Spotted Frog, *Rana pretiosa* (at right), which was widely thought to have been extinct in southern Oregon. Faculty and students continue to monitor the special pond habitats that the frogs rely on to lay their eggs. Though the eggs are now free from the threats of cattle trampling at the pond edges, they are extremely sensitive to climate change.



MAMMAL:

Just last summer, a SOU biology professor was taken by surprise when hearing the chirps of a Pika, Ochotona sp. This alpine species from the rabbit-family was previously unknown to live near here. Research has shown Pika to also be sensitive to climate change, as they do not hibernate and rely on snow pack to insulate their winter dens.



FUNGI:

A terrific one-day "Bioblitz" of the Monument including over a hundred members of the public recently found a grand total of 114 species of fungi. An incredible 99 of those species were not previously documented on the Monument. This includes 6 species that the Bureau of Land Management recognizes as special status species, plus others that deserve conservation status. Some of these beautiful fungi gems include Fairy clubs, *Clavariadelphus ligula* (at left), *Clavariadelphus sachalinesis*, and *Clavulinopsis fusiformus*.

FISH:

The Monument's flagship fish species is its very own endemic Jenny Creek Sucker, *Catostomus rimiculus* (at right), spawning in Jenny Creek and other Klamath River tributaries. Studies starting in the early 80's and continuing today still surprise biologists with new information about their life cycle, habitat preferences, and populations.



JOIN US IN THE MONUMENT

For stewardship, botanizing & fun!

JUNE 15TH WALK AND STARTHISTLE WEED PULL
AT THE MARIPOSA PRESERVE

JUNE 26TH & 27TH RARE PLANT TREASURE HUNT IN THE HORSESHOE WILDLIFE AREA

More information available at kswild.org or contact jeanine@kswild.org

EXPLORING CONNECTIVITYWALKING THE WILD KLAMATH-SISKIYOU MOUNTAINS

The Klamath-Siskiyou mountains win over the adventurous-spirited with wildness. Unlike the crowded American Rockies or European Alps, our montane wilderness areas remain an easy place to find solitude. They are also provide a great viewpoint on the critical need for landscape connectivity.

Deep backcountry areas and rugged Wilderness summits not only reward weary hikers with a view, but impart a deeper understanding of our "Klamath knot." From on-high, we can see beyond Wilderness boundaries: a complicated topography that is fragmented by roads, clear-cuts, and dams that block natural wildlife pathways through the land-scape.

To promote a more resilient landscape in the face of climate change and increasing development pressures, KS Wild is looking to protect a more connected landscape that goes beyond designated Wilderness protections. Studies have shown that increased connectivity has an important positive effect on biodiversity – across all levels of biological organization.

Landscape connectivity should be a priority in the management of our region's public land. This is especially the case when considering our regions' high levels of biodiversity, high rates of species rarity and endemism, edges of range limits, and unique assemblages. Intact wilderness and corridors between them provide a critical role in movement for individuals, populations, species, and given climate change, whole ecosystems.



View from Mt. Thompson, Photo: KS Wild

A PEAK PERSPECTIVE

RED BUTTE, RED BUTTE WILDERNESS – downhill of the old cattle gate, marvel at natural rock gardens while you "friction-walk" up the white marble slab until you encounter the namesake red Peridotite rock to summit.

WHITE MARBLE MOUNTAIN, MARBLE MOUNTAIN – approach through deep river gorges primeval evergreen forests, and rise above alpine meadows and jewel-like lakes. To summit the bright white peak, you will gain the connected ridgeline known as the Marble Rim.

PRESTON PEAK, \$15KIYOU WILDERNESS – summit early on a summer morning and return to basecamp for a swim at ever-cold Raspberry Lake.

MT. THOMPSON, TRINITY ALPS WILDERNESS – approach either from the north and camp at the stunning Grizzley Lake, or from the Canyon Creek drainage to the south.



FEATURED HIKE: PINE FLAT

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE RUGGED KALMIOPSIS



Paula Fong Illustration

There are wilderness areas that are wild in name only, there are also truly wild and rugged wilderness areas that can challenge even the most experienced hikers, and then there is the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. The Kalmiopsis is as wild as it gets. The trails are steep and faint, the canyons are rugged and largely inaccessible, and the peaks are weathered and unforgiving. The wilderness is named after the pink flowering

shrub *Kalmiopsis leachiana*, a pre-ice age relic in the Heath family whose range is primarily limited to this 180,000-acre wilderness.

The Kalmiopsis is renowned for its gorgeous wild rivers, its botanical diversity and its challenging hiking trails. Following the Biscuit Fire of 2002 the rivers got even more remote, the botanical diversity got a shot in the arm and the trails became significantly more difficult to navigate. The Kalmiopsis is one of the few places in North America that has gotten more wild, remote and unforgiving over the past 20 years.

A comparatively easy introduction to backpacking the Kalmiopsis is the 4.7-mile (one way) route to Pine Flat along the Illinois River Trail. The trail starts by crossing Briggs Creek on a Forest Service bridge that has a few holes burned into from the Biscuit wild-fire. The views of the Wild and Scenic Illinois River get better and better as one follows the route across Panther Creek on into the designated Wilderness. Kalmiopsis flowers bloom near the trail in the York Creek Botanical Area before the trail veers away from the River to cross Clear Creek and reaches a junction that offers access to Bald Mountain or Pine Flat. An easy descent to Pine Flat brings one back to the River and to great camping spots near the mouth of Florence Creek.

The last half-mile of road down to the Briggs Campground and the trailhead gets worse every year. Low slung two wheel drive cars are advised to park at the top of the hill. A Kalmiopsis Wilderness map and a water filter are essential items for a successful and enjoyable visit to Pine Flat.

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

WELCOME TO THE K5 WILD FAMILY, TIM REAM! Tim Ream joins KS Wild as the new program director. He will be working on strategy, communications, and campaigns, especially helping to defend the region from attacks by the Trump Administration. Tim has been working to defend U.S. public lands and the wildlife that depend on them for most of the last 22 years, including forest defense in the Klamath-Siskiyou as far back as 1997.

Over the years he's been an attorney, campaigner, organizer, teacher, trainer, analyst, grant writer, filmmaker, spokesperson, treesitter and road blockader. He's worked for the U.S. EPA, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and for local, national, and international environmental organizations.

Many of you will recognize Tim from his repeat roles as the auctioneer at the KS Wild Annual Dinner. Tim holds degrees in chemistry and psychology and a J.D. and has been admitted to practice law in Oregon and California.



WELCOME COOPER RODGERS: K\$ WILD 2017 LAW CLERK Cooper joins us this summer with a degree in Environmental Science and Ecological Restoration under his belt while working towards his law degree. Cooper has dived right in and is working hard to protect post-fire forests in the Klamath and old-growth forests on BLM lands.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

HELP PROTECT ALEX HOLE MEADOW



KS Wild is teaming up with the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest to help protect Alex Hole Meadows, one of the most botanically diverse spots in all of California.

After more than a century of over-grazing from livestock, the alpine meadows at Alex Hole are deteriorating. We are looking for volunteers who are available the week of July 16th - 22nd, 2017 to help build a fence. Interested volunteers should reach out to Jeanine@kswild.org or sign-up online at: https://tinyurl.com/alexhole



We'd like to thank you for your support during our spring fundraising drive. Your donations help protect wildlife and forests in the Klamath-Siskiyou, and your support for science-based conservation is needed now more than ever.

The recent rollout of Trump's budget makes it clear that environemntal protection is not a priority of the administration. It includes a 30 percent cut to the EPA and a 64 percent cut to recover endangered species. Stand up for the protection of biodiversity! By supporting KS Wild you support efforts to defend the wildlands, water, forests, and wildlife of the Klamath-Siskiyou against threats.

SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT US

Adrienne Fansler, LCSW, Anne Golden Associates, Aquatic Ecosystem Sciences, Ashland Center For Women's Health, Ashland Financial Solutions, Ashland Integrative Care, Ashland Outdoor Store, Bagel Junction, Berryvale Grocery, Big Tree Farms, Bloomdesign Interiors, Cabin Chemistry, Carlos Delgado Architect, Carolyn Shaffer The Next You, Cecelia Howard Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, Clear Creek Family Practice, Coffee Heaven, Computer Doctor of Ashland, Cucina Biazzi, Dan the Backhoe Man, Daniel Dalegowski, diart Law Group, Diggin Livin, Evolved Landscapes, Expressive Voice Dynamics, Family Practice Group, Fire Mountain Gems, Fly Water Travel, Four & Twenty Blackbirds Bakery, Full Circle Real Estate, Gift Community, Grateful Meds, Herb Pharm, Herbs America, Jack's Spin Cycle, Jahfirm Productions, Jani Rollins, Jefferson State Financial Group, Jive Mountain, K&C Environmental Services, Kistler Small & White Architects, Kleiman & Stamper Physical Therapy, KSKQ, Ma-Mosa's, Mark Flynn, Master Craft Wood Floors, Media LLC, Mihama Teriyaki Grill, Momentum River Expeditions, Natures Alternatives, One Voice Associates, Oregon Books & Games, Oregon Caves Chateau, Oregon Solar Works, Patagonia, Pennington Farm, Plant Oregon, R Bush Appraisals, Redwood Nursery, REI, Richard Billin Attorney, Rise Up Artisan Bread, Rogue Frameworks, Rogue Valley Runners, ScienceWorks, Selene Atiken Dance of Communication, Shiviti Bazaar, Siskiyou Alpaca, SOFAM, SOPTV, Southern Oregon Mediation Center, Stream Restoration Alliance, Sue Densmore Communication Strategies, Suzie Matney, Taylor's Sausage, TEN Realty Group, The Downey Co. Home Builders, The Fifth Season, True South Solar, Valley Immediate Care, Wessler Design Associates, Wildlife Images

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

www.kswild.org

www.rogueriverkeeper.org

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