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Cover photo: *Figurehead Mountain reflected in Azalea Lake, Red Buttes Wilderness. Forrest English*



KS WILD NEWS

The Journal of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Fall 2012



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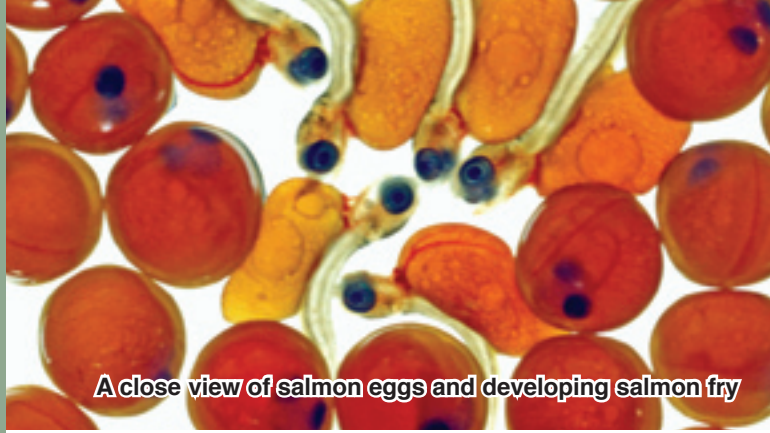
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A close view of salmon eggs and developing salmon fry

UPCOMING HIKES

September 23: Pacific Crest Trail to Pilot Rock

Join us for a moderate hike along the PCT through public lands in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. **10am at Evo's Coffee in Ashland.** For more info, call 541-488-5789.

October 21: Salmon Viewing on Bear Creek

Staff ecologist Rich Nawa will lead a 1-mile hike along Bear Creek to see spawning Chinook salmon. Bring polarized sun glasses if you have them. **1-3pm Lynn Newbry Park, Talent.** For more info, call Rich at 541-218-7973.

October 20: Salmon Spawning on Applegate River

Learn about the salmon life cycle while you see them spawning a short walk from the parking lot, then hike a mile to see more. **1-3pm Fish Hatchery Park, North.** Call 541-218-7973.

October 27: Salmon Viewing on Bear Creek

Same as Oct. 21 hike above. **1pm, Lynn Newbry Park, Talent.**

October 28: Salmon Viewing on the Illinois River

Join an easy 1-mile hike to see salmon spawning along the Illinois River, then drive to Little Falls to hike about 1/2 mile to see leaping salmon. **1-3pm Forks State Park and 3-4:30pm Little Falls Trail.** For more info, call 541-218-7973.

November 3: Salmon Viewing on the Illinois River

Same as October 28 hike above. **1-3pm Forks State Park and 3-4:30pm Little Falls Trail.**

KS WILD'S MISSION:

The Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center is an advocate for the forests, wildlife and waters of the Klamath and Rogue River Basins of southwest Oregon and northwest California. We use environmental law, science, collaboration, education and grassroots organizing to defend healthy ecosystems and help build sustainable communities.

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, and from the Pacific Ocean to the mighty Cascades. The mountain ranges and river valleys that define this region house renowned biological diversity and are some of the most spectacular in America.



Joseph Vaile

1: ILLINOIS RIVER

We need your help to extend a withdrawal of the Wild and Scenic Illinois from the 1872 Mining Law. See page 4.

2: NEW SPIDER

A new species of cave dwelling spider has been discovered south of Grants Pass! This species is so new and unique that a new family is being proposed for it, *Trogloraptor*, cave robber. They were first discovered by spelunkers from the Western Cave Conservancy in 2010, and just recently described. See photo below.

3: BOUNDARY TRAIL

See page 12 for an epic hike.

4: SALMON HIKES

Join us in October to view salmon spawning in Bear Creek as well as the Applegate and Illinois Rivers. See page 1.

5: SCOTT RIVER

See page 9 for proposals that KS Wild supports to restore the Scott River watershed.



OCTOBER 6TH, 5 PM ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION

Silent and Live Auction—river trips, camping gear, fine wines, certificates for massages, dining and more! Local beer and wine to accompany a Harvest Dinner by AZ Catering.

See page 11 for more information.

MUCKING IT UP, AGAIN AND AGAIN MINING PUBLIC LANDS TO PAY FINES FOR ILLEGAL MINING

While we thought this saga might be finished, *KS News* readers might recall a miner named Cliff Tracy that has been making headlines in recent years. In 2009, Mr. Tracy was convicted of illegal mining on Sucker Creek and sentenced to time served. In 2011, he was again convicted of illegal mining, this time on Galice Creek, another important tributary for salmon and steelhead in the Rogue Basin. For this second conviction, Mr. Tracy was sentenced to a year in prison and fined for damaging public lands and polluting our streams.



Lesley Adams

ILLEGAL ACTION: This mining pit on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest used to be a stream-side old-growth forest.

As such, we thought that threatened coho salmon would be safe from Mr. Tracy, but we were astounded to find out that he is in fact still mining on public lands. The judge deferred Mr. Tracy's prison term so that, get this, he could work another season of public lands mining to help pay for his fines from illegally mining on public lands.

In addition, federal agencies repeatedly state they are not allowed to take into account his past illegal actions when considering his new proposals to mine on public land.

If that sounds wacky and wrong to you, we're right there with ya.

Similarly, in 2011, miners in the Upper Applegate were caught discharging pollution from their mining operation to Elliot Creek. The miners failed to submit plans and go through an environmental impacts analysis, so the Forest Service had no idea that they were mining. How long had this been occurring without permission or oversight? No one is really sure. No fines have been issued by any agency, but the miners are temporarily shut down thanks to the concerned public.

In response, the miners are proposing to do the exact same thing a little bit upstream. They are currently working on getting permission from the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest for this next round, but with no repercussions for what were likely years of illegal mining.

So while the agencies aren't allowed to look at their past behavior, we certainly are. Past behavior allows us to prioritize who and where we should be monitoring in the field. While we're pretty sure the miners are not thankful for this, we'd be willing to bet the trees and fish are.

SISKIYOU WILD RIVERS



Merging with Siskiyou Project has expanded our work in a very special place; an ancient landscape filled with diverse, fire-sculpted forests, rushing rivers full of salmon and trout, deep canyons, craggy peaks and vast unspoiled expanses imbued with mystery and beauty. The heart of biodiversity on America's west coast, this priceless landscape is called Siskiyou Wild Rivers—a place where future generations can enjoy wild nature.

The Siskiyou Wild Rivers area is located in southwest Oregon and northwest California, encompassing portions of Josephine, Curry, Coos and Del Norte Counties and including over one million acres of public lands. Owned by all Americans, the Siskiyou Wild Rivers area is a world-class piece of our national heritage.

KS Wild seeks to establish robust, cohesive protections for the forests and watersheds of the area while shifting active management to focus on restoration. Learn more about the Siskiyou Wild Rivers area on our website www.kswild.org/swr.

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO PROTECT THE WILD & SCENIC ILLINOIS RIVER FROM THE 1872 MINING LAW

When the 1872 Mining Law was passed, miners were using donkeys and pickaxes. Today, mining operations utilize helicopters, heavy equipment and gasoline powered dredges, yet they are still regulated by this outdated law. Taxpayers, public lands and salmon are the losers when miners trash resources, pay no royalties and leave the clean-up to the federal government.

Absent meaningful mining law reform, the next best thing to protect public resources is to withdraw lands from the 1872 Mining Law. In the heart of the Siskiyou Wild Rivers Area, the Illinois is most deserving of such protections.

In 1993, the BLM withdrew nearly 4,300 acres along the Wild and Scenic Illinois River from the Mining Law to protect the scenic, recreation and fish and wildlife values of this national treasure. Unless it is extended, that withdrawal expires in June 2013. The BLM is accepting public comments until October 31, 2012 on a 20-year extension of this mineral withdrawal. The purpose of the extension is to continue protection on the Illinois River between Deer Creek and the mouth of Briggs Creek. Please visit www.rogueriverkeeper.org/illinoisriver to take quick action in support of this river.



Barbara Ullian



Joseph Vaile

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT: OUR BACKYARD FORESTS

Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management (BLM) forests surround our communities; we live next to, recreate in, and get our drinking water from BLM forests. KS Wild is excited to launch a new project to showcase how we are connected to these public lands.

As the fate of western Oregon BLM is debated, we are letting our elected leaders know how we relate to and value these public lands. Whether you live next to BLM lands, have rafted down the Rogue or Umpqua Rivers, or you just like to take in the beauty of BLM forests, this is an opportunity for you to tell your story.

Our Backyard Forests is a project that will collect your stories and other expressions. Most people are writing down their stories, but you can express your connection to BLM land any way you like, such as photography, art or video. KS Wild will compile these expressions and draw on them to inform the debate as the fate of BLM forests in western Oregon is deliberated.

If you care about BLM forests, right now is an important time to make your voice heard. Here are some examples of people sharing their BLM stories.

"I live in Southern Oregon and work, fish, hike, camp, backpack, and enjoy clean water and have for many years. I have backpacked through the wilderness area on the lower Rogue three times. It was an amazing experience." - Jim from Shady Cove

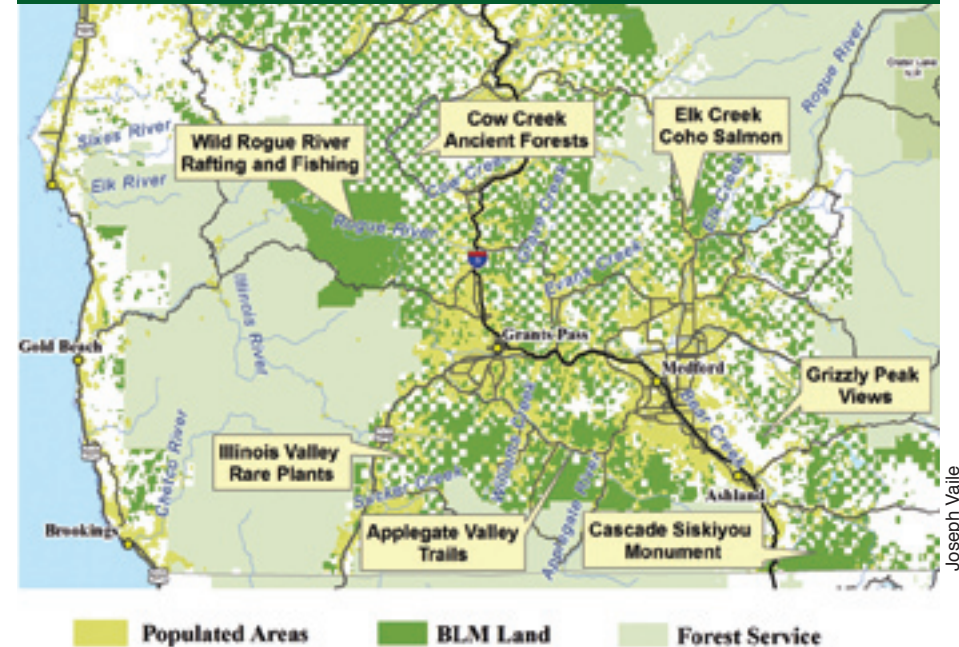
"My husband and I hike these forests every week - year around. The wealth of these forests cannot be measured - the air we breath - the water we drink - the climate we enjoy are directly linked to these forests. It is absolutely unwise and selfish to destroy these forests for a fast buck." - Shawn from Ashland

"My home is surrounded on all sides by BLM land that I hike through nearly every day of my life and have for over a decade. We have multiple springs on our land that have their headwaters on BLM land. These springs are depended on not only by my family, but also by countless wild plants and animals to survive the hot summer. I have seen far too many springs dry up around here after logging practices that were focused on profit and not ecological values." - Harlan from Wolf Creek

WE ARE MADE OF STORIES—PLEASE SHARE YOURS

You can share your stories of BLM lands by contacting Joseph Vaile at KS Wild, joseph@kswild.org. You can also “like” our new facebook page and share your stories here: <http://www.facebook.com/OurBlmBackyardForests>

BLM IN OUR BACKYARD



Joseph Vaile

THERE ARE CURRENTLY TWO MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF BLM FORESTS IN WESTERN OREGON

1. There are legislative proposals to manage large portions of BLM forests for the sole purpose of timber production. Elected officials concerned with funding are looking to massively increase clearcut logging on BLM forests to fund county governments.
2. The BLM has initiated the process of creating a new management plan for their 2.6 million acres. While they have just begun the process to evaluate future management, residents are beginning to develop options that protect special places, old-growth forests and streams while focusing management on restoring places that have been degraded through past logging, mining and natural fire exclusion.

ADOPT-A-BOTANICAL AREA

Southern Oregon and Northern California are known for great rivers and expansive forests, but hiding deep in the woods are some of the most unique plant habitats in the U.S. KS Wild's Adopt-a-Botanical-Area program has mobilized over 40 dedicated volunteers to commit their time to one of the more than 100 designated Botanical Areas throughout the Klamath-Siskiyou region.



Mike Nelson

WE LIKE WILDFLOWERS: If you like wildlands and pretty flowers, the Klamath-Siskiyou is for you!

Our spectacular Botanical Areas are great examples of the diverse plant life found in the Klamath-Siskiyou region, and some of the most unique plant communities on Earth! Whether it is cobra lilies on Eight Dollar Mountain in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and Medford BLM or the old-growth Jeffrey pine on Horse Mountain in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, these areas have been designated because of the special plant life they support. However, due to a lack of oversight and law enforcement, many of these areas are threatened with off-road vehicles, mining claims, trash dumping and other threats.

You can learn more about these areas by joining our Adopt-a-Botanical-Area volunteer program. This is an opportunity to become more familiar with some of our region's spectacular biodiversity and help with our work to monitor and protect Botanical Areas.

Areas incorporated into this program include designated "Botanical Areas" within our National Forests as well as "Areas of Critical Environmental Concern" on BLM lands. In the scope of this program, we include public lands within the following management areas: Medford BLM district, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Klamath National Forest, Six Rivers National Forest and Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

Adopting a Botanical Area is simply a one-year commitment to visit your chosen area once a season and send us an assessment form to document flora and fauna and potential sources of disruption or illegal activity on the site.

HOW TO VOLUNTEER

To get started in this program, choose a Botanical Area that you live near or would like to visit. If you don't have a location in mind, we would be happy to work with you to choose an area that best suits your interests. KS Wild will provide you with a map and description of your Botanical Area, as well as a plant list for the area, if available. We'll also provide assessment forms and technical assistance including filling out forms to help in identifying plants. Contact lisa@kswild.org or visit www.kswild.org/botanical-areas.

TWO SPECIAL PLACES, TWO TIMBER SALES

You have to hand it to the Ashland Resource Area of the Medford BLM; they sure know how to pick the wrong places to log.

The "Cottonwood" and "Sampson Cove" timber sales call for logging big old fire-resilient trees and building new roads into some of the most important forests in Southern Oregon for fish, botany and wildlife.

Both sales are located near or adjacent to the beloved Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, which was established to protect its world-class biodiversity. As a biological crossroads between the Cascade and Klamath-Siskiyou Ecoregions, this area is recognized by biologists and botanists as one of the most diverse and important forest habitats in North America.

Even the BLM has acknowledged that the Spencer Creek Watershed (in which many of the timber sale units are located) is one of the most botanically diverse, and valuable, forests in the region. The hydrological values of Spencer Creek are so pronounced that it was designated as one of the few "Key Watersheds" crucial for salmon recovery on the West Coast.

These special values are at risk due to BLM timber sale plans to fragment habitat and remove forest canopy on thousands of acres.

Fortunately, there are a lot of people who cherish our public lands in this special place. When the BLM rejected citizen proposals to limit the impacts of the timber sales by protecting the best habitat and the remaining roadless forests, KS Wild and our friends sprang into action.

The Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, Oregon Wild, Cascadia Wild and the Center for Biological Diversity are standing shoulder to shoulder with us to ensure that the wildlands, wildlife and watersheds of these unique Cascade-Siskiyou forests are around for generations to come.

Together, we are challenging the BLM's logging plans in court and hope to help BLM timber planners move away from the controversial logging of special places and fragile watersheds and towards the shared values of restoration and collaboration.



George Sexton

WHICH WOULD YOU PREFER: Old-growth pine or another logging road?

FEAR AND LOATHING ON THE SCOTT RIVER

A visit to the Scott River on the east flank of the popular Marble Mountains Wilderness can be a depressing experience. During the warm months, water diversions can reduce the flow of this salmon-bearing river to a trickle. Decades of logging and road construction on steep slopes with erosive granitic soils have resulted in the Scott River being listed for sediment pollution under the Clean Water Act. In addition, widespread mining has altered the river and removed streamside vegetation. But all is not lost.



And Jeff over there is a conspiracy theorist. He believes the NSA is listening to his thoughts via radio waves from his dental fillings. But if you tell him "as water-fowl, we have no teeth, therefore no dental fillings," he invariably says "oh, so they've gotten to you too."

The resilient, but threatened, coho salmon that have called the Scott River home since time immemorial are (barely) hanging on. Local Native Americans, landowners, river runners and conservation groups are increasingly teaming up to try to help the water and wildlife of the Scott River recover from 100 years of abuse and exploitation.

Perhaps most encouraging are the Forest Service's attempts to fix some of its most egregious mistakes of the past. To their credit, the Klamath National Forest recently proposed decommissioning a handful of the old logging roads in the Scott River Watershed that are chronic sediment sources. They are also looking at attempting to remediate some of the mines on federal lands that harmed public resources.

Sounds pretty good, right? Well, not if you're a Tea Partier who believes that watershed restoration is a United Nations plot to de-populate rural areas and impose a yoke of tyranny on America. As strange as it sounds, a handful of radical conspiracy theorists really believe this. If you think we're joking, check out www.DefendRuralAmerica.com.

So while the Forest Service, Tribes, conservation organizations and fish advocates are working hard to address sources of sediment pollution and improve water quality, a few Tea Party politicians are hoping to save Siskiyou County from the United Nations, socialism and coho salmon by opposing needed watershed restoration. Too often that opposition comes in the form of threats and intimidation.

We need your help to stand up for the watersheds and forests that belong to all of us. Contact gs@kswild.org to find out how you can help.

ENERGY COMPANIES PURSUE LNG EXPORT APPROVAL

In April, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) withdrew its 2009 approval for a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import proposal in southwest Oregon, which was cause for some celebration. However, the companies are at it again, this time with a precedent-setting proposal to export U.S. natural gas.

In August, FERC began the analysis for the LNG export proposal, which would be the first of its kind on the continental U.S. west coast. The project would have myriad harmful impacts so that energy companies can get even richer selling cheap U.S. gas to overseas markets.

The path to energy independence does not include exporting our natural gas.

We are working in a coalition to stop the Jordan Cove terminal in Coos Bay and the 235-mile Pacific Connector pipeline. Join us in standing up for a better energy future. To get involved please sign up with lesley@rogueriverkeeper.org to be part of the community organizing team to defend southern Oregon from LNG.



HARMING STREAMS: This aerial shows where the proposed pipeline would cross the Rogue River. The pipeline would cross nearly 400 waterways, many of which provide critical habitat for coho salmon.



PUBLIC BENEFIT? In addition to the environmental impacts, this project would seize private property so that energy companies can export U.S. gas to overseas markets, thereby increasing domestic gas rates.

ROGUE RIVERKEEPER MISSION:

To protect and restore water quality and fish populations in the Rogue Basin and adjacent coastal watersheds through enforcement, advocacy, field work and community action.



Please join us for a fun evening to celebrate conservation successes in the Klamath-Siskiyou!

KS WILD ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION

OCTOBER 6, 2012 @ 5 PM

Historic Ashland Armory—208 Oak St—Ashland, Oregon

This event sells out every year, so purchase tickets soon! Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$25 for children. Price at the door is an additional \$10. Tickets are available online at kswild.org

THANKS TO EVENT SPONSORS

Amuse Restaurant, Anytime Fitness Ashland, Ashland Creek Inn, Ashland Mountain Supply, Cold Creek Inn, Cuckoo's Nest Cellars, ECHO River Trips, Harry & David, Jens Sehm Fine Furniture and Custom Woodwork, Momentum River Expeditions, Noble Coffee, Patagonia, Plant Oregon, Siskiyou Clinic of Natural Medicine, Soul Connections, Standing Stone Brewery, Sunstone Artisan Bakery and Matt Messner & Neil Sechan

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

In partnership with the City of Ashland, Rogue Riverkeeper has been organizing community members for the last two summers to mark all storm drains with medallions that read "No Dumping, Drains to Creek."

We have worked with more than 100 volunteers to mark nearly 3,000 drains! **Thanks to everyone who pitched in.** Special thanks to Ken Royce for photo-documenting this effort and to the employees at Recology for a robust turn-out.

Community awareness of stormdrains is important since they flow directly to creeks without treatment. Please keep an eye out for pollution entering stormdrains and report problems to the City or Rogue Riverkeeper.



Ken Royce



Ken Royce

FEATURED HIKE: BOUNDARY TRAIL

After three days of backpacking in the Biscuit fire area this spring, I yearned for an easy backpack in a green area and preferably cooled by mountain breezes. The Boundary Trail and associated spur trails on ridges along the Applegate, Illinois, and Klamath River watersheds was the first choice to come to mind. These high mountain ridges are an extension of the "Siskiyou Crest," one of the most botanically diverse areas in the country.



Mike Neilson

FLORAL BOUNTY: The Boundary Trail in summer is full of beautiful flowers and sweeping views.

My trip planning was rewarded beyond belief with an incredible display of wildflowers, lush green meadows, and cool mountain breezes in pristine forests. At Tanner Lakes, I visited the largest Brewers Spruce, largest Douglas fir and largest Incense cedar in Oregon. Brook trout introduced into the formerly fishless lakes now provide for a family of osprey, and beaver eke out an existence with the abundant willow. The trail from Tanner to Sucker Gap is overgrown in places with saddler oak, but passable. Based on bear signs, bears love this trail!

Sucker Gap is a splendid camping area with the most delicious cold-water spring. A pair of rare white-headed woodpeckers visited the dead and dying western white pine snags several times. At Horse Springs we were delighted to see abundant wildflowers where only a few years ago cattle had turned these areas into unsightly feed lots laden with manure and flies. A day hike to Swan Mountain had incredible panoramic views.

The following day we were on Mt. Elijah for more views and cool breezes. Our downhill hike to the Oregon Caves National Monument included a stop at "Big Tree." Even after four days on the trail we were finding new flowering plants.

While one can visit all the areas along the Boundary Trail with day hikes, I recommend backpacking from Tanner Lakes to the Caves Monument to see it all with relatively easy hikes between camping locations. I suggest parking a car at Caves Monument and then have someone shuttle you to the Tanner Lake trailhead. A map of water locations and suggested campsites for a 3-5 day backpack is at www.kswild.org/boundarytrail.

I am grateful to all who have worked to create the Red Buttes Wilderness and eliminate cattle grazing in the area. I look forward to passage of the Oregon Caves Revitalization Act, which will expand the little Monument to a more worthy size and allow for the permanent, voluntary retirement of grazing in this rich botanical area. Wilderness designation is certainly appropriate for this magnificent wild area so close to home.

- Backpacking reflections from Staff Ecologist Rich Nawa

FOCUS ON OUR KS WILD FAMILY

DAVE LEVINE MOVES ON

For twelve years now, Dave Levine has been holding down the KS Wild administrative fort, making sure the bills get paid, the numbers match up and the IRS is happy. And, as the sole resident of our Williams office, he's been the keeper of our organizational history and presence in the community of our birth. Outside of Williams, you've probably seen Dave at KS Wild events, making sure that the financial end of things runs smoothly.



Levine Family

Sometimes, though, we all need a change, and Dave has decided to pursue some lifelong interests outside of the office environment. The KS Wild staff will miss having him on our team, but are confident that he will continue to be part of our community for the long haul. Happy plowing Dave!

MONICA VAUGHAN, TOO

Monica has been KS Wild's Grassroots Organizer for the past year and half, and she has brought a contagious enthusiasm for rivers and wildlife and a sophisticated approach to communications that has helped ensure KS Wild members are informed and engaged in our conservation issues. During this time, she dramatically grew KS Wild's influence not only on the web but also in grassroots organizing against threats like the Liquefied Natural Gas proposal in southern Oregon.



Lesley Adams

Monica, too, is moving on to explore the world and pursue lifelong interests in business and rural living. Best of luck Monica in your next adventure!

STAY TUNED

While we're always sad to see any of our incredible staff leave, KS Wild is able to take a glass half-full approach. We're now working with a professional bookkeeping service for all of our fiscal needs, and we'll soon be introducing you to a new Membership and Outreach Coordinator.

MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

VOLUNTEERS AND COLLABORATORS: John and Michelle Adams, Sequoia Alba, Kimberly Baker, Jordan Beckett, Reine Bravo, Cheryl Brogdon, Greg Clevenger, Liz Clift, Quin Collins, Dug & Frog, Feral, Joanne Fisher, Hannah Gogulski, Kasey Graue, Allee Gustafson, Rowan Heglie, John Holloway, Carolyn Hottle, Andy Kerr, Kent Knock, Josh Laughlin, Greg Lescher, Laura Lindley-Gutierrez, Erin Madden, Margaret & Edgar, Claire Martin, Matt Messner & Neil Sechan, Francis O'Neill, Kathleen Page, Gail Perrotti, Eric Peterson, Patt Rao, Marjorie Reynolds, Mark Riskadah, Slade Sapora, Danielle Schreck, Steve & Lynda Sirianni, Kat Smith, Opie Snow, Craig Tucker, Michael Tufts, Barbara Ullian, Ann Vileisis, Pete Wallstrom, Greg Walter, Lydia Weatherwax, Dave Willis, Christine Yee and all the members of our Riverwatch, Adopt-a-Botanical Area and Public Lands Grazing Monitoring programs.

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