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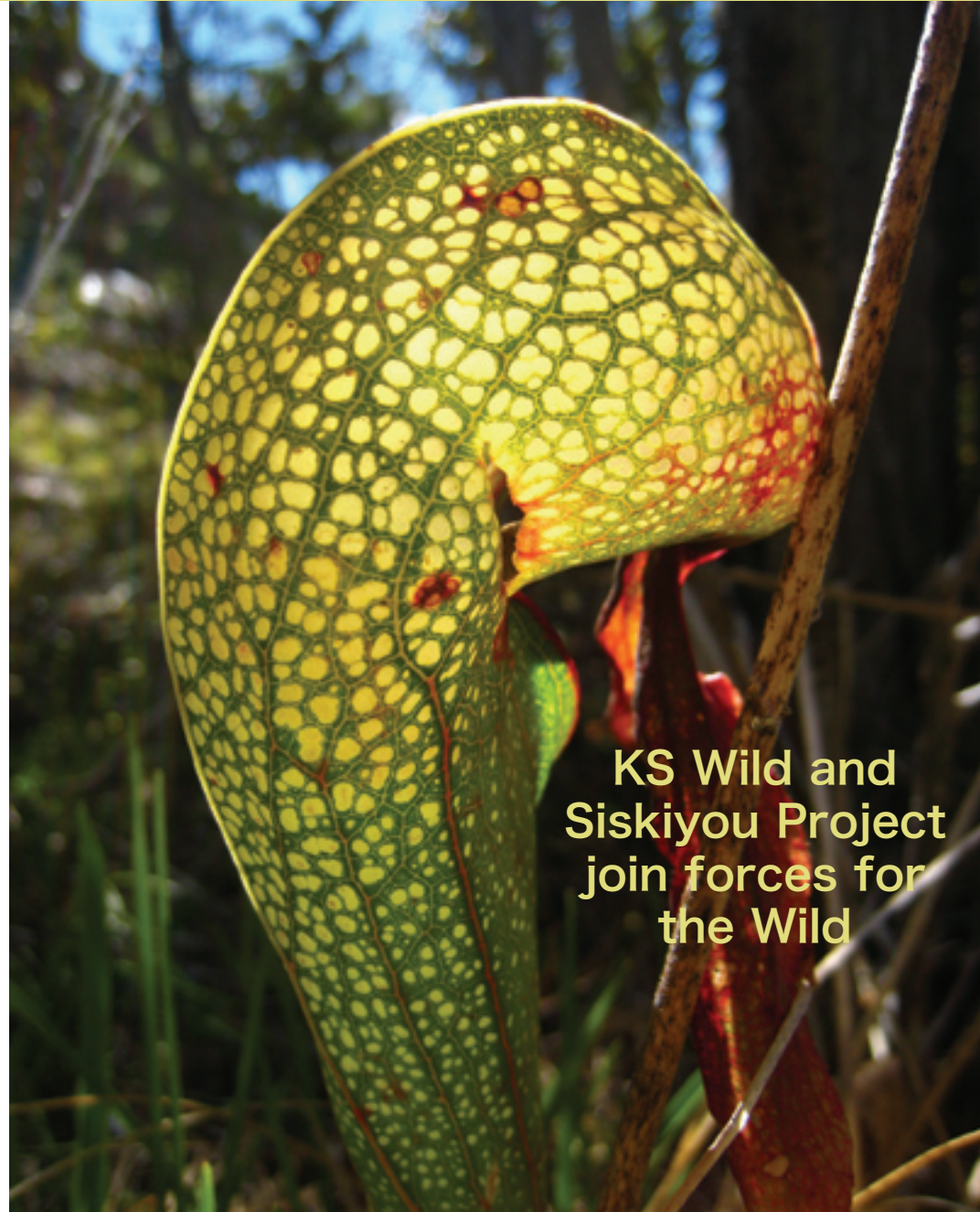
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Cover photo: *Darlingtonia californica*, also known as cobra lily or pitch plant. Forrest English



KS WILD NEWS

The Journal of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Winter 2012



KS Wild and
Siskiyou Project
join forces for
the Wild

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2012 SISKIYOU FILMFEST

AKS WILD Production

JANUARY 27 AND 28

GRANTS PASS HIGH SCHOOL
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Featuring environmental films focusing on sustainability and critical issues which face our region and the planet. Previews in Williams, Cave Junction, and Ashland. For more information, visit: www.SiskiyouFilmFest.org

UPCOMING HIKES

January 21: Wild Rogue Canyon

Hike along one of the most beautiful river canyons in the country. Moderate, 4 miles roundtrip. Leave Evo's Cafe in Ashland at 9:30am and meet at the Graves Creek boat ramp at 11am.

February 19: Oregon Caves Snowshoe Hike

A moderately strenuous uphill trek to enjoy winter vistas of the Siskiyou Mountains and the overwhelming silence of a snow clad forest. Three miles roundtrip. Meet at 10am at Coffee Heaven in Cave Junction.

March 10: Days Gulch Botanical Area

Visit a serpentine fen and observe post-Biscuit fire recovery. Moderate difficulty. Leaving Evo's in Ashland at 9:30am and Ray's Market in Selma at 10:45am.

Be prepared for all weather and bring water and a lunch.

For details, visit: www.kswild.org/events

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.

CHALLENGING THE KLAMATH FOREST ROAD MANIA

If you've spent much time on public forestlands in the Klamath-Siskiyou region then you've probably had the experience of driving into the backcountry only to find the road impassible miles before the campsite or trailhead that you were hoping to visit. Sometimes the roads are blown out due to plugged culverts, sometimes they are impassible due to downed trees, and sometimes they have simply slid off the mountain slopes.



George Sexton

GROWN TOO BIG TO MAINTAIN: Hundreds of unmaintained Forest Service roads put water quality and forest visitors at-risk.

The Forest Service doesn't have nearly enough money to adequately maintain the

crumbling network of logging roads that were punched into every corner of the forest during the logging boom-days of the 1970s and 80s. As a result, taxpayers are on the hook for an estimated \$10 billion in deferred maintenance on Forest Service lands.

Of all the National Forests and BLM lands in the region, the Klamath National Forest has the most dangerous and environmentally harmful network of logging roads. The Klamath has a deferred maintenance backlog of \$55 million on the more than 4,000 miles of logging roads that crisscross the forest. The result of this backlog is roads that are unsafe to drive and that regularly channel sediment into creeks and streams.

Despite their inability to maintain the existing road network, Klamath timber planners propose new road construction every year. KS Wild and our friends work hard to halt more logging roads from being added to the unsustainable baseline.

We initially had high hopes that the Klamath National Forest's "travel management" planning process would begin the process of reducing the road system to a manageable size and prioritizing road maintenance based on ecological and recreational needs. Unfortunately, it didn't take long to realize that the Forest Service intended to again increase the size and impacts of its road system by adding hundreds of illegally blazed "user-created" roads to its official road system. To add insult to injury, many of these routes are located in riparian areas and on steep, unstable granitic slopes.

Thankfully, the Western Environmental Law Center has stepped up to represent us in a legal challenge to the Klamath National Forest's decision to once again greatly increase the size of its road network despite its inability to safely maintain the roads it already has. We are confident that this challenge is a significant first step towards improving road safety and water quality for all forest visitors.

MERGING FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF THE KS

KS WILD AND SISKIYOU PROJECT TEAM UP TO STRENGTHEN REGIONAL CONSERVATION

After years of working together protecting wildlands and waters in the Klamath- Siskiyou, KS Wild and Siskiyou Project have formally joined forces. In October, we became one, moving forward together under KS Wild's banner. KS Wild is excited and honored to team up with such an accomplished ally. While many supporters of KS Wild are already familiar with Siskiyou Project (and vice versa), we'd like to tell you more about their history, vision, and accomplishments and our new partnership.



Siskiyou Project file photo

A REGIONAL LEGACY

Siskiyou Project got its start in 1984 when storyteller Lou Gold started touring the country, inspiring people to learn more about what was then a little-known ecological gem. Building upon this growing movement, Siskiyou Project was instrumental in efforts to add more than 100,000 acres of Siskiyou National Forest to the Northwest Forest Plan's Late Successional (a.k.a. "old-growth") Reserve system. Over the years, Siskiyou Project has worked to expand protections for the Siskiyou Wild Rivers Area, fend off mining and logging proposals, educate thousands of people on this rare botanical wonderland, and build a broader movement for the area. Siskiyou Project also birthed the Siskiyou Field Institute, which has grown to be the region's leading environmental educator.

I always admired the fierce competence and determination of KS Wild which seemed always to complement the commitment and passion of the Siskiyou Project. Now that the family has chosen to share the same home and the vision is alive and being held in good hands, I send my blessings for a marvelous future. Big tree hugs...and a deep bow of gratitude for all that you do. - Lou Gold, Siskiyou Project co-founder

Too many people have been key to Siskiyou Project's accomplishments to name them all here. However, there are a few who must be acknowledged and thanked for leading the way. Pedro Tama and Romain Cooper co-founded the group with Lou. Kelpie Wilson, Steve Marsden and Julie Norman played key leadership roles, and along with Rich Nawa and Barbara Ullian defended the area from destructive proposals. Barry Snitkin and Rolf Skar carried forward Lou's work of educating and inspiring. Oshana Catranides launched the Community Forestry and Restoration program to advance ecological restoration. And of course, the people of the Illinois Valley provided the backbone of support that all organizations need.

THE SISKIYOU WILD RIVERS AREA

Formed when ancient seafloor collided with the continent's western edge, the Siskiyou Mountains rose as wild rivers cut through them. After 100 million years, the result is a tangle of peaks, ridges and steep canyons whose distinguishing feature is the Josephine ophiolite—the largest formation of exposed serpentine rock in North America. This serpentine geology promotes scores of rare plant species, native bunch grasses, Jeffrey pine savannas and unique wetlands known as serpentine fens.



Siskiyou Project file photo

A RICH LEGACY CONTINUES: Pictured here in 2001 are just a few of the many faces that have given so much to Siskiyou Project over the years.

The heart of the Siskiyou Wild Rivers area is the 400,000-acre rugged, remote Kalmiopsis Wildlands - the largest complex of wilderness and unprotected roadless areas on the Pacific Coast. The area also has more Wild & Scenic Rivers than any other of comparable size in the country. These rivers, their tributaries and headwaters contain valuable wild salmon and trout habitat and are a critical refuge for at-risk wild fish populations. They also provide drinking water for local communities and world-class fishing, boating, and hiking opportunities.

THE FUTURE OF SISKIYOU WILD RIVERS

Unfortunately, these lands and waters remain threatened by poor fire management, mining, off-road vehicles and logging. Together, we have defeated most of the regressive proposals and advanced more substantive protections for the region's ecological jewels, but management priorities have yet to fully shift from exploitation to restoration. KS Wild will continue Siskiyou Project's legacy with the Siskiyou Wild Rivers Program. Current priorities include: advancing permanent protections for the Lower Rogue and Chetco Rivers, expanding the Oregon Caves National Monument, limiting damage from off-road vehicles and mining, and advancing ecological restoration forestry driven by science rather than lumber production.

Continuing to engage the people of the Siskiyou Wild Rivers area and beyond remains a central organizational goal. We are excited to announce the 11th annual Siskiyou FilmFest, January 27th-28th at the Grants Pass High Performing Arts Center, with a few previews in the region during the preceding two weeks. For more info, please visit www.siskiyoufilmfest.org.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR KS WILD'S OTHER WORK?

While we will increase our efforts in the Siskiyou Wild Rivers Area, this doesn't mean we'll neglect other areas and issues in the Klamath-Siskiyou. Rather, with the addition of Siskiyou Project staff Shane Jimerfield and Rich Nawa to our team, we now have more capacity to take on challenges and opportunities throughout southwest Oregon and northwest California. We're excited by the possibilities, and we hope you are, too.

CROSSING OREGON

WOLF TRACKED TO THE SOUTH CASCADES

A surprise visitor showed up in the southern Oregon Cascades in November – a radio collared gray wolf known as OR-7, who traveled 280 miles from northeast Oregon. This is the first confirmed wolf in western Oregon in 65 years, and a milestone worth celebrating! We don't know how long this wolf will stay in our area, or if other wolves are already here, but we should not be surprised if dispersing wolves find a home in northern California and southwest Oregon's expansive wild habitat.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

MISSING FOR TOO LONG: Officials have confirmed the first wolf in western Oregon in 65 years.

YEARS OF PERSECUTION

Wolves were once widely distributed in our region, but eradicating this majestic carnivore was among the first orders of business for the area's white settlers. The last known wolf in California was killed in Lassen County in 1924. In Oregon, this event happened in 1946 near the Rogue-Umpqua divide, very close to the recent location of OR-7.

WOLF RECOVERY

Due to perilously low numbers, wolves were listed as "endangered" under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1974 and under the State of Oregon's ESA in 1987. Wolves have been making a slow comeback in the lower 48 with relatively stable wolf populations in states like Minnesota, Montana and Idaho. Dispersing wolves made their way to northeast Oregon several years ago and are now in established breeding packs in the Willowa Mountains.

Wolf protections vary greatly across the U.S. Earlier this year, Congress included a provision in a budget bill to remove ESA protections for wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains—including populations in northeast Oregon.

However, when OR-7 moved west of Highway 395, it actually gained federal protective status by moving outside of the Northern Rockies and into western Oregon, where the wolf was not "de-listed."

States often take a role in wolf management and recovery, and in 2002 Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife began holding public hearings around the state to discuss its Wolf Management Plan in anticipation of wolves moving into Oregon. The hearings addressed different strategies for managing wolves and allowed wolf fans and foes to testify about the prospect of wolves in Oregon. In the end, the state settled on specific recovery goals that would trigger de-listing under state law. California, on the other hand, has no plan for wolf recovery.

SCIENTIFIC PREDICTIONS

Wolves generally avoid areas with human settlement, and the Oregon Cascades and the Klamath-Siskiyou region are connected to eastern Oregon by a band of wild habitat suitable for wolf dispersal. Dr. Carlos Carroll recently modeled wolf habitat and predicted a dispersal pattern that was impressively close to that taken by OR-7.

Oregon State University researchers mapped wolf habitat by looking at forest cover, deer and elk populations and human settlement, including roaded areas that are less suitable for wolves. They estimated that Oregon could support a large wolf population, with the Klamath-Siskiyou region supporting 120 wolves, and the central coastal region approximately 144 wolves.



Forrest English

ON THE MOVE: As we went to press, OR-7 had just entered Jackson County. We do not know where he will settle down or if he has wolf friends with him, but we will be tracking his activities.

Researchers studying wolf recovery efforts elsewhere have shown that wolves exert a top-down influence at a landscape level, balancing prey populations and improving general ecological health in a way that science is just beginning to appreciate.

BECOME AN ALLY

In eastern Oregon, the wolf is off to a rocky start. Livestock depredation is often attributed to wolves, but other species such as coyotes are often the guilty party. There are many non-lethal methods to control wolves (fencing, education, rubber bullets and guard devices), but ranchers and others who don't like the idea of wolves re-inhabiting their old stomping grounds will likely fight wolf recovery in the Klamath-Siskiyou.

The gray wolf needs as many allies as it can get. Luckily, we have learned a lot about the wolf and how people can coexist with this storied canid from other places in the U.S. Several opportunities are available to speak up for wolves. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is now considering recovery goals for wolves in the Pacific Northwest, including the southern Cascade and Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains. If you are interested in wolf recovery, join our "Wolf Pack" network and we will connect you with other people helping to recover this impressive species that belongs in the Pacific Northwest.

JOIN THE KS WOLF PACK

KS Wild is spearheading a local wolf advocacy group to support the re-establishment of wolves in southern Oregon. Join our "KS Wolf Pack" network to receive updates on advocacy opportunities and to connect with other people helping to recover this impressive species that belongs in the Pacific Northwest. Email monica@kswild.org to learn more and to join the pack.

CHEERS TO YOU FOR MAKING THE ANNUAL DINNER A SUCCESS!

KS Wild's 7th Annual Dinner and Auction was a huge success due to the hard work and generous support of our expansive community. We raised more than \$30,000 to support conservation work for the Klamath-Siskiyou. Thank you for your generosity and continued support!

Please support those who support us! These businesses and individuals donated to our annual event. Bolded businesses are event sponsors.

FARMS, NURSERIES, FOOD, AND WINERIES

Abbie Lane Farm	Newman's Own, Inc.	Siskiyou Crest Goat Dairy
Barking Moon Farm	Pennington Farms	Sunstone Artisan Bakery
Blue Fox Farm	Pickled Planet	Village Farm
Cowhorn	Port Orford Sustainable Seafood	Weisinger's of Ashland
Fry Family Farm	Rogue Creamery	Whistling Duck Farm
Goodwin Creek Gardens	Rogue Valley Brambles	Wild Wines
Le Mera Gardens	Rollings Hill Orchard	Wolf Gulch Farm
Meadowlark Farm		

OUTDOOR GEAR AND ACTIVITIES

Ashland Mountain Supply	ExOfficio	Osprey Packs
Ashland Outdoor Store	Fifth Season	Patagonia
Cog Wild	Indigo Creek Outfitters	Shasta Base Camp
Columbia Sportswear	Kokopelli River Guides	Sportsmen's Den
Eagle Creek Travel Gear	Momentum River Expeditions	Mt. Shasta Ski Park
Eagle Optics	Northwest Outdoor Store	

JEWELRY, ART, PHOTOGRAPHY

Ancient Images	Looking Glass Beads & Jewelry
As You Like It: Fine Furniture	
Azizi Jewelry	Madrona Arts
Barbara Maynard Photography	Matt Witt Photography
Gallerie Karon	Mori Ink
Gathering Glass Studio	The Gallery in Mt. Shasta
Grants Pass Arts & Fair Trade and HomeGrown Gallery	

INDIVIDUALS

John Berton	Sandy Greenwald	Linda Sussman
Stan Easley	Bryan Hunter & Jenny Van Winkle	The Poet Pistachio
Lisa Force	George Hutchinson	Tim Ream
Matt Garrity	George Sexton	

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE DINNER VOLUNTEERS

Aiyana Green, Amma, Apple, Arnica Wurthheimer, Aubyn Heglie, Bridget Cuffe, Bronson Samel-Garloff, Caitlin Rex, Chirs Lamarca, Dan Roper, Dana Kristal, Deborah Fox, Duane Martinez, Erica Giesen, Francis O'Neill, Frank Bungay, George McKinley, Gilly Gifford, Heather Armstrong, Holly Christiansen, Isaac Skibinski, Jeff Heglie, Kala Klassen, Kat Smith, Keeley Bittner, Kristin Galabrun, Maria Kelly, Maura Hayes, Max Samel-Garloff, Megan Fehman, Melanie Sager, Melissa Schweisguth, Mookie Moss, Nancy Chavez, Porter Sexton, Rachel Jochem, Rowan Heglie, Sarah Tumpane, Savel Sabol, Selene Aitken, Stella Bungay, Steven Steinfeld, Tara Woolstenhulme, Zac Miller



RESTAURANTS, LODGING, GROCERY

Amuse Restaurant	Lily's	Mount Shasta Resort
Ashland Creek Inn	Market of Choice	Shop'N Kart
Ashland Food Co-op	Mazurka! Bagels & Chips	Standing Stone Brewery
Billygoats Tavern	Mihama Teriyaki Grill	Strawberry Valley Inn
Breitenbush Hot Springs	Noble Coffee Roasting	Wayside Grill
Cold Creek Inn	Piemont Restaurant	Woodsman
Greenleaf	Mount Shasta B&B	

SERVICES

AZ Catering & Event Planning	KenCairn Landscape Architecture
Ashland Custom Frame	Rising Phoenix Biofuels
Carolyn Hottle Massages	Sacred Mountain Spa
Chozu Gardens	Science Works Hands-On Museum
Coyote Trails School of Nature	Siskiyou Massage
Heller Chiropractic, Siskiyou Healing Arts	Soul Connections
Jade Mountain Medicine	Southern Oregon Mediation Center
Jahfirm Productions	Vitalist School of Herbology
Karaina Black	

CLOTHING, BOOKS, FURNITURE, HERBS

Antiquarium Books & Antiques	Nimbus
Ashland Creek Press	Northwest Nature Shop
Bloomsbury Books	Oregon Shakespeare Festival
Dagoba Chocolates	Paddington Station
Dansko	Raven Studios
EcoTeas	Royal Blue Organics
Full Moon Hula Hoops	Shakespeare Books & Antiques
Go Alley Oop	Sweetgrass Natural Fibers
Hemporium	Uber Herbal
Nature Spirit Herbs	Vitalist Botanicals

Extra thanks to Momentum River Expeditions and Auctioneer Tim Ream!

ADOPT-A-BOTANICAL AREA VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

PROTECT AREAS THAT HOST SOME OF THE MOST BIOLOGICALLY DIVERSE PLANT LIFE ON THE PLANET

The Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion is celebrated as a host to some of the most diverse plant life on earth, including an array of wildflowers on display every spring and summer. Some of our crown jewels of botanical diversity are supposed to be protected in lands designated as “Botanical Areas” within National Forests and “Areas of Critical Environmental Concern” on BLM forests.



George Sexton

HINKLE LAKE BOTANICAL AREA: Located in the Upper Applegate, the area is home to wet meadows and high elevation serpentine species, including endemics such as the *Trifolium howellii* (Canyon Clover).

These special areas provide strongholds for exceptionally rich and diverse botanical ecosystems rarely found in an undisturbed condition. Unfortunately, many of these areas suffer damage and harm by an assortment of impacts, including mining, the illegal use of off-road vehicles and harmful grazing practices.

You can help defend and protect these areas by joining our “Adopt-a-Botanical Area” volunteer program.

The “Adopt-a-Botanical Area” program is a community watchdog program designed to mobilize volunteers to be KS Wild’s eyes and ears on the ground in designated Botanical Areas throughout the Klamath-Siskiyou region. We will use the information collected by volunteers to advocate for continued or increased protections and law enforcement for Botanical Areas.

The adoption program includes designated Forest Service Botanical Areas and BLM Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. In the scope of this program we hope to include public lands within the following management areas: Medford BLM district, Rogue-Siskiyou National



Norman Jensen

A VERY PRETTY ONION: The scytheleaf onion, or *Allium falcifolium* is a Klamath-Siskiyou endemic found on serpentine soils.

Forest, Klamath National Forest, Six Rivers National Forest, and Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

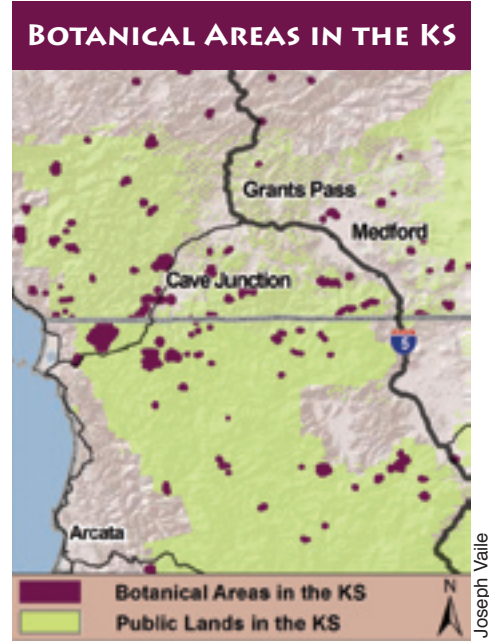
ADOPTING AN AREA IS A ONE-YEAR COMMITMENT TO:

- Visit your chosen area at least once a season and send us quarterly assessments to document flora and fauna and potential sources of disruption or illegal activity on the site.
- Pick-up trash at least once a year – if it is overwhelming call us and we will organize a clean-up.

To get started, 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 in choosing an area that best suits your availability, interests, and abilities.

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 observation forms and technical assistance - from filling out forms to help in identifying plants.

This is a great opportunity to become more familiar with some of our region’s spectacular diversity—and help KS Wild with ongoing work to monitor and protect these special places. If you would like to volunteer for this program, visit our website and click on “Get Involved” or contact Monica at (541) 488-5789 or Monica@kswild.org.



Joseph Valle

PICK YOUR FANCY: Adopt one of the various designated botanical areas in the Klamath-Siskiyou and get to know a special place with beautiful wildflowers.

RIVERWATCH: VOLUNTEER FOR THE ROGUE

The Clean Water Act depends on involved communities to take action for clean water. Our Riverwatch Volunteer Program is designed to empower the community and help make the Rogue watershed a safer, cleaner place. We equip you with information, maps and tools to be an effective Riverwatcher for your adopted stream segment.

Riverwatch information has already helped us to address streamside damage and halt polluting mining operations. In particular, we need your help expanding our Riverwatch coverage to more urban streams between Ashland and Grants Pass. Can you give us a hand? To learn more, contact forrest@rogueriverkeeper.org.



WATER TALKS: 1ST WEDNESDAYS, 5-6 PM

Join Rogue Riverkeeper staff for a casual and fun discussion about water issues in the Rogue Basin and what role Rogue Riverkeeper plays in our watershed. This is a free monthly series that takes place on the first Wednesday of every month. Standing Stone Brewery, 101 Oak Street in Ashland.

GAS EXPORT THREATENS OREGON

Many Oregonians have been justly critical of the Jordan Cove/Pacific Connector liquefied natural gas (LNG) proposal since its 2005 introduction, expressing concern about impacts to forests, community safety, water quality, wild salmon, Coos Bay's estuary and private property rights, to name a few. Now we have another reason to stop this bad idea.

Jordan Cove proponents now admit they want to export U.S. natural gas rather than import as originally stated. In October, Jordan Cove applied to the Department of Energy for an export license. The energy companies who stand to make billions from exporting our large domestic natural gas reserves to lucrative markets abroad care little about the proposal's dangers or the U.S. consumers who will pay the price with higher gas rates. Exporting natural gas will move us even further away from energy independence, increasing our reliance on foreign oil.

In response to this bait and switch, Paul Cicio, president of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America, said, "In the end, it's going to be every homeowner, every farmer buying fertilizer, and every manufacturer trying to create jobs who is going to be hurt by this."

In November, the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on the impacts of exporting U.S. gas, so the debate has begun: will Congress rein in reckless export proposals, or will federal agencies continue to rubberstamp LNG exports?

We have a lot of work ahead, and we hope you will stand with us to support a smart energy future and stop this ill-conceived LNG project in southern Oregon.



Monica Vaughan

HARMFUL EXPORTS: Energy companies stand to make billions at the expense of many.

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.



FEATURED HIKE: SOUTH FORK SMITH RIVER

The short days and cold nights of winter can be a rough time for those of us for whom a month without wildlands is like a month without food. Fortunately, hiking along the spectacular South Fork Smith River is the antidote to cabin fever regardless of the season.

Long prized for its steelhead and considered one of the clearest flowing rivers in California, the South Fork Smith is largely undiscovered as a hiking destination—this is particularly true during winter when you are almost guaranteed to have these remote backcountry trails to yourself.

The Smith River Watershed is famous for its concentration of congressionally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers and is renowned as one of the largest free-flowing rivers in the country. Of the three major Forks of the Smith (the others being the North Fork and the Siskiyou Fork), the South Fork has the best hiking access due to the old Kelsey National Historic Trail, which follows a gold-rush era mule trail that once stretched from Crescent City to Fort Jones.

While mining and Off-Road Vehicle damage continue to threaten much of the Smith River National Recreation Area, you won't see any of that here: The South Fork is wonderfully wild and intact.

To reach the trailhead take highway 199 just east of the town of Hiouchi to the bridge leading south across the main-stem of the river which is signed for "Stout Grove." Almost immediately cross a second bridge and hang a left onto the South Fork Smith Road (FS 15) which you will follow a good long way to FS road 15N39, which steeply veers down to a former timber sale landing serving as a trailhead.

As always, it is essential to have a good map, water, and plenty of gas, all of which can be obtained in Hiouchi.

From the trailhead, follow a short downhill spur to the riverside trail. From here, heading upstream to the confluence with Eightmile Creek is as rewarding of a day hike as you are likely to find.



George Sexton

ANTIDOTE TO CABIN FEVER: The Kelsey National Historic Trail traverses old-growth forests and pristine mountain creeks.

FOCUS ON OUR KS WILD FAMILY

The staff of KS Wild are quite fond of trails and hiking, so we were thrilled when local folks organized two trail associations in southern Oregon to maintain, create and promote recreational trails in one of America's most biologically diverse regions.

SISKIYOU UPLAND TRAILS ASSOCIATION

The idea for creating a trail system linking Jacksonville and Ashland was first launched at a meeting of the Applegate Neighborhood Network in 2008. With the leadership of Hope Robertson, the Siskiyou Upland Trails Association (SUTA) was formed.

Working with dedicated volunteers, SUTA has spent hundreds of hours planning and clearing trails for the use and enjoyment of hikers, runners, equestrians

and cyclists. SUTA's mission is to create a community trail system across the Siskiyou uplands linking the existing trails of Jacksonville and Ashland. The Jack-Ash trail will take advantage of jaw-dropping vistas on the ridges above Ashland, Talent, Phoenix and Medford. This trail system will provide a recreational resource for the community while protecting our natural resources into the future, as well as provide an additional draw for visitors to the region. The Jack-Ash trail will connect to the historic Sterling Mine Ditch Trail, which SUTA and the BLM have spent the past two years re-opening.



Hope Robertson

APPLEGATE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

In early 2011, David Calahan organized his neighbors in the Middle Applegate to form the Applegate Trails Association (ATA) to develop a system of hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails in the mountains of the Applegate Valley. Like SUTA, ATA is cooperating with public land agencies, community organizations, and private landowners to preserve and connect historic trails for future generations. The aim of ATA is to conserve the valley's valuable resources—the land, the views, and the biodiversity—for the non-motorized enjoyment of people of all ages and levels of ability. Visit www.sutaoregon.org and www.applegatetrails.org to learn more and help out!

UPDATE: ROGUE, CAVES, CHETCO

We continue to make progress on expanding protections for the Wild Rogue, Oregon Caves National Monument and the Wild and Scenic Chetco River. In November, the Oregon Caves Revitalization Act successfully passed out of a Senate committee and is now ready for a vote! This fall, we organized support for an administrative withdrawal "in aid of legislation" for the Chetco River to provide interim protections while Congress advances the Chetco River Protection Act. And on November 16, Representative DeFazio introduced a bill in the U.S. House to protect the tributary streams of the Wild Rogue and its surrounding roadless forests.

MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

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