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# KS WILD NEWS

The Journal of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
Summer 2013

[www.kswild.org](http://www.kswild.org)

[www.rogueriverkeeper.org](http://www.rogueriverkeeper.org)

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Cover photo: Baldface Creek, tributary to the Wild & Scenic North Fork Smith River of California, located in the South Kalmiopsis serpentine wildlands. Photo by Daniel Wakefield Pasley of Yonder Journal.





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# UPCOMING HIKES

**Sunday June 16: Deer Creek** – This moderate 5 mile hike will enjoy the wildflowers blooming along this tributary to the Illinois River. Carpool leaves Evo's Coffee in Ashland at 9am and Ray's Market in Selma at 10:30am.

**Sunday June 30: Wellington Wildlands** – Explore a special place in Our Backyard BLM Forests on this moderate 4 mile hike with David Calahan. Carpool leaves Evo's Coffee in Ashland at 9am and the North Medford Fred Meyer at 9:30am.

**Saturday July 6: Grizzly Peak** – Join local fire ecology expert Dennis Odion for a moderate 5 mile hike around the rim of iconic Grizzly Peak, a very special place on BLM lands. Carpool leaves Evo's Coffee in Ashland at 9am.

**Sunday July 21: Castle Crags Wilderness** – Explore the rugged backcountry surrounding Castle Crags State Park. Carpool leaves Evo's Coffee in Ashland at 9am and the Berryvale Market in Mt. Shasta at 10:30am.

**Saturday August 3: Takelma Gorge** – This moderate 5 mile hike along the Upper Rogue River Trail offers views of ancient lava flows. Carpool leaves Evo's Coffee in Ashland at 9am and the North Medford Fred Meyer at 9:30am.

**Saturday August 10: Taylor Lake** – This short, easy 3 mile hike to Taylor Lake, a high-elevation gem in the Russian Wilderness, is a true delight. Carpool leaves Evo's Coffee in Ashland at 9am and Ray's Market in Yreka at 9:45am.

**Saturday August 17: Middle Fork Applegate** – Cool off with a relaxing 4 mile bird walk along this shady, beloved tributary to the Rogue River. Carpool leaves Evo's Coffee in Ashland at 9am and the North Medford Fred Meyer at 9:30am.

**Saturday August 31: Kerby Peak** – Great views await you on this moderate 5 mile hike to explore a very special place in Our BLM Backyard Forests. Carpool leaves Evo's Coffee in Ashland at 9am and Ray's Market in Selma at 10:30am.

**For all hikes:** bring sun protection, rain gear, comfortable walking shoes, layers, plenty of water and a lunch. Optional: a camera, binoculars, or your favorite field guide. Call Morgan at (541) 488-5789 for more information and to sign up for a hike!

## 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, 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.

## 1) KALMIOPSIS WILD RIVERS

Mining companies want to develop large industrial nickel strip mines in the pristine headwaters of the Smith and Illinois Rivers. See page 3.

## 2) COWS IN THE TRINITY ALPS

The Six Rivers National Forest is proposing to authorize cattle grazing on 30,000 acres in the beloved Trinity Alps Wilderness. More than 1,000 KS members wrote comments asking for wildlands, not cows. Go team!

## 3) FRUIT GROWERS SUPPLY COMPANY

Private timber company seeks license from U.S. government to kill endangered spotted owls and coho salmon. See page 9.

## 4) GAS PIPELINE

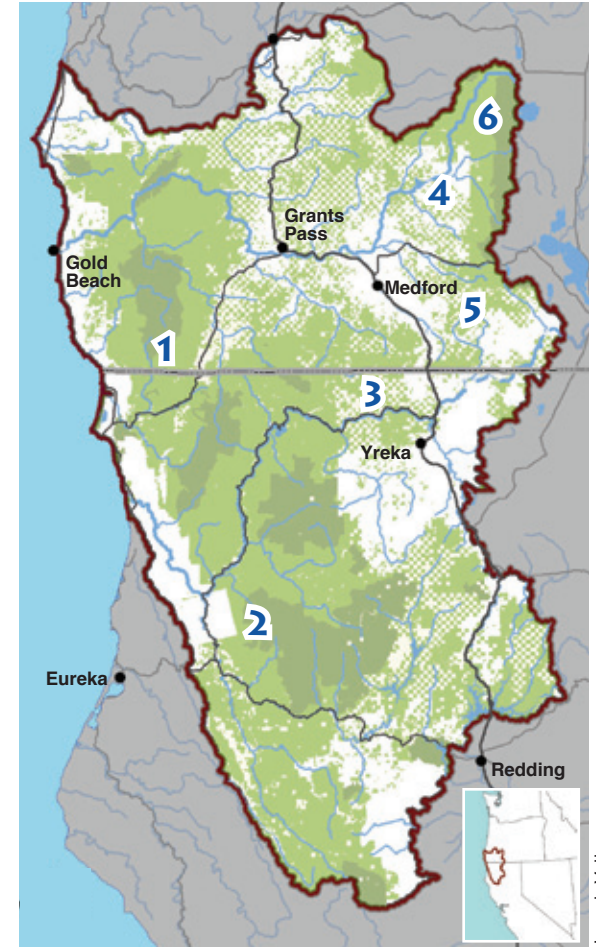
The fight to keep southern Oregon safe from a 235-mile pipeline to export fracked gas from the Rockies to Asia is heating up this summer. See page 7.

## 5) RIO TIMBER SALE & MEADOW DESTRUCTION

Newly constructed BLM logging roads northeast of Grizzly Peak facilitated the recent destruction of a nearby meadow. See page 5.

## 6) BYBEE TIMBER SALE

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest is still proposing to log wildlands directly adjacent to Crater Lake National Park. More than 12,000 people have voiced their concerns with this damaging plan. Help us keep the pressure on strong! Call Morgan at (541) 488-5789 to find out how you can make a difference.



# KALMIOPSIS WILD RIVERS: NO PLACE FOR A MINE

The Kalmiopsis Wildlands in Oregon's southwest corner are rugged, botanically rich, and brimming with pristine streams and rivers. The Kalmiopsis is also arguably the most biologically intact wild area remaining in the American West. However, the unique soils that make the Kalmiopsis so special have once again attracted industrial mining companies seeking to develop destructive nickel strip mines.

## CLEAR WATER AND RARE FLORA

On the southern edge of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness lie two pristine watersheds: Rough & Ready Creek and Baldface Creek. Rough & Ready Creek is a beautiful rare plant reserve and tributary of Oregon's Wild and Scenic Illinois River.

Baldface Creek is a pristine tributary of the Wild and Scenic North Fork Smith River and is key to the Smith River's value as a world-class salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout river.

These watersheds and the surrounding mineral-rich serpentine soils host endemic plants found nowhere else on the planet. Many of the botanically rich hotspots are in lush "fens," or wetlands formed by springs. The fens are home to specially-adapted insectivorous *Darlingtonia* pitcher plants, rare lilies, beautiful orchids, endemic Port Orford cedar, and wild azaleas.

## STRIP MINING PROPOSALS EXPAND

This fragile landscape of pristine rivers, world-class fisheries and rare plants is at risk of being turned into an industrial wasteland of strip mines, nickel smelters, and haul roads. Red Flat Nickel Corporation has submitted plans to conduct exploratory drilling across nearly 2,000 acres in the Baldface Creek watershed, part of the larger North Fork Smith River watershed. Red Flat Nickel is owned by the London-based company St. Peter Port Capital Ltd., and is backing this project to the tune of \$15 million.

A separate mining proposal, next to the world-class Rough & Ready Creek, that has been on the books for years could now advance in light of a recent filing of new mining claims. As a result of these threats, this year Baldface and Rough & Ready Creeks are among the Ten Most Endangered Rivers in America according to American Rivers.



Daniel Wakefield Pasley, Yonder Journal

**WORLD-CLASS FISHERY:** The Wild & Scenic Smith River in California depends on the clear, cold water and fish produced in the Baldface Creek watershed.

## WORTH MORE THAN A NICKEL MINE

KS Wild is working hard with partners at Friends of the Kalmiopsis, American Rivers, Geos Institute and the Northwest Rafting Company to protect these world-class streams. We need the Obama administration to withdraw the area from mining so that these special places are not open to mining under the 1872 Mining Law.

## YOU CAN HELP

Learn more at [roughandready.org](http://roughandready.org).

Sign the petition calling for a mineral withdrawal at [kswild.org](http://kswild.org) under Get Involved and Action Alerts. Contact [morgan@kswild.org](mailto:morgan@kswild.org) to find out how you can get more involved in helping keep our rivers free from mining. Thank you in advance on behalf of our pristine rivers, salmon and steelhead habitat, and clean water for our local communities!



Zachary Collier, Northwest Rafting Co.

**PUREST WATER IN THE WEST:** Rough & Ready Creek runs clear and cold through mineral-rich serpentine rock and rare plants until it meets the Wild & Scenic Illinois River.

## ADOPT-A-BOTANICAL AREA VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The eight million acres of public land in the Klamath-Siskiyou are home to an astounding diversity of plants. In recognition of the most outstanding rare and endemic plants, the Forest Service and the BLM have designated more than 120 Botanical Areas. Unfortunately, due to a lack of government resources, this designation comes with no protection from damage caused by unauthorized grazing, mining or off-road vehicles.

The good news is that so far over 60 Botanical Areas have been adopted through KS Wild's Adopt-a-Botanical Area Volunteer Program! You can help defend and protect these areas by becoming an Adopt-a-Botanical Area volunteer. We'll help you choose a Botanical Area and provide you with some basic training for how to be our eyes and ears on the ground. You simply visit your chosen area a few times a year and send us reports about what you see. Contact [lisa@kswild.org](mailto:lisa@kswild.org) or call (541) 488-5789 for more information and to sign-up!



Lisa Force



# SPECIAL BLM PLACES AT RISK

What will become of some of western Oregon's most beloved public lands? Oregon Senator Ron Wyden recently announced a framework for federal legislation that will decide the fate of federal lands in western Oregon. KS Wild is at the center of the effort to ensure that our public lands are not sacrificed for short-term profit. Special places like the Wild Rogue River, Grizzly Peak and the forests that surround farms in the greater Rogue Valley are all at risk.

## A VERY BAD IDEA

These special places are all part of the so-called O&C lands, managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Some timber companies and county officials are pushing a plan to dramatically increase timber harvesting, allowing logging and clearcutting on roughly 60 percent of the O&C forestlands, many of which are close to populated areas. You might live right next to one of these "backyard forests" and not even know it.

## A BETTER IDEA

Industrial, private timberland practices, which seek to maximize profit, don't belong on our backyard forests. We need an approach that safeguards clean drinking water, ancient forests, water quality in our rivers and streams, and the scenic beauty that makes southern Oregon and northern California a great place to live, work and raise a family. As this debate about the future of our forests unfolds, we need to embrace a new era of public lands management and realize that Southern Oregon's O&C lands are far too valuable to clearcut, spray with herbicides and treat like industrial private forestlands. Our public forests are places we should respect and manage responsibly and leave them better than we found them for the next generation.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

In the coming months there are many ways you can help shape the future of your backyard forests and our public BLM lands in western Oregon. These BLM lands are a big part of what makes our communities such great places to live. And that is why we need to make our voices heard, to let our political leaders and the BLM know that we value these lands for more than standing timber.

Start by checking out the BLM Special Places website at [www.backyardforests.org](http://www.backyardforests.org) where you can see 12 special BLM places in western Oregon and add your own. Watch for upcoming hikes led by KS Wild to visit some of these places, or contact [morgan@kswild.org](mailto:morgan@kswild.org) to find out more. Together we can protect our public lands.



Barbara Costal-Calahan

**WELLINGTON WILDLANDS:** This special BLM land in the Applegate Valley is vitally important for clean water and is in danger of substantially increased logging.

# LEGISLATION TO KEEP THE K-S WILD

The rivers and forests of the Klamath-Siskiyou are world-renowned havens for wildness. KS Wild and Rogue Riverkeeper continue to work on state and federal legislation to protect our most valuable public lands and reform practices that harm our region's natural treasures.

## WILD ROGUE WILDERNESS

According to a recent poll, more than 75% of southwestern Oregonians support adding nearly 60,000 acres of wildlands and 93 miles of tributary streams to the Wild Rogue Wilderness. Thank you to the local businesses, fishermen, raft guides, property owners and river lovers who have worked to gain protection for our beloved Wild Rogue River for the past five years. Thank you also to Oregon Senators Wyden and Merkley for re-introducing the Wild Rogue bill in the 113th Congress. We're working hard to make sure the third time is the charm!



Morgan Lindsay

**OREGON CAVES VISTA:** Two young KS enthusiasts take in the view overlooking the proposed Oregon Caves Monument expansion on a recent hike.

## OREGON CAVES MONUMENT PROTECTION

Expanding the Oregon Caves National Monument to include the Cave Creek Watershed will better preserve water quality and help secure an important economic engine for the Illinois Valley. According to a recent study, recreation spending in 2011 associated with the Oregon Caves National Monument and Crater Lake National Park hit nearly \$40 million and supported over 600 jobs. Again, thanks to Senator Wyden and Merkley's actions, this bill now has a good chance of being passed into law.

## WILD & SCENIC CHETCO RIVER

Known for its huge salmon and crystal clear water, additional miles of Wild and Scenic River designation for the Chetco River would ensure that mining stays out of the upper portions of this wild river. The re-introduction of this legislation is just the first step towards ensuring that a key piece of the south coast's beauty and economy remains valuable into the future.

## OREGON LEGISLATURE ADDRESSES SUCTION DREDGING

The destructive practice of suction dredge mining—or sucking up the streambed with a high-powered vacuum to look for gold—has more than quadrupled in recent years. Suction dredging damages salmon habitat and can mobilize toxic heavy metals. As this KS News goes to press, the Oregon legislature is considering Senate Bill 838 that would enact a 5 year moratorium on suction dredging in salmon habitat throughout the state. The bill requires the Governor's office and state agencies to craft a new regulatory framework that is simpler and more protective our waters and salmon. The passage of SB 838 would be a huge victory for clean water and fish! Contact Forrest at (541) 488-9831 to find out how you can help get this bill passed.



# PROTECTING OREGON'S RIVERS AND FISH FROM GAS EXPORT

Rogue Riverkeeper and KS Wild, have been working with a diverse coalition to protect southern Oregon from the threat of a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) pipeline that would cross nearly 400 rivers and streams, threaten critical coho habitat, seize private property using eminent domain and raise gas rates throughout the US. While we successfully defeated the original application, the threat has grown more severe.



Rogue Riverkeeper

In 2005, energy companies applied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to import LNG into the United States via the proposed Jordan Cove terminal in Coos Bay, Oregon and 235-mile Pacific Connector pipeline. In late 2011, Jordan Cove made public their plans to export LNG from the proposed Coos Bay terminal instead of importing. Last fall in 2012, the energy companies began the permitting process for this precedent-setting proposal to make big profits by exporting U.S. natural gas, fracked in the Rockies, from Oregon's south coast to overseas markets.

**HUGE PROFITS AT OUR EXPENSE:** Energy companies want to export fracked gas from the rockies to overseas markets, harming southern Oregon's rivers, forests, and fish along the way.

The public admission of the true intent of this proposal was a huge development in this campaign. It allows us to not only articulate the problems with, and fight against, the real proposal but it also allows us to take part in the larger national discussion currently taking place on energy policy and security, fracking and climate change.

Once the energy companies submit their applications for the pipeline and export terminal, FERC will release a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the public to review. That will be the moment for us all to use the momentum we've gathered and come together to defeat the pipeline.

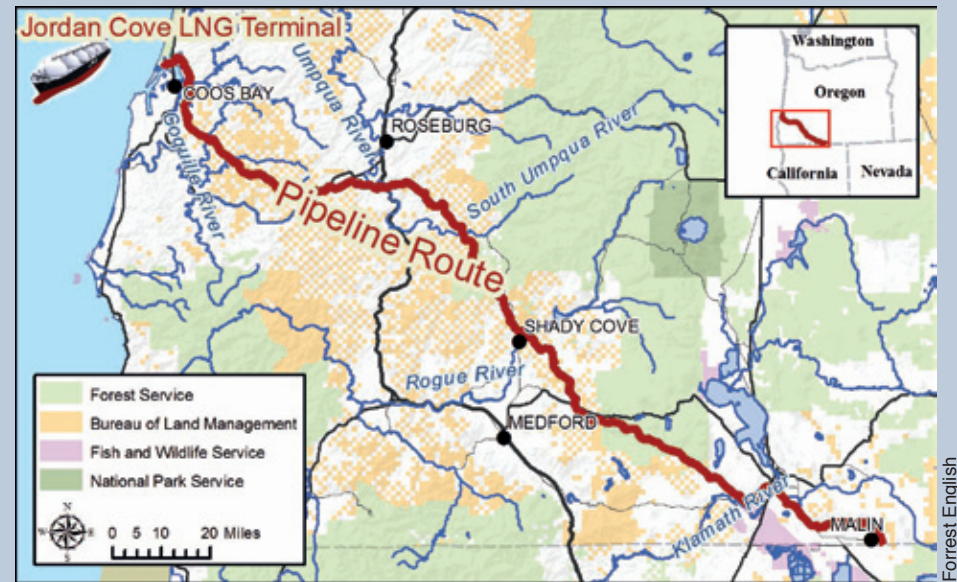
## YOU CAN HELP

There is much work to do to protect Oregon's forests, rivers, private property and pocket books from gas export and we need your help more than ever. Contact [robyn@rogueriverkeeper.org](mailto:robyn@rogueriverkeeper.org) to join the fight against gas export.

### 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.

[www.rogueriverkeeper.org](http://www.rogueriverkeeper.org) — (541) 488-9831



Forrest English

## FAST FACTS ABOUT THE GAS PIPELINE

- The Jordan Cove Pacific Connector gas pipeline would run just east of Klamath Falls from Malin to the Oregon coast at Coos Bay.
- The pipeline would travel 235 miles, cross 379 rivers and streams including the Klamath, Rogue, Umpqua, Coquille and Coos rivers, cross 80 miles of national forest and impact nearly 300 private properties.
- The proposed pipeline would harm and fragment critical habitat for many of the 29 federally endangered plants and animals that would be impacted by the project.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**  
**ROGUE RIVER BARBECUE**

**JOIN ROGUE RIVERKEEPER FOR A DAY OF RAFTING, FOOD, MUSIC, AND FUN TO CELEBRATE THE ROGUE BASIN!**

**CALL ROBYN AT (541) 488-9831 TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT.**

Amy Twiest



# TIMBER COMPANY SEEKS LICENSE TO KILL ENDANGERED ANIMALS

The Fruit Growers Supply (FGS) timber company in northern California is best known for the industrial clearcuts that dot private lands within the Siskiyou Crest, the Scott Mountains and the Cascade foothills. The only thing that has slowed their aggressive logging and road construction is the inconvenient presence of threatened northern spotted owls in the few mature forest stands that remain and protected Coho salmon that are barely hanging on in damaged watersheds.

## HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

In order to get around the legal protections for these endangered species, FGS has developed a so-called “Habitat Conservation Plan” (HCP), in which logging would be allowed and encouraged in occupied spotted owl and salmon habitat. The HCP anticipates that 44 owl activity centers containing 85 spotted owls would be logged in the first few years, while only 24 owl activity centers would be “protected” over the 50-year life of the plan.

## GOODBYE OWLS

The removal of the forests that contain most of the spotted owls on the landscape requires an “incidental take permit” that has been issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. If you or I were to kill an endangered species for financial gain we’d probably be looking at a fine and a prison sentence, but if you are a powerful timber company the government will literally provide a license to kill.

Logging is even allowed in the one-third of spotted owl sites that are supposedly protected by conservation areas—FGS just can’t remove all of the habitat at once in the “protected” sites and only needs to retain less than half of each owl site as actual forest habitat.

## REWARDING BAD BEHAVIOR

It isn’t surprising that a large timber company would seek to accelerate logging to the detriment of endangered species, but why would the US Fish and Wildlife Service go along with their plans? Part of the answer may be that the timber company is making some pretty dramatic threats. At a Yreka, California, public meeting about the plan, an FGS representative indicated that if the company is not allowed to log most of the spotted owl habitat, then in the event of a wildfire the company would “salvage log” across the landscape and manage the forest to prevent any owl habitat from ever



National Fish and Wildlife Service

**PROFIT OVER OWLS:** The Fruit Growers Supply Company is planning to log private lands along the Siskiyou Crest known to harbor spotted owls.

developing again. On pages 4-17 of the Draft Impact Statement for the HCP the timber company also indicates that if it isn’t allowed to log endangered species habitat that it will conduct a “substantial amount of clearcutting” in the near future across much of the landscape. The Fish and Wildlife Service presumably took these threats seriously.

## GOODBYE SALMON

The extensive logging and road building by FGS throughout the forests also puts salmon and steelhead at increased risk. There are already 56 logging road crossings of fish-bearing streams and at least 20 potential barriers to salmon movement in the planning area. Ongoing sediment pollution is problematic and extreme in most of the watersheds in question. The Habitat Conservation Plan ties most of the proposed road and sediment improvements to additional logging activities, so that any “restoration” is largely a sideboard to increased logging. A great deal of ground-based tractor logging is set to occur on steep slopes and in the “rain-on-snow” zone, which may contribute to sediment and peak flow problems. A consulting fisheries biologist for KS Wild concluded that the plan would “elevate the already high risk of local extirpation of coho.”

## “NO SURPRISES”

In addition to authorizing a number of activities known to directly harm threatened species, and issuing “take” permits to allow logging their habitat, the Habitat Conservation Plan contains a “No Surprises” clause. This legal guarantee assures the timber company that no matter what new science comes to light in the next 50 years, and no matter how dire the situation may become for fish and wildlife, the government will support the proposed logging plan for the next five decades.

## WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

KS Wild is standing with our allies the Klamath Forest Alliance and the Center For Biological Diversity to file a legal challenge to the proposed “taking” of endangered species on the 153,000 forest acres that would be affected. It is never easy to get a timber company to protect at-risk wildlife and watersheds, and it’s even harder when the federal government gives them a sweetheart deal to circumvent many of the protections provided by the Endangered Species Act. We expect this to be a long and difficult effort, and we need your help to prevent this damaging plan from becoming reality! Stay tuned to [kswild.org](http://kswild.org) for more info on how you can help.

*Special thanks to the Washington Forest Law Center and the Western Environmental Law Center for their legal representation.*



Dan Bennett

**WILD COHO SALMON RUNS AT RISK:** More logging and road-building mean bad news for Coho salmon, already at high risk of disappearing from streams along the Siskiyou Crest.

## ASHLAND BLM FORESTS TRASHED (AGAIN)

Just about everyone loves Grizzly Peak—its wildflowers, old-growth forests, and stunning views attract hikers from around the region. Unfortunately, the Grizzly Peak trail is a lonely oasis in the midst of a “checkerboard” of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and private timber lands that just keeps getting hammered by logging, road construction and off-road vehicle (ORV) “mudding” in meadows.

The forests surrounding Grizzly Peak need all the help they can get. Logging roads crisscross the landscape dumping sediment into creeks and streams, and old-growth logging has converted most of the native forests into dense, flammable tree plantations. Off-road vehicle use has exploded, tearing up meadows, wildlife habitat, and streams.



George Sexton

**MEADOW NO MORE:** A logging tractor recently turned this BLM meadow habitat into a mud field.

### BLM TO THE RESCUE?

The BLM knows that the forests of the Antelope Creek and Walker Creek watersheds have been trashed, that the creeks are listed under the Clean Water Act, and that ORV use is damaging meadows and riparian areas. So what is the BLM’s solution to the widespread damage to forests and watersheds? More timber sales and logging road construction!

### KS WILD MAKES A STAND

When KS Wild learned that the Ashland BLM was planning the “Rio” timber sales around Grizzly Peak, we asked the BLM to protect the few big trees remaining in the area, reduce the impacts of its road network on the watershed, and work to restore meadows damaged by ORV use. The BLM’s response was to tell us to take a hike.

We then challenged the proposed old-growth logging and new logging road construction in court and have been systematically visiting proposed logging units while the legal process unfolds.

In our last field visit to the Rio timber sale we found even more meadow damage than usual on these BLM public lands. Evidently, a nearby timber owner recently utilized BLM logging roads through a Rio logging unit to access, and destroy, a meadow with his tractor in order to facilitate adjacent private lands logging.

We photographed the damage and once again tried to get the BLM to turn over a new leaf by focusing on restoring meadows and forests rather than subjecting them to additional logging and road construction. Predictably, the BLM’s first reaction was to make a legal motion to try to keep the court from learning the details of its ongoing failure to protect our public lands.

## FEATURED HIKE: HINKLE LAKE GORGEOUS HIDDEN FLOWER HOT-SPOT

Just north of the Red Buttes Wilderness—in the headwaters of the Steve Fork of the Applegate River—hikers can find this remote and little-visited botanical hotspot on the southern edge of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

The 425-acre Hinkle Lake Botanical Area was designated for protection by the Forest Service in order to protect the rare and sensitive species associated with the high elevation wet meadows and serpentine (mineral-rich) soils located there. Unfortunately, wet meadows on public lands often attract irresponsible off-road vehicle enthusiasts and the Hinkle Lake Botanical Area is no exception.

For years the Forest Service has attempted to protect Hinkle Lake’s rare plants by closing the last quarter-mile of road into the site and encouraging hiking access. This approach has met with mixed success and while the yearly damage to the meadows has decreased, there are still a few folks who seem bent on destroying our shared natural heritage for cheap thrills with their off-road vehicles.

The best way to explore the wildlands around the botanical area is to park near the old Arnold Mine site and walk the winding old roadbed into the cirque that holds the lake. Look for “Kendalls Cabin” just after a creek crossing at the south end of the lake. For the truly adventurous, an off-trail hike up nearby Lake Peak offers stunning views of the Red Buttes, the Applegate Valley and Mount Shasta.

Going to Hinkle Lake is an all day proposition, and one would be well-served to consider camping there. The access road is long, largely unmaintained, and can be somewhat confusing. Do not attempt the trip without a full tank of gas, adequate food and water, and a copy of the Applegate Ranger District map. Calling the Applegate Ranger District and inquiring about road conditions is also a good idea.



George Sexton

**WILDFLOWER WONDERLAND:** Rare plants, wet meadows, and spectacular views await summer hikers in this little-known gem in the Applegate Valley in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

DON'T MISS FANTASTIC FOOD, DRINK, FRIENDS, & FUN AT  
**KS WILD'S ANNUAL DINNER**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12**



# FOCUS ON OUR KS WILD FAMILY

## STEPHANIE TIDWELL MOVES ON

We are sad to announce that Stephanie Tidwell has left KS Wild to pursue new personal and professional interests. As Executive Director for eight years, Stephanie played a major role in helping KS Wild grow and expand our capacity to defend the Klamath-Siskiyou region.



George Sexton

If there was work that needed doing, Stephanie was there. She expertly handled a wide range of responsibilities from grant-writing, to managing the budget, to making sure there was more than enough delicious food and wine to delight our members at each event.

Most recently, Stephanie was instrumental in guiding KS Wild through a successful merger with the Siskiyou Project, a longtime regional conservation ally. We thank Stephanie for her years of hard work, her fighting spirit, and her passionate dedication to protecting the wildlands, wildlife, and rivers we all love against every threat. After eight years of working together, we will miss Stephanie. But, we know she carries with her a strong love for the Klamath-Siskiyou and we look forward to seeing where she applies her passion to protect wildlands next.

## CONGRATULATIONS JOSEPH VAILE!

With Stephanie's departure, long-time KS Wild staff member Joseph Vaile has stepped into the role of Executive Director. Joseph first joined KS Wild as Staff Biologist fourteen years ago when the group's main office was a yurt in Williams, Oregon! KS Wild has come a long way since those early days and so has Joseph.



Sarah Wilson Vaile

In his most recent role as Program Director, Joseph spearheaded KS Wild's BLM lands and collaborative forestry campaigns. He has also charted a strong course for all of KS Wild's conservation work including our public lands advocacy and Rogue Riverkeeper programs.

"When I first joined KS Wild as a staff member in 1999, I knew that I wanted to save this amazing place. Now, as I embrace the opportunity to serve as Executive Director, I am inspired by the incredible progress we have made together in protecting the wildlands of the Klamath-Siskiyou. There is much work yet to do, and I look forward to working closely with the KS Wild staff and board, our members, volunteers, and supporters to keep the Klamath-Siskiyou wild."



## MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

**VOLUNTEERS AND COLLABORATORS:** Lesley Adams, Tyler Alexander, Janette Brimmer, David Calahan, Jon Carlson, Megan Fehrman, Charles Gehr, Richard Hendrickson, Sue Marshall, Ayani Mikasi, Mike Nelson, Kathleen Page, Daniel Roper, Helen Rosen, Barry Snitkin, Greg Walter, Christine Yee and all the Grazingwatch, Riverwatch and Adopt-a-Botanical Area volunteers.

**BUSINESS MEMBERS:** Abbott's Cottages, Aflac-Sue Carney, Analeah Lovere-C.A.S. Essential Oil Expert, Avant Garb, Berrvale Grocery, Carlos Delgado Architect LLC, Gallerie Karon, Hemporium, Herb Pharm, Jani Rollins MD, Jefferson State Financial Group Insurance, Kathy A. Sprick D.D.S., Madrona Arts, Master Craft Wood Floors Inc., Mihama Teriyaki Grill, Momentum River Expeditions, Morning Glory, Naturalyards, Pacific Domes, Patagonia, Peak Experience, Plant Oregon, Prospect House, Renewable Energy Systems LLC, Richard Billin Attorney at Law, Rising Phoenix Biofuels, Roberts Chiropractic Office P.C., Rogue Basin Coordination Council, Rogue Valley Fitness Training, Rogue Valley Runners, Science Works Museum, Southern Oregon Mediation Center, Standing Stone Brewing Company, Susan Joshua MD, The Downey Company Home Builders, Tree Star Inc., True South Solar, Valley Rain Harvesting, Vitalist School of Herbology, and the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon.

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## LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE ~ DEFEND WHAT YOU LOVE

Pass on your passion for the Klamath-Siskiyou by naming KS Wild in your will or trust to ensure that our spectacular region is protected for future generations. Call Morgan at (541) 488-5789 for more information and to begin a conversation. To donate online, visit [www.kswild.org](http://www.kswild.org) or [www.rogueriverkeeper.org](http://www.rogueriverkeeper.org).