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KS WILD NEWS

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Winter 2014

www.kswild.org

www.rogueriverkeeper.org

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Cover photo: The sun sparkles on a snow-covered scene near Pilot Rock in the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument. Photo courtesy of Forrest English.



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UPCOMING HIKES

Saturday, January 25: Soda Mountain Snowshoe Hike

Enjoy a winter snowshoe hike to Soda Mountain. This moderate 7-mile hike will travel the Pacific Crest Trail along the ridge to the summit of Soda Mountain. You must bring your own snowshoes. Snowshoes can be rented at the Ashland Outdoor Store for \$10-15 a day. Carpool leaves from Evo's Coffee in Ashland at 9am.

Saturday, February 8: Sterling Mine Ditch Trail Hike

Enjoy a low-elevation winter hike along the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail. This moderate 5-6 mile hike will explore the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail in the Applegate Valley. Carpool meets at Evo's Coffee in Ashland at 9am.

For all hikes, bring plenty of water, comfortable walking shoes, warm layers, and a lunch. Call Morgan at (541) 488-5789 or email morgan@kswild.org 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 NICKEL MINING PLANS ADVANCE

Mining companies want to develop large industrial nickel strip mines in the pristine headwaters of the Smith and Illinois Rivers. See page 5.

2) LOVER'S CANYON TIMBER SALE

Native forests at the gateway to our beloved Marble Mountains are threatened with logging. See page 11.

3) BLM FORESTS UNDER PRESSURE

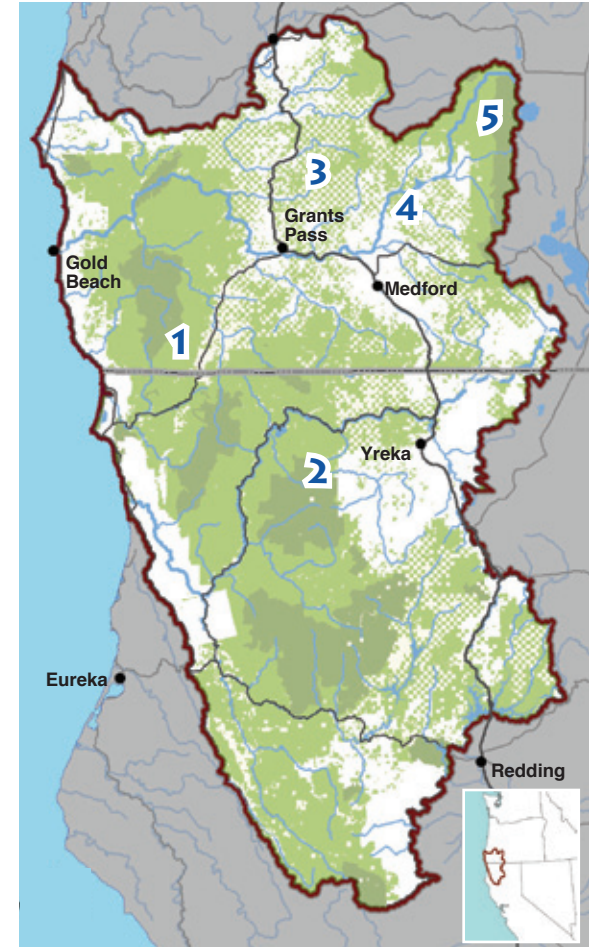
Senator Ron Wyden introduces sweeping forest legislation to change the management of over 2 million acres of BLM land. See page 3.

4) GAS PIPELINE A BAD DEAL

Proposed gas pipeline would threaten clean water, fish, and the future of the world's climate. See page 9.

5) BYBEE TIMBER SALE GETS BETTER

You raised your voice in defense of old-growth forests next to Crater Lake National Park, and the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest is starting to listen! See page 4.



Joseph Vaile

KS WILD SEEKING NEW ASHLAND OFFICE SPACE

KS Wild is looking for an affordable office space or house with commercial zoning in Ashland for a staff of seven. If KS Wild could find something affordable, more of our resources would go directly to supporting our conservation programs. Help us find a new home! Call Joseph by March 2014 at (541) 488-5789.

BREAKING NEWS: WYDEN RELEASES SWEEPING BLM FOREST LEGISLATION

As this edition of the KS Wild News was going to press, Senator Ron Wyden finally released his long-awaited BLM forest legislation. If passed, the proposed bill would affect public forests in an area fifteen times the size of Crater Lake National Park, drinking water for 1.8 million Oregonians, and wild rivers and recreation throughout the state. Here's what we know about the bill so far:



George Sexton

FORESTS UNDER PRESSURE: Over 2 million acres of our beloved BLM forests are at risk of increased logging, including the Applegate Valley, seen here.

The Good: Several provisions would protect some very special areas in southern Oregon, including:

- The Wild Rogue Wilderness Area and a new Rogue River Recreation Area.
- Backcountry areas including forests near the Cascade Siskiyou Monument, the Wellington and Dakabutede roadless areas.
- Portions of the Illinois Valley Botanical Area.

The Bad: Parts of the bill would set dangerous precedents for public forests, including:

- Public input on public lands management would be an afterthought, giving timber companies nearly unlimited access to “timber emphasis areas.”
- Stream buffers would be reduced that have helped recover salmon – we don't need to put salmon recovery and water quality at risk by logging in existing protection buffers.
- Clear-cutting in moist forests up to 120 years of age would be mandated. Our future old-growth forests are dependent upon the protection of forests in the 80-120 year old range.

We are especially disappointed to see that the public's input on forest management—an issue for so many who reside as neighbors to the public forests—is almost entirely removed. Our voices must be heard. Residents of southern Oregon live near, or recreate, on BLM forests and should have a say in how public resources are managed.

The Northwest Forest Plan provides the best framework to date for how to manage the public's forests and watersheds in the Pacific Northwest. It is critical that any O&C legislation recognize and retain forest protections that have helped stabilize salmon populations and water quality on public lands.

The stakes are huge. KS Wild is working hard on the ground and behind-the-scenes to influence this legislation, but we can't do it alone. Join the movement of people speaking up in defense of their BLM Backyard Forests at www.kswild.org.

BYBEE GETS BETTER

In the spring of 2013 KS Wild was shocked and dismayed to learn that the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest was proposing to punch over 9 miles of new logging roads through native forests to facilitate logging of ancient forests along the Bybee, Crater, and Castle Creek tributaries to the Upper Rogue River.



For years, the High Cascades Ranger District had focused on thinning second-growth plantations and small-diameter firs that were encroaching into older mixed conifer stands due to fire suppression. The dramatic shift back to the bad old days of logging ancient forests in the backcountry was disheartening and counterproductive, so KS Wild, Oregon Wild and Environment Oregon called on our supporters and friends to take a stand for the Upper Rogue Wildlands.



George Sexton

KS WILD'S ROLE: Protecting old-growth forests like this one (top photo), while encouraging the Forest Service to thin second-growth forests like this (bottom photo).

Over 11,400 people answered the call and contacted the Forest Service to express their concern for the wildlife, waters and wildlands that were targeted for logging at Bybee. To their credit, the Forest Service responded by eliminating the proposed old-growth logging, and greatly reducing the proposed road construction and logging of backcountry wildlands.

Thanks to the efforts of people like you, irreplaceable old-growth forests and wildlands in the Rogue River headwaters adjacent to the west side of the Crater Lake National Park got a reprieve from much of the Forest Service logging and road building that was proposed in the controversial Bybee timber sale.

...BUT THREATS REMAIN

While this progress is welcome, serious problems remain with the Bybee timber sale. The Forest Service still intends to build 1.3 miles of new logging roads through intact wildlands, log wilderness quality native forests in the backcountry, and thin some forest stands down to as little as 40% canopy cover.

We are thrilled that hundreds of acres of old-growth forests and roadless areas have been spared for now, but clearly there is still work to be done and these public lands need vigilant watchdogs. Protecting and restoring our National Forests is a job that never ends. KS Wild pledges to do all we can to stop or improve Forest Service proposals that will harm forests and watersheds while encouraging projects that will protect and restore our public lands.

KALMIOPSIS NICKEL MINING EXPLORATION PLANS ADVANCE

Several proposed nickel mines in the Klamath-Siskiyou region would forever alter some of the wildest country in the West. The very geology and geography that makes the region a treasure trove of rare plants have also attracted international mining interests that are seeking to develop new industrial nickel strip mines.

In early November, Red Flat Nickel Corporation received an initial nod from the Forest Service for exploratory drilling on the Southern Oregon Coast near the Rogue River. The area of this mine is known as Red Flat (same as the company).

The Red Flat Botanical Area and Hunter Creek Bog border the area being proposed for 35 test drilling sites. The Red Flat area proposed for test drilling was proposed by the Forest Service in 1989 as a much larger botanical area covering several thousand acres with numerous fens, cobra lilies and Port Orford cedar groves.

The Red Flat Nickel Corporation is the same company proposing the Cleopatra Mine on Baldface Creek, a tributary to the Wild and Scenic North Fork Smith River in the heart of the wild Kalmiopsis country. The company received backing to the tune of \$15 million in U.S. dollars from St. Peter Port Capitol of London, England. KS Wild is reviewing the first proposal and will engage in the commenting and public review process.

The exploratory drilling proposed for 2,000 acres of mining claims in wilderness quality lands in the Smith River watersheds adjacent to the Kalmiopsis Wilderness has a projected public comment period set for this winter. Over 1,000 residents, including over 100 near the Cleopatra Mine, have spoken out against this mine. Senators Wyden and Merkley have also stated that they support protecting Baldface and Rough and Ready Creek as they are both threatened with nickel mines. Unfortunately, mining companies are afforded incredible access to public lands under the 1872 mining law and it will be an uphill battle to stop them.

Visit tinyurl.com/morethannickel to learn more about these proposals and to contact Congress and the Obama Administration and urge them to protect these special places. The entire area, with some of the most biologically rich landscapes in North America, needs to be withdrawn from the 1872 mining law.



Daniel Wakefield Pasley / Yonder Journal

WORTH MORE THAN NICKEL: The crystal clear waters and red serpentine rocks of Baldface Creek harbor salmon and rare plants. Baldface and Rough & Ready Creek are threatened by industrial mining.

ARE GMO TREES COMING?

In the not so distant future, you might come across genetically modified trees on your walk in the woods. You might not be able to tell the difference between a GMO tree and a wild tree, but what are the potential impacts on our natural environment?

Testing genetically engineered tree species has been taking place in the Pacific Northwest and Southeast U.S. for over a decade and there are already commercial GMO trees in production. Oregon is a hotspot for GMO testing. In 2011 Oregon was 4th overall nationwide in the number of GMO test permits issued with 633.

The specific impacts of GMO trees in a region such as the Klamath-Siskiyou are not known, but with the world-class biological diversity that is at stake in this region, the potential for GMO trees escaping onto our national forests could be devastating.

KEEP IT WILD, NOT GENETICALLY MODIFIED

The Klamath-Siskiyou region is home to expanses of wild forests, but also contains over two million acres of industrial tree farms. The corporate interests managing the majority of those tree farms focus on maximizing profit. These companies could plant GMO trees on their industrial fiber farms in the not too distant future. Some scientists are concerned that GMO trees will escape and seeds or pollen will migrate to our national forests.

In addition to boosting productivity, genetic modifications have focused on creating pest resistant trees and increasing pesticide tolerance. These changes could lead to the evolution of superbugs resistant to natural tree defenses. U.S. farmers have already experienced pesticide resistant insects in corn and cotton fields.

THE INDUSTRY PUSH FOR GMO TREES

Test plots of GMO trees such as poplar and pine have been studied for the potential to grow very fast and produce fiber much more quickly than do natural trees. This past summer at the "Tree Biotechnology 2013 Conference," industry leaders gathered in North Carolina to discuss the potential gains in productivity and how to gain social acceptance for the genetic modification of trees. Industry leaders see GMO trees as the next step in increasing the profitability of tree crops.

WE'LL BE WATCHING...

There is a large debate brewing over labeling of GMOs at the grocery store. But on your walk in the woods in ten or twenty years, if you come across a GMO tree it won't be labeled. In many places, including Jackson County, Oregon, voters have a voice on banning GMO plants, including trees, in the near future.



George Sexton

NO DIVERSITY HERE: This photo shows a monoculture timber plantation on the Klamath National Forest.

NINTH ANNUAL DINNER A SMASH HIT!

It was a magical night. Over 300 dedicated KS Wild and Rogue Riverkeeper supporters packed the house to celebrate another year of protecting and defending the incomparable Klamath-Siskiyou region.



Please support those who support us! The following businesses and individuals donated generously to our annual event. Event sponsors are in bold.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FEATURED SPONSORS

Jens Sehm Fine Furniture & Custom Woodwork **Plant Oregon**
Momentum River Expeditions **Sunday Afternoons**
Matt Messner & Neil Sechan

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Ashland Wine Cellar	Rogue Creamery	Wandering Fields
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Azizi Jewelry	Heart and Hands	Papaya!
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Darlene Southworth	James Shames	Rogue Frameworks
Diana Hartel	Matt Witt Photography	Scott Gibbs

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 Ashland Film Fest
 Ashland Springs Hotel
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 Breitenbush Hot Springs
 Brothers
 Cold Creek Inn
 Coquina
 Enoteca Bistro
Green Springs Inn & Cabins
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 Strands Salon
Southern Oregon University Athletics
 Universal Rites Tattoo
 Vitalist School of Herbology

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Michael Kauffmann	Websters Handspinners
Naturespirit Herbs	and Weavers
Northwest Nature Shop	William Sullivan
Pacific Domes	



All photos courtesy of Keith Henry.

GAS PIPELINE A BAD DEAL

The Rogue River has one of the most prolific salmon runs in Oregon, second only to the Columbia. Salmon and Steelhead, including endangered Coho, swim up from the ocean to spawn in the Rogue's many tributary streams. These streams are in danger of being diverted, dredged and blasted to make way for a 235-mile gas export pipeline.

Our local, national forests boast a diverse range of tree species creating unique habitat for wildlife and birds. We treasure these forests where we play, explore and escape and don't want to see permanent clear-cut swaths 95 feet wide and miles and miles long.

Rural, southern Oregon landowners value the property that enables them to live, work and retire here. A riverside retirement home and a working ranch in the hills are important to landowners for different reasons. Both depend on the land that can be used and enjoyed without the impacts and inherent dangers of a 36-inch explosive gas pipeline buried in their backyards.

Energy companies want to take our private land, and use our pristine streams and public forests for their own profit to export fracked, American gas overseas. We cannot allow this to happen and now is the time to stand up and speak up against it!

Rogue Riverkeeper and our allies have been fighting the proposal for a gas pipeline, power plant, and export terminal through southern Oregon for years. This dangerous and unnecessary project threatens private property owners with eminent domain, will impact dozens of threatened and endangered species, will clear-cut a 95 foot swath for 235 miles, will raise our gas rates here at home, and accelerate climate change.

Now is the time to speak up against this ill-conceived project. We anticipate a draft Environmental Impact Statement to be released within the next several months and our state agencies and decision makers need to hear your voice. It is imperative that we



Lesley Adams

FISH NOT GAS: This Steelhead depends on the Wild & Scenic Rogue River's clear, cold water. Water threatened by gas development.

come together now to fight the corporate greed that will threaten our southern Oregon home. Join us today and let's keep pipelines and gas exports out of southern Oregon.

5 quick and easy ways you can help stop LNG today!

1. Hang a No LNG sign in your yard or along your street (we'll send you one).
2. Write a letter to the editor of the Mail Tribune, the Oregonian or your local paper.
3. Write a letter or call Governor Kitzhaber.
4. Write a letter or call your Senators and Representatives.
5. Host a house party and video showing of our 6-minute LNG video.

Contact us today! Call 541-488-9831 or email robyn@rogueriverkeeper.org.



Trip Jennings

PATH OF THE PIPELINE: This aerial view shows where the gas pipeline would cross the main stem of the Rogue River.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

VOLUNTEERS & COLLABORATORS:

Lesley Adams, Bob Barker, Jordan Beckett, Julie Bibleheimer, Nick Blakesly, Stella Bungay, Frank Bungay, Darren Campbell, Kelly Campbell, David Chambers, Catherine Cogdill, Tom Collett, Romain Cooper, Jake Crawford, Bill Cross, Francis Eatherington, Don Elder and the TREC crew, Adam Elson, Christine Evans, Megan Fehrman, Dot Fisher-Smith, Frank Flammang, Deborah Fox, Heidi Gehman, Charles Gehr, Erika Giesen, Aiyana Green, James Haim, Jeff and Aubyn Heglie, Keith Henty, Katherine Holden, Bob Janssen, Jan Janssen, Brianna Johnson, Rob & Linda Joseph, Sarah Kaufman, Craig Keffeler, Maria Kelly, Andy Kerr, Whitney Khuel, Apple Lewman, Carmen Liberatore, Sara Lovelady, Sara Lynch, Dave Majzler, Sue Marshall, Duane Martinez, Kathrin McCoy, Ayani Mikasi, Melanie Mindlin, Arnica Montana, Ken Morrish, Kalea Morton, Preston Moser, Marla Nelson, Julie Pacholik, Marina Pecoraro, Maud, Grace & Sam Powell, Kimberley Priestley, Tim Ream, Helen Rosen, Savel Sabol, Lara and Derek Scanlon, Kat Smith, Erik Sol, Randi Spivak, Elizabeth Tobey, Pepper Trail, Barbara Ullian, Sarah Vaile, Erin "Sprig" Volheim, Noah Volz, Pete Wallstrom, Tess Weir, Dave Willis, Christine Yee, Johan Ziems, and all of the Annual Dinner and Outdoor Adventure Leadership Wild & Scenic Film Fest Volunteers.



Forrest English

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 — (541) 488-9831



MARBLE MOUNTAINS TRAILHEAD SLATED FOR LOGGING

The Marble Mountains Wilderness is justifiably popular. Hikers come from around the region and around the world to explore the renowned lakes, meadows, peaks and old-growth forests that grace this magnificent mountain range. Starting back in 1931, well over 30 years before the congress passed the Wilderness Act, far-sighted Forest Service officials managed the Marble Mountains as a “primitive area” in recognition of its outstanding recreational, geological and botanical value. For generations the public and the Forest Service have worked together to protect, rather than exploit, the forests and watersheds of this special place.



George Sexton

THREATENED VISTA: The Lover’s Canyon timber sale threatens impressive views on the east slope of the beloved Marble Mountains.

The beloved native forests on the east slope of the Marbles are now at a crossroads due to a Forest Service timber sale proposal called Lover’s Canyon. Most people are familiar with the Lover’s Canyon area as the premier entry-point to iconic places like Marble Valley, Sky High Lakes, Black Marble Mountain and Paradise Lake.

The initial Lover’s Canyon timber sale proposal contains some thoughtful restoration proposals such as the use of prescribed burns to return fire to the ecosystem and the thinning of dense previously logged second-growth plantations.

However, the Forest Service is also proposing to log approximately 1,000 acres of intact native forests that have never been logged before. As this issue of KS Wild News goes to print not all of the native forest units have been marked for logging, but our initial field reconnaissance indicates that the Forest Service intends to cut down large trees and remove significant amounts of canopy from these intact native forests.

Every once and a while the Forest Service needs to be reminded that irreplaceable places like the Marble Mountains are worth more than timber volume. If you are reading this, chances are you have a personal connection to this special wilderness. Perhaps you’ve traversed the length of the Marbles on the Pacific Crest Trail, maybe you have spent a weekend at an alpine lake with friends and family or have enjoyed the fall colors on a memorable day hike in the mountains. Or, maybe you haven’t been to the Marble Mountains yet and it enriches your life to know that such wild places still exist.

Now is the time for us to ensure that we leave these mountains as beautiful and as healthy as we found them. Please join with KS Wild to be a voice for protection and conservation of the mighty Marble Mountains!

See page 12 for a hike suggestion in the Marble Mountains Wilderness.

FEATURED HIKE: BOX CAMP TRAIL IN THE MARBLE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS

If you love the Marble Mountains, chances are you’ve heard of the Lover’s Camp and Paradise Lake trailheads in the northeast corner of the Wilderness.

These popular trailheads provide access to the spectacular high country (including the Marble Rim!) and get a lot of use. The nearby and lesser-known Box Camp Trail provides the same mind-blowing views and spectacular hiking, but sees far fewer visitors.

In addition to the scenery and solitude, Box Camp Trail is the most direct route to Black Marble Mountain, which can be summited with some gumption and off-trail scrambling. One can also hike Box Camp to reach the Pacific Crest Trail for longer backpacking trips heading either north or south through the wilderness.

This trail traverses the rugged east side of the Marbles, which is dry country, and water can be hard to find in the summer season. The few springs and seeps near the trail are often trashed by private cattle that still graze in the wilderness at taxpayer expense, so always take plenty of water on your hike.

The Box Canyon trailhead starts a little higher in elevation than many of the Marble Wilderness routes and is a strenuous hike in remote country. It is essential to be well prepared and in decent physical shape before heading out into these wildlands. Don’t attempt the hike without a wilderness map and a buddy.

Along the road to the trailhead you may notice Forest Service timber sale boundary markers and forest stands targeted for logging in the Lover’s Camp timber sale. Learn more about these forests and what KS Wild is doing to protect them on page 11.

Box Camp and the rest of the spectacular Marble Mountains high country is usually snow-free from early summer through late fall. If you’ve got cabin fever and need a winter wilderness adventure, the lower elevation Kelsey Creek trail just a few miles north on the Scott River can be hiked year-round.



George Sexton

HIGH COUNTRY SPLENDOR: On the Box Camp Trail, you’re in spectacular high country up on the Marble Rim. Adventure seekers can even summit Black Marble Mountain. It all adds up to adventurous exploring without the crowds.

FOCUS ON OUR KS WILD FAMILY

JEFFREY PINE (PINUS JEFFREYI)

If you love conifer trees, the Klamath-Siskiyou is paradise. Boasting more conifers than any other region in North America (35!), the KS Region is a treasure trove of trees. One of the evergreen conifers in the region is Jeffrey pine, *Pinus jeffreyi*.



Joseph Vaile

More common in the Sierra Nevada, it grows in some of the most spectacularly rich botanical areas in the Klamath-Siskiyou. Jeffrey pine grows in serpentine soils that are too harsh for many other tree species. Often the tree is stunted with character. One way to tell a Jeffrey Pine from a Ponderosa is by looking at their cones. The spines on a “gentle jeffrey” point down, while the “prickly ponderosa” spines stick out sideways to snare unsuspecting fingers. Some people say that the resin smells distinctly like butterscotch or vanilla.

KS WILD DOGS TO THE RESCUE

Let’s give credit where credit is due. At the KS Wild office we have two underappreciated team members that come to work everyday, rain or shine, rarely complain and are always ready to head to the field.

Zola the Wonderdog is an integral member of the KS Wild Team. Rescued from an animal shelter in 2012, Zola leads KS Wild hikes, greets office visitors, appears in photos of beautiful places and briefs about agency misdeeds, and commutes to work dressed as a pirate in the trailer of a contraption called the “Jolly Dogger.” Meadows are her favorite habitat and she’s somewhat skeptical of bushwhacking in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness.



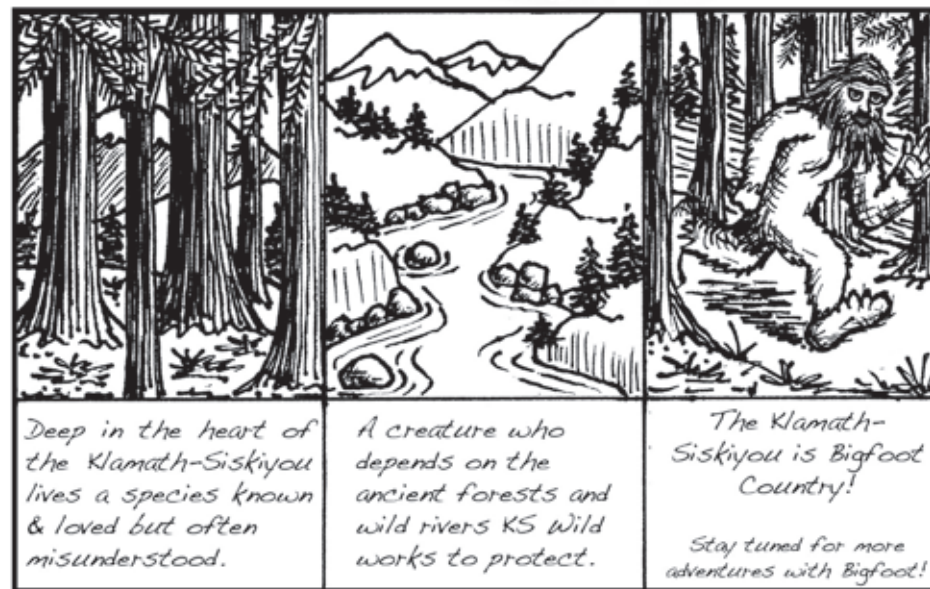
George Sexton

Willy the Riverwatch dog is a very tall 2-year old lab mix key to our river conservation work. Robyn Janssen was introduced to Willy by guests she guided down the Colorado River in 2011. The two have been best buddies ever since. His favorite habitat is the river and he loves to swim and chase tennis balls. He is usually found sleeping under Robyn’s desk or trapped behind the swinging door in the back office. He is an incredible jumper, but wary of toddlers.



Robyn Janssen

The Adventures of Bigfoot!



Robyn Janssen

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ALL OUR MEMBERS: A big, wild thank you to all of our new and renewing KS Wild members! We rely on a grassroots base of 2,500 supporters that generously donate to our conservation mission. Join the KS Wild family as a member today at www.kswild.org.

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