

Fish Tales

Maintaining water quality and fish populations from source to sea in the streams of the Umpqua

4th Issue



Executive Director Bob Kinyon surveys a structure placement

Upcoming Events

Jan. 27nd **TAC Meeting**
Thursday Details TBA

Feb. 2-4 **Beaver Conference**
Saturday Learn more at www.surcp.org/beavers

Feb. 15th **PUR Board Meeting**
Tuesday Roseburg ODFW Offices
9 am

June 3rd **Bob Kinyon Retires**
Friday Retirement Party
Details TBA



A Year of Success

Completed Projects and New Partnerships

Each January we repeat how successful and productive the previous year has been. However, we cannot help but do the same again for 2010. It was a very successful year. The organization developed substantially, many projects were completed, new partnerships were reached, and PUR focused in on its mission statement and the importance of community outreach.

A large amount of time is spent in the PUR office applying for grants through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), as well as many other funding sources. As a non-profit, PUR is completely funded by grants and member donations, making applying for grants a vital task. For 2010, the partnership applied for over \$6,800,000 in funding and received \$2,282,571 from 33 separate grants. PUR strives to spend this funding on local contractors and vendors, which is especially important in these troubled economic times. While all project materials were purchased within Oregon, the majority came from Douglas County - injecting much needed cash into the local economy. PUR also administered over 25 contracts with local contractors for on-the-ground habitat restoration work.

(Continued on page 3 ...)

What's inside?

A Year of Success	pg 1 & 3
Staff Sections	pg 2
Meet PUR	pg 3
President's Corner	pg 4
Education/Outreach	pg 4

Current Projects	pg 5
Volunteer Spotlight.....	pg 6
AmeriCorps & PUR	pg 6
Water Trails	pg 7
Monitoring	pg7

Notes from the Executive Director

The Partnership certainly fits the adage, "It gets better with age." Accomplishments for the 2010 field season were the best ever. With so many projects, the staff had a daunting task to accomplish all the work within the instream window, July 1st to September 15th. Thanks to dry weather and Laura Jackson at ODFW approving a waiver for work through October, we were able to accomplish several fish passage projects in South County plus place logs and trees in three streams in the lower Umpqua into the late fall.

Kudos to all the staff: Eric, Terry, Matt, Debbie, Sandy and to Dan Jenkins, ODFW biologist, for their dedication to restoring fish habitat and improving water quality throughout the Umpqua Basin. The Board and membership of PUR should be proud of the professional, motivated staff that carries out this work each day.

The staff composition remains "lean and mean", with several contrac-



This past year was one of the most productive years that the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers has ever seen. Beginning in July, the staff established a grueling tempo that lasted well into October. This year the Partnership implemented 16 instream and fish passage restoration projects; more projects than any other year in the Council's history. The variety of project partners and project types made this field season very interesting and one to remember. We used helicopters and excavators to place logs, boulders, bridges and culverts in several streams throughout the basin. We were privileged to have an excellent

tors/consultants who add to the diversity of our organization: Don Porior, Ann Kercher, Amy Pinson Dumm and Nancy Geyer. Rachael Larson has been a great addition, working one day per week to assist Debbie with bookkeeping duties. We also employ a cadre of well-qualified seasonals: Heather Bartlett, Andrew Janos and Andrea Rangeloff.

As I look forward to retirement in early June, I feel confident that my successor, Eric Riley, will be prepared to take my place as the Executive Director. Now that the summer season is over, I can spend quality time with Eric, mentoring and training him to take on the minutia of this position.

As I sign off as Executive Director and take a trip into the "golden years" with my wife Judy, I will take fond memories of my thirteen years directing the day-to-day affairs of the Partnership, one of the premier councils in Oregon. As I look back over the years, I realize that any success I have achieved in building this organization has come

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about solely with the help of a great staff and the support and leadership of the Board of Directors. I have worked under 85 Directors and Alternates over my tenure here. Each individual went out of their way to assist me to meet the mission of PUR, and I appreciate that. Together we sat at the table and sought consensus on important issues. There were times of extreme stress and anguish and other times of hilarious laughter. It helped us all grow and to appreciate the good that can come from engaging one another with good intentions.

Restoration Coordinator's Corner

group of project partners that made the work fun and exciting.

As we are busy closing out and reporting on all of our 2010 projects, we are looking forward to an exciting 2011 field season as well. Although we will not have quite the volume of projects as we did in 2010, we have several large scale projects in the works. We have seen a downward trend in funding levels with our traditional grantors, requiring the Partnership to become more innovative in developing projects and funding strategies that make continued restoration work possible in the "Land of the Umpqua." With the completion of an updated Strategic Plan the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers looks to be more deliberate with how projects are developed and accomplished in the coming years, enabling the Council to stay at the

tip of the spear with regards to salmon habitat restoration.

As I write this, I am reminded that this will be the last "Fish Tales" with Bob Kinyon serving as our Executive Director. For those of you that have not heard, Bob is retiring in June of 2011. Bob has been the foundation of this watershed since 1997 and without his foresight and strong influence; we would not be where we are today. His diligence and continuous reliability have made the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers the leading Council in the state of Oregon. Bob has been an incredible leader, supervisor, mentor, counselor, father figure and genuine friend to many of us over the years. Although we celebrate his well deserved retirement, he will certainly be missed in the years to come.



Meet The Partnership

What is a watershed council?
What is its purpose?

The Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit watershed council serving the majority of the Umpqua Basin Watershed. “Great,” you may say, “but what does that mean?”

According to Oregon state legislation, a watershed council is a “voluntary local organization designated ... to address the goal of sustaining natural resources and watershed protection and enhancement within a watershed.”

A watershed is the area of land where all surface and groundwater drains into the same body of water, such as a river, wetland, or the ocean. Watersheds can be many millions of acres like the Columbia River Basin, or less than

a dozen acres for a single small stream. The Umpqua Basin Watershed, roughly matches the boundaries of Douglas County.

PUR is funded primarily by grants and donations to work on stream enhancement in Douglas County. PUR replaces culverts under roadways that obstruct fish passage, as well as placing woody debris and boulders in streams to create safe habitat for fish. PUR also works with private landowners to fence off livestock from sensitive stream banks, builds stock watering systems away from creeks, and plants trees to restore eroding banks. As well as instream projects, PUR also monitors water quality and stream health and works to edu-

cate the public on the importance of maintaining the watershed.

PUR is non-governmental and has no regulatory role. This allows the non-profit to maintain strong relationships with a very diverse community. PUR is run by a board of directors with 17 members representing private landowners, timber companies, conservation groups, agriculture, construction, mining, and fishing interests, as well as tribes, county officials, and other associations.

Kris Lyon
PUR Staff

A Year of Success Continued ...

In 2010, PUR completed 16 projects. These included the installation of eight bridges, seven culverts, directly improving over 16.5 miles of fish passage in the Umpqua Basin. Also, contractors placed 970 logs and trees, along with 500 large boulders, restoring over 11 miles of habitat. These projects will certainly contribute to the health of the watershed, as well as the local economy.

PUR also established new connections and partnerships. Many projects involved joint cooperation with BLM, ODF, OSU, Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians, ODFW, EPA, Private Landowners, Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District, US Forest Service, Roseburg Resources, Seneca Jones Timber, Lone Rock Timber, and the Elk Creek Watershed Council. PUR also worked with the Smith River Watershed Council to mentor and train a new executive director for Smith River. This process fostered new con-

nections and cooperation between the two councils.

The staff and number of consultants working with PUR also increased dramatically over the year. Ann Kercher was hired as a consultant to work on UBFAT culvert surveys. Heather Bartlett joined the monitoring program to work in the field. Nancy Geyer is now running the education and outreach program and Ross Greedy, an AmeriCorps participant, is helping in several different areas, but has spent most of his time working in the outreach program. Also, to help with the enormous task of grant writing PUR hired Amy Pinson Dumm

as a grant writing consultant. Finally, two new fisheries technicians joined PUR: Andrew Janos and Andrea Rangeloff.



One of the three trucks purchased by PUR for field work

The monitoring program continued the large cooperative Wolf Creek project, as well as monitored over 50 sites and deployed 24 temperature data loggers in the watershed.

An excited staff also purchased three used trucks, increasing safety with reliable four-wheel-drive vehicles.

Overall, 2010 proved to be one of the most productive and successful years in the organization's history.

Kris Lyon
PUR Staff

President's Corner: Stan Petrowski

A great debt of gratitude is due to all of you that voted in support of measure 76. 68% of voting Oregonians approved the measure. Every County in the State supported this tremendous opportunity to shore up restoration of our salmon runs and improve water quality. This will help us to continue our service to the community. Thank you.

To top off a successful year of projects we have had a very wonderful Coho salmon run this fall. It is very rewarding to see the fish numbers increasing year by year. The watershed council in collaboration with a broad spectrum of stakeholders continues to focus our attention on results and this year's salmon is very encouraging. In various corners of Douglas County residents could be seen spending time viewing the return of the salmon to spawn. In some

watersheds this became a spontaneous opportunity to discuss the issues your watershed council is ad-

ressing. Our mission statement focuses on clean water, the native fish runs

and our local economy. The newly developed strategic plan positions us to excel all the more in the years to come. Please take the opportunity to attend our monthly meetings. Perhaps you'll find a niche with us to move the agenda forward.



Photo by Julie Edmonds

Have a happy New Year!

Stan Petrowski
PUR President

Education and Outreach Program

"We educate people about the value of healthy streams." Although prominently stated in PUR's mission, for most of our history, community education and outreach has been a very small part of our work. That changed in 2008 when our Board of Directors made developing a strategic, watershed stewardship-focused education and outreach program a top priority for PUR. After numerous meetings, discussions, proposals, and attempts, our program was finally ready to launch. In early 2010, PUR hired Nancy Geyer to serve as a part-time program manager working under the guidance of the all-volunteer Education and Outreach committee. In December of 2010, the board voted to combine the Education/Outreach and Events committees.

This is an exciting time for PUR's new Education and Outreach Program. The committee and program manager

are working together to identify strategies and approaches that will fulfill our 2010-2014 strategic plan goal to "... enhance awareness, understanding, and appreciation of watershed processes and PUR and its activities; including the social, economic, and ecological benefits of stream restoration." We have many grand ideas for the program's future, but at this early stage our focus is building a strong foundation on which our program can grow: establishing partnerships with volunteers, schools, and community groups, identifying community needs and opportunities, and establishing PUR's niche and reputation for watershed stewardship education in our community.

Although our current project portfolio is small, the work we've done has been very successful. In 2010, we provided eight educational plaques for a salmon-related public art project

through the Ford Family Foundation; plans are in place for PUR to continue the salmon sculpture project at local schools. We're partnering with local schools to educate school-aged youth about watershed stewardship through in-class presentations and hands-on restoration. We are increasing our community visibility by sponsoring community events (such as an annual stream clean-up) and attending venues such as the Earth Day Fair and Stream Appreciation Day.

For the Education and Outreach Program to reach its full potential, we will need help from community volunteers.

For more information about this program and volunteer opportunities, contact Nancy Geyer through PUR.

Nancy Geyer
Education and Outreach Coordinator



Helicopter-placed logs in Charlotte Creek.



A helicopter's grapple holds a tree as it is lowered into position



Randy Smith (ODF), Jen Feola and Dan Jenkins (both ODFW)

Charlotte, Luder and Dean Creek

“In two days, the team placed 115 whole trees and 38 logs.”

If there is one word to describe the end of the log placement season in 2010 it would be HECTIC! September started with the need to get trees cut on both Siuslaw National Forest and Elliot State Forest lands. Full trees and logs were slated to be flown down into four different creeks, with two different helicopters. However, the logs needed to be cut as late in the season as possible to avoid vandalism or even outright theft. Working with state and federal biologists to pick the trees and then taking the cutters out to fell them took several long hard days of bush-whacking and hiking. PUR also needed to visit several log placement sites in the streams to take down hazardous alders that were both blocking the view of the creek from the helicopter and also likely to blow over in the helicopter's powerful downdraft. The month ended with three full days of using a Vertol 107 helicopter to place over 400 logs into tributaries of West Fork Smith River.

As reward for a job well done, the staff had to switch modes and spend the next two weeks finalizing OWEB grant applications to be sent to Salem.

Transitioning from running through streams and crashing through brush to sitting around a conference room table and hashing out the next two years of work was a chore on its own. The staff, brains buzzing from massive amounts of creative writing, budget negotiations, and too much caffeine, still got the job done.

As Debbie drove the applications to Salem on the due date, Eric, Terry, Bob and Judy Kinyon, Dan Jenkins, Randy Smith (ODF biologist), and Matt met up in a farm field at Dean Creek to start the next round of log placement. This time it was with a Columbia Chinook helicopter. This heavy lifting helicopter flew down from Canada just for our project when the original machine was suddenly out of order. This is the same type of helicopter you may have seen on logging television shows. It has the capacity to safely lift and transport logs up to 25,000 pounds. As it sat sublimely in the field, it looked so innocent. But as soon as it took off, the raw power was unleashed! Matt was stationed with Bob and Judy at the top of the hill overlooking Dean Creek, where most of the whole trees

were cut. Two experienced crewmen with Columbia Helicopters were manning the hill with us. The team located and flagged the 120 foot trees for the helicopter to grab with a grapple claw. At the same time, Eric, Randy, Terry, and Dan were down in “the hole” (the creek bottom) paired up with Columbia crew members and went to work flagging the places for the logs to be placed. After two days, the team had 115 whole trees and 38 logs placed into Charlotte, Luder, and Dean creeks. The final reward was not just a well built structure, but the thought of this winter's run of coho and steelhead that would be spawning behind the sites. All in all, it was a great team effort and a hearty thanks goes out to all our partners for such great support to see this through.

Matt Ruwaldt
Consulting Estuary Biologist

Terry Burlison
PUR Planner/Hydrologist

The Partnership is always in need of volunteers for water quality monitoring, organizing fundraisers and events, and other areas of work.

If you are interested please contact us,

(541) 673-5767 info@umpquarivers.org

Volunteer Spotlight - Janice Green

Janice Green's commitment to the fisheries and water quality of the Umpqua Basin has been exemplary since the formation of the watershed council in 1993. She was a founding member of the Umpqua Basin Fisheries Restoration Initiative (UBFRI), which pre-dates the formation of the current watershed council structure. Janice has been an advocate for recreational fisheries on the council and has belonged to regional fisheries organizations for much of her life.

She was actively involved in the Senate Bill 1010 local process as a committee member. This locally divisive process tested the members' patience; however the group persevered to create the Umpqua Basin Water Quality Management Plan.

After a successful career as a social worker (PhD in sociology) and as a librarian, Janice has found her true avocation. She has volunteered to edit numerous documents for the council and serves as our pro-bono grammarian.

Her contribution to the watershed council has varied over her many years of service. She has served on the Board of Directors as the at-large member for five years and served as treasurer for

another five years. She has been heavily involved in the logistics of the council meetings and has served on many committees.

One of her much appreciated contributions has been the 10,000 or so cookies that she baked for the meetings and



Janice and her husband Harry

her special recipe for years, and now has a fat-free version of her classic chocolate chip cookie to keep us all a bit healthier.

She was tirelessly committed to volunteer water quality monitoring, focusing her efforts on the Calapooya water-

shed. Neither snow, nor sleet, nor rain or hail kept her from her monitoring schedule. She taught us that husbands can be used for a variety of purposes including personal ladder concierge. Her husband Harry would meet Janice



and set up a ladder to access a single, very steep site, load up the ladder, and meet her back at home later. Janice was instrumental in developing a project with a local middle school science teacher. This project worked to get kids involved in

enjoyment of the staff. Somehow, fresh cookies seem to sneak into the office every few weeks to be devoured by hungry grant writers. She has been revising

stream monitoring. Teaching children to value the watershed was always her motivation.

Janice has taught us many things in her years of volunteerism, such as the meaning of the word "fungible" (being of such nature or kind as to be freely exchangeable or replaceable, in whole or in part, for another of like nature or kind ... especially when dealing with funding) and how to properly pronounce "salmonid" (sal'-muh-nid).

Thank you Janice for your selfless dedication to PUR and our watershed.

AmeriCorps Participant - Ross Greedy

In mid-September Ross Greedy, an AmeriCorps participant, began working with the Partnership in conjunction with the Phoenix School. As he says, he has been working to "identify educational opportunities and create curriculum to engage students in educational activities in an outdoor, hands-on setting." He also is helping to develop outreach materials and activities with PUR's outreach program.

Ross was raised on a farm in Iowa. He attended Iowa State University where he studied forestry and "interpretation of natural resources." After school, he landed an internship in Colorado with a whitewater rafting company. This experience helped him to "hone

[his] outdoor skills."

Afterwards, Ross moved to Wisconsin and lived along the Minnesota border next to the Mississippi River. Here he finished his degree at Winona State University in Environmental and Adventure Education.

Next, he moved to Colorado and worked for an "adventure education company" in the four corners region, mostly within Navajo Reserva-

tion lands. From there he worked in the Sierra Nevadas for a high school



outdoor/adventure program based in central California. During his time in California he was offered the position at PUR.

Ross is clearly a passionate outdoorsman who enjoys exploring new areas and opportunities. He

is a perfect match for PUR and both the council and Ross will benefit from his time here.

Upcoming Project

As part of the education and outreach program, PUR is beginning work on developing water trails in the Umpqua Basin.

Water trails are interpretive and pre-designed "trails" via waterway. Instead of following a hiking trail, with signs along the way, visitors follow a map and instructions in the Umpqua's waterways. Trails will have specific launching sites selected, as well as handy guides for kayakers, rafters, and other water enthusiasts.

Visitors will learn about the natural resources and water quality of the Umpqua as well as having a fun recreational experience.

While the project is still only in its early stages, possibilities include, according to the American Trails association, "signs and route markers; maps and promotion of water routes; facilities for parking, boat ramps or docks, and places to camp and picnic."

UMPQUA BASIN



WATER TRAIL →

Monitoring the Watershed

This past year has seen some of our work, and our work with partners and contractors, begin to be officially shared with others. The final report has now been completed for the first phase of our Umpqua Temperature study with Kent Smith of Insight Consultants and Vince Fox (our most willing and able boatman). This report is available online

at <http://www.yoncalla.net/Lower%20Umpqua%202008.htm>. While you are at this page, note on the lower part of the page some of Kent's earlier, informative temperature studies in the Umpqua Basin.

The report for the second year of the study is nearing completion. Preliminary data is available now at http://www.yoncalla.net/Temperature_10.htm. Halfway down the web page is a link to view a movie clip of the temperature at 23 sites along 33 miles of the Umpqua, over 24 hours, on three different summer days. It is worth checking out how uniquely individual sites behave over the day and night.

Thanks to our ongoing collaborative work in the Wolf Creek Watershed with the Roseburg BLM, last November we were able to participate as one of the presenters at the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Biennial Conference in Pendleton, Oregon. Dan Dammann and Jeff McEnroe from BLM teamed with Sandy Lyon from

PUR. Together they discussed the experience of collaborating with several different agencies on such a large project.

Heather Bartlett joined our crew this summer to assist with the Wolf Creek monitoring project and the volunteer monitoring runs. This fall you could find Heather anywhere from Little Wolf Creek doing weekly salmon spawning surveys to Upper Smith River surveying culverts. In addition, Heather and volunteer M. A. Hansen go out once a week, rain or shine, to perform our four monitoring runs: 1. Umpqua to Winchester

Bay, 2. Elk Creek in the Tiller area, 3. Myrtle Creek, and 4. The South Umpqua from Days Creek to Winston. Heather also helps Sandy with the biweekly monitoring of the Lower and

Middle Cow Creek Watersheds that PUR does for the Tribe.

The new Umpqua Explorer Website (www.umpquaexplorer.info) is up and running. Here you can find a great deal of information about our watershed including the Water Quality Visualization Tool, as well as

information on restoration activities, the Umpqua Basin Fish Access Team's culvert inventory,

many other Umpqua Basin educational materials and resources including photos and videos.

*Sandy Lyon
Monitoring Coordinator*



Heather Bartlett joined PUR to assist with the monitoring program



Sandy Lyon and M.A. Hansen return from collecting a water sample. They often use a bucket, lowered over the edge of a bridge, when the streambank is inaccessible.



Our Mission

Through collaboration with diverse participants, the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers maintains and improves water quality & fish populations from source to sea in the streams of the Umpqua.

We educate people about the value of healthy streams; we work with willing landowners to improve stream conditions; we monitor the health of the streams and their fish populations.

Through these actions the Partnership contributes to the ecological and economic well-being of the basin.

Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers



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Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

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