

# Fish Tales

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

5th Issue



## Upcoming Events

Aug. 9-13 **Douglas County Fair**  
Hours The Fish Toss Returns  
TBA DTO Booth, Fairgrounds

Aug. 16th **Board Meeting & Tour**  
Tuesday TBA

Sep. 20th **PUR Board Meeting**  
Tuesday ODFW Office  
9 am Roseburg

Sept. 17, **River Cleanup Day**  
18, 24, 25 E-mail [ahiller@blm.gov](mailto:ahiller@blm.gov)  
for details



## Gone Fishing

### Executive Director Bob Kinyon Retires

After 14 years with the Partnership, Executive Director Bob Kinyon retired this June. During his time at PUR, Bob lead the organization's growth and made PUR one of the most respected and successful watershed councils in the State of Oregon. From the beginning, Bob has been there to ensure the Board directives and PUR's mission statement are fulfilled and the watershed and salmon are restored, while simultaneously maintaining good relations with all stakeholders. Bob's strong leadership, humor, and presence will be missed by everyone who has had the pleasure of working with him.

Over the years Bob has overseen 86 passage impaired culvert replacements and 32 tree, log, and root-wad projects resulting in the placement of 2,390 pieces of wood and 5,742 boulders. He has managed 26 riparian fencing projects, fencing 28 miles of the Basin's streams as well as 19 riparian planting projects over 23 miles of stream. In this time, the Partnership also built 19 hardened livestock crossings, 25 off-channel stock water systems, and completed 5 ditch and dam removals. And, incredibly, from 1997 to 2011 PUR received 399 grants totalling \$19,429,556, most of which was spent in the local economy.

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## Notes from the Executive Director

As the newly appointed Executive Director, I would like to introduce myself and thank everyone who has helped me transition into this position. It has been a wonderful transition and I am excited to see what the future holds. As Bob Kinyon heads into retirement paradise, we look forward to carrying on his legacy. He will be truly missed, but the Staff is energized to move forward and continue with the precedent that has been established over the years.

As I write this, the Staff is learning to operate and coordinate daily business with one less staff member (actually two; congratulations to Terry with the birth of her son), all while gearing up for a busy field season. On the restoration side we are preparing for an eventful in-water work period. We have 11 instream restoration projects planned and we will start placing logs this month. Our project work this year will keep us busy until mid-October; culminating with two helicopter log placement projects. Our monitoring efforts continue throughout the basin, with this summer's focus on the analysis

of the last seven years of data. Sandy is working hard to bring all the data together for her report. Additionally, monitoring in the Wolf Creek basin will continue with cross sections, pebble counts, and temperature studies. Our Education and Outreach Program has continued to grow throughout the year. Our involvement in the local community is increasing and we have several projects planned for next year; including the Master Watershed Stewards Workshop. PUR was successful again this year with our proposal for an AmeriCorps Member. We are currently holding interviews and will hire an Education and Outreach Assistant this August to facilitate our volunteer program and assist Nancy Geyer with all of next year's projects. This spring we hired Gilaine Wright as our Fiscal Assistant. She has been a welcome addition to Debbie's efforts on the fiscal and administrative side of the house. Her talents will be vital to the way we do business with a smaller full-time Staff. Debbie is



Eric Riley  
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taking on more administrative duties (previously done by Bob) to facilitate my balancing act between restoration and directing.

As we make this transition I am extremely optimistic about the future of the Partnership. We have been able to grow in a time where growth has been limited, at best. Our partners have been strong supporters. Without their commitment and dedication to our mission, we would not be where we are today. I would like to thank the Staff and Board of Directors for their support and confidence in me to lead this great organization and I look forward to what the future has in store for PUR and the Umpqua Basin.

## UBFAT

When most people first hear about the Umpqua Basin Fish Access Team they may or may not be mildly interested. When they hear it called by its acronym, UBFAT, they tend to sit up and pay attention, or at least chuckle. With all of the acronyms we get bombarded with on a daily basis, UBFAT is a good one to remember.

The team was initially formed to address a way to identify and prioritize migratory barriers for salmon within the basin. Over the years it has grown into a multi-faceted group including federal, state, county and private landholders, each collabor-



ating in an effort to gather data and provide a complete picture of fish passage in the vast area encompassed by the Umpqua River and its tributaries.

Nearly the entire basin has been surveyed, and a score has been assigned to each potential barrier based on its magnitude and resource benefit, such as quality and extent of available habitat upstream. The results of these surveys have already been used to replace or correct many barriers. The data continues to be useful for identification of future projects and also provides more strength to applications when seeking highly competitive funding for

restoration work. Currently, the Smith River watershed is next on the list for completion this summer. An application has also been submitted to the Medford Resource Advisory Committee for funding to complete work in the Cow Creek watershed below Galesville Reservoir.

To date, nearly 2,500 various potential barriers have been inventoried, and that number is still climbing. It has been a fairly monumental effort to gather that much data over the years. The current and continuing success of UBFAT would not be possible without the cooperation and support of all of the project partners.

*Ann Kercher*  
UBFAT Manager



# Toxic Waters

## Blue-Green Algae and the Serious Health Risk Posed to Livestock, Pets, and Humans

In 2010, a dog died within an hour after drinking water at Lawson Bar on the South Umpqua River. The year before, two other pets died quickly near Elkton. In 2007, 21 Sea Otters were found dead off the coast of California. In each of these cases, the animals died from ingesting toxins released from microcystins, or blue-green algae. These colorless and odorless toxins pose a serious health risk to animals and humans, especially young children. However, by knowing the signs and staying alert you can reduce your risk of exposure and protect your family.

These toxins, if consumed in high enough quantities, can lead to muscle cramps, twitching, and in extreme cases paralysis, cardiac or respiratory failure, and death. Another variety of toxin can affect liver function and induce nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and, in extreme cases, even acute liver failure.

### Know the Signs

There are many different varieties of Blue-Green algae that produce toxins in lakes, streams, rivers, and other bodies of water. Avoid contact with water that appears scummy or discolored. Blue-

Green algae has often been reported to look like oil on the surface of the water, brightly colored green paint, as well as other colors and forms. Since there is no accurate way to determine visually if an algae bloom is toxic, avoid contact if you see any of these signs.

The State of Oregon and other government and non-profit organizations are posting informational warning signs at recreational areas. However, be aware when signs state a *health advisory is in effect* for the known presence of toxic blue-green algae blooms. These indicate that toxins have been detected in the immediate water body. Avoid all contact with the water and keep you pets and children away.

Toxins are released as the algae dies and their cells burst. Therefore, toxins can be present in the water at extremely high concentrations with no visual signs of an algae bloom. If a health advisory is in effect do not enter the water.

### The Food Chain

It is also important to know about the effects of blue-green algae on the food chain. The State of Oregon Health Authority advises that contaminated

shellfish should not be eaten. They also state that eating fish from an affected area “pose unknown health risks... [however] if you choose to eat [fish], remove all fat, skin and organs before cooking.”

### Drinking

When camping you should be extremely careful where you draw your water source from. Personal filtration devices such as charcoal filters, backpacking filters, and UV pens will not remove toxins from blue-green algae. Remember the toxins are invisible, filtering out the visible algae will not eliminate the toxins. Boiling water will also not remove the toxins and could release more toxins into the water by bursting algal cells.

### Learn More

Visit the Oregon Health Authority online at:

[www.healthoregon.org/hab](http://www.healthoregon.org/hab)

To find local health advisory warnings visit the website or call toll free: 971-673-0440. Remember to watch for health advisory signs near your favorite swimming hole.

## Gone Fishing Continued ...

On June 2nd, the PUR board of directors and staff gave Bob a farewell retirement party at the Roseburg Country Club. Over 50 board members, contractors, friends, and colleagues were in attendance.

The celebration began with a meal catered by the Club, with two delicious carrot cakes baked by the Lighthouse Center Bakery. While guests ate, photos of projects completed during Bob's career played across a nearby projec-

tor screen, thanks to hours of labor by Sandy Lyon.

Next, Eric Riley gave his first speech as the Executive Director of PUR. He and other staff members, contractors, and friends spoke of Bob's ability to resolve disputes and keep diverse groups of stakeholders communicating. Others recognized Bob's gregarious personality and passion for the watershed. A group of professional working mothers thanked Bob for his flexibility and

support of them and their families in their time working for PUR.

To Bob's surprise the staff and board then presenting him with an Amazon Kindle, a plaque, and other gifts. The office staff especially enjoyed giving him a camouflage camp rocking chair, complete with footstool, cup-holder, and a copy of the project photo PowerPoint. This ensured Umpqua Bob would relax in his golden years with his wife Judy.

## Outgoing President's Corner: Stan Petrowski

What an honor it has been to sit as President of the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers this past two years. My tenure on the Executive Committee since 2007 has been a rewarding and exciting experience. During that time PUR has grown and fleshed out its strategic plan with great efficiency. Working with the staff, Board of Directors and membership committee participants has been intense but very fulfilling. Almost all of the objectives I had hoped to see implemented have come to fruition. None of it would have happened without the hard work and PATIENCE of the staff and cooperative spirit of the Board.

The last two years for PUR have been highlighted with critical changes in operational status. Most significantly we have made the transition in the Executive Director position. Bob Kinyon is now retired and Eric Riley has become the new Executive Director. Without the professional assistance and support of Bob I am certain my tenure as president would not have been as personally

enriching as it has been. He simultaneously trained his replacement, directed the organization's operations and added a serious measure of credibility to my seat on the Board. He contributed much to my experience. His counsel will be missed.

I am particularly proud of the organizational restructuring that has taken place. I believe the staff and the organization as a whole is poised to continue its record of excellence in the field of restoration ecology and community cooperation. We have a great and competent crew at the helm.

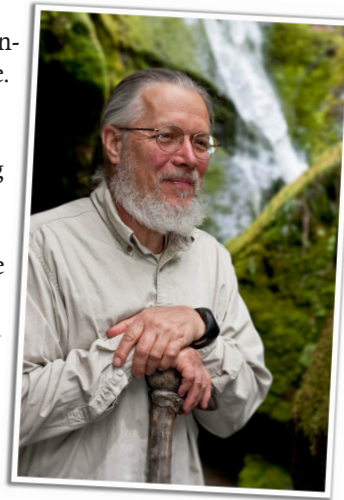
Each President of the organization has contributed their own nuanced facilitation of organizational development. Darin McMichael, the incoming President, has been very supportive of PUR's work and smooth organizational function. I'm certain he will be an excellent facilitator. He brings with him his extensive commitment to the community at large and

his personal experience in it.

I can not emphasize enough the tremendous pleasure I have had to see the huge progress that has been made to restore water quality and help bring back the pride and joy of the Umpqua Basin, her once famous and life sustaining salmon runs.

Let me earnestly thank everyone involved with PUR for making my term as President one of profound learning and personal im-

provement. Community members from every aspect of the Umpqua's cultural base, private and public, have put their shoulder to the task of our mission. I gave it all I've got and I gained more than I gave. My gratitude to you all.



## Education and Outreach Program

Although our current education and outreach program was launched in early 2010, the program's foundation dates back 10 years. I first started working with PUR in 2001 when we were the Umpqua Basin Watershed Council. Bob Kinyon hired me to write watershed assessments and action plans for the basin's fifth-field watersheds that included private land. The primary goal of this project was to compile into easy-to-understand documents information on the past, present, and potential future conditions affecting fish habitat and water quality in the Umpqua. Although writing, research, and talking with experts was an important part of this job, just as important were the educational public meetings.

To launch each new phase of the assessment project, I sent letters to landowners living in the group of watersheds we were studying explaining who we were and what we were doing and inviting them to a meeting to learn more

about the project. We usually had a really big turn-out. Then, every month for the duration of the assessment (about a year), I would meet with interested landowners to discuss the project's findings and receive public input.

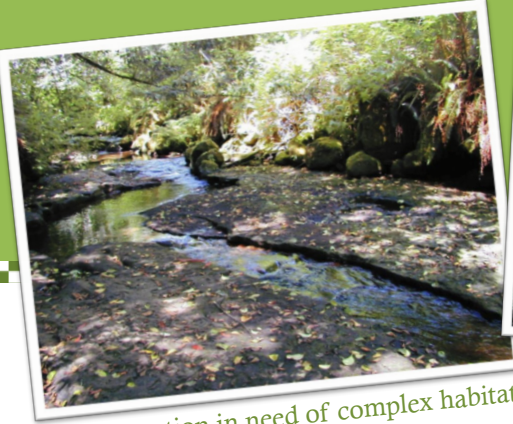
These 1.5 hour monthly meetings were informative and fun for the landowners and me. Each meeting reviewed a specific topic, such as water rights and water use or fish distribution and abundance. Meeting participants usually had questions beyond what I had learned in my research so I invited local experts to fill in the blanks (the water rights meetings with Watermaster Dave Williams sometimes lasted more than two hours). From these meetings, I gained a greater understanding of the assessment topics, landowners' concerns, and the different area's culture and economy, all of which were invaluable to developing accurate and watershed-specific assessments.

These meetings provided the foun-

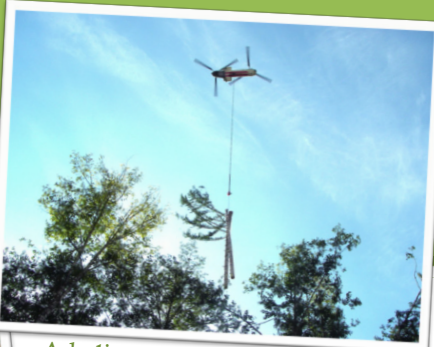
dation for PUR's fledgling outreach effort. PUR's first community-targeted handouts were developed specifically for these meetings and elements from these documents can be found in PUR's current brochure. The contacts made during these meetings paved the way for PUR's participation in community programs. Thanks to the Myrtle Creek watershed assessment meetings, PUR was asked to participate in a streamside day camp for kids, our first educational program for youth.

Although the project is long over, the assessments' educational legacy lives on. I draw on these documents when writing grants, developing lesson plans, or answering community questions. Even now, I run into people who say "You may not remember me but I used to go to your watershed meetings..."

*Nancy Geyer  
Education and Outreach Coordinator*



Bedrock section in need of complex habitat



A helicopter lowers a series of logs into position



A completed log structure in WFSR

## West Fork Smith River

### At the Intersection of Restoration and Historical Data

In October, 2010, PUR undertook an ambitious project to restore West Fork Smith River (WFSR). Eventually, 27 miles of prime coho and steelhead habitat will be rehabilitated.

The West Fork is located approximately 35 miles up Smith River, a tributary of the Umpqua River. The two rivers meet in Reedsport at the Umpqua Basin's estuary. In the previous century the majority of the drainage went through intense streamside logging and clearing, resulting in limited fish habitat, primarily with a lack of woody debris and other structure that is extremely important to salmonid production. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife recognized the importance of this drainage, and in the late 1990's began operating a fish weir and smolt trap near the mouth of the river. For the last 15 years, they have been trapping, measuring, and counting returning adults, as well as smolts headed to the ocean. The data collected provides a means of comparing the number of returning spawners, and the number of smolts that they produce. Surprisingly, ODFW has found

that a higher number of adults does not necessarily mean there will be more outgoing smolts the next year. This may indicate that the present habitat is being utilized to the fullest extent possible, and the only way to produce more fish is to create more habitat.

This is where the Partnership for the Umpqua River comes in to help. In 2008, the Coos Bay BLM approached PUR with the idea of doing a total watershed restoration effort in the drainage. The plan has evolved over time, but the basic concept was to place woody debris and boulders into sections of the mainstem West Fork Smith River and associated salmon-bearing tributaries, where practical. With nearly all of the drainage owned by BLM or Roseburg Resources Co. (RRCO), few landowners were involved, simplifying project development and coordination. In 2009, a partnership, including ODFW, National Forest Service, Smith River Watershed Council, Coos Bay BLM and RRCO, was established to draft a plan and coordinate the implementation of this ambitious project.

Actual restoration work began in October of 2010, when Columbia Helicopters, Inc. arrived with a Vertol 107 helicopter and crew. Over two days, 433 logs and trees were placed into Moore and Beaver Creeks, West Fork Smith River tributaries. This summer 2,480 boulders will be placed in the mainstem West Fork Smith River and more than 1,500 logs and trees will be added into 6 other tributaries by excavator and helicopter. In the summer of 2012, the project will be completed with the placement of an additional 5,000 boulders and 20 large trees.

This project provides the ideal opportunity to measure the success of our restoration efforts. When ODFW's pre-implementation data is compared to post-implementation data, the success of our restoration efforts can be analyzed. This project is an excellent example of restoration collaboration, with representatives from federal, state, private and non-profit organization all working together for a common interest.

*PUR Staff*

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) 673-5756 [info@umpquarivers.org](mailto:info@umpquarivers.org)

## Interview with the President: Darin McMichael

### What is your background and experience in natural resources?

I attended Oregon State University and graduated in 1997. During college I worked summers for the Douglas Forest Protection Association as a wildland fire fighter. After graduating I spent a year with the Oregon Department of Forestry in eastern Oregon and worked out of Fossil as a firefighter and forest technician. I knew I wanted to find a way back to Douglas County and worked for a private contractor out of Philomath as a timber cruiser for about a season in between summers again with DFPA. In 2000, I began working for C&D Lumber as a forester and have been there since. I really enjoy the smaller, family owned company and I have found I have a lot of opportunities to be involved in land management here.

### What is your background with the board?

I came onto the board in last part of 2007 and became an alternate in the Timber group for Dave Russell in 2008. I have been regularly attending Education and Outreach, Finance, Policy and Procedures, and TAC committee meetings. In October of 2009 I was voted in as President-Elect and I began attending the Executive Committee meetings.

### What are the biggest challenges facing PUR?

I think the current economy is still one of the biggest challenges we, as an organization, are facing today. Coming

up with project funding on a consistent basis that can be counted on is harder and harder. We are lucky to have a solid reputation around the state for being an organization with a staff and board that consist of experienced and qualified people who work together and get things done on the ground.

### How do you see things working out with a new president and executive director at the same time?

Right away I see Eric and I being able to work together very well. I think we both bring a lot of energy and enthusiasm to our positions and both have an interest in getting projects done. I really like the professionalism and integrity that Eric brings to the decision making process.

### PUR is made up of a diverse group of people and interests. How do you find the common ground?

While we are a diverse group we are also not that different. Let's start with the common ground...we are all in Douglas County and living in the Umpqua basin and we all want clean

water for tomorrow. Many of the conversations I have with people before and after the meetings are very similar in nature and only serve to reinforce my feelings that we are really all there for the same reason.

### What is your main focus with PUR now?

With Bob's retirement there is a feeling of operating without a net without his experience around. I do think we need to make sure the basics are covered as we move forward and that we all agree on a process that does include communication in the forefront. We truly do have an

excellent staff and board and PUR has been doing a lot great work in the basin. The pressure really is on the leadership of the board to move us forward.

### What are some of your interests away from PUR?

I have found myself involved in coaching youth sports on the side. I was an assistant coach for the Riddle High School football team for 9 years. My boy and his friends were starting to play baseball and I was helping the coach and then the next season I found myself coaching their baseball, basketball, and flag and then tackle football teams. I have really found that I love it.



## Why I Joined PUR

A kid laughs as he chases crawdads in the clear waters of a stream. A ways off an old fly fisherman stops to watch an eagle pluck a fish from the water. Around the bend a young man and his girl watch the spawning salmon and dream of one day starting a family of their own - things that are worth a lot.



I know we can never completely restore the salmon and steelhead runs experienced by the first settlers in this basin. It is not practical, we would all have to leave. But, if we work together in a partnership of landowners, lumbermen, fishing clubs, government agencies, conservation groups and ordinary

folks like me, we can get at least part of what we've lost back. Our streams can run cleaner, healthier, and more full of fish, with eagles to thrill old hearts and crawdads to pinch your toes.

Culvert by culvert, log placement by log placement, planting by planting, the Partnership is making things better and I wanted to be a part of that, to know I added my bit. Maybe you should too.

*Harold Ettelt  
PUR Member*

## AFS Award

In January, PUR was honored with the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society award for Fishery Team of the Year. The award recognizes PUR for being “among the first, largest, and most active watershed councils in Oregon” and for being the “pioneering leader in building partnerships among non-traditional and diverse partners... throughout the Umpqua Basin.”



## Did you know?

Salmon from the Pacific Northwest can travel as far as Japan before returning to spawn.

Wild salmon have red/pink meat due to the krill they ingest. This is why farm raised salmon must be dyed to have the same appearance.

Salmon can produce 2,500 to 7,000 eggs, depending on species and size of fish. Chinook generally produce the most and largest eggs.

The largest wild salmon on record weighed 126 pounds!

# Monitoring Memos

This will be our fourth summer of monitoring in the Wolf Creek Watershed as part of a collaborative basin-wide restoration and effectiveness monitoring effort. Denise Dammann and Kris Lyon have already placed temperature data loggers in Little Wolf Creek above and below each of the four study reaches – two test reaches to which logs and boulders were added, one control untreated reach and one reference reach which has naturally ideal conditions. Later this summer Kris and Heather Bartlett will be repeating the cross-sections and pebble counts that PUR has been doing annually since 2008 in each of these reaches to measure the changes to streambed depth and composition. (“Pebble counts” is a term used, not for counting the number of pebbles present, but for classifying the size of the rocks/pebbles/sand present.) Documenting these changes, along with the temperature data will help to determine how well the large wood and boulder placements are functioning to improve salmon habitat in a system that was mostly bedrock with no logs or boulders to help retain any sand or gravel.

The other project PUR is monitoring in the Wolf Creek Watershed involves the measurement of water temperatures upstream and downstream of boulder placements some of which have had gravel added above the weir. Hopefully, all structure placements both logs and boulders will retain sand and gravel moving downstream though the system and build up spawning sites for salmon in addition to providing hiding places and protection from high winter flows. In this case, we jump-started the process for another reason as well – we wanted to study whether added gravel could help lower the stream temperatures in summer, a critical time for young salmon survival. By adding gravel upstream of two boulder weirs in the main stem Wolf Creek, we hoped to create some

“hyporheic” flow. The term hyporheic comes from the Greek words for flow (rheo) and under (hypo) – thus meaning flow that goes subsurface. When stream water interacts with the ground in summer, it is cooled because below ground is cooler than the surface where summer sun and warm air interact with it. By adding the gravel we attempted to force some of the stream water to go below the surface and interact with the cooler ground below where it will pass more slowly through the hyporheic region. When the water then emerges downstream of the weir and mixes with the surface water, it should produce some degree of cooling. To study this we place tiny temperature data loggers, that record a reading every 30 minutes,



Wolf Creek site with boulder weir that has been augmented with gravel

upstream and downstream of the gravel and leave them in place for the summer. Last year we began to see a temperature reduction, but interestingly, only when the flow in the creek was at its lowest, not on the hottest days. This summer we will repeat the study and we are excited to see if we can once again pick up this effect. It will take several years of these measurements to determine how much of an effect can be expected and whether it is significantly different from upstream and downstream of the control weirs that were not augmented with gravel.

*Sandy Lyon*  
Monitoring Coordinator



## 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



• (541) 673-5756 • [www.UmpquaRivers.org](http://www.UmpquaRivers.org) •

## Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

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