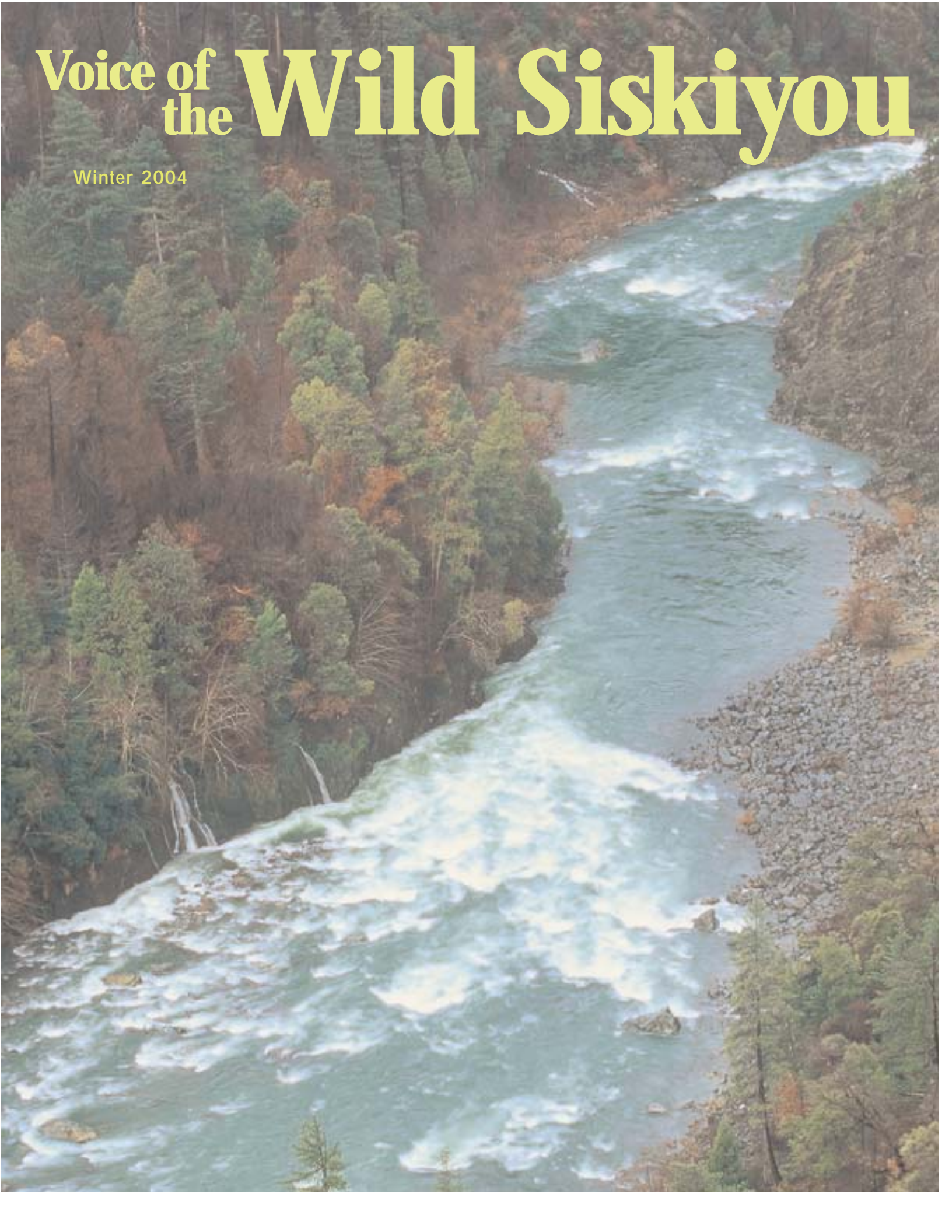


Voice of the **Wild Siskiyou**

Winter 2004



Voice of the Wild Siskiyou

is the official newsletter of the
Siskiyou Regional Education Project
9335 Takilma Road
Cave Junction, Oregon 97523
ph: (541)592-4459 fax: (541)592-2653
email: rolf@siskiyou.org
www.siskiyou.org
Layout design & editor: Rolf Skar
Cover photo by Rolf Skar

Mission Statement

For future generations of all species, Siskiyou Project is the grassroots network dedicated to permanently protecting the globally outstanding Klamath-Siskiyou region. The Siskiyou Project combines science, education and advocacy to build an inspired and effective national constituency for this special place.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper
by Apple Press in Grants Pass, Oregon.

Siskiyou Project Board

David Johns, president
Romain Cooper, secretary
Erik Jules, treasurer
Dave Willis, Jim Gurley,
Darlene Southworth & Laurel Samson

Siskiyou Project Staff

Don Smith, executive director
Barbara Ullian, conservation coordinator
Romain Cooper, conservation coordinator
Rolf Skar, SWR campaign coordinator
Lori Cooper, staff attorney
Rich Nawa, staff ecologist
Barry Snitkin, outreach coordinator
Kindi Fahrnkopf, office manager
Justin Rohde, network coordinator
Marjorie Reynolds, mail & data processor
Lou Gold, storyteller
Julie Norman, special projects
Sue Parrish, SFI director
Rob Sweeney, SFI program coordinator
Jim "Jake" McBride, SFI admin. manager
Nancy Schwickrath, SFI admin. assistant

Special thanks to our volunteers

Charlie Devlin, Joya Filtzin, Judy & Lester
Hoyle, Bill Grey, Pat Mersman, Dave Toler,
Kia Parrish-Haim, Christie Dunn, Kathryn
Roll, and Josiah Dean.

Executive Director's Report

Our work to protect the Wild Siskiyou from the Forest Service's extreme Biscuit logging proposal has been nothing less than inspiring. From the beginning this nutty wish on the part of the Bush administration has been both a curse and a blessing. The threat is all too real. No less so is the opportunities it affords us.

The challenge is to bring national attention to the biological values of this endangered ecosystem for the ultimate purpose of protecting the area. Success depends on the degree to which the hope of the Siskiyou Wild Rivers and the Biscuit logging threat becomes a national issue. With the spotlight here, the Siskiyou Wild Rivers is sure to get the attention and support it needs if it is to get the protection it deserves.


Our job in making it a national issue is made all the easier by the fact that the Biscuit logging project, as proposed, would amount to the largest public lands timber sale on record. Now the Forest Service tells us it will be reducing the scale of the logging when it makes its final decision around May 1. This is due to criticism of the project by federal wildlife agencies who say the logging would damage old growth forests and native fish and wildlife. Whatever the outcome, the agency's final decision will almost certainly still result in the largest recorded logging project.

With the initiative of the Siskiyou Project, regional and national conservation organizations have responded by making the defense of the Siskiyou Wild Rivers a priority. The Wild Siskiyou is becoming a post-child that demonstrates what's wrong with our current government's policy of environmental rollbacks and what's truly needed: saving wild nature as a nursery of biological evolution, something that is becoming increasing less evident in this world of over development.

That our regional and national allies are supporting us has been especially gratifying to the Siskiyou Project and our sister organizations in the Klamath-Siskiyou region. We are especially impressed with the level of campaign coordination among these diverse organizations. Working in coalition, these groups recognize the Siskiyou Project as the leader due to our over twenty years of actively advocating for the area's protection as well as to our proximity to and first hand knowledge of the Wild Siskiyou. All these organizations are playing a crucial role in pushing forward a number of campaign issues.

We have been especially successful in coordinating our efforts in generating news media coverage, getting the attention of our state's Congressional representatives, generating comments on the Forest Service's draft Environmental Impact Statement (with hundreds of comments from our and other organization's members amounting to some where around 20,000 comments), recruiting scientists to review the environmental analysis, developing a potential legal strategy and completing our economic analysis and pursuing related media coverage.

My guess is that in a couple of years we'll all look back and conclude that the Wild Siskiyou is better off than was when the Forest Service proposed the massive Biscuit logging. Whether this turns out to be the case will depend on how successful we are in turning Biscuit on its head, reversing the threat to take full advantage of the national spotlight given to the area to gain eventual protection for the Siskiyou Wild Rivers.



Massive Logging Plan - Massive Outcry!

by Romain Cooper

By the time the short, 60 day comment period for the Biscuit Fire Project ended, some 23,000 individuals and organizations responded to the Forest Service mega-logging proposal. Though we will not have access to the records for several weeks, it is safe to assume that the vast majority of the 23,000 letters were pro-environment. We let the Forest Service know that Siskiyou Wild Rivers is a place worth protecting and massive logging is NOT the answer to the Biscuit Fire.

This is a magnificent show of strength from the conservation community. The Siskiyou Project offers our gratitude to all of you who helped generate this incredible response. We are grateful to each and every one of you who picked up pen and paper or who went to the web and let your voice be heard.

Siskiyou Project is also heartened by the many local, regional and national conservation groups that pitched in. Substantive comments were submitted by organizations too numerous to list. National groups such as The Wilderness Society the National Audubon Society, and World Wildlife Fund featured the Biscuit on their websites and sent out action alerts to large email lists, generating thousands of comments.

We should congratulate ourselves on a job well done. Siskiyou Wild Rivers is on the move. This wave of public comments has created a momentum and we are gaining much needed traction. But we can't forget that this is an uphill struggle. The Bush environmental roll-back team has chosen to turn Biscuit into a posterchild and Conservationists must stay engaged and continue to keep working toward our goal - defeat of the Biscuit mega-timbersale and permanent protection for our Siskiyou Wild Rivers. We must pitch a bigger tent and build popular and political support between



Rolf Skar

This fire-affected tree in the Squaw Mountain Roadless Area is threatened by post-fire logging

now and mid-May to early June when the Forest Service is expected to make a decision on the Biscuit logging plan. See the "take action" page in this issue. Thanks for help in continuing to push for Siskiyou Wild Rivers protection.

The Siskiyou Wild Rivers Conservation Alternative

by **Romain Cooper**

The Bush Forest Service, extreme logging plan is a huge logging give-away. Most conservation-minded citizens see through this so-called recovery plan but what's the alternative? What should the Forest Service do instead?

The Siskiyou Project has created and offered a science-based conservation plan, called the Siskiyou Wild Rivers Conservation Alternative, to the Forest Service last year. We wanted the agency to include in their Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) an alternative that most citizens could support. To our disappointment, the Draft EIS contained no such alternative. Despite this, the Siskiyou Project is pushing hard, asking the Forest Service to include the Conservation Alternative in the Final EIS due out in April. We are also asking that the Forest Service provide a public review period needs to be held so that citizens can voice support for it.

What is the Siskiyou Wild Rivers Conservation Alternative? Quite simply, it would:

1. Allow natural recovery in roadless areas and native forests

2. Emphasize restoration and community safety rather than resource extraction

3. Protect roadless areas, Riparian Areas and Late-Successional Reserves from logging and roading

4. Save taxpayers money - (over \$100,000,000)

5. Protect natural values vital to tourism and recreation economies and quality of life invest in restoration jobs and tourism

6. If logging does occur, it would be confined to areas allocated for logging ("Matrix" lands) and would conform to the scientific guidelines of the Beschta Report.

The Beschta Report is considered the authoritative paper on post-fire logging. It's guidelines include:

- No logging on slopes steeper than 60%
- No logging on unstable or severely burned sites
- No logging of trees greater than 20" in diameter
- Retention of at least half of the trees that are smaller than 20 inches dbh in all size classes

Our work to protect the Wild Siskiyou from the Forest Service's extreme Biscuit logging proposal has been nothing less than inspir-



Rolf Skar

SISKIYOU WILD RIVERS CONSERVATION ALTERNATIVE

Supporting organizations include:

American Rivers
Audubon Society of Oregon
Audubon Society of Corvallis
Deer Creek Association
Defenders of Wildlife
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs
Friends of Del Norte
Friends of the Illinois River
Headwaters
Illinois River Kayak Association
Kalmiopsis Audubon
Klamath Forest Alliance
Lane County Audubon Society
National Environmental Trust
Native Plant Society of Oregon

Native Plant Society (Siskiyou Chapter)
Northcoast Environment Center
Oregon Natural Resources Council
Pacific Rivers Council
Portland Audubon Society
Rogue Valley Audubon
Siskiyou Audubon
Siskiyou Regional Education Project
Smith River Alliance
Smith River Project
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
Water Watch of Oregon
The Wilderness Society
World Wildlife Fund

A Broad Coalition

A diverse group of concerned citizens and organizations from across the nation have mobilized to protect the Siskiyou Wild Rivers area from post-fire logging.

Since the Forest Service unveiled their extreme logging plans in late November, volunteers have held montly campouts to field-check them. With cameras, video recorders and notepads, volunteer teams uncovered gross errors in the Forest Service logging plans. These flaws were documented and passed along to the Forest Service as well as members of Congress, making a real difference.

This historic struggle to protect the Siskiyou Wild Rivers area has room for everyone - from field-workers to office volunteers, to financial supporters. *To find out how you can help, call the Siskiyou Project at (541) 592-4459.*



Intrepid volunteers braved brutal snow storms and torrential rain to field-check the fatally-flawed Biscuit logging proposal - and had a great time doing it!

TAKE ACTION!

There is a real possibility that an emergency exemption and/or a legislative "rider" could be applied to the Biscuit logging project. An emergency exemption, based on the claim that the trees must be cut as quickly as possible before they rot, will allow the logging to occur before the government has completed the review of citizen appeals. A rider is an amendment attached to an unrelated piece of legislation that would rule out our ability to challenge the Biscuit logging project in the courts. In either case we lose rights as citizens to challenge the Biscuit project. *Please take action by contacting members of Congress today!*

SAMPLE LETTER

I believe the Siskiyou Wild Rivers area in southwestern Oregon should be protected as a National Conservation Area for future generations - not be subjected to massive post-fire logging.

The logging scheme proposed by the Forest Service is extreme, unbalanced and short-sighted. It would increase fire risk, impair rejuvenation of forests, hurt wild salmon and trout, and cost taxpayers millions of dollars. In addition, it would log thousands of acres of roadless forest, harm recreational resources and damage local economies.

I am very concerned that an "emergency exemption" could be applied to the Biscuit project. This exemption would allow the Forest Service to begin logging while reviewing a citizen's appeal of the logging project. Normally, logging does not proceed until after an appeal determination. I am also concerned that congress could attach a "rider" to legislation that eliminates citizen rights to challenge the project in court. **I URGE YOU TO STRONGLY OPPOSE THE EMERGENCY EXEMPTION OR RIDER AND CHAMPION FULL CITIZEN PARTICIPATION.**

Instead, I ask you to consider the creation of a Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Conservation Area with robust fire safety protections for communities, restoration of degraded areas, protection for world-class wildlands and lasting jobs for local residents.

Please let me know what your course of action will be on this important conservation issue.

Phone Call Talking Points:

1. Oppose an "emergency exemption" on the Biscuit logging project to allow for full public participation.
2. Oppose any attempts to exempt the Biscuit logging project from legal review.
3. Help create a Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Conservation Area.

Representative Peter DeFazio

Toll free in Oregon: 1-800-944-9603 or 202-225-6416
151 West 7th, Suite 400, Eugene, OR 97401

Senator Ron Wyden

Phone: 202-224-5244 or 503-326-7525 fax:202-228-2717
700 NE Multnomah St., Suite 450 Portland, OR 97232

Senator Gordon Smith

Phone: 202-224-3753 or 503-326-3386 fax 202-228-3997
One World Trade Center
121 SW Salmon St., Suite 1250, Portland, OR 97204

Take action at www.siskiyou.org

EXPERTS ARE ON OUR SIDE

The very questionable science used to justify the Biscuit post-fire logging boondoggle is now collapsing like a house of cards. A relentless series of devastating critiques have appeared in national press reports. A sample of what experts and public opinion leaders have to say about Biscuit and post-fire logging is below.

“Unfortunately, the Forest Service's plan is misguided at its very foundation...The beautiful Siskiyou National Forest is a nationally significant landscape that harbors one of the richest diversities of plants and animals in the nation...With so much richness and beauty at stake, one would hope that the Bush administration would proceed carefully by actively involving local communities and other interested parties to develop a sound plan for restoration. Instead, the plan was developed the old-fashioned way -- internally, behind closed doors, without a consensus-based approach that included the participation of local citizens. This business-as-usual, inside process has produced almost nothing during the past decade except failed timber sales -- and the victims have been local communities and their citizens.” - John Kitzhaber, M.D., former Governor of Oregon and co-chair of the Western Governors' Association's national fire plan initiative.

“General salvage of large snags and logs is absolutely antithetical to the goal of rapid recovery of fully functional late-successional forest habitat and inappropriate within the late successional reserves”
- Jerry Franklin, professor of forest ecology at the University of Washington, former leading scientist for the US Forest Service and main author of the Northwest Forest Plan.

"The consensus in the ecological community at this point is salvage logging rarely contributes anything positive to the recovery processes." - Jerry Franklin

“Human intervention on the post-fire landscape may substantially or completely delay recovery, remove the elements of recovery or accentuate the damage.” Dr. Robert Beschta, et. al., 1995

"The preliminary data...suggests that the commercially valuable trees in the main did not burn, did not die, and that what the Biscuit fire killed was non-commercial timber...If that's true, then it calls into question the whole notion of salvage logging." - Andy Stahl, Executive Director, Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics

"We have concerns about the impacts from logging. The plan would increase erosion and sediment delivery in six of the watersheds in the forest that have existing water quality problems [and are] listed as impaired waters." Dave Powers, Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

The DEIS determination of no effect for both spotted owl and marbled murrelet is not consistent with the BO [biological opinion] or with your Biological Assessment...There is evidence that spotted owls return to their nest sites after a fire, even if those sites are significantly or even entirely burned. It is quite possible that most spotted owls that were located within the fire area and experienced impacts to their home ranges and/or nest sites have returned, and will continue to use those sites if there is available prey.

US Fish & Wildlife Service, official comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

FIDDLER MOUNTAIN AT RISK

Late in the afternoon of July 27, 2002, the long summit of Fiddler Mountain was shrouded in premature darkness. The sun, when visible, was a huge pinkish globe, silhouetting the long dangling branches of ancient Brewer Spruce. But the vast expanses of wild primeval

preserve in the 1990's, there was a strange sense of calm. Little did we know then that in the next two days this much loved area would be engulfed in a gigantic weather-driven firestorm that would change the landscape as we knew it.



Barbara Ullian

forest surrounding the mountain - the watersheds of Fall, Rancherie, and Babyfoot Creek, Days, Fiddler and Mike's Gulch and the rugged canyon of the National Wild and Scenic Illinois River - was lost in the eerie gloom cast by dense smoke. In the distance, the faint orange glow of fire could be seen.

A storm on July 13th resulted in a series of lightning caused ignitions, later to become known as the Biscuit Fire Complex. The glow we saw on the horizon was the Florence Fire. Driving back to civilization on the Babyfoot Lake Road, through the forests we had explored since the early 1980's and so many had fought to

Today, the effect of the firestorm on these wild forests is minor in comparison to the fury and destruction the Forest Service is about to unleash. In the preferred alternative for the Biscuit Fire Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), out of the approximately 18,000 acres of Late-Successional (old-growth) Forest Reserves and Roadless Area surrounding Fiddler Mountain, the agency is proposing to log 6,612 acres (38 percent) and to "attempt" to convert the area to industrial style conifer plantations. We say "attempt" because in the past, once the large trees (biomass) were removed in the "cut, slash and burn" model proposed by the DEIS, much of this

area has been difficult, if not impossible, to plant and to re-establish healthy conifer forests.

The sheer scale and enormity of the Forest Service's proposal for the Fiddler Mountain/ Illinois River Canyon area is hard to imagine. We can use for example the 1992 Canyon Planning Area that covered about 30,000 acres, including some of the same area the DEIS proposes to log. In this canceled timber sale, the Forest Service could only find 3 percent of the land base to log. According to forester Roy Keene, even this was not sustainable, due to the low site productivity inherent to the area.

Now the Bush Forest Service is using the Biscuit Fire as an excuse to turn back the clock and open vast wild, fragile areas of the Siskiyou, protected by the Clinton Northwest Forest Plan and Roadless Area Rule, to industrial scale logging, road development and other activities. As in the hunt for "weapons of mass destruction," the Forest Service spin doctors justify their pre-emptive assault on areas such as Fall and Rancherie and Babyfoot Creeks with obfuscation. They claim their super-sized log, slash and burn proposal will be good for the land and will improve wildlife habitat by logging all those big pesky burned trees and planting cute little nursery-grown seedlings, despite highly respected scientists who question this strategy.

Dr. Jerry Franklin of the University of Washington in comments on the Biscuit Fire DEIS writes:

The massive input of large dead wood is characteristic and critical to stand development processes and [provides] habitat for late-successional species following stand replacement fires ... These wood structures may persist and play functional roles for several centuries ... In fact, the recovering forest ecosystem will depend upon this pulse of [large dead wood] ... general salvage of large snags and logs is absolutely antithetical to the goal of rapid recovery of fully functional [old growth] forest habitat (emphasis added).

The Forest Service argues they "will not log living



A fire affected forest below Fiddler Mountain proposed for logging as part of the unit called Fiddler LSR 24

trees" but agency spokespersons fail to add "unless the living trees get in the way of logging burned trees" and to mention logging's significant collateral impacts to the surviving trees and forests.

Forest Service spin doctors claim that logging and fragmenting this part of the South Kalmiopsis will have a "positive effect" on the 105,000 acre Roadless Area's wilderness potential. They allege the wild, diverse watersheds between the Kalmiopsis and the Wild and Scenic Illinois River are "low quality" because the roadless area has a "very small common boundary with the Wilderness." The "very small" boundary is

in fact 14.9 miles long when combined with the eastern section of the North Kalmiopsis Roadless Area it's adjacent to. Recreation trails, including one of the most scenic in the Siskiyou, will be converted for log hauling or for unit boundaries with the low priority given to the area.

The agency claims that the Biscuit Fire was one of the most "colossal forest fires in the historic era" but the Biscuit Fire palls when compared to historic fires such as the Peshtigo Fire which burned across 3,780,000 acres in Wisconsin and Michigan, resulting in an estimated 1,500 lives lost. The word colossal is more aptly applied to the salvage logging/fuels reduction/community safety/wildlife habitat improvement scam the Bush administration is attempting to put over on the public at the expense of the public and the future of the Wild Siskiyou. Please visit the Fall, Rancherie, Babyfoot, Fiddler Mountain and the Scenic Illinois River area as soon as they are accessible and write your congressional representatives.

Will the Forest Service declare an 'emergency exemption' on the Biscuit logging project?

We anticipate it will. The exemption is based on the assertion that commercial value of the burned trees will be lost due to rot unless logged as soon as possible. This ignores the fact that the costs for the project far exceed the revenues that would be generated from selling the trees.

The exemption allows the agency to proceed with auctioning off some of the timber sales coming out of the logging project during the appeal period. Normally, we're given a period of time to review the Final Environmental Impact Statement and file an appeal. Then the Forest Service reviews those appeals and doesn't proceed with logging until after that's complete. With an emergency exemption the agency can speed up the process by several months. Worse than this, there is also the possibility that congress could pass a "rider" attached to some piece of legislation that would deny citizens the right to appeal the action in court.

To take action, see page 6.

**TAKE ACTION! Go online
at www.siskiyou.org**



This tag marks part of unit "Fiddler IRA 13" which would log a roadless forest in the Fiddler Mountain area. Why did the Forest Service mark areas to log before the public comment period ended? Good question...

SELLS OUT the Kalmiopsis Wilderness

by **Barbara Ullian**

In recent months, the Bush Forest Service has taken steps to reverse years of effort to advance protection of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness and its wild watersheds. In order to understand recent actions we need to look back in time.

When the Kalmiopsis Wilderness was created in 1964, an old mining road beginning at Onion Camp and accessing mining claims on the Little Chetco River in the Wilderness became an inventoried trail. In 1988, the ownership of the mining claims was transferred from the public to Carl Alleman through the outdated 1872 Mining Law. For \$2.50 per acre, Alleman was granted full title (ownership) to approximately 45 acres of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness.

In 1999, the Forest Service granted a Special Use Permit to Mr. Alleman for motorized access through Inventoried Roadless Areas, and the Kalmiopsis Wilderness itself. The decision permitted eight round-trips per year with three high clearance vehicles for casual use of the primitive property. Maintenance of the access route was limited to hand tools.

Siskiyou Project and Wilderness Watch appealed the decision and filed a lawsuit in 1999. The owner of the Wilderness land also filed a lawsuit. Both lawsuits were stayed for several years while the property owner tried to reach an agreement with the government to sell the land back to the public. However, after an agreement was finally reached on price, the Forest Service withdrew their offer and re-evaluated the land in

the wake of the 2002 Biscuit Fire.

The agency's significantly lower offer was refused and in 2003 the property owner re-activated his lawsuit (Alleman v. United States of America). He is claiming unrestricted and unlimited motorized access through the Kalmiopsis Wilderness under a provision of another outdated law from 1866 known now as Revised Statute 2477 (RS-2477).

This past December, the Forest Service was ready to sell out the Kalmiopsis Wilderness in an attempt to make the lawsuits go away. The Forest Service offered a settlement that would have allowed for significantly more motorized access than their 1999 decision and would have allowed the use chainsaws and heavy equipment to clear the access route.

The Siskiyou Project and Wilderness Watch objected, arguing that the plaintiff is not entitled to "motorized" access and that such access and use of heavy equipment will irreparably harm the Kalmiopsis Wilderness.

Though not disclosed in the Biscuit Fire Draft Environmental Impact Statement, all of the action alternatives propose to use several miles of this narrow old Kalmiopsis mining access route for post-fire logging. This route has been closed to motorized access for many years and some of the Port-Orford-cedars that survived the Biscuit Fire are found on or along this trail. Motorized vehicles (including log trucks) can spread the non-native, deadly Port-Orford-cedar root disease.

Stay tuned as we continue to fight to keep the Kalmiopsis wild and free!

The Miracle of Natural Rejuvenation

While logging interests are using scare-tactics to convince people that logging is needed to help natural areas “recover” from fire, science and the facts on the ground tell us differently. Fire is part of the balanced cycle of life, death and rejuvenation that the Siskiyou Wild Rivers area has depended on for thousands of years.

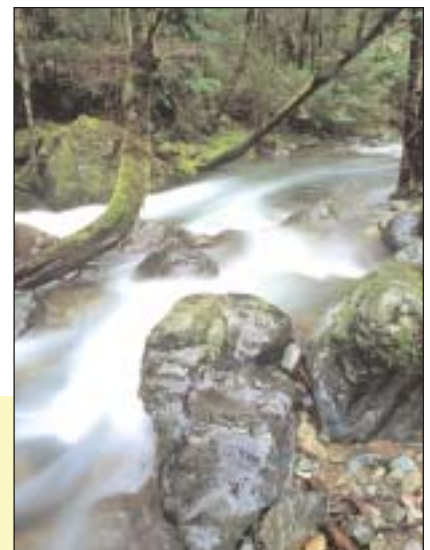


Conifer seedlings are growing throughout fire-affected forests. Some species, like this knobcone pine, cannot reproduce without fire. Others, like douglas-fir, need the bare mineral soil and sunny habitat created by fire to germinate. Siskiyou forests are “born in fire.”

A wide variety of flowers (such as this trillium) and plants resprouted immediately after the fire. While some plants need fire to germinate seeds (like snowbrush)



Even within hot-burn areas, live trees exist, providing seeds for tomorrow's forest. Standing dead trees (“snags”) anchor soils with their roots and create invaluable habitat for a variety of animals - from insect-eating woodpeckers to pine martens. Snags are critical parts of old-growth forests. When snags fall into streams and rivers, they create pools of water important for wild salmon and trout.



Streams and rivers (such as Sixmile Creek) are running clean following the fire - thanks to natural erosion control. Dead needles and leaves cover sensitive fire-affected soils while snags and live trees hold soils together.

Siskiyou Field Institute Rocks

by Sue Parrish

The Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI), the Siskiyou Project's largest educational program, offers field courses that teach about the amazing geology, biodiversity and natural features that make up the Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion. For instance, did you know that one of the largest serpentine rock formations in the world is found here; that this region has such incredible biodiversity largely because it has escaped major disturbances such as dinosaur killing asteroid blasts or much ice from the last Ice Ages; or that there are unique plants and molluscs here that grow nowhere else in the world? This region is a living laboratory of learning, a natural history mystery thriller, and SFI takes you out exploring it with experts who share their passion for its fascinating ecology. Our field season is quickly approaching:

The SFI banquet, held on June 5th, is always a lively affair. This year, keynote Kathleen Dean Moore will be offering the keynote presentation, "What It Means to Love a Place", which will celebrate humans' innate love for natural places, and examine the consequences of living as if we are separate from the natural world that sustains us. Dr. Moore is Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Oregon State University, and is best known for her prize-winning books about our spiritual and cultural connections to wet and wild places.

SFI is also playing a more significant role locally. Youth activity kits are being developed from the great science curriculum being taught locally.

Any youth leader or educator will be able to borrow them to go on field trips and explore the local area with kids. And SFI is actively working with county organizations and groups to provide the latest and greatest information about fire preparedness and "living with fire" in this fire prone region.

Keep your eyes out for other programs exploring other seasonal and geographical highlights throughout the summer: Illustrating Wildflowers on the Illinois River;

Wildflower Identification workshop with Wendell Wood at Sandy Bar Ranch; Exploring Nature Youth Day Camp at North Mountain Park in Ashland; Natural History River Rafting down the Klamath River, Backpacking in the Siskiyou's, Pelagic Birding...and more!

For more information about our programs or to register for courses, go online at www.siskiyou.org/sfi, e-mail institute@siskiyou.org, or call (541) 592-4459.



An SFI participant exploring the wonders of the Wild Siskiyou

Mark your calendars!

June 3-6th: Cave Junction based programs

June 6th: Annual SFI Banquet

June 14-18 & June 25-27: Ashland based programs

May-October: Programs all around the bioregion!



NETWORK NEWS

** EXTRA **

PROTECT THE WILD
SISKIYOU - GO TO
WWW.SISKIYOU.ORG

Timbered Rock Salvage Logging Plan

In a precedent setting action, the Butte Falls Resource Area of the Medford District BLM has completed a proposal to salvage log within areas burned by the Timbered Rock fire. The entire federal portion of the Timbered Rock burn occurred with the Elk Creek Late-Successional Reserve. In addition to being a designated LSR under the Northwest Forest Plan, the Timbered Rock planning area is also a Key Watershed designed to protect at-risk coho and steelhead.

The Reserve system is the conservation backbone of the Northwest Forest Plan. While much of the remaining old-growth forests in the Medford BLM were designated as the sacrificial "matrix" logging zone, a few special places like Elk Creek, were supposedly set aside for protection.

The BLM's Final Environmental Impact Statement identifies "Alternative G" as the agency's Preferred Alternative. Alternative G calls for logging over 24 million board feet from the Elk Creek Late-Successional Reserve. 24 million board feet is the equivalent of over 5,000 fully loaded logging trucks.

Get more info and learn how to take action at at: www.kswild.org
~ Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center

EarthShare of Oregon

Every year, more and more people in Oregon show their commitment to the earth by donating to Earth Share of Oregon's fall giving campaign. As one of Earth Share's 66 local and national groups, the Siskiyou Project is able to reach out to many new audiences and potential supporters across the state. If you'd like your workplace to be a part of this growing trend, we invite you to learn more.



Here's how it works: Earth Share works with employers to set up a payroll deduction program through which employees can donate either to Earth Share of Oregon (ESOR) as whole or to designate their gift for one or more ESOR members. It's simple, convenient and it makes a big

difference. In campaigns in over 75 businesses and public agencies, ESOR annually generates well over \$600,000 to support environmental organizations that work to protect human health, preserve wildlife habitat and reduce the causes and effects of global warming.

ESOR campaigns have many benefits both for the employer and the employee. To find out more about adding ESOR to your company's giving campaign contact Ron Shoals at ESOR: (503) 223-9015 or rrs@earthshare-oregon.org; or visit www.earthshare-oregon.org.

Meteor Timber Sale

The Siskiyou Project recently joined over one hundred environmental groups and citizens to oppose the Meteor old-growth timber sale on the wild Salmon River, a mid-Klamath River tributary. Created as the Comet Mollusk Study, a study to see if cutting the habitat of old-growth dependent species will kill them, the Forest Service now is doing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to respond to public outcry about their "study".

Now called the Meteor Sale, the Klamath National Forest is proposing to log some of the last remaining low elevation old-growth forest on 744

MORE

acres in the spectacular Salmon River watershed, threatening ancient forests, rare species and wild salmon.

Many units are in riparian reserves (stream buffers) and in Wild and Scenic river corridors, degrading the Salmon River. The waters of the Salmon River flow out of the Marble Mountain, Trinity Alps, and Russian Wilderness Areas into the Klamath River, where the cold high-quality water is vital for the survival of that ailing river system. The watershed of the Salmon River is undammed and surrounded by some of the wildest places in the lower 48 states. Even the National Academy of Sciences in their Klamath River report has asked for logging to be restricted in this cool tributary for the survival of the Klamath Salmon.

The Salmon River is currently threatened with thousands of acres of logging due to multiple proposed timber sales that cover many of the tributaries on both forks of the Salmon. Through the Knob, Glassups, and Upper South Fork Timber Sales - and now the Meteor - the Klamath National Forest aims to destroy much of the remaining low elevation ancient forest left on the Salmon River. For more information, contact regina@kswild.org or call 541 951-0126.

~ *Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center*



JOIN US!



PLEASE JOIN THE SISKIYOU PROJECT!

*** **Yes, I want to join! Here's \$35 (or more).** Please complete this form.

___ **I'm already a member! But here's \$_____ more to protect the Siskiyou.**

Send Me

for \$35 or more

Remembering Fire by Thomas Doty.

Lessons from the Ancient Forest
Ancient Forest slideshow on video by Lou Gold.

Plants of Rough and Ready Creek,
a four color poster by Paula Fong.

for \$50 or more

The Legacy of Luna
by Julia "Butterfly" Hill.

Spirit of the Siskiyou by Mary Paetzel.

Address Form

Clip and send all forms to Siskiyou Project, 9335 Takilma Rd,
Cave Junction, OR 97523.

Name:

Address:

Signature:

Date:

CREDIT CARDS

Circle One: VISA MC

Credit Card Number

Exp.Date

Signature



Post-fire logging along the Eight Dollar Road - an ugly preview of what could take place across tens of thousands of acres of the Siskiyou Wild Rivers area.

Siskiyou Project
9335 Takilma Road
Cave Junction OR 97523

Non-Profit U S Postage PAID Permit 348 Medford OR
--

Winter 2004

*complimentary copy
please subscribe*

