



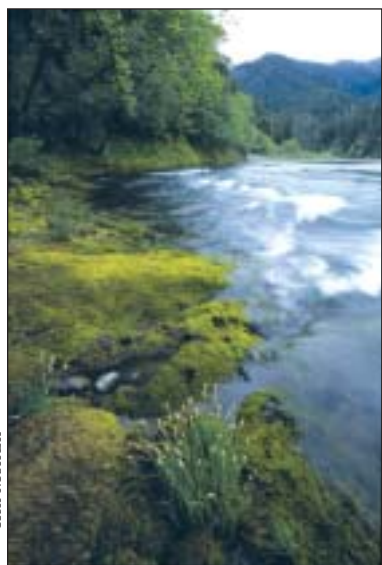
A publication of the Siskiyou Project— Saving the Heart of Biodiversity on America's West Coast

## Siskiyou Wild Rivers Campaigns Rise Up

As the pendulum of power in our nation's Capitol swings back from one-party-rule, our overarching Siskiyou Wild Rivers Campaign and three companion campaigns seek new legislation from Congress to protect the western Siskiyou for the long haul.

All four campaigns will upgrade administrative rules and regulations into law. This would prevent our

environmental gains of the past from being dismantled by hostile Administrations. As we have seen under President Bush, long-term protections in the Northwest Forest Plan have been vulnerable to attack. We have had to go to court to reinstate important rules and regulations that were hastily removed by Bush bureaucrats (see page 3).



Ken Morrish

Spring budding on the banks of the Illinois River.

Siskiyou Project is building on our 20 year history of leading the charge for a big landscape protection and restoration plan. The Siskiyou Wild Rivers proposed "study area" is the 1.3 million acres of public lands on the Siskiyou National Forest and adjacent BLM lands. This vision includes a Community Forestry and Restoration Program that would help nearby communities cope with wildfire risks and reap benefits from economic spin-offs in fire hazard reduction, forest and watershed restoration, and tourism.

We've waited six years for a political window of opportunity to open again, and we're beginning to feel a

breeze! An innovative, landscape protection bill for the Siskiyou is now ripe for Congressional debate.

Simultaneously, three companion campaigns are asking Congress to protect subsets of our Siskiyou Wild Rivers study area. These coalition efforts are:

- ◆ The **Copper Salmon Wilderness proposal** (12,000 acres in the Elk River watershed near Port Orford) is being promoted by Friends of Elk River, Trout Unlimited, local politicians, and numerous fishing associations.
- ◆ The **Wild Rogue Wilderness expansion** (58,000 new acres of Wilderness and 97 new miles of Wild and Scenic River corridors) is spearheaded by Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, Oregon Wild, Siskiyou Project, and American Rivers.
- ◆ The **Oregon Caves National Monument expansion** (3,400 acres) is being promoted by Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center and veteran wilderness advocate Andy Kerr.

Learn about all four of these campaigns in the Siskiyou Wild Rivers region and find out how you can help. See pages 4 and 5. ➤

Spring/Summer 2007

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Director's Note	2
Conservation News	3
SWR Campaign	4
Copper Salmon Bill	4
Wild Rogue Expansion	5
OR Caves Expansion	5
Exploring the Rogue	6
Rolf's Adieu	7
Three Summer Hikes	8

## Voice of the Wild Siskiyou

is the official newsletter of the  
**Siskiyou Project**

Main office: 9335 Takilma Road  
Cave Jct, OR 97523, 541/592-4459

Conservation office: 213 SE H St.  
Grants Pass, OR 97526, 541/476-6648

project@siskiyou.org  
www.siskiyou.org

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper by Valley Web in Medford, Oregon. Newsletter design and layout by Linda Serrano. Cover masthead photo by Marie Reeder.

### Siskiyou Project Board

Darlene Southworth, president  
David Johns, vice president  
Romain Cooper, secretary  
Laurel Samson, treasurer  
Jim Gurley                Richard York  
Jack Churchill         Bob Hunter

### Siskiyou Project Staff

Oshana Catranides, community forestry & devel. director  
Bob Dale, conservation outreach dir.  
Kindi Fahrnkopf, financial manager  
Rich Nawa, ecologist  
Julie Norman, executive director  
Marjorie Reynolds, membership  
Lisa Rohde, conservation associate

### Special thanks to our volunteers and supporting businesses:

Territorial Vineyards & Wine Company, Ken Margolis, Drew Bernard, Jeanette Hardison, Barbara Ullian, Preston Moser, Nate Mitchell, Melissa Morse, Eric Cerecedes, Daniel Sheff, Lance Thorne, Lesley Adams, Andy Kerr, Joseph Vaile, George Sexton, Stephanie Tidwell, Tonya Graham, Laura Beaton, Jason Penell, Sarah Kuhn, Otter, Deidra Spencer, Amber Ayers, Kelly McDonald, Marilyn Moore, Wyldwood, Bill Gray, Terry Davis, Jack Churchill, and the Ashland Food Coop.



Siskiyou Project is a proud member of Earth Share of Oregon, a federation of America's leading non-profit conservation organizations.

## Director's Note



Sue Lily

Spring has sprung in the Siskiyou Wild Rivers region, and I hope you are able to experience its glories first hand on a hiking trail, scenic road tour, river trip, or whatever mode of transportation suits you. Like Rolf Skar says (page 7), effective citizen advocates need to develop “a relationship to the land.”

That advice is important for all of us, because connecting to the land is both uplifting and fun, and our effectiveness is so crucial right now. As new political opportunities open up in D.C., we must coalesce into an ever larger team of people who are passionate about the Siskiyou Wild Rivers region.

I'd like to welcome our newest staff member, Oshana Catranides, who heads up our Community Forestry and Restoration Program and spearheads grantwriting. Oshana has lived in the Rogue Valley for 30 years, with experience working for the Illinois Valley Community Response Team and Lomakatsi Restoration Project.

As you will read, local grassroots coalitions are taking action to secure Congressional legislation. We have potential for great gains in the next two to five years. These pro-active campaigns are supplemented with negotiations and holding actions to protect territory and threatened species in the interim.

We hope you will continue to support Siskiyou Project in the exciting times ahead, as a member and campaigner. Please let us know how you would like to get involved (house party host, letter-writing, public outreach, etc.). Every little bit helps.

Julie Norman, Interim Executive Director

**P.S. Help Wanted.** Siskiyou Project is now rebuilding its leadership team, due to staff turnover and circumstances beyond our control. We wish to express our appreciation and best wishes to former staff members Justin Rohde, Rolf Skar, and Chip Dennerlein.

We view this shift in staff as an opportunity to meet talented, new activists. Please help us find new leaders to carry on our important work. See job openings at [www.siskiyou.org/about\\_us/jobs.cfm](http://www.siskiyou.org/about_us/jobs.cfm), or call 592-4459 for details. 📧

### “Sculpted by Fire” on Radio

Barbara Bernstein has produced an hour-long radio documentary describing the debate about logging in the Biscuit Fire area. Featured guests include Rolf Skar, Oshana Catranides, Romain Cooper, and Agnes Baker Pilgrim. It will be airing nationwide for six months. You can listen free online or order a CD (\$12) by visiting [www.mediaprojectonline.org](http://www.mediaprojectonline.org).

# Conservation, Advocacy & Network News

## Letters needed to retain protection of red tree voles in Josephine County

Scientists have developed a mitigation measure that would retain 10-acre no-cut buffers for the Oregon red tree vole in the extreme northern and southern end of its range; however, the mitigation must be signed into a formal decision by the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture. Please write to the Secretaries and responsible officials in BLM and the Forest Service. Urge each of them to adopt the mitigation identified in Table 2-6S of the July 2006 Draft Survey and Manage Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

### Please write to:

Mike Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20240

Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington, DC 20250

Michael S. Mottice, Deputy State Director Oregon BLM, POB 2965, Portland, OR 97208

Calvin N. Joyner, USDA Forest Service, POB 3623, Portland, OR, 97208

Congressman DeFazio, House of Representatives, Washington, DC, 20515

**Seedlings Abundant After Fire**—Oregon State University research published in the *Journal of Forestry* describes the regrowth of tree seedlings after eight forest fires in the Klamath-Siskiyou region (1987-1996). The study found natural seedlings were “abundant,” even in severe burns “at a considerable distance from seed sources.” This study helps debunk the myth that it is better to log and replant, rather than letting natural, genetically adapted seedlings sprout on their own. Prof. Jerry Franklin said the findings seem obvious, given that “forests have survived for millions of years with wildfire.”

**Watershed Protections Restored**—The Bush Administration has repeatedly undermined the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan by striking entire sections via executive rule-making. For four years the Aquatic Conservation Strategy, designed to curtail watershed damage, was sus-

pending. However, thanks to our public interest attorneys at Earthjustice (Seattle), these requirements were recently restored in court. Incomplete project analyses must now be upgraded before decisions are made.

**Medford BLM Sales Delayed**—Siskiyou Project and five co-plaintiffs prevailed when judges ruled that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service violated the Endangered Species Act by approving 75 timber sales in the Rogue River Basin. Kristen Boyles of Earthjustice (Seattle) said the agency had skipped vital analyses that put wildlife species at risk. BLM sales, including five in the Illinois Valley, are now on hold.

**Jim Jontz Will Be Missed**—The tireless forest advocate from Indiana, Honorable Jim Jontz, passed on last month in Portland. Jontz led the pack for old-growth forest protection when he served in the U.S. House in the 1990s. Jim said his first inspiration to defend Northwest forests arose when he flew over the Siskiyou National Forest while here for a House committee hearing. What he saw – the beauty and the clearcuts – shaped his life’s work. Grassroots activists came to D.C. in droves to help Jim push the Ancient Forest Protection Act. Ousted by an opponent friendly to the timber industry, Jim switched to the non-profit arena. As Director of American Lands Alliance, he boosted grassroots forest activism nationwide. Jim came back to the Siskiyou for the 1995 Sugarloaf Timber Sale protest, and was one of 90 people arrested for a non-violent road blockade. Most recently Jim worked for the Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment in Portland. 🐾



Julie Norman

Charlie Ogle, Jim Jontz, and Brock Evans line up for the Sugarloaf Sale road blockade in '95.

# Four Campaigns Pursue Protection for the Siskiyou

**Siskiyou Project is now actively campaigning for a new Congressional designation in the world-class Siskiyou Wild Rivers region. Here's our near-term action plan.**

Our draft legislative proposal will continue to be refined, integrating feedback from many sources. We're revamping our website and campaign materials to educate legislators, opinion leaders, and our supporters. Veteran campaigners, Mike McCloskey and Steve Marsden, are working as consultants to provide legislative expertise.

In May, Julie Norman, Mike McCloskey (retired Chairman of the Sierra Club), and Jack Churchill (Board Member) introduced preliminary concepts to Congressional staff. We will now build on that opening dialogue.

Old-timers may remember that Lou Gold, David Atkin, and others started this campaign in the late '80s, attempting to establish a Siskiyou National Park, to no avail. A decade later, in 2000, we came close to securing the Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Monument. Unfortunately, we were in stiff competition with over a dozen monument proposals, and President Clinton's staff were busy finishing the Roadless Area Protection Rule.

**In April, four Southwest Oregon anglers visited the nation's capitol to support the Copper-Salmon Wilderness Act to protect 12,000 acres of pristine public forest surrounding the Wild and Scenic Elk River, upstream from Port Orford. Researchers consider the Elk to be one of the highest quality salmon runs in the lower 48 states.**

"The Elk River is the healthiest coastal river in the entire state, thanks to its intact headwaters that haven't been extensively logged. That makes for strong runs of salmon and steelhead, and excellent fishing," according to Mike Beagle of Trout Unlimited in Medford, Oregon.

Averaging 160 inches of rain per year, the Elk River watershed is an emerald green rainforest. Moss carpets the forest floor. Douglas fir, Port Orford cedar and hemlock form a dripping canopy. Rhododendrons bloom pink, and big white trilliums offset the green landscape. The Copper-Salmon area also supports healthy populations of blacktail deer, black bear, mountain lion, and Roosevelt elk.

Copper-Salmon is adjacent to the 17,200-acre Grassy Knob Wilderness, established in 1984 following a campaign

Now we are finally past the long controversy over Forest Service post-fire logging sales in lands burned by the Biscuit Fire. That heated debate kept the Siskiyou in the national spotlight for four years, and this media exposure will help us motivate supporters in 2008 and beyond.

**TAKE ACTION:** Contact Siskiyou Project to request campaign brochures for friends and neighbors. Attend hikes (see back cover) and get to know the special places in the Siskiyou Wild Rivers region, with its botanical wonders, whitewater rivers, and wild backcountry. And please help us meet our expenses with a special campaign donation. Many thanks!



by Jim Rogers, Friends of Elk River and others. Today the Copper-Salmon proposal has endorsements from the Port Orford city government, the area Chamber of Commerce and dozens of local business owners.

Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) also supports the Copper-Salmon Wilderness proposal, and a member of his staff recently toured the area.

**TAKE ACTION:** Please write Rep. Peter Defazio and Sen. Ron Wyden today. For details, visit <http://www.sportsmenforcoppersalmon.org>.

**The largest river in the Siskiyou Wild Rivers region is the mighty Rogue. This river system originates from Crater Lake, the Rogue-Umpqua Divide, and Bear Creek, plus the Applegate and the Illinois headwaters. The Rogue canyon is home to wild salmon, steelhead trout, and green sturgeon. Thousands of hikers, sight-seers, river runners, and anglers enjoy the river each year.**

In 1968, the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act designated 34 miles of the Rogue as "wild," protecting a half-mile wide corridor between the communities of Galice and Agness. In 1978 the 35,000-acre Wild Rogue Wilderness Act was passed by Congress, protecting more



**O**n a map of Southwest Oregon, the 480-acre Oregon Caves National Monument looks like a postage stamp. Because the Monument does not control what happens in its watershed upstream, its small size presents an obstacle to protecting the health of the caves themselves and the 80,000 visitors who come there each year.

Cave Creek, which flows through Oregon Caves, originates near Bigelow Lakes uphill from the Monument. These lands are managed for multiple

wildlands upslope.

Unfortunately, many tributaries of the Wild Rogue near Galice need better protection, and the adjacent 46,000-acre Zane Grey roadless area is subject to logging. The BLM's proposed Kelsey Whisky Timber Sale would build new roads and clearcut rare, ancient forests.

Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, Siskiyou Project, Oregon Wild, American Rivers and others are working in coalition to secure Congressional legislation. We propose that 70 more miles of Rogue River tributaries be designated as "wild" or "scenic" and that 58,000 more acres be added to the Wild Rogue Wilderness.

**TAKE ACTION:** Tell your members of Congress that the Rogue River canyon is part of America's natural heritage and deserves additional Wilderness acreage and Wild and Scenic River corridors. Also, write letters to the editors and tell your friends.

Get details at the new Save the Wild Rogue website: <http://www.savethewildrogue.org/take-action>.

use, including grazing, by the Siskiyou National Forest. Fortunately, this may change soon.

Phil Krause, who has held grazing rights for 70 years on a 19,000-acre grazing allotment, has expressed interest in giving up those rights—for a \$265,000 price tag. Andy Kerr and Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center are pushing legislation for a federal buyout, to retire this last grazing allotment

and expand the Monument to include the entire Cave Creek watershed.

Since 1939, the National Park Service has offered several proposals to enlarge the Monument's borders. The most recent one, in the Monument's 1998 General Management Plan, called for adding 3,400 acres to secure the headwaters of Cave Creek.

With Phil Krause now ready to sell his grazing rights, Congress should act quickly to expand the Monument and better protect the waters that flow through it.

## Exploring the Mighty Rogue

The Rogue River is the most famous of the Siskiyou's wild rivers. One of the eight original rivers designated under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, its fame can be traced to the 1920s, when the Rogue was a prestigious destination for Hollywood stars and U.S. presidents. Several of the riverside lodges boast auto-graphed photos of notable guests from days gone by.

Today travelers can access Mile 1 of the Wild Rogue River at the Grave Creek boat launch and trailhead, 22 miles downstream of Grants Pass near Galice. Multi-day trips through this stretch are extremely popular for rafting, kayaking, and fishing. The drive offers spectacular views, as the river narrows into a white-water canyon with numerous boat ramps, campsites, and picnic grounds. The other two road access points for the Wild Rogue are at Marial and Foster Bar near Agness.



Ken Crocker

*River enthusiasts throughout the world enjoy the wild Rogue.*

Zane Grey, well-known author of western novels, was also drawn to the mystery and charm of the Rogue's deep green pools, full of salmon and steel-head. An accomplished fisherman, Grey bought a prospector's cabin at Winkle Bar (halfway between Galice and Agness) in 1926. From here he fished for salmon and drew inspiration for his writings.

Grey's cabin still stands along the Rogue and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. You can reach it by multi-day float trip or by hiking the Rogue River National Scenic Trail (walking upstream from Marial or downstream from Grave Creek).

Although Grey's cabin enjoys federal recognition as a site worthy of preservation, the nearby Zane Grey roadless area does not. BLM timber sales in old-growth stands are still a threat.

**TAKE ACTION:** See page 5 and visit [www.savethewildrogue.org](http://www.savethewildrogue.org).

### Siskiyou Ecology

## The Rogue's Biggest Fish: North American Green Sturgeon

Sturgeon evolved over 300 million years ago, specializing as scavengers. Barbels on their lower snout help them find food. Large bony scutes and plates covering their upper body attest to their ancient origin. The green sturgeon has further specialized its existence with an anadromous or sea-going life cycle, similar to salmon.

Adult sturgeon 4 to 6 feet in length and weighing up to 200 pounds enter freshwater for an extended summer stay to feed and spawn. During the fall they return to the sea to feed along the Pacific coast. The mouth of the Columbia River is a favorite feeding area where green sturgeon mix with the better known white sturgeon. A sister species, the Sakhalin sturgeon, is found in eastern Asia.

North American green sturgeon now spawn in only three river systems on the west coast, one of which is the Rogue River. Spawning in the lower mainstem Rogue

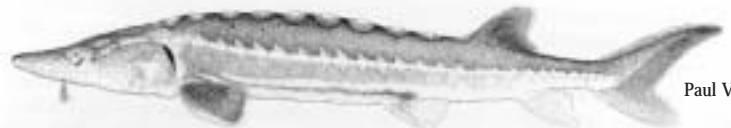
River was only recently documented through a research project by the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Nearly all of the remaining 24 sturgeon species in the world are threatened with extinction, due to dams, poor water quality, and overfishing. A green sturgeon population in the Sacramento River basin has been federally listed as threatened.

Deep pools in the Wild Rogue River provide refugia for dwindling numbers of green sturgeon. The remoteness of the Rogue protects them from excessive freshwater fishing, and high water quality aids successful reproduction.

Wilderness designation is the best fish management plan for green sturgeon in Oregon. For more, visit the Wildlife Conservation Society website:

<http://www.wcs.org/international/marine/marinorthamerica/greensturgeon>.



Paul Vecsei

# The Road(less) Traveled by Rolf Skar

**Editor's note:** *While serving for five years as our Campaign Director, Rolf Skar had a tremendous impact on forest protection in the Siskiyou Wild Rivers region. Now Rolf has taken a position as Senior Forest Campaigner for Greenpeace USA in San Francisco. We wish him all the best in his next phase of working for the earth.*

When I joined Siskiyou Project in 2002, then director Steve Marsden and development director Kelpie Wilson gave me good advice: "Go for a hike." They insisted that I could not be an effective advocate for the Siskiyou unless I developed a relationship with the land.

I quickly learned that the land itself is the best teacher of ecology, the best evaluator of land management policies, and the best source of inspiration. It is this connection to the land that has made ordinary people achieve extraordinary things over the course of Siskiyou Project's long history.

I look back with satisfaction on the conservation wins I have been a part of over the last half decade. From defeating Gordon Smith's lawless logging "rider" and Greg Walden's disturbance logging bill, to restoring the national Roadless Rule, it has been an honor to serve the Siskiyou Wild Rivers region.

As you know, these victories were not easy to achieve. Many came at desperate hours in dark political times – times that bred discouragement and hopelessness. All through those times, it was the wildlands of the Siskiyou that kept me motivated.

It was also you – the extraordinary national network of Siskiyou supporters – that kept me feeling hopeful rather than helpless. You stayed engaged, stood tall against rotten politics and recalcitrant public officials, and proved

that people power still works at a time when many Americans have cynically turned away from civic endeavors.

Now is a critical time to stay engaged, not only to defend the Siskiyou from future threats, but to capitalize on fresh opportunities. New Wilderness Areas, new Wild & Scenic Rivers, new fire safety and restoration programs – all of this is within our grasp. Moving beyond the tired, calculated politics after the Biscuit Fire and into the future with a new Congress, we have a chance to find common ground, overcome conservation challenges, and protect the Siskiyou for future generations.



Rolf Skar

*Rolf Skar on one of many trips to D.C.*

Though I am leaving Siskiyou Project, I am not leaving the land. My love for this special place will remain and bring me back before long. With your help, the next five years will be great ones for the Siskiyou. Keep contributing your skills, your voice and your dollars to the cause...and do not forget to go for a hike! 🐾

**We thank the following foundations for their support:** Atlantic Community Foundation, Brainerd Foundation, Bullitt Foundation, Ralph L. Smith Foundation, Weeden Foundation, Wiancko Fund, and Wilburforce Foundation.

Make checks and money orders payable to: Siskiyou Project 9335 Takilma Road, Cave Junction, OR 97523.

## Please Join the Siskiyou Project!

- Yes, I want to join! Here's \$35 (or more).
- I'm already a member! But here's \$\_\_\_\_more to protect the Siskiyou.

## Please Send Me:

Choose one gift for \$35 or more

- 100 Hikes in Southern Oregon, W. L. Sullivan

## Address info

Print Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Send me timely updates by email.



Siskiyou Project  
 9335 Takilma Road  
 Cave Junction, OR 97523

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

NONPROFIT ORG  
 US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 Cave Junction, OR  
**PERMIT NO. 50**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



Justin Rohde

*Kalmiopsis* (*Kalmiopsis leachiana*)  
 is a flowering plant that grows  
 only in the Siskiyou of Southwest  
 Oregon.

*Complimentary Copy  
 Please Join!*

## Hikes in the Siskiyou Wild Rivers area: June 23, July 1, and July 7

**Sunday, July 1– Coastside Kalmiopsis Hike**  
 Celebrate Oregon Wild’s Wilderness Week. Venture from Red Mountain to Chetco Lake of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, with wonderful views of the rugged Siskiyou. Hard, 8.5 miles roundtrip. Meet at Gold Beach Event Center at 7:45am or Coastal Cardiology (412 Alder St., Brookings) at 8:30am.

**Saturday, July 7– Sucker Creek Sale Tour**  
 Hike along Sucker Creek, upstream of Selma, and learn about BLM's new proposal for the Althouse/Sucker Timber Sale. Meet like-minded people and connect with the threatened old-growth giants, including Port Orford cedars that grow nowhere else on Earth. Meet at 9am at Ashland Shop N Kart; 10am at Gooseberries in Grants Pass; and, 10:45am at Coffee Heaven in Cave Junction.

Lou Gold on Bald Mountain circa 1985, archive photo

For all hikes bring lunch, water and sturdy footwear. Contact Siskiyou Project (541/476-6648, bob@siskiyou.org), KS-Wild (488-5769, kswild.org) or Rogue Group Sierra Club, Brookings (541/412-8444).