

PRC launches campaign to protect human health and water quality on Oregon's state and private forests

John Kober and Natalie Bennon

It's a familiar scene: Driving to the Oregon Coast and along the side of the state highway there is a thin strip of trees along the road, thinly veiling a clearcut.

Correction. It's not a clearcut. There are five trees per acre still standing. So, technically speaking, it is not a clearcut.

But scientifically speaking, it is just as harmful to watershed health as a clearcut. It is also shameful. The rules governing logging on state and private lands in Oregon are less protective than similar rules in all of Oregon's neighboring states. Even Idaho has more protective logging rules than Oregon.

And while that shame is apparently not enough to inspire new rules, recent incidents of poisoning from aerial pesticide sprayings may be. There is movement in the Oregon Legislature to reform the 1971 Oregon Forest Practices Act by restricting aerial pesticide spraying to protect human health. Pacific Rivers Council (PRC) supports these efforts, but is also launching a campaign to do more.

One of our first campaign efforts will be a film showcasing the effects of the Oregon Forest Practices Act on the ground. Filmmaker Shane Anderson has already begun researching and collecting footage showing the assault on Oregon's watersheds. The more he learns, the more appalled he becomes.

"It is unacceptable to have such lax legislation that lags so far behind federal requirements and neighboring states," Anderson said. "Obviously California, Idaho and Washington found values and scientific support that led them to reform their timber laws. Why should Oregonians pay the price for the harm inflicted by poorly regulated, corporate, industrialized, private logging?"

There are nearly 8 million acres of private forestland and more than 800,000 acres of state-owned forests in Oregon. Thousands of miles of streams flow through these lands.



PRC strategy through 2017 to focus on protecting forested watersheds

The Pacific Rivers Council (PRC) has recently finalized its strategic plan through 2017. We will be focusing our efforts toward what we do best – developing and promoting watershed conservation policies based on sound science and prioritizing our work on issues we've identified as being most vital to the future ecological condition of our rivers. PRC will advance policies that protect and restore forested headwaters, which will serve as the foundation to restoration of whole watersheds. This is particularly important in an era of rapidly accelerating climate change.

Conservation priorities through 2017:

1. Protect, strengthen, and expand protection of watersheds on federal forests in the Northwest.

This work will focus on the Oregon & California railroad lands, 2.5 million acres managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in Western Oregon. PRC will also work toward establishing a market for carbon sequestration on federal forests in Oregon and Washington. PRC will engage in other federal forest issues in Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, and Montana as opportunities arise.

2. Reform the Oregon Forest Practices Act

The Oregon Forest Practices Act governs logging on state and private lands in Oregon. It fails to comply with federal law, and harms human and aquatic health.

For an electronic or print copy of our strategic plan, email info@pacificrivers.org

Protect the Best Restore the Rest

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Roger Hamilton
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Scott L. Pope
Jim Van Loan
John Kaib, MD

Pacific Rivers Council
317 SW Alder Street
Suite 900
Portland, OR 97204
503.228.3555
www.pacificrivers.org

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PRC has a long history of working on state and private land forest policy, and pesticide use in these forests is a huge problem. But it's not all. It's part of a larger suite of problems that include:

- Logging and road construction on steep slopes and unstable soils, increasing the risk of landslides into streams;
- Minimal buffers between logged areas and fish-bearing streams;
- No buffers at all for non-fish bearing streams on private lands; and,
- Dangerous use of toxic herbicides.

Oregon's policies for logging state and private forestlands are inconsistent with the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA). PRC is working to not only limit pesticide use, but improve watershed health in general, and comply with federal law. PRC's goals are to:

- Increase streamside buffers on fish-bearing streams;
- Expand streamside buffers on non-fish-bearing streams on state-owned lands;
- Establish streamside buffers on non-fish bearing streams on private lands;
- Restrict the use of the toxic herbicides and prevent toxins from entering freshwater; and,
- Expand use of market-based conservation incentives, including carbon sequestration.

Logging still has, and always will have, an important role in Oregon's rural economies. State and private forests are better kept as industrialized timber lands than converted to subdivisions. PRC wants the timber industry in Oregon to remain profitable and to contribute to Oregon's economy. However, we must also protect human and watershed health. It can be done. PRC helped forge major improvements in Washington's forest practices act in 2006.

If you would like to get involved in our campaign to reform OFPA, or have an experience you'd like to share about Oregon's lax logging rules, please email info@pacificrivers.org or call 503-228-3555 x202.

Upcoming Events

April 25: Join us to celebrate Earth Day at Normandale Park in northeast Portland! There will be activities for young and old. Stop by our table to see what we're working on. Bring your kids! Bring your dogs! Bring your parents! All are welcome, and we will be surrounded by other groups doing great work throughout the West.

May 12: SAVE THE DATE! The Flyfishers Club of Oregon and Flyfishers Foundation have chosen PRC as the beneficiary of its 2015 Paddle Raise! Join us for an evening of good food, drink, and an auction extravaganza to benefit our project to engage youth in monitoring steelhead populations at Canton Creek in the North Umpqua watershed. The Paddle Raise is a memorial to Keith Hansen, a former board member of both PRC and the Flyfishers. 5-9 p.m. May 12, Multnomah Athletic Club, 1849 SW Salmon St. Dinner is at 7, followed by the auction and paddle raise. Cost: \$75/person. The MAC's renowned chef and Flyfishers Club member Phillippe Boulot will oversee the meal preparation. You have a choice of wild salmon, filet mignon, or the vegan special. Whether you love to flyfish or simply love to sit by the river, listen to the ripples, and watch the elegance of the sport, please join us!

The river brings life to Chad Brown

Chad Brown grew up in an outdoor family in Texas.

“My father and his brothers were black cowboys, black ranchers,” Brown said recently from his flyfishing shop in North Portland. “My grandpa was probably one of the last ones who had land down there with cattle, pigs, and all that. And my dad and everyone else, they were hunters and outdoors people.”

Brown had never held a fishing rod until he was in his 30s. Now, he’s the owner of Soul River Runs Deep, a shop and burgeoning nonprofit that pairs veterans with disadvantaged youth, taking them into the outdoors to teach them how to flyfish, among other things.

Brown joined the U.S. Navy to earn money for college. He served in combat, but didn’t immediately understand the effects it had on him. He earned a Master’s degree and began his career as a designer at a technology firm in New York City. After 9/11, he was laid off and began consulting. It went well, and he won big accounts, but eventually had to give it up for his sanity. He traveled throughout Japan for several months - backpacking, hiking, and living on the streets or with anyone who would take him in. When he returned to NYC, it didn’t feel right. He was offered a job in Portland, and he moved.

“It was a whole different lifestyle. Everything slowed down for me,” he said. But after six months, things changed. “I got to a point where I couldn’t hold down a job. I was drinking a lot. I was losing my compass. I drifted into a really dark place..”

He ended up at the Veterans’ Affairs hospital, where he was eventually formally diagnosed him with post-traumatic stress disorder.

“I started to find myself on the water, flyfishing, and staying close to my river family – people that I made friends with on the river,” Brown said. They didn’t see me as this person from New York City or the things that I’ve done and stuff. All that was stripped. My identity was getting rebuilt into always being on the water.”

The first time he went fishing, he went to Clackamette Park near Portland. He says he was a walking zombie from the medications he was taking for depression, nightmares, and more. He stopped at Fisherman’s Marina behind the park and bought a bait rod. He caught a bass. “That brought me to smiles,” he said.

He started taking road trips to go fishing. Eventually he found himself on the North Umpqua, at a small now-closed fly-shop called Blue Heron. He saw colored fly lines and “these cool-looking rods and reels, and I knew that those did not look like what I had,” he said. So he asked the owner, Joe Howell, tons of questions. He got answers. He put down his credit card, and walked out with a nine-foot St. Croix fly rod.

He didn’t end up flyfishing that day. He came back to Portland and went to the Clackamas or Sandy River – he can’t remember which, but salmon were running. “I didn’t know what to do. I was standing out there, casting. I had heard what to do and what not to do. Three or four times my line popped. But then I hooked in and my line didn’t pop. I was getting moved around



About Chad Brown

Top three favorite rivers: Hoh, Deschutes, Metolius.

Business: Soul River Runs Deep, www.soulriverrunsdeep.com

Plans for summer: Lead vets and youth on nine trips throughout the Northwest, including a trip to the North Umpqua River to work with Pacific Rivers Council scientist Dr. Charley Dewberry – a Vietnam vet himself – who will introduce the youth to stream ecology and help complete a fourth year of monitoring on Canton Creek.

across the water, and I was hootin’ and hollerin’, and the fish turned back and came after me,” Brown said. “And I literally dropped my rod and ran away. People said, ‘What are you doing? You don’t run away from a salmon.’ But that salmon had teeth!”

Yeah, you read that right. He caught a salmon his first day holding a fly rod.

That was also the day he met Dawn and Brian Chou. Brian became a close friend. “Brian was my Yoda. He would give me theories on flies, rod, river, and I just soaked every bit of it up,” Brown said. He befriended some fishing guides, who would let him tag along and help out on trips. He bought more rods and reels, learned to tie flies, and never looked back.

“The river gives me, it’s almost like a purpose to live. You know? When I stay away from it a lot, I start to get really, really depressed. I start to drift off. ... When I am away from a river, I fall into a really dark place. The river gives me a sense to live. A calmness. A peace,” Brown said.

“The river is very important to me,” he said. “And I’m trying to bring that healing to kids and vets now, and letting nature run its course instead of going to Walgreens. It’s a longer process, but it’s real. And it’s better than medicine.”

We know what you mean.

Youth collect data from Canton Creek, gain work experience

The following article appeared in the Roseburg News Review on October 8, 2014. It profiles the Pacific Rivers Council's monitoring project on Canton Creek in the North Umpqua watershed, near Roseburg. Pacific Rivers Council would like to thank the North Umpqua Foundation, Steamboaters, and Flyfishers Foundation/ Flyfishers Club of Oregon for supporting this work.

Kate Stringer

Not many students can say they get paid to sleep with the fishes. But the ones who can are in Douglas County.

Twelve students from the Phoenix Youth Corps participated this August in a two-week snorkeling lab at Canton Creek near Steamboat. Led by conservation ecologist Charley Dewberry, the students crawled through the creek bed in wet suits and snorkeling masks, collecting data about fish health in the creek. The data will be used by the Pacific Rivers Council, a conservation organization based in Portland, to draft a restoration plan for the area.

This is the third year of the snorkeling program and a result of a partnership between Pacific Rivers Council, Phoenix Charter School and the Bureau of Land Management.

Pacific Rivers Council reached out to Dewberry, who completed contract work for the council for 20 years, to lead the project at Canton Creek. The council selected this creek because of its valuable fish supply — drawing fishermen from around the world, Dewberry said — and location in the logging areas of the Oregon and California Railroad Trust lands.

The fish health in Canton Creek has historically been impacted by logging. In the 1950s and 60s, heavy logging practices reduced the fish population.

While the creek has become healthier since then, the conditions still are not perfect. Logging has removed trees that once furnished natural shade or sediment traps. Blank pockets pepper the creek bed, an unwelcome place for fish looking to feed and spawn.

This is where the students make a literal splash onto the scene.

They divide the creek into parts, glides, pools, and riffles, and collect data from selected sections.

Eyes below water, the students move slowly upstream so as not to



startle the fish. At certain glides, pools and riffles, they submerge and count the number of fish and estimate age based on length. They also measure the length and width of the creek bed.

“It is completely different (below water),” said Shelby Neifert, one of the student snorkelers. “Everything is magnified and pretty, even if it doesn’t look pretty from the top. Algae that looks brown through (surface) water is actually bright purple underneath water.”

This is Neifert’s third year collecting data with Dewberry at Canton Creek. She’s a graduate of Roseburg High School and a sophomore at Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls.

The BLM taught the youth how to snorkel, though Phoenix provided the gear funded through grants.

“Through projects such as this we provide education and training (youth) need to get into natural resources as a career,” said Joseph Edmonds, an AmeriCorps VISTA at the BLM.

“Also they learn that working outside can be fun, and they learn what goes into collecting accurate data.”

Phoenix Charter School teacher Thomas McGregor said collecting data isn’t an easy task. The effort takes memorization, sleuth-like maneuvering, and a fearless attitude of cold creek water.

“You have to get down there, and it doesn’t matter how cold you are or how cold the water is,” said snorkler Josh Hubbs, a junior at Glide High School.

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Their data collection was mostly accurate, Dewberry said. He fact-checked numbers by re-diving some portions of the creek. The only discrepancies in data he found were some estimates of fish's ages.

Recording the location and ages of fish through the creek gives Dewberry a pulse on the health of a creek. A high recording of fish indicates there are enough places for them to spawn. Small fish numbers mean something's missing.

Often the missing links are large fallen trees that collect a buildup of sediment, reducing the temperature of the creek and giving fish a place to spawn and feed. A healthy creek should have about 10 of these tree-jams every mile, Dewberry said. In Canton Creek, one eight-mile stretch has none.

Not only do fish need trees in the water, but they need ones out of the water to shade the creek, keeping the temperatures cool.

The three years of data will be used to write a restoration plan for the Canton Creek area. The council will give the plan to the BLM, recommending strategies to encourage fish habitation.

Pacific Rivers Council Conservation Director Greg Haller said this plan could include placing large trees across a creek

to give fish homes or planting trees along the banks for long-term growth.

"Ideally, yes we want to grow large trees that can fall in the stream through a natural process, but because there's such a deficiency, we need to accelerate that," Haller said.

Snorkeling a creek bed and making a customized restoration plan isn't an approach most biologists take, Dewberry said, because it's often expensive and time-consuming.

Yet, he said, it's necessary to understand individual bodies of water.

"What I'm doing is allowing the fish to tell me what the status of the basin is and what the risks are to them," Dewberry said.

He points out that students and scientists collaborating is an effective model that could be replicated because it cuts back on costs and time.

It also gives students a minimum-wage-paying job and an educational opportunity.

"I enjoy that it gets kids doing science," McGregor said. "It's one of those rare things that changes kids' lives. When you put your eyes under water, it's a whole different river."

Letter from the Board Chair Bryan Lessley

This is the most exciting time for PRC in 20 years. Twenty years ago, the organization was in the thick of the development and passage of the Northwest Forest Plan – possibly the most successful environmental policy ever written. The Northwest Forest Plan adopted a whole-watershed approach to protection. Within the plan, the Aquatic Conservation Strategy required that sustainability and healthy practices should define harvest levels, rather than the other way around. These precedents have been a huge success both for the environment and for the business climate of the states involved. PRC played a central role in creating the Aquatic Conservation Strategy and getting it included in the NW Forest Plan, for which we have always been justifiably proud.

But now it's 20 years later, and we're fighting many of the same fights again. We've just been through a long, arduous process of trying to create meaningful protections for the O&C Lands, a small but important piece of the area governed by the NW Forest Plan. Essentially we've tried to transplant many of the most successful features of the Northwest Forest Plan into the O&C rules. Owing primarily to the failures of our political system, that work is not done.

We've also turned our eyes toward carbon storage and climate change. And, consistent with our whole-watershed approach, we've increasingly turned our attention toward management practices on state and private lands, which impact the same watersheds we've worked so hard to protect on their federal portions. The Oregon Forest Practices Act, in particular, is badly in need of updating.

All of these things are described at length in our new strategic plan for conservation. This plan is the result of a long process of self-assessment over the past year. It talks about all these things at great length. It's inspirational to read. More than that, we've also learned how to do those things in our modern world. Storytelling. Media. Fundraising. The internal planning has been an exciting thing to be part of as well. Now it's time to execute. Keep an eye out. We're ready.

Bryan Lessley is a public defender for the U.S. District Court in Eugene, OR. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School, where he was the President of the Environmental Law Society. Before coming to Oregon, he was an environmental attorney in North Carolina. Bryan enjoys backpacking, cycling, cross-country skiing, and mountain climbing throughout the Northwest, and has scaled many of its major peaks.

The first endangered salmon

Natalie Bennon

Standing next to the Elk River in southwest Oregon in the Siskiyou National Forest, Chris Frissell saw trees. A sea of trees. Most of them were pretty darn big. Many of them shaded the nearby pools for migrating and spawning coho salmon.

It was 1988, and Chris was standing within a proposed federal timber sale. The Pacific Rivers Council and other environmental groups were trying to get the Forest Service to scale back on this sale, to protect clean water, fish, and wildlife. They were somewhat successful. As with elsewhere in Oregon, some of the big trees along the Elk River still remain. Whether there are enough of them to matter is a question for debate.

But simply saving big trees results only in very tall relics for hikers and tourists to gawk at. They are not enough to save a watershed.

The council was looking to protect entire watersheds - trees, fish, frogs, water, gravel, pools, shrubs, mushrooms, bugs... everything. Because it is all linked. And yet, some species do more of the linking than others. Salmon, for example.

“Coho salmon used to migrate all the way to Idaho,” said Chris. Now they are relegated to coastal streams. Cannery records tell us that in the last 100 years, 99 percent of coho have disappeared from the Pacific Northwest. Oregon’s Siuslaw River is a good illustration. In the early 1900s, 230,000 coho returned to the Siuslaw River. By the end of the century, only about 2,500 came back each year.



Photo courtesy of Oregon Department of Forestry



Photo courtesy of Bureau of Land Management

On the Elk River – way down south on the Oregon Coast where Chris was standing on that fateful day in 1988 when he first got involved with the Council – salmon weren't doing so hot. In fact, by 1988, Chris and other scientists had begun noticing that Oregon coastal salmon were disappearing. Yet, state fish and wildlife agencies were operating under an assumption that there were plenty of salmon.

“My goal has always been to connect science to policy,” Chris says. The Pacific Rivers Council has the same goal, so in 1993 Chris joined the staff, and helped get the National Marine Fisheries Service to review whether or not coho should be listed under the Endangered Species Act. The petition Chris and PRC submitted to the fisheries service was the first of its kind in two ways – the first asking for an ESA review of a species throughout its entire range as opposed to just one area, and the first to be endorsed by a chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

The American Fisheries Society is made up largely of state fish biologists – some of the same biologists who work for the state agencies that manage coho. For state biologists to ask the national fisheries service to review the species was a bit revolutionary. It could result in less autonomy for state agencies. But state biologists working on the ground saw what was happening – salmon runs dwindling year after year – and made the bold move to ask for a federal review.

The rest is history – complicated history. Coho are now listed as threatened. The state of Oregon has made large strides toward ensuring their protection in coastal estuaries, but not enough. Returning numbers of coho are still low. But the coho are still here, plowing their way every September and October through Oregon’s many coastal estuaries and valleys.

Wild Rivers Night



Pacific Rivers Council participated in Wild Rivers Night at the Patagonia retail store in Portland, Oregon on January 8, 2015. PRC's film showcasing ecologist Dr. Charley Dewberry and Roseburg-area students monitoring fish on Canton Creek was screened, along with four other powerful shorts about rivers. PRC wants to thank filmmaker Shane Anderson and Dr. Dewberry for presenting the film; Pacific Pie Co. and photographers Kendall Kic and Kenneth Shults for donating items to PRC to present at the silent auction; Patagonia for hosting the event; Northwest Rafting Company for organizing the event and inviting PRC; and PRC board members Robert Sheley, Jim Scott, and Steven Hawley for helping table at the event, selling a record number of PRC cups and raffle tickets!



River Guardian profile: Roger Hall

Roger Hall has a hard time choosing what his favorite river is, giving no less than three when asked – the Elk, Deschutes and MacKenzie rivers, all less than a day’s drive of his home in Eugene, OR.

Roger and Elizabeth Hall have been supporting the Pacific Rivers Council since 1999 and have been River Guardian members since 2006. They support PRC because, “Rivers are the lifeblood of our existence,” he said. And they enjoy the convenience of monthly giving that being a River Guardian allows.

What does Roger love about rivers? He says they are wonders of nature. They can vary greatly from being tranquil to dangerous, peaceful to violent, restful to busy. “And they have all of the emotions that go with each one of those moods,” he said.

By helping PRC protect rivers, Roger said, he is helping protect life itself – including people, fish, birds, and all other kinds of wildlife.

“Any time you degrade a river, it’s like degrading your own life.

Anything that degrades a river degrades your existence. Civilizations have disappeared for failure to protect their rivers. That’s why I support rivers,” Roger said.

When Roger is not supporting rivers, he enjoys being in or next to them – fishing, sitting, looking, and listening. “You have to experience rivers and really look at them, listen to them, and see what happens to really understand how important they are,” he said.

To learn more about our monthly giving program, River Guardians, email Kalei -- kalei@pacificrivers.org.



Photo credit: Roger Hall

Update: Modernizing the Columbia River Treaty

If you live in the Pacific Northwest, you may have heard we are experiencing a drought. Mountain snowpack levels are at 18 percent of normal. In the face of global warming, scientists predict the Northwest will be experiencing lower and lower snowpack indefinitely. This has a significant impact on rivers and aquatic resources, and river management should adjust accordingly.

As such, PRC is working with Tribes in the Northwest and other non-profits to encourage the United States and Canada to modernize the Columbia River Treaty. The treaty is due for updating, and PRC is encouraging the Obama Administration to add a third purpose to the Treaty: ecosystem function. Currently, the two main purposes of the treaty are flood control and hydropower production. Adding ecosystem function as a third purpose will allow dam operators to review flood-risk management and explore fish passage options at Grand Coulee Dam and other impassable dams. It would allow stakeholders to devise strategies that address low-flow years, such as the one we’re having this year, and provide enough water for fish while still protecting communities. If you’d like to learn more, email greg@pacificrivers.org.

Update: O&C Lands

At the end of the legislative session in December 2014, U.S. Senator Ron Wyden’s (D-OR) bill to double logging on the Oregon and California Railroad lands stalled in Congress. PRC was supporting it because it would increase logging, while still maintaining crucial protections for clean water and healthy rivers, including protecting important conservation areas, and maintaining no-logging buffers along streams. Sen. Wyden has already reintroduced the same bill in the new Congress. While PRC will continue to work with Sen. Wyden and other elected officials on a legislative solution to the O&C Lands issue, which would be a permanent solution, PRC expects that the O&C bill will probably not pass. Instead, forest plan revisions beginning at the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service are likely where a change in forest management will occur. PRC is planning an aquatic science workshop soon that will help ensure BLM has the best available and most current science.

Update: Montana campaign

PRC is rolling out its Montana lands and waters proposal in April. A series of roundtables are set up to meet with business leaders. PRC continues to work on this campaign; however, we are increasingly turning our focus to our strategic plan for 2015-2017 (see page 1).



Logging expansion won't help rural communities

By Ernie Niemi and John Kober

Rural Oregon's economic woes are significant. And unfortunately many social services, including public safety, are suffering as a result. But we disagreed when Oregonian reporter Les Zaitz wrote on May 27, 2014, "The virtual end of federal logging is the main culprit" for rural Oregon's economic woes.

Many more powerful factors besides the decline in logging on federal lands in the 1990s underlie these problems. One is the timber industry's assault on workers. The industry busted the unions and cut jobs before and after the timber wars of the 1990s. In the 1990s, Forest Service economists estimate that federal logging reductions accounted for only one-third of the industry's job losses; the rest came from corporate decisions to eliminate jobs. The industry also reduced wages, both before and after the 1990s. It once paid 30-40 percent more than the statewide average wage, but now pays the same or less than the average.

The industry hurts rural communities even more by exporting logs. While exports from federal lands are banned, timber industry exports overall have increased from one out of every 10 logs at the beginning of the 21st Century to one of every five logs more recently. And the industry is exporting sawmill jobs along with logs.

The industry also has directly grabbed from county coffers money that could support public safety and other social services. Timber companies operating in Oregon once paid timber-harvest taxes that comparable to the taxes they paid in Washington and California. They don't now. In 1993, using the spotted owl as an excuse, their

lobbyists convinced the Oregon Legislature to phase out the tax. They still pay it in California and Washington, and many companies operate profitably in all three states. If Oregon had a similar tax, it would have provided counties in western Oregon about \$40 million in 2011 alone.

Increased logging on federal lands will not fix these problems. Instead, it will diminish jobs in one of Oregon's fastest-growing industries: outdoor recreation. The outdoor recreation industry employs about 140,000 workers in Oregon (logging and wood-products manufacturing employ fewer than 30,000). Nationally, jobs in outdoor recreation are growing 5 percent annually. High-quality recreation attracts middle- and high-income families to settle in rural counties, too, boosting local economic activity. There is abundant research and data showing that our federal forests would do far more for workers, families and local businesses if managed for ecosystem and human health rather than as tree farms.

Yes, rural economies are suffering. But reduced logging on federal lands is not even close to being the main culprit. We have been working with elected officials, federal land managers, counties and timber industry leaders to find solutions that create a future where our public forests provide sustainable timber, clean water, abundant fish and wildlife, and lucrative outdoor recreational opportunities – thus making the greatest contribution possible to the well-being of Oregon's families and communities.

Ernie Niemi is the president of Natural Resource Economics, Inc., and John Kober is the executive director of the Pacific Rivers Council. This guest editorial was originally published in the Oregonian on June 29, 2014.

Board Updates

PRC welcomes writer Steven Hawley to the board

Steven Hawley is a senior correspondent for The Drake magazine, and author of Recovering a Lost River (Beacon Press, 2011) and Cracked: Fixing a DamNation One River at a Time (Forthcoming, Patagonia Books). He lives in Hood River with his wife and two children.



Steven writes:

I grew up fishing the Sandy, Clackamas, and later, Deschutes River, at a time when young people were reliably told by their elders to enjoy salmon and steelhead while it was possible, because all signs pointed to their immediate demise. At first reluctantly, and in the last decade enthusiastically, I started getting involved in river conservation work, in part because it seems the rivers I love are proving to be more resilient than anyone thought 30 years ago. Part of that resiliency is owed to the good work of groups like the Pacific Rivers Council. It would be a fine thing to be an elder myself someday, and tell some impressionable skinny kid that some rivers aren't just as good as they used to be, but far better than they've been in my lifetime.

PRC welcomes filmmaker Shane Anderson to the board

Shane Anderson most recently released a full-length film titled Wild Reverence that was shown at 5 film festivals and 30 public screenings throughout the West in 2014. He also has completed films for PRC, including one that explains the importance of our forests for clean water, and another that profiles PRC's and Dr. Charley Dewberry's work on Canton Creek in the North Umpqua watershed, which won the 2014 Best of Festival award for a documentary short at the Oregon Coast Film Festival. He is slated to release another film this spring for PRC that will showcase the need to reform logging rules on state and private lands in Oregon.

Thank you!

Pacific Rivers Council would like to thank Meyer Memorial Trust for a recent capacity grant that will allow the Council to grow its communications and outreach program. Stay tuned!

PRC board chair Karl Konecny steps down as chair

In November 2014, PRC board chair Karl Konecny stepped down as board chair, and board member Bryan Lessley stepped in.

Karl writes:

In 2014, Pacific Rivers Council had some exciting successes. We forwarded and championed the protection of rivers and water in proposals to increase logging on federal lands in Oregon. We won congressional support for a new steelhead refuge in Steamboat Creek, an important tributary of the North Umpqua watershed. And we crafted and won support for a new program in Montana to protect rivers and watersheds on public and private land. My tenure as board chair has ended, but I will continue to serve on the board because I care so deeply about rivers, and I believe in the Council's watershed approach to protecting them. Rivers give so much. They provide drinking water. They are places where we seek recreation with loved ones, solace, and escape. They support our way of life, our quality of life, and our economy. Pacific Rivers Council is helping ensure our rivers can do this for generations to come.

Top 3 favorite rivers: North Umpqua River, Wilson River, and a Not-To-Be-Named River on Vancouver Island

PRC says goodbye and thank you to board member and treasurer John Kaib

In November 2014, John Kaib stepped down as treasurer and member of the PRC board. PRC would like to thank John for his service.

John writes:

I was drawn to Pacific Rivers Council because of its commitment to science-based decisions, a rarity in the emotionally charged world of environmental organizations. I became a board member because I wanted to give back at a higher level. It is easy to just be a dues-paying member, but serving on a board gets one really involved in the issues and challenges of the organization. Specifically for the Council, I feel that their all-encompassing ecosystem view of watershed management is unmatched. It was an honor to serve.



Top 3 favorite rivers: None. This man lives by science, logic, and reason.

Legacy Giving

Have you considered what legacy you will leave behind when you are gone? If leaving a legacy of preserving the best rivers and watersheds in the Pacific Northwest is important to you we hope you will consider a legacy gift to PRC.

There are many different ways to make a legacy gift to PRC. Please consult your tax advisor or estate planning professional to determine which is best for you, but here are some options:

Cash

Funding a gift with cash is one of the simplest ways to create a planned gift.

Bequest

You can name PRC in your will or trust. Contact us for sample bequest language.

Stock

A gift of appreciated securities or other assets could avoid capital gains while providing a tax deduction.

Other Options

Include life income gifts such as charitable gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts, life insurance policies, gifts of retirement funds (IRAs), and gifts of real estate in which a life estate is retained.

Please contact PRC to discuss how these options might work for you. If you have already named PRC in your estate plans, please let us know. If you wish to designate your gift to support a specific PRC program, please email info@pacificrivers.org.

Recognition of our River Guardians

PRC would like to recognize and show our appreciation for our River Guardians, supporters who participate in our monthly giving program throughout the year:

Christ Bouneff
Kathy Cashman
Megan Chinburg
Ellen Chu
Maurice Cooper
Dan DeLand
Bill Gardner
Debbie Grable
George Grable
Carla Haake
Roger Hall
Wendy Hambridge
Duncan Kerst
James Koenig
John Lawrence Jr., Ph.D.
Jon Lund
Nathan Mantua
Mary Ann Matthews
Kay O'Dierno
Rebecca Ramage
Jim Scott
Jack Sonnichsen
Shirley Sonnichsen
Robert T. Souers
Mitchell Van Hecke
David Wilson

If you have any questions about becoming a River Guardian, feel free to contact us at info@pacificrivers.org

THANK YOU!

PRC would like to thank the following foundations for their crucial support in 2014. We look forward to working with you again in 2015 to advance policies that protect watersheds, rivers, and clean water.

Flyfishers Foundation
Meyer Memorial Trust
Wilburforce
Lazar Foundation

North Umpqua Foundation
Burning Foundation
Maki Foundation
Lamb Foundation
Harder Foundation
Jim and Patty Rouse Charitable Foundation
Patagonia Foundation
Fanwood Foundation
Oregon Community Foundation
Winky Foundation

CAN YOUR EMPLOYER HELP THE ENVIRONMENT?

As you know, threats to our natural world are growing with increasing demands on lands, water, food, energy and other resources people and wildlife need to thrive. As green as Oregon is, it's simply not enough. We need more people and businesses supporting the environmental movement.



The Pacific Rivers Council is working with EarthShare Oregon to make that happen.

EarthShare Oregon offers workplace and online giving programs to environmental causes of your choice, including to the Pacific Rivers Council. Last year, people giving through EarthShare contributed nearly \$3,000 to Pacific Rivers Council's general fund.

You can contribute to PRC via EarthShare as well, through your employer or online. They offer easy ways for you to share responsibility for the stewardship of Oregon's environmental legacy.

First, check the list of EarthShare's business partners online to see what companies in your industry offer EarthShare. Then, if your employer does not have an EarthShare campaign, get the facts about how easy it is to start one.

To learn more about bringing EarthShare to your workplace, contact Jan Wilson at (503) 223-9015 or jan@earthshare-oregon.org.

Pacific Rivers Council wants to thank ARTA for being a great partner! Go to www.arta.org to see their great lineup of river trips for 2015.

Major Donors

Pacific Rivers Council would like to thank the following major donors for supporting our work:

Anonymous
Winky Foundation
Wayne and Judy Minshall
Nancy Pierce
Margaret Purves
Julee Richards, MD and Brad Seely, MD
Robert Sheley
Betty Soreng
Chris and Sharon Stromsness
Holley
Cathy and Peter Tronquet
Alvin Urquhart
Lory and Paul Utz
Peter and Josephine Von Hippel
Mary Wahl
K.C. Walsh
Darryl and Rebecca Walters
Lola Wesson



Pacific Rivers Council
317 SW Alder Street, Suite 900
Portland, OR 97204

**PROTECTING
& RESTORING
RIVERS
FOR 25 YEARS**