

Oregon Board of Forestry fails to protect streams, water for fish

Pacific Rivers Council pushes for larger, comprehensive reform

The Oregon Board of Forestry refused to take action to protect fish from warming streams at its July 23 meeting in Salem, leaving water quality in Oregon below state standards, and disappointing conservationists, fishing groups, and everyone who cares about clean water and healthy rivers.

“The Oregon Board of Forestry has a duty to meet state water quality standards, and today they failed,” said Pacific Rivers Conservation Director Greg Haller said.

The so-called RipStream study from 2003 clearly demonstrates that 120-foot buffers along small- and medium-sized streams are necessary to maintain enough shade and keep water cool for salmon and other fish. On July 23, the board only considered buffers of 70 feet or 90 feet, and even then failed to act.

Climate change exacerbates the problem, raising air and stream temperatures higher than ever before and causing severe drought throughout

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Photo by Shane Anderson, North Fork Studios

Kate Taylor, Rockaway beach resident, stands on a stump in Jetty Creek watershed, drinking water source for Rockaway Beach.

What are buffers?

Streamside buffers are the land along streams where little or no harvest can take place in order to provide shade and keep the water cool. Buffers also serve to prevent sediment from entering the stream, and they provide a source of large trees that can fall into the river to create habitat for fish and other aquatic species.

Bill would protect Steamboat Creek watershed in North Umpqua Basin

Most of us will never get to fish with legendary angler and World War II veteran Frank Moore, much less fish like him. He and his wife Jeanne have been living on or near the North Umpqua River for 70 years. They built the Steamboat Inn and raised a family on the banks of this storied river.

“One of the things this river does to people is it attracts them, it draws them, and stays in their heart. And what more can you say about a river?” Frank said in 2013.

Thanks to your generous support in the past, Pacific Rivers Council was successful in convincing Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley to introduce legislation to protect the North Umpqua’s most



Photo by Natalie Bennon/Pacific Rivers Council

Fishing on the North Umpqua near Steamboat Creek.

important area for steelhead – the Steamboat creek watershed. Steamboat is a crucial spawning ground and cool-water refuge for steelhead, and the **proposed 104,000-acre Frank Moore Wild Steelhead Sanctuary** is a fitting way to honor Frank, who has been an active conservationist his entire life.

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Protect the Best Restore the Rest

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**Siletz
Basin**

Photo by
Shane Anderson and
Lighthawk

Comprehensive private forest reform needed

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the region. Fish kills have been reported this year in many rivers in Oregon including the Willamette, Klamath, Umpqua, John Day, and Deschutes.

In addition, the board's decision would have only applied to a small percentage of streams in Oregon – small and medium streams with salmon, steelhead, or bull trout. And when it comes to cool, clean water, every stream matters – perennial or seasonal, with fish or without.

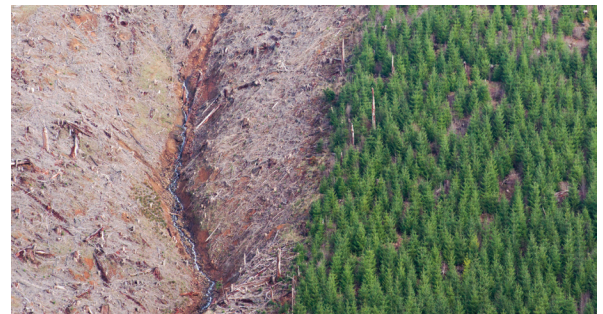


Photo by Shane Anderson and Lighthawk

Landslide in Siletz Basin

Moreover, the board has yet to take up other issues affecting water quality on private forests, including use of pesticides and logging on steep slopes. Oregon's standards are less protective of fish, wildlife, and human health than California, Washington, or Idaho. Oregon needs comprehensive reform on private industrial forests. Comprehensive reform is most likely to occur via the legislature. Comprehensive reforms needed on Oregon's private industrial forests include:

1. Adequate buffers on all streams, not just some.
2. More limits for logging on steep slopes prone to landslides and erosion.
3. Better rules and enforcement of rules regarding pesticide use.

Pesticides

Oregon allows use of toxic chemicals on private forests and does not disclose what is being sprayed in our drinking watersheds or when. These toxins often drift to unintended targets, such as streams, or worse yet, people. In one case on the Oregon Coast, toxins drifted into a health clinic, sickening already ill people. In another case, a forestry worker was repeatedly sprayed by toxic chemicals, and the protocols for protecting himself were not communicated. Now he spends much of his time coughing up blood.

The evidence of Oregon's harmful and outdated practices is shocking. While many Oregonians and visitors see glimpses of clearcuts through the trees while traveling our state highways, few truly understand the immensity of the problem. In some areas, nearly entire watersheds have been clearcut – mountains, valleys, hillsides, streams and drinking water source areas left with nary a tree standing, then sprayed repeatedly with toxic chemicals via helicopter.

What can you do?

Email natalie@pacificrivers.org if you want to send a letter to the Board of Forestry, your state legislators, the governor, or your local newspaper.



Grand Coulee Dam on Columbia River in Washington

Photo by Ramanathan Kathiresan, Creative Commons

U.S. should modernize Columbia River Treaty Act now

By Greg Haller

The Pacific Northwest has a tremendous opportunity to modernize the 50-year-old U.S.-Canada Columbia River Treaty to benefit people, fish and wildlife. Lawmakers are asking for it, conservationists are asking for it, tribes are asking for it. American Rivers recently designated the Columbia as the nation's second most endangered river because of the U.S. government's failure to move toward modernizing the treaty.

Why must we modernize the Treaty? The current Treaty has only two purposes: power generation and flood control. The needs of salmon are not addressed. Although the Treaty has no specified end date, without action, coordinated flood control operations with Canada will change substantially to the detriment of the U.S. in 2024. The U.S. will be forced to manage floods by utilizing all effective storage in U.S. reservoirs before calling on Canada to store floodwater to prevent damage downstream. Such a result would upend established power, fish, flood control and irrigation operations throughout Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Punting this issue to the next President will virtually guarantee this result. The Treaty says that either side may terminate the Treaty with 10 years' notice. It is time to start that clock and begin negotiations.

How should we modernize the Treaty? The December 2013 Regional Recommendation, developed by the Bonneville Power Administration and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, offers a consensus starting point. In it, four states, 15 Columbia Basin tribes and 11 federal agencies, with substantial input from regional stakeholders, all recommended adding ecosystem function as a third purpose of the Treaty. Additionally, the Recommendation calls on the Army Corps to review flood risk management at dams on the U.S. side of the basin to assure adequate flood risk protection while providing higher spring and summer flows for salmon. The Recommendation calls on the U.S. and Canada to explore salmon passage and reintroduction into Canada. It also embraces a change to benefit U.S. electric utilities, recommending a different approach for sharing hydropower. These elements are all critical to modernize the current Treaty for the 21st century needs of fish and people.

A flood risk management review and studies aimed at restoring salmon to historic habitats in the upper basin and Canada are critical for protecting and restoring a healthy ecosystem and ensuring salmon populations persist in a warming world. Currently, operations aimed at controlling run-off harm salmon, particularly in low-flow years, when reservoirs are unnecessarily drawn down, subjecting migrating juvenile salmon to longer travel times through warm slack water, increasing the likelihood of disease and predation.

A flood risk review is critical to understanding how climate change will affect run-off patterns and whether our current infrastructure is up to the task of handling anticipated major flood events. It will identify areas where we need infrastructure improvements and areas where floodplains can be safely restored and reconnected to rivers, restoring natural flood storage and improving habitat. Flood risk management studies can help chart a path forward that will benefit hydropower, recreation, irrigation and salmon – pretty much the definition of a “win-win” solution when you're talking about the Columbia River. The Northwest needs this information to plan for the future, and the Obama Administration needs the information to negotiate effectively with Canada.

However, 16 months after release of the Regional Recommendation, the Obama Administration has moved at a glacial speed. Recently, Northwest lawmakers called on the administration to renegotiate the treaty and the administration responded by saying that they have adopted the regional recommendation – which includes ecosystem function – as a negotiating platform. But the administration still has yet to formally open the negotiations.

We can't wait any longer. Led by Senators Murray and Wyden, the Northwest delegation was right to call out the Obama Administration's delay in moving forward. By modernizing the Columbia River Treaty for the 21st century, we can maintain our low-cost power, protect against floods, and maximize the benefits of a healthy river for fish, wildlife, and all people and communities. But first we need the information to lay the groundwork for effective negotiations. The President must act now.

About Frank and Jeanne

Frank and Jeanne were married on New Year's Day in 1943 when Frank was 19 and Jeanne was 15. Frank soon left to serve in the Army in World War II. Frank stormed the beaches of Normandy along with 150,000 troops during the D-Day Allied invasion and was awarded the Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor for his bravery. He returned home after the war, started a family with Jeanne, and pursued his passion of fishing on the winding rivers in Oregon.

Frank first fished the North Umpqua in 1946, when he and Jeanne operated a restaurant in Roseburg called Moore's Café. Before long, he was guiding on the North Umpqua for Clarence Gordon, owner of the Steamboat Store on the banks of the North Umpqua River, just downstream from Steamboat Creek. He was spending so much time on the North Umpqua River that his wife Jeanne placed an ad in the Roseburg newspaper that read, "Lost: One owner of Moore's Café. Last seen up the North Umpqua River."

When Gordon offered to sell his store, the Moores bought it in 1957. They built it into a well-known restaurant, added cabins below the restaurant, and became known for their fisherman's dinner, served at dusk every night. They raised four children and ran the Inn until 1975, when they sold to Jim and Sharon Van Loan, who later also sold a share to chef Patricia Lee. These three owners still own the Inn today.

Jeanne is the chairwoman of the annual Glide Wildflower Show, which features roughly 650 species. Her observations in the Limpy Rock area helped secure its designation as a protected Research Natural Area by the U.S. Forest Service.

Frank served on the State of Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission from 1971 to 1974. He has been recognized for his conservation work with the National Wildlife Federation Conservationist of the Year award, the Wild Steelhead Coalition Conservation Award, and induction into the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame in 2010. He is the topic of a recent documentary titled *Mending the Line*, in which he and Jeanne return to Normandy to fish the rivers he crossed as a young man in war.



Photo by Pacific Rivers Council



Photo by Uncage the Soul Productions, producers of the film, *Mending the Line*

Moore's love of Oregon, conservation efforts created a 'rich legacy'

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"Frank Moore is one of the warmest, most generous people I know. He was crucial to drawing attention to the clearcutting and annihilation of forests, streams, and riparian areas in the upper portions of Steamboat Creek in the 1960s. It is only fitting that we honor him with this steelhead sanctuary," said Pacific Rivers Council director John Kober.

In the 1960s, Frank became concerned about logging on some of the North Umpqua's tributaries. He collaborated with two friends in the advertising business, Hal Riney and Dick Snyder, to make the landmark film *Pass Creek*. He then flew his plane all over the region to show it to the Forest Service, BLM, Congress, the timber industry, and conservation groups.

Legend has it that he would wait for industry representatives to talk about how they were protecting rivers, water, and fish, and then show the film without saying a word, letting the film speak for itself

and prove the tremendous harm that certain logging practices were having. The film led to significant changes. (It can be seen online -- <https://vimeo.com/50181875>).

"Frank's love of Oregon and his tireless work to conserve our state's fish habitats and rivers adds up to a rich legacy that sets the standard for generations to come," Wyden said.

S. 1448 will:

- Protect and work to enhance wild salmon and steelhead
- Maintain the watershed as a coolwater refuge for wild salmon and steelhead
- Allow primitive recreation
- Prohibit most off-road vehicle use
- Work to reduce the total mileage of roads in the sanctuary to help protect water quality
- Prohibit most new roads, particularly in already roadless areas in the sanctuary.

Owls are great. But let's not forget rivers and fish

This article is third in a series on Pacific Rivers Council's origins and history. This time we look back at how water quality, salmon, and other aquatic species became as important a part of the Northwest Forest Plan as the northern spotted owl.

By Natalie Henry Bennon

The year was 1991. Gordon Reeves and Jim Sedell were driving in a sedan on I-5 north, through the rain, from Corvallis to Portland. And during those two hours, Jim and Gordon laid it out: how to protect water quality and salmon on Northwest federal forests.

The timber wars are sometimes referred to as the spotted owl wars. Northern spotted owl were declining in the Northwest due to a loss of large old trees. But no one was talking about fish, water, or rivers until 1991, when three scientists published a paper called Salmon at the Crossroads.

Gordon was holding it in his hands during that car ride. They had been invited to present to the Gang of Four – the four men in charge of drafting a regional plan for Northwest federal forests that intended to prevent the spotted owl from going extinct. The Gang of Four hadn't been talking much, if at all, about water.

Jim and Gordon presented numerous reasons why fish should be including in the Northwest Forest Plan. The Gang of Four listened politely. And then John Gordon, one of the Gang of Four, said, **“This is going to change the debate about old growth.”**

He was right.

Later, Jim and Gordon, along with Jack Ward Thomas (another of the Gang of Four), presented the idea to members of Congress in a closed-door session.

“It made their heads bounce off the table,” says Gordon. “One staffer said, ‘Woah, we got fish issues too?’”

The Northwest definitely had fish issues.

Congressional members and staffers chastised Jim, Gordon and Jack, all Forest Service employees, for not representing the Forest Service. But the men stayed true

to their message because they knew the science, and they knew we were right.

The Pacific Rivers Council also knew the science, and without help from the Council, Gordon says he and Jim never would have been invited to meet with the Gang of Four. “And without that meeting, I don't think there would be anything about fish in the Northwest Forest Plan, and fish stocks would be much worse off than they are today,” says Gordon.

So what did Gordon and Jim say to the Gang of Four during that first fateful meeting? According to Gordon, they said current logging practices and levels are wreaking havoc on aquatic habitat and fish. The science proves it. And this is what should be done about it:

1. Identify and protect key watersheds that are still functional.
2. Protect more riparian areas next to streams and rivers.
3. Establish a monitoring program to measure fish populations.

Later they added the idea of doing watershed analyses to determine the health of different watersheds. And all together, these pillars became the Aquatic Conservation Strategy of the Northwest Forest Plan. The Aquatic Conservation Strategy has been held up as a model worldwide for protecting aquatic habitat.

People will always differ about how to manage the woods. But Gordon credits the Pacific Rivers Council with bringing aquatic science into the Northwest Forest Plan. “No one was talking about fish before then,” he says. Gordon and Jim joined the Gang of Four, which then became known as the Gang of Four Plus Two, and watershed science entered the discussion of how much wood to cut and where.

Chapter two is just beginning, as the Forest Service is currently revising the Northwest Forest Plan – a 100-year plan – after just 20 years. And Pacific Rivers continues to advocate for maintaining the Aquatic Conservation Strategy so that the Northwest can continue to have healthy rivers and healthy communities.



All photos by Pacific Rivers Council

(Top) Stream ecologist Charley Dewberry and summer conservation law intern Mike Sargetakis. (Middle) Kalei Augustine, Mike Sargetakis, Natalie Bennon, Terry New, and unknown. (Bottom) John Kober, Steven Hawley, and Erica Stock

Flyfishers Keith Hansen Memorial Paddle Raise

The Flyfishers Club of Oregon chose Pacific Rivers Council for its 2015 fund-raising event – called the Keith Hansen Memorial Paddle Raise. We were thrilled and honored, as Keith Hansen was a former board member of Pacific Rivers Council who passed away at age 63 while flyfishing in British Columbia in 2009. The Flyfishers raised more than \$20,000 to support Pacific Rivers' conservation work, particularly our efforts to monitor salmon populations on Canton Creek, a tributary of Steamboat Creek in the North Umpqua watershed. Thank you, Flyfishers Club of Oregon and Flyfishers Foundation!

Umpqua Board Meeting

Thank you to the owners of the Steamboat Inn – Jim Van Loan, Sharon Van Loan, and Patricia Lee – and to the Inn’s excellent staff for hosting our June 2015 board meeting. The Steamboat Inn was built by Frank and Jeanne Moore, but was purchased by the Van Loans in 1974. Patricia Lee joined later as a third owner. All three have been generous supporters of the Pacific Rivers Council, and we greatly appreciate it! If you haven’t been to Steamboat Inn, it is one of the best restaurants at one of the most scenic and peaceful spots in the West.



Updates

Welcoming new board members: Megan Bailiff and Jon Kurtz

At the June 2015 board meeting, Pacific Rivers Council welcomed two new board members: **Megan Bailiff and Jon Kurtz**. Read our interview with Megan. We will interview Jon in the fall newsletter.



Favorite watersheds: Elwha and Siuslaw.

Natalie: What's your background related to environmental advocacy?

Megan: I have worked in environmental advocacy for most of my career. Ever since my first published scientific research in 1984 as an undergraduate at Lawrence University, I have been intimately involved in the work of conserving our planet's natural environments. I have been a research oceanographer, U.S. Senate legislative aide, private sector consultant, university administrator, community leader, fundraiser, and non-profit Board member.

N: Why did you join the Pacific Rivers Council board?

M: Although much of my career has been focused on working with ocean science and policy, my fascination with water and science began as a young girl exploring the lakes and streams of Wisconsin. My undergraduate research was in limnology and freshwater ecology, so the focus on streams and watershed health is a natural fit to my professional interests. Additionally, I am a homeowner in Oregon and was a long-time resident of the Pacific Northwest. I lived in the Seattle area for 11 years and both my daughters were born there. So coming on to the board of Pacific Rivers Council and being a part of helping to protect and restore the vital watersheds and streams of the West is important to me personally.

N: What do you hope to accomplish as a board member?

Pacific Rivers Council appears to be at a critical time in its own evolution, and I think that my experience in board development and environmental advocacy could prove beneficial to the organization. It is my hope to use my experience in board development and organization to increase the capacity and function of the board as well as to become a knowledgeable advocate for Pacific Rivers Council, utilizing my science and environmental conservation background.

N: Do you have a favorite Northwest river or watershed?

M: I have not gotten to spend much time on the rivers of the NW - so my answer to this question is all of them. I do have a special affinity for the Elwha River, because it was me, while working for Friends of the Earth, and a colleague at the Sierra Club, who started the whole dam removal effort. This was in 1989, and it finally came down in August 2014, returning the river to recreation and fishing. I am also personally interested in the Siuslaw River and watershed because my mother lives in Florence, Oregon and I own a home there. So I guess I have some favorites after all.

BLM proposes cuts to river and water protections on O&C Lands

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released their draft plan for O&C lands – roughly 2.5 million acres of Western Oregon forest managed under the Oregon and California Railroad Act of 1937. The plan includes four alternatives, but the preferred alternative is to increase harvest levels in the harvest areas (matrix lands) and riparian areas.

Pacific Rivers Council and its partners are deeply concerned about the preferred alternative, which departs significantly from the highly successful Northwest Forest Plan and its Aquatic Conservation Strategy.

Most alarming is that BLM proposes to eliminate “Key Watersheds.” Key Watersheds were established to protect existing high-quality sources of water and high-quality habitats for fish and other species that depend on the river itself or the riparian areas next to the river.

Government monitoring reports clearly indicate that the Key Watersheds were in better condition than other watersheds when surveyed in both 1994 and 2008. So they are protecting water quality and wildlife, but BLM is proposing to eliminate them so they can be logged.

BLM also proposes to increase logging in riparian areas – the streamside lands where trees provide shade and keep streams cool – by cutting the protective tree buffers along streams in half. Pacific Rivers is currently finalizing its analysis of how BLM's proposal will impact clean water and healthy rivers. And Pacific Rivers continues to work with Wyden and his staff in hopes that Congress can pass Wyden's O&C compromise legislation, which would maintain the Aquatic Conservation Strategy and better protect healthy rivers and clean water than the BLM proposal.

Coalition proposes protecting 700 river miles as Wild & Scenic

The Montanans for Healthy Rivers coalition has released its draft citizens' proposal to designate 55 sections of Montana's rivers and streams, totaling roughly 700 miles, as Wild and Scenic Rivers. You can see the rivers and streams proposed for protection at www.healthyriverstmont.org/our-proposal.

At that page, you can also add your name as an endorser, make a comment, and see when the community forums are being held to connect face to face if you live in or will be visiting Montana. The coalition has held some meetings already and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Moreover, Senator Jon Tester strongly supports our proposal.

Montanans for Healthy Rivers is a coalition launched by Pacific Rivers Council that includes Greater Yellowstone Coalition, American Whitewater, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, and American Rivers.

Your employer can help Pacific Rivers Council

The effects of climate change are growing, putting stress on the rivers, land, and other resources people and wildlife need to thrive. But Oregonians can do more to protect our way of life. Pacific Rivers Council has partnered with EarthShare Oregon to make that happen.



EarthShare engages people at their workplaces to strengthen environmental efforts locally, across Oregon, and around the world.

Pacific Rivers' membership in EarthShare also enables us to reach employees across Oregon who might not know about our work. The more workplaces offering EarthShare, the more financial support, volunteers and outreach we receive!

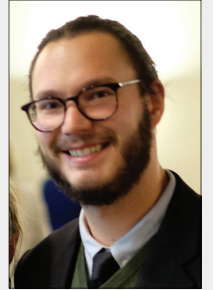
Does your workplace offer EarthShare? Find out online at <http://earthshare-oregon.org/campaigns/workplace-partners>

If not, talk to your boss or human resources personnel about offering EarthShare. Meghan Humphreys from EarthShare Oregon will meet with your employer to discuss the benefits of a partnership and get started right away.

To learn more about bringing EarthShare to your workplace, contact Meghan directly at 503-223-9015 or meghan@earthshare-oregon.org.

Thank You

Thank you to our intern Mike Sargetakis, who is leaving us in just a week! Mike is a student at Lewis & Clark Law School who helped us write comments to the Bureau of Land Management's draft plan for the Oregon & California railroad lands (O&C lands) - 2.5 million forested acres across western Oregon. Mike's favorite watershed: This Utah born and bred boy favors the Escalante.



Pacific Rivers Council is developing a new website and logo, and is shortening its name to **Pacific Rivers**. Stay tuned for more this fall.



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**PROTECTING
& RESTORING
RIVERS
FOR 25 YEARS**