



PACIFIC RIVERS FREE FLOW

Volume

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Season

spring

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FOREWARD

Greg Haller - Executive Director

Thanks to supporters like you, the Pacific Rivers team charged into 2019 with renewed focus and optimism about our future and the future of conserving our freshwater heritage in western watersheds. So far this year, we notched another win on federal lands, turned up the pressure in Salem with two pieces of legislation to reform outdated forest practices on private lands, started our campaign to protect the Chehalis River, and teamed up with Soul River to bring urban youth and veterans into our steelhead survey project on Steamboat Creek and learn about the healing powers of wild rivers. Not a bad start to the year, and we're not letting up!

Our conservation mission is grounded in the reality that climate change will impact our water life-sources for the foreseeable future. Therefore, immediate action is needed on both public and private lands to build resilience into ecosystem function to ensure healthy watersheds and rivers continue to provide vital ecosystem services like clean drinking water and strong fish runs. We blend the best available science with compelling visual content and stories to build support for conservation policies that are durable, resilient and equitable. Our philosophy is simple: it's easier to protect what we have than to try and restore what's been lost. We identify the most important aquatic ecosystems, assess ecosystem function (what's working, what's not), and build partnerships to forge solutions.

The wind is in our sails and we're using that momentum to create new strategies and alliances to advance our conservation mission. We're looking forward to a great 2019!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Haller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



photo: Jesse Clark

Pacific Rivers Executive Director Greg Haller, John Talberth and Tina Schweikert testify in support of the Safe Waters Act.



photo: Jesse Clark

The timber industry showed up in force to oppose our two bills and even rolled in the propaganda semi truck.

FRANK MOORE STEELHEAD SANCTUARY

Persistence Pays Off with Permanent Protection!

Greg Haller - Executive Director

Years of hard work came to fruition with the passage of the Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Special Management Area (we like to call it a Wild Steelhead Sanctuary), which was signed into law March 12th as part of the John D. Dingell Jr., Conservation, Management and Recreation Act.

Steamboat Creek is a groundwater fed stream, which keeps the creek's waters cool, affording steelhead refuge during the hot summer months. The new law directs the Forest Service to manage the watershed as a thermal refuge for steelhead, in honor of Frank and Jeanne's lifelong stewardship of the fish and botanical bounty of the North Umpqua. Here's the story of how this law came to be.

Steamboat Creek has long been known as the primary producer of the North Umpqua's world-famous summer-run steelhead, and its cold waters are a critical part of why this stream is so important. Nevertheless, the watershed was heavily logged throughout much of the 20th century, causing widespread damage to the ecosystem and its fish runs. Much of this destruction was documented in the 1968 film "[Pass Creek](#)," which was produced by Frank and his friends in order to spur reform of forest practices and ensure the survival of steelhead.

In 1988, we helped protect the North Umpqua under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which included a "no dams on Steamboat Creek" provision to protect the steelhead that inhabit this tributary. But we realized that we needed to do more than just keep dams from being built. As Frank recognized in the '60s, to protect a river, we need to change how the watershed was being managed. Our work helping develop the Aquatic Conservation Strategy of the Northwest Forest Plan in the early '90's resulted in Steamboat Creek being designated a "Key Watershed," which guides federal forest management activities to protect spawning and rearing habitat

for steelhead and salmon. But these administrative protections are not permanent, and will likely be changed during forest plan revisions, which are currently underway. During the debate over the future of the Oregon and California Lands (O&C Lands), we saw an opportunity to permanently protect Steamboat Creek and honor living legends and lifelong stewards of the North Umpqua, Frank and Jeanne Moore. We teamed up with the Wild Salmon Center and worked with Senator Ron Wyden and Representative Peter DeFazio to craft the bill that designates the watershed as a "Special Management Unit" and directs the Forest Service to manage the watershed as a thermal refuge for steelhead. We expanded our conservation coalition to include Trout Unlimited and the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe, did the necessary outreach to neighboring forestland owners and nearby communities and produced a [film](#) to help spread the work and earn the support needed to get the bill introduced and passed.

In the last 5 years, the bill slowly made its way through Congress, but was lacking the support of Congressman Walden to bring it over the finish line. In early 2019, with a little horse trading between Wyden and Walden and the support of DeFazio, the logjam broke and the package sailed through the House and onto the President's desk.

Permanent protection for special places doesn't happen quickly. In the case of Steamboat Creek, it's taken decades. We were inspired by Frank and Jeanne, who have spent their lives working to protect the place they call home. Persistence, patience and hard work. That's what it takes. Thank you Frank and Jeanne. And thank you Senator Wyden and Congressman DeFazio for your personal attention on this bill and your hard work getting it passed into law.



photo: Oakley Brooks

Celebrating the passage of the Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Special Management Area with Representative DeFazio.



photo: Shane Anderson

100,000 acres of cold water refuge.

OREGON FOREST PRACTICES ACT: The Road to Reform

Greg Haller - Executive Director

Reforming the Oregon Forest Practices Act has been a long-sought goal of ours. We want logging that's climate smart, salmon safe and protective of drinking water. We brought to light the harm caused by industrial forestry in our film, [Behind the Emerald Curtain](#), which continues to be screened throughout Oregon. After the film came out, we heard from thousands of people who wanted to know what could be done to spur change. We assessed our options - administrative change through the Board of Forestry, lawsuits against the industry for violating the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act, legislation, and ballot initiatives. After witnessing (and participating) in the decade-long struggle to expand streamside buffers on salmon and bulltrout streams through the Board of Forestry, and the Board's weak response, the answer was clear. Real reform will only come through legislation. But this pathway has its own challenges. As the [Oregonian's fantastic reporting](#) described, the timber industry is the number one contributor to state politicians and it has tremendous influence over the agencies charged with regulating them. Nevertheless, buoyed by recent elections that produced a democratic supermajority in the legislature, we pushed ahead and crafted two legislative proposals with our friends at Center for Sustainable Economy.

The first targeted forest practices that impact drinking water. The Safe Waters Act would prohibit the largest clearcuts and the application of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, and limit road building in Drinking Water Source Areas delineated by the Department of Environmental Quality. Climate change and industrial forest practices greatly increase the risk of wildfire, drought, sediment pollution and harmful algal

blooms. There is also compelling evidence that clearcuts reduce summer streamflows by half. This is a worrisome situation for many of the coastal communities that get their drinking water from small streams. Only by limiting the most harmful practices, will drinking water supplies be secure for the future.

The Forest Carbon Initiative Act was designed to remove the many subsidies that support multinational companies profiting at the expense of clean water and fish and wildlife. The revenue generated - projected at a staggering \$250 million per year, would be funneled to cash-strapped counties to fund essential government services and climate-smart forestry. The bills were introduced by our legislative champion, Representative Andrea Salinas (D, District 38, Lake Oswego) and co-sponsored by Rep. Karin Power (D, District 41, Milwaukie).

We hit a nerve! Industry showed up in force at both hearings to testify against the bills, far outnumbering our supporters. However, many people, including some small timber companies that practice sustainable forestry testified in support of the Safe Waters Act. Interestingly, some in the industry appear willing to talk to us about the problems we're trying to address. We welcome these conversations, particularly those about how we might incentivize carbon-smart forestry and protecting streams and rivers. Nevertheless, we fully intend to maintain pressure on the industry in the legislature. Please help us with this effort. And if you get the chance, thank Reps Salinas and Power for their leadership on forest reform!

Rep.AndreaSalinas@oregonlegislature.gov

Rep.KarinPower@oregonlegislature.gov



Board member Kate Crump with dog Kada.



The timber industry is the #1 emitter of green house gases in Oregon.



photo: Shane Anderson

This is why we are trying to reform the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

A Watershed Moment

Shane Anderson - Director of Storytelling

I have been involved in the proposed Chehalis Dam conversation for several years, however, it has not been until the past few months that I have really grasped the momentum of this project and its complexities. Many people consider the project a done deal despite completely flying under the public radar outside of Lewis County. The state of Washington has spent millions on studies and reality hits when you see the dam schematics, engineering plans and the thousands of pages of documents generated by the Department of Ecology and the Chehalis Basin Strategy.

Over the past 8 months of production, I have been in the field filming, and have begun meeting with stakeholders, scientists, and members of the Quinault Indian Nation and the Confederated Tribes of Chehalis.

Washington has been leading the charge with salmon recovery including dam and colvert removal, and a ["Floodplain by Design" program](#). So why build a dam that would increase risk for salmon and public safety, and could cost taxpayers up to 1 billion dollars?

These are the questions I hope to answer and highlight over the next 6 months. This is a watershed moment as we debate grey vs. green infrastructure in the face of climate change, not just in the Chehalis Basin, but across America.

The Chehalis Basin is massive. The watershed drains 2700 square miles, through seven counties and the mainstem runs 125 miles from headwaters to sea. The basin is home to the Chehalis Tribe and the Quinault Indian Nation who have deep cultural ties and rely on several species of salmon.

The majority of the watershed has been altered by a variety of land uses. Timberlands, farms, dairies, two rail lines, an interstate, urban growth and a soon to be closed coal mine all have impacted the health of the watershed.

Despite 150 years of habitat degradation, the watershed supports the most diverse amphibian population in the state, and is a stronghold for salmon as well as an important wildlife corridor.

The Department of Ecology completed a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and is now onto the Full EIS, which will be completed and open for public comment in the spring of 2020.

In the megaflood of 2007, 12ft. of water covered the freeway. Climate science predicts an 11-26% increase in floods and prolonged droughts for the Chehalis Basin, which is one of many reasons why we want to explore restorative options in lieu of a dam. Models suggest that along the I-5 corridor a dam would reduce flooding by 1.5 to 2 feet.

Models indicate the dam will have little to no effect in reducing flood waters for the communities in the lower 60 miles of river or for people that reside along tributaries. So who benefits and who does not in this massive watershed? This is the central question as we look for holistic solutions that benefit fish, wildlife, the river, and people who live there.

The silver lining to this whole process is the [Aquatic Species Restoration Plan](#), which is shaping up to be the largest restoration effort in Washington's history. Originally proposed as mitigation to dams and levees the ASRP will continue to move forward even if the dams and levees are not built.

Our new feature film a Watershed Moment is a character-driven story that tackles all of these historic challenges and opportunities by talking with scientists, economists, opponents and proponents to the dam.

The film will be crucial in public outreach and a tool for educating people about the importance of ecological restoration in building watershed resilience in the face of climate change.



Protecting commercial property built in a historic flood plain is at the root of “Alternative 1” which calls for a flood control dam and levees. Washington State has spent over 100 million on the Chehalis Basin Strategy since the megaflood of 2007.



Fisk Falls located 10 miles above the proposed dam on the upper Chehalis River.



Director of storytelling Shane Anderson filming wild steelhead jumping through the proposed dam site on the Chehalis River.



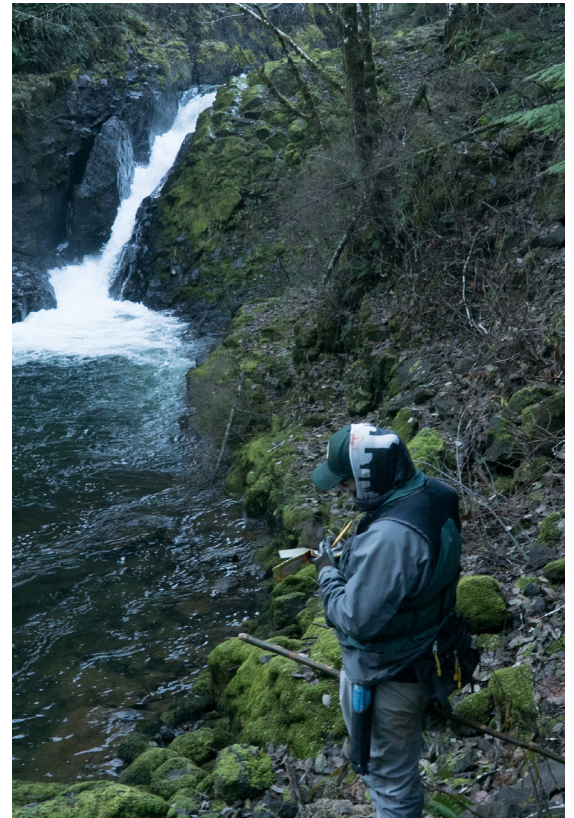
The Chehalis watershed is one of the largest salmon and steelhead producers in the state.



Small woodlot owner Vince Panesko of Panesko Tree Farms shows us where the proposed dam would span 1/4 of a mile from ridge to ridge, flooding out the land his family has owned for over 80 years.



Ed Johnstone, Fisheries Policy Spokesman for the Quinault Indian Nation.



The Chehalis is the second largest watershed in the state.

Fisheries biologist Nick VanBuskirk on the West Fork of the Chehalis.



A recent landslide at the proposed dam site.



The upper Chehalis above the confluence of the south fork.



A wild steelhead jumps through the proposed dam site and into some of the most productive habitat in the state for steelhead. 14% of the entire basin's wild steelhead are naturally produced in this reach.

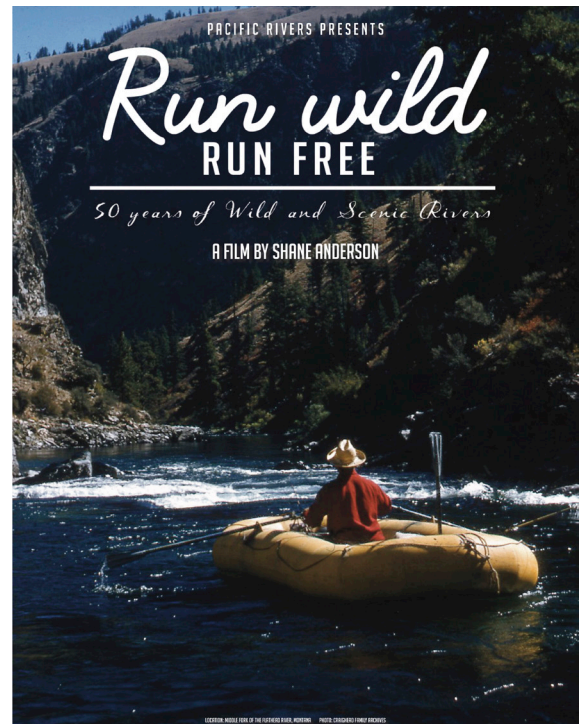
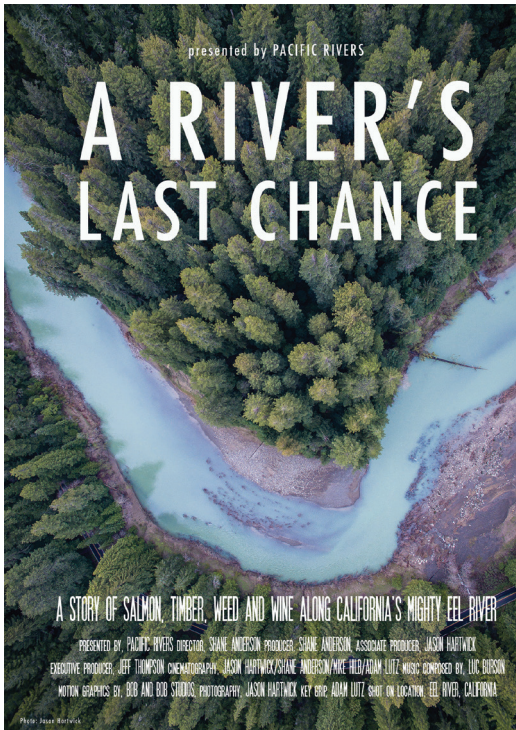


Searching for wild steelhead on the Chehalis River.

STORYTELLING UPDATE

Shane Anderson - Director of Storytelling

Our Storytelling Program continues to grow thanks to your support, and is become more effective each year as our distribution continues to expand. 2019 is shaping to be our most ambitious year yet and we hope to continue to inspire, educate and activate people on the current happenings in the watersheds of the west.



A River's Last Chance (2017-18)

- Now available on Amazon Prime
- Airing on PBS affiliates KCET-LINK (Los Angeles), KQED (Bay Area), KRCB (Sonoma), KEET(North Coast California), SOPB (Southern Oregon) and in Washington on KBTC (PBS) in Washington State this June.

Run Wild Run Free: 50 Years of Wild & Scenic Rivers (2018-2019)

- Currently part of the Wild and Scenic Film Festivals World Tour
- Received "awards of excellence", "people's choice", and "best feature" awards across a handful of film festivals
- Upcoming shows at various Patagonia stores
- Currently in discussion with PBS regional and national airing

Stories From The Watershed: (2019)

Our new series will explore newsworthy and educational topics about watersheds in the Pacific Region. On Episode 1, we traveled to the Oregon Coast and met up with Pacific Rivers board member and fishing guide Kate Crump as she explains how industrial logging has affected her life and the new bills Pacific Rivers has introduced in the Oregon Legislature.

On Episode 2, Pacific Rivers will team up with Chad Brown and Soul River on Oregon's North Umpqua as we expand our Canton Creek snorkel surveys into the newly designated Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Sanctuary of Steamboat Creek.

This program will be a three day educational outreach deployment for Veterans and urban youth to learn about and explore the underwater world of one of Oregon's most treasured watersheds.

Rivers of the Northwest Forest

This five part series will highlight the values of public lands managed by the Forest Service and how the Northwest Forest Plan changed the way we manage and view our watersheds.

Episode 1: History of Forest Service Lands and values The Northwest Forest Plan, the evolution of timber management

Episode 2: Carbon Storage

Episode 3: Drinking Water

Episode 4: Recreation

Episode 5: Biodiversity



Washington's Duckabush is one of many rivers protected under the Northwest Forest Plan.

UPCOMING WORK & EVENTS

Reducing Plastic Pollution and Protecting Rivers Campaign

We are teaming up with Absolut and taking a stand. Did you know 500 million plastic straws are used and not recycled every day. That's enough to cross the U.S. more than 22X. Most often, plastic straws end up in our rivers and oceans polluting the water and killing marine life and birds. It's estimated that by the year 2050, there will be more plastic in the rivers and oceans than fish. Absolut is making a stand against single use plastic straws to reduce plastic waste and protect clean water and healthy rivers throughout the Pacific Northwest. Starting Jun1st - August 31st, Absolut is donating up to \$10,000 to Pacific Rivers to protect and restore the waterways of the Pacific Northwest.

Steelhead Surveys on Steamboat Creek with Soul River!

This summer, we're excited to bring Soul River into our steelhead survey program in the Steamboat Creek watershed. Soul River is a unique group that matches veterans with urban youth to explore rivers and public lands and then advocate for their protection, all while learning important outdoor skills and about the healing powers of rivers and wild places. Pacific Rivers has been documenting the abundance and distribution of steelhead in Canton Creek and this year we're expanding the project into the newly designated Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Sanctuary. Soul River will join us for a three day deployment. The kids and vets will don wetsuits, masks and snorkels and learn how to identify and count juvenile fish underwater. They will learn how forest management affects fish habitat and abundance. They will also spend some quality time with Frank to learn about his experiences as a veteran and his love of the North Umpqua River.



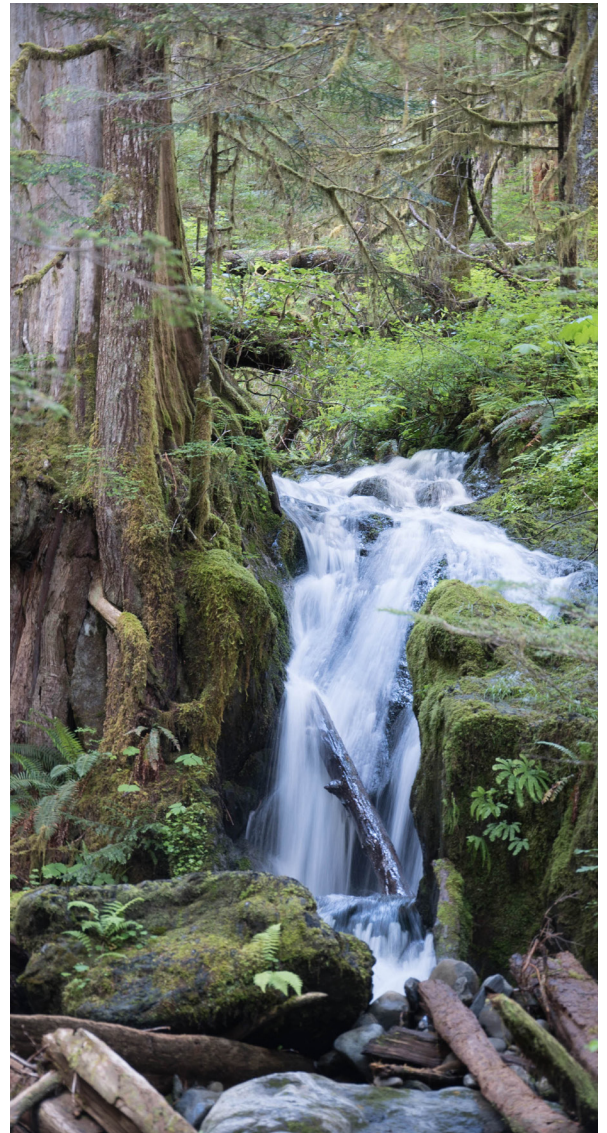
Soul River will be joining us for a 3-day deployment on Steamboat Creek.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Film Festival

We're hosting the Wild & Scenic Film tour in Olympia, WA on June 28th 2019. We'll be curating the program and including our latest film Run Wild Run Free.

Trump Administration Rolls Back Protections for Small Streams and Wetlands

The Trump Administration continues its attack on the environment with a proposed reinterpretation of the definition of "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) under the Clean Water Act. Under the proposed rule, countless miles of small streams and wetlands would no longer have the protection of the Clean Water Act. This In states with weak protections for these waters, the proposed rule leaves vulnerable a key ecosystem component of our watersheds. The rollback makes our work to strengthen protections at the state level even more important.



Every stream deserves protection under the Clean Water Act.

RIVER HERO PROFILE

Bryce Whitmore

Greg Haller - Executive Director

Mr. Bryce Whitmore wrote us a letter recently to compliment us on our film, Run Wild, Run Free. What we learned from Bryce's letter is that he was a river guide to the federal study team deciding which rivers would be deemed Wild and Scenic. In 1964, Mr. Whitmore floated the federal team down the Klamath River so they could document the outstanding values this river provides. A true lover of rivers, Mr. Whitmore spent his career guiding thousands of people down wild rivers in California and Oregon, such as the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Eel, Klamath, and Trinity, and along the way, helping protect the rivers he knew and loved. We couldn't be more pleased to have heard from Bryce. Thank you Bryce, for a lifetime dedicated to protecting rivers!

If you have a river story you'd like to share please contact us at www.pacificrivers.org. We'd love to hear from you.



Bryce Whitmore second from right (standing) with pipe in May of 1964.

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Pacific Rivers relies on our supporters for more than 1/3 of our budget. Your contribution makes good things happen! Federal legislation that permanently protects important fish and wildlife habitats. Empowering veterans and urban youth with knowledge and experiences to create new advocates for conservation. Reforming harmful industrial logging practices in Oregon. Challenging flawed plans that promote a new dam on the Chehalis River. Holding state and federal agencies accountable to improve conditions for salmon in the Columbia and Snake rivers. And producing award-winning films that promote conservation to millions of people. This is what you support when you give to Pacific Rivers. We can't do this work without you.

Please consider a gift today!

WWW.PACIFICRIVERS.ORG

HAVE YOU SEEN THE LATEST EPISODE?

In March Pacific Rivers launched the first episode in our new series of stories. We met up with our board member and fishing guide Kate Crump on the Oregon Coast to discuss the Oregon Forest Practices Act and two new bills. Check out the video at www.pacificrivers.org

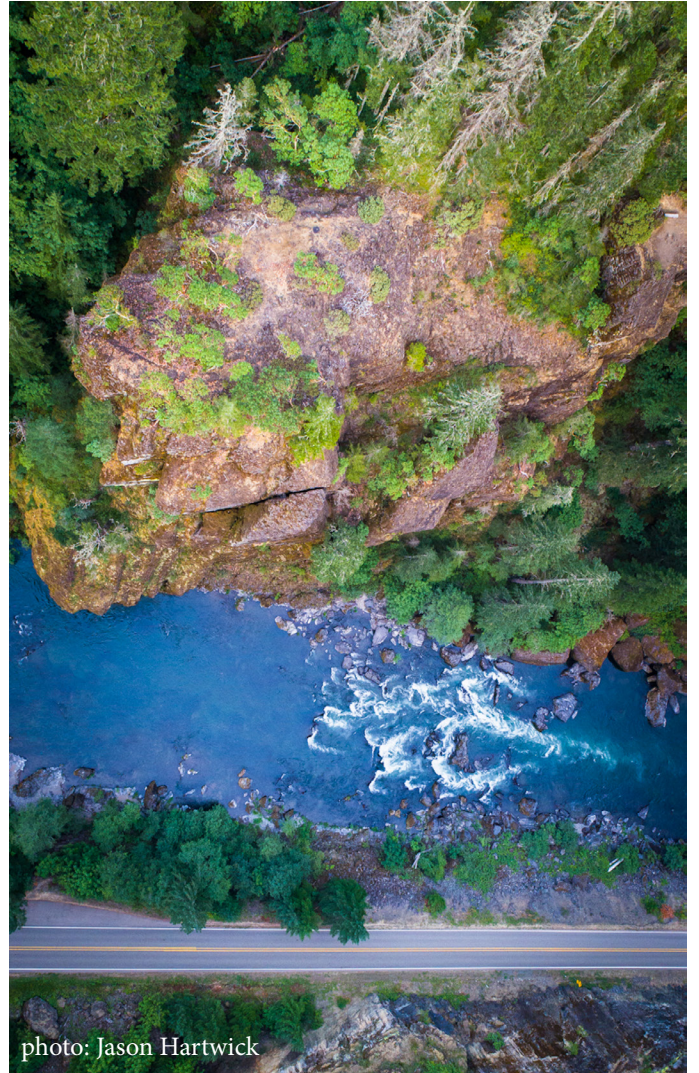


photo: Jason Hartwick

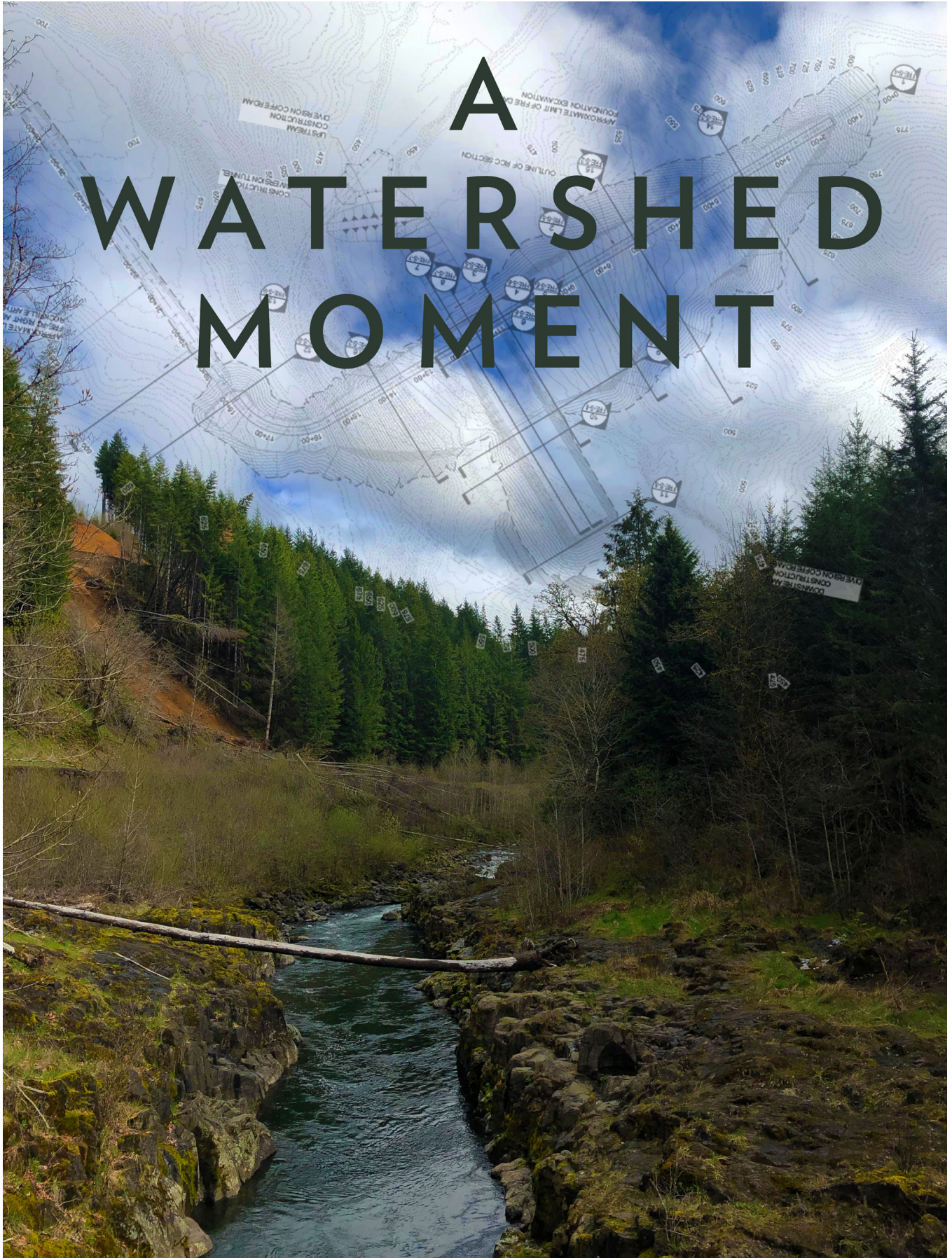
Elevation Rock North Umqua



photo: Jason Hartwick

Board member Kate Crump and dog Kada

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



A WATERSHED MOMENT

A Documentary Film by Shane Anderson & Pacific Rivers coming in 2020