KS Wild’s Mission:
The Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center is an advocate for the forests, wildlife and waters of the Klamath and Rogue River Basins of southwest Oregon and northwest California. We use environmental law, science, collaboration, education and grassroots organizing to defend healthy ecosystems and help build sustainable communities.

KS Wild’s Staff:
Lisa Force
Associate Director
Morgan Lindsay
Membership & Outreach Coordinator
Rich Nawa
Staff Ecologist
Gary Powell
Canvass Director
George Sexton
Conservation Director
Stephanie Tidwell
Executive Director
Joseph Vaile
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Rogue Riverkeeper:
Forrest English
Program Director
Robyn Janssen
Clean Water Campaigner

Board of Directors:
Susan Jane Brown
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Joseph Flaherty
Tracy Harding
Bob Hunter
David Johns
Stuart O’Neill
Gene Rhough
Laurel Samson
Laurel Sutherlin

Upcoming Hikes
Saturday March 30: Takelma Gorge - This 3 mile hike winds along the upper Rogue River. Carpool leaves Evo’s Coffee in Ashland at 9am and Guitar Center in Medford at 10am.

Saturday April 27: Rough & Ready Botanical Area* - Bring your field guide and camera to check out flowers on this gentle walk. Carpool leaves Evo’s Coffee in Ashland at 9am and Ray’s Market in Selma at 10:30am.

Saturday May 4: Illinois River Trail - This 6 mile hike in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness will feature plenty of flowers and bird-watching. Carpool leaves Evo’s Coffee in Ashland at 8:30am and Ray’s Market in Selma at 10am.

Sunday May 12: Day’s Gulch Botanical Area* - This easy stroll will explore the rare plants of a serpentine fen near the Wild and Scenic Illinois River. Carpool leaves Evo’s Coffee in Ashland at 9am and Ray’s parking lot in Selma 10:30am.

Saturday May 18: Wild Rogue River Trail - This moderate hike will visit the historic Whiskey Creek cabin and enjoy the spring wildflowers. Carpool leaves Evo’s Coffee at 9am in Ashland and the Fred Meyer in North Medford at 9:30am.

Sunday June 2: Mt. Elijah & Bigelow Lakes - This moderate 7 mile hike above the Oregon Caves National Monument will be full of flowers. Carpool leaves Evo’s Coffee in Ashland at 9am and Coffee Heaven in Cave Junction at 10:30am.

Thursday June 13: Babyfoot Lake Botanical Area* - This 4.7 mile hike through the Kalmiopsis Wilderness will feature a wide array of wildflowers. Carpool leaves Evo’s Coffee at 9am and in Ashland and 9:45 from Gooseberries in Grants Pass.

For all hikes: bring rain gear, layers, comfortable walking shoes, plenty of water and a lunch. Optional: a camera, binoculars, or your favorite field guide.

*Indicates a botanical area in need of a volunteer in KS Wild’s Adopt-A-Botanical Area Program. Call for more info.

News Around the KS
Covering nearly 11 million acres, the Klamath-Siskiyou region stretches from the Umpqua in the north to California’s wine country in the south, from the Pacific Ocean to the mighty Cascades. The mountain ranges and river valleys that define this region harbor renowned biological diversity and are some of the most spectacular in America.

1) Smith River
The Six Rivers National Forest continues work on a plan designed to allow and encourage extreme off-road vehicle use in some of our last best wild places.

2) Sucker Creek
A Magistrate Judge has issued recommendations that a polluting gold miner restore the Sucker Creek site and pay fines for Clean Water Act violations. Good news for salmon and clean water!

3) Kangaroo Roadless Area
The Forest Service’s plans to ‘salvage’ log after the Goff fire are halted thanks to your help! See page 9.

4) LNG Pipeline
Rogue Riverkeeper is working closely with landowners and allies to defeat Pacific Connector’s proposal to export U.S. natural gas to Asia through southwest Oregon.

5) Bybee Timber Sale
The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest is proposing to log wildlands directly adjacent to Crater Lake National Park. See page 3.

“Strings for the Wild”
March 21 • 8-11pm • Alex’s in Ashland
Join us for a special concert to benefit KS Wild. Enjoy a night of Americana-bluegrass and amazing musical storytelling with Danny Barnes (songwriter and banjo for Bad Livers) and Matt Sircely (mandolin). Contact stephanie@kswild.org for more info.
RETURN TO THE BAD OLD DAYS
Forest Service Proposes Massive Timber Sale

For the past decade the High Cascades Ranger District has been a model of collaboration and restoration forestry. By working with the public, rather than against the public, the Forest Service had been successfully implementing restoration forestry projects that thinned previously logged plantations and small-diameter fire-suppressed stands near Prospect Oregon.

In an ironic twist, the respected District Ranger who so successfully reached out to the public was promoted to another Forest, and now the old-school timber guys are running the show while the Forest looks for a new District Ranger. The result is that the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest is proposing the most destructive timber sale we’ve seen in this Forest in years.

The Bybee Timber Sale calls for:

• Punching in logging roads and timber sale units next to Crater Lake National Park;
• Logging within the Wild and Scenic corridor of Castle Creek;
• Logging trees older than our nation in so-called “shelterwood” units;
• Logging and road building within Riparian Reserves;
• Logging and removing Spotted Owl critical habitat; and
• Logging wilderness quality backcountry wildlands and ancient forests.

It’s hard not to feel disheartened by this dramatic shift in focus for the High Cascades Ranger District. The collaborative restoration philosophy of the previous District Ranger had been embraced by everyone from the congressional delegation to the timber industry and conservation organizations. Sustainable small-diameter thinning was producing wood fiber in a way that respected watersheds, wildlife and wildlands. With the departure of the High Cascade’s leadership, it looks like the decade-long collaborative effort to work together has been thrown into the trash.

While the Forest Service is going through the motions of considering the hundreds of public comments it has received asking them to reconsider their aggressive logging proposal, it is a virtual certainty that the agency is going to try to log about 3,000 acres and build over 9 miles of new logging roads in the few remaining Forest Service wildlands adjacent to Crater Lake National Park. Please join with us to visit, speak out and protect these threatened wild forests and watersheds.

OUR BACKYARD FORESTS

There is never a dull moment for the public forests in western Oregon that are administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The future of 2.6 million acres of public forestland is once again being debated at the highest level of government, and Congress may soon hold hearings to determine their ultimate fate.

THREATENED BY POLITICS

Oregon’s political leaders, including Governor Kitzhaber and Congressman Peter DeFazio, are discussing how management of these lands should change, possibly to favor more access for logging interests.

RECREATION, TOURISM, AND THE FUTURE

The reality is that BLM forests are worth much more intact than they are cut down and hauled to a mill. Many local residents and recreation businesses are now seeking more trails, more camping areas and a stronger focus on rafting, hiking and fishing opportunities. While still important in some areas, logging is no longer the primary driver of economic activity in western Oregon. Considering the growing recreation value of BLM lands, it is time for a change in the outdated priorities that have long driven intensive logging of these lands. They bring in tens of millions of dollars every year in a thriving recreation-based economy and are a reason for high property values for those lucky enough to live next to intact public forests.

A BETTER WAY

In recent years, science-based restoration and fuels-reduction projects on these lands have increasingly delivered a more sustainable supply of timber to local mills. The truth is, we don’t have to sacrifice our BLM forests. There is decades worth of important restoration work to do in these forests that can provide local jobs, deliver a significant amount of small logs through fuels reduction and science-based restoration, and help recover salmon, wildlife and clean water.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Our Bureau of Land Management forestlands are part of our natural heritage. They safeguard our clean water, provide habitat for salmon and wildlife, and include some of the last remaining old growth forests in America. These special places belong to all of us and benefit our communities where world-class fishing, hunting and recreation are good for local business and our quality of life. Please call Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley and Congressman Peter DeFazio on the Capitol switchboard. Tell them to protect our BLM forests so future generations of Oregonians can enjoy their public lands.

HERITAGE FORESTS: Our BLM forests are worth much more protected for camping, hiking, and other recreation than they are cut down.
Klamath-Siskiyou: Carbon Reserve & Climate Refuge

Climate change is here, and it’s ramping up with alarming speed. But the Klamath-Siskiyou’s old-growth forests and diverse habitats make this region one of the world’s most important climate change warriors. In fact, the Rogue River-Siskiyou and the Shasta-Trinity National Forests are two of the top ten carbon-storing forests in the United States.

What Difference Does a Degree Make?

Average global temperatures have increased by 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit in the last 50 years. More than 40,000 heat records were broken in 2012, the hottest year ever experienced. Last year alone, humans pumped more than 2.4 million pounds of carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels—the primary driver of climate change—into the air every second.

What difference could a couple of degrees make? And what does this have to do with the Klamath-Siskiyou? Consider this: the difference between a low fire season and a high fire season here in the Pacific Northwest is just a 1-degree increase in temperature. While scientists cannot attribute any one natural disaster to climate change, they do attribute the increases in frequency, intensity and severity of fires and storms to global temperature change. The fire season is now 10 weeks longer than it was in 1970. For urban interface communities, increasing fire danger is just one impact of climate change come home to roost.

A Hotter, Drier Region

The University of Oregon’s Climate Leadership Initiative predicts average temperatures in the Rogue Basin will increase by 4 to 8 degrees by mid to late-century and summers will heat up by 7 to 15 degrees. More importantly for plant and animal communities, heat waves (days over 99 degrees) will increase substantially.

We cannot be certain what the impacts of climate change will be for southern Oregon and northern California, but climate scientists predict they will include: warmer winters, less snowpack, more rain concentrated in the spring, and hotter summers. These changes would lead to more fires, flashier floods, drier summers, lower river flows and struggling fisheries.

The Power of Big Trees

Old-growth forests throughout the Pacific Northwest defend against climate change by pulling large amounts of carbon out of the atmosphere and storing it away. The Klamath-Siskiyou is home to some of the most magnificent redwood forests on the Pacific coast. Because of their tremendous biomass, phenomenal growth and resistance to fire, redwood forests are the best of all forests at sequestering carbon. The largest redwood and sequoia trees—some up to 3,200 years old and still growing—can store up to 4 million pounds of carbon each.

Species on the Move

The Klamath-Siskiyou is also critical to the “climate adaptation” process. This means that as the climate becomes inhospitable in a species’ current range, that species tries to find a place with a climate that more closely approximates its old habitat.

The Klamath-Siskiyou region has a tremendous variety of precipitation levels, elevations, rain shadows and other landforms and conditions that support an enormous diversity of plants, fish, birds and animals. In fact, 325 of these species occur nowhere else on the planet. One reason for this phenomenon is that species used the Klamath-Siskiyou as a place to survive and thrive during the last climate change event. A healthy Klamath-Siskiyou will likely be crucial for relocating species again in the coming climate change era.

A Privilege and a Responsibility

The Klamath-Siskiyou has taken center stage in the battle against climate change. KS Wild’s work has effected and will continue to effect landscape changes that will help the planet resist climate change by:

- Preserving old-growth forest for maximum carbon sequestration
- Supporting ecologically based forest thinning to reduce fire hazard
- Removing old logging roads to reduce run-off into struggling streams and rivers
- Protecting unique Klamath-Siskiyou habitat as refuge in a changing climate
- Reducing public lands grazing pressure to protect native habitats and rare plants

The Klamath-Siskiyou is full of surprises. Always a globally unique bioregion with astounding diversity and delights, it is now gaining recognition as globally important to what may be the world’s biggest environmental challenge. With your help, we will continue protecting and restoring this global treasure.
**Taking Action to Reform Suction Dredging in Oregon**

Over the past few years, suction dredging and the resulting damage to streams has increased at a rapid pace throughout Oregon. Partially in response to the current ban on suction dredging in California, dredging permit registrations in Oregon doubled from 2011 to 2012. Rogue Riverkeeper is working on a number of solutions in Salem and the courts to curb this destructive practice, and we need your help.

**Dredging Sucks**

Suction dredging is a form of gold mining where gasoline powered dredges vacuum up the stream bottom, spit it back out, and try to scrape up tiny amounts of gold in the process. When performed legally, suction dredging damages the structure of rivers and streams, reducing the spawning success of salmon. It can also mobilize toxic mercury, spew mud downstream and introduce a headache inducing rattle to our favorite swimming and fishing holes.

But frequently suction dredgers violate the rules and use high pressure water and rock bars to excavate stream banks, create dams, and muddy smaller creeks up to a mile downstream. Since 2008, permit registrations for this activity have increased by more than 300%. This growing problem has caught the attention of conservationists, fishermen, rafters, riverside landowners and legislators.

**Legal Action**

As part of our efforts to protect the Rogue Basin and beyond, Rogue Riverkeeper has engaged in a number of actions targeted at suction dredging. In 2010, with Northwest Environmental Defense Center and represented by Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center and Western Environmental Law Center, we filed suit against the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for a statewide suction dredging permit that violates the Clean Water Act. We settled the case with DEQ and will be sitting down with them this year to guide the writing of a revised permit to better protect our streams.

One of our major concerns is the negative effect that streambed alteration from suction dredging has on threatened Coho salmon. In response, we filed suit against the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest for authorizing suction dredging activities in critical habitat for Coho salmon, in violation of the Endangered Species Act. Many thanks to the Western Environmental Law Center for their work on this important case.

**Scenic Waterways**

Oregon State Senator Alan Bates and other legislators have introduced bills aimed at curbing suction dredge mining. One of these is Senate Bill 401, which would rein in suction dredging on some of Oregon’s more iconic streams and rivers. The bill would designate new State Scenic Waterways, including several in southern Oregon. Senator Bates is currently taking comment from his constituents on this bill.

Designating a segment of stream or river as an Oregon State Scenic Waterway provides additional protection by: 1) Setting the highest and best use of the waterway for fish, wildlife and recreation; 2) Prohibiting suction dredge mining; 3) Preventing the issuance of new water rights that would impact the flow to State Scenic Waterways; 4) Raising the bar on fill/removal and pollution permitting; and 5) Adding a cooperative consultation phase with Oregon Parks for riverside landowners for some property changes. New State Scenic Waterways do not affect existing water rights or existing property uses.

The value of State Scenic Waterway designation comes from better protections for recreational use and fish habitat from mining, pollution permitting, in-stream work and new water rights. Senator Bates has also introduced another legislative option, Senate Bill 370, which would increase suction dredging permit fees to $125 and impose some new regulations in regards to permitting and violations of the permits.

**Prohibiting Motorized Mining**

In addition to these efforts, the Environment and Natural Resources Committee introduced Senate Bill 115, a wide-reaching measure that would prohibit motorized mining in all of Oregon’s streams and rivers. A prohibition specifically targeted at motorized mining in Oregon waters would comprehensively address the issue statewide while allowing recreational gold panning.

**You Can Help:** Our waterways need your assistance to protect them from suction dredge mining. Your State Senators are waiting to hear from you. Visit [rogueriverkeeper.org/dredge](http://rogueriverkeeper.org/dredge) for more information and to take action.
Red Buttes Wildlands “Salvage” Logging Update: Your Efforts Are Making a Difference!

Sometimes it can seem like the politically connected fat cats always win and that our wildlands and watersheds are doomed to be logged, mined and grazed to put dollars in the pockets of a few at the expense of the many. So when ultra-conservative Siskiyou County Supervisors told the Forest Service that following the 2012 Goff Fire they’d better log the spectacular Kangaroo Roadless Area in the beloved Red Buttes wildlands “or else,” many people who love these wild forests and watersheds felt a wave of despair.

We’ve seen this movie before. Time after time politicians beholden to the timber industry have exploited wildfire in fire-evolved and fire-dependent forests to log otherwise protected wildlands. Following the 1987 fire season in the Klamath Siskiyous, many of the largest, most intact wildlands in the lower 48 were crisscrossed by logging roads and converted into fiber plantation monocultures.

Then in the mid-90s under the cover of the “salvage logging rider,” old-growth timber sales across the northwest were declared immune from environmental laws, and thousands of acres of native forest were decimated. More recently, following the 2002 Biscuit Fire, protections for roadless wildlands around the Kalmiopsis Wilderness were ignored, and environmental protesters were jailed to facilitate massive post-fire logging during George W. Bush’s reelection campaign.

Action is the Antidote to Despair!

But this time something different happened; people all across the country contacted the Forest Service and wrote of the irreplaceable values that they find in hiking the Pacific Crest Trail through the most intact roadless wildland remaining on the Siskiyou Crest. They wrote of the spectacular views, the astounding botanical diversity, the pristine watersheds, the fire ecology, the birding, the backcountry hunting, and our vanishing heritage of intact wild forests.

This time, when local politicians told the Forest Service to throw out the rulebook and “salvage” log forests protected as Late-Successional (old-growth) Reserves in a Backcountry Recreation Area in the largest Inventoried Roadless Area in the Klamath National Forest, people simply said “no thank you.”

A Good Fire

By all accounts, the 23,000-acre Goff Fire greatly benefited the fire-dependent forests of the Kangaroo Roadless Area.

Most of the fire burned at “low” or “extremely low” fire severity, and the few pockets of high fire severity were generally associated with Forest Service firing or burnout operations.

Meadows, hardwoods, wildflowers and fire resilient conifers got a shot in the arm following decades of fire suppression. No homes or structures were lost, and there were no serious injuries or fatalities. The Goff fire did what a wildland fire in one of the last best wildlands is supposed to do.

The Forest Service Response

Shortly after the fire was out, at the behest of local elected officials, the Klamath National Forest started planning a timber sale that would require not one, not two, but three “plan amendments” to log the Red Buttes wildlands. A “plan amendment” is when the Forest Service realizes that its desire to log a protected forest is illegal under the current rules, and so it proposes to simply re-write the inconvenient regulations.

The public response was overwhelming. Hundreds of Americans who care deeply about the Red Buttes wildlands contacted the Forest Service to make their voices heard for one of the most intact and beautiful landscapes in North America, and the Forest Service plans to fast track the logging collapsed like a house of cards.

What Next for Red Buttes?

The Klamath National Forest doesn’t have to be the “bad guy” here. There are plenty of collaborative post-fire actions that could and should occur: public lands near homes and private property can be managed with an eye towards reducing fire hazard, the few roads in the area can be maintained and made safer, and trails could be reestablished and cleared.

There are plenty of opportunities for stakeholders to work together in a way that protects rural communities and wild places. Your letters and emails set the table to allow for true collaboration and restoration, rather than just another salvage logging bonanza. Thank you!
2013 FilmFest
A GREAT SUCCESS

The Eleventh Siskiyou FilmFest was a fantastic success! More than 500 people viewed over 25 films in five locations. Our deepest thanks go to event organizer Barry Snitkin for taking care of every detail with charm, patience and relentless enthusiasm! Special congratulations go to Youth Film Competition winners Jonathan Angstadt, Hunter Connolly, and Damian Constant. Thank you to our more than 75 sponsoring businesses, individuals, and organizations listed below. Please support those who support us!


Featured Hike: Little Falls

The Little Falls Trail consists of a short loop that accesses a delightful diversity of scenic wonders including carnivorous Darlingtonia plants, fragrant Siskiyou Azalea, rare Port Orford Cedar stands, stellar views of the surrounding mountains, and the spectacular emerald waters of the Wild and Scenic Illinois River.

While the Little Falls Trail is accessible year-round, it truly shines during the spring wildflower bloom, which often peaks in May.

As a result of geological uplift from the ocean floor, the “serpentine” soils surrounding the Illinois River in this part of the forest are unusually high in heavy metals—specifically magnesium, nickel chromium and iron. The restrictive growing conditions produced by this soil type have created a hotspot for rare wildflowers that has long attracted botanists from around the world.

One of the first botanists to appreciate the special values of this forest was Thomas Howell, who is commemorated by a botanical driving (and hiking) tour established by the Forest Service along the road accessing the Little Falls Trail. Look for botanical information kiosks along the route and do a quick internet search for “TJ Howell Botanical Drive” to print out a handy information packet.

Unfortunately, not everyone has respected the unique botanical legacy of this special place. Scars from off-road vehicle damage and irresponsible mining dot these public lands, and the actions of a few continue to threaten lands that belong to all of us. Please let KS Wild staff know if you see any activities harming these wild lands, and we will do what we can to protect this sensitive landscape.

Getting There: Take Highway 199 approximately 3.5 miles south of Selma, Oregon. Turn west onto the paved county/Forest Service Eight Dollar mountain road. Shortly after the road turns to gravel, look for the Little Falls trailhead sign (pictured above) on your left.

Save the Date: October 12, 2013
KS Wild Annual Dinner
Focus on Our KS Wild Family

Robyn Janssen

Robyn was born and raised in Southern Oregon and has spent most of her life working on the water. As a teenager, Robyn discovered her love of the water as a professional river guide and has been introducing people to the rivers of southern Oregon, northern California and beyond ever since.

As Rogue Riverkeeper’s Clean Water Campaigner, Robyn will be working on outreach, community organizing, and coalition building with a focus on the campaign to stop a liquefied natural gas pipeline from cutting across Southern Oregon. Robyn is a magna cum laude graduate from Southern Oregon University, where she studied art and geology.

Robyn feels most at home on the river and has an intimate relationship with the Rogue and its watershed. She has been a volunteer with KS Wild and Rogue Riverkeeper for the last 6 years and has worked diligently on the Save the Wild Rogue campaign. Through her experiences as a guide, Robyn has been an inspiring river steward, educating guests about their unique environments and demonstrating how people can protect the special places that we love. She is excited to jump in and get her feet wet here at Rogue Riverkeeper. To sign-up as a volunteer, you can email her at robyn@rogueriverkeeper.org. Welcome Robyn!

Shane Jimerfield

We’re sad to report that Siskiyou Wild Rivers Director Shane Jimerfield is no longer working with KS Wild. As many of you know, Shane came on board with KS Wild when we merged with the Siskiyou Project, of which he was previously the Executive Director.

Shane was critical to making the transition a success, helping KS Wild decipher how to move forward with advancing protections for the botanical wonderland that is the Siskiyou Wild Rivers region.

Shane is now deeply involved in youth education in the Grants Pass area and in being an awesome Dad to his young son. We wish him the best of luck with future endeavors. Stay tuned for more information on where KS Wild is going with protection and restoration efforts for the Siskiyou Mountains.

Illinois River Vista: KS Wild carries on the Siskiyou Project’s legacy to protect the Kalmiopsis wildlands and the entire Siskiyou Wild Rivers area.

Many Thanks to All Our Supporters


Please Support Our Work

We can’t do the work we do without the generous support of people like you. If you can donate anything, small or large, please visit www.kswild.org or www.rogueriverkeeper.org and click on “Support Our Work.” You can also send in a check for any amount to: KS Wild, P.O. Box 102, Ashland, OR 97520.