

The mission of the  
Olympic Forest Coalition  
is to protect and restore  
forest and aquatic ecosystems  
on the public lands  
of the Olympic Peninsula.



Spring 2011

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## Of Murrelets, Procrastination and Timber Dollars

by Marcy Golde

The small and shrinking Marbled Murrelet population on the Olympic Peninsula has once again drawn OFCO's urgent attention as the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) contemplates timber sales in "essential Marbled Murrelet habitat" (as designated by scientists) in Pacific and Wahkiakum Counties and the Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF).

Late in April, at the urging of OFCO, a coalition of environmental groups wrote to Public Lands Commissioner Peter Goldmark urging that the pending DNR timber sales, in these two Peninsula counties, be reconsidered or delayed because they lie within areas scientists have designated as vital to the species' survival and recovery.

OFCO and the Washington Forest Law Center alerted members and friends to the proposed sales, and many contacted the Board of Natural Resources or attended the board's May 3 meeting. At that meeting, OFCO Board Member Marcy Golde argued that the sales should be delayed pending completion of the long-term management plan for Marbled Murrelets and citing DNR scientists' recommendation that no clearcutting be done in these areas.

On May 5 Commissioner Goldmark sent a letter to all who had commented on the timber sales, stating that DNR would fulfill its obligations to protect Marbled Murrelets and to provide timber from the public lands.

Since Goldmark's letter contained no assurances in regard to the proposed sales, nor for future sales in important Marbled Murrelet habitat, Golde responded on May 9, reminding him that the sales in question would remove close to 200 acres of habitat that DNR scientists have characterized as essential to the survival and recovery of the Marbled Murrelet, and that other important habitat needs protection.

DNR's long-term management plan for the murrelets, originally slated to have been completed nearly a decade ago, is now projected for completion some three years hence.

In the meantime, a new scientific study has documented an unacceptably high rate of decline, upwards of 7 percent annually on the Olympic Peninsula and in southwestern Washington, in the murrelet population. The DNR science report has affirmed the need to protect potential as well as occupied nesting areas, including regenerating forest tracts that may not yet have acquired old-growth characteristics.

Golde's May 9 letter states: "This delay has been devastating to the murrelets, which have experienced an average decline rate of -7.31% for every year of the last decade. OFCO finds this decline deplorable and the delay in the plan's completion unacceptable. The combination of delay and decline is what has brought OFCO, at last, to the point of reconsidering all our options."

Pressing for the sales to go forward, not surprisingly, are commissioners in Pacific and Wahkiakum Counties, who cite their dependence on timber sale revenues to cover budget shortfalls. Industry voices echo these objections to delaying the sales, noting economic hardship for mills and other timber-

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dependent businesses. (For more on local economic concerns, see the Aberdeen Daily World for April 26.)

OFCO and other environmental groups acknowledge the budget constraints, but point out that the needs of these two counties have already been considered. As Golde's letter states, "The Science Team received special guidance from DNR management for Wahkiakum and Pacific Counties, as they rely primarily on revenue generated from DNR-managed trust lands for their operations budget (Daniels 2004). A special effort was made to recommend Marbled Murrelet conservation measures that reflect DNR's responsibility to consider potential revenue impacts to those two smaller trust beneficiaries."

In addition, as part of the Long-Term Conservation Strategy process, DNR will analyze the impacts on all beneficiaries of various alternatives for meeting their obligations under the Habitat Conservation Plan. OFCO would be glad to work with those counties to acquire alternative lands, along the lines proposed by Second Substitute House Bill 1484. We also encourage DNR to identify alternative revenue sources to clearcutting, such as thinning (as recommended by the Science Team) and/or payments for ecosystem services (e.g., carbon credits).

Field observations by OFCO members have confirmed that much Marbled Murrelet habitat has been lost or degraded.

## Wild Olympics Campaign Is All About Watersheds

by OFCO Vice-president Connie Gallant  
Chair, Wild Olympics Campaign (WOC)

*A watershed is "... that area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of a community." – John Wesley Powell, Scientist Geographer*

Let's face it: We all live in a watershed—an area that drains to a common waterway, such as a stream, lake, estuary, wetland, aquifer or the ocean. It's our life-support system, and everything we do directly affects it. That's why, three years ago, four local Olympic Peninsula organizations began discussing how we could best protect our watersheds. We knew what we wanted to achieve but lacked the expertise to set up an effective campaign, so we contacted several Seattle-based and national organizations and asked for their help. The first meetings were exciting but confusing to me. Not having

walked every inch of our peninsula, I was not familiar with all the territory containing our pristine watersheds. I need not have worried. Among our local environmental heroes, we have the likes of Tim McNulty, representing Olympic Park Associates; Jim Scarborough and John Woolley, representing Olympic Forest Coalition; Jim Gift and Mary Porter-Solberg, representing Olympic Audubon; and Bob Lynette, representing the local chapter of the Sierra Club. All are totally committed to

*"Our vision is to enhance existing protected wilderness as well as complement ongoing salmon restoration efforts by preserving key forests and watersheds that will protect rivers, streams, salmon and wildlife." – Tim McNulty, Olympic Park Associates*

the organizations in which they work as volunteers, and all are fully dedicated to the protection of our peninsula. These folks, collectively, know every inch of the Olympic Peninsula, so the charting of our proposal had a smooth beginning.

The Seattle-based and national organizations include The Mountaineers, American Rivers, American Whitewater, Washington Wilderness Coalition, Pew Campaign for America's Wilderness, and the Sierra Club. Because it is efficient for a campaign to have a primary spokesperson, we chose Jon Owen (Pew Campaign) and Ben Greuel (Sierra Club) to lead the discussions with stakeholders. Thus the coalition of conservation and recreation organizations we now call the Wild Olympics Campaign was born.

Our primary focus is on watersheds originating in wilderness areas within the Olympic National Forest. Our rivers currently lack the Wild and Scenic designation that would protect them from dam construction.

Last July we unveiled the campaign's Web site, displaying drafts of maps and explanations. We then began a series of public meetings, the first held in Jefferson County, followed by Clallam, Mason and finally, Grays Harbor. Meeting with local officials, stakeholders, organizations, businesses, tribes and individuals in each county takes an enormous amount of coordination, time and effort.

So far we have garnered over 4,300 signatures supporting the campaign. All the signers are folks living on the Olympic Peninsula.

Of course, every environmental campaign has its detractors. It's unfortunate in this case that WOC's opponents fail to understand the underlying reasons we began the effort in the first place: to save our watersheds



for the livelihood of every single person, for our wildlife, and for the salmon that swim in our streams and grace our tables. Silt deposits and runoff from over-logging near the river banks have done serious damage to major salmon runs, resulting in a negative financial impact to our local fishing industry.

Some insist that because the Pacific Northwest gets a lot of rain, we will have abundant and clean water forever. Such wishful thinking has been the downfall of many states in the U.S., which must now bring in water from outside their borders, and of countless countries around the globe where clean water is a rare commodity available only to those who can afford it. Those who cannot simply die.

It is my hope that every single person living on the Olympic Peninsula, and those throughout the country who care about this wonderful place, will recognize that if we lose pristine waters, we will never recover them. It simply makes sense to protect what we have.

For more details about the Wild Olympics Campaign, please visit our [Web site](#).

**What You Can Do:** Contact your representatives and senators and urge them to support the Wild Olympics Campaign.

[www.pattymurray.com/contact](http://www.pattymurray.com/contact)

[www.cantwell.com/contact](http://www.cantwell.com/contact)

[www.house.gov/dicks/newemail.shtml?other](http://www.house.gov/dicks/newemail.shtml?other)

## President's Column

### Keep the Silt Out

Salmon Ears Perk Up on Hearing Forest Service Plan for Watershed Collaboration on Calawah/Sitkum and Dungeness  
*by John Woolley*

For the last several years, OFCO has been at the forefront of the collaborative watershed protection plan that began several years ago with the Skokomish. That successful process brought forth the Skokomish Watershed Action Team, of which OFCO's Shelley Spalding is an active member, working on surveys of all vulnerable slopes and recommending remedies for failing roads. (See article, page 4.)

The Olympic National Forest (ONF) is required to analyze each of its major watersheds, and this summer OFCO will be working with ONF and other groups on a plan to assure clean and reliable water supplies for humans, as well as quality habitat for salmon. The plan, intended to be finalized by September 30 of this year,

will provide a timeline for decommissioning old, temporary roads that are now environmental liabilities. We look forward to active participation by all interested stakeholders in the coming weeks.

The challenge is to determine which roads are to be funded to maintain access to Forest Service lands. Access traditionally had been to enable sustainable logging operations. Recreationists, of course, took advantage of these access roads for hiking into Roadless Areas, fishing along streams and rivers, hunting, and for driving around checking out the scenery, including good places to return in hunting season. In addition, growing Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) activity—motorbikes, jeeps, all terrain vehicles—has added another aspect to consider. (Mountain bikes are considered non-motorized OHVs.)

Legacy Roads (major Forest Service routes) are funded for ongoing maintenance. The numerous spurs and temporary roads, now in disrepair, are another matter, and require funding to prevent erosion into our rivers. Road neglect can be benign, but too often ignoring an old road's condition can result in mass wasting, where a saturated piece of slope above a roadway slumps, resulting in a roadbed and an entire hillside following the course of gravity down into the river. Since funding the maintenance of all these roads is not possible or desirable, each one needs to be studied for decommissioning. Leaving it alone for public use is not an acceptable alternative.

Some of these routes will be converted to trails for hiking, bicycling, and, potentially, OHV use. At present all Forest Service roads require street-legal vehicles.

In Olympic National Forest:

- The work of the Skokomish River Watershed Action Team (SWAT) is ongoing.
- Calawah/Sitkum rivers watershed collaboration began in Forks last year. After four meetings the process has stalled due to a confusion of primary objectives and the usual lack of adequate funding.
- The Dungeness River watershed collaboration process has recently begun and is preparing for a public meeting in late June. OFCO, The Wilderness Society, and ONF are coordinating to alert interested stakeholders.

A unique aspect of the Dungeness study is that the Dungeness River is the water source for a municipality, Sequim.

OFCO's participation is a direct result of our mission: "To protect and restore forest and aquatic ecosystems on the public lands of the Olympic Peninsula".

## Skokomish Road Survey Project Continues—Your Help Needed!

by Shelley Spalding

This summer, OFCO's Citizen Road Survey and Monitoring Project is continuing work begun in 2010, targeting the South Fork Skokomish. This year's focus is twofold: 1) Document the condition of roads that have been converted to trails; and 2) Provide baseline surveys of unclassified (no longer in use) roads that will be used for log hauling with the planned Upper South Fork timber sale.

In 2010 more than four miles of roads were converted to trails. Through decommissioning and conversion of selected road segments to trails, the South Fork Skokomish will benefit from reduced road-related sediment entering the river channel. Critical spawning and rearing habitat for several salmon and trout species, including bull trout, Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat trout, will be enhanced. The targeted trails will be surveyed to document that the conversions from roads were done in such a manner as to eliminate sediment and to determine if further adjustments have occurred to the stream channel or its margins.

The Olympic National Forest is planning an approximately 1000-acre thinning sale in the upper South Fork Skokomish. Associated with this sale, 3.6 miles of unclassified roads will be brought up to log-haul standards by the logging contractor and then decommissioned by the contractor to the pre-logging condition (pulling culverts or sidecasts that were necessary for logging). OFCO plans to provide surveys both pre- and post-logging, as well as during the time the log-haul roads are in use. This year we'll conduct baseline surveys of the unclassified roads that will be converted to temporary roads for the logging. This information will help the Forest Service and other interested parties to assess the potential impacts from reopening roads that have not been used for decades and to determine satisfactory post-logging treatment for these roads to prevent sediment delivery to streams.

For both pre- and post-logging projects, OFCO will train citizen volunteers in data collection, GPS use, map and compass reading, and identification of features such as tension cracks and post-construction channel adjustments that can contribute sediment to streams. Through their training and field work, the volunteers will learn how roads, trails and associated sediment can affect water quality for aquatic species, including salmon and trout, in an important Olympic Peninsula river.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the surveys, please contact me at 360-427-7444 or by [e-mail](#).

## Jefferson County Group Presents Management Plan for State Forest Lands

by Connie Gallant

County activists and a Jefferson County commissioner recently presented a detailed forestland management plan to Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark. OFCO's Connie Gallant participated in this two-year effort to shape forest management policy for the mutual benefit of the environment and Jefferson County's future well-being. The plan has broad popular support.

The report, "Forests for the Future—An Asset Management Strategy for State Forestlands of East Jefferson County," was developed by the Public Lands Group, made up of citizens of Jefferson County with expertise in forestry, habitat and conservation. OFCO has been a vocal and active supporter.

State forest lands are dispersed widely throughout East Jefferson County and are important in providing timber revenue to the various taxing districts, for protecting fish and wildlife habitats, and for accessible recreation and open space. State forest lands are also pillars that help hold up the forestry zoning and timber land base in areas at risk of conversion for development. Instead of trading away many of these public lands and consolidating in more remote areas, we urge DNR to engage in helping Jefferson County strengthen the forest land base and timber economy here.

The plan addresses DNR's concern with continuing to manage smaller parcels in areas with increasing development pressure. It evaluates the unique timber, habitat, and recreational values of each parcel to identify the best strategies for long-term management.

The plan calls for most lands to continue to be managed by DNR as "Working Forests." Some parcels in areas of the county with higher development pressure are proposed as Community Forests if DNR does not want to continue to manage them as Working Forests. Some smaller parcels with high ecological values and low potential for timber revenue are proposed for permanent conservation through the Trust Land Transfer Program. Only four small parcels, with moderate-to-low habitat values and already largely surrounded by development, are proposed as suitable for exchange.

We also strongly support the Public Lands Group's recommendation that DNR invest property replacement account funds in East Jefferson County to consolidate DNR's existing holdings and further strengthen the forest land base.

On Thursday, May 12, Public Lands Group participants—Jefferson County Commissioner John Austin; Peter Bahls, Northwest Watershed Institute; Mike Cronin, forestry consultant (and former DNR manager in our region); Jennifer Portz, resident of Port Ludlow; Paul McCollum, Director of Natural Resources with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe; and Connie Gallant representing OFCO—met with Commissioner Goldmark and presented the "Forests for the Future" proposal to him.

The completion of the proposal and document caps two years of work. At the request of Goldmark, back in 2009, the group undertook the project as an alternative proposal to a proposed land exchange that seemed at odds with the county's best interests and with sound management principles. The working group considered each parcel for its potential for timber harvest and habitat conservation.

Recommendations included having DNR retain some of the parcels for timber extraction while holding others for potential Trust Land Transfer (protected) or potential Community Forests operated by the county.

The group hopes to get a favorable decision from Goldmark in the near future.

## Biomass Projects Pose Threat to Olympic Forests and Public Health

by Toby Thaler

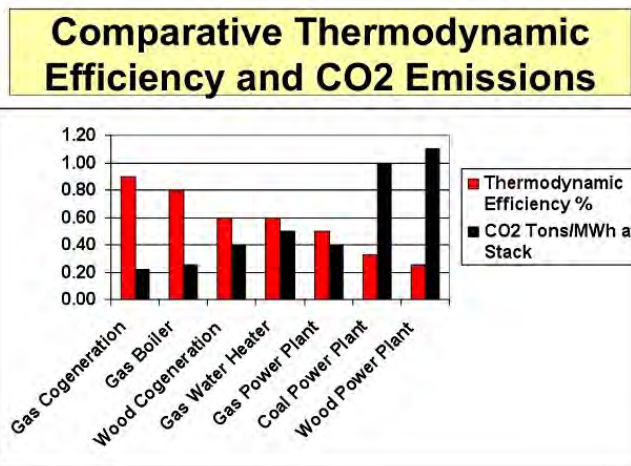
Like mushrooms in this damp spring, a series of biomass energy proposals has appeared across the Olympic Peninsula. "Biomass fuel" is simply a fancy term for energy produced from plants. Biomass includes liquid vehicle fuel (ethanol) from corn or other perennials and logging slash or trees to produce steam for electricity or heat.

For decades mills in timber country burned scrap wood and slash—"hog fuel," from Norwegian *hogde*, chopped wood—to produce steam both to run the mill and to generate electricity. This "co-generation" process dates to the 1880s and is the most efficient use of

biomass fuel. Today, energy experts call such operations "combined heat and power" plants.

After the "oil crisis" of the 1970s, the U.S. periodically attempted to develop means to reduce our addiction to foreign oil—from conservation to "drill baby drill" to "renewable" sources of energy. Incentives have been enacted as fiscal policies by Congress and the states, including outright grants, loans and requirements that utilities purchase part of their electricity from a "renewable resource portfolio." These incentives can pay for a third or more of the capital cost of constructing biomass incinerators. The 2009 stimulus bill (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act), intended to end this Great Recession, offered generous grant opportunities and the rush was on.

The first major Peninsula project was proposed near Shelton by a corporate partnership called Adage, a joint venture between AREVA (a French nuclear power company) and Duke Energy (a corporation based in North Carolina). Adage proposed to construct a stand-alone facility that would burn about a half-million tons or more of wood every year to produce electricity. The Adage proposal was not "cogen," and therefore very inefficient.



Inefficient or not, biomass burning presents a number of adverse environmental impacts. First, at the multi-megawatt scale, it creates a huge demand for wood, inevitably far beyond available logging slash, with unknown impacts on the forest ecosystem. Second, burning wood adds greatly to atmospheric carbon dioxide, compounding global warming. Finally, and most immediately, wood incineration on this scale poses tremendous public health risks.

One of the least-regulated pollutants from burning organic material is called "particulate matter" or PM. The smaller the size of the particles, the less matter can be trapped at the source, and the more damage it causes

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to peoples' lungs. Recent medical research indicates that these tiny particles are a great threat to public health. The Adage facility would have been upwind of the highest-density population centers in the Central Puget Sound.

Adage withdrew its application in March, citing poor market conditions in California. Maybe so; we have a glut of hydro power in the Northwest. But opponents were very vocal and active. Another factor was state Commissioner of Public Lands Goldmark's letter to the Port of Shelton challenging the merits of the project.

Unfortunately, Commissioner Goldmark continues to support other biomass projects, including the cogen proposal for the Nippon paper mill in Port Angeles. While less inefficient than the proposed Adage plant, the Nippon proposal—and similar ones at Port Townsend Paper and at Simpson in Shelton—would have similar adverse impacts on the forests and public health.

The Port Townsend Paper and Nippon projects are in the appeal and application stages. OFCO is an active party in these legal and administrative processes, and will continue to work with other groups to ensure that the health of the Olympic forests and the people of Pugetopolis are not put at risk from projects that only pencil out with large taxpayer subsidies.

## An Early Spring Walk Up the Dosewallips

by Kevin Geraghty

One Sunday early in March, I traveled the south side of the Dose from the concrete bridge, just shy of Elkhorn, to the braided flats just above Dose Falls, where I crossed back to the north side.

That bridge always makes me wonder what unfulfilled grand plans the Forest Service had in mind. The bridge has a 1972 date on it. The Brothers Wilderness was declared in 1984, and in those 12 years they didn't manage even a single clearcut, aside from the (not inconsiderable) road swath, and a landing on the left just past the bridge. What were they thinking?

For maybe a couple of miles above the bridge crossing, the south side is low gradient and the travel is straightforward. There's the mix one might expect—some pure 100–150 year-old fire regeneration; some fire regen mixed with older, bigger fire-scarred Douglas-firs; a few nice, old park-like glades; and some

small, scrubby stuff (lots of salal) on knobs and prominences.

For a while I traveled right by the river, and indeed went past Elkhorn on the river bank, where one appreciates the extent of the riprapping they did to protect their precious facilities. A flagger, who seems to prefer the color blue, has been laboring in there. But then the riparian flats and the flagging peter out, things steepen up, and it is natural to climb.

As a cross-country route, the ravine-incised and occasionally ledgy sidehill one travels beyond there is easier than the contour lines on the map might lead one to think. The place is full of elk trails, some of them on sidehills that slope very steeply indeed; the elk apparently are good at finding minimum-effort routes and little critical slope breaks.

There was plenty of elk sign, and some old bear sign as well. I presume they head off federal land in winter and hit the high country in summer, and those trails are mostly transit routes. It's interesting that the elk have not developed the habit of using the road. I suspect the south-side routes are the ancestral ones; besides, they avoid people by sticking to that side.

There's a pleasant low-gradient bench just past Brokenfinger, where one hits Park boundary signs (yes, the Park Service has been over there.) Brokenfinger had avalanche debris but it stopped well short of the river

and did not pose crossing difficulties.

The deeply incised ravine between Tumbling Creek and Brokenfinger Creek was steeper and full of hard avalanche debris extending all the way to the river, and a little tricky to get across. I expect I crossed it a bit too low, missing the elk route. I crossed Tumbling Creek and the unnamed stream, following it on the elk routes and they were easy.

I happened upon the old trail, marked by noticeable saw cuts, for maybe the



- Kevin Geraghty

last half-mile before the flats above the falls. I was prepared to go all the way to the suspension bridge (the West Fork Dose Trail) if necessary, but the river at the flats was not an intimidating ford even at the current middling level.

Out of curiosity, I checked *Woods (Olympic Mountain Trail Guide*, by Robert L. Woods) when I got home and learned that the old trail crossed the river for the second time roughly where I forded it—I guess landscape logic is hard to argue with—and on the north side there used to be a ranger station, right where that little spur leaves the road down to the river campsite. Woods talks like there were bridges at both trail crossings but I kind of doubt there ever was one at the upper crossing. Wide, shallow, low-gradient stretches are good for fording but make bad bridge sites. And I doubt the agencies were as allergic to the idea of river fords back in the '30s and '40s as they have become since. The old trail apparently started at Elkhorn, and stayed on the north side for quite a ways before crossing for the first time to the south side, past Bull Elk Creek. Seems a little odd for the trail to cross twice until one considers that the north side was probably effectively impassable until they blasted the road through the cliff bands just before Dose Falls.

I was interested to see the fire effects along the road on the way back. The fire-affected zone is from the top of Dose Falls down to Bull Elk Creek on Olympic National Forest land, a bit over a mile all told. The Park Service deserves credit for not fighting the fire. I expect it got a lot bigger than they thought it would, but still it's cool that they let it happen. It didn't cross the river but it looks like it burned right down to the river in spots. Fire mortality is very partial; Doug-firs survived differentially and bigger trees survived better than smaller ones.

The understory is gone and light levels are much higher, since even surviving trees have thinned their crowns a bit. It's not clear how long it will be before the understory comes back (luxuriantly, one imagines, with all that light); for the moment the ground zone is pretty barren looking. The fire has also caused the road to get less road-like, dumping debris and logs in new spots.

There was a surprising variety of people out—a large school-age group on a camping trip to Elkhorn (95 percent snow-free); a bike group camping at my ford crossing site above the falls; a couple of young men with snowshoes and climbing gear who were presumably heading up Constance way; and a solitary woman going to camp somewhere. In short, the old Dose Road is being used as we hoped and expected it would, as an early-season outlet.

## Proposed Forest Rules Would Weaken Protections

*OFCO VP Connie Gallant penned a "My Turn" column published in the Kitsap Sun on May 6, 2011:*

As a resident of Quilcene for 30 years, I have seen significant changes to the Olympic National Forest—which I call my backyard. There have been programs for repairing and/or decommissioning roads long abandoned from logging activities; recreational trails established; and collaboration programs to protect salmon runs and wildlife habitat.

However, in an effort to map their management of our public lands, the U.S. Forest Service is proposing sweeping changes that will affect all the national forests for the next 30 years, including 9 million acres in Washington state. Can any of us truly envision what the next 30 years will bring?

As a user and advocate for the Olympic National Forest, I want to be assured that the Forest Service builds on science-based management for fish, wildlife and watersheds that are so important to Kitsap and Olympic Peninsula residents.

The proposed changes are found in the U.S. Forest Service Planning Rule Revision for National Forest System Land Management. Unfortunately, as I understand the present proposal, the new rules will either weaken existing forest protections or fall short of the management standards our forests deserve, including:

### **Inadequate safeguards for fish and wildlife:**

Whereas rules presently in force require that the Forest Service maintain viable populations of native wildlife species, the proposed rule would abandon this mandate, and place protocols for wildlife protection in the hands of managers for each national forest, a recipe for endless community strife as well as almost inevitable habitat degradation.

**Failure to specify minimum standards for watershed protection:** Water supplies are seriously stressed around the globe, and this situation will only get more severe in the future. In our region, hundreds of thousands of people depend on watersheds within National Forest boundaries. This consideration alone would be sufficient to demonstrate that any weakening of forest protection rules at this time would be a serious misstep. We recommend full protection of all watersheds and rivers within the U.S. Forest Service system.

**Rollback of citizen review provision:** The current proposal cuts in half (from 60 to 30 days) the time allowed for citizen review and objections of final management plans. Thirty days is simply not enough

Rules.....Continued from page 7

time to review documents that can be hundreds of pages long—and certainly not enough time to formulate objections or recommendations.

These changes could have particularly devastating impacts on forests and human communities in our region, particularly since the new rules will not require the use of best available science. Instead, the proposed rule only requires that the responsible official takes the best available science into account—while allowing only 30 days for public comment.

Managing our forests successfully relies on strong and definitive guidance at the federal level, and also the cooperation and participation of those who use and value the forests for their livelihoods, for recreation, and for the ecosystem services that the forests provide. These elements are interdependent.

Without strong guidance from the federal government, the forests are left vulnerable to the interests of those who put immediate profits before the long-term sustainable health of the forests and, indeed, the stability of timber-dependent communities.

These proposed rules need to be modified to ensure the type of future management that places like the Dungeness River Valley, Mount Townsend, and the Quilcene watershed deserve. Let's be sure to build upon past protections during the next 30 years for the benefit of future generations. After all, it is much less expensive to protect our forests and watersheds than to restore them.

### News in Brief

#### Wild Olympics Campaign Supports Grant to Clear the Colonel Bob Wilderness Trail

[See letter](#) under "Wild Olympics Campaign."

#### OFCO Welcomes Affiliation with Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 19 Activists

Concerned citizens in the Joyce-Seki area have long been organized, working on a residents-focused watershed plan for the western Straits. OFCO is pleased to announce the establishment of a Western Straits Conservation Planning committee that will enhance our ability to restore integrity to the forests and streams by working more closely with local citizens.

#### Meet New Board Member Fayette Krause

Fayette has been a full-time resident of Port Townsend for two years and a Seattle commuter to P.T. for two years before that. He worked as Land Steward

for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Washington state for 30 years, beginning in 1979. He focused his TNC work on the Upper Skagit Basin, southwest Washington, DNR's Trust Land Transfer Program and, most recently, the expansion of DNR's Dabob Bay Natural Area Preserve. Fayette currently serves on the board of the North Cascades Conservation Council (N3C); he's N3C's representative on Seattle City Light's Land Acquisition and Management groups for Skagit Basin mitigation lands.

He was also recently appointed the Conservation Chair Alternate of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. In 2010 he served as a member of the Puget Sound Rockfish Recovery Advisory Group to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.



The following 4 articles were written by John Woolley:

### Trying to Help Your Neighbors

Fortunately we live near Department of Natural Resources (DNR) land. My neighbors reside directly next to state trust forest lands that are logged occasionally to help with Clallam County revenues. These public lands give many of us a sense of privacy, even seclusion. Mainly it is nice to have trees for a neighbor even if it's only on one side. Our neighboring DNR forest has been a beautiful maturing forest for the 25 years we've been here, providing us access to a small Cottonwood glade and wetland. It's fun to visit once in awhile.

Of course logging had to occur eventually. The Thompson Cut was sold by DNR to be logged in a certain period of time, to generate revenue. Rising prices for logs have speeded up the process lately, even though weather conditions have not been the best. In fact, rainfall and resultant runoff must have exceeded DNR preparations, as running waters from the new DNR access road were downright shocking. Our small wetland became a pond covered with a foot of very muddy water. The Western Red Cedar groves (to be logged) became part of an increasingly large wetland, and the small ravine that exits the glade to the west had become a running creek. This was a first during our two-plus decades of observation.

Knowing the names of the DNR personnel in charge, it was easy to shoot them an e-mail to express our concern. Typically, shortness of staff and out-of-the-office replies did delay any response from DNR for

nearly a week. Well, the rains continued and certainly our concerns did not go away. Rubber dams along the DNR road did appear in the meantime to control the ditch runoff and the tapping of a good-sized spring from the next hill. Still, as a good neighbor, I felt the need to find out more about threats to the watershed. I learned to ask for a "compliance form" to encourage DNR to take a look.

Jeremy Brown was dispatched to do a field check and I soon received a study of the clay-type soils and the assurance that my neighbor, DNR, had taken a look at the situation. I was concerned that I had perhaps overreacted, as I did not want to be a nuisance neighbor. DNR is considering and carrying out land swaps with private logging companies on the Olympic Peninsula in order to consolidate their parcels and to escape from the complications of logging near residences. Of course this likely leads to the private companies logging one last time, before turning the acreage over to their development division to be sold off in 5-acre parcels. This is not the best option for keeping intermittent woodlands between residences, and results in loss of wildlife habitat and open space.

Brian Turner of DNR responded to my concern about being a nuisance, assuring me that my request for a compliance form was a reasonable neighborly request. I don't want to lose DNR as a neighbor, and I strive to look forward to a changed habitat of few trees, a different-looking wetland, and shrubs with flowers and berries that attract warblers and other singing birds.

The cut goes on; the noise is at times ominous of a big change coming to view. Our neighbors living directly next to the logging operations are still anticipating the falling of trees right out their bedroom window. Logging operations do tend to start early in the day.

Another neighbor of DNR, living near another proposed DNR cut, the Eden View Sale, is forthcoming. The lands are steep north slopes, and neighbors have witnessed mass-wasting disasters nearby, the results from saturated soils sliding down into waterways, continuing our degradation of salmon habitat. What is a good DNR neighbor to do?

## Quatsap Point: The Elk Are In the Driveway

Low tide at the Duckabush offers a curious expanse of oyster mud lands to wander. Probably most visitors are regular shellfish harvesters. Some of us wander about the east shore of Black Point. Quatsap Point is the

east end of a mile-long stretch of southern exposure and offers a long view down Hood Canal.

We park at the start of the Duckabush Road and cross Hwy. 101, hoping for a good route out into the mud flats. A trail does get us started, though we soon find ourselves walking in the shallowest of moving waters, threading our way to the rocky shore beyond a series of little stream channels.

Turns out we have to double back and forth to get on dry footing. Ten Great Blue Herons stand around as silhouettes, saltwater glistening behind them.

Trying to hold to the last firm sands as the tide reaches low, we hike east to the

rather non-green grasses at the point. Polished oyster shells are spread all around the low tide point. Our equipment indicates we're five feet below sea level.

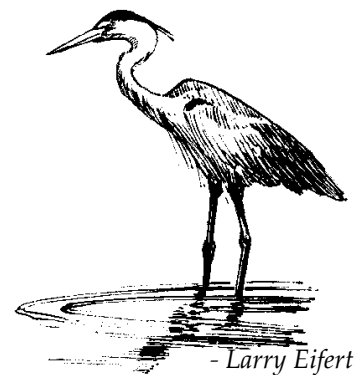
Red Paintbrush hangs from a cliff of layered sediments; sand and small pebbles alternate like chocolate layers in the bluff wall. Sun-warmed and balmy out of the breeze, I note yellow flowering shrubs, similar to cliffrose memories, similar to a Scot's broom.

We meet a man on the beach who looks for feathers; he had also watched us miss the best route across the mud flats. He doesn't chat much, though I ask him about the Black Point development, and the recently constructed beach houses just east of 101. (We had driven in on the private road that became several driveways to houses.) No response on my community growth question, though I did learn that our guide is an oyster shucker who took Good Friday off. He eats at Blyn Casino and is likely of the Skokomish Tribe.

A trail up the bluff to the north is pointed out to us. I note that the route would have provided access for the now-removed low-income RV camp, and on to Black Point Road and Pleasant Harbor. Finding the upper trailhead is an idea.

We steer away from trying to walk the solid-looking beach in front of the four new houses. A small creek that enters at the north end of the vast mud flat herds me back to less-solid sand. I could have selected a cleaner route, as I did manage a couple of mud-suck steps to reach the flats between the winding waterways.

Oh, yes. When we cross 101 back to the car at Duckabush Road, we note several elk up an asphalt driveway, eating leafing fruit trees.



## Walking the Dungeness: A Visit to Cranberry Bog

Last visit, I broke my van's antenna trying to negotiate the drive to this sphagnum bog, or atrophying lake, whichever it is. I do know that this remote water-filled glacier-carved pond west of the Dungeness River canyon is unusual. Also I knew that next time I would walk the last mile.

This April visit we do walk, having no choice, as the road has been put to rest. Olympic National Forest's decommissioning work is admirable. Numerous wetlands are well protected and the way trail is a scenic walk. Signs of spring are limited to lush greens, cobra-like bright yellow skunk cabbage, and a few lady's slippers (Calypso orchids).

Not surprisingly, the steep trail down to the waters has become less used. Cranberry Bog has some open waters, but it is mainly a vast network of mosses, shrubs and small trees growing atop deep waters. Some years, you can work your way down an old fallen tree to the sponge-like surface and walk out to the floating small trees by carefully staying on the higher mounds. Adventures abound trying to get around, or across.

Waters are high this early season, and we feel fortunate finding a very little-used deer route along the steep, western slope. Many vegetation types make for interesting views out into Red-winged Blackbird country. To our right, upslope, are remarkably large Douglas-fir trees, beautiful barked, healthy and more than 3 feet in diameter at breast height (DBH). Of course, the trees are bigger if you stand on the downhill side. Six ducks fly back and forth, as we discover their 1,000-foot high hideaway. They aren't Mallards.

This is a wilderness place now; a few old apple trees have been slowly dying over the years. They could be our native Pacific Crabapple, though just as likely from an effort by a Johnny Appleseed. The south end of the bog has some level area as glaciers have flattened an outlet. The moraine-entrapped waters used to drain two directions out of this pond from a pass. Descending into the canyon of the Dungeness can be done from each direction. Down below is Orc Bottom, as well as steep

stretches along the running river waters. A pair of Canada geese appears to be settling in to raise a brood. A few years ago I reported to the Forest Service that two unwelcome, non-native plants had started to invade: reed canary grass and herb Robert.

Since Cranberry Bog is of botanical interest, biologists will strive to eradicate these two plants late this spring. Our visit was in part to check the location of these plants before an application to remove them. Yes, they were still there, growing at the wetland edge. We also note some ribbons and a couple of large pegs that likely are preparation for the treatment process. Once, I saw bear sign here.

We try to make our way through the fallen trees and lush growth of the small entrance creek. The route is not popular with deer or humans, so we clamber up a small ridgeline, passing more big trees, and reach the end of another leg of abandoned road. The road is a welcome way trail now and we walk to the road's end. A shining window glints across the Dungeness Canyon. This one sign of a residence in the forest above the steep canyon is more of a wonder than a distraction.

We complete our loop back by walking the old road trail, crossing a flowing creek that feeds the bog, and connecting with our route in. Young grand firs attract attention along the way. A large grouse flies from trailside into the trees, clucking its disfavor. Breeding starts earlier than one might expect. I think it was a Sooty (formerly Blue) Grouse.

Cranberry Bog is remote and very interesting. Our visit was on April 21, when new snow had once again covered the upper part of the roads to Slab Camp.

## Black Bear at Three O'Clock Ridge

Old road number 2860 has become FS Road 2870-0230. It descends toward the Dungeness River, but no longer crosses the river to East Crossing. The riprap repair to the alder growth slide area of 0230 has held up surprisingly. The road stops at a gate and the Lower Dungeness Trail parking area. It is a short walk from the gate to the former road bridge which crosses the river to the Gold Creek Trailhead.

We had walked the Big Tree Trail above the gorge flats the day before. Salmon upstream passage stops at the gorge which is just south of Gold Creek. Stopping our short hike at the road switchback trail access, we looped back by descending into a hidden idyllic campsite under majestic old growth, just above the deep river canyon. Trilliums are having a very good year.

The next day we start our hike at the big switchback, where the trailhead had moved until the repair of the washout to the current trailhead. The trail has slumped out just before the Skookum Creek crossing. High runoff has played havoc with this stream crossing over the years. We traverse up the steep slope towards Three O'Clock Ridge with hopes for a spring botanical display, and we are not disappointed.

The 1.6 miles to our viewpoint is fairly steep and used by mountain bikes as much as hikers, though I would call it an almost extreme bike ride. The forest is a good example of a natural fire-managed forest that is low on understory and has wonderful examples of a Douglas-fir climax community. Hemlocks are able to get in the cycle in darker areas, but not grow large.

Though we had noted their vehicle in the lot, it was still a surprise to see three fellow hikers descending; not many folks walk this trail. We also note bear scat, which tends to make me wonder what they eat.

We cross several running creeks, most of which are gone soon with the summer season. Eventually we cross Bungalow Creek and its mossy bridge to the start of spectacular Calypso orchids (lady's slippers). This pink and patterned orchid is growing in clusters of up to a dozen. Dogtooth violets, now in Fawn Lily display, are bountiful three times as they grow well on the more north-facing slopes just before the trail reaches an outcrop. This violet looks like a dog's canine tooth until it spreads its petals into a lily. Juniper trees appear on the sunnier ridge sides or southeast-facing portions of the trail.

At 1.6 miles we reach the best viewing point, which is a small promontory just a short distance off the trail. The wet, cloudy spring has slowed blossoming and only Lomatia, a yellow ground cover flower, stands out upon our arrival. The view up the canyon to Mount Fricaba

and the Dungeness Spire is very rewarding. Of course Dirty Face Ridge is due east across the river canyon's deep V. Dirty Faces are most simply described as mountain "balds" that extend down slope, covered with moss and flora.

Nancy and Francisco rest at the top, but I am curious as usual about the mosses and flora that grow down the steep rock. The slope being very steep on one side and having clinging soil clusters on the other, the descent requires good stepping. Finally I see the brilliant pink of what I've been seeking: Spreading Phlox. It is brilliant in its freshness. I descend for a closer look and flush a bear out from the big rock just below me, 40 feet away. The shiny black fur is remarkable, making the bear nearly glisten in the sun; it certainly has a good coiffeur.



I watch the bear move handily along the smooth, slightly vegetated rock. It is in no hurry, just exiting the scene on its very handy four legs. Well, this a grand moment to see a black bear in such vertical country.

Birds are not numerous, but I hear the "enigmatic" bird call at least twice. Over 30 years, I have wondered. One field trip with an ornithologist has given me insight, as he saw the bird, while I listened to the call. So, once again, by sound not sight, I believe it is the hybrid Hermit X Townsend's Warbler.

As we start down the trail, we hear and half-see a calling raptor. I've heard the call many times this time of year, indicating that a nest is not too far away. The call reminds me of the Northern Goshawk.

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