

Fish Tales

Maintaining water quality
and fish populations from
source to sea in the streams
of the Umpqua

7th Issue



Upcoming Events

- May 1 - 3 **Spring Watershed
Management Camp**
Wed - Fri
H.J. Andrews Forest
- May 21 **PUR General Meeting**
Tues
9:00 am
ODFW Offices
Roseburg, OR
- June 11 - 12 **OWEB Board Meeting**
Tues - Wed
Pendleton, OR
- July 19 **PUR 20th Anniversary
Celebration**
Fri
Lang Event Center, UCC
- Aug 7 - 10 **PUR Booth
Douglas County Fair**
Fairgrounds, Roseburg

From Source to Sea

This year was a resounding success for the PUR restoration team. Despite the end-of-the-world predictions dominating the media in 2012, we continued to strive to fulfill our mission in case those predictions didn't come true. Thankfully, we are still here, and so is the need for restoration work in the Umpqua Basin. We are pleased to share with you our 2012 restoration accomplishments "from source to sea" by Senior Project Planner Terry Burleson and Estuary Project Planner Matt Ruwaldt.

I was fortunate to work with Jeff McEnroe, Cory Sipher, Jonas Parker, and Sidney Post from the Roseburg District BLM office. From the Roseburg ODFW office, I worked with Dan Jenkins, Eric Himmelreich, Sam Moyers, and Kirk Haskett. These state and federal fisheries biologists partnered with PUR on projects across Douglas County and I want to thank them all for their time, effort, energy, fund-raising, moral support and "other duties as assigned." PUR does not exist in a vacuum and without these dedicated partners would not be able to accomplish fish habitat restoration on such a large scale and magnitude.

Project planning is not rocket science, but managing ten projects at a time can feel like it. That's why partners are so important. From the initial planning phases, through the project development and on to (Continued on pg 4.)

Volunteers Needed

The Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers is always looking for new and passionate volunteers to help with our numerous projects and programs. If you are interested please contact us through our website at www.umpquarivers.org or by calling (541) 673-5756.

Notes from the Executive Director

It has been a while since our last newsletter and I thought I would give a general update from the Director's point of view. In my last update I mentioned that I had some pretty big size 13 shoes to fill. I can honestly say that I really had no idea how big those shoes really were. I am still learning the finer points of directing a non-profit organization and I am truly enjoying every step of the way. I have had several leadership opportunities and challenges through the years and this one is certainly different and exciting. I may be a slow learner, but I have come to realize that my role and responsibilities at the Council are tremendous. My predecessor made it look easy and I certainly still have a lot to learn from his many years of experience.

2012 was once again an extremely successful year for PUR, especially given the current economic circumstances. The organization continues to grow and I am proud to say that PUR is a leader in watershed work in the state. I am encouraged to see the Staff is continually looking for ways to improve our

position as a contributing organization within our community. They take pride in the work that they do and their level of production and quality of work is truly amazing. In the spring, PUR was awarded the American Fisheries Society's Western Division 2011 Award of Excellence in Riparian Management for our work in West Fork Smith River. It is nice to be recognized for our work at such a large venue. It says a lot for the staff's professionalism and dedication to excellence.

As I write this, the staff and I are gearing up for an equally exciting 2013. We have a heavy instream workload, which will be extremely challenging this coming summer. Our monitoring program continues to be a leader in water quality monitoring throughout the state and certainly has a full plate this coming year too. I am excited to see the growth that the education program has made and 2013 will see its continued growth. And finally, 2013 marks the 20 year anniversary

Eric Riley
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sary for the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers. We plan to celebrate this momentous achievement at our annual meeting this year. It certainly has been an exciting 20 years and I look forward to what the next 20 years have to offer.

Eric Riley
Executive Director

Contractor: Ann Kercher

October: a month of glorious autumn colors, crisp mornings, fall Chinook fishing and the deadline for OWEB grant applications. In the midst of this rather busy month, I resumed part-time contracting work for PUR, after taking a sabbatical of sorts to stay at home with my three children. Shifting gears from snack-maker to map-maker, there was no time to lose in the organized hubbub of fall grant deadlines. Immediately, I set to work creating and refining maps in ArcGIS to accompany each application, and getting back up to speed with the multitude of projects PUR is currently involved in.

After the grants were completed, it was on to other projects in the works. More maps were needed for Rock Creek: a large working map for stra-

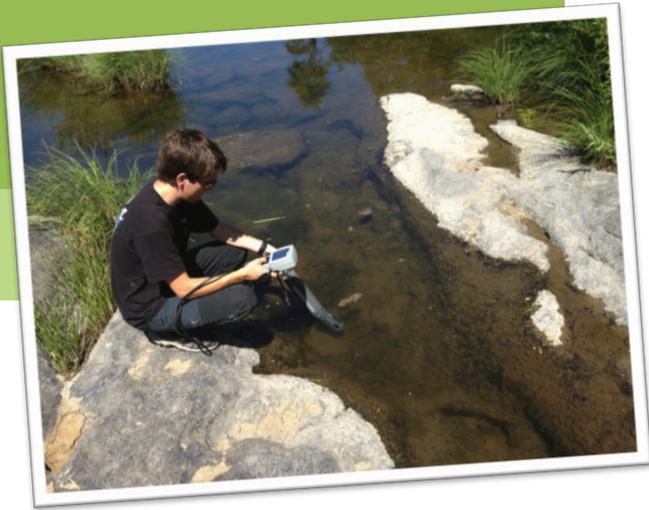
tegic planning meetings with ODFW and BLM, as well as a smaller version to accompany a preliminary application for the Governor's grant. With my contribution to that project complete for now, my focus has changed from the North Umpqua to the South Umpqua, specifically the Myrtle Creek watershed. An OWEB-funded joint effort between the Roseburg BLM and PUR, Myrtle Creek Restoration Planning is an effort to identify past restoration work completed in the watershed, as well as select high-priority sites and develop projects with a focus on private property. In order to assess these future project sites, we will need to establish a rapport with landowners, gain access to streams and conduct surveys to determine the best potential restoration solutions. Before

this can happen, though, the groundwork must be laid this winter, including map work, landowner and property identification, initial contact with landowners and public meetings. The goal is then to include these specific projects in another grant cycle in the future.

In addition to Myrtle Creek, tasks for this winter also include writing small grant applications for a handful of riparian projects. And I plan to continue making maps for PUR staff as needed.

It is good to be back: working with such excellent people, working toward the restoration of our priceless resources.

Ann Kercher
PUR Contractor



Summer Monitoring Work

“After several weeks of over-nighting samples across the country, Kris and Joe floated a large section of the South Umpqua taking hundreds of samples.”

In May 2012, Kris Lyon took over PUR's Monitoring Coordinator position while Sandy was off on medical leave following back surgery. We had several big projects underway - volunteer monitoring and the wolf creek monitoring study. Kris had worked on these projects during past summers and was the man for the job. He stepped up to more than fill Sandy's boots (SL size 9, Kris size 11). During the summer we also started a large project, monitoring toxic blue/green at locations in the South Umpqua River upstream from Winston. One of Kris's additional jobs was to find a replacement for himself filling the role of field technician. Kris did an excellent job at this task as well, hiring Joe Carnes to work for the summer. Luckily Joe's class schedule at UCC permitted him to continue working for PUR throughout the year. When Kris returned to his final year of college at the end of the summer, Joe took over the field work while Sandy mans deskwork until she can get back in the field.

While not a glamorous job, Kris spent most of May updating PUR's Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for DEQ. Many monitoring sites across the watershed had changed, and this needed to be reflected in the QAPP. The entire research design for the blue-green algae study also needed to be completed, a priori, and submitted to DEQ. After many hours of work on the plan, Kris and DEQ staff agreed on a monitoring plan for the summer, allowing Kris and Joe to begin its implementation.

Leaving out many details, Kris

and Joe systematically monitored water quality conditions on the South Umpqua River between Days Creek and Winston, as well as testing several tributaries entering the river. With careful attention to stream conditions, visible signs of algae, and stream temperature Kris and Joe tested many sites. When blue-green algae appeared they began collecting samples for toxin analysis by an outside lab. After several weeks of over-nighting these samples across the country, Kris and Joe floated a large section of the South Umpqua taking hundreds of sample readings with the Sonde multi-parameter probe in pot-holes, side-channels, the main channel, and tributaries. From this effort PUR was able to make valuable observations in regards to the geographic distribution of blue-green algae in the South Umpqua. Though, thankfully, toxins did not reach levels equivalent to the last few years, PUR hopes to continue the study in the future building on the data already collected.

This summer was also the final year in the Wolf Creek gravel augmentation study. This study analyzed water temperatures above and below boulder weirs placed in main Wolf Creek, comparing weirs augmented with gravel to those not augmented. In short, the study was designed to determine if adding extra gravel above boulder weirs reduced water temperatures downstream of the weir. We will soon be writing a report on the outcome of five years of monitoring temperature, cross-sections and pebble counts in this study.

As if that was not enough, Kris and Joe also continued collecting temperature data, performing cross-sections and pebble counts, in partnership with BLM on Little Wolf Creek.

Finally, Kris and Joe worked hard to continue the volunteer monitoring program, which tested many sites for water quality in the following areas: Myrtle Creek, Elk Creek above Tiller, South Umpqua, and Lookingglass. This was the first time that PUR began monitoring in the Lookingglass watershed.

This summer Sandy also finished a massive final report on our volunteer monitoring that occurred from 2004 to 2010. The report is available on PUR's website at <http://www.umpquarivers.org/publications/>.

*Sandy and Kris Lyon
Water Quality Monitoring Team*

Check out the latest reports and data:

www.umpquarivers.org/monitoring

From Source to Sea continued ...

soliciting funding, can be a long process, but this is only the beginning. From there, permits, contracting and implementation can take up to another year to complete. By the end of a project, it may have taken the team up to three years in preparation for a few short days or weeks of on-the-ground project work. It takes a special group to be able to “stick it out” that long in order to complete this work. During this summer, as a team we were able to complete about 9.5 miles of instream fish habitat restoration. Through Wolf, Brush, South Myrtle, South Fork Deer Creek, and South Fork Smith River over 1,000 boulders, 700 logs, and 87 trees were placed at 139 individual sites.

I think of the instream season as the high point of what we do as a team. The big machines are moving, the big dollars are being spent, and all in all it's a pretty exciting time. A huge accomplishment of the team this year was coming together after the instream season frenzy to have a series of frank discussions intended to review our planning and implementation process and outcomes. The successful completion of these meetings, followed up by field trips to the work sites, has set a new trajectory for PUR and its partners. In a climate of decreasing funds and staff time for instream restoration projects, the team found ways to streamline work and also communicate more effectively. 2013 is poised to be another great season with about 15 separate projects to be implemented. Thanks to the team, I know all the projects will be a success.

Terry Burlison
Senior Project Planner

This year was significant for me because it saw the first projects completed that I have been involved with from beginning to end. When I was hired on in October, 2010, my first year and a half was spent jumping into projects that my predecessors had begun. When those were complete, I was able to begin my own projects. ODFW biologist Dan Jenkins and I began by designing the Waggoner Creek and Weatherly Creek



projects located on Roseburg Resources, Co. lands and private ranches. One of the great things about working for PUR is that we get to lead every aspect of a project: design work, funding, permitting, contracting, and implementation. We couldn't do it without our partners, though—they offer advice and on-the-ground expertise that is invaluable. Both of these projects were successful thanks to the outstanding restoration team that we have developed.

Another, less glamorous, element of my job has been taking up a lot of my time: grant writing. We are trying to expand our funding base away from our usual OWEB grants (although they will continue to play an important role). This means a lot of time spent getting to know the grantors and application process. As most of you are aware, the

largest project that PUR has undertaken is the West Fork Smith River project. With a huge variety of funding sources and partners, this was the perfect project to try out these new grants. We were successful at getting another \$75,000 for the project through ODFW's Restoration and Enhancement Program, which is funded through license fees. We also just asked for \$100,000 through the Whole Watershed Restoration Initiative

program and expect to hear back in a couple of months. Finally, I am at long last in the beginning stages of putting together a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Grant, which will give us valuable funds for work in the estuary. Stay tuned for more information on these and other grant sources!

Of course, we can't just be content working on current projects...we have to be continually searching for new projects as well. My next big project will be on Camp Creek, a tributary to Mill Creek (just downstream from Loon Lake). This

will be a three- or four-phased project. We've already designed and written an OWEB grant for Phase I, consisting of log and boulder placements on Buck Creek, a major tributary. Phase II will be helicopter work on the other, inaccessible tributaries, and the other phases will be awesome boulder placements on the mainstem. As with our West Fork Smith River project, we will be working in the entire watershed, wherever it is feasible. Newly-hired ODFW biologist Eric Himmelreich will play an integral role in this project, as will recently-hired BLM biologist Jen Feola. A lot of time will be spent this winter designing and “begging” for funding for this project, as well as for all the other PUR projects!

Matt Ruwaldt
Estuary Project Planner

PUR's new staff members

Joe Carnes: Monitoring Technician and IT Support

Hi everyone, my name is Joe Carnes I am the newest addition to the remarkable Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR) Staff. Last School year I completed my Associate of Applied Science in Computer Information Systems degree. I am currently attending Umpqua Community College to obtain my Associates of Arts Oregon Transfer degree while also working for PUR. My goal is to transfer to a four year college to complete my degree. Like most college students I am still undecided in major.

Last summer I was hired on to assist with the monitoring side of the organization, working with Kris while Sandy, the Monitoring Coordinator, was out recovering from surgery. I have spent the last six months working for PUR, in as many facets of the organization as possible, helping all members of staff in any way I can. I have been exposed to a large portion of the different types of work that is accomplished by the Staff of PUR. I have thoroughly enjoyed the work I have been involved in and the people I have worked with. Since I have had such an enjoyable experience thus far



working here I am now considering majoring in natural resources. I am looking forward to functioning as an effective

member of the team here for as long as I am able.

Gilane Wright: Fiscal Assistant

Gilane Wright is one of the newest additions to the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers family. She joined our family in April of 2011 as the Fiscal Assistant. She was tasked with the extremely difficult job of helping out Debbie with all things numbers-related. Gilane comes to us straight from Umpqua Community College where she completed the UCC accounting program. As if that wasn't enough learning, she is currently working on earning a bachelor degree in accounting from Southern Oregon University. After that, who knows? The sky is the limit with this lady!

Gilane's primary responsibilities include working with the accounting software, processing payroll, and putting together funding requests. Her favorite activities include taking field trips to the rivers and traipsing through the mud and muck...have you seen her in a pair of waders? Definitely a sight to see! We can hardly keep her out of them. Some days she just likes to wear them around the office for the fun of it (wink wink)!

If you don't come into the office on a regular basis and haven't had the privilege of seeing her in her element, you may still have witnessed her exceptional note-taking skills at the board meetings, or supporting Roseburg at many of the community events (who can pass on the opportunity to sample some of the Umpqua Valley's fine brews?).

Gilane is committed to our mission and has embraced her role within the organization.

Outside of work, Gilane's days are kept busy with her roles of wife, mom, daughter, friend, student, globe trotter, and fashion model. She can frequently be seen chauffeuring her youngest daughter to her NUMEROUS play dates and events (seriously, the kid



NEVER stops—who knew an eight-year old could have such an active social life?), working out with her oldest daughter (What's the day's WOD? Is this Paleo?), hanging out with her "besties," driving Duck Tours through the San Francisco harbor (directly in front of you, you can see the only large barge in the bay, which I will now run head on it to!), or hunched over her computer attempting to complete the mountain of work her professors seem to enjoy assigning (steer clear of her on those days).

If you haven't already done so, please join us in welcoming her to the family and be sure to stop by and say hi if you get a chance!

Joe Carnes & Gilane Wright



Our Mission

Through collaboration with diverse participants, the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers maintains and improves water quality & fish populations from source to sea in the streams of the Umpqua.

We educate people about the value of healthy streams; we work with willing landowners to improve stream conditions; we monitor the health of the streams and their fish populations.

Through these actions the Partnership contributes to the ecological and economic well-being of the basin.

Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers



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Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

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