

OFCO News

May 2004

The Newsletter of the Olympic Forest Coalition

The Dosewallips Washout, Firsthand: Forest Service Intends to Rebuild

By Jim Scarborough

More than two years after a mid-winter flood swept 300 feet of the Dose road completely away, five and a half miles short of its terminus at Muscott Flat, the Forest Service has formally announced its intent to restore motor vehicle use via the steep, old growth forest above the washout.

The new road grade would be three-quarters of a mile in length, cutting directly through a Late Successional Reserve -- designated under the Northwest Forest Plan specifically for the protection of old growth. The area in question is critical habitat for the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet, both threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Moreover, the new grade would slice through a Riparian Reserve in a Tier 1 Key Watershed, intended to protect and enhance natural hydrologic functions and water quality, where dwells yet another ESA-listed species, the Puget Sound chinook.

Four acres of native forest would be removed for the grade, including 51 Douglas-fir and western red cedar trees over four feet in diameter. The wet slope on which the road would be built has historically been prone to slides. It would closely skirt the southern boundary of the Buckhorn Wilderness Area, as well.

These particulars are taken directly from agency documentation. Yet the U.S. Forest Service's Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Dosewallips Washout Environmental Assessment, issued on March 22, accused environmentalists of circulating "misinformation and innuendos" in opposing the project and concluded that the issue should not be of great controversy.

When considering the intense opposition generated the last time old growth trees were cut on the Olympic (during the infamous Salvage Rider of 1995/96), it can surely come as no surprise that conservationists have ample concern about the Dose road reconstruction. Add in the precipitous decline of the spotted owl on the Peninsula, coupled with anticipated harm to local salmon populations, and conditions are fully ripe for significant controversy. Much of the existing unease, it should be mentioned, is the result of nearly two dozen public field trips to the reroute site, led by OFCO's own John Woolley. To see it firsthand is to fully understand the stakes.

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OFCO and its partner, Olympic Park Associates,-- joined by the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society and two individuals, Kirie Pedersen of Brinnon and Bonnie Phillips of Olympia--have appealed the Forest Service's unfortunate decision on the Dose road to the Regional Forester in Portland. Having long advocated for converting the upper portion of the road into a scenic trail, we will seek withdrawal of the decision or, at minimum, agency commitment to conducting a full environmental impact statement. In the event our appeal is denied, we will reassess at that juncture to determine whether further legal avenues should be pursued. In the interim, we suggest to those readers who have not yet personally viewed the proposed reroute to do so. More information is available on our web site at www.olympicforest.org.

OFCO and Friends Oppose Dose Road Plans. . .

Local and regional organizations on record as opposing the Forest Service's proposed overland re-route of the Dosewallips River road include:

- Olympic Forest Coalition
- Olympic Park Associates
- Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society
- Tahoma Audubon Society
- Washington Wilderness Coalition
- Washington Native Plant Society
- Northwest Ecosystem Alliance
- Better Brinnon Future
- Protect Our Peninsula's Future
- Friends of Miller Peninsula State Park

What You Can Do: Write a letter to

Regional Forester **Linda Goodma**
 USDA Forest Service, Region 6
 P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208-3623
 Fax: 503-808-2210

and send a copy to

Rep. Norm Dicks
 U.S. House of Representatives, Wash.,D.C. 20515
 Fax: (202) 226-1176
 E-mail: <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

Senator Patty Murray
 U.S. Senate, Washington D.C. 20510
 Fax: (202) 224-0238
 E-mail: senator_murray@murray.senate.gov

Tell the Regional Forester you oppose rebuilding the Dose Road and favor retaining trail access to the camping areas cut off from motorized access.

Sara Livingston: OFCO Intern Talks of Combined Learning and Service

My internship with the Olympic Forest Coalition Organization (OFCO) has been both educational and fun. The internship started as a way for me to learn directly about the Olympic National Forest and the surrounding State land on the Olympic Peninsula. Previously I had completed an independent learning contract through The Evergreen State College, studying various aspects of National Forests. These studies included The Northwest Forest Plan, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, and other policies that have shaped National Forest management. To understand how all this affected a real forest, I decided to focus my studies on the Olympic National Forest and teamed up with OFCO.

Through OFCO I assisted with a number of projects, both for the organization's benefit and for educational purposes. One in particular was the Adopt-A-Watershed portion of the Research Objective Monitoring Program (ROMP). This program's goal is to develop an inventory of all the temporary roads in the National Forest and eventually get this information mapped on Geographical Information Systems. I helped make watershed acetate maps of three of the four quadrants of the National Forest: Hood Canal Ranger District North, Hood Canal Ranger District South, and Pacific District South. This work will help with the manual overlay of road maps, timber sale maps, and watershed maps. Also I helped make a Road Inventory Form, which will be put in a packet along with other

informative sheets. Volunteers will take this packet with them on Adopt-A-Watershed hikes to organize information for OFCO's database on temporary roads.

Another project I undertook for reference and research purposes was an extensive alphabetized bibliography of more than 50 scientific articles about roads, thinning and forest management, along with articles on old-growth forest ecology. This information will help OFCO's research by providing a ready source of catalogued material on forest ecology.

This quarter, along with other miscellaneous projects, I am working as an Outreach Coordinator. I'll be coordinating OFCO's involvement in festivals and fairs this summer and early fall, such as Super Saturday and the Dungeness River Festival. I will develop some good visual displays to relate OFCO's involvements and concerns with the Olympic National Forest and also to gain more support throughout the Peninsula communities.

I've learned valuable skills through working with an environmental organization. I have been able to undertake many projects that have been educational and rewarding and I recommend to anyone who wants some first-hand experience working with forest protection to get involved with the Olympic Forest Coalition Organization.

TESC to Host Festival of “Green” Events, May 13-14

Water and Forests--The Pacific Northwest's Most Precious Natural Resources: A Festival of Events set for May 13-14, 2004 at The Evergreen State College, Olympia

This month, TESC has packaged three great events in one evening and one full day. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Thursday evening, May 13

The annual Rachel Carson Forum will be held on Thursday, May 13 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. in Lecture Hall 1 on campus. This year's speaker is Dr. Eugene Kozloff, Professor Emeritus of Zoology at the University of Washington. Dr. Kozloff will speak on Bigfoot's Flower Garden: The Slopes and Valleys of the Siskiyou Mountains. These precious areas are under threat from the Bush administration. Join Dr. Kozloff to learn about the beauty of the area and why it is worth saving. This event is sponsored by the Graduate Program in Environmental Studies and is free to the public.

Friday, May 14

Conference on The Changing World of Water: A day full conference, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., has a host of great speakers. Opening keynote speaker is **Dr. Jim Karr** from the Aquatic and Fishery Science Department, University of Washington: **Measuring What Matters, Counting What Counts to Sustain Salmon, Rivers and People.**

Luncheon keynote speaker is **Billy Frank**, Nisqually Tribe and Chair, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission who will speak on Water and Native American Treaty Rights.

Other speakers will discuss climate change issues as they relate to water, changes to federal laws and regulations, and new strategies for new times. Other topics: New ways at looking at instream flow and collaborative solutions and research on pesticides and water quality.

Sponsored by the Graduate Program in Environmental Studies, the Washington Hydrologic Society and the National Association of Environmental Professionals. TESC faculty and students free; other students and senior citizens \$10; all others \$15. You may pay at the door. Box lunches for \$11 are available (order on web site or contact Bonnie Phillips at BonnieBandR@comcast.net) or you may bring a brown bag lunch.

(Continued, next column, Festival)

On the Pacific District: Admirable Agency Actions Anticipated

By Jim Scarborough

We would be remiss in not pointing out that, despite the controversy regarding the Dosewallips road washout on the Hood Canal Ranger District, some very good news has recently been received from the Pacific District on the west end. In adherence with Olympic National Forest's 2003 Access and Travel Management plan, the Forest Service is proposing to decommission and/or convert to trail over twelve miles of unneeded roads north and west of Lake Crescent.

FS road 3068 near Pyramid Peak, long the bane of hikers and wilderness-lovers, is scheduled to be converted to trail from mileposts 3.0 to 10.5. Additionally, FS road 3040 near Mount Muller is scheduled to be decommissioned outright from mileposts 7.2 to 13.2, effectively augmenting the adjacent, de facto roadless area there. In a December scoping letter, the Forest Service states that roads identified as a high risk to water quality and aquatic resources (Twin River and Lyre River watersheds in this case) would be prioritized for treatment first.

An environmental assessment is to follow, which OFCO will review and provide comments on for the record. One particular priority will be to ensure that FSR 3068's trail conversion is limited to non-motorized recreational use. An invasion of ORVs here would essentially defeat the otherwise indisputable benefits of the project as proposed. After all, if it looks like a road and smells like a road, it's probably a... , yep, you guessed it.

(Festival, continued)

Friday evening, May 14

The Willi Unsoeld Seminar features **Dr. Jerry Franklin**, world-renowned forest ecologist and professor at the University of Washington, Effects of Globalization of the Wood Products Industry on Forests and Forestry in North America. Reception at 6:00 p.m., lecture at 7:00 p.m. Both events in the Longhouse. Free. For more info, visit the web site: at www.evergreen.edu/events/waterandforests/ or contact Bonnie Phillips: BonnieBandR@comcast.net (360) 456-8793.

The Northwest Forest Plan 10 Years Later: Where Are We Now?

by Bonnie Phillips

On April 13, 1994, the Northwest Forest Plan was signed by the Clinton administration. And on April 13, 2004, a conference in Portland reviewed the status of that Plan. Billed as a "community forum to examine the history, current situation, and future under the Northwest's landmark forest management plan," the gathering brought together environmentalists, two architects of the Plan, two Clinton administration officials, community forestry representatives and advocates for preserving the Plan. I attended this conference with OFCO member Rick Darnell and intern Sara Livingston. Here is my report:

First, some background. We environmentalists found the plan deficient, and early on sued in Dwyer's court over the Plan's inadequate protection for endangered species and other old growth dependent plants and animals. On the other hand, in today's environmentally unfriendly political climate, loss of the Plan would leave the 17 national forests in Washington, Oregon and Northern California with forest plans mainly signed in 1990--in short, with no substantial salmon, owl, murrelet or wild-life protection and a far higher cut level.

But even the timber industry and Bush's Undersecretary of Agriculture Mark Rey claim to support the Northwest Forest Plan. What is that all about?

At the historic Clinton Forest Conference in April 1993, FS Wildlife Biologist Jack Ward Thomas warned the President to be careful in crafting such a compromise. He advised, in essence: If the overarching mission of the national forests is biodiversity, say that loud and clear; if it is timber product, also say that loud and clear.

Clinton didn't listen. To please all factions and pass the Plan through Judge William Dwyer's court, he made a classical political move. In a major policy announcement before the Plan was signed, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt announced a commitment to 1.1 billion board feet. This was not a figure that came from the scientists who developed the Plan, nor from a "reality check on the ground" from the national forests. It was wishful thinking. It sounded good. And it set the stage for failure.

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Aside from the promise of a set amount of timber, the Plan was appropriately applauded by many, including

environmentalists, as the first grand ecosystem management plan ever developed. But some of its innovative approaches were never popular with the FS and were never fully funded. In his late 1994 ruling in favor of the Plan, Dwyer had warned that unless the Plan were followed faithfully, it would not be legal. Until Dwyer's death in 2002, the Plan was under his jurisdiction.

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The timber industry, of course, and the Bush Administration, want to make good on the Clinton promise of 1.1 billion board feet. In late 2002, according to documents released through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit brought by Earthjustice, the industry identified specific environmental obstacles to reaching that goal and demanded removal of protections for salmon, clean water and old-growth forests. The industry list included:

- Weaken the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. (The final Record of Decision to do just that was signed March 23.)
- Weaken northern spotted owl ESA protections. A scientific panel has been set up to evaluate the status of the owl. The U.S. FWS will not make a determination until after the November elections.
- Weaken marbled murrelet ESA protections. A scientific panel should make a decision in the next few months.
- Eliminate the Survey and Manage program. (The final Record of Decision to do just that was signed March 23.)
- Weaken ecosystem and species protections on 2.2 million acres of B LM land. This is in process. (See accompanying article, next page.)

On the other hand, the environmental community and its many allies want to see the Plan fulfill its obligations to protect and restore the forest ecosystem. While the administration proceeds with rollbacks, the environmental community does its best in the judicial courts and the court of public opinion to challenge the roll-backs and protect remaining mature and old growth forests.

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Three of the four architects of the Northwest Forest Plan --Jerry Franklin, Jack Ward Thomas and Norm Johnson--now say they believe the remaining old

growth should be protected. Polls show the majority of the public agrees.

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Where are we today? Let's review the most important take-home messages from the four key speakers:

Jim Lyons, Undersecretary of Agriculture during the Clinton years, thinks attempts to kill elements in the Plan are based on egos and scores to settle and will embroil the Pacific Northwest in another war and another train wreck. This scenario risks unraveling the careful tapestry that tied the Plan to Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP's) on state and private forests and other elements in salmon, murrelet and owl protection. The Clinton administration made the conscious choice to put the bulk of protection on federal lands; with that gone, current operating procedures on state and private lands might face legal challenge.

Jack Ward Thomas, former Chief of the FS and major architect of the Plan, reviewed the history of the owl debate and various management plans and political processes. He gave the audience a sense of the indignity accorded forest scientists during the first Bush (*GWHB*) administration. He also said of the ESA: It's the ecosystem, stupid. Even when protecting one species, we need to protect that species' ecosystem, which then will protect the other species that share its habitat. It took Judge Dwyer to demand this concept be an integral part of the Plan.

Jim Furnish, former Forest Supervisor on the Suislaw NF and Deputy Chief of the NF system during the Clinton administration had the following comment for everyone: Look to the future, stop mourning the past. Furnish, who built his reputation on excellent watershed restoration work on the Suislaw, said he believes the FS needs to focus on principles of restoration and forest health. He said conservation biology is a better bet than three farming on federal lands. His final comments were: The path of least resistance makes people and rivers crooked! Don't give up the hard work, stay the course. The path of least resistance leads to corruption.

Norm Johnson, another architect of the Plan and professor of forest policy at Oregon State University, made contrasting predictions for the near future. Another Bush term would see a push to get the 1.1 billion board feet cut; resistance from the environmental community would mean very little old growth logging—but it would assure four years of war. Under a Kerry presidency, he predicted an Executive Order to protect the remaining old growth.

Johnson recalled telling a congressional committee in 2003 that an estimated 300-600 million board feet could be logged without logging old growth. But he questioned

Dismantling the Northwest Forest Plan The Bush Administration Charges Ahead

On March 23, 2004, the Bush administration took two major steps towards weakening the Northwest Forest Plan by signing decisions eliminating survey and management requirements and significantly weakening aquatic protections. These changes will increase old growth logging in Pacific Northwest forests and put salmon and other species at greater risk of extinction.

The Aquatic Conservation Strategy: This key component of the Northwest Forest Plan was put in place to protect water quality, salmon habitat and general watershed health. The Bush administration removed the requirement that the FS and BLM review timber sales and other management activities, like the Dosewallips Road Washout, to ensure that salmon habitat and water quality will not be harmed. Now more harmful logging practices and road projects will be quickly approved.

Survey and Management Requirements: Before approving the Plan, Judge William Dwyer called for protection of old growth and mature forest dependent species, in addition to the Northern Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet and listed Salmon. The agencies were required to survey for species listed in the Plan and to manage for their protection. The FS and BLM estimate that without survey and management protection, 47 species are at high risk of local extinction.

Environmental organizations and their allies have decried these changes; lawsuits will follow. War in the woods has returned to the Pacific Northwest.

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whether this much would be logged, because this timber may not be marketable. Finally, he opined that the Plan is here to stay. Echoing Jim Lyons, he noted that states and major industrial landowners have HCPs tied to the Plan, so many powerful players want the system preserved intact.

But when is the Northwest Forest Plan no longer the same Plan? The major question not addressed but clearly part of the background concern is this: With the negative changes sought by Bush and industry, or with the added protections endorsed by scientists, environmentalists and others, is this still the same Plan? In an ecological sense, a flexible ecosystem management plan that can adapt to new scientific findings could keep the same framework and stay legal. But right now no one wants to ask that question in court. Both sides may dislike the answer.

OFCO Program Set at March Board Retreat

The mission of the Olympic Forest Coalition is to protect and restore forest ecosystems on the Olympic Peninsula, with a major focus on federal lands and a secondary focus on state lands. Our programs, projects and activities feed back to the central mission statement. On Sunday, March 21, the Board held a planning retreat and decided to focus on the following programs:

Olympic National Forest:

Monitoring Management Activities on the Olympic National Forest, headed by **Jim Scarborough**. OFCO supports the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan for the Olympic National Forest. We oppose the many measures that have weakened this plan during the Bush administration. We oppose old growth logging and harm to wildlife, salmon and watersheds as a result of road building and poorly designed thinning sales. We support the Plan's 10 million board feet of timber yearly when the standards and guidelines of the 1994 Plan are followed. We support many of the Forest's road decommissioning efforts.

Forest Advisory Committees: Currently, **Bonnie Phillips** serves on both the OPAC, or Olympic Provincial Advisory Committee (with alternate **Rick Darnell**) and the Olympic Peninsula Resource Advisory Committee (the RAC).

ROMP (Resource Objective Monitoring Project) and Adopt-a-Watershed. **Rick Darnell** heads this year-old effort born of OFCO's concern over temporary roads from past timber sales. Rick is enlarging this program; we will have opportunities for volunteers to do field work to assist us beginning this summer.

Olympic Wild. John Woolley, Chair. OFCO, working with other interested groups, would like to see more Wilderness on the Olympic National Forest. This group has already produced a draft map, briefing book and hiking guide. OFCO is a Steering Committee member of the Wild Washington Campaign, a coalition of groups working for more wilderness protection on federal lands in Washington State. We offer a variety of field trips. See our summer schedule in this newsletter.

Olympic National Park:

OFCO has a close working relationship with the Olympic

Park Associates. Two of our Board members, Jim Scarborough and John Woolley, also serve on that Board. We write supportive letters for issues of mutual concern.

State Forest Lands (Department of Natural Resources):

This is a new program for OFCO. We work with Washington Environmental Council, Washington Forest Law Center and other organizations on this issue. Jim Davis, Bonnie Phillips, and Peggy Bruton are heading our efforts as we define the various areas of our focus.

State, Western Washington, and/or Regional Plans. We will comment on these plans and attend significant meetings of the Board of Natural Resources and Forest Practices Board. We oppose the increased cut level on state lands, old growth logging and loss of spotted owl, marbled murrelet and salmon habitat protection.

Olympic Experimental State Forest. OFCO has decided to focus on this very large piece of land on the west end of the Peninsula. We will be part of the stakeholders group who will meet to discuss plans for this area.

Outreach:

For education and advocacy, our outreach tools include:

- Web site
- Newsletter and Action Alerts
- Current database
- Other outreach materials
- Networking with other organizations on the Peninsula
- Internships
- Field Trips
- Information booths at events

We are fortunate to have our intern Sara Livingston with us again in Spring Quarter. Sara will help other Board members design a more effective outreach program.

Want to get involved? Help OFCO become more effective. Fill out our volunteer questionnaire, on the facing page -- **whether or not you have money to contribute.**

-- Bonnie Phillips

GET INVOLVED IN FOREST PLANNING AND PROTECTION--

Join OFCO!

www.olympicforest.org

The Olympic Forest Coalition (OFCO) works to protect and restore forests on the Olympic Peninsula but we can only do our work with physical help and financial support from caring people.

The major programs of OFCO include:

Forest Monitoring: Working to ensure logging and road miles do not increase on the Olympic National Forest.

Watershed Restoration: Working to ensure that all resource-damaging roads are decommissioned.

ROMP: Research Objective Monitoring Program. Our current field work involves finding and documenting the status of "temporary" roads

on the Olympic National Forest. Other research projects will be added through time.

State Forest Lands on the Olympic Peninsula: Working to protect old growth and for sustainable forest management.

Olympic Wild: Working to permanently protect National Forests through a future Wilderness Bill.

Education and Outreach: Working to build a network of organizations and citizens interested in the forests on the Olympic Peninsula.

OFCO is a volunteer grassroots organization. We accomplish a great deal with little money. Still, we need help from our members and friends of the forest to keep us going.

Help Protect Your Forest! PLEASE JOIN US AS AN OFCO VOLUNTEER--OR SEND A CHECK!

OFCO is a 501(c)(3) organization; all donations are fully tax-deductible.

I would like to donate to OFCO (all donations come with a membership):

_____ \$25 -- regular membership

_____ \$10 -- living lightly

_____ \$\$\$ -- other

_____ I would like to do volunteer work for OFCO. Please call or email me and let me know how to help!

_____ I would like to join OFCO's email action network

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

Email: _____

Return this form and/or your check to: Bonnie Phillips, Olympic Forest Coalition, 606 Lilly Road NE #115, Olympia, WA 98506. On the web: www.olympicforest.org

Defending Wild Washington, a new citizen action guide, was researched and written by TESC (Evergreen) students including **OFCO board member Rick Darnell**. It explores the amazing successes of environmentalists and how to build on this remarkable legacy.

Defending Wild Washington includes: A clear description of environmental issues in Washington state--*what needs to be done* and what can be done by people like you; *success stories* of citizens who've made a difference; analyses of grass roots *campaigns that work*.

Receive a 15% discount when you buy *Defending Wild Washington* online at The Mountaineers Books.

Welcome to new board members Jim Davis and Ted Labbe, who will focus on State forest issues, and Earl Graves, our new treasurer and database guy.

A fond goodbye to Ginger White and Pete von Christierson, who will be with us in spirit as they roam the world and participate when at home in Port Townsend.

New Chair is Bonnie Phillips. Jim Scarborough will now be OFCO's lead monitor of Forest Service activities.

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**Don't Miss Great Enviro
Events at Evergreen,
May 13-14!!! (See p. 3)**