

The mission of the Olympic Forest Coalition is promoting the protection, conservation and restoration of natural forest ecosystems and their processes on the Olympic Peninsula, including fish and wildlife habitat, and surrounding ecosystems.



Olympic Forest Coalition

Summer 2017



Connie Gallant

President's Column

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We thank all our members and donors for their financial support. If you have not yet contributed, we hope you will become inspired to do so.

We are including a self-addressed envelope for your convenience or, if you prefer, you can donate to OFCO online on our website:
<http://olympicforest.org/>

OFCO New Wildlife Protection Project with Major Gift

OFCO received a major donation to support a new, important wildlife conservation project. See page 4.

Wild Olympics Act Reintroduced in the 115th Congress

The Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by Senator Patty Murray ([S. 483](#)) and Representative Derek Kilmer ([H.R. 1285](#)) was re-introduced to permanently protect more than 126,500 acres of Olympic National Forest as wilderness and 19 rivers and their major tributaries, a total of 464 river miles, as Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Wild Olympics Coalition unveiled over 150 new endorsements, bringing the total number of local Olympic Peninsula businesses, CEOs, elected officials, farms, faith leaders, sportsmen, conservation organizations, and outdoor recreation groups to more than 700. The list includes the mayors of Port Townsend, Hoquiam, Ocean Shores and Elma, among many others. The new endorsements by businesses and local elected officials, from all four counties of the Peninsula, were collected over the last several months via a sign-on letter addressed to Senator Murray and Rep. Kilmer. More than 12,000 local residents also have signed petitions in support.

Deluge of DEISs

OFCO fielded and responded to a deluge of draft environmental impact statements this winter with the help of Board members and experts: the Navy Growler expansion, Navy Electronic Emitters (see page 5), and Washington state Long-Term Conservation Strategy and Sustainable Harvest Calculation (see page 4). Only with the work of dedicated professionals, experts and volunteers can these environmental policy decisions be challenged by the public. Thank you to our members who submitted letters and comments in support of OFCO.

OFCO Welcomes New Board Member Karen Sullivan

Karen Sullivan joined the OFCO Board in April, bringing her expertise, passion and commitment. Karen retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, where she worked as a wildlife biologist (marine and estuary issues in the mid-Atlantic states), an endangered species biologist in charge of the Service's national endangered species outreach program (headquarters office, Washington, D.C.), and a legislative liaison in the Alaska Region. She worked extensively on Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, NEPA, and

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international affairs issues throughout her career. In Alaska she was responsible for all media and congressional communications, as well as all print and online publications, and legislative and public outreach strategies. Aboard the Service's 137-foot research vessel, MV *Tiglax*, she did baseline seabird population research in the Aleutians. She worked with three states and more than 30 organizations to obtain a designation for 130,000 acres of important habitat as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Treaty. She also worked with State Department and Canadian Embassy officials to draft an endangered species Framework for Cooperation between Canada and the United States, which was signed by both countries and led to endangered species legislation in Canada.

She was a Senior Executive Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, in 2005. Since retiring to Port Townsend, she and her partner, Jim, have sailed their 24-foot boat from Port Townsend to New Zealand. Upon returning to discover the extent of rapidly encroaching military activity on public lands and waters, Karen co-founded the West Coast Action Alliance, which examines and analyzes the Navy's compliance with NEPA, ESA and other laws. As a member of the OFCO Board, she continues to work alongside several national organizations on major ecological issues.

Tributes to Environmental Heroes

**Pauline Tomkiel Dyer:
A Passionate, Effective Voice for the Wild**
by Connie Gallant

Pauline Tomkiel Dyer—"Polly"—who died late last year at age 96, dedicated her life to safeguarding Washington's Olympic coastline and forests and to protecting wilderness in the state and the country. She had a profound impact on the successful preservation of Washington's natural areas—untouched, untrammled wilderness.

Born of a Coast Guard family, at 20 years of age she moved to Alaska and was entranced by the majestic scenes that, she said, formed the basis for her life for the next five decades.

Polly organized the first Pacific Northwest chapter of the Sierra Club in 1953 and served on the national board. That same year, Washington governor Arthur Langlie appointed her to a panel to explore

opening National Park lands to the Forest Service for logging. As the only woman and token environmentalist, she successfully opposed the policy, showing us the importance of having a strong minority report.



- photo by Connie Gallant

Polly served as the first woman president of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs to promote America's scenic, wilderness, and outdoor recreational resources. She co-founded the North Cascades Conservation Council and led the effort to establish the North Cascades National Park (comprising 684,000 acres). She worked for federal wilderness protection legislation that ultimately became the National Wilderness Act (1964). The act created the National Wilderness Preservation System originally comprising 9.1 million acres. (Currently, the System protects more than 109 million acres of federally owned lands, or about 5 percent of the land in U.S.

As Polly explained in her own words 60 years ago: *"The Wilderness Bill's provisions will do a number of important and necessary things on behalf of the nation's present and future wild places and for its citizens who look for or merely like to know that such sanctuaries exist. ... Wilderness cannot—and should not—wear a dollar sign. It is a priceless asset which all the dollars man can accumulate will not buy back. Some forest which is commercially operable has as much right to be kept primeval as the forest of noncommercial value. Congress, through this bill, can help take the price tag off some of these remaining wilderness forests."*

Polly organized coastal hikes of the Olympic Peninsula with United States Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas in 1958 to oppose US 101. Her successful

campaign of Shi Shi Beach/Point of Arches resulted in its addition to the Olympic National Park.

Polly has inspired her peers and succeeding generations of conservationists. *The Seattle Times* said, "If Polly Dyer hadn't moved to Washington in 1950, environmentalists say, the state map might look a lot different today. No North Cascades National Park. No wilderness areas—for that matter, no Wilderness Act. Olympic National Park might not include the rain forests. Backpackers who hike the Park's wild coastal strip—the longest roadless coastline in the lower 48 states—might share that shore with cars. Dyer played a major role in all those environmental wins. She was a leader in the state's conservation movement for more than four decades, since long before the word 'environmentalist' was coined."

Mayors, governors, presidents, and Supreme Court justices have recognized Polly as a leader in our conservation movement. Thank you, Polly, for leading us to a better future.

And thank you, Polly, for the honor of knowing you and the inspiration you gave so freely.

Mike Lowry: A Remembrance

by Lynne Corn



Mike Lowry was elected to Congress in November 1978. When he began his term in January 1979, one of his first controversial issues to tackle was the right under 1855 treaties with Native peoples to "fish in their usual and accustomed places."

Yet salmon harvests were declining and many people felt that a reduction in harvest was needed—and therefore the Native people should bear the brunt of the reduction even though they had been harvesting salmon runs for thousands of years without much impact. Faced with this injustice (and backed by the Supreme Court under the *Boldt* decision), Mike said "a great nation keeps its word!"

And he hung on, scoring unprecedented victories in House committees and even getting Republicans to vote with him to protect treaty rights and salmon runs. His most persuasive argument: It's just the right thing to do. In the end, despite opposition from a unified

political establishment, Mike prevailed and the treaties were not abrogated. The treaty rights of Northwestern tribes continue to play a significant role in preserving native fish.

A few years later, another cause came up—the consideration of the Washington state wilderness bill. Wilderness, whether statutory or not, is one of the things that makes Washington such a desirable place to live. While no one would have accused Mike of being a backpacker or birdwatcher, still he understood its importance to the people of the state. Knowing that we needed to be well-armed with information, Mike directed me to spend days, even weeks, poring over maps and gathering recreation data. (Part of that gathering included having me fly out to Washington about four times per year on his behalf for two years to go hiking, birdwatching and backpacking all over the state. I was, umm, willing to make the sacrifice.)

And having "earned the right to speak for fish" Mike began a strategy of introducing a new wilderness bill—one to be seen through the eyes of the fish. The premise of the bill was "If I were a salmon, a steelhead, or a trout, what would I want a wilderness bill to look like?" When he introduced this bill, if it didn't exactly turn the debate into a fish-loving rout, it definitely put a new spin on the wilderness issue. It brought new areas into prominence and fortified the argument in support of so many others.

Most especially, the bill's strong premise of supporting fisheries meant that timber advocates were not immediately going to strip away huge old growth in so many magnificent valleys. The bill flagged them as precisely the areas that native fish runs need most.

When the final negotiations came in a meeting of the entire delegation, Mike was there, fighting to protect old growth, fish runs, Native sacred spaces, and so much that is important to future Washingtonians. I remember him saying, during a break, "Is this good enough? I could still kill the bill if it isn't." But it was time. and Mike had done all he could and then some. Washington had its wilderness bill. You might remember Mike the next time you go fishing or visit one of these areas. You might hear Mike in the silence. It's probably his great laugh.

(Lynne Corn was a legislative aide to Congressman Lowry from 1979–1985.)

The Marbled Murrelet Bureaucratic Dance

by Marcy Golde

What's been happening in the nearly endless story of the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) trying to, or not trying to, protect the Marbled Murrelet while harvesting timber to support its various beneficiaries? Since the DNR's overall management plan was adopted in 1997, the murrelet has **declined 44 percent**. That plan required the development of a strategy to protect the murrelet. The first scoping draft was issued in 2006, but nothing happened. Planning for the murrelet started up again in 2011; it continues today and will for at least two more years.

If you have been tuned into OFCO's communications lately, you know that there have been two big draft plans from DNR, which called us to hearings and to writing comments, both over the December holiday season. One plan was on the Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy, and the other on the amount and type of timber harvest to be done over the next decade, called the Sustainable Harvest Calculation.

OFCO joined a group of seven environmental organizations to submit more than 276 pages of technical and legal comments. DNR received more than 5,200 comments on the murrelet; the Harvest Calculation drew more than 1,300. The magnitude of the response shows that management of the State's forests is of real public interest.

Apart from the impressive number of responses, what did OFCO and the other environmental groups request? We found the alternatives presented in the two documents to be totally inadequate, so we created our own Conservation Alternative for the murrelet and made it part of our harvest comments too. We insisted that our Conservation Alternative be fully analyzed and considered along with the other alternatives, probably as a supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Our alternative called for larger buffers, more habitat, additional conservation areas, and better protection of mature and old-growth forest. It objected to the other alternatives requiring too much harvest of murrelet habitat and not providing enough conservation to stabilize the population. It included a request to analyze the impacts on the murrelet of Navy training flights over the Olympic Peninsula. It also requested a

full analysis of the Conservation Alternative, and no new Harvest Calculation without an adopted murrelet policy.

In comments on the Sustainable Harvest Calculation DEIS, we addressed a variety of ways to increase the revenue to the beneficiaries from each timber sale and requested establishing a broad-based high-level planning group to address the revenue needs of the county and school beneficiaries affected by murrelet protection.

What's Next?

The Board of Natural Resources (BNR), and Commissioner Franz, seem to have decided to select the Preferred Alternative at the July meeting. This action would be a rejection of the Conservation Alternative—and disregard for the testimony of the EPA and the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Those agencies affirmed the need for significant habitat additions to all the alternatives considered in the DEIS, in agreement with details of the Conservation Alternative.

The Conservation Caucus has written to the Commissioner and the BNR opposing the selection of a Preferred Alternative without a full analysis and consideration of the EPA and WDFW requests and the Conservation Alternative.

Whether the BNR will adopt a new Sustainable Harvest Calculation without a finalized murrelet plan is unclear. In all cases timber cutting continues—as does the decline of the Marbled Murrelet, at the current rate of 4 percent per year!

OFCO recently has received a donor gift to greatly expand our fish and wildlife habitat conservation monitoring efforts in the State Forests of the Olympic Peninsula. The project will combine GIS-based (Geographic Information System, used to map trends and analyze data in relation to location) evaluation of timber sales within State Trust Lands with strategic field-based monitoring before and after harvests.

Our goal is to develop a report-card style assessment of the extent to which the requirements outlined in the Habitat Conservation Plans are followed. We will use GIS to flag and evaluate any proposed timber sales where circumstances appear likely to warrant

additional scrutiny or review, such as proximity to murrelet habitat, unstable slopes, or errors in stream typing that might result in harvests in riparian management zones.

Using aerial imagery in ArcGIS (cloud-based GIS system) we can measure and assess these and other important conservation variables. The project will combine the GIS analysis with limited field sampling after timber harvests in order to measure forest components such as snags and downed woody debris that are harder to evaluate using aerial imagery. The GIS analysis will allow us to develop a data-driven report on how State Trust Lands are being managed for wildlife conservation and to make specific recommendations about areas for improvement. Our goal is to provide data and analyses that can better inform OFCO's efforts to improve forest practices so that the State's public forests can continue to play a key role in our region's economy, while not sacrificing habitat for endangered species.



OFCO has partnered with Dr. Catharine Copass, a Port Angeles-based ecologist, to carry out this project. Catharine has been working for the National Park Service on projects monitoring landscape change and mapping plant communities in and around the national parks in Washington. She brings a wide range of technical and field skills and is excited to have this opportunity to help OFCO develop an independent assessment of the status of the State Forests.

Words Matter

by Karen Sullivan

During the winter holiday season, four simultaneous public comment periods were open: a Navy EIS for the addition of 36 Growlers to the Whidbey Island fleet, the Forest Service's Objection Period for its draft decision to grant the Navy a permit for electronic warfare training using Olympic National Forest roads and skies over much of the western Olympic Peninsula, and two EISs from the state of Washington—one on the Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy, and the other on Sustainable Harvest Calculations.

The Olympic Forest Coalition and the West Coast Action Alliance (WCAA) jointly submitted an objection letter to the Forest Service, which extended

its decision deadline by 30 days but responded to the large and substantive volume of comments with form letters saying the decision is still likely to go forward. After a concerted citizen effort to persuade elected officials to weigh in, the Navy responded to a letter signed by Senators Cantwell and Murray, Rep. Rick Larsen, and Governor Jay Inslee by extending the Growler EIS comment period by 30 days. OFCO and WCAA submitted 47 pages of joint comments to the Navy on its draft EIS for the addition of 36 Growlers. Both letters can be found on our website.

According to Connie Gallant, OFCO Board President, in late March Rep. Derek Kilmer sent a letter to the U.S. Navy asking questions about details of military operations on the Peninsula and protocols for public involvement in permitting and assessing environmental impacts. Kilmer expressed full support for the needs of U.S. military personnel and for protecting the "pristine environment" of the region. The full text can be found on the OFCO website or [here](#).

Given the tenor of current political leadership in Washington, D.C., helpful responses from the Navy to these congressional inquiries are seen as unlikely. Even so, **our legislators need to hear from us more, not less.**

Dahr Jamail, *Truthout's* environmental reporter, shines a light on the naval activities on our oceans and the detrimental effects it is having on mammals, birds and fish. Please read his article [here](#).

Inexpensive Apps Can Help!

If you want to help with the effort to document fighter jet noise problems, try the "[Cateater](#)" [sound level meter app](#). Acoustic professionals use it when they're not using super-sensitive recording equipment to measure quiet sounds below 20 decibels. Decibel levels are useful in documenting complaints, as are photographs.

For photo-documentation, a surveyor's app called Theodolite (iPhone) or Dioptra (Android) geo-tags photos with time, date and GPS coordinates, plus if you can photograph the aircraft itself, it can help establish the altitude of flight with its built-in rangefinder and inclinometer. Theodolite will also record videos with sound, and, with the press of a button, can set up a ready-to-send email with all the

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geo-tagged information with attached photo; Dioptra is similar. Visit [this site](#) to learn more about it. Dioptra info is [here](#).

Karen Sullivan is working with citizen groups to request that the Jefferson County Commissioners set up an online jet noise complaint reporting program similar to the [one in San Juan County](#). This program uses open source, shareable GIS software that makes it easy to document noise events and alert elected representatives to the severity of the problem. Writing to your Commissioners may help them understand more fully how badly such a program is needed in Jefferson County too.

To see a Harper's Index-style description of some of the increases in Navy activity on the Olympic Peninsula and surrounding waters, please [click here](#).

Mapping Changes in Leadership on the Landscape of the Olympic Peninsula Public Lands

by Patricia Jones

In November 2016 state and federal elections changed the political landscape for the Olympic Peninsula, and will likely have significant impacts on law and policy for the protection of wildlife, habitat and communities. Here's a quick overview:

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Former Governor of Georgia **Sonny Perdue** was sworn in as the 31st U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Perdue was confirmed by a vote of 87–11, winning yeas from Washington Senators Cantwell and Murray. **At stake:** Oversight of the U.S. Forest Service. The 1994 Northwest Forest Plan, designed to protect the Northern Spotted Owl, is under revision and will set forest policy for the Olympic Peninsula (and the rest of western Washington, Oregon and northern California).

Current fire policy and budgeting reduces Forest Service resources for conservation. Timber sales on national forest lands could be increased. Protection of water resources, soils and endangered species of fauna and flora could be reduced. Attention to impacts of climate change will likely be deemed inappropriate. Special use permits for Navy military operations are likely to be approved. Olympic National Forest may

see expanded timber harvests, increased threats to species and habitat.

New Hood Canal District Ranger

New District Ranger **Yewah Lau** follows retired District Ranger Dean Yoshina. Yewah (pronounced EE-wah) Lau returns to the Olympic National Forest, where she worked from 2004 to 2008. Welcome back, Ranger Lau!



U.S. Department of Interior

Ryan Zinke, former Navy Seal, was sworn in as the 52nd Secretary of the Interior on March 1, 2017. Zinke supported sportsmen's access and some conservation efforts as a U.S. representative from Montana. Senators Cantwell and Murray voted against Zinke's confirmation in the 61–37 vote. **At stake:** Zinke has authority for the National Park Service including the Olympic National Park's nearly one million (997,651) acres, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Fish and Wildlife provides biological opinions for use permits on the Olympic Peninsula, including military use of public lands and waters.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

The USFWS manages the 150 million-acre [National Wildlife Refuge System](#), along with a number of fish hatcheries and ecological services field stations. The agency has primary responsibility to enforce the Endangered Species Act, providing "biological opinions" on endangered species that other agencies must follow. **At stake:** USFWS has provided and will continue to provide biological opinions on Navy operations on the Olympic Peninsula and ultimately will decide if the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy efforts are adequate.

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Scott Pruitt was confirmed and sworn in as EPA administrator after a contentious Senate vote (52–46), including nays from Senators Murray and Cantwell. Pruitt, a Tulsa Law School graduate, served as the Attorney General for Oklahoma. **At stake:** Enforcement of Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. Pollution of the Salish Sea and Hood Canal by weakening enforcement or regulatory framework of the Clean Water Act likely.

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Commissioner of Public Lands



Washington's new Commissioner of Public Lands, **Hilary Franz**, is the second woman to hold the state-wide elected post. A graduate of Smith College, Franz is an environmental attorney who has served in local

government and nongovernmental organizations and focuses on sustainable economic development. She heads DNR and convenes the Board of Natural Resources (BNR), which makes major policy decisions for state trustee lands. **At stake:** Timber harvests on state lands on the Peninsula, implementing state and federal environmental mandates to protect endangered species and habitats. Franz will oversee completion of the Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy and the Sustainable Harvest Calculation, determining just how much timber can be taken from state lands.

Olympic Peninsula Forest Collaborative: Charting a Path to Sustainable Forestry

by Patricia Jones

OFCO's work with the Olympic Peninsula Forest Collaborative (OPFC) continues.

Big Creek Project

The OPFC recently reviewed possible unit sites on Big Creek in the North Fork Skokomish watershed, including all the representative forest types. These are mostly 70-year-old Douglas fir-dominated stands with considerable cedar and some hemlock, with salal and Oregon grape understory. Most of the unit was thinned in 1990, and the areas not thinned provide a stark contrast to the rapid growth and increased structure and complexity of the thinned stands. There were running streams, seeps, springs and isolated ponds in the forest, and signs of elk, deer and cougar.

The group identified a few possible Stewardship projects, and developed ideas for the sale "prescriptions"—the timber-harvesting instructions to foresters. OFCO contractor Jill Silver pointed out where streams were incorrectly mapped. OFCO will work to make sure that all water resources are well protected.



*Field visit group discussion of unit. Big Creek, April 2017
-photo by Toby Thaler, OFCO*

Queets Watershed

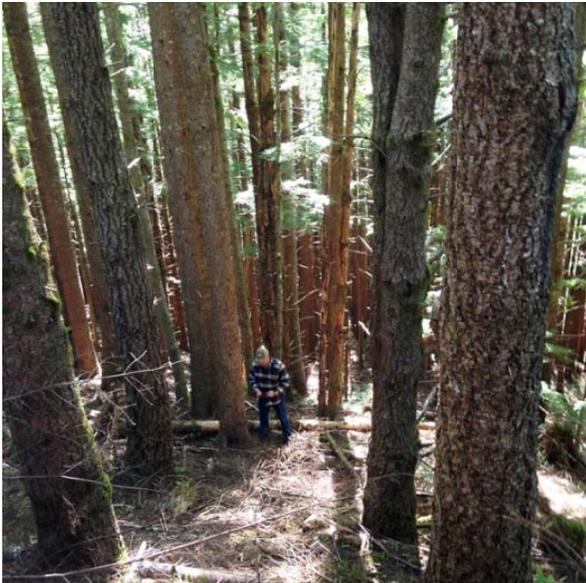
The Collaborative reviewed four sites in Queets in 2016. The stands are good candidates for thinning and present opportunities for road and aquatic habitat restoration. As a harvest practice, thinning a stand that is primarily one dominant species (hemlock pictured next page) allows the tree canopy to open and sunlight to filter through to the understory. A diverse understory creates a healthier diversity of plants and habitat for wildlife. A dense stand is also an increased fire hazard.

The OPFC is a multi-stakeholder initiative bringing together timber interests, the U.S. Forest Service, and environmental organizations. Formally established by Congressman Derek Kilmer (D-WA) in May 2015 within the framework of the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan, OPFC works to test practices that restore forests and habitats, economically support the local timber economy and communities, and avoid adverse impacts on natural resources and species on federal forest lands in the Olympic National Forest (ONF). Besides improving forest health and enhancing timber harvests, a major goal is ensuring conservation of habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl, the Marbled Murrelet, and other critical wildlife species.

Olympic National Forest Supervisor Reta Laford recently praised the Collaborative effort: *"Collaboratives are proving to be the way of the future and the way we need to work with communities. From the start, one essential element for success I observed was their willingness to seek a deep understanding of where each other was coming from. That openness*

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allowed them to explore mutual needs and possibilities. ... Both the Forest and Collaborative are also interested in exploring Stewardship timber sales that would allow generated revenues to be reinvested into other environmental protection and restoration projects. This would be an added bonus of the Collaborative's efforts. Ultimately, when we have collaboratives, better projects are designed, there's less conflict, and we're able to implement actions on the ground that produce multiple benefits."



Queets Stand Density Analysis (2016). Note the lack of understory, brown forest floor, lack of life and thin species. Thinning could help this site. -photo by Jill Silver, OFCO

Court Decision Could Bode Ill for Listed Species on Federal Lands

by Toby Thaler & Patricia Jones

A recent decision by the Washington, D.C., Court of Appeals could add complications to protecting listed species—such as the Northern Spotted Owl and the Marbled Murrelet—on federally owned lands. The Court, in an April 11 decision, reversed a lower court finding and awarded "standing" to an appellant group—including a timber industry lobby group, a council of carpenters' unions, and Lewis County (WA)—to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (UFWFS) for critical habitat designations they believe could cause them economic harm or injury.

The case involves 9.5 million acres of federal forest lands in California, Oregon and Washington. In 2012, the USFWS issued a Final Rule designating federal

forest lands in those states as critical habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl. The American Forest Resource Council (AFRC), whose members are lumber companies that obtain timber from those forest lands, sued the USFWS to challenge the legality of the critical habitat designation. But first, AFRC had to show its members had been harmed by the critical habitat ruling in order to clear the "standing" hurdle. AFRC contended the designation will decrease timber supplies from federal lands, thus causing economic harm, and the Court agreed, saying "the amount [of harm] is irrelevant."

OFCO Board member and timber attorney Toby Thaler is worried. "The decision is not good for endangered species," Thaler says. "The critical question in the decision is the harm to AFRC. In practice, because logging affects habitat, the critical habitat designation means certain lands that were previously available as a source of timber are unlikely to still be available." As the Court noted, the USFWS itself finds critical habitat designation likely limits timber-harvest—especially clearcutting—on designated lands, thus potentially causing economic harm.

Now that the appellants have been granted standing, the case will proceed on the merits, i.e., whether the USFWS critical habitat designation complies with the Endangered Species Act.

Environmental attorney Wyatt Golding (of the Ziontz Chestnut law firm, Seattle) is concerned with potential impacts on Marbled Murrelets by a decision on the merits. "My sense is that there's no direct impact on the advocacy for a long-term conservation strategy on state lands, that are excluded from critical habitat designation, so changes in critical habitat don't really impact logging on state or private lands in Washington, all of which are covered by either the state land or forest practices Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs)," Golding says. "[But the] decision may be potentially very negative for Marbled Murrelets generally; if AFRC wins on the merits and they can shrink the critical habitat, it would mean lessened protection on federal (USFS and BLM) lands.

"The other thing to bear in mind is that critical habitat is a good thing, but on its own does not really prevent any logging. I think the biggest impact of reduced critical habitat might be a step toward reductions in Northwest Forest Plan protections, in place since 1994."

What Happens Next?

Thaler says, "The case goes back to district court for consideration of the substance of AFRC's challenge to the USFWS's critical habitat designation. I think it's a potentially serious attack to Northwest Forest Plan conservation provisions. The forest habitat at risk is the same land we're working on in the Olympic Peninsula Forest Collaborative. AFRC is a member of the Collaborative (OPFC, see page 7). Hopefully, this litigation will not prevent us from working together to conserve and improve habitat going forward."

Want to Do Some Citizen Science? Check Out COASST.

There may be some OFCO friends and members who do not already know about COASST—an appropriate acronym for Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST). It's the 17-year-old citizen science brainchild of University of Washington professor Julia Parrish that trains residents to conduct monthly surveys on their favorite beaches. According to the COASST website, three basic types of data are collected:

- 1. beachcast birds
- 2. marine debris
- 3. evidence of human use of the beach environment

A major purpose is to establish a "robust baseline" against which to measure anthropogenic and naturally occurring change. Clearly there are many aspects of this program that will interest OFCO members, especially as we learn more about the inter-connectedness of land and sea life—and as the whole area reacts to testing of 21st Century weaponry and increased oil traffic. For an in-depth look at a day of volunteer work with COASST, [here's](#) an article featuring OFCO Board member Coleman Byrnes in *Crosscut*.

Check out [COASST online](#).

Rosalie Edge Lives On!

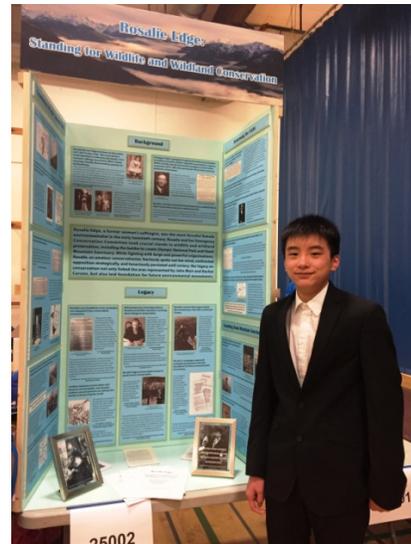
by Connie Gallant

With one of the heroines of the Olympic Peninsula, Polly Dyer, no longer with us, I am reminded of the essential fact that all of us must pass on the torch of conservation and protection of our environment.

Last year I was contacted by a young student, Daniel Da, working on an environmental project to exhibit in

a contest at the regional and state level in Washington state. Daniel chose for his subject another of my heroines, Rosalie Edge. Rosalie was quite instrumental in getting President Franklin D. Roosevelt finally to designate the Mount Olympus National Monument as a national park on June 29, 1938. Olympic National Park was designated by UNESCO as an International Biosphere Reserve, and in 1981 as a World Heritage Site. I was absolutely thrilled to learn that such a young man had researched Rosalie's life and her very critical contributions to our environment during the 20th Century.

Daniel was awarded first place in the senior individual exhibit category at the regional level, and sixth place at the state level. Daniel kept me informed throughout his project. He recently wrote, "Thanks for all your support; I wouldn't have been able to do it without your help." It is a very nice compliment, but an undeserved one because Daniel did all the research on his own. I am quite proud of this young man, and encourage him and others to follow the conservation path. The younger generation's future, and Mother Earth, totally depend on their engagement and activism to protect our only home.



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