The Ecotone

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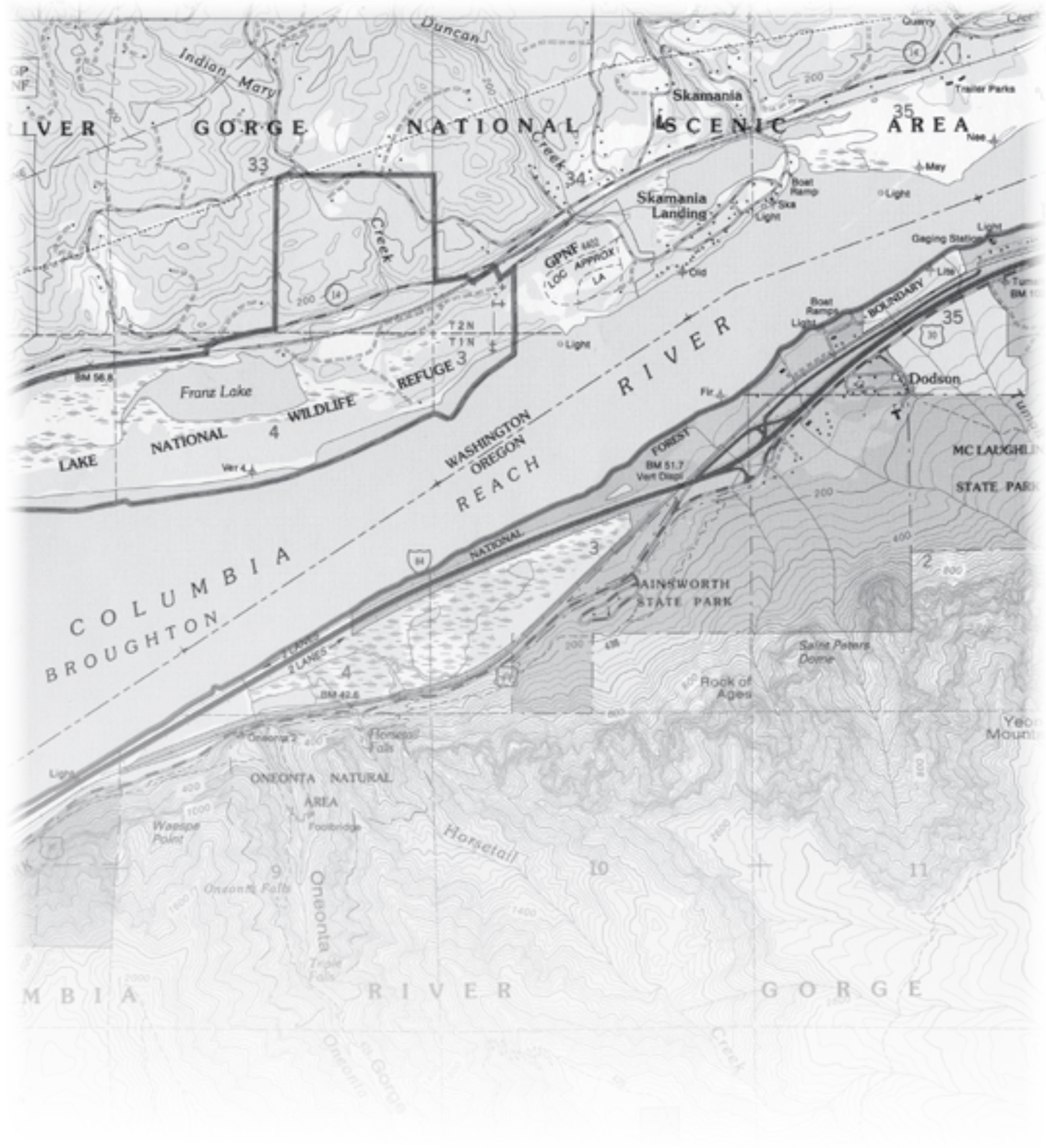
A Patchwork of Perspectives



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Special thanks to:
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The *Ecotone* is the journal of the Environmental Studies Program and is created by graduate students at the University of Oregon. The journal provides a venue for communication and exchange within and beyond the Environmental Studies Program---among undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, staff, and alumni---and facilitates cross-campus dialogue between disciplines and departments. The *Ecotone* hopes to engage the University of Oregon community in ongoing dialogue through its paper and online publications. To this end, The *Ecotone* serves as a venue for sharing professional interests, discussing environmental concerns, and posting creative expressions. The *Ecotone* is published annually and includes journal articles, nonfiction, fiction, poetry, art, and other creative submissions. If you have questions or comments, would like to submit, or if you would like to be placed on the mailing list, please contact:

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Ecotone editors 2010

FROM THE EDITORS

A few of us graduate students were crowded around a pub table last fall discussing possible themes for *Ecotone* 2010. We wanted something that would encourage a diversity of submissions, and that would also encourage connections between the research, creative talents, and opinions of the Environmental Studies community at the UO. "Why not focus on a place?" someone suggested. A place-based theme could offer opportunities to discuss policy, biology, art, and personal experience. From this, "Oregon: A Patchwork of Perspectives" was born.

After we toasted our bright idea, the six or seven of us around the table had a realization: none of us are actually from Oregon. For most of the graduate students in Environmental Studies, Oregon is a new home. And while we've all been taking advantage of the hikes, bikes, beaches and hot springs that make Oregon a great place to live, there's more to this state than exploring great recreation destinations.

So for us, and for the many other contributors of this issue, this *Ecotone* is another kind of exploration—of our reflections, our research, our memories, and our uniquely Oregon experiences. The writings included here are as different as the Oregon desert is from the Columbia River Gorge. Kory Northrop writes about how his move to Oregon has helped him renew a relationship with a long-lost friend. Alan Dickman describes his return to a childhood place that has been reshaped by the forces of nature. Ezra Markowitz tells us about Oregonian's perceptions of climate change, and Kevin Horan describes state policies for addressing a global challenge. Some submissions are creative reflections (and even in one case, a scene from a play), and others are well-researched articles.

Not all of the works included have a direct tie to the Oregon theme, but they do represent the varied talents of the Environmental Studies community and beyond. Notably, several of the creative works represent the direct efforts of this year's *Ecotone* editors to broaden our community of contributors. Without those efforts, we might not have the pleasure of seeing Anya Dobrowski's (graduate student in Landscape Architecture) skillful photographs, or of reading Monica Welch's (undergraduate student in ENVS) powerful story that ties human health with environmental care.

Like the variegated fields of the Willamette Valley, *Ecotone* 2010 is very much a patchwork of perspectives. Congratulations, everyone. Enjoy the reading. □

-Amanda Peacher

THE CLIMATE CRISIS IN OREGON

Commons Without a Tragedy

by Kevin Horan

It is commonly acknowledged that problems dealing with public goods—whether environmental or otherwise—are best addressed at the scale at which they occur[1]. You wouldn't deal with a beach litter issue in Yachats at a forum for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and you wouldn't try to solve nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation at a town hall meeting in Cottage Grove. Our spectrum of institutions, from the local to the international, represents an intertwined and hierarchical network designed to address these wide-ranging public concerns according to their appropriate size, scope, and tractability.

Our public institutions, at their very core, are grounded in their ability to alleviate "Tragedy of the Commons" problems (also known as collective action or open access problems). A Tragedy of the Commons occurs when individual incentives do not harmonize with the collective well being, and when public endeavors are undermined by the likelihood of so-called 'free-riders'[1]. For instance, although everybody benefits from clean air, people will pollute if you let them do so freely; similarly, nobody wants to foot the bill for improved bike lanes, but many will value the smoother, safer ride once renovations have been made. For the many public goods and services that defy privatization—those that are difficult, if not impossible, to establish defensible property rights[2]—the solution becomes a deceptively simple proposition: coordinate individual actions with an institution at the appropriate scale. If all goes to plan, tragedy avoided.

Photo by Melanie Knapp

However, it may seem quite clear that there are holes in this ostensibly straightforward framework. Foremost, protecting the commons and synchronizing collective action becomes more difficult as the complexity of information and diversity of interested stakeholders increases[1]. As the Copenhagen semi-debacle exposed, the impasse becomes thoroughly pronounced with an issue as bathed in economic and political power dynamics, uncertainty, and cost-benefit lag times as global climate disruption.

According to traditional, Hardin-esque rationality, Oregonians really should not be doing anything to address the global climate crisis[3]. Besides perhaps lobbying our U.N. representatives to enact a comprehensive international treaty, any additional action to constrain our greenhouse gas emissions, as a hindrance to our local economic production and familiar social structures, should be ruefully avoided. The ultimate question thus lingers like a methane particle in the atmosphere: why should we limit the size of our herd when everyone else's cattle keep chewing away?

We could quite rationally be free riding.

Oregon, as a sub-global and sub-national entity, has opted not to procrastinate in the absence of overriding top-down climate mandates. As one of the more adamant climate activist states in the union, Oregon is pursuing policy and planning measures in defiance of any narrow, self-interested sense of rationality. Although there are many well-publicized indirect benefits of climate mitigation, such as energy security and "green" industrial development[4], and major emitters—like the U.S.—should arguably be reducing their emissions simply for their own climate stability benefit[5], it is quite clear that recent pursuits to moderate climate disruption have something of another flavor. It would be hard to argue that the efforts of Oregon and other active states are free from altruism, a sense of justice and the desire to protect the vast global commons for generations to come.

For more than a decade, Oregonians have made purposeful strides towards reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and initiating the shift toward a carbon-neutral economy. In 1993, Portland became the first local government to implement a climate action plan, and, four years later, Oregon was the first state to control carbon dioxide emissions by setting standards on new power plants[6]. In 2001, recognizing the intrinsic relationship between ecosystem health and climate stability, the state passed the forestry carbon offset law, which made tangible the embodied value of intact forests by granting forest landowners permission to market, transfer and sell carbon offsets[7].

Only time will tell whether this commendable rhetoric will transform into substantive policy.

In recent years, as the scientific consensus underlying the climate crisis has become ever clearer and more concrete, Oregonians have adopted more explicit and timeline-oriented state climate goals. As of 2007, the governor's and legislature's codified goals are to: halt the growth of greenhouse gases by this year (2010); reduce emissions to 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 (admittedly, a figure Europe is poised to surpass before 2012[8]); and to reduce emissions to 75% below 1990 levels by 2050 (in line with the U.S. Senate's Kerry-Boxer Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act[9])[10].

To achieve these climate goals, the governor and the legislature have enacted a bevy of actions, largely centered on statewide energy systems. Currently, business energy tax credits cover half the cost of approved renewable energy projects and over a third the cost of approved conservation, cogeneration (combined heat and power) and transportation projects[11]; residential energy tax credits refund allotted portions of renewable home heating, efficient appliances and vehicles, weatherization, and other efficiency projects[12]; all of these credits are predicted to be administrated at an overall cost savings[13]. However, these tax credits have arguably been a victim of their own success: the program's popularity has caused expenditures to significantly exceed cost estimates, forcing the legislature to instill tax credit caps and to remove credits for wind farms[14]. Meanwhile, according to figures provided by the Energy Trust of Oregon, the state's energy loan program has saved $440 million and 3 million tons of carbon dioxide (the equivalent of 525,000 cars) via loans for efficiency and renewable projects[15].

Governor Kulongoski and the legislature also approved a series of more technical measures in the summer of 2009, which include broadening mandatory greenhouse gas reporting to imported electricity and transportation fuel, and improving energy efficiency in residential and commercial building codes (10-15% and 15-25%, respectively)[16]. Additionally, the Renewable Energy Act (SB 838) continues to hold large utilities to 25% "new, homegrown energy sources by 2025"[vi]—a figure that will require immense, concentrated investment in available, scalable resources, primarily wind[17]. Portland General Electric's recent announcement to shut down the Boardman coal plant and make Oregon's electricity generation coal-free by 2020[18] exemplifies the type of public-private harmonization needed to achieve these ambitious state objectives.

Oregon's efforts to put a direct price on climate-disrupting emissions have proved less successful to date. Although still a member of the Western Climate Initiative's seven-state, four-province alliance to develop a regional cap and trade program by 2012, Oregon's attempt to pursue a statewide cap-and-trade program in the spring of 2009 (SB 80) died in the Senate before reaching a vote[19]. However, Kulongoski has held steadfast to his commitment to the Western Climate Initiative, even hoping to bolster its impact in the potential absence of federal climate policy[20]. Only time will tell whether this commendable rhetoric will transform into substantive policy.

Efforts at the state level have been backed by an array of climate plans at the county and city level. Portland, in coordination with Multnomah County, has shaped even more stringent long-term emissions reduction goals relative to the state, with a particular emphasis on sensible urban planning and transportation infrastructure[21]. Eugene's Climate and Energy Action Plan aims to reduce fossil fuel consumption 50% by 2030, stressing the need for a coordinated network of involved local stakeholders[22]. Corvallis, Ashland, Bend, Lincoln City and Veronia are just some of the many local governments that are developing climate plans to meet the state legislator's and governor's long-term goals[23]. The efforts of these smaller-scale jurisdictions are in further defiance of expected rational Tragedy of the Commons outcomes, and evidence of the 'think globally, act locally' mentality in action.

On the upside, Oregon is set to meet its short-term goal of reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2010[24]. Although no doubt aided by the economic recession (U.S. carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels fell by 6% in 2009[24]), Oregon has established the appropriate policies needed to transition away from carbon intensive behaviors in the near-term. The question remains whether these short-term successes can lead us towards a carbon-neutral future. Even by the optimistic legislature's calculations, Oregon's current policies will not achieve its medium-term goal of 10% below 1990 levels by 2020, let alone 75% reductions by 2050[25]. Further, it is essential that these reductions parallel up-to-date scientific climate assessments and that they are complemented by measures to ease adaptation in the face of major predicted ecological impacts. Governments across the state will have to multiply their efforts over the coming years, using broad-based, innovative and interconnected policies and forward-thinking planning to put us on a path toward enduring climate stability.

It must also be recognized that well-designed policy and planning is only one aspect of our endlessly multi-faceted climate crisis. The path to sustainability is about more than just creating the right top-down incentives or simply about

LEFT BELOW
by Stephen Siperstein

I.

going uphill
all you think about is
what's below:

thighs burning
feet slipping on
soft off-trail clay
stomach, lungs, and liver
aching with altitude.

II.

left below
friends, family, a quotidian curse.

left below
swallows, bitterbrush, granite schist.

air thickens,
swirling snow
a mile below: green.

'getting the prices right.' Government, business, educational institutions and the public are interwoven in the great cultural shift over the next century that is necessary to avert the greatest ecological catastrophe modern society has ever seen. The climate crisis is not solely about shaping incidentally sustainable behavior, but also about values, and about recognizing our ethical duty to the unvoiced and the unborn.

Lastly, Oregon cannot stabilize the climate alone: the atmosphere is a global commons, which ultimately requires global cooperation. Each of us, yearning to play our part in the planet's protection, must address the problem at the scope we have at our fingertips—at the regional, state and local level. But we must also strive to unite and coordinate this individual zeal into a massive global network, which builds upon the efforts of others and fosters a community of innovation and exchange. We must seize this opportunity to turn what could "rationally" become a tragedy into the poetically multi-lateral protection of our global climate commons. □

Kevin Horan is a second-year master's student in the Environmental Studies Program.

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BREAKING THROUGH THE SIRENS' SONG

One Man's Voyage to Reclaim His Heritage

by Kory Northrop

There's a generally accepted theory that human beings are shaped by their environment. If that is true then I have largely been shaped by Illinois, the Land of Lincoln. I was born and raised in Illinois living in the same house for nineteen years. Now I find myself living in Oregon, which is quite a change from my native land. I visited Oregon three times before moving here last August and the first visit was enough for me to realize that Oregon is a special place overflowing with opportunities for adventure.

> Being without flannel for six years was sort of like Odysseus being separated from his wife, Penelope.

Over the last five months I've slowly become used to living in Oregon and am often reminded of my home. Now I know that Oregon and Illinois are about as similar as a beaver and a duck, but I've come to realize that they share a very important characteristic. It is this certain characteristic that makes Oregon feel a bit like home despite the overwhelming disparities. What exactly is it that defines a place? Is it native vegetation? Topography? Climate? Fauna? Or perhaps culture? Rand McNally and sailors hold latitude and longitude in highest favor when defining places, but for me, it's a different set of intersecting lines that classify a place.

The lines that I speak of are the multi-colored, perpendicular lines of your run-of-the-mill flannel shirt. Accordingly, the world, as I see it, can be divided into two factions: flannel-friendly places and flannel-inhibitive places. Flannel-friendly places often are: in cold or mild climates, surrounded by forests, and have a vibrant indie rock scene. Flannel-inhibitive places are: in warm and humid climates, recipients of copious amounts of sunlight, and at or near sea level.

Based on these criteria, I consider Oregon to be a flannel-friendly place, which is an exciting

prospect for me. For the past six years I have lived in New Orleans, Louisiana. New Orleans is many things, but it is not a place for habitual flannel wearing. Regardless, I would often don my flannel attire during occasions unsuitable for such a warm garment. As a result, I repeatedly found myself soaked in sweat with the front of my shirt completely unbuttoned like some kind of social deviant.

Now, things are different for me. With the mild temperatures of the Pacific Northwest I can once again let my flannel flag fly. It's hard to express how happy this makes me. Flannel is comforting. Flannel is my birthright. Flannel is my Rushmore. During my formative years I watched a lot of television. Every Thursday at 9PM (CST) during the late 80s/early 90s, I'd tune into ABC to watch one of my favorite TV shows, Roseanne. This show had it all: humor, drama, love, and of course flannel. Dan Conner, the paterfamilias played by John Goodman, was the epitome of man and he had the flannel to prove it. I learned a lot about the world from that show especially the fact that flannel was ingrained in the fabric of my world.

Dan Conner. Al Borland. Garth Algar. My parents. Everywhere I looked my eyes met flannel. It became as pedestrian as squirrels hording acorns. Then, at age nineteen, I moved to New Orleans and the rug was swept out from under my feet. Naively I thought I'd be able to take my flannel-heavy wardrobe to the Big Easy and everything would be kosher. Somewhere around the first week of December, when it was still 80°F, reality sank in. *Is it possible that all of this flannel is going to just waste away in my closet? Will I ever wear flannel again? Who am I if I don't have flannel on my back? Please don't judge me, Dan Conner….*

Photo by Kory Northrop

Being without flannel for six years was sort of like Odysseus being separated from his wife, Penelope. Now I realize that Odysseus was gone for twenty years and that he was kept away from his true love, but to me the longing and separation felt just as cruel. I was able to sneak in a few days of flannel here and there, but those days didn't come often enough. Over time I became accustomed to life without flannel. My flannel-wearing self was held captive by the southern climate and over time I developed a mild case of Stockholm syndrome. I began to relish in the heat substituting my flannel for tank tops and swim trunks. The Sirens bewitched me with their mellifluous song disguised as 300+ days of sunlight and unbridled warmth.

Six years later I was gearing up to begin graduate school at the University of Oregon. In the midst of my excitement, I completely forgot about flannel. With the late summer weather being so divine, a few weeks passed before I needed to grab any long sleeve shirts from my closet. But, when I did, my hand instinctively reached for my favorite blue flannel shirt. Putting that shirt on my back was incredible. That first touch unleashed a flood of memories and feelings. My flannel amnesia had been lifted and the Sirens' song was naught but an inaudible whisper.

Now that I am once again acclimated to the flannel world, I find myself getting excited about other aspects of Oregon. Rivers, gargantuan trees, bike paths, swimming holes, micro brews, local produce, no sales tax, the Pacific Ocean, mountains, etc. On a recent trip to the Umpqua hot spring with a few of my cohorts, I realized just how majestic Oregon is. While I was perched on the side of a hill in one of the 100°F hot springs, I admired the picturesque geography that encompassed me. About one hundred feet below, the North Umpqua River flowed between Douglas-fir-covered slopes and gleamed in the midday sun. In the distance, Cinnamon Butte and Mt. Bailey towered above an undulating expanse of evergreen forest. In the trees and on the snow-covered ground, western gray squirrels frantically scoured the land in pursuit of pine nuts and acorns. To my sides, a couple of jovial friends. And just a stone's throw away, hanging underneath the wooden shelter, my trusty old friend, the Murtaugh to my Riggs, my flannel shirt.

It is a rare occurrence to see me without a flannel shirt or jacket these days. After crunching the numbers I have determined that living in Oregon has boosted my flannel wearing by approximately 400-850%.* Those figures are shockingly high and may lead some readers to reach the same conclusion: Kory is an addict. Maybe I do have an addiction. Maybe the twitches that my body produces when no flannel has touched my back in more than twelve hours are merely a physiological response to a flannel addiction. I think it's something different. I think that I am just making up for lost time. Like Odysseus, I'm a man on a journey trying to reclaim what is rightfully his. Do you think the citizens of Ithaca accused Odysseus of being an addict for always spending time with Penelope once he returned home? The answer is no. They were like, "I'm so happy for Odysseus. It was unfair for him to be separated from something so invaluable to his existence for such a long period of time. If I were him I'd spend as much time with Penelope as possible because you never know what might happen." So I will heed the advice of those fictionalized citizens of Ithaca and spend as much time as possible wearing flannel because who knows which way the winds will blow my sails in the future? □

**Actual percentage varies depending on whether or not wearing two flannel garments at the same time counts twice.*

Kory Northrop is a first-year master's student in the Environmental Studies Program.

BADLANDS
by Shannan Lenke Stoll

"Do you ever get lonely?" I asked.
She looked up, squinting
through the stream of water
washing down her face,
down into the drain,
aware suddenly of another
in the Food n Fuel bathroom

somewhere in South Dakota.
She peeled a dried piece of soap from a
plastic sandwich bag, held it under
the water, rubbed it over cheeks, chin,
underneath armpits.
"I meet a lot of people when I ride alone,"
she said, looking at me in the mirror.

I saw her the day before, I think,
when I dipped down from I-90
to drive awhile in the Badlands,
alone through folds of earth,
rippling mounds that stretch out for miles
like colorful crumpled wrapping paper
piled in an empty prairie,

or like the set of some Strange New World.
She pedaled there on the side of the road,
orange sleeping bag strapped
to her bike, and wound up the striated
hills—
over pavement, red rock, yellow clay below,
sedimentary stripes,

each layer
a chapter from some ancient story.
I smiled, and she smiled back
somewhere in South Dakota.

CHANGE AND CONSTANCY

by Alan Dickman

The North Umpqua has taught me much about environmental change. My first experiences were family trips hiking, fishing, and camping on the upper river. On our drive up the highway in the early morning, log trucks would careen past us on tight curves, racing to the mill to deliver their three log loads with time to repeat the trip with a second or third load before dark. Once at our destination, the river's roar drowned out the highway noise and we spent our time in the shade and quiet of old growth Douglas-fir forests. Horseshoe Bend, Boulder Creek, Pine Bench, Apple Creek and Susan Creek became well known names. We would return time after time to these favorite campsites, trails, and fishing stretches.

Later, my family moved to a house on the river in Roseburg, and I came to anticipate its seasonal changes. We would float the rapids on inner tubes starting in late June. Mid summer brought blackberries, the decaying bodies of anadromous Pacific lamprey, and yellow jackets. Winter steelhead runs started in earnest with the fall rains and winter sea run cutthroat were common.

In December of 1964 a "banana express" brought warm wet weather and several days of rain melted a heavy snowpack in the mountains. I watched in amazement as a three-foot diameter cottonwood tree at the base of our path slowly toppled into the river and floated away. Other large trees bobbed downriver, as did a dislodged propane tank, sputtering like a motorboat. The floodwaters blocked the only road out, so my family spent the night in the back of a U-Haul truck parked on higher ground. For a ten-year-old kid, it was a magical time. The world was rearranged. Huge log piles accumulated across the river. As the river receded, there were treasures to be found everywhere: fish in pools in our front yard, garden tools lodged in the brush, new side channels where willows used to be. I spent the next years exploring my river with a sense of awe at its latent power. Years later, I heard geomorphologist Gordon Grant express what I had experienced with a phrase about ecosystem change that I now repeat for my students: "decades of boredom punctuated by hours of chaos."

I watched in amazement as a three-foot diameter cottonwood tree at the base of our path slowly toppled into the river and floated away.

Two years later, my family moved to a Maryland suburb outside of Washington D.C. I was a fish out of water and my knowledge of the North Umpqua meant little in this new culture. Apart from my memories of sparkling waters and moss covered forest understories, the only tangible evidence that Oregon existed was the ink stamp on the roofing plywood, visible in the attic of our house: "Roseburg, Oregon, Timber Capital of the Nation." We visited Oregon a few times in summers, but it was another ten years before I was able to reconnect closely with the North Umpqua River.

Having studied fire ecology in college, I was receptive to a fresh look at Pine Bench on a 1974 hike with representatives of the US Forest Service and Umpqua Wilderness Defenders to visit what would become the Boulder Creek Wilderness Area. Large old ponderosa pine were scattered on this flat lava bench above the river. Douglas-fir, most less than fifty years old were crowding the understory. Jessie Wright, wife of the early settler Perry Wright, told me of cattle and sheep using the bench in the 1920s on their way to summer grazing in higher meadows. She also talked of fires that burned "until the snow flew."

On the east side of the mountains, ponderosa pine often grow in clusters of evenly aged trees, the understory kept clear of invading shade tolerant trees, shrubs, and dead fuel by low intensity surface fire. But this was a different system: ponderosa pine on flat prairie tucked amidst the Douglas-fir covered slopes. What was its story? Caves not far from Pine Bench with pictographs painted on the walls, suggested that people used this area well before Jessie and Perry Wright and their cattle and sheep. In local lore, Illahee Flat, another ponderosa pine stand a few miles downriver was said to have been an important meeting and trading site for tribes from the west and east. Some ponderosa pine on the bench bore scars indicating that patches of sugar-rich inner bark had been harvested long ago. It was easy to imagine the site as a lovely summer home: flat open grassy areas, a good view of the surroundings, water in nearby Boulder Creek, and large ponderosa pine that provided shade, food, and medicine.


Photo by Alan Dickman

Pine Bench and its tantalizing stories and questions provided me with a topic for my senior thesis in environmental studies at UC Santa Cruz. It also gave me an excuse to spend a few weeks back on the North Umpqua in the summer of 1975. I wrote at the time that without active management, including use of fire, Pine Bench was likely to change into Douglas-fir forest or undergo stand replacing fire.

In 1996, during a few hours of "chaos", the Spring Fire burned through Pine Bench. With abundant understory fuel, many of the large old ponderosa pines were killed. I visited the Bench after that fire and though still familiar, it looked much different than it had ten years earlier. In 2008, the Rattle Fire burned another part of the bench.

There are still log trucks on the North Umpqua highway, but three log loads are a rarity. It is not that there aren't any trees left big enough to make a three log load, but that federal timber policy allows far less cutting of old growth than in the 1960s. Today, many of the trucks are filled with forty and fifty-year-old Douglas-fir, thinned from plantations planted after the first round of clearcut on the national forest lands.

Pacific lamprey migrations up the North Umpqua averaged 24,000 individuals between 1965 and 1973 but fewer than 50 per year were counted from 1995-2003. Umpqua cutthroat trout experienced similar declines.

Recently, in the winter of 2010, I was contacted by a forest service employee asking about my 35 year old study on Pine Bench. He is interested in doing a more in-depth analysis of the role of fire in this system and considering whether human caused fire might be returned. I'm headed there this spring to visit the area with him and think about the past and the future. *Plus ça change, plus c'est pareil.* Just like ecosystems? □

Alan Dickman is the director of the Environmental Studies Program.

Photo by Anya Dobrowolski

DIVINITY

by Gayla WardWell

You have to pick a small piece,
she said,
and work on that only,
for the problem is vast
and unknowable for most.

The water: rivers, oceans,
small puddles of mud and waste
that cannot be cleaned
with good intentions
or faith.

The animals: they ask for naught
but to breathe and live by their instincts
in ways we as humans
have forgotten or
given up willingly.

The food: choose what comes lightest
from the earth,
not factory-farmed nor genetically
modified,
as if that were
a proper term.

Use your feet to walk,
your lungs to breathe,
your eyes to capture beauty
beyond expectation
and right.

The privilege, she said,
is in choosing the gift
of every second, every sense,
every delight
and every sorrow.

The privilege is not what you own,
but what you are;
not in what you want,
but in the secret of
what your need is truly.

You have to pick a small piece,
she said,
and work on that only,
and be sure you are in the path
you most are meant to be.

EXPLORING OREGONIANS' BELIEFS ABOUT CONSUMPTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Is there common ground after all?

by Ezra Markowitz

Recent polls show decreasing public interest in and concern over climate change (Pew, 2009; Leiserowitz, Maibach & Roser-Renouf, 2010). Coupled with climate legislation that appears to be stalled at both the national and international levels, there seems to be real reason for concern regarding our collective ability to respond to climate change, at least in the near term. To make matters worse, as climate change has become more and more politicized over the past two decades (see Dunlap & McCright, 2008), it seems that space for productive public dialogue on the issue has shrunk to the point that almost no one is even talking about climate change anymore in the public sphere (cf., Boykoff, 2010). In response to these deep divisions, the Eugene-based non-profit research organization that I work for has been exploring what beliefs and values Oregonians *do* share in common with one another, specifically with respect to our shared hopes for the future.

What we have found through the course of conducting five statewide representative telephone polls is that while climate change (or "global warming") is just as partisan an issue here as it is across the U.S., Oregonians do seem to agree about what is clearly a related issue: the (over)

Photo by Amy Lindorff

consumption of goods. When we conducted our first poll nearly two years ago, we found that 88% of our respondents agreed with the statement, "We'd all be better off if we consumed less." This came as a surprise to our research team given the conventional wisdom that conspicuous consumption is central to our national ethos. Perhaps even more surprising at the time was our finding that this belief in the value of consuming less was not overtly politically motivated or oriented: roughly equal proportions of self-identified Democrats and Republicans (as well as liberals and conservatives) agreed with the statement.

> ...Oregonians' widely shared belief in the value of reducing consumption represents at least a glimmer of hope for the future.

Since that first poll, we have subsequently conducted four more surveys (most recently in December 2009). Amidst an economic downturn that has forced many Oregonians to cutback on their own consumption and made us all witness to the job losses that are sometimes associated with reduced consumption of goods and services, Oregonians continue to agree that reducing our level of consumption in this country would improve our situation, even if it might cause short-term hardship. The percentage of respondents who agree with the basic statement above has never dropped below 74%. Perhaps more importantly, when we have dug into this initial finding, we have found that many individuals believe that they themselves could and should ideally reduce their own personal consumption of a wide variety of goods (although we have found that as an individual's income rises, beliefs about one's own ability to reduce consumption *decreases*).

We have spent the past two years attempting to figure out both what may underlie Oregonians' beliefs about consumption as well as what the possible social, economic and environmental implications are of such "de-consumption" beliefs. To get at the first question, we have explored possible demographic, sociological and social psychological predictors. Across all of our polls, gender has been the single most consistent demographic predictor of responses to the basic "We'd all be better off…" item, with women's agreement never dropping below 80% and reaching as high as 95% (April 2008 poll). In addition, we have witnessed some differences in agreement as a function of political identification and ideology, with Democrats and liberals generally showing higher levels of agreement. However, solid majorities of both groups have always been in agreement with the basic consumption item, and differences between groups have not been significant across all five polls.

We have also explored how individuals' worldviews and values might be related to consumption beliefs. Our main interest here has been in exploring the possible effects of cultural worldviews (i.e., hierarchicalism vs. egalitarianism and individualism vs. communitarianism) on individuals' beliefs about consumption (see Kahan et al., 2007 for further explanation of the cultural worldviews model). In general we have found that individuals who more strongly endorse egalitarian and communitarian values show higher levels of agreement with the consumption statement, a result that is clearly in line with recent theories on risk perception and acceptance of the status quo (Douglas & Wildavsky, 1982; Jost, Banaji & Nosek, 2004; Kahan et al., 2007; Slovic, 1987). Still, agreement with the consumption item has remained high even amongst individuals who endorse individualistic and hierarchical values.

Of course, while we feel it is important to explore the etiology of (de)consumption beliefs, what has truly motivated our research since our initial finding is the critical question of "so what?" That is, what does it mean that 70-90% of Oregonians believe we'd all be better off if we consumed less? Does this translate into support for deconsumption-oriented policies or personal behavioral changes? At the very least, what does a belief that reduced consumption is good correlate with in terms of beliefs about environmental and social issues? While our research and analysis on these issues is ongoing, we do have some preliminary findings of interest.

First, we have found that there is a positive relationship between de-consumption beliefs and attitudes towards climate change. However, the magnitude of this relationship appears to be relatively small, suggesting that beliefs about de-consumption and those about climate change are relatively independent of one another (especially for Democrats). Moving more into the policy and behavior realm, individuals who believe we need to reduce consumption have shown significantly higher levels of support for increased spending on investments in energy conservation and renewable energy specifically in order to "reduce oil dependency and address climate change" (April 2008 poll). Additionally, agreement with the 'reducing consumption' item is positively related to: willingness to cut one's own consumption "for the good of the planet," increased support for higher food and gas prices (if the goal is to protect the environment), and stronger endorsement of consumption taxes on luxuries and energy (so long as the tax is fair to low income groups). In a later poll exploring twelve specific consumption-oriented policies, we found that while overall support for most of the policies was low, individuals who agreed that "we'd all be better off if we consumed less" showed higher levels of support for all of the proposed policies. In some cases the differences in support level were quite significant (up to 30% difference in policy support).

One takeaway point from this second set of findings is that while public support for price-signal climate change policies is not particularly strong (with a few notable exceptions) it does appear to be the case that beliefs about consumption can be, and perhaps should be, utilized to drum up support for policies that reduce environmental (e.g., climate change) and social (e.g., inequality) problems currently facing the state of Oregon. Perhaps most importantly, it appears that the relationships we have observed between agreement to "We'd all be better off..." and various policy proposals are relatively independent of respondents' beliefs about climate change. This is a key point, because while discussions about "climate change policies" are a dead-end for many Oregonians at this point, it appears that framing issues around reducing consumption may not be so toxic.

Where does this research leave us in terms of addressing climate change here in Oregon? Although we recognize that there are many barriers—including institutional, cultural, physical and psychological ones—to meaningfully reducing our consumption at the individual, community, state, national and even international levels, we believe that Oregonians' widely shared belief in the value of reducing consumption represents at least a glimmer of hope for the future. Confronting climate change will require significant shifts in both how and what we consume, but perhaps it is not so critical that we make these changes for the same underlying reasons. While our research is ongoing and restricted to Oregon, we are hopeful that our findings may provide at least some meaningful path for reconciliation between groups that have in many respects simply stopped talking to each other. At the very least they indicate that the answer to our initial question is a positive one. □

Ezra Markowitz is a Ph.D. student in the Environmental Studies Program with Psychology as a focal department.

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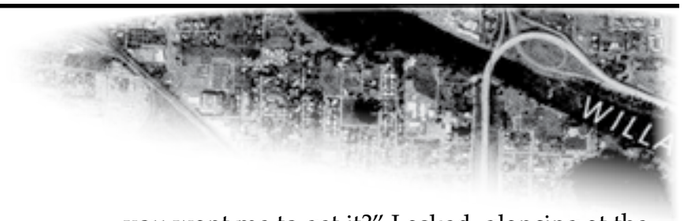
UNTITLED



by Melanie Knapp

I picked up a man's hat today.

He was leaning, arm extended over the side of the chair, fingers a few inches shy of reaching it. I had been following him for a few blocks, watching as he sped down 12th street, his electric wheelchair careening like a go-kart, negotiating rain-filled potholes and winding from right to left as if he were driving on an obstacle course. He exhibited no qualms about entering the lane on the other side of the road in order to steer himself away from a divot in the pavement or a puddle.

I regretted all the times I'd grumbled about biking in the rain.

He had a single small, red light attached to the back of his chair (too small, I wondered?) and an orange flag. No way to protect himself from the rain. I'd started to pass him, coming up close on his left side, but instead squeezed my brakes at the last minute, slowing my light blue and tan Schwinn enough to follow just behind him. I felt suddenly aware of my able-leggedness. Did he ever get to pass someone on the road as easily as I almost passed him?

I had been thinking about dinner. I could wait.

We neared the stop sign at Hilyard, and he slowed to a stop. He craned his neck left to look up the street and his black beanie dropped onto the ground. It lay in a sad lumpy pile on the uneven pavement, soaking up the water from the road. It was a plain hat, a single color - the ridged kind made from the most typical of knitting stitches. He reached, and yet couldn't reach it. His helplessness made me feel helpless.

I wondered how he felt about the reaching.

I put my weight on my right foot and glided up to him, hovering above the seat and balancing on the bike until I reached him and placed my left foot back on the ground.

He seemed small, sunken in the chair with a fleece blanket with stitched sides tucked around him. We were soggy. He looked at me when I stopped beside him, bleating a noise that didn't fit into any mold I had for words. I paused. "Do you want me to get it?" I asked, glancing at the hat. He stared into my eyes, and it seemed obvious that he understood me. He looked at me and then looked at the hat with earnestness, eyes open wide, jerking towards it. His brown hair was tousled.

I wondered where he was going.

Embarrassed, I reached down, rain pants swishing, until the hat was in my hand. I held it awkwardly, not sure what to do next. The hat was wet, and I hit it against my leg to try to shame the water droplets into going elsewhere. He would be cold. He didn't reach for the hat, and I didn't know if he could. There was a pause, and we looked at each other.

"Do you want me to put it on you?"

I thought I noticed a slight movement of his head toward me. He was still watching me, telling me silently that dropping his hat and waiting for others to put it on his head was his experience of the world. I stretched the hat over his head, still unsure if it was the right thing to do. In my earnestness to ensure that the hat wouldn't fall into another puddle, I pulled it down too far, instantly feeling regretful. Why didn't I take my gloves off? I quickly pulled the hat back up an inch, uncovering his eyes. Eyes that were still looking at me. No judgment. Just clarity. We looked at each other. He turned his head back to the road.

Another moment, and he was off, zooming down 12th street.

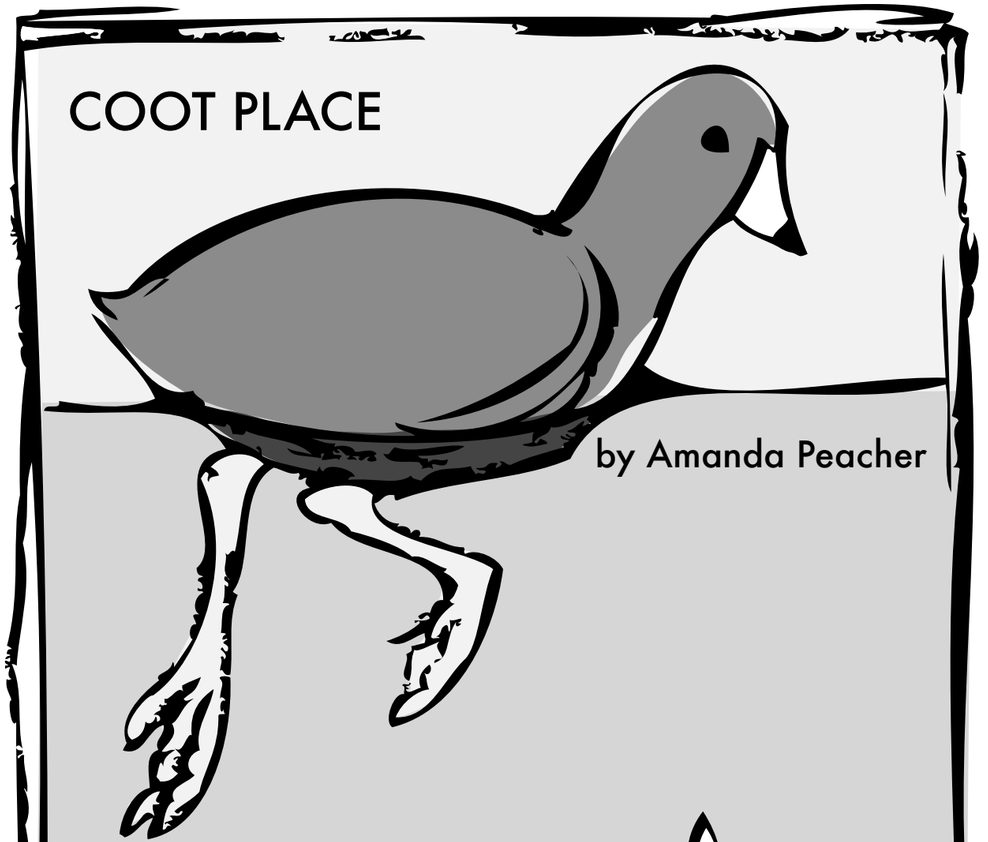
I hoped he only had a few more blocks toward his destination. How would he take off the hat? How would he dry it? How would he get warm? What would his life be like if he lived in California instead of Oregon?

I looked left, and then right, and then started pedaling.

I headed home. □

Melanie Knapp is a first-year master's student in the Environmental Studies Program.

COOT PLACE



by Amanda Peacher

The morning is stark and gray at the Delta Ponds. The landscape looks winter-worn. The cottonwood trees and willow bushes are barren; the banks of the ponds are muddy and strewn with dead leaves. On a bright spring day most people would visit this place and think "wildlife refuge"—it would be green and fresh and bustling with baby ducks. But today, it's easier to remember the alter ego of the Delta Ponds—to imagine this place as the torn up gravel pits that they once were.

Still, the birds love it here. From a distance the American coot looks like a small gray football bobbing along the surface of the water. Most people mistakenly refer to them as ducks. The coot is not a flashy fowl—its body is the color of charcoal, its head a glossy black. An ivory colored beak contrasts with the coot's dark body.

One coot stands alone on the dry end of an otherwise submerged log above the murky water. Its rust-red eye seems unfocused. Other nearby water birds quack and flap and dive, but this coot seems content to perch. Its hind portion briefly emits a thin, even stream of waste. The water below clouds a moment, then clears almost immediately. The coot's expression remains stolid.

The coots that patrol these waters are as subtle as their habitat. At this time of year, the Delta Ponds are not really a place that people spend the day. There's no entrance fee to get in, no peaks to summit, no trails to hike. Most people who pass here are jogging or commuting along the bike path. If you come to the Delta Ponds for the Delta Ponds, you will sit, and you will watch. You won't find spotted owls or mountain lions. Perhaps if you bring with you a pair of binoculars, you might discover an endangered western pond turtle sunning itself on a mossy rock. But most of the creatures that live here inhabit ponds and rivers all over the United States. In other words, there's nothing to see here that you couldn't see somewhere else.

Unlike the mallard ducks and Canada geese that also inhabit these ponds, the American coot lacks webbed feet. They propel themselves through the water with six flat toes—three for each foot. When the birds linger on the surface, their feet look skeletal and gray dangling beneath their bodies.

But somehow those awkward feet serve their function well—one coot dives in a plunging, graceful motion, the water rippling in concentric circles where it disappears. It emerges with a beak full of muddy murk. The coot shakes the muck—which doesn't seem to relieve it of any mud—then gulps it down.

A nearby mallard is intrigued. Compared to the swift coot, mallard ducks are sloppy, ineffective food gatherers. As the mallards dive for pond grub, their behinds stick up into the air and their legs paw awkwardly in the water to keep them afloat. Despite all the effort and awkwardness, most attempts to get food this way leave the bigger ducks empty-beaked.

So the mallards that linger about the ponds benefit from the gathering prowess of the smaller and more successful coot. The coot can't swallow all the winnings of each dive, and as it shakes out mud from food, prowling mallards paddle around and pick up the spoils.

In the middle of all this mallard-coot action, the single coot on the submerged log has remained still. Suddenly, his marsh hen decides to voice. It opens its ivory beak to emit two short beeps. With that, the coot shakes itself into the morning and slips into the watery gravel pit, as if its own call has signaled the official start to the day. □

Amanda Peacher is a second-year master's student in the Environmental Studies Program.

LOCAL VS. ORGANIC

Dueling or Dancing Perspectives on Food Sustainability?

by Will Truce

The primary way an animal engages the natural world is by eating. It is through the consumption of Earth's resources that we build our bodies, fuel our actions, and can significantly alter our environment. For most of the history of eating, differing perspectives on how and what to eat haven't factored much into a population's daily life. Instead, genetics, environment, and tradition largely dictated how one ate. Leave it to modern humans to try something new. Today, much of our species is inundated with an overwhelming 'patchwork of perspectives' on eating, putting us in a novel predicament for the animal kingdom in that we are uncertain, if not afraid, of how to feed ourselves. In fact, the American Psychiatric Association has diagnosed a new disorder that has in part been fueled by this modern dilemma: *Cibophobia*, a fear of food. A fear that is not entirely unjustified, as we realize the way we eat can have dramatic consequences on the well-being of lives (human and non-human), communities, and shared ecosystems.

The modern food system that has developed from this phenomenon consists of a complex, and often conflicting, array of concerns. It attempts to navigate though food values, such as health, convenience, affordability, taste, and freshness, along with moral values, such as sustainability, capitalism, community, food security, animal welfare, and worker rights. The last half century has been dominated by a handful of these values, particularly convenience, affordability, taste, and capitalism. However, the result of this societal experiment has proven to be detrimental not only to the well-being of our bodies, but to our planet as well. In consequence, a movement has grown to focus the food system more on the sustainability of our environment, our health, and our local communities. By keeping these values as primary concerns, the values that dominated the last several decades will be more achievable.

ENVS grad Kory Northrop enjoys an organic apple.

Considerations for 'sustainability' will always be difficult to fully realize, given the inherent ambiguity of the concept. Moreover, these considerations can often include conflicting efforts themselves, which may impede action and cloud the integrity of practices that are perceived as vital to the sustainable food movement. This debate is exemplified by the current controversy asking whether 'local' or 'organic' foods are more sustainable. Given that these two adjectives are often seen as the heroes of this movement, it is worth a bit of exploration to understand what they are, how they may conflict, and, more importantly, what we should do in our effort to once again enjoy eating without fear.

Go Local

A strong movement is building through the promotion of eating more locally grown food. This movement has spawned a variety of approaches to doing so, ranging from the '100-mile' diet to the 'one-day's-leisurely-drive' diet. There is also a new lifestyle label in Webster's dictionary, the 'Locavore'. The local food movement is based on the idea that eating food that is locally grown and processed not only is fresher and better tasting, but more importantly, has fewer negative impacts on the environment and strengthens the local community. Though much of local food is not certified organic, some Locavores argue that the amount of greenhouse gas emissions to get non-local organic food from the farm to the plate results in it being less sustainable than locally sourced food. Researchers at the University of Iowa found that non-local food (conventional or organic) in the grocery store can have 27 times the amount of associated 'food-miles.' Depending upon where you live in the U.S., apples produced even within the country can require one cup of gasoline per apple to transport, while one bunch of grapes can use up to four cups. All of this transportation is further criticized to reduce the quality and nutrition of the food when measured in its freshness and taste.

> For Locavores, a food system with integrity requires more than just substituting synthetic with organic chemicals.

Buying food that is locally produced also strengthens communities by supporting local economies, cultures, and food security. Supporting small farms also has positive implications for the environment. Though many of these small farms may not be certified organic, it is commonly touted in the local food movement that their food production practices are still often more sustainable than industrial-scale agriculture and that many of them are not certified organic primarily due to the fees associated with getting certified. Potentially the most important reason to eat locally is the intimacy it can provide one with her/his food, community, season, and ecosystem. For Locavores, a food system with integrity requires more than just substituting synthetic with organic chemicals, as often practiced in industrial organic food production. It requires a more holistic approach to change by focusing first on our communities.

Go Organic

The organic food movement is a reaction to the use of synthetic chemicals in conventional agriculture and livestock production, which is considered an incredible detriment to the health of our bodies and the environment. Though 'conventional' food items have not been conclusively linked to poorer health, there is ample evidence hinting at such a link (e.g. low-levels of pesticides and cancer) and fairly solid findings correlating soil health with plant nutritional quality. The movement is not only concerned about the consumer, but the health of the farmers and livestock that are directly exposed to these potentially harmful chemicals on a regular basis. The scientific evidence for the negative impacts of conventional food production on the environment, however, is irrefutable.

Yet, as discussed earlier, the limited practice of organic food production in combination with its centralization and industrialization has resulted in much of organic food being transported far distances to reach widely dispersed niche consumers, leading to some advocates of local food to accuse the organic food system of being less

sustainable when measured in the amount of carbon dioxide emitted relative to locally sourced food.

Many organic food advocates, however, contend that a rationale associating sustainability solely with transportation distance (i.e. 'food miles') is far too simplistic, because it doesn't take into account the effects of land-use practices (e.g. water-use, cultivation and harvesting methods, quantity and type of fertilizer), energy source, storage, type of transportation, climate, or soil-type. A 2006 study by researchers from Lincoln University in Christchurch, New Zealand found that importing apples from New Zealand to the United Kingdom ultimately has a smaller carbon footprint then apples grown locally within the U.K. when you factor in that New Zealand has a more conducive climate for apple production, and energy that is largely generated by renewable resources. Moreover, many regions of the world simply cannot support a locally-based food system that provides optimal nutrition throughout the year. Some advocates of the organic food movement further argue that the industrialization and centralization of organic food production can allow for greater efficiency in food production and distribution, increase affordability and accessibility of the organic market, and ensure a considerable reduction in the impacts that local and non-local conventional farms have on the well-being of us all.

Just Go

The debate between fervent local food and organic food advocates is certainly not inclusive of all the 'conflicting' practices that could be encountered when striving for a more sustainable food system, nor does there appear to be any sign on the horizon of a conclusive practice that can be considered purely sustainable. Although the discussion itself can be useful for those concerned with sustainability through the dialogue's ability to increase consciousness of the repercussions of feeding ourselves, author Samuel Fromartz in his book *Organic, Inc: Natural Foods and How They Grew* considers the debate to provide "false choices" between practices that ultimately have good intentions for the sustainable food movement. According to Fromartz, what is important is to just be conscious of how your actions impact your health, community, and environment, along with doing anything you can that inserts these values into an "equation" that has been too long dominated by unsustainable considerations. I would further add, these efforts shouldn't be perceived as necessarily conflicting, but exposing and transitioning us into a more sustainable lifestyle—a lifestyle that is necessary for the well-being of us all. Yes, striving for a more sustainable food system can be complicated, confusing, and even a bit scary, but it also can be exciting, inspiring, and satisfying. □

Will Truce is a fourth-year graduate student in the Environmental Studies Program.

THE FAIRFAX CONVERSATION

W.B. Yeats' "Lake Isle of Innisfree" revisited by Oscar Wilde

by Chris Roddy

Scene: Victorian England, 1895. A drawing room in London.

GERALDINE: I have no time to talk for I am off to the countryside. Dreadful, awful trip it will be. Nothing good has ever come out of the countryside.

EDWARD: [*Indolently.*] And how, pray tell, might you get there? The train? Walk? My dear, the mere thought of travel is exhausting. Why do you think we have servants to bring us things? Come dear, I proffer an evening of Bordeaux and frivolous discussion. Politics are far too scandalous a topic; rather let us talk of Lady Satskill's affair with the Lord Lieutenant of Shankshire Court. Far too often does dinner conversation turn to depressing news when gossip is much more complementary to a nice burgundy and Beef Wellington.

GERALDINE: No matter. I must be off to the lake. I have an appointment to keep. People who don't keep appointments usually do not have many friends. I, on the other hand, have several friends for I always keep my appointments. Hear me, Edward: the appointment is the foundation of womanhood. The only thing more important than keeping an appointment is breaking it for another, more dashing appointment.

EDWARD: [*Exasperated, calling loudly.*] Stewart! Where in the heavens is our tea?

[*Enter STEWART*]

STEWART: I believe the kettle is boiling now, sir. I shall return with the tea momentarily.

[*Exeunt STEWART*]

EDWARD: [*Stands, walks to the window.*] I do believe that Stewart keeps that infernal kettle from ever boiling. Servants like to take an awful long time in their tasks. That is why they are always apologizing. [*Playing with his lapel.*] Well, that is what you get when you hire help these days. They have no sense of time. Timing is everything. At parties you must always know what time it is in order to sit on the couch. You know, my dear? The couch is the most endearing place to sit during a party. But one should be on the couch for only so long or people will think you to be a couch whore. People who sit on couches for more than an hour talk about themselves too much…The kettle must be boiling by now! Stewart…How do you expect us to talk of worldly things with out tea?

[*Enter STEWART, carrying a silver tray with tea and sugar.*]

STEWART: Sorry, sir. The teakettle did not whistle to signal it was ready to be served. I shall replace it with one that whistles in the morning.

GERALDINE: Oh, dear me! Edward, you must get a kettle that whistles. I do not know how one is to make tea without a kettle that whistles. How else are you to tell when it is done? [*Shudders.*]

EDWARD: Where are the lemons?

STEWART: We have none, sir.

EDWARD: Preposterous. I know I had a lemon yesterday with tea.

STEWART: That was the last, sir.

EDWARD: How absurd. I drank tea with lemon yesterday. Therefore, I know that there were lemons, for as I drank my tea, I assumed that because I was having a lemon, there simply must be more for what is now today. Stewart, you must go look harder. There are most definitely more lemons. Always know that when you have something one day, there undoubtedly must be more of them for the next day. How else could you have had it the day before unless there were some present? I dare say, Stewart, everyone knows that you only run out of things when you don't have them the day before.

STEWART: Yes, sir.

[*Exeunt STEWART*]

GERALDINE: Well, I would love to stay for tea and lemon but I fear I am dreadfully late. If I miss the train to Innisfree then I will have to take another. Taking a different train than the one you planned upon

is an upsetting experience. You must agree, there is a sense that everything you do from that point forward is simply wrong. I cannot bear to deal with such psychological aggravation.

EDWARD: [*Putting down his tea, face souring.*] Stewart! The lemons are sorely needed; the tea is far too sweet. Sweet tea is simply uncalled for when having a serious discussion. [*To Geraldine.*] Sugar?

GERALDINE: Yes, but I must go. Might you have any earplugs? I will need them for my trip to Innisfree.

EDWARD: For the train ride?

GERALDINE: Oh heavens, NO! There is nothing more satisfying than the roar of the train engine and the heavy, thick black smoke that burns your nose. I adore the clanks of the train because then I know I am going somewhere. How else would I know that I was on my way to Innisfree? I might miss my stop if I didn't have the racket of the train to remind me. The earplugs are for the cacophonous noise pollution by the lake. Crickets and linnets and the waves of the lake, all a bloody symphony of torturous proportions.

EDWARD: [*Ponderously.*] And to think some people claim that the sounds of nature are lovely and peaceful! I think not. Nothing will ever calm my nerves like the sound of the rubbish carts at dawn, the rumbling of the trains, the peals of the church bells, [*Yelling excitedly.*] THE THRILLING CLAMOR OF CONSTRUCTION! How else would you know that you are part of civilization? People in the country must be terribly lonely and lost. Stewart! The lemons!

[*Enter STEWART*]

STEWART: [*Abashedly, honey jar in hand.*] I still cannot locate the lemons you speak of. However, I have found this honey. Shall I leave it with you, sir?

EDWARD: Well, our conversation seems to be more complementary for tea and some sort of crumpet instead of honey. I do believe that I told you countless times that honey is best for discussing matters that are difficult. Hence, they are both sticky. I swear, have you learned nothing from what I have told you about conversation and food?

STEWART: Yes, sir; I am terribly sorry. It is just that I read somewhere that…

EDWARD: Reading? No wonder you don't know that politics and lemons complement each other.

STEWART: Sorry, sir. I shall stop my reading at once.

[*Exeunt STEWART*]

EDWARD: Reading is going to ruin the profession of servitude.

GERALDINE: [*Standing with her packed bag near the door, ready to leave.*] Truly, Edward dear, I must be off to Innisfree. I would much rather stay here in the city with you; a new play has opened tonight. I hear that it is about the Indians of America, savages they are.

EDWARD: Really? Savages are delightful as long as they are far away. I cannot imagine what I would do if a savage was ever in the same room as me. I suppose we could find something to talk about. Savages always have something to talk about. Just look at the court's employees—they spend all day talking and talking. Do you have everything you need to take with you? I declare, you mustn't stay outside too long while you are there. Heaven knows what sort of creatures might be lurking outside in nature.

GERALDINE: Really, Edward. Must you scare me like that? The last time I was at Innisfree, an awful experience, mind you, my sister made me walk to the lake and have a picnic! How dreadful, my poor sister thinks that picnics are adorable and such fun. There is really nothing more horrifying than a picnic. The sun beats down on you so that your skin, if not fully covered, turns red. There are little insects that creep and crawl under your clothes and bite you. There was a beehive in the glade nearby, and the buzzing was absolutely deafening. I thought that my ears were broken and I would hear nothing more than a powerful "BUZZZZZZZZZ" for the rest of my life.

EDWARD: Oh dear, how awful! A bee stung me once. I do say, there are no creatures that I hate more than bees. What good are they? They are always on flowers or flying near flowers. How is one supposed to smell a flower if a bee might fly right up your nose?

GERALDINE: My sister thinks bees are romantic. My sister thinks a lot of things are romantic. She likes to go into her garden and pull beans out of the dirt, just for fun! People who like to play in the dirt for fun don't listen to enough music. My sister is such an embarrassment; I wish I didn't have to love her. Loving your relations is tedious work.

EDWARD: That's why I don't have any siblings. I couldn't bear to have any to deal with so I just didn't bother to have myself any.

GERALDINE: That is nonsense. You have a brother, George.

EDWARD: No he isn't. He is merely my father and mother's son. George and I share no relation whatsoever. I didn't choose to have him as my brother so therefore he is nothing of the sort. You think just because he and I share the same mother we must be related. I never said he was my brother, so he is not and we are great friends.

GERALDINE: Edward, do promise to come and visit me at Innisfree? I cannot bear the thought of being in a field with trees everywhere and birds and insects and things. I dare say that the country only exists because there are wonderful cities. Where else could we put all of those annoying things?

EDWARD: Quite right. I fear I will not be able to join you at Innisfree, however, as I cannot deal with open spaces very well. Once, I was traveling from Paris to London and we stopped in Yates. There was nothing around save for a large field and one small store. Oh, but nothing is more consoling than the shadows of buildings and seeing you neighbor through your window, only an arm length away. How could we have dinner parties if we didn't have such close neighbors?

GERALDINE: Well, I am off, Edward. Do me a favor and send these letters to me. [*Hands EDWARD a stack of letters, pre-addressed and stamped.*]

EDWARD: Who are they from?

GERALDINE: You, silly! You wrote them to me so I wouldn't be too bored while on holiday.

EDWARD: Of course I did! I am so thoughtful.

GERALDINE: Yes, you are. But you never seem to spell my name right. It has one 'R,' not two. But you fix that in your third letter after I correct you. [*Hands EDWARD another stack of letters addressed to him.*]

EDWARD: Well, I had thought there were two 'R's' because your first letter to me had the ink smudged where you signed your name.

GERALDINE: These things are to be expected when sending mail from Innisfree. The quality of civil service is poor in the country. I am surprised you received any of my letters at all.

EDWARD: Well, they did come quite late, usually a few weeks after you had written them.

GERALDINE: I dare say though, who is Fairfax?

EDWARD: I know of no such person.

GERALDINE: [*Taking one of the letters from him, opens it, and points out a line.*] Then why do you write to me about him? You said you played cards with Fairfax and that he and you are planning to visit me at Innisfree. You also mention bringing bits of cobblestone so that I might be able to walk on land instead of dirt.

EDWARD: Of course! Fairfax and I met each other at the train station when I sent you off to Innisfree as he sent off his beloved mother to the same destination. We became friends once we established we weren't related. But, I assure you, when we visited, you had a lovely time and we danced and drowned out that accursed country bumpkin racket.

GERALDINE: Don't bother, I remember perfectly well. I was there after all; it was I who put on the record that you broke.

EDWARD: Well, Fairfax bumped into me.

GERALDINE: No time, I am off. Be sure to tell Fairfax I had a lovely time with him at Innisfree and I hope to see him again soon.

EDWARD: I will. Be sure to send me a letter! [*Exeunt GERALDINE. EDWARD places the letters he is to mail on the table, the letters from GERALDINE in a basket.*] Stewart! Where is that lemon for my tea? I am expecting Fairfax at any moment! There really is nothing more delightful than a trip to the country with a stranger. □

Chris Roddy is a first-year master's student in the Environmental Studies Program.

THE QUINTESSENTIAL OREGON BEER

by Kevin Belanger

If there's one thing I've learned in graduate school, it's this: beer brings people together. People rarely turn down the opportunity to leave campus or office after a long day and unwind with a pint and friends. It's no coincidence that we happen to live in the unofficial microbrew capital of America. Oregon has grown a reputation for having some of the most delicious beers in the country. Which begs the question we must ask in our culture of definitions: which beer is the best?

For this Oregon-specific issue of the *Ecotone*, we decided that we were going to find the quintessential Oregon brew. We gathered (very) willing participants from the graduate program and locked them in an apartment with fourteen beers and a variety of munchies… I mean palate cleansers.

Disclaimer: The survey of beers I'm about to describe is in no way a scientific, robust analysis of all Oregon brews. We bought a random sample, mostly based on price and availability. Of course, the results could have been different with a different cadre of grad students, a different blend of beers, or on a different night. And of course the problem of bias certainly existed as we didn't have the patience to do a blind tasting.

So you may ask, "Why bother?" Perhaps it's the principle. Beer is meant to be tasted and philosophized about by groups of people who have little idea what they are talking about. This was accurately proven through the comments that people made about each beer (which, unsurprisingly, became more inane as the evening went on). Apparently some beers taste like "campfires," "dish soap," and "back porch summertime, but no fireflies." But most importantly, we learned that the simple act of talking about beer brings people together. **Here's our list of the top 5:**

#1 Laurelwood, Organic Red Ale

6.92 treehugs out of 10

Laurelwood's Organic Red Ale was the big winner of the evening. Laurelwood, based out of Portland, is not a Eugene staple. Many had never heard of it. But among a picky bunch of beer tasters, it proved to be the most agreeable. It also had the fewest snide comments written about it, so that has to say something, right? It also doesn't seem like its organic status had anything to do with the results since they don't plaster it all over the label like some other organic beers. It's a refreshing underscore to a delicious beer.

#2 Deschutes, Red Chair Northwest Pale Ale

6.7 treehugs out of 10

Deschutes not only crafts some of the best beer in Oregon, it's also likely the most well-known Oregon brewery outside of the state. The makers of Black Butte Porter and Mirror Pond Pale Ale in Bend also release a variety of seasonals, including the Red Chair Northwest Pale Ale, which proved to be a unanimous favorite. Words used to describe it include "warm," "inviting," and "clean," though one reviewer said it was "all right." Though after an evening of sampling twelve different beers on wrecked palates, "all right" is a pretty good place to be.

#3 Oakshire, Ill-Tempered Gnome

6.33 treehugs out of 10

The Ill-Tempered Gnome is the other seasonal beer on our list, and its third place showing proves that innovation works. Oakshire, a Eugene upstart founded in 2006, is one of the smallest breweries sampled in our test, but they did not fail with this hoppy brown winter ale. The reviewers had a bit of fun with its name, calling it "brutish and short." Perhaps it was so well rated because it was our only darker beer in the mix. Or perhaps it really is that good.

#4 Ninkasi, Total Domination IPA

6.28 treehugs out of 10

We would be remiss if we didn't include a brew from the Eugene staple brewery Ninkasi on our list. Luckily for them, we voted two Ninkasi beers in our top 5. Also founded in the beer renaissance of 2006, Ninkasi has quickly made a name for itself around Eugene and beyond. Total Domination has to be their most popular brew, and it definitely lives up to its name. We were overwhelmed by hops, but we kept coming back for more.

#5 Ninkasi, Believer Double Red Ale

5.83 treehugs out of 10

The Believer Double Red from Ninkasi rounds out the top 5 with its "sweet" and "sturdy" flavor. I asked one of Ninkasi's brewers, Nigel Francisco, to tell me a bit about their brewery, and he made a point to highlight their efforts to create a more sustainable brewery. Francisco says that, among other things, "Ninkasi has paired up with many local farmers to take away our used grain. By giving our grain to local farmers we keep the spent grain out of landfills and it is in turn used as feed." It's that kind of creative reuse that makes you feel a little better about enjoying that local grain-fed hamburger with your beer.

The other beers tasted that didn't make this list, in no particular order, were: Full Sail's Amber, Pyramid's Thunderhead IPA, Fire Mountain's Pale Ale, Deschutes' Green Lakes Organic Ale, Hub's IPA, and MacTarnahan's Amber. I wouldn't feel bad if I were these beers though. You don't realize how hard it is to taste twelve different beers in a night until you find yourself in a friend's living room with the daunting task of telling the difference between one beer and the next.

In a moment of genius late into the night, we decided to mix it up a little bit with the lone can of Pabst Blue Ribbon lingering in the fridge. Surely after trying a sampling of Oregon's finest mature brews, Milwaukee-based PBR would seem more like a child's beer (so to speak). But the truth is, even a bunch of enviro grad students with a penchant for organic microbrews still want to cling to our collective youth: PBR received 6.6 out of 10. □

Kevin Belanger is a second-year master's student in the Environmental Studies Program.

THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF HUMAN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

by Monica Welch

Every muscle fiber in my back screamed as I slowly stood up. I had been digging holes in a newly constructed and compacted stream bank for hours. Half-dug holes around me beckoned for completion, for planting. The eight of us—seven students and a restoration ecologist—were in the midst of planting bare poles of dogwood and willow along this new stream bank. Our job was to re-vegetate the bank with shrubs, which meant digging pits about the size of post-holes. It was excruciatingly slow and painful. For the plantings to survive the summer, the holes had to be dug two to three feet deep to reach the water table. The digging was even more painful and frustrating because nearly half the sites we had chosen for plantings proved too rocky to excavate.

When I was accepted into this Restoration Ecology Field course last spring, my excitement and giddiness were followed quickly by apprehension. A million questions and doubts about my ability to succeed ran through my mind. I had returned to school just three months prior, after a nearly thirty-year hiatus.

My prior profession had been one of healing and nurturing through nursing. But there had been a day when things suddenly became finite for me in that job. Returning to school was a now-or-never opportunity. Environmental issues and outdoor pursuits were always a part of my life, even as a nurse. In returning to school, I was now focusing my instinct to caretake toward the environment.

Karen, the ecologist, had told us the unfortunate history of this still beautiful but dysfunctional meadow. The first settlers had altered the streams and drained the wetlands to raise crops and a few cattle. The structure and function of the ecosystem had been degraded first by those who made their home here, and later by the Corps of Engineers.

Now the goal was to reestablish habitat suitable for salmon. A master plan included altering Whychus Creek to follow its original meandering path. Riparian plantings were needed throughout the area that had been "remodeled" by a Caterpillar dozer.

Our group's shared environmental ethic inspired us to endure the hard labor our instructors demanded. We grasped the magnitude of the overall plan and the importance of meeting our timeline; we had four rigorous days to complete the plantings. The eighth tenet of Deep Ecology reflects the imperative to assist in healing the wounds of this ecosystem. The focus on healing becomes essential when you're immersed in mud, muscles burning, after hours spent digging and excavating all in the name of repairing a wounded stream.

* * *

The wounds of fellow man, though on a different scale, are in actuality not so different. It is intellectually and physically demanding to understand and practice the art of human healing.

Photo by Anya Dobrowolski

As a nurse, the intricacies of holistic care engender a feeling in me of obligatory caring. The healing professions create an environment of concern for one's own. I argue that this is essential for survival—not just for an individual, but also for humankind in general.

If not for one another, who will heal us when we are in need?

When I applied a patient's dressing, I was one human nurturing another through touch. The wound was thus cleaned and anointed with healing power and antibiotic ointment. A cocoon of soft, fresh and sterile dressings covered it gently yet securely to allow new tissue to regenerate from below. This one step was not completion, but began a progression of events set in motion for healing to occur.

* * *

Camp Polk Meadow was our primary care that week. We knew that others would come after us in a procession of restoration, bringing the meadow back to health. The goal was to restore its function by reshaping and restoring its structure. Like an operating room team, together we would

perform a surgery on the creek, and then stitch it back together with riparian vegetation, and eventually, the lifeblood of salmon.

The stream straightening of a bygone era had been followed by dam placement downstream, below the point where Whychus Creek merged with the Crooked River. New federal rules required the power plant owners to update to new, fish-friendly fish ladders. Salmon would once again have access to Whychus Creek.

...the scene was barren and blank, like a dressing applied to a wound. Tidy and quiet, I knew it disguised what would happen below.

We retrieved the cuttings for revegetation from the Forest Service cold storage in Sisters, Oregon. We removed them from their rooting hormone and water baths. Henry (another student), Karen and I trimmed all two hundred and fifty cuttings on a Tuesday afternoon. We passed one pair of giant pruning shears back and forth and took turns to preserve our arms. We then painted the top branches to make sure that they would be planted right side up.

Returning to Whychus Creek with ten buckets filled with four-foot poles in water, I was anxious to get them in the ground. The grueling work to prepare them for planting was somehow crazily rewarding. I quarreled with uncooperative sand and rocks in holes. Water and slurry would not be pushed aside as I tried to assess how deep the holes were. Poorly placed holes would collapse on the stream bank into the stream. My physical effort was an up front and personal contact with the landscape, which was slowly yielding to the healing touch I was so unsparingly applying. In the same way, the tactile connections of nursing practice always involved a deeply personal, intimate human interaction.

By Saturday afternoon, the holes were all planted with dogwood and willow cuttings and filled with soil. My own sweat had helped to create an environment suitable for growth. The trees had soil and water. Time and warm temperatures would encourage their apical buds to sprout new growth.

All up and down the new stream banks, I saw the cuttings tucked into the earth. Currently, the scene was barren and blank, like a dressing applied to a wound. Tidy and quiet, I knew it disguised what would happen below.

* * *

The complexity of interwoven relationships is no less profound and no less worthy of awe whether you consider the human body or an ecosystem. The tapestry of life on our planet has an essential interconnectedness. Our obligation as humans to care for one another and the world ecosystem is intrinsically related and is equally important to both.

My nurturing side will always be with me, so the supplanting of the environment for human care seems a logical and timely transition. I have spent the majority of my life helping our human side. Now it's time to care for the other, without which we cannot exist.

* * *

When I received an email from Karen a couple of months ago, she said the cuttings had leafed out late in the summer. A crew had planted 11,300 riparian forbs in the fall. Restoration continues; the salmon are waiting. □

Monica Welch is an undergraduate student in the Environmental Studies Program

THE HUMAN LANDSCAPE

by John Kneubuhler

My friends tell me the desert has too many human impacts. Trapper, my hiking buddy and I were discussing our next adventure last summer when I suggested that we explore the Eastern Oregon desert. The old cars, the rusty old buckets and glass, and the shotgun shells fascinate me—they attract me to wander the desert again and again.

Now, Trapper doesn't share this fascination with me; he feels that those timeless items are simply trash, and wishes the land rid of them. (He always has something to say, especially when it involves some human impact on the environment.) I felt that he was too easily discouraged. Isn't the human story in a landscape important? After all, the human story is here to stay on this planet. Maybe we can salvage something worthwhile out of it.

I asked him to define trash: "like a cigarette butt or candy wrapper?" I feel there's an important difference between recent litter and some old glass bottle lying on the ground.

"No—those cars and old trash piles are scars, they'll be there forever."

"Exactly! Is it not interesting to you that the desert preserves someone's sixty year old story?"

"There's too much destruction to get all nostalgic over the old American west," said Trapper. "The landscape has been split by old property lines and trampled by cattle."

This is true, the landscape is fragmented; fences and ditches remain. It is also true that soil can remain compacted for years after cattle last had the run of the land. But people all too easily think that a wild area, once ruined will remain ruined forever, and that the old evidence of human existence is only an ugly reminder of that relationship.

Nature undoubtedly has a way to reclaim an area once the human influence is removed. The wind knocks down fence posts, natural revegetation loosens up the dry smashed desert soil, the deer hop right over the barbed wire, and the lizards and snakes make homes in abandoned scrap metal. The way I see it, those areas are still wild; nature simply exists around those old cars and metal heaps the same way it would around a giant boulder.

We headed out to explore the desert, driving out of Eugene, through Bend, and into the Mickey Basin near Steens Mountain. Arriving in the stark desert landscape on a heavily worn and dusty old path was a welcome transition from the humid Willamette Valley. We hopped out of Trap's truck, left it parked on some 4x4 path, and walked east with the setting summer sun warming our backs.

I gazed at the seemingly endless landscape in front of us. "Surely this is God's country!" I proclaimed. I'm not particularly religious—there's just something spiritual about being in places where others seldom venture. The desert extended on and on with nothing but sagebrush visible on the horizon. Some may find this discouraging. To Trap and me, it's a blessing. For us, distance is vital; wandering is vital. The desert is the perfect destination to have no particular destination. In fact, it's because of these desolate qualities that one finds human remnants of a forgotten time preserved in the desert.

We walked quickly for a few hours until the sun fell behind the high scarp lands. We camped and then went deeper into the basin the next day. Trap and I barely said a word to each other. It was as if we were hypnotized by the vastness of this territory. We hiked so far that the old 4x4 paths disappeared. We hadn't seen or heard a truck for over thirty hours. Recently deposited beer cans gave way to the intermittent old glass bottles with the pop tops and tin cans that required a metal punch to open. "We're making progress. Trapper!" I exclaimed.

"Looks like trash to me."

Maybe it was trash. This is the difference I see: trash is what one finds in a city gutter; I considered these items antiques. This one glass bottle we came across was half buried in the desert soil, perfectly clean and with glass too thick to be new. This is what the desert does; it preserves such items and puts them on display. I felt as if I were in an outdoor museum that only I cared to visit.

We kept walking, every now and again coming across old dump piles of rusty metal barrels. And then, a bovine skeleton, bleached perfectly from years of soaking in the desert sun and heat. We saw brilliantly colored lizards with blue and orange bodies—the air was so open that we could hear them scurry across the dry ground as we approached. Despite the sporadic appearance of barbed wire strewn between crooked wooden posts, wildlife was all over the place. I am talking about the snakes and lizards, the deer and other small desert mammals: they wait for nature to work those human impacts over a bit and then make them work for them.

After a few more miles, we came across an old car that was rusted almost beyond recognition; it must have been from the forties, we supposed, after inspecting the wheel wells. There was no sign of a road, not even a dent in the ground. *How amazing!* I thought. *This is not trash!* It represents a time when people were doing something courageous, independent, and splendidly lonely. This car sits there like a timeless boulder; nature seems not to mind, suggesting that the traditional view of a wilderness is too narrowly defined in an ecological sense. There is more than just a natural story in this land. People lived here, they died here, and they made a life for themselves and still do, living the romantic and difficult ranching life. This land tells a story of the human endeavor, and it begs me to think that this land is not only wild, but also a human landscape that is valuable in its own right. □

John Kneubuhler in an undergraduate student in the Environmental Studies Program.

SWITCHBACK TO SPRING

by Fred Sproat

It's spring and raining in the trees. Last night's snow is quickly melting as the sun rises and warms the large conifers. We are approaching the main highway, but the sound of snow melting in the trees and the river running fast drowns out the notion that we'll soon be in the company of cars. We take in the sounds impossible to hear from inside that world, and smile as we realize just how awesome this place is, and briefly reflect on the journey we've just completed.

Twenty-four hours earlier, we are dismounting our bikes from a Lane Transportation District bus in front of the McKenzie Ranger Station on Highway 126, an hour east of Eugene. From here, my friend Adam and I begin the second stage of our trip: biking up the old McKenzie Highway until we hit snow. At that point we'll bust out our skis.

It's chilly as we begin pedaling. Spray from our own tires and from passing trucks slowly soak us from the outside, as our sweat dampens our layers from the inside. The shoulder is narrow, and I tense up every time a semi-truck rumbles by. I eagerly anticipate the fork in the road where we can get off onto the old McKenzie Highway and reach the seasonal snow gate that is still closed.

A narrow road with tight switchbacks, the old McKenzie Highway once connected Eastern and Western Oregon via Sisters and Eugene. The turns were fine for horses, dogsleds, and small cars, but too tight for conventional semi-trucks, so the state constructed Highway 126 over the Santiam Pass. Old McKenzie Highway is only open to motor traffic during the warmer months—which leaves it open to walkers, cyclists, and skiers for more than half the year.

As we pass elevation benchmarks on the side of the road, patches of snow begin to appear in low-lying areas and in the shade of trees and boulders. These patches grow into snow banks on the north facing slopes and, in only a couple hundred feet, a constant blanket of snow covers the ground. The warm asphalt, switchbacking through the snow, leads us farther away from warm, dry comfort and deeper into the unknown. The work of Oregon's Department of Transportation becomes evident; a canyon of road has been carved out through the snow, boxing us inside. Then, as gradually as the snow accumulated from small piles in the shade, towering walls of snow begin to devour the road. A snowplow sits quietly, looking defeated at the end of the snaking asphalt.

It feels odd simply leaving our bikes on the side of the road without so much as an attempt to hide them. But the only people who come up here are fellow cyclists or state employees.

The vertical wall of snow is taller than we are, but somehow we need to get on top of it. We've heard how one Oregon ski touring legend addressed similar challenges during a 300-mile ski tour in 1948. As the story goes, Jack Meissner returned from WWII unsure of what to do with himself, but, having grown up on Odell Lake near Willamette Pass Ski Area, he was accustomed to being in the snow. With military surplus gear and the wary approval of the United State Forest Service, Jack began his historic tour from Mt. Hood south to Crater Lake along the Pacific Crest Trail. Just as Adam and I encountered tall vertical snowbanks where the snowplow stopped, Jack encountered walls of snow along ravine walls. Jack's solution to the problem was simply to shove one ski at a time into the wall of snow, stand on the ski, then shove the next one in. With a little balance and some dug out handholds, echoing Jack's technique, Adam and I make our way up over the snowy obstacles and continue on with our tour.

Even though we are now standing on over six feet of snow, it is still spring and could rain at any elevation. We have no map and no compass—we had assumed the trip would be straightforward—but we are now unsure of how far we have to go before reaching the old McKenzie Pass. No matter, we're planning to camp out for the night and there is plenty of daylight left to burn, so off we go kicking and poling on our way, higher and higher under the permanently gray skies. We biked all the way to the top last year, so landmarks begin to feel familiar. As we plod along, lost in daydreams and the rhythm of our strides, the delusion of nearing the top of the pass arises optimistically time and time again. Near the end of each bend and small rise, we imagine: surely this has to be the last. But the road always takes another turn or dip before rising once again.

Tuckered out after the unrelenting uphill ski, we emerge from the forest onto the bleak McKenzie Pass Landscape. The black volcanic rock covers the area north of the Three Sisters volcanoes and the old Highway 242 cuts the only flat surface through the otherwise disorderly rock. Snow atop rock mellows and softens the irregularities and abrupt edges in the land, which leaves only a few windswept highpoints naked to the eye.

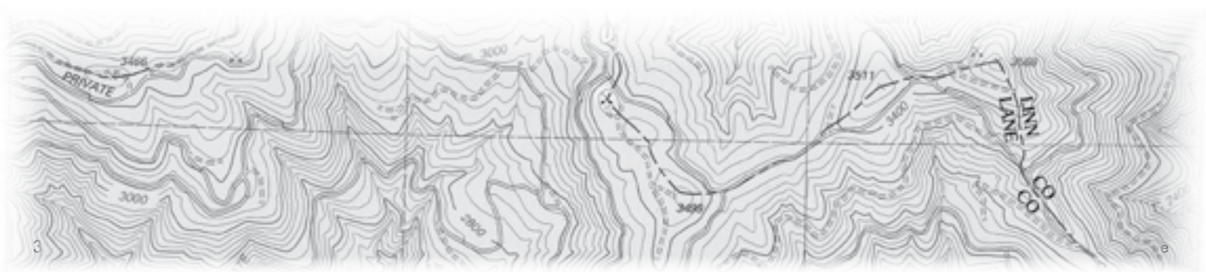
With darkness approaching and clouds obscuring any potential view, Adam and I begin carving out a place to sleep beside a conveniently built outhouse where a giant snowdrift has formed. Sheltered from the dominant west wind we tuck our sleeping pads and bodies as deep inside the drift as we can, and begin melting snow to drink and cook with. We fall asleep exhausted.

I awake in the morning to blue skies and a gentle breeze. The clouds have cleared, the temperature has dropped, and in the wake of the previous day's precipitation, surface hoar flourishes as far as the eye can see. Surface hoar is the wintertime equivalent of dew. It forms when an excess amount of moisture in the air condenses on the surface of just about anything and creates multi-angled snow crystals that reflect light everywhere, making the ground look like it's covered with tiny pieces of a broken mirror. In the distance the Three Sisters loom enormous and stunning. The world around us looks exactly as we think it should; bold and beautiful. We grin as we eat lukewarm oatmeal and peanut butter.

After stashing our gear and snapping a few photos we beginning poling toward our bikes. It's all downhill from here. We pass a snowy sign welcoming us to Lane County and soon we are taking note of the posted speed limits that warn us of upcoming tight turns. Our track from yesterday is fast, and the miles that took hours on the way in cruise by in what seems like half an hour. We reach the spot where our bikes patiently wait and take a minute to bask on the warm asphalt and melt some more snow for water. We breathe a sigh of relief, knowing the hardest part of the journey is over and that we will barely have to pedal from here.

Blue, green, brown, and white are the only colors visible from our perspective on the road looking up. It's a look at the world dominated by vibrant and bold shades. It is still early in the morning and only starting to rain from the trees. The world is still mostly silent with just the slightest breeze blowing through the forest. It's springtime in Oregon and seemingly anything is possible. □

Fred Sproat is an undergraduate student in the Environmental Studies Program.



OREGON ON TWO WHEELS

Cycling Transportation in Portland

by Henry Wear

Imagine a city with bikes instead of cars. No fumes, no exhaust, no traffic, just clean breathable air with happier, healthier people. Is Portland on the cutting edge in this new shift towards a green mode of transportation? Portland is certainly one city that gets it: the sheer amount of bicycle traffic and the impressive infrastructure and facilities the city has for cyclists is enough to prove that. However, when looking at the avid cycling culture in Portland it is easy to gain a false sense of security when it comes to cycling in cities. If Portland is so bike friendly why wouldn't other cities be as well?

Portland is ranked as the #1 cycling-friendly city in the United States[1]. To understand how other communities might emulate the city's bike policies, it's necessary to look at the last few decades of city history. The cycling-friendly atmosphere was the result of city planning and support for new infrastructure that began many years ago.

In the 1960's and 1970's many Portlanders began to reconsider their need for cars as their sole mode of transportation. Bike shops opened up throughout the city. The state legislature passed what became known as the "Bicycle Bill" in 1971, allocating funds for a bicycle infrastructure[2]. Although results were not seen immediately, the bill sparked a considerable amount of discussion about the role of bicycles as a mode of transportation in the city. By the 1990's cyclists had the necessary infrastructure to feel safely integrated as a viable mode of transportation within Portland. Portland has over 260 miles of bicycle trails and lanes, and recently became the first state to install "bike boxes"—special zones at stoplights that are designed to prevent collisions between bikers and vehicles.

The success of cycling transportation in Portland is not just a result of well crafted public policy; it has much to do with the active cycling culture that can be witnessed anywhere in the city. It is no doubt that the city's drive to be on two wheels has made Portland, Oregon a Mecca for cyclists. Portland groups are also trying to bridge the gender gap when it comes to commuting by bike. A "Women on Bikes" program was recently started to encourage ladies to pedal to work[3].

If Portland seems like the perfect place for cyclists right now, it can only get better. The current commuting rate by bike in the city is 4.2% of the population, the highest in the country[4]. The city is planning on creating an extensive network of bike-only roads that remove the dangerous mix of two and four wheeled drivers. Bike advocates hope that with the addition of new infrastructure, the number of cyclists in the city will continue to rise.

Cycling transportation around the country is increasing, as many people begin to realize its advantages for personal health and the environment. Portland is a shining example of what cycling policies could be implemented in many cities across the country—including Eugene—to encourage and develop cycling as a serious mode of transportation. In a clouded future, cycling transportation could be one light toward a more sustainable lifestyle. □

Henry Wear is an undergraduate student in the Environmental Studies Program.

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WELCOME TO EUGENE

New graduate students in the Environmental Studies Program

Miles Barger

I was a Student Conservation Association intern in Yellowstone and Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Parks, a guide in Kantishna, Alaska, and an environmental educator in Denali National Park and Preserve. I began the Master's program in 2009 and have already grown intellectually in unexpected and exciting ways. My concentrations are in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Conservation, and I'm beginning work on a project examining off-trail group wilderness travel in Denali. I'm also taking classes in climbing, mountaineering, and environmental education from UO's fantastic Outdoor Pursuits Program.

Michael Hansen (Ph.D. program) Focal Department: Sociology

I completed my Bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences at the University of California, Berkeley in the spring of 2009. Through both my education at UC Berkeley and my childhood experiences on the family ranch just outside of Sacramento, California I learned firsthand not only about the marvelous complexity of even the tiniest of ecosystems, but also of the reciprocal relationships between social institutions and the urban, rural, agricultural and wilderness ecosystems we inhabit. I am interested in understanding how people evaluate the environmental consequences of their actions and what can be done to motivate large groups of people to create and maintain healthy ecosystems.

Melanie Knapp

Since arriving in the great state of Oregon, my interests have become focused on collaborative planning and policy making aimed at addressing complex environmental issues with multiple stakeholders. Specifically, I'm currently interested in the Klamath Basin water crisis and assessing the effectiveness of the recently signed Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement. I'm also interested in the use of environmental restoration as a community and economic development tool and fascinated by the work of land trusts and watershed councils. I plan to pursue concentrations in Conflict Resolution and Policy and also to squeeze in some GIS and economics classes.

Sara Nienaber

I graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in 2009 with a B.A. in Zoology. My undergraduate research focused on the sublethal and often subtle effects that pesticides and other chemical pollutants can have on wildlife and human health. This work made me aware of the inadequacy of many current policies related to chemical and nonpoint source water pollution. Here at the University of Oregon, I plan on concentrating in Ecology and Policy. My current research interests involve the success of voluntary policies in reducing pesticide use and agricultural nonpoint source pollution.

Kory Northrop

For the past six years I lived in New Orleans earning a B.S. in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and working for AmeriCorps. I worked as a volunteer coordinator, construction crew leader, and case manager specializing in home rehabilitations for low-income families. These experiences inspired me to learn more about sustainable development. By recommitting ourselves to understanding environmental processes and restoring natural ecosystems we can try to mitigate future disasters. I am currently taking coursework in Geography and Planning, Public Policy, and Management departments. My focus is on geographic information systems and sustainable development.

Julia G. Ridgeway-Diaz

I am from San Antonio, Texas, and grew up in a diverse, academic family. My mother is a feminist literary critic from Buenos Aires and her world has influenced me greatly. I have a strong love of all of the Americas but also a unique perspective on U.S. approaches to environmentalism and environmental challenges. I received a B.S. in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and a B.A. in English from Rice University. I have found my passion by focusing on the effects of westernization, diet change, and environmental degradation on women's health, specifically fertility and family planning.

Ignacio Krell Rivera

I was born in Chile in 1979, and I graduated from Universidad de Chile as a sociologist in 2006. When I graduated, I founded and became director of an ecotourism project joint-ventured with indigenous communities in southern Chile. I joined the UO Environmental Studies Master's Program last year with the purpose of broadening my professional perspective on indigenous issues, ecological traditional knowledge, socio-environmental conflict, rural development and collaborative resource management and environmental impact assessment.

Chris Roddy

I am an agriculturalist, composter and new media communications guru from New York City. I was recently the communications manager at a nonprofit dedicated to giving all kids opportunities to grow through after-school and summer activities that support, educate and inspire them. After working in new media for over nine years, I am passionate about the power of communication to support local & regional food systems. ENVS concentrations in landscape architecture/planning will provide depth and diversity to better understand the challenges facing urban agriculturalists around the country.

Shannan Lenke Stoll

I grew up hiking, biking and tidepool-hopping around the Pacific Northwest. In college, I played around with ecology and poetry—with sea turtle conservation in Mexico and magic realism in the literature of marginalized groups—and ended up majoring in Biology and English. Since then, I've worked on energy efficiency and education projects for underserved populations in Detroit, community-based renewable energy projects in Seattle, monitored shorebirds and sea turtles in North Carolina, and freelanced for local papers off and on. I'm passionate about environmental justice, marine conservation and writing, and I'm excited to connect these areas in my studies at UO.

Brandi Veltri

I am currently a dual-enrolled student in the ENVS and Law Programs. My career interests are in International Environmental Policy, particularly in Latin America. I have been an environmental advocate since I was a small child but really became enthralled with the issues in Latin America as an undergrad at the University of North Carolina Asheville. My B.S. was in Environmental Studies and Political Science and culminated in a senior field project on the links between environmental degradation, indigenous rights, and globalization in Honduras.

GRADUATE STUDENTS AS INTERDISCIPLINARY TEACHERS

Each year several Environmental Studies Master's and Ph.D. graduate students are given the opportunity to design and teach their own undergraduate courses. ENVS 411 classes serve as a type of capstone course for ENVS students. This year's 411 courses represent a variety of subjects and teaching approaches, but they also demonstrate the broad, interdisciplinary talents of our graduate community. Here's a look at some of the recently taught 411 courses:

Environmental Disaster in the American West: The Hanford Nuclear Site

Taught by Erica Elliott, Ph.D. student in Environmental Studies with English as focal department

Course Description: This class will explore the history of the landscape and people at Hanford nuclear site, as well as Hanford's connections with other parts of the "Atomic West" and the world. As an upper-level course in Environmental Studies, this class will draw on materials from several disciplines, including geography, history, ecology and cultural/literary criticism. By using Hanford as a case study, students will explore topics as diverse as: patterns of environmental and human exploitation in the West, environmental remediation, indigenous rights, nuclear weapons and power generation, how conservation and preservation shape landscapes and social relations, environmental justice, climate change and the expansion of nuclear energy, the politics of storing nuclear waste, risks to public health and ecosystems, and how we conceive of risk or come to terms with contamination that is—at least in terms of a human timescale—permanent.

Kevin Horan teaching in fall 2010

Ecology and the Economy

Co-taught by Chris Stratton and Kevin Horan, 2nd year Master's students in Environmental Studies

Course Description: This course outlines the concepts that underlie the burgeoning interdisciplinary field of ecological economics. This field takes a holistic perspective, incorporating our ever-expanding knowledge of ecology into traditional economic theory. We will be examining the historical development of economics as a discipline, as well as exploring the differences between ecological and environmental economics. While most economics courses take a strictly positive, value-neutral approach, we will be investigating the normative components of economic theories and policies in relation to the Earth's ecosystems. We will also provide an ethical context for traditional positive economic measurement and enable students to identify and assess the implicit values contained in metrics like GDP. This course is interdisciplinary in nature and will include concepts from other fields, especially physics, philosophy, ecology, and public policy.

Psychology of Climate Change

Taught by Ezra Markowitz Ph.D. student in Environmental Studies with Psychology as focal department

Course Description: This course provides students with an opportunity to delve into research taking place at the intersection of psychology and environmental conservation. Specifically, the course examines psychological dimensions of climate change, focusing on three core questions. First, why do people engage in GHG emitting behaviors (e.g., driving) and what do we know about techniques that have been used to reduce individuals' impacts? Second, how do people understand, think about and personally experience climate change, and what implications do individuals' perceptions of the issue hold for our collective (non)response? Third, what are the expected psychological and social impacts of climate change on individuals and communities, both in the short- and long-term? As the study of human behavior, thought and feeling, psychology has much to offer our understanding of climate change; in large part these insights will emerge from the process of integrating psychological approaches into the broader interdisciplinary study of climate change.

American Wilderness

Taught by Amanda Peacher, 2nd year Master's student in Environmental Studies and Literary Nonfiction

Wilderness 411 class field trip

Course Description: In almost the same breath, the Wilderness Act of 1964 refers to wilderness as "untrammeled by man" and "primitive," yet also as "an enduring resource" devoted to "public purposes." In other words, wilderness is separate from humans but also *for* humans. In a sense, the language of the Wilderness Act exemplifies the complex and often contradictory American relationship with wilderness. This course will explore both the conceptual landscapes that shape attitudes toward wilderness, and the physical landscapes of actual wilderness areas. We will examine the construct of wilderness through literature, history, policy and individual reflection and experience. We will work to understand how attitudes about wilderness have been manifested in art and literature prior to the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964. As we take a close look at the Act, we will explore how this legislation has been variously interpreted and criticized. We will consider whether wilderness designations distance humans from the natural world, and discuss different protection approaches that integrate humans and wildness. Lastly, we will use our own hiking and camping experiences in wilderness areas to creatively reflect on our individual relationships with wilderness.

The Environment in a Globalized World

Taught by Sue Dockstader, 2nd year Master's student in Environmental Studies

Course Description: Since all economic activity depends on the integrity of the natural world, it is paramount that we understand the forces shaping the global economy and what the ecological implications are of this economic activity. This course approaches the international economic regime known as "globalization" as a human artifact. Rather than focusing exclusively on history, theories of globalization and free trade agreements, we will view globalization in its contested framework taking into account the various "pro" and "con" philosophies, actors and institutions. We will look at four areas of concern: land, water, energy and climate and evaluate globalization's actual and potential effects on them.

PARTNERS MAKE IT POSSIBLE!

How students and organizations together make a difference in our community

by Peg Boulay

What do a park manager, environmental education coordinator, solid waste manager, cultural anthropologist, food bank director, restoration ecologist, recycling specialist, wildlife biologist and bicycling advocate have in common?

They have all shared their expertise, time and insights with our Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) students. They help connect ELP students to our community and provide opportunities for students to learn by giving. Since 2001, the ELP has partnered with 30 organizations (see List 1) to cooperatively address local environmental needs. These organizations are at the heart of the ELP's mission.

ELP community partners from WREN

The ELP is a collaborative, interdisciplinary service-learning program housed in the University of Oregon Environmental Studies Program. We match student teams with non-profit organizations, governmental agencies and businesses to address local environmental needs. Our mission is to provide: 1) undergraduate students with unique and practical learning experiences that develop their leadership, communication and field-based research skills; 2) graduate students with project management and team-building experience and skills; and 3) organizations with cost-effective and high-quality services. Our students gain leadership, communication and applied professional skills by engaging directly in applied problem-solving, and our community partners gain valuable assistance.

We have found that the most successful and rewarding projects have enjoyed a high degree of community partner involvement. Our partners provide funding, technical expertise, training, and/or other in-kind support such as equipment. Most importantly, they provide the project goals and structure. In other words, they identify and frame the community need that ELP students serve.

All ELP projects are created in tandem with our community partners. We cooperatively design the project timeline and methods to best balance community partner goals, individual project needs, and our academic objectives and schedule. Projects may serve a one-time need or they may occur over several years, where students create long-term data sets or otherwise build upon previous efforts. We often collaborate with community partners to secure joint grants and other funding opportunities.

Each academic year, we begin working with our partners in the fall. We hammer out project details and get their feedback on class assignments such as background readings. In the winter, ELP students take a preparatory course that teaches them the background and skills that they will need to implement their project during the spring. The students research the partnering organizations' missions and have the opportunity to interview their partners in class. Finally, spring arrives! ELP teams complete their projects, then give presentations and submit reports to their community partners.

In October 2009, ELP hosted a Community Partner Reception to honor our past partners and reach out to new ones. Dr. Scott Coltrane, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, gave a wonderful overview of the Environmental Studies Program and the ELP. After going over the general program and our past projects, we gave certificates to our past partners thanking them for their contributions. We also gave recognition certificates to our technical advisors (see List 2), who have provided expertise on species and habitat ecology, monitoring design, environmental education, and other topics.

Partnering with the Environmental Leadership Program allows community partners to obtain cost-effective and high-quality services; foster positive public relations through various media; educate students about, and involve them in, their organization's mission; widen and diversify their job application pool; and demonstrate broad partnerships for cooperative grant applications. Often, though, our partners tell us that they most appreciate the unexpected benefit of mentoring the next generation of environmental professionals. Our partners are inspired and energized by ELP students' passion and enthusiasm. Students, in turn, enjoy interacting with accomplished professionals. In addition to the hands-on experience, students gain professional contacts and insights into potential careers.

We strive to offer a changing menu of exciting, relevant and meaningful projects. We continue to meet with potential partners to identify local environmental and social needs and creative ways to address those needs. With the help of our partners, the ELP will continue to evolve and grow. It will continue to make a real difference in the lives of our students and in our community. □

Peg Boulay is the Environmental Leadership Program Co-Director.

List 1. Environmental Leadership Program community partners, 2001-2010

BRING Recycling
Bureau of Land Management
City of Eugene
City of Springfield
Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council
CREES Foundation
Eugene Water and Electric Board
Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah
Food For Lane County
H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest,
U.S. Forest Service
Institute for Culture and Ecology
Institute for Sustainability Education and Ecology
Lane County Waste Management
Long Tom Watershed Council
Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
Mohawk Watershed Partnership and
McKenzie Watershed Council
Nxtcycle
Oregon Department of Environmental
Quality
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Green Schools
Oregon Institute of Marine Biology
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Pacific Tree Climbing Institute
Springfield Utility Board
South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
University of Oregon
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wells Fargo Wholesale Services Group
Willamette National Forest, U.S. Forest Service
Willamette Resources and Educational Network

List 2. Environmental Leadership Program technical advisors, 2001-2010

Aryana Ferguson, Madrona Consulting
Bart Johnson, UO Department of Landscape Architecture
Bruce Newhouse, Salix Associates
Bill Castillo, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Chris Massingill
Dave Irons
Dave Vesely, Oregon Wildlife Institute
Hester Jiskoot, University of Lethbridge
SOLV
Susan Sahnow, Kate Ferschweiler and Pam Wilson,
Project Learning Tree

THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Mapping and monitoring teams

Team Members: Matthew Briscoe, Erin Lanum, Eric Lench, Ashleigh Miller, Alyse Nielsen, Jakkapon Phanthuwongpakdee, Mike Wiedrick. Project Manager: Shannan Lenke Stoll

Restoration Stewardship Team
Restoration of stream vegetation improves water quality and benefits, fish, wildlife and people. The Restoration Stewardship Team monitored restoration projects for two local watershed councils. Students examined tree survival and vigor, species competition and other factors to gauge the success of riparian vegetation plantings. They visited new and previously-monitored sites, which provided important short-term and long-term information. The students' data and recommendations will be used to better design future restoration projects and to improve upon existing restoration sites.

Turtle Monitoring Team
The western pond turtle is the only native turtle in the Eugene-Springfield area. It is a fascinating but declining species that needs our conservation help. In partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, the Turtle Team surveyed potential pond turtle habitat on BLM land. The students evaluated and mapped nesting and aquatic habitat. They documented pond turtle locations and estimated the minimum size of the turtle's populations. They also spent one day trapping and tagging western pond turtles for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Turtle Team's work will guide habitat restoration and other conservation actions.

Team Members: Derek Allen, Brooke Baker, Gabriella Crooks, Ellen Dellard, Kate Fickas, Sheena Moore, Kate Robertson, Amanda Stewart Project Manager: Sara Nienaber

Team Members: Brittany Bigalke, Kimmy Ertel, Matthew Liston, Alex Park, Matt Silva, Alexandria Russell Project Manager: Chris Roddy

Ridgeline Habitats Team
Oregon's oak habitats are important to an amazing diversity of wildlife, insects and plants. Over 95% of oak habitats have been lost in the Willamette Valley. This year's Ridgeline Team conducted habitat mapping and assessment in a series of parks and natural areas forming Eugene's southern border. Students "ground-truthed" the accuracy of Geographical Information System (GIS) maps. They recorded information on vegetation structure and wildlife habitat features. They characterized and mapped "legacy trees," which are ecologically important, large-diameter oak and conifers. One project goal was to test current habitat evaluation protocol. The team's protocol recommendations will be used by the City of Eugene in the future to prioritize habitat management and restoration at ridgeline natural areas.

Environmental education teams

Team Members: Marissa Duncan, Melissa Graciosa, Kimber Griesser, Morgan Heckman, Haley Lauderback, Johanna Lee, Maggie Long, Laura Warner. Project Manager: Melanie Knapp

Canopy Connections Team
Twenty-five species of conifers live longer and grow larger in the Pacific Northwest than anywhere else in the world. The Canopy Connections Team developed and facilitated a unique fieldtrip experience. Throughout May, middle-schoolers from around the state had the chance to learn about the ecology of this unique ecosystem from the treetops. The goal was to inspire a sense of wonder and respect for our natural world, thereby cultivating each child's love of the outdoors and commitment to conservation. The team developed a curriculum around the theme of 'vertical ecological awareness' to accompany the fieldtrip. This team worked in partnership with the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest and the Pacific Tree Climbing Institute.

Climate Equity Team
Team Climate Equity helped students in four local middle schools understand global warming. Their lessons helped students conduct transportation audits and develop action plans to reduce their carbon footprint. They discovered that among public schools, one of the biggest contributors to carbon emissions are single vehicle trips of parents dropping kids off at school. Students came together to address these and other school-related emissions and to brainstorm alternatives for transportation to and from school. This team worked with Partners for Sustainable Schools and also consulted with Eugene Safe Routes to School Program, Point2Point Solutions housed at the Lane Transit District, and the BikeLane Coalition as they developed and implemented their curriculum. Funding for this project was generously provided by the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics.

Team Members: Trafton Bean, Ashly Kikue Benson, Andrew Bond, Samantha Haglund, Bethany Peshek, Drew Serres, Claire Verner Project Manager: Kevin Belanger

Team Members: Terra Smith, Meg Ward Project Manager: Dana Maher

Wonderful Wetlands Team
Today less than one-half of one percent of native Willamette wet prairie habitat remains. The West Eugene Wetlands represents a large portion of this remaining habitat, and is home to several species of endangered or threatened plants and animals. Located within the urban growth boundary, these rare and unique wetlands face many threats, yet most residents are unaware of this important ecosystem. The Wonderful Wetlands Team worked with the Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN) to provide educational programs focused on these rare wetland habitats. This year the team focused specifically on the important function of wetlands as carbon sinks and the importance of preserving wetlands as a means of combating global climate change.

For more information, (to see the final results, access lesson plans, etc.) please visit the team websites at: http://www.uoregon.edu/~ecostudy/elp/

OUR COMMUNITY

Environmental Studies faculty and student achievements

Faculty Awards and Recognitions

Dr. Brendan Bohannan (Biology and Environmental Studies) was awarded a Williams Fellowship and a Wulf Professorship in recognition of his teaching at UO, which includes Ecology (BI 370), Community Ecology (BI472/572), and the Philosophy of Ecology (BI410/510, with Ted Toadvine).

Dr. Allison Carruth (English and Environmental Studies) was selected as a 2010-11 Wayne Morse Resident Scholar.

Dr. Kathryn Lynch (Environmental Studies) published the book chapter: McLain, Rebecca J. and Kathryn A. Lynch. 2010. Managing Floral Greens in a Globalized Economy: Resource Tenure, Labour Relations and Immigration Policy in the Pacific Northwest, USA. In Wild Product Governance: Finding Policies That Work for Nontimber Forest Products. Rachel Paula Wynberg, Sarah A. Laird and Rebecca J. McLain, eds. London: Earthscan Ltd. with People and Plants International. Katie also facilitated a two-day workshop on nontimber forest products, biodiversity conservation and the preservation of cultural gathering traditions in Xalapa, Mexico in June 2009. The workshop was organized by the Institute for Culture and Ecology and involved students and faculty from the Instituto de Ecología and the University of Veracruz, Mexico.

Dr. Ronald Mitchell (Political Science and Environmental Studies) published the textbook, *International Politics and the Environment* by Sage Publications in 2009.

Dr. Ted Toadvine (Philosophy and Environmental Studies) published the book *Merleau-Ponty's Philosophy of Nature*, last summer by Northwestern University Press. In the fall, in conjunction with his role as Resident Scholar with the Wayne Morse Center for Law & Politics, Ted organized two events: a Community Philosophy Institute on ethical responses to climate change in the Willamette Valley, and an academic symposium, "The Perfect Moral Storm: Ethical Challenges of our Climate Crisis." Along with biologist Brendan Bohannan, Ted was awarded the 2009-10 Robert F. and Evelyn Nelson Wulf Professorship in the Humanities, which provided support for their development of a team-taught interdisciplinary course in Spring 2010, "Philosophy of Ecology: Knowledge of Nature and the Nature of Knowledge." This spring, Ted will also present his research at the "Understanding Sustainability: Perspectives from the Humanities" conference in Portland and will participate in "Dragonfly Eyes: Multiple Ways to Envision the Future," an interdisciplinary field symposium at the H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest.

Student Awards and Recognitions

Kevin Belanger was offered a transportation planning internship with the city of Gresham for summer 2010.

Sue Dockstader was admitted into the international summer school in Oslo, Norway to attend a six-week intensive class called "Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development."

Cody Evers and **Dana Maher** were honored with the "2010 Best Use of Technology to Improve a Plan or Planning Process" award by the Information Technology Division of the American Planning Association.

Kevin Horan and **Chris Stratton** traveled to Washington D.C. in January to participate in a panel for the 10th National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment.

Melanie Knapp was awarded the Joseph M. Edney Memorial Scholarship by the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management.

Ignacio Krell-Rivera received the CONICYT/Bicentario Award from the Chilean Commission of Scientific and Technological Research.

Ezra Markowitz was awarded the Clarence and Lucille Dunbar Scholarship by the College of Arts and Sciences

Amanda Peacher was awarded a scholarship to participate as a delegate at the 9th World Wilderness Congress in Merida, Mexico in November 2009.

Julia Ridgeway was awarded a summer research grant from the Center for Latino/a Studies at the University of Oregon.

Shangrila Joshi Wynn attended the Copenhagen climate conference meetings in fall 2009 as a representative of the Association of American Geographers.

Photo by Anya Dobrowolski

FOOD, JUSTICE, SECURITY & SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

University of Oregon
February 19-21, 2011

Conference convener: Allison Carruth, PhD
Assistant Professor of English • Resident Scholar, Wayne Morse Center for Law & Politics
Core Faculty Member in Environmental Studies • Affiliated Faculty Member in International Studies & CSWS

The University of Oregon will convene an invitational conference that will focus on the themes of food justice, food security and sustainable agriculture. Scheduled for February 19-21, 2011, invited speakers include renowned food and agriculture leaders as well as scholars in anthropology, literary and cultural studies, environmental studies, plant genetics, soil sciences, geography, sociology, agriculture and marine biology. Professor Allison Carruth (faculty in English and Environmental Studies) and Dr. Margaret Hallock (Director of the Wayne Morse Center) are the conference conveners.

The program for "Food Justice, Security and Sustainability" will feature a plenary talk by international food activist and writer Dr. Vandana Shiva as well as panels, roundtables and a student-centered community service event. Other highlights include: (1) a keynote session with the founding editor of *Gastronomica*, Darra Goldstein; (2) a panel on emerging research in crop genetics featuring renowned scientists Ignacio Chapela, Charles Benbrook and Stephen Jones and (3) a roundtable on hunger and food advocacy in the United States comprised of national food and agriculture leaders. Throughout the conference, regional nonprofit organizations will participate in a hands-on community fair about food politics, sustainable agriculture and hunger. Finally, the conference hopes to curate an art exhibition centered on two to three emerging artists and/or filmmakers.

Conference Themes

Sustainable Agriculture Plant Genetics Food Studies • Imagining the Food System: Literature, art, media • Food Sovereignty: Race, class and gender • Women as farmers and farmworkers Oregon food policy • Hunger and food advocacy in the U.S. • Global food politics: Seeds, water, biotechnology • Urban agriculture / urban farming • Aquaculture: Historical contexts & contemporary challenges

University sponsors include the Wayne Morse Center for Law & Politics, College of Arts & Sciences, Office of the President, Office of the Provost, English Department, Environmental Studies Program, Center for the Study of Women & Society, Oregon Humanities Center, Geography Department and International Studies Department.

For more information email acarruth@uoregon.edu

Photo by Amy Lindorff

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Kory Northrop

ECOTONE: A transition zone between two adjacent communities, such as a forest or grassland. It has some of the characteristics of each bordering community and often contains species not found in the overlapping communities. An ecotone may exist along a broad belt or in a small pocket, such as a forest clearing, where two local communities blend together. The influence of the two bordering communities is known as the edge effect. An ecotonal area often has a higher density of organisms and a greater number of species than are found in either flanking community.

The Ecotone
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