

ROGUE RIVER LAND SALE PLANNED

The Oregon Department of State Lands intends to auction off land parcels that Eugene-based Ecosystem Advocates Northwest say are "literally on the banks of the Wild and Scenic Rogue River."

The lands are Common School Fund lands, and Shannon Wilson of Eco-Advocates says the Rogue River parcels are part of 4,920 acres of Common School Fund lands proposed for auction by ODSL in Josephine and Jackson counties. Wilson

says that the auction is slated for 2012, although the State Land Board has yet to make the final approval.

According to Ecosystem Advocates Northwest, one 640-acre parcel proposed for auction is inside Oregon's largest unprotected roadless area, the South Kalmiopsis in the Siskiyou Mountains. The group says the Woodcock Creek area is considered one of the most diverse botanical hotspots in Oregon and is registered by the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center as one of Oregon's most important biological heritage resource sites.

Wilson wants to know why the state of Oregon is selling these lands "when the value of timber and the land is at their lowest values in recent times." He says, "Another big

question is why are board members of the Oregon Board of Forestry who are involved in this 'land disposal' process allowed to buy these parcels at rock bottom prices?"

Eco Advocates NW will be gathering at 10:30 am Sunday, June 19 at the boat ramp below the Galice Resort on the Rogue River to help garner public opposition to the proposed land auction. The group also plans to hike to Rainie Falls downriver, and hike about 1 mile to view the 159-acre "Grave Creek" parcel above the river that is also proposed for auction. For more information on the sales and the hike, go to www.eco-advocates.org

On June 18, Klamath-Siskiyou Wild-lands Center is leading a hike into the Zane Grey Roadless area on the Wild Rogue.

See <http://kswild.org> or call (541) 488-5789. — *Camilla Mortensen*

CORRECTIONS/ CLARIFICATIONS

• In our Letters section last week we printed the wrong day for the anniversary of David Minor's death, due to an editor's error. The correct date is June 2.

• Last week in News Briefs we mentioned Dexter's Farmers Market but we hear from Pam Driscoll that it's actually called Dexter Lake Farmers Market and it's open only Sundays from noon to 3 pm. "We are having a slow season and need to get more people out here," she says. "It's such a great place, right on the lake."

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