

October 2011



## CLN Welcomes New Board Member

Karim Shumaker is the Gold Beach Center Coordinator at Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC). Karim serves on the SWOCC Sustainability Task Force and has developed new classes related to sustainability, and continues to work to expand environmental and sustainability class offerings. She is a member of the Port Orford Ocean Resource Team's (POORT) Community Advisory Team as the education liaison. POORT is the recipient of NOAA's Award of Excellence for Non-Governmental Organization of the Year. Karim was employed as the administrative assistant at Conservation Leaders Network for six years and brings a deep commitment to the organization and its mission, and a first-hand understanding of the how the organization works.



## From the Director:

October has been a busy month, with our major donor campaign work and joining in on two conservation community letters dealing with proposed anti-environmental legislation on two of the critical natural resources we've worked on over the past many years. One dealt with marine conservation and the National Ocean Policy, which we have gone on record supporting, and the second dealt with federal forests and county payments.

Sean Cosgrove, the Marine Campaign Director of the Conservation Law Foundation in Washington, DC, wrote that "Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) is planning to propose an amendment this week to the FY12 Commerce Appropriations bill that will seek to eliminate any funds for the implementation of the Framework for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning in the National Ocean Policy. . . . Sen. Murkowski's amendment is a significant attack which could greatly undermine the National Ocean Policy." We gladly signed on to the marine conservation community's letter opposing defunding of the National Ocean Policy—policy that had been recommended by several major marine advisory bodies, including one appointed by former President George W. Bush.

We joined more than 25 other organizations, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, in opposing two legislative proposals that would liquidate or trade away America's public forests. Our joint letter said,

"On behalf of our over two million supporters, we are writing to express our strong opposition to the "National Forest County Revenue, Schools, and Jobs Act of 2011" (Discussion Draft dated September 15, 2011) and the "Action Plan for Public Lands and Education Act of 2011" (H.R. 2852). . . .

While the specifics of each proposal differ if either proposal becomes law, the overall results would be similarly catastrophic. Specifically:

1. These proposals abandon our nation's vision of a strong system of national safeguards to preserve America's natural heritage from local political and economic interests.

2. Industrialization of public lands will damage watersheds, pollute drinking water, decimate fish and wildlife populations, and harm other businesses and jobs that depend on functioning forest and watersheds.
3. Liquidating assets to pay for operating costs is shortsighted.
4. Any short-term benefits will result in long-term costs.'

The letter ends with the statement that, "This nation is not so poor that it must liquidate its public lands, or so rich that it can afford to."

We were honored to sign on to both letters. Let me know if you would like a copy of either of our letters.

## **\$\$ for Counties:**

### **1. Fish and Wildlife Service: Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program Deadline: November 1, 2011**

Description: This program provides support to public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean that promote the long-term conservation of Neotropical migratory birds and their habitats. Focus areas include perpetuating healthy populations of these birds, providing financial resources for bird conservation initiatives, and fostering international cooperation for such initiatives.

For more information go to:

<http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NMBCA/index.shtm>

### **2. Marine Turtle Conservation Initiatives Grants Deadline: November 18, 2011**

Funded by a portion of revenues from Florida's Sea Turtle Specialty License Plate, the Sea Turtle Grants Program distributes funds each year to support sea turtle research, conservation and education programs that benefit Florida sea turtles. Approximately 70% of the funding generated by sales of the tag goes to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Marine Turtle Protection Program to support research and management activities related to sea turtles. Approximately 30% is distributed to the Sea Turtle Grants Program. The Sea Turtle Grants Program is administered by the non-profit Caribbean Conservation Corporation.

For more information go to:

<http://www.helpingseaturtles.org/grants.php>