ENR Center Tackles Ecosystem-Based Management in Oregon

By Alexandra Hoffmann

The Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center (ENR) and Ocean and Coastal Law Center were recently awarded a research grant by the Oregon Sea Grant to fund a two-year interdisciplinary research project titled “Implementing EBM: Connecting Caretakers of the Oregon Coast with Transformative and Practical Legal Tools.” The research work will be conducted as part of the ENR’s interdisciplinary research project, the Oceans, Coasts, and Watersheds Project, and will be led by faculty coleader Professor Richard Hildreth. The grant provides funding to support faculty and two law student fellows.

“I want to thank Oregon Sea Grant for supporting this important research work,” says Hildreth. “‘Implementing EBM’ will continue and build upon the long legacy of ocean and coastal work at Oregon Law.”

Oregon Sea Grant (OSG) is one of 33 state programs within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Sea Grant College Program. Through an integrated program of research, outreach, and education, OSG helps people understand, rationally use, and conserve marine and coastal resources.

Ecosystem-based management is an environmental strategy that recognizes and considers the full array of interconnected interactions within an ecosystem, including human activities and development. Successfully implementing EBM is a complex goal because it requires managing diverse stressors that involve multiple decision-makers, necessitating coordination among federal, state, and local jurisdictions, as well as the active involvement of the local community.

It also requires an understanding of state, local, federal, and even international law. Rather than focusing only on individual laws that influence mere portions of an ecosystem, true implementation of EBM must explore the important interplay between jurisdictions and substantive areas.

The project will occur in three phases. Phase I will evaluate and summarize current EBM law and policy in Oregon. Phase II will explore EBM implementation in the context of energy development, including siting of renewable wind and wave energy facilities in state and federal waters, exportation of nonrenewable fossil fuels from Oregon coastal ports, and effects of the US Department of the Interior’s Oil and Gas Leasing Plan. Finally, Phase III will analyze EBM in the context of fisheries management and health, including management decisions made by the West Coast Fisheries Management Council and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, addressing ocean acidification in Oregon waters, and integration of EBM in Oregon coastal fresh and marine-based waters.

The project will culminate in the production of a comprehensive legal guide to implementing EBM in Oregon. The guide will be made available online and presented to various stakeholders and environmental decision-makers along the Oregon coast in a series of public meetings.

For more information, please visit seagrant.oregonstate.edu/research/ecosystem-based-management-legal.

Alexandra Hoffman is a second-year law student at the University of Oregon School of Law and an Oregon Sea Grant fellow in ENR’s Oceans, Coasts, and Watersheds Project.
For more than three decades, Professor Emeritus Jon Jacobson taught contracts, the law of the sea, and international law courses with generosity, enthusiasm, humor, insight, and immense kindness to Oregon law students until his retirement in 1999. During his more than thirty years of teaching, Jon inspired multitudes of students to pursue careers in public interest marine management, policy, law, and advocacy. Jacobson passed away in August of this year.

Jacobson was born and raised in small town Algona, Iowa. He received his bachelor's and legal degrees from the University of Iowa. Despite his land-locked upbringing, Jacobson soon became one of the world’s most respected scholars on the international law of the sea.

His professional accomplishments are endless. He was twice a Fulbright scholar at the University of Oslo’s Scandinavian Institute of Marine Law and served as editor in chief of the Ocean Development and International Law journal. He served on the US Department of State’s Advisory Committee on the Law of the Sea and was instrumental in the creation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. He is the author of numerous textbooks and dozens of articles on marine law and policy.

“Jon Jacobson was a giant in the field of ocean and coastal law and a dear colleague of mine,” said fellow Oregon law ocean and coastal law professor Richard Hildreth. “I will be dedicating my Ocean and Coastal Law course to Jon for the remainder of my career.”

In addition to his amazing professional endeavors, Jon will be remembered as a truly good person, practical and kind to the core. Faculty members at the University of Oregon School of Law had the following to say about Jon:

“Jon was a real pioneer in our international environmental and natural resources law work. But beyond all that, he was a really nice man. He will be missed.”

“He was a true gentleman with a vast capacity for kindness and forgiveness. A giant in the field of public international law. I will miss him terribly.”

“Jon was an outstanding teacher who was admired and respected by generations of students. He was a wonderful colleague who will be missed.”

ENR Distinguished Visitor: Former Head of NOAA Jane Lubchenco

Fellows in the UO’s Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center soaked up wisdom and experiences in marine policy and research in a private audience with Jane Lubchenco on February 28, 2014.

Lubchenco, former administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and undersecretary of commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, was a keynote speaker at the 32nd Annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference at the University of Oregon School of Law. She stayed for a private reception with Oregon law students, and members of the Oregon ocean and coastal conservation community. Since serving in Washington, D.C., Lubchenco has returned to Oregon State University, where she is a distinguished university professor and advisor in marine science.

Jane Lubchenco visits with ENR fellows Rebecca Rushton ’14 and Brandon Gerstle ’14.

A Message From the Director
Transforming the World, Transforming Legal Education

By Heather Brinton

Those of us who engage in the field of environmental and natural resources law at the University of Oregon are profoundly aware of how 21st-century circumstances are forcing an evolution in environmental law, how we practice it, and how we teach it.

An environmental law program for this transformative age needs to be serious about innovative curricular offerings that are both interdisciplinary in nature while focusing on practical skills development that stretches between the lawyer’s work in law-making and law-applying. We need new and creative solutions rooted in deep theoretical thinking about the law and its contribution to finding meaningful solutions to our environmental problems. We need to focus on keeping law school affordable, providing a way for students to minimize their debt burden. Most important, we need programs that inspire students to embrace the role of the lawyer in a democracy, to focus on our obligation to advance the common good.

As you read this newsletter, you will see how we continually strive to reach these goals, and you will understand why I feel privileged to serve as the director of Oregon’s Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center. Here at the University of Oregon, we are focused on how we prepare our next generation of environmental attorneys to engage themselves in the law to support sustainability on Earth. I welcome your thoughts and suggestions as we continue our work.

Donors and Sponsors

Without the generosity of donors, the ENR Center would not be possible. With deep gratitude, thank you for your support.

Michael Axline, JD ’80, and Diane Hazen
Tom Bowerman
Nancy Carville Busey and Douglas Busey Jr.
Lori Houck Cora, JD ’89
Anne Jay and Stephen Jay
Nancy Kelly, JD ’87
Paul Konka, JD ’86
Mary Malpeli
Justin Massey, JD ’03
Kathryn McLeod, JD ’85
Sydney Minnerly, JD ’86
Bruce Neuling, JD ’86, and Margaret Leichel
Laurence Oates, JD ’87, and Joyce Miller Oates
William Underwood, JD ’97
Gay Vogt, JD ’86, and Richard Vogt
Oregon Community Foundation
River Bend Environmental, Inc.

ENR Giving Opportunities

Private gifts are an essential means of supporting the ENR Center. Recently, private donations have allowed us to expand support for students committed to public interest environmental law. In addition to providing funded fellowships for law students that offset the cost of law school tuition, ENR now offers funded postgraduate fellowships and summer stipends for law students interested in pursuing public interest environmental work during the summer following their first year of law school.

To learn more about giving opportunities and how you can help Oregon’s next generation of environmental lawyers, please visit law.uoregon.edu/giving.
Conservation Trust Project
Focusing on public trust theory and private property tools to achieve landscape conservation

2013–14
• Evaluate the growing trend of using the public trust doctrine as a tool to guide governmental action to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and halt climate change. Fellows examined the public trust doctrine and explored ways of making the doctrine more accessible to environmental decision-makers at all levels of government.

Coming Up in 2014–15
• Continue work from 2013–14 by drafting model language for local, state, and federal efforts to incorporate the public trust doctrine in their regulatory codes. The project will culminate in the production of a white paper for environmental decision-makers and the public (summer 2015).
• Explore the concept of natural resource damages and examine various legal and policy initiatives for governmental entities to seek natural resource damages and to use those funds to restore atmospheric equilibrium necessary to stem climate change.

Energy Law and Policy Project
Exploring innovative law and policy to promote a green-energy future

2013–14
• Produced a paper as part of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Clean Energy Collaborative Project, spearheaded by UCLA School of Law’s Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, explaining the substance and scope of the Oregon PUC’s enabling authority as related to clean energy modes of production.
• Hosted the Oregon Energy Storage Conference at the University of Oregon’s White Stag Block in Portland in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) and the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC). Fellows collaborated with ODOE, OPUC, and select industry leaders to research and summarize the six most pressing issues surrounding energy storage, culminating in publication of student-written summaries—available now at www.oregon.gov/energy/pages/energy-storage-workshop.aspx. ENR’s inaugural postgraduate fellow is currently writing a white paper reporting on the issues and ideas discussed at the conference. Look for this white paper at enr.uoregon.edu/publications soon.

Coming Up in 2014–15
• Build off of the 2014 Energy Storage Workshop by researching opportunities and obstacles to furthering Oregon’s ability to store energy.
• Evaluate opportunities, limitations, and the latest trends regarding the Environmental Protection Agency and the states’ use of its authority under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act to regulate sources of greenhouse-gas emissions.
Food Resiliency
Probing key law and policy issues to ensure resilient, sustainable food systems

2013–14
• Produced the white paper, “Organic Farming, Drift, and the Law: Addressing the Legal Mechanisms Enabling Pesticide and GMO Drift in American Agriculture.” The paper provides policymakers and organic advocates with a broad overview of the current legal and policy framework surrounding the protection of organic agriculture from drift and also seeks to offer proposals for how to strengthen legal protection for organic farmers. Available at enr.uoregon.edu/publications.

Coming Up in 2014–15
• Examine how different concepts such as food sovereignty, food security, food justice, and the right to food are put into practice and defined through law. Fellows will study both domestic and international institutions in order to appreciate how local institutions and practices can have global implications, and vice versa.
• Explore the regulatory and financial obstacles that many local (and national) governmental entities are confronting in an effort to encourage resilient local food supplies. Fellows will evaluate current opportunities and national and local policy initiatives as well as identifying obstacles to an increasing artisanal food movement.

Global Environmental Democracy Project
Preparing students to be advocates for global change

2013–14
• Produced a paper and blog exploring the science, regulation, and environmental consequences of methane hydrate as an upcoming source of natural gas extraction on an industrial scale. The paper, “Fire and Ice: Regulating Methane Hydrate as a Potential New Energy Source,” was selected for publication by the University of Oregon Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation (forthcoming 2015).

Coming Up in 2014–15
• Evaluate the current state of plastic waste and debris in the North Pacific Ocean, technological tools to remediate the pollution, and legal opportunities and impediments to addressing the problem.
• Increase law student exposure and training on environmental justice issues and efforts, especially those related to climate change, as part of an exploration of the factors affecting the rate and frequency of environmental justice legal actions worldwide.
**ENR Interdisciplinary Projects and Fellows Program**

**Native Environmental Sovereignty Project**
Examining emerging tribal roles in comanaging lands and resources

**2013–14**
- Coordinated the seventh annual Rennard Strickland Lecture. The 2013 speaker was renowned scholar, author, professor, and litigator Robert Anderson, professor of law and director of the Native American Law Center at the University of Washington. Anderson delivered a speech, “A Problem-Prone Promise: Recurring Issues in Fulfilling the Federal Trust Responsibility to Indian Nations.”
- Organized the Indigenous Peoples Reception as part of the 2014 Public Interest Environmental Law Conference. This year’s reception was a resounding success with overwhelming attendance.
- Produced the paper “The Tribal Trust and Government-to-Government Consultation in a New Ecological Age,” which was selected for publication in the forthcoming Volume 93 of the *Oregon Law Review*. Look for the piece at enr.uoregon.edu/publications in late 2014.

**Coming Up in 2014–15**
- Analyze the latest legal parameters, including the recent 2013 Department of the Interior Report of the Commission on Indian Trust Administration, of the federal government’s trust obligation to Indian tribes with a special focus on the threat that climate change poses to Indian resources.
- Organize the annual Rennard Strickland Lecture and the 2015 Indigenous Peoples’ Reception.

**Oceans Coasts and Watersheds Project**
Engaging the law to promote sustainability for ocean, coastal, and freshwater resources

**2013–14**
- Examined the legal tools and authorities applicable to stakeholders in the Willamette River Basin as part of the National Science Foundation–funded project, Willamette Water 2100. Fellows presented their findings to the University of Oregon Board of Trustees and the School of Law’s Dean’s Advisory Council.
- Provided legal research and writing expertise to “The Ocean Cleanup,” an international project that seeks to clean up the “Great Pacific Garbage Patch” by creating an economically feasible and scalable device that would passively collect plastic debris floating just below the ocean surface.
- Published the article “Hawaii Protects Groundwater Using the Public Trust Doctrine” in the January 2014 (Volume 13:1) edition of *The Sandbar*, a National Sea Grant publication.

**Coming Up in 2014–15**
- Continue and conclude work on the WW2100 project. Fellows will continue their legal research of state and federal laws relevant to management of the Willamette River Basin. Their work will guide Oregon State University computer modelers in the creation of realistic legal and policy levers within a GIS-based modeling tool called Envision that will
allow decision-makers to visualize the Willamette water system under continued or changed state and federal water law and policy scenarios over the next 100 years. The model will also include environmental and socioeconomic levers.

- Provide legal and policy analysis related to integrating ecosystem-based management (EBM) with local and state resource decisions, thereby providing critical information to coastal communities about incorporating laws and policy to implement EBM. This project is sponsored by a two-year grant from the Oregon Sea Grant.
- Evaluate the interactions between state and federal legal frameworks in Oregon’s Willamette River Basin to identify unused flexibilities inherent in western water law. Fellows will conduct this legal research as part of a pursuit to investigate ways in which law and policy can be used as a proactive tool for addressing anticipated conflicts around water use in the Willamette River Basin rather than a reactive mechanism once conflict has occurred.

**Sustainable Land Use Project**

Evaluating land use laws, theories, and practices to ensure sustainable development in our communities

**2013–14**

- Worked with and developed a report for the City of Medford describing potential legal obstacles and effective legal and planning strategies for successful municipal open space protection efforts.
- Surveyed the green building movement in Portland, Oregon, identifying regulations and market incentives affecting the movement successfully and negatively.

**Coming Up in 2014–15**

- Assist Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) in their effort to protect water quality by exploring voluntary incentives mechanisms to protect riparian areas in the McKenzie River Basin.
- Provide legal tools to support the University of Oregon Sustainable Cities Initiative’s efforts to create livable suburban communities by examining the connectivity between residential and commercial developments.

For more publications by ENR fellows and faculty members, visit enr.uoregon.edu/publications
Congratulations and Welcome to the 2014–15 ENR Fellows

Conservation Trust Project—Kelsey Estabrook, Jaclyn Hise (Dean’s Distinguished Environmental Law Fellow), Gordon Levitt (Bowerman Fellow), Rance Shaw (Bowerman Fellow)

Energy Law and Policy Project—Jordan Bailey (Bowerman Fellow), Lauren Bernton, Maggie Boberg, Andrew Mulkey (Bowerman Fellow), Ravi Parikh

Food Resiliency Project—Katie Carey, Emily Knobbe, Amanda Martino, Kristen Sabo (Dean’s Distinguished Environmental Law Fellow)

Global Environmental Democracy Project—Nicole Budine, Ashley Carter (David Brower Fellow), Esack Grueskin (Dean’s Distinguished Environmental Law Fellow)

Native Environmental Sovereignty Project—Erika Gibson, Anne Haugaard

Oceans Coasts and Watersheds Project—Kelly Clark (Chapin Clark Fellow), Alexandra Hoffman (Oregon Sea Grant Fellow), Malia Losordo, Jill Randolph, Kristina Schmunk Kraaz (Willamette Water 2100 Fellow), Victoria Wilder

Sustainable Land Use Project—Rory Isbell, Wes Knoll (Eugene Water and Electric Board Fellow), Eric Trotta

Environmental Dispute Resolution—Sahra Yusuf

Our Thanks to the 2013–14 Fellows

Conservation Trust Project—Nate Bellinger (David Brower Fellow), Gordon Levitt, Rance Shaw (Dean’s Distinguished Environmental Law Fellow)

Energy Law and Policy Project—Kaylie Klein, (Bowerman Fellow), Rebecca Rushton, Lee Ewing

Food Resiliency Project—Zach Baker (Bowerman Fellow), Liz Berg (Bowerman Fellow), Anastasya Raichart

Global Environmental Democracy Project—Brandon Gerstle, Erin Jackson

Native Environmental Sovereignty Project—Amanda Rogerson (Bowerman Fellow), Erika Gibson

Oceans Coasts and Watersheds Project—Adam Walters (Willamette Water 2100 Fellow), Dominique Rossi, Eric Trotta (Dean’s Distinguished Environmental Law Fellow), Jill Randolph (Chapin Clark Fellow), Kristina Schmunk (Bowerman Fellow), Margaret Townsend (Bowerman Fellow), Victoria Wilder (Dean’s Distinguished Environmental Law Fellow)

Sustainable Land Use Project—K. C. McFerson (Bowerman Fellow), Kyler Danielson

ENR-ADR Fellow in Environmental Conflict Resolution—Aileen Carlo

Bowerman, Brower, Chapin Clark, and Dean’s Distinguished Fellows

Because of generous donor support, the ENR Center provided 13 paid stipends to fellows in 2013–14 to further the student involvement and experience in the project work listed on the previous page. Through ENR’s seven interdisciplinary projects (Conservation Trust, Energy Law and Policy, Food Resiliency, Global Environmental Democracy, Native Environmental Sovereignty, Oceans, Coasts, and Watersheds, and Sustainable Land Use) law students team with faculty members and use their expertise to solve environmental problems in Oregon, the nation, and the world.

If you are interested in learning how you can support ENR’s interdisciplinary projects and fellows program, please contact Heather Brinton at hbrinton@uoregon.edu.
Douglas Quirke, JD ‘95, will guide and conduct interdisciplinary research with ENR law student fellows as the new ENR research associate.

Clean Water Legal Expert Joins ENR

Oregon law alum and national expert in environmental and natural resources law Douglas Quirke, JD ’95, was recently appointed research associate for the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center (ENR).

Quirke has served as executive director of the Oregon Clean Water Action Project (OCWAP) since 2002. Prior to that, Quirke spent six years practicing as a public interest attorney focusing on Clean Water Act enforcement cases.

“I look forward to working with the ENR faculty and students on solutions to the difficult and increasingly urgent environmental challenges that we currently face not only in Oregon, but across the nation and globe,” Quirke said.

As ENR research associate, Quirke will be responsible for supporting student research and conducting independent research of his own that contributes to one of the center’s seven interdisciplinary projects. The Interdisciplinary Projects and Fellows Program is the law school’s vehicle for meeting the needs of the rapidly changing field of environmental law, innovating how legal education can enhance the student experience while also providing community service.
ENR Faculty Update

ADELL AMOS, associate dean for academic affairs and dean’s distinguished faculty fellow, is currently coauthoring a book for West Academic Publishing with Sandra Zellmer from the University of Nebraska School of Law. This past summer, Amos published two articles. Kansas University Law Review published “Developing the Law of the River: The Integration of Law and Policy into Hydrologic and Socio-Economic Modeling Efforts in the Willamette River Basin,” and the University of Oregon Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation published “Dam Removal and Hydropower Production in the US: Ushering in a New Era.” Amos also serves as a water law expert for Willamette Water 2100, a project funded by the National Science Foundation that brings together faculty members from Oregon State University, the University of Oregon, and Portland State University to create a transferable method of evaluating and predicting how climate change, population growth, and economic growth will change the availability and use of water in the Willamette River Basin on a decadal to centennial timescale. In addition to teaching and serving as associate dean for academic affairs, Amos also serves as a faculty coleader for the University of Oregon Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center’s interdisciplinary research project, the Oceans, Coasts, and Watersheds Project. She will be on sabbatical during the fall 2014 semester.

JOHN BONINE, Bernard B. Kliks Professor of Law, will continue to work with master of laws (LLM) students as seminar leader, but has decided to no longer serve as director of the Master of Laws in Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program. He welcomes new director Kristie Gibson. In October 2013, Bonine was selected as the first visitor to the Burleson Institute in Connecticut, participating in New York in a conference of the American Branch of the International Law Association. In December 2013, Bonine traveled to Ukraine to work with his public interest law firm, Environment-People-Law (EPL), of which he serves as president. He worked with EPL’s environmental lawyers who were helping bring about Ukraine’s democratic revolution. In April 2014, Bonine gave the closing keynote at a conference on environmental constitutionalism at Widener Law School. In Belgium, he served as a delegate to a strategy meeting of citizen organizations, the European Eco-Forum. In May 2014, Bonine spoke at a meeting of Ukrainian environmental, human rights, and social justice lawyers. In June 2014, Bonine lectured at a law school in Arusha, Tanzania, where one of his former LLM students is a teacher. The two flew to Uganda, where environmental lawyers from three countries met to strategize and network at a meeting organized by another University of Oregon LLM alumnus, Samantha Atakunda, along with Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW) of Eugene, Oregon. He then went to Kenya with ELAW lawyers to a meeting of Kenyan environmental lawyers, followed by the World Conference for the Environmental Rule of Law at the United Nations Environmental Programme near Nairobi. In Maastricht, Netherlands, Bonine served as a citizen delegate to the Fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention. In September 2014, Professor Bonine participated in an academic conference in Ukraine held in honor of his late wife, Svitlana Kravchenko, who created and ran the UO LLM program until her untimely death in 2012.

NANCY SHURTZ, B. A. Kliks Professor of Law, presented “US Environmental Taxes: Laboratories for Innovative Climate Change Policy” at the Third Annual Climate Change Research Symposium Initiative on April 16, 2014, in Eugene, Oregon. This paper explored how cities can pass tax statutes in the transportation, building, and waste areas to curb destructive environmental behaviors. Shurtz worked with Kyler M. Danielson on a white paper last year, titled “Eco-Friendly Building from the Ground Up: Environmental Initiatives and the Case of Portland, Oregon,” which was condensed from Shurtz’s 125-page article published in the Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation. In the spring of 2014, Shurtz taught her class...
MARY CHRISTINA WOOD, Philip H. Knight Professor of Law, is the faculty director for the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Center at the University of Oregon. In March 2014, Tufts University published her article, “Atmospheric Trust Litigation: Defining Sovereign Obligations In Climate Recovery,” in the Fletcher Forum of World Affairs. In April 2014 the Seattle University American Indian Law Journal published a piece by Wood, titled “Tribal Trustees in Climate Crisis.” Her article “The Planet on the Docket: Atmospheric Trust Litigation to Protect Earth’s Climate System and Habitability” was published in the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Law Review this past summer. Wood has also spent considerable time over the past year in speaking engagements on her new book, Nature’s Trust: Environmental Law for a New Ecological Age, published in October 2013. On April 3, 2014, Wood was the featured speaker for the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy’s series on climate and energy policy. She keynoted several other events recently, including the Tribal Leaders’ Summit with the US Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 on April 1, 2014; the University of Oregon 32nd Annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference on March 1, 2014; and the Center for Earth’s Justice Conference, “Future Generations, Public Lands, Public Water, Public Trust,” at Barry University School of Law in Orlando, Florida, on February 7, 2014 (by video conference). She was the Boehl Distinguished Lecturer in Land-Use Policy at University of Louisville on April 10, 2014. Wood also guest lectured via Skype in numerous classes across the country last year, including at Vermont Law School in January 2014 and at Stetson Law School in February 2014. Finally, Wood was recently featured, along with climate scientist James Hanson, in a short documentary about atmospheric trust litigation (a legal strategy originated by Wood), available at ourchildrenstrust.org.

A new book by MICHAEL FAKHRl, assistant professor of law, Sugar and the Making of International Trade Law, is due to be published by Cambridge University Press in November 2014. Last year, Fakhri coauthored the article “The Intersection between Food Sovereignty and Law” with ENR Bowerman fellow Nathan Bellinger, published in the fall 2013 American Bar Association publication Natural Resources and Environment, a special issue on food. In May 2014, Fakhri discussed the notion of ecological and institutional resiliency on a panel devoted to new theoretical approaches to international economic law at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law 14th Annual World Trade Organization Conference. Fakhri serves as faculty coleader of the ENR Interdisciplinary Research Project, the Food Resiliency Project, and will be teaching a new course to Oregon law students during the 2014–15 academic year, Food, Farming, and Sustainability.
ENGAGING THE LAW TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABILITY ON EARTH    FALL 2014

ENR Faculty Update

RICHARD HILDRETH, Frank E. Nash Professor of Law, is the principal investigator on a project recently selected for funding by the Oregon Sea Grant, titled “Implementing Ecosystem-Based Management: Connecting Caretakers of the Oregon Coast with Transformative and Practical Legal Tools.” The two-year project commenced July 1, 2015, and will be conducted by Hildreth, two funded ENR law student fellows, ENR staff members, and Holly V. Campbell of the Oregon State University College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences. In addition to his research, Hildreth will teach three courses during the 2014–15 academic year: Ocean and Coastal Law, International Environmental Law, and Water Law. Later this fall the fourth edition of his Coastal and Ocean Management Law in a Nutshell book, coauthored with Donna Christie of Florida State University College of Law, will be published by West Publishing.

ROBERTA MANN, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Stewart Business Law Professor, had her article, “Lightning in a Bottle: Using Tax Policy to Solve Renewable Energy’s Storage Challenges,” published in the winter 2014 issue of the University of Missouri School of Law’s Journal of Environmental and Sustainability Law. The paper reviews the current state of energy storage technology development, assessing the progress of the United States, and considering strategies for the future. Mann served as roundtable leader on the same topic at the Oregon Energy Workshop in March 2014. She presented her new work-in-progress, “International Tax Reform and the Global Environment”, at the University of San Diego School of Law Tax Law Speaker Series, also in March 2014. This paper explores how viewing international tax reform through an environmental lens could lead the world in a sustainable direction.

Mount Jefferson, Oregon

JELL Recently Published

Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation, Volume 29 (2) 2014

ARTICLES

Lori Ann Burd and Armand Resto-Spotts

“Conserving a Place for Renewable Power”
Jacob Byl

“Narrative, Nuisance, and Environmental Law”
Laura King

Sandeep Nandivada

“Tribal Environmental Programs: Providing Meaningful Involvement and Fair Treatment”
Jeanette Wolffey

COMMENT

“Defending Water against a Fractured Body of Law: A Case Study of California’s Monterey Shale Formation”
Jacqueline Quarré

View more at law.uoregon.edu/jell/articles/.
PIELC Review: ‘Running into Running Out’

By Cooper Brinson, Will Carlon, Nathaniel Gurol, Gordon Levitt, and Mallory Woodman

The 32nd Annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC) was held at the University of Oregon February 27–March 2, 2014. This was the first year that PIELC keynotes were available live on YouTube; the keynotes may be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCURMPockJzhQVG8qjSwfMsg.

As the organizers of PIELC 2014, we chose the theme “Running into Running Out” to urgently convey how the resources necessary for humanity’s survival are in peril. The conference began with Michael Pavel introducing the conference with a traditional indigenous ceremony that got the EMU Ballroom buzzing for the opening keynote addresses by Wen Tiejun and Zhihe Wang, which discussed China’s path to an ecological civilization. Their presentation was followed by Lierre Keith’s speech on how civilization is the root of environmental degradation.

On Friday, Jane Lubchenco, former director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Patrick Parenteau, Vermont Law School professor, delivered keynotes focusing on the connections between science and policy and the importance of building genuine relationships across political divides. For the evening keynote, Stephen Corry from Survival International and Mary Pavel, chief counsel for the US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, discussed the historical dimensions of environmentalism, development, and indigenous peoples.

Saturday’s first set of keynoters—Lauren Regan, of the Civil Liberties Defense Center, and Richard Monje, from the Service Employees International Union’s Workers United and Move to Amend—provided an insightful take on innovative coalition-building for the environmental movement. Next, representatives from the Amungme and Komoro tribes of West Papua spoke about the damage done to their ancestral land by the mining practices of the world’s largest gold mine. This emotional presentation highlighted the costs of modernity.

Saturday evening’s keynotes began with the world premier of the 10th film in the series: Stories of Trust: Youth Calling for Climate Recovery. Following the film, James Hansen, the former director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, discussed how climate science should guide environmental policy. Next, University of Oregon law professor Mary Wood spoke eloquently about the potential of the Public Trust Doctrine to remedy modern environmental damage.


Looking back on the conference, one of Professor Wood’s statements will stick with us. During her keynote, she thanked Land, Air, Water for organizing PIELC, saying that we will never know 99 percent of the synapses that we facilitated, but that these conversations will have transformative impacts. We too want to thank the team of PIELC gurus and volunteers, the staff and faculty of the law school, and all of the conference attendees for making this year’s conference a resounding success.

Cooper Brinson is marketing director for Land, Air, Water. Will Carlon is codirector of Land, Air, Water. Nathaniel Gurol is operations editor for the Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation. Gordon Levitt is codirector of Land, Air, Water and a Bowerman fellow for the ENR Conservation Trust Project. Mallory Woodman is treasurer for Student Legal Advocates for Tribal Sovereignty. They are all third-year students at the University of Oregon School of Law.

Save the Date!

PIELC 2015: March 5–8, 2015
The David Brower, Kerry Rydberg, and Svitlana Kravchenko Awards

By Emily Johnson

Each year, the students of Land, Air, Water (LAW) recognize outstanding environmental activists at the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference through the David Brower Lifetime Achievement Award, the Kerry Rydberg Award for Environmental Activism, and the Svitlana Kravchenko Environmental Rights Award.

The DAVID BROWER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD is presented to an attorney or activist who has dedicated his or her life to environmental activism and exemplifies the values of David Brower, perhaps the most important environmentalist of the second half of the 20th century. Brower was executive director of the Sierra Club and founder of many of today’s best-known environmental organizations and institutes.

This year’s David Brower Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to the staff of Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW): Mark Chernaik, JD ’93, Jennifer Gleason, JD ’93, Bern Johnson, Lori Maddox, Graciela M. Mercedes “Meche” Lu, and Liz Mitchell, JD ’94. ELAW was founded in 1989 by a group of public interest lawyers from 10 countries attending the University of Oregon Public Interest Environmental Law Conference. Upon meeting, the group discovered that communities in their countries were facing similar environmental challenges, and that if public interest lawyers around the world could share strategies and legal and scientific information, those lawyers could promote environmental protection more effectively. With this serendipitous meeting, ELAW was born.

Twenty-five years later, more than 300 public interest advocates from 70 countries participate in the ELAW network. Staff members collaborate with local advocates around the world by sharing legal strategies and scientific information, helping them launch their own public interest organizations, protecting those who they face legal or other consequences for their advocacy, and convening workshops in their communities to educate citizens about the legal and scientific tools available to challenge environmental abuses and defend their right to clean air, water, food, and a sustainable economy.

In addition, ELAW has played an irreplaceable role in the professional formation of dozens of law students from the University of Oregon School of Law. Through their work with students, ELAW has proven itself to be an irrefutable force in both fighting the environmental injustices of today and preparing the next generation of environmental lawyers and advocates to fight the injustices of tomorrow.

The KERRY RYDBERG AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM is presented annually to an advocate who embodies 1987 Oregon alum Kerry Rydberg’s courage, self-reliance, commitment, talent, and dedication to representing citizens at the grassroots level of environmental matters.

This year, the Kerry Rydberg Award was presented to Roger Flynn, founding director and managing attorney of the Western Mining Action Project (WMAP), a nonprofit law center representing public interests on mining issues in the West since 1993. Flynn is the epitome of the public interest environmental attorney. He

[Flynn is] “a hero to communities who often face long odds when going up against the high-priced lawyers and consultants used by the [mining] industry,” said a former client of his in the Colorado Springs Gazette-Telegram.

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James Hansen visited the ENR Center on March 1 to discuss the critical impact policy will have on prospects for a habitable planet with ENR fellows, Oregon law professors, and local policymakers. Hansen was in Eugene to give a keynote address at the 32nd Annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference at the University of Oregon School of Law.

Hansen is the former director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies and a current adjunct professor at Columbia University’s Earth Institute, where he directs a program in climate science, awareness, and solutions. He is best known for his testimony on climate change in the 1980s that helped raise awareness of global warming. He is also a member of the US National Academy of Sciences and has received numerous awards including the Sophie and Blue Planet Prizes.

The David Brower, Kerry Rydberg, and Svitlana Kravchenko Awards

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has spent his career taking on the fights of financially limited clients against large mining corporations . . . and winning. He is “a hero to communities who often face long odds when going up against the high-priced lawyers and consultants used by the [mining] industry,” said a former client of his in the Colorado Springs Gazette-Telegraph.

Prior to founding the Western Mining Action Project, Flynn was a staff attorney with the Environmental Defense Fund and the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies. In addition to his work at WMAP, Flynn also teaches natural resources law and mining and mineral development law at the University of Colorado at Boulder School of Law.

The SVITLANA KRAVCHENKO ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS AWARD is presented to individuals who carry on in the spirit of Kravchenko with exquisite qualities of both head and heart; mixing academic rigor with spirited activism; and speaking truth to power while exhibiting kindness to all. The award also seeks to recognize those who make a broad impact in law while working to support local communities.

This year, the Svitlana Kravchenko Environmental Rights Award was awarded to long-time environmental law professor, attorney, and author Professor William Rodgers. Rodgers has spent nearly half a century teaching an array of public interest environmental law courses to students at the University of Washington School of Law and Georgetown University Law School. He is the author of multitudes of articles, chapters, treatises, and books and has argued numerous cases on an array of environmental and tribal matters before every level of federal and state court. He was a key player in a number of high-profile environmental efforts, including the federal ban on the insecticide DDT, the Washington “Bottle Bill,” and the “Fish Wars” of the late 1960s. Throughout his career, whether in the classroom or the courtroom, Rodgers has insistently encouraged students to participate in his work, crafting what today must constitute a full army of expertly primed environmental attorneys and advocates.

He has crafted what today must constitute a full army of expertly primed environmental attorneys.
ELAW Targets End to Coal Reliance

By Liz Mitchell

The demand for coal-based energy is relentless. To protect our climate and communities exposed to local air pollution, Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW) is working with advocates around the world on efforts to curb our dependence on coal. Campaigners in the US are successfully challenging plans for new coal-fired power plants, which is causing coal companies to turn to foreign markets. ELAW is providing critical support to grassroots lawyers around the world who are objecting to proposals for new coal facilities. Law students from the University of Oregon are a vital part of this work.

In many countries, coal-fired power plants are being fast-tracked without serious consideration of climate ramifications, impacts to air quality, or the true cost of coal. Some of these proposed facilities would use low-grade coal for fuel—escalating the impacts. Communities around the world are concerned about proposals for new power plants, destructive coal mines, coal transport facilities, and large-scale port facilities for coal import and export. These projects threaten the environment and many will displace communities that do not have secure land rights.

ELAW supports a global network of lawyers defending the rights of local communities by providing legal and scientific information and training. Each year we are thankful for the good work of students from Oregon law who participate in the ELAW externship program.

ELAW externs gain practical skills and the opportunity to learn about legal issues from the point of view of an advocate. For many Oregon law students, the ELAW externship provides their first exposure to researching and applying international legal principles. Over the past year, Oregon law students have assisted in successful litigation to block construction of coal-fired power plants in India and to defend South Africans’ right to know about pollution emissions. Research provided by Oregon law students is being put to use in strengthening mining laws in Kenya, which faces new coal mining proposals; forcing regulators to more closely scrutinize plans for new coal-fired power plants in South Africa; and helping communities around the world that are being negatively affected by climate change. We are delighted to play a role in training the next generation of global public interest environmental advocates.

Liz Mitchell, JD ’94, staff attorney, has been with ELAW since 2007, where she provides legal assistance to grassroots attorneys outside the US who are working to protect communities and the environment. Prior to joining ELAW, Liz was a staff attorney at the Western Environmental Law Center. She graduated from the University of Oregon School of Law with a concentration in environmental and natural resources law.
Students Help WELC Score Wins Against Fracking, Drilling, Trapping

By Hillary Johnson

What began as a small clinic at the University of Oregon School of Law in the 1970s is now a thriving, pioneering nonprofit environmental law firm with offices across the West whose attorneys collaborate at local, regional, and national levels to successfully defend and protect western wildlands, waters, and wildlife.

Under the guidance of the Western Environmental Law Center’s seasoned environmental attorneys, students enrolled in the University of Oregon School of Law’s Environmental Law Clinic continue to provide invaluable legal and scientific research and analysis to help WELC achieve its vision. This past year, with the help of dedicated and hard-working students, WELC won several important victories and initiated significant new projects.

At the local level, we successfully protected clean water for family farmers in Colorado’s fertile North Fork Valley by defeating fossil fuel industry efforts to frack and drill on tens of thousands of acres of cherished public lands. At the state level in New Mexico, we helped hold Big Coal accountable for harming our health, climate, and environment by securing coal-fired power plant retirements and by speeding our transition to clean, renewable energy from the wind and sun. And at the national level, we rallied 90 conservation groups demanding federal action to stop disastrous greenhouse-gas pollution leaking from oil and gas drilling operations.

We also successfully advocated for the protection of wildlife threatened with extinction across the West. We are leading a coalition to ensure that the rare wolverine receives essential Endangered Species Act protections and, for the second year in a row, we shut down the recreational wolverine-trapping season in Montana—giving this nearly extinct species a chance to survive. Continuing our storied legacy of ancient forest and river protection in the Northwest and California, we defeated ill-advised timber sales and advanced wild salmon restoration efforts.

Our success protecting and defending the West in the face of chronic political dysfunction demonstrates the value of well-trained, effective environmental advocates. As such, we are eternally grateful for the dedicated assistance of University of Oregon Environmental Law Clinic students, with whom we share our victories.

Hillary Johnson is the director of communications for WELC.

LLM Program Welcomes Diverse, Experienced Class

By Kristie L. Gibson

I am honored and excited to be joining the University of Oregon School of Law as the new master of laws program director. I look forward to putting my skills gained in private practice, international business, and organizational leadership roles to work as the LLM program continues on its successful path.

This August, the University of Oregon Master of Laws in Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program welcomed the class of 2014–15 to campus. The class includes an impressive array of international students from China, Mozambique (a Fulbright student), and Nigeria, US resident students from Russia and Somalia, and US students from Oregon and Utah.

This year’s students bring with them vast and experienced professional portfolios. Among them is a senior legal officer for the National Human Rights Commission in Nigeria, an active duty Marine Corps officer and judge advocate, and a research scholar working toward a PhD in environmental law in China, to list a few. Not surprisingly, many in this year’s students have worked in environmental justice and advocacy programs and projects in their home countries for organizations such as the United Nations Development Program, the Save Baikal project, and Greenpeace. Others are attorneys who have practiced in the areas of criminal law, employment law, personal injury, business, and administrative law. I am extremely excited to be involved in furthering the legal educations of such impressive and dedicated legal and environmental advocates.

Kristie Gibson ’94, JD ’98, is the LLM program director at University of Oregon School of Law. Prior to joining Oregon law, Gibson worked in private practice at Gartland, Nelson, McCleery & Wade in Eugene, where she focused on business, property, employment, and international law. She also worked at Levantis, LLC, and Gaydos, Churnside & Balthrop, PC.
ENR Alumni Update

JOE BUSHYHEAD, JD ’13, is a staff attorney with Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA), a nonprofit organization defending Utah’s remaining desert wildlands from oil and gas development, unnecessary road construction, rampant off-road vehicle use, and other threats. Joe joined SUWA as a project attorney in June 2013 and became a staff attorney less than a year later. Joe’s work focuses on litigation of public land issues, mostly the defense of wilderness-eligible lands from statewide RS 2477 right-of-way claims. Joe says he feels “incredibly fortunate to be doing such meaningful work so early in [his] career.” During law school, Joe was an active member of Land, Air, Water, Marine, and was an ENR Native Environmental Sovereignty Project fellow.

MARIANNE DUGAN, MS ’98, JD ’93, is a solo practitioner in Eugene, Oregon, specializing in public interest law. She enjoys being her own boss and taking on interesting clients and cases. Prior to developing her solo practice, Marianne spent six years working for the Western Environmental Law Center, starting as its first staff attorney and later becoming its associate director. She has taught numerous courses at Oregon law over the years, including Public Lands Law and Natural Resources Law. She serves on the boards of Friends of Land, Air, Water, the Portia Project, and the Western Lands Project, as well as being associate inspector of elections for the Sierra Club. She also is the Eugene Chapter contact for the National Lawyers Guild and serves as treasurer of the Oregon State Bar Civil Rights Section Executive Committee. From 2007 through 2009, the publication Oregon Super Lawyers listed Marianne as one of Oregon’s leading environmental attorneys. Recently, Marianne was named chair of the Sierra Club Litigation Committee, where she will be responsible for overseeing the review of the many environmental litigation and amicus brief requests presented to the Sierra Club each year. Marianne and her husband of 30 years, UO alum Michael Fields ’93, JD ’96, are grateful to have built their lives in Eugene and to have their daughter, Selena Dugan-Fields, nearby, beginning her career as a freelance illustrator.

STEVE SHIPSEY, JD ’93, is senior assistant attorney general for the State of Oregon Department of Justice, General Counsel Division, Natural Resources Section. He spent fourteen years as general counsel to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department including the State Historic Preservation Office, the Department of Land Conservation and Development, and the Ocean Policy Advisory Counsel. He has provided counsel on the state designation of a limited system of marine reserves and planning for marine wind and wave energy in the state territorial sea and advised on both rulemaking to establish the regulatory framework for urban growth management and state review of city and metro urban growth boundary decisions and urban and rural reserves for the Portland metropolitan area. Steve has volunteered with the Surfrider Foundation for more than 20 years, including serving three terms on the global board of directors from 2006 to 2012, the last year as board chair, continues to serve on the Legal Issues Committee, and currently holds a position on the board of directors of Surfrider Canada. He recently received the Surfrider Wavemaker Award for his work with the Legal Issues Committee. Steve is grateful for the ability to perform this kind of work and volunteering, as it affords him the opportunity to “protect those things that I feel make Oregon a wonderful place to live—the parks, the beaches, the ocean, the livable communities, and our resource lands.”

DAWN WINALSKI, JD ’09, is an assistant borough attorney for the North Slope Borough in Barrow, Alaska. She moved to the Arctic to work for the borough in February 2013 and enjoys a wide variety of legal practice in a fascinating place. The county-level government she works for oversees a land area larger than 39 of the states, and experiences both 24-hour daylight and 24-hour darkness. In addition to the typical work of a county government attorney, Dawn works on issues related to onshore and Arctic Ocean oil and gas exploration and development, endangered species, and subsistence hunting by Alaska Natives. After graduating from Oregon law, Dawn worked on political campaigns in Oregon while doing contract legal work and volunteering. From 2010 to 2012 she clerked for Judge Matarazzo at the Multnomah County Courthouse. When not working, Dawn enjoys running (outside as much as possible), viewing wildlife (including polar bears), and performing yoga.
In June 2014, University of Oregon School of Law alum Greg Dotson ’95 joined the Washington, D.C.–based institute Center for American Progress (CAP) as its new vice president for energy policy.

CAP is a progressive multidisciplinary think tank dedicated to improving the lives of Americans through ideas and action. Building on the achievements of progressive pioneers such as Teddy Roosevelt and Martin Luther King, CAP promotes a progressive vision for America—a vision that policymakers, thought leaders, and activists can share in the national debate and use to pass laws that make a difference.

As CAP vice president for energy policy, Dotson will oversee the work of the energy and environment team, which includes both international and domestic policy areas. “Dotson’s expertise will be invaluable as CAP continues to identify and promote bold new policies to address climate change and advance efforts to promote President Barack Obama’s Climate Action Plan,” said CAP president Neera Tanden in announcing Dotson’s move.

Prior to joining CAP, Dotson served for more than 18 years as the lead environmental and energy staffer for Representative Henry A. Waxman (D-CA) and as a top staffer on both the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. During his nearly two decades on the Hill, Dotson was vital in the House’s passage of comprehensive climate-change legislation and the enactment of laws on clean energy, pesticide safety, drinking water, and clean air.

He has also played a leading role in the strategic defense of existing environmental protection laws. Representative Waxman had the following to say about Dotson: “Greg has devoted his career to protecting the environment . . . [and] has played a key role in virtually every major energy and environment legislation enacted by Congress in the past 18 years.”

Dotson graduated from the University of Oregon School of Law in 1995 with a concentration in environmental and natural resources law. He earned his undergraduate degree from Virginia Tech. He and his wife, Janine Benner, deputy assistant secretary at the US Department of Energy and a former top staffer for Representative Earl Blumenauer of Oregon, have two children.

Alumni Spotlight: Greg Dotson

By Emily Johnson

Greg Dotson, JD ’95, testifying alongside Senator Markey (D-MA) at Environmental Protection Agency hearing on the Clean Power Plan.
Fall 2014 Highlights

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4. ENR’s Interdisciplinary Projects and Fellows Program
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ENR continues to strive to use our precious finite resources wisely. If you would like to receive future newsletters electronically, please send an e-mail request to enr@uoregon.edu.