Douglas Ballinger Profile

Douglas Ballinger is President of the Redwood City, California-based PageDNA, an Internet printing software company he started almost a decade ago. A Bay Area native, Doug has explored every corner of California’s wild spaces while fishing, hiking and skiing. His passion for fishing began with childhood trips to the Sierra Nevada with his father and brothers. His father-in-law later introduced him to steelhead fishing on Northwest rivers like the Deschutes and Grand Ronde. Through his travels, he has become closely familiar with many of our best western rivers.

As Chair of the Lands Committee on WRC’s Board, Doug provides oversight for land acquisitions in California and throughout the West, identifying new opportunities on rivers like the McCloud and John Day.

Doug is also on the Board of Directors of California Trout and is well acquainted with the river conservation challenges in his home state. The population explosion in California makes it even more critical to protect the best of our remaining natural rivers. Doug feels Western Rivers Conservancy’s greatest opportunities in California are on the North Coast, where rivers like the Smith, Eel, Van Duzen and Trinity are healthy strongholds for wild fish, or on the way to recovery.

A river lover at heart, Doug is dedicated to building a legacy of healthy western streams for the next generation.

B O A R D O F D I R E C T O R S

Chair of Our Lands Committee

Douglas Ballinger

You may send tax-deductible donations to Western Rivers Conservancy’s Portland office or visit www.westernrivers.org to contribute online.

Critical Elk River Property Purchased

Oregon’s South Coast

Extraordinary by any standard, the Wild and Scenic Elk River is often cited as one of the finest salmon and steelhead fisheries on the West Coast. Rising from the remote Siskiyou Mountains and Coast Range of southern Oregon, the Elk flows 32 miles through deep gorges and lush old-growth forests to meet the Pacific Ocean near the town of Port Orford. Wild fall Chinook, coho, winter steelhead and sea-run cutthroat trout all thrive in its waters.

Acting on a brief window of opportunity in late October, Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) purchased a property along the Elk to save it from development. The 170-acre parcel is located at the confluence of the Elk River and an important tributary, Rock Creek. The Elk has the highest density of spawning coho of any stream on the Oregon Coast, and this very stretch of Rock Creek is critical to maintaining these coho populations. The remainder of the Rock Creek sub-basin is part of the Siskiyou National Forest and managed as the Rock Creek Roadless Area.

By protecting this property, WRC seeks to connect and enhance habitat in the adjoining landscape, which is the largest block of intact forest in the Oregon Coast Range. Here, Port Orford cedar trees reach five feet in diameter, and Douglas for Please see Elk River, next page

Expanding our Work into the Interior West

Our land acquisition team is growing, and so is our geographic reach. As of February, Western Rivers Conservancy will have offices in California, Oregon and Montana, positioning us to fulfill our mission in eleven western states.

Spearheading our new Helena, Montana, office is Walter Yabarrey. We are thrilled to welcome Walter to the project staff as Director of the Interior West and Federal Affairs.

Walter is a talented veteran in the land conservation world. He worked for the Nature Conservancy for more than a decade, most recently as Director of Major Projects & Government Relations in Helena. In this position, he worked to set aside thousands of acres of open space for habitat protection and public enjoyment.

Cam Tredennick, hired in January as Senior Project Manager, is a superb addition to the land staff. Cam has 15 years experience working in land conservation law, public land management and land acquisition. Most recently, as a project director for the Nature Conservancy in San Diego, Cam protected thousands of acres of precious open space in Southern California, specializing in large, complex transactions with many partners. With his experience, Cam is launching new initiatives in California and Oregon.

Also adding expertise to our Portland team is that we were thrilled to welcome Walter to the project staff as Director of the Interior West and Federal Affairs.

Walter is a talented veteran in the land conservation world. He worked for the Nature Conservancy for more than a decade, most recently as Director of Major Projects & Government Relations in Helena. In this position, he worked to set aside thousands of acres of open space for habitat protection and public enjoyment.

Cam Tredennick, hired in January as Senior Project Manager, is a superb addition to the land staff. Cam has 15 years experience working in land...
Alan Christensen, hired in November as Senior Project Manager. Alan recently retired from the U.S. Forest Service, where he was Assistant Director for Natural Resources in Oregon and Washington. With his strong natural resource background, Alan is identifying new conservation opportunities on rivers in eastern Oregon and Washington.

During Alan’s accomplished career with the Forest Service, he held positions throughout the Pacific Northwest and the Rocky Mountains. Alan was responsible for programs in wildlife, fisheries, watershed, soils, botany and range that influenced over 24 million acres. He also extends our reach into the Interior West, having served as a founding staff member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

With a talented team in place, WRC is poised to save endangered river landscapes throughout the West.