

Umpqua Basin

Description

The Umpqua Basin includes the drainages of the South Umpqua, North Umpqua, mainstem Umpqua and the Smith River. The North Umpqua, with its steep gradient and incised channel, contrasts sharply with the shallow, slow-moving South Umpqua. The North Umpqua has been designated a state scenic waterway.

The basin lies primarily within three ecoregions (Coast Range, Cascades and Klamath Mountains) and contains a wide variety of vegetation, from Sitka spruce-dominated forests on the coast, to Oregon white oak and Pacific madrone woodlands in interior valleys, to Douglas fir and mixed conifer forests in the Cascades. Anadromous fish, including spring and fall chinook, chum salmon, summer and winter steelhead and sea-run cutthroat, are found in large and small stream systems throughout the Umpqua. Although a number of anadromous fish runs in the basin are in decline, spring chinook and summer steelhead runs in the North Umpqua are considered relatively healthy.

The South Umpqua boundaries of the Umpqua Basin are roughly coterminous with the boundaries of Douglas County. Roughly 55% of the basin is publicly owned.

Whitetail deer have recovered in this basin and have been de-listed from their status as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. However, oak woodlands and grassland habitats, which historically made up most of the valley bottom and margin habitats, have declined significantly, with fire suppression and invasive plants continuing to affect these resources.

Priority Ecological Systems

- Autumnal freshwater mudflats
- Chaparral
- Coniferous forested wetlands
- Depressional wetland broadleaf forests
- Depressional wetland shrublands
- Emergent marsh
- Freshwater aquatic beds
- Klamath ponderosa pine
- Lowland riparian woodland and shrubland
- Montane riparian forests and shrublands
- Oak woodland
- Sitka spruce forest
- Sphagnum bogs and fens
- Vernal pools
- Western Oregon upland prairie and oak savanna
- Western Oregon wet prairie

Rare or At-Risk Plant Communities

Annual hairgrass vernal pool
Buckbrush / Lemmon needlegrass
California oatgrass - Roemer fescue
California oatgrass valley grassland
Dense sedge - spreading rush marsh
Dense sedge - tufted hairgrass prairie
Hyacinth brodiaea prairie
Lobb buttercup aquatic bed
Oregon ash / spreading rush
Ponderosa pine - white oak / bunchgrass savanna
Tufted hairgrass - California oatgrass valley prairie
White oak - black oak / poison oak
White oak / buckbrush / Idaho fescue
White oak / Idaho fescue savanna
White oak / poison oak / blue wildrye

Umpqua Basin – Priority Species

<i>Fish</i>	<i>Birds</i>	<i>Mammals</i>	<i>Amphibians and Reptiles</i>	<i>Invertebrates</i>	<i>Plants</i>
Coho Salmon Chinook Salmon Spring run Umpqua Chub	Bullock’s Oriole California Towhee Lewis’s Woodpecker Oregon Vesper Sparrow White-Breasted Nuthatch	Fringed Bat Oregon Red Tree Vole Pallid Bat Townsend’s Big-Eared Bat	Common Kingsnake Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog Red-Legged Frog Northwestern Pond Turtle Southern Torrent Salamander	<i>Lanx subrotunda</i> (Rotund Lanx – Snail)	<i>Arabis koehleri</i> var. <i>koehleri</i> (Koehler’s Rockcress) <i>Perideridia erythrorhiza</i> (Red-root Yampah) <i>Plagiobothrys hirtus</i> (Rough Popcorn Flower)