In loving memory of a true friend and defender of our environment . . .

Anne Elizabeth Sellers Fund

To honor Anne Elizabeth Sellers and to help Oregon State University students majoring in Environmental Sciences, we, her parents, have established this fund to financially assist juniors and seniors on their paths to graduation.

Anne Elizabeth Sellers

Anne Elizabeth progressed apace through public schools in Corvallis. In the summer going into her junior year at Corvallis High School (CHS), she lived in a cabin at Jawbone Flats at the Opal Creek Wilderness Center and served there as a volunteer person-of-all-trades. During her junior year at CHS, she participated in a field trip led by a CHS teacher to the Environmental Law Conference in Eugene at the University of Oregon. Anne Elizabeth's experience there further confirmed her determination to be of service to the environment. In the summer leading to her senior year at CHS she again volunteered at Opal Creek.

Early in Anne Elizabeth's senior year at CHS she knew that, for her, high school had "nothing more of relevance" to offer just then. As she also told her parents, "I don't need to learn anything more in high school about the rape of our ancient forests. I need to ACT NOW to try to stop further destruction. I'm dropping out of school to defend the forests."

Faced with Anne Elizabeth's obvious determination, her parents negotiated and then lovingly supported a court decree making her an "emancipated minor." One mutual understanding with her parents was that Anne Elizabeth would get her General Education Diploma (GED), which she did within just a few months.

As an independent learner, Anne Elizabeth read much, studied much, and personally engaged with others concerning environmental, social, and justice issues. She learned facts and perspectives, including views held by those whose policies and actions diverged from ones which she herself held to be truly in service to a sustainable environmental ecosystem here in Oregon, and ultimately here on earth.
Once away from CHS classrooms, Anne Elizabeth quickly moved "into the field." She took part in numerous and always non-violent anti-logging protests, putting her convictions into action and freely making herself both subject to arrest and putting herself potentially in harm's way. Perhaps she showed her greatest love for the forests and her most obvious commitment to their defense during the long, long months, including through an entire winter, when she and others defied the US Forest Service's planned timber sale at Warner Creek, outside of Oakridge, Oregon. She was among the very, very few defenders present when the authorities took action to "clear" the Warner Creek encampment. Several days later, the Forest Service rescinded its commitment to log the area, and the forest there remains to this day a testament to the beneficial effects which environmentally conscious, dedicated, legally astute citizens can accomplish. To the extent that citizens are armed with deep knowledge of the range of scientific and legal issues, so much the better for all of us!

In this spirit, Anne Elizabeth's parents dedicate our assistance to Oregon State University students who show promise in wanting to envision themselves fighting -- in one forum or another, with scientific and / or legal means -- to protect and preserve this ever-more fragile ecosystem in which all life on earth strives to exist. We wish every recipient all possible success in their studies at Oregon State and in finding meaningful environmental work after graduation.

Allen and MaryAnne Sellers (Anne Elizabeth's parents)

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