

# Oregon Wild

## A Common Sense Vision for Oregon's Forests

### Protecting & Restoring our Natural Heritage

Oregon's legacy of unsustainable logging practices gives way to a promise for the future

Old-growth forests are icons of the Pacific Northwest. They provide shelter for our fish and wildlife, filter our pure water, and play a critical role in combating global warming. Unfortunately, most of Oregon's old-growth forests have been lost to reckless logging and development.

The logging epidemic that swept Western Oregon's public lands from the 1950s through the 1980s, wreaked havoc on populations of fish and wildlife and shrank Oregon's wildlands, polluted our water, and harmed opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking, and other activities. This unsustainable logging also left a vast landscape of densely replanted clear-cuts and a maze of logging roads.

We need to protect our remaining mature and old-growth forests to provide high quality recreation, clean drinking water, fish and wildlife habitat, and a livable climate for future generations. But we also need to restore the forests and watersheds impacted from past logging.

Oregon Wild supports a responsible program of ecological restoration thinning in the hundreds of thousands of acres of dense tree plantations created after past clear-cuts. Paired with additional forest and watershed restoration activities, this approach provides a win-win situation for forest ecosystems, as well as communities that rely on public forests for clean water, recreation, and a healthy economy.



# A Successful Model in the Coast Range

The Siuslaw National Forest in western Oregon could serve as a model for forest and watershed restoration across Western Oregon. Because of its focus on non-controversial restoration projects, the Siuslaw hasn't had a timber sale appealed since 1997, and yet it produces as much timber as any other National Forest in Western Oregon.

Since 2003, Oregon Wild has been involved in collaborative stewardship groups with diverse interests who have come together to promote restoration of both public and private lands to benefit fish, wildlife, and the local economy. This partnership has been nationally recognized, and a similar model has had success in the Clackamas Ranger District of the Mt. Hood National Forest and is gaining ground elsewhere in the region.

The Siuslaw has now successfully planned and implemented dozens of projects that focus on the thinning of tree plantations in former clearcuts, improving fish habitat, and putting forests on a trajectory to one day become healthy, diverse old-growth once more. These projects have also resulted in a supply of timber and jobs that help sustain local businesses and communities.

## Restoration a plus for economy

Ecological restoration in Western Oregon's forests could yield 434 million board feet of timber annually for 20 years, adding 600 timber jobs. In addition, investment in other forest and watershed restoration projects could add about 20 jobs per \$1 million invested on public lands.



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

## Restoration at work

In the 20th century, most of the old-growth forests in Western Oregon were logged, putting fish and wildlife at risk and diminishing other public resources. Dense replanting of clearcuts led to monocrop tree plantations devoid of ecological diversity. (1)

With pressure from conservation groups, the Forest Service and BLM have largely shifted away from logging older forests and towards ecological restoration. On many public lands, restoration crews thin dense plantations (2) - providing jobs and timber and accom-

plishing associated watershed restoration tasks. Variable density thinning, road and culvert improvements, native plantings, and other restoration activities add diversity and natural structure back into the forest and give wildlife habitat a boost. (3-4)

These restored forests will grow into old-growth and once again provide clean water, carbon storage, vital wildlife habitat, and improved recreational opportunities. (5)



(5)

## Support a common sense vision for Oregon's forests!

Help us protect and restore Western Oregon's forests by supporting our common sense approach. We need your help to ensure forest management stays on the right track.

- Become an Oregon Wild member!
- Learn more and contact your elected officials to weigh in!

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