

Oregon Wild

Protecting Mature and Old-Growth Forests

Chandra LeGue

Maintaining the Legacy of the Pacific Northwest

We rely on old-growth forests in the Pacific Northwest for clean drinking water, critical salmon and wildlife habitat, world-class recreation opportunities, and carbon storage in our fight against global warming. Unfortunately, up to 90% of our historic old-growth forests have already been lost.

From the 1950s-80s extensive clear-cutting of old-growth forests was the major focus on public lands in Oregon. Only one-tenth of western Oregon's public forests are now old growth, compared to two-thirds in the past.

Though federal agencies that manage our public forests in Western Oregon - the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - have largely shifted away from logging of mature and old-growth forests and towards restoration of previously clear-cut tree plantations, threats to mature

and old-growth forests remain.

The BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR), struck down as illegal in 2009, would have increased old-growth logging by 300%. New proposals by the BLM, County officials, the Governor, Congress, and the timber industry could jeopardize some of our native forests that are essential for wildlife, clean water, and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Pacific Northwest old-growth forests store more carbon per acre than any other ecosystem on the planet.

Oregon Wild believes that our remaining mature and old-growth forests are a precious part of our natural heritage – a legacy that should be preserved for future generations. With so little of Oregon's old-growth forests still standing, permanent protection for those that remain is long over due.



Francis Eatherington

Public values from public forests

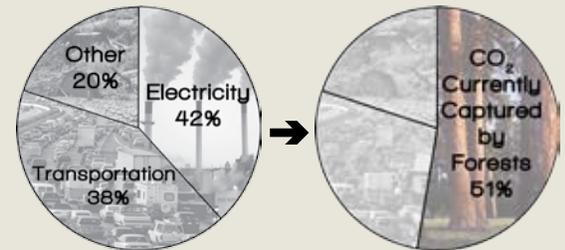
Oregonians value mature and old-growth forests for many reasons:

- As more and more Americans are getting their drinking water from a bottle, those in the Pacific Northwest still enjoy some of the **best natural drinking water in the country** thanks to old-growth forests and the natural filtration they provide.
- Mature and old-growth forests provide the **best possible habitat for endangered salmon and other wildlife**.
- These forests provide **world-class recreation opportunities** such as hiking, rafting, fishing, hunting, and camping in some of the most beautiful places in the nation.
- **Old-growth forests offer global warming insurance.** Nearly 20% of all global warming emissions are the result of deforestation, rivaling those from the transportation sector. Currently, Oregon's forests alone capture 51% of the total greenhouse gas emissions in the state. If we enact proper protections, Oregon's forests could sequester much, much more. That means that Oregon and the rest of the Pacific Northwest can play an important national role in fighting climate change.



According to the U.S. Forest Service, **80% of Oregonians** drink from streams and rivers that originate on federal public forests.

Oregon CO₂ Emissions Captured by Forests



Help keep your old growth standing tall!



Our Heritage Forests Still Threatened

Despite public and scientific opinion firmly against additional logging of mature and old-growth forests, threats still exist. Increased pressure on Congress and on the Forest Service and BLM to increase logging is coming from the timber industry and local governments. Oregon Wild will continue to work to defeat proposals that threaten old-growth forests, while also working to pass lasting legislation that fulfills our vision of protecting and restoring our forests.

Become an Oregon Wild member

Our work depends on the support of members like you who care about Oregon's heritage forests. Help us permanently protect our old forests for future generations - become a member today!

For more information contact:

Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild
P.O. Box 11648, Eugene, OR 97440
☎ (541) 344-0675 cl@oregonwild.org



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