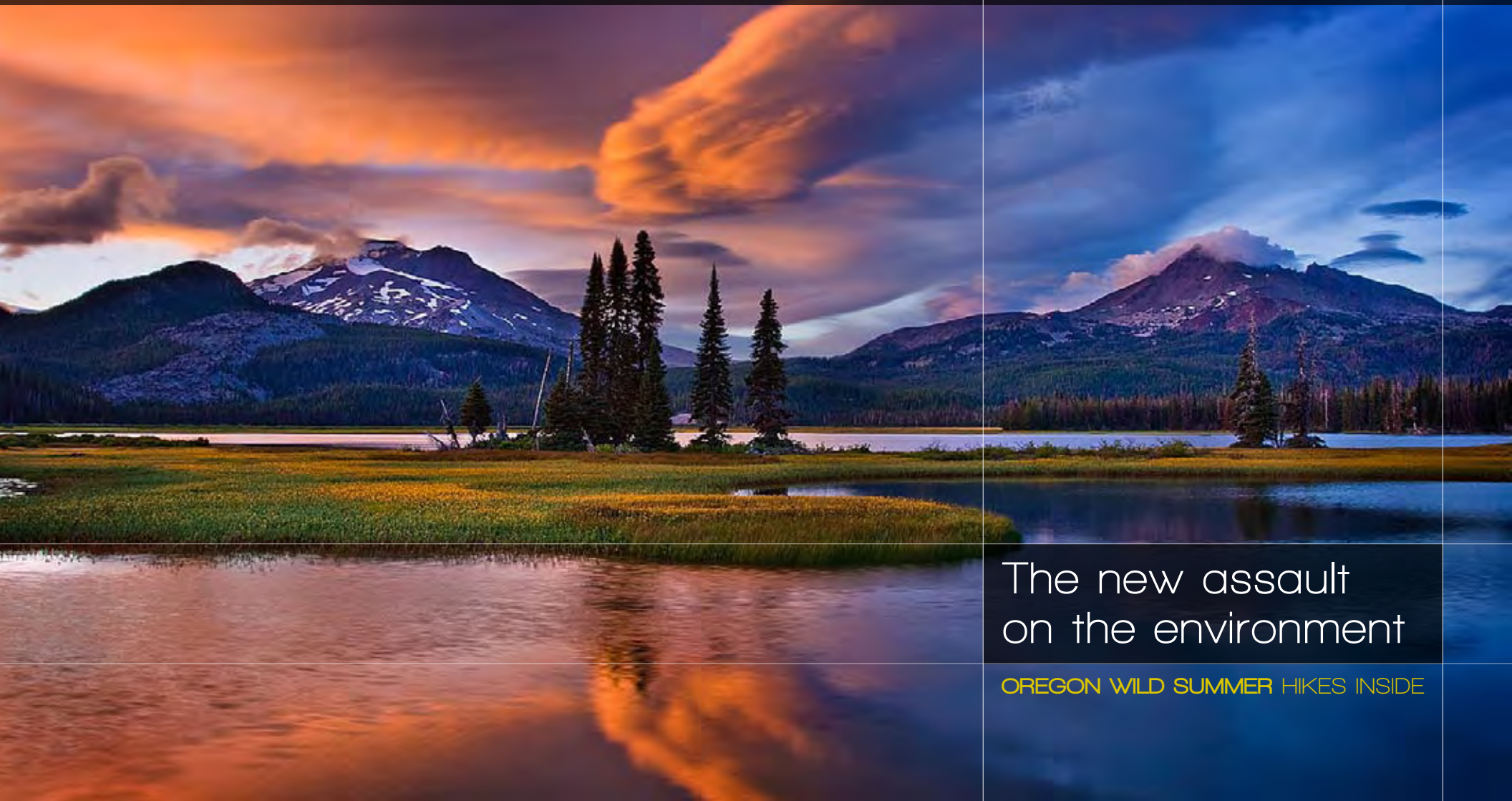
Oregon Wild

Spring/Summer 2011 Volume 38, Number 2



The new assault on the environment

OREGON WILD SUMMER HIKES INSIDE

OREGON WILD

Formerly Oregon Natural Resources Council (ONRC).
Working to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters as an enduring legacy.

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COVER PHOTO: KHRISTIAN SNYDER Clouds form over Sparks Lake and the Three Sisters Wilderness. A storm of another kind is threatening Oregon's wildlands (read more on page 4).

From the Director's Desk
Define your passion

Scott Shlaes

Success isn't a result of spontaneous combustion. You must set yourself on fire.
~Arnold H. Glasow

When I think of how our passions are ignited, I am in awe of their power and ability to create change at the individual and community levels. I am also acutely aware that if you do not steward and stoke that flame within, it will eventually burn out.

As you'll see from the content of this magazine, wild places throughout Oregon and the rest our country face new threats. As Congress repeals protections for endangered species and ignores a public process for wildlands stewardship, it is easy to become disheartened, and watch our flame extinguish.

While large expanses of land and water – and the life that inhabit them – face threats from the chainsaw and the bulldozer, the largest threat they face is the silence of our state's residents and our country's citizens.

Now is the time to speak out on behalf of animals like the gray wolf, whose protection under the Endangered Species Act has been revoked; not because its populations are thriving, but because it is simply easier to turn the other way.

Now is the time to speak out on how our National Forests are managed, so they are not used in a way that harms the vibrant web of life that depends on a thriving forest for its survival, or despoils the clean drinking water upon which we depend.

Now is the time to nurture your passion and give it voice. Find the old-growth grove or rushing stream that matters to you and use your voice to speak out on its behalf.

Most importantly, as you advocate on behalf of our state's wildlife and special places, please take the time to get out to the wilderness that energizes you and reconnects you with your passion. While the *Oregon Wild* magazine identifies pressing threats in need of attention, it also features opportunities to head into the wild during our Oregon Wild Summer event and share your journeys through our Seventh Annual Outdoor Photo Contest.

I can't say it enough – get out there! It's easy to get so wrapped up in the defense of our wild places that we forget to celebrate them. Enjoy the abundant beauty of our state, and perhaps even bring a friend, and see if your passion for the wild becomes theirs.

For 37 years, Oregon Wild has partnered with thousands of people like you, to successfully advocate for the protection and restoration of Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters as an enduring legacy. We exist to help spark the flame of environmental protection and keep the fire burning for our cherished lands. Please continue your passionate engagement in our advocacy so we may continue to be successful in our efforts.

KHRISTIAN SNYDER Three Sisters Wilderness

© DONALD A. HIGGS The embattled gray wolf *(Canis lupus)* was a casualty of the budget deal and becomes the first species legislatively removed from federal ESA protections.

Will budget deal spawn a storm of riders?

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director

The late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once said that when it comes to government, "sunshine is the best disinfectant." He believed that when the decisions of our elected leaders are subject to public scrutiny, they are more likely to act in the best interest of current and future generations of Americans.

The April 9 agreement between Congress and President Obama to include a number of stealth anti-environmental "riders" in the 2011 budget deal demonstrates that Justice Brandeis' observations are as true today as they were when he first penned them in 1913.

Most Americans thought the long, painful debate between Republicans and Democrats over shutting down the federal government was about spending and deficits. The only "riders" that received much public scrutiny were measures to strip funding from Planned Parenthood and National Public Radio. However, the final budget deal also contained a number of deeply-troubling attacks on a range of environmental, public lands, and wildlife conservation programs.

Taken for a Ride

"Riders" are a time honored tradition by some politicians in Washington, D.C. – a way to pass unpopular or controversial legislation without having to face a straight up or down vote or much public scrutiny.

The principle works like this – take an unpopular legislative proposal (like gutting clean water rules designed to prevent herbicides from ending up in salmon streams), and attach it to a completely unrelated piece of must-pass legislation (like an emergency budget bill needed to avoid a government shut-down). Other members of Congress must then choose between voting no on the whole package (and being blamed for shutting down the government or blocking funds for American troops in wartime), or going along with the bad "rider." As an added bonus, since the news media focuses public attention on the budget aspects of the bill, the unrelated policy riders often go unnoticed until it's too late.

Last summer and fall, some politicians running for the U.S. Congress made grandiose promises about "restoring accountability" to Congress—music to many voters ears. Yet some politicians who championed transparency last fall were quick to load the 2011 budget bill down with "riders" of their own.

Wolves, Wildlands, and Clean Water

It was only after the 2011 budget bill passed that the anti-environmental riders contained within it really began to attract significant attention.

"Congress, in a First, Removes an Animal From the Endangered Species List" the *New York Times* headline read. *The Oregonian* newspaper ran a story titled **"Budget deal blocks Obama wilderness policy,"** while *Oregon Public Broadcasting* aired a radio segment titled **"If Congress Can Delist Wolves, What Else Might Be Removed?"**

Conservation-minded Americans were mostly left scratching their heads. Wasn't the budget deal supposed to be about cutting spending, and preventing a shut-down of the federal government? What does wolf conservation and EPA clean water enforcement have to do with funding programs like Social Security

and Medicare, or keeping the doors to our National Parks open?

More importantly, why would normally pro-environment members of Congress, and the Obama administration, ever go along with such a thing?

Blast from the Past

Conservationists faced similar questions back in 1995, when then-President Clinton signed into law a rider by Oregon's very own Senator Mark Hatfield. Known as the "Salvage Rider," this incredibly destructive legislation suspended all relevant environmental laws for a period of one year to promote "salvage logging" on America's forest lands (using fire, windfall, and other natural events as a justification to log).

For Clinton, the political calculus was simple. Many old-school Senators from the western states were furious that organizations like Oregon Wild (then known as the Oregon Natural Resources Council, or ONRC) were forcing the Forest Service and BLM to obey the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and National Environmental Policy Act. At the time, those politicians were more interested in clear-cutting the last of the old growth than in giving the recently-adopted Northwest Forest Plan a chance to work.

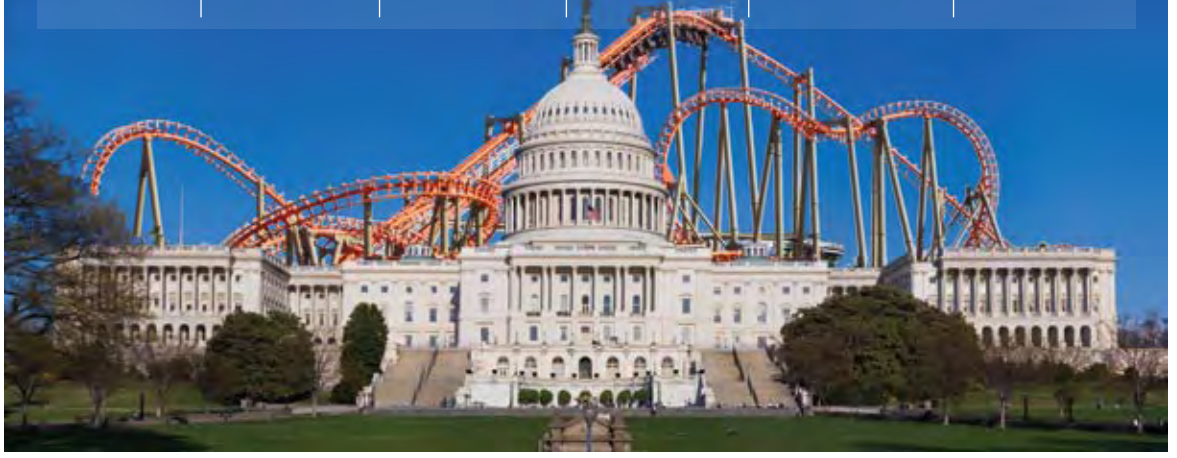
Led by Sen. Hatfield (R-OR), in the summer of 1995 these anti-environmental politicians joined forces with special interests around the nation to load dozens of anti-environmental riders to an emergency spending bill. Clinton, possessing limited time and political capital, believed the salvage logging provision provided good trading stock. By allowing this "logging without laws" measure to go through, he could win support from Sen. Hatfield and others for the emergency spending bill without using his own political capital. In so doing, he paved the way for tens of thousands of acres of old-growth forest and pristine roadless areas to be clear-cut.

In the 2011 budget deal, it appears that President Obama followed the same political calculus. While dozens of anti-environmental riders were proposed, only one really made headlines (barring the EPA from restricting greenhouse gas pollution). Other anti-environmental provisions could be used as handy trading stock to preserve more politically important priorities such as healthcare reform legislation.

The rider to strip endangered species protection from gray wolves originated with Senator John Tester (D-MT), a so-called "Blue Dog" facing a brutal re-election campaign. Tester hoped his wolf-kill legislation would win him support among vocal

Taken for a "Ride"

Anti-Environment Provision	Throwing Wolves off the Ark	Big Oil Trumping Wildlands	Muzzling the Environmental Watchdog	Damming Klamath Salmon	Saying no to NOAA on Climate Service
Description	Senator John Tester (D-MT) and others try to strip ESA protection from gray wolves in the Western U.S. in a first ever Congressional delisting.	When President Obama reversed a Bush policy and restored BLM authority to protect pristine lands, anti-environment politicians went to work for Big Energy to double back.	Oil and coal interests work to keep the EPA from regulating global warming pollution.	Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA) wants dams to stay and salmon to suffer, and works to stifle an important Klamath River dams study.	Climate-change deniers oppose consolidating dozens of federal climate science programs into a central National Climate Service clearinghouse.
Did the American People Get Taken for a Ride?	YES, wolves were officially yanked from the ESA list and President Obama signed it into law	YES, a budget rider stripped funding for the *Wildlands Policy* for this year	SORT OF, the EPA's authority over global warming wasn't gutted, but their budget was slashed by 19%	NO, McClintock's anti-salmon scheme didn't sneak into the final budget	YES, NOAA's climate center is a "no go" thanks to another budget rider



Leaders of the Attack

Eight people who had the environment in their sights in 2011

anti-wildlife interests. Tester's re-election bid (and the effort to maintain Democratic control of the Senate) appears to have been a factor in the decision by President Obama and others to support the measure.

Whatever the reason, Obama (who ran as an environmental champion) signed into law the first measure in history that substituted the judgment of politicians for that of biologists in deciding whether or not a species deserves ESA protection. And it happened through a rider to a budget bill. Like the other riders, the wolf-kill provision never received a public hearing, was never scrutinized in the news media, and was never the subject of a straight up or down vote in Congress.

What Next?

While the anti-environmental riders agreed to by Obama and Congress are terrible on their own merits, the real threat may be in what comes next.

While Obama hung tough on the EPA's right to restrict greenhouse gas pollution, he and pro-conservation members of Congress largely surrendered on other high profile environmental issues. Did the 2011 budget deal appease anti-environmental interests? Or will it simply embolden them to come back with more riders in the next budget, or must-pass piece of legislation?

It seems unlikely that logging, mining, agribusiness, and energy interests will stand pat with the gains they have made. Given their success on stripping ESA protection for wolves, Oregon and other states could see similar measures to remove protections for additional species that are inconvenient or locally unpopular. Wild spring Chinook salmon in the Columbia River, northern spotted owls and other old-growth dependent species, and the sage grouse could all face similar attacks.

It may not stop there. Additional riders seeking to restrict the President's power to designate new National Monuments, the Forest Service's ability to regulate noisy off-road vehicles, or the ability of other federal agencies to protect salmon by curtailing water diversions by agribusiness interests all seem likely.

What You Can Do

The 1995 Salvage Rider was a watershed moment for conservationists, sparking a wave of outrage in the Pacific Northwest that chastened local politicians and President Clinton (see related sidebar). Will the 2011 budget deal and the wolf kill rider, along with the other environmental attacks, spark a similar response?

That will depend on organizations like Oregon Wild – and their members.

In the lead up to the budget deal, Oregon Wild sent out a series of electronic action alerts to our members, generating over 1,000 e-mails, letters, and phone calls to Oregon's Congressional delegation urging them to fight back against the anti-environmental riders. Three

David Allen (Pres., Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation)

Contradicted his organization's data on elk populations to steer a once-proud wildlife conservation group towards an all-out war on wolves.

Rating:

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT)

Railed against the BLM *Wildlands Policy* – ultimately pulling funding for the common sense program with a budget rider. Also, introduced legislation to negate all environmental laws at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Rating:

Rod Childers (Oregon Cattleman's Association)

Spread misinformation about wolves and their impact on livestock and human safety in an effort to undermine Oregon's Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

Rating:

State Rep. Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day)

Told an international wildlife activist to "go away" after calling Greece a "haven for morons," all while eastern Oregon business owners worked to bring tourists to the region for wildlife watching.

Rating:

Oregon elected officials (Sen. Ron Wyden, Rep. Earl Blumenauer, and Rep. David Wu) opposed the deal. The rest (Sen. Jeff Merkley, Rep. Peter DeFazio, Rep. Kurt Schrader, and Rep. Greg Walden) voted to pass the rider-stuffed budget. And though Governor John Kitzhaber doesn't have a vote in Congress, he sent a letter to the Obama administration expressing his opposition to the wolf-kill measure.

The most important actions a conservation-minded Oregonian can take today to head off new anti-environmental riders are simple:

Call your Representative, along with Senators Wyden and Merkley. If they voted against the budget and the anti-environmental riders, thank them. If they voted for the measures, ask them to explain why they supported the wolf-kill rider and other measures. You can contact your elected officials by calling the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 877.762.8762 and asking to speak with your representative's office.

Get active. If you're an Oregon Wild member, you already know how important your support is to our work protecting Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters. Urge your family and friends to become Oregon Wild members too (see our New Member Challenge on page 11). It's easy and you can join online. Join our e-mail activist list, follow us on the Oregon WildBlog, or "like" us on Facebook, to get the latest updates on anti-environmental riders and other issues affecting Oregon's great outdoors.

JULIE NORMAN Senator Ron Wyden stands next to an ancient tree cut down as part of the infamous "Salvage Rider" in 1996.

Logging without laws redux?

In the summer of 1995, as the nation was grieving the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building, then Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield used his clout to insert a "stealth" anti-environmental rider into a spending bill which contained financial aid for the victims and for war-torn Bosnia. The euphemistically named "Salvage Rider," sought to use forest fires, insects, wind throw, volcanic eruptions, and other natural events to justify suspending environmental laws for a period of just over one year, and pushing through tens of thousands of acres of old-growth logging.The measure was so loosely written that Sen. Bill Bradley (D-NJ) recognized that "any tree made of wood" could be logged.

President Clinton, who faced intense political pressure to cut a deal with Republicans to resolve the 1995 fiscal year budget dispute, signed the measure into law on July 27, 1995. He roused a sleeping environmental giant. As news of the measure spread, over 60,000 people jammed the White House phone line to voice their opposition, and tens of thousands more mailed in letters and postcards. Conservationists organized rallies in major cities across the west coast to voice public opposition to old-growth logging, including several huge demonstrations in Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square.

Former-Rep. Elizabeth Furse (D-OR), Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), and others worked with Oregon Wild and other conservation groups on legislation seeking to repeal the measure. Oregon Wild and other groups challenged the law and dozens of old-growth logging sales in court. By the time the Salvage Rider expired at the end of 1996, Clinton administration officials claimed they were "snookered" into signing the bill. While the rider is no more, its results remain in the form of old-growth clear-cuts still peppering the Oregon landscape.

Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA)

Sponsored a budget rider (that ultimately failed) that would have stripped funding for an important sediment study at the aging Klamath River dams.

Rating:

Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV)

After claiming a week before that no environmental riders would pass with the budget, allowed precedent setting delisting of gray wolves and gutting of the *Wildlands Policy* to pass as riders on a budget bill.

Rating:

State Rep. Mike Schaufler (D-Happy Valley)

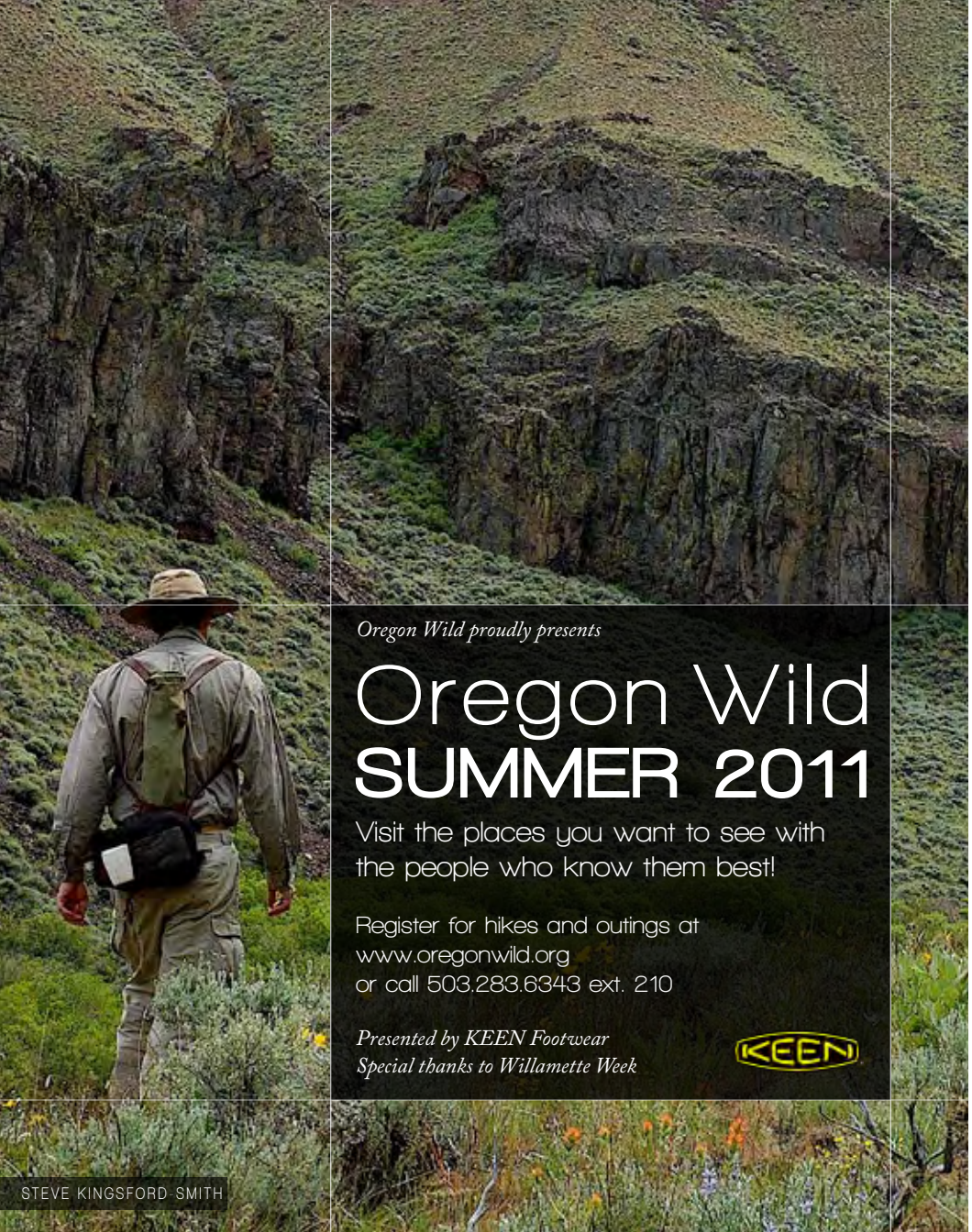
Made the shocking statement at a hearing in the Oregon Legislature while speaking about wolves: "…you should be able to shoot any varmint that's making [a] threat, even if it's the last one on earth."

Rating:

Sen. John Tester (D-MT)

In a desperate attempt to bolster his 2012 re-election campaign, sponsored and rammed through Congress a rider to strip federal protections from imperiled gray wolves across the West, representing the first ever Congressional delisting of a species.

Rating:



STEVE KINGSFORD-SMITH

Oregon Wild proudly presents

Oregon Wild SUMMER 2011

Visit the places you want to see with the people who know them best!

Register for hikes and outings at
www.oregonwild.org
or call 503.283.6343 ext. 210

Presented by KEEN Footwear
Special thanks to Willamette Week

KEEN

All outings are guided by experts and require online reservations. Please leave pets at home. For your comfort and safety, wear appropriate attire and bring plenty of water, snacks, and a lunch. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, June 18

Tamanawas Falls Tree Identification
Leader: Erik Fernandez
(Moderate, 5.5 miles, elevation gain 500 feet, Mount Hood National Forest)
Explore a diverse old-growth forest along the crystal clear Cold Spring Creek leading up to the spectacular Tamanawas Falls.

Wednesday, June 22

Brice Creek and Trestle Creek Falls
Leader: Chandra LeGue
(Moderate, 4.0 miles, elevation gain 1,000 feet, Umpqua National Forest)
Hike a well-loved trail along beautiful Brice Creek and to the Upper Trestle Creek Falls for a picnic and forest exploration.

Saturday, June 25

Tilly Jane Cloudcap Saddle
Leader: Margo Earley
(Strenuous, 6.0 miles, elevation gain 2,200 feet, Mount Hood National Forest)
Hike to the treeline through newly designated Wilderness and dramatic post-fire re-growth. Top it off with a spectacular lunchtime view of Mt. Hood's northeast face.

JAMEY PYLES

Saturday, June 25

Oregon Dunes
Leader: Chandra LeGue
(Easy – Moderate, 4.0 miles, elevation gain 500 feet, Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area)
Discover the treasures of the Oregon Dunes. Traverse winding creeks, explore pine forests, and walk a deserted beach.

Sunday, June 26

Molalla River and Rooster Rock
Leader: Sean Stevens
(Moderate, 5.0 miles, elevation gain 1.000 feet, Table Rock Wilderness, Salem BLM)
Journey to the headwaters of the Molalla River and explore the unique basalt formations of the Table Rock Wilderness.

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Saturday, July 16
Opal Creek Ancient Forest
Leader: Sean Stevens
(Moderate, 5-7 miles, elevation gain minimal, Opal Creek Wilderness, Willamette National Forest)
A walk back in time to an ancient Oregon forest in one of the state's signature Wilderness areas.

Sunday, July 17
Grasshopper Meadow & Constitution Old-Growth Grove
Leader: Chandra LeGue
(Moderate, 4.0 miles, elevation gain 100 feet, Willamette National Forest)
Enjoy one of the largest, most scenic, and least visited of the high elevation meadows in the Cascades with a side trip to an old-growth loop.

GARY GUTTORMSEN

Saturday, July 23
Boulder Lake
Leader: Erik Fernandez
(Moderate, 5.0 miles, elevation gain 1,100 feet, Mount Hood National Forest)
Discover the aquamarine waters of one of the Mount Hood National Forest's best-kept secrets!

Sunday, July 31
Elk Meadows/Bluegrass Ridge
Leader: Sean Stevens
(Moderate, 7.0 miles, elevation gain 1,200 feet, Mount Hood National Forest)
Head up to explore wildflowers at Mount Hood's largest meadow with a detour to look out over proposed Wilderness at Bluegrass Ridge.

Saturday, August 13
Bald Mountain
Leader: Wendell Wood
(Moderate – Strenuous, 4.5 miles, elevation gain 1,000 feet, Mount Hood National Forest)
Summer wildflowers make this hike a memorable one as you walk along the famed Pacific Crest Trail to a viewpoint of Mount Hood.

STEPHANIE AMES

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Monday, August 15
Mirror Lake
Leader: Wendell Wood
(Easy – Moderate, 3.5 miles, elevation gain 800 feet, Mount Hood National Forest)
Hike to scenic Mirror Lake for views of intricate wildflowers and the grand vista of Mount Hood.

Saturday, August 20
Fuji Mountain via Birthday Lake Basin
Leader: Chandra LeGue
(Strenuous, 11 miles, elevation gain 2,200 feet, Willamette National Forest)
Summit Fuji Mountain, on the south end of pristine Waldo Lake via the longer, and more beautiful route that takes in two lovely lakes and stunning high-elevation forest.

Welcome New Members

Oregon Wild welcomes our newest members who joined April 2010 – April 2011.
Thank you for helping to protect Oregon!

Jules Abbott
Cindy Adams
Kirby and Amy Allen
Sharyl Allender
Marilyn Aller
Brenda Amick
Andreas Anderson
D.C. Anderson
Kelly Anderson
Joan and Paul Ash
Jared Austin
Julie Bailey
Florence Bajaj
Mary Balliew
Julia Barber
Kate and Jeff Barrett
Tom Beaman
Nancy Beck
Kip Beckwith
Charlotte Behm
Geri Berg
Paige Berry
John and Cristi Bishop
Serena Bishop
Jerry Black
Tonya Booker
Justin Boucher
C. Alva Bradford
John Brennan
Amanda Briles
Diana Brown
Sarah Brown
Mariesa Bus
Gavin Bushee
Chris Butenhoff
Jennifer Cairo
Michael Chapman
Lee Chew
Alan Chewning
Adrienne Christian
Matthew Cleinman
Andrea Cohen
David Collins
Randy Comeleo
Lloyd Connelly
Sharin Cooper
Stacy Cornish
Wendy Culverwell
David Garlock and Megan Cusack
Terry Dalsemer
Chelsea De Mercado
Eric DeBord
Drew DeMan
Heather Dennett
Michael Dennis
Kathryn Donaldson
James A. Dorenkamp
Harris Dubin
Lynnette Dumont
Charles Ellis
Jody Ellis
Elizabeth Erwin
Aimee L. Fahey
Laura Farner
Penny Foster
Laurie A. Fox
Julie Frantz
Ronald Fridell
Jane Gage
Rachel Gans
Diane M. Garcia
Barbara Gardner
John Gauthier
Sally Gillette
Brian Griffin
Cathy Gumtow-Farrior
Benjamin Hamar
Mary Hansel
Jody Harper
Maury Harris
Thomas Harvey
Susan Hay
Monica Look and Peter Hazell
Gillian Hearst
Jeanine Hemel
Franca Hernandez
Dr. Mary E. Herrera
Jean Ellen Herzegl
Katie Hick
Ashley Hildreth
Daniel Hockett
Jamie Hoerter
Steve Holmer
Jason Holt
Helen and Michael Hortsch
John K. Howe
Filip Hristic
Linda Humphrey
Diana and James Hunter
Amber Jackson
Allyson M. Jameson
JoAnn Jennings
Scott Jerger
Jane A. Johnson
Jenny Jones
Alexander Kaini
Rebecca Karlson
Alison Kastner
Dennis E. Kasunic
Kaz Kasunic
Denise Kayser
Nathan Kennedy
Patricia Kiley
Leslie King
Jasmine Kipp
Lynn Klingensmith
Helen Knight
Mark Koenigsberg
Ruth Kovacs
Kristina Leamy and Adam Lamas
Victoria Lamas
Eric Lambart
Eric Lambart
Joan Lamontagne
Karen Lamson
Gwendoline Lander
Steve Lanusse-Siegel
Lynda Lanzarotta
William L. Lasswell
Kitty Lawrence
Katy Lawson
Joy and Lucas Lberhardt De Master
Paul Lee
Brit LeMay
Michael Levick
John Lewis
Eric J. Leworson
Meredith Lind
Del Linenberger
Mona L. Linstromberg
Ann Liu
Lori Livingston
Laura Long
Tammy Lord
David Ludeman
Nicholas Macdonald
Oscar Mayer
Merry McAdoo
Mary McConnell
Tyler McFadden
Patricia McManus
Laurie McVay
Margaret Meadors
Duane and Betty Meissner
Rebecca Mendez
Nancy Menken
Barbara A. Mickey
PC Mickiewicz
Paul Milbourn
David Miller
Eva Miller
Dr. J. Robert Moore
Linda Moore Kurth and R. Les Moore
Carol Moorehead
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Kristen Mozuch
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Bryan O'Connor
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Irene Parks
Charles Pattom
Winnogene Pedersen
Ron Penn
Karen Perry
Rachael Petersen
Brennan Peterson
Charlotte Peterson
Ruthie Petty
Kenneth Popper
Jennifer and Eric Post
Karla Powell
Sidney Prescott
Michael Purach
Jason Quigley
Eric Ratcliffe
Melinda Rauch
Ray Redburn
Pavel Reich
Benjamin Rhiger
Deborah Richie
Jean Richmond

Fiona Reah Rickford
Michael Roth
Terri Rottman
Toni Rubin
Janine Rush
Shirley Russell
Katy Ryan
Lauren Rykert
Dan Sadowsky
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Virginia Scott
Gigi Senecal
David M. Shackleton
Scott Shlaes
Lee Silverman
Ben Simonton
Carrie Simpson
Rick Skibinski
Andre Smith
Juliana Smith

For Oregonians yet to come

New member challenge

A message from Oregon Wild members Julie and Curt Stevens:

As newlyweds relocating from Los Angeles to Portland in 1976, we did so intending to raise a family and spend our free time exploring the Oregon coast, the Cascades, the Columbia Gorge, and the high desert of Eastern Oregon. The forests, rivers, lakes, and mountains of Oregon provided the extraordinary landscape in which our three kids grew up – as we hiked, backpacked, rafted, and skied our way through their childhood and adolescence.

Our children are adults, and another relocation has taken us away from the state we consider our home. From a distance, we long for and appreciate the unique natural settings that have been so central to the richest moments of our family life. We remain passionate about protecting Oregon for future generations, among whom will be our grandchildren!

Just as we can't imagine a life lived without wild and wonderful places to share with those we love, we hope you can't imagine these places without protection for Oregonians yet to come. We invite you to help protect Oregon – with an Oregon Wild membership.

Julie and Curt have generously agreed to donate up to $5,000 if we can match that amount with new member contributions.

Do you know of a friend or family member who loves to explore Oregon's wilderness? **Encourage them to become a member of Oregon Wild.** There isn't a group out there that's done more to protect the places where we all love to hike, camp, and go fishing.

Pass on the envelope in this newsletter or send a potential new member to www.oregonwild.org/NewMemberChallenge and help us reach our $5,000 goal!

Sally Smith
Tamara J. Smith
Sidney Snider
Brett Sommermeyer
Dawn Sorem
Adria Sparhawk
Margaret Stephens
Alexandra Stern
Henry Stern
Stacy Stickel
Jeffery Still
David Stowe
Robert Sullivan
Katie Talmadge
Donna Thomas
Michael J. Timmond
Pat Tippett
Beverly Trover
Ronald Turco
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Susan and Brian Wong
Tod Woolridge
Floyd Wooton
Carol J. Wrolstad
Linda Yates
Judi Younce
Art Young
Benjamin Zumeta

Every effort has been made to ensure that this list is accurate. If you have any questions, please e-mail membership@oregonwild.org

In each issue of *Oregon Wild*, we showcase a photo of a wild place with someone displaying our newsletter. If you're the first person to correctly guess the location of this issue's photo, we'll send you a copy of William Sullivan's *Atlas of Oregon Wilderness*.

Last issue's "Where in Oregon" was a tricky one, but Sandi Smith of Gresham was able to correctly identify Hurricane Creek in the Eagle Cap Wilderness. Congratulations Sandi!

For a hint in solving this issue's photo, take a look at the Press Room on www.oregonwild.org and search for mining news. Send your guess or submit your own "Where in Oregon" photo for next issue to newsletter@oregonwild.org and you could win too.

Creature Feature: Great Gray Owl

Wendell Wood, Wildlands Interpreter

ROB KLAVINS

Creature: Great Gray Owl
(Strix nebulosa)

Where you can find it: Great Gray Owls are commonly found in coniferous forest landscapes interspersed with grasslands and meadows. Here they feed on voles, mice and pocket gophers. In Oregon, there are two primary regions of distribution: in the Wallowa and Blue Mountains of northeastern Oregon and along the central and southern east slope of the Cascades and then east to western Lake County. These owls are also found, but more rarely, west of the Cascade crest in southern Oregon.

By the numbers: In size, but not in weight, the Great Gray is North America's largest owl – with a wing span up to 60 inches.

Unique characteristics: Great Gray Owls do not build their own nest, or even add material to an existing one. Instead their nesting is contingent upon the availability of suitable nest platforms. These include old-growth snags, or trees supporting stick platforms, such as old raptor nests, or a broom in a tree created by a mistletoe infection. Great Grays use old goshawk nests more than any other type of platform. While Great Grays will readily accept man made nesting platforms, studies show areas most used for nesting are unlogged and contained mature or old-growth trees.

In focus: Already listed as endangered in California since 1980, the Great Gray Owl in Oregon is a state sensitive species. Both federal and state agencies acknowledge that habitat loss through logging of mature forests and overgrazing of adjacent meadows has been the primary cause of the species' decline. For this reason, the Great Gray is given special focus in the Survey and Manage protocol of the Northwest Forest Plan (see related article).

While biologists have found that smaller clear-cuts are used by owls for foraging, these are still not used as often as natural openings. Additionally, logging decreases the quality of nesting habitat. These owls not only take advantage of large tree nesting sites, but also dead and downed material and leaning trees so that young owls can climb them to avoid mammalian predators. Additionally, dense stands of trees near nest trees provide critical cover for young owls.

Settlement protects rare wildlife

Doug Heiken, Conservation and Restoration Coordinator

Soon after taking office in 2001, the Bush administration signed off on a backroom settlement with the timber industry. The goal: dismantling the Northwest Forest Plan. For eight years, administration officials took their swings at delisting the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet. They adopted the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR) to increase logging of old-growth forests, and eliminated certain aspects of the Northwest Forest Plan such as the "survey and manage" protocol which requires searching for and protecting rare species before logging their old-growth habitat.

The Bush administration actually made two attempts to eliminate the survey and manage program, and on both occasions ended up in federal court. Both times, the administration was rebuffed as judges rejected their stale arguments that the program was unimportant and the adverse effects of logging without surveys were adequately documented in the Environmental Impact Statement.

In the court's most recent ruling in December 2009, the judge agreed with conservationists that the decision of the Forest Service and BLM to eliminate protection for rare species was illegal. The judge asked the parties to try to settle the case by agreeing to a survey program that works. Oregon Wild, our allies, and the government spent several days in face-to-face meetings over a period of months. In March 2011 we filed a settlement with the court and are awaiting approval. We hope the settlement gives the agencies plenty of options for streamlined forest restoration, while maintaining strict protection for rare species when they want to log large and old trees.

USFWS In his ruling supporting the Survey and Manage program, presiding Judge John Coughenour called the program vital to the protection of "the little things that run the world." Pictured here is a vital food source for northern spotted owls, the red tree vole.

Who's piloting the pilots

Doug Heiken, Conservation and Restoration Coordinator

DOUG HEIKEN Forest stakeholders gather at a field tour on BLM lands. Current "Secretarial Pilot Projects" are using less of a collaborative approach than conservationists would hope for.

Since the Obama administration withdrew the Bush administration Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR) – a proposal to increase old-growth logging – many have been under the false impression that the BLM is operating in a policy vacuum. In reality, the BLM simply returned to the Northwest Forest Plan – the only legally approved plan for managing northwest forests.

Still, to fill the alleged void, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has held two large post-WOPR meetings, one in Roseburg and one in Washington, D.C. The Department of Interior has also initiated up to three "Secretarial Pilot Projects" to test new forestry concepts on BLM lands.

These pilot projects were originally described as collaborative and restoration driven, but as they progress toward implementation, Oregon Wild is concerned that the collaborative component of the process has taken a back seat. Instead, the Department seems committed to swift action toward their real goal of timber production from commercial logging.

Oregon Wild's Doug Heiken is joined by Joseph Vaile of KS Wild in Washington, D.C. to meet with Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.

Oregon Wild has worked with the BLM for years to develop less controversial projects that thin dense, young forests while producing timber, creating jobs, and improving forest resiliency. Unfortunately, the recent pilots are advancing prematurely into new and controversial territory, including "regeneration harvest" (aka: clear-cuts) and logging spotted owl habitat to "save" it from fire or beetles (whether or not that is actually supported by the evidence). In light of these concerns, Oregon Wild continues to advocate for science-based forest protection and restoration, with wood volume as a by-product of valid restoration efforts.

While news of potentially controversial pilot projects sounds troubling, it pales in comparison to the March 2010 Washington, D.C. court ruling on the old WOPR. The ruling disapproves of the method used by the Department of Interior to withdraw the WOPR, thus throwing that decision into question and raising the specter of another "compromise" much worse than the aforementioned pilots.

Solutions for a sticky problem – western Oregon BLM lands

Chandra LeGue, Old-Growth Campaign Coordinator

CHANDRA LEGUE A patchwork of private land clear-cuts and O&C forests in the Long Tom watershed.

The 2.5 million acres of BLM lands in western Oregon – made famous in recent years by the battle over the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR) logging scheme – provide important resources for Oregonians. This includes recreation, climate mitigation, drinking water, fish and wildlife habitat, to name a few.

Logging on these lands has historically been linked to funding for western Oregon counties, but these were de-coupled 10 years ago with the passage and reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools Act (commonly known as "county payments"). This has largely led to a shift in the BLM's management away from old-growth logging and towards forest and watershed restoration efforts that provide timber *and* improve fish and wildlife habitat damaged in the past. With federal budgets tightening and county payments harder to fund, old-guard timber interests are pushing for an increase in unsustainable logging.

A long-term solution for these lands needs to solve both county funding and incentivize sustainable forest management that protects old-growth resources. Here are a few proposed options and what Oregon Wild thinks. For more in-depth info on this complicated issue on our website: www.oregonwild.org/oregon_forests

Proposed funding solution	Oregon Wild's perspective
Reauthorize Secure Rural Schools Act to continue county funding from the federal government.	Oregon's delegation is supportive, but in the current Congressional budget climate, this will be difficult and long-term extensions into the future are unlikely.
Recouple timber profits to county funding.	Gives bad incentive to log old growth to fund essential county services.
Reform Secure Rural Schools and other federal funding for counties.	This is an untried approach with many variables. Ideas include altering funding formulas to include new variables like ecosystem services.
Sell off of lands to fund counties.	One proposal would sell off 1.2 million acres of public forest lands to be logged or developed. These sales would help fund county services, but sacrifice clean water and wildlife.
Transfer ownership of BLM forestlands to the U.S. Forest Service.	Would provide cost-savings by reducing bureaucracy and would likely provide greater protections for forestlands, given BLM's history of poor management.

USFS With a bear and salmon in attendance to observe the proceedings, the Forest Service pitched their new draft planning rules. No public comment was collected at the meeting.

"We want to hear from you!"

"...But not here, not now, and not by e-mail"

Rob Klavins, Wildlands Advocate

On a Friday morning in March a group of Oregonians skipped work. Bleary-eyed, they filled their coffee cups and settled in for a PowerPoint presentation at a bland Portland Airport hotel. As the attendees listened to a 3 ½-hour sales pitch, the representative assured them that their concerns were very important. When difficult questions were raised, they were instructed (without a touch of irony) to go home, write them down, and submit them through an obscure process. In a few months, they might hear back.

It wasn't a sales pitch for a time share in Cabo or a pyramid scheme, but a public meeting to sell an overhaul of rules that will determine the future of our National Forests for decades to come. The inconvenient and awkward meeting was Oregon's only public hearing for rules last updated by the Reagan Administration – rules that may be the most lasting conservation legacy of the current one.

You'd think an administration headed by a former community organizer could do better. A cynic might think they didn't want to.

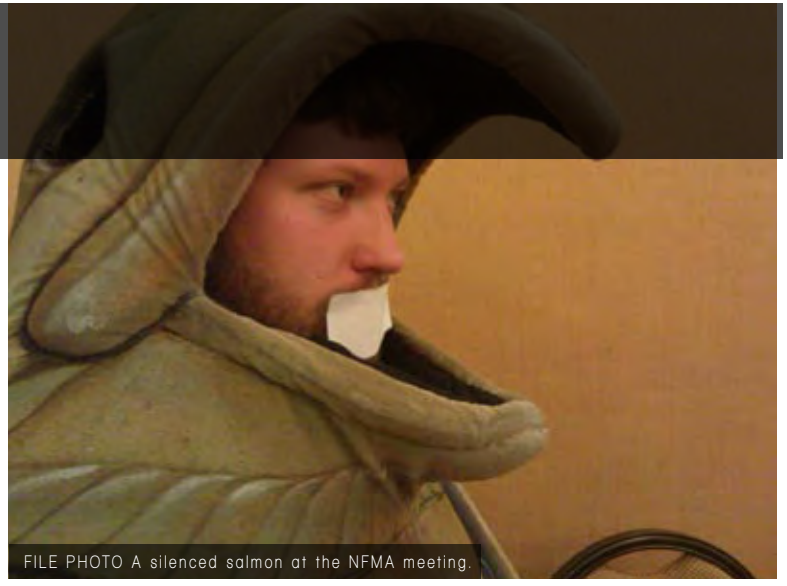
National Forest Management Act (NFMA) rules determine how to balance competing interests in National Forests from Mount Hood and Deschutes in Oregon to the White Mountains in New Hampshire. Conservationists had high hopes.

Despite great promise, the rules fail to deliver. They fail to provide clear, basic, minimum standards for the protection of wildlife, wildlands, and water while reducing opportunities for public involvement and the role of science.

Over 100 years ago, Teddy Roosevelt created our National Forests to protect our greatest natural treasures from greedy, short-term, provincial interests. Thanks to that vision, Oregonians can still enjoy clean water, abundant wildlife, majestic forests, and unique recreational opportunities from the Rogue River to the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

Despite the obscurity of the March meeting, over 150 people – joined by a bear and salmon – told the administration they don't take those values for granted and expect better. Some travelled for several hours. Most left disappointed and unheard.

We're working with partners across the country to make sure that the public is heard and the forest rule finishes strong. Learn more at www.oregonwild.org/nfma



FILE PHOTO A silenced salmon at the NFMA meeting.

Keeping it wild

Featuring the supporters, foundations, businesses, and volunteers that make our work possible.
This issue's focus: Volunteers
Denise Kayser, Outreach Associate

ADRIA SPARHAWK

Name: Adria Sparhawk
Age: 40
Location: Portland
Membership Level: Individual
Joined: 10/22/10

Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.
— Margaret Mead

Oregon Wild: Why did you choose to become a volunteer with Oregon Wild?
Adria Sparhawk: I have wanted to take a greater role in pushing environmental awareness and legislation forward. Since I don't have a background or education that allows for direct work in the field, volunteering is a way that I can still be involved. And being connected with a smaller organization allows me some first hand access to the inner workings of a very productive group.

Oregon Wild: Was there an aspect of our mission that motivated you to want to volunteer?
Adria: Environmental advocacy can mean many things. We can recycle, commute, vote for legislation, etc. For me, the heart of environmental awareness is the knowledge that preserving true wild space has a real and tangible value for all of us. I think that is the essence of what Oregon Wild is working toward.

Oregon Wild: What Oregon Wild events have you been involved in?
Adria: The Annual Photo Contest, Better Living Show, guided hikes, and Wild Wednesday events. *[Editor's note: Adria owns her own business – Lavish Flora. She provides inspired floral designs for Portland area weddings and events, including our 2010 Photo Contest Celebration!]*

Oregon Wild: Why do you think it is important to support Oregon Wild?
Adria: Oregon Wild is doing great things but they can't continue their very important work without support. Wild lands and animals can't speak for themselves but they have a voice with Oregon Wild and we can all be a part of it.

Oregon Wild: Which Oregon Wild campaign(s) most interests you and why?
Adria: The Northwest Old Growth Forest Protection Campaign is near and dear to my heart. Living 40 years trekking through the wilds of the Pacific Northwest I have seen a lot of change in our forests and there is so little old growth left. Once it is gone - it is gone. We just cannot afford to view our forest land solely as a commodity.

Oregon Wild: What is your favorite place in Oregon and why?
Adria: That is such a tough question because there are so many magical places in Oregon and I have lots of favorites. The Columbia Gorge while the fritillary are blooming, Bandon Beach when a particularly nasty storm has driven off everyone else and I have the entire place to myself, or August in the deep pools, thick moss, and maidenhair of Opal Creek are at the top of my list.

Oregon Wild: Why do you choose to live in Oregon?
Adria: Where else in the world can you find beaches, volcanoes, high deserts, prehistoric lava flows, alpine meadows, ancient old growth forest, sage country, raging rivers...and so much more? And I get to live right in the middle of all this beauty in a city with progressive politics, fantastic restaurants, a thriving art community, world class music, and salt of the earth people. Also, we have really good beer.

Get your Volunteer on!

Summer 2011 Oregon Wild Community Outreach Events

Mississippi Street Fair
Saturday, July 9, 2011
10 am to 9 pm

Alberta Street Fair
Saturday, August 13, 2011
11 am to 7 pm

Eugene Celebration
August 26-28, 2011

Muddy Boot Organic Festival
September 9-11, 2011

Volunteering and Training
To learn more about volunteering and upcoming volunteer trainings with Oregon Wild please contact Denise Kayser at dk@oregonwild.org.

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2011 Oregon Wild

OUTDOOR PHOTO CONTEST

All submissions due by September 15, 2011

After hundreds of contestants, thousands of submissions, and dozens of prizes given away, the Oregon Wild Outdoor Photo Contest is back for its seventh – and biggest – year to date.

The contest is open to amateurs and professionals alike (don't worry all you novices; amateurs have won more often than the pros!) and we even have a category especially for youth. So grab your camera and get outside in search of the winning image in our four main categories: *Wildlands, Wildlife, Waters,* and *Endangered Places* – this year featuring the stunning and diverse Klamath River watershed.

See contest rules and submit your photos at www.oregonwild.org/photo-contest

STEVE SPHALL