

Oregon Wild

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Oregon's forests on the edge

ANNUAL REPORT INSIDE



Working to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters as an enduring legacy for future generations.

Main Office

5825 N Greeley Avenue Portland, OR 97217
 Phone: 503.283.6343 Fax: 503.283.0756
www.oregonwild.org

The e-mail address for each Oregon Wild staff member: initials@oregonwild.org (for example: ef@oregonwild.org)

Membership Associate	Marielle Cowdin x 213
Wilderness Coordinator	Erik Fernandez x 202
Director of Finance & Admin.	Candice Guth x 219
Communications & Outreach	Tommy Hough x 223
Development Coordinator	Jonathan Jelen x 224
Wildlands & Wildlife Advocate	Rob Klavins x 210
Conservation Director	Steve Pedery x 214
Executive Director	Sean Stevens x 211

Oregon Wild Board of Directors

Megan Gibb, President
 Daniel Robertson, Vice President & Secretary
 Pat Clancy, Treasurer
 Vik Anantha
 Shawn Donnille
 Leslie Logan
 Brett Sommermeyer
 William Sullivan
 Jan Wilson

Western Field Office

P.O. Box 11648 Eugene, OR 97440
 454 Willamette, Suite 203
 Phone 541.344.0675 Fax: 541.343.0996

Conservation & Restoration Coord.	Doug Heiken	x 1
Old Growth Campaign Coordinator	Chandra LeGue	x 2

Eastern Field Office

16 NW Kansas Avenue, Bend, OR 97701
 Phone: 541.382.2616 Fax: 541.385.3370

Eastern OR Wildlands Advocate	Tim Lillebo
----------------------------------	-------------

Southern Field Office

P.O. Box 1923 Brookings, OR 97415
 Phone: 541.366.8623

Wildlands Interpreter	Wendell Wood
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 www.facebook.com/OregonWild

 [@oregonwild](https://twitter.com/oregonwild)

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COVER PHOTO: FRED AN Many of the forests around Mt. Hood enjoy significant protection, but equally spectacular forests elsewhere around the state are at a management crossroads.





From the Director's Desk Our votes and our vision

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

Over the past year, Oregon Wild has been crafting a new strategic plan to chart our course for the future. It's an important and exciting process we undertake every four years – and we're almost done.

We've spent the last several months re-evaluating our programs, asking hard questions about what's working and what's not, and thinking about the Oregon we want to live in four years from now.

Our strategic planning process usually coincides with the quadrennial presidential election – in part because the ultimate decisions about public lands are made in the halls of Congress and from the Oval Office desk.

But as I sat in my living room with my wife watching election results in November, I wondered if our goals and ambitions for Oregon's environment would look different if

the outcome at the polls had diverged. Given the lack of attention paid to environmental issues during this election, you'd be forgiven for not knowing the major conservation policy differences between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney.

The two most frequent questions I'm asked when it comes to politics and the environment are: Can we accomplish anything for the environment when all anyone talks about is the economy? And how can we break through the partisan gridlock?

It's true, and appropriate, that the economy dominates our current political dialogue. But we know the short-term cry of "jobs above all else" is not a winning policy for wilderness long-term. Jobs and conservation have never been mutually exclusive, and Oregonians have long since passed the era when we viewed the natural world around us as

expendable – open to sale for the highest bidder.

It is our deeply-held notion of responsibility to future generations which has always prevailed. More and more this sentiment is backed by an economic argument made by powerful allies in the outdoor recreation industry – whose voices become more influential as their footprint in the western economy grows.

As for the mess in Congress, there is no denying partisanship has stalled many worthwhile legislative efforts. A long-shot omnibus bill in the lame duck session is all that's stopping the first in 40 years to fail to pass a single Wilderness bill.

Still, we have hope. As I told the gathered crowd at our October photo contest unveiling, we passed the largest ever expansion of Oregon



SUE NEWMAN The path ahead toward protecting Oregon's special places will be long and arduous – but it will be worth it.

Wilderness in 1984 with a Republican president and two Republican senators (one of them oft-described as a "timber beast").

While hopeful, we also know it will take hard work to keep Oregon on the right track. The threat of public lands privatization and massive increases in clear-cut logging still sits on the horizon (more details on page four). Meanwhile, the Devil's Staircase, Wild Rogue, and the wildest stretch of the Molalla River still await their turn in Congress.

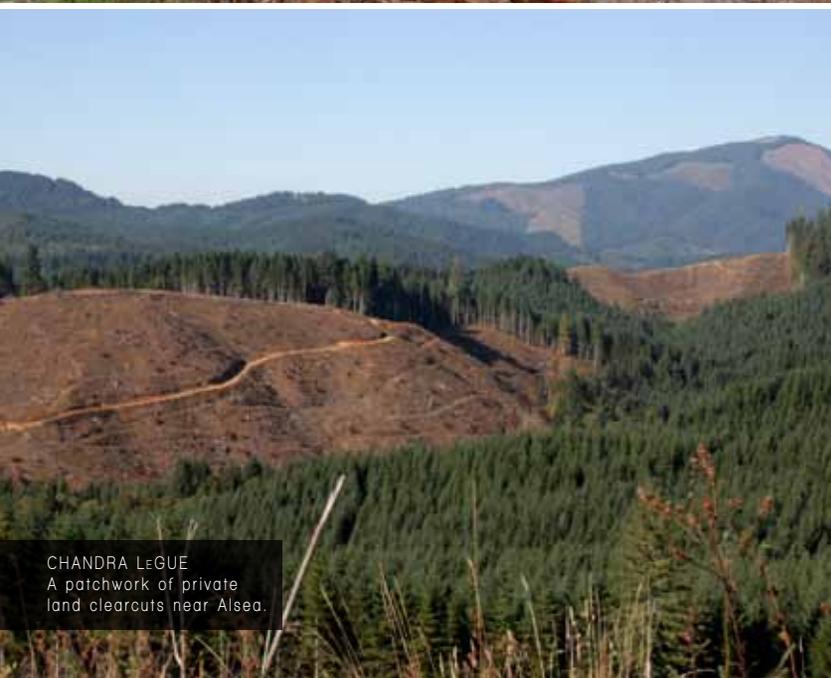
As an organization, we are primed for success. During our most recent fiscal

year we came in ahead of budget, raising more revenue than expected thanks to hundreds of supporters who found a way to give a little extra this past year. Our membership is growing and our e-mail alert list can easily flood the inboxes of decision makers with 1,000 messages in a single day.

Your activism, your financial support, and your passion for Oregon are the key ingredients which fuel Oregon Wild. Let's keep the momentum rolling for the next four years and beyond.



MAHOGANY AULENBACH
The boundary between private and BLM land near Alsea Falls.



CHANDRA LeGUE
A patchwork of private land clearcuts near Alsea.

Oregon forests at the crossroads

Chandra LeGue

At the crossroads – which way do we choose?

Enjoying a drive into the Coast Range between Eugene and Corvallis, I stop at a trailhead which leads into the Alsea Falls Recreation Area. I venture off the trail into a forest well on its way to recovery after earlier logging, and stoop to find a golden chanterelle. Farther up the trail I walk through a picnic area and down to Alsea Falls itself, where the South Fork Alsea River is lined by old-growth trees. Each year, thousands of visitors drive this scenic byway through the forests of the Coast Range, and stop to enjoy this recreation area with its many trails, scenic picnic spots, waterfalls, and fall mushrooming.

Just a few miles off the scenic byway, up a winding gravel road through hills stripped bare of trees, the difference between private timber land and public lands – Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in this case – is stark. While the 50-year old plantation stand I enter was once clear-cut like the forests behind me, here the future plans are focused on restoring the natural structure and function of the forest, instead of

re-growing the next rotation of timber to be clear-cut.

Or are they?

The management of public forestlands in western Oregon is at a crossroads. After decades of aggressive logging on our public lands, the managing agencies – the U.S. Forest Service and BLM – have begun to move towards conservation-based thinning and restoration projects which enjoy the support of conservation groups. While it isn't the case everywhere, responsible forest managers are increasingly focused on protecting and restoring public values like clean drinking water, wild salmon, threatened wildlife habitat, carbon storage to mitigate for global warming, and nearby recreation.

Not everyone is happy with this new direction. Proposals in Congress threaten to weaken environmental laws and gut the landmark Northwest Forest Plan. The logging industry continues to oppose endangered species recovery efforts, and some state and local politicians are suggesting a return to public land clear-cutting to generate revenue to bail out local budgets. In fact, the

BLM is already taking steps towards clear-cutting under the guise of “ecological forestry” in new timber sales like White Castle, Second Show, and Rainbow Ridge.

We are faced with a stark choice: continue to restore our forests, watersheds, and wildlife after decades of abusive logging, or make a U-turn back to the clear-cut logging which brought us here.

Our heritage forests at risk

We've given a great deal of coverage to BLM lands in recent years, from the development and eventual death of the Bush administration's WOPR plan (Western Oregon Plan Revisions), to recent proposals to re-link county funding to public lands logging. The reason for all the attention? The 2.6 million acres of western Oregon forest lands at stake are among the most important public lands in our state.

Western Oregon BLM lands contain some of the last remaining low elevation old-growth forest in the state, linking public lands in the Coast Range with the Cascade and Siskiyou mountains. Because forests and wildlife on adjacent private lands have

been ravaged by logging, these areas are often the only habitat available to imperiled species. BLM lands in the state also contain rivers and streams which provide clean drinking water to over 1.8 million Oregonians.

The O&C debacle

Most of western Oregon's BLM-managed lands are known as O&C lands, which have a special history and a law – the 1937 O&C Act – governing their use along with other federal environmental laws and the Northwest Forest Plan.

Under the O&C Act, logging revenues from these forests were linked to county budgets. During the logging epidemic which swept western Oregon in the 1970s and 80s, these counties became accustomed to extraordinary clear-cut windfalls. When public opposition and the need to protect salmon, wildlife, and clean water reduced logging on BLM lands, counties faced a new funding challenge.

In 2000, Congress stepped in to directly provide funds to affected counties with the Secure Rural Schools Act (SRS) – a program set to expire this year.

Some counties have done little to prepare, sparking a major political crisis, with some politicians turning to renewed clear-cutting as a

(continued on page 6)

Threatened forests near you

Some of western Oregon's most iconic, beautiful, and familiar places are found on BLM lands. These include the stunning ancient forests in Crabtree Valley, the wild landscape surrounding the lower Rogue River, and a large part of the proposed Devil's Staircase Wilderness. And while these places may not be threatened by proposals to ramp up logging to fund counties, many other spectacular nearby places are.

1 Headwaters of the Molalla River

In the upper Molalla watershed, above the proposed Molalla Wild and Scenic River corridor, key public forestlands which filter the drinking water for Molalla and Canby are at risk. The headwaters of the Molalla are a combination of BLM public lands and a sea of corporate-owned timber lands. The corporate-owned lands have been, or will soon likely be, clear-cut on a vast scale. Compounding this impact, much of the core public forests are proposed for transfer to the "Timber Trust" under the O&C Trust Act, where they would be logged much like surrounding industrial timberlands. Without these forests holding the soil in place and providing habitat for wildlife, the drinking water and fish habitat in the Molalla River will face significant degradation.

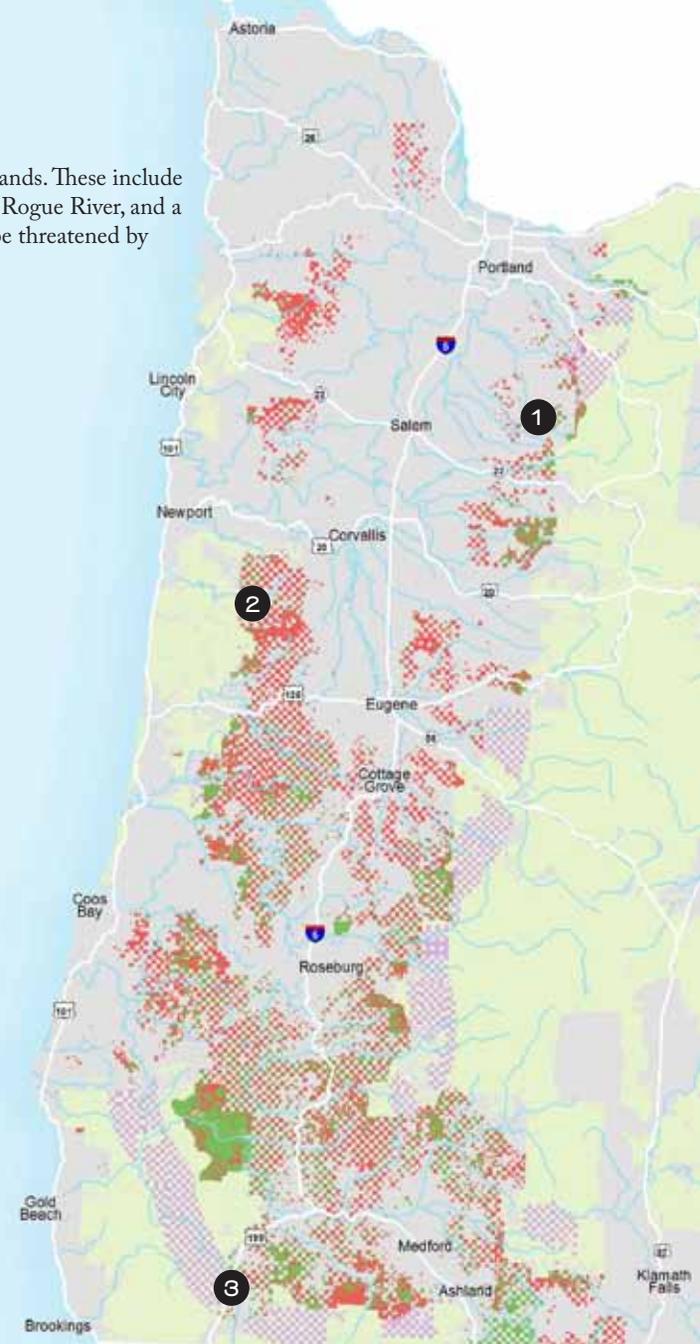
2 Alsea Falls Area

In the foothills of the central Oregon Coast Range lie small remnants of exquisite old-growth forests. During the development of the WOPR, intrepid Corvallis-area forest lovers explored the area around the town of Alsea, finding beautiful forests at risk from logging. The Salem BLM has even proposed new trails to help showcase some of these places to the public. Many of the forests in this area have huge legacy trees mixed in with younger forests and might slip through the loopholes in the O&C Trust Act and be logged.

3 Botanically Rich Illinois Valley

The Illinois River Valley in southwest Oregon is one of the most biologically diverse and botanically rich in the nation. On the edge of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, thousands of acres of BLM lands in the valley have been recognized as designated Botanical Areas and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, where nature lovers can explore unique habitats and plants found nowhere else. And while most of western Oregon's O&C lands are managed by the BLM, a large swath of the Siskiyou National Forest is made up of O&C holdings in the Illinois Valley. Thousands of acres of these botanically important public forests could be transferred to the proposed "Timber Trust" and logged – including designated Botanical Areas and some roadless areas.

Take Action! To find out more about what's at stake and the latest information on BLM lands, visit <http://tinyurl.com/OregonWild-BLMforests>, and nominate BLM lands special to you for an upcoming report.



Private vs. public lands: playing by different rules

Congressional proposals to transfer public lands to pseudo-public “timber trusts” highlight the differences between the laws and policies guiding logging and other activities on public vs. private lands.

Private timber lands are generally managed for timber production, and are guided by the Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA). National Forest and BLM lands are managed for multiple public values, and federal environmental laws apply to public lands which require analysis of environmental impacts, public input, rigorous stream protections, and protection and restoration of endangered species habitat.

	Oregon State Forest Practices Act	Federal Law and Northwest Forest Plan
Public Process	Private landowners inform the state of their intended logging plans. Little or no opportunity for public to weigh in on plans.	Requires detailed analysis of logging impacts and alternatives to proposed plans. The public has an opportunity to comment on analysis and challenge agency decisions.
Stream Buffers	Minimal no-cut buffers on fish-bearing streams, with 20 ft. of buffer on each side. As little as zero feet on small, non-fish-bearing streams. Logging is allowed outside these buffers.	Streams are protected with no-cut stream buffers based on biological and hydrological criteria - typically 340 ft. for fish-bearing streams, and 170 ft. for non-fish bearing streams. Thinning may be allowed inside these buffers only if ecological objectives are met.
Logging	Up to 120 acre clear-cuts are allowed by a single landowner at a time. Adjacent logging cannot occur within 300 ft. until replanted trees are four years old. Replanting of trees is required.	Clear-cutting is prohibited in old-growth reserves. Thinning is allowed in forest stands up to 80 years old. In non-reserve areas, clear-cuts and other, more intensive logging methods are allowed, but at least six to eight trees per acre must be retained (more in southern Oregon).
Wildlife Habitat	No areas are specifically reserved for wildlife. A minimum of two wildlife trees or logs per acre are required to be left in clear-cuts larger than 25 acres. Clear-cuts under 25 acres in size have no wildlife tree requirements.	Reserves for wildlife which depend on old forests are built into the landscape management plan. Specific guidelines provide for wildlife habitat at multiple scales.
Pesticides	Aerial spraying of herbicides to kill vegetation which competes with crop trees is commonly used across many thousands of acres. 60 ft. buffer for aerial spraying on fish-bearing or drinking water streams. Smaller streams have no buffer.	Certain chemicals are allowed, but are generally used sparingly and applied manually to control noxious weeds. Aerial spraying and use of chemicals to control competing native vegetation in order to boost timber production is not allowed.

(continued from page 5)

solution. The draft legislative proposal for the “O&C Trust, Conservation, and Jobs Act” put forward by Representatives DeFazio, Schrader, and Walden would have essentially privatized 1.5 million acres of BLM lands to form a logging “trust” to fund counties, and would have adopted the weak logging rules of the Oregon State Forest Practices Act (see sidebar) to do so.

Governor Kitzhaber waded into the fray over the state’s BLM lands this fall, when he assembled a panel of stakeholders from timber, county, and conservation interests to determine how to best solve county budget woes. Unfortunately, the governor appears to be using the DeFazio O&C bill as his model.

The wrong direction

Sacrificing one of the most valuable and enduring assets of the United States – our public lands – is the wrong approach to solving county budget shortfalls, and the O&C Trust Act concept would indeed be a sacrifice. Though it does include some protections for the oldest forests and other special areas, much of the landscape Oregonians use and enjoy every day would be lost.

With hundreds of thousands of acres of healthy, mature forests, thousands of miles of stream sides, and critical habitat for threatened species could

placed into a “timber trust” or otherwise opened up to damaging logging, the proposal would have unacceptable environmental impacts and would be highly controversial and polarizing.

More than a decade of investment in building common ground and infrastructure for forest and watershed restoration on public lands, along with the jobs this blossoming industry provides, would be set back under these extreme proposals.

Sense in the senate

Luckily, not all elected officials see clear-cut logging as a quick fix to county budget woes. In response to the governor’s process, Senator Ron Wyden recently released a set of principles outlining a path forward in resolving the budget crisis facing rural counties, and resolving conflicts over public O&C forestlands.

While not perfect, Wyden’s principles provide a good starting point for discussions among conservationists and county leaders to craft a workable, balanced, and realistic legislative proposal which does not sacrifice the conservation values Oregonians hold dear.

Senator Wyden has a history of finding such solutions. First introduced in 2009, his “Oregon Eastside Forest Restoration, Old-Growth Protection and Jobs Act” was born from the desire to find

agreement on how eastern Oregon’s forests could be managed to conserve and restore forests and watersheds, as well as maintain the timber economy of rural Oregon. The result was a proposal for a new management paradigm based on science and ecological restoration which will benefit fish, wildlife, and forest health for generations to come.

In 2013, Senator Wyden will almost certainly become chair of the powerful Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. This will enable Wyden to not only move forward with eastern Oregon forest legislation, but also craft a workable solution to the budget woes of some county governments.

The path forward

Oregon Wild has long been a national leader in efforts to reform the management of our public lands. In the 1970s, 80s, and early 90s the organization was at the forefront of the campaign to stop old-growth clear-cutting and protect salmon and other wildlife. More recently, we have worked to shift forest management in a more sustainable direction focused on restoring our public lands and correcting the abuses of the past.

This approach works. Years of advocacy by Oregon Wild staffers like Tim Lillebo have helped build consensus around the need to protect old-growth and roadless areas in eastern Oregon forests, and focus

management on restoring natural conditions. In western Oregon, our involvement in pioneering work designing forest restoration projects which improve conditions for fish and wildlife, while generating a sustainable supply of timber as a by-product, has been nationally

recognized as a model for public lands conservation.

Oregon today faces a stark choice between continuing this kind of common-sense, conservation-based management, or liquidating forests to generate a quick fix to cover county budget shortfalls. All

Oregonians who value wildlife, clean water, and healthy forests need to speak up now to ensure our state, and the nation, chooses wisely.

Take Action! Weigh in on clear-cutting our public lands at www.oregonwild.org



©DANIEL PENNINGTON

Keeping it evergreen with recurring gifts

Jonathan Jelen

The recent proposal to clear-cut western Oregon’s old-growth forests is another example of the need for Oregon Wild to remain constantly vigilant. Sometimes threats to our public lands come with ample warning, allowing us to plan ahead and best use our resources. Other times, these threats arise suddenly and require us to immediately mobilize our efforts.

Oregon Wild Evergreen Society members give us the resources to respond to these threats – whether they come with fair warning or not. [Joining the Evergreen Society is the best way to support Oregon Wild’s ongoing, consistent efforts to defend our wildlands, wildlife, and waters.](#)

Evergreen Society members make dependable monthly gifts via credit card or automatic bank transfer. These monthly contributions decrease the amount of money we spend on fundraising, enabling us to channel more of your support toward protecting the places in Oregon special to you and your family.

Evergreen Society supporters allow us to proactively plan our campaigns and respond to new threats to our wildlands, wildlife, and waters. To join today, please visit us on-line at www.oregonwild.org/membership or call Jonathan Jelen at (503) 283-6343, ext 224.



Bill's Excellent Adventures

Crater Lake cross-country skiing

William Sullivan



PHOTOS BY JIM CHAMBERLAIN

Surprisingly few people drive up to see the lake in winter, perhaps because the lodge and campground are closed. The only indoor attractions are a gift shop, a cafeteria, a visitor center, and a restroom.

Most of the winter, panoramas from the Rim Village parking area are blocked by an eight-foot wall of snow. Rangers cut a slot through the snow so pedestrians can get to a viewpoint. If you've brought skis or snowshoes, however, you can sally forth along the rim to much better views. Marked trails are provided for day trips.

Adventurers tackling a ski or snowshoe trip entirely around Crater Lake's rim

usually plan the trek for March or April, when there's more daylight and fewer storms than in mid-winter. Only expert skiers in top condition should attempt to complete the 33-mile loop in a single day, and then only when the

snow and weather are perfect. There is no shortcut back for skiers who get tired part way around the lake, and cell phones generally don't have reception.

Circling the rim in three or four days is safer, but requires heavy backpacks with thick sleeping bags, four-season tents, and cook stoves.

Those setting out around the rim in winter have to pick up a free permit at the Steel Information Center at Park Headquarters, three miles south of Rim Village. To make sure everyone knows about the route's avalanche detours and has the proper

survival equipment, rangers insist trekkers get the permits in person

More than 100,000 people drive around Crater Lake each summer, but only about 60 people a year succeed in skiing or snowshoeing the same route during the winter months from December to May. Get out of the car! Strap on some snow gear and explore Crater Lake when it's prettiest, in winter.

For more information about this and other trails around Crater Lake, check out the current edition of William L. Sullivan's *100 Hikes in Southern Oregon*. ©



Rangers at Crater Lake National Park complain many visitors simply drive around the lake's rim and go home.

The ultimate car-free tour around Crater Lake is on snow, when the park puts on its dress whites.

With an average of 44 feet of snow falling here each winter, Rim Drive usually closes to motor traffic in November. Crews start plowing the route in mid-April but rarely finish before July. Only the access road from Highway 62 up to Rim Village is kept open all year.

Snowshoeing at White River

Erik Fernandez



Perhaps the best place to snowshoe on Mount Hood on a clear, blue sky winter day is White River Canyon, which recently saw the upper

reaches of the canyon protected as Wilderness in 2009.

Oregon Wild also headed off a road-building project within White River Canyon itself, when a proposal was made to re-route Highway 35 up and over the canyon towards Hood River. Fortunately, the Highway 35 bridge over the White River was replaced instead. Pick a clear day to

trek up the canyon and enjoy fantastic, close-up views of the south face of Mount Hood. Better yet, pick a clear night on a full moon,

and head up White River Canyon for a romantic snowshoe and stargazing adventure. You'll want to bring warm clothes and a headlamp for safety, but under a full moon the lit up mountain and surrounding snowfields will no doubt illuminate your way.

While this is a magnificent locale, White River Canyon is the last place you'll want to be on a stormy day with open terrain and blowing snow. Always use caution, and plan your visit with safety as the foremost consideration. ☺

Join Oregon Wild for a snowshoe trip to White River January 26th.

Hardesty Mountain

Chandra LeGue



Just outside Eugene lies a 7,000 acre playground – the Hardesty Mountain Roadless Area. With 20 miles of trails, it's hard to know where to begin, but the winter season often extends the courtesy of narrowing down the options. When

you can't reach the higher elevation trailheads for Mount June or Hardesty Mountain because of snow, the easiest option is to head to the Hardesty Mountain trailhead, just before milepost 21 on Hwy. 58.

Start down the trail and take the right-hand fork at about a quarter-mile to stay on the Goodman Creek trail. If you stay to the left you can explore the South Willamette trail or go uphill on the Hardesty trail.

Following a narrow arm of Lookout Point Reservoir and then Goodman Creek, the rolling (but not difficult) trail takes you through a gorgeous forest. Ancient trees line the trail, and in the winter ferns, mosses, mushrooms, and lichens offer a lush carpet to explore and enjoy while you're dripped on from above.

The trail is well maintained, thanks to the work of local mountain bike and other volunteer groups, and even in the winter it's likely to only be muddy in a few spots. ☺

Baby it's cold outside!

Tommy Hough

You bet it's cold outside. So get off the couch and take advantage of the winter weather, and join Oregon Wild for a slate of snowshoe hikes to locales you may have visited in the summer, but look and feel entirely different in the winter.

Wednesday, January 9th
Twin Lakes Snowshoe Hike
Carpools leave Portland at 9 am
Call in sick, fight the winter bulge, and stick with your New Year's resolutions with this beginner's snowshoe outing along the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail in the Mount Hood National Forest.

Saturday, January 12th
Diamond Creek Falls Snowshoe Hike
Carpools leave from Eugene at 9 am
This short, rewarding trek features two waterfalls near Willamette Pass as a destination, and doesn't require a Herculean effort to get there.

Saturday, January 12th
Lost Creek Snowshoe Hike
Carpools leave Portland at 9 am
Join Oregon Wild for a snowshoe trek through a mossy forest and potential Wilderness area which the Forest Service has regrettably proposed for logging along the western flanks of Mount Hood. Inspirational and educational.

Saturday, January 26th
White River Snowshoe Hike
Carpools leave Portland at 9 am
Want to get close to Mount Hood? You'll feel the mountain from here, but be sure to watch your step, because the view up the White River Canyon will have you mesmerized.

Friday, February 1st
Twin Lakes Snowshoe Hike
Carpools leave Portland at 9 am
So you missed the January 9th trip to Twin Lakes because it was a Wednesday. Or your in-laws were still in town. Here's your chance to make things right and join Oregon Wild for this fun, beginner's snowshoe outing (bring your in-laws if you want).

Saturday, February 16th
Marilyn Lakes Snowshoe Hike
Carpools leave Eugene at 9 am
Slide past frozen lakes and amble through snowy forests on this moderate snowshoe trek through the Willamette National Forest. You'll wish winter lasted longer.

Get more information on our snowshoe outings and where you can rent gear at the Hikes and Events page at www.oregonwild.org and keep checking back for our 2013 spring and summer hikes too!

Uptick in controversial logging around Mount Hood

Erik Fernandez



PHOTOS BY TOMMY HOUGH

After a decade of rather uncontroversial logging projects, many of which have been focused on restoration, the Mount Hood National Forest appears to be shifting to more questionable practices.

Oregon Wild is “red flagging” concerns with several proposed logging projects, including the Lava project on the north side of the Mount Hood Wilderness, the Polallie Cooper project near Cooper Spur, the Lemiti project on the upper Clackamas watershed, and the most controversial of all being the proposed Horseshoe timber sale near the Sandy River.

Targeting forests on the northwest flank of Mount Hood, the areas threatened by the Horseshoe timber sale include old-growth in a potential Wilderness area, essentially guaranteeing the project will become the most controversial logging plan on the Mount Hood National Forest since the Eagle Creek sale in the late 1990s, which resulted in a number of tree sits and colorful demonstrations.

Recreation destinations at risk

Located near some of the most popular recreation sites for hikers, bikers, campers, and equestrians in the Mount Hood National Forest, the proposed logging near the Sandy River would be in close proximity to the Old Maid Flat area, Ramona Falls trailhead, the Cast Creek trail, the Horseshoe Ridge trail, Burnt Lake trailhead, Riley Horse camp, and the McNeil and Lost Creek campgrounds.

Fish and wildlife corridors at risk

The Sandy River watershed has benefited from a decade’s worth of restoration projects, including the removal of the Marmot Dam, and is home to runs of wild Chinook and Coho salmon as well as Steelhead. Logging on steep slopes often causes erosion, and this type of logging near the Sandy River would undo years of restoration and harm the fragile runs of these wild fish.

In addition, the proposed logging area is located directly between the protected Mount

“Good” logging projects

For the better part of a decade, the Mount Hood National Forest has been primarily working on restoration-based thinning projects. The result of collaboration between agencies, conservation groups, counties, land owners and others, these thinning projects focus on forests which had been clear-cut decades ago, and were subsequently lacking in diversity, having been replanted with only one species of tree (typically Douglas fir). By thinning these stands, remaining trees have less competition for sun, water, and soil nutrients, and the forest is able to return to a mature stage in a more rapid manner.

While these projects haven’t always been perfect, the end results have been restored forests and jobs. Revenue from these

projects has also helped fund additional restoration work decommissioning eroding roads, fixing and replacing damaged or inadequate culverts, and improving fish passage.

While these thinning projects have ecological benefits, the word “thinning” should be greeted with skepticism: not all thinning is created equal. When one tree is left per acre, it’s not thinning. It’s just a clear-cut.



Hood Wilderness and Bull Run Management Area, which doubles as Portland’s drinking water supply. Logging the remaining intact habitat in the area would significantly degrade these important corridors.

Timeline

While the Forest Service is in the early planning stages, we anticipate key decisions to be made regarding the Horseshoe project this

year. Oregon Wild is already working with a variety of nearby land owners, sister organizations, and elected officials to prevent this misguided project from damaging wildlife habitat, as well as popular recreational hotspots along the Wild and Scenic Sandy River. Engaging forest stakeholders and the public on the importance of the area’s wildlife habitat and recreational values is the next step in Oregon Wild’s process. ☺

Conservation Round-Up

Steve Pedery

Protecting wildlife from gillnets

The campaign to reform the use of gillnets in the Columbia River has taken many twists and turns in the last few



BRYAN IRWIN Abandoned gillnets can continue to capture and kill salmon and wildlife for decades.

months. Gillnets are made from nearly invisible plastic mesh, and indiscriminately kill not only hatchery salmon but also wild fish from critically endangered runs. They can also entangle and kill wildlife, including diving birds, otters, beavers, and other species.

As expected, the “Protect Our Salmon Act,” better known as Measure 81 did not pass. In September the Stop Gillnets Now Coalition and Oregon Wild agreed

to drop the campaign for Measure 81, and instead threw their support behind a compromise plan put forth by Governor Kitzhaber.

The governor’s measure would relocate nets off the mainstem of the Columbia River, promote more sustainable fishing gear, and institute reforms to protect wildlife. After several successful public hearings, this measure is moving forward, with adoption by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission expected soon.

Another dry season for Klamath wildlife

Though 2012 was not a particularly dry year by Klamath Basin standards, wetlands in the region’s National Wildlife Refuges were bone-dry by late summer. Regrettably, the Bureau of Reclamation again made the decision to choke off water for wildlife in order to maximize irrigation deliveries for commercial agriculture in the high desert. Even more egregious, the

so-called “lease lands,” i.e. refuge lands leased for private commercial agribusiness, received full water deliveries even as nearby wildlife areas went dry.

Despite this, Oregon Wild made an impact as part of a coalition of over 35 conservation groups, which sent a letter to the Obama administration and Congress demanding water for wildlife. Oregon Wild members followed suit and weighed in, sending hundreds of e-mails in support of the Klamath refuges. Our work generated extensive news coverage, and led to 20,000 acre-feet of water ultimately being provided for wildlife.

Oregon wolves reclaim lost territory

Oregon’s greatest conservation success story – the return of gray wolves to our state after being hunted to extinction over 60 years ago – continues to enthrall and amaze wildlife lovers. Protected by the state Endangered Species Act, as well as the advocacy of Oregon Wild members, *canis lupis* has continued to reclaim territory in our state. According to state biologists, Oregon is now home to six known wolf packs, and over 50 individual animals, including pups. ©



ODFW OR-18, a young female wolf from NE Oregon.



MICHEL HERSON White pelicans like these need Klamath wetlands to feed, nest, and raise their young.



TOMMY HOUGH

Wild Exposure: Snapshot of a Great Night

Jonathan Jelen

Oregon Wild dose of gratitude also goes to the team at the Green Drop Garage for allowing us to turn their workspace into a literal campsite complete with a fire pit.

Thanks also goes to our sponsors and supporters who provided silent auction items and food and beverages: Andina, Art Heads Custom Framing, Bob's Red Mill, Bull Run Distilling Co., Columbia Sportswear, Crave Bake Shop, Educational Recreational Adventures, Gerber, Hopworks Urban Brewery, Leupold, Little Bird Bistro, KEEN, Momentum River Expeditions, Mountain Rose Herbs, Next Adventure, OARS, Pacific Pie Company, Por Que No?, REI, Uncage the Soul Productions and US Outdoor Store.

Oregon Wild celebrated its Eighth Annual Outdoor Photo Contest with the organization's first Wild Exposure event, held at the Green Drop Garage in southeast Portland on October 12th.

Culled from hundreds of spectacular submissions, four talented photographers were named winners in the four categories in this year's competition, capturing the beauty of Oregon from one end of the state to the other.

Wild Exposure also delivered local food and drink, a terrific slate of live music, and a packed house of lively wilderness advocates, professional and amateur photographers, outdoor recreation fans, hikers, campers, fishermen, forest lovers, glacier climbers and whitewater enthusiasts.

A special thanks to all our main sponsors for the event, particularly Pro Photo Supply and Phresh Organic Catering, which provided delicious outdoor-themed edibles for the event. A big

Finally, a thank you to all the Oregon Wild members and fans who braved the first rain of the season to come out and support the organization, and made Wild Exposure a huge success and a fun night. Over the course of the evening Oregon Wild raised over \$9,000 to support our work and advocacy protecting and restoring Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters.

We're already starting to make plans for the 2013 Outdoor Photo Contest, so keep those cameras at the ready! ☺

Oregon Wild 2012 Photo Contest Winners



Wildlands – Mount Jefferson by Jeremy Cram (Vancouver)



Wildlife – Northern Harrier With Catch by Dennis Davenport (Portland)



Waters – The Cauldron in Lincoln City by John Eklund (Portland)



Endangered Places – Newberry Volcanic National Monument by Adam Jewell (Conshohocken, Pennsylvania)

2012 Accomplishments

A gridlocked Congress and a still-sputtering economy didn't stop Oregon Wild from chalking up some major successes in 2012. While we've listed a few highlights below, we don't want to forget the small victories – saving a few acres of old growth in a timber sale appeal, funding restoration around Upper Klamath Lake, showing a young hiker his first salamander – which we celebrate on a daily basis.



PETER BLANCHARD

Wildlands

- Our proposal to protect the heart of the wild Rogue River with 58,000 acres of Wilderness and 93 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers advanced through hearings in U.S. House and Senate subcommittees.

- The Devil's Staircase Wilderness proposal to protect a legendary waterfall and some of the best old-growth forests in the Coast Range advanced through U.S. House subcommittee and out of committee in the Senate.
- After a decade of advocacy the final challenge to the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule was defeated – the rule's protections now apply to nearly two million acres of Oregon's pristine wild places.

- We secured broadened support for additional Mount Hood Wilderness from new key allies in mountain bike clubs, local land owners, and ski areas resulting in a stakeholder meeting called by Rep. Earl Blumenauer

- Led the charge to defend western Oregon forests from plans to increase logging through the semi-privatization of 1.5 million acres of O&C lands.

Wildlife

- Generated international attention on wolf recovery in Oregon through naming contest for renowned wolf OR-7, now nicknamed Journey!

- Defeated anti-wolf legislation in the Oregon legislature for the third year in a row.
- As a result of legal action by Oregon Wild and our partners, Oregon's illegal wolf killing program remains on hold while we continue to work with the state to ensure a wolf recovery plan which works for everyone
- Shined a spotlight on the recovery and threats to recovering species such as wolverines.
- Volunteer wildlife monitoring project produced the first photo of endangered gray wolves in Oregon.

Waters

- Continued to advocate for wildlife and wetlands in the Klamath Basin, resisting U.S. Fish and Wildlife efforts to reduce recovery goals and critical habitat for endangered fish.
- Organized over two dozen organizations from around the country to contact Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to provide water for Tule Lake and Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuges, resulting in water for thousands of acres of marshes which otherwise would have been left dry during the peak of the migratory seasons.
- Helped establish a new coalition to fight the growth of suction dredge mining in Oregon's waterways

- Protections for 21 miles of the Wild and Scenic Molalla River advanced through the conservative House subcommittee.

Connecting people to wild places

- Led over 40 hikes and outdoor events including service trips, photography workshops, and plant identification trips which engaged over 700 Oregonians in our ongoing conservation work. ☺



AARON THEISEN

Major Donors

Individuals who gave at the Monument level or above during fiscal year 2012 are listed below. Oregon Wild greatly appreciates the support of all of our donors. We are especially grateful to Jean Frances Essex whose generous bequest will make a lasting impact for Oregon's wildlands.

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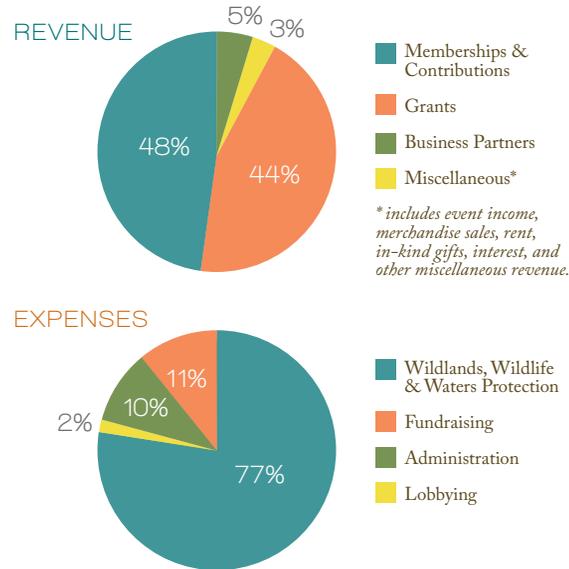
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Every effort has been made to ensure that this list is accurate. If you have any questions, please e-mail membership@oregonwild.org

Revenue and Expenses for Fiscal Year 2012

Total revenue and expenses from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012. For more specific details, please contact Sean Stevens at 503.283.6343 x 211 or ss@oregonwild.org.

Oregon Wild has made every attempt to spell all names correctly. If you find an error, please let us know so that we may correct it. Contact Marielle Cowdin at 503.283.6343 x 213 or mc@oregonwild.org. Thank you.



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Thank you to the foundations and business partners (\$500+) who contribute significantly to the mission of Oregon Wild.

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Environmental Paper and Print Inc	Norcross Wildlife Foundation	The Weeden Foundation
ESRI Conservation Program	Northwest Natural Gas	The Wiancko Charitable Foundation
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Oregon Wild business partner Mountain Rose Herbs has given us a tremendous opportunity to build support for protecting Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters. Mountain Rose Herbs will match any increase in your support **up to \$12,000 through December 31st**. Please help us take advantage of this great opportunity to keep Oregon wild!



THANKS THANKS THANKS

to our volunteers!

Oregon Wild thanks the dozens of volunteers who lend their time helping us to fulfill our mission. Your support is invaluable.

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