

Oregon Wilderness

Darlingtonia/Sandy Lonsdale

A Legacy for Future Generations

Oregon is home to some of the country's most amazing natural treasures. From Hells Canyon to the Siskiyou and the Metolius to the Umpqua, many of the state's wild gems remain unprotected and are threatened by logging and development.

Why Wilderness?

Wilderness designation is the highest level of protection available for our public lands. There is no better way to protect the natural areas that provide clean drinking water, wildlife habitat, carbon-storing old-growth forests, and backcountry recreation opportunities than to protect them as Wilderness areas.

Wilderness = Global Warming Defense

If Oregonians intend to get serious about curbing global warming, we need to start by getting serious about protecting our forests that serve as giant carbon sinks, absorbing and storing the pollution that causes the planet to warm.

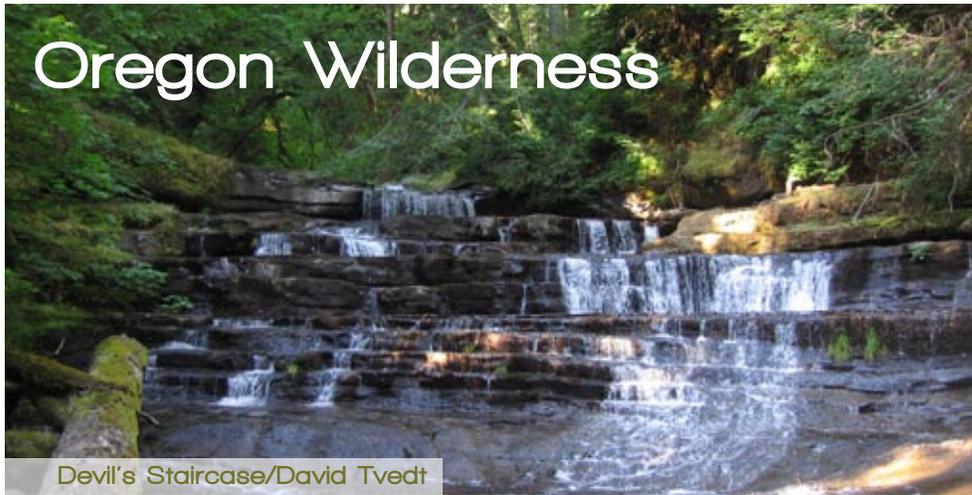
Wilderness = Clean Drinking Water

Eighty percent of Oregonians get their drinking water from our state's rivers and streams that originate on public lands. Science and history have shown that a healthy, protected watershed will provide clean water and an unprotected, logged, and mined watershed will not.

Wilderness = Quality of Life

The Wilderness Act of 1964 described Wilderness as "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man." These pristine areas exemplify the values that make Oregon such a special place to live, work, and raise a family.

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Devil's Staircase/David Tvedt

How much of Oregon is protected?



How do we compare to our neighbors?
(Wilderness protected)



Oregon Wild proposes protecting five million additional acres (8% of the state) as Wilderness.

What can I do in Wilderness areas?

Allowed in Wilderness

- *Hunting and fishing*
- *Scientific research and nature study*
- *Hiking, backpacking, and camping*
- *Fighting fires*
- *Rafting, canoeing, and kayaking*
- *Horseback riding and pack trips*
- *Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing*

Not Allowed in Wilderness

- *Road building*
- *Mechanical vehicles such as dirt bikes and off-road vehicles*
- *Logging*
- *Oil and gas drilling*
- *New mining claims*

Take Action!

• **Join** Oregon Wild in helping to protect the wildlands, wildlife, and waters that make our state so special - *become an Oregon Wild member today!*

• **Contact** your senators and let them know why Wilderness is important to you!

Senator Wyden (503) 326-7525

Senator Merkley (503) 326-3386

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Crater Lake/Stan Newman