

THREE ATTACKS ON THE CASCADE-SISKIYOU

The **Association of O&C Counties (AOCC)** claims to represent 17 (now 16) county governments in Oregon that have historically received money from logging publicly-owned forests on O&C lands; however, in recent years, the AOCC has become increasingly aligned with the timber industry, as demonstrated by their various lobbying and litigation efforts to open up parts the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument to commercial logging.

The AOCC is pursuing three strategies to log the Cascade-Siskiyou:

1. COURTS

In February of 2017, the AOCC filed a lawsuit against the federal government to overturn protections for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

- ***The lawsuit seeks to log federally protected forests*** and undo Pres. Obama's chief conservation achievement in Oregon
- The majority of the O&C acres within Pres. Obama's Monument expansion were already managed as "Reserves" (they weren't part of the "O&C Harvest Land Base")

2. CONGRESS

The AOCC has testified and lobbied in favor of various logging bills that would dramatically alter forest management in the Pacific Northwest. One bill that the AOCC has lobbied for is the Resilient Federal Forests Act (HR 2936), which passed the House last year.

If passed into law, HR 2936 would:

- ***shrink the Cascade-Siskiyou*** and require that these public forests be managed for the sole purpose of timber production.
- mandate that O&C lands produce a bare minimum of a half billion board feet per year, which is triple the current logging levels in these forests. ***This goal that cannot be met without logging old-growth forests on O&C land.***
- exempt logging projects up to 45 square miles in size from environmental analysis and citizen oversight in an effort to streamline logging projects on public lands.

3. TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

In April of 2017, the Trump administration began reviewing National Monuments throughout the country to see which could be shrunk or eliminated altogether.

- ***AOCC representatives lobbied Trump's Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke, to shrink the Monument*** when he was toured the Cascade-Siskiyou NM in July of 2017
- A few months later, Sec. Zinke recommended that Pres. Trump shrink four Monuments, one of which was the Cascade-Siskiyou NM
- Pres. Trump has already acted on two recommendations, shrinking the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments by 85% and 45% respectively.

MORE INFO ON THE AOCC:

- The list of AOCC's anti-conservation actions extends well beyond its efforts to log the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.
 - The AOCC is currently suing the BLM over its management of O&C lands, arguing that logging levels should be much higher than current levels
- Two Oregon counties have already left the AOCC, the most recent being Multnomah County (January 2018)
- Departing the AOCC would have no impact on the funds Clackamas County receives from timber harvest on O&C Lands
- There are about 2.6 million acres of O&C land in Western Oregon, mostly managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Historically, counties with O&C lands received a cut of the revenue from logging these public lands.

MORE INFO ON THE CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT:

- Originally designated by President Clinton in 2000 and expanded by President Obama in 2017, the Cascade-Siskiyou is the first and only National Monument specifically established to protect biological diversity.
- In addition to hosting an exceptional range of flora and fauna, the Monument is an important Pacific Northwest biological connectivity corridor which enables species to move back and forth between neighboring ecoregions.
- The Monument is home to spectacular old-growth forests and a rich legacy of native fish and wildlife unlike any other in the Pacific Northwest. These remnant forests represent some of the last old-growth habitat left in the region.
- The Cascade-Siskiyou also provides extraordinary recreational opportunities such as hiking, horseback riding, and backcountry skiing, which in turn helps support Southern Oregon's growing recreation-based economy.

