



# Oregon Wild

Spring/Summer 2015 Volume 42, Number 2

Down with *King Clearcut*

And introducing the Oregon Brewshed® Alliance



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

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Oregon Wild is a tax-exempt, non-profit charitable organization.

Newsletter printed on New Leaf 100% recycled, 50% post-consumer, FSC certified paper with soy based inks. *Oregon Wild* is printed locally by Environmental Paper and Print, an Oregon Wild donor and business partner.

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COVER PHOTO: BRETT COLE The archaic practices of clearcut logging are regrettably alive and well across many of Oregon's forestlands. The stark visual contrast between forest and an adjacent clearcut is aptly representative of public values facing off against the political muscle of an aging, cantankerous industry.



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## From the Director's Desk The Wild West

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

In the days after former Governor John Kitzhaber's resignation, I fielded half a dozen calls from reporters across the country. While many in the media were still busy digging into allegations of influence-peddling, these reporters wanted to know something else: "What did this mean for the environment?"

Fair question. Our elected officials have the power to make or break laws that govern how we interact with our natural environment. They set policy that determines the quality of the very air we breathe and the water we drink. Their votes can permanently protect Wilderness or condemn landscapes to devastation.

As I reflected on Kitzhaber's environmental legacy and the ramifications of his resignation (decidedly mixed on the former and likely positive on the latter), I was

once again struck by the importance of your support for Oregon Wild.

Since our founding in 1974, we've seen eight governors occupy Mahonia Hall. Each one has brought a different vision and set of policies on the environment. But the common denominator has been Oregon Wild and our thousands of supporters always standing at the ready to be a voice for wild places and wildlife.

The need for your voice in Oregon environmental policy is as essential today as it has ever been.

In early April, the House Committee On Rural Communities, Land Use, and Water heard three bills that call on the American people to hand over places like Mount Hood, Crater Lake, and the Painted Hills to Oregon state politicians. These measures echo efforts at the national level to dispose of public lands – as

if these lands represented a burden rather than a rich, natural inheritance!

As you'll see in this issue's feature article, the state of Oregon's track record in managing our own forest lands should be a clear indication that National Forests and National Parks don't belong under the control of our industry-beholden state agencies.

As always, we're honored here at Oregon Wild to work on behalf of so many Oregonians who love our public lands and give their time, energy, and money to keep our state such a special place.

Politicians come and go, but Oregon Wild is here to stay!



TJ THORNE Oregon's gem, Crater Lake – one of our Oregon's 'Seven Wonders.' Our state's public lands ought to be treasured for generations to come.

# Overthrowing Oregon's *King Clearcut*

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director



SAME BEEBE, ECOTRUST Another one of our state's "Seven Wonders," the Oregon Coast is home to many rural communities, native fish and wildlife, and offers a multitude of recreational opportunities. But visitors to the Coast Range are often shocked by the ugly reality - clearcuts ravaging state and private lands that threaten watersheds, wildlife, and our coastal way of life.

What defines Oregon? To most, it is our old-growth forests and wild rivers; our rugged coastline, mountains, and canyons. It is our values and lifestyle embodied by our desire to enjoy and explore the natural wonders of our state, and to protect them as a legacy for generations to come.

But that image doesn't always carry over to our politics. While most Oregonians may treasure old-growth, wild salmon, and clean rivers, Oregon politicians - of all political stripes - often have a different agenda. When it comes to environmental protection, the desires of logging industry lobbyists are often given far more weight than the values of average Oregonians.

This is especially true in our state capital, Salem, where Oregon often seems closer to West Virginia than it does to the green, pro-conservation values of our citizens. In West Virginia, "King Coal" wields massive political clout even as it tears the top off mountain after mountain, bringing environmental devastation on land, air, and water. Here in Oregon, "King Clearcut" maintains



KELLY MORGAN Pristine, healthy forestlands are far more valuable to Oregon and Oregonians than chemical-soaked clearcuts.

similar influence. But the political winds may be shifting.

### Land of the lost

In the late 1980s, timber in Oregon was king. Every year, over 8 billion board feet of logs were hauled out of Oregon forests – the majority from publicly-owned lands. While widespread mill mechanization had already taken a toll on the industry’s workforce, logging corporations made vast amounts of money and used their largesse to cement their already formidable political influence. But the logging industry was headed for a dramatic fall.

Decades of unsustainable overcutting, and the decimation of Oregon’s old-growth forests, led to a public backlash and the eventual listing of

the northern spotted owl and coho salmon under the federal Endangered Species Act. When then-President Bill Clinton adopted the compromise Northwest Forest Plan in 1994, federal public lands were (for the first time) given widespread science-based protections. Under the plan, old-growth forests, endangered species, and clean water were to have equal footing with logging.

Since the Plan was adopted, conservationists, counties, industry, and politicians have continued to battle over protections for forests, but the dramatic changes of the mid-nineties have largely held. Today, conservation rules limit logging on federal public lands to a fraction of the clearcutting epidemic of the

1980s. Thanks to support and advocacy from members of Oregon Wild and other conservation groups, most of the logging that does take place under the Northwest Forest Plan is science-based, focused on thinning younger stands and restoring old-growth.

But what of private and state forests in Oregon? These lands were largely left out of the grand compromise of the Northwest Forest Plan. Despite the grave impacts of private lands logging on clean water, wildlife, and human health, regulations in Oregon have remained largely unchanged for decades. Today, the Oregon Forest Practices Act is the weakest in the region, and aggressive clearcutting, steep slope logging, and rampant use of toxic chemicals are the norm. Meanwhile, private lands clearcutting is again booming in the post Great Recession economy, with vast acreages of forest lands slicked off, and raw logs shipped overseas.

### Oregon, “Home of the Clearcut”

The recent boom in private-lands clearcutting may be benefiting logging giants like Weyerhaeuser, Stimson Lumber, and Seneca Jones, but it is doing little for Oregon’s economy. Logging industry employment has collapsed over the last 20 years as logging and milling operations have adopted more high-tech business practices. One worker operating a computer

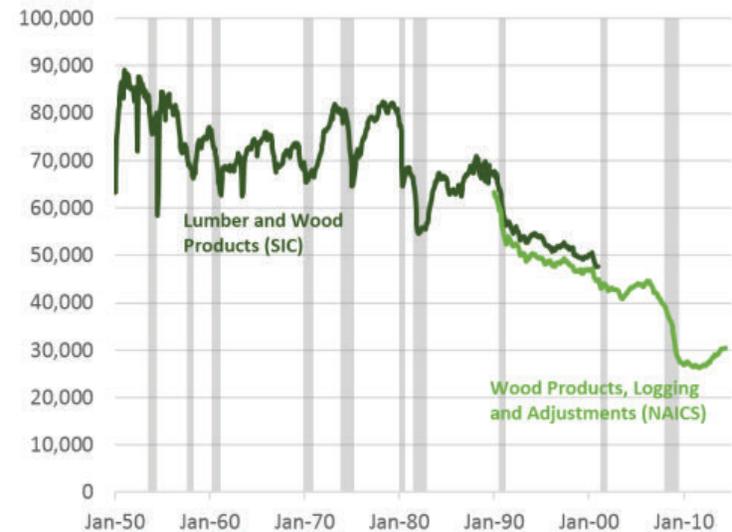
terminal in an air-conditioned booth can now accomplish the work that once employed 20 people in a mill. Even that last worker’s job is now at risk as logging corporations prefer to ship raw logs to China, rather than mill them into lumber here in Oregon.

But while the logging industry’s economic impact has waned, its political stature has not. Nearly all levels of government in Oregon are either wholly captured by, or incredibly deferential to, the desires

of big logging interests. Over the last year, Oregon has faced a number of major legal and environmental embarrassments over our weak logging rules.

First, federal agencies have leveled intense pressure on Oregon over the role that clearcutting and our lack of adequate stream buffers has played in warming rivers and harming coho salmon. The pressure has forced Oregon to launch a major scientific review, and to begin development of

Oregon Wood Products Employment, 1950-2014



OREGON OFFICE OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS Employment in the timber industry has drastically and steadily declined and is no longer a viable investment for Oregon’s economic future.



new rules to better protect rivers from logging.

Second, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and NOAA Fisheries “disapproved” Oregon’s non-point source pollution control program for the Oregon Coast. The agencies cited our abysmal state and private lands logging practices, and the role that clearcutting, muddy run-off from logging roads, and aerial spraying of toxic chemicals have played in polluting streams. Oregon has the dubious distinction of being the first and only state in the nation to have its plan rejected.

Third, widespread public backlash has emerged from rural communities,

mainly in the Coast Range, over the logging industry’s use of aerial spraying of toxic pesticides. Oregon’s weak logging rules do not require operations to give neighboring private property owners warning about sprays. Worse, spray records are legally considered “trade secrets” – even medical professionals treating chemical exposure can’t access them. Oregon lacks any safety buffers to protect homes, schools, wetlands, and drinking water sources from pesticide drift due to spraying.

Finally, the state’s abysmal logging rules ran head-on into Endangered Species Act protections for rare sea birds, called marbled murrelets, in

the Elliott State Forest. When plans to nearly double clearcutting levels were shut down by a court challenge, the Oregon Department of State Lands proposed to privatize the 90,000 acre public forest – home to the only significant tracts of old-growth left anywhere on state lands. The move sparked a massive backlash, and the agencies and members of the Oregon State Land Board (former Governor John Kitzhaber, then-Secretary of State Kate Brown, and Treasurer Ted Wheeler) were forced to backtrack.

#### Oregon’s real forest economy

Clearcutting is no longer a major source of employment in Oregon. But the frustration that conservationists feel over the backward thinking of Salem politicians when it comes to logging and the economy goes beyond this fact. In truth, clearcutting and aggressive logging of state and private lands is a major threat to the activities that do in fact bring new people, jobs, and investment to our state.

Today, tourism and outdoor recreation are among the fastest growing sectors of Oregon’s economy. A 2013 analysis of likely job growth by Georgetown University found that, in Oregon, employment in recreation and related industries is expected to grow by 31 percent by 2020 – far surpassing the 3 percent

expected job growth in logging and related industries. Their prediction is bolstered by recent data from the U.S. Department of the Interior, which found that in 2013, outdoor recreation in National Parks, Monuments, Wildlife Refuges, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in Oregon added nearly \$800 million to our state’s economy. In comparison, logging on BLM lands generated just ¼ of that economic activity.

And the value of our parks, forests, and rivers doesn’t end there. A study by the Outdoor Industry Association found outdoor recreation businesses in Oregon directly support 141,000 jobs. The Oregon Office of Economic Analysis puts the number for logging at just 30,000.

So why is there such a gap between political perception and economic and environmental reality? Logging interests in Oregon spend freely to buy political influence and maintain



MARIELLE COWDIN Oregon’s real forest economy exists in outdoor recreation, bringing immense value in job growth, state revenue, and tourism alongside benefits to the health of communities and our landscape as a whole.

weak environmental safeguards. In 2014 alone, former Governor John Kitzhaber received more than \$90,000 in campaign contributions from Roseburg Forest Products, Hampton Lumber, and Timber Products Corporation – making the three logging industry titans some of his largest campaign contributors. The industry also spends millions of tax dollars on public relations campaigns through the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (a quasi-state agency!) to lull Oregonians into a false sense of complacency.

### Turning the tide

For decades, King Clearcut has had its way in Oregon's state capital, and across hundreds of thousands of acres of forestlands and rivers. But there are green shoots of optimism amidst the frustrating landscape of past logging battles, and Oregon Wild is at the center of a number of fights to reform Oregon's outdated logging practices.

**Aerial Pesticide Spraying** – Earlier this year, State Senator Michael Dembrow and Representative Ann Lininger introduced Senate Bill 613, which would reform aerial chemical spraying by the logging industry by creating new buffers, requiring spray records to be made public, and requiring notice be given to neighboring landowners. The bill has been the subject of a brutal legislative

fight, but support from rural residents (more than 50 of whom showed up to lobby the legislature on March 12<sup>th</sup>) has shaken things up. As we head to press, the prospects for this bill don't look great, but "Timbercrats" in the Oregon Legislature know that we are here to fight.

**Elliott State Forest** – When the Oregon Department of State Lands tried to double the level of clearcutting on the Elliott, they found themselves in violation of state and federal environmental protection laws. Their first answer was to announce plans to privatize this 90,000 acre publicly forest – home to Oregon's only surviving tracts of significant old-growth on state lands. But an intense public backlash forced the agency, and the Oregon State Land Board, to backtrack. Now privatization is off the table, and there is growing momentum to turn the forest into a new State Park.

**Tillamook and Clatsop Conservation Areas** – As part of his environmental agenda, former Governor John Kitzhaber promised to establish real conservation areas on the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests – places where clean water, salmon, and wildlife would take priority. However, when the Oregon Department of Forestry announced plans for these areas earlier this year, they actually proposed to *increase* clearcutting, starting with the oldest

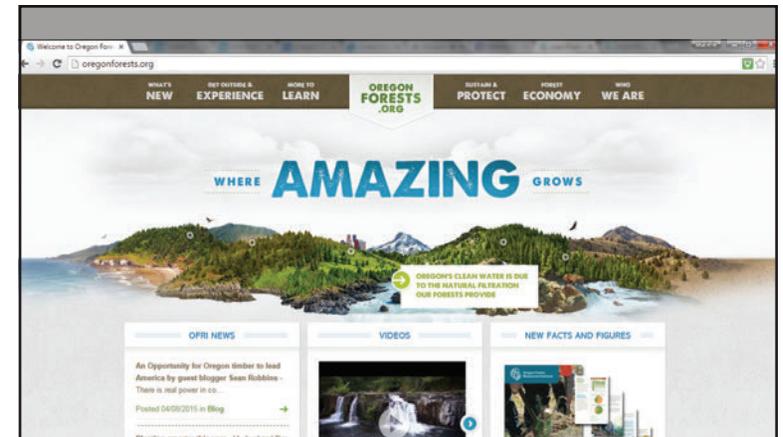
trees first. The agency was ill-prepared for the firestorm of controversy that erupted, and after an embarrassing fight, was forced to shelve the plan.

These openings may seem modest (how crazy is it that Oregonians can't get notice before toxic pesticides are sprayed on their house?). But in reality, they are huge when compared to how much power the logging industry has traditionally held in Salem.

These opportunities, and the urgent need to reform Oregon's abusive clearcut logging practices, has led Oregon Wild to become more involved in state logging issues. We are spending more time in front of the state legislature, participating in legal challenges over bad logging practices, and working to put pressure on Governor Kate Brown and other politicians. We are also working with a broad new coalition of groups, from Beyond Toxics to the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, to promote reforms.

For decades, King Clearcut has held the throne of Oregon environmental politics. It is time to remove his crown. ☺

**Take Action!**  
Oregon's forests need your voice. Stand up for our public lands – find out how at [oregonwild.org](http://oregonwild.org)



## Propaganda push-back

Jonathan Jelen, Development Coordinator

If you were exposed to toxic chemicals that made you or your family sick, wouldn't you want to find out what you've been exposed to?

Timber companies don't think so. In fact, the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) has a lot of beautifully-filmed commercials that would have you believe that Oregon has some of the best forestry practices on earth. But these ads from the mouthpiece of the timber industry couldn't be more wrong.

Despite Oregon's green reputation, the rules governing logging on state and private lands in our state are the

**weakest in the Pacific Northwest.** This is particularly true when it comes to the aerial application of toxic pesticides – where Oregon's weak rules not only fail to protect human and environmental health, but also bar Oregonians who have come into contact with toxic chemicals from finding out what they have been exposed to.

Oregon Wild is taking on the timber industry to protect human health, our watersheds, and our native fish and wildlife, but we need your help.

Please consider a special contribution today to help us protect human, salmon, and watershed health!

Oregon Wild proudly presents

# Oregon Wild SUMMER 2015

Find your wild. To register visit [www.oregonwild.org](http://www.oregonwild.org)

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



MARIELLE COWDIN



MARIELLE COWDIN

## Friday, June 12

Fall Creek – Old Growth and Fire Recovery (EUG)

Leader: Chandra LeGue  
(*Easy-Moderate, 4 miles*)

Spend a summer afternoon hiking through a classic old-growth forest and areas recovering from fire.

## 🌲 Saturday, June 13

Opal Creek Wilderness Ancient Forest (PDX)

Leader: Jonathan Jelen  
(*Moderate, 5-7 miles*)

Join us for a walk back in time to an ancient Oregon forest in one of the state's signature Wilderness areas.

## 🌲 Saturday, June 20

Lookout Mountain (BEND)

Leader: Sarah Cuddy  
(*Moderate, 7 miles*)

Hike through old-growth ponderosa and fir forests, climbing through open meadows with sweeping views east to Big Summit Prairie – a true Central Oregon gem.

## Saturday, June 27

Three Pyramids (EUG)

Leader: Chandra LeGue  
(*Moderate-Difficult, 5 miles*)

Hike through the heart of the spectacular Old Cascades in the Middle Santiam watershed for wildflower meadows and fantastic views.

## Sunday, June 28

Rosary Lakes "Women in the Wild" (EUG)

Leader: Ruby McConnell  
(*Moderate, 5.4 miles*)

Join Ruby McConnell, author of the soon-to-be-published book *A Woman's Guide to Wilderness*, for a hike to three lovely lakes just off the Pacific Crest Trail near Willamette Pass.

## Thursday, July 9

Grasshopper Meadow (EUG)

Leader: Chandra LeGue  
(*Moderate, 4 miles*)

Explore a beautiful old-growth forest and a fantastic example of a high-elevation meadow on this mid-summer adventure.

## 🌲 Friday, July 10

Hunchback Mountain (PDX)

Leader: Jonathan Jelen  
(*Very Difficult, 9 miles*)

One of the highest spots in the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness with a great viewpoint of Mount Hood.

REGISTER AT

WWW.OREGONWILD.ORG

**Thursday, July 16**  
Vista Ridge (PDX)

Leader: Jonathan Jelen  
(*Difficult, 7.6 miles*)

Join Oregon Wild on a hike to perhaps the most scenic trail on Mount Hood. We'll enjoy amazing views of the dramatic north side of Mount Hood and its glaciers.

**July 19-24**  
Crater Lake Proposed Wilderness Bonanza (PDX & EUG)

Leader: Bridget Callahan  
Join Oregon Wild for a week of hikes and camp outs in and around the Crater Lake Wilderness proposal, featuring old-growth forests and breathtaking waterfalls.

**Saturday, July 25**  
Lookout Mountain Loop (BEND)

Leader: Sarah Cuddy  
(*Moderate, 11 miles*)  
A high mountain hike through old-growth trees and wildflower meadows with panoramic views of the Ochoco Mountains.

**Tuesday, August 4**  
Herman Creek to Casey Creek (PDX)

Leader: Bridget Callahan  
(*Moderate, 7.4 miles*)  
Join Oregon Wild in the Mark O. Hatfield Wilderness along beautiful streams and waterfalls.

**Saturday, August 8**  
Upper McKenzie Waterfall Loop (EUG)

Leader: Chandra LeGue  
(*Easy, 2.6 miles*)  
Escape the summer heat with a gorgeous loop hike taking in two stunning waterfalls and an old-growth forest.

**Sunday, August 9**  
Mount Defiance (PDX)

Leader: Jonathan Jelen  
(*Very Difficult, 12 miles*)  
The roof of the Columbia River Gorge! And to get all the way up there, we'll have to earn it as we'll gain nearly 5,000 feet! This hike is not for the faint of heart.

**Wednesday, August 24**  
Boulder Lakes Loop (PDX)

Leader: Bridget Callahan  
(*Moderate, 6.3 miles*)  
Discover the aquamarine waters of one of the best-kept secrets in the Mount Hood National Forest.

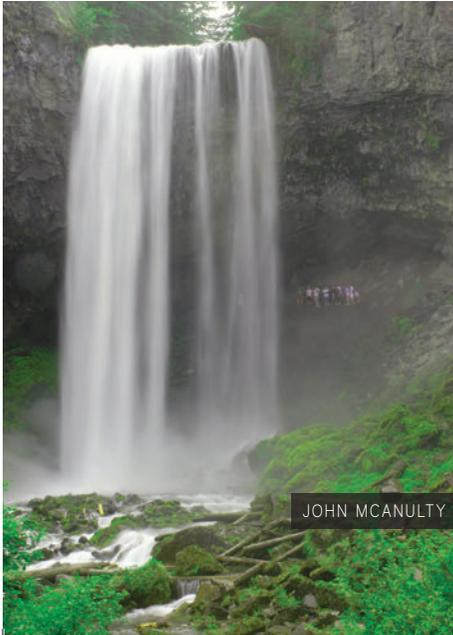
**Saturday, August 29**  
Salmon River Trail "Women in the Wild" (PDX)

Leader: Ruby McConnell  
(*Easy-Moderate, 5.5 miles*)  
Join Ruby McConnell, author of the soon-to-be-published book *A Woman's Guide to Wilderness*, for a hike through the incredible old-growth of the Salmon River Trail.

**Saturday, August 29**  
Timpanogas Lake & Cowhorn Mountain (EUG)

Leader: Chandra LeGue  
(*Difficult, 12 miles*)  
Explore the very highest elevations within the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed with this trek from Timpanogas Lake to the summit of Cowhorn Mountain south of the Diamond Peak Wilderness. This area is also the northern reaches of the Crater Lake Wilderness proposal.

 PROTECTED WILDERNESS
  PROPOSED WILDERNESS
  WATERSHED



JOHN MCANULTY

## A rendezvous...or two!

Throughout the summer and into fall, Oregon Wild is hosting these special trips and events for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and types! Mark your calendars and find the full list of happenings at [www.oregonwild.org/explore-oregon](http://www.oregonwild.org/explore-oregon)

**11th Annual Oregon Wild Outdoor Photo Contest**  
May 15-September 14  
(see back cover for details)

**Sixth Annual Northeast Oregon Wolf Rendezvous**  
June 18-June 21

Leaders: Rob Klavins & Quinn Read  
Wolves in Oregon are at a serious crossroads and their recovery hangs in the balance. What better way to understand this complex issue and these remarkable native predators than to walk in their footsteps in one of the most beautiful landscapes in the west?

**Klamath Basin Canoe & Kayak Trip**  
July 2-July 6

Leader: Wendell Wood  
Explore some of the Klamath Basin's slow water streams and marshes to see area bird life, and

learn about Oregon Wild's on-going conservation efforts to protect wetlands and designate Wilderness in the Crater Lake area of the southern Oregon Cascades.

**First Annual Crater Lake Area Wolf Rendezvous**  
September 17-20

Leaders: Bridget Callahan & Jonathan Jelen  
Don't stop believin'! Learn about wolf recovery through the lens of Oregon's first wolf pack west of the Cascades in nearly a century and explore this incredible region we're working to protect for bipeds and quadrupeds alike.

**Call of the Wild – a camp-inspired benefit for Oregon Wild**  
Friday, October 16th  
(Leftbank Annex, Portland)

WENDELL WOOD



# Oregon Brewshed® Alliance – protecting Oregon beer at its source

Marielle Cowdin, Outreach Coordinator



HOPWORKS URBAN BREWERY

Here in Oregon we enjoy recreation on pristine wildlands and impeccable craft brews – the ultimate pairing. But without protected watersheds and clean water, neither the wild landscapes nor the hoppy, malty beverages we enjoy could thrive. Beer is over 90% water after all, and that water is a product of the land it flows through, so our Northwest microbrews are intimately connected with our Northwest land. Great beer doesn't start at the tap; *great beer begins with clean water.*

As such, Oregon Wild is excited to announce the formation of the

Oregon Brewshed® Alliance – a coalition of brewers, craft beer affiliates, and conservationists committed to the protection of our forest watersheds and the incredible beer that depends on them. Charter members of the Alliance include **Widmer Brothers Brewing, Migration Brewing, and Hopworks Urban Brewery** in Portland; **Claim 52 Brewing** and **Elk Horn Brewery** in Eugene; **Fort George Brewery** in Astoria; and **GoodLife Brewing** in Bend. **Beers Made By Walking**, a group that invites brewers to make beer inspired by nature hikes, has also joined as an affiliate charter member.

Together, members of the Alliance work to educate the beer drinking community about protected watersheds and their essential role in Oregon's celebrated craft brewing industry with pint nights, special brews, beer fests, brewshed® hikes, and other events. It's an important conversation - Oregonians care about what they buy and consume (organic, local, eco-friendly, hand-crafted) and beer is no exception. We're a values-based community that invests in the quality of the products we enjoy through our consumer choices. By supporting the brewers committed to protecting forest watersheds through Oregon Wild's efforts, Oregonians speak up for great beer and the clean water required to make it.

And while it's nice to know that we have the power to purify sewage water for drinking and crafting beer, frankly, I'd rather not live in the post-apocalyptic wasteland that requires it. Pollution, mining, logging, pesticides (see feature page 4), and other development degrade many of our waterways, but we can take a stand to protect our public lands, our water, and our beer. Use the power of your voice, of your actions and consumer choices, to protect Oregon beer at its source. Nature is the best filtration system we can invest in. Our purest, best tasting water comes from rivers and streams flowing through unspoiled public forestlands, and our Oregon beer is testament.

Craft beer is in its renaissance and we exist at its heart. Let's keep that heart beating together, sustainably. ©



## Take Action!

Join the "I Heart Brewsheds®" email list to keep up-to-date with Alliance member news and events to find out how you can support brewshed® protection in Oregon. Find out more at [www.oregonwild.org/oregonbrewshedalliance](http://www.oregonwild.org/oregonbrewshedalliance)



## Colin P. Rath

Oregon Wild Board of Directors

"Water is one of, if not the, most important ingredients in beer. And here in Oregon we are very fortunate to have some of the best water in the country. Many breweries have to adjust the hardness or softness, as well as the pH of their water, to create and protect flavors they are looking to create with hops and barley. In Oregon we just naturally have water that allows us to create amazing beer, which means as brewers/brewery owners, we should help protect these water sources."

# Great Old Broads beyond the Caldera

Bridget Callahan, Wilderness Campaign Organizer



JUSTIN BAILIE Crater Lake is an Oregon icon, but it needs your help to stay wild for generations to come.

Crater Lake and its surrounding backcountry have inspired people since Mount Mazama exploded 7,700 years ago, creating the caldera we know today. Located in the heart of the Southern Cascades, this region provides clean drinking water, wildlife habitat, and world class recreation for millions. But unlike many national parks across the west like Joshua Tree or Yosemite, Crater Lake is not protected as Wilderness. This Oregon icon and incredible region deserve to be protected for future generations.

To help showcase this natural gem, Oregon Wild recently teamed up with the Great Old Broads for Wilderness. Together we visited the Crater Lake region to see the natural wonders both inside and out of the park boundaries. Long time hiker and conservationist Carol Savonen was part of this group.

Carol started visiting Crater Lake in 1981, conducting rare plant surveys around the National Park during the summer. Despite spending several months there, she had no idea what lay just outside the park boundaries until our trip. "I was blown away by

the giant trees, the diverse healthy forests, and overall Wilderness-quality outside the park boundaries. A lot of us Great Old Broads have been hiking for 50-plus years, and were really wowed by how beautiful this area is. This unspoiled land contiguous to the park is important to protect."

Many visitors don't realize that the wonders of Crater Lake don't stop at the park boundary. The Upper Rogue River Trail, for example, follows the Rogue River from its headwaters, meanders through old-growth forests and passes several breathtaking waterfalls. But because this area is outside the National Park boundary, it's unprotected and vulnerable to development.

But why do we need Wilderness protection inside the park? National Park designation means the wildlands are protected from mining and logging, but human enterprises such as helicopter tours or a gondola to Wizard Island remain possible. In 1959 such a proposal to Wizard Island was heralded by then Representative Charles Porter. "Everyone assumes because it's a national park it's already protected," says Carol. But until it is given Wilderness protection by law from current and future threats, it really isn't."

We're thankful for the support of Great Old Broads as we build this campaign across the state to permanently protect this natural



BRIDGET CALLAHAN Leaders of Great Old Broads for Wilderness explore the wildlands surrounding the national park.

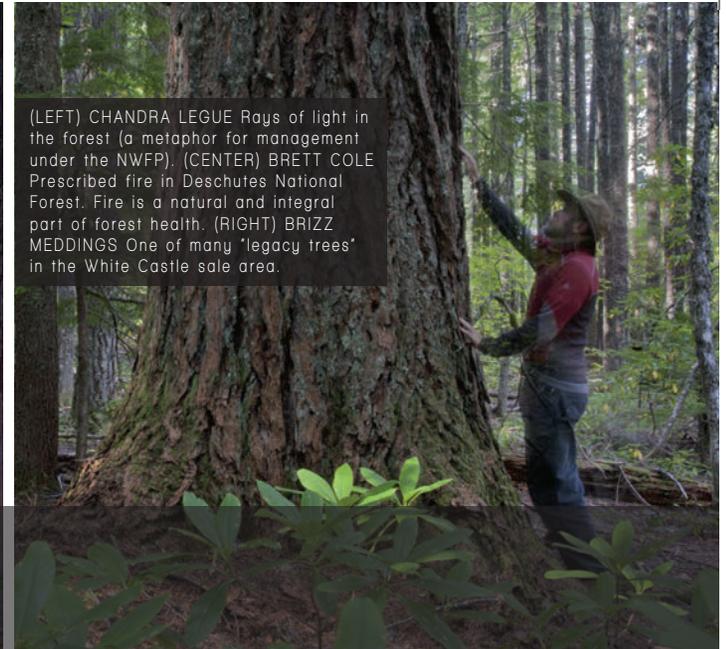
treasure, but we need your help too. Help us keep Crater Lake wild and take action today! ☺

Take Action!  
Sign our petition at [tinyurl.com/craterlakewild](http://tinyurl.com/craterlakewild) or join our business letter of support to show our elected officials that it's time to keep Crater Lake wild.



Hillary Barbour  
Oregon Wild Board of Directors

"Wilderness, for me, represents a gateway to solitude, perspective, and awe-inspiring beauty. Wilderness protection for places like Oregon's spectacular Crater Lake means that my daughter, and the generations that follow, will still be able to 'get lost' in the woods and share in that remarkable perspective that humans are but a small cog in nature's wheel."



(LEFT) CHANDRA LEGUE Rays of light in the forest (a metaphor for management under the NWFP). (CENTER) BRETT COLE Prescribed fire in Deschutes National Forest. Fire is a natural and integral part of forest health. (RIGHT) BRIZZ MEDDINGS One of many "legacy trees" in the White Castle sale area.

## Conservation round-up

Oregon Wild Conservation Staff

### A forest plan revisited

Since the landmark Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) was enacted just over 20 years ago, a lot has changed in the management of public lands in western Oregon – logging of old-growth forests has largely stopped, forests and watershed restoration has become a priority, fish and wildlife habitat is recovering, and areas of common ground between different interests has been found.

Unfortunately, both the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service appear willing to dramatically change the NWFP – and not for the better. The BLM's recent draft of their new

management plan for western Oregon considers changes that weaken streamside protections and call for an increase of logging in wildlife habitat.

The Forest Service is also considering how they might revise their management plans. They held well-attended listening sessions in March, and hopefully they heard loud and clear that the public wants their forests protected.

### Fire, naturally

With low snowpack levels and drought conditions prevalent across the state, Oregon may be gearing up for a very active fire season. While we're often saddened to see a favorite

grove of old-growth forest burn, it's good to remember that wildfires are actually an integral part of forest health.

Many plant and wildlife species have evolved to tolerate fire or even depend on the conditions created by it for food, shelter, and reproduction. The biggest mistake we can make is rush to "salvage log" areas that have burned by removing dead trees still providing great habitat and by producing simplified tree farms instead of complex, natural forests.

Not every forest fire is a natural disaster needing immediate snuffing; we must acknowledge the natural and beneficial role that fire plays in the health of Oregon's forests

### Clearcutting – kind of a big deal

Last year, the BLM took a turn down memory lane with a clearcut proposal for a stand of centennial trees. Part of a "Pilot Project" promoting clearcutting as "ecological forestry," the initial results from similar projects looked devastating. Oregon Wild and Cascadia Wildlands sued BLM on the most egregious sale – the White Castle timber sale on Roseburg BLM lands, located in critical habitat for the spotted owl.

On March 14, Judge Ann Aiken ruled in our favor on virtually all counts. The court agreed that clearcutting the 100-year-old forest at White Castle required far more careful environmental review and

analysis, instead of the shortcuts used by BLM. The court also agreed that BLM failed to take a "hard look" at the likely significant effects of this project.

As a pilot project, BLM was hoping this new clearcutting experiment could be precedent setting. We're not sure how they will respond to the court's ruling, but we expect this may not be the last you'll hear of BLM's clearcut regression. ☺

### Take Action!

Comment on the BLM's draft management plan revisions before mid-July. Visit [www.oregonwild.org/forests](http://www.oregonwild.org/forests) for more info.



ODFW Wenaha wolf pack pup, summer 2014.

# Wildlife round-up

Quinn Read, Wildlife Coordinator

## Bad wildlife bills have their day

There's no refuge for wildlife in the Oregon Legislature. As the session heats up, a host of worrisome wildlife bills have been granted hearings in key committees. Here's the rundown:

**HB 2050:** Allows counties to opt out of a state law that bans hunting cougars with dogs. This bill sets a dangerous precedent (what laws might counties opt out of next?) and is patently bad for cougars.

**HB 3140 and HB 3188:** Establish predator control districts to facilitate killing Oregon's native predators.

**HB 3514:** Continues and expands compensation to ranchers who lose livestock due to wolf depredation. It also weakens the requirements to collect tax-funded compensation dollars. This bill ignores the fact that as Oregon's wolf population has gone up, the number of depredations has gone down.

**HB 3515:** This bill, which was granted a hearing, would have prohibited gray wolves from ever being protected as threatened or endangered under state endangered species law. Fortunately, thanks to the many Oregon Wild members and supporters who took time to write to their legislators, HB 3515 was defeated! Your voice matters and this is proof.

Oregon Wild is working hard to make sure the other bills do not move forward, but we need your help. Please take a moment to write to your legislators and ask them not to support these bad wildlife bills.

## On the brighter side

Representative Ken Helm deserves our thanks and support for his sponsorship of HB 2537, a bill to increase penalties for poaching wildlife.

Additionally HB 2401, the Wild Bird Conservation Fund bill that taxes wild bird seed to support bird conservation, is gathering positive momentum. We will be throwing our support behind these and other bills that make a positive difference for Oregon's wildlife.

## Hanging in the balance

On the wolf front, we are gearing up for two big actions by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission that could compromise the continued recovery of our still fragile wolf population. The Commission will undertake a review of the Oregon wolf management and conservation plan, and it will begin the process to delist wolves from the state endangered species act. Taken together, 2015 is shaping up to be a landmark year for Oregon's 77 wolves. ☹️



## Take Action!

We are doing everything we can, but we cannot do it without you. Join Oregon Wild Ones - our wildlife activist network and training series - for opportunities to speak for wildlife and programs to help you build skills and confidence as an activist. Please contact [qr@oregonwild.org](mailto:qr@oregonwild.org) for more information.



Danielle Grabiell,  
Oregon Wild Board of  
Directors

"I want my children to inherit an Oregon with salmon teeming in its rivers, otters splashing in the tide and wolves howling at the moon. When I see the natural world through their eyes, I experience joy in its purest form and I feel tremendous responsibility to care for our wild places and creatures."

It's been pretty easy over the last two years to get caught up in our state's big tourism promotion campaign – the *Seven Wonders of Oregon*. No doubt, places like the Painted Hills and Mount Hood are not only beautiful but big-time drivers of our economy.

In contrast, we bring you the *10 Blunders of Oregon* – more commonly known as Oregon's 10 Most Endangered Places of 2015.

While it's fun and important to celebrate all that our natural wonders can provide, it's equally important to take stock of what is at risk. Sadly, there are some truly amazing places facing logging, mining, ATV abuse, dirty energy export schemes, and more. Without further ado, here's the list:



STAN NEWMAN Located on the north side of Coos Bay, the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area harbors some of the rarest plant ecosystems in Oregon. The Jordan Cove Terminal is proposed to be built on a sand dune on the north spit of Coos Bay, and a massive dredging project would be required in the bay for pipelines and huge LNG ships.



LARRY OLSON It's hard to imagine ATVs zipping between the yellow-bellied Ponderosas of the Ochoco Mountains, but that's what a new Forest Service proposal would allow.

## Oregon's 10 Most Endangered Places of 2015

### #1 COOS BAY

*Threat:* Massive dredging to make way for LNG export facility and supertankers shipping off to Asia

### #2 SISKIYOU RIVERS

*Threat:* Proposal for industrial nickel mining in salmon-rich waters by a foreign owned conglomerate

### #3 KLAMATH BASIN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

*Threat:* Overuse of natural water supply by industrial agriculture exacerbated by years of drought leaving wildlife high and dry

### #4 JOSEPH CANYON

*Threat:* Proposed logging in old-growth forests and roadless areas

### #5 COLUMBIA RIVER

*Threat:* Massive proposals to ship oil, coal, and LNG down the river, risking pollution and climate change

### #6 CRATER LAKE REGION, JUST WEST OF THE PARK

*Threat:* The misguided Bybee Timber Sale threatens to clearcut forests right up to the park boundary in the headwaters of the beloved Rogue River

### #7 OCHOCO MOUNTAINS

*Threat:* Summit Off Highway Vehicle proposal that would open up backcountry trails to ATV abuse

### #8 MOUNT HOOD

*Threat:* Proposed Polallie Cooper Timber Sale that would see logging in Wilderness-quality lands near a popular Mount Hood trail

### #9 ELLIOTT STATE FOREST

*Threat:* Efforts by Oregon politicians to sell off large swaths of Oregon's only state forest with significant old-growth stands

### #10 OWYHEE CANYONLANDS

*Threat:* Combined pressures from ATVs, gold and uranium mining, and oil and gas development

### Take Action!

Learn more about Oregon's 10 Most Endangered Places at [oregonwild.org/10MostEndangered2015](http://oregonwild.org/10MostEndangered2015) and find out how you can take action to protect these special places.

# Keeping it wild

Featuring the supporters, foundations, businesses, and volunteers that make our work possible.  
This issue's focus: wildlife activists!



COURTESY OF WALLY SYKES

*Wally Sykes is an Oregon Wild member and activist in the heart of Oregon's wolf country. He's been a staple on our Wolf Rendezvous trips as a hike leader and has been a strong voice for wolf recovery. Wally has also served on Wallowa County's Wolf Compensation Committee since its inception in 2012.*

How did you begin your career as an activist? Why wolves?

I've always been a lover of the wild, but it was my dog being caught in a fur trap in 2007 that made me an activist. Montana activists invited me to the North American Wolf Conference in 2008 where I learned much and met many, both pro-and anti-wolf. When wolves showed up next year near my home, I presented the documentary "Lords of Nature" along with a discussion panel of ranchers, wildlife advocates, and agency officials. It was quite a lively evening. A few days later, the Imnaha pack "visited" a nearby ranch, causing "excitement" in the livestock community.



ODFW



ED & LOIS BERNARD Oregon Wild's Northeast Oregon Wolf Rendezvous is now in its sixth year.

My family loves dogs, and the wolf is the ur-dog. Wolves are beautiful. They embody our most lauded virtues: loyalty, courage, endurance, intelligence, family, and wit (they have a sense of humor.). They're our oldest friends.

While the most outspoken voices within the ranching community are vehemently anti-wolf, what's your sense of how the broader community perceives wolves?

There's a wide spectrum of opinion. Some ranchers demonstrate by their actions that they accept wolves, but you won't hear them say so. No local rancher has ever told me he was wolf-friendly. The social constraints within the livestock community inhibit speaking against the

perceived grain, which is set by the anti-wolf faction and certain media outlets.

You've played a key role in our annual Wolf Rendezvous. What changes have you seen in participants over the course of the three-day trip?

One change is in the appreciation of the modern wolf environment. It includes private and public lands serving many economic functions. It's not just wolves in a wilderness. Seeing fresh wolf signs is thrilling, but getting a rounded view of the issues from wildlife managers, ranchers and biologists is important in the context of promoting wolf recovery, and providing this is the great benefit of the Rendezvous.

What aspects of Oregon Wild's work most resonate with you?

What first brought me into contact with Oregon Wild was wolf advocacy, but since then I've been impressed with the organization's devotion to preserving and expanding wild places and intact ecosystems, which to me translates as wildlife habitat.

What would you say to Oregonians that want to take action and recover native wildlife?

Be informed. Be vocal. Be a pain in the butt (i.e. contact your legislators). Be supportive of conservation organizations. Enjoy wildlife. ©

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## 2015 Oregon Wild OUTDOOR PHOTO CONTEST

### The Oregon spectrum.

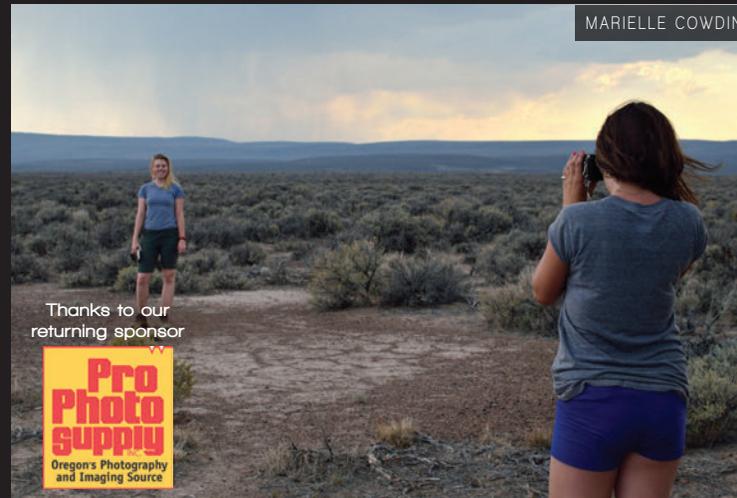
For over a decade, the Oregon Wild Outdoor Photo Contest has been a platform for stunning portraits of the state we call home. Amateur and professional photographers alike have submitted incredible images of mountainscapes, rivers, and elusive creatures that embody our ideal Oregon. This year, we're expanding the contest aesthetic to include Oregon's dark side – giving a face to the issues we must address to keep our state pristine and wild. Nature photographers are conservation photographers, so we're calling on you and your superior eye to capture it all. Send us the scenic and the tragic; the light and the dark – the full Oregon spectrum.

Photographers of all ages and skill can enter photos in the 11th annual Outdoor Photo Contest's four main categories: *Wildlands, Wildlife, Waters, and Endangered Places* – this year subtitled **Oregon: high contrast**, featuring the state and private logging practices that impair and threaten our landscape.

Great prizes from Pro Photo Supply and other local businesses for the winners, and their work will be showcased in Oregon Wild publications. Winners will be announced at our biggest party of the year – *Call of the Wild* – on October 16 at Leftbank Annex.

See contest rules and submit your photos at [www.oregonwild.org/photo-contest](http://www.oregonwild.org/photo-contest). Sponsorship inquiries welcome.

All submissions due by September 14, 2015



Join Oregon Wild supporters, scientists, authors, outdoor businesses, and more for the **2015 Oregon Wilderness Conference** May 15-16 in downtown Portland.

Kicking things off **Friday, May 15th** is a **FREE** wilderness inspired block party, "NW 13th and Wild" at Keen Footwear headquarters. Join us for live music, games, food and ale, all in celebration of Oregon's wild places. Family-friendly and open to the public, with free beer and wine to those with a conference pass. Conference on May 16<sup>th</sup> begins with a keynote address from distinguished author and conservationist Kenneth Brower.

Visit [oregonwild.org/wildcon2015](http://oregonwild.org/wildcon2015) to register or contact Bridget at [bc@oregonwild.org](mailto:bc@oregonwild.org)