

Public Forest Protection 101



- Public land protections
- Federal governance
- Law and policy
- On the ground
- Weighing in
- Public advocacy
- 201 follow-up

Your voice matters!



Protecting our Natural Treasures

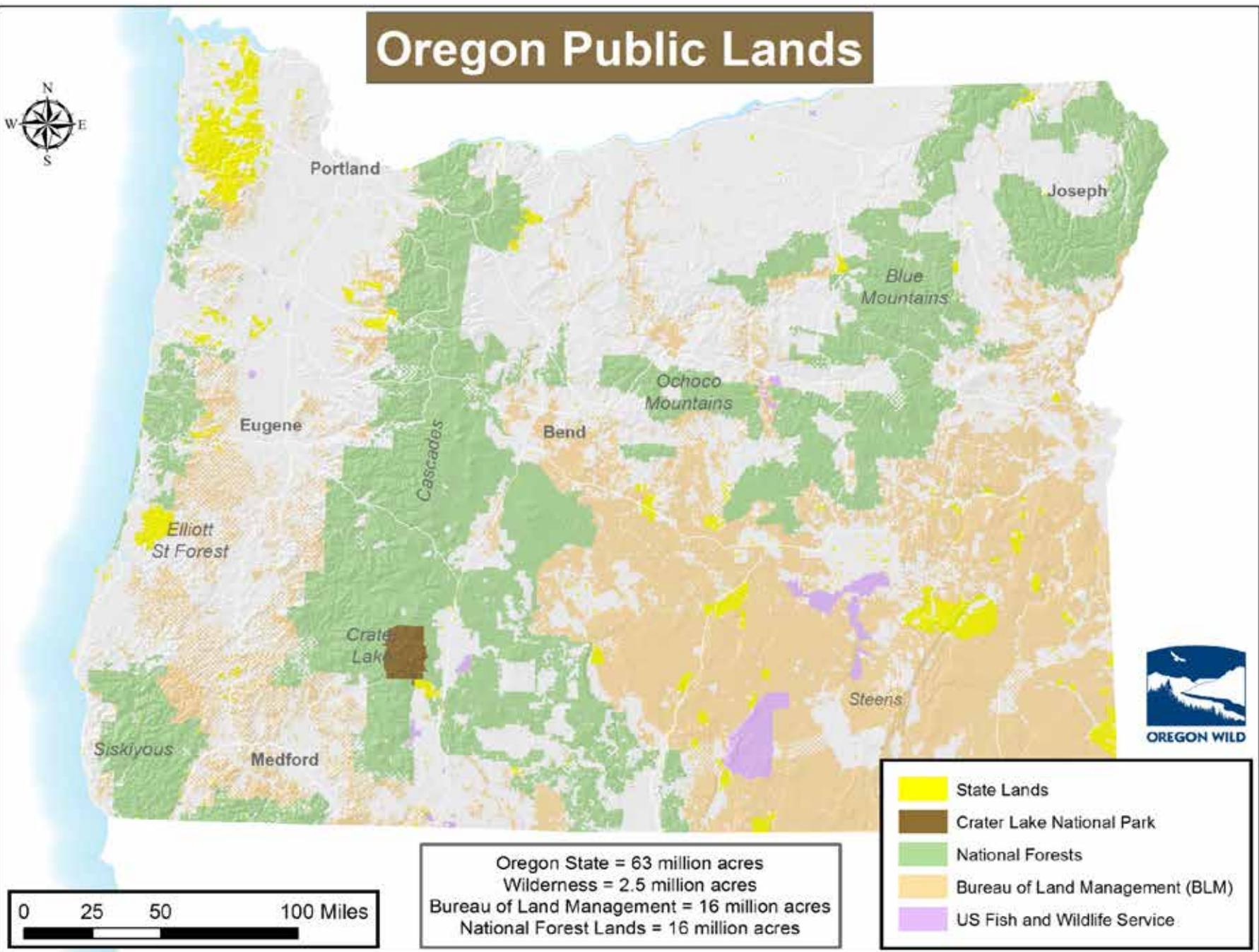




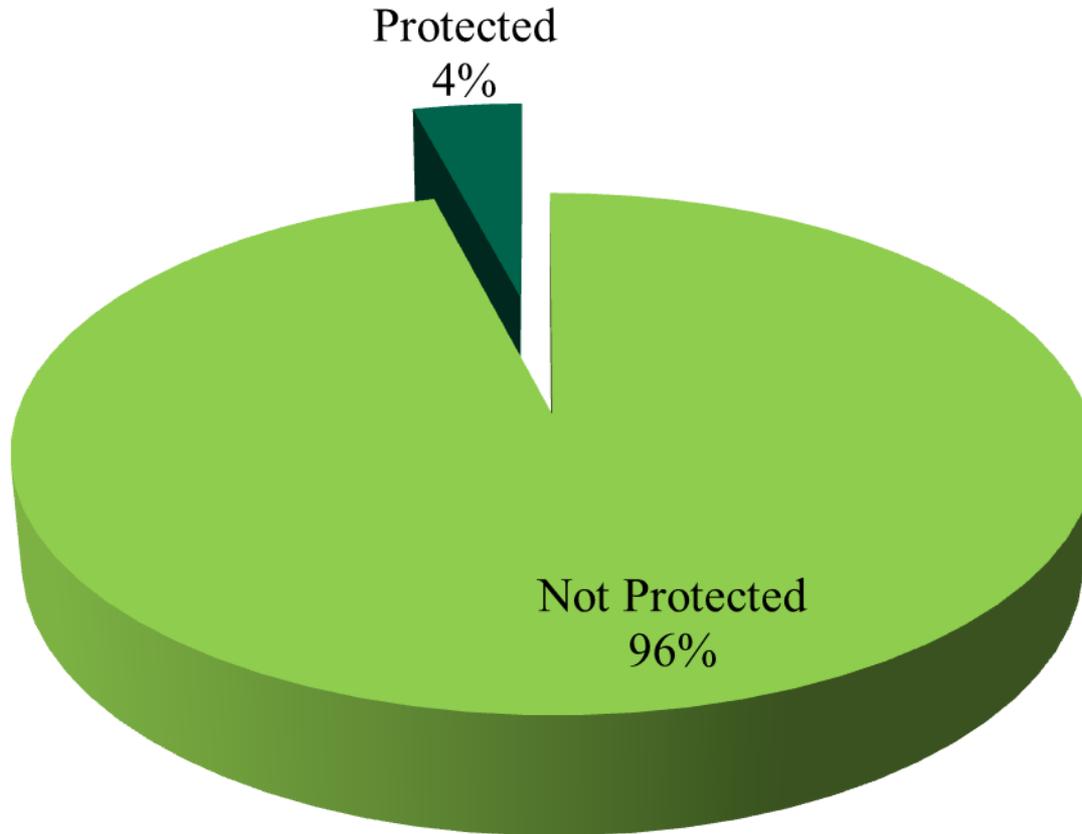
Staving off ongoing
threats and
setbacks to public
lands



Oregon Public Lands



What Percent of Oregon is Protected?



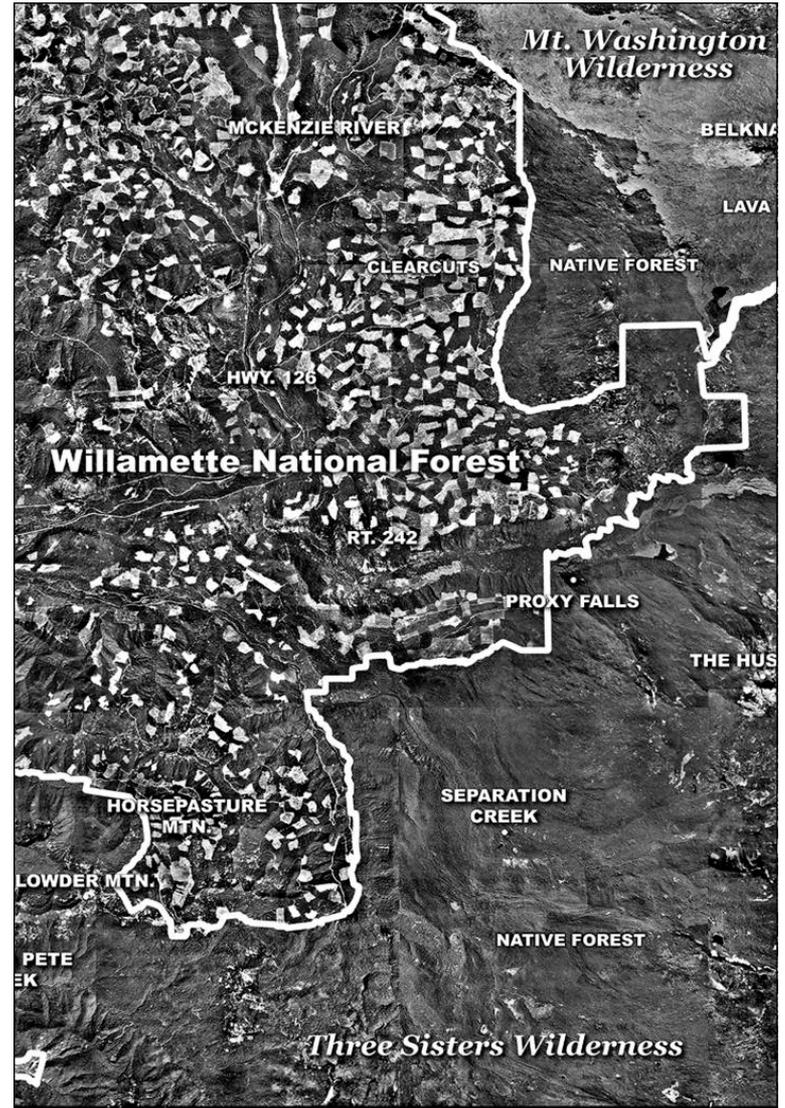
The Legacy of Past Logging



Umpqua National Forest, Oregon

THE DESTRUCTION OF YOUR PUBLIC FORESTS BY THE TIMBER INDUSTRY AND THE FOREST SERVICE

Nature From Clouds, P.O. Box 2706 Eugene, OR 97402-0706, www.naturefromclouds.org

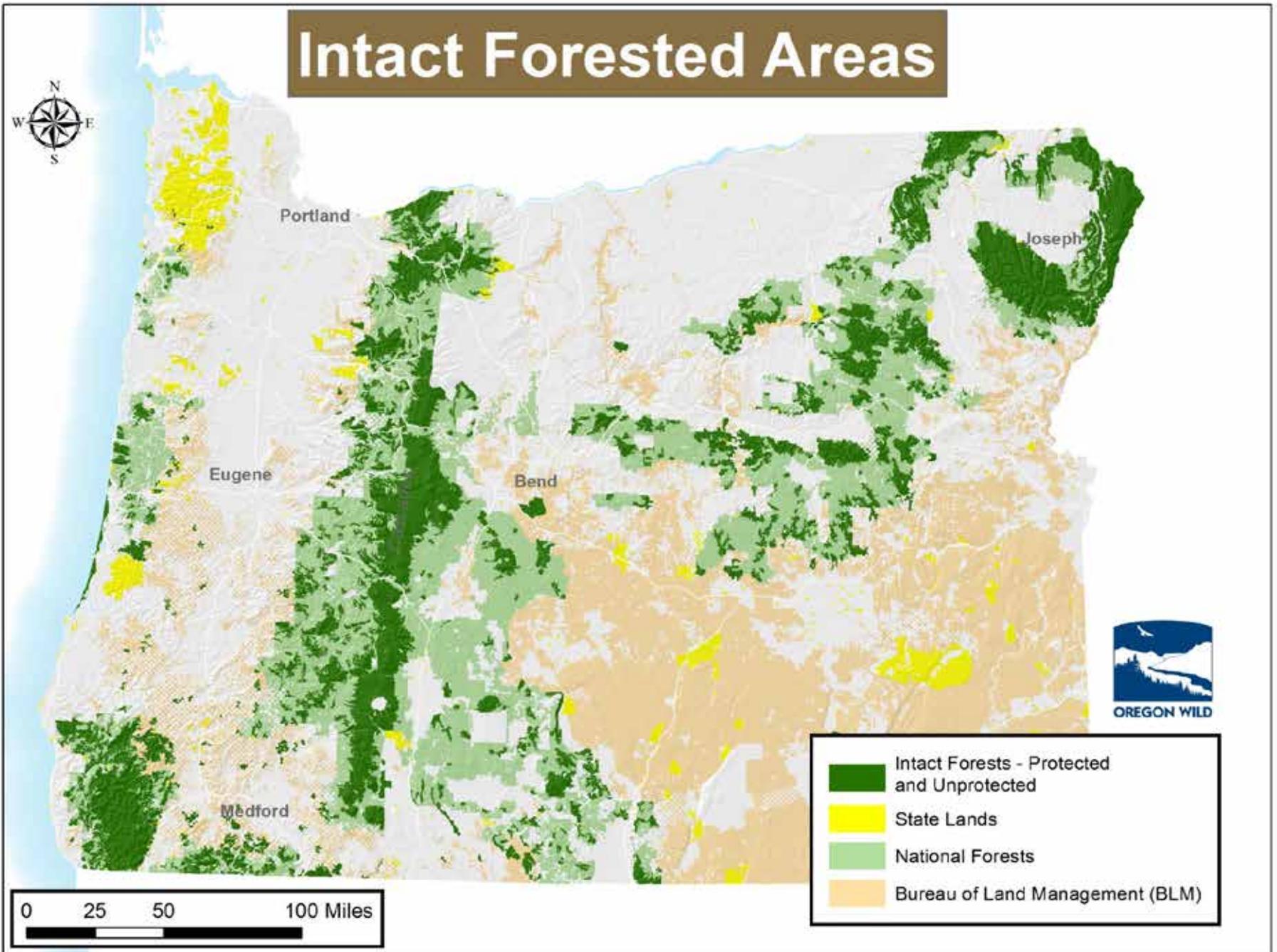


Willamette National Forest, Oregon

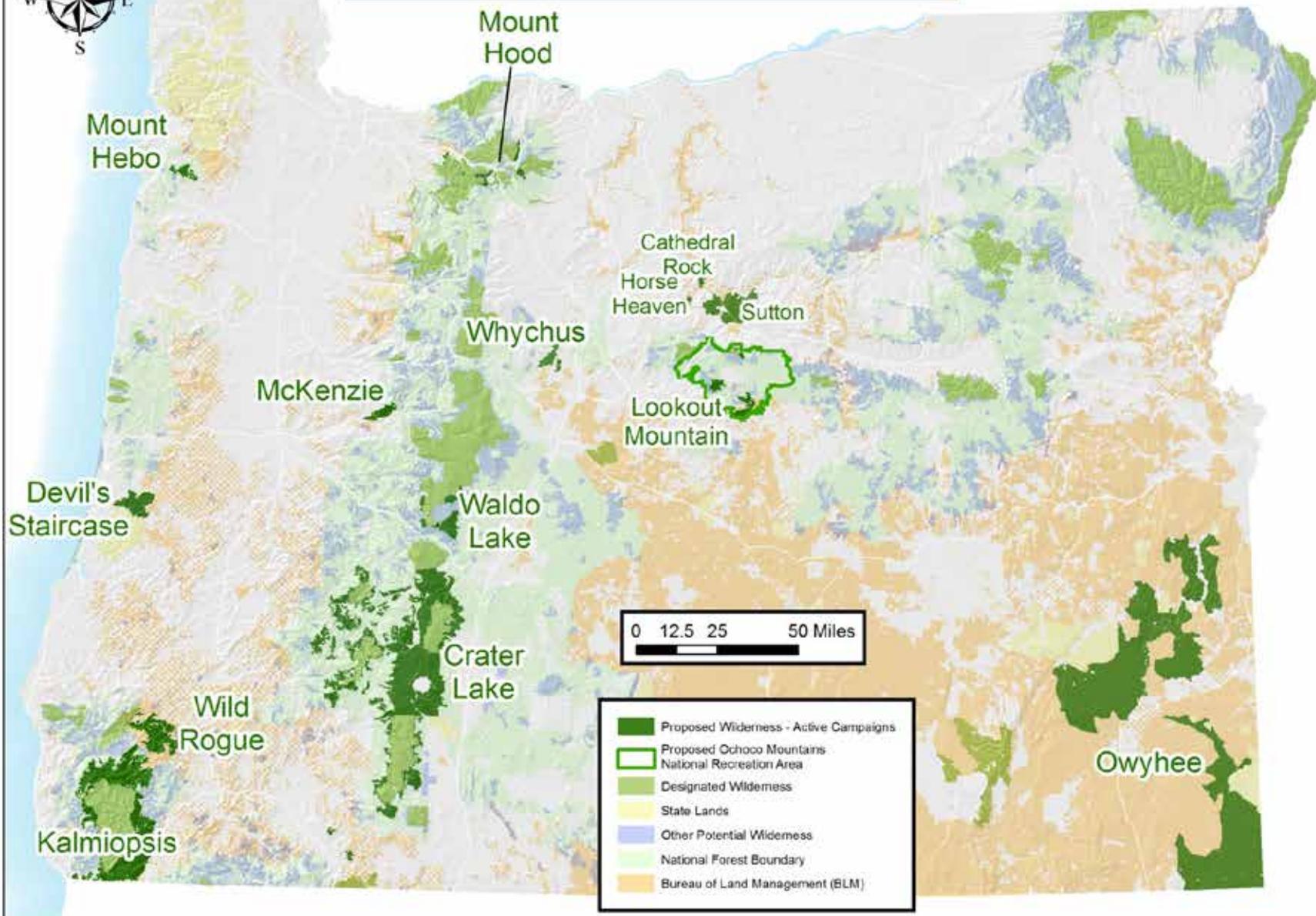
THE DESTRUCTION OF YOUR PUBLIC FORESTS BY THE TIMBER INDUSTRY AND THE FOREST SERVICE

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Intact Forested Areas



Oregon Wilderness Campaigns



Threats to Public Lands

- n Management plan revisions dismantle Northwest Forest Plan
- n Timber sales that target some of our last older forests and impact threatened wildlife
- n Efforts in Congress to weaken environmental laws
- n Legislation in Congress to increase logging at the expense of water quality, fish & wildlife habitat, restoration, and public participation.
- n Resource extraction and anti-wildlife advocates generating fear and misinformation in the public





“Resilient Federal Forests Act” (HR 2936):

A major threat to public
lands across the nation

- Threatens bedrock environmental laws.
- Reduces public input and environmental analysis
- Mandates huge logging increases at the expense of healthy forests, wildlife habitat, real fuel reductions
- Makes forests less resilient to fires

- Rescinds protections for O&C forest lands, including existing Wilderness and the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument
- Elevates logging above all other uses of O&C lands



THIS LAND IS OUR LAND

#PROTECT PUBLIC LANDS

Direct your efforts to the right place



What are you trying to influence?	Who is the best target?	What are your avenues for influence?
Rules & policy	Boards, agencies, commissions	Public hearings and meetings, written comments, oral testimony, join local boards or commissions
Laws & regulations	Legislators	Town hall meetings, lobby visits, petitions, phone calls, ballot initiatives, run for office
Public opinion	Media, friends, general public	LTEs, opeds, social media, peer network, public forums, rallies



Federal Government



What entity?	Jurisdiction?	Additional Influence?
Legislators (elected)	Making laws that apply to federal public lands	State and county elected officials, local agencies
Congressional Committees	Decide which bills get hearings and how they get lumped together or amended	
The President (POTUS)	Veto legislation, executive orders, use of Antiquities Act, recommendations to agencies	International agreements
Federal Courts	Deciding on matters of contested law, settling lawsuits	Agency direction



Federal Government



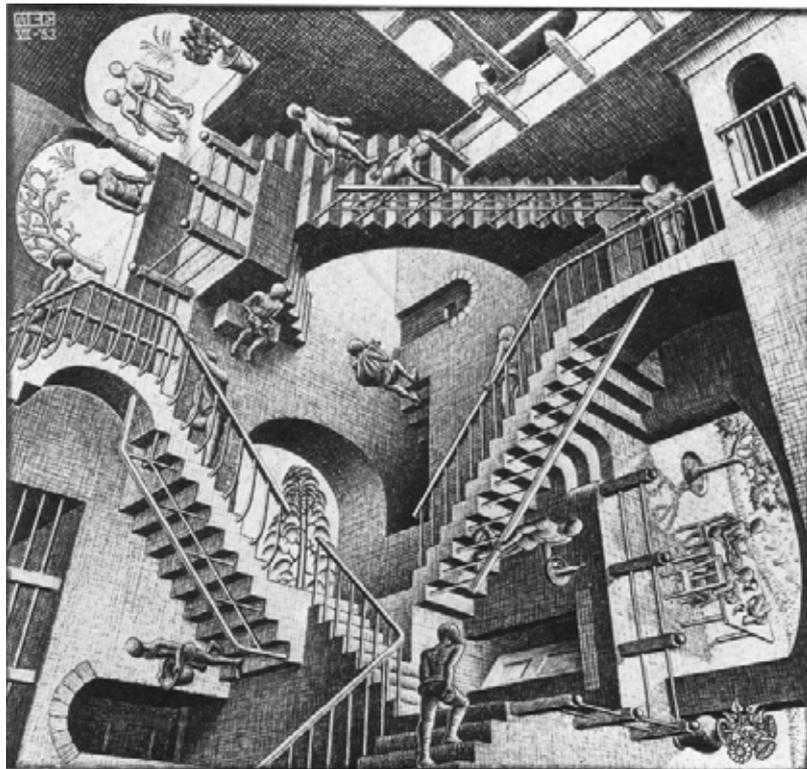
What entity?	Jurisdiction?	Additional Influence?
Administration/Agency heads (appointed by POTUS)	Setting internal direction, creating high-level plans, implementing laws, setting policy.	President, experts for legislators
- US Dept. of Agriculture	Forest Service	
- US Dept. of the Interior	BLM, National Park Service, Fish & Wildlife	
Local agency offices	Implementing policies and plans. Site-specific analysis, planning, and decisions for on-the-ground activities like logging.	
- National Forests		
- BLM Districts		

Not so simple...



The lines of command and influence are not always direct, and these different levels and entities can interact with each other in very complicated ways. A few examples:

- § City or county elected officials weighing in on a proposed National Monument or Wilderness area sends a message to Congress about local support or opposition. Industry lobbyists and environmental groups often solicit these endorsements.
- § Congressional Rep. DeFazio has weighed in on state law (HB4040) and local agency decisions (controversial timber sales).
- § Federal courts can force agencies to follow the law, which can result in the President or Congress getting involved to change the law or direction, and the agency to do a big planning process and policy change (as in the case of the Northwest Forest Plan).



Federal Laws that Apply to Public Lands

- Protective laws like the **Wilderness Act** or **Wild & Scenic Rivers Act**, **Clean Water Act**
- **Endangered Species Act (ESA)**– requires plan for recovery of species, protection of habitat, mitigation of harm
- **National Forest Management Act (NFMA)** – applies to USFS
- **Federal Land Policy & Management Act (FLPMA)** – applies to BLM which require comprehensive management plans;
- **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** - requires disclosure of environmental impacts, consideration of alternatives to a proposed action, and public input

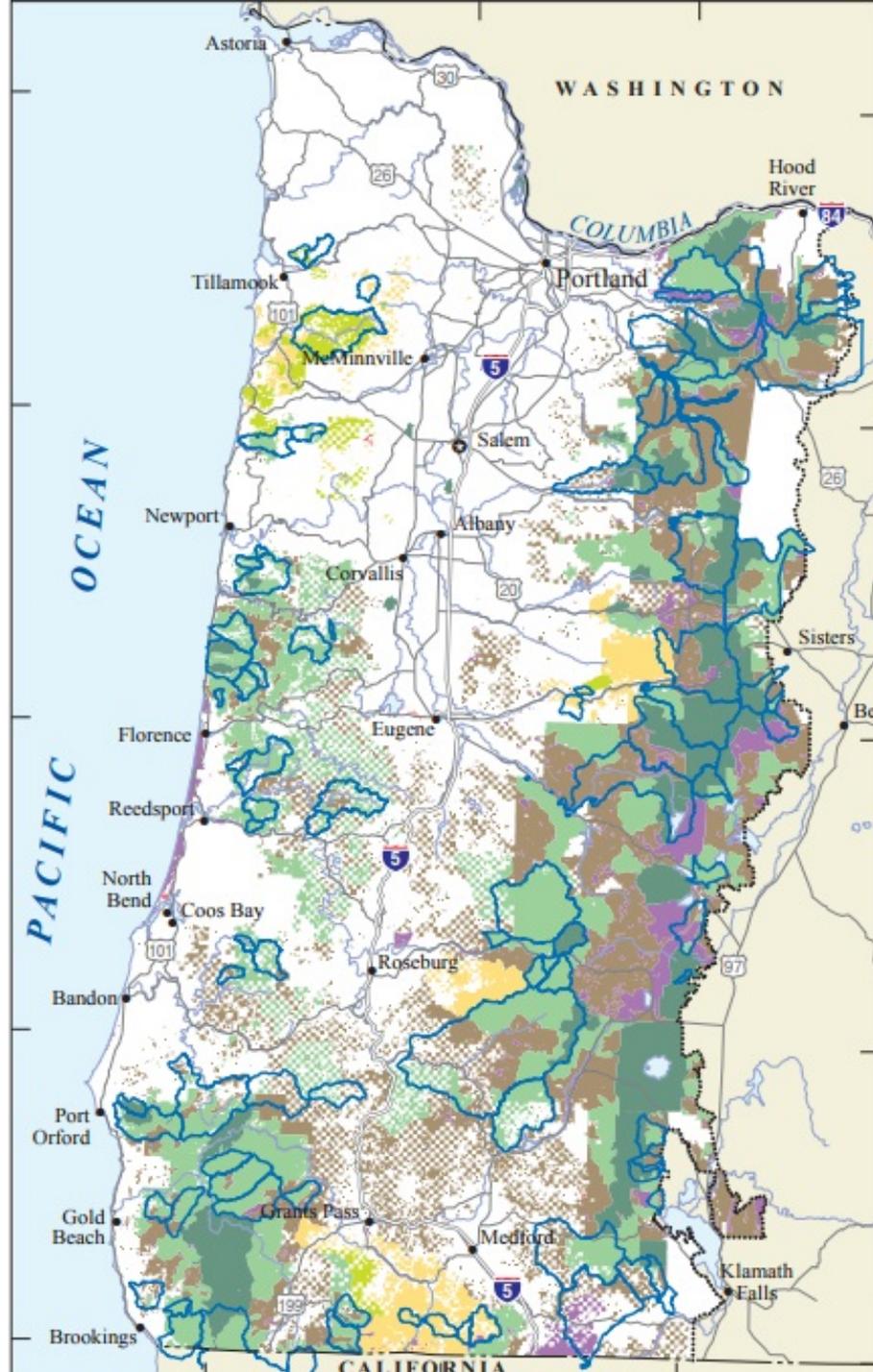


Policy Highlight: Northwest Forest Plan

- § Policies must integrate and comply with federal laws.
- § Northwest Forest Plan is a policy for management of certain public lands in Oregon, Washington, and northern California.
 - Consists of 4 land allocations, which dictate what management actions can be taken in each type of area:
 - Late Successional Reserves (LSRs)
 - Matrix
 - Adaptive Management Areas (AMAs)
 - Riparian Reserves
 - And 3 mitigation measures/processes:
 - Watershed Analysis
 - Aquatic Conservation Strategy
 - Survey and Manage mitigation measures



Northwest Forest Plan Allocations



LEGEND

Land Allocations

(Land allocations on this map depict major mapped features of the NWFP and reflect the land allocation hierarchy in the NWFP Record of Decision. Riparian Reserves overlap other land allocations and are not displayed separately)

-  Congressionally Reserved Area
-  Late-Successional Reserve (LSR)
(Not shown: LSRs associated with some species sites)
-  Adaptive Management Reserve
(Category depicts LSRs within Adaptive Management Areas)
-  Adaptive Management Area
-  Administratively Withdrawn Area
(Only major categories are shown)
-  Other Area
(Category depicts a mix of Matrix, Riparian Reserves, and other unmapped land allocations)
-  No NWFP Designation

Boundaries

-  Key Watershed
-  Northwest Forest Plan Boundary

BLM's Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon

Laws that apply: FLPMA, ESA, NEPA, O&C Act

- Process begun 2012 with scoping, public input sessions.
- DEIS released in April 2015, with 90 day comment period.
- FEIS and Proposed RMP released April 2016, with 30 day protest period.
- Decision summer 2016.
- Appeals and litigation ongoing.

New management plan:

- shrinks streamside buffers,
- increases clear-cut style logging,
- reduces protections for wildlife.

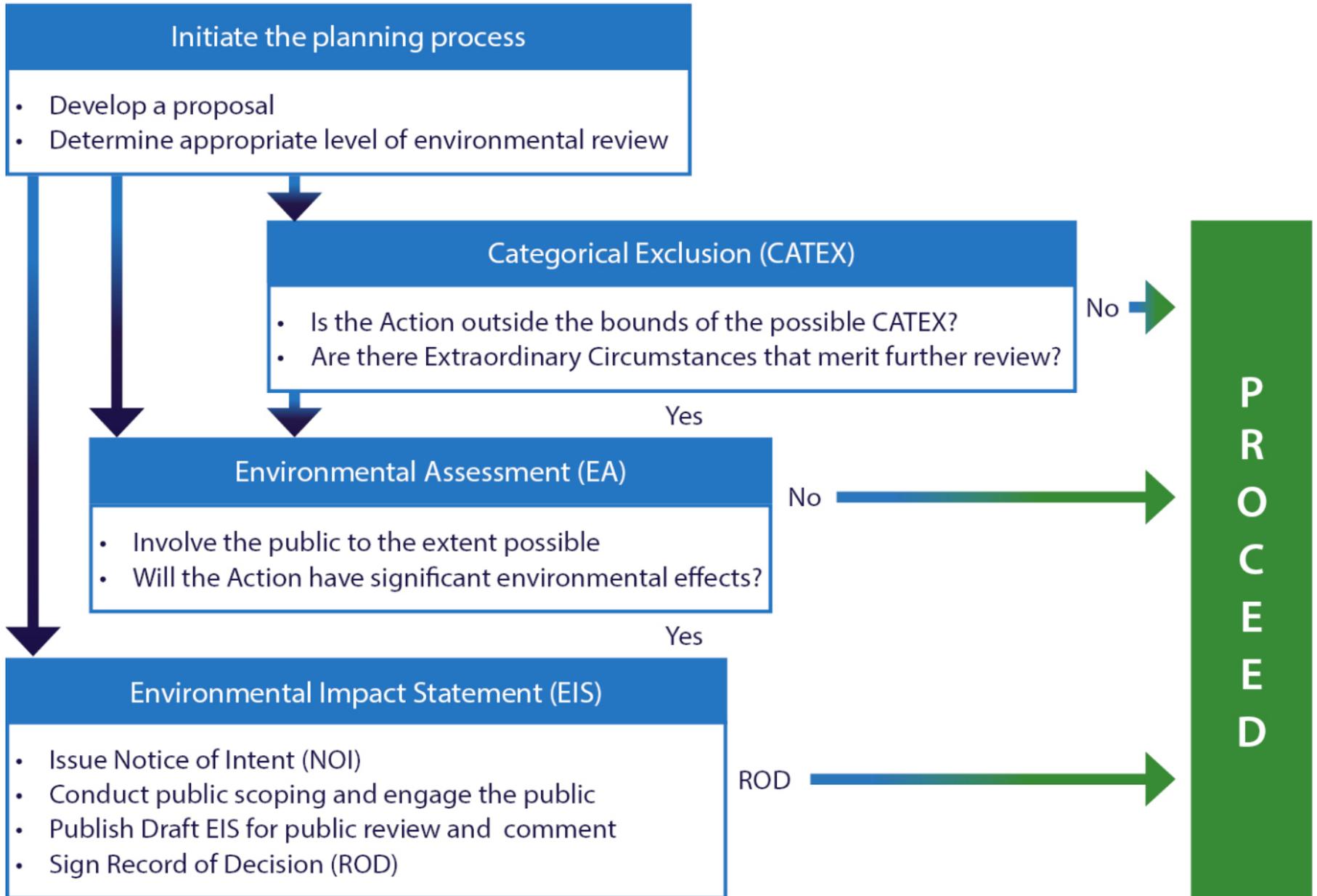
NEPA Demystified (?)

- Requires all federal agencies to complete an analysis of the significant impacts of activities and weigh and consider alternatives to proposed plans.*
- Public agencies are legally required to consider public opinion in the development of plans and projects that impact the environment.*
- Project analyses must state a “purpose and need” for the project, and any alternatives developed must meet that purpose and need.
- Most analyzes must compare the effects of the proposed action and all reasonable alternatives, including the “no action” alternative.*
- The analysis must include direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed action as well as any “connected actions” that are closely related.*



** Agencies don't always do a good job of this.*

The NEPA Process



Levels of Analysis



- Environmental review under NEPA can follow one of three alternate pathways, which involve increasing levels of analysis and public involvement depending on how much impact they are likely to have:
 - **Categorical Exclusions (CE or CX):** A very rudimentary analysis that is used when the agency finds there are no “extraordinary circumstances” and if the proposed action falls under defined categories of activities.
 - **Environmental Assessments (EA):** A mid-level of analysis for proposals that are unlikely to cause “significant impact.” Most projects follow this path.. One of the purposes of an EA is to determine whether effects might be “significant” thereby triggering an EIS.
 - **Environmental Impact Statements (EIS):** The highest level of analysis for proposals expected to cause significant environmental impacts.

What type of "projects"?

- Thinning
- Regeneration harvest
- Variable retention harvest
- Ecological forestry
- Pre-commercial thinning
- Fuels reduction
- Fire salvage
- Pipelines
- Hazard reduction



A clearcut by any other name...

- New style of clearcutting known as “variable retention harvest” piloted on BLM lands.
- Increasing across landscape under new BLM plan.



Buck Rising “VRH” sale logged in 2013

What type of “projects”?



- Stream restoration
- Road decommissioning
- Riparian thinning or restoration
- Invasive species treatments
- Prescribed fire
- Grazing
- Recreation trails & facilities

Common Sense Vision for Forest Management



- Protect all the remaining mature and old-growth forests.
- Focus efforts on ecological restoration of dense young forests, crumbling roads, degraded streams, weeds, and native fire regimes.
- Consider importance of intact forests on climate change, and ramifications of management
- Reduce fuels where needed near homes and communities.

Weighing in matters!

Oregon Wild participation in 2016-2017:

- Commented on 224 projects (half of what we saw)
- Unquantifiable number of changes made through process to address our concerns
- Filed 35 objections, protests, or appeals
- 18 positive outcomes of challenges where changes were made to address our concerns
- Asked supporters to weigh in on a mere dozen proposals



Dear Oregon Wild Supporter,

The McKenzie River and its tributaries are well known for clear, clean water, beautiful ancient forests, and nearby (exceptional) recreation – from hiking and biking, to fishing and rafting. Over the past several decades, much of this pristine watershed was logged – including vast stretches of the Willamette National Forest. The intact forests that remain form the backdrop to the scenic highways, trails, and waterways so many people enjoy.



The McKenzie River is one of the state's proudest and most beautiful, but its forests need to be protected, not cleared.

With so much attention on the McKenzie as a destination for recreation and provider of some of the cleanest drinking water and best fish and wildlife habitat in the state, you'd think that logging century-old forests in critical wildlife habitat and along streams would be a thing of the past. Unfortunately, this isn't exactly the case. The McKenzie River Ranger District, part of the Willamette National Forest, continues to propose logging projects, like the Goose Timber Sale, that have the potential to harm these important values.

[Help protect McKenzie's precious wildlands and waters!](#)



The Goose Timber Sale Project may sound familiar. Originally proposed back in 2010, the project was opposed by neighbors in the town of McKenzie Bridge who were not too happy to learn about the aggressive logging project proposed in their backyard. Oregon Wild and our partners challenged this timber sale, highlighting the significant negative impacts to threatened owl habitat, their prey, roadless areas, and streamsides. A federal judge agreed that the Forest Service needed to do a better analysis of the impacts of this logging proposal.

Unfortunately, rather than working to fix the plan by dropping controversial elements, the Forest Service essentially just reanalyzed the same project, over 2,000 acres of logging, including 43 acres of clearcuts – much of it within the 10,000 acre Lookout Mountain roadless area, in century-old, never-before-logged forests, in spotted owl habitat, and along sensitive streams.

There is another option: a different plan for the Goose Project area. Alternative 3, would stay out of natural forests over 80 years old, do no clearcutting, build far fewer damaging roads, and reduce negative impacts to sensitive wildlife. The Forest Service should choose that option – reducing controversy and better protecting the McKenzie's iconic natural beauty and important ecosystem. But, with the timber already sold from the 2010 version of this project, there is concern the decision to move forward with the bigger logging plan is a foregone conclusion.

[That's why it is important that the people who value the McKenzie make their voices heard.](#)

This project could have big impacts on clean water, soil, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, and the scenic beauty of the McKenzie we know and love. If you think the forests of the McKenzie River watershed should be protected and restored, not further degraded by intensive logging, [please take a moment to send a short comment letter to the Willamette National Forest and let them know you have concerns about the Goose Timber Sale Project.](#)



For the wild,
Chandra LeGue
Western Oregon Field Coordinator
Oregon Wild

P.S.: Comments are due by April 20th. Want to know more? You can find out all of the details on the Goose projects, including maps and other documents on the [Willamette National Forest's webpage](#).

Help us protect the last remaining old-growth forests in Oregon and restore millions of acres of previously mismanaged lands.

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Public Process Demystified



It's about knowing when to plug in... And Oregon Wild does this on behalf of our supporters.

- Collaboration
- Scoping comments
- Public meetings/field trips
- Comments on draft proposal
- Objection to draft decision (USFS)
- Protest & appeal of decision (BLM)
- Resolution, litigation, or live with it

Your voice matters!



Our federal public lands are managed on our behalf by federal agencies that are required to make informed decisions and involve the public in the process.

Help us out!

Groups like Oregon Wild track and comment on projects across Oregon on a daily basis, and are happy to help people who care about their public lands get involved.



What else can you do?

- Alerts to organizational networks – raise awareness!
- Earned media – connect with reporters!
- Letters to the editor – people read them!
- Congressional action – doesn't hurt to ask!
- Visit the place of concern – with friends!



EUGENE **WEEKLY**.COM

Clearcut Proposed Near Roadless Area

ARTICLE | DECEMBER 24, 2015 - 12:00AM | BY CAMILLA MORTENSEN



The John's Last Stand timber sale has trees more than 100 years old and is near a proposed wilderness area. Photo: Oregon Wild/Eoug Heiken

A patch of forest near Dexter, Oregon, was auctioned off at 10 am Thursday, Dec. 17. That patch, called the John's Last Stand timber sale by the Bureau of Land Management, is near popular hiking trails and the Hardesty Mountain Roadless Area and is just a little more than 20 miles southeast of Eugene.

According to the BLM's sale proposal, John's Last Stand is being sold as a "regeneration harvest." Conservation group Oregon Wild says the proposal calls for leaving only six to eight trees an acre — essentially a clearcut.

"We are dumbfounded why BLM would propose to clearcut a beloved recreation area right in the backyard of Eugene and Springfield," Doug Heiken of Oregon Wild says. He tells EW that "dozens of citizens and conservation organizations

submitted comments expressing their concerns about logging this old-growth forest area within the 7,000-plus acre Hardesty Roadless Area just a stone's throw from the popular Mount June trail."

SIERRA CLUB MANY RIVERS GROUP

JOHN'S LAST STAND TIMBER SALE

INTERFERES WITH
PROPOSAL TO
PROTECT ROADLESS
AREAS

LEGEND

Points of Interest

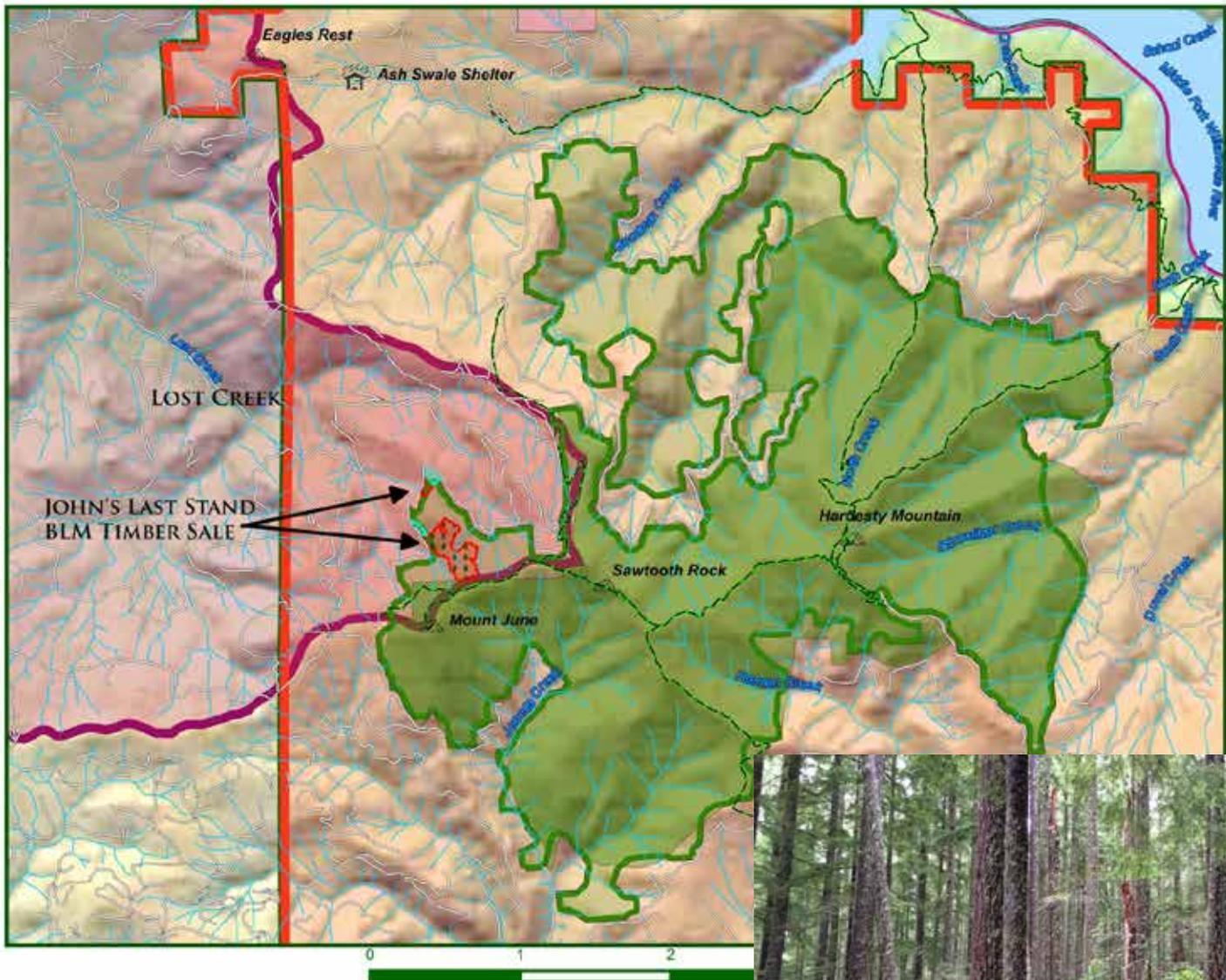
-  Shelter
-  Summit
-  Falls

Wildlands & Roadless Areas

-  Hardesty Protection Area
-  Hardesty IRAs
-  Other Roadless Areas
-  Lost Creek Watershed

John's Last Stand

-  Regeneration Harvest
-  Wildlife Habitat



Lost Creek Environmental Assessment
John's Last Stand Timber Sale

What did folks do to save John's Last Stand?

- Used the legal and public comment process.
- Did alerts to organizational networks and supporters to raise awareness.
- Got a story in local media outlet.
- Submitted letters to the editor.
- Asked Congressional representatives to weigh in.
- Led hikes for the public to visit.
- Protested at the timber sale auction.

Ultimately... it worked!



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Thank you!



- How do you want to be more involved?
 - Public Forest Protection 201?
- Contact Chandra LeGue, Western Oregon Field Coordinator
 - cl@oregonwild.org
 - 541-915-2363
- Feedback appreciated!

