

OREGON WILD

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TURNING UP THE HEAT

Also: Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion at Oregon Wild



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

www.oregonwild.org

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

Crater Lake Wilderness Coord.	Tara Brown x 202
Outreach & Marketing Coord.	Marielle Cowdin x 213
Membership Manager	Jamie Dawson x 205
Office & Event Manager	Gaby Diaz x 200
Public Lands Fellow	Alex Harris x 203
Development Director	Jonathan Jelen x 224
Wildlife Coordinator	Danielle Moser x 226
Finance Director	Tony Mounts x 219
Conservation Director	Steve Pedery x 212
Communications Manager	Arran Robertson x 223
Executive Director	Sean Stevens x 211

Oregon Wild Board of Directors

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Kate Blazar, Vice President	Danielle Grabiell
Nathan Kennedy, Treasurer	Jared Kennedy
Mellie Pullman, Secretary	Clara Soh
Hillary Barbour	Brett Sommermeyer
Naila Bhatri	

 www.facebook.com/OregonWild

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

Western Field Office

P.O. Box 11648 Eugene, OR 97440

Phone 541.344.0675 Fax: 541.343.0996

Forest & Watershed Organizer	Jason Gonzales
Conservation & Restoration Coord.	Doug Heiken
Western Oregon Field Coord.	Chandra LeGue

Northeastern Field Office

P.O. Box 48, Enterprise, OR 97828

Phone: 541.886.0212

NE Oregon Field Coordinator	Rob Klavins
-----------------------------	-------------

Central Oregon Field Office

2445 NE Division St, Bend, OR 97701

Phone: 541.382.2616 Fax: 541.385.3370

Ochoco Campaign Coordinator	Sarah Cuddy
Wilderness Program Manager	Erik Fernandez



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Break out your favorite flannel... {back cover}



COVER PHOTO: JESSE ROOS Forest fires are a regular and natural part of nature's ecological cycle, but the science of forests and fire has been lost from much of public understanding and is either overlooked or skewed to benefit political agendas. Forests are reborn after fire, but greater threats are knocking at the charred doorsteps.



From the Director's Desk Fire without, fire within

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

control, fire is something to be feared and corralled.

Largely fueled by the logging industry, we are still misinformed that most fire is bad, that it must be put out, and that if we just logged the hell out of everything we'd no longer have forest fires. We must constantly resist such facile thinking.

Most of the fires still burning across Oregon are naturally-caused and only the changing seasons will snuff them out. These lightning-sparked blazes are busy rejuvenating the landscape, bringing forth forests

reborn in a cycle repeated throughout millennia.

No doubt, the Eagle Creek Fire feels different. Started by a firework tossed into the forest by a misguided teenager, the fire seems all too preventable. It is consuming one of our most beloved places and it hurts. Still, the landscape will bounce back and nature will heal itself. Generations from now, the Gorge will still be the Gorge and our ancestors will thank us for protecting their natural inheritance.

While wildfire makes us feel as though the lands we cherish are at risk, our feature article this issue details the real – and dangerous – threats mounting against Oregon's public forest lands. Assaults on bedrock environmental laws in Congress, efforts to dismantle National Monuments, and logging industry lawsuits aiming to turn back the clock to the

clearcutting epidemic of the 1970s and '80s are all imminent.

The response to the Eagle Creek Fire alone has been overwhelming – tens of thousands of dollars raised for emergency responders and evacuees; hundreds pledging to volunteer for restoration efforts; wall to wall media coverage.

But how will we respond to the real dangers awaiting our forests?

Oregon Wild will need your passion for public lands in the struggles ahead. We will need your voice to speak out against opportunists who seek to squeeze yet more profit from over-exploited national forests. We will need you to sustain your current feelings for the Gorge for all of Oregon's special landscapes and protect



TULA TOP While the extent of the Eagle Creek Fire in the Columbia River Gorge may not be known for some time, the beauty of the forests and waterfalls will no doubt persist.

this place that we have temporarily borrowed from future generations.



CHERYL HILL

Turning up the heat on Oregon's forests

Sean Stevens, Executive Director



SUE NEWMAN Though difficult to believe, legislation in Congress would undo protections for Oregon's Wild Rogue Wilderness and open the area to mandated logging.

Southern Oregon's Rogue River is a world-class treasure. Any whitewater lover or steelhead junkie has it near the top of their bucket list. In 2018, it will celebrate 50 years of protection as a Wild and Scenic River and 40 years of safeguards under the Wilderness Act.

If Congress and the logging industry get their way, it will also be on the chopping block by the end of the year.

Though most think the Wild Rogue is so beloved that we'd never contemplate letting chainsaws loose in its ancient forests, we are living in a new era of public lands attacks – an era where nothing is sacred and nothing is safe.

If the worst comes to pass and logging roads cut deep into the Rogue Wilderness in future years, we will have a misleadingly named piece of legislation, the "Resilient Federal Forests Act" (HR 2936), to blame.

Logging without laws

Congressman Bruce Westerman (R-AR) likes to boast that he is the only forester in Congress. So, perhaps it is unsurprising that the only healthy forest he believes in is a logged one.

That is certainly the animating principle behind HR 2936, a bill he has introduced in both of his terms served in the capitol. Nicknamed "logging without laws" for its complete disregard for our nation's bedrock environmental protection laws, among other calamities, the bill would:

- dismantle the National Environmental Policy Act (the look before you leap law that requires citizen input) and replace it with super-sized "categorical exclusion" zones that allow agencies to bypass environmental and scientific review; and
- gut the Endangered Species Act, Roadless Area Conservation Rule, and Equal Access to Justice Act

The bill has already sailed through the House Committee on Natural Resources, chaired by the king of anti-public lands boosterism in Congress – Rob Bishop (R-UT). Bishop infamously called the Antiquities Act (the century-old legislation that allowed President Teddy Roosevelt to first protect the Grand Canyon) “the most evil act ever invented.”

With logging, oil, gas, and mining money flowing in the veins of so many members of the U.S. House of Representatives, HR 2936 will likely pass through the full chamber. It won't hurt that Oregon Congressman Greg Walden is a co-sponsor of the bill and a key member of the Republican leadership in Congress. In fact, despite the fact that the chief author of the bill is from 2,000 miles away, Oregon's clearcut lobby has its fingerprints all over this bill.

Homegrown hysteria

While the Westerman bill promotes logging above all other uses across our nation's public lands, it contains special provisions for Oregon that even its sponsors don't seem to grasp. In the same week that Walden claimed credit for previously protecting the Soda Mountain

Wilderness, he signed on as a co-sponsor for HR 2936 – a bill that would explicitly eliminate the Soda Mountain Wilderness!

It doesn't stop there. Influential corporate logging interests managed to insert language into the bill that mandates logging levels on all BLM lands in Oregon at three times the current rate. In so doing, it effectively would strip protections for not only Soda Mountain, but every protected BLM landscape in western Oregon including the Table Rock Wilderness, Cascade Siskiyou National Monument, and the aforementioned Wild Rogue.

This might not come as much of a surprise to Oregonians who have tracked logging industry demands over the last few decades. The dominant theory from the logging lobbyists at the American Forest Resource Council (AFRC) is that an obscure 1937 law governing certain western Oregon forests has precedent over all other federal laws adopted before or after. Luckily, the courts have never agreed with that contention.

Of course, the lack of a legal foothold hasn't stopped the industry, along with their allies



WESLEY CHANCELLOR

Forest, fire, and the facts

Arran Robertson, Communications Manager

Forest fires can be scary, especially when they are impacting the places that we love or threatening our communities. It can be hard to remember that forest fires are a natural, and unavoidable, part of Oregon's landscape. Unfortunately, a century of fire suppression, a warming climate, increased development in fire-prone areas, as well as a long history of aggressive logging practices have exacerbated fire dangers.

There are things we can do to better prepare for them, as well as maintain healthy forests. Protecting resilient, old-growth forests in the backcountry while focusing forest management and thinning projects in areas near homes and communities are just some of the ways we can better manage for inevitable wildfires.

For more on wildfire, visit :
www.oregonwild.org/fire

on county commissions, from appealing directly to the public

with the usual rhetoric about decimated economies and shrinking county budgets. But

the most insidious claims always stem from logging industry fear-mongering around fire.

Without fail, the first fire in Oregon's forests triggers an onslaught of industry

propaganda aimed at making us all believe repeated falsehoods: that fires are universally bad, that we can control them, and that cutting trees down is the only way to save them from

Oh I see, O & C

Doug Heiken, Conservation & Restoration Coordinator

O&C stands for “Oregon & California Railroad” lands, managed by the Bureau of Land Management in western Oregon. It’s a long story, but the short version is that a railroad company tried to steal more than two million acres of public land in a checkerboard pattern across western Oregon, and in a rare fit of sanity, Congress put their foot down and stopped them.

Unfortunately, the O&C lands are stuck between a rock and a hard place. On the one hand, the O&C lands provide critically important ecological services, such as keeping our drinking water clean; recovery of endangered salmon and birds; carbon storage to help stabilize our climate; and providing landscape connections between the Coast Range, Cascades, and Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains.

At the same time, those lands are under intense logging pressure to financially support counties in western Oregon. In 2016, BLM adopted a new plan for O&C lands that weakens environmental protections and increases logging. That plan is being challenged by Oregon Wild and others. O&C lands have been a focus of Oregon Wild work for more than 30 years, and we will continue to fight for these lands and the natural heritage they offer to current and future generations.



DOUG HEIKEN

For more information on Oregon’s O&C lands and Oregon Wild’s work, visit: oregonwild.org/backyardforests.

burning to piles of ash. It’s a cynical annual ploy to play on our fears with the hopes of increasing profits for big timber.

The truth about fire is far more complex (see sidebar page 5).

2020 vision

Politicians at all levels have their sights on our forests as resources to be exploited.

Sonny Purdue, the Trump Administration Agriculture Secretary who oversees the Forest Service, told a House subcommittee in May that trees are “crops” that “ought to be harvested for the benefit of the American public.” Are the ancient forests of the Wild Rogue just a crop to be turned into two-by-fours?

Less than a year into the Trump presidency, we are facing unprecedented attacks from all corners. The logging industry and the politicians they fund want to turn back the clock on forest management, deny the last thirty years of science, and squeeze more profit from our public lands. It is our job to hold back the tide until 2020, and to defend the wildlands, wildlife, and waters that make Oregon special.

We know that our forests will be integral in the fight against

climate change – storing massive amounts of carbon and providing refuge for wildlife. We know that our cleanest drinking water will continue to come from rivers and streams that flow through public lands. And we know that we have decades of restoration still left ahead to help heal the damage logging has caused in our forests in the last century.

This vision for protected and restored forests can’t happen without immense effort and allies in elected office. Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley have oft been champions of public lands protections. Merkley’s first vote in Congress was to protect over 200,000 acres of Wilderness in Oregon (as part of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009). Just this summer, Merkley and Wyden both sponsored legislation to protect special places all across the state.

While these efforts should be applauded, more recently Oregon’s two senators have had a much murkier stance on logging our public lands – and in some cases have promoted the idea that more public lands logging will solve rural Oregon’s problems.

Earlier this year, Wyden, who serves on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, was one of

just 17 Democrats who supported Ryan Zinke's confirmation as Interior Secretary (Merkley voted "no"). While other Senators questioned Zinke's dismal environmental record and confusing statements on public lands privatization, Wyden's primary focus was to encourage Zinke and the Trump administration to log public land more aggressively.

Of course, Secretary Zinke is now doing just that as he seeks to dismantle protections for the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument.

Merkley has been a leading voice on many environmental issues including the effort to keep fossil fuels on public lands in the ground. But while he leads on climate change at the national level, his views on the

carbon captured in Oregon's forests are far more equivocal.

Perhaps the best example came in early 2016, while the Bundy occupation was in full force, and many of Merkley's public statements condemned the militia in one breath but then accepted their premise that federal land management needed a review in the next. (A national headline at the time, "Ore. senators open to reviewing law amid standoff," captures the troubling sentiment well).

Amid unprecedented attacks, now is not the time for our elected leaders to shrink from the challenge in front of them. Oregon has spent far too long seeking to minimize conservation while maximizing exploitation of our public lands, to the benefit of logging, mining, and grazing interests who are incapable of taking no for an answer.

Now is not the time for Oregonians who treasure places like the Wild Rogue, Mount Hood, or the Columbia Gorge to sit on the sidelines as the Trump administration and anti-environmental members of Congress seek to exploit them. Now is the time to fight like hell to protect them. ©



KAT DIERICKX



MICHAEL GRAW

A clearcut by any other name

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director (& Evergreen Society Member)

The current "logging without laws" proposal (see page 4/5) is the most serious threat facing our public lands and forests in a generation, but it's far from the only threat.

The bad ideas threatening our forests tend to be recycled over and over again. They use terms like "regeneration harvest" (a.k.a. clearcutting) and are packaged with innocuous or misleading names like the Healthy Forests Initiative, Western Oregon Plan Revisions, and the Resilient Federal Forests Act to name a few. Details vary but the goal is the same: to liquidate our public forests and the clean water, critical wildlife habitat, and world-class recreation they provide – all to appease an insatiable logging industry.

But throughout the endless attacks on our forests, Oregon Wild is watchdogging, mobilizing, and fighting back. Whether it's

working toward permanent Wilderness protections, protesting a proposed clearcut in our last old-growth forests, or engaging with local communities to find common ground for restoring our landscapes, we're working year-round to protect Oregon's public lands and forests. Our Evergreen Society members fuel that work.

The "logging without laws" bill reminds us that if places like the Wild Rogue and Cascade-Siskiyou are under threat, your favorite hike on Mount Hood, campsite in the Three Sisters, and fishing spot on the Umpqua River are too. If we don't stand up for them, who will?

Take Action!

Stand with me and join our Evergreen Society with a monthly gift at www.oregonwild.org/donate

Oregon's Ancient Forests – a guide

Chandra LeGue, Western Oregon Field Coordinator



CHANDRA LEGUE Chandra's sabbatical project is taking her all across Oregon to explore the beloved old-growth forests of former staffer Wendell Wood.

My work with Oregon Wild since 2003 has centered on the advocacy and policy affecting public forest lands across the state. From protecting the last remaining old-growth and undisturbed forests to advancing the restoration of important fish and wildlife habitat, it has been fulfilling work.

It's been even more fulfilling to get outside and discover some of

the ancient forests Oregon Wild and others have protected – exploring the plants, animals, streams, and diversity of these forests, and generally “geeking out” on nature. Many of my colleagues can relate to this, but I feel exceptionally lucky to have had Wendell Wood (a naturalist extraordinaire and one of Oregon Wild's longest-serving volunteers and staffers until he passed away in 2015) along on

many hikes to out-geek everyone else. While he taught me only a small portion of his encyclopedic knowledge of Oregon's forests, he thankfully also left a written guide – his book, *A Walking Guide to Oregon's Ancient Forests* published in 1991.

The book, which features more than 200 hikes, served as an old-growth forest guide across Oregon and also included information about Oregon Wild's past campaigns to protect these forests, helping to draw attention to these sensitive and at-risk places.

I'd been thinking for years about the need for this book to be updated, but when Wendell died, I decided the time was ripe. I devised a plan to take a six-month sabbatical from my regular job to revise, update, and republish the guide. With the amazing support of everyone at Oregon Wild, as well as my family and friends, I started on this project last June.

Since then I've been spending the summer and fall hiking

dozens of trails in old-growth forests across the state, documenting how to get to the trails and what I find there, taking photos, researching the changes since 1990, and developing maps and associated web content to go with the new book.

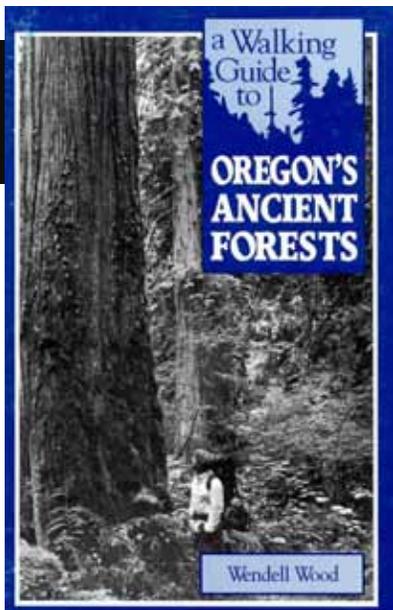
It's fun to hike familiar and beloved trails with this in mind...places like Lookout Creek on the Willamette and Cummins Creek in the Siuslaw National Forest. But it's even more fun to have the excuse to get out and explore parts of the

state I've never been to, or have just breezed through on a highway. Getting out to the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests has been a thrill, and even exploring the forests around Mount Hood is new to me.

Since the original book was published in 1991, so much has changed in Oregon and in these forests. The state's population has grown by over a million people, many of whom are getting outside to enjoy our public lands more than ever



PETE SPRINGER



An updated guide to these forests will help build the knowledge and appreciation people need to become advocates for their still too-tenuous protection. For those open to it, it will also offer a way to tap into their inner nature geek.

By the time this newsletter lands in your hands, I should be well on my way to a completed manuscript, due to publisher The Mountaineers Books in spring of 2018. Publication, in early 2019, seems like millennia away, but in the life of a forest it's the blink of an eye. As long as Oregon Wild keeps doing the hard work of advocating for the protection of these amazing forests, they should still be there throughout the lifetime of *Oregon's Ancient Forests* – the new edition. I can't wait to share it with you all! ☺

Take Action!

Learn more about the project, and find out how you can support it at:

www.oregonwild.org/forests/guide-oregons-ancient-forests

before. Many of our ancient forests have been protected through Oregon Wild's work, either through policies like the Northwest Forest Plan and the Roadless Rule, or with Wilderness designation. Many of the forests Wendell featured in his book have changed or disappeared, whether through wildfire, logging, or other disturbances.

From lush western hemlock and red cedar in the Coast Range, to larch, Ponderosa pine, and Engelmann spruce in the Blue Mountains, Oregon's ancient forests have a story to tell about their history – and their future.



"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree."
- Emily Brontë

MATTHEW N. KING

Fall hikes & events

Join Oregon Wild for another great season of hikes and events celebrating our state's most pristine and iconic wild places – from the pristine waters of Waldo Lake to the colorful maples along Mount Hood. Sign up at www.oregonwild.org.

SUN, SEPT 30 (PDX)

Community Apple Pressing at Portland Cider Co. (PDX)

SUN, OCT 8 (EUG)

Waldo Lake Wilderness Hike

WED, OCT 11 (BEND)

Oregon Wild Wednesday: Mountain Biking

FRI, OCT 13 (PDX)

Call of the Wild: a camp-inspired benefit

FRI, OCT 20 (PDX)

Tamanawas Falls Fall Foliage Hike

SAT, OCT 21 (EUG)

Clear Lake Loop Brewshed® Hike

FRI, NOV 3 (BEND)

Lookout Mountain Hike

SUN, NOV 5 (EUG)

Fall Creek Mushroom Hike

WED, NOV 8 (BEND)

Oregon Wild Wednesday: Backcountry Skiing

 PROTECTED WILDERNESS  PROPOSED WILDERNESS  WATERSHED

Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion at Oregon Wild

Gaby Diaz, Office & Event Manager



GABY DIAZ Drift Creek Wilderness

There are lessons to be learned from old-growth forests. A few weeks ago, I went hiking in Drift Creek Wilderness in Oregon's central Coast Range. Alongside the two-foot-wide trail, old-growth Doug fir and Western hemlock towered above me; giant trees over a century old. Faded green lichen dripped in heavy tangles from every branch, and the faint smell of the salty sea danced around me. Tightly-knit moss and fanned ferns carpeted the

ground and felled logs. Nesting birds cried out from the misty treetops above, water trickled in the distance, and I wondered about the water's journey to reach the sea.

Nothing was uniform about this land; everywhere I looked the ecosystem teemed with life and rich biodiversity. The forest looked healthy and balanced, with each individual species of flora and fauna contributing to its overall strength and resiliency

through a fine-tuned biological system. Evolution guided this ancient forest to be diverse and inclusive at the same time, and because of that, it has withstood the test of time.

Much like our ancient forests, the environmental movement cannot function as a collective, resilient whole when we lack equity, diversity, and inclusivity (EDI). At Oregon Wild we recognize the value, strength, and power of EDI

and have committed to evolving and holding our organization to a higher standard.

In May 2017, Oregon Wild staff and board members from across the state gathered for a two-day EDI training with the Center for Diversity and the Environment. Over the course of our training, we discussed privilege, organizational culture, and the unintended impacts of our advocacy. We began the deep and reflective work of creating "Our Vision for Oregon Wild" and mapped out why and how we're going to bring this awareness and action into our everyday endeavors.

Since our training, we've developed an internal EDI team with a handful of passionate staff and board, tasked with implementing EDI procedures and practices within multiple layers of our work and holding our team accountable for creating change. We realize our

environmental advocacy is stronger, more relevant, more successful and sustainable when we create a big tent. For so many reasons, we cannot claim to accomplish our mission for all Oregonians or for future generations when we're not engaging all voices across the state.

Like our forests have shown us, when the big trees are cut down, when the wildlife seek new land, and when the water is poisoned, we lose sight of the beauty and strength it once held. Our resiliency is rooted in the many, diverse and beautiful parts that make up the whole. ©



DENNIS DAVENPORT

Oregon Wild migrations

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

ANATOLIY LUKICH



Last spring, we begrudgingly bid farewell to our friend and Membership & Events Manager **Shasta Zielke**. For nearly two years, Shasta did it all - from connecting with Oregon Wild members and supporters to spearheading the organization's most successful Call of the Wild event to date. All of us (and the wildlands, wildlife, and waters of Oregon) owe Shasta a big debt of gratitude. Continuing to deepen her development expertise, Shasta is now helping other great

organizations flourish as the development strategist for LKA Fundraising & Communications. You'll still find Shasta out on the trail with us as a hike shepherd. Rock Chalk, Shasta!

After Shasta's departure we welcomed **Jamie Dawson** as our new Membership Manager in the Portland office. Jamie's passion for protecting wildlands and wildlife is nothing short of infectious. As a self-described "bird nerd" and an avid long



distance runner, Jamie has hit the ground running to build support for protecting the wilds of Oregon! Before joining Oregon Wild, she was a National Park Ranger at Glacier National Park in Montana and the Development Coordinator for a small non-profit partner of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park in Alaska. So if you've been a member for years (or know someone who should be a member), say welcome to Jamie at jd@oregonwild.org.

We're also excited to welcome **Clara Soh** onto the Oregon Wild board! Living in Bend, Clara is an avid rock climber, Deschutes County Search and Rescue Volunteer, and outdoor enthusiast. Trained as a scientist, she moved into public health after spending several years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in West Africa. She now works as a healthcare

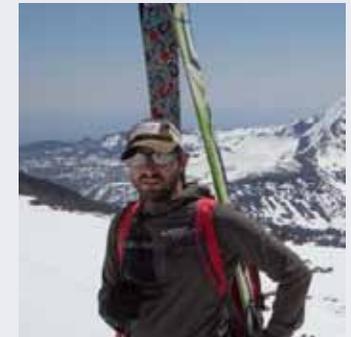


consultant who advises clients on understanding, navigating, and advocating for federal and state policies and regulations. With degrees from Yale and NYU, Clara will now be helping us keep Oregon wild!

Co-founded by **Jared Kennedy**, the Outdoor Project has been a steadfast partner of Oregon Wild for years by hosting events, promoting conservation campaigns, and being strong advocates for protecting

Oregon's wildlands. Now we take that partnership to the next level as we welcome Jared to the Oregon Wild board!

A native Portlander, Jared serves as the Outdoor Project's COO as well as chairperson of its sister non-profit OutdoorProject.org. In his free time, Jared likes to be outside finding places well away from the beaten path and engaging with land restoration efforts on his family's land in Eastern Oregon. ☺



Here today, gone tomorrow

Rob Klavins, Northeast Oregon Field Coordinator & Danielle Moser, Wildlife Coordinator



OREGON WILD An Oregon Wild remote camera monitored by staff and volunteers captured this member of the Harl Butte Wolf Pack in July. It may be OR50. The photo was taken on public lands prior to the kill orders being placed by ODFW.

After government-sponsored eradication, wolves began returning to Oregon nearly two decades ago. At last count, eight known breeding pairs resided in the state with all but one inhabiting the rugged northeast corner.

Sadly, our wild landscape provides little protection from those who fear and oppose the native hunters' return. It is here that Oregon's wildlife agency (ODFW) has been busy with what they describe as "wolf management" – a.k.a. killing wolves.

The agency charged with protecting wildlife and their habitat for future

generations – a mission similar to ours – recently killed off four wolves from the Harl Butte Pack and allowed a livestock operator to kill one from the Meacham Pack.

What an absurdity that at taxpayer's expense, ODFW began its latest killing spree to satisfy the request of one of the state's leading anti-wolf voices; the livestock manager for a California company that runs cows on and degrades public lands. Oregonians pay full market value for unattended calves lost to wolves and even those that go missing. We pay for range riders who act as extra ranch

hands. Now we are paying to kill our wolves at his request.

When wolves were prematurely and illegally stripped of endangered species protections (a decision we are still fighting in court) under a weak and outdated wolf plan, we feared this future.

Though Oregonians overwhelmingly support wolf recovery, oppose wolf hunting, and think precious landscapes like those in Northeast Oregon should be valued as more than subsidized feedlots and game farms, ODFW has

proposed indefensible revisions to the wolf plan.

It's symptomatic of an agency that has lost its way. An Oregon Public Broadcasting investigation found that just three of the agency's 1,200 staff are committed to non-game wildlife conservation. But when the call went out to kill wolves, choppers were in the air and for days at a time, three employees worked overtime to track down and kill wolves. *It doesn't have to be this way.*

Not long ago Oregon considered selling our Elliott State Forest. Together, you

and the conservation community rallied. Now, keeping public lands in public hands has become one of Governor Brown's signature issues.

Why should wildlife be different? When it comes to agencies like ODFW, the (metaphorical) buck stops at Governor Brown's desk.

That's why we need the Governor to fulfill her public promise and ensure Oregon's wolf recovery program stays on track by reining in the agency overseeing the fate of our native wildlife.

Recently, Oregon was a national leader on wolves. Conflict decreased even as wolf numbers grew. Without her leadership the current course is clear: more dead cows and more dead wolves in our future. ©

Take Action!

Whether you care about wolves, elk, sea otters, or salmon, our wildlife need your voice. In the coming months, we'll be counting on it! If you haven't already, be sure to sign up for our **Wild Ones program**. Find out more at oregonwild.org.

But first pick up the phone and call Governor Brown at **503.378.4582**.

Conservation roundup

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director



D. SAIGET Oregon cutthroat trout.

The Elliott stays public!

One year ago, it seemed Oregon was doomed to sell-off 80,000 acres of public land in the Elliott State Forest to a politically well-connected private logging company. But on August 18 in a triumph of grassroots power over special interest money, Governor Kate Brown signed into law SB 847, a bill designed to keep the Elliott public and allow portions of the forest to be set aside, protected from clearcut logging. The passage of this bill, along with a companion measure to

provide \$100 million to safeguard old-growth in the forest, is a major victory for Oregon Wild supporters, and for everyone who values our state's wildlife, wildlands, and waters!

Suction dredge victory!

Over four years ago, Oregon Wild began working with a coalition of other conservation groups to strengthen the laws that protect Oregon rivers and salmon from suction dredge mining. As gas-powered vacuums that suck up the gravel from river bottoms in search of

gold, suction dredges can devastate native fish populations and water quality. After California banned the practice, suction dredge mining boosters turned their attention to Oregon rivers like the Rogue. After years of hard work and the tireless advocacy of former State Senator Alan Bates (who passed away in 2016), Governor Brown signed mining reform legislation into law on June 14. It bans mining in critical salmon habitat, caps the total number of mining permits allowed, and raises the cost of those permits that will be allowed.

Wyden recreation bill misses the mark

On July 26, Senator Ron Wyden released a new version of his "Recreation, Not

Red Tape" legislation, drafted in partnership with Representative Rob Bishop (R-Utah) – one of the most notoriously anti-public lands members of the House. The bill largely focuses on the backlog of public lands trail maintenance and the slowness with which permits for new trails and new commercial guiding permits on public lands are processed. The bill provides no new resources to address these problems, however. In Oregon Wild's view, the bill misses the point. The number one problem with public lands recreation today is overcrowding. Simply put, people need more Wilderness, National Recreation Areas, Monuments and other protected places to use and enjoy. ©



JOSHUA MEADOR Our public lands are our lifeblood and the places we love to play.

Protecting the Deschutes

Erik Fernandez, Wilderness Program Manager



PETER C. BLANCHARD

The Deschutes is one of Oregon's most iconic rivers, winding its way from wildflower-filled meadows in the high Cascades near Diamond Peak, down through Bend, and ultimately flowing into the mighty Columbia River. Different stretches have faced different threats over the decades, from dams and irrigation demands to grazing and logging. Each has taken a toll on the health of the river.

Fortunately, the river is benefiting from a growing interest in water conservation and restoration in recent years that has slowed some of the threats.

The Deschutes is known as a recreational destination for hiking, rafting, camping, trail running, paddle boarding, and more. It's also known for its fish and wildlife. This combination has created a challenge in how we find the right balance between

recreational uses and wildlife disturbance. While some landscapes are capable of handling higher levels of recreation, some sensitive areas may be more important as rare wildlife habitat.

One recent proposal Oregon Wild is keeping an eye on is a scheme to connect trails between Bend and Sunriver. Ensuring the trail is located in an area that maximizes scenic and recreational experiences while minimizing disturbance to wildlife is our priority.

One idea already floated is to route the trail (adding a new bridge) through a section of the Deschutes River just upstream from Bend. Unfortunately, the chosen location is in one of the few stretches along the Deschutes River that has rare habitat for everything from golden eagles to the threatened Oregon spotted frog. This section of river is also protected as a State Scenic Waterway.

Some have proposed weakening the rules protecting this stretch of river – a concerning precedent in this day and age when our environmental safeguards are being threatened at all levels. We are working to encourage a solution that protects both the wildlife in the Deschutes region but also creates awesome trails. ©

State Scenic Waterway update

“State Scenic Waterways” are a designation that Oregon has used at varying times over the years to protect rivers, such as the Deschutes, Metolius, Rogue, and more. Currently the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is considering several rivers that could be added to the system. It's hard to say which rivers may end up being protected as State Scenic Waterways, but in discussion currently are the South Umpqua, the Nehalem, and the North Santiam.

Take Action!

Email Oregon State Parks and encourage them to protect these and other rivers as State Scenic Waterways: opr.d.

publiccomment@oregon.gov



SHELLEY FINNIGAN

Defending Oregon's Monument for biodiversity

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director



WENDELL WOOD *Lewisia cotyledon* var *cotyledon* Siskiyou *Lewisia*
- many species of rare plants grow only in the Cascade-Siskiyou.

Nestled in the rugged mountains southeast of Ashland along the Oregon-California border, the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument may be Oregon's greatest biological treasure. Unfortunately, thanks to President Trump and his flamboyant Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke, it is also our most threatened.

For decades biologists urged Presidents, members of Congress, and federal agencies to do more to protect this spectacular region from logging, grazing, and development. It has been recognized internationally as a "global biodiversity hotspot," a unique place where animals, fish, and plants from the Cascade Range

and high deserts of the Great Basin co-mingle with species from the Sierra Nevada Range and Klamath Mountains of California, with unique Siskiyou Mountains species from the West mixed in for good measure.

Back in 2000, former President Bill Clinton acknowledged its importance when he designated over 50,000 acres of public land as the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument – the first Monument ever created specifically to protect biodiversity. On January 12, 2017, former President Barack Obama expanded the Monument by 48,000 acres.

But almost immediately, the Association of O&C Counties (county governments who receive a cut of logging revenue from publicly-owned Western Oregon BLM lands) sued to block the expansion. They were soon joined by logging industry lobby groups, all arguing that the area should be managed not for biodiversity, but for clearcuts. Unfortunately, they found a receptive audience in Donald Trump and Ryan Zinke.

Zinke included Cascade-Siskiyou in his "review" of National Monuments launched earlier this year. From the beginning Zinke's only clear interest was finding ways to shrink or eliminate Monuments at the behest of political supporters in the logging, grazing,

mining, oil, and coal industries. On August 24, Zinke sent a final report to Trump (but did not release it to the public). It is almost certain that Zinke, who held a political fundraiser with logging barons opposed to the Monument earlier this summer, will recommend it be shrunk.

Oregon Wild is already working with a coalition of sister groups, including Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, to fight back. As we go to press, our attorneys are preparing a legal challenge to block any effort by Trump to weaken the Monument, and we are working with media outlets in the U.S. (and internationally) to draw attention to the fight over this globally significant place. ☺



MARIELLE COWDIN Oregon Wild staff at their retreat to Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument; From top left, clockwise: Jonathan Jelen, Steve Pedery, Doug Heiken, Danielle Moser, Tony Mounts, Sean Stevens, Tara Brown, Chandra LeGue, Erik Fernandez, Rob Klavins, Marielle Cowdin, Jason Gonzales, Alex Harris, Sarah Cuddy, Jamie Dawson, Gaby Diaz, and Arran Robertson.



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It's that time of year again! Join your friends and loved ones around the "campfire" for Oregon Wild's biggest benefit of the year, *Call of the Wild!*

An event unlike any other, it supports our conservation work across the state and features:

- Unveiling the winners of the 13th annual Outdoor Photo Contest
- A wild silent auction featuring trips, gear, and more for outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds!
- Tasty local food, drinks from Oregon Brewshed® Alliance partners
- Live music, games, an interactive photo booth, and more!

A \$40 ticket not only gets you entry, beer, wine, food, and entertainment, but also helps us continue to protect places like Mount Hood, the Ochoco National Forest, the Elliott State Forest, and the other wildlands, wildlife, and waters you love. This year has brought more intense challenges and threats to our public

October 13th
Leftbank Annex
5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Presented by our Camp Host:



And thanks to these sponsors and more:



lands, native wildlife species, and national monuments. Join us as we fight back in our best flannel.

At this year's event you'll have a chance to bid on a wolf watching tour in Yellowstone National Park, a rafting adventure in Hells Canyon, rock climbing and kayaking classes, an abundance of outdoor gear and apparel, and much more!

Find your Wild side on Friday, October 13 at Leftbank Annex in Portland from 5:30-9:30 p.m.

To purchase tickets or become a Tent Sponsor for the wildest party of the year:

www.oregonwild.org/callofthewild

RSVP and get your tickets today!

The time is here, answer the **CALL OF THE**

Wild

BLM