

A wide-angle photograph capturing a stunning sunset over a mountainous landscape. The sky is filled with dramatic, billowing clouds that are illuminated from behind by the setting sun, creating a vibrant palette of orange, yellow, and red. Below the sky, dark silhouettes of mountain peaks and a dense forest of evergreen trees are visible. In the foreground, the calm surface of a lake reflects the warm colors of the sunset, creating a mirror-like effect. The overall scene is one of natural beauty and tranquility.

Oregon's 10 Most Endangered Places 2009

an Oregon Wild Report



OREGON WILD

10 Most Endangered Places

Our mission:

Since 1974, Oregon Wild has worked to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters as an enduring legacy for future generations.

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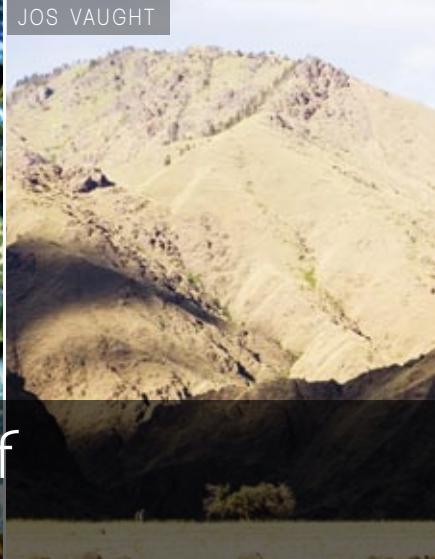
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*Fold out the cover for a spectacular Crater Lake poster

COVER: JUSTIN LEE

ABOVE: JENN SCHIMDT



Oregon's Wildlands In the Age of Climate Change

It is hard to have a conversation about endangered places, or any environmental issue, these days without the specter of global warming rearing its ugly head. Global climate change is the most severe threat facing our planet today, and it touches nearly every ecosystem in every corner of the earth.

The current and potential consequences of climate change for wildlands, wildlife, and waters are well documented. In Oregon we are experiencing decreased snowpack on our Cascade peaks, shrinking glaciers around Mount Hood, changing ocean conditions, and more.

Decades of research now overwhelmingly supports the theory that the current warming of the planet is human caused. The accumulated emissions from two centuries of industrialization, development, and consumption have led us to this point.

While the scale of our climate crisis is global, the places described in this report are local. They are the rivers where we go fishing, the forests wildlife call home, and the scenic landscapes that define our state. The threats faced by these spectacular wildlands do share one major commonality with the global threat of climate change—human causation.

From logging to mining, off-highway vehicle damage to industrial farming in National Wildlife Refuges—it is human action and indifference that continues to threaten our special places. However, for every damaging proposal (like the scheme to fly helicopters over our only National Park, see page 5), there are thousands of engaged citizens waiting to protect the places they cherish.

That is both the lesson and the call-to-action of this report. These endangered places are threatened by our own shortsightedness. However, we have the power, the opportunity, and the responsibility to reverse course and protect them. For 35 years, Oregon Wild has been doing just that—galvanizing public support for threatened wildlands. We hope this report serves as a resource and an inspiration as we meet the challenges ahead.

“What makes a place endangered?”

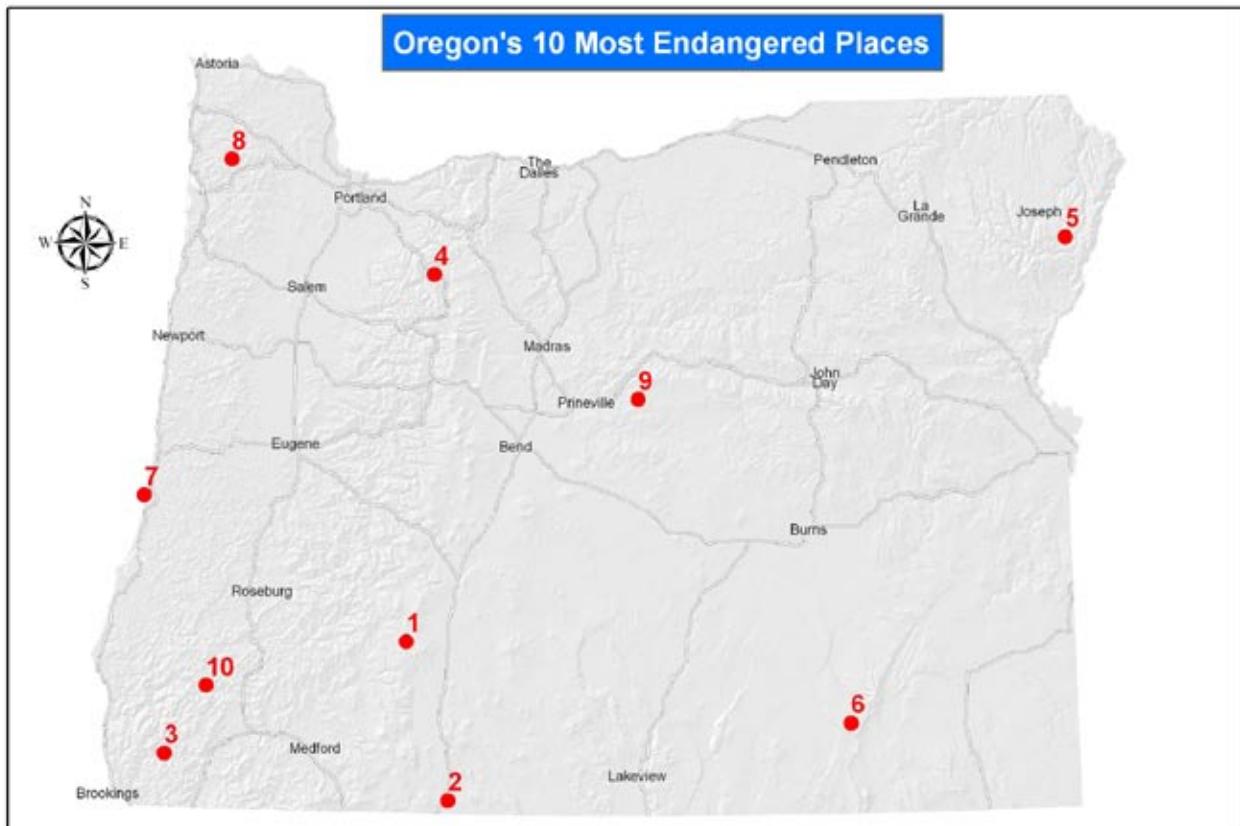
The ten places represented in this report are by no means an exhaustive list of the threatened landscapes in Oregon. From a backyard stream in La Grande to the expanse of our ocean waters, Oregon’s wildlands face constant threats both great and small. Considering this, how then did we select the ten natural areas described in the following pages?

In weighing each endangered place, we considered three primary factors:

- The immediacy and scale of the threat;
- The ecological, cultural, recreational, and scientific importance of the area threatened; and
- The opportunity for an actionable solution

What remains of Oregon’s natural beauty represents the legacy of generations past and a gift that we must responsibly bestow upon future Oregonians. The areas described in this report are at risk. It is up to us to protect them and protect our natural heritage.





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ANDREW LARKIN

#1 Crater Lake Wildlands

Threat(s): Roadless Area Logging,
Helicopter Tours

The Place: Crater Lake has inspired people for thousands of years. For Native Americans, Oregon's first residents, the area holds tremendous spiritual and cultural significance. Early European settlers were awed by its size and mystery. Today, Crater Lake and its surrounding wildlands provide the postcard image that encapsulates Oregon's beauty and commitment to conservation. Every year, Crater Lake draws tens of thousands of visitors who come to gaze into its pure, clean water, to marvel at its unique geology, and to explore its rugged backcountry.

The natural beauty of Crater Lake extends far beyond Wizard Island and the caldera. It includes unspoiled roadless lands both inside and outside of the official boundaries of the park. Places such as the Pumice Desert; the craggy spires and wild forests of Mount Thielsen; the rugged backcountry of Mount Bailey; and the headwaters of the Rogue and Umpqua Rivers.

The Threat: A helicopter tour operator is seeking a permit for flights into the Park, over its backcountry, and along the crater rim. These noisy flights would destroy the quiet of the park, disturb native wildlife, and greatly diminish the experience of the vast majority of park visitors. Helicopter flights could also threaten the pristine waters of Crater Lake. Though helicopter accidents are thankfully rare, they do still occur. In 1995, a small private helicopter crashed into the lake, killing both passengers and releasing 70 gallons of jet fuel into its waters.

The proposal for noisy helicopter flights is not the only threat to the wildlands surrounding Crater Lake. A misguided Forest Service logging project known as D-Bug proposes to log thousands of acres of forestland just north of the park. This reckless proposal includes the logging of 620 acres of Inventoried Roadless Areas, and another 318 acres in the designated roadless Oregon Cascade Recreation Area (OCRA).

In addition, the D-Bug logging plan includes logging in several thousand acres of uninventoried roadless areas and 25 miles of new roads. It would also convert 8 miles of hiking trail within the Recreation Area into logging roads.

The Solution: While there are parts of the D-Bug project that are worthy of support (thinning near homes and structures around Diamond Lake), the overwhelming majority of the project logs in backcountry areas where such activity is reckless and destructive. To combat the misguided logging of the D-Bug project and the threat of noisy helicopter flights over the Park, Wilderness legislation is needed. Wilderness designation is the highest and most effective level of protection that can be given to America's public lands, and conservationists and the National Park Service have long argued that Crater Lake and its surrounding wildlands deserve Wilderness status. A National Park Service proposal issued in 1970 suggested over 150,000 acres within the park should become federally protected Wilderness.

Fast Fact

At 1,943 feet, Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the United States.

Roadless forests in the D-Bug timber sale could end up looking like this adjacent Forest Service logging project.

FRANCIS EATHERINGTON





2

Tule Lake and Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuges

Threat(s): Commercial agriculture, pesticide use, and limited water resources

The Place: One hundred and fifty years ago, early settlers in the Klamath Basin were greeted by a vast expanse of nearly 350,000 acres of wetlands, shallow lakes, and marshes. At the headwaters of the Klamath River, these lands once hosted millions of migrating waterfowl and acted as the lungs of the Klamath River, storing abundant water in the winter and releasing cool, clean water back into the basin during the spring and summer.

Home to invaluable wildlife species and remarkable territory, the basin wetlands drew the attention of early 20th century conservationists, including President Theodore Roosevelt. In 1908 President Roosevelt designated 81,000 acres of marsh and open water in Lower Klamath Lake as the first National Wildlife Refuge for waterfowl. Twenty years later, Tule Lake joined the refuge system. The region continues to host some of the nation's most unique bird life and acts as a vital rest-stop on the Pacific Flyway, the West's north-south migratory bird highway.

The Threat: As dynamic wetlands and the most productive refuges for waterfowl, Tule Lake and Lower Klamath were also recognized as some of the region's most potentially productive agricultural lands. The US Bureau of Reclamation's massive Klamath Irrigation Project, initiated in 1905, paved the way for extensive agricultural development that destroyed thousands of acres of wetland and drained much of what was Lower Klamath and Tule Lakes. In recent decades, continued agricultural development, excessive water diversions, agricultural pollution, and drought have further damaged the remaining wetland habitat.

Perhaps the most serious current problem facing wildlife on the Pacific Flyway and in the Klamath Basin is the

lack of wetland habitat. This is a problem exacerbated by the practice of leasing 22,000 acres of publicly owned land on Tule Lake and Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuges for commercial agriculture.

While the creation of these refuges was intended to preserve vital fragments of the once vast Klamath wetland system for geese, herons, and eagles, much of that land is today instead managed for potatoes,

alfalfa, and onions. **The Solution:** As a region desperate for more water, the Klamath needs a voluntary demand reduction program. A program that, with the support of the federal government, works with farmers to buy back water rights for irrigation and retire them so that wildlife can receive the water they need. In the past, basin farmers have taken steps on their own and with federal financial support for water conservation. Continuing to provide farmers with opportunities for water demand reduction is a simple, self-empowering method for resource savings.

To tap into the natural water storage capacity of the region's remaining wetlands, it is critical that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – with the help of Congress – phase out the practice of leasing land on Tule Lake and Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuges for private commercial agricultural operations. This action will reduce overall demand for water and restore water-cleansing wetlands. Creating viable financial incentives to farmers is critical to the success of this proposal. A federal legislative package designed to buy back leases from local farmers and let other leases expire, could accomplish this goal.

Fast Fact:

Up to 100,000 acre-feet of water (enough water to cover 100,000 acres one foot deep) could potentially be stored naturally on refuge land currently leased for commercial agriculture.



#3 Oregon's Yellowstone Siskiyou Wild Rivers

Threat(s): Mining, off-road vehicles, and some logging

The Place: Oregon's Yellowstone, the Siskiyou Wild Rivers, covers the most important natural area in Oregon. The Siskiyou Wild Rivers proposed Wilderness is not only the most expansive intact natural area in the state, it's also the largest and only significant intact habitat along the entire west coast from the Olympics south to California.

The area includes some of the state's most important and diverse habitats. Healthy and abundant salmon runs teem in the blue-green waters of a collection of large undammed rivers including the Chetco, Rogue and Illinois. Oregon's Yellowstone is also home to the state's only Redwood forests, some of which are up to 15 feet in diameter. These wildlands climb from elevations near sea level up to 5,000 feet, providing a key haven for wildlife

as pressures from global warming force many species to migrate with the changing climate.

The Threat: Off-road vehicles (ORVs) and destructive mining are an increasing threat to much of the Siskiyou Wild Rivers ecosystem. The Forest Service is currently proposing 115 miles of ORV routes through Wilderness-quality areas. An increase in ORV traffic would cause excessive erosion, degrading water quality in surrounding streams and rivers. Fast-moving and noisy, ORVs raging through these wildlands would be extremely disturbing to the bald eagles, salamanders, elk, and black bear that call this place home.

In the last decade alone, there have been 880 new mining claims filed in the backcountry of the Siskiyou Wild Rivers. The most common minerals speculators attempt to mine are gold and nickel. One of the preferred methods of mining in this region is suction dredging—a process that “vacuums” gravel and other streambed material into a filtration system and then spits all but the gold back into the water. Dredging in a salmon bearing river significantly damages habitat for spawning and rearing fish.

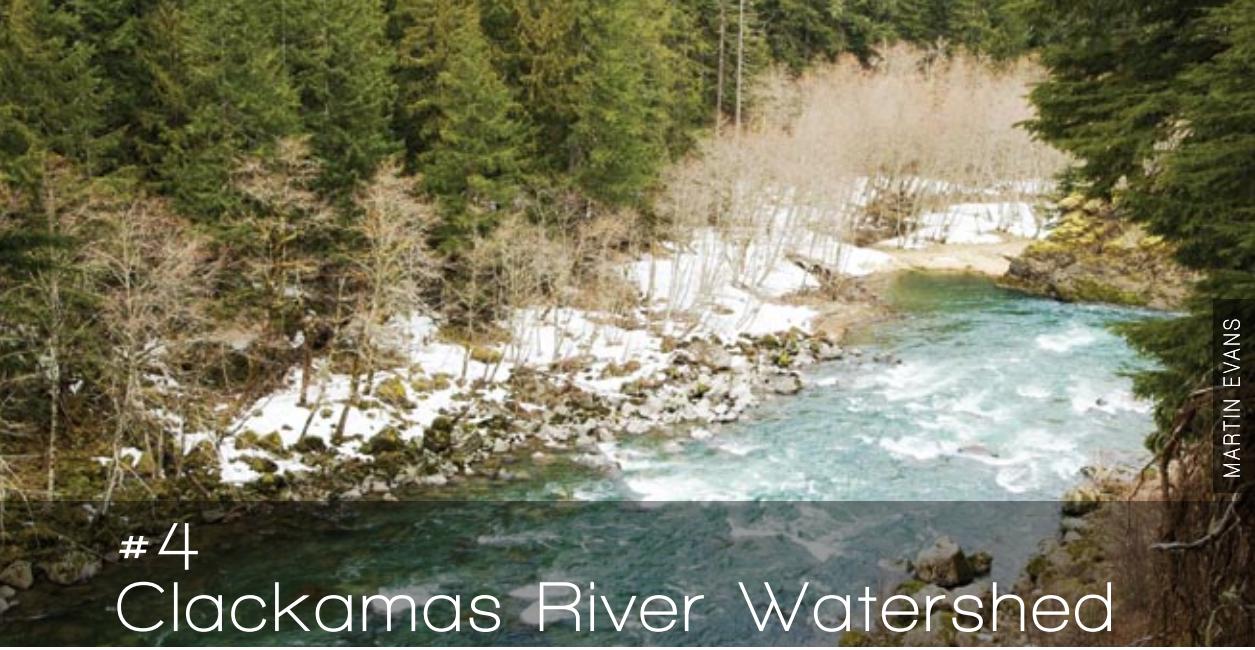
The Solution: The ultimate solution to save Oregon's Yellowstone from rampant mining and ORV abuse is to protect it as Wilderness. Wilderness is the highest form of protection for federal public land and requires an act of Congress. As Oregon's elected leaders work to resolve Wilderness protections for this area it will be important to stop the bleeding by reinstating a moratorium on new mining claims. This mining moratorium was originally put in place under the Clinton administration, but was unsurprisingly ignored and subsequently dropped under the Bush administration.

Fast Fact:

There are over 100 plant species found in the Siskiyou Wild River area that exist nowhere else on the planet.

Suction dredge machines like this destroy vital fish habitat.





MARTIN EVANS
Forest would result in a 40-mile long clear-cut spanning the entire Clackamas watershed.

#4 Clackamas River Watershed

Threat(s): Proposed Liquefied Natural Gas pipeline

The Place: The Clackamas River is a favorite destination for outdoor recreation enthusiasts. Anglers, hunters, rafters, hikers, and mushroom hunters all enjoy the natural bounty the watershed provides. Although, perhaps the most important role the Clackamas River watershed plays is as the drinking water source for 185,000 Oregonians. Its old-growth forests—some of which are over 1,000 years old—function as nature's best filters, keeping water safe and plentiful for downstream communities.

The Clackamas River is home to numerous runs of salmon and steelhead, several of which are listed under the Endangered Species Act. Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, as well as winter and summer steelhead all spawn in the Clackamas River and its tributaries. Congress recently found portions of the Clackamas so outstanding that it bestowed the highest level of protections possible for the area, designating new Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers. The Wild & Scenic Rivers recently protected include the Collawash River, Fish Creek, South Fork Roaring River, Eagle Creek and the South Fork of the Clackamas River, all of which contribute cold, clean water to the main stem Clackamas.

The Threat: The Clackamas River watershed faces several threats, but the proposed Palomar Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) pipeline is the most disconcerting. LNG is a significant climate change pollutant, with overall emissions comparable to coal. The current aim of big energy utility companies like NW Natural is to transport LNG from the middle east to the mouth of the Columbia River by ship and then build pipelines crossing the Willamette valley and the Clackamas watershed all the way to the east side of the Cascades near Maupin. The section that would cross the Mount Hood National

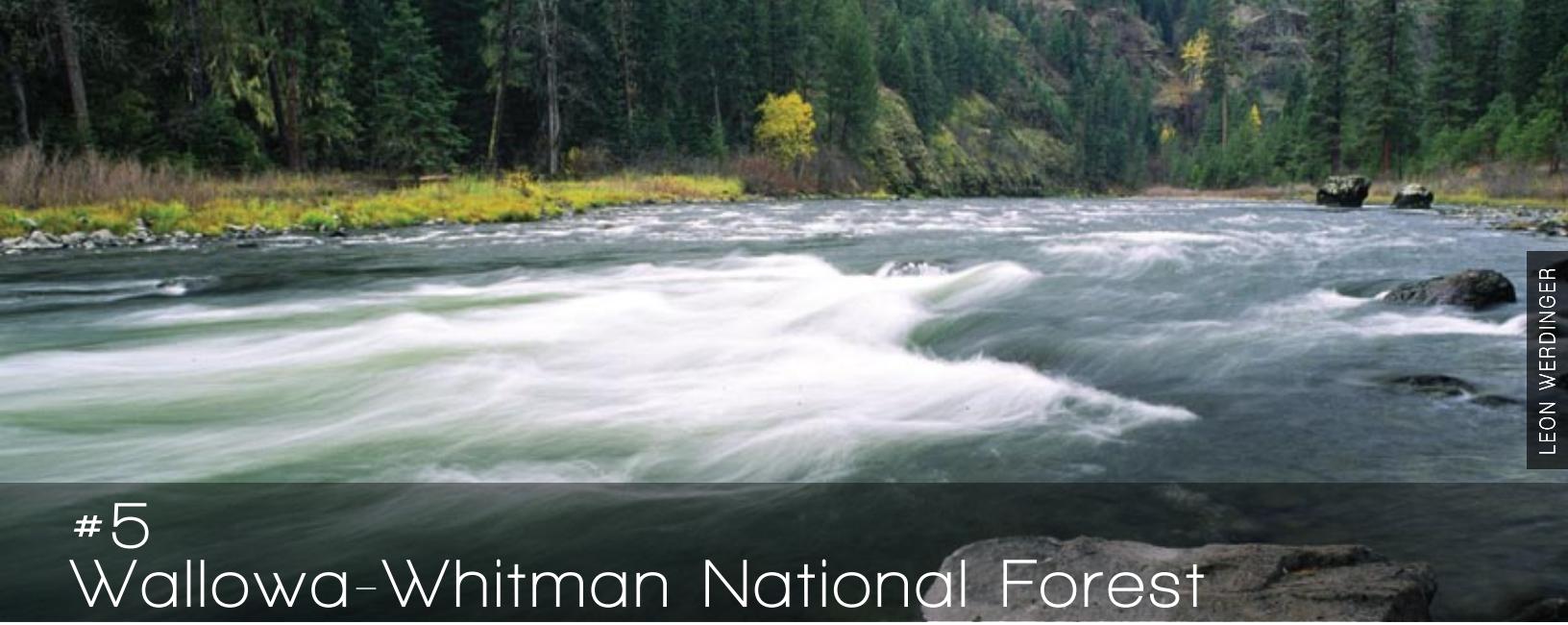
The Solution: While the Clackamas River watershed is seriously threatened by the Palomar LNG pipeline and several logging projects, we are encouraged by other trends in the watershed. The US Forest Service has engaged Oregon Wild and other agencies and interested parties in seeking common ground for projects in the Clackamas. These projects have been very successful in creating jobs and getting thousands of acres restored. The Clackamas River watershed needs more restoration, not pipelines across Wild & Scenic Rivers and unnecessary logging in popular recreation areas. By focusing on truly renewable energy sources and appropriately citing any future energy transmission corridors, we can protect this unique and scenic area.

Fast Fact:

The Clackamas River provides a source of drinking water to over 185,000 Oregonians.

An LNG pipeline would require a large clear-cut strip through old growth forest inside the Clackamas watershed.





LEON WERDINGER

#5 Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Threat(s): Off-road vehicles, excessive livestock grazing

The Place: The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest covers 2.4 million acres in Northeast Oregon. The public lands encompass the forested Blue Mountains (8,000 feet), the rugged alps-like Wallowa Mountains (10,000 feet) and the devilish, diverse, and deepest canyon in North America, Hells Canyon of the Snake River. Some of the best salmon, steelhead, and trout streams either originate in or pass through this National Forest including: the Snake, Grande Ronde, Imnaha, Wallowa, Burnt, and Powder Rivers.

The Threat: The U.S. Forest Service proposed Sled Springs Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Area would designate 144 miles of ORV routes on 38,000 acres in the heart of some of the best elk habitat in northeast Oregon. Increased ORV use in this Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife “key elk area” would degrade important habitat for elk calving and summer range. Elk and other wildlife need a degree of solitude to raise young and fatten up for cold and snowy Blue Mountains winters.

The Draft Wallowa-Whitman Travel Management Plan is far too permissive of damaging motorized use. “Quiet recreation” is threatened in many roadless and backcountry areas where the Draft Plan allows for increased ORV use and designates specific areas to be dominated by motorized uses. The Wallowa-Whitman currently has 9,000 miles of roads, and the plan should close a significant portion of these to restore streamsides and reduce watershed impacts. Quality hunting in a quiet non-motorized setting—a mainstay of the region’s culture and economy—is getting harder to find, and the draft plan would only make things worse.

Eastern Oregon is much drier than the west side of Oregon and its forests are slower to recover from damaging domestic livestock grazing. Nearly every acre of the

Wallowa-Whitman is grazed by domestic cattle or sheep (excluding only the high alpine Eagle Cap Wilderness and portions of Hells Canyon). Over a century of continuous grazing has severely damaged streamsides, wet areas, and aspen groves. Domestic livestock will “camp” in fragile streamside zones and graze until the vegetation and shade is nearly gone, resulting in long-term damage to the stream. Overgrazing has a serious negative effect on endangered salmon and steelhead as well as sensitive Redband trout. In recent decades grazing management has improved in specific areas, yet many areas are still “hammered” by livestock.

The Solution: Elimination of the proposed designated ORV areas in key elk and wildlife habitat areas. The Forest Service proposed Sled Springs ORV area should be considerably scaled back to limited existing roads or the plan should be eliminated altogether. All roadless areas should be designated as non-motorized and most of the current 9,000 miles of roads should be closed for watershed, fisheries, and wildlife protection and restoration.

Alternative 6 in the Draft Wallowa-Whitman Travel Management Plan includes these protections.

Domestic livestock grazing in streamsides, wet areas, and aspen should be eliminated or the negative grazing impacts reduced to zero by management techniques. Curbing grazing impacts would help protect watersheds, fisheries, wildlife, and sensitive habitats.

Fast Fact:

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest has over 9,000 miles of existing roads, equal to driving across the North American continent over three times.



GREG LIEF

#6 Steens Mountain

Threat(s): Energy development

The Place: Twenty million years ago amidst the arid expanse of southeast Oregon, pent up pressure beneath the Earth's surface pushed a 50-mile chunk of basalt upward. Today, standing almost a mile above the Alvord Desert below, Steens Mountain is one of the most impressive geologic features in the state. Over time, the Mountain was carved out by glaciers formed in hillside stream channels. Today, visitors are treated to a landscape of impressive gorges, lakes, and streams.

In 2000, legislation was enacted protecting the most pristine backcountry of the Steens area as Wilderness and identifying a 900,000 expanse as the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA). This unique landscape is home not only to stunning vistas, but a variety of endemic wildlife. Hikers and campers in the area may stumble upon bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain elk, pronghorn antelope, and sage grouse. Native redband trout flourish in the area's many streams.

The Threat: The strong winds that funnel up and over Steens Mountain have caught the attention of wind energy developers. In recent years, several energy companies have set up wind testing stations in and around the Steens Mountain CMPA. One wind farm proposal by Columbia Energy Partners—the Echanis project—has already been approved. The site is just a few miles from the Steens Wilderness area.

Columbia Energy Partners has also proposed two additional wind farm sites near the stunning Kiger Gorge. These proposals would add hundreds of wind turbines to the Steens area, marring one of the most awe-inspiring views in the state. Currently, these proposals have been withdrawn due to opposition from conservationists (led by our allies at the Oregon Natural Desert Association),

but the energy company has expressed their intention to continue with the projects at a later date.

To accommodate all of this new wind energy development, a proposed 29-mile-long transmission line is in the works. The line would cut through sensitive Steens CMPA lands and would bisect the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

The Solution: All Oregonians recognize the need to develop clean and renewable energy to combat global warming. However, we should not sacrifice important natural resources and one-of-a-kind views to achieve increased wind power, especially when there are better alternatives.

Any wind power development in southeast Oregon should be careful to avoid impacts on sensitive species such as sage grouse and migrating raptors. In addition, wind turbines and other energy infrastructure should not violate the terms of the Steens CMPA by permanently and adversely altering the natural beauty of the area.

Fast Fact:

Cut with deep gorges and ravines, Steens Mountain is often mistaken for a mountain range, when in fact it is one continuous mountain—the largest fault block mountain in North America.

7

Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area

Threat(s): off-road vehicles, invasive weeds, global warming

The Place: The Oregon Dunes are like no others in the world. Stretching for more than 40 miles from Florence to Coos Bay along the central Oregon Coast, the area is the largest expanse of coastal sand dunes in North America. The area's many recreational opportunities – from hiking and bird watching to camping and riding motorized vehicles – draw thousands of visitors each year. Administered by the Siuslaw National Forest, much of the area is a designated roadless area. Author Frank Herbert was inspired by this vast expanse of sand when he wrote the 1965 science fiction classic *Dune*.

The Threat: The Oregon Dunes have been altered by human forces since European beach grass was planted to "stabilize" the area beginning in 1910. This grass, other invasive plants and development have changed the makeup of the dune habitat, leading to the near extinction of the snowy plover – a small relative of the sandpiper that needs open dunes for nesting. Other invasive plants, like gorse, have also played a role in altering the dunes. In the future, global climate change and the potential rise in sea levels will also threaten this unique area.

The dunes have long been abused by ORVs and the last thing they need is more.

A more recent threat to the ecosystem and natural beauty of the dunes is off-road vehicles. ORVs have long been allowed in certain areas of the Dunes NRA, crisscrossing the sand and polluting the air with noise and fumes. In some areas ORVs are allowed free reign over the dunes, while in others they are technically only allowed on designated trails within the otherwise unroaded area. But the Forest Service does not have the resources to enforce regulations that restrict access – leading to rogue trails and rampant off-trail resource damage. Most recently, a proposal to build a nearly mile long vehicle "trail" (aka: a road) to connect Coos County properties across the Dunes roadless area would allow access to wetlands and other rare vegetation via these rogue ORV trails. The Forest Service claims the "Riley Ranch Access Project" is consistent with the Roadless Rule because it converts a 20' wide illegal trail into a 14' wide legal trail for motorized vehicles.

The Solution: Treat the area like the wilderness it is, instead of an open-access ORV playground. A first step toward protecting this significant coastal resource would be to scrap the Riley Ranch Access Project. Further efforts to enforce regulations and keep ORVs on trails would also safeguard this Oregon treasure.

Fast Fact:

Habitat enhancement for snowy plovers is funded in part by restoration thinning that benefits spotted owls and marbled murrelets in the upland forests.





But the logging industry and their allies in area county governments and the Oregon legislature have pushed plans to liquidate the forest to provide cheap timber.

This battle came to a head on June 3, 2009, when the Oregon Board of Forestry, which includes a majority with close ties to the timber industry, abandoned the more balanced and science-based plan for the Tillamook. The Board adopted a new scheme that reduced forest reserves, weakened protections for salmon and wildlife, and increased clear-cut logging. The effects of this radical logging increase on Oregon's commitment to combat global warming were not considered.

#8 Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests

Threat(s): The Oregon Board of Forestry's reckless decision to prioritize logging above all other uses of the forest

The Place: Just 40 miles west of Portland, the Tillamook is one of the largest contiguous areas of temperate rainforest in the lower 48 states. For generations, it has provided a haven for Oregonians who hike, fish, hunt, and camp. The Nehalem, Wilson, Kilchis, and Trask Rivers flow through its rugged hills, and sustain world-class salmon and steelhead fisheries. These fisheries in turn support Northwest Oregon's valuable sport and commercial fishing industries, as well as countless tourism and recreation-based businesses.

Intensive logging of the Tillamook dates back to the early 1900s. Between 1933 and 1951, logging operations touched off a series of large forest fires in the area. Salvage logging that followed the "Tillamook Burn" removed more than 5 billion board feet of timber. Together, the fires and logging dramatically altered the landscape on over 810 square miles of land. These forests came into state ownership after a bond measure was passed in 1948, and Oregon taxpayers became responsible for their management as state lands.

Over the last 50 years, the forests of the region have largely recovered from the fire, and today provide valuable habitat for dozens of rare species. Reckless clear-cutting on private lands in Northwest Oregon has made this habitat increasingly important for the northern spotted owl, coho salmon, and other threatened species.

The Threat: An intense political battle has raged over the Tillamook in recent years. Conservationists and many recreational users want the forest managed for clean water, wildlife, and traditional recreation.

JUSTIN BAILIE

All this comes as timber prices have sunk to historic lows, meaning Oregon taxpayers would be hit twice—first by the loss of clean water, fish and wildlife, and then again by the absurdly-low prices fetched from clear-cutting taxpayer-owned forests.

The Solution: Governor Ted Kulongoski and the Oregon Board of Forestry should act quickly to suspend this reckless logging plan and begin work on a new plan that 1) ensures clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreation are prioritized over logging; 2) includes permanently protected natural resource conservation areas; 3) is subject to rigorous scientific analysis and public review; and 4) fully considers how future management of Tillamook State Forest will affect Oregon's plan to combat global warming. Finally, the recent, sad history of the Tillamook is a prime example of why Governor Kulongoski should act to reform the Oregon Board of Forestry so that it is not dominated by the logging industry.

Fast Fact:

Together, the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests make up one of the largest contiguous areas of temperate rainforests in the lower 48 states.

Coastal coho rely on the many streams that feed coastal rivers in the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests.





peting for limited water, soil, and light resources and increasing fire risk due to ladder fuels and fuels build up. Natural fires used to burn through the lower elevations in a frequent low intensity manner that left fire resistant pines and larch intact while periodically clearing much of the understory of highly flammable small trees and brush.

9 Lookout Mountain Wilderness

Threat(s): Snowmobile use, fire suppression, livestock grazing

The Place: Lookout Mountain contains some of the finest old-growth mixed conifer and ponderosa pine in Central Oregon. The roadless mountain has several life zones from low elevation pine forest to sub-alpine meadows and sage steppe.

This pristine area is home to the headwaters of the Wild & Scenic North Fork Crooked River which harbors the sensitive Redband trout. The hills, valleys, and meadows of Lookout Mountain provide 19,200 acres of important habitat for elk, deer, bear, cougar, bobcat, antelope, martens, ruffed grouse, and a variety of hawks. With elevations that range from just over 3,000 feet to almost 7,000 feet, there is plenty of space and variety for year-round habitat for these beautiful animals.

Lookout Mountain is well known for its open, park-like forests of ponderosa pine that invite budding explorers to hike cross-country with a map and compass in hand. One of the more popular trails in the Ochocos rises up 3,000 feet in just over seven miles to the summit of Lookout Mountain.

As you travel higher you will traverse through ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, western larch, lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, and even subalpine fir as you reach timberline. The reward for this strenuous hike is an amazing view of the volcanic Cascade Range and the distant peaks of Three Sisters, Mount Jefferson, and Mount Hood. It is also possible to cross-country ski this trail in the winter.

The Threat: Snowmobile use during the winter months radically alters the quiet recreation wilderness experience. Excessive fuel build-ups of small trees and brush threaten the survival of fire-dependent old growth ponderosa pine, western larch, and Douglas fir by com-

many species including Redband trout and neotropical migrating songbirds.

The Solution: Designate the area as Wilderness to protect the existing old-growth forest and wildlife habitat from motor vehicle use, new roads, logging, and mining.

In appropriate frequent fire forest types, an aggressive prescribed fire program should help reduce excessive fuels, protect the existing old growth, and prepare the ecosystem for maintenance by natural fires. In some areas, non-commercial mechanical fuels reduction can prepare for prescribed fire and future fire management.

Streams, wet areas, and aspen stands must be protected from domestic livestock grazing to improve these rare and critical habitats for fish and wildlife.

Fast Fact:

Lookout Mountain is one of the few intact eastern Oregon mountains that has distinct north, south, east, and west aspects rising up to culminate in a high plateau above timberline. The combination provides a "snapshot" of several ecological "life zones" and the various eastside old growth forest types in a relatively small area.

Noisy, polluting snowmobiles speed through the area in the winter.



STEVE PEDERY



wildlife like elk, bald eagles, river otters, and threatened northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets.

The Threat: Despite the importance of the wildlands and streams surrounding the Rogue, threats from logging, road-building, and other development is ongoing. The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR) posed a huge threat to the old-growth forests of the Wild Rogue. Despite the fact that the WOPR has been dropped, old logging sales – and potential new ones – can still move forward in the area. The Kelsey-Whisky Timber Sale, for example, has already been auctioned to a logging company. Tenuous court rulings are all that stands in the way of new roads and damaging logging in hundreds of acres of pristine wildlands.

While portions of the roadless lands that surround the Rogue were protected in 1978 as the Wild Rogue Wilderness Area, and a narrow strip along the main river is protected as Wild & Scenic, much of this watershed remains unprotected today. With old-growth logging slated along key tributaries of this national treasure, now is the time to protect the rest of the Wild Rogue's

roadless lands and free-flowing tributary streams for this and future generations.

10 Wild Rogue

Threat(s): Logging, water quality degradation, global warming

The Place: The Wild Rogue is one of Oregon's wildest, most scenic, and most enjoyed landscapes. Located in Southern Oregon in the Siskiyou Mountains, the lower Rogue River is one of the state's premier recreational spots, attracting tens of thousands of visitors every year to raft, fish, and hike. Outdoor recreation contributes millions of dollars to the local economy each year.

The Wild Rogue and its tributaries provide important salmon and steelhead habitat, providing the backbone for one of Oregon's most important sport and commercial fisheries. The Rogue River is the largest producer of Pacific salmon in Oregon outside of the Columbia River. A recent study by ECONorthwest shows that west coast residents alone enjoy more than \$1.5 billion in economic benefit each year from the Rogue's salmon and steelhead runs.

The Wild Rogue is far more than just the river and tributary streams. Tens of thousands of acres of wild forest lands surround these free flowing waters. The diverse forests of the Wild Rogue provide essential habitat for

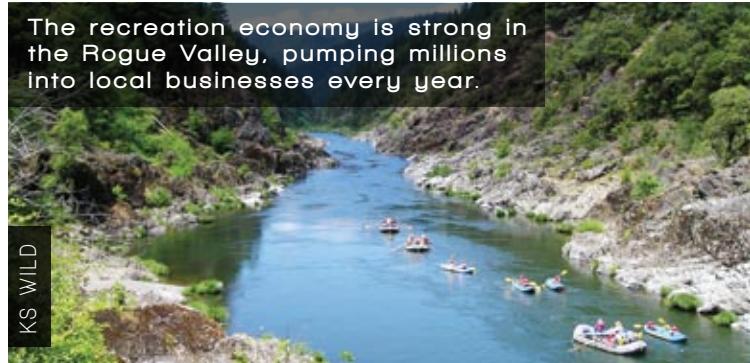
The Solution: Congress must act to permanently protect the Wild Rogue. Current legislation in both the House and Senate would protect 143 miles of Rogue River tributaries as Wild & Scenic Rivers.

Wilderness protection for the 58,000 acres of surrounding wildlands is also needed and should be added to this pending legislation.

Fast Fact:

The lower Rogue River was one of the original eight rivers to be designated by the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act of 1968.

The recreation economy is strong in the Rogue Valley, pumping millions into local businesses every year.



Oregon Wild 2009 Accomplishments

In the early summer, as Oregon Wild staff sat down to plan this report, a huge threat to Oregon's wildlands loomed. The largest increase in old-growth forest clear-cutting since the early 1990s was on the table in the form of the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR). This Bureau of Land Management scheme would have put ancient forests stretching from Alsea to Ashland at risk.

As you may have noticed, no forestlands proposed for clear-cutting in the WOPR made the top ten list. Instead, in late July, the Obama administration announced the cancellation of the WOPR and the reinstatement of the Northwest Forest Plan. The decision came in response to an Earthjustice lawsuit filed on behalf of Oregon Wild and our ancient forest allies. The revocation of the WOPR represents just one of the many conservation successes we have enjoyed in the past year and is proof that "endangered places" don't always stay that way.

- Triggered the cancellation of the Western Oregon Plan Revisions following a lawsuit in which Oregon Wild was the lead plaintiff.
- Helped to enact the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009, representing the largest Wilderness expansion in Oregon in 25 years. All told, 202,000 acres of Wilderness and 90 miles of Wild & Scenic Rivers were forever protected, including Mount Hood, the Columbia River Gorge, Copper Salmon, Soda Mountain, Badlands, and Spring Basin.
- Joined Earthjustice and other conservation groups to defeat Bush administration repeal of the 2001 Roadless Rule in court.
- Pressured the Obama administration to repeal inadequate Critical Habitat designations for the northern spotted owl.
- Helped secure introduction of legislation to protect the Devil's Staircase as Wilderness, and the Wild Rogue and Molalla Rivers as Wild & Scenic.
- Went back to court to protect gray wolves from losing their protections under the Endangered Species Act.

To get involved in the effort to protect and restore Oregon's endangered landscapes, go to:
www.oregonwild.org/about/take_action



STEVE PEDERY



OREGON WILD