

OREGON WILD

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THE COURT FIGHT FOR EASTERN OREGON FORESTS

Also: Hiking the Oregon River Democracy Act



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

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DANIEL HOWLAND A Rogue Detection Team in the Morgan Nesbitt Project where one of the wildest places in Oregon will be logged.

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From the Director's Desk

Leadership through unprecedented times

Kate Ritley, Board President

In early 2020, Executive Director Sean Stevens decided he would utilize Oregon Wild's sabbatical policy for long-tenured staff. Sean and his wife planned a summer packed full of adventure, and subsequently spent all of 2020 frolicking around the world.

Kidding!

When the pandemic hit, they, like the rest of us, were stuck at home. But now, two years later, Sean is taking his well-deserved 2-month leave. While he is away and unable to protest, I am seizing this opportunity to celebrate Sean and share some of his extraordinary accomplishments and outstanding leadership qualities.

The beginning of the pandemic was a scary time for the world at large, but also specifically for

nonprofits that rely on the generosity of supporters like you. Despite overwhelming social and economic uncertainty, the challenges of working from home, the inability to hold in-person events or meetings, and countless adjustments that came with the "new normal" of covid-19, Sean offered Oregon Wild consistent yet adaptable leadership. As evidenced by glowing performance reviews from staff and board members alike, Sean expertly navigated the transition to managing the organization remotely. In the face of overwhelming daily headlines, Sean maintained a "big picture" perspective and guided our staff and board through a strategic planning process that resulted in a refined 4-year plan. This plan now guides every aspect of the organization and is the driving force behind hiring new staff and launching programs focused on climate change and forests; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and private forest management reform.

On that last point, Sean's leadership proved pivotal to improving how industrial private forests are managed in Oregon. For decades, corporate forest owners operated under antiquated laws that permitted clearcutting on steep slopes without adequate stream buffers, rampant logging road construction, and widespread aerial pesticide spraying. The result has been polluted waterways, increased flooding and landslides, declining salmon and steelhead populations, substantial carbon emissions, increased risk of severe fire, and widespread destruction of wildlife habitat. Sean spearheaded a coalition to reform Oregon's private forest laws, and in 2020 and 2021 he led many months of intense negotiations that resulted in a historic deal to modernize forest management and strengthen habitat and stream protection on industrial forest lands. This leap forward for private forest management would not have been possible without



Sean's dedication and strategic vision.

Sean is more than just a strong leader and consummate professional. His passion for Oregon's forests, rivers, and wildlife embodies the spirit of Oregon Wild. We are fortunate to have Sean at the helm and

know we will continue to accomplish incredible conservation gains for Oregon under his leadership. ☺



Going to court for eastern Oregon forests

Rob Klavins,
Northeast Oregon Field Coordinator

I live in Eastern Oregon. Many think of this area as the “dry side” of the state. However, when I hike near my home, it’s usually in diverse forests full of Douglas fir, pine, and even yew. I hop creeks full of clean, cold water that host steelhead and salmon. It’s a diverse landscape linking the Rocky Mountains to the Cascades and Coast Range and beyond. It’s home to moose, wolverine, and wolves.

It’s also home to trees that grow big and fast. These trees sequester carbon at an unbelievable rate, offer refuge to a variety of wildlife, and help store life-giving water.

Unfortunately, when environmental protections were enacted in Western Oregon in the '90s, the logging industry looked east and began to cut old-growth and clearcut forests at an astonishing rate. Something needed to change before this incredible landscape was lost.

In a report to Congress, scientists proposed a broad suite of safeguards for Eastern Oregon that covered forests, streams, soils, and wildlife. Their report recommended logging,

road-building, and public-lands grazing needed to be curtailed.

The Forest Service promised to do just that. In the interim, rules known as the Screens were put in place in 1994 and would serve to protect the irreplaceable values of large trees. Specifically, trees over 21" in diameter could generally not be logged. The agency never followed through on the promise of a comprehensive plan and left the “interim” 21" rule in place.

In the late aughts, Senator Ron Wyden made an effort to address that with the “East Side Bill” that included strong environmental protections, but also provided assurances of a more sustainable long-term supply of smaller logs to industry. Conservationists, scientists, and logging industry executives stood side by side in support of the bill. Then an election happened. Feeling they could get a better deal, the logging industry tanked the agreement and fought to eliminate the Screens entirely.

In 2020, retiring Congressman Greg Walden gave them their wish after a meeting in the oval office with then-President Trump.

Politics not science

Amidst the early days of a pandemic, social unrest, and economic crisis, Trump’s Forest Service began a process to amend (pronounced “gut”) the rules that protect just the largest 3% of trees in Eastern Oregon. Oregon Wild raised objections and red flags but participated in good faith.

We were joined in our reasoned objections by over 100 independent scientists, former agency leadership, thousands of citizens, and dozens of conservation, climate, Indigenous, public health, and other organizations. We - and you - regularly asked Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley for help.

We were told to trust the process.

Then, two business days before the inauguration of a new president, a Trump political appointee signed a decision that essentially eliminated protections for the giants of Eastern Oregon.

There was hope that the Biden administration would quickly work to reverse the decision. The *Washington Post* highlighted the rollback as something the new



DAVID HILL Big and old trees are important for wildlife

connectivity for struggling species. They protect clean cold water, healthy soils, and cultural values that have been enjoyed since time immemorial.

What's at stake

What became known as the Trump Screens scared us. The undemocratic, politically-driven process was upsetting. However, in the last two years, the harms of this environmental rollback are no longer an abstraction.

As intended, the 21" rule was holding back all sorts of destruction. With large trees once again vulnerable, backcountry logging projects became much more profitable. Wasting no time, the agency and its logging collaboratives began pushing more aggressive logging and profiteering under the guise of collaboration, restoration, and fire safety.

For example, the Forest Service is proposing 16,000 acres of commercial logging in the Fremont Winema National Forest that sidesteps the usual public process and targets large trees. In the Umatilla National Forest, the Ellis Project contemplates logging some of the biggest trees and over 27,000 acres of pristine forests.

Closer to my home, the Morgan Nesbitt Project is being developed on an 87,000-acre footprint extending from the edge of the Eagle Cap Wilderness into the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Demonstration marks show near-clearcuts in forests miles from the nearest paved roads that have never before seen a chainsaw.

Others projects that have already moved forward provide cautionary tales. "Collaborative restoration" projects like Big Mosquito and Lower Joseph were supposed to protect big and old trees. The Forest Service even held up the

former as a shining example of what to expect with the Trump Screens.

Instead, old-growth pines meant to be spared were declared dangerous by the loggers sent to save them and instead cut down. Dozens were logged in a single unit. In Lower Joseph, ancient pines that had stood for centuries were protected by their neighbors. After the forests were aggressively "thinned", those massive pines blew over in the next windstorm.

Fighting for our forests

Our coalition, scientists, and local citizens called on the Biden administration to take a look. We asked the Forest Service to exercise restraint. We called on our Senators for help. None came.

So, we've gone to court.

We are represented by Crag Law Center, and working with our allies at Central Oregon LandWatch, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Greater Hells Canyon Council, Sierra Club, and WildEarth Guardians.



DAVID MIDREXLER Ancient pine that blew over after logging

administration could address. The President issued an executive order calling for a review of recent decisions with climate impacts.

Crucially, science was on our side. While Eastern Oregon forests may not sequester as much carbon per acre as the Oregon Coast Range, Tongass National Forest, or Amazon, it's a huge area. A new study showed those largest 3% of trees sequestered 42% of the carbon on these landscapes.

It's not just carbon. Amid a biodiversity crisis, they provide irreplaceable habitat, refuge, and

We expect there will be more to join the effort, and we expect to prevail. Even apologists for the Trump administration agree their process cut corners and the decision was flawed.

There is another way. Rather than spend taxpayer money to defend a controversial, destructive, and undemocratic decision by the Trump administration, Biden's Forest Service could honor promises made when I was still in high school. Advocates in Eastern Oregon and across the country have long been calling for comprehensive protections for our forests and communities.

Senator Merkley claims to be a climate champion. Senator Wyden advocates for "the Oregon Way." And President Biden has issued executive orders calling out the importance of protections for mature and old-growth trees. This shouldn't be hard. And we know it works.

A better way

A few weeks ago, I visited a timber sale in the wet forests of the Blue Mountains. I steeled myself for the usual horror show of damage to the forest coupled with the arguments that would ensue.

Instead, I saw success.

The Thomas Creek project targeted plantations that had been planted on old clear cuts. Despite calls from industry and their allies to log bigger trees and more acres, thanks to our advocacy, the Forest Service stood firm and focused on common ground. Large trees were spared.

An area that genuinely needed restoration after decades of mismanagement had been restored. And the industry made money. Lots of it. There are tens of thousands of acres just like this where good work can be done, no large-tree logging required.

But now, instead of focusing on common ground, the agency, industry, and logging collaboratives are pushing ever more aggressive projects that will create division and degrade our forests for another generation. In this age of crisis, it's likely that no amount of future "restoration" will get us back.

We need Senators Wyden and Merkley and the Biden administration to stand with the science and democratic norms. It shouldn't take a judge to make that happen. ©



John Persell joins Oregon Wild as Staff Attorney

Sometimes it takes a court challenge from Oregon Wild to compel federal and state agencies to obey the law and protect our wildlands, wildlife, and waters. We are excited to expand our capacity to do this critical work with the addition of John Persell as our new Staff Attorney. This new position will work to defend Oregon's natural treasures from bad projects while also challenging the underlying legal and policy frameworks that allow those projects to proceed in the first place.

John is originally from Minnesota but fell in love with the scope, scale, and variety of terrain here in Oregon while attending Lewis and Clark Law School. He has previously worked for several conservation groups, including Biodiversity Conservation Alliance and Pacific Rivers Council. Most recently, John served as a staff attorney for Western Watersheds Project, where he worked to defend public lands and endangered species. His home base is in Portland.



ROB KLAIVINS Only 3 % of trees in Eastern Oregon are over 21 inches in diameter and are targeted for logging

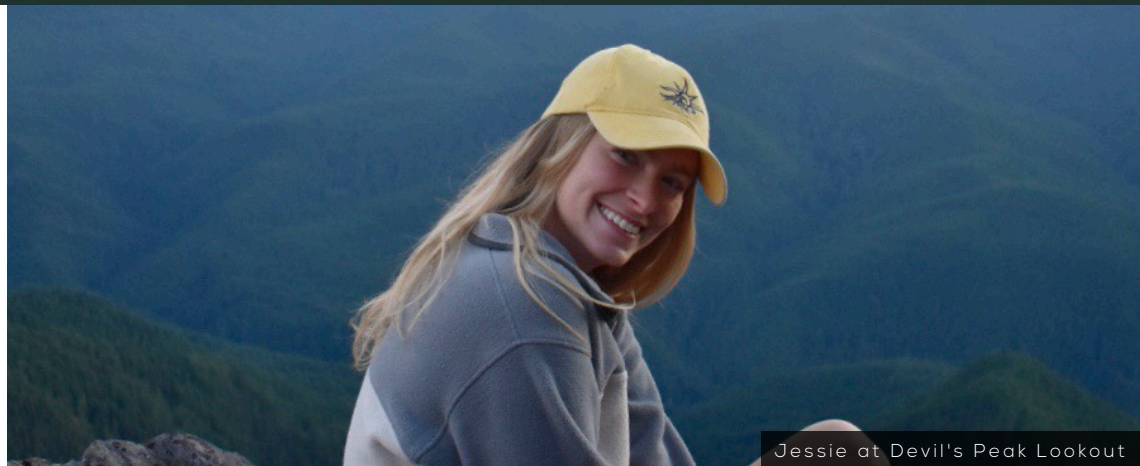
Member spotlight

Jessie Powell, Portland, OR

Wren Wells, Development and Events Associate

Oregon Wild is just one Google search away, as one Evergreen Member, Jessie Powell, can attest. After graduating in 2020, Jessie wanted to give a part of her income to a local nonprofit, hoping to make a measurable impact in her community. She signed up as an Evergreen Society member at Oregon Wild with a monthly donation after Googling for environmental organizations that aligned with her values. “Oregon Wild definitely just checked all the boxes as far as things I was looking to support in Oregon.” She likes that Oregon Wild’s work encapsulates the whole ecosystem, so her donations go towards protecting the smallest critter to largest old-growth tree and all the habitats, rivers, and native wildlife in between.

Jessie grew up on a farm on Sauvie Island. Inspired by her parents’ love of the outdoors and spirit of giving, Jessie developed a strong ethic of giving back and loving the environment. She’s



been to a lot of the places Oregon Wild has protected or is working to protect, and feels grateful that there are organizations who are standing up for the places that make Oregon so special.

In 2020, right around when she first joined as a member, she saw one of Oregon Wild’s posts celebrating the court ruling that blocked a Trump logging plan on the east side of Mount Hood.

“I remember being shocked that that was happening first of all, and then also just really relieved that someone was doing something about it.”

Oregon Wild, along with Bark and Cascadia Wildlands, fought this logging project for years, highlighting the fact that logging older, larger, and more fire-resistant trees would likely increase the risk of destructive

forest fires. In early 2020, citing Oregon Wild’s arguments in the ruling, the court blocked the project. It was a huge victory and it wouldn’t have been possible without the activism and financial support from Oregon Wild’s members and supporters.

Regular support from Jessie and other members gives Oregon Wild the chance to protect places like Mount Hood, keep our forests standing, and protect native wildlife. With Oregon Wild’s regular emails, newsletters, and social media posts, Jessie

feels like she always knows what’s going on, where her money is going, and how she can get involved. “I wrote a letter to Senator Wyden because of a newsletter by Oregon Wild. People always talk about civic engagement...but I had never done that until the Oregon Wild newsletter.” To her, it’s a motivating organization.

“You can see the gears turning and things are happening.”

As an Evergreen Society member, Jessie is ensuring that the gears keep turning and the conservation victories keep happening. Thank you, Jessie, for helping us defend our public lands and native wildlife! Evergreen Society members support Oregon Wild’s critical work with a recurring monthly donation. Visit www.oregonwild.org/about/donate to learn more and join! ☺

Climate forests across the nation

Lauren Anderson, Forests and Climate Policy Coordinator

Oregon is known for its wild forests, rivers, and mountains that stretch across the state. These landscapes purify the air we breathe, filter the water we drink, and support the salmon and other wildlife that are intrinsic to our region's identity. But Oregon's communities and wildlife have faced unprecedented threats from climate change and habitat loss. Given these impacts, the need to fight climate change and conserve the natural world for people and wildlife has become even more important. Luckily, Oregon also happens to have a win-win solution at our fingertips.

In February of this year, Oregon Wild

launched a national effort called the Climate Forests Campaign with over 100 climate, conservation, and environmental organizations across the country to protect mature and old-growth forests on federal lands as a cornerstone of US climate policy. This campaign launch was the culmination of over a year's worth of work from Oregon Wild's partners, members, and supporters, and it has led to one of the most significant policy developments on climate and forest conservation in the last two decades.

On Earth Day, President Biden announced an Executive Order calling for the protection

of mature and old-growth forests. The EO was especially meaningful as it acknowledged the importance of protecting mature forests - those that offer our best chance at recovering the old-growth that has been lost to logging over the last few hundred years. Further, the EO calls for protecting these forests on *all* federal lands, including Oregon's western BLM "O&C" lands which receive far weaker safeguards than national forests and very rarely make it into the national conversation.

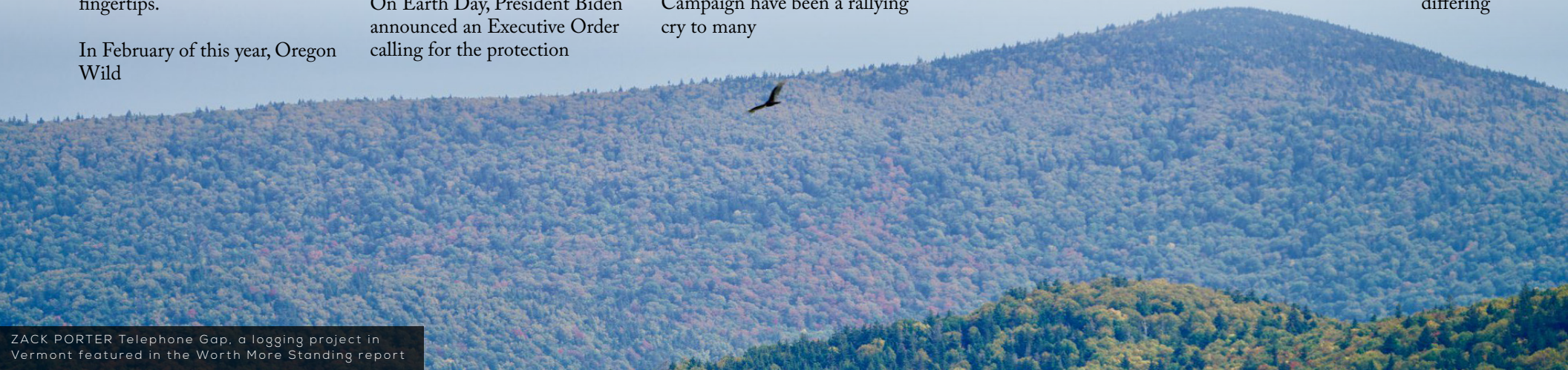
This Earth Day Executive Order and the Climate Forests Campaign have been a rallying cry to many

conservation and climate groups from every corner of the country.

Unfortunately, following the EO, the Department of Agriculture (the agency that houses the Forest Service) released a secretarial memo stating that the "primary threat to old-growth stands on national forests is no longer timber harvesting, but rather catastrophic wildfire and other disturbances resulting from the combination of climate change and past fire exclusion."

This statement is deeply concerning as it

underscores the agency's refusal to acknowledge logging as a threat for a variety of reasons, and emphasizes the point that we still have a long way to go to ensure these special places are protected from the threat of chainsaws. We know that numerous logging projects continue to target mature and old-growth trees, including the Flat Country project in Willamette National Forest, and the Poor Windy and Integrated Vegetation Management projects in BLM's Medford District. Now that President Biden and the Forest Service have made it clear that they have differing



views when it comes to protecting mature and old-growth, it's up to us to ensure that directives of the EO are fulfilled and projects like Flat Country become a practice of the past.

Climate and forest science are unambiguous that forests are a key piece of addressing the challenges posed by a rapidly

changing climate and by rampant biodiversity loss. Research shows that the oldest, largest trees store the most carbon on the landscape, and are frequently the most resistant to wildfires.

Unlogged, older forests are also key sources of drinking water for many communities across the country.



"Like federal forestlands across the US, the mature forests of New England's White and Green Mountain National Forests continue to suffer from death by a thousand cuts. We can't afford to log these important carbon and biodiversity strongholds. They're worth more standing."

-Zack Porter, Standing Trees Executive Director

In response to the agency's refusal to acknowledge logging as a threat, the Climate Forests Campaign released a report highlighting ten logging projects across the country that will result in the loss of mature and old-growth trees. The report, called *Worth More Standing: Ten Climate Saving Forests Threatened by Federal Logging*, identified 240,000 acres of mature and old-growth forests on the chopping block, an area approximately the size of Indianapolis.

Close on the heels of news coverage from the report, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management opened a public comment in the Federal Register seeking to define mature and old-growth forests, and identify the best strategy for establishing a national inventory. The comment period, which received over 142,000 comments from the campaign in support of establishing durable protections for these climate and biodiversity

havens, will hopefully be a stepping stone towards a real rulemaking process.

But even more than lasting protections, Oregon Wild is hopeful that the Climate Forests Campaign will lead Oregonians, and folks from every corner of the

country, to realize that trees and forests are just as important for addressing the climate crisis as wind turbines, solar panels, and electric cars. We need these giants to remain standing now and for future generations. ☺



"The climate forests campaign has a real chance at driving the biggest conservation achievement since the 2001 Roadless Rule. Our older forests and trees are a critical natural solution to climate change and need to be a central piece of U.S. climate policy."

-Ellen Montgomery, Environment America's Public Lands Director

Hiking the River Democracy Act

Three “campaign” hikes that connect legacy campaigns (Crater Lake, OMNRA, Mount Hood) to RDA

Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley introduced the Oregon River Democracy Act to better protect clean drinking water sources, recreational opportunities, and wildlife habitat. This historic bill proposes expanding Oregon’s network of Wild & Scenic Rivers by over 4,700 miles and would protect segments of numerous key rivers across the state, from the desert streams of Owyhee country to the roaring rivers of the Coast Range. Featured here are a few of our favorite hikes along proposed Wild & Scenic Rivers, connecting this incredible legislation to several campaigns Oregon Wild has worked on over the years.



CHANDRA LEGUE View across Lookout Mountain's plateau.



01. Lookout Mountain

“Lookout Mountain is an underappreciated gem in Central Oregon. The wildflowers and views are truly incredible! Bring binoculars and spend a little extra time at the summit – you’ll have a great view of the North Fork Crooked River watershed, a fish and wildlife haven that stands to benefit from the passage of the River Democracy Act.”

–Jamie Dawson

Lookout Mountain lies at the heart of a vast wild landscape of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests, grasslands and meadows, and streams that are ideal for all forms of backcountry recreation. Oregon Wild has long sought to codify the protections for the remaining roadless areas across the Ochoco National Forest, including the one on Lookout Mountain.

This fairly difficult 7-mile loop hike follows the Independent Mine Trail 808 for about 3.5 miles up to the summit of Lookout Mountain, followed by a 3.5-mile descent. The diverse ancient forest along the trail and the view at the top are stunning, and spring and summer also bring an abundance of wildflowers to enjoy along the way. This loop also crosses the headwaters of Canyon, Brush, and Lookout Creeks – all included in the River Democracy Act of 2021 as proposed Wild & Scenic Rivers.



SANDY WALLSMITH Hikers enjoy Boulder Lake's shore.



02. Boulder Lake

“Boulder Lake is a true wilderness experience, from cliffs to aquamarine lake waters to old-growth forests to wildflower meadows, and deserves to be protected.”

– Erik Fernandez

Over 120,000 acres of new Wilderness was designated around Mount Hood in 2009, but Boulder Lake was not included despite being largely surrounded by two units of the Badger Creek Wilderness. This spectacular wild area has long been part of Oregon Wild’s continued

efforts to protect wild places around Mount Hood. Recent Mount Hood legislation continues to fall short of protecting this gem. Fortunately, additional protections could be realized for Boulder Creek (and lake) as part of the mile-wide Wild & Scenic River corridor included in Senator Wyden's River Democracy Act of 2021.

This easy hike follows a well-traveled trail from the main trailhead through a delightful forest of Douglas-fir and noble fir for just 0.4 mile to the edge of Boulder Lake. From here you can explore the lake shore, hike another half mile to Little Boulder Lake, or continue through the forest for a climb to Bonney Meadows. One more option is from the parking area - on the other side of the road from the Boulder Lake trail, follow the Boulder Creek trail downhill a half mile through a diverse forest to the proposed Wild and Scenic River.



CHANDRA LEGUE View over one of the Twin Lakes to surrounding wild lands



03. Twin Lakes

"This is one of my very favorite hikes that I included in my book Oregon's Ancient Forests: A Hiking Guide. The forest and wildlands here connect an incredible landscape!"

-Chandra LeGue

Part of the large Calf-Copeland inventoried roadless area, the area around Twin Lakes in the North Umpqua River watershed is an important connection to the Cascades and the wildlands surrounding Crater Lake National Park. The old-growth forests and wildlife habitat found in this wild area deserve additional protections, as laid out in the Crater Lake Wilderness Proposal.

This 5.6 mile, moderately difficult hike loops around the lakes and climbs to the cliffs that overlook them and offers a sampling of the best of the region: spectacular wildflower meadows, old-growth trees, mountain views, and diverse ancient forests - some recovering from a 2017 fire. The two turquoise Twin Lakes are the source of Twin Lakes Creek, which flows to Calf Creek - both proposed as Wild & Scenic Rivers in the River Democracy Act of 2021. ©

Become an evergreen supporter of Oregon Wild

Wren Wells, Development & Events Associate

Love the outdoors but need the inspiration to get out there, discover new places, and deepen your connection to Oregon's wildlands? When you become an Evergreen Member with a \$10 per month donation, you'll receive access to exclusive hiking information specially selected by our staff to help you find new places and make the most of your visit.

Being an Evergreen Member is the absolute best way to support our conservation work. Whether you're hitting the trails or enjoying the views, you can trust that your year-round support is going toward our work to defend our old-growth forests, expand our Wild & Scenic River designations, and advocate for the wildlife that call Oregon home.

This special promotion will run through October 2022. We hope you'll join us in discovering new trails and help us continue to preserve our wildlands, wildlife, and waters.

Sign up today at oregonwild.org/donate or scan the code!



Fighting for our future

A summer crop of Oregon Wild interns all focused their efforts on the Climate Forests Campaign (see page 8-9). Get to know these incredible young people who made a difference this year!



Alejandra Vazquez

"Oregon Wild has unlocked a new admiration and passion for the world around me."

Alejandra is currently a political science and marketing major with minors in communication and film at Portland State University. While at PSU, Alejandra serves as a programming assistant for La Casa Latina, a cultural resource center on campus. She is also a peer mentor for Race and Social Justice class, where she serves her students as a support system as many of them are first-generation students trying to navigate a challenging institution. This summer, Alejandra worked on creating digital toolkits that help other organizations in the Climate Forests Coalition to amplify the Worth More Standing Report (pg. 9). She has also taken charge of her own project, creating a university toolkit in the hope of creating outreach to university students to get involved with the Climate Forest Campaign. Besides making toolkits for the campaign, Alejandra says she has gained a new perspective on the environment and plans to continue the fight to protect our underestimated forests.



Helena Virga

"I am grateful to be able to blend my passions of fire management and climate change through supporting Oregon Wild's Climate Forest Campaign."

Over the summer, Helena contributed to two environmental advocacy organizations: Oregon Wild and Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology (FUSEE). She is grateful to be able to blend her passions of fire management and climate change by supporting these two impactful Oregon nonprofit organizations.

Helena supported the Climate Forests Campaign through grassroots outreach and engagement, writing draft letters to the editor, and growing support from Eugene organizations, people, and businesses. Helena's biggest project was creating a Wildfire Toolkit to be shared with grassroots organizations. This toolkit helps inform the public about how to keep communities safe from wildfire, why mature trees are so important for fire-adapted ecosystems, and provides resources for learning more about climate change and wildfire.

This fall, Helena will begin the final year of her master's program at the University of Oregon pursuing two degrees



Sophie Brown

"Working on the Climate-Forests campaign has taught me that some of the best climate solutions are truly as simple as letting trees stand."

in Environmental Studies and Nonprofit Management, with an Environmental Conflict: Climate Change Specialization through the Conflict and Dispute Resolution (CRES) program.

Sophie Brown recently graduated from the University of Virginia, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature. This summer, Sophie worked out of Oregon Wild's Portland office promoting the Climate-Forests Campaign. She's had a hand in developing various toolkits, social media content, as well as engaging in direct outreach with the public, businesses, and other environmental organizations. She has especially enjoyed researching and creating posts for the Oregon Wild Blog to draw attention to some key topics of the campaign, such as the incredible carbon-storage capacity of mature and old-growth forests and the vital role that public action has played in this campaign's current momentum. Above all, Sophie says she has loved working alongside and learning from so many passionate environmentalists.

Great beer starts with clean water

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director



It's difficult to overstate the enormous impact that passing the River Democracy Act would have across the Oregon landscape. The sheer scale and magnitude of what we're working to protect would help safeguard waterways in nearly every corner of the state.

As a truly once-in-a-generation conservation campaign, it would not only easily be the largest expansion of river protections in Oregon history, but it could also be the largest expansion of Wild & Scenic River protections in United States history.

With waterways in 33 of Oregon's 36 counties standing to gain protection, there's a lot at stake for our drinking brewsheds.

Eight years ago, Oregon Wild launched the Oregon Brewshed® Alliance to help elevate the voices of our state's phenomenal breweries and cideries in the campaigns to protect our forests and watersheds. Just as Oregon is

known for its world-class breweries, we also want Oregon to be known for its leadership in protecting the #1 ingredient for all that amazing beer: water. Statewide partners in the Oregon Brewshed® Alliance are speaking out for several of Oregon Wild's conservation efforts including this historic opportunity to expand Wild & Scenic River protections. Their varied ways of helping advance this effort are playing out like a curated tap list - from signing letters to key elected officials and participating in our upcoming Call of the Wild event (see the back cover) to making generous donations and using their social media platforms to help connect the dots for the public about the critical importance of clean water in the brewing industry.

Last year, over 50 Oregon breweries spoke out in support of Senator Wyden's River Democracy Act, legislation that proposes protecting up to 4,700

miles of our state's incredible rivers, creeks, and streams. These breweries have brought such an important voice to this campaign - helping us highlight how we depend on cold, clean waterways.

We're extremely grateful for all that Oregon Brewshed® Alliance partners have done so far to position this campaign for success. And in the months ahead, we'll be collaborating with them even more to help us sustain momentum as we get closer and closer to the finish line - and you best believe there will be some celebratory beers at the finish line! ☺



Conservation roundup

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director

Recovering America's Wildlife Act

As an Oregon Wild supporter, chances are you already know that we often disagree with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife leadership. But while the guys at the top have often been guilty of prioritizing trophy hunting and politics over their actual mission (conserving the native fish and wildlife of Oregon), the rank and file biologists are often doing their best with very limited resources.

That could change in the coming months. The federal legislation known as the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (or RAWA) passed the US House of Representatives in June (with some bi-partisan support, and a final vote of 231-190). In the US Senate, 16 Republicans are signed on as co-sponsors, and if it gets a floor vote RAWA is highly likely to pass. Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley both support the bill.



MARCUS REHRMAN Oregon Spotted Frog.

RAWA would pump \$1.4 billion per year into wildlife conservation efforts, focused on funding state and tribal wildlife agencies to pursue actions that benefit non-game and imperiled species. In Oregon, this money could provide a much-needed boost to efforts to restore and protect pacific fisher, Oregon spotted frogs, and the western meadowlark - our state bird. We don't always agree with ODFW's leaders, but we strongly support this boost in funding for Oregon fish and wildlife conservation.

River Democracy Act

Senator Ron Wyden's historic bill to protect thousands of miles of Oregon's rivers and streams under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act continues to await a vote by the US Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The bill would greatly expand protections for thousands of miles of waterways that provide Oregon communities with clean drinking water, habitat for salmon and wildlife, and countless other benefits.

Republicans on the Committee have thus far refused to allow the bill (or other pro-conservation bills) to advance without destructive bills favoring fossil fuel corporations and logging being similarly advanced. Oregon Wild supports Senator Wyden's efforts to advance his legislation while standing firm against measures that would weaken environmental protection elsewhere.

Protecting the Wild Rogue

The Rogue River cuts through some of Oregon's most scenic, rugged, and wild landscapes, but much of the Wild and Scenic section so beloved by rafters flows through US Bureau of Land Management lands with few conservation safeguards. Back in 2007, Oregon Wild and our sister groups in Southern Oregon proposed expanding the Wild Rogue Wilderness to include these lands, and to protect its wild salmon and steelhead runs, wildlife, and

world-class whitewater.

Earlier this year, Rep. Peter DeFazio re-introduced this important legislation, known as the Wild Rogue Conservation and Recreation Enhancement Act (HR 7509). On June 23rd, it had its first hearing in the US House Natural Resources Committee. The bill would establish a 98,000-acre National Recreation Area along the Rogue, and extend Wilderness protection to 59,000 acres of roadless wildlands near the river. It's a good bill, and long overdue! ☺



HANNA ANDERSON Rouge River.

With the release of several California condors by the Yurok Tribe in the redwoods of Northern California, it's only a matter of time before these incredible "thunderbirds" return to Oregon skies. Could you be one of the first to spot one? **Keep this handy ID guide on hand!**



CONDOR IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

As soaring birds that reach heights of up to 15,000 feet, it is likely that California condors will be spotted flying at a distance, making identification tricky. Adult and juvenile condors look very different from one another, but can easily be mistaken for turkey vultures, bald eagles, or the wind.

Turkey Vulture

SMALLER WINGSPAN (5.7-6.0 FT)

Golden Eagle

SMALLER WINGSPAN (5.9-7.7 FT)

Bald Eagle

SMALLER WINGSPAN (5.9-7.5 FT)



OREGON WILD

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For the First Time Since 2019

CALL OF THE WILD

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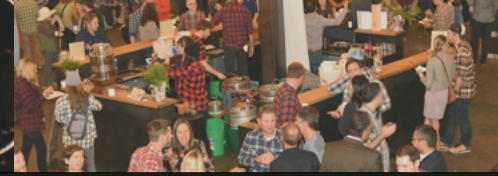
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for tickets, tent sponsorships, and event
information. Entry, beer, wine, food, and
entertainment all included in your
\$50 ticket.



SHINO YANAGWA



KELLI PENNINGTON



MARIELLE COWDIN

Join the Oregon Wild Team, our community supporters, and anyone who loves Oregon for a camp-inspired, in-person event that raises a mug to our work and raises the crucial funds for our ongoing conservation efforts. As it's our first in-person benefit event in three years, there are a lot of conservation successes to celebrate!

Call of the Wild is an unforgettable evening of cheer and celebration as we gather to recognize Oregon Wild's successes with our number one source of support—you! Thanks to your steadfast support, we're fighting for bigger and bolder conservation wins in the coming year, from championing historic protections for over 4,500 miles of Oregon's rivers to protecting our mature and old-growth forests as a solution to the climate crisis, to advocating for increased wildlife protections. We wouldn't be here without you, and we're ready to have a camp party to keep Oregon wild!

Buy your ticket now and be part of this incredible event that will propel our conservation efforts further.

You can expect:

- Delicious wine and hand-crafted cocktails from local vendors, and beer and cider from our Oregon Brewshed® Alliance Partners
- Tasty, camp-inspired local food catered by Artemis Foods and 1927 S'mores
- Live music from Portland's very own Hushfire
- A silent auction featuring Oregon's best trips, outdoor gear, food, drink, and more!
- The winning photographs from our 16th Outdoor Photo Contest

This is the camp-inspired event you've been waiting for, so get ready to spend the evening in your finest flannel with the Oregon Wild team and wilderness and wildlife lovers celebrating all that we have accomplished for the wild. Every dollar raised at Call of the Wild goes directly to supporting our mission to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters. We can't wait to see you there!

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