

# Oregon Wild

Fall 2013 Volume 40, Number 3



A lovely place  
for a clearcut



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

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COVER PHOTO: TIM GIRAUDIER The recently proposed "O&C Trust Act" would put millions of acres of beautiful, public Oregon forests like this one on the chopping block.





## From the Director's Desk Of pride and passion

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

I joined Oregon Wild in 2007, not entirely knowing what I was getting into. My most recent job was at a local television news station in Bend and I wanted my new line of work to express my personal values. I wanted to fight for the environment.

But with so many organizations in Oregon working on issues ranging from toxics reduction to forest management, it was hard to figure out where the ideal place to land would be.

Six years later, I pinch myself sometimes at how lucky I am to have found Oregon Wild. I have the distinct privilege to work with some of the most talented, dedicated, caring, and selfless people that I know. And every day I am reminded that I have the responsibility to represent thousands of people like you who contribute to the mission of Oregon Wild – either financially or with your volunteer hours or by sending a letter to an elected official. What an honor.

Two experiences that bookend my time at Oregon Wild – one recent and one way back when I first started – remind me of how essential our work is and how proud I am to be a part of it.

In July of this year, the Oregon Wild staff headed out to far northeast Oregon for our annual staff retreat. One morning, while hiking through the Imnaha Pack territory, we all froze as a sound rose up from the adjacent forest – the piercing howl of a wolf.

As we listened, I knew that we were hearing a wolf that likely would have been killed if not for our October 2011 lawsuit that halted Oregon's wolf killing program and the subsequent landmark settlement agreement that gives us the most progressive wolf conservation plan in the nation.

When I think about this amazing outdoor experience – hearing wolves howl across the Oregon landscape after decades of absence – my memory traces me back to the first field trip I took as an Oregon Wild staffer.

In October 2007 the Bush administration was in the thick of devising the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR) – a clearcut logging plan that looks all too familiar to current proposals for western Oregon forest management (see page four).

I headed out to the forested slopes above the Rogue River to tour a New York Times reporter who was writing a feature on the new threat to Northwest forests. That day, the threat seemed so great it was hard to imagine that we would overcome it. Today's clearcut plans can sometimes make us think the same thing.

And that's why Oregon Wild – our staff, board members, volunteers, and supporters – are all so amazing. We're in it for the long haul to keep Oregon a special place. And we're motivated every day to make sure wolf howls and big trees will always be a part of our state. Thank you.



GREG VAUGHN The Eagle Cap Wilderness – where hikers, and wolves, now roam.

# Oregon – home of the clearcut

In a state already besieged by antiquated logging practices, will clearcuts return to national forests?

Chandra LeGue, Western Oregon Field Coordinator



Oregon is known for its beautiful landscapes, world class recreation, and...clearcuts?

Over the past century, millions of acres of western Oregon's forests have been clearcut – dirtying drinking water, driving salmon and other wildlife close to extinction, and degrading our stunning scenery. A drive through Oregon's Coast Range is enough to provide anyone with a vivid illustration of the toll industrial-scale logging continues to take on the landscape, and the environment.

In previous issues of Oregon Wild we've described Oregon's forests "at the crossroads" – facing a choice between a path of restoring our forests, watersheds, and wildlife after decades of abusive logging, or making a U-turn back to the clearcut logging that got us here.

We also exposed the myth that Oregon's state forest laws are environmentally strong, highlighting the serious threat from proposals that would see public lands managed under the lax rules that currently apply to private industrial forest lands.

Unfortunately, these discussions are even more relevant today. The "O&C Trust Act" written by Oregon Reps. Peter DeFazio, Kurt Schrader, and Greg Walden – which would transfer more than 1.5 million acres of public lands to a "timber trust" to be managed more like private timber lands and exempt from many federal environmental laws –passed out of the Republican-led House Committee on Natural Resources in August as part of a legislative package that includes some of the worst environmental provisions seen in a generation.

Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, who chairs the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, is under tremendous pressure to also support a return to clearcutting on these western Oregon O&C lands. As he drafts legislation to address county funding and forest management in western Oregon, the fundamental question must be asked: Can Oregon's forests survive more clearcut logging?

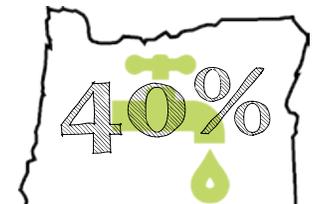
[Clearcutting Oregon – a primer](#)

Most of the fresh clearcuts you see on your way to the coast or your

favorite trail in the Cascades are on private or state land, and are regulated by the notoriously lax Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA).

Clearcutting is the dominant form of logging on private industrial timber lands and state forest land in Oregon. The Society of American Foresters defines "clearcut" as "a stand in which essentially all trees have been removed in one operation." In western Oregon, clearcuts are usually done on a 40-60 year rotation – meaning that after each clearcut, trees are replanted and then cut again 40-60 years later, though this timeframe has been shrinking as economic pressures to liquidate timber for investment firms grows.

The OFPA allows clearcuts of up to 120 acres at a time, with minimal



Oregonians who receive their drinking water from lands at risk.

KELLY MORGAN Oregon's backyard forests are at a crossroads. Will Senator Wyden heed the people's call to protect our public forestlands and watersheds?

stream buffers and retention trees. Clearcut areas are densely replanted, and herbicides are often used to kill competing native vegetation and maximize survival of desired crop trees.

Clearcutting was common on public lands until the early 1990s, when the impacts of unsustainable old-growth logging were finally recognized and protections for fish and wildlife on the brink of extinction were put in place. Since then, clearcutting has not been widely practiced on federal lands for a variety of reasons ranging from inherent controversy to impacts to wildlife habitat. But clearcuts are still allowed on federal public lands in areas designated as “matrix” under the Northwest Forest Plan. Federal laws protecting endangered species and clean water on these lands mean that more trees are required to be left behind than on private land, and streamside buffers are much better protected.

Though most logging on federal public land over the past 15 years has been focused on thinning forests already clearcut in the past, the agency in charge of the O&C lands, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), is now facing pressure to move back to controversial practices, including clearcutting, largely to satisfy the timber industry’s and some counties’ cry for greater timber

volume to solve a complex economic problem.

A clearcut by any other name...

Land managers and timber industry spin doctors know that the public doesn’t like clearcuts. So, in recent years, they’ve come up with some truly Orwellian terms to describe the practice of clearing a patch of forest land of all its trees.

Long referred to as “regeneration harvest” in forestry circles, the newest trend in clearcut camouflage is called “variable retention harvest.” First demonstrated in a series of “pilot” timber sale projects initiated by the Secretary of the Interior on BLM lands, variable retention harvest (VRH) leaves about 20-30% of the trees in a given area, both in clumps ranging from ¼ - 4 acres, and as scattered trees. This leaves the rest of the area essentially clearcut, with little or no structure and highly disturbed soil. While this method may leave more trees (and in a different pattern) than a traditional clearcut, the results on the ground have similar ecological and hydrological impacts to clearcutting

Expanding VRH across much of the BLM landscape, as recommended by the BLM, would have many negative impacts. Not only would it be a significant departure from the Northwest Forest Plan’s emphasis on

## Whither Ron Wyden?

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director



Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden has tried to keep his feet on both sides of the fence on proposals to aggressively

log public “O&C” lands. A legislative framework he released in May had two diametrically opposing goals: increase logging by moving a large portion of publicly-owned “O&C” lands into

timber emphasis areas with reduced environmental protections, and protect public lands values like clean water and old growth without undermining existing environmental laws. It remains to be seen whether these two concepts can actually coexist.

Wyden has said he will unveil specific “O&C” lands logging legislation in September. Early indications suggest he may follow the lead of Reps. DeFazio, Walden, and Schrader and promote aggressive clearcutting – essentially a toned down version of the

reckless policies being advocated in Congress by the House Republican leadership. Hope remains that he will stand up for Oregon values and preserve our public lands heritage, and the science-based framework of the Northwest Forest Plan.

As chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the direction Sen. Wyden chooses has profound implications for Oregon’s natural heritage, and for Wyden’s legacy and reputation as an environmental champion.

the need to protect and restore old forests, it would undo decades of work to reorient the agencies toward thinning dense young stands that were previously clearcut and are in need of ecological restoration. It would switch the BLM’s focus from restoration back to destruction.

Oregon’s future is not in clearcuts

While it may be the most efficient way of generating income from chopping down trees, clearcutting has many negative ecological

## Oregon Jobs & \$ Recreation vs. Logging



**\$955 million** in state and local tax rev. 2011

**21,600** statewide average jobs 2011

**31%** Predicted Job Growth 2010-2020



**\$39 mil.** in local gov rev. from BLM timber 2011

**5,400** statewide average jobs 2011

**3%** Predicted Job Growth 2010-2020

# Anatomy of a clearcut

Clearcuts are more than just eyesores – the consequences are complex and far-reaching throughout ecosystems and communities.



Habitat trees for woodpeckers, raptors, and flying squirrels removed.



Tons of carbon stored in living trees (and future growth potential) removed, much released into atmosphere.



Cover and food plants for deer and elk removed and suppressed.



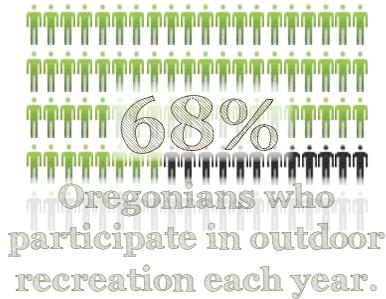
Shade and wood sources for healthy stream removed.



Soil disturbed – disrupting important root and fungal interactions.

CHANDRA LE GUE

Icons by the Noun Project. Clockwise from left: Michael Bundscherer, public domain, Francesco Terzini, Tiago Rodrigues and Pieter J. Smits



\*Not including those who hunt, fish, and view wildlife.

Outdoor recreation has become one of the fastest growing segments of our economy. A recent analysis of likely job growth by Georgetown University found that in Oregon employment in recreation and related industries is expected to grow by 31% by 2020, far surpassing the 3% expected job growth in logging and related industries. And, according to the BLM, in 2010 recreation on BLM lands in Oregon provided 6,800 jobs and pumped \$662 million into Oregon's economy. Timber lagged far behind.

Focusing on tourism, recreation, and the quality of life provided by living near protected forests can help draw new businesses to Oregon and boost our economy. But no one comes to Oregon to go hiking in a clearcut, fishing in a river that has been buried by a mudslide, or to live next to forests that could be clearcut and sprayed with herbicides without their input. Returning to clearcutting our public lands is not the way to encourage the future of Oregon's economy.

With all the drawbacks to increased clearcutting, you might think the downside would be clear to everyone. But, even as private lands are being logged at an increasing rate and log exports are skyrocketing, some politicians and the logging industry are pushing for a return to

clearcutting on public lands. After decades of abuse, resulting in the loss of most of our amazing old-growth forests, Oregon's forests need less clearcutting, herbicide spraying, and logging road runoff – not more. It is time for Oregon to move on from the era of clearcuts across the landscape.

Our public lands, including BLM O&C lands, are where we find amazing recreation and clean drinking water right in our backyards. They are the places that will nurture our recovering streams, fish and wildlife, and old-growth forests so that future generations can enjoy them. Oregon's future lies in embracing and preserving our natural heritage, not in letting our public forests become a sacrifice zone for logging interests impossibly stuck in the past. ☺

### Take Action!

Visit [www.oregonwild.org](http://www.oregonwild.org) to learn more about clearcuts in Oregon and send a message to Oregon's decision-makers letting them know that you want to see more clean water, salmon, wildlife, and recreational opportunities from public lands in Oregon – not more clearcuts.

## Welcome to Oregon!

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

We know and you know that Oregonians aren't in favor of any plan that takes us back to the days of industrial-style clearcuts and threatens the clean drinking water, critical wildlife habitat, and world-class recreation that are provided by our backyard forests.

But here's the problem – Most Oregonians don't yet know our forests are at great risk!

So, Oregon Wild is launching an ad campaign in some of Oregon's most frequented places (like the Portland and Eugene airports) to call attention to archaic logging practices on private lands and the clearcutting that could be returning to our national forests. We'll be running billboard, poster, and radio ads to make sure that politicians hear one thing loud and clear:

**Oregonians support protecting their forests!**

Running an effective ad campaign is expensive. So we're asking Oregonians statewide to chip in so that our voice can be heard.

To make a special contribution to this campaign, please use the envelope provided or go to [www.oregonwild.org/donate](http://www.oregonwild.org/donate).



# Win, Lose, or Draw in the Oregon Legislature

Rob Klavins, Wildlands and Wildlife Advocate  
Steve Pedery, Conservation Director

Chicago has its blues, Boston its history, and New York is a melting pot of culture. Here in Oregon our identity is based on big, wild places, pristine waters, abundant wildlife, and a vibrant outdoor culture. We treasure those values and the high quality of life that depends on them.

But unfortunately, we also have some state politicians who remain stuck in the past. Jokingly referred to as “Timbercrats,” they hail from all corners of the state and both political parties. They still see clearcuts as the path to prosperity, wetlands as wasted space, and wild wolves and salmon as a nuisance. All too often, they set the agenda on environmental issues in Salem.

To address this disconnect between Oregonians’ strong conservation values and the terrible record of Oregon’s legislature on wildlife and water, Oregon Wild increased our engagement in the state capital this year. While we didn’t win every battle, we are happy to report we helped move things in the right direction.

## BIG WIN!

**Waldo Lake** Our biggest win was a decisive victory in a decades-long campaign to protect Waldo Lake. In May, Governor Kitzhaber signed a bill that, once and for all, bans noisy polluting motors from one of the world’s most pristine lakes. The bill received votes from both sides of the aisle after moving testimony from the grandsons of Judge Waldo – the lake’s namesake.



Sen. Floyd Prozanski & Rep. Paul Holvey – co-sponsors of the bill. Oregon Sierra Club – who helped lead the fight and rally the votes.



Sen. Betsy Johnson – the only Democrat to vote against the bipartisan bill.

## WIN!

**Waters** It’s been 25 years since Oregon updated its system of protected waterways. In the meantime, the state has been invaded by a small army of “hobby” miners moving north after California banned the destructive practice of suction dredge mining. Though we fell short of expanding permanent scenic waterway protections, we did pass legislation limiting the number of permits for suction dredging to 2009 levels, and requiring new rules to protect salmon and clean water.



Sens. Alan Bates & Jackie Dingfelder led the charge and endured threats of violence from tea-party activists.



Sen. Betsy Johnson forced conservationists to water down the bill and then voted against it anyway.

## WIN!

**Wolves** In recent years wolf kill bills have nabbed headlines as the Legislature grappled with extreme proposals to undo protections for endangered species. In 2012, Oregon Wild blocked the state’s wolf killing program when we and our conservation partners filed a legal challenge. This year, we passed legislation codifying a landmark legal settlement giving Oregon the most progressive wolf plan in the west.



Sens. Jackie Dingfelder & Bill Hansell, Rep. Bob Jensen, Governor John Kitzhaber, Cascadia Wildlands.



The Obama administration – working to strip federal protections from American gray wolves across the West.

## Draw

**Other Wildlife** Several positive bills to reform and help fund wildlife management in the state died quiet deaths. Efforts to kill native wildlife, exclude the majority of citizens from having a voice in wildlife management, and overturn the will of the voters created unnecessary conflict but were all ultimately defeated.



Rep. Jules Bailey introduced several positive measures.



The House Natural Resources Committee, where Reps. Brad Witt & Sal Esquivel attempted to ban non-hunting and fishing Oregonians from serving on the state Wildlife Commission.

## Draw

**Forests** As U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio’s public lands clear-cutting scheme drew broad public criticism, Timbercrats in Salem tried to sneak through a resolution endorsing aggressive industrial logging on public lands. Oregon Wild and our allies were successful in convincing several leaders to ditch the plan’s most controversial aspects and ultimately defeat the ill-conceived measure.



Oregon Conservation Network for helping beat back the measure.



Rep. Peter DeFazio for creating the terrible clearcutting scheme in the first place.



## What's Next →

We took on a broad agenda in the capital in 2013. But we're just getting started.

In 2014, we'll fight to ensure the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife is more willing and able to pursue its conservation mission. We'll counter the pro-clearcutting campaign promoted by the timber industry and the spin doctors at the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and push for reform of the abysmal Oregon Forest Practices Act.

Of course, bad ideas never go away, and we will remain vigilant to threats to Oregon values. With your help, we aim to make 2014 another successful year for conservation in the Oregon legislature. ☺

*Thumb icon by the Noun Project, Gilad Fried*

## A tale of two Committees

In 2012, the Oregon House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources earned Salem national media attention as “the place where wildlife goes to die.” Our hopes were high after one of the committee’s most anti-environment members was voted out of office, and its chair demoted.

Sadly 2013 wasn’t much better. Under the leadership of Rep. Brad Witt, the committee entertained a variety of proposals to make it easier to kill protected wildlife in Oregon. Worse, the Chair held a hearing on a measure that would have banned all but the most diehard hunters and fishermen from

ever serving on the commission that oversees wildlife conservation across in the state.

In stark contrast, in 2013 the Oregon Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources focused on rational policies aimed at conserving wildlife, protecting clean water, and preserving Oregon icons like Waldo Lake. Under the leadership of Sen. Jackie Dingfelder, the committee advanced measures to protect rivers from destructive suction dredge mining, safeguard treasures like Waldo Lake, and codify the landmark legal settlement over conservation of American gray wolves in our state.



## A tale of two legislators

Environmental politics in Salem may be best characterized as the conflict between old-school “Timbercrats” and younger, more conservation-oriented legislators with a background in science and policy. The dichotomy between two Oregon Democrats shows this divide isn’t always a partisan one.

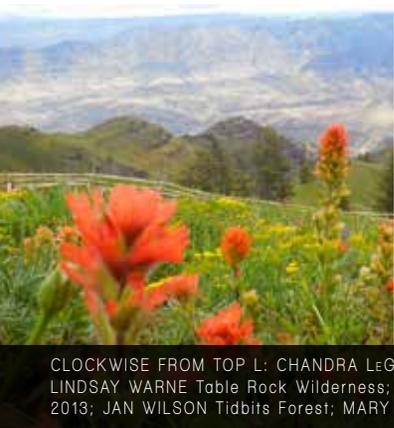
Rep. Jules Bailey (D-Portland) is a rising star in Salem, and widely regarded as one of Oregon’s smartest legislators. He put those smarts to use in 2012, proposing several visionary bills as the Chair of the House Committee on Energy and the Environment, including measures to better fund ODFW to conserve non-game species.

On the other hand, Sen. Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose) is known as a key swing vote,

shrewd deal maker, and reliable vote for logging interests and polluters. In 2013, she opposed protecting Waldo Lake from pollution, protecting salmon from destructive suction dredge mining, and renewing important clean energy legislation. Her stands earned ire from Democratic leaders around the country.

In advancing environmental protection in Salem, legislators like Johnson are a huge challenge. Often, in order to secure her vote for measures on education, health care, or social services, legislative leaders are forced to water down, or even abandon, environmental priorities. Changing this dynamic will be critical to protecting Oregon’s natural heritage in the 2014 legislature, and beyond.

# If your knees aren't green...



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP L: CHANDRA LE GUE Mount June Rhododendron; LINDSAY WARNE Table Rock Wilderness; ROB KLAVINS Wolf Rendezvous 2013; JAN WILSON Tidbits Forest; MARY STRICKWORTH Buckhorn Lookout

Protecting Oregon's wildlands requires a lot of in-office time. So when we get the chance to step out the door for an adventure, we love that we get to share it with Oregon Wild members, supporters, and familiar faces. What's more, we get to come full circle on our work to protect Oregon's wilderness over the last (almost!) 40 years, and revel in the charms and glories of some of our favorite places.

Our OREGON WILD SUMMER was full of summit hikes, old growth explorations, and wildflower ramblings. We even threw in a few service trips and a Wolf Rendezvous for good measure. As summer comes to an end, the Oregon Wild team closes the book on another fun season of exploration on Oregon's trails, but fall hikes are just around the corner.

Thanks to all the volunteers, hikers, and of course the generous support of KEEN Footwear for making Oregon Wild Summer a great success and stay tuned for another summer of (free) hikes next year! ☺

## Sign up for fall hikes!

Calvin – the philosopher of Calvin & Hobbes fame – once said “If your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you ought to seriously re-examine your life.” With the long days of summer winding down, it's a good time to take a look at your knees. Whether your re-examination leaves you satisfied or wanting more, it's also a good time to look forward to fall.

We're pleased to announce a series of hikes to hold you over until the snow falls and the snowshoes come on. Join us for a fall full of mushrooms, salmon, waterfalls, colors, and more! Visit [www.oregonwild.org](http://www.oregonwild.org) to find out more and sign up.

Friday, September 13  
Upper McKenzie Waterfalls & Pools [EUGENE]

Saturday, September 21  
Salmon River Hike [PDX]

Friday, October 4  
Tamanawas Falls Hike [PDX]

Sunday, October 20  
Oregon Dunes [EUGENE]

Saturday, October 26  
Eagle Creek Mushroom Hike [PDX]

Monday, October 28  
Herman Creek Mushroom Hike [PDX]

Wednesday, October 30  
Larch Mountain Mushroom Trip [PDX]

Sunday, November 10  
Fall Creek Mushroom Hike [EUGENE]



CHRIS SOKOL

SUE PARSONS

# Join the frontline in protecting the Oregon you love

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director



MARK TIMBY



MAHOGANY AULENBACH

## WHEN

*...the pristine waters of Waldo Lake were threatened...*

*...the state issued lethal kill orders for Oregon's wolves...*

*...Oregon's last remaining old-growth was on the chopping block...*

*...we permanently protected Wilderness areas like Mount Hood...*

**OREGON WILD  
EVERGREEN SOCIETY  
MEMBERS WERE THERE!**



ODFW



© DARRYL LLOYD

Joining the Evergreen Society is the best way to help Oregon Wild protect our wildlands, wildlife, and waters. By supporting Oregon Wild with an easy monthly gift, you'll know that – whether you're rafting the Rogue River or snowshoeing around Mount Hood – you're standing up for the Oregon you love year-round.

Evergreen Society members make dependable monthly gifts via automatic bank transfer or credit card. These monthly contributions decrease the amount of money we spend on fundraising so we can channel more of your support toward protecting the places in Oregon that are special to you.

### Take Action!

Evergreen Society supporters allow us to proactively plan our campaigns and respond to new threats to our wildlands, wildlife, and waters. To join today, please visit us online at [www.oregonwild.org/membership](http://www.oregonwild.org/membership) or call Jonathan Jelen at 503-283-6343 ext 224.

# Creature Feature: Will condors one day soar again over Oregon and Northwest skies?

Wendell Wood, Wildlands Interpreter



CHUCK SZMURLO

## Creature: California Condor

Where you can find it: In 1805, the Lewis and Clark expedition described condors in a number of locations along the Columbia River, where they are believed to have once nested in the shallow caves found in rocky outcrops above the river. Unfortunately, there have been no confirmed wild condor sightings in Oregon since 1904, and the species remains absent from the entire northern half of its historic range. However, the Oregon Zoo's Jonsson Center for Wildlife Conservation near Portland is one of four facilities in the nation that breeds California condors and maintains a captive population.

By the numbers: California condors are indeed the largest land birds in North America. Weighing up to 30 pounds with a nearly 10-foot wingspan, the California condor once graced the skies of the west from British Columbia to Baja California. Today they are considered to be one of the most endangered birds in the world, with 234 wild condors living in California, Arizona and Baja

California. Another 170 condors live in zoos or other captive situations.

In focus: A new book, "*California Condors in the Pacific Northwest*" (OSU Press, 2013) documents the condor's history in the region from prehistoric times to the early 20th century. The authors are Jesse D'Elia, a wildlife biologist in the Endangered Species Division of the USFWS, and Susan Haig, a wildlife ecologist with the USGS.

While the importance of habitat is well acknowledged, Haig states, "It was heartening to learn that condors were widely distributed in the Pacific Northwest and probably disappeared for reasons other than habitat loss – most likely their decline was caused by secondary poisoning." Early settlers used large amounts of strychnine to kill predators such as wolves and grizzly bears. Scavengers such as condors that

fed on these carcasses were thus poisoned as well. Today lead ammunition is consumed when condors feed on gut piles of animals shot by hunters and ingest lead bullet fragments. In the condor's bloodstream, lead affects the central nervous system leading to a slow death by starvation or predation in their weakened state.

Although much discussed, presently no immediate plans exist for Northwest condor reintroduction. However, if condors are to again one day ride the thermals of the Columbia Gorge, hunters will likely need to adopt the use of lead-free ammunition. In this way, carrion left behind might better provide a seasonal food source, rather than unintended poison pills – killing condors and other scavengers. ☹



USFWS

# Mood Indigo – An adventure in the proposed Crater Lake Wilderness

Lindsay Warne, Wilderness Intern

*Crater Lake and its surrounding wildlands have inspired people for generations, but the natural beauty of Crater Lake extends far beyond Wizard Island and the caldera. Oregon Wild's Crater Lake Wilderness campaign proposes to protect the backcountry of Crater Lake National Park as well as the critical wildlife corridors surrounding it. By scoping out important areas in the proposal where we had information gaps – whether map based, ecological, or recreational – Lindsay's summer work greatly contributed to the campaign.*

— Erik Fernandez



PHOTOS BY JIM PURSCELLEY

As Oregon Wild's Crater Lake Wilderness Campaign intern, part of my job this summer involved hiking and field checking the wildlands in our organization's wilderness proposal. As a result, I've been able to spend my summer exploring some of the most beautiful and pristine lands near Crater Lake. It's a hard job, but someone has to do it!

I scouted Indigo Lake on my final fieldwork excursion, one of the proposed Wilderness areas north of Crater Lake. I began my day at Timpanogas Lake where the Indigo Lake trail originates. A fun fact William Sullivan points out in his book *100 Classic Hikes in Oregon*, Timpanogas Lake has a quirky name history. An overly imaginative map from the 1880s identified Utah's Great Salt Lake as the source of the Willamette River, and for a time, the Great Salt Lake was called Timpanogas Lake – a strong historical example of the importance of field checking!

The hike from Timpanogas Lake winds through an old-growth

forest of spruce and fir while gradually gaining about 600 feet in elevation. As I climbed, many little frogs darted about the trail. The Forest Service describes this trail as providing “ample opportunity for solitude.” Turns out this did not mean solitude from the mosquito swarms of late July. I got a full body workout as I hiked and swatted in what probably looked like an overly-aggressive Zumba move.

Despite the mosquitoes, Indigo Lake was stunning. As the name implies, the water radiates a brilliant blue while the rocky cliffs of Sawtooth Mountain preside over the scene. There is also a trail circumnavigating the lake, which brings you to the deepest water best for fishing or a refreshing swim. It was a perfect spot for lunch – though the mosquitoes thought so too.

*Indigo Lake is located in the high Cascades between Diamond Peak and Mount Thielsen. It can be accessed by driving up the Middle Fork Willamette River. ☺*

## Take Action!

For more information, interactive maps, and suggested hikes in the proposed Crater Lake Wilderness check out [www.oregonwild.org/crater-lake-wilderness](http://www.oregonwild.org/crater-lake-wilderness) or the Crater Lake Wilderness Facebook page.



# Keeping it wild

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



PHOTOS BY CHANDRA LEAGUE  
Kate's efforts have given a voice to Grandmother's Grove and its beautiful old-growth trees.

Name: Kate Gessert

Location: Eugene, OR

Oregon Wild member & activist since: 1999

Favorite Backyard Forest: Grandmother's Grove

*Lane County resident Kate Gessert teaches English as a second language, and has long been a vocal advocate for the preservation of Oregon's forests and wildlands. Recently featured as a "citizen advocate" on the BLM Special Places website (backyardforests.org) launched in partnership with KS Wild, Kate is a champion for her local*

*backyard forest - Grandmother's Grove. The forest and its 300-400 year old trees survive to this day in part due to Kate's efforts in bringing her students there on field trips and hands-on forestry lessons.*

Oregon Wild: Kate, you often take your students on field trips to

Grandmother's Grove and other wild areas on the state's O&C lands. How does this play into the courses you teach?

*Kate:* A lot of my students' work is context-based, so it isn't just learning how to use the language; it's learning about where they're living. There are a lot of new students who have a sense of connection to Oregon that's far different from the land they grew up in. As a result they don't feel so homesick, and they also feel some responsibility to take care of where they are now.

Oregon Wild: Are many of these O&C lands special because they're so close to so many Oregonians, especially in the Willamette Valley?

*Kate:* Yes, I think it's important for these neighborhood forests to be a part of people's lives and not far off and removed - that's where I think the whole Backyard Forests concept is really important. In the case of the Grandmother's Grove, there's a gentleman who lives down the hill from it who walks up to the grove with his dog every day - he calls the grove his cathedral.

Oregon Wild: Is there anything you feel is missing in the O&C debate and the "Timber Trust" proposal?

*Kate:* I'm very scared about the DeFazio plan. It started off bad, and it got even worse coming out of committee. I don't know enough about what Wyden is proposing. We often talk about wildlife and water quality and recreation, but I work a lot on climate change issues, and the thing no one talks about anymore is once forests reach an age of about 80 years, they're really good at storing carbon. So why not work harder to keep these forests growing to compensate counties with carbon

credits the way they did with timber revenue? Imagine monies being received for forests *not* being cut!

Oregon Wild: What are your hopes for the future of Grandmother's Grove and other Backyard Forests?

*Kate:* Every time I come upon the Grandmother's Grove, we come around the last corner, and my heart drops - because I wonder, "Is it still going to be there?" and I don't know the answer. I would like to come around that corner and know the forest has been designated with some kind of protection, and that it will still be there.

## Be an activist!

Make the protection and restoration of Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters your enduring legacy. Be an activist and help preserve our Backyard Forests for future generations.

To learn more about advocating for Oregon's special places, visit [oregonwild.org/take\\_action](http://oregonwild.org/take_action), [backyardforests.org](http://backyardforests.org), or join the Our BLM Backyard Forests community on Facebook. ☺



# Staff (and interns) on the move



## Klamath staffer migration

It was 1981 when Wendell Wood first appeared on the Oregon Wild roster – then as a board member for a growing organization. In the ensuing decades he’s bounced around roles as Board President, Educational Programs

Coordinator, Klamath Coordinator, and Wildlands Interpreter. Most recently, he came back on staff to turn over rocks in the Klamath Basin and find dirty secrets that the Bureau of Reclamation doesn’t want you to know about.

In June, Wendell handed off the Klamath reins to our new Klamath Advocate, Quinn Read. Quinn comes to Oregon Wild with a background in environmental law and business development. Her environmental career started as a teenager volunteering for her local

Audubon Society. She spent the last couple of years helping local startups get off the ground at the University of Washington. Now, she’s working to get more birds *on the ground* in the Klamath Basin. Welcome Quinn (and don’t worry, Wendell’s not going anywhere)!

## Staff retreat (the only time we’re not on the offensive!)

Every year, the Oregon Wild staff heads out into Oregon’s backcountry for our annual staff retreat. It’s a time for us to get out of the office and think strategically about the year ahead. More importantly, it’s a time for us to strengthen our personal connections to the places we are working to protect.

This year, we headed out to wolf country in far northeast Oregon. We camped in the Wallowa Whitman National Forest and hiked throughout the Imnaha Pack territory. One morning, while walking along a meandering creek, we heard the unmistakable sound of a wolf howling. You can hear the wolf howl at [www.oregonwild.org/wolfhowl](http://www.oregonwild.org/wolfhowl). ©



OREGON WILD STAFF (left to right): Rob Klavins, Jonathan Jelen, Tommy Hough, Marielle Cowdin, Doug Heiken, Erik Fernandez, Sean Stevens, Steve Pedery, Erin Finucane, Quinn Read, Lindsay Warne, and Chandra LeGue.

## Intern-ally Wild

Erin Finucane  
Wildlife Intern [with Rob Klavins]



Erin spent her time researching and writing about some of Oregon’s native wildlife species, including

California condors, sea otters, and wolverines, and explored the ways Oregon Wild’s Wildlife Program can address the challenges and opportunities these species face locally. Erin’s summer highlight: participating in the 2013 Wolf Rendezvous in NE Oregon.

Roxana Monjaras  
Conservation & Outreach Intern  
[with Chandra LeGue]



Working in Eugene, Roxana spent time designing informative handouts, creating

GIS maps for local watersheds, and organizing events like the Eugene Celebration. Roxana’s summer highlights: observing eagles from the overlook on Tidbits Mountain, photographing the wildflowers on Mount June, and hiking to the North Umpqua’s Lemolo Falls.

Alyssa Rohr  
Photo Contest & Event Intern  
[with Marielle Cowdin]



A native Boulderite living in Portland, Alyssa focused on managing and marketing two major events: the

annual Outdoor Photo Contest and Oregon Wild’s annual benefit, Call of the Wild (see back cover). Alyssa’s summer highlight: working closely with so many different businesses and organizations around the Portland area.

Lindsay Warne  
Crater Lake Wilderness Campaign  
Intern [with Erik Fernandez]



Lindsay divided her time between scouting proposed wilderness areas and supporting the Crater Lake

Wilderness campaign in the Portland office by updating campaign materials and verifying proposed boundaries. Lindsay’s summer highlight: staff retreat and soaking in the expertise of long-time wilderness advocates in ruggedly beautiful Wallowa County.



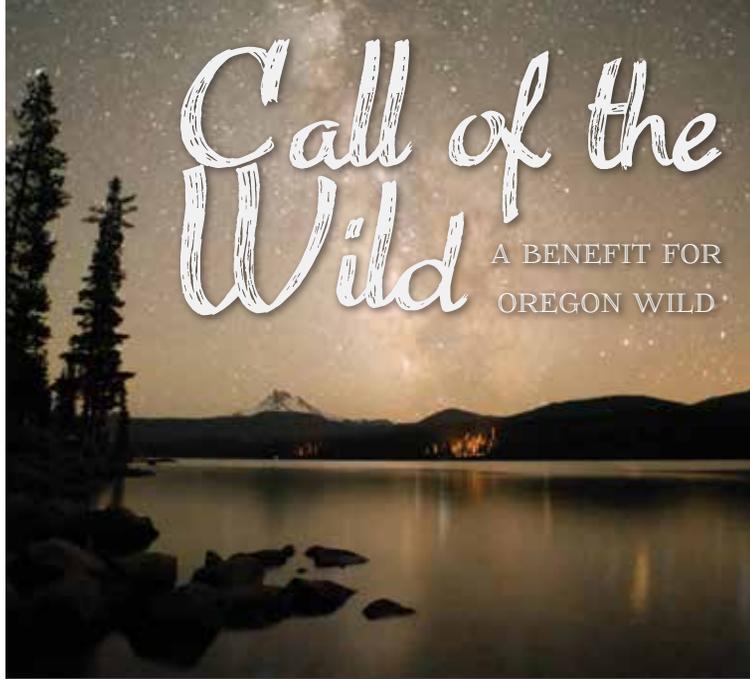
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# Call of the Wild

A BENEFIT FOR  
OREGON WILD

**Friday, October 18, 2013**  
5:30-8:30 pm at Union/Pine  
525 SE Pine St, Portland



ART DE CUISINE



The crackle of firewood, bright autumn stars, and fellow outdoor enthusiasts beckon... Celebrate with us as we enjoy local entertainment, food, and drink to benefit the wild places that make Oregon great. Our outdoors-inspired celebration features:

PHOTOGRAPHY / LIVE MUSIC by Joe McMurrian / BEER from Migration Brewing Co./ WINE & 'WILD' COCKTAILS featuring Oregon-distilled spirits / BITES from PACIFIC PIE CO., ART DE CUISINE, & SIMPATICA / PHOTO BOOTH / and more!

Enter the SILENT AUCTION to win framed prints of the 2013 Outdoor Photo Contest winners\* as well as:

- Adventure trips with Momentum, OARS, and Ascending the Giants
- Stays at Wild Spring and the Old Parkdale Inn
- Outdoor gear from ON3P, REI, Beckel Canvas, and products and gift cards galore from local businesses!

Buy your tickets now for only \$25 or become a **Tent Sponsor for \$250** and receive 10 tickets and special recognition at the event. Go to [www.oregonwild.org/callofthewild](http://www.oregonwild.org/callofthewild) to RSVP today – hurry, space is limited.

\*P.S. There's still time to enter the 2013 Oregon Wild Outdoor Photo Contest! Enter your winning photos by September 20th at [www.oregonwild.org/photo-contest](http://www.oregonwild.org/photo-contest).