

ATTACKS ON PUBLIC LANDS BY THE AOCC

The *Association of O&C Counties (AOCC)* claims to represent 16 county governments in western Oregon that have historically received money from logging publicly-owned forests on O&C lands; however, in recent years, the AOCC has become increasingly aligned with the timber industry, as demonstrated by their various lobbying and litigation efforts to open protected public lands to commercial logging.

The AOCC is pursuing strategies on all three levels of government to log the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and ramp it up on over 2 million acres of public forest land:

1. COURTS

In February of 2017, the AOCC filed a lawsuit against the federal government to overturn protections for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

- **The lawsuit seeks to log federally protected forests** and undo Pres. Obama's chief conservation achievement in Oregon

2. CONGRESS

The AOCC has testified and lobbied in favor of various logging bills that would dramatically alter forest management in the Pacific Northwest. This includes the Resilient Federal Forests Act (HR 2936), which passed the House in November 2017. If the version of the bill that the AOCC supported became law, HR 2936 would have:

- **shrink the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument** and require that these public forests and other protected lands be managed for the sole purpose of timber production.
- **mandate that O&C lands produce a bare minimum of a half billion board feet per year**, which is triple the current logging levels in these forests. This goal cannot be met without logging old-growth forests on O&C land.
- **exempt logging projects up to 45 square miles in size from environmental analysis and citizen oversight** in an effort to streamline logging projects on public lands. For context, that's the size of Eugene city limits!

3. TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

In April of 2017, the Trump administration began reviewing National Monuments throughout the country to see which could be shrunk or eliminated altogether.

- **AOCC representatives lobbied Trump's then Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke, to shrink the Monument** when he toured the Cascade-Siskiyou in July of 2017
- A few months later, Sec. Zinke recommended that Pres. Trump shrink four Monuments, including the Cascade-Siskiyou. Trump has already acted on two recommendations, shrinking the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments by 85% and 45% respectively.

MORE INFO ON THE AOCC AND LANE COUNTY:

- There are ~374,000 acres of O&C land within Lane County. For context, only Douglas and Jackson Counties have more O&C acreage.
- Lane County contributed \$107,000 of taxpayer money to fund the AOCC in FY2018, with over a quarter of those funds going directly to anti-public lands, pro-logging litigation.
- The list of AOCC's anti-conservation actions extends well beyond its efforts to log the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.
 - The AOCC is currently suing the BLM over its management of O&C lands, arguing that logging levels should be much higher than current levels.
- Two Oregon counties have already left the AOCC, Benton County, and more recently Multnomah County.
- There are about 2.6 million acres of O&C land in Western Oregon, mostly managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Historically, counties with O&C lands received a cut of the revenue from unsustainably-high levels of logging on these public lands. Secure Rural Schools legislation has provided payments to counties de-coupled from logging for the past 16 years. Departing the AOCC would have no impact on the funds Lane County receives.

MORE INFO ON THE CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT:

- Originally designated by President Clinton in 2000 and expanded by President Obama in 2017, the Cascade-Siskiyou is the first and only National Monument specifically established to protect biological diversity.
- In addition to hosting an exceptional range of flora and fauna, the Monument is an important Pacific Northwest biological connectivity corridor which enables species to move back and forth between neighboring ecoregions.
- The Cascade-Siskiyou provides extraordinary recreational opportunities such as hiking, horseback riding, and backcountry skiing, which in turn helps support Southern Oregon's growing recreation-based economy. The Cascade-Siskiyou is also home to 19 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail.



**OREGON
WILD**

