

# Oregon Wild

Fall 2015 Volume 42, Number 3



## Secrets of Crater Lake

Your guide beyond the rim



**OREGON WILD**

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

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COVER PHOTO: JUSTIN BAILIE Crater Lake National Park is an Oregon gem, but it's so much more than the famous caldera. Beyond the rim, the area's wildlands provide world-class recreation, pristine habitat, and house the drinking watersheds for thousands of Oregonians. For these reasons and more, should we not give the 'Crown of the Cascades' the permanent protection it deserves?



## From the Director's Desk The courage of no

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

It must have been quite the message for the group of Oregon Wild summer interns to hear.

Gathered around the campfire at our annual staff retreat, and the great Wendell Wood was inspiring these budding conservationists with the following unique insights:

“They’re not supposed to like you.”

“You’re not going to be popular.”

“It’s hard, and you’re going to burn out.”

It was all a little strange to be hearing from a man who was quick with a joke, giggled more than he laughed, and carried a jovial demeanor that welcomed the thousands he led on naturalist hikes over the years. Yet, here he was, telling us all that if we were going to be effective, we were bound to be disliked.

It was hard to challenge him. After all, Wendell had spent a career in the belly of several beasts – first in Myrtle Creek where he challenged local orthodoxy teaching high school biology, then in Eugene as he helped to topple the timber industry stranglehold on Lane County, and later in Klamath Falls where death threats were a weekly occurrence.

It is the curse of the conservationist that you end up saying “no” a lot, but it’s not our fault. So long as county politicians clamor for old-growth clearcuts, livestock owners demand the right to shoot wolves on sight, and irrigators plant alfalfa in the middle of a National Wildlife Refuge, people like us will be forced to stand up and say, “Hell no!”

That doesn’t mean we don’t have a positive vision to offer. We say yes

to naturally-filtered clean water – for people and wildlife. We say yes to carbon storing groves of old-growth Douglas fir. We say yes to a world where we recognize our own limits; our own place in a balanced whole.

Wendell knew, though, that there was always someone out there willing to compromise. It was up to him, Oregon Wild, our supporters, and our allies to be the ones to say no. Even when it wasn’t popular; even when it was downright uncomfortable.

Despite 35 years of courageous unpopularity, you simply couldn’t get Wendell down.



Taking an unpopular but essential stand for special places across Oregon was Wendell Wood’s calling card. Among the places he protected (clockwise from top right) are Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge [BRETT COLE], the Oregon Redwoods, and Pelican Butte [PHOTO BY SHAWN LINEHAN].



You couldn’t burn him out. You couldn’t give him a task too daunting.

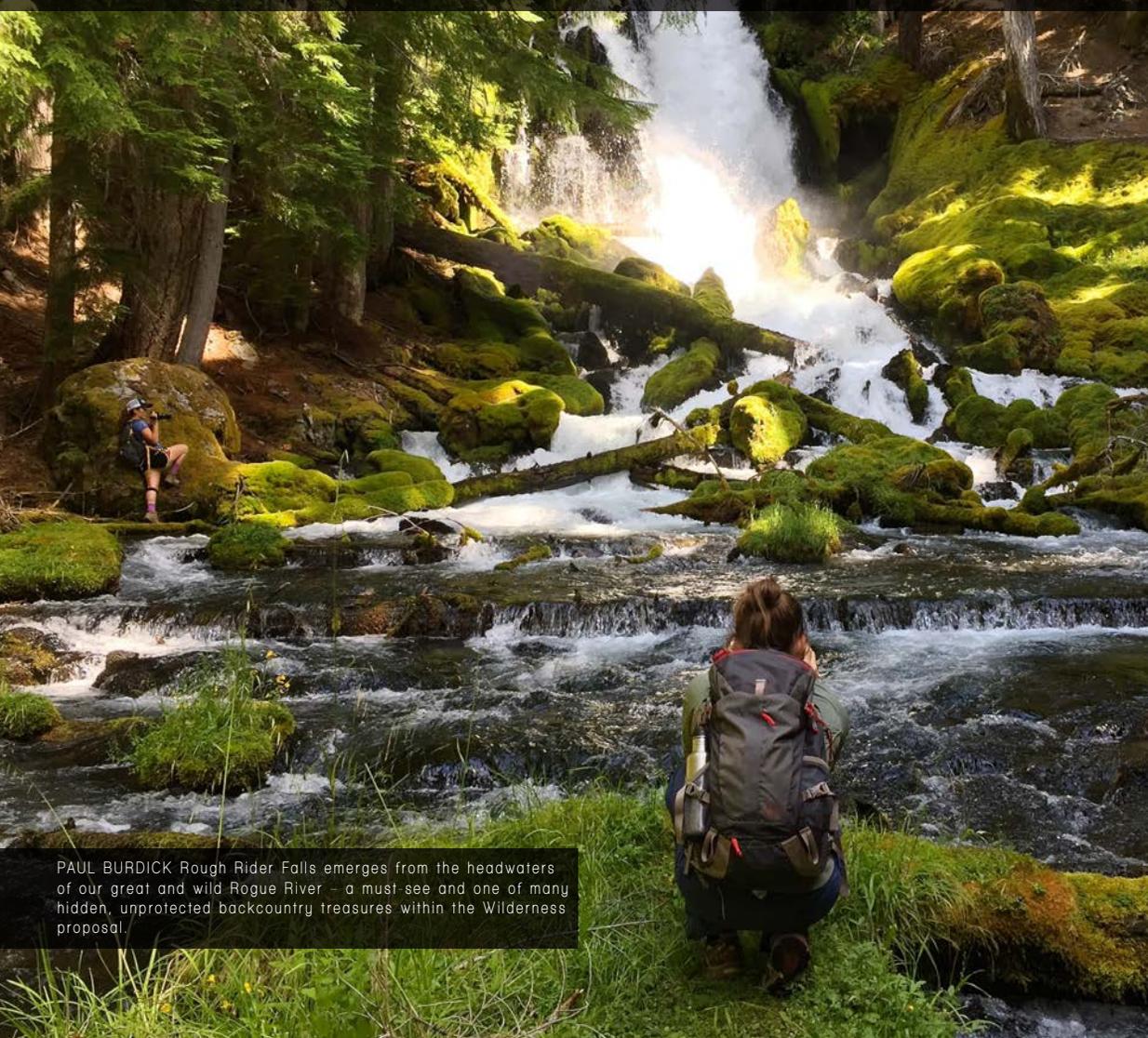
Wendell Wood passed away while hiking in the redwoods on August 11 (read more about his remarkable life on page 8). Someone once said, “Conservationists are hell to live with, but they make great ancestors.”

For those who knew and loved him, Wendell was a joy to live with. To his opposition, he was a giant thorn in their side. I can’t imagine him being any other way – and I can’t think of a better ancestor.

We can only hope to be remembered in the same way.

# Crater Lake – The Secret Backcountry Guide

Bridget Callahan, Wilderness Campaign Organizer



PAUL BURDICK Rough Rider Falls emerges from the headwaters of our great and wild Rogue River – a must-see and one of many hidden, unprotected backcountry treasures within the Wilderness proposal.

Sitting atop Mount Scott after climbing to 8,900 feet elevation, I found myself looking out over Crater Lake and the endless cascading mountains in the distance, wondering why on Earth I haven't climbed this before.

The view was stunning. It's the kind of vista that commands all conversations to cease in order to properly take in the deep blue lake, the perfectly placed cone-shaped island, and dramatic 2,000 foot walls surrounding the crater.

I had climbed Mount Scott as part of Crater Lake Wild Week, a week-long series of hikes in and around Oregon's only National Park. With help from our friends at Umpqua Watersheds, the goal was to get wilderness lovers around the state to discover and explore Oregon Wild's flagship Wilderness campaign, the Crater Lake Wilderness proposal. This ambitious 500,000 acre proposal encompasses the "Crown of the Cascades," including the backcountry of the park, but more importantly the pristine wildlands that surround the park boundaries. All of it majestic, yet none of it protected as Wilderness.

This is a land of abundant wildlife, including black bears, elk, bald eagles, and most recently, wolves. This is a land of wild rivers, encompassing the headwaters of the Umpqua, Rogue, Klamath, Little Deschutes, and Willamette watersheds. This is a land of world-class recreation, an adventure mecca we experienced to the fullest on our week-long excursion.

We hiked mountains, lakes, and rivers, and meandered along wildflower meadows. We were engulfed by massive old-growth trees, parted a sea of thousands of tree frogs, and heard wild howls in the night.

These secrets of Oregon's crown jewel belong to everyone, so we've compiled some of the best backcountry hikes we discovered in the Crater Lake region. We hope you'll join us in exploring, and appreciating, the natural wonders beyond the rim.

[The Upper Rogue River Trail – Crater Rim Section](#)

The famed Rogue River originates near Crater Lake's rim at a place called Boundary Springs, where its

waters burst from the ground. The aptly named Upper Rogue River Trail follows these headwaters, and this section has it all: from giant old-growth firs and pines, to creeks, waterfalls, and wildflowers, and – if you time it right – wild huckleberries along the way.

The trail begins just outside the park, shadowing the Rogue through a lush and mossy forest of large firs and pines. After only a short distance is the impressive Rough Rider Falls, which booms with white cascading water, surrounded by emerald moss and fallen logs. Worth a stop regardless, Rough Rider Falls also makes an excellent spot for lunch.

Continuing on, you'll find a section of the trail blanketed by massive Sugar pine cones – some the size of

footballs. As you might imagine, this offers some great opportunities for photo ops, with pinecone ears being a popular choice. From there, it's a slightly downhill walk to Forest Service Road 6530, a gravel road where you can prearrange shuttles to have a vehicle awaiting you. Alternatively, if you're feeling extra adventurous, continue on the Upper Rogue River Trail for an extended backpacking trip.

As important as the Rogue River is for fisheries, recreation, and wildlife, it's remarkable the headwaters are not protected as Wilderness. The controversial logging project known as Bybee looms around the corner, while off-roading, mining, and encroaching development keep nipping at the edges of this wild

landscape. The Crater Lake Wilderness proposal would permanently protect this area for generations to come.

### Dazzling Twin Lakes

Wait, which Twin Lakes? We'll go out on a limb and say that these Twin Lakes are the most impressive in Oregon. Really.

Within the Crater Lake Wilderness proposal, this 5.5 mile loop hike is close to the North Umpqua River. As you start the trail, a gradual climb brings you to some enormous fir trees. Not long after that, you'll be rewarded with 180 degree views of the southern Cascades, with Diamond Peak cresting over the mountains to the north.

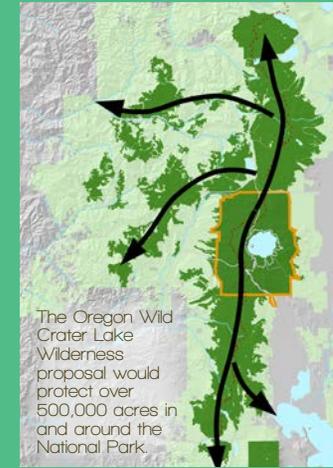
The trail continues to a junction in a breathtaking meadow, teeming with wildflowers and dancing butterflies. Taking a right will lead you to the larger of the two lakes; but turn left and postpone the lake for one more hour, and you won't be disappointed. The left turn will bring you higher through more lively meadows and to a vantage point fit for Hercules. Atop the rocky outcropping, you find yourself gazing straight down into two dazzling blue lakes and wondering why anyone thought the name Twin Lakes was a just description.

The water's azure glimmer is more reminiscent of the Dominican Republic than Oregon – a rainbow of



ALAN BUNCH The Crater Lake Wild Week crew at Twin Lakes. It's hard to believe these beautiful lakes are without Wilderness protection.

## National Parks vs. Wilderness



Wait — isn't Crater Lake protected?

Make no mistake, the different designations on public lands can be confusing. Here at Oregon Wild, we make it simple. Wilderness is the highest level of protection we can offer public lands — the gold standard.

Many national treasures across the west like Olympic, Yosemite and Joshua Tree have Wilderness protection on top of their National Park status. Why? Well, you can't clearcut a National Park, but you

can still plaster it. Throughout the decades, Crater Lake has seen a continuous stream of proposals from eager developers and even Congressmen to "update" the park. Gondola rides and parking lots on Wizard Island, tunnels, and now helicopter tours around the rim persistently threaten the integrity of this landscape.

As we see the rise in temperature, population and demand on resources, more and more will see the park not as an enduring legacy to future generations, but an opportunity to profit. And until Crater Lake National Park — and the beautiful, but even more threatened areas outside — are designated as Wilderness, our lone park will continue to face threats. Wilderness protection is the best solution.

activities allowed	NATIONAL PARK	WILDERNESS
FISHING	✓	✓
HIKING	✓	✓
CANOING	✓	✓
SNOWSHOEING	✓	✓
CAMPING	✓	✓
DEVELOPMENT	✓	
MECHANIZED RECREATION	✓	



## Wilderness – it’s good for business

We at Newcastle Solar support Wilderness designation for the Crater Lake region. Crater Lake National Park is a family heirloom, not only for the State of Oregon but for the entire country. Protecting our wilderness for generations to come will be far more beneficial than any development or recreational vehicle usage. We feel that there are many opportunities for these activities nearby, and would like to protect some of our remaining wilderness for the natural resources, and for those who enjoy the peace and solitude of the park without the distractions.

Many of our customers have moved here from other parts of the country. They appreciate the natural beauty and healthy ecosystems of the area. Our local population values these pristine areas as well, and protecting the Crater Lake Wilderness will assure our families that our children and our children’s children will enjoy them for years to come.

Crater Lake serves as the headwaters of an enormous watershed. The health of these streams and rivers directly affect our economy across southern Oregon. We should do everything we can to assure their survival in their natural state.

*David Longthorne, Owner of Newcastle Solar  
Myrtle Creek, OR*

hues varying from cobalt to periwinkle, waning into gold as the edges of the lake lap at the sand. This lookout provides a wonderful place for lunch, and builds anticipation for dipping in the crystal waters below.

Retracing steps to the junction at the wildflower meadow, now continue straight toward the first lake. Pass more meadows filled with wildflowers and butterflies playing tag among vibrant lilies until you

reach Big Twin Lake. From here there are myriad options to stay, swim, explore, or venture on the trail that wraps around the first lake and leads you to the second. The smaller lake is the prettier of the two, the water’s colors more vibrant, beckoning swimmers. Small, primitive campsites at the far end make this a lovely backpacking destination.

While incredibly pristine, some of the views at the top lookout show a stark contrast between public land and private industrial forestlands. The clearcuts in the distance are a glaring reminder of the sad reality facing Oregon’s forests. Twin Lakes is one of the more beautiful places I’ve visited in Oregon, and deserves the highest level of protection we can offer it.

## Mount Scott

To climb the highest peak inside the national park sounds daunting. With a final elevation of almost 9,000 feet, one might conjure up images of ice axes and crampons for the ascent. However, the reality of the Mount Scott Trail is far from a wind-whipped, icy wasteland. Starting on the east side of the caldera at around 7,700 feet, the 2.5 mile trail up is surprisingly wide, well-groomed, and offers plenty of shaded places to rest and take in the increasingly impressive view.

Mount Scott’s other surprise is the magnificent flora along the way. During the summer wildflower season, incredibly vivid Indian paintbrush guides hikers the whole way up, along with mountain hemlock, Shasta red firs and the imperiled white bark pine. A personal favorite, the Western Pasque flower is a native plant that looks just like a fluffy truffula tuft from Dr. Seuss’s *The Lorax*.

Upon reaching the summit ridge, the scenery is stunning. As the 360 degree lookout comes into view, the entire Klamath Basin, the Siskiyou Mountains, the spire of Mount Thielsen, and the Three Sisters all become visible. This hike, while strenuous, is well worth the trek and leaves you marveling at the wonder of our state.

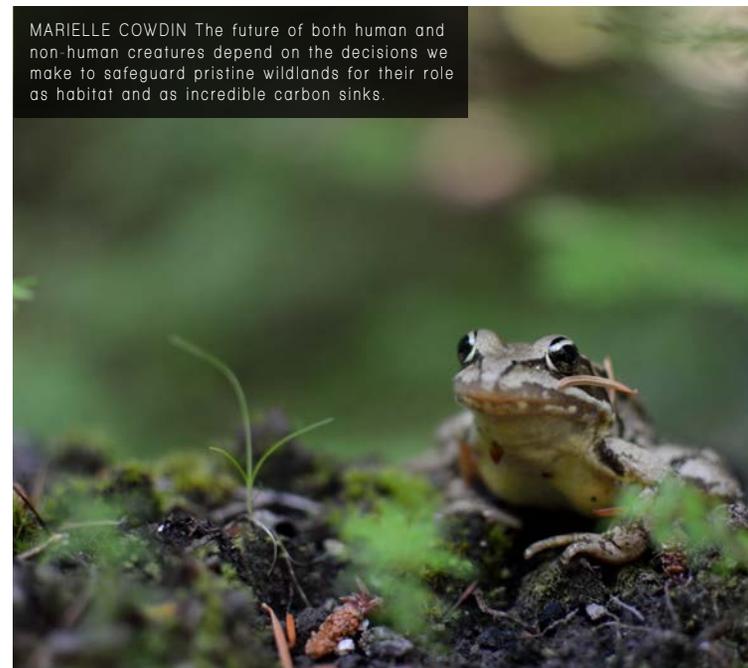
## Crown of the Cascades

From atop Mount Scott, I realized I was on top of the “Crown of the Cascades.” The nexus of Oregon’s ecosystems, this region connects the

high deserts of the east and lush forestlands of the west, the Cascades to the north and the Klamath-Siskiyou of the south.

Home to the headwaters of our world-renowned rivers (and watersheds), these streams are teeming with chinook, steelhead, and trout. People flock from around the world to fish and raft these waters, bringing with them sustainable tourism dollars. With pristine wildlife habitat and migration corridors, this is home to many native, imperiled and recovering species.

**MARIELLE COWDIN** The future of both human and non-human creatures depend on the decisions we make to safeguard pristine wildlands for their role as habitat and as incredible carbon sinks.



This landscape also plays a critical role in our fight to combat climate change. Extreme drought and a warming climate will continue to put pressure on remaining wildlands, our buffers against natural disasters.

Oregonians in particular have a unique and influential role in slowing the impacts of climate change. Our state is home to *six of the top ten carbon capturing forests* in the United States, with five of those forests inside the Crater Lake Wilderness proposal. Our forests serve as the lungs of the planet, actively storing carbon as we

continue to industrialize and demand more resources.

While many of the factors contributing to greenhouse emissions are beyond our control, we *can* protect our publicly-owned forests. With the Crater Lake Wilderness proposal, 500,000 acres of pristine wildlands in the heart of our state can be permanently protected as an enduring legacy for future generations. The time to demand Wilderness protection is now, and here at Oregon Wild we're turning up the heat. ©

#### Take Action!

Join Oregon Wild, Environment Oregon, Umpqua Watersheds and the thousands of Oregonians who have called upon Senators Wyden and Merkley to ensure the Crown of the Cascades receives the level of protection it deserves. Sign our petition at [oregonwild.org](http://oregonwild.org), write a letter to Senator Wyden and Merkley, or contact Bridget for more ways to get involved. It's a big landscape, and it will take all of us to save it.



ADAM JEWEL The "Crown of the Cascades," the entire Crater Lake region is an essential focal point of ecosystems, connecting Oregon's diverse landscapes and housing the headwaters of several iconic rivers.



MARIELLE COWDIN

## Make the Crater Lake Wilderness your legacy

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

Do you remember the first time you looked out over Crater Lake? Do you remember that rush – that sense of awe and wonder?

Oregon Wild wants to ensure that future generations have the opportunity to get that same thrill. That's one of the reasons behind our Wilderness campaign to permanently protect over 500,000 acres in and around Oregon's only national park.

As you think about the legacy you'll pass onto future generations, please keep Oregon Wild in mind. While

annual memberships and contributions are critical to the success of Oregon Wild, our future success will depend on our ability to build a sustainable source of funding for today, tomorrow, and beyond. By creating a bequest in your will or trust, you help ensure that the future of Oregon Wild (and beautiful places like the Crater Lake Wilderness) continues for generations to come.

To learn more about keeping Oregon wild as your legacy, please contact Executive Director Sean Stevens at 503-283-6343 ext 211 or [ss@oregonwild.org](mailto:ss@oregonwild.org)

Learn more about how to create your legacy at: [oregonwild.org/wildlegacy](http://oregonwild.org/wildlegacy)



GARY GUTTORMSEN



MARIELLE COWDIN



## Wendell Wood – celebrating a natural life

Wendell Wood was a dedicated environmental advocate, committed naturalist, and teacher. Though most known for his decades spent as a board member, staffer, and volunteer for Oregon Wild, Wendell helped to form or support dozens of conservation groups in Oregon and California over the years.

Wendell and his wife Kathy came to Oregon in 1976 after he accepted a job as a high school biology teacher in Myrtle Creek. After five years of teaching, Wendell joined the board

of the Oregon Wilderness Coalition and began one of the most effective conservation careers in Oregon history.

In 1982, Wendell became President of the board and oversaw the organization's renaming to Oregon Natural Resources Council. It didn't take long for Wendell to assume a role on staff, heading up Environmental Education Programs for ONRC and eventually becoming an integral part of the watchdog role of the organization.

Working first out of the Eugene office and later pioneering the organization's work in Klamath Falls, Wendell and the ONRC team began systematically appealing illegal timber sales – at one point filing over 100 in a single day. Wendell established a reputation as one of the hardest working, tenacious, and lovable advocates for Oregon's environment.

"I feel like there will always be somebody else out there who will be willing to negotiate, [that] they'll be

willing to give things up," Wendell explained in 1997 as part of a Crater Lake oral history project. "What I think is harder is to say 'no.' ONRC has been asked why we are so confrontational, [and] the answer is 'I don't wish to be confrontational, I just don't know anybody else that is willing to do it.'"

Upon relocating to Klamath Falls in 1993, Wendell took up the cause of the region's forgotten National Wildlife Refuges and endangered endemic fish species – playing a

central role in ESA listings for the short-nosed and Lost River suckers.

Time and again in Wendell's career at Oregon Wild he would voluntarily forego paychecks to ensure there were resources to hire other staff to carry out yet more conservation work. Thus, it was fitting that when Wendell "retired" from the organization well over a decade ago that he continued to work incessantly for free.



BRETT COLE



SHAWN LINEHAN

In recent years, Wendell became well known among Oregon's budding amateur naturalists as a captivating trip leader willing to freely share his deep knowledge of the Oregon landscape and its species. Leading birding trips from his cabin adjacent to Klamath Marsh as well as mushroom and wildflower identification hikes across the state, Wendell's love for the natural world was a gift he passed on to thousands. "We know every line on the map, somebody fought for that area...but

nobody remembers who or when," Wendell relayed during the oral history project. "Other places people just sort of assume that it's always been a state park or always been protected, and who would destroy anything as magnificent as that, you know. [For] every one of these places, there's somebody who stood up for it or it wouldn't be there."

We will remember you Wendell – forever. And we are grateful for the countless places that you stood up for. ☺



MARIELLE COWDIN

## A second spring – 2015 fall events



IVAN PHILLIPSEN

*"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower." - Albert Camus*

Through the lens of our dear friend and colleague Wendell Wood, the above might instead read, "Autumn is a second spring when every mushroom is a flower." While some consider the fall season simply a gateway to winter, Wendell saw its true colors – that fall is filled with life and rebirth just like spring. An integral part of our outdoor program, Wendell and his love of nature great and small inspired and taught so many on the trails, and we can't think of a better way to honor his legacy than to take a walk in the woods.

Join us for a wild season full of mushrooms, colorful leaves, giant trees, and roaring rivers. Visit [oregonwild.org](http://oregonwild.org) to find out more and sign up.

**Friday, September 18**  
Green Lakes Hike (BEND)

**Sunday, September 20**  
Crabtree Valley Hike (EUG/  
PDX)

**Wednesday, September 23**  
Bend Office Warming Party  
(BEND)

**Wednesday, September 30**  
Oregon Wild Wednesday:  
Hiking Southern Oregon (EUG)

**Thursday, October 1**  
Lookout Mountain Hike (BEND)

**Sunday, October 4**  
Devil's Staircase Wilderness  
area, Dark Grove Hike (EUG)

**Sunday, October 4**  
Tamanawas Falls Fall Foliage  
Hike (PDX)

**Friday, October 16**  
Call of the Wild: a camp-  
inspired benefit (PDX)

**Saturday, October 24**  
Steins Pillar Hike (BEND)

**Saturday, October 24**  
Clackamas River Trail Hike  
(PDX)

**Sunday, November 1**  
Fall Creek Mushroom Hike  
(EUG)

**Saturday, November 7**  
Salmon River Canyon Hike  
(PDX)

**Wednesday, November 18**  
Oregon Wild Wednesday: A  
Field Guide to Oregon Rivers  
(PDX)

**Thursday, November 19**  
"Welcome back, Otter!" Talk  
(ASTORIA)

# Welcome to the Ochoco Mountains – Oregon's secluded gem

Sarah Cuddy, Ochoco Mountains Organizer



JIM DAVIS (deseridustimages.blogspot.com) Karen Lillebo and an old growth Ponderosa pine — one of many beautiful trees in Oregon's secluded gem.

If you have the good fortune to explore the Ochoco Mountains, you will immediately understand the need to protect it. This largely undiscovered mecca for wildlife and recreation in central Oregon features giant pine trees, rare trout, sparkling streams, wildflower meadows, abundant elk and mule deer populations, and seemingly endless recreational opportunities.

With all that this special area has to offer, it is no wonder that our newest

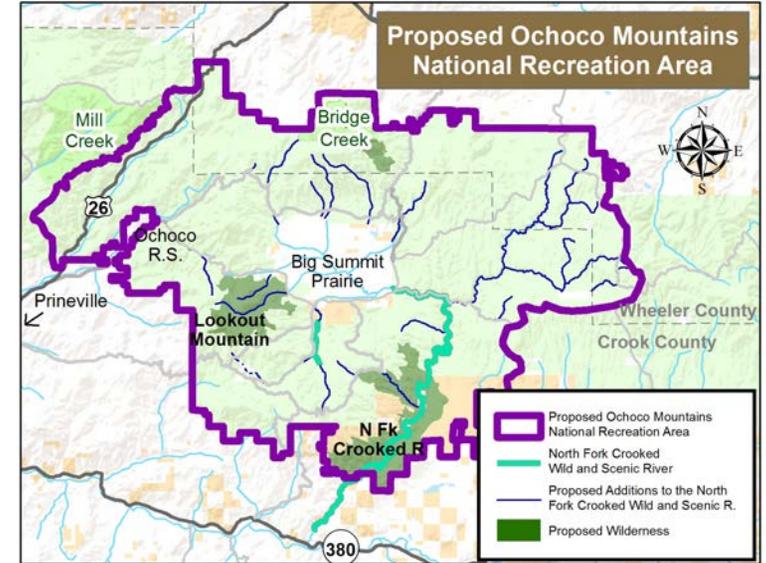
conservation campaign is the Ochoco Mountains National Recreation Area. Help us protect Oregon's secluded gem.

Located in the high desert near the towns of Prineville and Mitchell, the Ochoco Mountains are an oasis of diversity, housing some of the most impressive forests of old-growth Ponderosa pine in the state. The area serves as a key forested wildlife corridor, linking the Cascade Mountains to the Blue Mountains of eastern Oregon.

The Ochoco Mountains National Recreation Area proposal seeks to permanently protect this noteworthy

landscape with 312,000 acres designated as a National Recreation Area, including 25,700 acres of Wilderness and over 100 miles of Wild & Scenic Rivers. Unfortunately, the area is threatened by a misguided off-highway vehicle proposal that would crisscross important habitat with 130 miles of motorized trails.

At the heart of this campaign sits the highest peak in the Ochoco Mountains, Lookout Mountain. How it received its name is no mystery, as this central Oregon treasure provides sweeping 360 degree views of the Cascades and central and eastern Oregon. Its rock promontories deliver unrivaled views of Oregon and beyond. On very clear days one can enjoy views stretching from Mount Shasta to Mount Rainier!



Protecting the Ochoco Mountains as a National Recreation Area balances protection of important ecological values and economic benefits to gateway communities. The area provides an abundance of recreational activities such as hiking, backpacking, hunting, fishing, biking, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding. This proposal would benefit the local economy by highlighting recreational opportunities and increasing recreation tourism.

This unique and picturesque region of Oregon deserves to be protected. Go experience the Ochocos first hand, get involved, and help us protect Oregon's secluded gem. ©

**Take Action!**  
If you are interested in more information or how to get involved with the campaign please visit [oregonwild.org/OchocoNRA](http://oregonwild.org/OchocoNRA) or contact Sarah Cuddy at [sc@oregonwild.org](mailto:sc@oregonwild.org)



JAMES GODFREY Summit of Lookout Mountain

# 2015 Oregon State Legislature yearbook awards

Quinn Read, Wildlife Coordinator



I need a high school flashback like a spotted owl needs a clearcut. But that's exactly what I experienced this legislative session in Salem. Just like high school, the session seems to drag on forever and the cafeteria feels like a diabolical social experiment. There's also an 'In Crowd.' You know, the lucky few with power, status, money, and influence who make life miserable for the rest of us. And, believe it or not, wildlife lobbyists for environmental nonprofits are not among the cool kids. Go figure.

Let's recap the session with a continuation of the theme. Here is your 2015 Oregon State Legislature Yearbook Awards:

 **Power of Two**  
*Sen. Michael Dembrow and Rep. Ann Lininger*

For taking the lead on protecting rural Oregonians from pesticides by championing a bill to provide advance notice of aerial spraying, improving access to information, and requiring spray buffers to protect

residences, schools, drinking water, and fish.

 **Best Misuse of Power**  
*A tie! Between the leadership of House Agriculture and Natural Resources and Senate Environment and Natural Resources*

For giving hearings to bad bills and killing good bills at the behest of monied interests. After all, why protect rural Oregonians from the health hazards of aerial pesticide spraying when you could appease the timber industry?

 **Emerging Champion for Wildlife**  
*Rep. Ken Helm*

For sponsoring HB 2537, which would have increased penalties for poaching wildlife, and for his skill in garnering support from a diverse bunch of folks who don't usually agree on much.

 **Crummiest Runaround HB 3515:**  
*Wolf delisting bill*

For seeking to circumvent an established public and scientific process and asking the Legislature to delist gray wolves from the state

endangered species act forever. (Fortunately, we managed to defeat this one.)

 **Cooliest New Club**  
*The Democratic environmental caucus*

For its commitment to present a unified legislative voice on conservation, as well as its first show of strong leadership in the face of efforts to scuttle the Clean Fuels bill to pass Governor Brown's transportation package.

 **Best Reason for Hope**  
*YOU!*

For supporting Oregon's wildlife and their habitats and making your voice heard. The presence of a strong pro-wildlife contingent in Salem made legislators take notice. And we're looking forward to working with you to have an even bigger impact in the coming years. ☺

For a thorough recap of the session, including summaries of bills we worked on, please check out the Oregon WildBlog at [oregonwild.org](http://oregonwild.org)

Take Action! Save the date for next year's Wildlife Lobby Day on February 10th. Come to Salem and be a voice for wildlife!



# The Ghosts of the Oregon grizzly bear

Arran Robertson, Communications Coordinator

## GRIZZLY FACTOIDS

### BINOMIAL NOMENCLATURE

*Ursus arctos horribilis*

### STATUS

Threatened

### AVERAGE ADULT WEIGHT

290-790 lbs

### LENGTH

6.5 feet, though the larger coastal grizzlies, when standing, can be nearly 10 feet tall

### FUR

From yellow to black, though typically brown with grey tips

### POPULATION

There are only about 1,500 grizzlies in the lower 48, mostly in Montana and Wyoming

### AVERAGE LIFESPAN

22-26 years

### DIET

Omnivorous: moose, elk, deer, fish, rodents, berries, pine nuts, grasses, bugs, and scavenged carrion

At one time, grizzly bears roamed the western regions of North America from Alaska to Mexico. Within a century, they were all but exterminated from the lower 48, and have only recently begun to regain purchase in states like Montana and Wyoming. With new reports of grizzlies in Idaho, and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recovery plan for North Cascade National Park in Washington, there has been a renewed interest in *Ursus arctos* and their once inarguable reign over the wildlands of the Pacific Northwest. In a three part series for our WildBlog, writer zEthan Shaw examines the historical presence of grizzly bears in the Beaver State.



FIGURE 80.—Range of grizzly bears in Oregon: 1, *Ursus klamathensis*; 2, *U. idahoensis*; 3, *U. mirus*. Type locality circled.

Vernon Bailey's map of the grizzly's historical distribution in Oregon, from his *Mammals and Life Zones of Oregon* (1936).

“Once upon a time, Oregon was grizzly country,” writes Shaw. “Perhaps we should say that, once upon a time, Oregon was the dominion of the grizzly bear (or the co-dominion, anyway, shared with American Indian peoples), for few beasts anywhere hold such swaggering sway over their habitat as *Ursus arctos horribilis*.”

If grizzlies once ruled as kings over Oregon's wilderness, their kingdom was a vast one. Their supremacy stretched from beyond the Idaho border to the Steens, Hells Canyon to the Ochoco Mountains, Oregon's north Cascades to Siskiyou. There is evidence that their reign was not just wide, but also long. While grizzly remains have been uncovered throughout the state, most notable is a limb bone discovered in Oregon Caves in the Klamath Mountains that may be more than 50,000 years old. This discovery ranks among the earliest brown-bear fossils found in North America.

Sadly, the supremacy of the Oregon grizzly came to an end in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Years of hunting and trapping, conflicts with



USFWS

homesteaders and livestock operators, and government-sponsored extermination finally succeeded in banishing the grizzly from the Oregon landscape. Though there are occasional rumors in Hells Canyon — including a sighting from Oregon Wild's own Andy Kerr — the last official Oregon grizzly bear was killed in 1931 by a federal trapper.

“Of course, the very last grizzly of Oregon probably escaped the notice of humankind altogether,” Shaw writes in part two of his series. “Whether he or she died in the remote plateau forests flanking the Northeast Oregon canyonlands or the brushy breaks of the Siskiyou—or someplace else entirely—we can only offer a vague, if heartfelt, toast.”<sup>20</sup>

[Read Ethan Shaw's series on the Oregon grizzly bear at oregonwild.org](http://oregonwild.org)

# Big decisions loom for Oregon's wolves

Stephanie Taylor, Wildlife Advocate



ODFW The elusive OR-4, father of Oregon's most famous wolf, steps in front of a trail camera for a rare portrait.

It's been a busy year for Oregon's wolves and those working to protect them! Recently, we celebrated the latest exploits of Oregon's most famous wolf, Journey (OR-7). In early summer, wildlife officials announced his Rogue Pack had their second litter of pups adding to Oregon's 77 known wolves at last official count.

Though Oregon's Wolf Management Plan is working for all but the most

anti-wolf interests, the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) is reigniting old conflicts by caving to political pressure and giving serious consideration to weakening basic protections for wolves. Despite an increase in Oregon's wolf population, depredation incidents have actually decreased. Even where wolves have recovered, their impact on the livestock industry is vastly overshadowed by everything from

losses to weather and domestic dogs to the price of fuel.

A recent poll conducted by Oregon Wild reinforced the fact that a majority of Oregonians, both in urban and rural communities, continue to approve of gray wolf recovery. Support for continued protections for gray wolves was polled at 66% across the state, with 60% support in rural Oregon. Unfortunately, agencies and decision makers can be unduly influenced by the loudest voices committed to stripping protections from wolves.

This fall, the ODFW Commission will be making two important decisions that could determine the future of wolves in Oregon: 1) removing or maintaining endangered species protections, and 2) considering changes to Oregon's Wolf Management Plan which could reduce or improve protections on the ground. These decisions will be informed by – and require – public input. The next ODFW Commission meeting on Friday, October 9 in Florence will include an opportunity to provide public comment on whether to delist or protect gray wolves.

## How to help Oregon Wild fight for wolf recovery

At Oregon Wild, we are redoubling our efforts to ensure science and 21st century American conservation values get an equal voice. We strongly encourage the majority of citizens who value native wildlife to speak as loudly and regularly as those who are stuck in a 19th century mindset.

Through a growing network of wildlife activists called the *Wild*

*Ones*, we are advocating for wolves on all fronts, including: attending ODFW Commission meetings, writing letters to decision makers, lobbying legislators, organizing training sessions for community activists, analyzing science, facilitating outreach, and conducting media interviews.

We sure could use your help in standing up for Oregon's wolf population. Join the Oregon *Wild Ones* today! ☺

ODFW It takes people like you to speak up and ensure that Journey and his young Rogue Pack have the protections they need – for both Oregon wolves and their habitat (see page 4).



(LEFT) REED WILSON (CENTER AND RIGHT)  
ZACH URNESS / STATESMAN JOURNAL



## Technology in the woods: high-tech advocacy for Oregon forests

Chandra LeGue, Western Oregon Field Coordinator

Anyone who saw me hiking certain trails in May might have given me a funny look – it’s not every day you see someone out in the woods wearing a big spherical camera system on a funny looking backpack.

To anyone who has seen a Google Street View car in their neighborhood, the device might look familiar. The bright green orb hovering two feet above my head was indeed a Google camera. The Trekker, as it’s called, is the “Trail View” version of Google Maps’ Street View. Collecting panoramic images of trails and other landscapes only accessible by foot, the system takes a photo every few seconds through its 15 lenses as you walk, then stitches them together with fancy technology.

Wearing the device was an interesting experience. Weighing in at 40 pounds, with the large camera up top, the Trekker was slightly more cumbersome than my usual day pack. I felt a bit wobbly on some of the “trails” I used it on, as few were well-maintained. Waiting for the system to get up and running before I could start hiking was an exercise in patience too – at least I can talk to my hiking buddies while I wait for them to tie their shoes.

Fortunately, funny looks were minimal since I didn’t encounter many people on the trails I hiked with the Trekker. And that was kind of the point: most of the places I trekked were hard to find or hard to get to, but important pieces of the ecological patchwork that make

up our backyard forests in western Oregon. Several of them are also threatened – several places are tied up in the BLM’s plan revision process, which could increase logging and decrease streamside protections.

A strange thing to see in the woods aside, Google’s Street View Trekker loan program offers Oregon Wild a unique way to reach people. We all know people are more effective advocates for a place when they can see and experience it for themselves. With the Trekker images, we can help connect people from around the world who might be motivated to care about and advocate for these special places, even if they never physically visit. ©

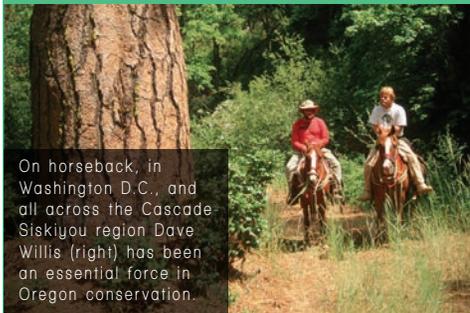
### Take Action!

Images from our Google Trekker collections will be coming to Google Maps soon.

Other updates on our backyard forests can be found here:  
[oregonwild.org/forests](http://oregonwild.org/forests)

If you have an interest in using the Trekker, visit [google.com/maps/about/partners/streetview/trekker/](http://google.com/maps/about/partners/streetview/trekker/)

## Year after decade after lifetime – recognizing Dave Willis



On horseback, in Washington D.C., and all across the Cascade Siskiyou region Dave Willis (right) has been an essential force in Oregon conservation.

*“Folks, I had time in the conservation trenches and backcountry with Tim Lillebo. I knew Tim Lillebo. Tim Lillebo was a friend of mine. And folks, I’m no Tim Lillebo.”*

So opened the self-effacing acceptance speech of the first ever recipient of the *Tim Lillebo Wildlands Warrior Award* – Dave Willis.

Accepting the award at the 2015 Oregon Wilderness Conference, Willis implored the crowd to look beyond the rational arguments for wilderness protection and remember our deeply held love of these special places.

While it isn’t the only place Willis helped to protect over his decades-long career at the Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, he is most known for his work to safeguard the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (designated in 2000) on the border between Oregon and California. Nine years after President Clinton proclaimed the Cascade-

Siskiyou a National Monument, the interior roadless area was protected by Congress as the Soda Mountain Wilderness.

In his nomination of Willis, author and Ashland resident Pepper Trail explained how “Dave inspires me by showing how accomplishment need not depend on ego; how there is no substitute for sustained commitment; and how uncompromised honesty and integrity are indispensable.”

The *Tim Lillebo Wildlands Warrior Award* was established to recognize the work of heroes who embody perseverance and fearlessness in advocating for Oregon’s treasures. For nearly 40 years, conservation pioneer Tim Lillebo represented Oregon Wild in our efforts to protect and restore the old-growth forests, rugged canyons, whitewater, and wildlife of Oregon.

The goal of this award is to celebrate those who share the commitment to conservation that Tim held so fiercely, and to inspire a new generation of Oregonians to follow his example.

Adding deeper meaning to this inaugural award is the fact that Dave and Tim were longtime friends and collaborators.

Congratulations and our deepest thanks to Dave Willis.

## Keeping it 'Intern-ally' wild



**Phillip Brown, Legal Intern**

*Favorite wild place in Oregon:* The Willowa Mountains

*Oregon Wild experience:* Oregon Wild kept me busy this summer – I conducted legal research to inform litigation that would protect endangered fish in the Klamath Basin, submitted comments to ODFW’s Commission in support of Oregon’s fledgling wolf population, and initiated a proposal for a wildlife crossing on I-84 in eastern Oregon.

**Daniel Collay, Conservation & Outreach Intern**

*Favorite wild place in Oregon:* McKenzie River

*Oregon Wild experience:* Writing profiles for each of Oregon’s National Forests for the Oregon Wild website and helping to write comments and letters to the

editor regarding the BLM’s draft Western Oregon Plan Revision. The best part of my summer has been learning how government plans are drafted and how agencies interact with Oregon Wild.

**Lisa DiNicolantonio, Wilderness Outreach Intern**

*Favorite wild place in Oregon:* Twin Lakes (the ones in southern Oregon)

*Oregon Wild experience:* Working primarily on the Crater Lake Wilderness proposal, I’ve tabled events and spent a week leading hikes in Crater Lake area. Throughout the summer, I have strengthened my understanding of environmental policy and the levels of protection for public lands.

**Stephanie Taylor, Wildlife Intern (January-June)**

*Favorite wild place in Oregon:* Willowa Mountains

*Oregon Wild experience:* Most of my time at Oregon Wild has been working on the scientific analysis of wolf protections. My favorite experience was the week-long Wolf Rendezvous in northeast Oregon. Hiking in known wolf habitat, seeing wolf tracks and scat, and hearing howls were the perfect rewards for my hard work.

**Marla Waters, Conservation & Outreach Intern**

*Favorite wild place in Oregon:* Cowhorn Mountain

*Oregon Wild experience:* This summer I have traveled to some exquisite places with Oregon Wild – from Crater Lake to the dense Siuslaw towards Devil’s Staircase! My favorite project has been organizing a film festival featuring movies relating to forest management and health.

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# A camp-inspired celebration

*Call of the Wild* is an event like no other to benefit the work of Oregon Wild. This unique event features casual flannel instead of black ties, campfire circles instead of white tablecloths, and custom local bites galore instead of pre-selected entrees.

A camp-inspired night of festivities, *Call of the Wild* is a chance to see stunning photography from our 11th annual Outdoor Photo Contest, mingle with wilderness and wildlife lovers from across the state, and celebrate everything you love about Oregon. This year's benefit will feature:

- A silent auction featuring framed prints of the Photo Contest finalists, rafting and adventure trips, outdoor gear and apparel, packages for hikers, photographers, climbers, fishing enthusiasts, kayakers, beer lovers, foodies, and more!
- Tasty local food, wild-crafted cocktails, local wine, and special-release beer
- Live music from Hip Hatchet, trail mix bar, games, and photo booth with a special representative of Oregon's wildlife community!

Entry, beer, wine, and entertainment are all included with your \$40 ticket. Or become a Tent Sponsor for \$400 (includes 10 tickets and special benefits).

RSVP to the year's wildest event today at:  
[www.oregonwild.org/calloffthewild](http://www.oregonwild.org/calloffthewild) — hurry, space is limited!

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# CALL OF THE Wild

