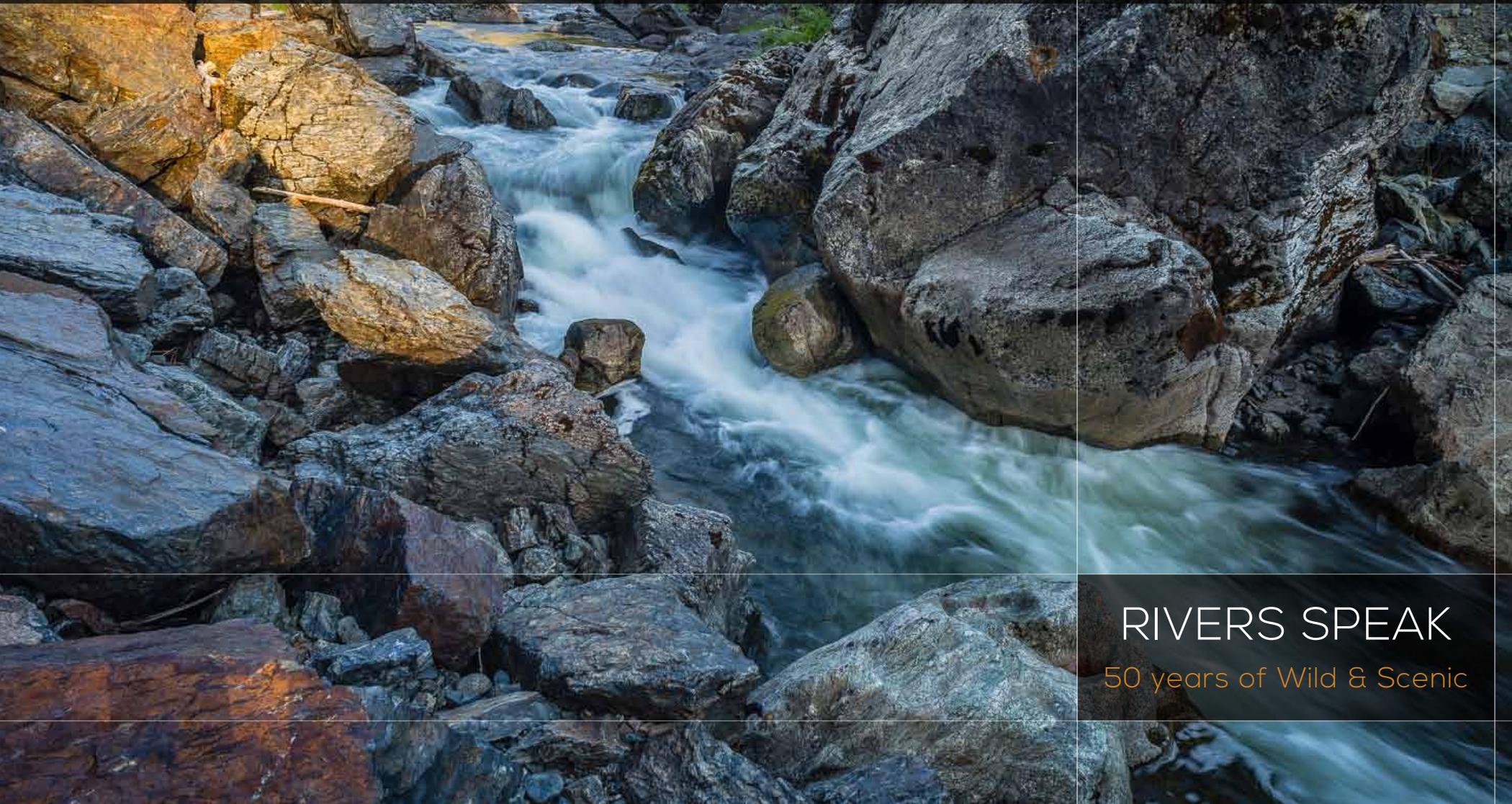


# OREGON WILD

Summer 2018 Volume 45, Number 2



RIVERS SPEAK

50 years of Wild & Scenic



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

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COVER PHOTO: © JIM DAVIS The North Fork John Day River is one of 58 sections of Oregon rivers protected as Wild & Scenic since the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act passed 50 years ago this year.



From the Director's Desk

## Around the riverbend

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

Every summer when I was a kid, my parents would pile me, my older sister, and my younger brother into the back of our Ford passenger van at five in the morning. We would dutifully sleep for most of the four-hour drive to my grandparents' home along a tributary of the Rogue River.

We simply called our summer escape "Trail," after the tiny town up the road.

Our halcyon summer days were filled with tire swings, throwing rocks in the gully, swimming at the waterfall, and – invariably – floating the Rogue. The rapids were probably nothing more than Class II, though I always thought the fishing was first rate. Usually, my Grandpa Blair was at the oars.

One year, carelessly perched on the high end of the raft tube, a bump in a rapid bounced me out of the boat. A lousy swimmer, I was lucky to be wearing my life vest and luckier still that my Dad's friend pulled me back into the boat – shivering and quite scared. To this day, I can still find the stretch of the river that my family dubbed "Sean Rapids."

My stories of Oregon rivers are, no doubt, like yours. These memories of flowing water, of casting a line for the first time, of hiking with loved ones along a riverside trail, are intertwined with my love for our state.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act (see more on the following pages) and Oregon has more protected rivers than any other state in the country. The protections afforded under the act have preserved the scenery and ecological integrity of these

waterways, without which my stories and countless others would be so much the poorer.

One of Oregon's 58 protected rivers is the Lostine, on the edges of the Eagle Cap Wilderness in Wallowa County. Sixteen miles of the river were protected in 1988 when Oregon's conservationists convinced Congress to increase the Wild & Scenic system by 50% (all in Oregon).

Sadly, today the Forest Service is

bypassing environmental review and planning to extensively log in the Wild & Scenic Lostine River corridor. Though the current plan alone is excessive, I've wondered what this logging scheme would look like were the river and surrounding forests not afforded some level of protection already.

Oregon Wild has learned the lesson over the years – that our work to protect these special places across the state is almost never done. Along with our

allies, we've taken the Forest Service to court to defend the remarkable values of the Lostine River and hold the government accountable to its own laws.

No doubt, this won't be the last time we are forced to stand up and safeguard a river. Thanks to you and countless other Oregon Wild supporters – we never do this work alone.



DYLAN WOOCK The Wild & Scenic Lostine River flows on the edges of the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

# Rivers speak - 50 years of Wild & Scenic

Marielle Cowdin, Outreach & Marketing Coordinator



NICK BROWN The John Day River snakes through Oregon's eastern plateau, and at 252 miles long, it's the longest, free-flowing stretch of river in the Pacific Northwest, and the longest stretch of Wild & Scenic River designation in the nation.

*The river moves from land to water to land, in and out of organisms, reminding us what native peoples have never forgotten: that you cannot separate the land from the water, or the people from the land.*  
- Lynn Culbreath Noel

At the edge of the river, many languages are spoken. Speech flows freely from the trees that rustle in the wind; the frogs that live along the bank; the songbirds floating lightly on the breeze; the raptors that watch the fish; and the humans that fish, swim, and paddle downstream - all have many words, but the river's voice is unique. Each gurgle and pop, every great roar or subtle hum speaks volumes more than water. Some talk is steadfast; some is as dynamic as the river itself.

The spring river has something different to say than the fall river. A river speaks of the salmon, their absence or return. A fallen fir tree will change its tune. The river sings as it flows. It is the heartbeat of our world; the river's health is our health. We are nothing without it.

For those of us privileged enough to have secure shelter with clean, running water flowing at the turn of a tap, complacency is easy to come by. We take for granted the wild sources beyond the pipes and forget that our separation from nature is a self-constructed falsehood. If tomorrow all our remaining rivers were dammed, sullied, and ran dry, we too would shrivel like salmon stranded on the shore. From the convenience of our day-to-day vantage point, the vast life-giving impact of freshwater can be challenging to see, but the omnipresent effect of our waterways locally and globally is as deeply-rooted as the veins within our own bodies. In keeping our rivers running wild, vibrant, and free, we ensure the life and health of our ecological communities, our neighbors, and ourselves.



MATTHEW KING

Fifty years ago, Congress passed the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, declaring:

*...that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.*

This piece of forward-thinking legislation came after the era of early 20th century dam building had hit its peak, after major rivers and their native landscapes were dramatically altered. With concern for the future of wild waterways nationwide, the Wild



& Scenic Rivers Act began with the designation of eight rivers, including Oregon's own Wild Rogue (see page 6), safeguarding them for generations to come and opening the doors for 58 Oregon river sections to gain protected status by the federal government. Without these designations, we might have seen the end of salmon runs on the Salmon River or rapids along the Rogue.

This year, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the act, we remind ourselves of the river's incalculable value. We listen to that river language and soak in the sounds on our Oregon Wild Summer adventures (see sidebar), we drink in the rivers' inspiration with locally crafted brews (see page 15), and we take a breath as we try and capture that constant fleeting moment of beauty of the river within the landscape (see back cover).

However you choose to celebrate rivers this year and beyond, remember that you too are water. Water is life. Together, let us honor and protect this powerful, transcendent force that sustains all things.

Oregon Wild proudly presents

## OREGON WILD SUMMER WILD & SCENIC EDITION

 Saturday, June 16  
Buffalo Rock – Wild & Scenic Hike (EUG)  
Leader: Jason Gonzales (*Moderate, 6 miles*)

 Friday, June 22  
Little Wild Ones Family Hike (PDX)  
Leader: Danielle Moser (*Easy, 4 miles*)

 Saturday, June 30  
Clackamas Wild & Scenic River Hike (PDX)  
Leader: Gaby Diaz (*Moderate, 8 miles*)

 Friday, July 13  
Table Rock Wilderness Hike (PDX)  
Leader: Jonathan Jelen (*Moderate, 7.6 miles*)

Saturday, July 21  
Bunchgrass Ridge/Warner Burn Hike (EUG)  
Leader: Jason Gonzales (*Moderate, 5 miles*)

 Friday, July 27  
Crooked River Fly-fishing Trip (BEND)  
Leader: Sarah Cuddy (*Beginner*)

Find your wild. [REGISTER AT WWW.OREGONWILD.ORG](http://WWW.OREGONWILD.ORG). Celebrate Oregon's Wild & Scenic Rivers, our public lands, old-growth forests, mountain peaks, and unprotected gems this summer with a guided adventure!

 Friday, August 10  
Clear Lake/McKenzie River Hike (EUG)  
Leader: Chandra LeGue (*Moderate, 6 miles*)

 Sunday, August 12  
Crabtree Valley Hike (EUG)  
Leader: Chandra LeGue (*Moderate, 6 miles*)

 Friday, August 24  
Clackamas Wild & Scenic River Hike (PDX)  
Leader: Jamie Dawson (*Moderate, 8 miles*)

 Saturday, August 25  
Fifteen Mile Creek Hike (PDX)  
Leader: Jonathan Jelen (*Difficult, 10 miles*)

 Monday, August 27  
Vista Ridge Hike (PDX)  
Leader: Jamie Dawson (*Strenuous, 7.9 miles*)

 PROTECTED WILDERNESS  PROPOSED WILDERNESS  WATERSHED



MARIELLE COWDIN

# Wild & Scenic Stories

In the 50 years since the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act was passed by Congress, Oregon has racked up more river designations (58) than any other state. For every river protected, there's a great story to go with it. Here are just a few.

- PROTECTED WILD & SCENIC WATERWAYS
- PROTECTED STATE SCENIC WATERWAYS
- PROPOSED STATE SCENIC WATERWAYS

**Wild Rogue** As part of the original act that set the stage for what is today over 200 protected river sections, eight stretches were green-lit for safeguards right away.

Among those was Oregon's most-famed river, the Wild Rogue. Eighty-eight miles of whitewater, and bank side old-growth forests were protected for future generations when the act was passed fifty years ago.



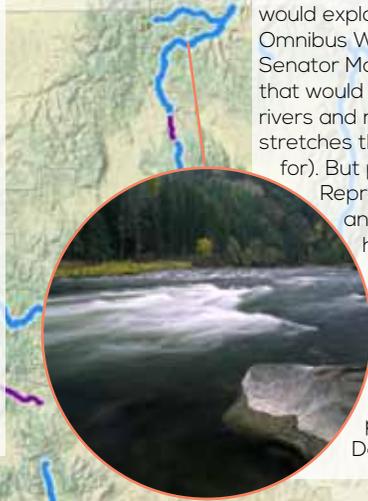
**Waldo Lake** A special shout-out is due for Waldo Lake – the only waterbody of its kind in Oregon protected as a State Scenic Waterway (the companion, state-based designation to the federal law). The surface of Waldo Lake was protected by the Oregon Legislature in 1983 and elected leaders actually had to change the law to make Waldo fit given that it wasn't technically a "stream segment."

Waldo is one of the purest lakes in the world and a subsequent legislature was also able to keep gas motors off the lake in perpetuity. By today's standards, the original vote tallies for designating Waldo as scenic are stunning: 55-5 in the House and 24-3 in the Senate.



**Grande Ronde** In early 1988, only four rivers in Oregon were federally protected as Wild & Scenic. By the end of the year, that number would explode to over 40 thanks to the Oregon Omnibus Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Initially, Senator Mark Hatfield intended to introduce a bill that would protect the bare minimum number of rivers and river miles (basically only the 32 river stretches that the Forest Service gave the okay for).

But pressure for more protections from Representatives Les AuCoin, Peter DeFazio, and Ron Wyden forced Hatfield's hand, pushing the number to 40 and drastically increasing the river miles safeguarded (in the case of the Grande Ronde, from 17 to almost 44 miles!). Introduced in Congress and signed by the president in the same year (imagine that!), this landmark bill protected iconic rivers like the John Day, Deschutes, and Lostine.



**River Styx** The River Styx was named in 1911 by a famed guide at Oregon Caves National Monument. Thanks to legislation signed by President Obama in 2014, the river is the first and only subterranean waterway protected as a Wild & Scenic River. For years, conservationists and the National Park Service worked to protect the river and increase the size of the monument ten-fold. Thanks to the determination of our allies at the Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center, that hard work paid off and now 15 miles of river, both above and below ground, are forever protected.



**Klamath River** In 1980, the city of Klamath Falls and Pacific Power applied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to build a dam on a stretch of the Klamath River well known for whitewater rafting, wildlife, and scenery. The dam (damn?) proposal went through several iterations as backers scrambled to overcome intense public opposition from anglers and local conservationists to flooding this wonderful stretch of the Klamath. In 1994, the 11-mile stretch was protected as a Wild & Scenic River through a little-known provision in the federal act that

allows state-protected waterways to be designated federally when a Governor makes a request. Oregon voters had protected the Klamath as a State Scenic Waterway by a popular vote in 1988, and six years later Governor Barbara Roberts asked to upgrade the river's status to become the 157th Wild & Scenic River in the country.



# The next step on scenic rivers

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

If you've ever been to an Oregon Wild event, you've probably heard us say both of the following:

- We've got a Wilderness deficit – with only 4% of our land given the highest level of protection by Congress – and that's just not enough.
- But all is not lost, because we've got more Wild & Scenic Rivers than any other state in the union with 58!

The latter claim is a pretty exciting one to make. Oregon Wild, along with countless

advocates and elected leaders, has built a truly impressive legacy when it comes to safeguarding our waterways for future generations. But still, take a look at the map and consider this: Oregon has nearly 111,000 total miles of river, of which 1,916 are designated as Wild & Scenic. That's not even 2% of the state's river miles.

Part of the problem is that so many rivers have been dammed, degraded, developed, and dewatered. Many of the 111,000 river miles in Oregon will need

decades of careful restoration and healing to recover. In fact, a new analysis from the Center for American Progress and Conservation Science Partners finds that nearly half – 49 percent – of all river miles in the West have been modified from their natural state.

So, before we pull a muscle patting ourselves on the back, we must do our part to pass on a Wild & Scenic legacy to future Oregonians by protecting every last mile of wild, scenic, and recreational free-flowing river that we can.

And don't worry – that's exactly what Oregon Wild is doing. We are currently working with (and putting pressure on) the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to designate three new State Scenic Waterways with a plan to come back for more in future years. Additionally, for two decades now it has been our practice to build expansive Wild & Scenic River proposals into all of our Wilderness campaigns. In our Ochocos National Recreation Area campaign we are proposing

JIM MALONEY The North Umpqua River is known for its incredible fishing – considered one of the best fly fishing spots in the Pacific Northwest!



a huge expansion of the North Fork Crooked Wild & Scenic River, adding over 100 miles along the mainstem and key tributaries. In the Crater Lake Wilderness campaign, the list of rivers we are still vetting runs into

the dozens and the miles into the hundreds!

The fact is that we all live downstream. Wild & Scenic river designations protect the rivers that run through our lives. ©



STEVE DIMOCK With support from our members, activists and allies, other rivers across Oregon can enjoy the same protections as the beautiful McKenzie River.

# Fire in our time – before the fire is after the fire

Doug Heiken, Conservation & Restoration Coordinator

Oregon and its beloved forests have experienced some big fire years over the last few decades, and as the planet warms, more big fire years are on the horizon. It's understandably difficult to see some of our favorite places changed by fire, but after the smoke clears, many people often find a new kind of beauty in the changed landscape.

It is important to remember that all of our most cherished stands of old-growth forest have fire both in their past and in their future. Human views of forests are challenged by the fact that ecosystems change and persist across scales larger than a human lifetime.

Our forests are degraded by treating fire as the enemy. Virtually all of Oregon's forests are fire-dependent ecosystems that require periodic wildfire to enhance structural complexity and renew niches for diverse non-conifer plants and animals. While the news often reports that wildfire is "catastrophic" and "destroyed" the forest, in reality most wildfires create mosaics of

mostly low and moderate fire severity.

We must do better before, during, and after fires.

## Before fire

A new study looked carefully at the behavior of a large fire in the western Cascades of Douglas County that burned through a checkerboard of public and private land with different approaches to logging and forest conservation. The findings strongly indicate that industrial plantation forestry as practiced on private land (and to some extent on public land) makes fire hazard worse, while mature forests – which tend to be more prevalent on public land – tend to be more resistant and resilient to fire. This result is best explained by the fact that short-rotation tree farming maintains a high percentage of the landscape in a young stand condition with continuous high fuel loads close to the ground. Natural forests, on the other hand, have large trees with thick bark, tall trees with

canopies held high above the flames, and much more complex fuel distribution that makes it harder for fire to move through (except during extreme weather).

*Logging does not mimic fire.* Some argue that logging is just doing what fire would do only it's more surgical. Not so. For starters, logging requires logging roads that fragment habitat, disturb soil, spread weeds, limit carbon uptake, and cause erosion that pollutes streams. Fire does, of course, affect soil, but in ways that forest ecosystems and species are adapted to. In addition, logging targets large, commercially valuable trees for removal, while fire tends to retain large wood which then serves as long-lasting habitat for diverse wildlife.

*Reduce fuels near homes, not in the back-country.* To be fair, there is some fuel reduction work that makes sense, such as removal of

small fuels in the home-ignition zone within a few hundred feet of structures. Recent analysis by economist Ernie Niemi shows that we could put a lot of people to work preparing communities for fire if Congress was willing to support it. Then, we could take a much saner approach to fire management in the backcountry – actively encouraging fires to do good ecological work when weather is favorable.

## During fire

The agency in charge of addressing active fires typically conducts a para-military assault on ecosystems, replete with chainsaws, bulldozers, an air force, and destructive burn-out operations that put more fire on the landscape when weather conditions are least favorable. Fire crews are often from outside the area, so they often fail to recognize the special places where bulldozers and chainsaws do not belong.

Weak financial controls on spending during fires has led to the development of the "fire industrial complex," a dysfunctional response to fire that causes as much or more damage as it prevents. People have been making a lot of money from fires and the logging that follows, and where there is money, corruption often follows.

When weather conditions are extreme, we throw money at fire with little-to-no effect. When weather conditions are favorable, we err by suppressing the eco-friendly fires that might burn with characteristic low and moderate severity. Things are changing but far too slowly. Sometimes the agency adopts a passive role and watches a fire if it is not threatening valuable resources, but fear creeps in. Will the weather turn dry and windy? How many calls is the local member-of-Congress getting



about smoke? Will my career suffer if the wind shifts and the fire defies expectations?

### After fire

Even when the flames are out, we still have a hard time thinking rationally about fire. Almost immediately, forest managers plan so-called “salvage” logging (let’s call it post-fire logging). Particularly harmful to the recovering forest, this type of logging removes large dead and dying trees that provide critically important habitat in the decades following fire. Post-fire logging disturbs soils that are already very sensitive as a result of the fire, spreads weeds, and slows forest recovery by killing newly emerging seedlings and sprouts. The overall result of post-fire logging is a simplified and impoverished plantation forest that most closely resembles a clearcut instead of the diverse and structurally rich conditions created by natural recovery after wildfire.

When it comes to climate change, logging is the problem, not fire. Logging advocates often

suggest that wildfire is a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions, and logging will help prevent those emissions. However, scientists have looked at this closely and the evidence says that fire is not a big source of greenhouse gases and logging just makes things worse. Fire comes along infrequently, burns mostly the small fuels with the least carbon, while retaining the big trees with the most carbon. In the years between fires, forests are growing and absorbing far more carbon than they are emitting. Logging on the other hand, sends the branches and tops to the atmosphere in slash fires, and also targets the large trees and their carbon for conversion to

sawdust and wood products. But only a small fraction of the carbon from a logged forest ends up in wood products. Most of the carbon takes an accelerated path to the atmosphere where it makes climate change worse.

### A better way

We log forests in ways that are not compatible with natural disturbance regimes. The Forest Service and BLM too often

assume that fuel reduction will prevent or significantly limit extreme fire behavior, but science shows that fire is controlled by weather, much more than it is controlled by fuels, which means that most logging to reduce fuels is missing the mark. We may not be able to control the weather, but we can choose to let fires do their work when the weather is favorable.

Some have suggested a better approach is to develop brigades of well-trained fire managers who travel the region setting well-planned fires during favorable weather so they provide desired ecological benefits. These teams could be informed by traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) from native people who used fire as part of their way of life for millennia. ©



CHRISTOPHER LIEDLE; Learn more and check out the Best Kept Secrets of Fire factsheet (courtesy of CRAG Law Center) at [oregonwild.org](http://oregonwild.org).

# Of packs and politics

Rob Klavins, Northeast Oregon Field Coordinator



ODFW OR-10 from the Walla Walla Pack; Since wolves were stripped of state protections, population growth has stagnated.

Anxiously awaiting annual wolf reports has become a rite of spring. When this year's report came out, Oregon's wildlife agency did all it could to ensure stories about a surge in the known wolf population to 124.

Having 123 more wolves than a decade ago is no small feat. However, a closer look at the numbers is sobering. Until wolves were prematurely

and illegally stripped of state protections as an endangered species, the population was growing ~30% annually. Oregon had rules ensuring some meaningful measures were in place to prevent conflict before wolves could be killed.

ODFW largely dismissed our concerns about last year's report saying weather made counts difficult. If that were true, this count should have captured two

years of growth. At pre-delisting rates, the population should have shot up to over 200 animals.

Rather, since delisting, the number of packs and breeding pairs have not grown at all. The agency pointed to photos of wolves near Mount Hood as evidence that they were expanding into western Oregon. They hoped you wouldn't notice the rest of the map where poaching led to a decrease of packs there.

Amid increased poaching, ODFW killed a record number of wolves in 2017 and is on pace to shatter it in 2018. None of this should be a surprise. It's exactly what scientists said we should expect.

Killing wolves is simple and cathartic for some. But killing simply begets more killing. While Director Curt Melcher's rogue agency asks for more taxpayer dollars citing an ongoing budget crisis, ODFW can always find money to

## YOU KEEP OUR SPIRITS UP!

Jamie Dawson, Membership Manager

These days, it's easy to find yourself feeling overwhelmed by the state of wolves in Oregon. Between poachings and state-sanctioned killings, it seems impossible to find a good story in the news about this incredible keystone species.

Lucky for me, I find a little hope every day. The best part of my job is that I get to speak with you: our members! From "lifers" that attend every commission hearing, to young kiddos sending their first scribbly wolf drawing to the Governor, you are some of the most effective wildlife advocates we could ever hope for.

But our members bring us more than just hope - you're the lifeblood of our work. Over 50% of our funding comes from individuals like you who are passionate about native wildlife and eager for change.

**PLEASE CONSIDER A SPECIAL, TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT TO HELP US CONTINUE TO STAND UP FOR OREGON'S WOLVES AND WILDLANDS TODAY.**

investigate claims of livestock losses, to fund government trappers and helicopter killing operations.

Now the agency is deputizing anti-wolf activists to do their dirty work for them. They're even outfitting them with telemetry equipment allowing them to track collared wolves.

Nearly every wolf legally killed in Oregon has been authorized to appease just two livestock operators. One is the state's

most vocal advocate for wolf killing. The other is at the center of investigations into fraud and abuse of the state's compensation program.

Meanwhile, Gov. Brown responds to public inquiries with an outdated form letter.

We've managed to ensure ODFW doesn't lock in an even worse wolf plan, but it's clear we're going to need to do more if things are going to get back on track. ☺

# Mo' money mo' problems

Danielle Moser, Wildlife Coordinator

I'm fairly certain (okay, 100% certain) that when Notorious B.I.G. wrote this title lyric, he wasn't referring to the process of funding Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife. While on its face, one might think, how can more money be more problematic for ODFW?

To those who work intimately with the state agency and the legislature, we know that there's a right way to spend precious taxpayer dollars and a wrong

way. Without wildlife advocates in Salem ensuring that critical programs like habitat restoration, poaching education, and conservation species recovery are adequately funded, the agency is likely to continue business as usual. Taking the public's money in order to kill wolves faster, for example, is not a good use of taxpayer dollars. Additionally, using scarce dollars to hire Wildlife Services contractors to trap, shoot, and poison wildlife instead of

investing in non-lethal measures to address livestock conflict, is a poor allocation of funds.

We need a fish and wildlife agency and a Fish and Wildlife Commission that are committed to upholding Oregon's values of recovering native species and restoring critical habitat. The Commission, which is supposed to be the voting body that represents the public's interest, has for generations been loaded with special interest shills from the livestock, commercial fishing, and farming industry. It's rare that a biologist, scientist or conservationist sees the light of day.

Furthermore, since Curt Melcher became Director in 2015, ODFW has done little to break up the good ol' boys club and instead, perpetuated the idea that ODFW is exclusively an agency for those who hunt and fish. In a recent article about ODFW's budget woes, Director Melcher had this to say about the agency's priorities:



HALEY CREWS The most recently published ODFW expenditures graph now hides where and how conservation dollars are spent (previously shown at 2% of their budget).

*Melcher said this may reflect the ODFW's work on developing youth programs and its focus on taking steps to better meet the needs of hunters and anglers.*

"We are focusing more on our customers," he said.

This idea of hunters and anglers as ODFW's customers is extremely problematic because it reinforces the idea that a) hunters and anglers alone pay

for ODFW to do its job and b) the customer is always right. It's time we start changing the narrative, hold ODFW accountable (and by extension Curt Melcher), ask the Governor to appoint Commissioners who have a background in science, and advocate for an agency that represents all of Oregon's values of protecting and restoring native wildlife species. ©



SUMMER KOZISEK

# Reel Talk with Soul River

Gaby Diaz, Office & Event Manager



DAWN SMALLMAN

On Earth Day we partnered with Soul River Inc. and the Portland EcoFilm Fest for “Reel Talk: Beyond the Big Fish,” a film screening and panel discussion that explored how conservation intersects with social justice, and how we can work together to create a more resilient and inclusive community of outdoor leaders and environmental advocates.

The short film Chandalar explored Soul River Inc.’s work to connect inner city youth to the outdoors and conservation, cultivate veterans as mentors and role models, and to nurture future conservation leaders. Earthbound, a long form music video by local hip hop artist Mic Crenshaw, explores the ecological crisis we all face, regardless of race, wealth, or political power. The panel went deeper, from the personal stories of youth who spent two weeks exploring the Arctic

National Wildlife Refuge with Soul River Inc. to the passionate perspective of Mic Crenshaw on how America’s corporate society marginalizes both people of color and environmental protection.

Oregon’s public lands should be enjoyed by all, regardless of socioeconomic status, background, identity, or experience. But the reality is that there are barriers that prevent people from getting outside, and without taking the time to listen and learn from folks who have had that experience, we miss a grand opportunity to build community. Reel Talk is a part of a larger conversation on inclusivity in conservation, and the work Soul River Inc. and other groups (like Vive NW and Unlikely Hikers, to name a few) are doing is essential to building the next generation of conservation advocates. ☺

# Soul River runs wild

Sarah Cuddy, Ochoco Campaign Coordinator

Oregon Wild and Soul River Inc. are partnering to host the most exciting and anticipated trip of the summer! U.S. military veterans and inner city youth will spend an adventure-fueled five-day/ four-night deployment in the beautiful and secluded Ochoco National Forest in central Oregon. As part of its mission, Soul River connects veterans and youth and creates transformational outdoor experiences to establish a new generation of conservation advocates. Now more than ever, our wild places like the Ochoco Mountains need these voices.

The Ochoco Mountains are an off-the-beaten-path forest far from the mental noise of texts and emails; where youth leaders will live, learn, and travel in the backcountry. Participants will experience outdoor adventures in old-growth ponderosa pine forests and rugged river canyons, fly fish along the North Fork Crooked River, and complete restoration work across the forest. Culminating in an overnight horse packing trip to the summit of Lookout Mountain, the highest peak and pride of the Ochocos, we

will connect youth and veterans to this unique landscape.

The Ochocos are home to stunning old-growth forests, sparkling streams, and abundant wildlife and recreation opportunities. This deployment will build skills and experience for future advocates to push for the protection the Ochocos deserve. ☺



By connecting youth and veterans to our public lands and wild rivers, we aim to build a new generation of conservation heroes. Find out more at:

[www.soulriverinc.org](http://www.soulriverinc.org) or [www.oregonwild.org](http://www.oregonwild.org)



# Conservation roundup

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director

## We still log old-growth in Oregon

Nothing is more infuriating than a politician, or a logging PR spokesperson, saying “no one wants to log old-growth anymore.” Two recent examples point out the ugly truth. In May, Lone Rock Timber (the same company that tried to privatize the Elliott State Forest) used an obscure Bureau of Land Management rule to force the agency to allow them to build a road through old-growth forest on public land in Douglas County. They justified the road by claiming they needed it to log a 40-year-old plantation (previously logged off an older,

existing road network). Despite the best efforts of local conservationists and Oregon Wild, Lone Rock was able to log 300-year-old trees.

Along Highway 20 near Sisters, another sad battle is shaping up over old-growth ponderosa pines. There, the Forest Service issued a permit to the Oregon Department of Transportation to spray a toxic weed killer along the road. The chemical was so toxic that it killed giant pines up to 150' away, claiming hundreds of beautiful old-growth trees along a 12-mile stretch of the scenic highway. Now, the Forest Service has announced plans to log the

affected area. Oregon Wild is gearing up for a fight. If old-growth trees must be cut, they should be used for river restoration and wildlife habitat, not sold to raise money for the Forest Service district that approved the herbicide that killed them in the first place.

## DC madness

There's a saying that in Congress bad ideas never die, they just get added to the Farm Bill. That appears to be true for some of the worst provisions of the Westerman Bill, HR 1526 (also known as the “logging without laws” bill). This legislation, drafted by logging lobbyists, is a

BRETT COLE The birds, fish, and other native wildlife of the Klamath National Wildlife Refuges have long suffered from water allocation issues.



laundry list of anti-environmental ideas. The good news is HR 1526 appears dead; the bad news is that as we go to press, the House of Representatives is poised to vote on a bloated Farm Bill that is stuffed with some of Westerman's worst ideas. Senators Wyden and Merkley will be key in fighting this terrible legislation.

## Klamath wildlife get a break

The legal battle to stop the shameful practice of leasing public land on Klamath area National Wildlife Refuges to

agribusiness took a strange turn this spring. In preparing for the case, our attorneys with CRAG Law Center discovered a draft Interior Department document where U.S. Fish and Wildlife personnel made comments in the margins that acknowledged some of our arguments were correct, and the agency has authority to reduce or end the program. The Trump administration tried to suppress the document and keep it out of court, but a judge ruled in our favor and it will be considered as part of the case. ©



JAMES PARSONS, EXTREME OREGON Old-growth ponderosa stands along Highway 20 are being logged due to weed killer application malfeasance for the financial gain of the agency.

# All aboard the Clearcut Express!

Jason Gonzales, Forest & Watershed Organizer



Five years ago, Oregon Wild launched round one of our “Welcome to Oregon, Home of the Clearcut” campaign with a billboard attaching those words to an image of a large clearcut. We ended up wading in to a free-speech court battle with the Port of Portland when they refused to run our design in the Portland Airport. After a court victory, we had the chance to try again.

For the month of March 2018, we shifted our efforts to Tri-Met (Portland’s public transit system) where our message could reach the city’s population, as an 80-foot image of Oregon’s clearcuts cruised around Portland on the side of a MAX train.

The message on the “Clearcut Express” (as we dubbed the train) was meant to draw attention to Oregon’s weak logging laws, as well as our state’s often unearned reputation for being “green” and sustainable. Healthy forests, rivers, and outdoor recreation are some of the main reasons people love the State of Oregon, but those same people are often surprised when they head to the coast and drive through Oregon’s industrial logging lands.

Government agencies, and the logging industry, spend millions of dollars marketing Oregon as a place with strong laws that protect forests, water, and wildlife, despite the fact that Oregon has the most

out-of-date logging regulations in the region. Clearcuts dominate vast landscapes, and state laws leave up to two-thirds of our stream network vulnerable to logging without buffers surrounding sensitive waterways. Add on the herbicides applied to clearcuts by helicopter, the increased risk of landslides threatening humans and fish, and the monocrop tree-farms replacing diverse forests, and it’s not hard to see why so many Oregonians are highly critical of Oregon’s logging operations.

The Clearcut Oregon ad featured photographs of clearcuts taken in Oregon’s Coast Range, where our forest and watershed campaign

focuses on supporting communities and local citizens who are organizing against clearcutting and aerial spray in their forests and drinking watersheds. We are working with community groups from Coos Bay to Astoria with a goal of modernizing Oregon’s logging laws to reflect current science and

values. The Clearcut Express brought the everyday experience of rural and coastal Oregonians into view for Portland residents and visitors. We’ll need their support to help us accomplish our goals of changing our state logging laws and making Oregon the green state it purports to be. ©

**TAKE ACTION:**  
For more information on the  
Clearcut Oregon ad, and our Forest  
& Watershed Campaign - check out  
[WWW.CLEARCUTOREGON.COM](http://WWW.CLEARCUTOREGON.COM)

# Wild & Scenic Brews

Marielle Cowdin, Outreach & Oregon Brewshed Alliance Coordinator



Like the tributaries for Oregon's many great rivers, the paths connecting brewers and conservationists to a mutual mission of watershed advocacy began at different places, but ultimately joined together to become a great force. Over the years, pairing environmentalism and craft beer has become more commonplace, but this non-traditional partnership has its roots here as a trickle in the Pacific Northwest.

Not long after our friends at

Washington Wild launched their Brewshed® Alliance, an Oregon coalition began to grow. Seven charter brewery partners signed their names onto an initiative centered on education and outreach to the Oregon craft beer community about the importance of protecting our watersheds and public lands. Since this humble beginning, 50 additional businesses have joined as partners to support the Oregon Brewshed Alliance mission and Oregon Wild's conservation work!

This past spring, we celebrated with two of our annual Brewshed Brewfests. Our second annual Eugene-area Brewshed Brewfest with Claim 52 Brewing and 14 total brewery partners brought 150 attendees to the Sprout! Marketplace in Springfield to support conservation and enjoy beer and cider. In May, our third annual Oregon Brewshed Brewfest at McMenamans Kennedy School (generously sponsored by The Caputo Group and Crosby Hop Farm) hosted 39 partners and over 300 attendees. Collectively, both fests raised **over \$8,000** for the conservation efforts of Oregon Wild. Thank you to all who made this possible through your donations, contributions, and attendance!

The Portland brewfest also featured a Wild & Scenic Rivers collaboration challenge, with 10 partners pairing up to create unique beers and ciders inspired by our wild and scenic waterways. All three of the 2018 Brewshed Best winners at this

year's fest were Wild & Scenic beers: 1st place to Coalition and Royale's Marion Spring Pale (inspired by Marion County watersheds), 2nd place to Hopworks and Crosby Hop Farm's Rainy Falls River Beer (inspired by the Rogue River), and 3rd place to Migration and Wolves & People's Riverain Grisette (inspired by riparian areas). Many of the Wild & Scenic collaboration brews are still on tap at partner locations – be sure to give them a try in

support of clean water and wild rivers.

Looking forward, the Oregon Brewshed Alliance will be engaging in deeper advocacy work, giving a stronger voice to watershed protection statewide. From Brewshed to Brews hikes and workshops to lobby days, we're excited for the path ahead for the Alliance and the greater impact we can have to benefit forests, waters, public lands, and our local communities. ☺



STAN HELLMANN The Wild & Scenic Deschutes River.



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Printed on recycled paper with vegetable based ink.

All submissions due by September 7, 2018 at midnight.

## WILD & SCENIC

Water is life. The wild rivers and waterways of Oregon have sustained the living creatures and peoples of this land for millennia, and over the last 40+ years, Oregon Wild has worked to ensure these waters continue to do so for future generations.

2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act - which has safeguarded 58 Oregon river sections for their unique scenic, ecological, recreational, cultural, and geological qualities - so we're celebrating with a special photo contest focus this year along with special hikes along Wild & Scenic rivers through our 2018 Outdoor Program (see page 5).

Whether you're an

amateur or professional photographer, you can help us put the focus on our stunning peaks, vibrant forests, dynamic rivers, and precious wildlife and help give them and us a future simply by entering photos in the 14th annual Outdoor Photo Contest's four main categories - **Wildlands**, **Wildlife**, **Waters**, and **Endangered Places** - this

year subtitled RIPARIAN, where land meets riverside and streamside. Special consideration will be given to photos taken along two rivers proposed for State Scenic Waterway designation and protection: the Nehalem River and the South Umpqua River. Prizes from Pro Photo Supply and other local

businesses await the winners, who will be announced at the best outdoor-themed party of the year: **CALL OF THE WILD** on **October 12th** at Leftbank Annex in PDX. See contest rules and submit your photos at [www.oregonwild.org/photo-contest](http://www.oregonwild.org/photo-contest). Sponsorship inquiries welcome.

14TH ANNUAL  
OUTDOOR  
PHOTO  
CONTEST

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