

OREGON WILD

Summer 2024 Volume 51, Issue 2



**Gaining ground -
success stories for
an uncertain time**

A troubling wolf report



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Photo by Joceyn Ogle / Garfield Peak.

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FROM THE DIRECTORS DESK

A more accurate interpretation



SEAN STEVENS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WHEN I WAS GROWING UP I spent parts of the summer at my grandparents' home along Big Butte Creek, a tributary to the Upper Rogue River. It was a magical place.

I was completely oblivious at age five when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began efforts to totally destroy the small watershed a few miles over the hill by building Elk Creek Dam. The Corps got three years into the project and built the dam to one-third its intended height before an Oregon Wild lawsuit halted construction.

For years, an 83-foot concrete wall blocked the river (and the salmon and steelhead living there) until, in 2008, the dam was "notched" to allow a free-flowing river to thrive once again. In 2019, the story came full circle when a 7.3-mile stretch of Elk Creek was designated as a Wild & Scenic River.

Much older, and now fully aware of the saga of this beautiful stretch of flowing water, my wife and I made our way to the Upper Elk Creek Trailhead on Memorial Day weekend.

At the trailhead, there was an interpretive sign telling the "cultural history" of the creek. It started with the

The Wild & Scenic Elk Creek flows freely today thanks to the determination of a small, but committed group unwilling to let another special waterway be dammed.

Takelma and southern Molala peoples, the first human inhabitants of the land. Then came the white settlers, stories naming the men who trapped out all of the beaver and mined the gold. Extracted their wealth and moved on.

When it came to the dam construction, our lawsuit, and restoration of the river, one sentence stood in for thirty years of dogged activism to protect and free a river. "Litigation halted dam construction and it was notched in 2008."

Standing in front of that sign, I was mad. The reason I wasn't 10 feet below the surface of a salmon-killing reservoir was because my predecessors (Andy Kerr, Neil Kagan, Bob Hunter, and so many more) had fought like hell to protect this place.

We often marvel that yesterday's bitter fights over the fate of land and water are today's common ground - the celebrated jewels in our public lands heritage. While it's vindicating for us conservationists to see once controversial places now universally loved for being preserved, the omission of the struggle is subtly insidious.

When we forget the fight, we make it easier to dismiss those fighting for at risk places today. But I promise you this...Oregon Wild remembers.

In this 50th anniversary year we are celebrating the people and their stories (see page 9) to honor the sacrifice that came before us and to steel ourselves for the work ahead.



Michael Campbell / BLM

In the following pages you'll read personal stories of success and the ways that Oregon Wild is still swimming upstream against the current - even if we have to bust a few dams along the way.

Success stories for an uncertain time



Julia Vaughan / Mt. Hood National Forest

AS WE STARE DOWN the double barrel of the twin crises of climate chaos and the sixth mass extinction, it's all too easy to give in to despair. But, if there is anything we have learned from reflecting on our 50th anniversary, it's that our biggest wins for the wild often come in our most trying times.

When the Forest Service seemed intent on willfully ignoring some of the state's most precious wildlands in the roadless area reviews of the 1970s, Oregon Wild was born. Our grassroots drive to hold the agency accountable ultimately led to the 1978 and 1984 Wilderness bills - with one million acres of wild treasures forever protected.

When two square miles of old-growth fell to the chainsaw every week in Oregon in the mid-'80s, we rolled up our sleeves with our allies, sued to shut down the timber sale program, and rallied for the protections that came with the Northwest Forest Plan.

The following pages tell the personal stories of a slew of successes that Oregon Wild has achieved in recent months with our partners and with the support of our members. Told by the Oregon Wild staff that are driving these victories for the wild, these recollections are a reminder that - across so many parts of the state and so many issue areas - collectively we are gaining ground in the fight to keep Oregon wild.



Doug Heiken

Doug Heiken

Supreme court does something good!?

DOUG HEIKEN
CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION COORDINATOR

FOREST CONSERVATIONISTS have been nervously waiting to hear whether the Supreme Court would take a case with profound implications for Oregon's forests, and on March 25 we got our answer - Cert denied! This means the Supreme Court declined to review the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling which upheld President Obama's decision to expand the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, and upheld BLM's decision to establish millions of acres of reserves intended to protect and restore habitat for old-growth wildlife in western Oregon. This, folks, is a rare example of the Supreme Court doing something good (by doing nothing).

For O&C lands, this legal saga began almost 15 years ago when the timber industry filed suit in Washington D.C. complaining that BLM was violating the law by protecting too much habitat and not logging enough. They found a sympathetic ear in Judge Richard Leon, who issued several rulings in favor of the timber industry. BLM was preparing to amend its resource plans for forest lands in western Oregon to conform to those rulings, which would have been disastrous for our forests, water, wildlife, and climate. All of Judge Leon's rulings were reviewed by the Court of Appeals which reversed him on every count. The Supreme Court's recent action leaves good rulings in place as the law of the land, so BLM can stop saying their hands are tied and they must log our forests. They have the discretion to do the right thing!

Top Photo: Thurston Hills forest that we did save from the saws
Bottom Photo: BLM old growth in southwest Oregon's Coquille Watershed



Photo by Justin Lerner / Rowena Crest

The fight over the monument dates back to 2000 when then-President Clinton first protected lands straddling the Oregon-California border specifically for the purpose of preserving biological diversity. President Obama expanded the monument to a total size of 114,000 acres in 2017. Trump's Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke (the guy who played cowboy and rode into his first day of work in D.C. on a horse) tried to strip protections from the monument at the urging of the timber industry. Now that the industry's litigation has failed, the Cascade Siskiyou expansion fight is finally over (though it is almost certain that groups opposed to National Monument declarations for conservation will look for another case to pursue to the Supreme Court).



John Persell / Calapooia River

Rachelle Masin / Oak Ridge

Long-fought, urgently needed state forest HCP

CASEY KULLA
STATE FOREST POLICY COORDINATOR

AFTER THIRTY YEARS and generations of activists, in March, the Oregon Board of Forestry adopted the Western Oregon State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). It is hard to overstate what a momentous occasion this is! State Forests represent only 3% of Oregon's forests, but they account for a significant portion of the oldest trees in the Coast Range and many undammed rivers.

These mature Coastal and Cascade forests will now have both upland protected areas for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets as well as wide riparian buffers to help struggling fish recover. The 300,000+ acres of newly-protected forests will also suck up carbon dioxide pollution and bolster stream flows for drinking water.

Activists from across Oregon organized, testified, and tromped through the forest for years to reach this moment. Oregon Wild was there with our conservation partners, representing you and the critters without voices.

The Governor and State Forester supported the HCP, and it was adopted at a tense Board of Forestry meeting where Hampton Lumber brought in failed Governor candidate Betsy Johnson to lecture the board. The conservation majority held strong through procedural moves to stall the HCP, adopting it in a 4-3 vote.

While it takes endless pressure to keep forests alive, it only takes one successful vote to kill the forest. Even as we celebrate, Oregon Wild will continue fighting to keep our state forests alive.

Litigation program continues to yield success

JOHN PERSELL
STAFF ATTORNEY

SINCE I JOINED the Oregon Wild team in 2022, it's been exciting to see our careful use of litigation yield results. A shout-out to our attorneys at Crag Law Center and partner Cascadia Wildlands for their effective representation on several of these cases!

In late 2023, we challenged the Big League logging project that would negatively impact spring Chinook salmon in the Calapooia River. The BLM quickly pulled the project after we challenged it in court.

Then in April, we received a favorable early decision regarding the Siuslaw Harvest Land Base logging plan that would clearcut thousands of acres just west of Eugene. The judge found that the BLM failed to properly consider the plan's environmental impacts, and wrongly ignored cumulative effects from heavy thinning in surrounding reserves.

In May, we scored a preliminary win regarding the sprawling Integrated Vegetation Management plan near Medford. The judge found that the BLM did not comply with its own management plan direction to protect spotted owl habitat in reserves, and that the aggressive logging authorized raised substantial questions about increased fire risk.

Unfortunately, we don't always get the outcome we want. In early June we received an unfavorable ruling in our challenge to the Big Weekly Elk project near Coquille, which threatens habitat for marbled murrelets. We will closely review the judge's reasoning and decide whether to appeal or take other steps to hold the BLM accountable to its obligations regarding this highly imperiled species.



Hanna Anderson / Pattie and Victoria



Melissa Lytle / Pattie with a megaphone

Senate based old-growth drag race

VICTORIA WINGELL
FORESTS AND CLIMATE CAMPAIGNER
HANNA ANDERSON
COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE

OREGON WILD'S SPRING was a little more glamorous than usual. We teamed up with the one and only environmentalist drag queen, Pattie Gonia, to bring attention to the importance of trees in the fight against climate change.

We worked with Pattie's team of talented creators to bring an old-growth-inspired gown to life.

We took Pattie and the gown to visit one of Oregon's most unfortunate clearcuts on public lands, the Nails Creek logging sale. Here, we staged a photoshoot where Pattie was the only tree left standing among the sea of stumps.

The gown made its first public debut at a rally for forests in Washington, D.C. It was our first grassroots event in D.C., and our most diverse yet. We marched to the White House and through the halls of Congress to meet with important decision-makers and call for lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests. There was not a single neutral reaction in the building. Some of the most notable moments include angry conservatives who could not close the elevator door fast enough, dropping jaws on every corner, and of course - the iconic wrong turn that led our group to nearly collide with the impeachment procession on live TV.

That's the recap. This collaboration made for a ridiculously good time that celebrated diversity in our movement, and nearly saved democracy. Well, not quite - but we certainly put a spotlight on the need to protect our climate forests!

The first nationwide old-growth amendment

LAUREN ANDERSON
CLIMATE FORESTS PROGRAM MANAGER

OREGON WILD has spent the last few years working closely with our supporters and partners to ensure stronger protections for mature and old-growth trees from the threat of logging on federal lands. In response, the Forest Service announced that they would undertake a Nationwide Old-Growth Amendment (NOGA). This is the first time the agency has ever attempted something like this — they will seek to amend all 128 Forest Plans across the United States. It's a big deal, and we couldn't have done it without your help.

Our long-term goal remains a strong, durable rule protecting mature and old-growth forests, modeled on the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. I view the NOGA as a helpful stepping stone towards that rule, with the potential to make a real difference here in Oregon in the near-term. But the strength of these protections will depend on our ability to influence the agency. It's no secret that the Forest Service prefers to keep everything business as usual, and that includes being able to cut big, old trees whenever and wherever they like.

In the coming months, public engagement in this process will be vital. Now more than ever, we must mobilize a new generation of forest activists from every corner of the country. It's time to finally make old-growth logging a thing of the past and ensure mature forests remain standing for our future.

An eastside victory

ROB KLAVINS
NORTHEAST OREGON FIELD COORDINATOR

AS A PROFESSION, I get to advocate for science and our shared values. It's a dream job. It's also a nightmare. It's horrifying to be on the front line as public agencies and decision-makers move us in the wrong direction amidst a biodiversity crisis, climate change, and social unrest.

So, when, at the beginning of the pandemic, the Trump administration pushed the Forest Service to undermine the only protections for large and old trees east of the Cascades, I wasn't alone in my pessimism.

Nevertheless, we and our partners collectively poured thousands of hours into organizing, commenting, meetings, and more in hopes the agency would listen. They didn't. So, with Oregon's Senators taking positions of neutrality, we took the agency to court.

The process was illegal, but with courts increasingly reluctant to enforce environmental laws, there's never a sure thing. So it was a great relief when two judges reinstated protections - doubly so when they cited citizen participation as a key reason.

Along the way, a powerful new entity came together. Sick of being overlooked and spoken for by others, local conservationists in regular consultation with tribal and other partners, have formed the Eastside Forest Coalition (EFC).

Sadly, driven by extractive interests and their collaborators, the Forest Service is ignoring the Biden administration's direction and again pushing to eliminate protections. We stand ready to work in good faith toward a durable solution. However, if that's where the agency is heading, they'll have to contend with the EFC. With your support, I like our chances!

Wild rivers are brewing

JONATHAN JELEN
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

ONE OF MY favorite things about working at Oregon Wild is that I get to marry my passion for Oregon's wildlands with my love of Oregon beer! And we did that in a big way for the second year in a row with our Oregon Brewshed® Alliance Wild & Scenic Earth Day Collaboration Series. Thanks to generously donated hops from Coleman Agriculture and Yakima Chief Hops, six brewery partners across the state brewed special beers to help us advocate for the River Democracy Act.

With names like Alluvial IPA, Bridge Creek Brown, and Riparian Intelligence IPA it was easy to tell that the theme was all about celebrating the rivers and watersheds that provide the single most important ingredient for beer...water! Going into these breweries and finding our beer on the tap list or seeing a special can with the Oregon Wild logo on the shelf at a bottle shop is always such a thrill.

While the beer is incredible and these projects are so much fun, the real excitement comes from knowing how effective our brewing partners are at amplifying the message of protecting these rivers to so many Oregonians



Jonathan Jelen

Protected rivers = clean water = great beer!



Rob Klavins / Imnaha Old Growth Logging

As you can see from these inspiring excerpts, it can be hard - but fun - work to fight the good fight for Oregon's special places. Backed by our supporters, we bring a reverence for the wild, a love for nature big and small, and a spark of joy to our work.

We're not just thinking of innovative ways to protect the wildlands and wildlife across Oregon, we're also thinking of creative tactics to make sure our campaigns keep moving. Whatever (legal) means necessary to make sure that extinction doesn't happen on our watch; our last ancient forests remain standing; and the parts of Oregon that haven't been paved, stripped, carved up, and spit out can be free to let nature take its course - that's what we are all about.

So, please join us this summer as we turn up the pressure on decision makers. Pass on this newsletter to a friend or coworker who loves the outdoors and should chip in to help protect it. Submit a comment to the feds on the national old growth amendment proposal. Take a walk in the woods and get inspired. We'll see you out there!



Curtis Smith



Chloe LaMonica

Celebrating our history and looking to the future

CHANDRA LEGUE
SENIOR CONSERVATION ADVOCATE

On May 10 and 11, two unseasonably warm Oregon spring days, more than 200 Oregon Wild supporters - from founding board members to business partners - celebrated our 50th Anniversary at gala events in Portland and Eugene. "Forest formal" attire; beer, wine, and cider from partner businesses; and a showcase of memorabilia and stories chronicling our history were on display.

In addition to celebrating our collective love of wild places and wildlife, the events' program also recognized the dedication and accomplishments of some of the conservation heroes in our midst. Candice Guth, finance director at Oregon Wild for 17 years, received the Holly Jones Award for Organizational Development. Doug Heiken, a 30-year veteran on staff, received the Carol Alderson Award for Perseverance. Regna Merritt was awarded the William O. Douglas Award for Courage for her 20 years of work, including 10 at the helm, for Oregon Wild. Andy Kerr, legendary conservationist and director at Oregon Wild in the 1980s and '90s, received the David Simons Award for Vision.

Top: Andy Kerr, Mary Maggs Warren, Bob Warren, and Douglas Schoen;
Bottom: Ann Vileisis accepts the Tim Lillebo Wildlands Warrior Award

In addition, Ann Vileisis, a champion for the wild rivers and natural areas of the southern Oregon coast, was awarded the Tim Lillebo Wildlands Warrior Award. More about Ann can be found at oregonwild.org/awarding-a-wildlands-warrior/.

BLOG SERIES BY DECORATED AUTHOR CAPTURES THE STORIES BEHIND WILD PLACES

Every wild place has a story. Not just of the plants and animals that live there or the waters and geology that shape them, but of the people who love them and have advocated for their protection. To help share these stories, nature writer and environmental advocate Marina Richie, who was awarded the 2024 John Burroughs Medal for her book, *Halcyon Journey: In Search of the Belted Kingfisher*, is contributing a series of essays to Oregon Wild's blog. Featuring the Metolius River, Lookout Mountain, Hardesty Mountain, the Imnaha River, the Middle Santiam Wilderness, and the North Fork Umatilla Wilderness, Marina's series is sure to inspire. Check them out at oregonwild.org/every-wild-place-has-a-story.

Wolves and the Friday trash

DANIELLE MOSER
WILDLIFE PROGRAM MANAGER
ROB KLAVINS
NORTHEAST OREGON FIELD COORDINATOR



Photo by ODFW

EVERY SPRING, wildlife enthusiasts await ODFW's Wolf Report. It used to be an exciting moment to check in on the progress of recovery. Since state delisting in 2015, we await with trepidation.

Instead of estimating how much the population has grown, we nervously guess at how many wolves were killed and how much taxpayer money was spent reimbursing livestock managers for unattended animals that go missing in wolf country.

When Oregon's wolves were fully protected, the population usually grew 40-50%; never under 20%. In recent years, Oregon's wolf population has barely grown at all. This year, the population flatlined. Dozens of wolves were killed by poachers and as part of state-sanctioned hunts meant to appease those hostile to wolves. The number of breeding pairs hasn't grown in six years.

As usual, ODFW tried to spin the report. But mostly they wanted us to look away. The news was released late on a Friday. Releasing bad news in the "Friday Trash" finds reporters done for the week and less likely to seek additional viewpoints.

We know Oregon can do better. Oregon *has* done better.

Frazier Mountain Pack wolves, June 2023

After a legal challenge to ODFW's wolf-killing program in 2011, conservationists chose to sit down with the state and livestock industry to see if we could get ODFW to abide by the intent of the wolf plan. The resulting agreement made killing an option of last resort. Under its provisions, the state never had to kill wolves. Not surprisingly, the wolf population grew. However, many were surprised that even as the wolf population grew, livestock conflict decreased. That's exactly what scientists said would happen. With the easy option of killing wolves further down the list, responsible ranchers found ways to prevent conflict by improving husbandry practices.

Fast forward to 2015. Rather than double down on success, ODFW stripped endangered species status from wolves and weakened its plan. Wolf killing became normalized. Scientists were also right about what would happen next.



Photo by ODFW

Wasco County wolf in December 2023

Killing wolves makes problems worse. With pack structures disrupted, wolves get into more conflict with livestock. That leads to more wolf killing, which leads to more dead livestock and more angry people. Poaching increases. State-sanctioned killing increases. The cycle feeds itself.

Now, Oregon's wolf population has fallen below ODFW's own predicted worst-case scenario.

This dysfunction isn't unique to wolves. Rather than honor its mission to protect all wildlife and

KILLING WOLVES MAKES PROBLEMS WORSE. WITH PACK STRUCTURES DISRUPTED, WOLVES GET INTO MORE CONFLICT WITH LIVESTOCK.

their obligation to all Oregonians, ODFW continues to be most responsive to special interests often hostile to conservation.

With a new director leading the agency, there is hope. Rather than double down on

failure ODFW can learn from past success.

Wolves get headlines and are a good indicator of the agency's ethos. However, all fish and wildlife are counting on us. With your support, we'll keep fighting to steer ODFW and its new leader in a better direction.

MIGRATIONS

In January, **Ally Fisher** took on a new role as a Community Organizer with the Oregon Food Bank. Ally came to Oregon Wild first as a college intern and moved into a full-time staff role as our Wildlife and EDI Associate. During her time here she helped to build stronger relationships with tribes, working at the nexus of wildlife protection and culture. She also played a key role in supporting improved policies for beavers. We're excited for Ally to continue on in the advocacy world!



In May, after three-plus years as our Development and Events Manager, **Wren Wells** moved on from Oregon Wild to the College Possible program at AmeriCorps.

After initially joining the team to work behind the scenes to keep our donor database humming, Wren ultimately took on the huge task of planning and pulling off our big annual event, Call of the Wild. It was her attention to detail that helped us bring back our most successful Call of the Wild ever after a two-year, pandemic-induced hiatus. We'll miss Wren but wish her well in her new adventures!

On the board of directors side of things, we're excited to welcome **Ryan Jaspersen** as our newest member. Ryan brings to the board a wealth of experience in supporting organizations large and small with strategic planning and coaching. The timing is great, because we are jumping into our four year planning cycle right now. Welcome Ryan!



Conservation roundup

STEVE PEDERY
CONSERVATION DIRECTOR



Shane Anderson of Swiftwater Films

FREEING THE KLAMATH RIVER

Back when I first joined Oregon Wild in 2004, the organization took a hard stand in favor of the removal of the lower four Klamath River dams while standing firm in opposition to a Bush administration scheme to link removal to an awful deal that would have severely harmed salmon, wildlife, and fish in Upper Klamath Lake. We played a major role in stopping the Bush water deal, and now, 20 years later, the removal of the Iron Gate, Copco 1 and 2 dams in California, and JC Boyle dam in Oregon, is well underway. Removal will bring salmon home to Oregon for the first time in a century, and right a monumental injustice done to Native American Tribes (without forcing them to subordinate their water and treaty rights to agribusiness interests).

Much, much more remains to be done to bring the demand for water back into balance with supply in this arid region, but this is a giant win for salmon, for a free flowing river, and for Oregon!

ODFW GETS A NEW LEADER

Oregon Wild spent the better part of a decade fighting former Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Curt Melcher over bad decisions he made on wolf conservation, salmon recovery, endangered species protections, and other matters. He retired in April, and on May 10 the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission hired Debbie Colbert

The Klamath River runs free at the former site of Copco 2 dam in Northern California

to replace him. Colbert is the first woman to lead the agency, and has a background working inside ODFW and other state agencies. Conservation advocates had hoped for an outsider who could lead the kind of transformative change this agency needs, but generally view Colbert as a major improvement from her predecessor.

BOARD OF FORESTRY FIASCO

Oregon has state commissions, like the Fish and Wildlife Commission and Board of Forestry, to give Oregonians a role in making sure agencies are actually acting in the best interests of the public. Oregon Wild was extremely disappointed in May when Governor Kotek attempted to appoint Heath Curtiss, a professional lobbyist for the Hampton logging company, to the Board of Forestry (almost literally putting the fox in charge of the henhouse). We strongly opposed this move with several allies, and were frustrated when the Governor's office responded by withdrawing both Curtiss' nomination and that of Bob Van Dyk, a prominent salmon conservation advocate. A couple weeks later, and with no explanation, the Governor reversed course again and nominated Van Dyk and Curtiss to the Board who were subsequently confirmed by the Senate. This episode, combined with other environmental missteps, is proving that the Governor may be more target than ally when it comes to protecting forests and wildlife.

Pulling the mask off mass timber

ARRAN ROBERTSON
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER



Oregon Wild

Logs from this clearcut on BLM lands are going to "green" mass timber buildings

IN RECENT YEARS, you've undoubtedly heard the hype around mass timber and cross-laminated timber (CLT). The technology is, essentially, gluing wood into large, sturdy panels capable of being used in high-rise building projects. The renovations at the Portland Airport are an example of mass timber being used at a large scale.

Millions of dollars in government grants and subsidies are flowing to the logging industry for mass timber, with many Oregon politicians hyping the industry as a new, environmentally-friendly way to build more sustainably and with lower carbon emissions than concrete or steel. Unfortunately, decision-makers have turned a blind eye to the vital question of where the wood is coming from.

While mass timber can be sourced from responsible and ecologically-friendly forestry operations, in actuality, the tax dollars pouring into mass timber are merely incentivizing the same clearcutting that imperils our climate, destroys wildlife habitat, and threatens community drinking water.

Oregon Wild has been working to pull the mask off the egregious logging behind the mass timber facade. Executive Director Sean Stevens took CBS Saturday Morning correspondent Jeff Glor to a forest recently logged to produce mass timber panels. The site was a sweeping Bureau of Land Management clearcut outside of Carlton, part of a project that logged forest stands up to 114 years old. The logging was touted as "climate resilient forestry" with the massive clearcuts of the project re-branded as "small patch openings" in promotional materials.

No "green" building should be associated with clearcuts, especially not clearcutting on public lands. By exposing the reality of mass timber to a national audience, Oregon Wild is forcing developers, architects, and even mass timber suppliers to think more carefully about sourcing and forest practices. Our goal is for the mass timber industry to actually embody the sustainability ideals it espouses.

Oregon's threatened streams

SAMI GODLOVE
CENTRAL OREGON FIELD ASSOCIATE



Photo by Barbara Ullian / Rough Ready Creek

FOR MANY OREGONIANS, summertime means long days spent by a river. That is especially true for this Oregon Wild staffer, who you will find casting a line to (hopefully) unsuspecting trout on the Metolius and paddling the meandering channels of the upper Deschutes every chance he gets. Numerous fish, wildlife, and plant species – including several threatened and endangered species – also depend on Oregon's rivers and waterways for vital habitat.

But Oregon's rivers and streams are becoming increasingly threatened. Aggressive logging, climate change, road construction, and mining are among the most pressing issues. These threats pose risks to the many important values Oregon's rivers provide, such as clean drinking water, critical fish and wildlife habitat, cultural uses, health and well-being, and world-renowned outdoor recreation.

Fortunately, Senator Ron Wyden's River Democracy Act presents an opportunity to conserve many of our state's endangered streams. This historic bill proposes to add over 3,200 miles of Oregon rivers and streams to the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System, ensuring these waterways are permanently protected for nature and future generations.

This Spring, Oregon Wild compiled a report of the most at-risk streams in Oregon that are included in Senator Wyden's bill. While these streams face imminent threats, they all stand to gain new safeguards through the passage of the River Democracy Act. The time to act is now to protect these special places for all who depend on them. Here are some of Oregon's most threatened rivers and streams.



Martin Evans / Clackamas River



Oregon Wild / Sucker Creek Trail



Trout Unlimited / Upper Deschutes River

List of Oregon's Threatened Streams:

Willamina Creek and Baker Creek: Yamhill River watershed

Threatened by: Logging
Threatened values: Fish, Water Quality, Wildlife

Rough & Ready Creek: Illinois River watershed

Threatened by: Mining
Threatened values: Water Quality, Botanical Diversity, Fish

North Fork Clackamas River: Clackamas River watershed

Threatened by: Climate Change
Threatened values: Fish, Water Quality, Recreation

Anderson Creek and Olallie Creek: McKenzie River watershed

Threatened by: Logging
Threatened Values: Water Quality, Fish

Upper Deschutes River: Deschutes River watershed

Threatened by: Climate Change
Threatened values: Fish, Water Quality/Quantity, Recreation

Horse Creek, Cold Spring Creek, and Cabin Creek: Joseph Creek/Grande Ronde River watershed

Threatened by: Logging, Road Construction
Threatened values: Wildlife, Wildness



SUMMER GIVEAWAY!

Do you feel that Oregon? The sun is coming out, the flowers are blooming, and the days are getting longer. The good weather is here again which means it's time to hit the trails and time for our annual forest hiking guidebook giveaway.

From the moss-draped trees of the coastal rainforests to the towering pines of the Cascades to the hidden gems of the high desert, this special guide written by our very own Chandra LeGue has a trail for everyone.

Until the end of summer, become a member of the Oregon Wild Evergreen Society with a monthly gift of \$20 or more, and we'll send you a copy of Oregon's Ancient Forests: A Hiking Guide and an exclusive link to view 50 Hikes for 50 Years: An Evergreen Hike Collection.

With this guidebook at your side (or rather in your backpack!) you can reconnect with nature and embark on an unforgettable journey through Oregon's lush old-growth forests.

Use the enclosed envelope or scan the QR code to join today!





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Oregon Wild Outdoor Photo Contest 2024

For nearly two decades, the Oregon Wild Photo Contest has connected Oregonians with the state's one-of-a-kind wildlands, waterways, native wildlife, and the people who enjoy them. Send us your best photos of...

WILDLANDS & FORESTS -

Exploring Oregon's stunning landscapes.

WATERS - Showcasing the importance and beauty of Oregon's aquatic wonders.

WILDLIFE - Featuring Oregon's incredible diversity of native wildlife and fish.

PEOPLE - Representing the diverse communities who love the outdoors.

ZOOMED IN - Capturing Oregon's hidden treasures through macro and close-up photography.

2024 Prizes

- A prize package from
- ProPhoto Supply worth \$200
- A 2-night stay at an Oregon getaway location
- A professional print of the winning work
- NEW Oregon Wild gear

Patricia Davidson / Jonsrud Viewpoint Sandy



Josh Havelind / Lincoln City



Bryce Wade / Cascade Torrent Salamander



Scott Smorra / Jefferson Park

To submit your photos visit
photocontest.oregonwild.org

Submission Deadline:
September 9 at midnight

Good Luck!



Keith Wallach / Snowy Plover Oregon Coast