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Portland Eugene Bend Enterprise

## **Western Oregon Field Attorney – Job Description**

### **About Oregon Wild:**

Oregon Wild is a non-profit organization with a mission to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters as an enduring legacy for future generations. Founded in 1974, Oregon Wild's victories include safeguarding nearly 1.8 million acres of Wilderness and 2,200 miles of Wild & Scenic Rivers through federal legislation, protecting hundreds of thousands of acres of old-growth forests, and the preservation and recovery of numerous endangered species, from Coho salmon to gray wolves. Oregon Wild enjoys a national reputation as a pioneering organization that is both highly strategic and effective, with strong policy expertise.

### **Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:**

Oregon Wild is committed to building a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive organization and society, and we are actively recruiting and encouraging applicants from a broad range of backgrounds and communities to apply for this position. Important voices have been missing from the environmental movement for far too long, and building a stronger, more just, and more inclusive community starts by creating a more welcoming environment within Oregon and Oregon Wild. Our organization believes that by embracing, respecting, and valuing individuals regardless of their race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, or ancestry, we can become a stronger, more effective defender of Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters. [Read more about our organizational values here.](#)

### **General Position Summary:**

The Western Oregon Field Attorney tracks and responds to projects that threaten important environmental values in Western Oregon, with a special focus on the Mount Hood, Willamette, and Siuslaw National Forests. Working closely with Oregon Wild's Staff Attorney and Conservation and Restoration Coordinator, this position engages in public processes around such projects; supports the development and implementation of legal strategies to defend mature and old-growth forests,

endangered species, and wildlands; and coordinates work with state and federal agencies to implement an historic agreement to improve private lands forest practices.

The Field Attorney's day-to-day tasks will include reviewing and responding to logging and other projects affecting public lands, including ground-truthing projects and development of public comments. The Field Attorney will also engage in the full range of work needed to develop and support complex litigation to defend Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters. This position will represent Oregon Wild in coalitions with conservation and litigation partners, and cultivate and maintain important relationships with Native American Tribes, biologists, and agency staff. Finally, the person in this position will continue work with NOAA Fisheries, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, conservation and timber interests, and the Oregon Governors' office to implement the Private Forest Accords and secure a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to cement these historic reforms.

*Oregon Wild will consider candidates with relevant experience in place of a law degree*

### **Essential Functions / Major Responsibilities:**

#### Public Lands Defense

- In collaboration with the Staff Attorney and Conservation and Restoration Coordinator, review proposed projects in federal public lands in the region. Identify threats to key conservation values (such as old-growth forests, threatened and endangered species habitat, roadless areas, and drinking water).
- Ground-truth proposed projects to verify accuracy of agency information and inform Oregon Wild's positions, and to support Oregon Wild's communications staff with photos, video, and other documentation.
- Develop NEPA comments, coalition letters, grassroots action alerts, and other documents to advocate for important conservation values.
- Communicate and collaborate with key conservation and Tribal partners regarding proposed projects.
- Coordinate work among Oregon Wild's staff to defend the Northwest Forest Plan and other important policies affecting Western Oregon public lands.
- Organize occasional field tours for reporters, elected officials, and coalition partners. Lead occasional hikes and outings to promote the protection and restoration of Western Oregon forests.

- In collaboration with Oregon Wild's Communications Team, develop social media and website content, fact sheets and grassroots action alerts to support Oregon Wild's policy positions. Organize and lead occasional webcasts on Western Oregon forest topics.

#### Litigation Support

- Assist Oregon Wild's Staff Attorney and outside counsel with policy research, drafting and tracking Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, coordinating standing declarations, general docket management, and administrative support.
- Assist with coordination among regional plaintiff groups.
- Help to develop and execute effective earned and social media strategies to increase awareness of threats to public lands, and support for Oregon Wild's positions.
- Integrate communications and legislative advocacy into litigation and other legal strategies.

#### Implementing the Private Forest Accords (PFA)

- Represent Oregon Wild in PFA implementation discussions with state and federal agencies; push for rapid development of an Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and implementation of the PFA
- Maintain coalition/relationship with key PFA allies, including timber industry representatives.
- Track and respond to developments related to the PFA with the Board of Forestry, Governor's office, and state legislature.
- Advocate for adequate funding of state agencies for implementation of the PFA.

#### Qualifications

- Passion for protecting Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters.
- A J.D. from an accredited US law school and admission and good standing with the Oregon State Bar, or willingness to obtain membership. We will consider relevant experience in place of a law degree.
- Familiarity with laws and administrative rules governing national public lands. Knowledge of the National Environmental Policy Act, federal Endangered Species Act, and Northwest Forest Plan strongly preferred.
- Ability to manage conflict and work collaboratively with staff members and organizational partners. Experience working with tribal governments and Indigenous communities is preferred.
- Excellent legal research, writing, analytical, and communication skills.
- Ability to track and manage multiple projects and consistently meet deadlines.
- Ability to do fieldwork, including travel to remote areas and cross-country hiking in steep terrain. Working knowledge of GIS and land navigation desirable.
- 3+ years relevant experience

**Location and Supervision**

Northwest Oregon, with a preference for candidates who can be based out of Oregon Wild's Portland or Eugene offices. Our staff work under a hybrid office/remote model. This position is expected to spend several days a month in the field to evaluate proposed logging projects, verify the accuracy of agency information, and document environmental values. This position reports to the Staff Attorney.

**Salary and Benefits**

This is a full-time, exempt position with flexible geographic location within Northwest Oregon with a salary range of \$65,000 - \$75,000. Annual bar dues and CLE costs covered by Oregon Wild. Benefits include paid medical, dental, vision, alternative care, and life insurance; 403(b) retirement plan option; and generous vacation and other paid time off including 11 paid holidays, an initial four weeks of administrative time and vacation that increases with tenure, and sabbatical eligibility after five years.

**To Apply:** Please submit a cover letter and resume consolidated into a single PDF or Word document to [attorney@oregonwild.org](mailto:attorney@oregonwild.org)

Review of completed applications will begin on June 2, 2025 and continue until the position is filled.