

OREGON WILD

Fall 2025 Volume 52, Issue 3



**Where the
wild things are**

Defending our
roadless wildlands



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Radical joy



QUINN READ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NO MATTER HOW old I get (careful now), September always brings strong back-to-school vibes. This year, I feel like I'm heading back to the classroom after a summer at the coolest camp in Oregon. And I've got the bug bites and bad tan lines to prove it.

This summer, we hosted Rabble Rouser – a training in joyful resistance and collective action. We were joined by over 200 enthusiastic advocates to learn, connect, and be inspired by the peerless environmental activist Pattie Gonia. We tabled at countless community events and neighborhood street fairs, as well as Pride events in Bend, Portland, and Eugene. We hosted trivia nights and book readings and wine tastings. And we held our annual staff retreat at the beautiful South Fork McKenzie to strategize and spend time in the places we work so hard to protect. There may have been a glamping fashion show as well. Only time and social media will tell.

I laughed more than I thought was possible. I met so many new and inspiring people. I felt our community grow in size and strength. It all felt sort of...radical...to experience joy when the world is so objectively bonkers.

Everyone at Oregon Wild takes our work and our mission incredibly seriously. I can vouch for that. But we are also committed to the idea that joy and fun are powerful forms of resistance. And boy, do we plan on resisting! We're going to fight attempts to destroy our democracy, to privatize our public lands, to raze our

forests, and to undercut our bedrock environmental laws. And God help us, we're going to have fun (sometimes) doing it.

As we head into the fall, Oregon Wild will be taking all of this summer's energy, as well as momentum from our victory over recent public lands privatization proposals ([see page 11](#)), and channeling it into our ongoing efforts. We'll work to stop efforts to overturn the Roadless Rule ([see page 4-7](#)). We'll push back against the latest attempts to undermine protections in the Blue Mountains ([see page 15](#)). And we'll continue our campaign for conservation funding to recover at-risk wildlife species ([see page 8-9](#)).

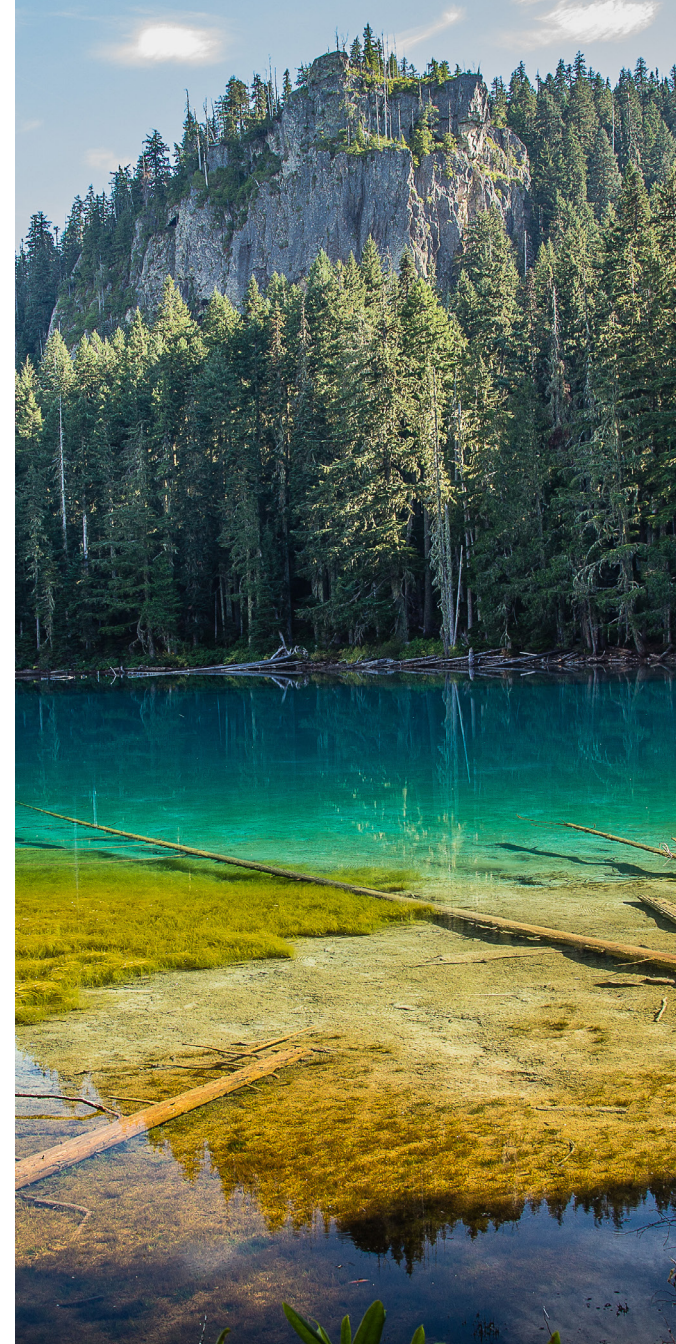
We invite you to be part of our growing community to joyfully resist and advocate for the wild places and wild things we love. Following on the heels of Rabble Rouser ([see page 10](#)), we're relaunching our Wild Ones workshops. Stay tuned for opportunities to plug in.

In the meantime, get your best glamping style on for our annual Call of the Wild party and benefit on October 10th.

Now, excuse me, I'm off to buy some crayons and a brand new Trapper Keeper.

For the wild,

Oregon has nearly two million acres of roadless wildlands, like the Twin Lakes, threatened by the Trump administration



Where the wild things are:

Defending our roadless wildlands



Keeping wild places intact

ROB KLAVINS

NORTHEAST OREGON FIELD COORDINATOR

IN 1974, Oregon Wild was founded as the Oregon Wilderness Coalition with a clear mission: to protect Oregon's last best places. Over five decades, we've helped safeguard more than 2 million acres of public lands, stopped destructive logging, protected wildlife, and defended democratic values.

But the work isn't done.

Despite Oregon's green reputation, only 4% of the state is Congressionally designated Wilderness, the gold standard for public lands protection. While we can designate Wilderness to safeguard them, we can't create wild places.

The best of what remains unprotected are roadless areas. The term is descriptive, but sterile. Roadless forests have generally never been logged, roaded, or developed. But they are about more than what they lack. They are our most intact and functional landscapes - places where nature mostly thrives on its own terms. They provide clean water and refuge for rare wildlife and plants. They offer solitude and support lifeways core to our humanity.

After 150+ years of (mis)management, almost 5 million acres of these places remain in Oregon. In 1979, the Forest Service recognized 1.9 million as "Roadless," but failed to protect them.

Two decades later, the public began demanding change. Alongside initiatives like the Northwest Forest Plan and Eastside Screens, the Clinton administration enacted the national Roadless Rule in 2001.

It wasn't a last-minute move. The Rule emerged from the most extensive public process in the history of federal rulemaking. Oregonians led the way, submitting more comments per capita than any other state. Conservationists, hunters, anglers, economic pragmatists, businesses, and citizens from all walks of life spoke, over 95% in support.

The final rule said that, outside narrow circumstances, Inventoried Roadless Areas would not be subject to industrial logging or road-building.

Up until the moment the Rule was finalized, the Forest Service was building roads to nowhere and clearcutting remote forests simply to nullify potential protections. The incoming Bush administration spent years trying to dismantle the Rule - but mostly failed.

Facing an economic calamity, the incoming Obama administration made a single public lands promise: enforcing the Roadless Rule. That commitment was quickly tested. A logging project on the doorstep of Crater Lake proposed thousands of acres of roadless logging. Oregon (Wild) again stepped up. We supported concerned locals and took the fight all the way to a face-to-face meeting with the Secretary of Agriculture. The result: The Roadless Rule held firm.

The Forest Service, logging industry, and their collaborators continued to propose ill-conceived

logging schemes, but the Rule allowed us to hold the line. Many logging units literally end at the roadless boundary.

It's a good thing. Science continues to affirm the importance of these refugia. Yet the Rule was never codified as law. Some took its protections for granted.

Unsurprisingly, a hostile administration is again targeting the Rule. Unlike the robust process that created it, today's efforts to dismantle the Rule are expected to occur with minimal opportunity for public input, oversight, or scientific review.

This is about more than lines on a map. I recently found myself in a roadless area between the Eagle Cap and Hells Canyon Wilderness.

Just yards away was an invisible line separating it from an 86,000-acre logging project.

But here, on the right side, I felt the peace these roadless areas offer. Cool water bubbled from the earth. Big trees provided cooling shade. For a precious, fleeting moment, the chaos and cruelty of the world fell away.

At home, sorting footage from our remote cameras, I shouted aloud in joy at the sight of a marten - a sensitive carnivore that relies on these connected, messy forests. It was a reminder; without the Roadless Rule (and ultimately law), this place and all the values it provides will continue to be threatened.

Fifty years ago, Oregon Wild was founded to defend - and protect - these sacred places. As long as we are here and have your support, we'll keep fighting for them.



What's at stake

CHANDRA LEGUE

SENIOR CONSERVATION ADVOCATE

THE FORESTS PROTECTED by the Roadless Rule are truly some of the most spectacular wild places in Oregon. From the coast to the Cascades to the Snake River, these wild lands provide some of the best recreation, wildlife habitat, water quality, and biodiversity we have left. Here are a few highlights:

Joseph Canyon and Wildhorse Roadless Areas, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

At a combined 45,000 acres, these rugged and remote roadless areas in the northeast corner of Oregon are rich in water, wildlife, and cultural values. The streams that form Joseph Canyon and nearby Wildhorse Roadless Area are vital headwaters of the world-famous Grande Ronde River, recognized by their inclusion in Senator Wyden's River Democracy Act.

A connector between the Rocky Mountains and Cascades, scientists have identified the area as a wildlife connectivity corridor of global importance - home to elk, bear, bighorn sheep, wolves, deer, and even moose. The area is also being considered as a reintroduction site for California Condor by the Nez Perce Tribe.

The area has significant cultural and religious value to the Nez Perce Tribe. It is the birthplace of Chief Joseph, dense with archeological sites, hunting, fishing, and gathering grounds, and is adjacent to the tribally managed Precious Lands.



Chandra LeGue

The roadless areas surrounding the Kalmiopsis Wilderness form the largest wild landscape remaining in Oregon

Tumalo Mountain Roadless Area, Deschutes National Forest

Tumalo Mountain forms a well-known scenic backdrop for the drive to Mt. Bachelor and beyond on the Cascade Lakes Highway. The nearly 15,000 acres of wild roadless lands that surround it serve as a vital hub for recreation. Miles of trails crisscross the Tumalo Mountain Roadless Area, offering shady streamside summer hiking or winter snowshoe and backcountry skiing adventures.

These wildlands provide clean drinking water for more than 100,000 Oregonians in Bend. The protected forests around Bridge Creek, Tumalo Creek, and its forks safeguard this supply, which also sustains Bend's renowned breweries. These streams are also awaiting designation as Wild & Scenic Rivers under the River Democracy Act.

Echo Mountain Roadless Area, Willamette National Forest

Regionally famous for its early summer wildflower bloom, Iron Mountain, Cone Peak, and Crescent Mountain sit in the heart of this 8,000-acre roadless area in the biodiverse "Old Cascades" just west of Santiam Pass. From Iron Mountain's lookout, you can see how this landscape links the high Cascade wilderness to the lower-elevation forests to the west. This transition creates remarkable biodiversity, with myriad wildflower species, more than a dozen conifer species, and habitats ranging from wet meadows to rocky cliffs. The icing on the cake? A walk into Echo Basin, rimmed by the area's namesake ridgeline, will lead you to some of the largest Alaska yellow cedars in the state.

Kelly Morgan



Rough & Ready Creek Roadless Area, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

The landscape that surrounds Rough & Ready Creek in southwest Oregon is part of a complex of intact roadless appendages that wrap around the existing Kalmiopsis Wilderness, making this expanse of wild lands the state's largest. A tributary to the Wild & Scenic Illinois River (and proposed for such designation itself), Rough & Ready Creek runs wild and clear through a unique and ancient geologic wonderland of serpentine soils, rare and endemic plants, and rugged ridges. Despite its unique and outstanding botanical diversity, geology, water quality, and wildlife values, the streams in this roadless area are threatened by exploitative nickel mining. Efforts to protect this area from such threats are ongoing on multiple fronts.

Threatened from all sides

ERIK FERNANDEZ

WILDERNESS PROGRAM MANAGER

THE WAR ON nature and public lands has many fronts in 2025. Alongside attacks on Roadless Area protections, Congress and the Trump administration are advancing a host of new threats.

The so-called *Fix Our Forests Act* (dubbed F Our Forests) would dramatically increase logging on public lands under the guise of reducing wildfire risk. In reality, it does little to make communities safer and instead guts public input, weakens science-based review, and undermines the Endangered Species Act.



Wendell Wood

Not to be outdone, the Trump administration has issued executive orders directing the Forest Service to boost logging by 25%. Maps released by the Administration reveal targeted areas across Oregon, including Mount Hood, the Three Sisters, the upper Rogue and Grande Ronde Rivers, and even designated Wilderness areas where commercial logging is prohibited by law!

These attacks threaten drinking watersheds across the state and put ancient forests, home to some of the best wildlife habitat and among our most important carbon stores, on the chopping block.

But hope is not lost. Oregon Wild and our allies across the state and nation are rallying to defend these places. Our recent victory in stopping a public lands sell-off shows that together we can fight back—and win.

Over the coming months, we'll be working hard to defend Roadless Areas through several approaches.

Show powerful public support

by submitting comments and rallying others to speak up during the open comment period.

Challenge destructive logging projects in Roadless Areas through public processes and litigation.

Stand ready to fight in the courts

to stop any attempt to repeal Roadless protections.

Push for lasting protections

by passing the Roadless Area Conservation Act in the next (and hopefully greener) Congress—thanks to the leadership of Congresswoman Andrea Salinas, the bill's lead sponsor



Gary Grossman

HELP SUPPORT THE ROADLESS RULE

The first crack as a centuries-old tree crashes into the ground. A rare bird song is silenced forever. A once-free river is dammed. The wild is calling out for help, and we need to respond.

There is no easy way to say it: the protections we rely on to defend our public spaces are under attack. From rescission of the Roadless Rule, to bad bills in Congress, to Trump's logging executive orders, these policies don't just weaken environmental safeguards, they endanger the clean water, wildlife habitat, and the climate stability every one of us depends on. If we don't act now, decades of conservation progress could vanish in the span of a single presidential term.

But the good news is that we are acting now.

Oregon Wild has stood on the front lines for Oregon's wildlife, wildlands, and waters for the past 50 years. And we're not going anywhere. We plan on staying here for the next 50, ready to defend our forests, our rivers, and our wildlife, from whatever threats may come our way. We are going to be here for the long haul. Are you?

Everything we do is only possible through your support. Please consider making a special gift of \$50, \$100, or even \$1,000 today to ensure Oregon Wild can continue protecting what makes Oregon truly wild—for this generation and the next.

Donate via
the enclosed
envelope or by
scanning this
QR code.



Oregon's wildlife can't wait

DANIELLE MOSER

WILDLIFE PROGRAM MANAGER



AS THIS NEWSLETTER goes to print, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will finalize the updated State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The SWAP—a blueprint for conserving Oregon's most imperiled species and habitats—is reviewed every ten years to ensure it accurately classifies species of greatest conservation need, identifies key conservation threats, and recommends effective recovery actions. In 2015, ODFW identified 294 species of greatest conservation need. This year, there are over 300 species that require conservation intervention. Species like the North American porcupine, Western Grebe, and California condor are recent additions.

There's no doubt: the Oregon extinction crisis is real and will have lasting impacts if we don't act now.

That's why Oregon Wild's highest priority for the 2025 Oregon legislative session was to pass a bill known as 1% for Wildlife. This legislation would raise the statewide tourism tax (the tax visitors pay at hotels, Air BnBs, etc.) from 1.5% to 2.75% to generate millions of dollars directly for the recovery of our state's most imperiled species and their habitats. Even with this increase, Oregon would maintain one of the lowest statewide tourism taxes in the country, while investing in those same natural resources that support our robust tourism economy. A win-win!

The bill passed the Oregon House of Representatives with strong bipartisan support. It also passed the Senate Rules Committee, only

Barbara Wheeler / USFWS

Top Photo: California condor soaring high with its impressive wingspan

Bottom Photo: The American pika is being added to the list of species requiring conservation intervention by ODFW

to be blocked by two Republican State Senators, Daniel Bonham and Cedric Hayden, who used a procedural gimmick to run out the clock and ultimately killed the bill. Though not surprising, this stunt was pulled for one simple reason: these Senators knew 1% for Wildlife had the votes to pass.

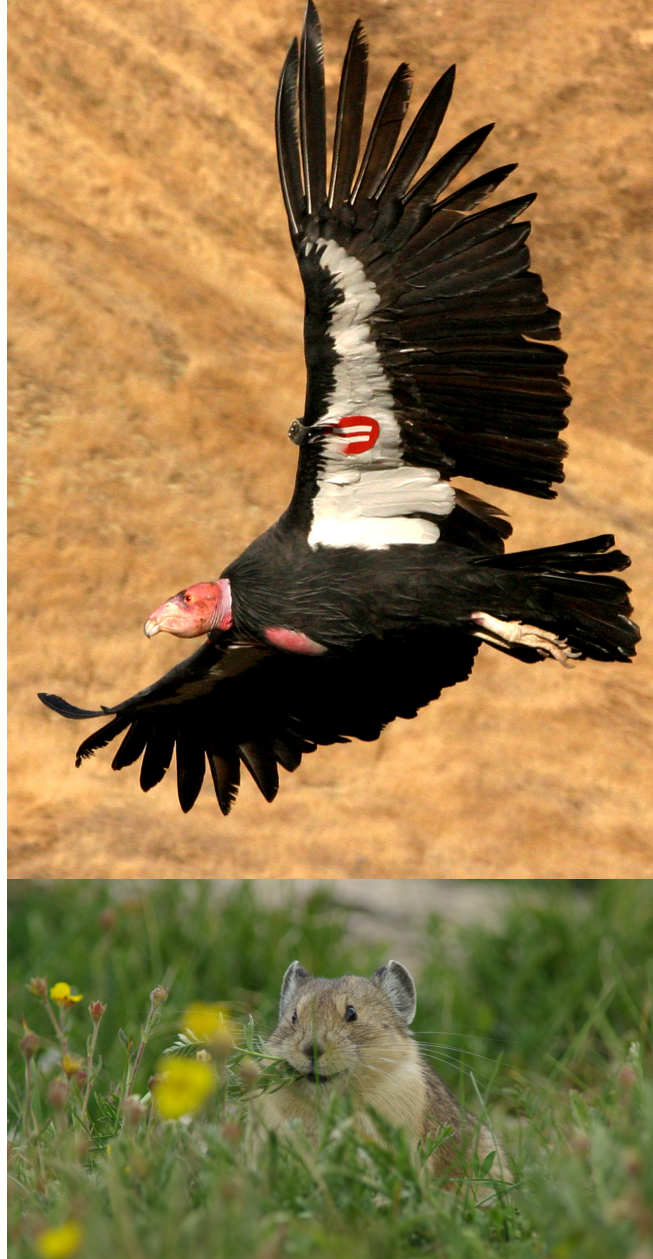
Although we didn't get the outcome we hoped for, one thing became crystal clear: there is robust, statewide, bipartisan support for this legislation. It's not every day that conservationists, hunters, anglers, rural community leaders, and business owners come together to pass an important bill for wildlife. We created a powerful, grassroots movement, and we're going to harness that momentum to pass the bill in 2026. We must, because Oregon's wildlife doesn't have time to wait.

In the coming months, stay tuned as we share opportunities to advocate for 1% for Wildlife, which will directly support those species and habitats identified in the SWAP. Whether you're a social media whiz and can help amplify action items through your online platform, a veteran wildlife advocate who has attended our wildlife lobby days and is willing to meet with your state legislators, or an eloquent writer eager to crank out letters to the editor, we need your voice!

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make a significant difference for Oregon's most at-risk fish, wildlife, and the habitats they depend upon. Please join us as we come back stronger in 2026 to pass 1% for Wildlife!

USFWS

Steve Torbit / USFWS



NORTH AMERICAN PORCUPINE

Not known as nature's most cuddly creature, the North American porcupine gets its reputation from the sharp-tipped quills covering its body. Porcupines have an impressive 30,000 quills in total, though despite what you may have heard, porcupines cannot shoot or throw their quills at an approaching predator.

In addition to having one of the best defense mechanisms in nature, porcupines are also incredibly intelligent. They learn quickly and have exceptional memories. According to state wildlife biologists, they even remember being mistreated. That must come in handy when defending against cougars and fishers (their top predators)!

Once considered a common species, a reduction in documented occurrences has led ODFW to list porcupines as a species of greatest conservation need. This decline is likely due to human-caused mortality (like hunting and trapping) and vehicle collisions, combined with a low reproduction rate. Though this new classification is a step in the right direction, targeted recovery efforts are going to be essential to ensure this species once again becomes a common species across Oregon.

Rabble Rouser & Wild ones

VICTORIA WINGELL

FORESTS AND CLIMATE CAMPAIGNER



Phenix Johnson

ON A SUNNY WEDNESDAY in Portland, more than two hundred activists, organizers, artists, and everyday people who give a d*mn about the alarming state of our government and politics gathered for our first-ever Rabble Rouser at the McMennamins Crystal Ballroom. It was an afternoon of joyful resistance, skill-building, and connection. The event brought together seasoned movement leaders and first-time organizers, united by the belief that people power can change the world.

From the moment the doors opened, the energy was electric. After a welcome and rallying introduction, participants dove into breakout sessions designed to meet this moment's challenges. Workshops like "Organizing 101" equipped newcomers with the fundamentals of building strong campaigns. "Using Art to Amplify Your Activism" had folks crafting giant paper-mâché puppets destined to turn heads at the next rally. Other sessions tackled urgent local action, like "Trump-Proof Your Community" and "Going Beyond Clicktivism," showing how to influence policy from the city council to Congress.

In the second round of breakouts, attendees learned how to protect themselves and each other, from mutual aid organizing to legal rights training with the ACLU. Oregon Wild and Oregon Sierra Club staff shared concrete ways to defend our public lands, while Western States Center explored how building resilient communities helps keep us safe.

The day ended with an unforgettable keynote from climate drag queen and activist Pattie Gonia, who reminded us that joy is not a distraction from resistance, it's a radical and essential

part of it. Drawing on the history of queer liberation movements, Pattie spoke to the power of celebration, creativity, and community in sustaining long-term activism, and encouraged us to do the same to meet the current moment.

We came to Rabble Rouser fed up, fired up, and ready to take action. By the end of the event, we left with practical skills, ideas, and tools to fight for the things we care most about.

Now what? That's where **Wild Ones** comes in.

Our year-round activist training program helps participants keep building skills, deepen relationships, and take meaningful action for Oregon's forests, climate, wildlife, and communities. Wild Ones connects passionate people across the state, offering ongoing workshops, campaign opportunities, and the support needed to make our activism sustainable.

If Rabble Rouser lit a fire in you, Wild Ones is how you keep it burning. Together, we can protect the wild places we love, defend our democracy, and face down the challenges ahead with courage and joy.

Join us. The fight needs all of us—our voices, our creativity, and our unstoppable hope. Learn more and sign up at oregonwild.org/wild-ones.

Thanks to all the wonderful people and organizations that helped make Rabble Rouser a success, including:

50501 Portland, General Strike US, 350pdx, Vamanos Outside, Indivisible Oregon, Tribal Democracy Project, 1000 Friends of Oregon, Sierra Club Oregon, Western States Center, ACLU of Oregon, Basic Rights Oregon, National Lawyers Guild, and WaterWatch of Oregon.

Together, we kept public lands in public hands

SAMI GODLOVE

CENTRAL OREGON FIELD COORDINATOR



Micah Lundstedt

THIS SUMMER, we faced perhaps the largest threat to public lands in recent memory. Republicans in Congress, led by Senator Mike Lee of Utah, proposed a land grab of millions of acres of public lands across 11 western states, including Oregon. Had this proposal passed, these lands—our lands—would have been sold off to the highest bidder.

Hundreds of miles of the Pacific Crest Trail. Sparks Lake, Hosmer Lake, and other lakes and public lands along the Cascade Lakes Highway outside of Bend. The Ochoco National Forest. Portions of Mount Hood. The Owyhee Canyonlands. These are all places that would have been at risk and eligible for sale had the bill passed.

Even after several desperate revisions, Senator Lee was forced to pull the proposal due to the relentless advocacy of public lands lovers all across the country. Millions of you—hunters, anglers, recreationists, and everyday Americans who believe that public lands belong in public hands—made this happen. You sent emails, made phone calls, took to social media, attended townhalls, and rallied in the streets to defend our public lands.

While this was a major victory for the American people and our shared natural heritage, the final budget reconciliation bill that passed was still one of the most environmentally damaging pieces of

Sparks Lake in Central Oregon would have been eligible for sale had Senator Lee's bill passed.

legislation in U.S. history. Among a host of other harmful provisions, the legislation increases timber production by 250 million board feet (the equivalent of over 50,000 fully loaded log trucks!) over the previous years' volume on National Forest lands. It also mandates that the Forest Service enter into at least one long-term logging contract per year in each region. Both of these provisions will force an increase in logging across our public lands, regardless of the negative impacts to drinking water, vulnerable wildlife, and mature and old-growth forests.

And despite pulling his proposal, Senator Lee stated that he isn't done trying to sell off and privatize our public lands. This threat will likely rear its ugly head again in the days ahead.

However, what Senator Lee didn't plan for was the loud, widespread, bipartisan opposition he would face, and a motivated public lands grassroots movement he helped mobilize. We'll be ready when he tries again, and we know how to fight back.

In the difficult days ahead, remember this win. Remember that public pressure, grassroots advocacy, and collective action work. Remember what we are all fighting for—keeping OUR public lands in public hands.

MARCHING UPHILL

PHENIX JOHNSON
DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE

Sylvia, or @silvermtngoat on Instagram, is proof that in the right hands, social media can be a powerful tool. Her page tag-line says it all, “Fat Positive Hiker! Slaying trails and chasing waterfalls!” We were already fans (and followers), so we were thrilled when she joined our Wild Miles fundraiser. For every dollar she raises for Oregon Wild, Sylvia will hike a mile, protecting nature with every step.

Sylvia started her page to keep track of her 52 hikes challenge, and her content creation grew from there. From showing off Oregon’s gorgeous trails to responding to hateful sizeist comments with humor, her page is a joy to follow.

“When I started hiking, I didn’t see a reflection of me... and sometimes, if you want to see yourself, you have to not be afraid to step into those spaces. We can have authority... We are knowledgeable as hikers about Leave No Trace, about protecting lands even if we are fat people.”

Nature should be for everyBODY, Sylvia is breaking trail for us to follow, and we are grateful for her support.



Turning Wild Adventures Into Action

ANASTASIA KUZNETSOVA
BRAND & MARKETING MANAGER

EVERY SUMMER, Oregonians head outside to bask in the beauty of Oregon’s rugged mountains, old-growth forests, and rushing rivers. All of these places were protected because generations of activists have shown up, spoken up, and fought to keep them wild and to keep access public.

This year, our community is taking that commitment even further. Oregon Wild activists are hiking, paddling, riding, and turning every mile into action. With every mile they explore, they’ve pledged to raise funds that will protect Oregon’s public lands, rivers, and wildlife.

For Oregon Wild Board President, Lisa Billings, the challenge was an actionable way to rise up against threats to long-standing environmental safeguards. “I am donating to the Wild Miles Challenge to support the fight against the Trump agenda and their debilitating attacks on bedrock environmental laws like the Roadless Rule. Can you imagine if this incredible place were subjected to new road construction for the express purpose of increasing timber extraction? It would take access off the table to all future generations and would devastate the local ecosystem.”



Some saw it as a way to transform their joy into collective action. As Kelsey Kagan reflected: “I joined the Wild Miles challenge because the joy and privilege of exploring our varied, unparalleled Oregon landscape is something to be celebrated. So far, my feet have carried me through dense coastal ranges, with fog so thick I could barely see past the tip of my nose, over desert plateaus with an unforgiving sun following my every step, and delicately alongside native flowers growing wildly as high as my elbows. I love the idea of transforming my adventures into action, through the donation dollars raised, yes, but also through inspiring others to learn more about our public lands, the threats that they face, and how crucial it is to protect them.”

And for others, it was a way to give something back to the places they cherish. Participant Sylvia Malan shared: “These spaces are a privilege. They are vital spaces that are deserving of protection and respect.”

Together, these voices highlight what the Wild Miles Challenge is all about - celebrating Oregon’s natural beauty, recognizing what’s at stake, and rising up to the challenge of protecting these places for future generations.

Litigation roundup

JOHN PERSELL

SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY

Left Photo
John Persell tours
forests to be logged
in the BLM's Blue
and Gold project

Middle Photo
The Youngs Rock
Rigdon project
threatens rare
spotted owl habitat
Credit: Doug Heiken

Right Photo
Red tree voles
depend on
old-growth



OREGON WILD AND its allies scored a remarkable series of legal victories over the last year, and that success did not escape notice. At the timber industry's behest, the Trump administration is now moving to undermine some of those wins by removing and weakening key protections that provided the framework for our successful legal claims. Rather than abide by our bedrock environmental laws, their plan is to change those laws by cutting out public notice and involvement in agency decision-making, ignoring science, and exploiting concocted "emergencies" to maximize logging in alignment with their "timber dominance" agenda.

Oregon Wild's legal docket will remain full—and grow—in the face of these attacks. Thankfully, we are expanding our capacity in that regard. In August, Pablo San Emeterio joined our team as our Western Oregon Field Attorney. Pablo will help track and hold the Forest Service accountable for logging projects across the Mt. Hood, Willamette, and Siuslaw national forests through engagement in administrative processes as well as litigation support.

Over the summer, Oregon Wild scored a procedural win in our challenge to the Youngs Rock Rigdon

Project. This project targets mature and old-growth stands near the Middle Fork of the Willamette River for aggressive "thinning" that will look more akin to clearcuts if implemented. In the administrative record provided to the court, the Forest Service wrongly excluded numerous scientific studies we submitted with our comments on the project. We moved to complete the record with those studies, and the judge agreed. We will now proceed with briefing the merits of our claims.

Meanwhile, our challenge to the BLM Roseburg District's targeting of old growth in the Blue and Gold Project will be heard by a federal judge in November. That same month, a different federal judge will hear our case pushing back against the Forest Service's aggressive use of "categorical exclusions" to avoid environmental analysis for tens of thousands of acres of commercial logging in the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

In newer litigation, we teamed up with the Center for Biological Diversity and other allies to challenge the denial of Endangered Species Act protection for red tree voles in the Oregon Coast Range. These tiny animals are a key prey species for northern spotted

owls, and they live almost their entire lives in the canopies of old-growth forests. The vast majority of their habitat has been lost to logging. Protecting those left and recruiting more is absolutely essential for the species to have a shot at survival. And on a similar note, Oregon Wild joined with partners to intervene in the timber industry's attempt to roll back millions of acres of critical habitat protections for the northern spotted owl.

The months ahead will undoubtedly present more decisions from this Administration aimed at exploiting our public lands for private profit. We will be closely tracking how the Trump administration moves forward with the Blue Mountains Forest Plan revisions, the Northwest Forest Plan amendment, and the egregious proposal to rescind the Roadless Rule. We will also watch for any efforts to skirt environmental analysis requirements, public notice and participation, and Endangered Species Act protections. With our partners and your support, rest assured we will stay in the fight, using litigation when necessary to defend Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters.

FUNDING THE FUTURE

Every summer, interns bring fresh energy, ideas, and enthusiasm to Oregon Wild. They contribute in countless ways—conducting legal research, drafting briefs, preparing legislative testimony, supporting events, developing position papers, leading hikes, and more. While they give a great deal to Oregon Wild, we like to think they gain just as much from working alongside our team of experienced advocates.

We're proud to provide paid internships for undergraduates, graduate students, law students, and even the occasional high schooler—either directly or through partnerships with organizations that fund these opportunities. Your support makes that possible. The students who join us each summer are the future leaders of the conservation movement. Please help us nurture the next generation of advocates for nature and the wild by making a gift today.



The next generation of advocates

Oregon Wild was honored to host several talented interns this summer across our programs. We're deeply grateful to these remarkable young people for their contributions to protecting Oregon's wildlife and wild places—and to the supporters and institutions who made their internships possible.

We asked our interns to share what they learned, accomplished, and will carry forward from their time with Oregon Wild this summer.

What is the most interesting thing you learned while working with the team at Oregon Wild?



Abby Dompier, Summer Legal Intern, University of Oregon School of Law

Learning what happens during the legal process and getting to participate in it. So much of law school focuses on the outcomes of cases, so seeing what happens before a ruling comes out has been such a great experience.

What is one of your accomplishments while working here?



Liz Leon, Stop Extinction Communications Intern, University of Portland

Sponsored by the University of Portland Environmental Internship Program

Creating communications materials that supported our

advocacy for 1% for Wildlife and being able to strengthen my advocacy writing, strategic messaging, and public engagement. I am proud of how close 1% for Wildlife got to passing, knowing my work helped build momentum was incredibly rewarding.



Robin Aughney, Forest Communications Intern, University of Portland

Sponsored by the University of Portland Environmental Internship Program

Confidence in my ability to conduct interviews and express myself verbally with senior coworkers. As I learned more about what I knew and where the gaps in my knowledge were, I felt better able to both seek out the information I needed and connect with and learn from more experienced (and inspiring!) people in the process.

How do you think your internship helped prepare you for your future?



Elizabeth Lucas-Lucas, Grassroots Organizing Intern, University of Oregon

Sponsored by The Script

The importance of leading with purpose. Every staff member at Oregon Wild is working towards a collective good, and Pattie Gonia's personal story at Rabble Rouser was a prime example of what stepping into what calls you can turn into!



Derek Lund, Summer Law Clerk, Lewis & Clark Law School

Oregon Wild allowed me to step outside of the classroom, and my comfort zone, to get hands-on experience with litigation schedules, brief drafting, and various legal advocacy tools. In addition, it gave me a window into postgraduate environmental law practice and how I want to focus the remainder of my time in school.

Conservation roundup

STEVE PEDERY
CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

Lord Flat roadless area,
Wallowa-Whitman NF.
Photo by Rob Klavins



FOREST SERVICE AGAIN TARGETS BLUE MOUNTAINS

Oregon Wild supporters have heard a lot about the Forest Service's past efforts to revise the Blue Mountains Forest Plan, the framework that governs 5.5 million acres of public lands in the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. This landscape includes some of the largest roadless wildlands left in the lower 48, as well as lands of critical importance to Native American tribes. For more than 20 years, the Forest Service has sought to revise the plan in ways that would elevate logging over other values.

On August 5, the agency kicked off yet another round with a public comment period on a new revision process. We are already working to ensure the public gives the agency an earful, and if necessary, we will go to court to defend the region's wildlands and wildlife.

TRUMP MOVES TO EVISCERATE THE USFS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

We are not shy about barking at the Forest Service when it prioritizes logging over conservation. However, we also deeply respect the many conservation-minded professionals who work for the agency here in Region 6. On July 24th, the Trump political appointee who leads the US Department of Agriculture (which houses the Forest Service) turned the lives of those Oregonians upside down when she announced plans to shut down Region 6 headquarters in Portland and relocate the management of Pacific Northwest forests to Fort Collins, CO.

We believe Congress should respond by developing legislation that mandates the primary mission of the Forest Service be the conservation of our public lands.



MIGRATIONS

After more than two years leading Oregon Wild's state forest policy work and supporting our efforts in the Oregon legislature, Casey Kulla is departing for his next adventure. His work has been instrumental in maintaining momentum on the Private Forest Accord to modernize Oregon's forest practices and provide increased protections for fish, wildlife, and the habitats they depend upon. Please join us in wishing Casey the best of luck as he embarks on his first year of law school!

Our litigation team is growing, and we are thrilled to welcome Pablo San Emeterio as our new Western Oregon Field Attorney. Pablo comes to us from the Port of Portland where he served as an Honors Attorney, and he's excited to return to the forest conservation work that drove him to attend law school. He'll be supporting our ever-expanding litigation docket with a special focus on forests in Western Oregon.

We also welcomed Chris Enlow and Jordan Anderson to our Board of Directors this spring. Chris, an avid surfer and river swimmer, advises companies on aligning business operations with environmental values. Oregon Wild collaborated with him in his previous role at Keen Footwear, where he built their renowned sustainability program. Jordan is the Director of Grants and Strategic Initiatives at OPB. He comes to Oregon Wild with a love for our state's beautiful wilderness areas and deep experience in the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors.



**OREGON
WILD**

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Allison Barr

CALL OF THE WILD

October is right around the corner, which means it's again time to raise your glass, raise your voice, and help us raise critical funds for Oregon's wild places at our annual Call of the Wild fundraiser!

This year's gathering will be a show of joyful resistance and will serve as a reminder that celebration is a vital part of any movement.

So we're asking you to don your best glamping outfit and join us for the biggest celebration of our wildlife and wild places of the year! You can expect an evening of great food and drinks, both a silent and live auction, games and prizes, our signature wildlife dance-off, a wild-hearted community, and much more!

And best of all, every dollar raised at Call of the Wild will help us in our mission to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters. We can't wait to see you glamping it up on **Friday, October 10 at The Redd (831 SE Salmon St)** in Portland from 5:30 - 9:00pm!



Scan the QR code to buy your ticket, or visit oregonwild.org/callofthewild for tickets, tent sponsorships, and event information. Entry, beer, wine, food, and entertainment all included in your \$50 ticket.