

OREGON WILD

Summer 2025 Volume 53, Issue 2

Sacred isn't safe

Taking action against
Trump's war on the
environment





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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Back to the future



QUINN READ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A DECADE AGO, I was working as Oregon Wild's Wildlife Program Coordinator. At the time, a great deal of my advocacy energy was spent trying to protect Oregon's newly reestablished population of gray wolves. I was new to the conservation community and I was shocked by the vitriol and ugliness that pervaded every debate about wolves in Oregon.

As we prepared for the 2015 update to Oregon's wolf plan, we knew it would take a groundswell of community support to make sure the plan stayed strong. Already, we were facing calls for a general wolf hunt and more state-sanctioned wolf killing. And so, along with my colleague, Steph Taylor, we launched the Wild Ones activist training program.

Here was our ingenious and totally novel plan:

- 1) Bring folks together who care about wolves.
- 2) Provide training to equip them with the skills to advocate for wolves.
- 3) Educate them about wildlife policy and policy making.
- 4) Engage them in opportunities to speak for wolves, like providing testimony, meeting with legislators, writing letters to the editor, and more.
- 5) Have fun and make new friends (but keep the old, on account of one being silver and the other gold).

The work would have been lonely and demoralizing, except for this community of activists who showed up time and time again to wage what felt like a never-ending battle. These activists brought passion, joy, love, and tears to their advocacy for wolves. And it mattered. They were impossible to ignore. This first cohort of Wild Ones was instrumental in securing a wolf plan that enabled wolves to continue to disperse throughout the state.

It seems so obvious now. Oregon Wild was founded by grassroots activists who understood the power of collective action. And yet, while our commitment to grassroots activism has always been present in our work, it has not always been a priority. Before I joined Oregon Wild, I had only a theoretical understanding of how collective action could make an extraordinary difference. But seeing it firsthand changed my life.

The challenges we face today are...a hot goddamn mess. We are just a few months into the second Trump administration, and our wildlife, waters, and wildlands are under direct and relentless attack. The environmental laws that ground our work are being dismantled. Natural resources agencies have been eviscerated. And groups like Oregon Wild are being threatened and targeted for doing the very work for which we were founded.

There's no business as usual. And there's certainly no going it alone. Many of you have reached out to us, looking for ways to help. I'm thrilled to announce that Oregon Wild is relaunching our Wild Ones activist training program (see page 6-7), reimagined to meet this moment. And it's launching with our inaugural Rabble Rouser conference on July 16th at Portland's Crystal Ballroom.

We need you – all of you – to join us in the fight to protect our public lands, our vulnerable species, and our access to nature. We can't wait to welcome you into this community and to work alongside you for Oregon's wildlife and wild places.

Quinn Read



Robert Scherle

An interview with Quinn Read

Oregon Wild's new executive director



Quinn with her son, Malcolm.

QUINN READ HAS been the new executive director since January, but she began her conservation career with Oregon Wild all the way back in 2013 as the Klamath Program Coordinator. In the intervening years, she has worked to protect Oregon's wildlife and the habitat they depend upon at both state and national nonprofits.

Quinn holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Washington and a law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law. She has also served on the Oregon Environmental Justice Council since 2018.

We're excited to welcome Quinn back into the fold and to the helm of Oregon Wild. The following interview has been edited for clarity (attempted), removing mild profanity and gratuitous references to the early 2000s British comedy troupe *The Mighty Boosh*.

It's tradition at Oregon Wild to start with this question: What is your favorite wild place in Oregon, and why?

I love a spooky, misty rainforest, so I'm drawn to the coastal forests of the Siuslaw National Forest! However, I have a soft spot (where my abs should be) for special urban green spaces. When I need a nature recharge, I can always count on a stroll through Reed Canyon near my home in Portland for a leafy respite.

Oregon Wild has over 50 years of history as a leader in conservation. What does it feel like to step into the role of executive director at such a critical time—when public lands, climate action, and environmental safeguards face mounting threats?

It feels like dangerously high blood pressure. It feels like overwhelming rage and despair. It also feels humbling and, dare I say it...energizing?

The threats to Oregon's natural legacy are real and profound. But this is why Oregon Wild exists. We're here – and we're ready – to fight for our wildlife and wild places. As the rules and systems that form the basis of our work are systematically undermined and, in some cases, dismantled, we have to get creative. We have to welcome the discomfort of letting go of what no longer serves us and embracing new or untested ways of creating change. Meeting this moment feels like the challenge and opportunity of a lifetime. I feel so grateful to be at Oregon Wild and to work among so many people who are ready to get after it.

You started your conservation career at Oregon Wild a decade ago and have since worked at several other organizations. What perspectives or lessons from those experiences are you bringing back to Oregon Wild?

I've had the privilege of working at state, regional, and national conservation organizations – and I have so much respect and admiration for them all. I think our movement is strengthened by a diversity of voices, opinions, and approaches to the work. But with the world being so wackadoo at the moment, these experiences are helping me reflect on organizational culture.

Because at the end of the day, no matter how great the stated mission of any organization, it comes down

to people. How well do organizations support and empower their staff? How well do they create a safe, inclusive, and humane culture where creativity and collaboration can thrive? How well do they engage and welcome their community of supporters and activists? What is their breakroom snack situation? As Executive Director of Oregon Wild, my priority is to create the conditions where our incredibly talented and committed team can do the work they care about so deeply.

What do you find most meaningful—or most energizing—about doing conservation work in Oregon?

Oregon is my chosen home where I'm raising my 6-year-old son, Malcolm. I grew up in Washington and lived in California for some time. But Oregon is my juuuuuust right Goldilocks state. I love Oregon's cities. And I really love Oregon's beautiful and diverse landscapes where we go to reconnect, play, and relax. Malcolm has the most miraculous joy and exuberance about life. And he's never more purely himself than when he's running around unhinged and unfettered in nature. I was drawn to this work because I believe in the inherent value of nature. I get pissed off about the injustice and greed that compromise our wildlands, wildlife and waters. I am energized by working in community with people driven by love and care for this place. But doing conservation work in Oregon is also personal. It's about being a good neighbor and a good steward of this place where I've established roots. It's about protecting my home. It's about protecting my son's future.

Many of us are struggling with the deluge of news under the Trump administration. Sometimes, it can seem like the politics in Oregon are not much better. What helps you stay grounded, hopeful, or resilient through it all?



I read a poem recently that goes: Barn's burnt down, now I can see the moon. Well, if what's happening in America now isn't the barn burning, I don't know what is. While it's easy to focus on the wreckage, it's also an opportunity to see things with a fresh and expansive perspective.

So, what keeps me hopeful are the activists, artists, teachers and other leaders who are showing us how to resist with joy (and as much levity as possible), support each other through the mess and chaos, and reimagine a world on the other side. I find so much of this hope and inspiration in Oregon Wild's community of advocates who are lit up right now to make a better future for our natural world and for each other. Also, binge watching Parks and Recreation and disconnecting completely from social media. Please don't tell Phenix, our social media manager.

The power of the people

REVIVING WILD ONES
FOR A NEW ERA OF ACTIVISM

VICTORIA WINGELL
FORESTS AND CLIMATE CAMPAIGNER



Melissa Lytt

IN OREGON WILD'S 50 years, we've seen firsthand how everyday people can rise up and make an extraordinary difference. From stopping destructive timber sales to defending endangered wildlife and wild places, it's never been clearer: when people come together, we win.

That's why we're excited to announce the relaunch of our Wild Ones activist training program: revamped, re-energized, and ready to meet the moment. Originally created to train and empower community members to become effective advocates for public lands, forests, waters, and wildlife, **Wild Ones** is returning with a new urgency and a bold vision for the years ahead.

The truth is, the environmental challenges we face today are unlike anything we've seen before. Under the Trump administration, attacks on the environment, and on our democracy itself, have been constant, unrelenting, and deeply harmful. From rolling back bedrock environmental laws to silencing science and fast-tracking destructive projects, the threats have felt overwhelming. But so has the response.

In the face of this unprecedented onslaught, hundreds of people have reached out to us with a common message: I want to do something. Show me how to help.

We heard you. And we're ready.

The new Wild Ones program is built to turn passion into power. Through a series of trainings, workshops, and hands-on activities, we'll equip participants with the tools they need to stand up, speak out, and push back. Sessions will include

Robert Scherle



Robert Scherle



Top Photo: A crowd gathers at the Washington Monument in Washington D.C., ready to march to the White House!

Bottom Photo: Activists roam the halls of our State Capitol to advocate for wildlife protections.

Top Photo: Activists take to the river to protest the Flat Country logging sale near Eugene, OR. Thanks to unrelenting public pressure, this old growth logging sale was cancelled.

Bottom Photo: Activists rally to celebrate Earth Day and protect our mature and old-growth forests.

Organizing 101, how to use the Freedom of Information Act, leveraging environmental laws to fight harmful logging projects, lobbying decision-makers, ground-truthing timber sales, petitioning, and so much more.

We're kicking things off in a big way—with our first-ever **Rabble Rouser** Conference at Portland's iconic Crystal Ballroom on July 16th. This one-day gathering will bring together new and aspiring activists, local grassroots organizations, and inspiring leaders like environmental advocate and drag queen Pattie Gonia, for a series of community-building, skill-sharing workshops designed to energize, empower, and find joy in resistance.

Each workshop will be interactive and participatory, encouraging folks to practice real-world scenarios, ask questions, and build connections. Because we know that this fight isn't just about resisting—it's about coming together and building something stronger.

There's so much at stake, but there's also so much possibility. Across the country, people are rising up to protect what they love: from clean water and ancient forests to civil rights and a livable climate. The Wild Ones program is our way of helping that energy take root, grow, and become a force for real, lasting change.

We believe in the power of the people. We always have. And in this moment, more than ever, we need each other. Whether you're a seasoned activist or just getting started, there's a place for you in this movement.

Let's get to work — together.

Robert Scherle



Phenix Johnson



WILD ONES TESTIMONIALS

"Attending Wild Ones events is how I got my start volunteering with Oregon Wild! I was immediately taken by the vast knowledge and deep passion of the staff members that I met and by the opportunity to learn so much more about the state that I love. It was how I learned to effectively communicate to legislators, how to write letters to the editor and how to read between the lines in federal and state agency communications. It's now been 7 years since my first Wild Ones gathering and I'm thrilled to be able to participate in them again in the future. I consider time spent with Oregon Wild to be one of the most rewarding and important parts of my life, and now more than ever we need to raise our collective voices on behalf of the voiceless!"

- OREGON WILD BOARD PRESIDENT,
LISA BILLINGS

Here are some quotes from this year's wildlife lobby day participants (see page 11)

"Thank YOU so much for all of your efforts to help our biosphere be more full of life" - JEFF

"I attended the Wildlife Lobby Day yesterday and just wanted to say thank you to all of you for the efforts that went into coordinating it. It was such an empowering day for me and I am so appreciative of the work you all do each and every day." - NIKKI

"What a good experience I had yesterday. I'm quite impressed with the team of group leaders we had taking us around the Capitol building, explaining how to best present, and also hearing about next steps. It was great to meet you and others at the Lobby day. I look forward to the next opportunity." - KRISTI

The hidden work of the wild

SAMI GODLOVE

CENTRAL OREGON FIELD COORDINATOR

ANASTASIA KUZNETSOVA

BRAND AND MARKETING MANAGER

FROM TOWERING old-growth forests, life-giving streams, and the iconic wildlife that call them home, Oregon's wild places do far more than take our breath away. These ecosystems are working overtime cleaning our air and water, storing carbon, and nurturing life. Read up on these unsung heroes, the threats they face, and why it's more important than ever to raise your voice for the wild.

OUR PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS.

Our nation's last wild places where rivers run free, wildlife can roam and thrive, and people slow down and find a sense of connection with nature.

THREATS:

From reduced staffing and funding, efforts to expand logging and mining, and proposals to sell off or privatize public lands, our public lands and waters are under threat like never before. Public lands belong to all of us and are worth so much more than a line-item on a balance sheet.



THEY GIVE WILDLIFE A FIGHTING CHANCE.

Rivers and forests provide habitat, migration corridors, and spawning grounds for salmon, steelhead, bull trout, and countless other species.



THEY CLEAN, COOL, AND STORE WATER.

Mature and old-growth forests along streams filter pollutants, provide shade, reduce erosion, help recharge underground aquifers, and keep water clean for people and wildlife.



THEY SUPPORT HUMAN HEALTH AND WELLBEING.

Streams are beneficial to Most Oregonians - over 70% - get their drinking water from forest watersheds.



THEY CYCLE LIFE FORWARD. Rivers carry nutrients, organic matter, and sediment from the mountains to the ocean, nurturing ecosystems all along the way.



THEY FUEL OUR ECONOMY.

Outdoor recreation supports jobs and small businesses across the state, generating over \$16 billion annually and supporting nearly 200,000 jobs.



OUR FORESTS.

For over 50 years, we've been defending Oregon's ancient forests from those who wish to exploit them. These giants are worth more standing.

OLD-GROWTH FORESTS STORE CARBON AND GIVE US AIR TO BREATHE.

Trees pull carbon from the air and release oxygen. Oregon's old-growth forests hold more carbon per acre than any other on Earth (even the Amazon rainforest!)

THEY'RE FULL OF LIFE, TOP TO BOTTOM.

Tree canopy shelters birds like spotted owls and marbled murrelets. Countless microbes, lichens, and insects live in tree bark. On the ground fungi weave a web of life. Every ecosystem layer plays a part in keeping the forest healthy.

THEY HELP IN A HOTTER, DRIER WORLD.

The shade beneath old trees cools the air and ground. Roots hold moisture longer, building wildfire resilience.

EVEN IN DEATH, TREES GIVE LIFE.

When a tree falls, it becomes part of the forest's future. It feeds the soil, shelters wildlife, and helps new trees grow. Nothing here goes to waste.

FORESTS KEEP HABITATS CONNECTED.

Wildlife needs space to move, feed, and find shelter. Intact forests link broken landscapes and help animals cross roads, rivers, and clearings.

THREATS:

Forests across Oregon and much of the country are on the chopping block. That's if the Trump Administration and Congress get their way. In March, the Trump Administration issued an Executive Order to increase logging on National Forests (see page 12 for popular Oregon forests that are targeted). At the same time, Congress is working to pass the Fix Our Forests Act, a logging bill that would undermine environmental laws and open the door to more logging on public lands. These policy proposals view our forests merely for their monetary value as lumber, ignoring the vast benefits forests provide.

OREGON'S NATIVE WILDLIFE.

From wolverines to salmon, beaver, red tree voles, and others, these species have an immense impact on the health of their habitats. When native wildlife populations thrive, so do their ecosystems and all the other species, non-human and human, who depend on them.

THREATS:

The Trump administration is currently attempting to weaken the Endangered Species Act by eliminating habitat protections. If finalized, the rule change would make it much easier to log, mine, drill, develop, and degrade the habitats that threatened and endangered species need to survive. While species deserve to survive and thrive in their native habitats for their own sake, abundant wildlife is also a cornerstone of healthy environments and human well-being.

WILDLIFE PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN THE HEALTH OF THE ENTIRE ECOSYSTEM.

As predators and scavengers, wolverines regulate prey populations and recycle nutrients.

THEY DEPEND ON SNOW AND COLD.

Wolverines require habitat that provides cold, snowy conditions for much of the year because they rely on deep snow for denning as well as food storage. As a result, climate change is expected to substantially decrease the amount of potential wolverine habitat.

THEY'RE AN INDICATOR OF ECOSYSTEM HEALTH.

Wolverines are a great example of an indicator species—a species whose population health reflects the overall health of the ecosystem. When their numbers fall, it could mean the ecosystem is under stress.

THEY NEED SPACE TO SURVIVE.

Wolverine populations are sensitive to disturbance and require large, contiguous areas of habitat. Individuals have a home range of nearly 240 square miles and can travel up to 15 miles per day—often up and over entire mountain ranges!

THEIR HABITAT IS SHRINKING.

Wolverines prefer open forests and alpine areas and tend to avoid clearcut areas and the young, dense forests that grow up after that.

A Conversation with Chuck Sams

FORMER DIRECTOR OF
THE US PARKS SERVICE

IN MAY, OREGON WILD and our friends at the National Parks Conservation Association hosted a webcast conversation with Charles F. (“Chuck”) Sams III. Sams was the nineteenth director of the National Park Service and the first indigenous person to lead the agency. He is Cayuse and Walla Walla and is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Northeast Oregon, where he grew up.

This is a selection from that conversation. Answers have been edited for length and clarity. You can find the full conversation at OregonWild.org

OW: You grew up in northeast Oregon as a kid. What was your relationship with parks and public lands?

CS: Going down to the Oregon fossil beds and getting a deep understanding of what it must have been like here a million years ago. For 50 years now, the Park Service has worked to tell an ancient story of the flora and fauna before humans actually roamed this territory. That has always fascinated me. And then my own tribal people who went down there to collect everything from obsidian to clay that they used to not just survive on the landscape, but to thrive on the landscape.

My travels would also take me all the way down to Arizona, to my mother’s people, the Cocopah. We would stop at the Grand Canyon. When you’re five years old, standing on the edge and looking down and marveling and thinking how much water it must have taken to remove that earth. I feel very fortunate to grow up visiting multiple sites from Washington down to Arizona and back again.

I was very surprised when I was asked to be the 19th director of the National Park Service. That wasn’t on my life’s bingo card. But what an honor it was because I’ve spent many, many years wandering through the parks and talking with folks and meeting so many rangers.

What I’m seeing now is very, very disheartening because we know that the staff who go every day don’t do this for the paycheck. They do this because they’re dedicated to preserving and protecting our cultural and natural resources and the American heritage and telling the American story, the good, the bad, and the difficult.

OW: We’ve heard a lot about budget cuts, hiring freezes, and various ways the Parks Service has been understaffed and underresourced by the Trump administration. We’re coming into summer, which is a busy season. What should people expect at their parks?

CS: The big parks, but even the smaller ones, they’re very popular. People love their parks and rightly so. And they should be in their parks. But they need to



be staffed to accommodate the folks that are coming to them. You will see bathrooms that will need to be cleaned and need to be repaired. That funding has been stopped. They can’t go out and buy supplies right now.

I just went this weekend to Whitman National Historic Site and brought cupcakes. When I was there just a year ago, they were fully staffed at seven folks. Today, there are two. Both are interpretation staff members. They were working very hard with one volunteer when I was there. But it’s a 135-acre historic site that has both cultural and natural resources.

It has a complex maintenance system, underground sprinklers, and you’re having to have interpretation staff go and figure this out. And to their credit, they’re going to do it because they are dedicated civil servants who are going to try to do their very best.

But that’s not how you run the park system. That’s not the expectation of the American people. It should not be the expectation of members of Congress.

OW: What are the top two actions that both of you would urge people in the audience to take?

CS: First and foremost, I encourage you to read the 1916 Organic Act. It is two pages long, but it is the foundation of what we do as Americans and why we put these places aside for ourselves.

Two, everyone should be an active member of this democracy. Democracy dies when we’re not active citizens. Now’s the time to speak up in whatever way or fashion that you can.

Pushing for change and progress in Salem

DANIELLE MOSER

WILDLIFE PROGRAM MANAGER

CASEY KULLA

STATE FOREST POLICY COORDINATOR



Kayla Sulak

Pacific Giant Salamander:
a species that would
benefit from the passage
of our legislative priorities
this session.

THE TEAM AT Oregon Wild came into the 2025 Oregon legislative session with a clear vision: securing funding for wildlife, strengthening Oregon's wildlife policies, advocating for dedicated investments to reduce wildfire risk to communities, and drafting amendments to ensure ongoing funding for habitat restoration through the Private Forest Accord (PFA).

Unfortunately, actions from the President—unprecedented tariffs, illegal firings, inexplicable funding freezes, and ongoing efforts to undermine bedrock environmental laws—have added an extreme layer of uncertainty to everything. We don't know if federal fisheries scientists can access their email, if wildfire costs will be reimbursed, or whether the Endangered Species Act will continue to protect imperiled animals.

Nevertheless, at home in Oregon we continue working toward our original vision. While the bills we are working on might die in the next few weeks, we know that fighting for them is the only way to ensure success.

Our top wildlife priority this session is passing HB 2977: 1% for Wildlife. This bill would raise the statewide hotel tax from 1.5% to 2.5% and invest the additional revenue in recovering at-risk fish, wildlife, and habitat. With Rep. Ken Helm as the chief sponsor and an incredible coalition behind it, we've already moved HB 2977 out of its first House committee and held a strong public hearing in House Revenue. During our wildlife lobby day at the

Capitol, the advocacy of Oregon Wild supporters and our allies helped get the bill in front of dozens of lawmakers. With a compelling economic analysis in hand, we have momentum—and we believe we can win for Oregon's imperiled species while there's still time.

Unfortunately, when the Legislature is in session, state forests are in danger. But with the help of hundreds of Oregon Wild supporters, we continue fighting House Bill 3103-5. This bill would require the Oregon Department of Forestry to establish minimum logging levels - AKA more clearcuts - in state forests and create a new right to sue the agency to enforce those levels. Thanks to our advocacy, the Oregon Conservation Network has labeled the bill a Major Threat to a Healthy Oregon. While it passed its first committee, we're on track to stop it. With an uncertain economic forecast, there's little appetite—or budget—for ecologically destructive policies that invite endless litigation.

Tied to that same uncertain revenue forecast are budget bills that fund Private Forest Accords work: restoring habitat, removing fish passage barriers, and developing stronger, science-based forest regulations. When the Legislature adopted the PFA in 2021, we committed to \$18 million annually in general funds. While budget writers are understandably cautious in this final Trump term, our coalition is optimistic that these critical investments will be maintained.

With so much uncertainty and so much at stake, we're deeply grateful for your continued support. Your emails, testimony, and donations truly make a difference—for wildlife, for forests, and for the future of Oregon's wild places.

GUIDED HIKES ON OUR PUBLIC LANDS

We're fighting to protect Oregon's forests and public lands—but we can't do it from behind a desk. That's why we hit the trail. Experiencing these wild places firsthand is the best way to understand what's at stake. Want to see for yourself? Join us for a guided hike by signing up at oregonwild.org/hikes

- Paulina Creek**
Deschutes National Forest Friday, July 11
Following Paulina Creek from its source at Paulina Lake, this trail passes several waterfalls and natural rock waterslides.
- Upper Middle Fork Willamette Trail**
Willamette National Forest Saturday, July 12
Explore an upper stretch of the Middle Fork Willamette River, where the springs are cold, the forests are ancient, and the river is wild.

- Lookout Mountain**
Ochoco National Forest Saturday, July 19
Hike through wildflower meadows and an old-growth forest to reach the highest point in the Ochoco Mountains.

- Bullup Lake**
Umpqua National Forest Sunday, July 20
Visit this little-known gem in the headwaters of Steamboat Creek, with beautiful forests, views of Bulldog Rock, and lovely Bullpup Lake.

- South Willamette Trail**
Willamette National Forest Friday, August 1
Check out some beautiful forests near the popular Hardesty Trailhead near Eugene, and learn how they might be affected by changes to forest management.

- Drift Creek Falls**
Siuslaw National Forest Saturday, August 16
This Coast Range hike has a little bit of everything — big beautiful trees, a spectacular waterfall, a suspension bridge, and a scenic view for lunch.

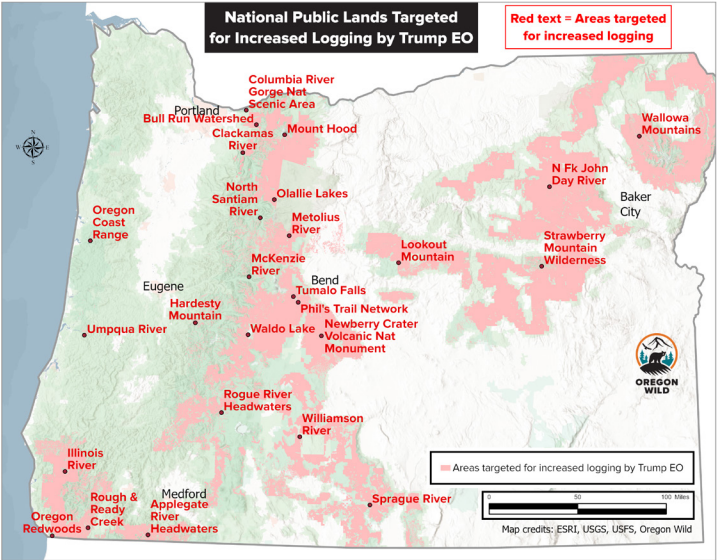
Looting Oregon's treasures

ERIK FERNANDEZ
SENIOR WILDERNESS PROGRAM MANAGER

ONE OF TRUMP'S March executive orders has taken direct aim at ramping up aggressive logging across Oregon and on national public lands. Under Executive Order #14225, industrial logging is to be prioritized over the health of America's forests, directing federal agencies to "fully exploit" public lands for logging.

What does that mean for the places you love to hike, camp, and explore? Unfortunately, it targets some of Oregon's most iconic landscapes, treasured recreation destinations, and critical sources of clean water. In the Mount Hood area, beloved places like Tamanawas Falls, Mirror Lake, Mount Defiance, and Larch Mountain in the Columbia River Gorge are all at risk. Even Bull Run, the source of Portland's clean drinking water, is on the chopping block.

Central Oregon isn't spared either. Logging has already hit places like the Phil's Trail network pretty hard, and plans are in the works to expand it further. The upper Deschutes River, Tumalo Mountain, the Metolius-Windigo Trail, Black Butte, and the Metolius River watershed are all in the administration's sights. Even popular ski areas such as Mount Bachelor, Timberline Lodge, and Mount Hood Meadows have been marked for increased logging under this plan.



You might assume this is just political posturing or a hastily drawn map that won't lead to real-world consequences. But after the administration updated the map to include even more wilderness lands, their intent became clear. This isn't just a threat—it's a blueprint.

Oregon Wild and our allies have been standing strong in court, successfully defending environmental protections and stopping reckless logging projects. Logging lobbyists, frustrated that the law isn't on their side, have turned to Trump in hopes of bypassing the legal system entirely. They're seeking political favors because they keep losing in court.

The good news is that this executive order rests on shaky legal ground. We're optimistic that with enough pressure, organizing, and legal resistance, we can stop the worst of it. But we all have work to do. Protecting Oregon's forests, wildlife, clean water, and recreation lands will take all of us speaking up and taking action—before it's too late.

Unnatural disasters: Trump's assault on the environment

LAUREN ANDERSON

CLIMATE FORESTS PROGRAM MANAGER

THE TRUMP 2.0 administration will no doubt be remembered for its historic first few months—but unfortunately, for all the wrong reasons. Trump has failed as a leader on nearly every front: the economy, foreign policy, social safety nets, and basic human rights. The list, at times, feels endless. But among his most harmful legacies may be his relentless assault on protections for clean air, clean water, wildlife, and the climate.

It's important to understand that the Trump administration's attacks on environmental safeguards do not exist in isolation. They are deeply connected to broader threats to democracy and social justice. The same administration that is rolling back environmental protections is also targeting immigrant communities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and equity and environmental justice programs. These attacks compound one another—just as efforts to weaken environmental laws are amplified by assaults on our judicial system and the rule of law. All of it is intertwined with our ability to defend public lands and the natural world.

Below is a snapshot of some of Trump's most egregious environmental rollbacks. It's far from a complete list—but it offers a glimpse into just how far-reaching the damage already is.

Attacks on Public Lands and Forests

1. Declared a fake national energy emergency and directed federal agencies to identify ways to ramp up fossil fuel production on public lands.
2. Issued two executive orders aimed at expanding logging across national forests. Subsequent directives aim to maximize logging across over 112 million acres, or nearly 60% of America's national forests.

Attacks on Streams, Wetlands and Oceans

1. Announced plans to dismantle the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule—a critical environmental policy that defines which streams and wetlands are protected by the Clean Water Act.
2. Started the process to roll back marine monument protections.

Attacks on Wildlife

1. Started the process to weaken the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) to make it easier to take or kill migratory birds.
2. Took aim at the Endangered Species Act by rescinding the longstanding definition of "harm" to species, so that destruction of habitat for threatened & endangered species would no longer qualify (see page 15).

Attacks on Clean Air and Climate

1. Directed review of policies and regulations with an "undue burden" on energy production, including the 2009 EPA "Endangerment Finding" which enables EPA to put limits on greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Announced plans to weaken vehicle emissions standards even though the transportation sector is the largest greenhouse gas source in the US.

HELP US HOLD THE LINE

Thanks to the past support of Oregon Wild members like you, we've stood up to Trump before—and we've won. Together, we helped restore Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves, reinstate old-growth safeguards across more than seven million acres of national forests, and mobilize thousands of Oregonians to take action. And we're ready to do it again—but we need your help.

With so much at stake, we're asking all Oregon Wild members to consider making a special donation to help us fight back against Trump's renewed assault on the environment.

Your gift will support:

- **Litigation** to defend bedrock environmental laws like the Endangered Species Act and hold the Trump administration and its allies accountable.
- **Grassroots activism** through our Wild Ones program, which recruits, trains, and mobilizes advocates to be powerful voices for conservation.
- **Strategic advocacy** at the state and federal levels to protect Oregon's forests, public lands, clean water, and wildlife.

The Trump administration may be temporary. With your support, we can make sure its damage to Oregon's wild places and native species is, too.

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





MARK YOUR CALENDARS —CALL OF THE WILD IS BACK!

We don't want you to miss Oregon Wild's biggest celebration of the year, so we're giving you an early heads up.

Join us for a camp-inspired evening where the spirit of Oregon's wild places comes to life. It's a joyful gathering of nature-lovers, activists, and advocates who believe in a wild future—and know how to have fun along the trail.

Call of the Wild is your chance to experience the magic of camping (with fewer mosquitoes, and more cocktails!), connect with fellow conservationists, and celebrate the forests, rivers, and wildlife that make Oregon so special. Expect games, wild prizes, and plenty of opportunities to support the cause you care about most.

Date: October 10, 2025

Location: The Redd on Salmon Street

More details and tickets coming soon!

Fighting back: Legal wins in 2025

JOHN PERSELL
STAFF ATTORNEY

Overlooking the
Grasshopper Project on the
Mount Hood National Forest

When federal agencies ignore science and the law in approving logging and development projects, Oregon Wild doesn't hesitate to hold them accountable in court. And so far in 2025, we've had a strong run of legal wins.

In January, we secured a settlement with the Forest Service in our lawsuit challenging the Grasshopper Project on Mt. Hood National Forest. The agency agreed to drop several units with old-growth stands, limit logging in others, and apply diameter limits across the project area—ensuring the biggest, most fire-resistant trees remain standing to store carbon and support imperiled species.

In March, we and our partners—KS Wild, Cascadia Wildlands, and Soda Mountain Wilderness Council—won a long-awaited ruling against the BLM's sprawling Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) Project in Southwest Oregon. The IVM plan allowed extensive four-acre clearcuts in areas designated as old forest habitat. The court found that BLM violated its own management plan by failing to ensure logging wouldn't delay spotted owl habitat recovery. The ruling also



faulted the agency for not conducting site-specific analysis and failing to evaluate the project's potential to increase wildfire risk, ordering a more thorough environmental impact statement.

April brought more good news. In another win with Cascadia Wildlands, the court ruled against BLM's Siuslaw Harvest Land Base Project, which authorized aggressive logging west of Eugene. The judge agreed BLM failed to analyze impacts to sensitive wildlife, soils, invasive species, and the cumulative effects of logging across the region. The court required BLM to prepare a full environmental impact statement before moving forward.

Meanwhile, we're advancing litigation against BLM's Blue and Gold and Last Chance projects, which threaten some of Western Oregon's most intact mature and old-growth stands. We also joined our allies in challenging the timber industry's latest attempt to strip protections from over three million acres of northern spotted owl habitat. And with partners, we've filed suit against the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) for failing to provide safe fish passage at Trail Bridge Dam on the McKenzie River. Despite years of delay, EWEB hasn't implemented required passage systems or even temporary trap-and-haul methods for endangered Chinook salmon and bull trout.

All of this is unfolding as the Trump administration rolls back environmental protections, weakens Endangered Species Act enforcement, slashes public input, and pushes for privatization of public lands. We'll be watching closely—and if Trump continues to flout the law, we'll meet him in court.

We're grateful to the Crag Law Center, Advocates for the West, Public Defense, Western Environmental Law Center, and Cascadia Wildlands for their tireless legal work on these cases.

Conservation roundup

STEVE PEDERY
CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

The Cascade-Siskiyou
National Monument
by Bob Wick, BLM



HARMING HABITAT

It can be hard to keep up with Trump's relentless war on the environment (see page 13). One particularly disturbing move came in April, when the Trump administration announced plans to change how "harm" is defined in rules that implement the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ESA prohibits the "take" of listed species, and specifically lists "harm" as a form of "take." The Trump administration intends to eliminate habitat destruction and degradation from being included in the definition of "harm." Only the intentional killing of individual animals would qualify, completely ignoring the stated purpose of the ESA to conserve the ecosystems upon which species depend for survival.

If the Trump administration's plan goes forward, clearcutting existing habitat, building dams that block access to spawning grounds, or paving over wetlands used during migration would no longer be considered "harm" or "take" by federal fish and wildlife agencies. Oregon Wild has already submitted formal comments opposing this immoral and dangerous plan. Alongside partners across the country, we're exploring legal options to stop it in court.

MONUMENTS IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Chaos and confusion have become the norm in Trump's second term—and the status of America's National Monuments is no exception. In his first term, Trump attempted to drastically shrink several National Monuments across the country, including Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Oregon Wild joined a broad coalition to fight that attack—and we won.

Now, we're seeing troubling signs that more attacks could be coming. In March, the Trump administration briefly posted (then quickly removed) a fact sheet from the White House website claiming the president was "terminating proclamations declaring nearly a million acres constitute new national monuments that lock up vast amounts of land from economic development and energy production."

Then, on April 24, news leaked that Trump had directed the Department of the Interior to develop plans to shrink six National Monuments. While none of the monuments listed are in Oregon, we're tracking the issue closely and preparing to act if needed.



MIGRATIONS

After 17 years of dedicated leadership, Sean Stevens has stepped away from Oregon Wild, leaving behind an incredible legacy that future generations will deeply appreciate. You can find his inspiring words of farewell in the Fall 2024 edition of this publication.

Looking ahead, we're excited to welcome some fresh faces to the Oregon Wild team. If you follow us on social media, you may have already seen **Phenix Johnson**, our new Digital Communications Associate. Since joining in February, Phenix has hit the ground running—bringing Oregon Wild's work to tens of thousands of new people online.

And if you're out and about at community events this summer, be sure to say hello to **Macy Patel**, our new Outreach and Development Associate. While Phenix connects with new audiences online, Macy is out in the community, building relationships and growing support for Oregon Wild one conversation at a time.



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Portland, OR 97217

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The Outdoor Photo Contest is back for 2025!

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.

2025 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

Oregon Wild gear

Siuslaw National Forest / Stewart Willason



Sparks Lake Dawn / Stu Gordon



South Sister / Kayla Sulak



Mt Hood Sunset / Daniel Rappaport

For submission guidelines
and to submit your photos visit
photocontest.oregonwild.org

Submission Deadline:
September 9 at midnight

Good Luck!



Sphinx Moth On Milkweed / Beall Douglas