

OREGON WILD

Winter-Spring 2026 Volume 53 Issue 1



**You are the voice
of our public lands**

**The 99% stands up
for roadless wildlands**



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Let Nature Live. Let Nature Last.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

4-7

Keeping the public in public lands

8-9

99% for the Roadless Rule

12

You answered the call

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

In our hands



QUINN READ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I COME FROM simple car camping folk (shoutout to my parents' red station wagon and overcrowded KOA campgrounds). I didn't have any experiences in the wilderness until I was an adult. And I certainly didn't have any conception of America's vast legacy of public lands. If you'd asked teenage me to define "public lands", I would have put down my hair crimper (maybe) to point vaguely in the direction of Mt. Rainier – the one national park I'd visited with my family.

I just didn't think about public lands. I had no idea what they had to do with me.

Much later, I joined a friend for a backpacking trip in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness. We got a late start on the road and decided to crash at a campground for our first night. Unfortunately, all the campgrounds we passed were full. I started to panic, but my friend was unfazed. They just pulled off the forest road into a little clearing and started setting up camp. I remember thinking, oh no, we are going to get in so much trouble if we get caught. But my friend said it was cool because we were in a national forest. To which I was like, great, so it will be Forest Service goons that come to throw us in tree jail. My friend then patiently explained that we were on public land. Which we, bona fide members of the public, owned collectively.

This blew my young adult mind. WE owned this land? We could use it? We could benefit from it? For FREE?

My understanding of America's public lands – all 640 million acres of it – has become slightly more sophisticated over time. Here in Oregon, we are the stewards and co-owners

of over 30 million acres of public lands. These lands are home to wild, free-flowing rivers, ancient forests, and a remarkable array of fish and wildlife. They offer opportunities for all of us to recreate and experience nature, whatever that means to each of us. They provide us with clean air and drinking water. And they store vast amounts of carbon, helping to mitigate the impacts of a changing climate.

Public lands provide these benefits to all of us, regardless of whether we've visited them or even think about them. And they do it FOR FREE. I mean, mostly.

Now these lands – our lands – are under direct attack. The Trump administration has made no secret of its intent to liquidate and loot private lands for the benefit of the wealthy few. And it's acted on that intent with astonishing speed and appalling disregard for the people and our democracy.

Oregon Wild is committed to keeping public lands in public hands, and to preserving the power of our voices in how public lands are managed. In the following pages, you'll read about how we are fighting back by organizing, litigating, and advocating for legislation. The common thread throughout is that we not only collectively own public lands, but we have a shared right and responsibility for their future. Together, we will work to make sure our public lands don't become public in name only.

For the wild,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Quinn Read".

Quinn's son, Malcolm
(along with alleged dog,
Indy) in the Deschutes
National Forest.



Keeping the public in public lands

BY OREGON WILD STAFF

Chandra LeGue, Pablo San Emeterio, Rob Klavins, Erik Fernandez, and Lauren Anderson



Stewart Willason

NUMBERS CAN BE A compelling way of measuring how the American public values our public lands. With visitation and recreation numbers hitting new records for the past few years, it's no wonder that people are speaking up (largely in favor of stronger protections) on recent public land proposals:

- 1,000,000 comments on protecting mature & old-growth forests
- 600,000 comments on the proposal to repeal the Roadless Area Conservation Rule

Public lands, for the purposes of this article, are those managed by federal agencies that are subject to federal laws, policies, and regulations. In Oregon, roughly half of the state falls into this category - including national forests managed by the Forest Service and lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). These lands were largely acquired during westward expansion and the displacement of Indigenous peoples. While this history is deeply problematic, the importance of public lands to our modern ecological and human communities is undeniable.

The founding purposes for most public lands were to provide for “multiple use” of all sorts of natural resources. Measuring these uses in acres and economic impact is fairly easy to do, and federal agencies report on these regularly. For example, the Forest Service reports:

- Timber volume sold annually: 3 billion board feet
- Coal and gas produced: 43 million tons of coal, 609 million gallons of liquid natural gas

However, the values many of us hold dear are not easily captured in data. Our “stats” might look something more like this:

- Trails hiked through towering forests along free-flowing rivers, with birdsong and fresh berries to enjoy.
- Welcoming salmon home to a restored stream and sharing fishing traditions with family.
- The experience of visiting jaw-dropping rock formations bearing signs of ancient civilizations.

Unfortunately, these are the things we stand to lose from the systematic turn by the Trump administration and others *away from* public values and benefits and towards a privatization scheme that benefits industrial and private capital interests.

Given the purpose and values of public lands, can the “public” really be stripped from them like so many minerals? As we will see in the following pages, threats are coming from all directions, including Congressional action, policy rollbacks, and changes to long-standing management plans. But we have the tools to fight back and a shared vision for the future of public lands, one rooted in stewardship, science, and justice. Together, we can keep the public in public lands.



Sami Godlove

Fighting for your voice

The Trump administration has made no secret of its desire to diminish transparency and public involvement in policymaking, outsourcing decisions to campaign donors and corporate interests. This anti-democratic approach is especially clear in public lands management.

In a slew of executive orders, policy rollbacks and rulemakings over a period of just six months, the public's right to be involved in public lands decisions has been significantly curtailed. The changes began on January 20, 2025 with the issuance of Executive Order 14154, Unleashing American Energy. From there, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) rescinded its NEPA-implementing regulations that stood for nearly 50 years. The U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Interior followed suit, publishing interim final rules in July that also rescinded the departments' National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. In the case of the USDA, all NEPA regulations for agencies within the department, including those of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), were replaced with one common set of regulations. The common set of regulations may conflict with still-existing USFS regulations that depend on the ability of the public to submit comments, and thus affect the ability to challenge management decisions in court. While forest management projects were proceeding under former regulations during this upheaval, we are starting to see new projects planned under the new regulations, and with it, limited opportunity to be involved.

How has the opportunity for public involvement changed? To use the USFS as an example,

public involvement at the earliest stages of project development was required for all Forest Service proposed projects, no matter the level of environmental review required under law. The agency was also required to invite and consider public comment on draft environmental assessments and environmental impact statements. Today, the only guaranteed avenue for public involvement is when the Forest Service publishes a notice of intent to produce an environmental impact statement, the highest level of environmental review under NEPA, with no requirements for public comment at later stages.

In response to these significant changes, Oregon Wild sent letters to each of Oregon's 11 national forests and 8 BLM districts. These letters requested timely notification of any proposed project and continued opportunities to submit public comments. We know that the key to protection for old-growth forests, clean water, and wildlife is an informed public and the ability to voice concerns in the administrative process. In the absence of fair play by the agencies, Oregon Wild will continue to fight for what we love, no matter what it takes.

New forest plans scrap public values

Beyond eroding the public's right to participate, new forest management plans are increasingly excluding public values altogether. Many prioritize industry interests while sidelining science, communities, and conservation. The direction of the Blue Mountains Forest Plan revision is an example that began before Trump even took

office in 2025, but follows the increasingly anti-democratic trend we're seeing in public lands management.

Forest planning may sound dry, but it shapes the future of our national forests for generations. These plans provide the blueprint for whether our forests will be clearcut or restored, whether wildlife will thrive or become further imperiled.

After decades of trying to find common ground in the diverse (not just dry) forests of Eastern Oregon, the Forest Service has chosen to become far more insular in its planning process, working almost exclusively with timber interests and politicians. By excluding the public, they are advancing a plan to eliminate enforceable protections for fish, wildlife, large trees, soil, and water. Undeveloped landscapes will be opened to industrial extraction.

On the west side, the iconic Northwest Forest Plan is also under attack. The 2024 amendment proposal would allow increased logging of mature forests and freeze progress toward recruiting future old growth. Under the Trump administration, even these rollbacks are not considered sufficient. At the behest of the logging industry, officials have announced that they will reopen the proposal for further weakening (*see page 15*).

Oregon Wild is not standing by. We are submitting technical and legal comments, mobilizing communities across the state, and speaking out wherever possible. And if the agencies ignore the law and the people they serve, we will fight back in court if necessary.



Denise Oldridge

For the birds (and other critters)

Of course, humans are not the only stakeholders when it comes to how our landscapes are managed. Thriving fish and wildlife are also a public value, on both public and private lands, and that priority is being stripped away by the Trump administration as well. Fish and wildlife are becoming increasingly imperiled, not only by policies that discount their needs, but also by a warming planet.

One of the administration's most consequential actions has been excluding habitat modification from the definition of "harm" under the Endangered Species Act. This change makes it easier for activities such as logging and mining to destroy the places where fish and wildlife feed, shelter, and reproduce. It also continues the long-term trend of shifting responsibility for protecting species from the federal government to the states, which often have fewer resources and, in some cases, open hostility to conserving native species.

In Oregon, we are working to fill that gap at the local level (*see page 10*), but we are also continuing the fight to protect fish, wildlife, and their habitats on the federal stage.

Congressional meddling

The threats to public lands are not limited to the Trump administration. At the behest of their campaign donors, members of Congress have also been trying to reduce public oversight and even, at one point earlier this year, to sell off public lands altogether.

Aysha Wallech



That effort, led by Utah Senator Mike Lee, failed this summer, but other attempts to diminish public involvement have gained traction. The so-called Fix Our Forests Act (S. 1462) would severely limit citizens' ability to comment on and influence how public lands are managed. It would also reduce the amount of environmental review for logging projects up to 15 square miles in size by expanding the use of categorical exclusions. These exclusions were originally intended for small or emergency purposes but are increasingly used to avoid public scrutiny on commercial projects.

Despite claims that the bill addresses wildfire, its main purpose is to increase logging. It provides no safeguards for old-growth forests or clean water and weakens the Endangered Species Act, making it arguably the most damaging logging bill since the 1995 "Salvage Rider."

As of this writing, S. 1462 has passed a key Senate committee and could receive full votes in both chambers soon. Too many of Oregon's members of Congress have yet to oppose this destructive legislation.

Congress has also begun micromanaging individual forest management plans in states like Montana and Alaska, a practice that could easily spread to Oregon if lawmakers decide that even the industry-friendly versions of the Blue Mountains and Northwest Forest Plans do not go far enough.



Matthew Oliphant

Vision for a better future

In recent years, major policy shifts in public lands management have trended toward greater agency discretion, more profit-driven decision-making, and less public input. This administration is accelerating those trends, and as you have just read, the attacks have been relentless.

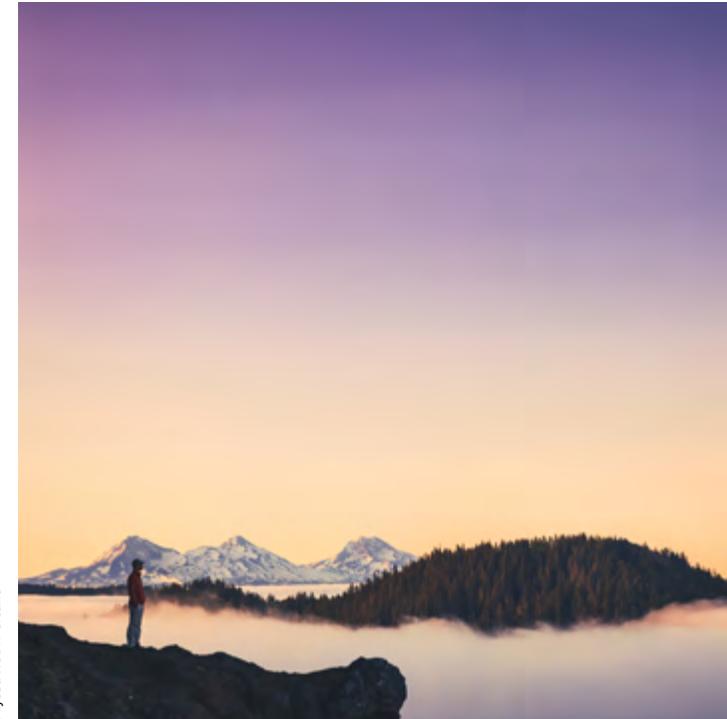
However, the conservation community needs to remember that we were built for moments like this. The laws, institutions, and organizations that formed the framework of the modern conservation movement in the 1960s and 1970s were created to address rivers catching fire, the last old-growth trees being sent to mills, and collapsing salmon populations. We turned environmental crises into transformational changes in how public lands are managed across the country. It is time to do it again and begin shaping the next generation of transformational change.

The ongoing assaults on public lands under this administration are already triggering a public backlash. The institutions, norms, and policies that are being broken today will create opportunities for us to write a new rule book under the next administration. We should look beyond familiar debates and think creatively about what comes next. Does it still make sense to have multiple public land management agencies? Is “multiple use” the right framework for managing America's public lands in an era of climate change and accelerating biodiversity loss? Is setting aside thirty percent of lands and waters for nature enough?

The public anger we are witnessing, combined with the pressing need to address the existential threats of climate change and biodiversity collapse, must become the foundation for movement building. Decision makers need to feel empowered to think

big and act boldly, and coalitions must be ready to seize the moment when it comes.

We are envisioning a plan beyond incremental steps that undo the harm this administration is causing. Instead, we are laying the groundwork to reset policy expectations entirely. We must pursue a public lands protection and democratization agenda as visionary as the measures of the 1970s. Permanent protection for Oregon's old-growth forests, roadless areas, and other irreplaceable wild places would only be the beginning of a movement to safeguard the public's voice in the management of our public lands and make sure that the lands that are owned by all of us truly embody our values.



Alyssa Roth Fortune

Defending America's wild heart

SAMI GODLOVE

CENTRAL OREGON FIELD COORDINATOR



Oregon Wild

AMERICANS HAVE MADE it clear: keep our nation's roadless forests wild.

That was the overwhelming message in response to the Trump administration's proposal to rescind the Roadless Rule, a decades-old policy that protects more than 58 million acres of the country's most intact public lands from road construction, commercial logging, and development.

In late August, the administration formally announced its plan to rescind the Roadless Rule, launching an incredibly short three-week public comment period.

In that brief time, more than 600,000 public comments were submitted to the U.S. Forest Service. An analysis by the Center for Western Priorities found that 99.2% of commenters supported keeping Roadless protections in place—a near-unanimous call to protect these wild lands.

Oregon's wild heart

The Roadless Rule safeguards nearly 2 million acres of intact national forest in Oregon. These lands supply clean drinking water to millions, provide essential wildlife habitat, and are beloved for their beauty and recreation opportunities.

From the flower-filled meadows of Iron Mountain to the wild valleys of Joseph Canyon and the sweeping views around the Cascade Lakes, Oregon's roadless forests are among the state's most spectacular and

The forests surrounding Lost Lake on Mount Hood are currently protected by the Roadless Rule.

irreplaceable landscapes. These areas protect clean water, biodiversity, cultural values, and recreation that cannot be replaced once lost.

Roadless wildlands are the wild heart of Oregon and America, and the Roadless Rule keeps that wild heart beating.

Wild voices for wild places

Defending Oregon's roadless wildlands remains one of Oregon Wild's top priorities. We are working with partners across the state and nation to push back on this attack and to secure permanent protections for these threatened landscapes.

The public response has been extraordinary. Thousands of people took action online, through Oregon Wild's website, social media, and events. During the comment period, Oregon Wild and partners hosted gatherings in Bend and Eugene where more than 100 people wrote and submitted comments defending the Roadless Rule. Others joined guided hikes through roadless areas such as Tumalo Mountain, Larch Mountain, and Gordon Lakes to experience firsthand what is at stake.

Grassroots advocacy like this has caught the attention of elected leaders. In Oregon, Governor Tina Kotek and Attorney General Dan Rayfield voiced their opposition to rescinding the rule. Nationwide, more than 80 members of Congress have co-sponsored the Roadless Area Conservation Act (RACA), legislation that would make roadless protections permanent and shield them from future political attacks.

Top photo: Nearly 2 million acres of forests in Oregon (shaded in blue on the map) stand to lose protections if the Roadless Rule is repealed

Bottom photo: Oregon Wild advocates stop to write postcards to the Forest Service in support of roadless wildland protections on a hike through the Tumalo Mountain Roadless Area.

Thank you, Oregon, for speaking up and clearly rejecting this assault on our wild public lands.

What's next?

Whether the Trump administration listens to the American people and abandons its plan remains to be seen. The Forest Service must now review the comments and release a draft plan, expected in spring 2026, which will open another round of public input. A final decision is likely in early 2027.

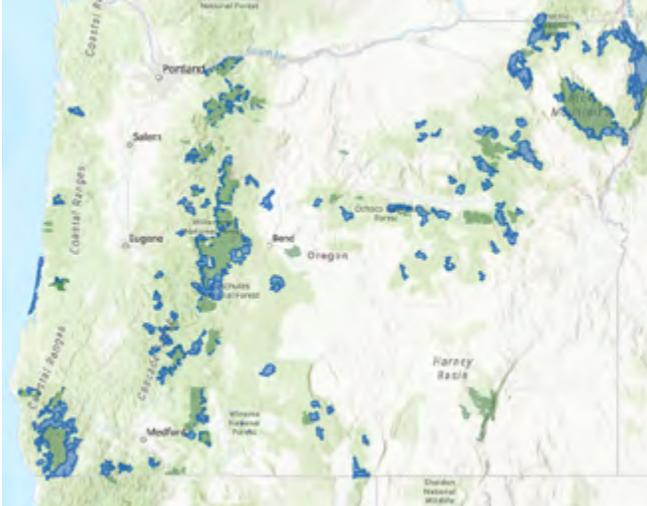
In the meantime, Oregon Wild will continue advocating for the Roadless Area Conservation Act in Congress. We are proud to have Oregon champions like Rep. Andrea Salinas, who introduced the House version of the bill, along with co-sponsors Reps. Suzanne Bonamici, Maxine Dexter, and Janelle Bynum. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley are co-sponsors in the Senate.

Reps. Cliff Bentz and Val Hoyle are the only Oregon representatives who have not yet signed on.

While we do not expect public lands protections to pass in the current Congress, building support now lays the groundwork for stronger action after the 2026 election.

We are the 99 percent, and America's public lands belong to all of us—not the few who seek to exploit them for private gain.

Oregon Wild



Samt Godlove



SUPPORTING THE VOICES OF THE 99%

Across Oregon and the nation, people have spoken loud and clear: America's wild, roadless areas must remain protected. Hundreds of thousands of comments urged the federal government to keep the Roadless Rule intact. The reasons are obvious. These wildlands are both our natural inheritance and our responsibility, providing clean water, critical wildlife habitat, and irreplaceable outdoor spaces for all of us to enjoy. We owe it to this land to defend it when necessary.

And this fight is far from over. The Trump administration's plan to rescind the Roadless Rule threatens nearly two million acres of Oregon's most intact national forest lands. But Oregon Wild is ready. We are leading the charge to defend these places because we know their value.

But this work takes persistence, partnership, and resources. With your support, we can continue to build momentum, ensuring Oregon's wild forests are protected not just for the next few years, but for generations to come.

Now is the time to stand with the 99% who believe our public lands belong to all of us. Not to private interests, not to corporations, not even to politicians, but to us.

Make a gift today to keep Oregon's wild heart beating strong. Together, we can defend our roadless areas and ensure they stay WILD, just as the people have demanded.

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



Turning the tide for Oregon's wildlife

VICTORIA WINGELL

GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR



USFWS

FROM THE SHY sea otters that once flourished along our coast to the resilient North American porcupines and alpine-dwelling American pikas, the story of Oregon's wildlife is one of beauty, balance, and belonging. But that story is at risk.

Across our state, species are facing mounting threats. Habitat loss and climate change are imperiling our fish and wildlife, while insufficient policies and a lack of funding prevent biologists from stopping their decline. Oregon is in the midst of a quiet extinction crisis, with more than 300 species currently identified as at risk.

Now, we have an opportunity to turn the tide. '1% for Wildlife' is legislation that would dedicate just over one percent of Oregon's tourism lodging tax to protect the very creatures and habitats that make our state such a spectacular place to visit. From whale watchers to hikers, birders, and backpackers, millions of visitors each year come to Oregon for its wildlife. It is time to ensure our tourism industry gives back to the ecosystems that sustain it.

'1% for Wildlife' has a real chance to pass this legislative session, but we need your help to make it happen.

To build a groundswell of public support, Oregon Wild is hosting a series of Wild Ones events. Through Wild Ones, our activist training program, we help Oregonians learn new skills, connect with community, and take meaningful action for the wild places and wildlife we love. Whether you have been showing up for years or are brand new to advocacy, there is a place for you here.

Activists rally outside of the Forest Service Region 6 office in Portland

UPCOMING WILD ONES EVENTS

January 14 – Wild Wednesday Webcast: What's Happening in DC and Salem (online)

January 21 – Lobby 101 Training (online)

January 27 – Rally Sign-Making Party (Portland)

February 4 – Lobby Day & Rally in Salem!

This season, our Wild Ones gatherings will focus on building momentum to pass the '1% for Wildlife' proposal. We will kick things off with a Lobby 101 training to demystify what it is like to talk to legislators and make your voice heard.

Next, join us for a sign-making party where we will prepare for lobby meetings, enjoy snacks and music, and build camaraderie before the big day.

Finally, we will head to Salem for Lobby Day, where Wild Ones from across the state will meet face-to-face with their representatives to speak up for Oregon's endangered species and celebrate together at a rally on the Capitol steps.

Together, we can make Oregon a leader in protecting the wildlife that defines us. Join us and help make '1% for Wildlife' a reality.

Tom Haswell & Terri Odell Forest Legacy Fund

JONATHAN JELEN
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



EASILY ONE OF the most rewarding parts of the role I get to play at Oregon Wild is the opportunity to meet with and get to know Oregon Wild supporters across the state. From learning about how our wild places move you, to hearing about the peace and exhilaration you get from exploring them, and being inspired by the reverence (and subsequent call to action) you feel when describing being awestruck by our old-growth forests. In my 16 years here, I have had this realization reinforced time and time again: Oregon Wild supporters are some of the most inspiring people I have ever met.

Earlier this year, one of those people – longtime Oregon Wild supporter Terri Odell of Corvallis – passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. Her husband, Tom Haswell, had predeceased her in 2007. And while I never had the privilege of meeting Tom, it's telling that in lieu of a public memorial service for him, he requested that people take a walk in a wild place. Such a simple and profoundly beautiful sentiment speaks volumes about Tom and the values he and Terri shared.

Over the past 16 years, I met with Terri several times over coffee or lunch to talk about Oregon's incredible forests and wild places. She was eager to step up at any opportunity to make a difference for these places that were so special to both her and Tom. Through the Haswell Wild Environment Fund, Terri generously donated to Oregon Wild many times. That support helped fuel several key conservation efforts, including our timber sale forest defense program and campaigns to designate permanent protections for pristine places like Devil's Staircase (for which Oregon Wild and partners secured federal Wilderness protections in 2019).

After Terri's untimely passing this year, their loved ones reached out to us in hope of creating a way to honor Tom and Terri's love of wild places, and to inspire others to follow their lead. As a result, Oregon Wild is humbled and honored to carry out Tom and Terri's legacy by establishing the Tom Haswell & Terri Odell Forest Legacy Fund.

Seeded with a generous gift of nearly \$200,000 from their estate, this fund will build on Tom and Terri's commitment to conservation and deepen their legacy both for the places they loved and the future generations that will get to enjoy them.

At a time when our forests are under unprecedented attack from the Trump administration and other politicians, this critical funding will allow Oregon Wild to respond with a proactive vision for public lands, as well as defend against threats like the gutting of federal land management agencies, reckless legislation, and the proposed rescission of the Roadless Rule.

In the years to come, Oregon Wild will build on the incredible legacy that Tom and Terri left behind and fund vital work to defend and safeguard the forests that inspired them so deeply.



Please join Tom & Terri with a special tax-deductible donation to their Forest Legacy Fund to help us defend the forests they loved so dearly.

And then, go for a walk in a wild place.

You can also create your own legacy by including Oregon Wild in your estate planning. To help make this process as easy as possible, please consider using FreeWill as a resource at: freewill.com/oregonwild

GOING THE DISTANCE FOR THE WILD

This summer, Oregon Wild hosted our first-ever Wild Miles Challenge, and what a success it was! Our members hiked, biked, paddled, and rode their way to raise nearly \$10,000 for the protection of Oregon's public lands, waters, and wildlife.

This success is a reminder that Oregonians care deeply about keeping our wild places accessible and protected for generations to come. Let's give it up for the folks who turned their outdoor adventures into meaningful action for the wild!

Thank you to everyone who joined, shared their journeys, and donated to make their first year a success. We can't wait to hit the trail again next summer, with even more prizes and opportunities to go the distance for the wild!



Liesha Shyp

You answered the call

MACY PATEL
OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

THE ECHOES OF the 2025 Call of the Wild are still ringing, and we're thrilled to share the incredible impact your generosity will have on Oregon's wildlands and wildlife. Together, we raised nearly **\$125,000** at this year's event, the most we have ever raised. We at Oregon Wild could not be more grateful for your support.

You didn't just show up with your generous giving; you also brought your most dazzling glamping outfits and, more importantly, your expressions of joyful resistance. The challenges we face are deeper and scarier than ever, yet we saw our community come together with strength, hope, and laughter. You reminded us that joy and solidarity are powerful tools for change.

The funds raised at Call of the Wild will go a long way in supporting Oregon Wild's work to protect Oregon's wildlife, wildlands, and waterways. Beyond that, the tenacity, energy, and resilience of this community will continue to fuel our fire to keep fighting for the places we all love.

Phenix Johnson



Call of the Wild guests helped raise critical funding for conservation during this year's paddle raise!

This success would not have been possible without the invaluable contributions of our sponsors, local businesses, and volunteers who made the night so special. Together, we created the most glamorous camping vibes, complete with delicious local food and drinks, epic games, and the kind of connection that keeps us all inspired.

We know that Oregon's public lands, free-flowing rivers, and native wildlife will continue to face challenges in the year ahead. But thanks to everyone who answered the Call, Oregon Wild now has both the financial resources and the reinvigorated spirit to keep leading an effective and joyful resistance.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for showing up for Oregon Wild at Call of the Wild 2025.

We're already planning next year's event - so save the date for **Friday, October 16, 2026** (and start planning your glamping outfit!).

Showcasing the 2025 Outdoor Photo Contest winners



Wildlands & Forests | **Daniel Gomez - Top Spur**

Slopes filled with wildflowers and skies filled with stars: Top Spur's trail leads into the protected Mount Hood Wilderness through a small roadless extension. While parts of this traverse are currently protected by the Roadless Rule, the Trump administration's efforts to roll back landmark environmental policies put the route to Top Spur at risk of logging and development.



People | **Caleb Jacobson - Mt. Hood**

Mount Hood is an Oregon icon. The mountain's snowy peak was protected under the Wilderness Act of 1964, so that the views for climbers at the 11,000-foot summit are almost entirely wild. With climate change threatening Mt. Hood's glaciers, rivers, and surrounding forests, mountain lovers must now reach beyond the summit to protect the future of our snow-capped peaks.



Waters | **Wyatt Pace - Coal Creek Tributary**

Tucked away in the Willamette National Forest southeast of Eugene, Coal Creek and its tributaries flow into the Middle Fork Willamette River — proposed as a Wild & Scenic River under the River Democracy Act. With more planned logging in the area and the Trump administration's efforts to boost timber production, Oregon Wild's work remains vitally important to safeguarding waterways like Coal Creek and fighting for permanent protections.



Wildlife | **David Willingham - Great Horned Owllet in Shevlin Park**

With their big yellow eyes, distinctive "ear" tufts, and large size, Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) certainly demand attention. Oregon Wild works to ensure that the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife prioritizes the conservation of all native species, including these great owls. Passing the '1% for Wildlife' bill in the Oregon legislature is essential for achieving that goal.



Zoomed In | **Andrea Morris - Snail in Marquam Nature Park**

Oregon's largest native snail, you can find Pacific sideband snails (*Monadenia columbianus*) slowly climbing over moss, munching on mushrooms, and stretching out over forest trails. Oregon Wild's work to protect moist forest ecosystems allows these beautiful snails to play their part, not only eating forest vegetation but also providing food for other forest creatures.

Litigation round-up

JOHN PERSELL
SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY



REGON WILD CONTINUES to bring its legal capacity to bear against the push to ramp up destructive commercial logging on our public lands. The Trump administration is flooding the zone—purposefully pursuing multiple efforts to gut existing protections for our forests and wildlife all at the same time. This requires us to remain alert to new proposals and engage in available public comment periods in order to lay the groundwork for future litigation if necessary.

In recent weeks, we submitted extensive comments pushing back against the Trump administration's efforts to rescind the Roadless Rule and eliminate large tree and aquatic protections through the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revisions. We are also closely watching this administration's next moves to weaken the Northwest Forest Plan (*see page 15*), the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

David Herasimtschuk



Some areas of the Blue and Gold project have already been clearcut

Old-growth forests threatened by the BLM's Blue and Gold project

Meanwhile, the extended federal government shutdown slowed some momentum in our current litigation challenging mature and old-growth logging in the Willamette and Fremont-Winema National Forests and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in Southwest Oregon. Due to federal employees being furloughed, several court hearings and briefing deadlines were postponed.

However, the merits of our challenge to BLM's egregious Blue and Gold Logging Project are now squarely before the judge following a hearing in early November. There, along with Cascadia Wildlands and Umpqua Watersheds, we laid out how the agency mischaracterized the ages and conditions of stands throughout the project area in order to authorize aggressive logging in some of the oldest stands remaining on BLM lands. We look forward to sharing news on the outcome of this important case aimed at protecting a vital block of

intact old-growth habitat for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets above the Umpqua River.

We also joined KS Wild and Cascadia Wildlands in submitting a new notice letter to the BLM, stating that the sprawling Last Chance Project in the Medford District will violate the Endangered Species Act. The Last Chance Project would remove 3,400 acres of suitable habitat for spotted owls at a moment when the species needs all the habitat it can get to have a shot at survival—not to mention the carbon storage opportunities that would also be lost if the logging goes forward.

As always, we are grateful for our litigation partners noted above and counsel at Crag Law Center, the Western Environmental Law Center, and Earthjustice for supporting our efforts to protect Oregon's wild lands, wildlife, and waters.

Conservation round-up

STEVE PEDERY
CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

The Northwest Forest Plan helps protect old-growth habitat for hundreds of species, including northern spotted owls.

Northwest Forest Plan in the crosshairs... again:

For decades, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and logging corporations have tried to dismantle the Northwest Forest Plan. In 2023, the agency launched a process to amend the plan, and in September 2024, it released a list of proposed changes. Among them was a troubling shift in focus—from restoring old-growth forests lost to decades of logging, to merely protecting the remaining old-growth trees that are still standing (with some giant loopholes, of course).

Now, the Trump administration and logging interests are taking things even further. On October 30th, the administration announced it would abandon the proposed amendment altogether and start over with a new plan that allows even more aggressive logging.

Oregon Wild's legal team is tracking these developments closely and stands ready to challenge any illegal logging in court. In the long run, we need Congress to act and permanently protect old-growth forests through strong federal legislation.



Government shutdown exempts logging:

On October 1st, the U.S. government began shutting down portions of its operations after Congress failed to agree on a budget. While many federal employees were furloughed, the Trump administration has deemed certain workers “essential,” including many in logging operations.

Sources within the USFS and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) tell us that while most timber staff continue working, employees responsible for recreation management, facility maintenance, and monitoring activities such as grazing, mining, and prescribed fire have been sent home.

It's unclear how long the shutdown will last, but if you plan to go snowshoeing, steelhead fishing, or camping on USFS or BLM lands this winter, you might want to bring your own toilet paper. Then, when you get home, call your member of Congress and tell them to stand up against the ongoing war against America's public lands.



MIGRATIONS

This November, we welcomed **Shasta Zielke** back to Oregon Wild as the newest member of our board of directors. Between 2015 and 2017, Shasta managed Oregon Wild's membership and events program. She now lives in Ashland and works as the Senior Donor Relations Officer for the Oregon Community Foundation. We are very excited to have Shasta rejoin the Oregon Wild fold!

We bid farewell to longtime board members **Stacey Rice** and **Vik Anantha**. Stacey is a gifted storyteller who previously led the Q Center and continues to advocate for issues facing the transgender community. She served on Oregon Wild's board for six years and contributed a great deal to our equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts. Vik had an incredible 12-year tenure on our board, during which he brought his business acumen and deep love for nature to Oregon Wild. We will greatly miss our friends Stacey and Vik, and look forward to supporting them in their next endeavors.

Oregon Wild was fortunate to host **Kyla Guerrero** as our Wildland Advocacy Intern in our Bend office this summer. Kyla joined us after graduating from high school through NatureConnect Central Oregon's Green Jobs program. In her time with us, Kyla helped generate comments on the Roadless Rule, led hikes, delivered terrific social media and blog posts, and helped us think about how we can better engage youth in our movement. As she begins her college journey, we wish her the best and are certain our paths will cross with this remarkable activist in the future.



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Photo by Ryan Kozar

This year, Oregon Wild defended Oregon's **public lands, forests, and wildlife** while empowering communities to take action. Here's what we accomplished together:

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TO DONATE



WE FOUGHT FOR FORESTS & RIVERS

Stood up for conservation and public values in the revisions to the Blue Mountains and Northwest Forest Plans.

Advocated for federal scientists and staff who safeguard forests, wildlife, and clean drinking water.

WE FOUGHT FOR PUBLIC LANDS

Helped stop the proposed sell-off of millions of acres across Oregon and the West.

Defended the **Roadless Area Conservation Rule**, protecting nearly 60 million acres nationwide, including two million in Oregon.

WE FOUGHT FOR WILDLIFE

Led the campaign for **1% for Wildlife**, a proposal to fund conservation efforts for over 300 at-risk species.

Opposed Trump's efforts to destroy wildlife habitat by weakening the Endangered Species Act.

WE TOOK YOUR VOICES TO THE PEOPLE

Conceived and coordinated the new **Rabble Rouser conference**, connecting communities, art, and activism.

Relaunched the **Wild Ones activist training program**, equipping new activists to protect wild places.

WE TOOK YOUR VOICES TO THE COURTS

Secured a key legal settlement on the **Grasshopper logging project**, protecting mature and old-growth trees and northern spotted owl habitat.

Challenged multiple logging projects across Oregon to protect mature and old-growth forests, including the **Blue and Gold project**.

WE TOOK YOUR VOICES TO CONGRESS

Opposed **destructive logging legislation** in Congress that would muzzle science, marginalize the public, and diminish transparency and accountability.

Secured new sponsors for the **Roadless Area Conservation Act** to protect wild forests permanently.

Together, we're holding the line. Thanks to Oregon Wild supporters, we are defending Oregon's wild places, growing a movement for change, and preparing for the battles ahead.

PLEASE HELP US SUSTAIN THE RESISTANCE IN 2026 AND DEFEND OUR WILD PLACES AND WILDLIFE WITH A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TODAY