

OREGON WILD

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PROTECTING THE UNTAMED: OREGON WILD LITIGATION UPDATE

Also: A new path forward for state forests



OREGON WILD

Working to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters as an enduring legacy for future generations.

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GARRY GROSSMAN Elk Lake South Sister



From the Director's Desk

The public lands misnomer

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

expose proposed clearcuts surrounding the trail near Olallie Lake.

As the numerous accents and nationalities of the fellow hikers we encountered attested, the PCT is an international destination. Walking through stately forests, epic alpine meadows, waterfalls draped over obsidian, and vistas that took your breath away it was easy to understand the attraction. Oregon is so unbelievably diverse and beautiful!

A personally rewarding treat for me was hiking south to north through the entirety of the second largest Wilderness area in Oregon. No roads, no dirt bikes, no logging...only wild! It made me very proud to be a part of an organization that has stood up for big, wild places just like the Three Sisters for nearly fifty years.

Back at camp, our new trail friend was incredulous.

"I don't understand," he said.

"Public lands aren't already protected?!"

It's a common exasperation from folks who love Oregon's natural landscapes but don't follow the ins and outs of forest policy, the machinations of Congress, and the shifting priorities of the Secretary of the Interior. Our public lands are a collective birthright, but their management shifts with the political and cultural winds.

In the following pages, you'll see just how often we have to hold the federal government accountable to its own laws when they propose environmentally destructive projects.

But that's why Oregon Wild exists. Our state needs a strong leader to take the passions and values that Oregonians hold for these precious lands and translate them into effective protections for the places and wildlife we hold dear. We need an entity that is always putting nature first.

And Oregon Wild persists and thrives because of the support of thousands of members and supporters like you. It's thanks to you that people get to experience the wonders of the PCT - and that nature gets a chance to flourish on its own terms. ☺

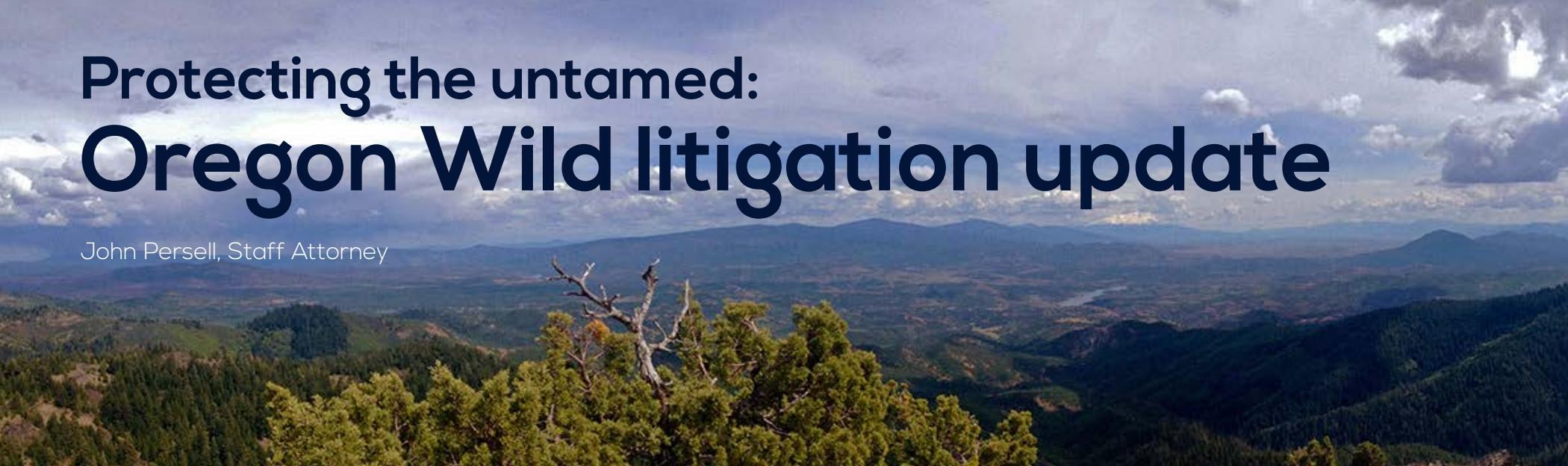
It was our last night on the trail together, and my buddy Gabe was preparing our dehydrated mashed potatoes while I was talking to a thru-hiker about what I did for a living.

We were astride the Three Sisters and Mount Washington Wilderness areas after four amazing days of backpacking and the sore feet that came with it. I was tagging along for a small part of Gabe's epic sabbatical adventure - backpacking the entire Oregon section of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, all 455 miles.

While I'd never done any overnight sections of the PCT, I did relay to Gabe that one of my first media tours when I started at Oregon Wild was a trip with my coworker Erik Fernandez and an *Oregonian* reporter to



Deep in the heart of the Three Sisters Wilderness, in the shadow of South Sister, Mesa Meadow rewards intrepid PCT hikers with astonishing views.



Protecting the untamed: Oregon Wild litigation update

John Persell, Staff Attorney

In our 50-year history, Oregon Wild has been at the forefront of holding federal land managers accountable to the nation's laws. The Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and a half a dozen other laws are vital to preserving clean water, wildlife, and intact ecosystems - but they are just words in the United States Code unless someone makes sure agencies like the Forest Service are actually staying true to the laws Congress has passed.

Despite ill-informed claims to the contrary by the logging industry and their allies, public lands are

very much open for business to extractive industry. The Forest Service and BLM churn out hundreds of timber sales, grazing permits, mining proposals, and other projects every year and we track and comment on over 200 of them annually. It's a big task and it is critically important.

We're looking out for proposals that would log older forests, damage wildlife habitat, pollute important waterways, or destroy scenic values. Oftentimes, we get improvements in projects simply by being a watchful presence and suggesting better ways for the Forest Service to operate. But on

rare - and important - occasions, we have to take the agencies to court. As you'll see below, sometimes we are suing over individual timber sales. Other times, we're challenging big, programmatic decisions that affect millions of acres. Here's a look at our active litigation, including some important recent legal victories.

Big trees win, Trump loses in Eastern Oregon

In late August, we received huge, positive news in our efforts to protect big trees across millions of acres of forest in Eastern Oregon

when a judge issued an emphatic ruling in our favor in our "Eastside Screens" case. Oregon Wild and a coalition of conservation partners challenged the Trump Administration's last-minute rollback of the Eastside Screens earlier this year. The Eastside Screens long protected trees over 21 inches in diameter across millions of acres of national forest lands east of the Cascades in Oregon, but the Trump Administration undercut these protections by removing their mandatory application to all large trees in all logging projects.

At a lengthy hearing in early May in Pendleton, our attorneys Meriel Darzen and Oliver Stiefel from Crag Law Center presented our case that the Forest Service failed to adequately assess the negative environmental impacts of such a sweeping change to large tree protections across the landscape. The Nez Perce Tribe also appeared as a friend-of-the-court to present arguments that the Forest Service failed to consult with the Tribe in good faith.

Magistrate Judge Andrew Hallman issued "findings and recommendations" that must be reviewed and adopted by a district



CHAMISE KRAMER The expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is upheld

court judge. Judge Hallman was unequivocal in finding that the Forest Service violated multiple laws and recommended that the Trump Screens rule be vacated and big tree protections reinstated, agreeing with a number of our arguments pertaining to the scope of the rule amendment (“massive”) and the uncertainty it created for eastern Oregon forests. He wrote:

“...the shift from a standard to a non-binding guideline increases the Services’ flexibility by removing the bright-line, 21-inch rule, increasing uncertainty of future large tree management.”

We feel confident that the district court judge will affirm Judge Hallman’s findings and ensure that large, old trees—our carbon storage powerhouses—remain protected in Oregon’s forests.

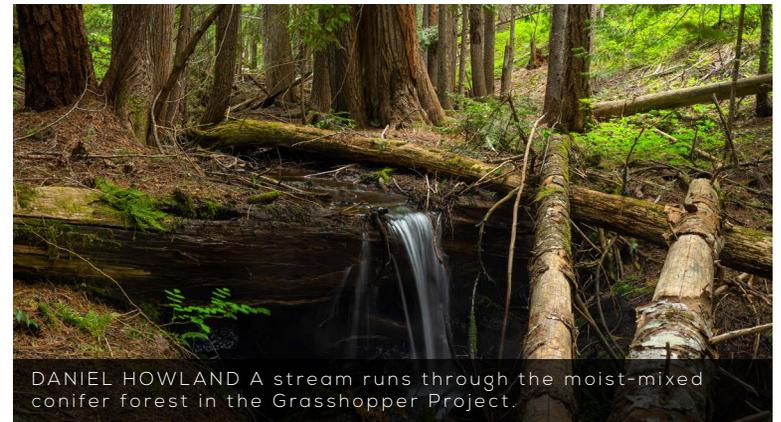
Challenging large, old tree logging in the Grasshopper Project – Mount Hood National Forest

This past June, Oregon Wild issued a challenge to the Grasshopper Project just south of the Badger Creek Wilderness in the transition zone between Mount Hood National Forest’s

wetter and drier sides. Through the Grasshopper Project, the Forest Service authorized ecologically inappropriate commercial logging across thousands of acres of stands over 80 years of age. Many of these older stands had previously seen very little, if any, active management. The Forest Service authorized dry forest treatments throughout the project area, despite admitting that most of the units in the western, higher-elevation portion consist of moist mixed-conifer forest where science does not support such aggressive logging, especially not in mature forests that are naturally resilient to wildfire.

The Grasshopper Project would remove 4,000 log trucks full of trees from the forest, degrading 1,200 acres of valuable spotted owl habitat, delaying the development

of snag habitat (which is already at a deficit in the area), removing hundreds of tons of stored carbon, and emitting greenhouse gases in the process. Similar to the nearby



DANIEL HOWLAND A stream runs through the moist-mixed conifer forest in the Grasshopper Project.



DANIEL HOWLAND The Grasshopper Project would remove 4000 log trucks full of trees.

Crystal Clear logging project that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals struck down three years ago, Oregon Wild has challenged the Forest Service’s failure to complete a detailed environmental analysis in light of the project’s likely significant impacts, a violation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The suit is still at a very early stage, and we are looking forward to making our case to the federal court that the Forest Service unlawfully authorized the Grasshopper Project. In addition to staff attorney John Persell, Oregon Wild is also represented by Meriel Darzen from Crag Law Center.

“Categorical exclusions” run amok

In August, Oregon Wild and WildEarth Guardians received an unfavorable ruling from the Oregon District Court in a case challenging the Forest Service’s use of a categorical exclusion (CE) to evade detailed environmental review of commercial logging. Under NEPA, a federal agency may “categorically exclude” certain activities from thorough site-specific analysis if it first determines such activities will have

no significant impacts on the environment. For the Baby Bear, Bear Wallow, and South Warner projects on the Fremont-Winema National Forest, the Forest Service used such a CE for “timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement” to authorize commercial logging on 29,000 acres (larger than the city of Eugene!)—including large, old trees on at least 16,000 acres in the South Warner Project. Yet the particular CE relied upon had never been applied to commercial logging of this scale, nor had the Forest Service made a determination prior to promulgating the CE that commercial logging would have no significant impacts.

Unfortunately, the district court did not accept our NEPA claims, and ruled that previous Ninth Circuit decisions upholding the use of the same CE for commercial logging on 600 acres and 1,200 acres required the court to uphold the CE’s use on these Fremont-Winema projects, despite the vastly different scale involved. We disagree with the court’s logic, and after careful consideration, we recently appealed this decision to the Ninth Circuit. Attorneys Meriel Darzen and Oliver Stiefel from Crag Law Center and attorney Erin Hogan-Freemole from WildEarth Guardians represent Oregon Wild in the lawsuit.



BLM Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

Victory for Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and conservation on BLM forest lands!

Oregon Wild is also celebrating other recent legal victories! Oregon Wild, the Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, KS Wild, and the Wilderness Society recently received positive rulings from two separate federal appellate courts upholding President Obama's expansion of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in 2017. Logging interests had challenged the inclusion of "O&C lands" within the expanded monument in federal courts in both Oregon and the District of Columbia.

Much of the checkerboard of BLM lands in western Oregon are known as O&C lands—revested Oregon and California railroad grant lands managed under a statute called the O&C Act. The O&C Act directs the BLM to manage the lands for a number of purposes, including logging, watershed protection, stream flow regulation, economic stability of local communities, and recreation.

Represented by Earthjustice and the Western Environmental Law Center, Oregon Wild and its conservation partners intervened in both cases to defend the monument and the ecological wonders found at the convergence of the Cascade, Klamath, and Siskiyou mountain ranges. Eventually, the cases reached the Ninth Circuit and D.C. Circuit Courts of Appeals, respectively. In both cases, the appellate courts resoundingly agreed with our arguments that the expansion of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument did not conflict with the O&C Act.

In April of 2023, the Ninth Circuit issued its opinion, holding that the O&C Act's text did not require all O&C lands to be designated as "timberlands," and that the language used by Congress grants the BLM discretion in how to harmonize the different laws governing O&C lands. Just a few months later in July, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals issued an even stronger endorsement of the expanded Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. The D.C. Circuit determined that while "permanent forest production" may be the "principal

management objective of the O&C Act," by providing "vital habitat connectivity, watershed protection, and landscape-scale resilience for the area's critically important natural resources," the monument expansion carries out the statute's aims of "protecting watersheds" and "regulating stream flow."

The D.C. Circuit's opinion went even further. Addressing a separate challenge by logging interests, the D.C. Circuit also upheld the creation of late-successional and riparian reserves on O&C lands outside the monument as fully consistent with the O&C Act's mandates, "because a failure to protect endangered species (and their critical habitat) and water quality, both necessary for the continuing vitality of the forest ecosystem, would eventually limit the lands' timber production capacity." This is a big deal, because it frees the BLM from the outdated notion that logging O&C lands is mandatory, and encourages the BLM to do what is right for water, wildlife, and posterity. ©



We'll see 'em in court

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

Last September, for the first time in Oregon Wild's 49-year history, we hired our very own staff attorney! Adding in-house legal counsel to our team has created an exciting opportunity to amplify Oregon Wild's ability to enforce the protections that our mature and old-growth forests, pristine rivers, and endangered wildlife deserve.

As you can see from the litigation update, John Persell has hit the ground running in this new role. From working to defend forests and habitat on Mount Hood to supporting tribal efforts to defend fish passage rules, John has brought some much-needed capacity and expertise.

With John on board, we can be an even more vigilant watchdog of the hundreds of logging proposals put forth by the BLM and Forest Service each year.

On top of that, John also just supervised two legal interns this summer – giving essential, first-hand experience to the next generation of conservation advocates and lawyers (see page 13).

Between the worsening impacts of climate change and the extinction crisis, it's more important than ever that we fully utilize each and every tool in our toolbox. And like every other aspect of Oregon Wild's work, our litigation capacity is made possible by supporters like you.

Please consider a special donation of \$50, \$100, or \$1,000 to support Oregon Wild's litigation work and ensure that when agencies cross the line, we'll see 'em in court!

Celebrating our species

Alijana Fisher,
Wildlife and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Associate

A huge gray wolf with piercing amber eyes gazes over Portland, while graceful pollinators flutter above. The elusive northern spotted owl, the poster child for old-growth forest protection, serenely notes passing pedestrians. The powerful coho salmon and charming western painted turtle emerge from crystalline waters adding to the array. Neighbors and visitors alike traveling the intersection of NW 13th Ave and NW Lovejoy St. in Portland's historic Pearl District are newly greeted by a vibrant mural celebrating the beauty of Oregon's native fish, wildlife, pollinators, and plants.

The 600 sq ft. masterpiece titled Nature's Kaleidoscope, depicts an ecosystem of imperiled species and was painted over 14 days by talented local artist Jeremy Nicols (@plasticbirdie on Instagram). Oregon Wild led the showcase for the Pacific Northwest region as part of a national mural project celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which has prevented the extinction of 99% of listed species.

The official unveiling, attended by conservationists, elected officials, tribal representatives, and public supporters, underscored the mural's message: A commitment to work together to prevent species extinction for the benefit and well-being of all.

"The Endangered Species Act has been very successful," said Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici. "I want to celebrate the first 50 years, but not give up on the fight to continue it and protect it. We do not need to limit our ambition to minimizing losses, we can aspire to a future and an America that is more beautiful and cleaner, and safer than it is today."

"How we value and live with any other creature is based on how we see that being," said Grand Ronde Tribal Councilmember Kathleen George. "Our elders tell us that as modern tribal members, we always have to remember that we walk in two worlds. I think that they're right and that these two different worlds can speak directly to why we have endangered species and why we so need the Endangered Species Act."





Gray Wolf

The gray wolf lives in many habitats, but intensive predator control programs eliminated them from most states by the early 1900s. Wolves have returned to Oregon but the population is still small; there are only 175 in the state and mainly in Northeast Oregon where federal protections have been stripped due to politics. On the federal ESA, wolves are listed as endangered west of highways 395, 78, and 95, which means Oregon wolves are protected in only two-thirds of the state.



Coho Salmon

Over 100 species rely on salmon, with their plentiful essential nutrients for wildlife, plants, and trees. Dams, logging, and mining are the primary causes of declining populations. Under the federal ESA, coho are listed as threatened, and under the Oregon state ESA, they are listed as sensitive, except for the endangered lower Columbia River population.



Monarch Butterfly

Unfortunately, the monarch is in trouble, especially in western states where populations have



Northern Spotted Owl

These owls typically occupy coniferous habitats that take 150 - 200 years to develop with complex structures and snags. Stands 80 years and older are considered to be potentially suitable owl nesting, roosting, foraging habitat, and younger stands can be used for dispersal. The northern spotted owl is listed as threatened under both the state and federal ESAs.



Western Painted Turtle

These colorful turtles inhabit wetlands and slow-moving streams, requiring sunny logs for basking. Habitat degradation, loss, and fragmentation are primary concerns for this slow-moving species. The western painted turtle is listed as a sensitive species under the Oregon ESA.



Gentner's Fritillary

This fiery bell-shaped flower is a rare member of the lily family found only in southern Oregon counties Jackson and Josephine and far northern California. This plant occurs in habitat types dominated by



Oregon Silverspot Butterfly

These vibrant butterflies live in coastal salt-spray meadows and depend on violets as host plants. In the 1990s, there were only four Oregon populations, but now about 2,000 captive-bred butterflies are released each year. They are listed as threatened on the federal ESA.

declined by 99.9%, from 10 million butterflies in the 1980s to 2,000 in 2021. In 2020 the USFWS determined listing the monarch was warranted but not precluded, with a final decision slated for 2024. This makes the monarch butterfly a candidate species for the federal ESA.



Howell's Spectacular Thelypody

This purple flower occurs only in low-elevation river valleys in the Powder River area in Northeast Oregon and depends on seasonal flooding. Howell's spectacular thelypody is listed as threatened on the federal ESA and endangered on the Oregon ESA. ☺

Rough Popcornflower

The rough popcornflower produces five-petaled flowers and occurs in Oregon's Klamath mountain region. Popcornflowers need shady, seasonally wet pools, so they take on vastly different submerged versus emergent forms. The rough popcornflower is listed as endangered on both the state and federal ESAs.



500,000 voices call for new forest protections

Victoria Wingell, Forests and Climate Campaigner

This summer, more than half a million Americans joined the fight to call on the Biden administration to permanently protect mature and old-growth forests from logging.

This outpouring of support for our Climate Forests was in response to public comment periods offered by both the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service. The agencies responded to our repeated calls for action by issuing rulemaking proposals to improve the climate resilience of federally managed forests and put the ball in our court to start steering new land

management policies in the right direction. This was an incredible opportunity to protect old forests, not just in Oregon but across all US federal lands. To pull it off, we teamed up with national partners to ensure that new protections are lasting, durable, and take the threat of corporate logging seriously.

On Earth Day, more than 200 Oregonians, joined by our friends on the East Coast in West Virginia and Vermont, took to the streets in coordinated flash mobs with giant transforming signs hand-painted by Oregon Wild members and supporters. These events were staged to highlight the 370,000 acres of mature and old-growth public forests currently proposed for logging and call for urgent action. They were also a celebration

of the incredible opportunity we have to make lasting changes to the way the US government manages our public forests.

Then, the real work began.



CASCADIA WILDLANDS Putting boots on the ground in proposed logging sales, like here in the 42 Divide near Roseburg, OR, helps us connect to the landscape and fight to protect these special places.

Getting to over 500,000 comments was no easy feat. The Forest Service declined to hold public hearings, so Oregon Wild took the lead and organized our own listening sessions to give our allies the opportunity to submit

powerful and heartfelt testimonies to the official public record.

Concerned community members, including Eugene Mayor Lucy Vinis, gathered at the University of Oregon and took the stage to share their personal experiences, scientific insights, and calls to protect and recover our mature and old-growth forests. We held similar virtual events so everyone, no matter where they were in the US, could take advantage of this once-in-a-generation opportunity.

We also partnered with existing coalition members, engaged new allies, knocked on doors, and collaborated with social media content creators to double down on our advocacy efforts. We led several comment-writing sessions with our friends from Great Old



FRIENDS OF THE BLACKWATER Climate Forests rally in West Virginia

Broads, at brewpubs, and at forest activist campouts all summer long.

At the close of the deadlines, we hand-delivered boxes of public comments in Portland, Eugene, and Washington D.C.

Together, we brought this issue in front of more than 10 million people worldwide. Many of you participated in this important process and told the Forest Service loud and clear that these forests are worth more standing, and we'll keep the pressure on until we finally have protections for our incredible climate forests! ☺



HANNA ANDERSON Local percussion group Samba Ja kept a crowd of 200 forest and climate activists dancing through downtown Eugene on Earth Day.

Adventure for a purpose

Anastasia Kuznetsova, Brand and Marketing Manager



This summer is the second year of the annual board member fundraiser, the Wild Miles Challenge! This time, our board members are tipping their hats to the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Enacted in 1973, the Act has saved hundreds of species from extinction and continues to protect and preserve some of our most beloved animals and plants. Several recent attacks have threatened the integrity of the Act, and the fight rages on to keep it intact as an anchor point for future protection of biodiversity in Oregon.

Over the summer, our board members have stepped up to the plate, aiming to raise \$9,900 as a tribute to the 99% success rate of the ESA in preventing extinction. They embarked on their donation journey, covering miles by trekking, paddling, biking, and riding on horseback. Bolstered by friends and family who also donated in honor of their miles, for each step they took, our board members donated towards protections for endangered plant and animal species. Here's what Darcie Meihoff had to say about her first #OregonWildMiles hike:

“My first #OregonWildMiles hike was a beautiful stroll through Silver Creek Park, a treasured place which holds a literal lifetime of special memories for me and my family. Lucky for me, I was joined by some awesome women...friends I've known for more than 30 years. These ladies and I have journeyed together through good times and bad, sharing plenty of laughs, tears and memories (as well as an everlasting love of the Ducks)... the most recent of which included venturing 8.5 miles along this gorgeous trail, hitting all 10 falls. As many of you know, Silver Creek Falls offers incredible sanctuary and splendor, not just for human types, but for native plants, birds, amphibians, and more. A perfect place to kick off this year's challenge!”

As our board members adventured for a purpose, Oregon Wild staff continue to stand up for the integrity of the Endangered Species Act. In its anniversary year, the ESA is a reminder that conservation efforts are essential for stemming the worsening impacts of climate change, protecting biodiversity and preserving our planet for ourselves and future generations. ☺



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Darcie Meihoff horseback riding the Steens Mountain Wilderness boundary



❤️ 🗨️ 📌
Kate Ritley SUPing with her pup Zorra



❤️ 🗨️ 📌
Lisa Billings Oneonta Gorge post the Eagle Creek Fire

State forests for all

Casey Kulla, State Forest Policy Coordinator



CASEY KULLA Our state forests are logged intensively and at a massive scale, altering the forest and putting it at higher risk of severe wildfire, like in the Santiam State Forest, burned in the Beachie Creek wildfire of 2020.

Western Oregon State Forests, the forestlands that the Oregon Department of Forestry manages for all Oregonians, are among the most productive places on earth for trees to grow. These public lands are also home to struggling populations of marbled murrelets, spotted owls, salmon, and amphibians of all kinds. These

lands could be incredibly healthy forests that contribute to climate action by storing carbon and protecting water, but instead, they are subject to intensive industrial logging.

These predominantly coastal forest lands, ancestral home to people who were confederated into both the Siletz and Grand

Ronde tribes, were logged and severely burned 100 years ago. After the land was foreclosed by counties for nonpayment of taxes, the state of Oregon accepted the land, replanted, and pledged to log for revenue to the counties (called “greatest permanent value,” but since expanded to include all the forest values like ecosystem and human health). Since then, these State Forests have been intensively and unsustainably logged, leading coastal communities to rely upon them for jobs and mills to rely upon them for profits. The high levels of industrial-scale, clearcut logging on public land has ignored the knowledge and contributions of tribes and undermined the survival of fish, birds, and mammals. But there is hope.

After timber counties sued the state, demanding cash or an increase in logging, the Oregon Court of Appeals in 2022 ruled that the state management goal of “greatest permanent value” included fish and animal survival, drinking water, carbon storage, recreation, and other values, not just cutting trees on a massive scale.

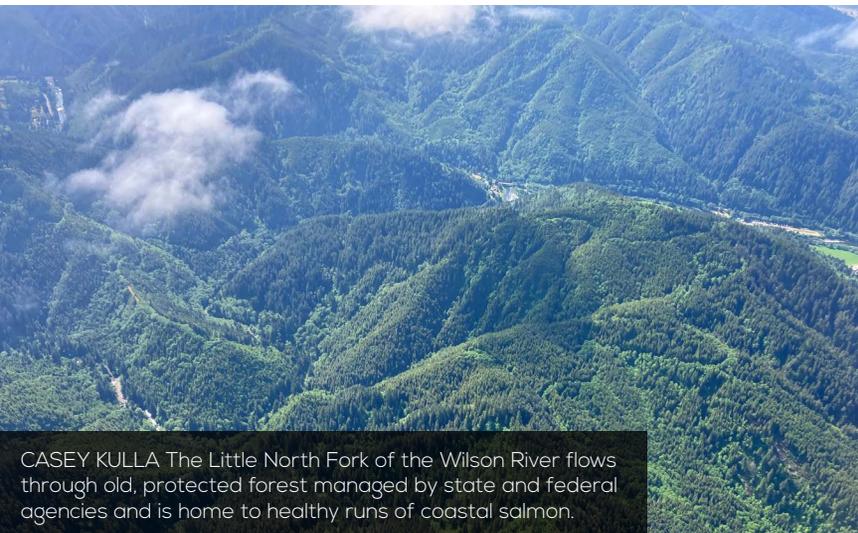
In an attempt to balance logging with the survival of fish and birds, the state drafted a Habitat Conservation Plan to achieve compliance with the Endangered Species Act. But, this compromise has been relentlessly attacked by logging companies and mills that have unwisely based their businesses on continued and unsustainable clearcuts.

Oregon Wild and our coalition partners have been organizing,

lobbying, and fighting for the strongest possible Habitat Conservation Plan because we know that this amazing public land can be so much more than just conifer plantations; this land can be abundant forest that cools and filters water, provides homes and food for struggling animals, and brings joy, health, and sacred awe to people walking, cycling, and just being in the forests.

Your voice matters. Our Governor, state forester, and Board of Forestry listen when we raise a voice in support of protections for forests, streams, and animals. You can sign the petition and send a note of support to our leaders by visiting the site below because state forests are for all of us:

<https://oregonwild.org/oregon-state-forests-need-your-voice>. ©



CASEY KULLA The Little North Fork of the Wilson River flows through old, protected forest managed by state and federal agencies and is home to healthy runs of coastal salmon.

Wild encounters: meet our summer interns



Helena Virga



Canden Gutierrez



Jenna Ayers



Allison Shryock

Oregon Wild was excited to host a number of interns this summer, including our first pair of legal interns! Get to know some of the dedicated young people who were helping to keep Oregon wild this season.

Helena Virga joined us this spring for a second internship (in addition to summer 2022) while she finished her dual Master's degrees in Environmental Studies and Nonprofit Management at the University of Oregon. Helena hit the ground running to pick up her previous work supporting the Climate Forests Campaign at a critical time. She helped do outreach, education, and grassroots organizing to turn out comments on the proposed agency rules on mature and old-growth forests (see page 10). Helena also helped support Oregon Wild's renewed outdoor program and events with the Oregon Brewshed Alliance®.

Canden Gutierrez is a recent graduate of the University of Oregon, earning his

degrees in Advertising and Cinema Studies. At Oregon Wild, Canden was instrumental in preparing for the organization's new branding and website updates. Over the summer, he designed a plan for the brand transition, conducted professional staff photography, and provided ongoing support for video projects tied to "Call of the Wild" and our 50th anniversary. After his internship with Oregon Wild, Canden aspires to work for a Portland-based advertising or film agency, aiming to showcase stories voiced by the Latino and queer community in his work.

Jenna Ayers grew up in the Portland area and completed her Bachelor's degree in biology at Seattle University. A member of the Shoalwater Bay Tribe, Jenna is particularly interested in the intersection of environmental law and tribal law, as well as the impacts of climate change on communities and the natural world. Jenna also worked for the Green Energy Institute at Lewis and Clark Law School over the summer. She will participate in the

Earthrise Law Center clinic this coming academic year. Jenna spends most of her free time hiking the trails of Mount Hood National Forest and the Oregon Coast.

Allison Shryock originally hails from Ohio and completed her Bachelor's degree in environmental studies and geography at Ohio University. Allison is a member of the Northwest Environmental Defense Center and previously clerked for the Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis and Clark Law School. She participated in the Earthrise Law Center clinic this past academic year, and also worked for Oregon Sea Grant over the summer, researching the federal response to invasive species in the Pacific Northwest. Allison enjoys spending as much time as she can outside, hiking year-round, and snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in the winter.

We thank our summer team of interns for their contributions to Oregon Wild's work and are excited to see what comes next for them! ☺



In memoriam: Laura Mears

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

It is with great sadness that we share that Laura Mears, Oregon Wild's former Finance Manager, passed away in July in Lake Oswego. After excelling in business and finance for many years, Laura moved to Oregon to be closer to her son and more deeply explore the beautiful state she'd visited so many times before.

Once Laura had arrived, she brought her expertise and talents into the nonprofit world. During her time at Oregon Wild from 2014-2016, she was an absolute joy to work with. Her warm personality, sense of humor (including her infectious laugh), and sincere passion for making the world a better place endeared all of us to Laura right away. Even in retirement, she continued to dedicate considerable time to the causes for which she was passionate.

All of us who value Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters owe Laura a debt of gratitude. Our deepest condolences go out to Laura's family.

Conservation round-up

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director

Natural Climate Solutions package passes

The 2023 Oregon legislature was a tough place for fish, wildlife, and habitat, but one bright spot was SB 530, a legislative package aimed at promoting natural climate solutions. Our forests, wetlands, estuaries, and farmland all pull carbon dioxide (CO₂), the pollution that drives climate change, out of our atmosphere every day. Oregon forests in particular hold enormous promise for fighting climate change, as trees capture and store carbon as they grow. The older, and bigger, they become, the more carbon they hold (and the more resilient they are to wildfire and other threats). SB 530 was partly designed by Oregon Wild staff and provides new tools, and funding, that the Oregon Global Warming Commission and state agencies can use to track and reduce carbon emissions from logging and other sources.



KAT DIERICKX Owyhee Canyonlands

New Owyhee bill introduced

The Owyhee Canyonlands are one of the most remote, wild, and beautiful landscapes in all of Oregon. For decades, Owyhee advocates have fought to protect this natural treasure from destructive livestock grazing, mining, and offroad vehicles, and have urged Congress to permanently protect it through federal Wilderness designation. In June, Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley

introduced new legislation to do just that. S. 1890, the Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act, would protect 1.1 million acres as Wilderness, support important tribal priorities, and provide for improved recreation management. The bill isn't perfect, particularly in regard to grazing, but it represents an important step forward in the long-running effort to protect this amazing landscape.

River Democracy Act and the Wild Rogue

Speaking of waiting patiently, two other major public lands protection priorities still await action in Congress. Senator Wyden's town hall meetings this summer have been punctuated by numerous questions from river lovers who want updates on the River Democracy Act (RDA). The RDA is Sen. Wyden's landmark bill to extend Wild and Scenic Rivers protection to dozens of important rivers and streams in Oregon. Oregon Wild staff have been hard at

work educating Oregon's new US Representatives about the RDA, and about the Wild Rogue Wilderness expansion. This is a long-running effort to ensure that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands that surround Oregon's most beloved and iconic whitewater rafting destination are protected from logging and development. Both measures are awaiting a legislative opportunity (and deserve strong support from Oregon's House members). ☺



MOMENTUM RIVER EXPEDITIONS Rogue River kayakers

Decoding the Forest Service

You've likely heard the cliché about "50 words for snow": the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic and Subarctic were so surrounded by snow, their lives were so suffused by its presence, that they had dozens of words for it. The Inuit also had (and have!) more than one language, so the belief is closer to myth and misunderstanding than fact.

For federal land management agencies, the cliché applies not to snow, but logging. While there are many dedicated scientists, analysts, and administrators in the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management striving to do the right thing, there is also a momentum of culture and bureaucracy that has assembled a whole lexicon of justifications for chainsaws and timber sales.

Here, you'll find a glossary of just a small selection of these terms that will help you gain some understanding of why it's so important to watchdog Forest Service and BLM projects:

AGENCY DOUBLE SPEAK:

Active forest management

ACTUAL MEANING: Logging, in perpetuity. While forests have evolved over millions of years, logging companies and their captured federal agencies swear they know better, and for some strange reason, knowing better often results in removing the large and old trees to create a tree farm rather than a real forest. While past mismanagement (by the above culprits) has created conditions where intervention may be needed in some areas, the goal of those interventions should be to return the forest to a more natural and self-sufficient state.

AGENCY DOUBLE SPEAK:

Clearcutting

ACTUAL MEANING: We all know what a clearcut looks like, and most people don't like it. That's why the agencies only rarely use this term anymore, even when they're doing something that sure looks like a clearcut. Instead, you'll find clearcutting disguised as some other terms like "eco-forestry."

AGENCY DOUBLE SPEAK:

Forest gaps

ACTUAL MEANING: Logging that creates smaller clearcuts.

AGENCY DOUBLE SPEAK:

Regeneration harvest

ACTUAL MEANING: A clearcut with a few trees left behind, maybe. The area is functionally converted into a tree farm.

AGENCY DOUBLE SPEAK:

Fuels reduction

ACTUAL MEANING: Logging and removing vegetation and wildlife habitat (trees, shrubs, sticks, etc...) because it might burn someday in the future. These projects are often incorporated into commercial logging sales and can remove large and old trees, ironically the same ones that are the most resilient to fire.

AGENCY DOUBLE SPEAK:

Thinning

ACTUAL MEANING: A nearly catch-all term for logging projects encompassing a wide variety of practices, everywhere from thoughtful,

light-touch selective logging to leaving only one tree per acre, and are visually and ecologically little different than a clearcut. Thinning projects can and do log old and large trees.

AGENCY DOUBLE SPEAK:

Group selection harvest

ACTUAL MEANING: Project that logs a group of various-sized trees (but not so big you can call it a clearcut).

AGENCY DOUBLE SPEAK:

Variable density thinning

ACTUAL MEANING: Logging that aims to retain the largest and oldest trees. Unfortunately, the agencies refuse to actually commit to that aim, meaning these projects can and do log many large and old trees.

AGENCY DOUBLE SPEAK:

Sustainable forestry

ACTUAL MEANING: Many foresters will argue that industrial clearcuts and tree plantations are examples of sustainable forestry, while

others will say it only applies to ecologically and climate-smart forestry. Because this term lacks any clear definition, more often than not, it is applied as a form of greenwashing.

AGENCY DOUBLE SPEAK:

Temporary meadow

ACTUAL MEANING: A clearcut with a different name.

AGENCY DOUBLE SPEAK:

Forest restoration

ACTUAL MEANING: Increasing fish passage, restoring wetlands and meadows, road decommissioning, and returning fire to the landscape are all good and important parts that can be included in the plan for restoration projects. Sometimes those parts actually get done! And sometimes the agencies say, "Whoops, we forgot!" But what always gets done is logging, which can include cutting large and old trees.

AGENCY DOUBLE SPEAK:

Forest treatment

ACTUAL MEANING: Yup, you guessed it.



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CALL OF THE WILD 2023

camp-inspired fun for a cause

Friday October 13, 2023
5:30-9:30pm
The Redd in Portland, OR



Call of the Wild brings together supporters, community partners, and anyone who loves Oregon as we raise a camp cup to our successes while fueling our conservation goals in the year ahead. This year we're excited to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act, a bedrock law that time and again has proved vital to defending our native wildlife and the habitats they call home.

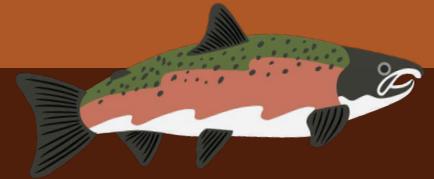
Buy your ticket now and join us for the biggest celebration of our wildlife and wild places. We're bringing back the camp vibes this year with a silent auction featuring Oregon's best trips, outdoor gear, goods from local businesses, and more; local, vegan bites from Artemis Foods and 1927 S'mores; delicious wine and wild-inspired cocktails from our local partners, and beer and cider from our Oregon Brewshed® Alliance Partners; limited-edition Call of the Wild merch; the

winning photographs from our 17th Outdoor Photo Contest; live music from JT & The Mudbugs Trio; and more!

Every dollar raised at Call of the Wild will help us in our mission to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters. The Oregon Wild team (and Wolf and Bear!) can't wait to see you around the campfire on Friday, October 13 at The Redd (831 SE Salmon St) in Portland from 5:30 - 9:30pm!



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.



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