

# Oregon Wild

David Tveit

## Devil's Staircase Wilderness

### Protecting the wildest place in the Oregon Coast Range

Beauty and mystery abound in the pristine rainforest surrounding the Devil's Staircase waterfall on Wassen Creek.

Deep in the heart of Oregon's coastal rainforest, nestled between the Smith and Umpqua rivers, lies the proposed Devil's Staircase Wilderness. Remote and steep, the watershed has escaped the chainsaws which have decimated so much of the old-growth forests in the Coast Range over the last century.

Named after a rarely seen, almost mythical waterfall, the Devil's Staircase Wilderness proposal would protect more than 26,000 acres of one of the Oregon Coast Range's last wild forests.

Gigantic old-growth western redcedar, Douglas-fir, and western hemlock trees line the benches along the winding, rocky canyon that holds Wassen Creek's crystal-clear water. Known for its famous waterfalls, the stream cascades through several miles of nearly untouched forest. The free-flowing waters of Wassen Creek support native salmon and trout runs, and the towering forests provide a home for salamanders, black bears, cougar, elk, river otter, spotted owls, and marbled murrelets.

*"Let's all work together to protect the Devil's Staircase Wilderness."*

*– Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR)*

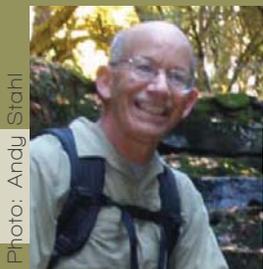


Photo: Andy Strahl

# The time to protect Devil's Staircase is now!

Split between Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service lands, the area has been recognized by both agencies for its wild qualities, yet it remains unprotected. Now, with the enthusiastic support of Congressman Peter DeFazio, we have an important opportunity to permanently protect this rainforest gem.



Tom Nelson

## Urge Congress to protect Devil's Staircase

It's up to Congress to permanently protect the Devil's Staircase Wilderness. Let your representatives in Washington, D.C. know you want to protect the forests, wildlife, and waters of this wild coastal treasure. Learn how to take action below!

The Devil's Staircase area provides important habitat for wildlife – from cougars and owls to salmon and salamanders.

## Facts about the proposed Devil's Staircase Wilderness

- *The Devil's Staircase area is the largest unprotected natural area in the Oregon Coast Range.*
- *Unstable soils, steep slopes, and critical wildlife habitat make the area unsuitable for logging and road building.*
- *The area is home to the highest concentration of threatened northern spotted owls in the Coast Range.*
- *It can take a full day's hike to reach the Devil's Staircase waterfall, through punishing rugged terrain.*

## Get Involved!

A successful Wilderness campaign needs all levels of involvement. Visit our website to learn more, get involved, and take action.

[www.oregonwild.org/wilderness/devils\\_staircase](http://www.oregonwild.org/wilderness/devils_staircase)

### Become an Oregon Wild member!

Oregon Wild has worked since 1974 to protect our state's remaining wild places. Your support is vital to our continued efforts to protect Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters - *contact us about becoming an Oregon Wild member today!*



Jos Vaught

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