

# Oregon Wild

Fall 2011 Volume 38, Number 3



Keeping public lands  
in public hands



Formerly Oregon Natural Resources Council (ONRC).  
Working to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands,  
wildlife, and waters as an enduring legacy.

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COVER PHOTO: JOHN WALLER Public lands are enjoyed by many and provide ecological benefits we can't get anywhere else. So why are they always at risk? Read more on page 4.





## From the Director's Desk

### The long haul

Scott Shlaes

*Protracted and patient effort is needed to develop good character.*  
—Heraclitus

Oregon Wild's work is one of protracted effort. For 37 years we have fought for and celebrated this special place. Over time, we've protected 1.7 million acres of Wilderness, 1,900 miles of Wild & Scenic rivers, the oldest and most pristine forests, and the magnificent wildlife that call these places home. However, we have more to do.

In a world of instant response, this work stands out. It requires enduring patience, sound strategy, and the support and efforts of thousands of people like you. Our work would not be possible without your personal connections to the natural world, or your value system that sees beyond the immediate and recognizes the importance of a natural environment that sustains, teaches, and inspires us.

When you see the news, or talk with a family member, friend or neighbor, you know that we live in uncertain and sometimes scary times. Now more than ever it is important to find good in our world. And to find people doing good work and embrace their efforts. When you are intentional about seeking out the values that define you, do not be surprised when you begin to see them enacted everywhere.

As you read our latest report to you, we hope you will see Oregon Wild's work as an extension of your values.

You'll see that we continue to advocate for preservation of bedrock environmental laws like the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act. You'll see others like yourself that have committed their time to conservation advocacy and how our state benefits from their efforts. You'll see that in spite of societal trends urging instant

gratification; the steady cycles of the season, the migratory journey, and the return of natural balance to our forests require the long and patient view.

We have been here before; in a time and place where some find it convenient to disregard the value of our lands, water, and wildlife in the name of economic pressure. Together we will continue to oppose this shortsighted view and speak out on behalf of the special places that we love.

Thank you for your financial support and your engagement with our work. You are a critical partner in our efforts to keep Oregon a special place to live, work, and raise a family.

For the wild,



JUSTIN KRUG Orange Peak Falls

# Keeping public lands in public hands

## The O&C lands and the end of county payments

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director

Most Americans hear the word “public lands” and think of our national parks, forests, and grasslands – special places where we can still find wild rivers, abundant wildlife, and opportunities to enjoy hiking, camping, and fishing. However, for decades the term “public lands” was also synonymous with cheap places to log, mine, drill, or graze livestock. And today, a small but increasing

number of politicians are opposing the very concept of public lands.

The political and economic climate – particularly in Oregon – is putting additional pressure on our public lands. County governments in western Oregon, specifically the so-called “O&C Counties”, are facing massive budget shortfalls in the coming years. With little prospect of a bailout from U.S. taxpayers, this

has led some county leaders – and even Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) – to begin advocating for the privatization of public lands as a scheme to raise money.

### County payments expire

The Secure Rural Schools program, which provides tens of millions of dollars in federal funding to rural county governments, was enacted back in 2000 as a temporary offset for the reduction in logging – much of it old-growth logging – on federal public lands. The lion’s share of this money goes to 18 counties in Oregon with a historic link to the Oregon & California Railroad lands that spread like a checkerboard across the western part of the state. The dollars these counties have grown accustomed to receiving from U.S. taxpayers are staggering (in 2006 alone, Douglas County received \$51,897,828).

The recent Congressional battle over the debt ceiling put an exclamation point on this problem. Secure Rural Schools funding expires in 2012, and it is highly unlikely Congress will extend it. Affected counties in western

Oregon have few options to fall back on, but have done little to prepare. A perfect storm is brewing over county funding, which could mean huge cuts in county services, from law enforcement to road maintenance. County leaders are desperate for money, and some have begun to advocate for a return to environmentally destructive logging on public lands as a means to generate revenue (even though demand for timber in the U.S. is at an all-time low).

Some, including the Association of O&C Counties (AOCC), have begun advocating for the sale or lease of publicly-owned land to private timber operations. Though the lands belong to all Americans, they argue that the revenue generated should go directly to western Oregon counties.

### A storm in Congress

In the last issue of Oregon Wild, we reported on the explosion of anti-environmental riders in the U.S. House of Representatives. New proposals have continued to spring up over the course of the summer, ranging from Sen. Ron Wyden’s (D-OR) plan to exempt logging roads

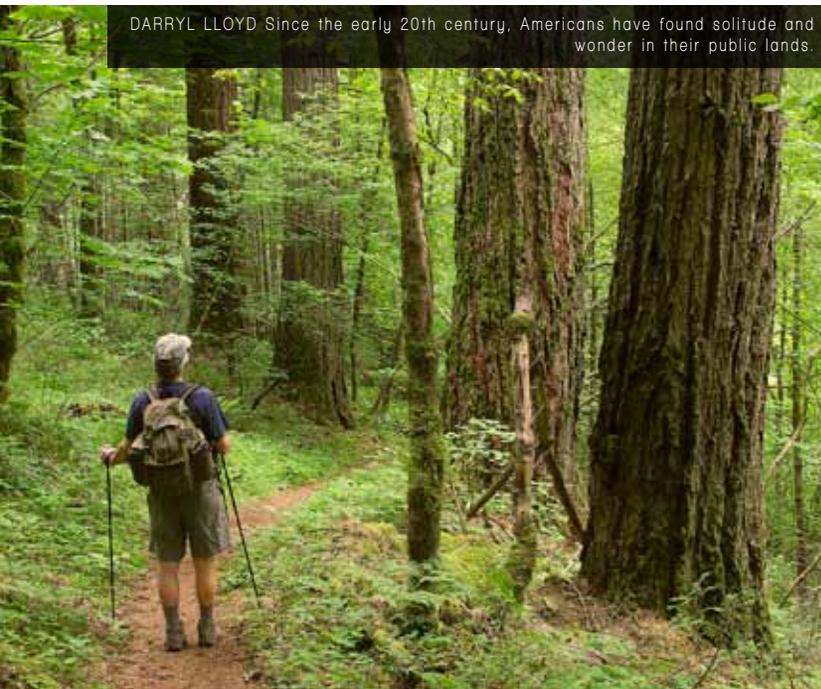
from the Clean Water Act to the “Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act of 2011” proposed by Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA).

The roadless release act would eliminate the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, and put nearly 60 million acres of pristine National Forest lands on the chopping block. It would also eliminate Wilderness Study Area protection for tens of millions of acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, opening them up to mining, oil and gas drilling, and livestock grazing.

At a recent Congressional hearing on the proposal, Rep. McCarthy, the third-ranking House Republican leader, defended his plan. “Millions of acres of land across the United States are being held under lock and key unnecessarily,” he said.

Bruce Babbitt, who served as U.S. Secretary of the Interior under then-President Clinton, also testified at the hearing. He described the bill as “...the most radical, overreaching attempt to dismantle the architecture of our public land laws that has been proposed in my lifetime.”

DARRYL LLOYD Since the early 20th century, Americans have found solitude and wonder in their public lands.





KRISTIAN SKYBACK Industrial forests in Oregon usually end up looking like this Coast Range tract. Public lands deserve a far better fate.

### America's public lands legacy

This isn't the first time a handful of politicians, backed by big money from logging, mining, oil, and livestock interests, have tried to liquidate America's public lands. In the late 1800s through the 1920s, the federal government sold off (often at rock bottom prices) – or gave away – tens of millions of acres of this publicly-owned land to spur settlement of the western States. Some of this land went to individual citizens, but much of it ended up in the hands of railroads, logging companies, livestock interests, and other large business interests.

By the beginning of the 20th century, the notion of conservation began to

take root in America. Early advocates like John Muir argued that too much of our natural heritage was being destroyed by development and that more should be done – particularly on public lands – to preserve wild places. Teddy Roosevelt, together with allies like Gifford Pinchot, would later put those beliefs into practice. Roosevelt pushed the 1906 Antiquities Act through Congress (and used it to protect 18 National Monuments), established America's National Forest system, and safeguarded dozens of areas as National Wildlife Refuges and National Parks.

Roosevelt's efforts were often bitterly opposed by logging, mining, and

"We have become great because of the lavish use of our resources. But the time has come to inquire seriously what will happen when our forests are gone, when the coal, the iron, the oil, and the gas are exhausted, when the soils have still further impoverished and washed into the streams, polluting the rivers, denuding the fields and obstructing navigation." –Theodore Roosevelt

grazing interests, as well as many politicians from western States. This dynamic is still reflected in Congress today.

### Oregon's public lands

Oregon's business leaders and politicians have long had a love-hate relationship with public lands. Though Crater Lake National Park is one of the most beloved places in Oregon today, in the late 1800s early conservation voices like William Gladstone Steel and Judge John Waldo had to do battle with logging, irrigation, and development interests in order to save it. When Teddy Roosevelt signed the legislation that authorized the park in 1902, the action was strongly opposed by many Oregon politicians.

Perhaps the most sordid chapter in Oregon's public lands history is that of the so-called "O&C Lands." Shortly after the Civil War, Congress began offering land grants from federal public land to assist in rail and wagon road construction in the West. In 1866, the State of Oregon received a huge grant including every other square mile in a 40-mile swath of land stretching from Portland

south to the California border. Oregon then gave the land to a railroad company, purportedly to sell to settlers in order to cover the costs of railroad construction. But the real plan was very different. The company – the Oregon & California Railroad – instead sold off the forests to the highest bidder.

These shady dealings resulted in a huge political scandal. A 1904 report by The Oregonian newspaper found

that as much as 75% of the land sales had violated federal law. Then-President Theodore Roosevelt intervened, proclaiming his intent to "clean up the O&C land fraud mess, once and for all!" Over 1,000 Oregon politicians, businessmen, and railroad executives were indicted.

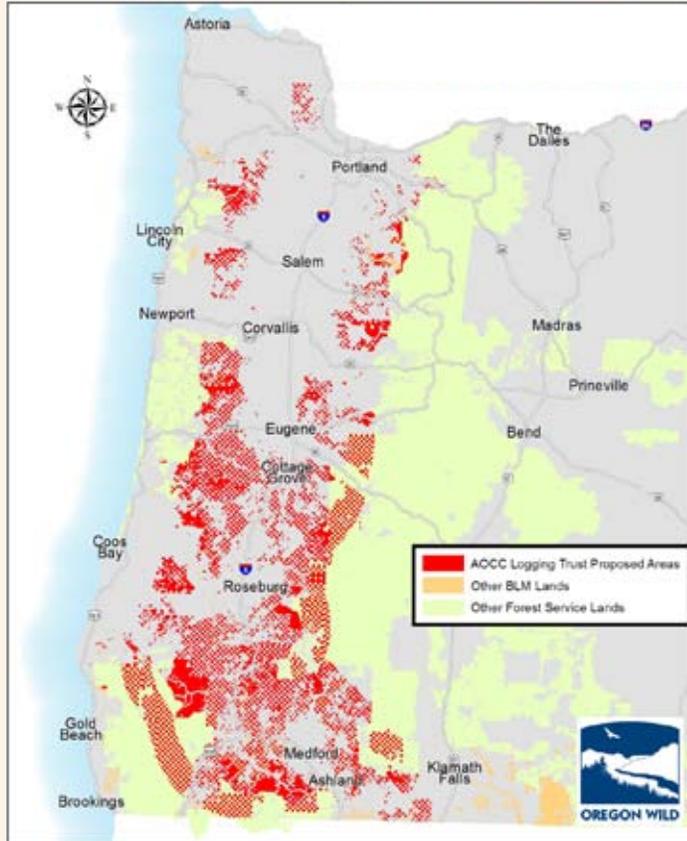
The O&C lands went back into federal ownership, to be managed for the public by the Bureau of Land Management. In 1937, Congress passed the O&C Act, a law directing that the lands be managed for a mix of timber production, clean water, and other values – including funding for county governments. Subsequent laws, such as the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act, put an



NPS The great conservationist president Teddy Roosevelt (seen here with John Muir), laid out the foundation for America's public lands protection system over 100 years ago.

## Approximated Public Lands Proposed for Logging by AOCC

One proposal from the Association of O&C Counties would allow industrial logging across a wide swath of western Oregon.



even greater emphasis on protecting the environment. The O&C Counties – the 18 Western Oregon counties who received revenue from timber sales on the O&C lands – were given special consideration under Secure Rural Schools legislation when it passed in 2000. Oregon receives the largest portion of Secure Rural Schools money, and the 18 O&C counties receive most of that funding.

### Clear-cuts for kids?

The looming funding crisis has Western Oregon county governments – and politicians – increasingly desperate for new sources of money. Some have turned to an old favorite as a solution – liquidating the O&C Lands. At least three proposals have been floated, and all of them would be a giant step backwards for Oregon’s public lands, and the fish, wildlife, and clean water they sustain.

### Splitting the baby

Several interest groups, including the AOCC, have proposed splitting the O&C lands. A portion of the lands (generally, those lands with trees over 110 years old) would be set aside in a quasi-protected status. The rest of the O&C lands would be put into a dedicated timber production status, with the revenues directed to county governments.

This proposal has a number of problems. First, simply dividing the lands by the age of the trees on them

would lead to a crazy-quilt of management boundaries. It would also fragment large roadless areas, such as the Wild Rogue, putting Wilderness-quality lands at risk. It also fails to recognize existing protected areas, such as critical habitat for coho salmon and spotted owls or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. Finally, the kind of industrial logging operations proposed on the timber emphasis lands would never pass muster under the Clean Water Act or Endangered Species Act, and would likely lead to even greater problems for salmon and other wildlife.

### ‘Trust’ us

Rep. DeFazio has recently proposed a “trust” plan for the O&C lands. Though the exact details of his proposal are fuzzy, he has given a general outline. Under his proposal, certain areas of the O&C lands would be set aside for protection. A large portion would be set aside as a “timber trust”, modeled on state trust lands in Washington, then leased to a private entity to be managed for timber production. The revenue generated by the leasing of these lands, as well as a portion of the timber revenues from logging them, would go to county governments. By pursuing the private “trust” model, DeFazio’s plan would exempt the lands from the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act.

The DeFazio “trust” plan has a number of major problems. First, in order to raise hundreds of millions of dollars needed to finance buying the lease, the entity operating the “trust” would have to borrow from banks, investment funds, and other sources. These investors would almost certainly want a quick repayment of their loan – likely no longer than 10 years, and possibly as short as five. This would likely mean liquidating the trees on the “trust” lands in short order, with few environmental safeguards. Though the lease would ultimately expire and the lands would return to public ownership, after decades of industrial logging it is unlikely they would provide much in the way of clean water, salmon habitat, or recreational values.

## Oregon’s elected leaders – making the grade?

Congress keeps churning out bad ideas in its 112th session. Some of the bad ideas are even thought up by our very own elected officials. Whether with their votes or the bills they introduced, here’s how Oregon’s politicians stack up on the environment.

## Privatize it

Recently, the AOCC unveiled a new proposal, similar to DeFazio's "trust" concept. Their plan is more aggressive, however, and calls for few areas to be set aside for protection. In addition, the new AOCC plan would remove the "trust" lands from public management entirely, instead managing them just as private lands are managed in Oregon. If you have ever taken a drive through the Oregon Coast Range and seen the clear-cuts ravaging private lands, you have a pretty good idea of what this plan would look like.

## A better way

Oregon Wild strongly opposes all three of these concepts. The O&C lands, just like other publicly-owned

land in Oregon, belong to all of us, and should be managed to preserve clean water, wildlife, and recreational opportunities – not privatized and clear-cut. Oregon Wild has begun to advocate a concept we call the Oregon Schools and Forest Enhancement Fund, or SAFE Fund.

Our plan would transfer the O&C lands from the BLM to the Forest Service, eliminating potentially tens of millions of dollars in wasteful bureaucracy and duplication between the two agencies. The SAFE Fund would set aside high quality habitat on these lands, and focus their future management on environmental restoration. Some timber production would still occur, but it would be in the form of restoration-thinning in stands that have already been damaged by logging. The SAFE

Fund would save taxpayers money, generate good-paying jobs for rural communities, and protect and improve environmental values in our forests.

Recognizing that the SAFE Fund would eliminate the O&C Act, a key component of the proposal would be an endowment, created by Congress, to provide a transition fund to western Oregon counties. Unlike the current Secure Rural Schools funding, SAFE would have a certain end date and would be tied to reforms in county government.

## What comes next?

Between the lingering recession, county funding woes, and extreme anti-environmental politicians in Washington, the next few years

could put severe pressure on our public lands. While some of Oregon's elected officials remain strong advocates for conservation, others, like Rep. DeFazio and Sen. Wyden, have begun to waver.

And their wavering could not come at a worse time. Anti-environmental riders, and extreme legislation like Rep. McCarthy's Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act, stand a real chance of passing in the crazy political climate currently gripping Washington, D.C. Misguided proposals like Rep. DeFazio's "trust" plan could be seized upon by corporate interests and used as a model to open up public lands across the country to environmentally destructive development. ☹

## Take Action!

Oregon Wild is strongly committed to keeping Oregon's public lands in public hands – just as we have been since our founding in 1974. We will oppose any plan to privatize large tracts of Oregon public lands. But our ability to stop these proposals hinges on the support of members like you. If you value clean water, wildlife, and opportunities for outdoor recreation, please take a few moments to call Senators Wyden and Merkley, as well as your Representative, and tell them you oppose any plan to privatize public lands in Oregon. You can call the capital switchboard at 202.224.3121, or look up their local offices at [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org)

Sen. Jeff Merkley



C+

While he voted for the wolf-killing budget, he continues to push back against

anti-environment proposals in the Senate and conservationists have hopes he'll stand up to the Dirty Logging Roads (see above) bill when the time comes.

Sen. Ron Wyden



D

Favoring industry over drinking water and salmon, he sponsored a recently

introduced bill (S1369) that would undermine the Clean Water Act. Still supporting slow-to-move Wilderness bills in the Senate.

Rep. Earl Blumenauer



A

Voted against the rider that removed wolves from the ESA and continues to

be a vocal opponent of extreme schemes to undermine environmental laws. He is the rare politician whose actions match his rhetoric.

Rep. Peter DeFazio



D-

Proposed to split BLM forests in half, calling for a million acres to

be heavily logged by industry as part of leased "trust" lands. Voted for wolf-killing budget bill. Avoids lower grade with support of Devil's Staircase Wilderness and his stand against Wildlife Services.

Rep. Kurt Schrader



D

Continues to push Molalla River protections but voted to strip EPA of global warming

regulatory authority and came out on the side of the timber industry in opposing a strong forest planning rule.

Rep. Greg Walden



F

A member of the Republican leadership team in the House pushing

unprecedented attacks on the environment. Co-sponsored the wolf-killing budget bill.

Rep. David Wu

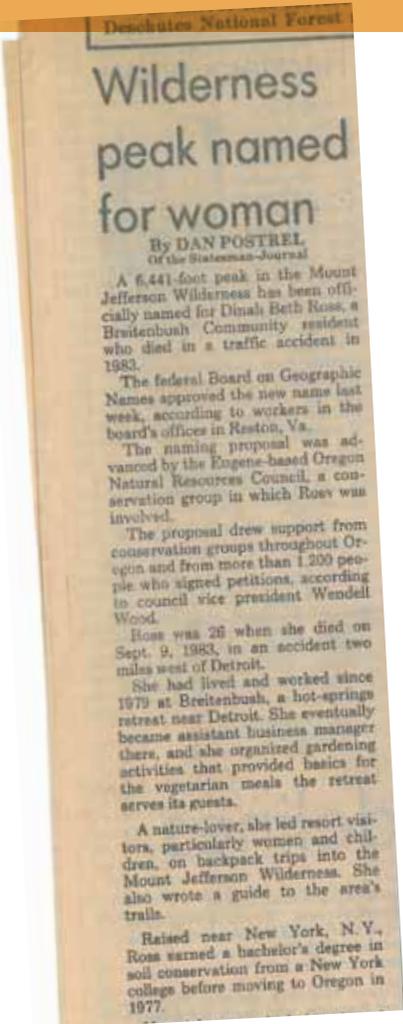


B

While his political life was falling apart, he continued to vote for the environment by rejecting the rider-stuffed budget bill.

# The legacy of Dinah-Mo Peak

Jonathan Jelen, Development Coordinator



**D**inah-Mo Peak was named in 1985 to commemorate Dinah Beth Ross. She was a resource specialist and taught for the Multnomah County Outdoor Education Program. She moved to Breitenbush Hot Springs where she became the assistant business manager and led many wilderness hiking and cross-country ski tours. Dinah was known for her exuberance and dynamic personality and found herself with the nickname Dinah-mo. When Dinah's life was cut short in a

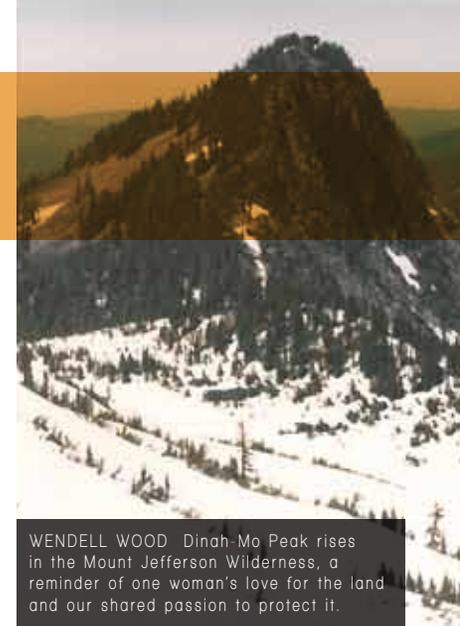
traffic accident in 1983, activists at Oregon Wild (then ONRC), and across the state sought a fitting tribute to honor this spirited advocate for the environment.

The idea was formed to give her name to an anonymous peak in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness – one of Dinah's favorite places to lead hikes. In 1985, after advocacy by Dinah's family, friends, and staff at Oregon Wild, that anonymous 6,441-foot peak in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness was given the name Dinah-Mo Peak by the Oregon Geographic Names Board.

Dinah's sister Janet Danforth, a long time Oregon Wild supporter and a monthly Evergreen Society member recently emailed us to say:

"I will always be grateful for the work that your organization did for her, grateful that she found such meaning in working with ONRC when she was alive, grateful that her name is still alive in something as vibrant as a mountain in a wilderness area, grateful that I have such a fitting way each month to express how much I miss her.

"Being with her in the woods is one of my best memories. Being in the



WENDELL WOOD: Dinah-Mo Peak rises in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness, a reminder of one woman's love for the land and our shared passion to protect it.

woods was her favorite place to be and I want to do my part in helping future generations get to be there too."

## Your wildlands legacy

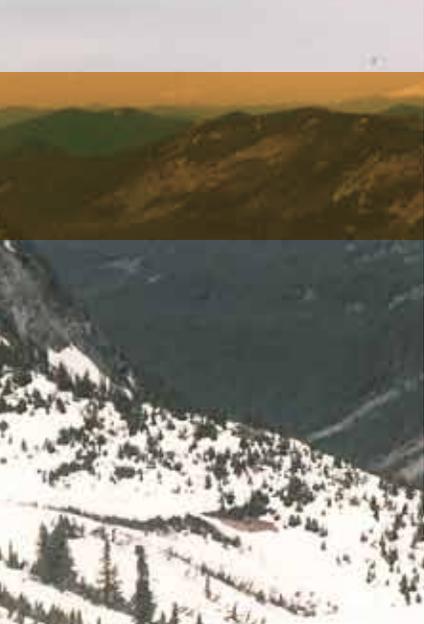
What will your legacy be?

- Will it be protecting the last remaining old-growth forests in Oregon?
- How about restoring ecosystems throughout Oregon that host healthy populations of native wildlife including salmon and gray wolves?
- Or preserving the places in Oregon that are cherished by you and your family?

Please consider Oregon Wild in your estate plans and make the protection and restoration of Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters your enduring legacy for future generations.

To learn more about including Oregon Wild in your estate or trust (or informing us of your plans if you already have) please call our Executive Director, Scott Shlaes at 503-283-6343 ext 223 or email him at [scott@oregonwild.org](mailto:scott@oregonwild.org) to discuss.





and inspire us simply because of what they are.

Janet ended her email by thanking Oregon Wild “for everything that you do.”

In fact, we should be thanking Janet, and Dinah, and all of the other volunteers and donors that contribute to our efforts. Your commitment to our work and many touching stories inspire us to protect the places that are close to all of our hearts. Whether you support Oregon Wild to protect a legacy for future generations or to celebrate the life of a loved one, your support is critical to our work and greatly appreciated. ☺

Our work at Oregon Wild affords us the privilege of talking about special places throughout Oregon every day. They're the places we work to protect. They're the places we count on for clean drinking water and critical wildlife habitat. They're the places we go to recharge, to play, and to be inspired. Whether it's an old-growth forest, a wild river canyon, or a majestic mountain, each of these places has their own beauty



### In Memoriam

Dinah Ross, ONRC's Governing Council representative from Breitenbush Community, was tragically killed in an automobile accident near Detroit, Oregon, on September 9, 1983. In her death, we, the Breitenbush Community, her family and her friends all share a deep loss that will

not soon be forgotten. In a far from perfect world so often obstructed by human expressions of insincerity and skepticism, it is nothing less than rare to meet someone whose very presence radiates joyful friendliness, sincere caring, and genuine love. Such a rare and special person was Dinah Ross. Dinah played a key role in organizing our 11th annual Oregon Natural Resources Conference and welcomed those in attendance. Many of our members met Dinah for the first time this summer and came away with a special warmth in their hearts for friendship, community and respect for the natural world that is found at Breitenbush. As a gesture of our love for "Dinah", as she was most fondly known, ONRC is petitioning the Oregon Geographic Names Board to designate as "Dinah-peak" a currently unnamed 8,441 foot peak near the headwaters of the Breitenbush River in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness. Letters in support of the nomination should be mailed by January 1, 1984, to SW Park Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97205. Dinah's family and friends have requested that donations be made to ONRC in her memory to help preserve the wilderness surrounding Breitenbush that Dinah knew and loved. Contributions may be sent to the Dinah Ross Memorial Fund at the ONRC Main Office.

## Two ways to increase your impact:

### Make your gift go Evergreen

The very best way to support Oregon Wild is by giving on a monthly basis through the Evergreen Society. Our Evergreen members give us the long-term, stable support that we need to achieve our goals of protecting and restoring Oregon's most special places.



Like you, we budget and plan our conservation work better when we have a dependable source of income. Evergreen members make automatic, ongoing monthly or quarterly gifts through their bank account or credit card. You have total control over your giving. And you'll know you're saving Oregon Wild precious resources spent on mailing

membership reminders and allowing Oregon Wild staff to devote even more energy to defending Oregon's environment.

To learn more and to join the Evergreen Society, please visit [www.oregonwild.org/about/donate/evergreen](http://www.oregonwild.org/about/donate/evergreen)

Giving is easy, convenient and the best way to sustain Oregon Wild's critical work. By making ongoing monthly or quarterly gifts through automatic bank transfers or through your credit card, you choose the convenience of having your membership renewed automatically each year.

### Give before September 30 and double your donation

Want your donation to be instantly doubled at no extra cost to you? Until September 30 you can double the impact of your donation through a generous Matching Gift Challenge by Mountain Rose Herbs.

Your donation to Oregon Wild will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$5,000 and all contributions must reach us by September 30 to qualify for this incredible matching gift opportunity. Please help us secure these much needed funds to support our conservation work by sending us your contribution by the deadline, and remember that for each dollar you donate, Mountain Rose Herbs will match up to \$5,000.

Please note! If we do not receive your donation by September 30, we will lose any matching funds that Mountain Rose Herbs has put towards the challenge.

Match your gift by using the included envelope or donating online at: [www.oregonwild.org/donate](http://www.oregonwild.org/donate)



## Wolf "tales" from the Wallowas

Rob Klavins, Wildlands Advocate

Arguably the most well-known species trying to survive in Oregon is the gray wolf, and Oregon Wild is leading the charge to give them a fighting chance.

Wolves tend to make headlines when they are at the center of conflict and controversy (often manufactured by their detractors). But for most of us, they are a symbol of freedom, wildness, and the West. Their return represents an opportunity to right the wrongs of past generations and restore health to the landscape.

It doesn't hurt that the landscape Oregon's wolves call home is some of the most stunning in the world.

In July, a group of Oregon Wild supporters headed out on the second annual Wallowa Wolf Rendezvous.

Hosted by our friends at Barking Mad Farm Bed & Breakfast, the group was treated to meetings with biologists, wildlife managers, ranchers, and even a spiritual leader of the Nez Perce tribe who shared wolf stories passed on by his grandmother – born in the county in 1871.

The intrepid group also explored the Eagle Cap Wilderness, Zumwalt Prairie, and surrounding landscape. The closest they came to seeing wolves was nearly stepping in wolf scat, but with only 17 confirmed wolves in the entire state, that's as close as most people get. We're leading more trips this fall and again next year. We hope you'll join us!

Find out if there are spots left on the Fall Wolf Rendezvous trip and keep an eye out for next year's trips at [www.oregonwild.org/about/hikes\\_events](http://www.oregonwild.org/about/hikes_events) ☺



JOHN MORRIS Describing the movements of the Imnaha Pack, ODFW wolf coordinator Russ Morgan educates the Oregon Wild wolf rendezvous group.

## Creature Feature: Fisher

Wendell Wood, Wildlands Interpreter



GREG TROUSLOT

**Creature:** Fisher (*Martes pennanti*)

**Where you can find it:** Denning in large old growth trees, Pacific fishers are most commonly associated with mature, closed-canopy, conifer forests. By the mid 20th century the species was extirpated from most of its Pacific Northwest range due to logging, trapping, and human development. Their isolated ranges include small populations in the southern Sierra Nevada, the Klamath/Siskiyou, and in the southern Oregon Cascades.

**By the numbers:** Fisher are medium-sized furbearers in the weasel family (Mustelidae) that also includes mink, marten, otters, and wolverine. An adult male fisher is slightly

over three feet long and weighs about ten pounds. Females are only half as large as males. All together it is estimated there are no more than 1,100 fishers in Oregon and California.

**Unique characteristics:** The fisher was arguably misnamed, as mammals and birds, not fish, are their principal food. Food items include wood rats, squirrels, mice, quail, and grouse. In particular, fishers have mastered the difficult technique of preying on porcupines. In decades past, trappers reported that hardly ever was a fisher caught that did

not have quills in its skin, and even more remarkably, these did not seem to fester or otherwise significantly harm the fisher.

**In focus:** Conservationists have petitioned several times to list the fisher as an endangered species. It was placed on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "candidate list" in 2004. Following litigation, a settlement was recently reached, with the agency agreeing to reevaluate by 2014 if the fisher qualifies for protection, and finalize the decision in 2015. This June, the USFWS completed a status review of the fisher in the U.S. Northern Rocky Mountains, and (controversially) concluded it did not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act. ☺

# Return of the natives

Rob Klavins, Wildlands Advocate

From Murderer's Creek and Hell Hole to Thirsty Creek, Sky Lakes, and Kangaroo Roadless Area, some of Oregon's wildest places have intriguing names. They in turn provide homes to an even more intriguing cast of characters.

It's a story we lovingly refer to in the halls of Oregon Wild as "The Return of the Charismatic Megafauna". The main stage is Oregon's largest protected Wilderness – the Eagle Cap. A couple recent returnees make the raptors of the Zumwalt, the mountain goats of the lakes basin, and the herd of feral buffalo seem downright prosaic.

In the timber to the north and west, a small herd of Shira's moose have slowly been building their numbers over the past decade. They share a landscape with the more well known gray wolves attempting to take their first tentative steps towards recovery. Oregon is home to only two breeding pairs of wolves facing constant pressure from anti-wildlife interests.

Earlier this year, another enigmatic character made a cameo appearance. For the first time in history, a wolverine was photographed in Oregon. It's now confirmed that at least three wolverines are wandering the Eagle Cap. Likely originating in Idaho, these wolverines followed the path of the wolves. Though wide-ranging and exceptionally sensitive to

human intrusion, we hold out hope that a few individuals still wander the wild expanses of the Siskiyou, Cascade, and Blue Mountains.

Some locals even claim grizzlies occasionally make an appearance in Hells Canyon. Such stories are less likely to be accurate. In fact, many of the area's bears identified as black are actually brown.

Not to be outdone, a mother gray whale and her calf made more than a few waves when they spent a few weeks in the Klamath River (yes, river) and it wasn't too long ago we reported on the return of sea otters to Depoe Bay.

As part of our mission, Oregon Wild seeks to ensure healthy populations of all native wildlife. Sometimes that means keeping common species common. Other times that means fighting the good fight for those like wolves whose continued presence depends on extra help.

It may be easier to get people's attention with moose, bison, and freshwater whales, but equally important are the perhaps less exciting red tree voles, mule deer, and jumping slugs.

Did that last one get your attention? You can find a profile of the Jumping Slug, wolverine, and other native species on our wildlife profile page: [www.oregonwild.org/fish\\_wildlife/wildlife-pages](http://www.oregonwild.org/fish_wildlife/wildlife-pages) ©

# The migration is "on" again this fall

Wendell Wood, Wildlands Interpreter

Late October and early November is a great time to be outside to see some of the Pacific Northwest's greatest fish and wildlife migration events.

If you think of the Pacific flyway as shaped from north to south like an hour glass, then the Klamath Basin is the constriction in the hour glass' center. As such, the Klamath Basin of southern Oregon and northern California hosts 3/4 of the waterfowl migration of the entire flyway. Although the temperatures can be chilly, the waterfowl migration here usually peaks around the November 1. Half of these ducks, geese, and other water birds frequent the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges, where viewing is most

accessible along designated routes and viewing areas.

Additionally, a week or so after the first significant rains in October is the best time to watch for Chinook and coho salmon during their upstream spawning migrations.

Popular areas near Portland where salmon regularly concentrate, allowing for easy viewing, are Eagle Creek in the Columbia River Gorge below Bonneville Dam and the bluff trail along the Sandy River in Oxbow Regional Park.

In southern Oregon, as early as October 7, Rainie Falls is an excellent salmon viewing spot two miles down a trail below Grave Creek on the south side of Rogue River.

Another popular spot to see leaping salmon at the end of October can be reached by taking a half mile hike to Little Falls on the Illinois River, located off Eightdollar Mt. Rd, off Hwy. 199 near Kerby. Salmon can also be seen spawning near Illinois River Forks State Park one mile south of Cave Junction. ©



BRETT COLE

# Celebrating the Siuslaw

Ten years of restoration progress

Chandra LeGue, Old Growth Campaign Coordinator



CHANDRA LEGUE For ten years, the Siuslaw collaborative group has been working to turn dense old plantations (left) into potential towering old growth (right).

design projects from the ground up based on commonly held goals of ecological restoration. More than 100 of these projects have improved fish and wildlife habitat and supplied steady work for local contractors and timber companies without controversy. Additionally, the new stewardship law has allowed for dollars generated through stewardship timber sales to be reallocated into enhancing forest and watershed health in other parts of the Siuslaw watershed.

This collaborative approach has worked so well that the initial “pilot” group in the Siuslaw watershed has been duplicated in three other watersheds in the Siuslaw National Forest, and has served as a model for other Forests across the region.

The efforts of Oregon Wild and the Siuslaw’s many other partners have not gone unnoticed at higher levels. At an August 2011 10-year Siuslaw Stewardship Celebration event, several Forest Service staff and members of the Siuslaw’s collaborative groups were awarded the *Two Chiefs’ Partnership Award*, presented annually by the Chiefs of

the U.S. Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to a small number of groups to recognize exemplary partnership efforts promoting conservation and forest stewardship.

The anniversary of the Siuslaw Stewardship Group comes at a time when short-sighted special interests and the politicians they influence have continued to push for a return to large-scale old-growth logging (see page 4), despite the many successes of collaboratively-based forest management. Oregonians are still unsure if a Bush-era plan to log Bureau of Land Management forests in western Oregon (the WOPR) will move forward, and proposals to give away these lands to be clear-cut by private industry are gaining traction.

But if forest managers instead duplicate the Siuslaw example, there is hope for protecting and restoring our forests across the region. ©

## Siuslaw Stewardship Accomplishments

- 14 stewardship timber sales awarded, restoring 3,700 acres of forest
- \$3 million in retained receipts from timber sales put back into restoration
- 48 private-land and 50 Forest Service restoration projects funded
- \$1.2 million in matching funds generated for restoration projects.

Twenty years ago the Siuslaw National Forest in the Oregon Coast Range, was home to a bitter battle over old-growth logging. Today, thanks to the collaborative work of dozens of non-profit organizations, timber companies, watershed councils and other partners, the Siuslaw is a model for forest management in the region.

Home to coastal salmon, threatened marbled murrelets and spotted owls, and some of Oregon’s fastest growing trees, the Siuslaw was a hot spot in the fight to stop ancient forest logging in the 1980s, when thousands of acres of old-growth were being clear-cut each year. When the Northwest Forest Plan went into effect in 1994, forest

managers were required to preserve more old-growth and riparian habitat for native wildlife that had been pushed to the brink. Managers at the Siuslaw saw an opportunity to advance new restoration goals and rebuild the trust that had been lost during decades of conflict over old-growth logging. They wisely initiated a program of “thinning” young forests instead of cutting old ones.

With new federal “stewardship authorities” that provided incentive for an innovative type of collaborative forest management, the Siuslaw Stewardship Group was formed in 2001. It has brought diverse stakeholders together to

CHANDRA LEGUE Numerous trips into the field with a diverse set of stakeholders make the collaborative process possible.





Name: Bill Carpenter  
Location: Eugene

**Oregon Wild:** How did you first learn about Oregon Wild?

**Bill Carpenter:** I learned about its predecessor, ONRC, in law school in some of the spotted owl and NEPA litigation when the University of Oregon's Law Clinic representing them in the late '80s.

**Oregon Wild:** How did you first become engaged in environmental law?

**Bill:** Actually, I was an environmental affairs manager for a small petroleum refining company in the Southwest. And was the company's representative in some New Mexico enforcement settlements done by EPA.

**Oregon Wild:** Why do you feel like litigation/legal action is a valuable tool for the conservation community?

**Bill:** Litigation is the ultimate backstop to illegal action. Many entities believe they can skate on the edge of legality, and litigation is the only way to define that ultimate legal

## Keeping it wild

*Featuring the supporters, foundations, businesses, and volunteers that make our work possible. This issue's focus: legal eagles*

line. However, litigation can also place a simmering environmental problem in the public light.

**Oregon Wild:** Why do you think it is important to specifically support Oregon Wild's legal efforts to protect public lands, waters and wildlife?

**Bill:** Oregon Wild is the premier protector of natural resources and wildlife in Oregon. Ever since Outside Magazine rated ONRC one of the best environmental organizations to contribute to, I have had an interest in Oregon Wild. A key component of the organization is its legal efforts to protect Oregon from a variety of interests, be they governmental or private, which only see the extraction value of nature in Oregon.

**Oregon Wild:** Which Oregon Wild campaign are you most interested in and why?

**Bill:** Probably the Klamath Campaign because it is both the most remote from Oregon's population centers and affords the most promise in restoring some of the best migratory bird and eagle habitat in the western United States.

**Oregon Wild:** What little known fact about Oregon Wild do you wish more people knew?

**Bill:** That during the environmental "revival" experienced by Bill Clinton's election,

Oregon Wild's predecessor, ONRC, was the first environmental group to sue Bruce Babbitt, the Secretary of the Dept. of Interior. The suit was over his failure to designate critical habitat under the ESA for the magnificent, but imperiled, Stellar Sea Lion.

**Oregon Wild:** What impresses you most about Oregon Wild?

**Bill:** Its ability to focus on keeping Oregon WILD. It is the main organization in the state that is concerned with the loss of the wild aspects of Oregon, be they reintroduction of eradicated wolves, protecting endangered, but not charismatic, sucker fish, or the drive to create more wilderness in the State.

**Oregon Wild:** Why do you choose to live in Oregon?

**Bill:** I think that it has much of its pristine beauty left, whereas our more developed neighboring coastal states seem to have had that beauty overrun by the masses.

**Oregon Wild:** What is your favorite place in Oregon and why?

**Bill:** Likely, the area around the north shore of Waldo Lake, sans mosquitos. While I now maintain a portion of the Pacific Crest Trail between McKenzie and Santiam Passes for the PCTA, my family for about

five years straight, when my children were in their teens, would vacation annually for a week in that area, bringing other young people to experience nature, where otherwise they were city bound. We met another set of campers who had kayaks and a sail boat which they generously allowed us to borrow. Paddling at the north end of Waldo Lake in a kayak in the early morning, just after the sun has crested over Charnelton Butte, has been one of the most peaceful experiences in my life.

**Oregon Wild:** What is your favorite Oregon animal and why?

**Bill:** Well it is a toss up between the bald eagle and the wolf. The bald eagle presents a spectacle whenever you see one soar, but the wolf offers hope for a future where an animal of the past can find a home to roam again.

**Oregon Wild:** What is your favorite Oregon plant and why?

**Bill:** Using the term broadly, I would need to say the majestic old growth Douglas Fir. When first coming to Oregon, there was a low elevation stand near Fall Creek that I would take all of my out of state visitors to marvel at the size of these giants, and their age. ☺

CHANDRA LeGUE Oregon Dunes



GARY HALE Opal Creek



GARY HALE Opal Creek



# Special places with our favorite people – YOU

Sean Stevens, Director of Communications & Development

Every year, Oregon Wild staff sit down and plan out our calendar of hikes. We toss around names like Rogue River Trail, Mirror Lake, and Fuji Mountain. But, it's not until we're out on the trail with a mix of hundreds of old friends and newcomers to our state that we get to experience what Oregon Wild Summer is really about – connecting with the special places we've protected or are working to protect.

My "aha" moment came at the Elk Meadows trailhead as our group gathered to head out on our day's

adventure. As we waited, a small herd of elk tramped across the road a hundred yards away. I guess they don't call it Elk Meadows for nothing! Hopefully these few photos from our summer's explorations give you a taste of how special being on foot in Oregon's wild really is. ☺

Thanks to KEEN for their generous support of Oregon Wild Summer 2011.



CHANDRA LeGUE Brice Creek Falls



FILE PHOTO Boulder Lake

# Business Partners



PAMELA DURR Oregon Wild business partners help to sponsor events like our annual Outdoor Photo Contest and unveiling event (see back page for details).

As you know, Oregon Wild is dedicated to protecting and restoring Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters as an enduring legacy for all Oregonians. The business community plays an important role in shaping that legacy.

Whether you're an outdoor retailer whose products enable others to explore Oregon's many wonders, a tech company that shares your employees' values for

protecting the special places important to them and their families, or one of the many small businesses that keep Oregon true to its local roots, your voice can have a positive impact on our state's future.

Oregon Wild is very proud to have great business partners, two of which are featured on these pages. KEEN generously sponsored our 2011 Oregon Wild Summer hikes series and is helping us to build our

volunteer hike leader roster over the coming year. Mountain Rose Herbs is adding to their already substantial contribution with a matching gift offer (see details on page 9).

Interested in partnering with Oregon Wild? Find out more at [www.oregonwild.org/about/donate/support-our-business-partners](http://www.oregonwild.org/about/donate/support-our-business-partners) ©

# Board voyage

Scott Shlaes

A warm welcome to Oregon Wild's newest board members: Shawn Donnille and Brett Sommermeyer.



Shawn is Vice President of Mountain Rose Herbs, a Eugene-based botanical products company dedicated to sustainability and organic agriculture. Shawn spends time reading, volunteering for various environmental and animal welfare causes, and seeking out free-flowing streams where he can cast a fly (catch and release only!).



Brett is an Oregon transplant, recently relocating to Lincoln City. Through his business, ConBio Consulting, Brett provides legal and policy consulting services to environmental nonprofits. When not working, he seeks to maximize his outdoor and wildlife experiences through rock climbing, hiking, and kayaking.

A fond farewell to long time Oregon Wild board members Gary Guttormsen and Rand Schenck.

Gary joined our original incarnation, the Oregon Wilderness Coalition, in the 1970s as an advocate for Waldo Lake. He continued his engagement on our Eugene Action Committee, joining the board in 1999 and eventually serving as its president.



Rand joined the Board in 2000, after cutting his teeth as an activist in North Carolina. Rand's love of big trees, winning environmental battles, and securing Wilderness protection for threatened places connected him with Oregon Wild's work and gave him a feeling of satisfaction to be part of Oregon's most successful conservation organization. ©





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# PHOTOS AND FUNGI – FALL EVENTS

\*More details on all events can be found at [www.oregonwild.org/about/hikes\\_events](http://www.oregonwild.org/about/hikes_events)



STEVE SPHALL

## Photo Contest Winners Unveiled

October 7, 2011

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Ecotrust Building 721 NW 9th, Portland

Help celebrate the winners of the Seventh Annual Oregon Wild Outdoor Photo Contest at our unveiling event in Portland's Pearl District. Enjoy light snacks, beer, and wine at this free event. Come prepared to bid on prints of the winning photos and several stunning honorable mention images. You just might walk home with a piece of Oregon's mesmerizing outdoor beauty to hang on your wall.

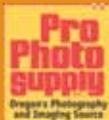


Photo contest sponsored by: Pro Photo Supply, Wolf Haven International, and the World Forestry Center



DOUG VORWALLER

## Fall Hikes!

- September 10 Patterson Mountain (Eugene)
- October 15 McKenzie Headwaters - Fall Colors & Salmon (Eugene)
- October 20 Larch Mountain Mushroom Hike (Portland)
- October 22 Eagle Creek Mushroom Hike (Portland)
- October 23 Eagle Creek Salmon Viewing (Portland)
- October 24 Herman Creek Mushroom Hike (Portland)