



OREGON WILD

Effecting change at the right levels*



- Your voice matters to wildlife and wild lands.
- Your voice is more effective when it's directed in the right place.



* This presentation is focused on Oregon Wild's work and the government officials, agencies, and other entities that are involved. It is not a comprehensive guide to government structure, interactions, or ways to effect change.

Direct your efforts to the right place



What are you trying to influence?	Who is the best target?	What are your avenues for influence?
Rules & policy	Boards, agencies, commissions	Public hearings and meetings, written comments, oral testimony, join local boards or commissions
Laws & regulations	Legislators	Town hall meetings, lobby visits, petitions, phone calls, ballot initiatives, run for office
Public opinion	Media, friends, general public	LTEs, opeds, social media, peer network, public forums, rallies



Public Representatives



Groups that may “represent” you or other members of the public as they seek to influence decision-makers.

Who?	Who do they influence?	How influence them?
Values-based Organizations (like Oregon Wild)	Agencies, legislators, commissions/boards	Talk to staff, support with donations, take actions they ask you to, volunteer
Business & Community leaders	Agencies, legislators, commissions/boards	Talk to them, attend community meetings, be active, media outlets
Lobbyists for Economic Interests	Boards, commissions, legislators, agencies, executives, etc.	Media outlets, educate your elected officials if you don't agree with lobbyist messages



County Government



What entity?	Jurisdiction?	Additional Influence?
Board of Commissioners (Elected)	County laws and policies	State & federal government
Committees/Commissions (Appointed by BoC)	Offer recommendations on policy to BoC, follow direction of BoC	
- Parks Advisory Committee	Parks management plans, e.g.	
- Planning Commission	UGB expansion, land use recommendations	
County Associations	Sets policies and united direction for member counties	State & federal government
- Assoc. of Oregon Counties	Business affecting all counties, where they can present united front at state and federal levels	
- Assoc. of O&C Counties	Business affecting O&C counties, where they can present united front at state and federal levels	



State Government



What entity?	Jurisdiction?	Additional Influence?
Governor's office (the Gov. and staff)	Signing legislation, setting direction for policy and legislature, recommendations to Boards/Commissions	Federal legislators, federal agencies
Legislators (elected)	Proposing and passing state law	
Commissions/Boards (appointed by Gov.)	Set policy or direct action by agencies	
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) Commission	Wolf management plan	
- State Land Board	Elliott State Forest	
Agencies	Implementation of laws, plans, & policies. Recommendations to Boards/Commissions	Serve as experts for other levels
- Dept. of State Lands	Lands & property that benefit the Common School Fund	
- Dept. of Forestry	State and private forest lands management	
- Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Game and non-game wildlife management	



Federal Government



What entity?	Jurisdiction?	Additional Influence?
Legislators (elected)	Making laws that apply to federal public lands	State and county elected officials, local agencies
Congressional Committees	Decide which bills get hearings and how they get lumped together or amended	
The President (POTUS)	Veto legislation, executive orders, use of Antiquities Act, recommendations to agencies	International agreements
Federal Courts	Deciding on matters of contested law, settling lawsuits	Agency direction



Federal Government



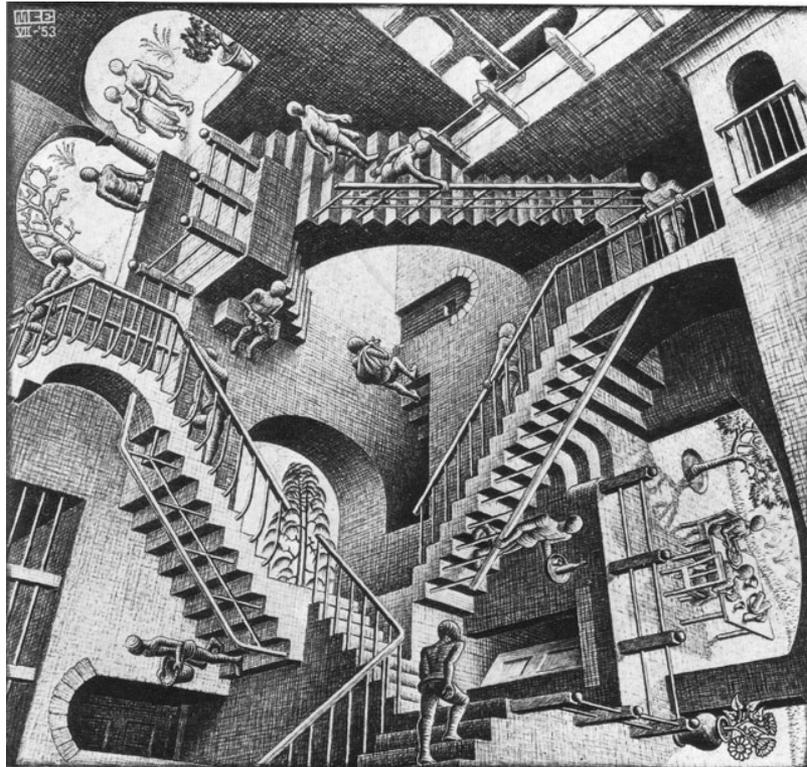
What entity?	Jurisdiction?	Additional Influence?
Administration/Agency heads (appointed by POTUS)	Setting internal direction, creating high-level plans, implementing laws, setting policy.	President, experts for legislators
- US Dept. of Agriculture	Forest Service	
- US Dept. of the Interior	BLM, National Park Service, Fish & Wildlife	
Local agency offices	Implementing policies and plans. Site-specific analysis, planning, and decisions for on-the-ground activities like logging.	
- National Forests		
- BLM Districts		

Not so simple...



The lines of command and influence are not always direct, and these different levels and entities can interact with each other in very complicated ways. A few examples:

- City or county elected officials weighing in on a proposed National Monument or Wilderness area sends a message to Congress about local support or opposition. Industry lobbyists and environmental groups often solicit these endorsements.
- Congressional Rep. DeFazio has weighed in on state law (HB4040) and local agency decisions (controversial timber sales).
- Federal courts can force agencies to follow the law, which can result in the President or Congress getting involved to change the law or direction, and the agency to do a big planning process and policy change (as in the case of the Northwest Forest Plan).



Example #1: Wolf management plan revision



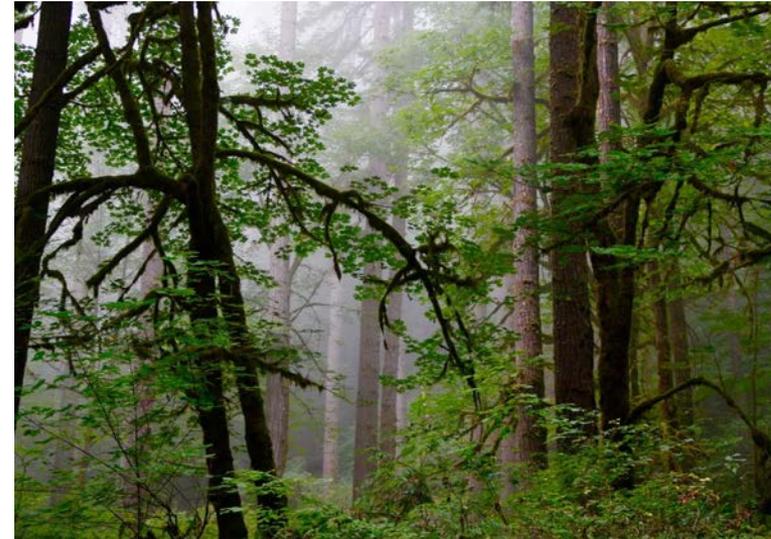
- **Who makes decision?**
 - ODFW Commission
- **Who has influence over decision?**
 - ODFW Commissioners
 - Governor - sets tone and expectations
- **Tactics for influencing decision**
 - Media/general public education
 - Testimony at ODFW Commission hearings
 - Comments to ODFW Commission



Example #2: Elliott State Forest privatization



- **Who makes decision?**
 - State Land Board (Governor, Sec of State, State Treasurer)
- **Who has influence over decision?**
 - Individual members of SLB
 - Department of State Lands
 - Oregon Department of Forestry
- **Tactics for influencing decision**
 - Media attention
 - General public education & outcry
 - Testifying at SLB meetings
 - Calls to members of SLB (especially Governor)



Example #3: Increased logging on BLM lands



- **Who makes decision?**
 - Local Resource Area Manager for site-specific projects (Environmental Assessments and individual timber sales)
 - Oregon State Office of BLM for landscape-level plans like new Resource Management Plan
 - U.S. Department of Interior for general direction
 - U.S. Congress for budgeting
- **Who has influence over decision?**
 - Congress, especially local Reps and Senators
 - Oregon Governor's office – represents State perspective on local economics and environmental impacts
 - Association of O&C Counties
 - Individual County Commissions
 - General public - through public comment process
 - Community leaders and local residents directly impacted by logging
 - Federal Courts
- **Tactics for influencing decision**
 - Participate in project-level public process
 - Tell Congressional reps how you feel/how you are impacted
 - Advance vision for public lands in media (letters, social, etc)
 - Challenge rhetoric about need for logging for economy



Know the rules of engagement

Different methods of weighing in to effect change have different operating guidelines. Some have open public comment periods, some require registration or an invitation, and some require written comments. Be prepared!



What's the event/venue?

- Public hearing on legislation
- Public hearings on rules
- Town hall meetings
- Public forum
- Open house
- Written comment period

Who are you addressing?

- Commission or board
- Congressional representative
- Legislative committee
- State representative
- Agency decision-maker
- Other elected official

Best Practices for weighing in

- Prepare your case, write it down
- Be respectful to who you are addressing
- Dress appropriately
- Identify yourself, including pertinent authority you have
- Thank decision maker for any good work in past, for accepting your comments
- State your position clearly
- Speak from your experience
- Stick to the facts
- Request action and offer solutions
- Be as brief as possible
- Bring/tell a friend



We're here to help you
advocate for wildlife and
wild lands!



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