

Oregon Wild

Winter/Spring 2017 Volume 44, Number 1



Hindsight in 2020

The next four years



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

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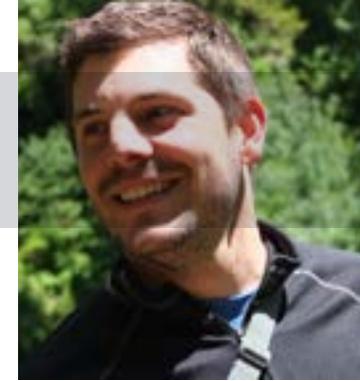
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COVER PHOTO: SCOTT CARPENTER We face a lot of challenges in the coming years, and our wildlands and wildlife will need us more than ever to be a strong and steadfast voice.



From the Director's Desk Weathering storms

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

This fall produced some absolutely shocking results from our democratic institutions.

Just two weeks before the November election, a jury found Ammon Bundy and his fellow militants not guilty of crimes stemming from their armed takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

And on election night...well, you know what happened. American voters sent a climate change denier to the White House and handed both chambers of Congress to a Republican Party that has been hijacked by oil, logging, and mining interests - interests who want to privatize America's public lands and shut out ordinary Americans like you and me.

The environment lost – and lost big – this past fall. As environmentalists, we know that we sometimes have to win over and over again to protect a

special place, and by losing once we stand the risk of losing something forever.

As resilient and determined as I feel this moment, I simply cannot sugarcoat it – we stand a good chance of losing some important environmental laws and policies.

However, we should all pause for a moment and remember that we have been through this before.

Ronald Reagan was elected the year before I was born, so forgive me my lack of firsthand experience. But anyone involved with ONRC/Oregon Wild back then, you know that we stood up to James Watt, protected 800,000 acres of Wilderness in 1984, and emerged from the Reagan years poised to score a huge victory in the ancient forest campaign.

In 2000 – by which time I was a full-fledged, sentient adult – the

anti-environment George W. Bush administration came to power. Not only did we hold the line against efforts to clearcut western Oregon forests and gut the Endangered Species Act, but also one of the first pieces of legislation signed into law by President Obama in 2009 was a sweeping Wilderness bill that included protections for Mount Hood and other gems across the state.

We did more than weather these storms – we ended up coming out ahead.

It just so happens that, amidst the turmoil, Oregon Wild finalized our four year strategic plan. We didn't change much from the draft we had before the election. It's an exciting plan rooted in the principles of conservation biology: that protecting *core* wild areas, *corridors* of habitat, and wildlife like

DANIEL HANSEN Politics have never made our work defending and protecting Oregon's wildlands and wildlife easy, but the current climate will bring even more extreme challenges. We're ready to face them head on.



carnivores are the keys to a thriving wild ecosystem.

One thing we emphasized in our plan in the wake of the election is the paramount importance of building a strong, diverse, and interconnected movement for wildlife and wild places. If we are to protect Oregon places we must amplify the voices of Oregon's diverse communities who want to see our state safeguarded.

The coming years may well represent the most challenging time in modern history for Americans who care about the future of our planet. With your support, I know that Oregon Wild is up to that challenge and I am determined to face it head on with you.

Hindsight in 2020 – the once and future wild

Sean Stevens, Executive Director



JOSHUA MEADOR

In January 2016, Oregon Wild began an important ritual. A small team of our staff and board gathered to start charting out our strategic vision and direction for the coming four years.

We have a mission as big and wide-ranging as our state: to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters for future generations. Without a strategic plan that crystallizes our focus, we'd find ourselves pulled in too many directions to be effective in any one of them.

After countless conversations and input from everyone inside the organization (and many trusted allies on the outside) we finalized our plan in November.

Rooted in the principles of conservation biology, the plan affirms that protecting *core* wild areas, *corridors* of habitat, and wildlife such as *carnivores* are the keys to a thriving wild ecosystem.

Conservation biology is also known as "rewilding." Eminent biologists Michael Soulé and Reed Noss first introduced the concept in the late 1990s. We briefly touched on the goal

of rewilding in the Fall 2014 issue of *Oregon Wild*, and the more we analyzed the many facets of our work, the more we came to realize that rewilding is exactly what Oregon Wild is all about.

If you look at the graphic on page five you see that our three primary program areas fit perfectly into the rewilding framework. Just as we have for over forty years, Oregon Wild:

Protects special places – the Wilderness *cores* that provide the "big wild" that wildlife need to have freedom to roam.

Defends and restores Oregon's forests and waters – the critical *corridors* (some still intact and some degraded by human activity) that interconnect pristine landscapes.

Helps native species thrive – the *carnivores* and other keystone species hanging by a thread or just beginning to recover to their native habitat in our state. (see right)

Navigating troubled waters

Goals are great. They give us focus – a north star to point toward as we move forward. But, in the land of Trump,

how do we actually achieve these goals?

While the incoming president has been less than clear describing his policy positions, we know enough to assume he'll be very dangerous on the environment. And, when we combine a Trump administration with the most anti-environment

Congress we've ever seen, things could get ugly.

Here at Oregon Wild, we are steeled for the difficult times ahead by two convictions: 1) the way we work makes us stronger over time and 2) we've been here before.

How we work

We like to think of Oregon Wild as a "full service" conservation organization. We rely on just about every tool in the toolbox to get the job done depending on what is called for by the task at hand. Sometimes you need a hammer (litigation) and

sometimes you need to turn the screws (grassroots pressure).

Just as the principles of conservation biology inform our program and goals, they also help to frame the way we operate. As we defend against the attacks to come and build for future successes we'll need to:

Activate and deepen the engagement of our *core* supporters. Only with a more dedicated grassroots base, willing to step up when called into action, can we speak with a loud enough collective voice to ensure our elected leaders hear our concerns. Senators Wyden and Merkley will play a key role as defenders and

OREGON WILD STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2020 LONG-TERM GOALS

JUSTIN POE
PROTECTING SPECIAL PLACES

- Permanently protect eligible Oregon forestlands as Wilderness, National Recreation Areas, National Monuments, and other designations, prioritizing at-risk areas with high ecological value.
- Shift the political climate in Oregon on public lands issues by building a powerful and diverse movement to defend and protect our public lands heritage from threats such as privatization.
- Building on our past success, protect an additional 1,000 miles of federal Wild & Scenic Rivers and State Scenic Waterways in Oregon from logging, mining, and dam building.

STEVE DIMOCK
DEFENDING AND RESTORING OREGON'S FORESTS AND WATERS

- Restore ecological function to public forestlands and wildlife refuges in Oregon to a point where natural processes dominate and human intervention is a last resort.
- Maintain and strengthen environmental laws, regulations, and agency plans in order to protect and restore ancient forests, pristine waters, critical wildlife habitat, carbon storage, and climate resilience.
- Protect people and the environment from harmful forest practices on Oregon's state and private lands with strong laws that require wildlife connectivity and ecological function.

SCOTT CARPENTER
HELPING NATIVE SPECIES THRIVE

- Return native, keystone species to the Oregon landscape and ensure meaningful populations are sustained into the future.
- Grow public demand for recovering native species, the ecosystems they rely on, and the changes to management agencies required to support their recovery.
- Restore and defend key wildlife habitat areas and corridors, and reform land management practices to prioritize the protection and recovery of native species.



BEN COFFMAN

Protecting Crater Lake

Tara Brown, Crater Lake Wilderness Coordinator

In 1999, we launched an ambitious, statewide Wilderness campaign only to see George W. Bush elected president a year later. After countless public meetings, press releases, and a decade of hard-nosed campaigning, Congress passed protections for 200,000 acres of Wilderness across the state – including safeguards for many special places around Mount Hood. We need your help today to build our campaigns for ultimate success.

One place most certainly deserving of additional protection is the Crater Lake region. The

natural beauty of Crater Lake extends far beyond Wizard Island and the caldera. The spectacular diversity of wildlands inside and outside of the official boundaries of the park includes the Pumice Desert, the slopes of Mount Thielsen, and the rugged backcountry of Mount Bailey. But despite the popularity of this natural treasure, Crater Lake is not protected Wilderness.

We are working to protect this iconic landscape through our Crater Lake Wilderness proposal. The proposal would designate over 500,000 acres of pristine

lands as Wilderness, safeguard a 90-mile wildlife corridor in the south Cascades, and protect the headwaters of the Rogue, Deschutes, and Umpqua rivers.

Now is the time to grow a deep and broad support base for the Wilderness proposal. We are collecting petition signatures and reaching out to businesses, climate change groups, anglers, hunting groups, and local elected officials. We must keep pressure on the Oregon Congressional delegation to push protections for Crater Lake forward and introduce legislation soon.

wielders of the Senate filibuster, and there is no doubt we will need them to use it on our behalf.

Build corridors of communication and genuine collaboration with allies across progressive movements. We know that we are stronger when we unite with Oregonians of all backgrounds. The movement to defend and protect Oregon's diverse landscapes must be as diverse as Oregon's people.

Be like *carnivores* and show a willingness to match our bark with real bite. Uniting our voices and turning up the volume will be key to getting decision makers to pay attention, but we must always be willing to bite when they ignore our bark. If state and federal agencies break the law, we must take them straight to court. If elected leaders fail to stand up for wildlife and wildlands, we must vote them out.

History repeats itself

Many remember the bitterly close election of 2000 and the stark choice environmentalists faced between Al Gore and George W. Bush. Climate policy was on the line and the Kyoto Protocol was soon after abandoned by U.S. policymakers. Gale Norton was appointed as Secretary of the Interior and immediately went to work undermining the Endangered Species Act and giving away oil and mining leases. The Roadless Rule was under an all-out assault. The

"The greatest impediment to rewilding is an unwillingness to imagine it."

— Michael Soulé and Reed Noss

administration cut a sue-and-settle deal with the timber industry triggering an attempt to dismantle every piece of the Northwest Forest Plan.

Oregon Wild along with our conservation allies in D.C. and across the country beat back almost every single harmful proposal from the Bush administration. We went to court dozens of times. You joined us at rally after rally to draw attention to forests and wildlife at risk. It all worked.

Lost in our memory of the success we had defending Oregon's environment back then is that Republicans controlled both chambers of Congress during four of the eight years of the Bush presidency. Today, united government under anti-environment Republicans seems ominous, but we have been here before and come out the other side.

Not only did we play great defense, we worked hard to ensure we were ready to play offense when the time came. After years of hard work and grassroots mobilizing, and just two months into the new Obama presidency, we added 200,000 acres of protected Wilderness in Oregon.

Of course, the Bush years are just one example. We protected 800,000 acres of Wilderness and launched a tidal wave movement to protect ancient forests all during the Reagan years.

Today, we have a long list of places worthy of permanent protection. With your support and our collective tenacity over the next four years, we expect that the greater Crater Lake area, the Ochoco Mountains, Devil's Staircase, the Wild Rogue, and so

many other gems across Oregon will be primed for protection in 2021.

Looking ahead

Our new strategic plan outlines short term goals – goals that will keep us laser-focused for the next four years. We'll need your talents, creativity, and passion to help us achieve them.

As an organization that has been around for over 40 years, we also have a vision that extends beyond

the next presidential administration; a vision that points toward an Oregon that is wilder than it is today. It may take us a lifetime or more to see our remaining pristine areas protected as Wilderness and our forests restored to a place where human intervention is no longer needed. But make no mistake, we plan on making that future a reality – and no single presidential election will stop us from doing it. ☺

Conservation for all critters

Lena Spadacene, Wildlife Policy Coordinator



GEORGE OSTERTAG

particularly essential when the state agency tasked with conservation and management of Oregon's native wildlife, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), foregoes their mission to conserve *all* native Oregon species.

In 2015, we were cautiously optimistic when Oregon lawmakers created a taskforce aimed at investigating increased funding for wildlife conservation through ODFW. For years the state disproportionately focused funds on propagating just a handful of species – the ones to be shot, trapped, and fished. For the other 600 non-game species, the resources allocated have

been paltry. Less than four percent of the agency's \$345 million budget is currently set aside for conservation.

Despite being charged to address this enormous inequity, it appears the taskforce is falling short. While recommendations for new revenue streams are being made, the taskforce has given no instruction on how new funds should be spent.

Giving a blank check to ODFW is not the answer. We intend to keep the pressure on lawmakers and ODFW to put new money into their stated mission – conserving all wildlife for all Oregonians.



JULIE FURBER

Trump's Oregon or ours?

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

- ! Old-growth forests stripped of protections
- ! Wolves targeted for extermination
- ! The dismantling of the Endangered Species Act
- ! Public lands sold to corporate interests

We've been here before and we've weathered the storm.

Make no mistake, we know this storm may be the fiercest yet. **But we know how to play defense. And we know how to turn that defense into offense.**

Sadly, these are just some of the implications of a Trump Administration for Oregon. But we're not lying down. For over 40 years, Oregon Wild has worked to protect Oregon's public lands and the wildlife that depend on them. We've fought off salvage riders, Richard Pombo-led assaults on the Endangered Species Act, Dick Cheney stealing water from fish and wildlife in the Klamath, and the Bush Administration's WOPR clearcut plan.

Since the election, the famous Abraham Lincoln quote "*Plant your feet and stand firm*" has circulated around the Oregon Wild offices and become somewhat of a rallying cry. As the onslaught begins, Oregon Wild will stand firm and fight tirelessly for our forests, our wolves, and our rivers. We're ready for the monumental fight that lies ahead. Your support helps us fight for the wild Oregon you know and love.

WILL YOU MAKE A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TODAY?

Oregon Wild – defending public land since 1974

Doug Heiken, Conservation & Restoration Coordinator



OCTAVIANO MERECIAS

Our public lands provide countless benefits, from back-country recreation to fish and wildlife habitat, from clean drinking water to carbon storage, and more than anything quality of life – such as the pure joy of a crisp winter day surrounded by nature in lands that you’ve helped protect.

Oregon Wild works on many fronts to defend our public lands: raising public awareness, pressuring land management agencies, lobbying Congress, and seeking

accountability in the courtroom. As in past administrations unfriendly to environmental protections, our work will be critically important during the Trump administration. We expect Trump to appoint anti-environment extremists to lead key agencies, and they will likely make alliances with extractive industries and those in Congress who want to strip away our bedrock environmental laws.

Very early in our four decades-long history, Oregon Wild learned that

gains could be made working directly with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to defend special places and deflect bad logging proposals. Luckily, we have laws that require the agencies to involve the public, which we do happily on behalf of thousands of Oregon Wild members and supporters. These interactions with the agencies often lead to better decisions, or become the basis of successful lawsuits – it’s where we become notified of

destructive projects, get legal standing, make our case for conservation, and build a record for judges to review.

Over the years, Oregon Wild has participated in literally thousands of agency plans and decisions that affect the wild places we love and cherish. In the last year, we’ve reviewed more than 200 projects affecting our public lands, and have developed and submitted detailed comments on almost 150 of those projects (often working with allies listed on page 9).

In an ideal world, the Forest Service and BLM would spend all their resources doing the good work we expect – restoring ecosystems and watersheds, defending our clean water and carbon stores, managing natural disturbance and compatible recreation, and monitoring to improve our understanding of complex ecosystems. Unfortunately, the agencies are not adequately funded to exclusively pursue responsible stewardship and conservation. A significant portion of the agencies’ budgets mandate continued exploitation of our

public lands through logging, grazing, roads, mining, and fire suppression, even if it means degrading what we love most about our public lands, and even if it makes no economic sense from the public’s perspective.

In an attempt to meet competing demands, the agencies have come to describe virtually all their logging projects as “restoration” projects. Sometimes there is a legitimate reason to cut a tree for ecological reasons, but in order to meet the aggressive timber targets that Congress establishes, the agencies too often stretch the definition of restoration to the breaking point – removing too many trees, building roads, logging sensitive areas (some that have never been logged before), ignoring trade-offs, and leaving behind damage to soil, water, and wildlife.

Until we achieve fundamental reform of the agencies’ budget priorities (highly unlikely in a Trump administration), we must continue to fight in the trenches to minimize the damage caused by timber sales and other activities. Here are some of the large and

small federal logging projects that have kept Oregon Wild staff busy over the last year:

Western Oregon Plan Revision BLM’s plan to exit the NW Forest Plan, reduce safeguards, and increase logging on 2.5 million acres of public land in western Oregon was finalized this summer. Oregon Wild provided detailed comments and objections. Now this decision is in court.

John’s Last Stand BLM planned to clearcut 50 acres in an unroaded area very near Eugene. We fought and won.

Marsh The Deschutes National Forest plans to conduct a large-scale logging operation in order to restore one of the largest high-elevation wetlands in the continental U.S. Given that the marsh is roadless, a key watershed, a Wild & Scenic river, and riparian reserve, we sought a more careful approach to restoration. We were partially successful in getting some changes to this project.

Lower Joseph While ostensibly collaborative, this is a huge and

controversial project in which the Willamette National Forest proposes to log roadless areas, riparian areas, and large trees. Oregon Wild has been actively involved throughout the process, and continues to fight for conservation.

Hwy 46 The Detroit Ranger District proposes to aggressively log in native forests in order to enhance early seral forest and grow sugar pine trees where they do not currently exist. We are highlighting the fact that nature, through wildfire, is already creating early seral habitat and creating future opportunities to grow sugar pine.

Outlook This is a large project in the Willamette National Forest SE of Eugene. Oregon Wild supports much of this project, such as closing many miles of unneeded roads and thinning young stands that were previously clearcut and planted too densely. We are working to minimize impacts on roadless areas, riparian reserves, and spotted owl habitat.

Keep in mind, Oregon Wild does not work in a vacuum. We need

ongoing support from our members and we work with a variety of allied groups to get the job done, including Cascadia Wildlands, Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands, Hells Canyon Preservation Council, Bark, Sierra Club, Western Environmental Law Center, EarthJustice, Crag Law Center, Benton Forest Coalition, Umpqua Watersheds, NW Ecosystem Survey Team, and diverse collaborative members.

For more than 10 years, Oregon Wild has had a lot of success channeling the agencies’ efforts toward the type of logging and other projects that might be beneficial – such as thinning dense young stands that grew up after clearcutting on the westside, or removing small trees that are encroaching on old growth on the eastside. The agencies are now pushing the boundaries of what is ecologically justified – moving back into clearcutting on the westside, and removing large trees on the eastside. We plan to continue the fight – to stop bad projects, and make good projects better. ©



ADOPT-A-DOUG

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

MARIELLE COWDIN

Between work, school, family, hobbies, and everything else that consumes your time each week, it’s impossible to stay up-to speed on the litany of projects that impact our public lands.

This year alone, Oregon Wild reviewed over 200 timber sales and projects proposed in Oregon’s forests. These projects can have profound impacts on our state’s forests, the wildlife habitat they provide, the waters that flow through them, and the ability to recreate in these areas.

Wouldn’t it be great if someone trustworthy, someone with a wealth of experience, could review all these projects on your behalf

– to ensure that our forests, waters, and wildlands are managed in a way that promotes wildlife habitat, forest health, and clean water?

Good news! You already do – his name is Doug Heiken. Based in our Eugene office, Doug is Oregon Wild’s longest-tenured staffer and spends much of his time watchdogging timber sales and projects that can have significant impacts on *your* forests.

So while some of our other campaigns, like wolf recovery and Wilderness, may get all the glitz and glam, our watchdog efforts continue to be at the core of what we do.

PLEASE CONSIDER A SPECIAL YEAR-END DONATION TO “ADOPT-A-DOUG” AND SUPPORT OREGON WILD’S WORK TO DEFEND OUR FORESTS AND WATERSHEDS.

Thanks for answering the call!

Shasta Zielke, Membership and Event Manager



KELLI PENNINGTON

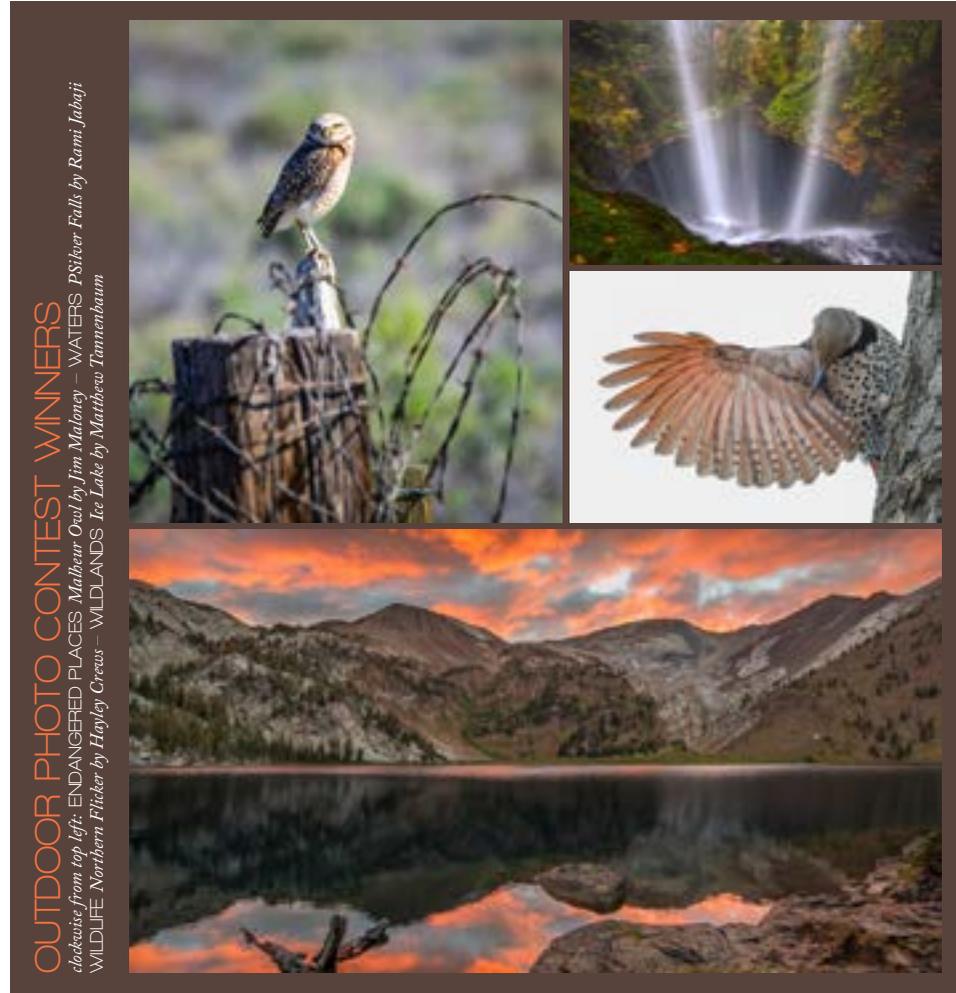
Mix Bar sponsor **Trailhead Credit Union**, and Fire Ring sponsor **Mellie Pullman**. Thank you!

We won't waste any time putting those event dollars to work to help protect Oregon icons like Crater Lake, the Ochocos, and Mount Hood, as well as native wildlife like gray wolves, otters, salmon, and others across the state. This work is more important than ever, and we're so grateful to have had your support at *Call of the Wild* and a chance to celebrate our successes with you before gearing up to continue the fight.

Last but not least, thanks to the invaluable Oregon Wild volunteers who braved the weather to work behind the scenes and make *Call of the Wild* a success. Your energy, enthusiasm, and passion for Oregon are truly inspirational.

From the music to the photo booth to the fabulous auction packages, 2016's *Call of the Wild* event had something for everyone and we hope you enjoyed your evening. Whether or not you were able to make it out this year, don't forget to keep an eye out for *Call of the Wild* in 2017 - we'd love to see you around the campfire!

This year's *Call of the Wild* event was a huge success! We raised **over \$55,000** to protect Oregon's public lands, wildlife, and waters, and had an awesome time doing it. We'd like to offer a gigantic thank you to all who came out to celebrate and commit anew to standing with us, and with Oregon's natural treasures, over the next year. This event wouldn't have been possible if not for our business and tent sponsors, not to mention those who donated tens of thousands of dollars in the form of tasty treats, libations, and seriously cool auction items. Because of these generous contributions, we were able to leverage even more event revenue to fulfill our mission. An extra special thank you goes to our tent sponsors and business sponsors, including Camp Host **Mountain Rose Herbs**, Trail



OUTDOOR PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS
clockwise from top left: ENDANGERED PLACES Malheur Owl by Jim Maloney - WATERS Silver Falls by Rami Jabagi
WILDLIFE Northern Flicker by Hayley Creus - WILDLANDS Ice Lake by Matthew Tannenbaum

Winter walkabouts in Wonderland

Marielle Cowdin,
Outreach & Marketing Coordinator

"I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says, "Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again."
— Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking-Glass*

Everything seems topsy-turvy this year. One thing that remains constant, however, is the changing of seasons. The temperature drops, leaves turn and fall, the rain crystalizes and blankets the world in snow, bringing with it a quiet stillness. It is nature's reset button. It can be yours too.

Join us on an Oregon Wild-guided snowshoe hike or cross-country ski adventure and discover the peace and beauty of winter wildlands. All our excursions are led by those who know our public lands best. No matter your skill level, we'll get you on the trail for an experience you won't forget, from sugar-dusted old-growth forests to icy rivers and mountain vistas.

Find your wild. To sign up or learn more, check out: oregonwild.org/explore-oregon



TERENCE LEE

Saturday, January 7
Odell Overlook Snowshoe Hike (EUG) *Moderate*
Explore the forested hills near the Gold Lake Sno-Park and take in spectacular views of Odell Lake on this fun snowshoe hike.

Friday, January 20
Walton Lake Snowshoe (BEND) *Easy-Moderate*
Join Sarah Cuddy for a day of snowshoeing in the beautiful Ochoco Mountains. An easy-moderate snowshoe through some exceptionally orange Ponderosa pines under a snowy backdrop.

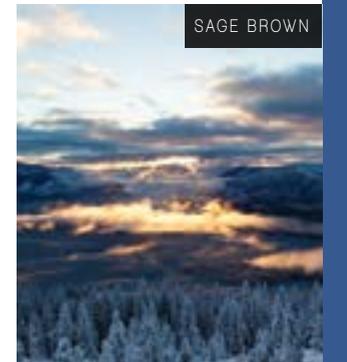
Saturday, January 21
Edison Butte Snowshoe Trek (BEND) *Moderate*
Join Oregon Wild for a snowshoe trek through the snow-covered lava fields and old-growth ponderosa pine trees near the Edison Butte Sno-Park on the Deschutes National Forest.

Sunday, January 29
Marilyn Lakes Snowshoe (EUG) *Moderate*
Slide past frozen lakes and through snowy forests in the Maiden Peak Roadless Area for a view of Diamond Peak.

Friday, February 17
Walton Lake Cross-Country Ski (BEND) *Easy-Moderate*
An easy-moderate ski through some exceptionally orange Ponderosa pines under a snowy backdrop.

Saturday, February 18
Gwynn Creek/Cook's Ridge Loop (EUG) *Moderate*
With ocean views and stands of old growth Spruce and Fir, this loop along the edge of the Cummins Creek Wilderness is moderate, but has some short steep stretches as well as long moderate climbs.

Date TBD
Twin Lakes Snowshoe (PDX) *Moderate*
Enjoy the views and beat the crowds on this leisurely snowshoe hike, perfect for beginners and experts.



SAGE BROWN

Oregon's next Bundy moment

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director

At this point, you've likely heard far more than you ever wanted about the Bundys, their seizure of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, and plan for forcing Americans to sell-off our public lands heritage (or give it to county politicians so they can sell it off). But it's doubtful you've heard enough about Oregon's home-grown Bundy moment.



AMMON (L) AND RYAN (R) BUNDY

Rather than reform management, they moved to privatize public lands.

Despite assigning the Elliott and its old growth the ridiculously low price tag of \$220 million, the Land Board's offer has drawn just one bidder—Lone Rock logging. That price places no value on wild salmon runs, clean water, recreation, or the vast carbon bank of the forest.

The Oregon State Land Board (Governor Kate Brown, along with outgoing State Treasurer Ted Wheeler and Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins) will soon decide whether or not to privatize 90,000 acres of public land in the Oregon Coast Range. As we go to press, just a few weeks remain before these politicians decide whether to preserve 90,000 acres of public land, or sell it off in a sweetheart deal to Lone Rock logging company.

At issue is the Elliott State Forest, east of Coos Bay. It is the only state forest in Oregon still containing significant old growth (over 40,000

acres of the Elliott is more than a century old). It is also home to some of the strongest wild salmon runs left in the state, critical habitat for a variety of wildlife, and is one of the largest "sinks" of climate-change-causing CO₂ in the state.

But the Elliott is also "Common School Fund" land, a relic land designation left over from 1859. The idea was that logging, cattle, and mining would help fund education. More accurately, it became a giant subsidy for logging. In 2013 the Oregon State Land Board, faced with the reality that old-growth clearcutting on the Elliott was violating state and federal laws, decided to abandon the forest.

Oregon Wild is urging Governor Brown and her colleagues to reject the Lone Rock logging bid, which fails to meet even the minimum standards for public access and environmental protection required by the Land Board. Other options exist, including the very successful "Trustlands Transfer" model used in Washington to protect more than 100,000 acres of public land that was unsuitable for logging. Whatever Brown and the others decide, one thing is certain – Oregonians should never forget, or forgive, a politician who votes to destroy our public lands heritage. ©



TRICIA KAADY

High level of poaching endangers Oregon wildlife

Arran Robertson, Communications Coordinator



BRETT COLE Mule deer near La Pine, OR

Beginning in 2005, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife fitted 500 mule deer with radio collars in central and southern Oregon as part of an effort to understand migration patterns. In that study, they discovered a shocking statistic: nearly as many mule deer were poached as were legally hunted. In fact, because the study relied on individuals turning in

the radio collars, the poaching numbers were likely far higher than the study was able to capture. Biologists reported finding some collars just lying out in the sagebrush, cast aside by poachers.

The numbers statewide are horrifying. About 45,000 mule deer are hunted legally every year – roughly 20% of the population. That means one in five mule deer is killed

by poachers, and 40% of the population is killed overall. There have been no comparable studies released for antelope, elk, or black tail deer, though it is likely that poaching is rampant for those species as well. Stories about beheaded elk found in ditches or in the forest are commonplace. Earlier this year, two men were arrested for brazenly killing two of Oregon's 5,000 big horned sheep within sight of Interstate 84.

Oregon Wild has focused its advocacy efforts on the conservation of threatened and endangered species. Spotted owls and marbled murrelet populations are in a far more precarious position than hunted animals, whose monitoring and conservation receive the overwhelming majority of ODFW's time and resources. However, the revision of Oregon's Wolf Conservation and Management Plan puts the stunningly high level of game poaching in a new context.

One of the policies proposed for the Oregon Wolf Plan is the discretion of the agency to kill wolves if the population of game animals like deer and elk is found to be in decline.

Obviously, poachers have a much higher impact on deer and elk than Oregon's small wolf population, but finding, catching, and prosecuting these criminals is far more difficult than killing wolves. The policy is a disturbing continuation of wildlife management policies that scapegoat predators while ignoring more complex and challenging issues like poaching or habitat loss. It is an issue that Oregon Wild will be working hard to highlight in the revisions of the Wolf Plan.

Deer and elk are not the only victims of poachers. In 2015, one in five radio collared wolves were also illegally killed, the same ratio of poaching discovered in the mule deer study. Oregon must do more to bring these criminals to justice. ©

Take Action!

Stay tuned to oregonwild.org for updates on the Wolf Plan process and opportunities to take action.



ODFW OR-28 was killed by a poacher in southern Oregon in 2018

New National Monuments in Oregon?

Erik Fernandez, Wilderness Campaign Manager



MARK DARNELL Owyhee Canyonlands southeast Oregon.

Hiking into Oregon from the south on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT), the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument greets you with its amazing scenery. Being a relatively small Monument, you'll soon hike out of it and find yourself on unprotected Bureau of Land Management lands. Fortunately, efforts are under way to expand the protected boundary of the area. As

of press time for this article, we are cautiously optimistic that President Obama will bolster his conservation legacy by expanding the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

Oregon has fewer and smaller protected Monument areas than most western states. With Congress struggling to pass even non-controversial bipartisan bills, many argue

the President has political cover to protect more of our public lands heritage by designating National Monuments. Presumed threats to conservation from the Trump administration serve as additional motivation. Thus far, President Obama has designated a number of Monuments ranging from Hawaiian marine waters to the Katahdin Woods and Waters Monument (Maine Woods).

In 2000, then President Bill Clinton designated the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, the first of its kind – a monument to biodiversity. Sixteen years later, we better understand the landscape and the diversity of its inhabitants. Scientists studying the area concluded that in order to adequately protect this amazing landscape, the Monument should be expanded to include additional elevations and habitats.

One cannot discuss the efforts to protect this unique landscape without giving credit to one of Oregon Wild's favorite allies: Dave Willis. As head of the Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, Dave has worked tirelessly to protect Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument for decades.

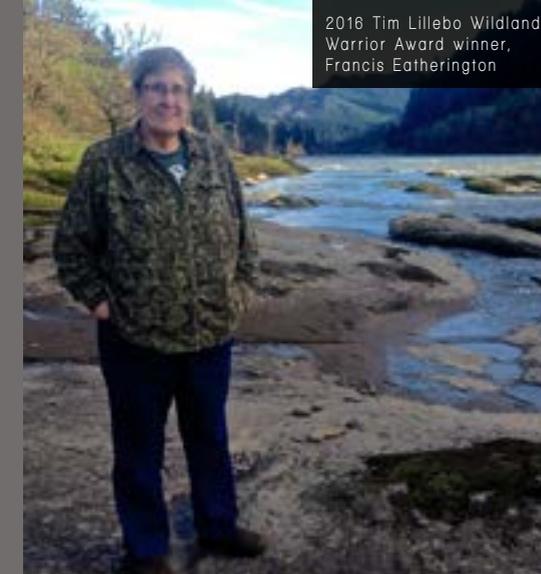
The Owyhee Canyonlands in southeast Oregon is another region with many advocates also being considered for Monument status. Home to rare sage grouse and amazing canyons along the Owyhee River, this is one of Oregon's largest wild landscapes.

When the Obama administration held a public meeting in Ashland to hear feedback on the proposed Cascade-Siskiyou Monument expansion, support was overwhelming. The end of a presidency, however, is a telling time; we'll see what type of legacy a president wants to leave behind. Priorities that are often obscured earlier in a presidential term, when political calculus pits many issues against each other, often come to light. ©

MATT WITT Supporters of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument expansion wore blue shirts to the Obama Ashland hearing.



Honoring Francis Eatherington, Wildlands Warrior Award winner



2016 Tim Lillebo Wildlands Warrior Award winner, Francis Eatherington

When Francis Eatherington told friends and colleagues she was retiring back in 2015, they had doubts she would truly be able to let go of the work that defined her life for the last two decades. Months later, their incredulity was confirmed as Francis – “retired” – travelled to Washington D.C. to engage in a hunger strike over the Pacific Connector LNG pipeline. Just months after that, she was back in Oregon challenging Douglas County Commissioners over old-growth logging in county parks and venturing (solo) into the field to monitor aerial pesticide spraying by Seneca Jones logging contractors.

If this is what retirement looks like, you can only imagine what a force Francis was when she was working full time!

This dogged effectiveness and dedication earned Francis Eatherington recognition as the Second Annual *Tim Lillebo Wildlands Warrior Award* recipient.

The award's namesake, Tim Lillebo, devoted his life to protecting and restoring the old-growth forests, rugged canyons, whitewater, and wildlife as a member of the Oregon Wild staff for nearly 40 years. The award was created to celebrate his life and achievements and inspire others to follow in his path – and Francis is a deserving honoree as one of the foremost champions of forests, rivers, and wildlife in southwest Oregon for more than twenty years.

Working first for Umpqua Watersheds, and later Cascadia Wildlands, her name became synonymous with watch-dogging BLM and Forest Service timber sales, defending old-growth forests, and protecting roadless areas. Legendary for her fearlessness, tenacity, and vast knowledge of western Oregon forests, science, and forest policy, she has also been a mentor and role model for women coming into the conservation movement in Oregon, which has often been male-dominated.

Simply put, without Francis there would be hundreds of thousands of acres of stumps in southwest Oregon where old-growth forest used to be. Congratulations and thank you!

OREGON WILD MIGRATIONS



We also bid farewell these past months to two Oregon Wild staff as they move on to future endeavors.



Pam Hardy spent the past two years advocating for roadless areas and old-growth forests in eastern Oregon's national forest collaboratives.



Lena Spadacene worked the halls of Salem and the ODFW Commission in her efforts to protect wolves and see our state's fish and wildlife agency fulfill the conservation facet of its mission. We thank them both for their dedication to all things wild and wish them all the best.



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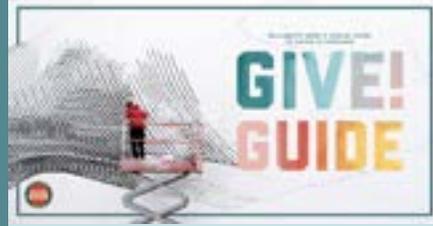
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KEEP CRATER LAKE WILD!

Crater Lake and its surrounding wildlands have inspired people for generations, and we're working to keep it that way, which is why we just launched a new website: craterlakewild.org! The new website will give in-depth information about the Crater Lake Wilderness proposal, current and anticipated threats, and how you can help! The site also features an interactive map to help you find your next adventure in the Crater Lake region.

And don't forget, while you're checking out craterlakewild.org, sign the petition to Keep Crater Lake Wild!



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THE WILD!

If you're looking for the perfect gift for someone who wants to explore the incredible wildlands of Oregon, have the chance to hear a wolf howl while sitting around a campfire, or embrace an old-growth tree, consider giving the gift of the wild with an Oregon Wild gift membership.

For more information go to oregonwild.org/donate

If you know friends or family who aren't yet Oregon Wild members, encourage them to join through the Willamette Week's Give!Guide. It's a great way to help us keep Oregon wild while getting great incentives from local Oregon businesses.

To donate through the Give!Guide, visit giveguide.org

