

OREGON WILD

Winter Spring 2021 Volume 48, Number 1

A person with long dark hair, wearing a blue hoodie and light blue jeans, is sitting on a rocky cliff edge, looking out over a vast ocean at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over the water and sky. The coastline is rugged with many large, dark rock formations. In the foreground, there are some green plants and grasses. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

OREGON'S FORESTS FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

Also: Priorities for the new administration



OREGON WILD

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

Main Office

5825 N Greeley Avenue Portland, OR 97217

Phone: 503.283.6343

www.oregonwild.org

The e-mail address for each Oregon Wild staff member: initials@oregonwild.org (for example: ef@oregonwild.org)

Forest Climate Policy Coordinator	Lauren Anderson x210
Membership & Event Manager	Gaby Diaz x 205
Development Director	Jonathan Jelen x 224
Wildlife Policy Coordinator	Danielle Moser x 226
Conservation Director	Steve Pedery x 212
Communications Manager	Arran Robertson x 223
Executive Director	Sean Stevens x 211
Finance Manager	Ellen Yarnell x 219

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Stacey Rice, Secretary	Jared Kennedy
Vik Anantha	Darcie Meihoff
Naila Bhatri	Seth Prickett

 www.facebook.com/OregonWild

 [@oregonwild](https://twitter.com/oregonwild)  [@oregonwild](https://www.instagram.com/oregonwild)

Western Field Office

P.O. Box 11648 Eugene, OR 97440

Phone 541.344.0675 Fax: 541.343.0996

Conservation & Restoration Coord.	Doug Heiken
Western Oregon Field Coord.	Chandra LeGue

Northeastern Field Office

P.O. Box 48, Enterprise, OR 97828

Phone: 541.886.0212

NE Oregon Field Coordinator	Rob Klavins
-----------------------------	-------------

Central Oregon Field Office

2445 NE Division St, Bend, OR 97701

Phone: 541.382.2616 Fax: 541.385.3370

Ochoco Mountains Coordinator	Jamie Dawson
Wilderness Program Manager	Erik Fernandez



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NICK HEILBRUNN As the sun sets on 2020, we're looking ahead to new opportunities.



From the Director's Desk

Exhale...and then back to work

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

our living room, and we tuned in for some comic relief on Saturday Night Live.

With a flourish less poetic than Wendell Berry (but just as evocative), SNL cast member Michael Che delivered the most apt analogy for this moment that I've yet heard. He compared our current national mood to the scene in *Shawshank Redemption* when the inmates all share cold beers on the roof of the prison – stealing a moment of normalcy and a temporary escape from the realities of incarceration.

I think the point is that – with coronavirus raging and our systemic economic, racial, and environmental inequalities no less present than before – now is a time to both appreciate the moment and prepare for the work ahead.

Nature can surely act as escape and inspiration, but our fleeting experiences there should also spur us to action. Oregon Wild is ready. We're ramping up our

efforts to protect forests to save the climate (see feature article). We're poised to reverse Trump policies across the board and ensure conservation efforts slingshot ahead of where

we stood in 2016. And we're eager to pursue the goals embodied in our new strategic plan (see page 14), including fighting for a healthier representative democracy.

So, in the days to come, find your peace and resolve in nature and then join us in the work ahead.

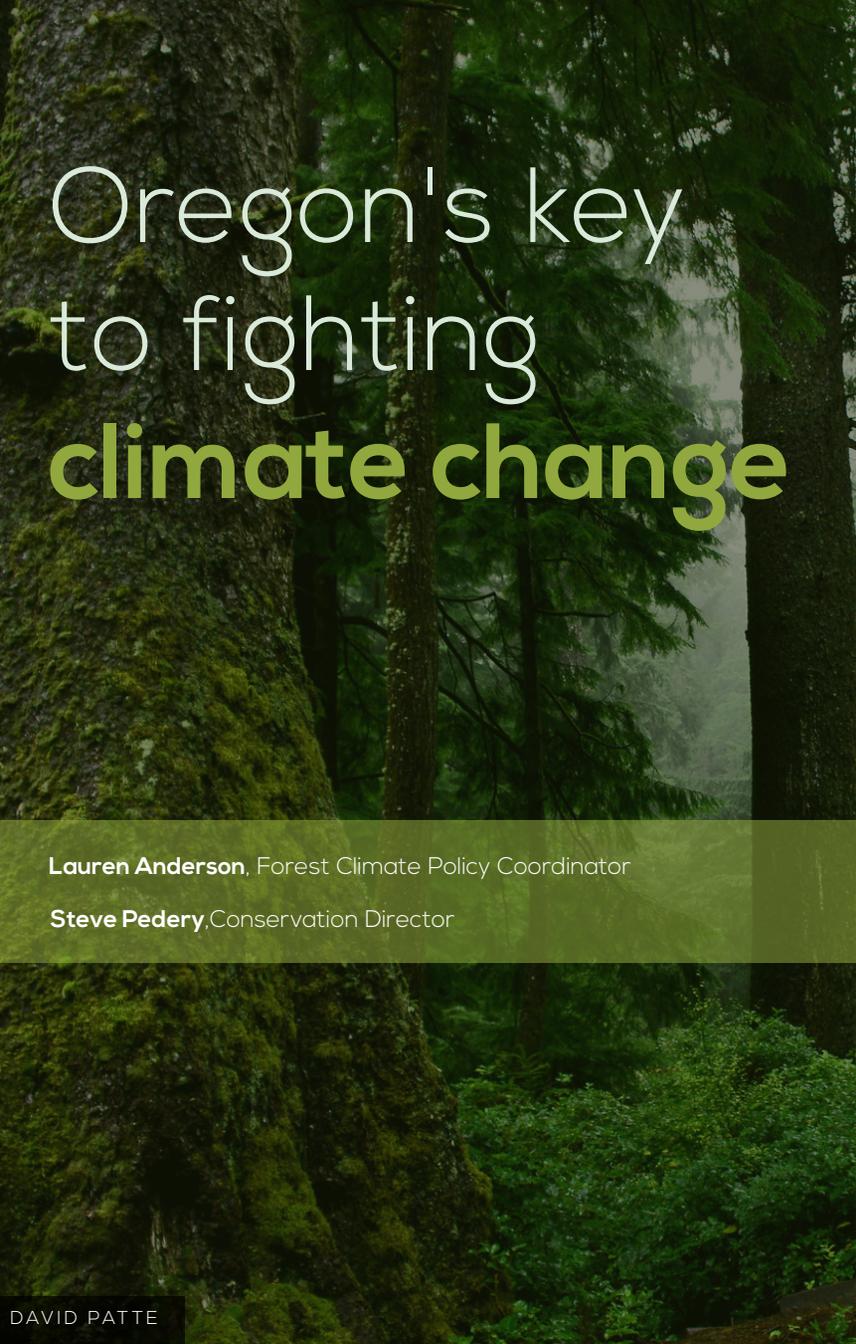
The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

- Wendell Berry



MEHRDAD SHOJAEI



Oregon's key to fighting climate change

Lauren Anderson, Forest Climate Policy Coordinator

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director

When most Americans think of forests and climate change, their minds go to tropical rainforests in the Amazon, Africa, or Southeast Asia. Those forests sustain indigenous communities, fish and wildlife, and store vast amounts of carbon (carbon that is ultimately released as carbon dioxide when they are logged). But closer to home, the lush forests of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest also play a vital role in capturing and storing the atmospheric carbon that is fueling global climate change. Protecting and restoring old-growth giants on public lands, and shifting to more sustainable logging practices on private lands, are among the most important steps Oregon can take to help protect the climate.

For decades the climate impacts of clearcutting and old-growth logging have been ignored by federal agencies and Oregon's state government. Oregon Wild is launching a new campaign that aims to change that.

Oregon's oldest climate solution is its best climate solution

Not all forests are created equal when it comes to their ability to store carbon. Old-growth and mature forests, with their mixture of ancient giants, snags, and young trees, as well as vast root networks, rich soils, and diversity of species, store far more carbon than young forests. Older forests stack up particularly well against young "plantation" forests, the unnaturally dense single-species stands of spindly Douglas fir favored by the logging industry in Western Oregon. In their 2018 report on carbon and forests, the Oregon Global Warming Commission concluded that our forests actually rival tropical rain forests for carbon density and quantity of carbon stored.

Though they may not match the carbon stored per acre of old-growth giants, younger forests are also valuable - particularly the wildlife-rich "early seral" forest that regenerates naturally after fires and windstorms. And even burned forests still store vast

amounts of carbon, with fires typically burning in a mosaic pattern that leaves a mix of live and dead trees. Dead trees can store carbon in their trunks and roots for many decades, returning nutrients to the soil and providing important habitat for wildlife.

Some people, particularly in the logging industry, have argued that cutting down old-growth and mature forests, turning them to wood products, and replacing them with young trees is an effective climate and carbon strategy. This is the wrong approach. Carbon is stored more securely in growing forests, not in logged forests where only a small fraction ends up in wood products. Researchers from Oregon State University concluded that protecting western forests with high and medium carbon-storing abilities would be the equivalent of halting eight years of burning fossil fuels across the same region, and a 2018 study found that the largest 1 percent of trees in mature and older forests comprise 50 percent of the biomass, storing half the forest's carbon.

In Oregon, scientists estimate that only ten to twenty percent of the state's ancient trees remain. These trees are not all permanently protected, despite their incredible climate and ecological value. Ensuring that remaining old-growth forests are safeguarded from logging, and that we restore more old-growth across federal public lands, is a critical first step in maximizing our forests' ability to act as a natural climate solution. As a starting point, federal policy is needed to ensure America's mature western forests are protected as a cornerstone of America's climate strategy.

Logging is Oregon's largest source of carbon emissions

Another key policy opportunity for reducing carbon emissions is to reform the rules, taxes, and incentives that govern Oregon's logging industry on state and private lands. The industry is Oregon's largest source of carbon emissions, and better practices can help reduce those emissions significantly while boosting carbon storage (and restoring salmon, wildlife, and water quality). Data has shown that the carbon stocks on privately owned

forests in western Oregon's coast range are only a third of their ecological potential. While the logging industry is not going away, smarter policy can help meet demand for wood products while promoting better outcomes for the climate and wildlife through longer logging rotations (the intervals of time forests are allowed to grow between logging), less clearcutting, and financial incentives that provide landowners with economic alternatives to logging.

Today, logging is not the economic engine it once was, though policy makers often seem stuck in the past. In contrast, Oregonians benefit from a diversified economy that is less reliant on resource extraction, and increasingly connected to technology, health care, tourism, and outdoor recreation. The forests, rivers, deserts, and mountains of our state fuel these industries, both directly and through the quality of life that make Oregon such a special place to live.

There are numerous other policy mechanisms that could support better practices, including strategies that can slow and stop

conversion of forests to non-forest uses (such as crop land), and tax reform that could help revitalize rural communities. Further, reforming Oregon's logging rules and tax structures could motivate more climate friendly forest practices and reward private landowners for preserving older forests, and better government incentives could help open up new markets for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood products, including products made from small diameter trees. Such practices could potentially have overlap with other state objectives, such as reducing wildfire risk and protecting Oregon's clean drinking water, while allowing forest landowners to reap economic benefits.

Climate-smart forest management must support environmental justice

Policies that support climate-smart forestry must also account for environmental justice and a just transition for impacted communities — both those that suffer from the consequences of poor logging practices (such as herbicide spraying, mud and silt running off clearcuts, and impacts



to drinking water), and those that have suffered from a loss of county revenue and jobs as logging taxes have been reduced and mills have mechanized. And we must also recognize that the forests of the Pacific Northwest continue to sustain indigenous communities and traditions, and that these communities need to have a seat at the decision making table.

For western states like Oregon, climate change is expected to

bring more frequent and severe wildfire. A century of misguided logging and fire suppression practices, together with poor emergency planning and support for communities in areas where frequent forest fires are the norm, is making a bad situation worse. This is especially true in low-income communities, where a lack of resources to thin vegetation in the immediate area and make homes more fire safe is a major obstacle. Elected officials and the logging industry often



FRANCIS EATHERINGTON Old growth douglas fir marked for logging in the Umpqua National Forest

point to these problems as a justification for more status-quo logging, which can result in dense “plantation” forests that burn more severely and uniformly, as well as divert money and attention away from more effective methods of home and community protection.

Short-rotation clearcutting typically practiced in Western Oregon is not climate-smart forestry. This kind of forestry typically involves clearcutting in 40-year cycles. Forest cover is stripped from the landscape across hundreds of acres, leaving

behind stumps and logging slash that do little to stabilize steep slopes. When the Pacific Northwest rains come (with more frequent extreme rain events as a result of climate change), mudslide risks are increased. Sediment can flow off these lands and into the rivers and streams that provide habitat for salmon and wildlife, and communities with drinking water. Worse, in the years after logging, these clearcuts are typically sprayed multiple times with herbicides and pesticides that can end up in waterways, polluting drinking water as well as blocking native

plants from recovering. Replanting of a single species, Douglas-fir, is common and these monoculture plantations mean less ability for forests to adapt to drought and climate change. Making matters worse, these dense stands of young trees transpire large amounts of water, which leads to less water in streams when Oregon needs it most. While these dense, heavily manipulated plantations may allow for 40-year clearcutting rotations, they put community safety, water supplies, wildlife, and salmon at risk.

Oregon will lead the way

Over the last decade, a growing mountain of science has documented that the forests of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest are among the most effective natural systems for capturing and storing carbon found anywhere on Earth. At the same time, research has also shown that changes in forest policy - specifically protecting and restoring more old-growth forests on public lands and shifting logging practices on private lands towards longer

intervals between logging and less clearcutting — can capture and store huge amounts of carbon.

As the incoming Biden administration begins to design and implement federal policies to address climate change, forests, and particularly the old-growth and mature forests on public lands in Pacific Northwest, are among the first places he should look. Permanently protecting our remaining old-growth, and shifting management practices to encourage the growth and protection of more mature forests to replace what has been lost to

past logging, is one of the cheapest and most effective steps for America to begin drawing down its carbon emissions. Oregon Wild is already working to build a diverse coalition of national, state, and local conservation groups, indigenous communities, environmental justice advocates, and science experts to press the incoming administration and the Forest Service to implement these policies.

Oregon Wild is also urging state action by Governor Kate Brown, the Board of Forestry, and the legislature to implement climate



MICHAEL MOORE

smart forestry reforms. The antiquated Oregon Forest Practices Act should be updated to require longer intervals between logging, discourage clearcutting, and support larger conservation buffers for rivers and imperiled wildlife habitat. In addition, Oregon's current tax policy heavily favors large corporations and aggressive clearcutting over smaller landowners and sustainable forestry. We believe that system is backwards, and must be reformed. Finally, in the wake of the 2020 wildfire season and the reality that climate change increases the risk of similar fires in the future, we believe it is vital that the state shift its fire policies from a focus on backcountry logging and towards effective measures in and around homes and communities.

Oregon's forests encompass nearly half the total land area in the state, representing a tremendous opportunity. It is time for Oregon, and America, to look closer to home when it comes to forests and global climate change. ☉



Fire and forest carbon

Doug Heiken, Conservation and Restoration Coordinator

When a wildfire burns a forest it emits CO₂. The chemical formula for combustion of cellulose proves it. However, the carbon emissions from fire are less worrisome than you might think.

Wildfire has some effects that parallel the effects of logging but there are many differences. Logging and wildfire both kill trees, which stops photosynthesis and initiates decay. However, logging removes the tree trunks which are the largest storehouses of carbon in the forest, accelerating the transfer of carbon from the forest to the atmosphere. Wildfire, on the other hand, burns the small needles and branches, but leaves the big tree trunks behind where they continue to store carbon for many decades as the surrounding forest grows and recovers. As Oregon State University's Dr. Olga Krankina likes to say, "dead trees do not go to heaven."

It is also important to understand that fire is part of the natural cycle

of carbon in the forest. When wildfire burns one patch of forest (and emits some carbon), many other patches of forest are left to grow and thrive (and remove carbon from the atmosphere). In a natural forest ecosystem, the carbon captured in the patches of growing forest more than makes up for the carbon emitted in the burned patches. This is precisely why the moist old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest are one of the most significant global storehouses of carbon. There is simply more forest growth than forest death. And this remained true until the timber industry showed up, began liquidating our old-growth, and our forests switched from being a net carbon sink to a net carbon source.

In fact, in the century preceding 1990, old-growth forest clearcutting in the Northwest resulted in carbon emissions from land-use that were 100 times greater than the global average! The lesson is that carbon uptake

from forest growth can keep up with carbon emissions from wildfire, but forest growth cannot keep up with the combined carbon removal by wildfire plus high rates of logging. Keep in mind that wildfire is a natural process, and largely unavoidable, while logging public lands is a policy choice.

Thankfully, the spotted owl injunctions of the 1990s and the eventual adoption of the Northwest Forest Plan slowed logging to a point that forest growth and carbon uptake now does keep up with forest death and carbon emissions from fire and logging. Consequently, our forests switched again, from carbon source to carbon sink. This is great news, but it raises a couple of important issues.

First, we must constantly battle to limit logging so it does not sacrifice the gains from forest growth. There is tremendous political pressure and institutional inertia, from the timber industry, the

Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, county government, and some in Congress, constantly pushing for more logging.

Second, while our public forests currently do provide net carbon benefits, those benefits are less than they could be because of unnecessary and destructive logging. We can do better. And since Oregon's forests have such potential for greater carbon storage, we have a moral duty to keep advocating to "let our forests grow."

And finally, don't let anyone tell you we should be logging to reduce fire and carbon emissions from fire, because the carbon emissions from logging are far worse. No one can predict where or when fire will occur, so there is little chance that fuel reduction actually interacts with wildfire, so most of that logging (and carbon emissions from logging) is for naught. ☉



Build back wilder

As we head into a new political landscape in 2021, the Biden campaign slogan, "Build Back Better" is ringing in our ears. Oregon Wild strongly believes that it is not nearly enough to simply undo the damage from the Trump years. The work

ahead for the new President and Congress must be to restore the voice of science and reverse the cavalcade of anti-environment executive orders while also charting a visionary course for the future.

EXECUTIVE ACTION



Wildlands

1.

Undo Trump's mess

- Reverse the push to log more on National Forests by halting expansion of "logging without laws" categorical exclusions and keeping the eastside screens in place
- **Restore protections** for Bears Ears and other National Monuments stripped of protections
- Halt Trump's order to remove the Tongass National Forest from the protections of the Roadless Rule.

2.

Build back wilder

- Follow through on a campaign promise by signing an executive order to protect **30%** of America **by 2030**
- Set new priorities for the Forest Service based on safeguarding clean water, restoring previously mismanaged lands, and ensuring equitable recreation access for people of color and low income communities



Wildlife

- Reinstitute core provisions of the **Endangered Species Act** that preserve critical habitat for at risk species
- Halt the effort to strip gray wolves of protections under the Endangered Species Act
- Block the move to strip **200,000 acres** of critical habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl
- Stop oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

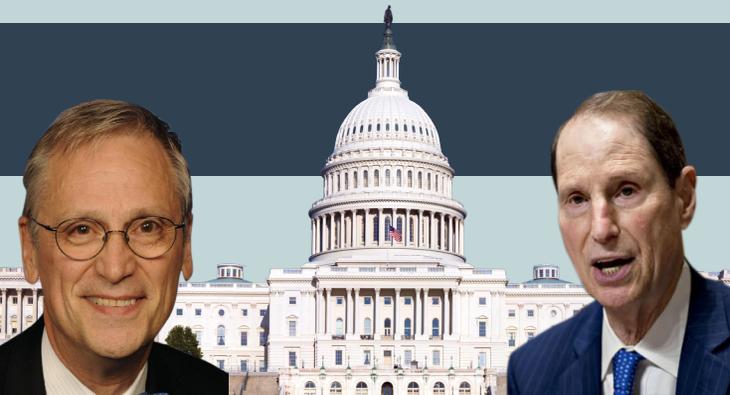
- Ensure a **focus on wildlife connectivity** – including highway overpasses for animals – in any infrastructure or coronavirus relief package
- Direct the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to **add protection for species** denied by the Trump administration such as wolverine
- **Phase out lease land agriculture** on Lower Klamath and Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuges



Climate

- Rejoin the **Paris climate accords**
- Reinstate the **offshore drilling ban**
- Re-set bold **fuel economy standards**
- Reverse the boom of oil and gas leases on public lands
- Purge federal agencies of science-denying, in-the-pocket-of extractive-industry, Trump appointees

- Launch new rulemaking for the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to **protect older forests** to store carbon in climate reserves
- **Reprioritize science** and instruct all federal agencies to limit greenhouse gas emissions as a top priority
- Make **climate investments** a key part of coronavirus relief and recovery, with a focus on environmental justice.



CONGRESSIONAL ACTION



Push forward with Senator Wyden's once-in-a-generation Wild & Scenic Rivers legislation that would protect countless unique waterways across the state. Look for Senate hearings early in 2021 and a bill signed by President Biden soon after.



Move Representative Blumenauer's vision for protecting Mount Hood National Forest and balancing increased recreation with conservation forward in the new Congress.



Finally deal rationally with wildfire by taking the best elements from Kamala Harris' Wildfire Defense Act and Senator Wyden's National Prescribed Fire Act to focus on protecting communities from fire by focusing on the home out rather than logging backcountry forests.

Pivoting from defense to offense

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

Pivoting from defense to offense is something Oregon Wild has done, and done effectively for 46 years. And let's be honest, for the last four years we've played **a lot** of defense.

We've held the line against the Trump Administration - challenging their efforts to strip the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument of protections, defeating their reckless plan to allow OHVs to trample critical wildlife habitat in the Ochocos, halting their proposal to log old growth on the Mount Hood National Forest, and taking them to court to protect gray wolves, to name a few.

But like in football, great defensive stands often lead to opportunities to score. In our case, we're looking to score some huge conservation victories! Throughout our history, we've pivoted from defending our old-growth forests from one reckless timber sale after another to then advancing new Wilderness protections when

the window of opportunity opened.

The past four years have been frustrating and difficult to say the least. But last month's election results - while providing some hope - don't call for a return to the way things were in 2016. Instead, we want to propel forward towards a brighter future and seize some massive conservation opportunities.

In playing so much defense of late, we've helped to build and strengthen a more diverse, inclusive conservation movement. We've built the

groundswell of public support to oppose bad ideas and we'll pivot that support to enact new protections for our public lands, old-growth forests, pristine waters, and native wildlife.

Now, in this moment, we find ourselves on the verge of advancing several ambitious conservation efforts, including the biggest expansion of river protections in Oregon's history! But we need your help to do it.

Please consider a special, tax-deductible donation to help us play a whole lot of offense in 2021! ©



JONATHAN JELEN Eikhorn Crest

Turning the corner on fire

Chandra LeGue, Western Oregon Field Coordinator



CHANDRA LEGUE Tumblebug Fire near Chuckle Springs

The fires that ravaged Western Oregon in September took an enormous toll on our human communities, as well as on some of our favorite ancient forest trails, vistas, campgrounds, and fishing holes. It's unclear what these landscapes may look like in the future, but it is clear that we need to think about fire – its causes, how we prepare and adapt, and how we respond –

differently than we have in the past.

If you've been listening to the timber industry's myths about fire, you might think that wildfires only burn on "mismanaged" federal forest land, that we need more roads on the landscape to help fight fires, that thinning the forest is an effective way to reduce fire risk, and that forests need human intervention to regrow after a fire.

Yet, wildfire scientists have been saying something very different for years, and analyses of 2020's fires back them up. Driven by high winds during the driest time of the year, these fires swept through urban and forested landscapes alike. Research has shown that thinning forests far from homes does nothing to protect people from wildfire, especially with the fire conditions we saw in September. These fires ran through clearcut timber lands

that the logging industry has touted as at lower risk of fire for years. In the Holiday Farm Fire area, for example, over 75% of the fire area burned through previously logged forest lands (see the map to the right). The presence of roads had no impact on stopping the spread of these fires - most of the biggest fires this year had road densities of more than 3 miles per square mile.

What comes after the fires should also be scrutinized.

Numerous studies (as well as evidence we can see when we visit any burned forest) have shown that forest renewal and regrowth happens naturally and successfully after a fire – while logging in burned areas spreads invasive species while damaging soil, wildlife habitat, and the ability for natural recovery to occur as it has for millennia.

During past fires, the immediate reaction from the media and politicians was to echo logging lobbyists and call

for the failed policies of more logging, more roads, and more fire suppression.

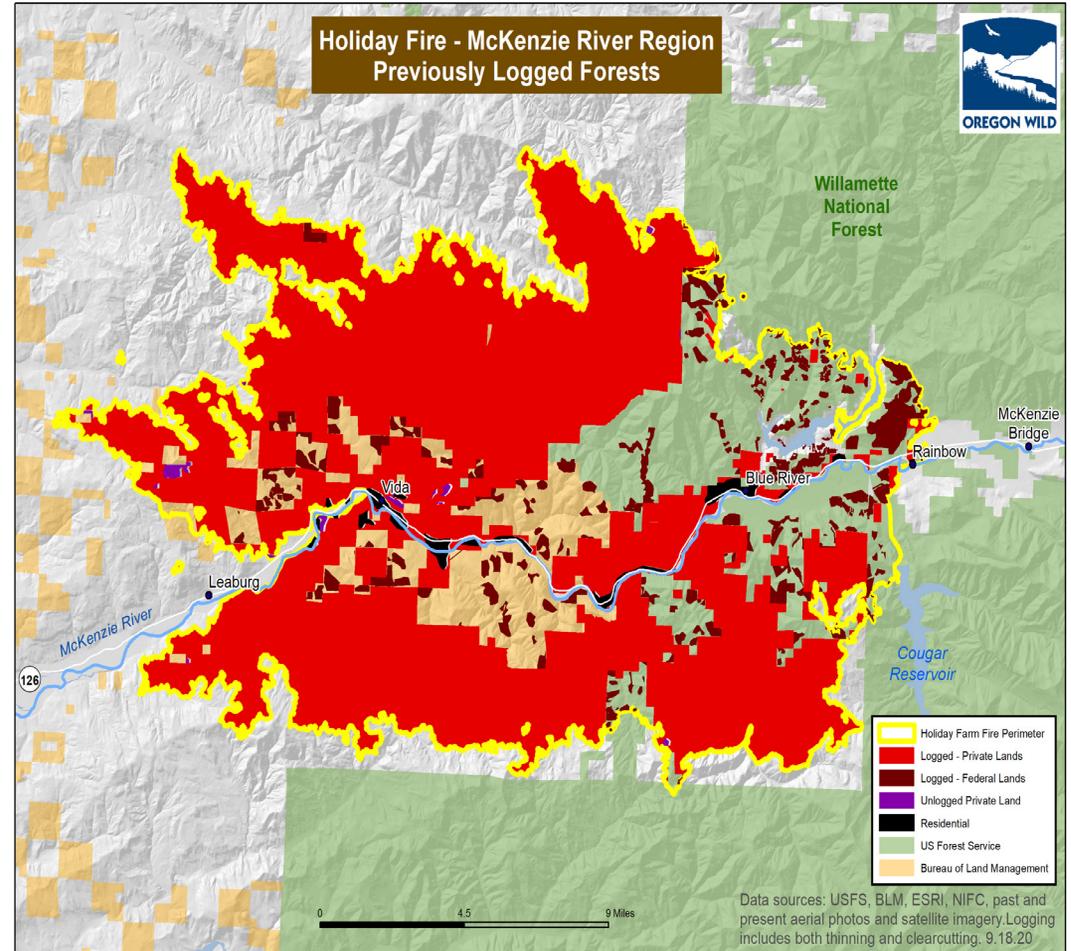
But surprisingly, this year was different. Media coverage of the 2020 fires took a deeper dive into the science of wildfire and need for community preparedness. This, in turn, highlighted better policy being proposed by politicians: targeted investments on protecting homes and communities from future fires, making homes more fire resistant, creating fire-wise buffers around communities, and utilizing managed fire to create more resilient landscapes. Bills in Congress like the Wildfire Defense Act and National Prescribed Fire Act (both supported by Oregon's Senators) include common sense provisions to increase preparation for future fires.

We are still seeing some policy proposals rooted in the failed strategies of the past. They push more logging as a

solution, while taking no action to protect homes and communities and ignoring the fact that removing our most fire resilient trees and creating vast landscapes of dense timber plantations has helped set up the fires we're seeing today. These proposals are bad news, but it seems like real progress that they are not the only proposals!

Thanks to scientists, advocates, journalists, and courageous policy from our lawmakers, we may be able to escape the vicious cycle of failed wildlife policy and turn the corner.

As we look forward to the renewal of our human and natural communities in the coming years, we should support efforts by Oregon's decision-makers to shift and adapt to the science and experience that is teaching us how to better adapt to future fires – whether in our backyards or in the backcountry. ©





Oregon Wildlife Coalition

For the love of Oregon's wildlife

Danielle Moser, Wildlife Policy Coordinator

loss of biodiversity and habitat, poaching, and climate change, wildlife is facing a global crisis, and Oregon is no exception. By working together, we believe we can be more effective and successful in tackling these problems and finding solutions for Oregon's wildlife.

Heading into 2021, several priorities for the coalition rise to the top. First and foremost is the next round of appointments to the Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) -- the premier decision-making body for Oregon's wildlife. Without commissioners in place that respect peer-reviewed science and the law, as well as the values of Oregonians, every issue we bring forward will be a battle. Keep an eye out for future correspondence from Oregon Wild about how you can help us secure a slate of candidates we can be proud of.

Next on the list is the proposal to end coyote killing contests. This will be the third time this legislation has been brought forth, and hopefully the last. We believe that with Cliff Bentz out of the state Senate where he was the most vocal opponent of the bill, and new leadership for the Democrats, we might actually see this bill pass!

Finally, as the beaver state, we know the importance of this keystone species' role in

mitigating the effects of climate change, recharging groundwater, and restoring wetlands. That's why the coalition is working to pass a bill during the next legislative session that would give the Commission the authority to end the disregard and slaughter of beavers on private land. Additionally, they're also part of a Beaver Management Working Group to develop principles and policy priorities for ODFW and its Commission. ©



Sometimes it's better to fly as a flock than fly alone. This philosophy has spurred the formation of the Oregon Wildlife Coalition -- an alliance of wildlife advocacy groups that includes Oregon Wild and eight other organizations. While each

group has its own focuses and strengths, we saw an opportunity to harness our collective efforts to better advance wildlife policies in Oregon that are science-based and reflect the state's conservation and humane values. With the continued



Conservation roundup

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director



ODFW Walla Walla pack in Umatilla County

Going to Court for Wildlife

Wolves and wolverine can't represent themselves in court (though we'd certainly love to see a dozen angry wolverines face off with Trump administration political appointees in a room). That's why groups like Oregon Wild have to do it for them.

After the Trump administration's recent move to strip Endangered Species Act (ESA) protection from gray wolves across the country (including Western Oregon), we joined with a

coalition of national organizations, represented by Earthjustice, to give notice of our intent to sue the Trump administration over their actions. We gave similar notice over the Trump administration's denial of ESA protection to wolverine nearly a month earlier, in a case where we will be represented by the Western Environmental Law Center. The incoming Biden administration will have an opportunity to review, and hopefully correct, these terrible Trump decisions in 2021.

Protecting Big Trees in Eastern Oregon

For two decades, the Eastside Screens and 21" Rule have protected old, large trees in the eastern half of the state. Unfortunately, in August the Trump administration launched a process to weaken these protections. A broad coalition of public lands, wildlife, and science advocates has formed over the last few months to fight these changes, including going to court if necessary. Our efforts have

already secured a longer window for public comment, hopefully giving the Biden administration a chance to intervene. This Trump environmental attack comes as several new scientific studies show big, old trees in Eastern Oregon are vital for combating climate change.

Eliminating Corruption in the Bureau of Land Management, Other Agencies

William Perry Pendley, a former oil lobbyist with a history of racist comments, religious bigotry, and anti-public lands rhetoric, was named "acting" head of the Bureau of Land Management by Trump in July of 2019. He was never confirmed by the US Senate, and he has continued in his temporary "acting" role for over 450 days. In September, a federal judge found this bizarre situation to be illegal, and hinted that decisions adopted under his leadership could be invalid. Unfortunately, Pendley has

ignored the Judge's ruling and is continuing (for now) to serve.

As with other Trump political appointees, Pendley represents a level of open corruption never before seen in America's public lands management. The sooner an incoming Biden administration cleans house, the better. ☺



William Perry Pendley

Thinking strategically

Kate Ritley, Oregon Wild Board President

Every four years, Oregon Wild embarks on a strategic planning process to chart our course for the coming years. It is an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and opportunities we face, to prioritize our goals, and to optimize our strategies for creating change.

As we dove into the planning process earlier this year, we quickly recognized the need to articulate Oregon Wild's values—those intangible things that inspire our work, differentiate us from other organizations, guide our decisions, and unite us in pursuit of a shared vision. Of the language we adopted, my personal favorite is “we give ‘em hell,” because it is an aptly-worded description of Oregon

Wild's fierce resolve, tenacity, and grit. I am proud to be part of an organization that demands accountability and stands up to the powers that exploit Oregon. You can read about each of our values at oregonwild.org/values.

Our new strategic plan also outlines two important areas of focus for Oregon Wild. First, we are launching a forest climate program to pursue federal and state policies that leverage the vast carbon storage potential of Oregon's forests. Second, we are prioritizing partnerships with pro-democracy and anti-hate groups to ensure the will of the people is represented in government decisions.

After months of deliberation and refinement, we are proud to share a summary of our new strategic plan. With this new plan guiding our work, Oregon Wild is poised to take advantage of some extraordinary upcoming opportunities to protect Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters. Check out the plan at oregonwild.org/strategic-plan

MIGRATIONS



LAUREN ANDERSON

The tail end of 2020 brought two exciting additions to the Oregon Wild team. To lead our new forest climate program, we are thrilled to add **Lauren Anderson** to the staff. Lauren is no stranger to Oregon's waters and woods having received her Master of Public Policy at Oregon State University. Since then, she's worked in Washington, D.C. with the National Wildlife Federation on federal energy, climate, and wildlife policy initiatives, including those related to natural climate solutions. With a background in biology, she loves spotting new birds and wildflowers on the trail. Welcome Lauren!

After a few years of collaborating on different projects, Oregon Wild is also thrilled to add **Faith Briggs** to our board of directors. We initially got a sense of Faith's creativity, smarts, and passion for public lands through our partnership with Soul River Inc. where she served as Program Director. But Faith's resume stretches to all corners of the advocacy and multimedia world. She describes herself as a “professional nerd,” and works at the intersection of creative producing, environmental justice advocacy, and documentary filmmaking. We're excited for her to express her passion for sharing contemporary stories from diverse



FAITH BRIGGS

Goodbye 2020: Here are all the things **NOT** invited back next year. See the key at oregonwild.org/goodbye2020

TOP 5 CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2020

MADE POSSIBLE BY OREGON WILD DONORS



Built grassroots support and significant momentum towards advancing what could be the **largest rivers protection effort in Oregon history.**

Stood up for gray wolves by initiating a lawsuit against the **Trump Administration** over its decision to strip away Endangered Species Act protections for the species.



Continued to be a **vigilant watchdog for our public lands** by monitoring, submitting formal comments on, and/or objecting to nearly 200 timber sales and other proposed projects.

Moved closer to increased protections for **Mount Hood and the Columbia River Gorge** by leading a coalition towards legislation that will set a new vision for conservation and recreation in the region.



After years of pressure, we struck an **historic agreement to limit aerial pesticide spray in private forests** and chart the path for a huge leap forward in protections for rivers and wildlife in the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE, YEAR-END DONATION TO HELP US PROTECT AND DEFEND OREGON'S WILDLANDS, WILDLIFE, AND WATERS IN 2021!

Bottom left photo: Francis Eatherington

