

# OREGON WILD

Winter Spring 2020 Volume 47, Number 1

A NEW FUTURE FOR  
WILD & SCENIC OREGON





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

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COVER PHOTO: LUCAS RIETMANN Oregon's Wild & Scenic Rivers give us so much, including clean drinking water and incredible recreation - but only 2% of our waterways are protected to ensure these values last for future generations. Isn't it time we do more?





## From the Director's Desk

# Be bold

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

The past year has been replete with new scientific findings that suggest the 21st century will not be for the timid.

First, it was the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change updating the world on the potential impacts of our warming planet. The news from the global science authority was not good, pointing to dire consequences for Earth's natural systems if carbon dioxide emissions are not put in check by 2030 – earlier than most experts had previously assumed.

Then in September, researchers published a stunning revelation in *Science* magazine – nearly one third of the world's bird population had perished in the last half century. Three billion fewer birds occupy the world's skies today than in 1970.

These research findings pile on to what we see with our own eyes on the nightly news – the Amazon burning, fish populations on the decline, and tap water so polluted it makes people sick.

It is hard to imagine a future where we solve these problems if we don't start with bold action now.

For the wildlands, wildlife, and waters of Oregon, you can expect nothing less than bold, visionary leadership from Oregon Wild. As you'll read on the following pages, we are right in the middle of unprecedented efforts to move landscape-level protections forward.

With enthusiastic support from Senator Ron Wyden, Oregon Wild and our allies are pushing for a game-changing expansion of Oregon's Wild & Scenic Rivers network. Partnering with front line communities in the

Coast Range, we are set to take the case for modernizing Oregon's private forest regulations directly to voters with a November 2020 ballot measure. We are tackling these massive initiatives all while fending off the worst proposals from the Trump administration and our own state agencies.

The scale of today's ecological crisis puts to rest the notion that we can get by on baby-steps progress or assume that one timber sale, mining proposal, or trapping season is too small to affect the long term health of our state's wildlife and wild places.

We can no longer afford to look back, shrug our shoulders, and lament, "If only we'd known." We may not have the luxury of hindsight for much longer. In 2020 (and beyond) our vision needs to be 20/20. ©



LUCAS RIETMANN Without bold action now, we'll be faced with even more challenging environmental conditions in the very immediate future.

# Wild & Scenic Oregon – protecting Oregon's lifeblood

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director



## Senator Ron Wyden is calling for the largest watershed protection effort in Oregon history. How will our state answer?

Water defines Oregon. From the seemingly endless fall rain in the Coast Range, to the snow that blankets the Cascades in winter, to the scarcity of it in the high desert. This water is the lifeblood of the rivers and streams that have literally shaped the ground that we walk on, and that sustain the salmon and wildlife we Oregonians treasure. From the water we drink to the rapids, lakes, and wetlands where we seek freedom and escape, our state just wouldn't be the same without it.

With all that our rivers and waters provide Oregon, we've often done a poor job of protecting them. Weak logging rules, dams, pollution, mining, and livestock grazing are just a few of the many indignities we have heaped upon our rivers. Our state legislators and regulatory agencies often seem more interested in protecting polluters than salmon, and the Trump

administration has declared an all-out-war on the laws designed to protect clean water.

But the times are changing. Oregon now stands on the cusp of several historic opportunities to reimagine how we protect rivers and clean water in our state. At the center of it is a proposal by Senator Ron Wyden to greatly expand the number of rivers and streams protected in Oregon under America's Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. His vision includes the potential to protect thousands of miles of Oregon waterways and over a million acres of riverside habitat.

Wyden is calling on Oregonians to nominate rivers and streams they would like to see included in his legislation, which could be the most significant strengthening of river and watershed protection in Oregon history. Will we answer the call?

## America's river protection law

In 1968, the US Congress adopted the Wild & Scenic

Rivers Act. The law says in part that:

*...certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations...*

This landmark law was a response to what was happening to rivers, streams, and wetlands all across the country. Rachel Carson had published *Silent Spring* in 1962, drawing attention to the devastating effect of toxic pesticides on insects and birds. The dangers of mercury, lead, and other industrial toxins making their way into America's drinking water was gaining national attention, and in 1967, the Cuyahoga River caught fire. Closer to home in Oregon biologists were beginning to sound the alarm over clearcutting and the harm it causes to salmon and water quality from the

ERIC DEBORD Exciting proactive legislation to protect Oregon's waterways would ensure that tributaries of major rivers stay cold, clear, and flowing.

# AN HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY

DANIEL GOMEZ

resulting flow of mud and sediment into rivers. A major legal battle was also underway over a proposal to build dams on the last free-flowing section of the Snake River.

Against this backdrop, Congress adopted the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. Up until then, America had had a vast network of laws and regulations promoting the damming, draining, and mining of rivers, but very little in the way of strong legal measures for actually protecting them. The Wilderness Act, passed in 1964, was (and still is) the gold standard for conservation of public lands, but it wasn't designed principally to protect waterways.

The Wild & Scenic Rivers Act intended to remedy that by creating a legal framework for protecting rivers. Designation under the Act can provide very strong protection against dams, water diversions, and other development. In addition to the waterway itself, the Act provides some protection for important lands along its banks. This protected buffer generally

averages just one-quarter mile on each bank, but on some Alaska and Oregon rivers the buffers are one-half mile. Conservationists have dubbed these stronger protections the “Mary Gautreaux standard” after the beloved and recently departed United States Senate staff member who championed their use in Oregon (see page 15).

Wild & Scenic designation, while strong, is not fool-proof and can fall short on protecting rivers from mining. Land management agencies sometimes try to exploit loopholes to allow destructive activities to take place in Wild & Scenic River corridors. For example, Oregon Wild and our allies are currently engaged in a legal battle with the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest over a commercial logging project in the Lostine River Wild & Scenic corridor.

## How Wild & Scenic designation works

Under the Act, rivers are added to the national Wild & Scenic system when Congress passes federal legislation to designate

Oregon's rivers are truly the lifeblood of our state. In one way or another, we all depend on our rivers and streams. And the connection we feel with our favorite waterways runs deep – the core of what it means to be an Oregonian. Yet, only a fraction of Oregon's revered rivers are protected.

In the past year, Oregon Wild (with the support of members like you) worked tirelessly to halt many of the threats facing our wild places and native wildlife. But as we shift our focus to 2020, **we have a tremendous opportunity to pivot from defense to offense** to amplify the voices of communities, and to protect thousands of river miles across Oregon.

them. Getting rivers designated isn't easy, and often takes years of hard work by dedicated river activists. The Molalla River Alliance, for example, put years of advocacy into having segments of the Molalla included in the Oregon Wildlands Act earlier this year.

Rivers protected under the Act are classified as either wild, scenic, or recreational. Rivers designated as **Wild** are free of dams and generally only accessible by trail or boat, with watersheds that are largely wild and undeveloped. Waterways designated as **Scenic** are also free of dams and have watersheds that

To secure what has the potential to be one of the most important public lands conservation victories in Oregon's history, we'll be dedicating significant staff time and resources to this top priority campaign. **And we need your help.**

So, as you're thinking through your year-end giving this season, please consider giving future generations the gift of clean, protected, free-flowing Wild & Scenic Rivers.

**We need to raise \$75,000 to adequately staff and fund this campaign and seize this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Thank you for all you can do to protect Oregon's rivers.**

are generally healthy and undeveloped, but may be accessible in places by roads. Rivers and streams designated as **Recreational** are typically easily accessible by roads, and may have some existing development within their watersheds.

In protecting rivers, Congress



RHETT WILKINS Recreation values are a big part of how rivers and their tributaries can be protected. If you love recreating on rivers, nominate your favorite places to be protected in the Wild & Scenic Oregon bill.

identifies the “outstandingly remarkable values” that it seeks to protect. If the river flows through public lands, federal agencies must then develop management plans that ensure those values are protected. The more specific Congress is in identifying what values need to be safeguarded, the stronger the protection is. The more they leave it up to the Forest Service or BLM to decide, the weaker the conservation measures become. Wild & Scenic Rivers designation has little impact on rivers that flow through private lands.

Once a river is designated, the

Act provides important tools for citizens who care about that waterway to weigh in on its management. These tools have helped protect the Klamath and Snake Rivers from additional dams, stopped a Hollywood film studio from building permanent structures in the Rogue River canyon, and protected clean water, salmon, and scenic values from logging on countless Oregon streams.

### A Wild & Scenic legacy?

Despite Oregon’s green reputation, our state is often the butt of jokes when it comes to

public lands, fish and wildlife conservation. We lag far behind other Western states when it comes to protecting Wilderness, we have just one National Park, and our state and private lands logging rules are among the weakest in the West. These facts are not the result of a weak environmental ethic among Oregonians, but rather reflect money and political clout historically wielded by logging, dam building, and development interests in our state.

But the Oregon of 2020 is a very different place than it was 40 years ago. Today, tourism and outdoor recreation are much more important drivers of Oregon’s economy than clearcuts and dam building. According to a 2017 report by the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation sustains 172,000 direct jobs in Oregon (more than triple the number the Oregon Employment Department attributes to logging), and \$5.1 billion in wages. Oregon’s outdoor economy is almost completely dependent on our state’s protected Wilderness,

Wild & Scenic Rivers, and recreation areas, and Congress has taken note.

After the passage of his Oregon Wildlands Act in early 2019, Senator Wyden posed a question to Oregon Wild and our sister public lands and river conservation groups. What would it take for Oregon to truly protect our state’s most environmentally and recreationally important waterways on public lands? In response, we began sorting through mountains of maps, GIS data, citizen inventories, and field reports to provide him with an answer.

First, we discovered that Oregon has just under 2,200 miles of protected Wild & Scenic river segments today – roughly 2% of the state’s total miles of major rivers and streams. While these designations include the main stems of many beloved waterways – like the Rogue, Clackamas, Deschutes, John Day, and North Umpqua – they fall far short when it comes to protecting the critical tributaries that sustain them. Without the cool, clean

water flowing from their tributaries, the larger, well-known rivers protected under current designations cannot be preserved.

Second, we were stunned by how many Oregon waterways are eligible for protection but do not yet have it. Iconic waterways like the Breitenbush River, Tumalo Creek, Paulina Creek, the South Umpqua, the Middle Fork of the Willamette, Rough and Ready Creek, the Umatilla River, the Smith River, the Yachats River, the upper Grande Ronde River, and many more remain vulnerable to logging, mining and other destructive activities.

The good news is that Senator Wyden and his staff appear to be deeply committed to a major expansion of Wild & Scenic Rivers in Oregon. If Wyden were to develop and pass legislation to protect all eligible streams as Wild & Scenic, and include buffers based on the Mary Gautreaux standard, it would be the largest increase in public lands and clean water protection in Oregon history.

## Wild rivers need Oregonians to speak up

In October, Senator Wyden formally announced his desire to develop major Wild & Scenic Rivers legislation for Oregon. A key component of this effort is a conversation with Oregonians about why they value rivers and clean water, and a chance for the public to weigh in and nominate streams and watersheds for protection.

The Senator's deadline for nominations is January 20, 2020, but hundreds and hundreds of Oregonians have already weighed in. More than 500 Oregon Wild supporters have submitted nominations, and in the weeks and months ahead we will be working hard to engage more river lovers – from birders and fly anglers to whitewater boaters and hikers – to speak up for rivers and clean water protection. You can submit a nomination of your own through the Oregon Wild web site at [www.oregonwild.org](http://www.oregonwild.org), and get more involved in this (and other) campaigns via our Wild Ones program.

Passing major Wild & Scenic Rivers legislation won't be easy. The usual suspects from Oregon's clearcut and agribusiness lobby will likely oppose new protections. So will some county politicians who long for the "good old days" of unrestricted clearcutting and dam building. The kind of nitty-gritty mapping and field work that goes into each potential river segment is extremely time and labor intensive. Multiply that across thousands of potential river miles and the task can seem daunting.

But water, and our rivers and streams, define Oregon. They give us clean water to drink, habitat for salmon and wildlife, and scenic treasures where we can escape the pressures of modern life. **What we do to safeguard them, and to support what could be the most significant expansion in watershed and public lands protection in our state's history, will define our identity as Oregonians for generations to come. Rising to the occasion is the least we can do for them.** ©



# MIGRATIONS

MATT WITT



MEGAN GIBB

It was on a public hike in 2006 on a trail on the Mount Hood National Forest that **Megan Gibb**, a transplant from Michigan, first learned the ins and outs of Oregon conservation. Thirteen years later

this past September, she attended her last Oregon Wild board meeting after serving for one of the longest stretches in the organization's history.

A planner with Metro regional government by trade, Megan helped steer the organization through growth and transition as we fended off threats to Oregon's environment from the latter years of the Bush administration and greatly expanded Oregon's protected Wilderness in 2009 and 2019. She served as Board President during our first change in executive leadership since the turn of the century all the while helping to mentor board and staff alike.

While we will greatly miss Megan's leadership, dedication, and insight we fully expect to see her out on the trail and continuing to advocate for Oregon's wild places. **Thank you Megan!**

After working closely with Bend staff to protect the Deschutes State Scenic Waterway from development threats, **Judy Clinton** joined the board of directors in July. Judy brings a background in political activism and environmental board service to her role on Oregon Wild's board. She also contributes to the growth of our footprint in Central Oregon where we now have two staff and two board members.

We look forward to putting Judy's passion and local connections to good use for Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters. **Welcome Judy!**



JUDY CLINTON

# The balancing act – recreation and conservation

Erik Fernandez, Wilderness Program Manager



Oregon is blessed. Our natural landscapes are home to a diverse set of wildlife, from salmon and steelhead to spotted owls and elk. They also provide world class recreational opportunities. Sometimes wildlife, habitats, and recreation values are compatible. Sometimes

they aren't. Proactive planning is key to avoid running wildlife off the landscape while still maintaining access to an amazing network of trails.

## The challenge

Oregonians love the outdoors. As a result, awesome trails close to

booming population centers are experiencing growing pains. Some trails in the Three Sisters Wilderness, like the Tam McArthur Rim trail, have seen a 500% increase in use over the past few years! Is this sustainable? Unfortunately, no. As you might fear, this sharp increase in trail

use means more trash and poop being left on popular trails – but those aren't the only impacts.

A larger problem is in the planning. Our public lands trail systems were not planned with an eye toward avoiding key wildlife corridors or sensitive habitats. As more people explore the trails, we can inadvertently disrupt migration corridors or crowd wildlife out of an area. This tension can be seen in different parts of Oregon but is most pronounced in places like the Mount Hood and Deschutes National Forests.

The Deschutes National Forest permit system (see sidebar) is far from ideal and is being used as a last resort. While some fine tuning of the permit system will be needed, some version of it may be a necessary step in addressing overcrowding of some trails. That said, Oregon Wild opposes the fee for these permits. Creating financial barriers to enjoying our public lands goes down the wrong

path. Our public lands should have a wide range of options, at no cost, for low impact quiet recreation.

## Supply and demand

Despite our “green” reputation, Oregon lags far behind all neighboring states when it comes to protecting our natural treasures. We've protected only 4% of the state as designated Wilderness – the gold standard for public lands protection. Compare that to WA – 10%, CA – 15%, and even Idaho with 9% of their state. No one likes to hike, camp, fish, ski, or run trails through clear cuts, so we all end up clustered in the few protected areas of Oregon. Until we do more to protect our natural treasures, this problem isn't going to go away.

## Getting proactive

Central Oregon's Ochoco Mountains make a great case study for potential proactive planning. Visitor use of the Ochocos is increasing fast, and

with the permit system for the central Cascades going into effect next summer, that trend is likely to increase. Change is coming for the Ochoco National Forest whether we plan for it or not, but trail users and wildlife will benefit significantly if we plan proactively.

The Ochoco Mountains deserve a plan that strikes the right balance between recreation, conservation and wildlife. Recreation and wildlife advocates have proposed an Ochoco Mountains National Recreation Area that would include protected Wilderness, wildlife corridors, and direction for where new trail development is most appropriate and sustainable. The Ochoco National Forest Management Plan was written over 30 years ago when recreation on our public lands was a fraction of what it is today; that plan is due for an upgrade.

### Recent success

Seasonal closures for some trails

can be part of an overall solution to protecting animals during sensitive times of the year. This past year, Oregon Wild, the Oregon Hunters Association, and other stakeholders led efforts to safeguard elk during calving season on the Deschutes National Forest. Through a collaborative effort, we improved the effectiveness of a seasonal trail closure and reduced

disturbance to elk by 93% when they are at their most sensitive. ©

## TAKE ACTION

**Call Senators Wyden (503-326-7525) and Merkley (503-326-3386) and encourage them to pass legislation protecting recreation and wildlife in the Ochoco Mountains** of central Oregon.



MARK DARNELL

## The Reactive Plan

The Deschutes National Forest never had a plan that was ready for the dramatic increase of visitors. Both the trails and wildlife have suffered as a result. Their reactive plan to address issues has taken several forms:

- The Forest Service at first proposed to implement a permit system for 30 trailheads starting next summer.
- Later, they scaled down to 19 of the most crowded hiking trailheads in the central Cascades.
- Some permits will still be available for short notice, while the remainder will require booking further in advance.
- No permit is required for kids 12 and under.
- Permits will be required from Memorial Day through the end of September.

# Grassroots activists battle industry Goliath

Jason Gonzales, Forest Waters Protection Coordinator



JUSTIN BAILIE Coast residents turned out in force when the Norriston Heights timber sale threatened drinking waters sources on state land.

We've seen a season of high drama in Salem. Oregon Secretary of State Bev Clarno set off a troubling series of events when she rejected recently filed ballot initiatives attempting to protect forest waters in Oregon.

The story has been years in the making. Local groups such as the North Coast Communities

for Watershed Protection, Coast Range Forest Watch, and the community of Cedar Valley (just to name a few) have led the charge to educate Oregonians about the impacts of clearcutting near their homes and drinking water. They've gone to the Department of Forestry and asked for transparency in the planning process, seeking help from

state-employed foresters. They've begged the Board of Forestry to adopt policies that protect people and the water they depend on, showing up in droves to testify at meetings in which many of the Board members are paid directly by the logging industry. They've brought dozens of common sense ideas to every legislative session in recent memory,

insisting that Legislators protect their constituents instead of the corporations that donate endlessly to their campaigns. Even when the Environmental Protection Agency tested and confirmed that neighbors were being poisoned by the logging industry, all of these pleas, at every level, have been met with excuses, deaf ears, and blind eyes.

Earlier this year, an investigative series by *The Oregonian* reporter Rob Davis shed some light and provided evidence of what we've all long suspected: Oregon's decision makers are polluted by money. The "Polluted by Money" series revealed that Oregon legislators receive far more money from industrial logging interests than any other legislature in the country - twice as much as either Washington or California. Further reporting from *The Oregonian* focused on the weak and conflicted oversight of the Department of Forestry and Board of Forestry. Reporter Ted Sickenger's "Failing Forestry" series has made it clear we can't trust those agencies to protect us or our forests.

Three concerned Oregonians made the next move and began the hard work of proposing potential ballot measures known as Initiative Petitions (IP) 35, 36 and 37 - a.k.a. the Oregon Forest Waters Protection Act (OFWPA). The OFWPA rides on the shoulders of years of

rural activism against the terrible impacts of clearcutting Oregon's forested watersheds, and the use of helicopters to spray herbicide cocktails across the landscape. In 2020, these community advocates plan to accomplish real change.

But when Secretary of State Bev Clarno blocked the forest waters initiatives in an unprecedented maneuver last October, the real drama unfolded. The measures were rejected despite the Oregon Attorney General ultimately providing clear legal advice that they should be allowed to go forward. We do not yet know where the saga will end, but as of this publication going to print, the Attorney General has refused to defend Secretary Clarno in court. Perhaps most incredibly, Secretary Clarno hired a law-firm that describes itself as “part of the fabric of the timber industry.” Does this mean Oregonians' tax money will go to pay the industry to defend itself against Oregonians?

Oregon Wild is already defending these measures and their proponents in court. By the time you read this, our first court date will have already occurred – so make sure to check out our website for updates! Additionally, replacement measures were immediately filed, addressing Secretary Clarno's faux concerns. They are rapidly moving through the initiative process as IP 45, 46, and 47.

Local, rural communities have been fighting to protect their backyard forests and waters for decades and it's time their voices are heard. Oregon Wild will continue to help these advocates get forest and stream protection on the ballot so that Oregonians can finally have a say in modernizing our weak logging laws.

**Learn more about some of the incredible communities of people fighting to make these protections a reality at [www.healthywatershed.org](http://www.healthywatershed.org).** ©

## A local call to action

Here is what frontline communities have called for:

- Protect all forest waters in Oregon, not just some
- No clearcutting near water or on super steep slopes above streams
- No aerial spraying of herbicides near any forest waters
- Tax money currently being used for television ads touting the industry should instead be used to enforce the law, and defend rural communities from wildfire risks

SHANNON BUTLER

# Heading the call

Gaby Diaz, Membership & Event Manager



MARIELLE COWDIN The Next Adventure Tent Sponsors brought the party.

Contest photographers amazed us with their photos and our 11 Tent Sponsors brought the party. Thank you all so much for your continued support!

A very special thank you to our guest speaker and author, Chandra LeGue, for sharing her story and adventures in protecting old growth forests for over a decade. To our staff in Eugene, Bend, Portland, and Enterprise, thank you for always showing up and advocating for people and wildlife alike. To our community, thank you for supporting us in these monumental battles to protect wild places and the animals and waters that call them home.

Last but not least, thank you to our volunteers who went above and beyond to make this event a success. We could not have done it without you!

As we look back on the last 45 years of keeping Oregon Wild,

we're grateful to those who have stood with us and those yet to come. Our work to protect and restore wildlands, wildlife, and waters is under threat every day. Knowing we're supported by

YOU keeps us going.

We'll see you next year at *Call of the Wild 2020 on Friday, October 9th at The Redd on Salmon Street in Portland!* ☺

## 2019 OUTDOOR PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to all finalists and to this year's Grand Prize Winners in our four categories:

(Clockwise from top left): WATERS CATEGORY - Samuel Boardman State Scenic Corridor, Devin Tolman; WILDLANDS CATEGORY - Fort Rock, Joan Martelli; WILDLIFE CATEGORY - Crystal Springs by Dan Kearl; ENDANGERED PLACES CATEGORY (Oregon's Ancient Forests) - Kalmiopsis Wilderness, Kelly Morgan.



# Conservation roundup

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director

## Cascade-Siskiyou court win

The path to saving an old-growth forest often winds its way through a courtroom. That's certainly been the case for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, where logging interests and anti-environmental county politicians are trying to gut protections for old growth and rare species of plants and wildlife. In September, Oregon Wild, Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, and others won a major victory in this fight when an Oregon District Court judge upheld a lower court's decision favoring the environment in a lawsuit by Murphy Timber seeking to overturn protections.

Another major legal attack on the monument by the Association of O&C Counties and a logging corporation lobby group is still winding its way through the courts in Washington, D.C.

## Thurston Hills logging stopped

In another September court

victory, Oregon Wild and our allies blocked the Thurston Hills logging project on BLM lands near Springfield. This awful proposal would have clearcut 100 acres of mature forest near a popular recreation area as well as worsened fire risks for nearby homeowners by replacing resilient mature and old-growth stands with denser, fire-prone young stands. The court singled out the fire issues in its decision to block the project, saying that the BLM "...attempted to marginalize the effects of regeneration logging on public safety and fire hazard."

The Forest Service and BLM frequently use "regeneration" logging as an agency euphemism for clearcutting.

## OSU's old-growth clearcuts

In the last Oregon Wild newsletter, we told you about a scandal over the Oregon State University College of Forestry clearcutting old growth – including trees over 400 years old – in a "research forest." Public outrage has been intense and



MARCUS ELDER Oregon's old-growth forests are more precious than ever, and we're doing all we can on all fronts to protect them.

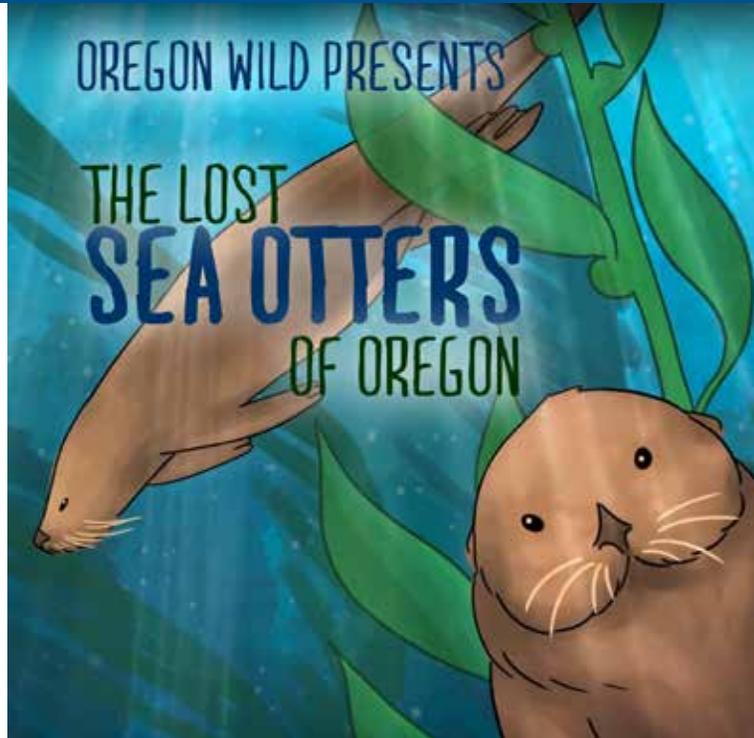
Oregon Wild has been proud to support the efforts of Friends of OSU Old-Growth to reform how the school manages its forest lands. In response to the pressure,

OSU leaders have now agreed to reinstate a 2005 ban on old-growth logging and add 36 acres of ancient forest to a protected old-growth reserve system. Much

more needs to be done to reform the College of Forestry (jokingly referred to by OSU alumni as the College of Clearcuts), but this is an important step forward. ☺

# The Lost Sea Otters of Oregon

Danielle Moser, Wildlife Policy Coordinator and Arran Robertson, Communications Manager



## *The Lost Sea Otters of Oregon.*

The history of sea otters in Oregon is one of tragedy, but we're holding out hope that their future will be brighter. These native creatures were once abundant off Oregon's coast, but were aggressively hunted for their valuable fur coats and were gone by the beginning of the 20th century. An effort in the late 1960s and '70s attempted to spare a small number of sea otters from nuclear testing in Alaska, but that translocation effort failed and sea otters once again vanished from our shores.

Throughout the audio program, we incorporate several conversations with leaders looking toward a future where sea otters have a home in Oregon once again. We speak with Bob Bailey, the director of the Elakha Alliance, as well as Siletz tribal members David Hatch and Robert Kentta, on the ecological and spiritual importance of sea otters to both people and the environment. And we hear from Dominique Kone on the science of whether Oregon's coasts could

Did you know Oregon Wild has a podcast?

How people consume information has changed dramatically in the last few decades. In addition to our print magazine, we distribute timely emails, publish regularly to our Oregon Wildblog on

oregonwild.org, share articles through our social media channels, and work with partners to produce compelling video content.

In order to engage our supporters in a new way, we decided to launch our own audio program:

## OREGON WILD WINTER HIKES

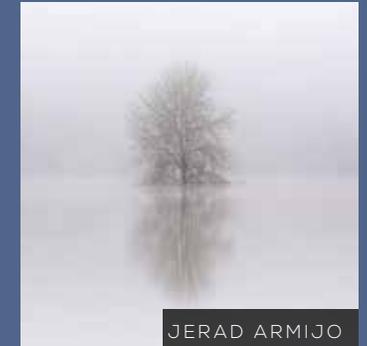
**Winter is here!** Snow is falling in the high country and that means some of the most magical explorations are waiting for you. Join Oregon Wild for these guided, free and family-friendly winter adventures near you:

**Sunday, December 29**  
**Alesa & Green Peak Falls**  
(EUG)

**Saturday, January 25**  
**Diamond Creek Falls**  
**Snowshoe Hike** (EUG)

**Sunday, February 29**  
**Drift Creek Falls** (EUG)

Even if you can't join us in the woods, meet the team and other like-minded outdoor enthusiasts at other local events near you! Discover your forests and your wild at [www.oregonwild.org/explore-oregon](http://www.oregonwild.org/explore-oregon).



support returning sea otters or whether they have been too degraded by human activities and the otter's long absence.

*The Lost Sea Otters of Oregon* also relied on incredible volunteers like host Erica Risburg, interviewer Tina Indalecio, and animator

Katelyn Browne to help us bring the project to life. ☺

### Take Action!

Check out the *Lost Sea Otters of Oregon* at [oregonwild.org/lostotters](http://oregonwild.org/lostotters) or download it on iTunes, Stitcher, or wherever you get your podcasts!

# 2019 Wildlands Warrior: Mary Gautreaux

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director



COURTESY THE GAUTREAUX FAMILY

When we visit a Wilderness Area, Wild & Scenic River, or an old-growth grove few of us think about the details of how it got protected. But someone had to sweat those details, and all the political haggling, agency inertia, and byzantine legislative language that went into safeguarding those areas. Over the last 30 years, no one in Oregon did more to work through those details, and to get special places protected, than

Mary Gautreaux.

Mary (or “MG” as she was known to her friends) spent three decades on the staff of Senator Ron Wyden. She shepherded every Wilderness and Wild & Scenic River bill his office worked on through the political process with a joy, passion, and force-of-nature personality that brought people from all across the political spectrum together.

MG’s commitment to protecting Oregon’s wild places pre-dated her work with Senator Wyden. She spent many years working for the US Forest Service in remote, rural corners of Oregon. When I first joined the Oregon Wild staff, Tim Lillebo and Wendell Wood amazed me with stories of MG’s days of rebelling against the Forest Service’s old boys club in Eastern Oregon, and her role as a whistleblower in exposing destructive old-growth logging in the Coast Range.

When she was diagnosed with terminal cancer last June, MG didn’t stop working for Oregon’s wild places. As her illness progressed, she had a hospital bed moved into her living room, where she continued to work (often buried under maps of potential Owyhee, Ochoco, and Wild Rogue Wilderness areas) until she passed away on September 20, 2019.

MG’s work mostly took place out of the public eye, with little fanfare or celebration.

In 2015, after the passing of Tim Lillebo, a longtime friend of MG’s and one of Oregon Wild’s original staff, we launched the Lillebo Wildlands Warrior award. Tim, like MG, was a tireless defender of all things wild, and largely spent his career outside of the public spotlight. The Wildlands Warrior award was created to recognize such unsung heroes, and ensure that their

conservation legacy is recognized and celebrated by Oregonians who treasure our wild places.

Oregon Wild is proud to award the 2019 Tim Lillebo Wildlands Warrior Award to Mary Gautreaux, in recognition of her tireless work, her joyful spirit, and her enormous contributions to the protection of Oregon’s wildlands, wildlife, and waters. ☺



COURTESY THE GAUTREAUX FAMILY



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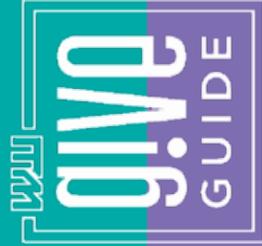


## TOP 5 CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2019 MADE POSSIBLE BY OREGON WILD DONORS

1. PERMANENTLY PROTECTED 30,000 ACRES OF MATURE AND OLD-GROWTH FOREST IN THE COAST RANGE AS THE **NEW DEVIL'S STAIRCASE WILDERNESS** - THE FIRST NEW WILDERNESS IN OREGON SINCE 2009!
2. PROTECTED **250+ NEW MILES OF WILD & SCENIC RIVERS** SUCH AS THE MOLALLA RIVER, NESTUCCA RIVER, & KEY TRIBUTARIES OF THE ROGUE RIVER.
3. SECURED **STATE SCENIC WATERWAY PROTECTION FOR THE NEHALEM RIVER.**
4. **BANNED TRAPPING FOR THE THREATENED HUMBOLDT MARTEN.**
5. DEFENDED AGAINST THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO STRIP THE **CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT OF PROTECTIONS IN COURT.**

**PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE YEAR-END DONATION TO HELP US DEFEND OREGON'S WILDLANDS, WILDLIFE, AND WATERS IN 2020.**

Photo by Steve Slocumb



# Go Wild. Do Good.

Oregon Wild is in this year's Willamette Week Give!Guide! Donate by **Dec. 31 at [giveguide.org](http://giveguide.org)** and receive great incentives, including...

- Donate \$250 or more and receive a copy of **Oregon's Ancient Forests: A Hiking Guide**
- Under \$50: Donate \$50 or more to enter a raffle to win prizes including a **Mountain Hardwear 25L backpack**, copy of **Oregon's Ancient Forests: A Hiking Guide**, and more!