

OREGON WILD

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YOUR FAVORITE PLACES
ARE **ENDANGERED**



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

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COVER PHOTO: TJ THORNE Beloved places and communities along Oregon's coast (like Oceanside pictured here) continue to fight for their right to clean water and a healthy home.



From the Director's Desk The ancient future

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of watching from the back of the room as my co-worker, Chandra LeGue, introduced *Oregon's Ancient Forests – A Hiking Guide* at a book launch in Portland. The guidebook was a labor of love for Chandra and the first foray into book publishing for Oregon Wild in 15 years. We're all really excited that it is now out in the world.

Part of why we are so thrilled to share *Oregon's Ancient Forests* with readers is to tell the story of our efforts to protect our states old-growth forests and introduce a whole new generation of Oregonians to the fight to save the places that define our state. And Chandra had a heck of a story to tell at the book launch.

Just weeks onto the job at Oregon Wild almost 20 years ago and not too far removed from the decidedly less ancient forest-covered Upper Midwest, Chandra was exploring one of Oregon's truly remarkable cathedral forests in the Opal Creek Wilderness. When her group stopped for lunch beneath towering Douglas fir and western red cedar, she scrambled up a downed log to snap a photo from a distance (see photo at right). As she placed her hand against the trunk of a nearby tree to steady herself, she felt something that didn't belong in a forest.

It was a timber sale marker. Twenty years later, when you hear Chandra describe this moment, you can tell that it still hits her like a gut punch – this place was nearly cut to the ground.

Of course, Oregon Wild and allies didn't let that happen. We

fought to halt timber sales, people rallied in the forest and the streets, and ultimately we lobbied to have Opal Creek forever protected as Wilderness in 1996.

I have my own story from early in my tenure at Oregon Wild, hiking in the awe-inspiring native forests at Big Bottom near the Clackamas River. There, I saw the spray paint and timber sale markers that promised the chainsaws would soon come for these giants. But, there too, Oregon Wild stood firm. What was once slated for clearcutting is now forever protected.

I urge you to keep these stories in mind as you read about the *10 Most Endangered Places* in Oregon. It's a scary list. But our history should give you hope. For almost five decades, Oregon Wild has been turning impossible threats into improbable victories for public lands, wildlife, and free-flowing



CHANDRA LEGUE The towering forests of Opal Creek, where clearcuts nearly changed the fate of what is now perhaps the most-beloved ancient forest in Oregon.

rivers. And we can do it again (and again) with your help. Somewhere in these pages is the next place that we'll pass off to

future generations as a natural legacy to be proud of. ☺

OREGON'S 10 MOST ENDANGERED PLACES OF 2019

This year, threats to Oregon's special places are coming from all sides. At the federal level, the Trump administration has unleashed a barrage of attacks against public lands and wildlife. While attempting to dismantle the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act, Trump and his industry cronies appointed within the agencies have also targeted monument designations and the ability of states to protect clean water.

Trump makes an easy target when it comes to his twisted environmental agenda; the danger he poses to Oregon's forests, waters, and wildlife is very real. But often the most insidious threats to public lands and clean water come from our own state agencies and local decision makers who we expect much better from.

Regardless of who poses the threat, Oregon Wild and our allies are always ready to defend the places we love from short-sighted plans that would damage or destroy them. Here are 2019's Most Endangered Places in Oregon.



SEAN RYAN Fall Creek

#1, #2, AND #3 - NORTH COAST FOREST WATERSHEDS

THE PLACES:

Fall Creek, Short Creek, Jetty Creek – these streams are not household names to most Oregonians. But to residents of communities like Arch Cape, Oceanside, and Rockaway Beach, they are vital for safe drinking water. Historically, these watersheds were covered with towering old-growth fir, cedar, and spruce forests that captured and slowed winter floods and buffered summer droughts. They also

provided habitat for wildlife, and stored vast amounts of carbon. But over the last century almost all of Oregon's coastal old growth has been clearcut.

THE THREAT:

Today, most watersheds on the Oregon Coast are owned by industrial logging corporations, or are part of the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests. Their management is governed by Oregon's woefully outdated Forest Practices Act

(OFPA), a law that has not been significantly updated since the 1970s. Under OFPA, clearcutting is the norm and streams that provide drinking water are often smothered by mud and runoff. Worse, families and wildlife are frequently exposed to the herbicides and pesticides logging operators spray from the air onto these clearcuts under some of the weakest standards in the country.

The problem is getting worse – 85% of the

Jetty Creek watershed was clearcut since the year 2000 and local communities are still fighting hard to prevent further clearcutting in the watershed, with new corporate owners saying they plan to soon cut even more. Short Creek, the drinking water source for the rural community of Oceanside, has mostly escaped industrial clearcutting until recently, when Stimson Lumber announced plans for large-scale clearcutting in this very small drinking watershed. Even on state forest land where

the public might expect better protections, the Norriston Heights Timber Sale threatens clearcuts in community drinking watersheds. These places are just a few examples of the pervasive problems our forest waters face from industrial logging – problems that stretch from the coast to the Gorge to Salem and beyond.

THE SOLUTION:

The Oregon Forest Practices Act should be modernized to make the protection of rivers, streams, and other forest waters a primary feature of the state's forest management laws. It should prohibit clearcutting within 100 feet of streams that provide drinking water and are home to native fish, and 50 feet of smaller streams. It should also prohibit the aerial spraying of pesticides within 500 feet of all forest waters as well as dwellings and schools.

Oregon Wild is working with front-line communities on the coast, in the Coast Range, and all across Oregon who are feeling the brunt of industrial forestry. We're working to highlight the shortcomings of existing law with legislators and the Board of Forestry but the timber industry's grip on the halls of power is firm.

Only through a sustained, grassroots effort will Oregon's logging laws move into the 21st century and adequately protect people, wildlife, and our climate.

#4 - SOUTHWEST OREGON FORESTS & RIVERS ALONG LNG PIPELINE ROUTE



ALAN HIRSCHMUĞL

THE PLACE:

The Klamath, the Rogue, the Umpqua – these are among Oregon's most beloved waterways. They sustain valuable salmon and steelhead runs, provide opportunities for whitewater rafting, and bolster Oregon's important outdoor recreation economy. They are home to iconic old-growth forests that surround their banks and the wildlife that abound in the canopy. These rivers are among the crown

jewels of Oregon's public lands.

THE THREAT:

These rivers are all at risk from the Pacific Connector Pipeline, a proposed 229-mile-long fracked gas pipeline that would stretch from Malin, OR (near Klamath Falls) to Coos Bay. It would result in a permanent 100-foot-wide clearcut that would scar thousands of acres of public lands in order to supply

the Jordan Cove LNG (liquefied natural gas) export terminal to benefit the Canadian energy corporation Pembina. The pipeline route would degrade more than 485 rivers, streams, and wetlands. Between the carbon lost to clearcutting and that emitted from the burning of fracked gas, the pipeline would have a devastating impact on our climate.

THE SOLUTION:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the State of Oregon should deny Pembina the permits necessary to build this environmentally devastating project. The Pacific Connector Pipeline and associated Jordan Cove project have a long and troubled history, and have already been shelved three times. Given its terrible impacts on rivers like the Klamath, Umpqua, and Rogue, and all of the values they sustain, this project is absolutely not in the public's interest.



#5 - MOUNT HOOD NATIONAL FOREST

ANATOLIY FYODOROV

THE PLACE:

The Mount Hood National Forest is one of the most beloved recreational areas found anywhere on America's public lands. On any summer weekend, its trailheads, lakes, and rivers are packed with families seeking to enjoy its scenic beauty and to escape the pressures of modern life. In winter, it draws similar crowds to its developed ski areas and backcountry trails. And while hikers, climbers, kayakers, skiers and others flock to the area, its roadless backcountry areas provide vital habitat for countless species – from coho salmon to gray wolves.

THE THREAT:

Despite all of the love for this unique National Forest, Mount Hood faces a myriad of threats. The Trump administration and the Forest Service are pushing controversial logging projects like the Crystal Clear Timber Sale that endanger both wildlife and scenic values while ignoring the urgent need to better maintain recreational trails and facilities. Climate change is a looming threat to the mountain's glaciers, rivers, and winter recreation. And while the number of people visiting the forest has increased by more than 30% in the last five years, the Forest Service continues to emphasize exploitation of the forest over recreation.

THE SOLUTION:

Federal legislation is needed to provide a 100-year-vision for the management of the Mount Hood National Forest. It should include Wilderness and Wild & Scenic River protection for special places like Boulder Lake and Tamanawas Falls, as well as an over-arching National Recreation Area designation for the region's most popular areas. Such a designation should direct the Forest Service to prioritize protection over exploitation in order to manage for recreational values, preserve clean water, safeguard wildlife, and store carbon in old-growth forests rather than log, mine, and over-develop this natural wonder.



#6 - LOSTINE WILD & SCENIC RIVER

THE PLACE:

Located in the Willowa Mountains in the northeast corner of Oregon, the Lostine River is one of the most beautiful waterways in the entire state. It originates at Minam Lake, inside the spectacular Eagle Cap Wilderness, flowing through a stunning canyon filled with old-growth forests before joining the Willowa River some 31 miles downstream. The Lostine is a popular jumping off point for backpackers, hunters, and others exploring the Eagle Cap, and its watershed provides a home for countless species of wildlife, including wolverine and gray wolves. The Lostine is also part of the Nez Perce homeland and contains numerous historic and cultural sites.

THE THREAT:

The Lostine is unfortunately located in Willowa-Whitman National Forest, where managers have a long history of promoting logging, grazing, mining, and other exploitation over conservation. Worse, the forest

within the 11-mile Wild & Scenic section of the river contains old-growth white fir, Douglas fir, and other species coveted by the local timber industry. In 2017, the agency moved a logging project forward within the Wild & Scenic corridor. While they claimed it would reduce fire risk, the sale would log four million board feet of forest, much of it old-growth, with just 7% of the project area designed to protect homes or structures from fire.

THE SOLUTION:

The Forest Service should withdraw the Lostine logging project and go back to the drawing board. There are legitimate reasons to do some thinning in the area, mostly focused around homes and roads that provide access and egress routes in the event of a fire. However, the Lostine shouldn't be subjected to massive logging projects designed to enrich logging corporations, or to allow Forest Service managers to curry favor with anti-environmental Trump appointees.



#7 - ELLIOTT STATE FOREST

GREG VAUGHN

THE PLACE:

Located in the Coast Range east of Coos Bay, the 80,000-acre Elliott State Forest is unique among Oregon's state-owned public lands in that it still contains large stands of trees over a century old. Because of the rarity of these forests along our coast, the Elliott today contains some of the most important wildlife habitat found anywhere in Oregon. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife estimates that 22% of all wild coastal coho salmon originate in rivers that flow through the Elliott, while the forest sustains other imperiled species including northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets.

THE THREAT:

After the Oregon State Land Board abandoned a terrible plan to sell off and privatize the Elliott in 2017, it launched another process to try and transfer it to new owners. This time, it appeared that politicians on the land board favored giving it to Oregon State University (OSU), to be managed as a "research forest," while assuring the public that its old growth would be

protected. That plan has come under intense scrutiny in recent months after OSU leaders were caught aggressively clearcutting old growth in the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest – including some trees over 400 years old.

THE SOLUTION:

Because of its deep ties to logging corporations and long history of promoting unsustainable clearcutting, OSU may not be a suitable owner for the Elliott. Governor Kate Brown, State Treasurer Tobias Read, and Secretary of State Bev Clarno should halt any further consideration of transferring the Elliott to OSU, unless and until the University can prove it has an enforceable plan to protect old forests and wildlife. Given their recent track record, it is wise for the Land Board to focus on keeping the Elliott in public ownership through more suitable, conservation-focused entities like Oregon State Parks. The Elliott should be preserved as legacy for future generations and OSU leaders have proven time and again that they cannot be trusted to do so.

JIM CHAMBERLAIN



#8 - CASCADE SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT

THE PLACE:

A veritable Noah's Ark of native species, the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument is the first monument protected to preserve biological diversity where three great eco-regions meet in southern Oregon. The 112,000-acre monument is home to diverse conifer forests, oak woodlands, expansive meadows, and more than 300 species of birds, mammals, and amphibians – many of which can be found nowhere else on Earth. First protected in 2000 by President Bill Clinton and later added to by the Obama administration, the landscape is justifiably recognized as a national treasure.

THE THREAT:

From the moment Barack Obama signed a presidential proclamation expanding the Cascade Siskiyou National

Monument, the newly protected acres have been under siege. An array of pro-logging, pro-mining, pro-grazing interests have seized any opportunity to undermine one of President Obama's signature environmental accomplishments in Oregon. Currently, the monument expansion is under attack in three federal court cases. Two of the lawsuits were brought by the logging industry – one by the Eugene-based Murphy Timber Company and the other by industry lobby group the American Forest Resource Council. They argue that certain lands protected by the monument proclamation must be logged under an obscure 1937 law. The third case is perhaps more insidious. The Association of O&C Counties – an unaccountable consortium of Oregon counties – is using Oregon county taxpayer dollars to undo

monument protections to increase public lands logging.

THE SOLUTION:

Oregon Wild and our partners – including local champion Soda Mountain Wilderness Council – are defending the monument in court. We've won an early ruling in one case and hope it's a sign of more good news to come. We've also mobilized public opposition to early Trump administration 'reviews' of recent monument proclamations to undo protections (thus far, Cascade Siskiyou has been spared the fate that befell two Utah monuments – Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante – where protections we slashed). Long term, the monument proclamations should stand and the most remote and intact landscapes within the monument should be protected as Wilderness.



#9 - WILD ROGUE PROPOSED WILDERNESS

THE PLACE:

The Wild Rogue is one of Oregon's most pristine, scenic, and rugged landscapes. Located in southern Oregon and nestled in the Siskiyou Mountain Range, this area is home to the famous Rogue River – one of the original Wild & Scenic Rivers designated in 1968. Also one of the state's premier recreation destinations, it attracts tens of thousands of visitors every year and contributes millions of dollars to the local economy. The Wild Rogue provides important salmon and steelhead spawning and rearing habitat, providing the backbone for one of Oregon's most important sport and commercial fisheries.

THE THREAT:

The John Dingell Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act that passed Congress and was signed by the President in March 2019 almost brought permanent protections to the Wild Rogue. At the last minute, Rep. Greg Walden worked behind the scenes to have the Wild Rogue Wilderness removed from the Oregon Wildlands Act portion of the broader public lands package. Today, the timber industry and their allies in southern Oregon county commissions

are using the fear of fire to once again oppose protections for this public lands gem. Timber industry front group “Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities” recently sent out a misleading mailer to Josephine County residents claiming that new protections for the Rogue would make fires worse. Worse yet, Curry County Commissioner Court Boice called for logging in the riparian area right next to the river under the guise of stopping all wildfire. Logging this forest watershed is no way to treat our most iconic salmon and recreation river.

THE SOLUTION:

Permanently protecting 60,000 additional acres in the heart of the Wild Rogue is the only way to guarantee protections for ancient forests, wild salmon, and world-class recreation in the Rogue Canyon. Luckily, Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley introduced the Oregon Recreation Enhancement Act in May 2019 and have pledged to make it a top priority in the coming months. Rep. Peter DeFazio has championed the Wild Rogue in the past and we look forward to an introduction of a companion House bill in the near future.



#10 - O&C PUBLIC FORESTS

THE PLACE:

The U.S. Forest Service isn't the only manager of public forests in our state. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for more than two and a half million acres of public land in western Oregon. While much of this has been heavily logged in the past, nearly one million acres of intact, ancient forests remain on these lands. These low-elevation forests are critical connecting blocks to the largely mountainous National Forests in Oregon, and are some of the most productive forest regions in the world. These forests are also extremely diverse, with a variety of species found on the slopes of three distinct mountain ranges: The Siskiyou, the Coast Range, and the Cascades.

THE THREAT:

Dating back to the first months of the George W. Bush administration, these forests have been under attack. Oregon Wild and partners beat back most proposals aimed at ramping up logging and undermining ancient forest and riparian protections on these backyard forests, but in 2016 things changed. That year, the BLM approved a new management paradigm that effectively removed O&C forests from the framework of the Northwest Forest Plan. The new BLM plan eviscerated existing protections for riparian areas and increased logging targets. Now the BLM is beginning to roll out timber sales under the new plan and the results are not

pretty. The new logging projects drastically increase the amount of “regeneration harvest” (that's code for clearcutting) proposed for our forests. Some of these proposed timber sales are close to communities in places beloved for recreation.

THE SOLUTION:

In the short term, Oregon Wild and partners are fighting each and every timber sale that puts wildlife, clean water, recreation, and the climate at risk. We've already taken BLM to court over the Pedal Power Timber Sale in the Thurston Hills area of Springfield. In the long run, Oregon's old-growth and backyard forests deserve stronger administrative and Congressional protections. Decades of research and experience have shown that our low-elevation forests provide so much for humans and wildlife alike. These forests are critical wildlife connectivity corridors in a landscape with ever more development and human pressure. Alongside the local habitat value, we know even more today about how essential these forests are in absorbing carbon pollution and helping to solve the climate crisis. ©

TAKE ACTION!

Find out more about the 10 Most Endangered Places of 2019 at www.oregonwild.org.

Protecting Oregon's rivers

Erik Fernandez, Wilderness Program Manager



PRISCILLA MACY & JACOB CRUSER The South Umpqua is an incredible playground deserving of greater protections.

Two-thirds of Oregonians receive their clean drinking water from our state's rivers (and your local breweries do too!). Oregon rivers offer world-class recreational opportunities from fishing to hiking, camping to kayaking and beyond. And we're not the only ones who benefit; our fish and wildlife depend on these rivers for survival. After countless years of damming, logging, and overdevelopment,

it's time we do a better job safeguarding them.

Looking at our rivers conservation toolbox, two of the more effective tools in Oregon are the federal "Wild & Scenic River" designation and the state-based "State Scenic Waterway" designation. They both result in a largely protected river corridor and no new dams. Oregon Wild is actively working

toward designating more of both across the state.

The case for more Wild & Scenic River designations looks promising. At a number of town halls this year, Senator Ron Wyden mentioned he is interested in seeing Oregon do a better job at protecting Wild & Scenic rivers.

At the state level, the State

Scenic Waterway program was regularly used as a tool to protect Oregon rivers in the 1970s and '80s. But new designations took a 25-year nap until being revived just a few years ago.

Due to broad public support, the newest State Scenic Waterway in Oregon is the Nehalem River (as of summer 2019). After several years of vetting the river, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously recommended to Governor Kate Brown that the river be protected.

The Nehalem is now one of only a few rivers protected in the Oregon Coast Range. It is home to a variety of wildlife including runs of wild steelhead and salmon, deer, elk, bald eagles, and marbled murrelets. It's also a great place for kayaking, camping, or simply for a swim on a hot summer day.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is now

considering the South Umpqua River for designation as a State Scenic Waterway. The South Umpqua is home to amazing old-growth forests and increasingly threatened runs of salmon and steelhead as well. There you'll find several great campgrounds and kayaking opportunities with sections up to class V – that's code for "Very" hard core.

We currently have about 1,200 miles of protected State Scenic Waterways. That sounds like a lot, but it's only 1% of Oregon's total river mileage. We can and must do better for Oregon's rivers. The South Umpqua and others should be protected! ©

TAKE ACTION
Call Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department (503-986-0708) and ask them to recommend designation of the **South Umpqua River as a State Scenic Waterway.**

Out and about with Oregon Wild

Danielle Moser, Wildlife Policy Coordinator & Gaby Diaz, Membership & Event Manager



ALPHA WILD

This summer, Oregon Wild partnered with Soul River Inc. and lead a group of youth and veterans to Wallowa County for a wolf-themed adventure. For many, this was both their first time visiting the Wallowa Mountains and their first time learning about this charismatic carnivore. Similar to Oregon Wild wolf rendezvous trips, we spent several days exploring wolf country, learning about their history and biology, and developed a better understanding of wolf/livestock conflict and coexistence.

At the end of the adventure, the youth were asked to journal some of their reflections and make suggestions regarding wolf management and conservation. Here's a snippet of what they said:

"The Gray Wolf has been given a bad rep for centuries, whether it be in fairy tales or myths, they have been given a title of "big" and "bad". While it may seem like a silly solution, talking [to] and informing people about the real nature of the Gray Wolf is a very key important step to ending the misconceptions about these animals." - Kiran Weasel

"Solutions that will positively affect most human parties are building wildlife corridors for wolves to be able to move between public lands, funding training for future and current ranchers to offer non-lethal techniques against wolves along with funds to help set up these operations, and also investing in education for the general public to understand that wolves are not blood thirsty invaders against humans." - Emma Latendresse

Seeing wolf recovery through the eyes of young leaders was both refreshing and inspiring. It left me and others with hope that the next generation will approach wildlife conservation with unwavering compassion and dedication – something we undoubtedly need. ☺

WILD PRIDE

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the Portland Pride Parade and the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, which marked a turning point in the fight for



LGBTQ+ rights. As one of the most well-attended and celebrated events here in the northwest, Pride-goers flocked to the waterfront this past June to celebrate and support each other, and had a damn good time doing it.

Armed with our "Wild Pride" t-shirts and stickers, a handful of Oregon Wild volunteers, staff, and board members spent the weekend talking to hundreds of supporters about our work. Our big take away: Pride is an opportunity to come as you are, in whatever expression that takes. It's an act of resistance and solidarity and we need that now more than ever. We'll see you next year at Portland Pride! ☺

THANKS TO OUR INTERNS FOR keeping it wild

Perhaps you noticed the great social media posts promoting our Outdoor Photo Contest, events, and ancient forest hikes this summer; or you're loving the look of this year's *Call of the Wild* graphics. Our outreach team has Marketing and Outreach Intern, and University of Portland student, **Autumn Fleutsch** to thank for her work highlighting some of our most exciting happenings!

Kelby Johnson, a recent graduate of the University of Denver, spent the summer in our Bend office. She worked outreach events, attended all manner of meetings, and even got to spend some time exploring the Ochocos! We'll miss her positive attitude as she heads back to CO. Good luck, Kelby!

Fall in love with Oregon

Marielle Cowdin, Outreach & Marketing Coordinator



MARCUS ELDER

We're all looking for a little hope and change in this world. Thankfully, our forests and wild places remind us that change is eternal. Though the evergreens are forever green, the lichens, mosses and deciduous undergrowth never fail to put on a show this time of year. Join Oregon Wild for guided, free and family-friendly fall adventures in backyard ancient forests near you:

Sunday, Sept 29
Cape Falcon Hike (EUG)

Monday, Oct 14
Southern Oregon Pacific Crest Trail (EUG)

Sunday, Oct 20
Metolius River (EUG)

Friday, Oct 25
Kentucky Falls & N. Fork Smith River Trail (EUG)

Saturday, Oct 26
Lookout Mountain (BEND)

Walk among the giants

This summer, our very own Chandra LeGue released *Oregon's Ancient Forests: A Hiking Guide!*

Channeling her 16+ years of experience advocating for (and hiking among) Oregon's old-growth forests, Chandra has created a one-of-a-kind hiking guide that not only helps you explore Oregon's ancient forests – but also builds support for defending them.

Join Oregon Wild's Evergreen Society with a monthly gift of \$10 or more and we'll send you a copy!

Being part of our Evergreen Society with an automatic monthly gift is the very best way to support Oregon Wild's conservation work. Your monthly contributions help us put more of your support towards protecting Oregon's ancient forests, native wildlife, and pristine waters.

So no matter which trail you're on or what threats are facing our wildlands and wildlife, your Oregon Wild membership will be current and hard at work – *defending the Oregon you know and love.*

Friday, Nov 1
Boulder Lake (PDX)

Sunday, Nov 3
Mushroom Hike (EUG)

Monday, Nov 11
Salmon River (PDX)

Friday, Nov 15
Opal Creek (PDX)

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. ©

OSU clearcuts old growth and exposes their priorities

Jason Gonzalez, Forest & Watershed Campaign Organizer & Doug Heiken, Conservation & Restoration Coordinator



Oregon State University was in the news lately with yet another example of Oregon's lackluster forest protections allowing the destruction of a healthy old-growth forest ecosystem that provided valuable habitat and recreation opportunities to local residents.

Oregon State University owns several parcels of forest land around the state, managed for

research, recreation, and revenue. Recently, they conducted their *No Vacancy* logging operation near Sulphur Springs in the McDonald-Dunn Research Forest a few miles north of Corvallis. The 15.6-acre clearcut of predominantly Douglas fir forest was filled with mature trees up to 200-years-old, and some trees were discovered by locals to be over 400-years-old!

OSU also planned to cut an adjacent 36 acre stand containing a dozen trees 5-7 feet in diameter and many more 4-5 feet in diameter. While OSU has temporarily halted logging of old forests (those over 160 years), this stand and many others remain very much at risk. We're especially concerned that OSU has logged some of their finest forests

without having a management plan in place.

Irresponsible logging on the OSU forest properties has ignited a new group called Friends of OSU Old-Growth, led by Doug Pollock. The recent old growth logging travesty has served as a catalyst for action in Corvallis and across the state, as more and more people see that Oregon is not the "green" state many believe it to be. OSU and the School of Forestry's cozy relationship with the logging industry has been in the spotlight, as it deserves to be.

Current plans from Oregon's Department of State Lands seem to indicate that OSU is still the leading candidate to take over management, and perhaps even ownership, of the Elliott State Forest. Oregon Wild and our partners have long suggested that could be a recipe for disaster. The McDonald-Dunn Research Forest case strongly bolsters that opinion, and shows that OSU needs transparency and independence from King Clearcut if they are to be trusted to manage public

forestland in Oregon. ©

TAKE ACTION!

It's time to pass laws that bring Oregon's policies more in line with people's perceptions. Go to www.forestwaters.org to learn more about the grassroots campaign to modernize Oregon's logging rules and to protect our forests and the waters that flow through them.



DOUG POLLOCK

Wildlife roundup

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director



EVAN R. BUECHLEY, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH California Condor

Court: ODFW murrelet decision was illegal

Back in 2016, Oregon Wild and a coalition of wildlife groups asked the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to “up list” the marbled murrelet from “threatened” to “endangered” under the Oregon Endangered Species Act. Up listing would bring stronger protections for its

habitat and mandatory survival guidelines to assist in their recovery. In February 2018, the Commission reviewed the science and agreed, voting 4-2 to strengthen protections for the birds. But logging interests, their lobbyists, and anti-environmental state legislators put intense pressure on the commission, and four months later they flip-flopped.

We took the Commission and ODFW to court believing that flip-flop was illegal, and on August 7th, a judge agreed with us. The Commission must now either reinstate the “endangered” designation or actually produce a defensible scientific rationale for why it is not.

Return of the condor

After being pushed to the brink of extinction, California condors are once again soaring above the deserts of the Southwestern U.S. and the coast of California, but they also belong in Oregon. Thanks to a reintroduction effort by the Yurok Tribe, who’s homeland lies along the Klamath River in northern California, they may soon return. As early as fall of 2020, the Yurok aim to reintroduce the birds to the Redwood National Forest. If the recovery effort is successful, condors would likely range north along the Oregon Coast and into the Rogue Basin in search of food and old-growth nesting habitat.

Coastal coho salmon get an assist

Oregon’s coastal coho salmon have survived tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and ice ages. But a century of clearcut logging has devastated populations of these iconic fish and the habitat on which they depend. Like murrelet, Oregon’s protections for coho have lagged far behind reality. Back in April, Oregon Wild joined 23 other conservation and fishing

organizations and petitioned the Oregon Board of Forestry to develop rules to ensure the abysmal Oregon Forest Practices Act isn’t allowing harm to “resource sites” necessary for the recovery of coho. In July, the Board voted 5-2 to accept our petition and initiate rulemaking. They too are now facing intense pressure from Oregon’s clearcut lobby, but this is at least a small step in the right direction. ©



KAREN MAIER

Gathering no moss - Trump's ESA rollbacks

Danielle Moser, Wildlife Policy Coordinator



GREG GIESY Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

Not surprising, but just as painful. That's the reaction reverberating through the conservation community as the Trump administration finalized their plan to roll back critical protections for fish and wildlife granted by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ESA, enacted in 1973, is one of the nation's bedrock environmental laws that has protected and fostered recovery for some of the nation's most imperiled wildlife, including the bald eagle, California condor, American crocodile, and gray wolf. It's no wonder that with industry tycoons in charge of the Department of the Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Trump Administration would do everything in its power to limit the ESA's effectiveness and reach.

Here's a snapshot of some of the most egregious changes to the ESA:

- **Repeals the 4(d) blanket rule.** In essence, this means that future species listed as 'threatened' will no longer receive any protections from take (being harmed or killed).

- **Economic impacts of a listing will now be included.** In 1982, Congress explicitly forbade this, trying to limit political influence, and instead, ensure listing determinations were made by best available science only.
- **Limits the definition of "foreseeable future" for threatened species,** which essentially precludes listing a species due to climate change.
- **Limits determinations of "adverse modification" of critical habitat** to only situations where the whole habitat is degraded at once. This ignores 'death-by-a-thousand-cuts' scenarios.

What does this mean for Oregon? Species already on the 'threatened' list, such as the silverspot butterfly, northern spotted owl, and marbled murrelet would maintain their protections afforded by the old rules. However, species being considered for 'threatened' listing, like the Pacific fisher and the Humboldt marten, if approved, could receive a 'threatened' status that doesn't actually provide any

meaningful protections. For example, the preliminary listing proposal for the Humboldt marten exempts all logging and related activities from being required to change its practices. These are the same activities that significantly contributed to habitat loss and eventual population decline of the marten. Not restricting these activities or prohibiting take could put the marten at serious risk of extinction.

Luckily, a number of national conservation organizations and states are already pushing back. Days after the administration finalized the rule changes, several organizations filed lawsuits. While lawsuits can take a long time to receive a final decision, it's important we keep the pressure up! ☺

TAKE ACTION:

Call or write your members of Congress (especially the Senate), asking them to **use their authority granted by the Congressional Review Act to stop these latest attacks** on our nation's most imperiled wildlife.

The Keystone Circle - for future generations

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

DENNIS DAVENPORT



key-stone species (noun):

- A species that has a disproportionately large effect on its natural environment relative to its abundance; a species on which other species in an ecosystem largely depend, such that if it were removed the ecosystem would change drastically.

Key-stone Circle (noun):

- The new Oregon Wild legacy giving program made up of supporters like you whose commitment to the wild places, native wildlife, and pristine waters of Oregon creates a strong, lasting legacy that will be enjoyed by current and future generations.

The Keystone Circle is the Oregon Wild planned giving program. It's open to anyone at any level who wants to leave behind a lasting legacy of protected wild places, clean water, and thriving native wildlife in Oregon.

Including Oregon Wild in your planned giving is easy. Each person's plan can be as varied and unique as the wild places that inspire us all. Legacy giving isn't just for the wealthy. Whether your capacity is \$500 or \$50 million, every legacy gift makes a

difference. And every gift helps ensure that Oregon Wild will have the long-term resources to be fighting for what's most important to you long after you've reached the end of the trail.

So whether you're new to estate planning or already have a will, trust, or life insurance policy, you should talk to your legal and/or financial advisor about your estate and legacy gift plans. For more information, visit www.oregonwild.org/keystonecircle. To discuss including Oregon

Wild in your planned giving legacy, please contact Sean Stevens (ss@oregonwild.org) or Jonathan Jelen (jj@oregonwild.org) at (503) 283-6343.

Just as keystone species have a tremendous impact on the health and future of their natural ecosystems, the Keystone Circle will set the course for the future health of Oregon's unique wild places, pristine waters, and native wildlife species. Future generations of Oregonians (of all species) will thank you. ©



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CALL OF THE WILD

GO WILD!

It's that time of year again to join your friends and loved ones around the "campfire" for our biggest benefit of the year – *Call of the Wild*.

This event is unlike any other supporting our conservation work across the state and will feature: **unveiling the winning photographs** from our 15th annual Outdoor Photo Contest, a **silent auction filled with outdoor gear and adventures**, local vegan bites from **Devil's Food Catering**, brews from **Oregon Brewshed@ Alliance** partners, wine poured by **Fullerton Wines**, live music, an interactive photo booth, and more!

Come dressed in your

best flannel to help us continue to protect places like Mount Hood, the Ochoco National Forest, newly designated Devil's Staircase Wilderness, and all the wildlife calling those special places home. Join us as we look forward to another year of advocating for our old-growth forests, Wild and Scenic rivers, and imperiled native species.

At this year's event, you'll have a chance to bid on outdoor adventures and gear from big names like OARS, Momentum River Expeditions, Columbia Sportswear, Mountain Hardwear, and more!

Find your WILD side on **Friday, October 11th at Leftbank Annex** (101 N. Weidler) in Portland from 5:30-9:30PM. Your \$45



SHINO YANAGAWA



KELLI PENNINGTON

ticket includes entry, food, wine, beer, and entertainment. To purchase tickets or become a Tent Sponsor

(comes with a special perk!), **visit www.oregonwild.org/callofthewild**. We'll see you at the campfire!