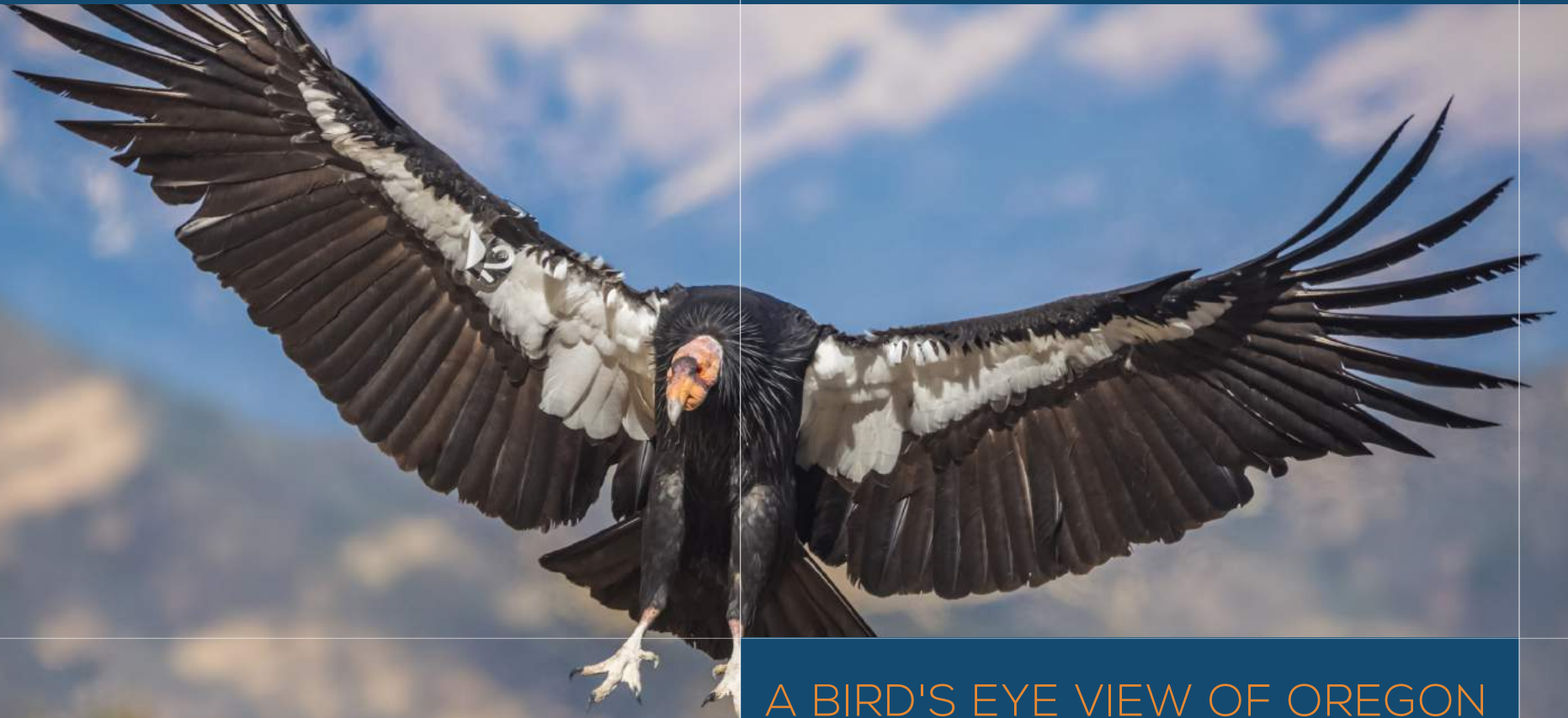


OREGON WILD

Fall 2021 Volume 48, Number 3



A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF OREGON

Also: An exciting future for our rivers





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)

Climate Forest Policy Coordinator	Lauren Anderson x 210
Communications and EDI Associate	Aljana Fisher x 223
Development Director	Jonathan Jelen x 224
Marketing & Branding Manager	Anastasia Kuznetsova x 202
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
Development Associate	Wren Wells x 205
Finance Manager	Ellen Yarnell x 219

Oregon Wild Board of Directors

Kate Ritley, President	Vik Anantha
Lisa Billings, Vice President	Faith Brigg
Clara Soh, Treasurer	Darcie Meihoff
Stacey Rice, Secretary	Seth Prickett

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

Public Lands Campaigner Jamie Dawson
Wilderness Program Manager Erik Fernandez

 www.facebook.com/OregonWild

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



Oregon Wild is a tax-exempt, non-profit charitable organization. Newsletter printed on Endeavour, 65% recycled with 30% post-consumer content and FSC certified, printed with vegetable based inks.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A bird's eye view of Oregon	{4-7}
Historic rivers legislation on the move	{8-9}
The poaching problem	{14}



CHRIS TRENT USFWS California condor.



From the Director's Desk

What's your superpower?

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

Something about the idea of soaring through the air like a bird is absolutely captivating for humans and it is easy to understand why.

The feature article of this issue (overleaf) highlights our work to protect Oregon's threatened avian species as well as other at-risk wildlife. Along with the power of flight, Oregon's birds have individual superpowers that make their place in the animal kingdom fantastically unique.

Whether as a kid or in your adult years, you've no doubt been asked the question before: "If you could have any superpower, what would it be?"

Now, this may not be your final answer, but I'd bet that one of the first things to cross your mind was to have the power of flight.



DAVID LEONARD While birds have the power of flight, we humans are alone in the power to protect them and other wildlife.



Marbled murrelets have a singular life cycle, spending time floating in the open ocean only to journey dozens of miles inland to giant old-growth trees to nest and rear their young. Those who wake up in the wee hours to survey in coastal forests for murrelets describe their football-shaped bodies whirring across the pre-dawn sky.

California condors (don't let the name fool you, they definitely lived in Oregon historically) have the distinction of owning the largest wingspan of any bird in North America. In fact, their wings are so large that they can

soar for miles at a time without a single flap of their wings.

Birds aren't the only animals in Oregon with special superpowers. We have slugs that can jump, fish that can swim uphill for hundreds of miles, mussels that can filter toxins out of water, and the world's largest living organism (a mushroom).

When we think about the cool things that wildlife can do, it's easy to forget that we humans have our own superpower that can actually control the fate of all these amazing animals we share the planet with - the ability to

speak out for their protection. Our voice, our vote, and our unmatched ability to alter the natural world around us give us an awesome power (and a great responsibility).

The next time you have an amazing wildlife experience - spotting a bald eagle perched along a river or glimpsing a marten darting across the forest road in front of you - save that memory and use it as fuel to power your activism going forward. ☺

A bird's eye view of Oregon



Danielle Moser, Wildlife Policy Coordinator



“Endless pressure, endlessly applied.”

This quote from Brock Evans - a long-time friend of the organization's and conservation icon in the region - has been an important north star for our wildlife program. Over the years, we've worked hard to advocate for the protection and restoration of a myriad of fish and wildlife species - including several iconic birds. No matter the issue or species, it's always been important to remember that focus, tenacity, commitment, and passion will eventually pay conservation dividends, even if it doesn't happen in the short-term.

This mantra has been a helpful reminder as we work to bring species like the California condor, Marbled Murrelet and Northern Spotted Owl into full recovery. Over the course of these long campaigns, the peaks of victory and valleys of loss can come to resemble the wide and varied topography of our beloved state. But at the end of the day, we remind ourselves:

“Endless pressure, endlessly applied.”

Marbled Murrelet

If you've never heard of a Marbled Murrelet before reading this article, you're probably not alone. Often called the 'enigma of the Pacific Northwest', this incredibly rare, tiny seabird earned its reputation from its elusive nature and the challenges for researchers to gain a better understanding about them or their nesting habitat. In fact, it wasn't until 1974 that the first Marbled Murrelet nest was even detected in California, and 1990 in Oregon.

Since then, research and our understanding of the mysterious bird's nesting and breeding habits have grown. Similar to the Northern Spotted Owl, the Marbled Murrelet has a unique and necessary connection to mature, coastal forests for its survival. Unlike other birds that create their own nests, this bird relies on large, moss-covered branches and other specific tree characteristics to provide the perfect nest for laying their egg.

This reliance on old-growth forests - and the significant decline of these mature forests in Oregon - was the impetus for

adding the murrelet to the federal endangered species list as threatened in 1992. That listing, and subsequent decline of aggressive old-growth logging, helped stabilize the population on federal lands, however persistent logging on state lands coupled with unchecked, clear cut logging on private lands remained and still remain major factors in the species' decline.

In 1995, the Marbled Murrelet was added to the newly amended state endangered species list, however fell short (by a few months) of meeting the requirement to have survival guidelines put into place. This meant that although the species was technically on the endangered species list, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) was not mandated to implement any actions to prevent further decline.

Unsurprisingly, wildlife conservationists and scientists alike were worried about the Marbled Murrelet's continued decline toward extinction. So we decided to do something about it.

In 2016, Oregon Wild and partners petitioned the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

to uplist the Marbled Murrelet from threatened to endangered status under the state Endangered Species Act. The Commission agreed to hear the petition (because they can choose to deny a petition outright before really exploring the merits of the case), and requested ODFW provide a biological assessment of the species and its population viability in Oregon.

As it turns out, the biological assessment conducted by ODFW was sound, defensible, peer

reviewed, and furthermore, underscored the significant population decline of Marbled Murrelets in Oregon. That report, coupled with independent scientific input and support from the public, were the basis for the Commission voting in February of 2018 to reclassify the species as endangered. A celebratory moment was had by all!

Unfortunately, that celebration was short-lived. Four months later, and in a land far far away from actual Marbled Murrelet

habitat (Baker City), the Commission decided to capitulate to logging interests and reverse their decision. This turn of events was both unprecedented and, as it turns out, illegal.

In response, Oregon Wild and our fellow petitioners filed a lawsuit. About a year later, an Oregon judge ruled on our litigation. As we'd argued, the Commission violated Oregon law when they reversed their decision without proper notification or administrative process. As such,

the decision was remanded to the Commission for reconsideration - which would eventually take place in July, 2021.

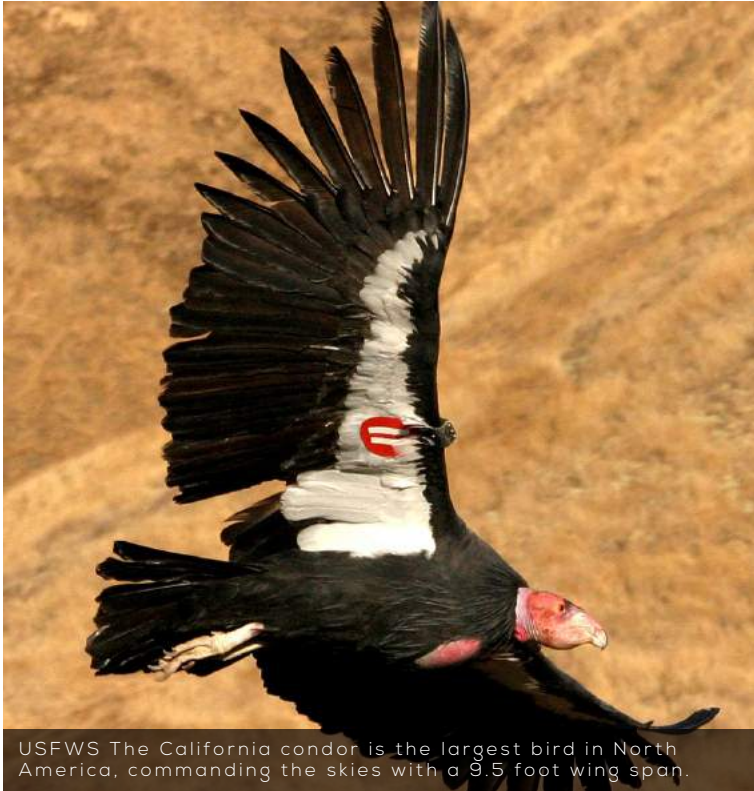
At the request of the Commission, agency staff was asked to review and update the previous biological assessment with current scientific information or data. Because ODFW was scared of the blowback they'd receive if they produced a scientifically sound report that recommended uplisting, this time they did the

opposite. So what was their opinion? Don't reclassify the species as endangered.

Luckily, and somewhat to our surprise, the Commission disagreed. On July 9, 2021 the Commission voted 4-3 to uplist the Marbled Murrelet to endangered status. Not only would this ensure the creation and adoption of an endangered species recovery plan, but also that the species would get mandatory survival guidelines - a stopgap measure used to prevent



MIKE DANZENBAKER Marbled Murrelet preparing to take flight.



USFWS The California condor is the largest bird in North America, commanding the skies with a 9.5 foot wing span.

California Condor

Until you've stood under a bird with a 9.5 foot wingspan, it's truly hard to conceptualize the California condor's majestic presence. Luckily for Oregonians, that day may be closer than we realize.

After a century-long absence, this incredible "thunderbird" is on the verge of returning to our skies. The Yurok Tribe, in conjunction with The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has secured final approval to begin a condor reintroduction program from their ancestral homelands of the redwoods of Northern California. Birds released here would likely range into Oregon and become an exciting new chapter in the comeback story of a species that many thought was likely to go extinct.

When the Endangered Species Act was created in 1973, one of the first species to be listed was the California condor. By 1982 there were a meager 22 birds left in the wild and by 1987 all condors were brought into captive breeding to try and save what little of them was left. Without a doubt, the story of the

condor is one of tragedy, heartbreak, and frustration.

In 1992, scientists, wildlife biologists and tribal leaders reintroduced a pair of California condors in Southern California, marking a momentous occasion for wildlife conservation and recovery. This began a series of reintroductions mostly across the US Southwest and Southern California, leaving a gap in the Pacific Northwest that tribes, like the Yurok, are working to fill.

Oregon Wild's role has been to elevate and amplify the work of those on-the-ground who are researching, preparing, and building programs to reintroduce condors. In particular we will continue to tell the story of condors in Oregon through webcasts and a soon-to-be

unveiled podcast, blogs, and of course, advocacy with decision-makers to make sure we have the right policies and procedures in place to welcome home thunderbird.

It is our hope that one day soon, all of us will be able to stand near a rocky cliff (not too close!), look up and see condors gracing the skies with their presence.

Northern Spotted Owl

For most people, when you mention the battle to protect old-growth forest in Oregon, the development and implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan, or just about anything related to wildlife and forests in Oregon, someone will inevitably mention the Northern Spotted Owl (NSO).



BRETT COLE Did you know? Northern Spotted Owls are one of the only owl species with dark colored eyes – most have yellow or orange eyes.

further decline of the species - in the meantime.

It was an all team effort, but special praise needs to be given to the independent seabird scientists who weighed in, hundreds of advocates who submitted public comments to the Commission, and newly appointed members of the Commission who chose to do

something to protect this imperiled species rather than sit idly by.

There's still a lot of work to do to ensure the Marbled Murrelet is on a path toward full recovery, but one thing is certain: the horizon is looking a hell of a lot brighter now.

This iconic bird has been the poster child of old-growth forest protection since the species was first listed as threatened on the federal Endangered Species Act in 1990. Though the listing and the subsequent passage of the Northwest Forest Plan in 1994 helped curtail some of the most egregious practices destroying their habitat, continued mature and old-growth logging in Western Oregon, competition over habitat and prey with barred owls, and climate-driven changes to wildfire intensity have all contributed to its fight for ecological stability.

To make matters worse, one of the parting shots the Trump administration took before leaving office was a massive rollback of NSO's critical habitat (meaning logging would be fair game). Their draft proposal initially marked about 204,000 acres to be excluded from the designation - an amount that would undoubtedly set back recovery of this imperiled species. Then we received their final proposal: 3.4 million acres.

Luckily, that specific proposal was stopped in its tracks by the changing of the guard in the

White House. When the Biden administration first took office, they mentioned several Trump proposals or rules that they would be rescinding or revising after further review. This was one of them. We felt hopeful that a new president (and new administrative leadership) would mean a better outcome for NSO.

While I wish we could share with you that the Biden administration rescinded the whole proposal, they ultimately decided to revise it back down to the original number: 204,000 acres. While we're still in the process of determining why they came to this conclusion (and how you can voice your opposition to this proposal), Oregon Wild will never stop speaking up and speaking out for the state's wildlife.

Because if there's one thing we've learned in the last 47 years of our work to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters, it's that when the campaign trail gets tough, it's time to buckle in, crank up the volume and apply more pressure, endlessly. ☺



The Shadow of the Condor: A special audio program

Ally Fisher, Communications and EDI Associate

The release of the second installment of our special audio program is near! You all loved our sea otter special, so we wanted to bring a program to highlight an iconic bird. Make sure to keep a lookout for The Shadow of the Condor in late September to learn more about one of the most rare species on Earth and the efforts by the Yurok and Nez Perce Tribes to bring the California condor back

from the brink of extinction. In this riveting story you'll learn how people of all stripes have come together to save the condor. Join us on a journey where we will outline the cultural and ecological significance of this majestic bird, its early history and near erasure from the skies to finally culminate in the epic tale of how it's comeback creates a more whole and healthy world.

Did you know? California condor quick facts:

1

Condors have a very **low reproductive rate** compared to other birds like eagles. Female condors lay only one egg per nesting attempt and this does not happen every year as often parents will skip nesting to provide **extended childcare** to their chick.

2

Condors **do not have vocal cords**. Instead, they force air through their bodies to make a variety of hissing and grunting noises.

3

The California condor co-existed with **great woolly mammoths, mastodons, and bison in the Great Ice Age**. They are a snapshot into history and the last surviving remnant of airborne mega-scavengers.

River Democracy Act update

Jamie Dawson, Public Lands Campaigner



CHANDRA LEGUE Middle Santiam River (proposed Wild & Scenic).

Wild & Scenic updates

Summer is nearly over and the River Democracy Act has been sailing through its early stages in Congress. After numerous town halls and public meetings, Senator Ron Wyden's visionary river protection bill was introduced into Congress in February to resounding applause across the state.

The legislation includes protections for iconic waterways, including:

Central Oregon - Tumalo Creek, the Upper Deschutes, and key tributaries to the Metolius
SW Oregon - streams like Rough and Ready Creek that are threatened by mining.
NE Oregon - Key tributaries to the Snake, Grand Ronde, and John Day Rivers

NW Oregon - Clackamas and Santiam River tributaries that provide clean drinking water to thousands of Oregonians.
Coast Range - Headwaters of the Nestucca, Drift Creek, and important tributaries to the Rogue and Illinois Rivers

...and many more

Since introduction, the bill has passed some important milestones

- formally and informally. The bill had its first "official" hearing in a Congressional subcommittee in June, and has been endorsed by over 200 businesses across the state. During a recent virtual town hall meeting for rural counties, over 140 people attended and asked thoughtful questions about the bill, with the large majority of attendees in favor. And in just the last few weeks, over 700 Oregon Wild members and advocates have signed a petition to become "Citizen Co-Sponsors" of the River Democracy Act!

When you take a look at all of that with a bird's eye view, the picture is pretty darn clear: Oregonians love protected waterways and love this bill. The outpouring of support has inspired Senator Wyden to prioritize moving this bill. I hope you'll join us in working to ensure that all of the River Democracy Act is as strong and bold as possible as it moves through Congress!

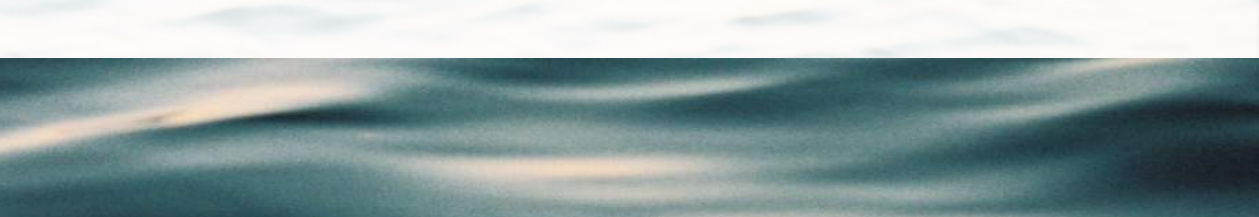
Oregon breweries support the bill

Oregon's breweries have always been strong supporters of river conservation. After all, a majority of Oregonians receive their drinking water from public lands waterways, and great beer starts with clean water, so it just makes sense!

This summer, over 50 breweries from across the state released a letter in support of the bill.

"The numbers don't lie: Oregon craft brewing companies lead the nation and that's in part because we have a vital and healthy place to produce our beer. People choose to live in Oregon for the natural beauty of our rivers and outdoor spaces, and many build their livelihoods around the thriving beer industry."

We look forward to hosting some in-person brewery events celebrating rivers later this fall or next spring. We hope you'll join us!



DANIEL HOWLAND Little Sandy River



ROGER TABOR

River critter highlight: Freshwater Mussels

Sure, you've heard about salmon and steelhead, but have you heard the good word about freshwater mussels?! Earlier this summer our wonderful staffer Ally Fisher had the chance to chat with Emilie

Blevins, a conservation biologist and mussel enthusiast from the Xerces Society, about mussels and why they rock.

We were both surprised to learn that freshwater mussels get nowhere near the credit they deserve. They're indicators of

excellent water quality because they're so sensitive to pollutants, and also require high quality riverbed habitat. Are they the true unsung heroes of our favorite waterways? I think Emilie said it best:

"They are like freshwater reefs. They are these little bivalves that burrow in rivers and streams and they spend their entire lives filtering water... our drinking water is cleaner because we have freshwater mussels!"

Learn more about these fascinating (and highly underappreciated) critters by reading Ally's blog post, The Liver of the River, at oregonwild.org!

Take Action!

Do you support additional Wild & Scenic Rivers protections for Oregon waterways? Sign our Citizen Co-Sponsor Petition at oregonwild.org/cosponsor

Legacy rivers

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

The River Democracy Act represents a once-in-a-generation conservation opportunity to advance bold protections for Oregon's special places.

And Oregon Wild is in position to seize this opportunity **because of supporters like you**, who, in addition to their generous annual support, have taken the time to include Oregon Wild in their planned giving.

Legacy giving isn't just for the wealthy. Whether your capacity is \$500 or \$50 million, every legacy gift makes a difference and ensures that we'll have the long-term resources to continue to fight for Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters.

Including Oregon Wild in your planned giving is easy and

each person's plan can be as varied and unique as the wild places that bring us together.

We've partnered with FreeWill to offer Oregon Wild supporters a free, easy tool to take care of who and what you love long after you've reached the end of the trail.

To access this free tool, visit: www.freewill.com/oregonwild

Who knows when the next conservation opportunity of the magnitude of the River Democracy Act will be. But your support could ensure that we're in position to seize it and stand up for the special places that mean so much to you. For more information or to discuss including Oregon Wild as part of your legacy, contact Jonathan Jelen at jj@oregonwild.org.

Conservation roundup

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director



Biden Acts on Old-Growth

President Biden took a major step forward to protect old-growth and roadless areas in Alaska earlier this summer. On July 15th the Biden administration announced it would halt old-growth logging sales in the Tongass National Forest, and reinstate protections under the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. The current administration cited climate change as one of the major factors (one estimate found that the Tongass stores 44 percent of all carbon found in US national forests).

Oregon Wild has been working with groups in Alaska and elsewhere to push the administration to go beyond the Tongass, and similarly protect mature and old-growth forests - and the climate - by enacting similar measures in carbon-rich forests elsewhere in the country.



MICHAEL HUDSON

OFRI's Clearcutting and Climate Denial Survives, For Now

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) is a quasi-state agency that works to mislead the public about the environmental

impacts of logging. They have repeatedly been exposed engaging in climate denial, undermining community groups advocating drinking water protection, and deploying staff to work with logging lobbyists to influence legislation and even elections. You may have heard

their ubiquitous ads on television, or underwriting on Oregon Public Broadcasting.

Oregon Wild and a coalition of other groups asked the Oregon Legislature to reform or eliminate OFRI in the 2021 session. We scored some major

victories, and passed a reform bill in the House. Unfortunately, backroom dealing in the Oregon State Senate blocked the bill from advancing. Just weeks after the legislature ended, OFRI was again running misleading social media ads promoting logging. We are already planning another run at OFRI reform, or elimination, for the next legislative session.

Defending Forests Recovery in Western Oregon

In 2020, the climate driven Labor Day Fires burned hundreds of thousands of acres in Western Oregon, including beloved landscapes in the McKenzie, Santiam, and Clackamas watersheds. While the combination of historic heat, high winds, and downed power lines led to large areas of intense fire, the good news is that many trees survived. Unfortunately, the smoke had not yet begun to clear

before the logging industry began demanding that the Forest Service open up vast areas of recovering forests to log trucks, chainsaws, and bulldozers under the guise of “salvage” logging and “roadside hazard” logging.

In August, Oregon Wild went to court over two of these proposals. One in the Willamette National Forest seeks to use a categorical exclusion (CE) to avoid environmental analysis of the impacts of clearcutting along 404 miles of roads. CE's were originally intended to cover work like painting buildings or installing new outhouses. A second tries to use an environmental analysis conducted before the fires to justify logging now.

In the months to come, expect more legal challenges from Oregon Wild aiming to rein in the logging industry and efforts to exploit areas recovering from the Labor Day fires. ©

Update on the Private Forest Accord

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

When Oregon Wild and allies committed in February 2020 to comprehensive negotiations with the logging industry over the future of the Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA), we felt cautious optimism. After all, the OFPA had remained nearly unchanged for decades, leaving threatened species like salmon on the brink and saddling rural, forested communities with polluted drinking water and dangerous

chemical spray. A chance to completely overhaul our logging laws was desperately needed.

However, we also had no illusions about how difficult a mediated negotiation over such wide-ranging issues would be. The mediation itself is confidential - to allow for creative thinking and the free exchange of proposals and positions. While that prevents us from providing a more specific inside look at the process, we did

want to make sure that Oregon Wild supporters had a window into this critical work.

The state hired a mediator, Peter Koehler, in December 2020 and six representatives each from the industry and conservation sides began a long succession of Zoom meetings. I represent Oregon Wild at the table and am joined by staff from KS Wild, Portland Audubon, Trout Unlimited, Wild Salmon Center, and a seasoned scientist representing all conservation signatories. The industry players are from Hampton Lumber, Oregon Small Woodland Association, Rayonier, Roseburg Forest Products, Seneca Sawmill, and Weyerhaeuser.

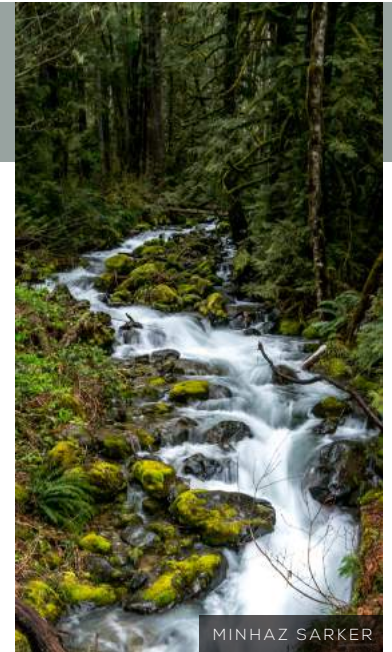
Given that the original Memorandum of Understanding focused on aquatic habitat and water protection, it's no surprise that the issues we are discussing in the negotiation are centered around the nexus of logging practices and water quality. Preventing sediment from logging roads, considering the buffers

needed on streams to keep waterways cool, ensuring adequate large wood recruitment to help create the pooling water that salmon love, and preventing harmful landslides are all topics of discussion.

If we're able to reach an agreement (and we don't have much time left to get there), it is important to know that the public will have plenty of opportunity to weigh in as a new OFPA framework moves forward.

First, the state legislature will take our agreed-upon proposal and turn it into draft legislation for the short session in February 2022. This legislative process will include all of the usual hearings and testimony to ensure the public has a chance to offer feedback.

If legislation passes, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) will take the next step by submitting a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) application to the federal government for approval. This HCP is required to go



MINHAZ SARKER

through the rigorous National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process in the form of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement. While the new laws and rules will be on the books in Oregon, the state won't get assurances under the Endangered Species Act until the HCP is fully approved.

We're hopeful that we'll have something big to report in the not too distant future. And as we work through these negotiations, don't forget that our work at the federal level to protect mature and old growth forests is still going strong. ☺



CHANDRA LEGUE

New fire policies offer some progress

Chandra LeGue, Western Oregon Field Coordinator



A year after the devastating wildfires of 2020 left thousands without homes and as the 2021 fire season still smolders, efforts by lawmakers and federal agencies to better prepare Oregon's communities and beloved forests for fires exacerbated by climate change offer a mixed bag of progress and regression.

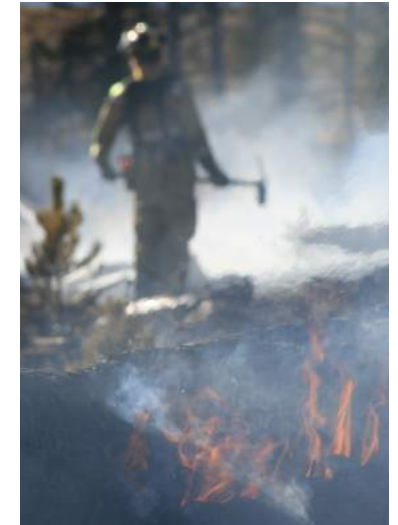
After years of reports, hearings, and negotiations in the Oregon state legislature, the 2021 session ended with the passage of SB762, a package of fire-related policy proposals. Health, safety, and conservation advocates had called for policies that focused on community protection, while logging interests and their proxies in the legislature demanded more subsidies, loopholes, and logging in the backcountry far away from homes and communities. The compromise that resulted does include some steps in the right direction where fire policy overlaps with community health and safety. These positive policies include new authorities and requirements for enforcing "defensible space" and

updated building code standards in high-risk fire areas; funding to help low-income and traditionally underserved populations to better protect their homes; requiring public utilities to create plans for preventing fires; funding for increased home air filtration programs and smoke shelters to help communities cope with wildfire smoke; and the creation of a new Wildfire Workforce Corps that will put youth to work and help build skills for future employment in helping communities prepare for fire by reducing flammable materials in the home ignition zone.

Unfortunately, SB762 also included money for continuing the State's exorbitant funding of heavy fire suppression; and commits more tax dollars to subsidize commercial logging on public forests that we know is ineffective at protecting communities.

As these state policies come on line over the next few years, continued vigilance is also needed on federal forest fire policy and

management. Analysis of fires like this year's Bootleg Fire, the largest in Oregon's recent history, may shed light on how effective (or not) various types of logging and fuel reduction activities can be. And we're working to ensure that important bills considered by Congress, such as the infrastructure package, invests in community protection, emergency planning, and home hardening instead of wasting taxpayer dollars on more ineffective backcountry logging. ©



Putting an end to poaching

Danielle Moser, Wildlife Policy Coordinator



Oregon is home to a vast array of incredible wildlife. It's one of the many reasons Oregonians are proud to call this place home. Unfortunately, this diverse range of fish and wildlife are also subjected to Oregon's persistent and pervasive poaching problem.

And no species is excluded: From wolves and bald eagles, to turtles and sturgeon, the percentage of

Oregon's wildlife that is illegally killed each year is alarming. Last year alone at least 3,320 species were reported to be illegally killed. The real, unreported number is undoubtedly far higher.

While some efforts, such as raising public awareness, increasing penalties for poaching, and incentivizing people to turn in poachers have helped, it hasn't

been enough to fully deter this illegal behavior.

That's why Oregon Wild, together with our partners in the Oregon Wildlife Coalition, are in the process of creating an anti-poaching reward fund to complement the existing TIP (Turn-In-Poachers) program. While TIP, which is run by the Oregon Hunters Association, has done quite a bit to incentivize

people to report any illegal wildlife activities, their focus is only on "game" species like deer and elk, leaving a large gap for species that are not hunted (which is a majority of the wildlife in Oregon). That's where we come in.

Our anti-poaching-reward fund will pay money to people who turn in poachers (and if that poacher is actually given a citation

by the Oregon State Police) for illegally killing mammals, birds of prey, and all state and federally endangered species.

In addition to catching more poachers and bringing them to justice, we hope to raise awareness about how large of a problem this is and what people can do to help. Stay tuned as we finalize this program and get ready to go public later this fall. ☺

Migrations



Anastasia Kuznetsova

There is perhaps no time like autumn to witness the changing of the seasons in such dramatic fashion. Here at Oregon Wild, we've come to greatly appreciate how the seasons and years evolve our organization and the flow of staff, board, interns, and volunteers that make our work possible.

Joining the Oregon Wild staff in the Portland office at the tail end of summer is our new Marketing & Branding Manager **Anastasia Kuznetsova**. With a background in biological science and a

professional history spent working to build brands and marketing strategies for startup companies, Anastasia is on board to help tell the Oregon Wild story to a larger audience. Welcome Anastasia!

As a new fiscal year begins October 1 for Oregon Wild, we bid a fond farewell to three board members who have made significant contributions to guiding our fiscal and organizational health. **Judy Clinton** brought her keen sense of Central Oregon politics and a willingness to ensure our growing



Judy Clinton

Bend office had the support they needed. **Vail Fletcher** hosted an incredibly memorable wolf-themed friend-and-fund-raiser at her farm on Sauvie Island and always brought her wacky and endearing humor to our board meetings. **Naila Bhatri** stepped up to leadership as our board secretary and was always there for the Eugene staff to help with outreach and community events. Our sincere gratitude to these board members for volunteering their time and passion to the Oregon Wild cause.



Vail Fletcher

With fall also comes the beginning of a new school year, and that means that our latest crop of talented interns wrapped up their work and headed back to universities across the country. **Shannon Bell** joined Oregon Wild from her graduate program at the Yale School of the Environment and spent the summer digging into the intricacies of the Secure Rural Schools program to find new ways of matching county funding with environmental outcomes. **John Seng** made his way to Portland



Naila Bhatri

from graduate school at the University of Minnesota and spent months developing a report on climate smart alternatives for small forestland management. Finally, **Theresa Mai** took her time away from studies at Oregon State University to add energy and smarts to our wildlife program where she helped to organize several well-attended webcasts and researched policies from other states that we might want to bring here to Oregon. A huge thanks to this dedicated crop of interns! ☺



Oregon Wild and Hollywood Theater present Who's on Top: LGBTQs Summit Mt. Hood

Ally Fisher, Communications and EDI Associate

Please join us at 2pm at Hollywood Theater on October 23rd for the special screening of *Who's on Top: LGBTQs Summit Mt. Hood*. This film showcases stories from LGBTQ+ community members who challenge

stereotypes about gender and sexuality to overcome physical and figurative mountains. Afterward we will be hosting a Q&A with the producer of the film, as well as cast members. Due to COVID-19 safety

precautions, seating will be limited so make sure to keep a lookout for the alert for this event and get your tickets early! Additionally, this event has a mandatory vaccination and mask requirement so make sure to

have proof of vaccination ready at the door.

If you don't live close by or can't make the event, don't worry as we will be hosting a virtual screening in December.



OREGON WILD

5825 N. Greeley Ave.
Portland, OR 97217

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Printed on recycled paper with vegetable based ink.

You make our hearts soar

The newsletter you have before you is just a sampling of the work supported by Oregon Wild members. Whether it's protecting old-growth habitat for our feathered friends, envisioning a new future for Oregon's rivers, or fighting for climate-smart forest policy, none of it is possible without the donors, volunteers, and activists that are the wind beneath our wings.

From the People's Coast to Hells Canyon and all the way up across the towering Cascades, the fish, wildlife, and communities that rely on our special places would not be the same without people like you.

From the bottom of our hearts, thanks for all you do to keep Oregon wild.

