

OREGON WILD

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OREGON WILD AND SCENIC SUMMER

Also: The fight for a livable climate



OREGON WILD

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

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JOEL ZAK Olallie Creek in the Willamette National Forest.



From the Director's Desk Tree huggers

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

With hugs on my mind, I was maybe more attuned to noticing that classic bumper sticker *Tree Hugging Dirt Worshipper* the other day on a car in front of me. Obviously, someone sporting this sticker is making a statement about their unabashed values. But, as a card-carrying environmentalist, you've probably been called a tree hugger before – sometimes affectionately and sometimes derisively.

I think it's time to lose any hesitation we might have in owning the identity of a "tree hugger." After all, we really only hug the things that we care about – the things that we love. Certainly, the past year-and-a-half has made us realize what it feels like to live without the things that are most precious to us.

And aside from our family and friends, what is it that you care about most in this world? I'd imagine that Oregon's awe-inspiring old growth forests, the

chance to see wild salmon swimming up a mountain stream, and the final steps to a breathtaking summit rank high on your list. How should we appreciate and honor these incredibly special things in our lives?

Well, I think we can start by hugging a tree. Bathing in a wild river. Listening to the hooting of a great gray owl in the still of the night. And after we re-establish that deep connection with the wild world that we love, we can

turn our attention to saving the special piece of it that we have here in Oregon. ☺

I'm sure many of you have encountered the same experience in recent months that I have. You head over to a friend or family member's home. You cautiously walk inside (without a mask on!). You exchange a glance that asks, "Are we doing this?"

And then you give your loved ones a big, joyous hug.

After so much social isolation and separation, these reunions are truly a gift. I'm desperately looking forward to seeing my Oregon Wild colleagues in person very soon - hopefully gathered around a campfire. Thanks again to all the frontline workers, vaccine researchers, and anyone who has sacrificed for our community well-being during the pandemic.



BRIZZ MEDDINGS Sometimes the big ones are hard to get your arms around, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't still try to hug them!

A love letter to Wild & Scenic Rivers

Jamie Dawson, Public Lands Campaigner

NW RAFTING

How do we know a place is “special”? Is it about a feeling? How many generations need to visit and feel the same way before it gets the title? Does it need to meet some scientific standard? As far as I’m concerned, what makes a place special is not always quantifiable. Sometimes, they’re special because *they just are* - there’s something

intangible about them. For many, those special places are rivers. They connect us in nearly every way imaginable: communities upstream and downstream, families throughout decades. They even connect multiple species through a food web; if you eat an adult salmon, you’re connected to whatever it ate - the caddisfly it scooped from

an eddy on its natal stream, the juvenile chum salmon it chased down in the sea.

Likewise, the River Democracy Act, legislation that would designate just under 4,700 miles of rivers as Wild & Scenic, connects Oregonians across the state. This proposal has created the opportunity for individuals from all walks of life to become

involved in the lawmaking process and nominate their own special place for a Wild & Scenic designation. These are protections that will last beyond my lifetime and provide an opportunity for those rivers and their surrounding landscapes to be preserved as “special” for generations to come.

How Oregon’s biggest river bill came to life

To understand where the River Democracy Act came from, we have to rewind back to the 1980s when a then-Congressman Ron Wyden first dipped his toes in the Wild & Scenic pool. In those days, Oregon was still intensely logging public lands, and

Indigo Creek: Indigo Creek (left) is a textbook example of how important tributaries are to a watershed, and how critical it is to maintain healthy waterways from the headwaters on down. This remote stream feeds into the Wild & Scenic Illinois River, which itself is a tributary of the Rogue River. Indigo Creek is known for its exceptional water quality and near-pristine fish spawning and rearing habitat, and during summer's low flows it provides 15-20% of the Illinois River's water. The world-class fishery of the lower Rogue would not be what it is without cool, clean tributaries like Indigo Creek. Though difficult to access, this secluded creek also provides a truly intimate and challenging paddling experience for whitewater boaters – though it's not for the faint of heart.

With that history in mind, Congressman Wyden worked with Oregonians and other members of our Congressional delegation to create the 1988 Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. He sees the River Democracy Act of 2021 as a continuation of that legacy.

To describe its origin story, now-Senator Wyden said it best himself in a recent short film that Pacific Rivers created about the River Democracy Act:

"This [bill] embodies all the dreams we had back then. But I always wanted to pick up on this incredible legacy with this bill. We're fulfilling that vision. We're going to call it the River Democracy Act because the recommendations for the future of the Wild & Scenic Rivers system in Oregon didn't come from Washington DC – it came from Oregonians in every nook and cranny of our state."

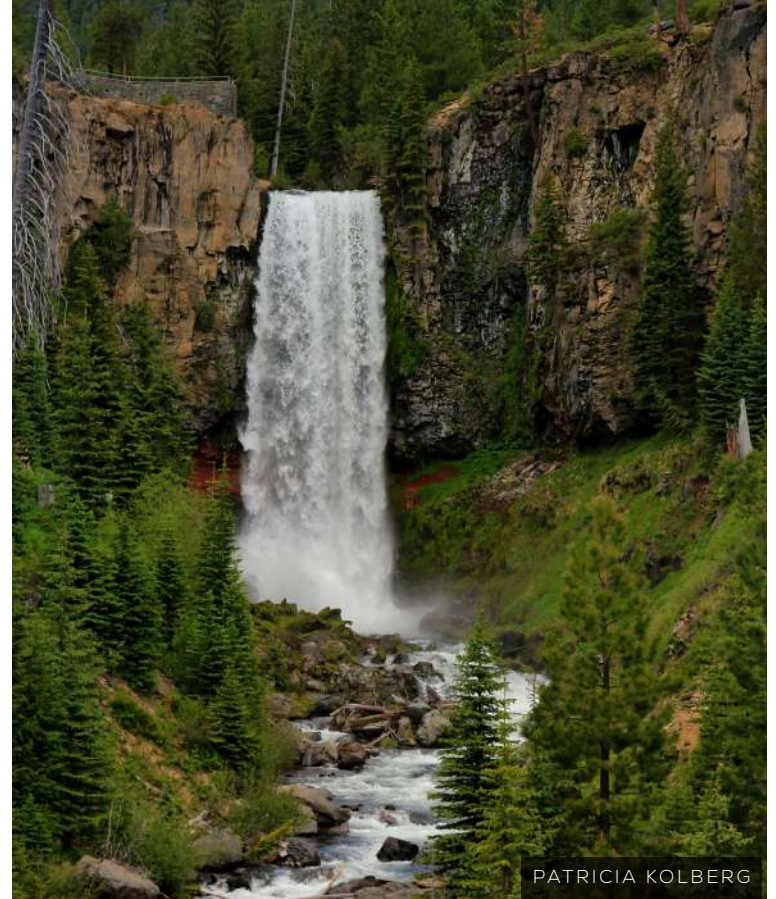
To say that his efforts were well received would be an understatement. At his "Rivers Town Hall" in Bend in 2019, it was standing room only. A film screening I co-hosted on the topic was so popular we nearly

had to turn people away in fear of breaking fire code.

River lovers of all stripes showed up: students, guides, members of watershed councils, hunters, anglers, retired biologists, drinking water providers, and more. Breweries nominated the clean water sources that make their beer top-notch. Anglers nominated their favorite stretches of fishy waters. In my neck of the woods in Central Oregon, a group of local middle schoolers teamed up to nominate Tumalo Creek – a place they recreate with their families and conduct citizen science projects for class. Their nomination letter even got them on the front page of the Bend Bulletin:

"We believe that Tumalo Creek should be designated as a Wild and Scenic River to protect it for years to come because it represents everything that we love in Bend, OR – the beautiful outdoors, being with friends/family, and having fun! [We] feel the need to protect the creek because it is part of our community."

All told, after more than two years of public meetings, town halls, and intense discussions



PATRICIA KOLBERG

Tumalo Creek: Tumalo Creek is a recreational hotspot. It's perhaps most well known for Tumalo Falls, a nearly 100-foot waterfall that draws tourists from around the world. It also boasts a variety of hiking and biking trails that tie into the larger trail system on the Deschutes National Forest. Perhaps most importantly, this watershed is the source of Bend's drinking water, so we are grateful to see sections of both Bridge and Tumalo Creeks included in the River Democracy Act.

safeguards for the state's rivers and waterways were severely lacking; only 317 of our total 110,994 miles (0.003%) of our rivers were protected. The Wild & Scenic Rivers Act seemed like a natural solution to this issue; the Rogue River was one of the original 8 rivers protected when the Act was passed, and it's been a wild success ever since.



PACIFIC RIVERS COALITION Senator Ron Wyden, holding a photo of himself from 1988. The sign behind him reads: "Oregon: the Wild & Scenic River capital of the world."

and research, the River Democracy Act accrued more than 15,000 nominations from Oregonians across the state. It's heartening to know that river-lovers across multiple generations recognize the importance of protecting our waterways, and that Senator Wyden took their nominations seriously.

Jeff Merkley, Oregon's other senator, joined Ron Wyden's introduction of the River Democracy Act in February of this year. I think it's safe to say that it's the first of its kind as

far as magnitude goes. The proposed 4,700 miles of additions to the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System would bring Oregon up to nearly 6% of our rivers protected. It has the potential to make us a nationwide leader on river protection.

Since its introduction the bill has received enthusiastic support from businesses, and elected officials from across the state. In mid-June, a collection of over 50 breweries from across Oregon recently published a letter showing their support.

And they're backed by Oregonians: a January poll showed that 87% of surveyed Oregonians support designating more Wild & Scenic Rivers, including 75% of Republicans.

What is Wild & Scenic & what's in the bill?

The anatomy of a Wild & Scenic River is pretty variable, but a good general rule is that no new dams can be built and no new mining claims can be

staked. The river gets a buffer of protection on either side – in some places this means a backcountry roadless area, and others are home to some of Oregon's most beloved trails (think: the Rogue River trail). Clearcutting and old-growth logging generally don't make the cut as acceptable pursuits, but all sorts of recreation activities do, depending on the development level of the area.

As our Wilderness Program Manager Erik Fernandez puts it, "You can go hiking, hunting, fishing, swimming, camping, trail running, mountain biking, snowshoeing, skiing, and the like. Just leave your recreational bulldozer at home!"

At the end of the day, it's all worth it

When the bill passes and is signed into law, what will we get for our collective efforts? I

Sandy River: Just a stone's throw from Portland is one of Oregon's most popular fishing rivers – the Sandy River! The Sandy and its tributaries provide excellent habitat for a number of fish species including spring and fall Chinook, coho salmon, winter steelhead trout, and eulachon. Drift boaters, day hikers, steelhead anglers, and whitewater paddlers flock to this watershed because of its interesting geology and incredible scenery. A number of outfitters run guided trips in this region, showcasing the importance of Wild & Scenic Rivers to Oregon's recreation economy.



DANIEL HOWLAND The Little Sandy River is an important tributary to the mainstem Sandy River.

was pondering this question recently as I hiked a trail along Central Oregon's absolutely iconic Metolius River. If you haven't been to the Metolius yet, I hope one day you can find time to visit. It's easily one of the most beautiful rivers I've ever glimpsed. Springing forth from seemingly nowhere near the base of Black Butte, it has some of the clearest, bluest water I've ever seen in my life. Towering ponderosa pines line its banks and cunning fish fill its waters.

A number of private cabins flank the shoreline outside of Camp Sherman, and on this particular occasion I was walking on the river trail thinking, "Wow, it sure would be nice to own one of those!" Immediately following that thought came a wave of intense gratitude, because I realized I will never need to own a cabin to enjoy this place - it's part of our public lands system, and already designated Wild & Scenic! It was originally protected as part of Senator Wyden's efforts in the '80s, and here I am nearly 40 years later still reaping the benefits.

This is what the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act - and Senator Wyden's River Democracy Act - is all about. This is the beauty of public lands and the protections that envelope them. There are a lot of uncertainties in this world, and there are certainly things coming down the pike that we can't yet imagine. But through it all these places will be protected, thanks to this bill and bills like it.

It's not too often that regular people have the chance to contribute to legislation in such a meaningful way, but in Oregon it just makes sense. We have a strong history of politicians who care about our rivers, and an even stronger history of Oregonians standing up for special places. 15,000 nominations can't lie - people across the state showed up in droves because they care about our public waterways and all that they provide. Though we may have different motivations, the end goal is the same: make sure these places are here for future generations to admire and enjoy. I hope you'll join me in doing all you can to make that vision a reality. ©

Upcoming Wild & Scenic Summer Webcast

Jamie Dawson, Public Lands Campaigner

Summer is upon us, and it's a great time to get out on the river. We hope you'll join us to learn more about these fellow river-loving friends:



Lampreys of Oregon

Wednesday, July 28, 6-7pm PST

Join us for a discussion about Oregon's most lovable fish species, the lamprey! If you look beyond their boneless bodies and slightly terrifying disc mouth, you'll find there's a lot to respect. These fish (yes, they

are fish!) are indicators of a healthy and diverse ecosystem, and Oregon is fortunate to have 10 species of native lamprey. Come learn a little about these unique creatures and their ecological and cultural importance.

You can learn more about this webcast, see the entire list of programs, and RSVP for all presentations at oregonwild.org/explore-oregon

Wild & Scenic Rivers critters

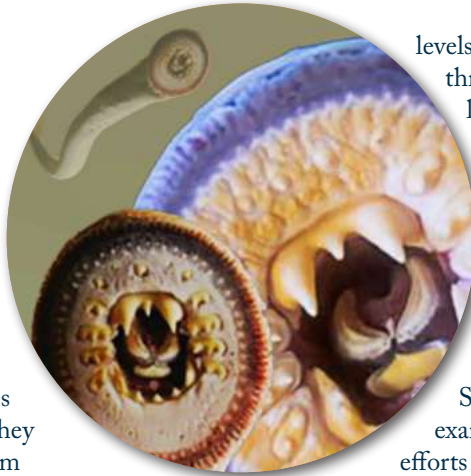
Danielle Moser, Wildlife Program Coordinator

When we safeguard our rivers and waterways, we're not just protecting them for people. An incredible diversity of wildlife reap the benefits of Wild & Scenic River designations!

Pacific Lamprey

Though not known as Oregon's most adorable creature, this anadromous (meaning they migrate from freshwater to the ocean and back again) eel-like fish is tenacious, having lived through three ice ages and five mass extinctions!

Unfortunately, because of dams, reduced access to clean water and habitat, and climate change, this ancient fish is at risk and has been designated as a species of concern at both the state and federal



levels. In large part through the leadership of the Pacific Northwest tribes, efforts are underway to help this species recover. Specific examples of their efforts include advocating for the removal of dams, relocation of lampreys to their historic range, installation of passage structures, and restoration of aquatic habitat.

Freshwater Mollusks

What's extremely important for the health and vitality of freshwater ecosystems, culturally significant, and considered the

most endangered group of animals in North America?

Freshwater mussels.

Despite their integral role in aquatic habitats, these mollusks are often undervalued. They provide a number of "environmental services" such as improving water quality by removing excess bacteria and nutrients through their filter-feeding. The movements of mussels also help stir oxygen and nutrients into the sediment and water. Finally, they help create and

support suitable habitat and provide food for a number of fish.

Oregon is home to several native freshwater mollusks including Western Pearlshell, Floaters, Western Ridged Mussel, and Fingernail and Pea Clams.

Redband Trout

Redband trout are a subspecies of rainbow trout that have a distinct evolutionary history. This has allowed them to adapt to a variety of habitats and conditions that other trout would find unsuitable, like the arid landscapes of



eastern Oregon. The presence of healthy riparian conditions, such as an abundance of woody debris, undercut banks and overhanging vegetation have been associated with robust redband trout populations.

Habitat degradation and fragmentation, plus the introduction of non-native species into Oregon's waterways, has not only reduced their range and caused extirpations (local extinctions), but could also put their future in jeopardy.





The restoration of beavers (and those protected by the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act) are critical components for allowing the species to thrive in the state. ©

those protected by the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act) are critical components for allowing the species to thrive in the state. ©

The restoration of beavers (and beaver ponds and dams) can provide a solution to some of the mounting environmental challenges of our time. Beavers are an invaluable ally when it comes to mitigating severe drought and floods, improving the quality of fish habitat, and reversing biodiversity loss



Kingfisher

Often heard before seen, the Belted kingfisher is Oregon's only kingfisher species. Unlike woodpeckers, which typically eat insects, this uniquely crested bird frequents open lakes, ponds, rivers or estuaries looking for a vantage point to catch fish. As such, having clean and healthy bodies of water (like

1) MICHAEL DURHAM 3) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE 4) US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



Just one species

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

Sitting along any one of Oregon's amazing rivers, you can hear a symphony of nature's sounds. The calls of kingfishers. The rapid-fire taps of a woodpecker hard at work.

for all the others. And if you're reading this, chances are that you're of that unique species!

Even the rivers themselves offer a rhythmic serenade as the water mimics the drum beats as it rushes over, under, and around rocks. Each and every part of this place brings its own sound, its own voice.

Your voice and your donation can help us protect 4,000+ miles of rivers, ancient forests, and the myriad of species that depend on these ecological arteries. We can't do it without you. And again, only one species can help in this regard.

But of all the countless species that depend on our rivers, **only one species has a voice that can speak**

Seriously, we've asked river otters for donations and all we've gotten in return are blank stares.

Please consider making a donation in honor of your favorite river critter.

Natural climate solutions take center stage at state agencies

Lauren Anderson, Climate Forest Policy Coordinator



PAMELA WINDERS

These last few months have brought big changes for the agencies that oversee Oregon's state forest policies and regulations. Three new members were nominated to the Board that oversees the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), a change that shakes up what has historically been a very logging-focused entity. The new make-up of the Board shifts the focus toward more carefully considering conservation values

and the broader interests of Oregonians.

Meanwhile, the head of the Oregon Department of Forestry Peter Daugherty resigned under pressure from the Board of Forestry and Oregon legislators. Daugherty opposed modernizing the agency, especially in light of the need to address the pressing threat of climate change. As the Board conducts a nationwide search

for a new state forester, we will be advocating for a new leader who will center climate change, clean water, and other conservation values in the work of the agency.

Oregon Wild is also working with a broad coalition of stakeholders to provide feedback for ODF's first ever Climate Change and Carbon Plan (CCCP). The agency was directed to create this plan by Oregon Governor Kate Brown and offers an excellent opportunity for the public to encourage strong climate action from ODF. You can view the CCCP on ODF's climate change webpage where an informational webinar has been posted. Comments on the draft plan can be submitted through the portal on the website.

Meanwhile, The Oregon Global Warming Commission is in the

process of developing a Natural and Working Lands Report to the Governor highlighting the policies and practices that will be needed to increase carbon sequestration and reduce emissions in Oregon forests and agricultural lands. We are working hard to ensure that this report will highlight key climate-smart forestry practices such as old growth carbon reserves on public lands, longer logging rotations, increased green tree retention and bigger

riparian buffers. The report should also recommend that emissions from logging be included in the Department of Environmental Qualities Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program - emissions from logging are not currently measured in Oregon. This report is an important opportunity to position Oregon as a national leader in climate smart forestry, and we will do everything possible to ensure this ambition is met. ☺

→ **Take action!** ←

Please email the Oregon Global Warming Commission at Oregon.GWC@oregon.gov and tell them to include old growth carbon reserves on public lands, longer logging rotations, increased green tree retention and bigger riparian buffers in their Natural and Working Lands Report. Also tell them to require that emissions from logging be included in the Department of Environmental Qualities Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program. **These recommendations are simple, important steps Oregon can take to reduce emissions and improve carbon sequestration.**



President Biden must recognize that forest defense is climate defense

Lauren Anderson, Climate Forest Policy Coordinator

Oregon Wild has been leading efforts to include the protection and restoration of Pacific Northwest forests as a critical climate solution. In a significant win for forest advocates, the Biden administration released its national plan highlighting intended climate actions in the US that explicitly calls for forest protections. We are now pursuing next steps, like pushing for the administration to take immediate executive action to pause all timber sales on federal lands that have mature and old growth forests.

In more disappointing news, the US Department of Agriculture, which oversees the Forest Service, continues to

overemphasize wood products as a climate solution. We know this to be an ineffective strategy - in Oregon, 65 percent of wood carbon harvested since 1900 has returned to the atmosphere, and only 19 percent remains in long-term products. But there is some progress on that front, as the agency did recently pen a report stating: “Maintaining the health and integrity of America’s forests is vital to protecting their carbon sequestration potential, including conserving old-growth forests from wildfire and other threats.” While logging is a far bigger threat to old growth than wildfire, it was still encouraging to see old-growth forests specifically called out in the report.

Under the Biden administration’s climate change

executive order, the Department of Interior, along with other land management agencies, also released a new report titled, “Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful.” Biden is directing federal agencies to

conserve “at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030,” the first-ever national goal for the stewardship of nature in America. While the report itself was very high-level and lacked

any specifics, we are working to use its framework to ensure the highest level of protections for Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands in Oregon, including our remaining intact forests. ©



GREG LEIF

Oregon wolf digest

Danielle Moser, Wildlife Program Coordinator

This year has already been an eventful year for Oregon's wolves. Unfortunately, 2021 started off on a bad note when the Trump administration - in a parting shot - removed the remaining portion of protected gray wolves in the country from the federal Endangered Species list. As a result, wolves throughout Oregon no longer have any state or federal protections. The loss of protections could jeopardize wolf recovery in the state, which is why Oregon Wild and partners filed a lawsuit against the administration to reinstate them.

Shortly thereafter, the Oregon State Police and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) announced the death of five wolves in Union County. It appears that the deaths occurred in early

February when ODFW officials received a "mortality signal" from a GPS collar on one of the wolves. All signs point to poaching, but ODFW cannot offer confirmation until the necropsy lab gets the results (which we're still awaiting).

Coincidentally, this isn't the first time we've seen questionable (legal) behavior toward wolves in Union County. In 2018, a man illegally trapped and shot a wolf, but was absolved of any harsh punishments when the local District Attorney blamed the wolf itself for getting trapped. And in 2017, a man shot and killed a wolf that he claimed was charging him - however the public records revealed that the wolf was, in fact, running away from him. This culture of permissiveness around poaching and inhumane treatment of our

wildlife does not reflect the true values of Oregonians, which is why we need a wildlife agency and justice system to hold perpetrators accountable.



Finally, ODFW recently released the annual wolf report. The agency's surveys documented 173 individual wolves, a population increase of 9.5% over the previous year. Alarmingly, the number of breeding pairs dropped, no new packs were

identified in western Oregon, and human-caused fatalities remain a cause for concern. Oregon Wild will continue to monitor wolf management decisions while advocating for full species recovery across the state. The report illustrates that while wolf recovery in Oregon is progressing, it's still slow. ©

Conservation roundup

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director



The Snake River

The rhetoric and threats from this far-right group are abhorrent, but the larger problem is politics. For twenty years, politicians have ignored the elephant in the room - too much water has been promised to too many interests.

We recently urged the Biden administration and Oregon's elected leaders to break this cycle and establish a program to buy back water rights and retire them. Such a program, coupled with efforts to restore wetlands and reduce pollution flowing into Upper Klamath Lake, is the only realistic way to end the water crisis in the Klamath Basin.

Promise and Peril on Snake River Dams

One reason for the failure to address the Klamath crisis was the "Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement" or KBRA, a complicated scheme that linked removal of dams on the Klamath River to the unsustainable status quo of water for high desert irrigation. A similar proposal is now being floated by Rep. Mike

Simpson (R-ID) over the fate of the lower four Snake River Dams.

Simpson wants to tie removal of these dams to a \$33 billion dollar scheme to weaken clean water protections and subsidize agribusiness and development over salmon and steelhead in dozens of other watersheds. Unfortunately, some Oregon politicians willingly entertain the idea.

The lower four Snake River Dams are enormous fish killers and Oregon Wild has long advocated

for their removal. However, we cannot support linking that to weakened protections for rivers like the Upper Willamette, McKenzie, Santiam, Clackamas, Deschutes, and John Day (which is Simpson's plan). We recently joined with dozens of other Pacific Northwest conservation groups, including Willamette Riverkeeper and the Orca Conservancy, to urge elected officials to pursue Snake River Dam removal without linking it to Simpson's \$33 billion package of anti-environmental measures. ☹

Two Decades Later, Klamath Water Crisis Rages On

Twenty years have passed since the 2001 Klamath Basin water crisis. Now, in the summer of 2021, the Basin is facing a drought that could be even worse. Water managers have closed

some irrigation diversions in order to honor the senior water rights of The Klamath Tribes and protect endangered fish in Upper Klamath Lake. A far-right group affiliated with Ammon Bundy has rushed to exploit this situation, purchasing property near a key irrigation facility and threatening to violently seize it.



R. SHIPLEY Pelicans on Upper Klamath Lake

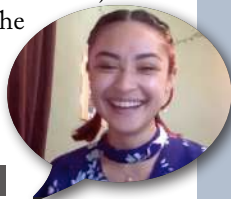
Conservation conversations: highlighting BIPOC voices

Alijana (Ally) Fisher, Communications and EDI Associate

We're facing huge environmental challenges, from climate change to the extinction crisis. To address these issues we must draw on a wealth of knowledge across all our communities; however, the conservation movement has excluded non-white voices. The good news is that this is starting to change. More diverse perspectives are being integrated into the movement thanks to efforts from BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) leaders. But a lot still needs to be done to make the environmental field more welcoming and equitable. I've been working on a project to do just that - a series of conservation conversations aimed at inspiring people of color to enter the realm of conservation, promoting allyship, and building community.

I've had my share of struggles - from trying to assimilate to challenging the status quo - all

in the complex dance of figuring out my identity and beliefs. This life experience has fueled my aspiration to tell stories highlighting the unique perspectives that BIPOC individuals bring to environmentalism. Through these virtual interviews, I've discussed the issue of climate change extensively and how it intersects with equity, diversity and inclusion. Additionally, biracial identity and multiculturalism has played a significant role in many of these conversations as it relates towards the navigation of white spaces. These interviews illustrate the enormous opportunities available to the conservation community when engaging with diverse perspectives to make the movement more inclusive. You can view these conversations, and many more in the months to come, at oregonwild.org/convos ®



ALLY FISHER

Migrations



GABY DIAZ



WREN WELLS



ALLY FISHER



JARED KENNEDY

Even during the pandemic the world kept turning. And that has meant new adventures for Oregon Wild staff and board, as well as new faces joining our team!

After five years working closely with Oregon Wild members and managing all sorts of outreach and fundraising events, Membership and Event Manager **Gaby Diaz** is moving on. Gaby first came to the attention of Oregon Wild when she joined us for our inaugural wildlife lobby day back in 2016. Soon she was moving from volunteer to staff member and taking on an ever-expanding portfolio of responsibilities. No doubt many of you have seen Gaby's smiling face at the Mississippi Street Fair or Call of the Wild in recent years. We will miss Gaby's contributions to the team, but feel lucky that she is staying in our orbit as the new Development Manager at 350 PDX. Thank you Gaby!

Joining the team as our new Development Associate is **Wren Wells**. Having spent the last several years as a Stewardship Coordinator in Missouri working with government agencies and conservation partners, Wren is thrilled to be joining the Oregon Wild team. Her love of the outdoors stems from her time spent in Utah's red rock country and her adventures climbing 57 of the 58 14,000-foot-tall mountains in Colorado. We're excited to have Wren on board - welcome!

Also joining the team this spring, after starting as an intern in the winter, is our new Communications and EDI Associate, **Alijana (Ally) Fisher**. She recently graduated from Willamette University with a degree in environmental science. As a person of color, she is committed to making the conservation realm a more inclusive space filled with

diverse perspectives and addressing the climate crisis through an equity lens. We're looking forward to Ally bolstering our ability to communicate with our members and the general public (and maybe to a cello and ukulele concert!). Welcome Ally!

Finally, we're bummed to report that board member **Jared Kennedy** is leaving the Oregon Wild board after four years of service. But, we can't be too sad, because Jared has taken a job with close Oregon Wild allies, Greater Hells Canyon Council. Our loss is certainly GHCC's gain as Jared has shown his passion for public lands protection (and for connecting people to those lands) in spades over the years. We'll look forward to partnering with him in his new role and we thank him for his time at Oregon Wild.

After the fires

Chandra LeGue, Western Oregon Field Coordinator

All forests in Oregon were, at some point, born from fire. As a naturally-occurring disturbance, wildfire boosts diversity in forests by helping to create complex biological legacies and habitat like standing dead snags, downed woody debris, and natural openings. Sadly, these important complex fire-burned landscapes are becoming increasingly rare as both private and public lands

are ravaged by new roads, heavy equipment, and chainsaws soon after a fire is out. Though this so-called “salvage” logging is the most destructive action that can be taken after a fire, it continues to be business-as-usual for forest managers across the state.

Oregon’s already-lenient forest management laws allow private timberland owners to expand clearcutting after a fire, and thousands of acres of these lands

have already been cleared in watersheds like the McKenzie and Santiam.

Along Oregon’s scenic roads and highways impacted by last year’s fires, we’ve seen abuse of “hazard tree” logging by Oregon Department of Transportation contractors. Though legitimate hazards must be addressed along roads, what whistleblowers have reported (and most people can plainly see) is overly aggressive cutting that has impacted wildlife habitat and scenic corridors. We’ve called on Governor Brown to halt ODOT’s abuses, but the State’s response has been weak.

In the Santiam State Forest, the Oregon Department of Forestry



MICHAEL HUDSON Logs stacked after roadside logging near Breitenbush

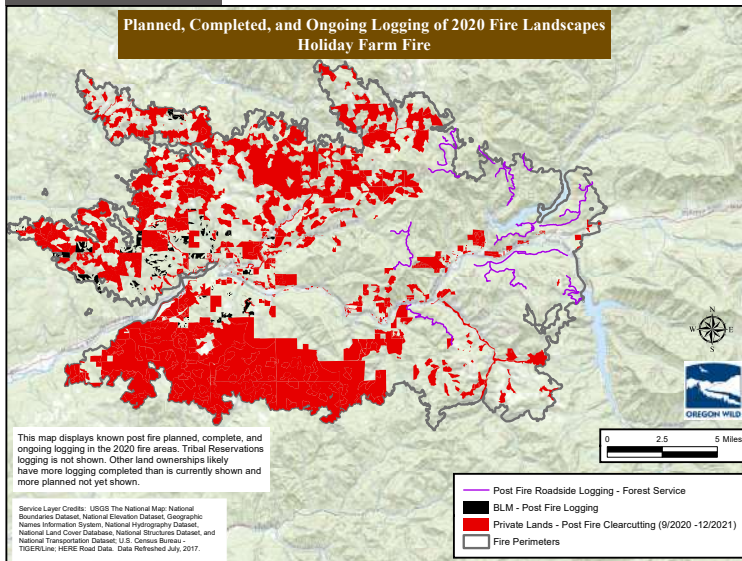
pushed forward a plan to log over 3,000 acres of wildlife habitat areas. We’ve joined litigation to prevent the fast-tracking of this damaging proposal and are awaiting our day in court.

Federal public lands aren’t immune from post-fire logging. While the majority of our National Forests impacted by last year’s fires are not being proposed for logging, thousands of acres along hundreds of miles of Forest Service roads – some not even open to the public – are at risk of logging under the guise of public safety. Proposals by the Bureau of Land Management are using Trump-approved logging loopholes to expedite thousands of acres of

post-fire logging in the Santiam canyon, McKenzie watershed, North Umpqua, and in southern Oregon. We’re fighting for these public lands through all legal avenues available to us.

Despite all of our efforts and those of our allies, more action is needed to ensure our forests can recover and endure. We’ll continue to call on state and federal agencies and our elected leaders – from Governor Brown to our Congressional representatives – to increase oversight, reform lax laws and loopholes, and fight for reform that helps communities recover, adapt, and prepare for future wildfires without harming our precious natural landscapes. ©

ERIC FERNANDEZ



CASCADIA WILDLANDS

Join the club and hit the trail!

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

We know you love Oregon and the countless world-class outdoor recreation opportunities it offers. Heck, with so many amazing mountains, rivers, ancient forests, and coastline, you could spend a lifetime exploring them all.

So even though Oregon Wild will not be leading public hikes this summer, connecting people to our public lands continues to be a vital part of our work. The last fifteen months have also demonstrated how important our outdoor spaces are for our health, community, and sanity.

That's why we are bringing back the Oregon Wild Hiking Club. **This benefit is automatically available to all current Evergreen Society members and new members who join at \$10/month or more.**

Members will receive an exclusive set of 3 suggested hikes throughout Oregon each month June through September – specially selected by our staff to get “out there.” These hikes will feature:

- Directions and general information (distance, difficulty, season, permits, etc)
- Ecological features of the area
- Relation to our campaign work
- Suggested Oregon Brewshed® Alliance partner brewery stop for a post-hike beverage
- Action you can take to help preserve the wildlands, wildlife, and waters in that area

Being an Evergreen member is the best way to support our campaigns – helping to advance conservation year-round. Whether we're defending our old-growth forests

from the constant threat of logging, working to protect public lands and Wild & Scenic waters, or speaking up for imperiled wildlife, your dependable support is crucial to our work. Plus, your membership will always be current and more of your dollars can go toward protecting places in Oregon that are special to you. So no matter what trail you're hiking, you can rest assured that you're playing a key role in helping us keep Oregon wild.

This special Evergreen promotion will run until the end of September 2021. We hope you'll join us in discovering new trails and help us continue to preserve our wildlands, wildlife, and waters. Sign up today using the enclosed envelope or at www.oregonwild.org/hikeclub ©

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