

OREGON WILD

Summer 2023 Volume 50, Number 2

A black bear is standing on a mossy log in a forest. The bear is looking towards the camera. The forest is lush with green foliage and large trees. The bear's fur is dark and appears to be wet or matted. The log it is standing on is covered in bright green moss. The background shows a dense forest with sunlight filtering through the trees.

HOW THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION
COULD SAVE OREGON FORESTS

Also: Getting wild in Washington DC



OREGON WILD

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

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From the Director's Desk

Deep roots

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

Reflecting on Jim's contributions to the forests and rivers of our state reminded me that it is worth celebrating people long before they are gone for what they do to make our world a better place. So, here are a few well-deserved shout-outs!

To Vik Anantha - our current longest-tenured board member, now serving in his 13th year. Vik came to Oregon State University from India in the mid-1990s and promptly joined the outdoor program for his

first-ever hiking trip. He was hooked and has now spent the better part of his adulthood volunteering his time to ensure that future generations have the chance to be entranced by Oregon's wonders just like he was.

To Doug Heiken, Erik Fernandez, Chandra LeGue, and Steve Pedery - four members of the Oregon Wild team who have each spent two decades or more on staff. Together, they've weathered recessions, a Bush

administration, a Trump administration, and more hair-brained ideas to log our old-growth forests than you can shake a stick at. Through it all, they've persevered to fight for the wilds that give us all so much.

To May Dasch of Philomath, who was in that rarest and coolest of clubs - the 30+ year donor club. Before she passed away in December, May had given to Oregon Wild every year for as far back as we have records (1991). She made one

last inspirational gift by leaving Oregon Wild in her will.

While deep roots anchor the forest ecosystem, new growth keeps things vibrant and helps us reach new heights. You can read about some of our amazing new team members on page 15 and a donor who plans to stick around for several decades on page 11.

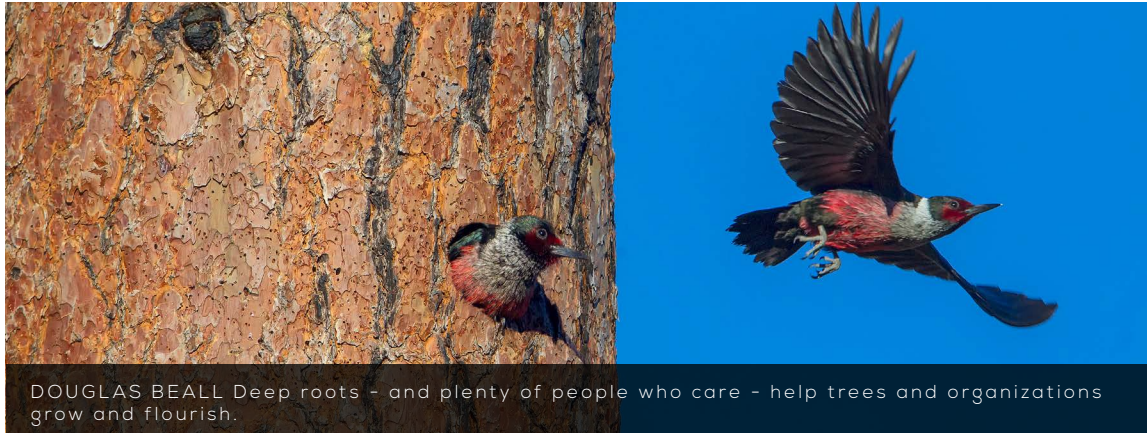
Of course, you can't be an Oregon Wild lifer until you take that first plunge into getting involved. For those of you who just recently moved to Oregon, heard about our work for the first time, or finally got inspired to donate after years on the email list - we are so thrilled to have you on board. We promise that we'll work every day to earn your trust as the go-to organization, always standing up for the things you love out there in the wild. ☉

Like the stately ponderosa pines east of the Cascades, Oregon Wild has deep roots.

We're the state's oldest conservation organization dedicated to protecting public lands, and we celebrate our 50th anniversary next year.

You don't stick around as an organization for that long - and rack up all of the accomplishments that we have - without some extremely dedicated people giving their all across generations to make it happen. As our southern Oregon ally, Dave Willis, once said, it takes "year after decade after lifetime" to protect and restore wilderness.

Earlier this year, Jim Baker, our longest-serving board member, passed away (see page 14).



DOUGLAS BEALL Deep roots - and plenty of people who care - help trees and organizations grow and flourish.

Helping native wildlife thrive in an age of crisis

Danielle Moser,
Wildlife Program Manager



Fish and wildlife face unprecedented challenges that threaten their very existence. Biodiversity loss coupled with climate change present compounded obstacles to ensuring our native species can thrive. Though these environmental problems are significant and complex, Oregon Wild continues to use every tool in our toolbox to implement effective solutions that support the recovery of

Oregon's most imperiled and vulnerable fish, wildlife, and the habitats they depend on. From direct advocacy in the state legislature or before the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to grassroots pressure through letters, calls, and emails from members and supporters like you, we're working hard to give Oregon's wildlife a better future.

Combating poaching

Over a year ago, Oregon Wild and partners in the Oregon Wildlife Coalition launched an anti-poaching reward program to incentivize members of the public to turn in poachers (TIP). The idea is, if you turn someone in who illegally killed a species (and it leads to a citation or arrest of that person), we will give you a cash reward. While TIP has been an established program for years, its focus was solely on species that are hunted or fished - not the 88% of other species in Oregon that are not. Our goal was to fill that gap, and in doing so, elevate the conservation need for species of all stripes - not just those that sell hunting and fishing licenses. Since launching last year, we have paid out several rewards, bringing those who have illegally killed owls, Cooper's hawks, and other species to justice. Additionally, the program is educating more Oregonians about the state's pervasive poaching problem and how they can help.

Furthermore, we have been collaborating with the Oregon Department of Fish and

Wildlife (ODFW) and other interested organizations to develop an effective poaching awareness marketing campaign. What's clear from initial research is that not only do Oregonians lack awareness about how widespread the problem is, they also don't realize there are actions they can take. We're working to change that.

Wolves

When it comes to a species that is highly poached, unfortunately, wolves are at the top of that list. The 2022 annual wolf report, which came out earlier this spring, underscores the profound effect human-caused mortality (legal and illegal) is having on the species' ability to recover. For example, the minimum wolf count



ODFW A Metolius wolf in Jefferson County.



MIKE DANZENBAKER A marbled murrelet takes off.

only increased by three wolves, from 175 to 178, last year. Meanwhile, 17 of the 20 known wolf mortalities were caused by humans: half were killed illegally by poachers, and the other half rubber-stamped by ODFW.

If there's one major takeaway from the report, Oregon's wolves don't need more killing. Though the rhetoric from the livestock industry is that if the state allows them to kill wolves quickly, it will help reduce predation and increase their tolerance of wolves, numerous studies have proven that's not the case. In fact, a new report by Dr. Adrian Treves and Dr. Mark Elbroch reveals how more killing does not lead to better outcomes for wolves or livestock. Killing carnivores as a way to reduce livestock predation actually maintains or even increases the risk to livestock.

As Oregon prepares for the next wolf plan review process later this year, we need ODFW to focus on

evidence-based solutions that actually support recovery, reduce conflict, and foster coexistence. Anything less than that is a disservice to the wolves and people who wish to see them thrive.

Marbled Murrelets

After a long and arduous battle with the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to increase protections for the marbled murrelet - a rare seabird that relies on old-growth forests to nest - steps are now being taken to implement necessary recovery efforts. Habitat loss and fragmentation, wildfire, and climate change have been pushing this species toward decline for years. Unfortunately, federal protections haven't been adequate, and some state agencies, like the Oregon Department of Forestry, have resisted taking meaningful action on state-owned and leased lands.

That's why in 2018, wildlife advocates filed a petition requesting the marbled murrelet be uplisted from threatened to endangered under the Oregon Endangered Species Act. Though the path to get to uplisting wasn't a very straight one, we eventually got the species the protections it needed.

In doing so, it triggered a process by which ODFW had to work with every other state land-owning agency to develop endangered species recovery plans - something ODFW had never done before. Those plans were approved by the Commission earlier this spring, but aren't adequately comprehensive. While some state agencies developed robust recovery plans, others relied on a loose framework and general principles for helping the species without committing to strong, actionable conservation plans.

Moving forward, wildlife conservation groups will actively monitor the implementation of these recovery plans to watchdog their effectiveness, provide feedback for improvements and ultimately, make sure Oregon is doing everything it can to restore marbled murrelet populations and habitat. ©



MATT OLIPHANT Bald Eagles at Smith Rock State Park

Celebrating 50 years of wildlife conservation

Alijana Fisher, Wildlife & Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Associate

In honor of Endangered Species Day, Oregon Wild hosted an in-person event at Grant Park in Portland. The day provided an opportunity to celebrate the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which turns 50 years old this year! This bedrock environmental law has brought 99% of listed species, like the bald eagle and humpback whale, back from the brink of extinction. Participants had the chance to learn about different imperiled wildlife here in Oregon and take action to urge Oregon legislators like Senator Jeff Merkley to defend the ESA from anti-wildlife attacks.

Despite many success stories, the ESA is under constant

threat from non-scientific and politically motivated attacks. Anti-wildlife politicians and special interest groups representing the logging and fossil fuel industries seek to undermine the ESA, jeopardizing the future of countless imperiled species nationwide. To continue the show of broad public support for the ESA, Oregon Wild is mobilizing advocates in Portland this August to unveil a special endangered species-themed mural featuring wolves, coho salmon, silverspot butterflies, and more by local artist Jeremy Nichols. We hope you'll join this exciting event in the summer to urge elected officials to stand up against extinction!

Raising a glass to our rivers

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

Oregon's rivers are the lifeblood of our state. Pristine rivers provide clean drinking water to communities, habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife species, and make possible the world-class recreation opportunities that fuel both the Oregon spirit and the Oregon economy.

But Oregon's rivers also provide the #1 ingredient in each and every single beer made by Oregon's world-renowned

breweries. After all, "Great beer starts with clean water!"

So it's no wonder Oregon's brewing community has long been a vocal advocate for Senator Ron Wyden's River Democracy Act. This historic legislation calls for protecting 3,200+ miles of Oregon's waterways as federally designated and protected Wild & Scenic Rivers. In fact, over fifty breweries sent a letter to our senators urging the passage of this incredible river proposal.

This spring, several breweries took their support for the campaign to a new level by releasing a special Wild & Scenic Earth Day Collaboration Series!

It all started when our friends at Coleman Agriculture and Yakima Chief Hops generously donated heaps of hops to ten different Oregon breweries. In turn, those breweries each crafted a special beer to honor their respective "brewsheds" and raise awareness about the need to protect Oregon's rivers.

Participating breweries representing six watersheds included Hopworks Brewery, pFriem Family Brewers, Fort George Brewery, Ecliptic Brewing, Grand Fir Brewing, Little Beast Brewing, Ruse Brewing, Falling Sky Brewing, Sunriver Brewing, and Worthy Brewing.

These breweries and hop growers are all part of the Oregon Brewshed® Alliance - a coalition

Tumalo Creek Brewshed

The namesake Tumalo Creek, as well as the headwater streams like Bridge Creek, are some of the waterways in this brewshed that stand to gain new protections via the River Democracy Act.

"As a lifelong Central Oregonian, it can be easy to take the pristine water I've always had access to for granted. I've been lucky enough to have been raised on some of the best water in the world, and now I'm lucky enough to attribute it to the success of the beers we brew. None of that could be possible without the activism of organizations like Oregon Wild and the outreach and fundraising they so passionately provide."

-Brian Chapman, Head Brewer, Worthy Brewing

Hood River Brewshed

The West Fork Hood River and Cold Springs Creek (Tamanawas Falls) are two waterways in this brewshed that stand to gain new protections via the River Democracy Act.

"We always say, 'You need great water to make great beer.' We are lucky to live in a watershed abundant with beautiful, clean, crisp water. Water is the primary ingredient in beer, and all brewers should be obsessed with protecting this irreplaceable natural resource."

- Rudy Kellner CEO pFriem



of breweries, brewing community partners, and conservationists who understand the value of clean water and protected forest watersheds. Oregon Wild launched the Oregon Brewshed® Alliance in 2015 with the goal of helping to elevate the voices of the brewing community for key conservation initiatives. Now, with the best opportunity yet to enact sweeping new protections for Oregon's rivers, the Alliance is stepping up and speaking out.



With names like *King Salmon Imperial IPA* (Hopworks), *Wild & Scenic West Coast Pilsner* (Ecliptic), *Future Flora Pale* (Ruse), *Meandering Path Extra Pale* (Little Beast), and *Oregon Wild IPA*

(pFriem), these beers showcased not only the creativity and talent of Oregon's brewing community but also their interconnectedness with Oregon's wildlands and rivers.



Little Beast's Meandering Path.



Upper Deschutes Brewshed

Fall River and key tributaries of the iconic Metolius River both stand to gain new protections via the River Democracy Act.

“*At Sunriver Brewing Company, we pride ourselves on the quality and consistency of our beer. A big part of that profile comes from our water sources in the Upper Deschutes watershed. The water being clean and of exceptional quality allows us to produce world-class craft beer.*”

- Brett Thomas, Sunriver Brewing Director of Brewing Operations



Bear Creek Brewshed

The drinking watershed for Astoria and surrounding communities.

“*Clean water is absolutely paramount to making great beer at Fort George. Astoria, Oregon has some of the best water right out of the tap, and protecting that is essential for our craft breweries.*”

- Brian Bovenizer, Fort George

Bull Run Brewshed

The Little Sandy River stands to gain new protections via the River Democracy Act to provide a protective buffer for Portland's drinking water supply.

“*Not only is water the main ingredient in beer and a major reason why there are such amazing beers produced in Oregon, but our rivers are the lifeblood of our region.*

Recreation, industry, drinking water for our urban centers, and so much more; water is vital to our success and happiness as a region. The more we can protect our watersheds, the brighter our future!”

- Christian Ettinger, Owner of Hopworks Urban Brewery

“*Clean water is the foundation for our existence, and here in the PNW, we are so fortunate to have such beautiful pure sources. But we are in trouble and will continue to be unless we make some serious change together. Here at Grand Fir Brewing, we believe that small businesses just like us, that rely on this precious resource to make our products, can make a big impact. Now is the time to support as much as possible to ensure our lush forests and rivers are cared for and protected.*”

- Whitney Burnside, Head Brewer & Owner of Grand Fir Brewing

Coleman Agriculture, a 6th generation family farm based in Gervais, believes that maintaining Oregon's watersheds is crucial to the farm's sustainability for the next generation. And they view designating more rivers as Wild & Scenic via the River Democracy Act as a critical step towards protecting their watersheds from potential industry-related contaminants that could compromise the water quality they depend on to grow hops.

“From growing to processing and brewing, the central importance of water across the beer industry is a really cool connection point we all share and can enthusiastically get behind,” said Coleman's Garrett Weaver.

“As beer lovers, we recognize that there is a natural connection

between clean water and great-tasting beer,” says Levi Wyatt, Yakima Chief Hops Manager of Corporate Social Responsibility.

“We have to acknowledge the great responsibility that comes with that, responsibility to ensure these waterways stay protected and stay wild for

generations to come.”

There's still plenty of work to be done to pass the River Democracy Act. But when it finally crosses the finish line, you can bet that we'll be toasting Oregon's world-class rivers...with some of Oregon's world-class beer! ☺

How the Biden administration could save Oregon forests

John Persell, Staff Attorney

Oregon Wild and its members love mature and old-growth forests, and for good reason. In addition to their critical roles in providing wildlife habitat, clean water, and places for peaceful exploration, these forests also sequester and store countless tons of carbon each year. Recognizing this natural solution to help address the climate crisis, Oregon Wild and our partners launched the Climate Forests Campaign with the goal of securing strong protections for remaining mature and old-growth forests as a key component of a national climate change mitigation strategy.

The campaign is gaining momentum! In April of 2022, President Biden signed an Executive Order stating his Administration's policy to conserve mature and old-growth forests on federal lands. Acknowledging these forests' incredible carbon storage and biodiversity values, the Executive Order directed the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to inventory remaining mature and old-growth stands, analyze threats to their existence, and develop

policies to address those threats. President Biden's recognition of the importance of mature and old-growth forests marked a key victory for the Climate Forests Campaign.

One year later, the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service have separately issued proposals to better manage public lands for resilience in the face of climate change, heralding a new phase in our push to protect mature and old-growth forests from logging. Importantly, the Forest Service's proposal acknowledged that past management—i.e., logging and fire suppression—has exacerbated the stress our forests now face from climate change, and that “ecologically inappropriate vegetation management” (logging) continues to threaten mature and old-growth forests. Oregon Wild and our partners are submitting detailed comments on these proposals, asking for durable protection for our remaining mature and old-growth forests as climate mitigation and biodiversity powerhouses.

A strong rule requiring the conservation of mature and old-growth forests would protect

many special places across Oregon currently targeted by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management for logging. The Forest Service already withdrew the controversial Flat Country Timber Sale near the headwaters of the McKenzie River in the Willamette National Forest. That sale would have clearcut nearly 1,000 acres of 100 to 150-year-old stands. In an internal review of the project, the agency conceded that there is no ecological basis for logging mature, moist forests like those in the Flat Country project area. Then, in part citing President Biden's Executive Order, the Forest Service responded to legal pressure and public outcry against the sale by withdrawing its authorization, at least temporarily. Promulgating a protective rule for mature and old-growth forests would help ensure that the Forest Service will not resurrect the worst aspects of the Flat Country Timber Sale in the months and years ahead.

Meanwhile, the Forest Service aims to move ahead with large-tree logging elsewhere in Oregon. On the Umatilla National Forest, the agency has indicated it will target trees up to 30 inches in

diameter in the 110,000-acre Ellis Project despite scientific research that shows the largest 3% of trees contain more than 40% of the carbon storage of Eastern Oregon forests, and that large old trees remain at a deficit due to past logging. Oregon Wild and partners have challenged the Trump administration's last-minute elimination of the "21-inch standard" that previously protected large trees in Eastern Oregon for nearly thirty years (see page 13). We are confident

we will be successful in that challenge, but a strong, protective rule for mature and old-growth stands would provide even more durable assurance that large, old trees will remain on our Eastern Oregon forests.

The Bureau of Land Management also continues to move forward with logging the remaining mature and old-growth stands in our backyard forests. In two projects near Interstate 5 still undergoing

analysis (42 Divide and Blue and Gold), the agency plans to clearcut 5,200 acres in stands up to 200 years old. Further south, the Bureau of Land Management has offered the Late Mungers Timber Sale near Applegate within mature and old-growth stands that provide home ranges for northern spotted owls. Oregon Wild and partners have challenged the Late Mungers sale in federal court, calling out the agency's unlawful environmental analysis and lack of compliance with its own management plan for the area. We are hopeful that the promulgation of a rule that protects mature and old-growth trees will bring an end to public land managers' ongoing push to eliminate a natural climate solution in the name of timber volume.

Oregon Wild remains deeply committed to securing lasting protections for our climate forests. Stay tuned for updates and information on ways you can share your own voice with the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service throughout the agencies' rulemaking processes. ☺



CHANDRA LEGUE Big ponderosa pines in the 42 Divide logging sale.

OREGON WILD Volunteers in Oregon spent countless hours creating these transforming signs to use in flashmobs planned across the country.



People power for forest protections

Victoria Wingell, Forests and Climate Campaigner

As numerous mature and old-growth logging projects move forward through planning, activists have been busy making noise for our Climate Forests across the country and in Washington, DC (see page 12).

Here in Oregon, more than 50 volunteers came together to paint dozens of transforming signs and life-sized wildlife sculptures to create show-stopping displays at Earth Day

rallies planned across the country. Hundreds of activists marched through the streets of Eugene and took the stage at the Saturday Market to perform a flash mob that called out the egregious mature and old-growth logging taking place in our public forests. They asked the crowd to envision a future where these forests are protected and allowed to grow into the next generation of old-growth.



350 EUGENE Organizers and activists celebrate after Earth Day rally in Eugene

Explore Oregon's outdoors with those working to protect it

Chandra LeGue, Senior Conservation Advocate

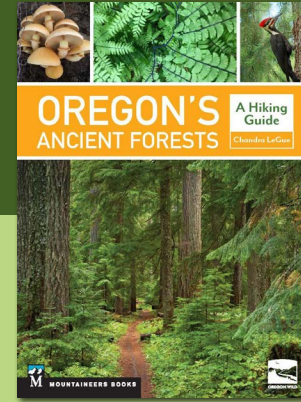
You've heard about our efforts to enact a national rule to protect mature and old-growth forests as part of our country's climate strategy (pages 8-9). You've followed the process that led to 3,200 miles of streams being proposed as Wild & Scenic Rivers under Senator Wyden's River Democracy Act. You've tuned in to webcasts about wolves, sea otters, condors, martens, salamanders, and bats.

Now, it's time to take the next step - literally - in connecting with Oregon Wild's conservation campaigns by joining us on the trail this summer and fall!

After three years of pressing pause on leading guided hikes, our staff is excited to return to the trail with our supporters. From the slopes of Mount Hood to the sand dunes on the coast, we're here to plug you into the wild places, waters, and habitat we all love about Oregon. Explore streams included in the River Democracy Act like Fall River, Tahkenitch Creek, and Kentucky Creek; climb to wildflower-strewn ridgetops in unprotected roadless areas we've been defending for years; or ramble through diverse ancient forests still in need of permanent protection. We're excited to share the places our conservation campaigns are all about so you can experience first hand why we work so hard and why we need your support.

In addition to hikes open to all, we'll be offering a special member benefit of three hikes exclusively for our newest members - those who have joined in the past year! New members can choose a hike to Clear Lake on the upper McKenzie River, Fifteenmile Creek on the east side of Mount Hood, or Boulder Lake, tucked into the base of Mount Hood near a proposed logging sale.

Keep an eye on your inbox for all the details - including dates, descriptions, and sign-up information - for all our 2023 hikes, look online under Hikes & Events at www.oregonwild.org or scan the QR code below. See you on the trail! ©



Explore the forests you help protect

who loves our ancient forests.

Like an old-growth forest that nourishes Oregon's rivers and wildlife, Evergreen Society members give Oregon Wild the reliable and vitalizing support that ensures our conservation work continues on - from protecting our mature and old-growth climate forests to advancing new river protections and recovering threatened species like sea otters and wolves. Your monthly contributions mean more of your support goes toward protecting Oregon's special places and wildlife, and with this hiking guide in hand, you'll be equipped with the knowledge to explore the places you love while also protecting them.

It's the peak season for getting outside! Whether you're an avid hiker or just like to breathe fresh forest air from time to time, we have the perfect thing to help you expand your ancient forest knowledge and explore new places.

Until the end of summer, become a member of Oregon Wild's Evergreen Society with a gift of \$20 or more per month, and we'll send you a copy of Oregon's Ancient Forests: A Hiking Guide!

Written by our very own Chandra LeGue, this special guide features 91 hikes from every corner of Oregon and is a must-have for anyone

Join today, and we'll see you on the trail!

BUZZ BLOOM Hikers walk past wildflowers, with view of mountains.

A friendship that inspires: hiking for change

Anastasia Kuznetsova, Brand and Marketing Manager



Shannon Rose-Peterson at Kentucky Falls.

When it comes to finding an organization worthy of your support, you don't have to look far. In fact, sometimes the perfect cause is right within your closest circle of friends. This is especially true when your best friend happens to be an expert on Oregon's old-growth forests. Oregon Wild Evergreen member

Shannon Rose-Peterson met Oregon Wild's Senior Conservation Advocate, Chandra LeGue, 26 years ago when they were studying for their undergraduate degrees. Since then, Chandra has been a constant source of inspiration for Shannon, encouraging her to explore Oregon's stunning forests and

learn about the environmental challenges they face.

Naturally, Shannon's interest grew when her best friend joined an environmental nonprofit after graduation. Shannon began joining Chandra on hikes organized by Oregon Wild, initially led by Chandra herself and later by other staff and board members. These hikes not only allowed Shannon to gain a deeper understanding of the surrounding landscapes but also exposed her to activism. "It's a different level of activism that I hadn't really been familiar with, where you are going to visit these places that people love and that need additional protection. These hikes were an excellent way to learn and encourage people to make a connection to the land that they care about."

Over time, Shannon's passion for the outdoors and her desire to connect with fellow hikers led her to become a hike shepherd with Oregon Wild.

"I realized I was a slower hiker because I like to look at my surroundings and spend time taking them in. I also love talking to people and sharing what I was learning about the landscape, the area, what we're seeing, the types of trees and mushrooms that we encounter, and learning from them as well."

Building a bond with untamed outdoor spaces is a vital approach employed by Oregon Wild to educate advocates. Shannon believes that through the hiking series, nature becomes accessible to everyone. "These hikes cater to people with diverse interests and abilities. Oregon Wild makes it really easy for people to engage and connect with these spaces they're working to protect." Once this initial connection is established, the outdoor place gains personal significance, fueling the ongoing fight for its preservation. For Shannon, the Devil's Staircase Wilderness holds a special place. Thanks to Oregon Wild's relentless efforts, the area was designated as a Wilderness in 2019. Nestled within Oregon's coastal rainforest, between the

Umpqua and Smith Rivers, it remains one of the few remaining intact old-growth forests in the state.

Shannon's support, along with others, enables Oregon Wild to continue safeguarding wild places like the Devil's Staircase, preserving old-growth forests, and protecting native wildlife. Joining Oregon Wild's staff on a hike is an easy and enjoyable way to connect with nature and meet fellow supporters. And if you'd like to dive deeper, Oregon Wild's regular emails, newsletters, and social media updates keep you informed about more ways to get involved.

Thank you, Shannon, for your continuous support of Oregon Wild! ☺

Getting wild in Washington DC



Oregon Wild teamed up with the Backbone Campaign to pull a light projection stunt in Washington, DC. Activists gathered in front of the Department of Agriculture and Department of Interior buildings to project a series of messages that called for the permanent protection of mature and old-growth forests on federal public lands. Backbone Campaign organizers met with activists from Sierra Club to carry hand-made LED banners through DC to send our message loud and clear that there is widespread support for protecting and recovering mature and old-growth forests for their unique benefits to the climate, wildlife, clean air, clean water, and future generations.

MELISSA LYTTLE PHOTOGRAPHY



The Oregon Wild team was welcomed into the office of one of Oregon's newest Representatives, Andrea Salinas. Alijana Fisher, Wildlife and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Associate, advocated for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which would help countless imperiled species, like the western painted turtle and great gray owl. Wildlife conservation is woefully underfunded, but this bill would invest \$1.4 billion into state wildlife recovery nationwide. With one-third of wildlife at risk of extinction in the U.S., this legislation is critical!



Two years removed from the January 6th riot and attempted insurrection, it was a little surreal for the team (Ally, Sean, and Erik) to be visiting the steps of the U.S. Capitol. But it served as a strong reminder that Oregon Wild uses every (legal) tool in the toolbox to fight for our public lands and wildlife. In an era of political violence, we feel strongly that advocating for a healthy and representative democracy is critical. That's why we included a healthy democracy platform in our current strategic plan!



Another of Oregon's new crop of Congressional Representatives, Val Hoyle fills the big shoes of former Representative Peter DeFazio. Executive Director Sean Stevens and Wilderness Program Manager Erik Fernandez visited with the Congresswoman to ensure she knew we could be a go-to resource on all things forest, wildlands, and wildlife (just like we were for DeFazio for 30+ years). We've got plans in the works to get Rep. Hoyle out in the woods or on a river with us and our partners this summer!

Senior Conservation Advocate Chandra LeGue joined a national Climate Forests Coalition fly-in in March to advocate for mature and old-growth forest protections on public lands as a natural climate solution. Two dozen forest advocates from around the country - from Alaska to West Virginia - met with legislators and federal officials

to call attention to current logging projects impacting these forests and to call for a strong national rule to protect them. Chandra and colleagues from KS Wild and Applegate Siskiyou Alliance ensured logging projects in Oregon were part of the conversation.



JON COLEMAN

Conservation round-up

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument legal win

When former President Obama expanded the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Southwest Oregon in 2017, logging companies and some county politicians sued. They argued that the Antiquities Act, which grants Presidents broad discretion to designate National Monuments, is superseded by the Oregon and California Lands (O&C) Act and that logging is the exclusive use of O&C Lands.

On April 24th, the US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected that argument, instead finding that the law recognizes a broad array of values on O&C lands and that the President and Bureau of Land Management have the discretion to manage these lands for conservation values. This is an important victory, but the fight is not over. Logging groups are also pursuing a second legal challenge in Washington DC District Court.



BOB WICK The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.



Fighting the Trump Screens

In the final days of the Trump administration, a political appointee signed a Forest Service decision that removed protections (known as the Eastside Screens) for mature and old-growth trees on over 14,000 square miles of public lands in Eastern Oregon and Washington. Dubbed the “Trump Screens,” the new standards were adopted through a rushed process without adequate public input or consultation with Native American tribes and may have violated numerous environmental laws.

Oregon Wild, together with a coalition of other conservation

groups, challenged this change in court. The Nez Perce Tribe also weighed in, arguing that the Forest Service and Trump administration failed to adequately consult them. On May 1st, we had our first hearing in this case before a judge in Pendleton, Oregon. While it was just the first step, we are optimistic about our chances and hope to have a final ruling by the end of the summer.

Youngs Rock Rigdon logging sale has problems

The Forest Service often designs logging sales with a mixture of good restoration actions and bad commercial logging. The Youngs Rock Rigdon logging sale in the Willamette National Forest, east of Eugene, is a poster child for this. It includes a mix of good restoration, including thinning to protect dry pine forests and restoration of meadows and a floodplain. However, it also includes more than 1,000 acres of mature and old-growth logging,



500 acres of clearcuts, and the destruction of 2,799 acres of suitable nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat for threatened northern spotted owls and other wildlife.

On May 19th, Oregon Wild filed a formal objection to the Youngs Rock Rigdon Project. While there are good elements to the project, the destruction of mature and old-growth forests and habitat for imperiled wildlife far outweighs them. We are urging the Forest Service to drop the destructive elements of the project and stick to legitimate restoration. ☉



OREGON WILD A plaid shirt and suspenders were the go to "uniform" for Jim Baker, as he worked across five decades to help guide Oregon Wild efforts to protect the Oregon he loved.

The legacy of James Baker

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

staff, the media - pay attention.

It was into this firmament that Jim Baker entered, ultimately dedicating nearly 40 years of his life as a volunteer for keeping Oregon wild. We were all saddened to learn of Jim's passing in January 2023 but so grateful for his service to our state.

Jim was a labor union organizer, a lineman for a telephone company, a rural resident, and a ferocious advocate for his beloved McKenzie River during the heyday of old-growth clearcutting in Oregon. He was among Oregon Wild's earliest members, and he went on to become our longest-serving board member before his retirement in 2012.

When we made the momentous decision in late 1981 to change from our original name of Oregon Wilderness Coalition to Oregon Natural Resources Council, it was Jim who served as our board president. The ONRC name went on to be etched in the minds of every environmental attorney, timber industry executive, and Congressional staffer - synonymous with aggressively defending the natural world against long odds.

Jim leaves an enormous legacy for all Oregonians who treasure our state's

wildlands, wildlife, and waters. During his time as an Oregon Wild board member and volunteer, the organization protected more than a million acres of public lands as Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers, stopped a proposal to build more dams on the Klamath River, welcomed gray wolves back to the state, and blocked the clearcutting of hundreds of thousands of acres of old-growth forest. ☉



Jim created his legacy; now, it's your turn

Jim Baker's phenomenal legacy is the result of nearly four decades of tireless work to speak out for Oregon's ancient forests, pristine waters, and native wildlife. All of us who have ever stood in awe of the wilds of Oregon owe Jim a debt of gratitude.

In that spirit, we ask you to help build on Jim's legacy (and create your own) by joining the Keystone Circle and including Oregon Wild in your planned giving.

Just as keystone species have a tremendous impact on the health and future of their natural ecosystems, Keystone Circle members have an enormous impact on the future of Oregon's wild places by including Oregon Wild in their planned giving. Planned giving isn't just for the wealthy. Whether \$500 or \$50 million, every legacy gift makes a difference and helps ensure that Oregon Wild will be fighting for what's most important to you long after you've reached the end of the trail.

As a special benefit for Oregon Wild members, we've partnered with FreeWill to offer you a free tool to care for who and what you love most in just 20 minutes.

To access this free tool go to:
www.freewill.com/oregonwild

Migrations

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

Maybe you've already noticed when reading the staff list at the beginning of this newsletter...Oregon Wild is growing! We are very excited to expand the team and extend our ability to make an impact on the public lands, wildlife, and waters that we work to protect. Hiring these new team members is possible because of the incredibly generous donations from our supporters.

One big area of investment is in our work to put lines on the map to protect Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers, National Recreation Areas, and more. We've replaced our departing Public Lands Campaigner with not one but two new team members while at the same time expanding our geographic reach with a new field location.



JT Flowers

Joining staff and working out of Oakridge as our new Public Lands Coordinator is **JT Flowers**. JT grew up in the heart of inner-Northeast Portland's historic King-Alberta neighborhood, graduated from Yale University, and worked for Congressman Earl Blumenauer. He'll be focusing on making public lands protection a priority for new members of Oregon's congressional delegation with a specific focus

on helping underrepresented communities step into the grounding and healing power of the outdoors (and thereby becoming strong advocates for protecting these special places).

With roots in Bend and a love of the skiing, mountain biking, and fly fishing that his hometown region has to offer, **Sami Godlove** joined the Oregon Wild team in February as our new Central Oregon Field Associate. Sami is looking forward to advocating for the rivers, forests, mountains, and wildlife that inspired him throughout his childhood. His undergraduate studies focused on conservation biology, and he holds a master's in Environmental, Natural Resources,



Sami Godlove

and Energy Law. You'll see Sami all over Central Oregon, connecting with partners to protect special places and keeping an eye out for proposed projects that might threaten old-growth and at-risk wildlife.

As we grow and recruit new members, we knew it was time to expand the development team. To make sure we are reaching new audiences and keeping our current supporters plugged into our work, we welcomed **Rachel Mireles** to the team in March as our new Membership Associate. Rachel started her environmental career with the Fund for the Public Interest, working from the ground up as a door-to-door canvasser, where she eventually directed the Eugene canvass



Rachel Mireles

office. Having lived through her formative years in New Mexico, adolescence in the Netherlands, and teenage years and young adulthood in Oregon, she has developed the ability to find community with all different kinds of people.

Welcome to the team, JT, Sami, and Rachel - give them a shout when you see them around the state! ☺



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2023 Outdoor Photo Contest

For 16 years running, the Oregon Wild Photo Contest has offered Oregonians a chance to connect with the state's one-of-a-kind wildlands, waterways, native wildlife, and the people who enjoy them. Send us your best photos of...

Wildlands & Forests -

Exploring Oregon's stunning landscapes.

Waters - Showcasing the importance and beauty of Oregon's aquatic wonders.

Wildlife - Featuring Oregon's incredible diversity of native wildlife and fish.

People - Representing the diverse communities who live, work, and play in the outdoors.

***NEW* Zoomed In** - Capturing the hidden treasures of Oregon's flora and fauna through macro and close-up photography.

2023 Prizes

- A prize package from ProPhoto Supply worth \$250
- A 2-night stay at Smith Creek Village, Trout Creek Wilderness Lodge, Summer Lake Hot Springs, Left Coast Lodge, or Lake Creek Lodge
- A professional print of the winning work
- Oregon Wild gear and more!

The contest is live and accepting submissions!
Visit photocontest.oregonwild.org for submission guidelines and to submit your photos!

Submission Deadline:
September 5th at midnight

Good luck!



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