

# OREGON WILD

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TAKING ACTION FOR  
CLIMATE FORESTS

Also: Beavers can restore our landscapes



**OREGON WILD**

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](http://www.oregonwild.org)

Western Field Office

P.O. Box 11648 Eugene, OR 97440  
Phone 541.344.0675

Central Oregon Field Office

P.O. Box 231, Bend, OR 97709  
Phone: 541.382.2616

Northeastern Field Office

P.O. Box 48, Enterprise, OR 97828  
Phone: 541.886.0212

Oregon Wild Board of Directors

Lisa Billings, President	Cassidy Quistorff
Seth Prickett, Treasurer	Stacey Rice
Darcie Meihoff, Secretary	Kate Ritley
Vik Anantha	Clara Soh
Chris Beatty	

The e-mail address for each Oregon Wild staff member: [initials@oregonwild.org](mailto:initials@oregonwild.org) (for example: [ef@oregonwild.org](mailto:ef@oregonwild.org))

Communications Associate	Hanna Anderson
Forests & Climate Policy Manager	Lauren Anderson
Finance & Administration Manager	K. Anne Conrad-Antoville
Wilderness Program Manager	Erik Fernandez
Wildlife & EDI Associate	Alijana Fisher
Western Oregon Field Coord.	Kelly Fuller
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Senior Conservation Advocate	Chandra LeGue
Wildlife Policy Manager	Danielle Moser
Conservation Director	Steve Pedery
Staff Attorney	John Persell
Communications Manager	Arran Robertson
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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The natural wonders of Oregon's rivers	{4-5}
Taking action for our climate forests	{8-9}
The wonders of the Klamath Mountains	{14}



FIRE PLUS BIRD FILMS



From the Director's Desk

# The courage of our convictions

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

it seems that politicians, newspaper columnists, and bureaucrats are always pushing for opposing sides to come together and hash out their differences.

Oregon Wild isn't opposed to doing the hard work to find common ground where it exists. The recent Private Forest Accord, Senator Wyden's eastside forest bill a decade ago, and even the Northwest Forest Plan are all examples of difficult negotiation and hard-won compromise. We actually have an organizational values statement that captures our approach to collaboration:

"We will not let our desire for sweeping change stand in the way of real, but incremental progress, and we will not be seduced by easy compromise when we know fighting harder will lead to a better result. We understand that this might mean being called zealots and sell-outs on the same day."

I've found that the key to walking this tightrope is to have the courage of our convictions and to be guided by the results that those convictions demand. Oregon Wild works to protect the last slice of wild that we have left in this state and we'll use any tool in the toolbox to make that happen.

That's why we've participated in more "collaborative" forest stakeholder groups than almost

any organization in the state - working with varied interests to steer the Forest Service toward restoration-based projects. It's also why we've withdrawn from more collaborative groups than any other organization in the state. We're not going to sit around and compromise away our core values and the wildlands that are already ecologically compromised by generations of wealth extraction.

It's never easy to fight against powerful interests to defend nature. And it is even harder to make tough choices about the best path to effectively safeguard what we have left. But we know that Oregon Wild members, supporters, volunteers, and partners expect us to be fiercely effective in our work. The stakes are too high for any other approach. ☉

Every election season, I read about the mythical "undecided voter." They don't much care for Republicans or Democrats, think each side is too extreme, and want everyone to find solutions in the middle. They want compromise.

I'm always suspect of the idea that *if only our politicians could sit down and hear each other out, we'd magically have solutions to all of our problems.* The 2022 election season made it even harder to believe that an easy middle ground was somewhere out there on the horizon. I mean, how do you find common ground with those who can't even accept the results of democratic elections?

Still, the call for compromise and collaboration is powerful. In Oregon Wild's line of work,



ROBERT SCHERLE

# Natural history flows through Oregon's wild rivers

Chandra LeGue,  
Senior Conservation Advocate

When we sing the praises of the Oregon River Democracy Act, introduced in 2021 by Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, we often do so by touting the thousands of miles of streams that would be protected. This is something easy to wrap our heads around and celebrate. But these proposed Wild and Scenic Rivers are far more than the segments they are broken down to in the bill. Each one belongs to a unique ecosystem and watershed - whether it flows through mountains, foothills, forests, wetlands, dunes, or deserts. It is this natural history, shaped over millennia, that has defined the reasons - from water quality and native fish, to biodiversity and cultural resources - that we value them today and seek their protection.

Here is a sampling of some of the fascinating watersheds around the state, and the rivers and streams within them proposed for protection under the River Democracy Act.

## Coastal streams and Gwynn Creek

Geologically speaking, the Oregon Coast Range of today is just a baby - poking its head above water just 50 million years ago (or so) as the seafloor started sinking below the continental shelf and scraping up sediments to form the range. Some larger rivers, like the Nehalem, Nestucca, Alsea, and Siuslaw have cut long meandering trails through the layered sandstone of the range, fueled by heavy rains in this temperate climate. Other streams are short and steep, rushing down steep basalt hillsides and into the ocean.

Less than 3 miles long, Gwynn Creek, located just south of Cape Perpetua's rocky bluff, is one of these short streams, but its small size does not diminish its importance. Here, the forested slopes adjacent to the waterway are made up of ancient Sitka spruce, hemlock, Douglas-fir, and alder. Salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout make their way up the shady stream. Marbled murrelets and northern spotted owls, threatened species that depend on old forest habitat near the coast, find nesting grounds

here. Elk, black bears, and other native wildlife find what they need to make their homes, too, and the vibrant, diverse forest contributes to the important habitats where the land meets the sea in the Cape Perpetua State Marine Reserve.

While the intensive logging that characterized this region over the last century didn't spare much intact habitat along the central coast, Gwynn Creek's nearly untouched forest watershed offers an important refuge and connection to nearby protected areas like the Cummins Creek Wilderness to the south.



LUKE RUEDIGER Little Applegate River.

## Upper Applegate and Little Applegate Rivers

The formation of the Klamath Mountains, the oldest in present-day Oregon, has been described as “a mess” by geologists. Originally islands that got crunched against the North American continental shelf, uplifting the sedimentary rocks of the seafloor some 200 million years ago to grow into part of Oregon’s original coast range, the Klamaths are a jumble of sedimentary rocks, granite, and serpentine. Their position between the much younger Cascades and Sierras bridges elevation, moisture gradients, and biomes, making it a hotspot for biodiversity. The Applegate River and its tributaries flow north out of this jumble off of the Siskiyou Crest, which spans the border between Oregon and California, to the Rogue River. Native salmon and steelhead runs depend on the more than 50 miles of proposed Wild & Scenic Rivers in the Upper and Little Applegate watersheds, such as Star Gulch, Mule Creek, and Palmer Creek.

The diversity of the underlying terrain of the Applegate Valley and foothills is mirrored by the mix of land ownership and management that characterizes



CHANDRA LEGUE A hiker stands beneath towering trees along the Gwynn Creek trail.

much of southwest Oregon. Just as pear orchards, vineyards, cannabis farms, and homesteads jumble together and nestle up against federal public lands, the forests of the Applegate foothills include a diverse and unique mix of oak woodlands, dense mixed conifer forest, upland prairie, and chaparral thickets. This biodiversity is protected in places

like the Dakubetede Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and in designated roadless areas on the Siskiyou National Forest in the Upper Applegate. As important as this ecosystem is, protected forests and streams are not the rule here. The Bureau of Land Management still places an emphasis on logging of ancient forests, and protections for

the several large undeveloped wild forest areas where so many streams originate are weaker than they should be.

## Grande Ronde River and Catherine Creek

Over 100 miles of the upper Grande Ronde River and its headwater tributaries are proposed as Wild & Scenic Rivers under the River Democracy Act. These streams cut through the Wallowa Mountains, which are some of the oldest landforms in Oregon. Made of ancient volcanic granite, the Wallowas were part of Oregon’s original coast range, forming the western edge of North America 150 million years ago. Later basalt flows from a massive, now-extinct volcano laid down the plateaus and hills that have been eroded into the northern Blue Mountains and the impressive valleys and canyons that rivers like the Grande Ronde cut on their way to the Snake River.

Depending on soil, slope, aspect, and moisture, the vegetation and forests on the Grande Ronde’s canyon slopes and along its feeder streams vary dramatically. Along the main stem of the river, for example, dry grassy prairies and scattered pines are a common

sight. Higher in the watershed, tributaries like Catherine Creek, which flows west out of the Eagle Cap Wilderness before turning north towards the Grande Ronde, are lush and green, lined with diverse, moist, forests of fir, spruce, and larch, and an extensive array of wildflower meadows. For the wildlife that roam this large and wild corner of Oregon - from elk and moose to wolves and wolverines - the diversity of landscapes gives them room to thrive. And, though upstream of several large dams that limit their return, it is the water rushing down out of the Wallowas and Blue Mountains feeding the Grande Ronde that supports native salmon runs and bull trout where they still hang on. ☺

## Take Action!

Time is running out to pass the River Democracy Act this Congress! **Encourage Senator Ron Wyden** to keep pushing this incredible legislation forward to passage by calling:

**(503) 326-7525**

# Red wave, blue walls...where does the green fit in?

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

The 2022 national election cycle was perhaps the most high-profile midterm in our nation's history. The media coverage was wall-to-wall. The mailers and ads were unavoidable. And, due to our unique three-way race for Governor, Oregon even featured in national headlines.

## The race for Mahonia Hall

The race for Governor, which saw unaffiliated (and anti-environment, pro-corporation) candidate Betsy Johnson looking to play spoiler, seemed destined to be a nail-biter. Early polling indicated that Johnson could pull enough votes away from Democratic candidate, Tina Kotek, to hand the Governor's mansion to Republicans for the first time since 1988. A win by Republican Christine Drazan or by Johnson would have spelled trouble for efforts to fight climate change, protect

forests, safeguard endangered species, and more.

In the end, the race was less close than the pundits and polls predicted with Kotek nabbing 47% of the vote to Drazan's 43.5% (Johnson failed to break 10% after raising \$17 million dollars from billionaires and corporations and spending over \$100 per vote). Oregon Wild has hopes that Governor-elect Kotek will

pursue environmental policies that a broad swath of Oregonians support rather than the status quo that logging corporations that heavily backed her opponents would prefer.

## The changing face of the Oregon Legislature

As at the national level, many expected the state legislature to tilt sharply to the right. Though Republicans did pick up a few seats in each chamber, Democrats maintained solid majorities in both the House and Senate. The more interesting story is how many fresh faces will fill the halls of Salem. Again, redistricting and retirements

played a role in a major reshuffling. All of this turnover means that several Democratic thorns in our side are no longer in positions of power to halt policies that might otherwise score a majority vote (looking at you Brad Witt, Brian Clem, Betsy Johnson, and others).

## Good government wins

In the Portland area, voters heard plenty about charter reform and the effort to pull Oregon into the 21st century when it comes to a government structure that actually functions! Oregon Wild is especially excited to see ranked choice voting get a foothold in Oregon's largest city. Voting reforms like ranked choice help to break us free from increasingly one-dimensional major parties and open the door to candidates of all stripes that are likely to support protecting the environment.

At the state level, we were proud to be an early endorser of Measure 113. This ballot initiative flew a bit below the radar but ultimately passed with overwhelming support. Critically, it would restore a key piece of our democracy by ensuring that elected officials in the Legislature can conduct their work without the fear that a super-minority could walk out and halt the people's business. Now, legislators who abandon their jobs will face consequences (like not being allowed to run for their jobs again!).





## Mrs. Salinas goes to Washington

Population growth and redistricting mean half of Oregon's congressional delegation is brand new to the job. We caught up with the newly elected Congresswoman in the brand new sixth district, Andrea Salinas!

**OW:** You centered climate change in your campaign and ran as an unapologetic champion for bringing climate solutions to Congress. What do you think Oregon has to offer the national debate on climate policy - specifically when it comes to nature-based solutions?

**AS:** Oregon has a well-earned reputation for livability, sustainability, and protecting this magnificent place that over 4.2 million of us call home. From our Wild and Scenic Rivers efforts that protect our drinking water sources and recreation destinations to protecting special places geared toward environmental and habitat conservation and restoration, Oregon has been on the forefront of mitigating climate change.

However, this is an all-hands-on-deck moment and we need strong partners who share the vision for a sustainable climate in Oregon for generations to come. The recent Private Forest Accord that seeks to improve Oregon's forest practices is a great example of what can happen when advocates and industry seek out science-based solutions to some of our largest

*Restoring balance to what Mother Nature has already provided is what Oregon can offer to the national debate and demonstrate its leadership to ensure a climate-friendly future.*

climate challenges. Restoring balance to what Mother Nature has already provided is what Oregon can offer to the national debate and demonstrate its leadership to ensure a climate-friendly future.

**OW:** In the Oregon Legislature, you had a reputation as a policy wonk who worked to understand issues and crafted nuanced policy. But you also weren't afraid to stand up to big-moned special interests like the logging industry. What lessons are you taking with you from your time in Salem as you head to D.C.?

**AS:** The biggest lesson that I will take away from my time in Salem is to represent the interests of my constituents and to also lead with a vision for the future and for all Oregonians. This requires bringing all

stakeholders to the table to find enduring solutions and at times it also requires being brave and doing what might be unpopular with some interests.

**OW:** What is your favorite wild place in Oregon?

**AS:** The Jefferson Wilderness, specifically Three Fingered Jack.

**OW:** What Oregon native species best encapsulates your political persona?

**AS:** That would have to be the Chinook Salmon. I feel like I'm always swimming upstream, sometimes under inhospitable conditions and great adversity, for the sole purpose of saving the next generation. ☺

# Taking action for our climate forests

Victoria Wingell, Forests and Climate Campaigner



Climate change is perhaps the most profound and complex challenge the human species has ever faced. Here in Oregon, we are already seeing the impacts in our communities, forests, watersheds, and most treasured wild places. Every degree of warming increases the risk of extreme heatwaves, flooding, and irreversible loss of wildlife. It is critical we use every tool in the tool chest to confront this threat, including natural climate solutions. The Biden administration has recognized this need on Earth Day, when the President took executive action to call on federal agencies to elevate federal forests as a climate solution.

Oregon Wild and our allies in the national Climate Forests campaign have been working hard to demonstrate widespread support for turning President Biden's Executive Order into lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests which are the most critical in the fight against

climate change. These trees store vast amounts of carbon and actively continue to absorb additional climate pollution. This past summer, more than 130,000 people from across the country called on the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to implement a durable regulation to protect federal mature and old-growth trees and forests from logging as a cornerstone of U.S. climate policy. Despite this public outcry, reports produced by the campaign identify nearly 370,000 acres of federal mature and old-growth forests currently on the chopping block. It's clear that federal agencies have not yet gotten the message, so it's time for us to crank up the noise.

Ahead of two leading international conferences on climate change - COP 27 and the UN Biodiversity conference - climate and forest activists across the country took to the forests, waters, and streets to call on the Biden administration to establish lasting protections as part of the

United States' international commitments to address climate change. These ancient forests are not only climate champions, they also provide clean water for hundreds of thousands of Americans and critical wildlife habitat for threatened and endangered species.

The temperate rainforests of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest are exceptional at this; our forests are among the rarest ecosystems on Earth and represent some of the most biodiverse and carbon-dense landscapes in the world. However, mature federal forests in this region are also some of the most at risk. To highlight the threats to these forests, we kicked off a series of forest and climate actions here in Oregon.

In October, more than 100 "kayaktivists" and community members paddled the McKenzie River to call attention to the Flat Country timber sale, identified by the Climate Forests campaign as





TOMOKO SEKIGUCHI "Paddles up!" Activists call for the Flat Country timber sale to be dropped in light of impacts to nearby watersheds and community safety.

one of the most egregious examples of mature and old-growth logging on federal lands. This sale targets 2,000 acres of Douglas fir and western hemlock up to 170 years old for logging across the river's headwaters. When it comes to capturing and storing carbon, Douglas fir is a marathon runner rather than a sprinter and at 80 years it's just begun to hit its stride at fighting climate change. If left standing, these trees will keep growing for centuries, offering climate protection for future generations.

In November, we rallied in downtown Portland and brought a slice of a 150-year-old tree lost to logging to the front door of the Forest Service building, the same federal agency that has spent decades cutting them down.

But Oregon's forests are not the only ones threatened. With numerous mature and old-growth forests at risk, rallies were hosted across the country. In Vermont, a nearby tropical storm cleared only moments before more than 100 community members gathered to

oppose more than 10,000 acres of clearcuts. In Montana, wildlife advocates showed up for grizzly bears who would lose their habitat to logging. Our Indigenous allies in Alaska rallied to restore protections for the country's largest national forest. West Virginia challenged Senator Joe Manchin's attempts to undermine President Biden's Executive Order to protect mature and old-growth forests. New Mexico gathered to defend their public forests from rampant extraction.

Together, we've managed to shake up our opposition - counter-protests in West Virginia and a rise of misinformation flowing from timber industry lobbyists are all signs that our work in the Climate Forests campaign is a force to be reckoned with, and we will continue that work until our old forests get the protections that they deserve. We hope that you'll grab a sign and join us! ☺



## Grassroots support leads to grassroots action

Wren Wells, Development & Events Coordinator

Whether by land, by water, or the airwaves, Oregon Wild activists have been making their voices heard on the most important conservation issues of our time. Elevating those voices isn't just an essential part of each and every one of our conservation campaigns - it's an essential part of our democracy.

We often get the question: **"What does my donation actually do?"**

Among other things, donations from Oregon Wild members support the staff time necessary to strategically generate and mobilize the grassroots community support that's necessary to make key decision-makers do the right thing for our public lands, wild rivers, and keystone species.

Oregon Wild is somewhat unique in that our #1 source of financial support isn't from large grants or businesses - it's from pro-conservation Oregonians (like

you). So when we say that your support truly makes our work possible, we mean it.

Support from individuals like you helps us recruit, train, and mobilize activists all over the state to advocate for protecting clean water, recovering our native wildlife, and defending our mature and old-growth forests (and the immense climate benefits they provide).

So whether it's turning out kayaktivists on the McKenzie River or organizing a rally outside the Forest Service offices in Portland, your support is making grassroots outreach, public education, and activism happen.

**As you're thinking about your year-end donations, please consider a special gift to support Oregon Wild's grassroots organizing for conservation. Use the enclosed envelope or visit [oregonwild.org/2022gift](https://oregonwild.org/2022gift)**

# Recover beavers, restore balance

Danielle Moser, Wildlife Program Manager

Oregon is the Beaver State, with the furry and industrious builder adorning the back of our unique two-sided flag. While conservationists celebrate the toothy rodent as a native species with its own intrinsic value, we know the title, at least in part, came from the role Oregon's robust beaver population played in fueling the fur trade.

Like so many species throughout American history, the beaver's story is one of exploitation, commodification, and unintended consequences. Overhunting through the 19th century led to a steep decline in the beaver population in Oregon and across the West. In addition to being trapped for the pelts, beavers were considered pests and killed by farming, logging, and development interests. The sudden absence of this keystone species across so much of the landscape has had dire repercussions for the health and function of waterways, and a wide variety of plants and animals as well.

But that doesn't have to be the future.

Studies are revealing that beavers and other keystone species can be natural allies in helping to restore ecological function, ultimately making natural systems more resilient. While beavers were once thought of as destructive, hurting streamside trees and other vegetation, a closer examination is demonstrating that the opposite is true: beaver cuts create room for a diversity of plant life to thrive.

Beavers - more accurately, beaver dams and ponds - are also able to help control pollution and stream temperature, mitigate drought, store carbon, and provide habitat for many species, including coho salmon. Though beavers are not going to solve all of our human-caused environmental problems, supporting the species'

restoration is a cost-effective way to rewild landscapes, increase biodiversity, and reverse exploitative actions of the past that removed beavers from their habitat in the first place.

Scientists agree. In fact, a group of renowned researchers recently revealed a



plan to rewild the West through the restoration of beavers and wolves. The proposal, which stems from President Biden's land and water conservation plan, urges decision-makers to begin implementing these critical changes now.

In Oregon, changes are underway. The newly adopted Private Forest Accord agreement includes a

provision that will reshape how the logging industry responds to conflict with beavers on private land. Oregon wildlife officials are also starting to transform their approach to beaver conservation and management. If we do these things and continue to reform policies, we can actually be a proud beaver state, and not just a state that happens to have the animal on its flag. ☺



LARRY LAMSA Beaver. TOM KELLY Beaver Dam in Autumn.

# Conservation Roundup

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director



BLM Oregon's coho salmon benefit from the Private Forest Accord and the preservation of mature and old-growth forests.

## Legal win for BLM old-growth

As we campaign for a strong national rule to protect America's mature and old-growth forests, carbon-storing giants here in Oregon remain under threat. On Sept. 30, Oregon Wild and our allies won an important legal victory for old-growth when a federal judge ruled that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service violated the federal Endangered Species Act when they approved logging nearly 16,000 acres of habitat for northern spotted owls in the Poor Windy and Evans Creek timber sales. These logging

sales were highlighted by the national Climate Forest campaign as some of the 10 worst old-growth logging projects in the nation!

## Wyden announces revised River Democracy Act

In December, Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley revealed a new version of the Oregon River Democracy Act first introduced in 2021, recommitting to a dramatic expansion of Oregon's Wild and Scenic Rivers network. While the legislation has demonstrated broad support from fisheries experts, breweries,

and community organizations, logging lobbyists and their political allies have opposed the bill. This new version drops some rivers deserving of protection in order to address concerns from critics. Regardless, the River Democracy Act remains on track to be the largest public lands and waters conservation legislation in Oregon history and we hope to see its swift passage.

## Historic improvements to Oregon's forest practices

On Oct. 26, the Oregon Board of Forestry approved more than 100 changes to strengthen our state's

outdated Forest Practices Act, providing greater environmental protection on almost 10 million acres of private and non-federal forests across Oregon. These changes were made as a result of the Private Forest Accord - the landmark agreement that Oregon Wild and our allies secured in 2021. It is the most significant strengthening of Oregon's state logging rules since the 1970's!

Among the many improvements are larger no-cut stream buffers to protect habitat for salmon, steelhead, bull trout, and amphibians; strong requirements to maintain forest roads and

reduce erosion and sediment flowing into streams; stronger regulations for steep slope logging; and stronger monitoring to ensure logging operations abide by Oregon's rules.

The next phase of this effort is the development of a strong habitat conservation plan for salmon and other imperiled fish that are harmed by logging. Oregon Wild is already working with state agencies, our conservation partners, logging companies, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries to develop such a plan. Stay tuned! ©



LUCY GRAGG

# Outdoor photo contest 2022 winners!

Anastasia Kuznetsova,  
Brand and Marketing Manager

That's a wrap on the Oregon Wild Outdoor Photo Contest 2022! **A sincere congratulations to the winners - Micah Lundstedt, Cody Clark, Matt Oliphant, Matt Redfern, and Lucy Gragg!** This year was one for the books - we received close to 800 submissions, making it our biggest photo contest to date. The finalists were selected by Oregon Wild staff and winners were voted on by a panel of local judges including photographers, environmentalists, and outdoor enthusiasts. We are hopeful that these images will inspire the protection of Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters for generations to come. Stay tuned for next year's photo contest in June 2023!



MATT OLIPHANT



MATT REDFERN



MICAH LUNDSTEDT



CODY CLARK

# CALL OF THE



## Thanks for answering the call

Wren Wells, Development and Events Coordinator

After three years, Call of the Wild came back and we couldn't have been more inspired and humbled by the powerful show of support for Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters! The Redd was a brand new space to hold this event and what a sight it was to see it filled with Oregon lovers from near and far – decked out in flannel and fleece. With support from businesses, community partners, and you, we raised over \$100,000 to keep Oregon wild in the year ahead!

Whether you snagged a bag with bear, entered our howling wolf raffle, took a toss at the fire ring, contributed during our program, or supported the event from afar,

we cannot thank you enough for being part of this year's event and supporting our work to protect and defend our public lands and wildlife.

This event wouldn't have been possible without the businesses, partners, and sponsors that provided generous funding or donation of goods to make this event the best yet.

Huge thanks go to our event sponsors Mahonia Realty, Trailhead Credit Union, B&B Print Source, CSNW Benefits, Loon Outdoors, Way of Being, and Wyld. Many thanks to the many Oregon Brewshed® Alliance partners who provided tasty drinks for the evening;

Power of Love Rentals and Pomarius Nursery for providing the camp vibe decor; and thanks to our generous Tent Sponsors for bringing the party: Lisa Billings, Rex Burkholder, Cup of Tea, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Curt Stevens, Julie Stevens, Eliza Schmidkunz and Glen Gibbons, and Gabe Willard. We are so grateful to the dozens of businesses and individuals who donated an item to the silent auction or event games, and last but not least, thanks to the incredible event volunteers!

Thanks to this community of support, we can be a strong voice for our climate forests, native wildlife, and free-



# The geologic wonder of the Klamath Mountains

An interview with author, Michael Kauffman



The Klamath Mountains that span northwest California and southwest Oregon are a place of endless wonder. The region's climate, geology, water, fire, plants, and animals all contribute to the Klamaths being one of the most biodiverse temperate mountain ranges on Earth. Oregon Wild caught up with Michael Kauffman, an ecologist and author of the recently published *The Klamath Mountains: A Natural History*, to learn about what makes this place so unique.



**OW:** What sets the Klamath Mountains apart from other ranges in Oregon and California?

**MK:** The Klamath Mountains are old - built by rock that is older than other mountains around it. The newer Cascades and Coast Range, surrounding the Klamath Mountains, are less biodiverse - in part - because they are younger. In between these newer landscapes, time and

disturbance have moved slower and offered a refuge for biota from other western regions including the Great Basin Desert, the mesic world of the Pacific Northwest, and the Mediterranean-type climate of the California Floristic Province. Being at a crossroads of geology and climate is why the Klamath Mountains nurture unparalleled biodiversity.

**OW:** What makes this region so special to you?

**MK:** Conifers come first. In 2012 I published my first book *Conifer Country* which defines and maps these ancient plants within one of the most biodiverse temperate coniferous forests on Earth. My quest to understand regional conifers, find the rarest stands, and climb many mountains to do so took me to a multitude of unique nooks. I have seen the Klamath Mountains from all angles, decorated by amazing plants, throughout the seasons -

nurturing a deep love for the Region.

**OW:** In writing your natural history of the Klamath Mountains, did you discover any things that surprised you?

**MK:** Yes, there is so much more to learn! People have been documenting, describing, and celebrating the amazing life in the region for millennia. From the First Peoples to Western Scientists—

anyone with a keen eye for interpreting the natural world knows it is special. But we do not yet understand it all. In fact, in 2022 - right before the publication of the book - a new genus of wingless stonefly was documented in a single, high-elevation spring. There are many more examples of what is newly understood but the lesson this should teach us is there is so much more to understand and steward.

# Migrations

Sean Stevens, Executive Director



**Jamie Dawson**

Fall is an inevitable time of change and Oregon Wild was subject to change both bittersweet and exciting in the latter part of 2022.

In October, after five years at Oregon Wild in two very different roles (first as Membership Manager in Portland and then as Public Lands Campaigner in Bend), **Jamie Dawson** jumped ship from the team. The news wasn't all bad though since Jamie is taking on a new role as Conservation Director with our close partners at Greater Hells Canyon Council. That means we'll still get a healthy dose of Jamie's passion for the wild,



**Casey Kulla**

unflinchingly positive attitude, and downright goofiness as a close ally working to protect northeast Oregon. Thank you Jamie for your dedication to Oregon's wild places!

Even with Jamie's departure, the Oregon Wild staff continues to grow. In November we were incredibly excited to welcome **Casey Kulla** to the team as our new State Forest Policy Coordinator. Casey most recently served as a Yamhill County Commissioner, bringing a climate change focus to this rural, politically diverse county. He grew up on the Oregon coast, has a master's degree in forest ecology from Western



**Chris Beatty**

Washington University, and has spent fifteen years growing organic vegetables on the farm he runs with his wife. Casey will be putting his passion into his work, helping to improve management of forests on private and state lands through implementation of the Private Forest Accord and more. Welcome Casey!

We are also welcoming two new board members to the team! **Chris Beatty** has been hiking, biking, and fishing across Oregon ever since he moved here three decades ago after growing up in Michigan. He lives in Corvallis where he worked in high tech before



**Cassidy Quistorff**

becoming an entrepreneur. His most recent venture was starting the craft distillery Spiritopia with a focus on regional products and sustainability.

Joining the board of directors a few months after Chris was **Cassidy Quistorff**. Currently the Executive Director at Klamath Film, Cassidy has an educational background in environmental science and a love of all things wild. She's worked as a conservation and science communicator for various state and federal agencies, including the National Park Service. Cassidy lives in Klamath Falls. Please welcome Chris and Cassidy! ☺

Groups like Oregon Wild cannot succeed in protecting our environment without broad public support. Unfortunately, we (and the rest of the environmental movement) have often done a poor job of building connections and growing that support within communities of color. We have also fallen short in recruiting and encouraging young people from diverse backgrounds to pursue careers and activism within environmental organizations.

In 2021, Oregon Wild took a small step towards addressing that second problem through a partnership with the Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI). ELI is a Portland-area organization that matches underrepresented college students and recent graduates with paid internships at top organizations and companies. We are now in our second year with the program and have had two fantastic ELI summer interns in the Portland office. We hope both will consider careers in environmental advocacy, and we are eager to continue the partnership with ELI in the future.

So far, over 400 interns have participated in the program, with many successfully transitioning into full-time roles.



5825 N. Greeley Ave.  
Portland, OR 97217

OREGON WILD

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# TOP 5 CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2022

All made possible by Oregon Wild members

- 1 Finalized the historic Private Forest Accord to significantly modernize Oregon logging practices and increase protections for fish, wildlife, and watersheds on ten million acres of private forestlands.
- 2 Successfully advocated for President Biden's Executive Order on Earth Day aimed at protecting mature and old-growth forests for the immense climate benefits they provide.
- 3 Won a lawsuit with partners overturning a Trump policy and restoring federal Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves in western Oregon and 43 other states.
- 4 Advanced the River Democracy Act closer to the finish line. This once-in-a-generation proposal would expand Wild and Scenic River protections to thousands of miles of Oregon's waterways and public lands, and is on track to be the largest rivers protection success in Oregon history.
- 5 Continued to be a vigilant watchdog by monitoring (and challenging) 120+ proposed timber sales and other harmful projects across our public lands.

**Each and every conservation victory Oregon Wild achieves is the direct result of the generous support of people like you - people who deeply value our breathtaking wildlands, our life-giving waters, and our native wildlife.**

Please consider a year-end, tax-deductible donation to help us continue to protect the Oregon you love in 2023 and beyond. Use the enclosed envelope or visit [oregonwild.org/2022gift](https://oregonwild.org/2022gift)