

OREGON WILD

Summer 2020 Volume 47, Number 2

21 WILD IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE

Also: The legacy of OR-7



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

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

Membership & Event Manager	Gaby Diaz x 205
Development Director	Jonathan Jelen x 224
Wildlife Policy Coordinator	Danielle Moser x 226
Conservation Director	Steve Pedery x 212
Communications Manager	Arran Robertson x 223
Executive Director	Sean Stevens x 211
Finance Manager	Ellen Yarnell x 219

Oregon Wild Board of Directors

Kate Ritley, President	Vail Fletcher
Lisa Billings, Vice President	Jared Kennedy
Clara Soh, Treasurer	Darcie Meihoff
Naila Bhatri, Secretary	Seth Prickett
Vik Anantha	Stacey Rice
Judy Clinton	

Western Field Office

P.O. Box 11648 Eugene, OR 97440

Phone 541.344.0675 Fax: 541.343.0996

Conservation & Restoration Coord.	Doug Heiken
Western Oregon Field Coord.	Chandra LeGue

Northeastern Field Office

P.O. Box 48, Enterprise, OR 97828

Phone: 541.886.0212

NE Oregon Field Coordinator Rob Klavins

Central Oregon Field Office

2445 NE Division St, Bend, OR 97701

Phone: 541.382.2616 Fax: 541.385.3370

Ochoco Mountains Coordinator	Jamie Dawson
Wilderness Program Manager	Erik Fernandez

 www.facebook.com/OregonWild

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



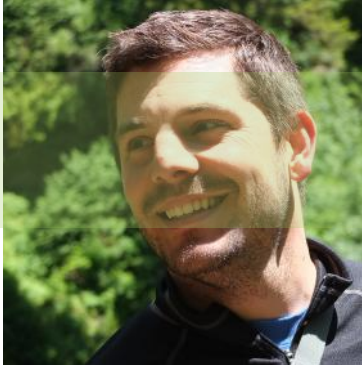
Oregon Wild is a tax-exempt, non-profit charitable organization. Newsletter printed on Endeavour, 65% recycled with 30% post-consumer content and FSC certified, printed with vegetable based inks.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

21 Wild Ideas	{4-7}
OR-7 inspires action	{8-9}
Eastside old-growth at risk	{14}



COVER PHOTO: MARCUS ELDER As the nation emerges from a pandemic-induced recession and from nationwide protests sparked by centuries of racism, it's time to think big for our planet and the wild areas that sustain us.



From the Director's Desk

Getting untrapped from history

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

Every four years, the staff and board of Oregon Wild – along with some of our most trusted friends and allies – dive headlong into strategic planning. The fact that our current planning effort comes smack dab in the middle of one of the most tumultuous times in the history of our country has made the process even more dynamic than usual.

In a recent virtual gathering of our entire team, we talked through the values that breathe life into our organization. At the top of our current list is this: “we believe in wild for wild’s sake.” The intrinsic value of nature animates nearly all that we seek to achieve as an organization. It’s a central part of the Oregon Wild DNA.

Still, as an Oregon Wild supporter, I certainly don’t have

to remind you that in a world of capitalism run amok and political intransigence, it takes a movement of people to protect nature. We need all the people power and diverse voices we can muster, and it is a sad but unfortunately unsurprising statement that our movement and organization have historically excluded people of color.

The recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery – though just the most recent chapter of a tragic 400-year legacy – have shocked the nation into unprecedented and inspiring protest.

As Oregon Wild comes to grips with our role in reversing the exclusive and overtly racist history of the conservation movement (and of our state), we are thankfully not starting from scratch. I’m so proud of my colleagues and grateful to the many friends of the

organization who have helped us evolve over the last many years.

For us, this effort has often taken the form of partnerships and supporting individuals and organizations already doing critical work. We’ve learned and benefited so much from collaborations with organizations like Soul River, Vive NW, Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment, the NAACP of Eugene-Springfield, and more.

Lest we sprain our shoulder patting ourselves on the back, we know how far we have to go to be a truly inclusive and justice – aligned organization.

We’re still in the early stages of strategic planning – a great time for new endeavors and big ideas. One new idea that is weaving its way into our thinking is that we can’t achieve Wilderness protection, safeguard endangered species, and rethink our relationship

with nature without a fair and responsive democracy. If we are to have an inclusive – and ultimately successful – movement to both protect nature and ensure equity in how humans experience and benefit from nature, we must have a just and democratic society.

On the following pages you’ll read about some big ideas for our wildlands, wildlife, and waters that may creep into our

new strategic plan as well as some exciting ideas from our partners centered on justice and equity. What all of these concepts make clear is that: 1) the long-overdue time has come for systemic change in Oregon and across the country; and 2) through grassroots pressure and bold leadership, our collective actions today will change the course of history. ©



DEIGH BATES The sun sets from a view atop Steens Mountain.

21 wild ideas for the future



GEORGE OSTERTAG There is no denying the pivotal role ancient forests play in the fight against climate change.

America is at an inflection point unlike any we have seen in our lifetimes. While the global pandemic has wrecked the economy and exposed massive inequities in our healthcare system, it has also mainstreamed massive policy changes that would have been unthinkable just a year ago. How do we create an America that is more just, wild, and free? Here are 21 Ideas drawn from Oregon Wild and our partners for how to move forward.

Summer 2020 Volume 47, Number 2

1 Forest defense is climate defense

Federal legislation to protect forests should be a cornerstone of any climate action plan. Globally, deforestation has caused somewhere between 10 and 20 percent of carbon emissions. Our public forestlands across the nation provide a natural climate solution unrivaled in efficiency. In fact, Pacific Northwest old growth forests store carbon more densely than any other terrestrial ecosystem on the planet – more than the Amazon rainforests! A Federal Forest Climate Protection Act should prohibit the commercial logging of any tree over 80 years old on America's public lands; establish a database to calculate and report carbon storage and loss on federal forest lands; and require the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to harmonize carbon storage and climate resilience in the management of America's public forests. – *Steve Pedery, Conservation Director, Oregon Wild*

2 Protecting public lands for public health

More and more research is showing the benefit of nature contact to human health. So, what might a policy to protect public land for health look like? To start, we would increase equitable access to public lands given the evidence demonstrating that access to nature is not equitably distributed. Along with access, we must provide a diversity of ways for people to interact with nature ranging from simply having a view of the water to wooded trails to benches to sit on in public gardens. These spaces should provide for both social engagement and quiet personal refuge. Importantly, we must engage local communities in selecting, designing, and protecting new public lands so that they are used and enjoyed. Alongside human access, we must recognize the link between protecting a diversity of native plants and animals – our public lands should serve multiple purposes and protecting

biodiversity is a key one. Finally, the pandemic makes it clear that many people need public lands that are closer to their homes and that we need more lands and trails so that we can all use them without overcrowding. – *Josh Lawler, Director of Nature and Health, University of Washington*

3 Stop fighting fires in the backcountry, start investing in community preparedness and health

A Civilian Conservation Corps for the 21st century
A Civilian Conservation Corps for the 21st Century requires broad public investment in workforce development programming that restores our public lands and waters, trains a generation of future civic leaders, and rejuvenates an economy sagging under the weight of a pandemic-driven depression. Unlike its ancestor of the 1930s, this 21st Century Conservation Corps will be operated by an existing network of more than

100 non-profit conservation corps across our nation that currently provide opportunities for 25,000 people to serve each year. Participants in these Corps are reducing wildfire risk, maintaining trails, removing invasive species, and doing scientific research on our public lands each day. These organizations currently support and develop a cohort of young, emerging leaders as diverse as our nation itself. Today, more than ever, our nation's recovery



NORTHWEST YOUTH CORPS
Engaging youth in outdoor restoration ensures a bright future for our public lands.

depends on our ability to bring the tools of economic recovery and community restoration to all Americans. – *Jeff Parker, Executive Director, Northwest Youth Corps*

Taking elections back from corporations through comprehensive campaign finance reform

Independent and conflict-free boards and commissions

Oregon's wild places and wild creatures are managed by governing bodies made up of individuals who are appointed with the grave responsibility to determine the best usage of these public assets on behalf of all of us. Too often, individuals with deep ties to extractive industries are granted the privilege of sitting on these boards and commissions and end up having undue influence over the decisions that get made. For the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, past Governors have specifically looked to ensure a voice from Big Timber, ranching, and hunting all sit on the commission that oversees the agency. By statute, the Board of Forestry is allowed up to three

members with direct personal financial conflicts. These agencies should be required by law to ensure that individuals serving in this capacity are independent and will not be able to reap financial gain from their service. Instead, there should be priority given to scientists and economists who can broadly evaluate situations and regulations as a whole, with a bias only toward making the best possible decisions for all Oregonians. – *Lisa Billings, Vice President, Oregon Wild Board of Director*

Let condor fly in Hells Canyon

*Qu*nes or California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) once graced the skies of northeastern Oregon and the greater Hells Canyon Ecoregion but were extirpated from the area by the late 1800s. The Nez Perce Tribe would like to change that by restoring *Qu*nes to their ancestral homelands. A recently completed habitat assessment confirms that Hells Canyon contains abundant food resources, excellent geography for soaring raptors, a relatively sparse human population, and few developments that might pose a risk to condor restoration.



JACOB DURRENT The Ochoco National Forest is chock full of landscapes worthy of protection.

Moreover, direct threats to condors appear low, with two exceptions: lead poisoning from spent ammunition, and commercial wind energy developments. The Tribe is now moving forward with a hunter outreach program to promote use of non-lead ammunition while also building community and agency support for local condor recovery over the next three years. Their goal is a well-supported management plan to guide a *Qu*nes reintroduction effort. – *Angela Sondenaa, Precious Lands Project Leader, Nez Perce Tribe*

A real estate transfer tax for tribal justice

As Oregon's population has rapidly expanded in recent years, development of all kinds has

boomed. From housing construction to business expansion, those who buy, sell, manage, and invest in real estate have made handsome incomes based on the land they have bought and sold. This wealth accumulation has come on the heels of centuries of land theft and genocide victimizing the original indigenous inhabitants of the land. Many tribes lack federal recognition and reservation land. Even those tribes granted reservation lands through treaty or law occupy a tiny sliver of what was once their home – and often times these reservations are far from their traditional territories. One way to restore land to tribes and achieve some measure of justice for indigenous peoples would be to institute a

real estate transfer tax at the federal level. A small fee placed on all land transfers would acknowledge the history of land theft and provide a massive fund that could be distributed to tribes for the purchase of lands important for cultural, economic, and historical purposes. – *Sean Stevens, Executive Director, Oregon Wild*

Half for the Earth – protecting all 4 million acres of Oregon's remaining forested roadless wildlands

Saving local, independent journalism

Local Oregon journalists have helped tell the stories of frontline communities impacted by industrial logging practices, held

government agencies accountable when they are ignoring the best available science, and exposed corrupt politicians abusing taxpayer resources. Unfortunately, shrinking newsrooms have resulted in important stories and investigations increasingly slipping through the cracks. Polluting industries have rushed to fill the void. For example, the clearcut lobby is spending over \$120,000 on Facebook ads alone! In order to counter this propaganda, we need to save independent journalism. One promising idea from Australia mandates platforms like Facebook and Google share their profits with local news outlets. After all, the online content generated by these outlets is one of the ways online platforms have become so profitable. If we don't take steps to reverse the decline of journalism, the only news we'll have will be what the people with lots of money want us to see. – *Arran Robertson, Communications Manager, Oregon Wild*

11 **Bringing back Elakha**

For millennia, elakha (the Chinook word for sea otter) roamed the kelp forests of Oregon's coastal waters, creating a rich, diverse,

and resilient ecosystem that fed coastal Indian people. Decimated by fur hunters in the 19th century, sea otters have been almost entirely absent from their historical habitat on Oregon's coast for over a century. That's a problem, because sea otters are an ecologically crucial keystone species. In the nearshore marine environment they eat sea urchins that otherwise graze and destroy kelp and other macroalgae, enabling kelp forests to flourish and provide a rich array of ecological and economic benefits. The Elakha Alliance, an Oregon non-profit organization, is dedicated to using sound science, public support, stakeholder collaboration, and cooperation with state and federal agencies to fulfill its vision of an Oregon coast 50 years from now where our children and grandchildren enjoy and benefit from a healthy sea otter population, a resilient and robust marine ecosystem, and a thriving coastal economy. – *Bob Bailey, Board President, Elakha Alliance*

12 **No more "Clearcuts for Kids"**

For nearly a century, the logging industry has worked to link



KATHY WOOD The late, great Wendell Wood stands among the giants of the Oregon Redwoods.

funding for education in Oregon with revenue from clearcutting public lands. They have done so while also working to reduce or eliminate taxes on their own profits. On U.S. Bureau of Land

Management forests in western Oregon the 1937 O&C Act sends 75% of logging revenues to county budgets. In far northwest Oregon, local county governments receive a chunk of timber sale receipts from the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests. In recent years, with financial backing from the logging industry, these same counties have sued the state for \$1 billion more claiming that state forest managers haven't logged aggressively enough. For too long, county politicians have backed unsustainable logging to keep county coffers full. The State Legislature and Congress should break this environmentally destructive cycle by de-coupling logging levels from funding and support schools and other services from more sustainable sources. – *Steve Pedery, Conservation Director, Oregon Wild*

12 **Free the Snake River**

Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment has primarily worked with Nez Perce Tribal members both young and old in

the past five years to ensure that our Treaty Rights to hunt, fish, and gather are protected for the next generation of tribal members. Looking at these issues, we have been watching the diminishment of Salmon runs that extend up to our traditional territories in Idaho. As we have fished for generations and the Salmon are an integral part of our culture, ceremonies, and culture this has become a major focal point for our efforts. We as a group believe and feel that the main method to assist in any type of Salmon restoration is to breach the lower Snake River dams. We feel that the science supports this and politics have kept the breaching from coming to fruition. I know we are not alone in this belief. Many researchers, agencies and groups agree this is the only tangible path to Salmon recovery. – *Julian Matthews, Coordinator, Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment*

14 **Crater Lake is lonely – let's give Oregon more than one National Park**

15 **No more state-sponsored timber industry propaganda**

16 Pass the National Wildlife Corridors Conservation act and reconnect the entire landscape (public and private lands) for wildlife

17 Believing in the power of beavers

As climate change and its impact on wildlife, water, and forests worsens, loss of biodiversity intensifies, and habitat degradation expands, we need concrete plans to keep ecosystems thriving. Beavers are an important tool to help combat some of the worst effects of these environmental crises. Known as ecosystem engineers, beavers provide a number of environmental services such as creating and restoring habitat like wetlands, recharging groundwater, slowing storm water flow, and much more. It has been said that next to humans, beavers do more to shape their environment than any other animal. However, in Oregon they are still considered a predatory species, not seen as a solution to some of our ecological challenges, but a nuisance. To comprehensively address these environmental challenges, we seek to have an Oregon where

beavers are statutorily reclassified (to remove unlimited hunting and trapping), and integral to any and all fish, habitat, and climate change restoration and recovery plans. – *Danielle Moser, Wildlife Policy Coordinator, Oregon Wild*

18 Protect native species on the Klamath National Wildlife Refuges by phasing out commercial agribusiness on refuge wetlands

19 Timber should pay its fair share

As timber companies log Oregon's forests, generating large profits for shareholders, they impose overlapping costs on the rest of us. Their CO2 emissions impose climate-related costs (flooding, heatwaves, etc.). Their aerial spraying of poisons threatens our drinking water supplies. And their clearcuts degrade forest habitat, killing salmon and other species. How big are these costs? They're huge. Decades ago, industrial timberland owners conned the governor and legislators into allowing them to avoid paying \$300 million per year in property taxes, in exchange for promises to improve habitat, but they instead

make habitat worse, not better. Climate-related costs from the industry's annual CO2 emissions total more than \$9 billion. What can we do? First, stop the tax breaks and other subsidies that support harmful forest practices. Second, increase taxes for landowners whose actions harm the rest of us. Most important, as quickly as possible, begin taxing those who emit CO2. – *Ernie Niemi, Natural Resource Economics*

20 Eat more plants to spare ecosystems from the impacts of public lands livestock grazing

21 Reform the 1872 Mining Law to keep special places off limits and make polluters pay

Find out more and Take Action!

To read more and see how you can take action on these "wild ideas" head over to the Oregon Wild website at oregonwild.org/21ideas for inspiration on how you can turn these big concepts into reality.



Your legacy for a wilder world

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

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

Including Oregon Wild in your planned giving is easy and each person's plan can be as varied and unique as the wild places that bring us together. And now, you can use a free will-writing tool to set up your planned giving and your legacy gift to Oregon Wild. To access this free and easy tool, please visit: oregonwild.org/keystonecircle

It's an easy, meaningful way to protect the people and causes you care about, while ensuring Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters will have a voice for years to come.

Legacy giving isn't just for the wealthy. Whether your capacity is \$500 or \$50 million, every legacy gift makes a difference. And every gift helps ensure that Oregon Wild will have the long-term resources to be fighting for what's most important to you long after you've reached the end of the trail.

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

For more information or to discuss including Oregon Wild in your planned giving legacy, please contact Jonathan Jelen (jj@oregonwild.org).

On OR-7 and turning inspiration into action

Danielle Moser, Wildlife Policy Coordinator

All in all, 2019 was a good year for Oregon's wolf population. A quick snapshot of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) annual report will tell you that the minimum wolf count was 158 (up from 137 in 2018), 22 packs were identified, and most notably, predation was down and no wolves were killed by poachers. Furthermore, 2019 ended the four-year streak of ODFW officials killing the state's wolves. That's positive news and an outcome that Oregon Wild has been pushing to see since wolves first returned to the state.

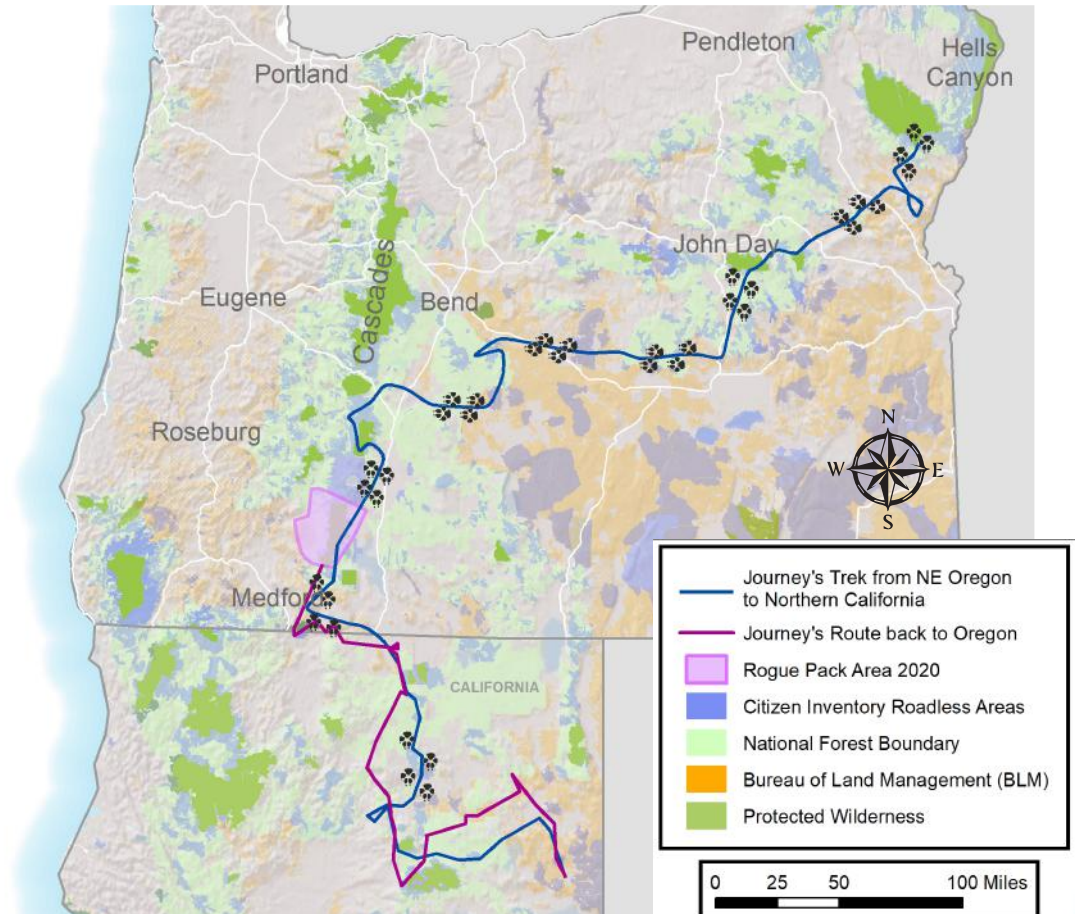
Even still, the path toward wolf recovery is hardly a straight line devoid of any setbacks. Case in point, one troubling statistic to come out of last year's annual report was that five wolves were killed by vehicles. That's an alarming number and highlights major inadequacies for safe wildlife passage over large roads and highways in Oregon. Though state efforts are underway to address it, this staggering number of wolf mortalities from vehicles

underscores the need for our decision makers and wildlife/transportation officials to more seriously invest in habitat corridors and safe wildlife passage. Without it, the few wolves that have managed to cross into western Oregon (including our most famous traveling wolf, OR-7), might be the rare exception.

Speaking of OR-7 (aka Journey), the annual wolf report also revealed that wildlife officials were unable to get a visual confirmation of him in the fall of 2019, drawing the unfortunate conclusion that he most likely had died. Especially given his older age for a wild wolf, it's not terribly surprising ODFW would make that determination. Confirmed or not, that doesn't alleviate the sadness and loss felt throughout the wildlife community. We can only hope his passing was deep in the forest, surrounded by nature, and far away from any humans.

Journey undoubtedly left an indelible mark on wolf recovery and wildlife conservation, broadly.

OR-7's Wilderness Adventures



While his perseverance and popularity ultimately turned him into an ambassador for his species (and others), we won't always be so lucky to have an individual animal that inspires people into action. To continue his legacy, it's up to us to continue to speak up for Oregon's wildlife.

Whether you sign a petition, submit a comment, make a call to your elected official, or attend a lobby meeting, that sustained engagement is critical and is the backbone of the wildlife program at Oregon Wild.

For many of us, Journey symbolized determination, hope, and redemption. His story inspired countless people, from all around the world, to take that admiration and turn it into action. To honor and carry out his legacy, it's not only important we continue to advocate for wolves and other wildlife, it's imperative.

Here are several opportunities coming up where you can harness that energy for our state's wildlife into advocacy:

» The next round of Fish and Wildlife Commission appointments is upon us! Recall the fiasco last year when Gov. Brown nominated James Nash – trophy hunter and son of anti-wolf cattleman – to the Commission. However, because of your strong advocacy, he was removed from the nomination slate. While that victory was no small feat, there's still work to be done to ensure the Governor appoints more individuals to the Commission who value broad public opinion, respect science, and represent the growing diversity and changing demographics of the state.

» As a refresher, back in 2017 several conservation organizations (Oregon Wild included) requested that the marbled murrelet – a rare seabird that nests in old growth forests and has been in significant decline – be moved from “threatened” to “endangered” on the state endangered species list. After reviewing the best available science, the Commission decided the species warranted uplisting. However, only three months later, and in response to public pressure from logging

interests, the Commission reversed their decision. We filed litigation with our partners and the courts ultimately decided that the Commission's reversal was illegal. Now the decision goes back to the Commission to decide whether they want to reinstate the “endangered” listing or, if they choose not to, develop a justification based on best available science. Although a majority of the current Commission was not present for the initial decision, it will still

require a huge push to overcome the opposition from timber and county officials to ensure the Commission's decision is driven by science, not special interests. To that end, please keep an eye out for emails from us asking you to submit a comment to the Commission in support of more protections for the marbled murrelet. It's because of the collective action of activists like you that we ensure Oregon's wildlife gets the protection it needs. ☺



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE Female from the Wenaha pack

This Land

Jamie Dawson, Ochoco Mountains Coordinator



MICHAEL ESTRADA Faith and José running in Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks National Monument

For Earth Day this year, I had the honor of organizing a digital screening and panel discussion with filmmaker, runner, and advocate Faith Briggs. Hundreds of folks tuned in to watch her recently-released film *This Land*. It's a story about land access told through a journey of inclusion and empowerment, and we need it now more than ever.

After the screening, Faith moderated a panel filled with incredible people. She was joined by Autumn Harry, a Paiute and Navajo woman currently studying geography and Indigenous place names at University of Nevada, Reno; José González, an excellent educator who founded the organization Latino Outdoors; and Ani Kame'enui, an all-

around policy whiz and former Oregon Wild employee who is now the Deputy Vice President for Government Affairs at the National Parks Conservation Association.

I am grateful for the opportunity to share some brief highlights from their conversation in this edition of our newsletter, but please

know this is only a small snapshot. I sincerely hope that you'll go check out the recording of our film screening and panel discussion at oregonwild.org.

As a white person, what is the best way I can use my privilege to make a welcoming space for people of color in the outdoors?

Autumn: Researching the land that you're on, whether it's where you're travelling or where you grew up. It's so important to recognize and acknowledge the original peoples of those areas. A lot of Indigenous communities have organizations who are doing work on the ground. Find them, connect with them, support them.

Ani: We need to change the story we tell ourselves about public lands, and that includes learning the real story. Telling ourselves an ahistorical version of what the National Parks represent immediately creates a narrative about public lands that is exclusive. Recognize that in 1916, the year the National Park Service was created, 55 African Americans were lynched. The story we tell ourselves about who the national parks were created for and why they were created is so important. Part of our obligation as white folks is to understand the real history and then to change the way we tell the narrative.

José: Three things! 1) Decenter yourself: imagine what it would be like if you're not part of the group considered "normal." 2) Listen: Be ready to just listen before you prepare to fill in the space in conversations with anything else. 3) If you're reaching out to people of color, be OK with whatever comes after: you're going to have to do a lot of the work to learn on your own. Be careful with your curiosity.

How can land managers be more inviting to people of color and get the word out that these places are open to all?

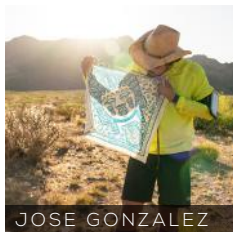
Ani: After working through the entirety of the Obama administration, there was a lot of work done to encourage land managers to take another look at who these lands were for and who's using them. There was a lot of funding that went into things like cultural diversity internships, and the "Every Kid in a Park Program." In many ways for land managers it starts from "the top." There needs to

be an ethos of inclusivity and a willingness to reframe the telling of all stories.

José: There is a degree of difference between various agencies like the Bureau of Land Management or National Park Service in terms of how they center this in their mission. A key component that's come up often is the law enforcement side of this. How are they approaching it? It only takes one negative experience to undermine a lot of good work that other parks or agencies are doing. As we do this work there is a difference between intent and impact – you still have to pay attention and manage for that. Some of the harmful experiences that happen in cityscapes can transfer over to

the outdoors and that reinforces actions of exclusion.

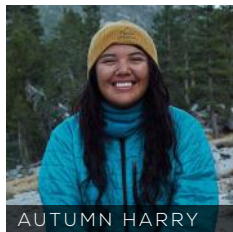
Autumn: A big thing that agencies, the National Parks especially, could do is to hire more people of color. I was part of an internship program at Yellowstone and sat in on a long presentation about how the Park Service is working to increase diversity and be more inclusive. I asked how many of the staff are actually people of color, and it was a tiny percentage. When you're going out to National Parks and you're not seeing your own people represented within those spaces, that's another form of exclusivity. You don't feel as welcome. That's a big initiative and other agencies should take on. ☺



JOSE GONZALEZ



ANI KAME'ENUI



AUTUMN HARRY

WILD WEBCASTS



Lucas Rietmann

The wild web

Arran Robertson, Communications Manager

One of the many effects of the COVID-19 pandemic was how it necessitated a different approach to community engagement. The brewfests, street festivals, and other events where we would have an opportunity to interact with supporters or introduce our programs to the public were no longer feasible.

The Oregon Wild Webcasts series was launched to provide weekly presentations on our state's wildlands, wildlife, and waters. Not only has this series engaged our existing supporters, but it's also allowed us to reach

new audiences during a time when the protection of our health and communities has necessitated staying home.

We are excited to return to meeting people face-to-face and celebrating Oregon's natural wonders together. But, based on the sustaining popularity of our Webcast series, it looks like it is here to stay.

You can sign-up for upcoming presentations, and view previous webcasts, at oregonwild.org

TAKE ACTION! Have an idea for a presentation? Email ar@oregonwild.org

A leap forward for Oregon's forest practices

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

In our last issue, we wrote about the growing momentum across the state for reform of the Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA). Today, we have great news to report – after decades of inaction, change is on the way!

When we set out years ago to improve the abysmal way private and state forests are managed in Oregon we ran into massive institutional hurdles. A legislature captured by corporate donors. A Board of Forestry rife with conflicts and statutorily hamstrung. Soon, it became clear that the only route to progress might be through the ballot box.

Early in 2020, Oregon Wild, our conservation partners, and frontline Oregonians living with the impacts of industrial forestry were waiting for the Oregon Supreme Court to approve our ballot titles so we could begin collecting signatures. That's when representatives of the logging industry reached out through Governor Kate Brown's office to see if we could agree on updates to the OFPA.

After numerous intense and sometimes difficult

conversations, thirteen conservation organizations and thirteen timber companies announced in early February that we had reached an agreement to:

- » Legislate comprehensive new aerial pesticide spraying laws, including a modern notification system for forest communities, no-spray zones around homes and schools, and buffers along streams and drinking water sources;
- » Work with the State of Oregon to pursue a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries for threatened and endangered species that will result in across-the-board modernization and strengthening of the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

This agreement is a direct result of the thousands and thousands of Oregonians all across our state who have written letters, made phone calls, attended hearings, and gathered signatures to demand action to modernize our antiquated logging rules.

However, this agreement is also only a first step in a longer journey. Conservation of Oregon's forests, and protecting communities that live around them and rely upon them, is not guaranteed at the end of this process. It will require significant work over the next several years to modernize forest rules and secure a lasting legacy that benefits all Oregonians.

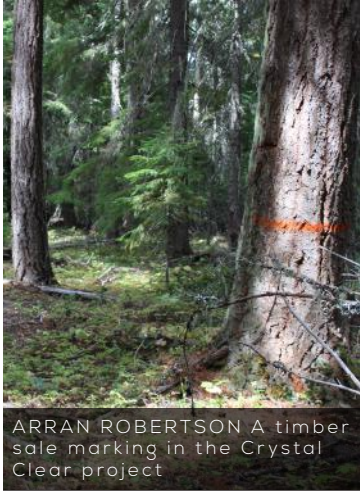
With this agreement, Oregon Wild and our allies have withdrawn our ballot measures. At the same time, industry withdrew competing measures that would have undermined environmental protections. Given the blood, sweat, and tears (this author's included) that so many poured into this campaign, it was a bittersweet moment. Of course, we could not have known in February that it was coming, but as fate would have it the COVID-19 pandemic would have made collecting signatures nearly impossible. Now we can turn our energies (ongoing as of this writing) to pushing legislation through in an upcoming special session. More updates to come – onward! ©



FELICE KELLY The forest agreement reached in February will make clearcutting right up to the edge of streams a thing of the past.

Conservation roundup

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director



ARRAN ROBERTSON A timber sale marking in the Crystal Clear project

Defending Mount Hood

Taking the Forest Service to court is never our first choice for resolving a logging conflict, but when the agency breaks the law we are not bashful about it either. This was the case with the “Crystal Clear” logging project, where the agency targeted nearly 12,000 acres on the eastern slopes of Mount Hood, including 3,000 acres of mature and old-growth forest, with aggressive logging. Oregon Wild and our partners (Bark and Cascadia Wildlands)

found this misguided project could have actually increased the risk of forest fire in the region while destroying habitat for wildlife, including Mount Hood’s wolves. In early April, a federal court agreed with us and put the sale on hold.

This isn’t the end of the fight, but it is an important victory. The long term solution will require Congress establishing a plan for Mount Hood that better protects the Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers, trails, and recreation from destructive logging. We’ll be looking to Senator Wyden and Representatives Blumenauer and Walden for leadership on this front.



BLM A hiker nears the peak of Soda Mountain in the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument

Fighting for water in the Klamath

Wetlands and wildlife need water. Unfortunately, in the Klamath Basin some 22,000 acres of National Wildlife Refuge lands are leased to agribusiness, often forcing wetlands to go dry even as commercial row crops are fully irrigated. We recently filed an appeal in our long-running legal battle over this practice. Together with other wildlife advocates, we are urging a federal court to require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to prioritize water for wildlife over private agribusiness on our public refuge lands.



BRETT COLE Yellow-Headed Blackbird on Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge

Defending Oregon’s wildest places

For over two decades, Oregon Wild has supported federal protection for the ecological wonderland that is the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument. At the end of the Obama administration, we celebrated the expansion of the monument to include more old-growth forest and critical wildlife habitat on public BLM lands in the region. Unfortunately, logging companies and anti-environmental county politicians challenged the

expansion, and a legal battle ensued.

We are a part of this fight, and in recent months have seen diametrically opposed rulings from a federal court in Oregon (favoring conservation) and the District Court in Washington D.C. (prioritizing logging above all other uses of the land). We are appealing, and in the meantime working closely with allies in southwest Oregon to track and respond to logging proposals that could endanger this national treasure. ©

Forever 21?

Rob Klavins, Northeast Oregon Field Coordinator



About 25 years ago a tentative truce in the “forest wars” was taking hold. In western Oregon, the Northwest Forest Plan provided comprehensive plans to protect important values. In eastern Oregon, interim protections known as “the Screens” were put into place until a more comprehensive plan was developed.

The Screens include rules prohibiting logging of trees over 21” in diameter except under very specific circumstances. The Forest Service never developed comprehensive plans, so the Screens remain.

They’ve done their job. Old growth forests and big trees have been protected. Things like carbon sequestration, soil health, and wildlife habitat, have been enhanced. Predictably, those who see environmental protections as impediments to easy profits always disliked the screens.

After 25 years, and as the first (and only?) term of the Trump administration nears its end, those interests are getting their wish. Sadly, they’re being supported by a handful of enviro organizations willing to work

with the Trump administration.

As a result of political pressure, and on behalf of narrow economic interests, the agency unveiled a “review” (pronounced wee-ken-ing) of the Screens. The Forest Service tipped their hand with a biased “rapid scientific assessment.” Praised by timber industry lobbyists and far-right rural politicians, it was immediately slammed by reputable independent scientists.

In a tone deaf move, the agency held an intergovernmental workshop on American Indian Day – a Federal Holiday when most tribal governments are closed. The global pandemic is making public participation even harder. Tribal governments are overwhelmed. Organizations have reduced capacity. Average people are profoundly struggling and distracted. Many lack the technology to participate in a public process held in a virtual space.

It’s an especially terrible time to take on a complex, controversial, and consequential effort to undermine the most meaningful protections for old and large trees in eastern Oregon. The agency acknowledged as much in a

leaked memo outlining when public processes should be delayed.

From suspending EPA rules to bailouts for the fossil fuel industry, the attack on “the Screens” is only one of many efforts to use a crisis to undermine environmental protections. For those of us who value clean water, wildlife habitat, and trees both big and old here in eastern Oregon, few are more consequential.

We’re working hard to stop this rushed process. When the time is right, we’d be happy to help create holistic protections for our National Forests that will have support from credible scientists, conservationists, and the broad public while satisfying other important concerns. Now is not the time. ☺

TAKE ACTION!

The Forest Service seems dead-set on pushing forward over objections from conservationists, citizens, tribes, and scientists. Our Senators need to tell the agency to keep the Screens.

Call and write Senator Wyden (503.326.7525) and Senator Merkley (503.326.3386). Tell them to tell the agency to keep the screens!

ROB KLAVINS Twenty-five years after protections for large and old trees went into effect, the Trump Administration is looking to undo them.

Migrations



MARIELLE COWDIN

As always, spring is a time of change. Here at Oregon Wild, we had our own staff transformation with two long-time colleagues moving on.

In her eight years on staff, **Marielle Cowdin** left a mark across every aspect of our work - from development to outreach to campaign work. After helping to grow donor support as part of the development team, she took over the reins of several critical projects. She served as editor-in-chief of the publication you are reading right now, bringing new and innovative designs to our primary means of communicating with members. Perhaps most notably, Marielle built the Oregon Brewshed© Alliance from an idea to a growing force for



JASON GONZALES

forested watersheds with almost 70 members. We wish Marielle luck in her future endeavors!

If you live on the coast or in the Coast Range, you've no doubt run in to **Jason Gonzales**. We hired Jason in 2015 to double down on our efforts to see Oregon's notoriously weak forest practices improved. As someone who lives surrounded by industrial forestlands, Jason's personal connection to the issue made him an incredible advocate. He barnstormed all over western Oregon to help educate his neighbors and support grassroots efforts that were springing up in affected communities. The momentum for substantive reform of the OFPA that will come through the recently signed forest



STACEY RICE

memorandum of understanding and other ongoing efforts owes a huge deal of gratitude to Jason's dogged work. Thank you and see you down the trail!

We are also excited to announce that **Stacey Rice** has joined the Oregon Wild Board of Directors. Stacey has made a mark in the Portland non-profit scene as Program Strategist at City Club of Portland and Executive Co-Director of Q Center which is the largest LGBTQ community center in the Pacific Northwest. She was recognized by the Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest as a Queer Hero in 2016 for her work there. Welcome Stacey!



ALLEN KING

We would also like to sound a note of remembrance for a longtime friend of the organization, **Allen King**, who passed away in April. For many years, Allen ran Environmental Paper and Print and helped Oregon Wild (and countless other organizations) reduce their impact on the planet through their print materials. This is the first issue of this newsletter not printed by Allen in two decades. All staff in the Portland office were familiar with Allen's warm and gentle personality and his encouragement of our work. Sometimes it felt like Christmas morning when Allen would come in the front door with his ever-present Bluetooth in his ear and a huge stack of newsletter boxes on a cart. It was always fun to see Allen with his quiet smile and earnest appreciation at our annual Call of the Wild event - which he sponsored. We send our thoughts to Allen's family during this difficult time.



5825 N. Greeley Ave.
Portland, OR 97217

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Printed on recycled paper with vegetable based ink.

IAN LANGENHUYSEN Samuel Boardman Park



Join the Evergreen Hiker Series!

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and for the health and safety of our staff and supporters, we have decided to forgo leading any public hikes for this summer season. We're committed to recreating responsibly and can't wait to hit the trail with you when it's safe to do so. In the meantime, we're continuing to foster our connections to each other and Oregon's wild places through a new program for our monthly donors – the Evergreen Hiker Series!

Current Evergreen Society members and new members who join at \$10 or more, **will receive an exclusive set of 2-3 suggested hikes throughout Oregon each month** – specially selected by our staff to help you avoid crowds and get “out there.”

These might include some of your old favorites or a new one in the making! 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
- » Suggested social media tags to post with photos

Being an Evergreen member is the **best way** to support our campaigns. 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.

This special Evergreen benefit will run until October 2020. We hope you'll join us in discovering new trails and help us continue to preserve our wildlands, wildlife, and waters. Sign up today at www.oregonwild.org.