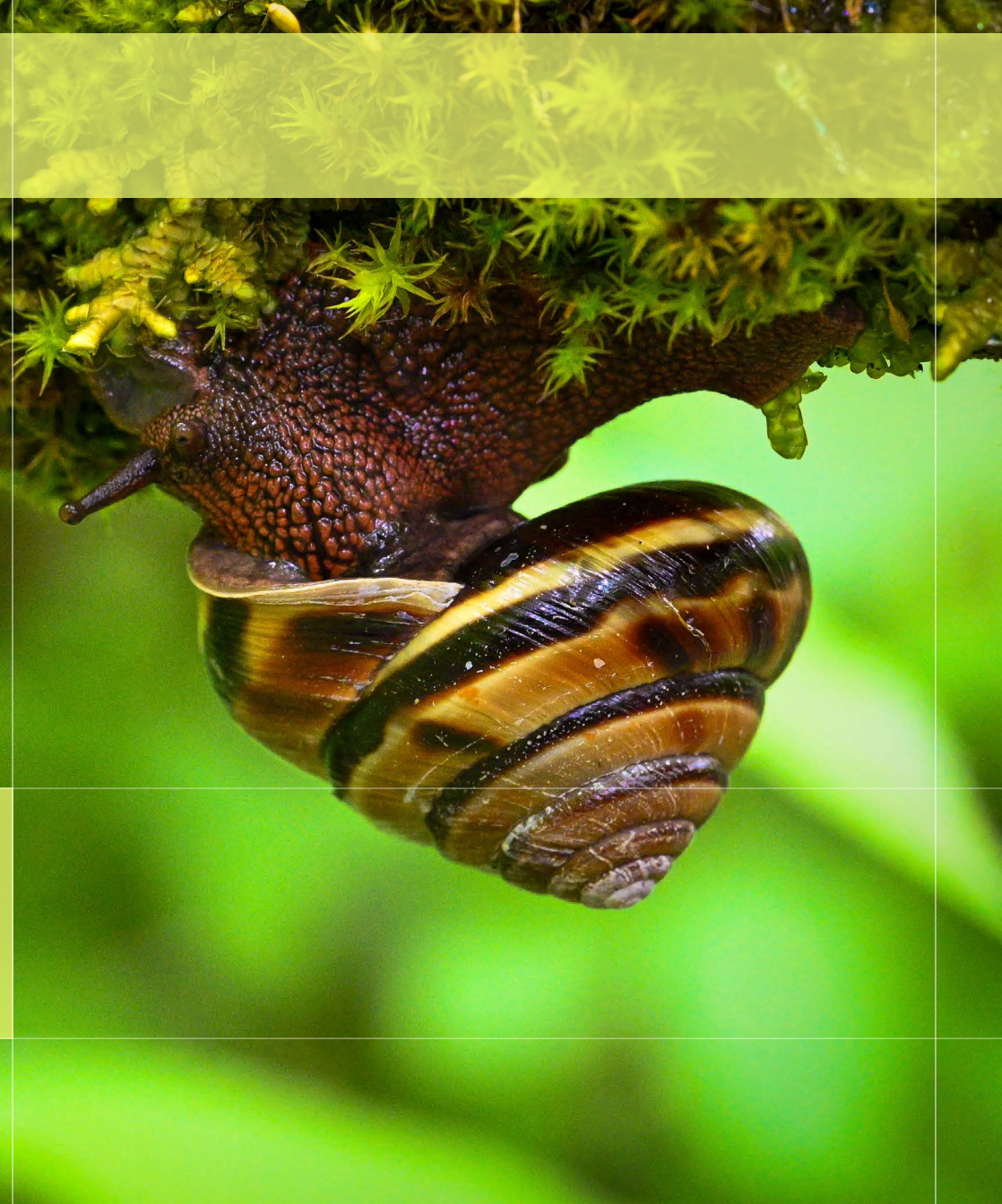


OREGON WILD

Winter Spring 2024 Volume 51, Number 1

HOW FOREST PLANS WILL
SHAPE THE FUTURE

Also: NASA analyzes Oregon's
clearcutting consequences





OREGON WILD

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

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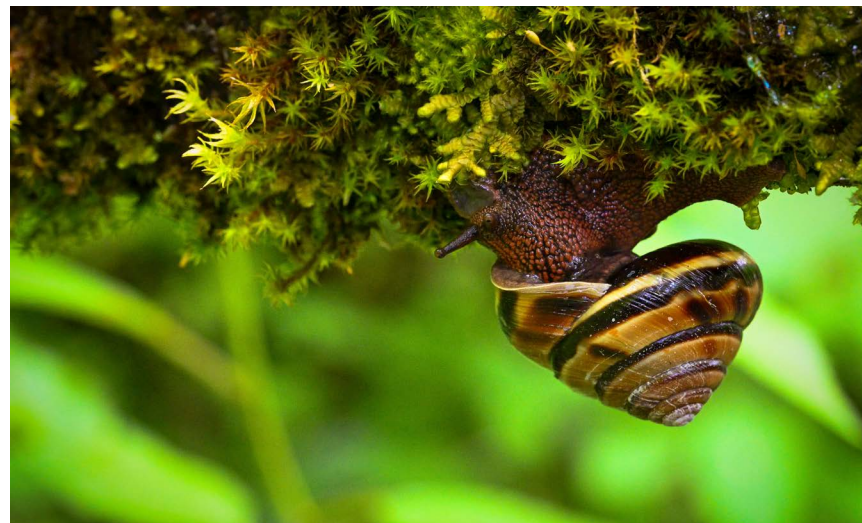
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CHRIS BRIGGS 2023 Photo Contest Finalist (Zoomed In category).



From the Director's Desk

A spark of inspiration

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

Let's face it. There is a whole lot in this world to be dispirited about. When you survey the state of politics, culture, and the way that we humans are treating each other and the planet, it is pretty easy to get despondent.

Oregon Wild staff get asked pretty frequently how we stay optimistic in the face of bad news or challenges that seem insurmountable. Generally, we describe ourselves not so much as optimists but as realists who love the natural world we fight for so much that we forge ahead.

Besides, action is the one clear antidote to despair.

Still, I find myself needing that spark of inspiration from time to time to fortify my hopefulness and sense of purpose. I found it in an unlikely place recently as I was about to leave our Portland office for the night.

I noticed someone in the parking lot peering into the windows. I went out to say hello and learned that the person was often in the neighborhood and was curious to get a pamphlet. I gave him our latest newsletters and described that we were about to celebrate our 50th anniversary protecting the wild that we love - forests, rivers, species, and mountains. He interjected.

"You're going to make me tear up," he said.

I can't get that small interaction out of my head.

Realizing that all it can take to make someone emotional is to remind them that there are people (the people at Oregon Wild!) fighting every day for the values they hold dear was affirming in a way that is hard to describe.

That's the kind of thing that puts fuel in my tank. For Oregon Wild supporters like you, I can

imagine that inspiration comes from a beautiful vista, a desire to pass on a legacy to your kids and grandkids, or the sight of your favorite animal living its life in the wondrous web of existence.

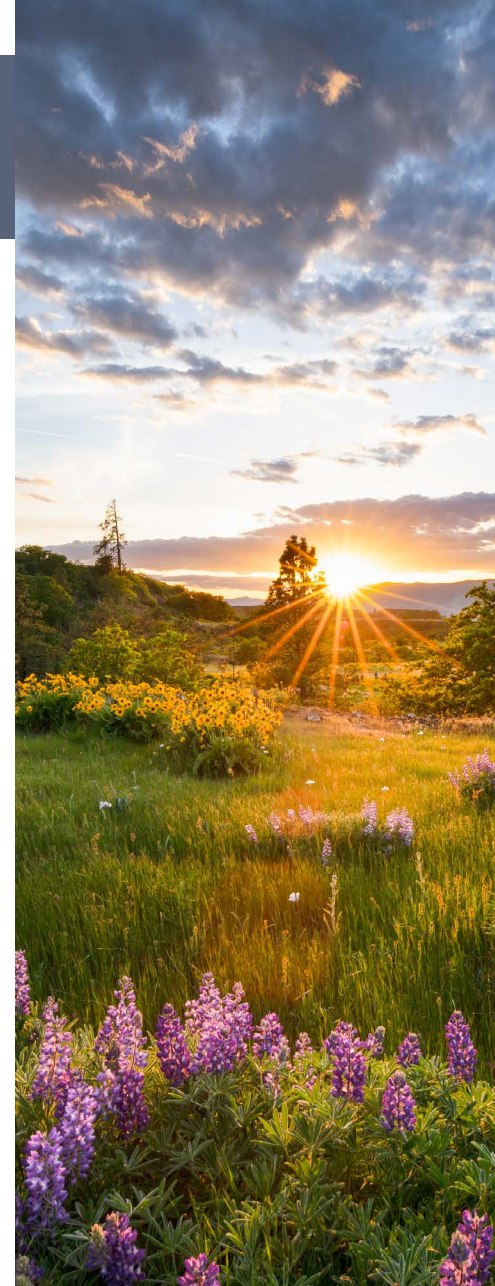
Inspiration is a foundation, but I've always believed that a big part of believing in the power of our collective action (and avoiding despair) also comes from evidence that we are winning.

So, here are a few reasons to believe:

- Oregon Wild and partners, represented by Crag Law Center, won in court in August to restore the Eastside Screens removed during the final moments of the Trump administration. Our victory means that millions of acres of large and older forests across Eastern Oregon are protected once again.

- The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, following years of pressure from Oregon Wild and allies, voted to ban wildlife killing contests on public lands, halting a barbaric practice that violates the basic tenets of ethical hunting.
- Since the national Climate Forests Coalition that Oregon Wild helps to lead secured an executive order from President Biden aimed at protecting mature and old-growth forests, the Forest Service has had to cancel no less than three old-growth timber sales across the country - including the Flat Country sale in the McKenzie headwaters.

Every victory for the wild is built on hope for a better future combined with a fierce commitment to action. Let's get to work. ☺





The future of forest plans: A look east and west

Chandra LeGue,
Senior Conservation Advocate

When you're out enjoying the spectacular national forests in Oregon, you're probably not thinking about laws passed decades ago to require forest plans for these areas. But these plans, and the subsequent standards, guidelines, designations, and policies they create, make a huge difference in what you'll experience at your favorite trail, river, or picnic spot. They certainly affect the lives of the wildlife that call these places home, the fish that swim in the streams, and the plants that thrive in the forest soil.

One of my favorite trails is tucked away in the central Coast Range, along the North Fork Smith River. The trail takes you through a steep river canyon, past enormous Douglas-fir, moss-draped bigleaf maples, and waterfalls. This area of the Siuslaw National Forest is home to threatened and rare wildlife species (from salamanders to owls), and it is designated as a Special Interest Area and Late Successional Reserve under the forest's Management Plan and the famous Northwest Forest Plan.

The Forest Service is planning a logging project here that might be incredibly concerning if not for the constraints of these plans - namely,

ensuring that management focuses exclusively on thinning young plantations for the purpose of restoring old-growth and riparian forest habitat that help threatened species.

In far Eastern Oregon, there is another forested corridor - one that connects Hells Canyon to the Eagle Cap Wilderness. This part of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest has been identified by scientists as one of the most important and irreplaceable connectivity corridors on the continent. The landscape here is about as diverse and spectacular as it gets. When I first visited, I camped along Lick Creek. I was struck by the majesty of the mountain views, the huge scattered ponderosa pines, and dense stands of fir, larch, and spruce. I saw evidence of natural regrowth after fire. I heard my first wolf howl and saw wild salmon in the stream.

A huge project covering 87,000 acres, called Morgan Nesbit, is being planned here under the guidance of the 30-year-old Forest Management Plan. In contrast to the constraints embraced by the Siuslaw National Forest, a proposed amendment to the Wallowa-Whitman Forest Plan

would allow logging of steep slopes and the largest 3% of trees that remain.

What is a forest plan?

Every national forest has a guiding management plan, as required under the National Forest Management Act. In Oregon, most of these plans were completed in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when logging, roading, grazing, and mining had already fragmented most intact blocks of habitat and cut down most large and old trees over a vast landscape. These forest plans aspired to break with the destructive activities of the past and envision more "sustainable" management. Though they have often fallen short of their aspirations, these new forest plans did start to consider uses that weren't exclusively extractive. They outlined management guidelines and direction for everything from recreation, logging, Wilderness designations, wildlife needs, and other public values - kind of like a zoning plan for a forest. Plans were intended to be revised every 15 years or when conditions significantly change. Small amendments can be made in the interim.

Today, revisions and amendments are underway to make substantial, and potentially detrimental, changes to forest plans that touch nearly every national forest in Oregon, from the iconic Northwest Forest Plan to northeast Oregon's Blue Mountains.

The Northwest Forest Plan

In Western Oregon, initial forest management plans saw major new developments almost immediately when, after decades of habitat destruction, northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets, and salmon were listed under the Endangered Species Act. The Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) was developed as an attempt to strike a balance between logging and protecting habitat. In 1994, the NWFP amended plans for the Siuslaw, Mount Hood, Willamette, Umpqua, Rogue River-Siskiyou, and Deschutes National Forests, as

well as Bureau of Land Management lands within the range of the northern spotted owl.

However, the NWFP has always been bigger than just one species. In defining areas for protection and setting strong standards for restoration, the NWFP has led to great progress in restoring some of the damage done by decades of unsustainable logging - protecting drinking water, keeping other wildlife off the endangered species list, restoring salmon runs, stabilizing the climate, and improving quality of life which is the foundation of the growing regional economy.

Efforts to weaken the Northwest Forest Plan began as soon as it was finalized. The most consequential attack came from timber interests that opposed forest and habitat protections on Western Oregon BLM lands. They claimed logging should be the primary use of these

public lands. A lawsuit settlement, initiated under the George W Bush administration, led to a revision of the BLM's management plans in 2016. The revision essentially removed 2 million acres from the conservation framework of the NWFP, allowing more intense logging and shrinking reserves.

In 2015, the Forest Service began considering if and how to revise management plans for national forests within the NWFP area, but the revision process was shelved during the Trump administration. Now, a federal advisory committee has been convened to inform potential amendments to forest plans in Western Oregon, focusing on addressing wildfire risk, climate change, old-growth forests, tribal engagement, and rural communities and workforce.

Blue Mountains Forest Plans

Major adjustments had to be made to Eastern Oregon's forest plans around the same time as the Northwest Forest Plan. Recognizing the need to address the rampant degradation of wildlife habitat across the region, the Eastside Screens were put in place. Among efforts to maintain wildlife habitat, the Screens



protected trees 21 inches in diameter or larger. These protections have many ecological benefits, and they also helped focus the agency and communities on building common ground, rather than fighting over old-growth logging.

Covering 5.5 million acres, the three National Forests of Eastern Oregon's Blue Mountains - the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman - have been grouped together for revision. Starting in the early 2000s, a series of failed efforts at plan revisions have provided a sneak peek of the agency's intentions. In those previous processes, the Forest Service had an opportunity to find a balance that protected undeveloped areas, embraced new science, and brought management

of these public lands in line with the modern era. Instead, their proposals adopted an outdated vision of rural economics by prioritizing extractive industries like logging and livestock, while de-emphasizing the importance of natural and cultural values like clean water, recreation, salmon, wildlife, quality of life, and carbon storage.

The Forest Service has re-initiated a new revision process for the Blue Mountains very much in character with their previous attempts. A lot is at stake in this incredibly diverse region identified by scientists as being of global importance for wildlife connectivity and carbon storage. These forests have long been subject to logging, excessive road building, overgrazing, and the exclusion of natural fires. Their



recovery from past abuse, and the promise of a healthy future – for the forests, streams, wildlife, and people who depend on this landscape – hangs on a new plan's outcome.

Limits and opportunities

While forest plans are incredibly consequential, they're rarely perfect. Most are a compromise. For example, the Northwest Forest Plan, though celebrated for providing some protections for wildlife habitat and ancient forests, still allowed logging and road building in ecologically critical areas and did not fully protect mature and old-growth forests.

Forest plans are also subject to amendments and rule changes, directed by changing presidential administrations and agency discretion. The NWFP area saw rule changes that increased logging under the Bush administration. In Eastern Oregon, piecemeal amendments are often made to accommodate logging the largest trees under the guise of “restoration” and fuel reduction. The Trump administration tried to do away with those protections entirely.

Revisions and amendments to forest plans can be a good opportunity to reflect evolving public values and offer beneficial guidance for managing our public lands for clean water, natural ecosystems, wildlife connectivity, climate stability, fire resilience, and more. Rather than loosening standards, what we need from forest plans are more enforceable sideboards that ensure the protection of large trees and mature forests, water, and connected wildlife habitat. They should make the case for Wilderness or Wild and Scenic River protection, and set the stage for the landscape-scale preservation of natural areas and restoration of ecosystems necessary to address the dual climate and biodiversity crises and help meet national land and water conservation goals. Destructive activities like commercial logging, livestock grazing, backcountry fire suppression, and maintaining high road densities should be reduced.

With these sideboards in place, the Forest Service can focus on real restoration of watersheds that prepare for the return of salmon to their native streams, connecting habitats for species that need to migrate to adapt to climate



The old-growth forests along the North Fork Smith River in the Coast Range are protected from logging under the Northwest Forest Plan.

change, and enhancing habitat degraded by mismanagement. But given the process and outcomes we've seen from recent revision efforts that always seem to move toward greater agency discretion and less conservation, it's hard to feel optimistic that the Forest Service is heading in that direction.

This is why, at the same time, we need strong Administrative direction and durable protections for the landscapes, forests, and waterways that are so important for the future of biodiversity and a livable planet. To achieve this, Oregon Wild's ongoing campaigns can complement and direct where forest plans go.

- Our Climate Forest Campaign is working to create a strong national rule to ensure forest plans protect mature and old-growth forests. Without a rule, the Forest Service has struggled to implement the vision of President Biden to protect these forests as a climate solution, and instead continues to plan and implement destructive logging projects across the country.

- With the Nez Perce Tribe and other conservation allies, we went to court and defeated an illegal effort to undermine forest plan protections for the largest 3% of trees left in Eastern Oregon. Now we're working together to scale back piecemeal amendments to allow destructive logging proposals like Morgan Nesbit.
- We are working to pass Wilderness and Wild & Scenic River designations across the state. These are the best ways to protect Oregon's remaining wildlands and waters for their many ecological and cultural values. Forest plans can ensure these areas are not degraded and support the case for their permanent protection until legislation is passed.

Together, we have a long history of speaking up for our vision and values. We'll be counting on you to let the Forest Service and elected leaders know what you value about our national forests and public lands.

©

We've got big plans!

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

The ways in which Oregon Wild is working to defend, restore, and protect our many wild places sometimes feel as numerous as the threats putting them at risk.

Sometimes we're working to advance critical new legislative protections through Congress, like with our current campaign to protect 3,000+ miles of Oregon's rivers (see page 10). Sometimes we're working to halt reckless proposals or projects that could have negative impacts on our forests, waters, or wildlife.

And sometimes – as described in the accompanying article – we're knee-deep in long, messy, intricately detailed forest management planning processes such as the Northwest Forest Plan and Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revisions. While these processes can feel overly mundane and “in the

weeds,” the impacts that they have on Oregon's wild places, forests, rivers, and wildlife can be absolutely paramount. Having a strong voice for conservation participating in the process isn't just helpful, it's essential.

For example, combined, the Northwest Forest Plan and the Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revisions will drastically shape the future management of nearly every national forest in Oregon, including the Willamette, Wallowa-Whitman, and Mount Hood National Forests. That's millions and millions of acres of carbon-storing forests and wildlife habitat for countless species.

In an age of climate change and the biodiversity crisis, it's critical that these new revisions – which will be in place for a generation or more – prioritize science-based conservation,

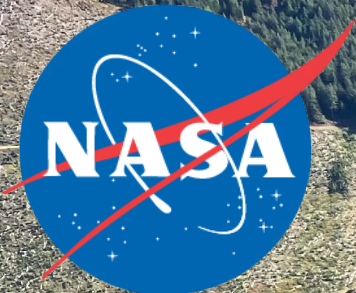
restoration, quiet recreation, and public input over resource extraction and short-sighted political agendas.

So yeah, years-long planning processes can sometimes feel overwhelming. But with so much at stake, it's vital that we keep our eye on the prize of making sure that the plans prioritize strong conservation values and prevent future abuses. So Oregon Wild's in. And like all of our work, our effort to improve these critical forest plans is made possible by you.

As you're thinking about your year-end donations, please consider a special gift to support Oregon Wild's role in ensuring our forest plans prioritize our climate, forests, rivers, and wildlife. [Use the enclosed envelope or visit oregonwild.org/2023gift](https://oregonwild.org/2023gift)

NASA report highlights alarming rate of clearcutting across Oregon drinking watersheds

Erik Fernandez, Wilderness Program Manager



The clearcutting in Oregon's Coast Range is so extreme that NASA noticed it from space!

This past summer, Oregon Wild and NASA worked together on a project using satellite imagery to map logging across many of the drinking watersheds of the Oregon Coast Range.

The results were staggering. Over the last 20 years, 584 square miles of forests in drinking watersheds were logged, almost exclusively by clearcutting! And that analysis was only looking at drinking watersheds! Exponentially more logging has been happening beyond those areas.

How intact Oregon's forests are varies wildly based on land ownership. While federal public lands like those managed by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have had plenty of logging, they are far more intact than private logging

industry lands. Long-term management plans, like the Northwest Forest Plan, have been successful at slowing the rate of logging on Western Oregon public lands (see pages 4-7), but those rules don't apply to private forests. As a result, Oregon's Coast Range mountains look like Swiss cheese from clearcutting!

The NASA analysis showed that public lands logging tends to be a mix of thinning and clearcutting, and private timber industry lands were almost exclusively clearcut. Some drinking watersheds owned by private industry were over 50%

logged during the last 20 years. Seaside's watershed was 58% logged and Rockaway Beach was 78% logged. A majority of the forests in the Coast Range are owned by logging companies.

This level of logging doesn't just impact fish, wildlife, and look horrific. It can have drastic effects on both the quality of the water as well as the quantity. Studies have shown that when a forest is clearcut, there is nothing left to slow runoff during the rainy season. The result is erosion of stream banks and an increased potential of landslides. Logging

roads also contribute to long-term erosion that muddies streams and degrades water quality. The spraying of aerial pesticides after clearcutting can also pollute waterways.

Other studies have documented that for several decades after a clearcut, the new planting of trees sucks up more water than the previous mature forest did, leaving communities short on drinking water.

CASEY KULLA Clearcut logging in the Oregon Coast Range, Tillamook's drinking watershed.

The solution

Clean drinking water is one of the most core resources we humans depend on, one that we can't take for granted.

Sadly, many communities have limited control over the forest management in their watersheds because they are owned by the timber industry. Yet they are dependent upon those watersheds for their basic human needs. While there's no single silver bullet solution to this challenge, here are a few ideas:

- The Oregon Legislature recently established a fund at the Watershed Enhancement Board for communities to purchase forestland or buy conservation easements. Once a community has greater control of the lands in their watershed, they can look at the science of what types of management best provide

clean, abundant water. This can mean changing forest practices towards longer rotations, eliminating clearcuts, larger riparian buffers, and generally growing larger, older trees on the land.

- Regardless of who controls the drinking watershed, Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has the responsibility to uphold the federal Clean Water Act and mandate the elimination of pollutants from our water (whether for drinking water or otherwise). Many Oregon waterways are listed for contaminants (including those caused by sediment from logging and roadbuilding) and in need of pollution reduction, but DEQ and the Oregon Departments of Forestry and Agriculture have taken very little action to clean up our watersheds. It is time that the public agencies do their jobs.

- Extending logging rotations decreases the cumulative impact of clearcutting and is also a proven strategy for storing more carbon in forests to fight climate change. Oregon's new Natural Climate Solutions program (that Oregon Wild helped to pass in 2023) can help save the climate

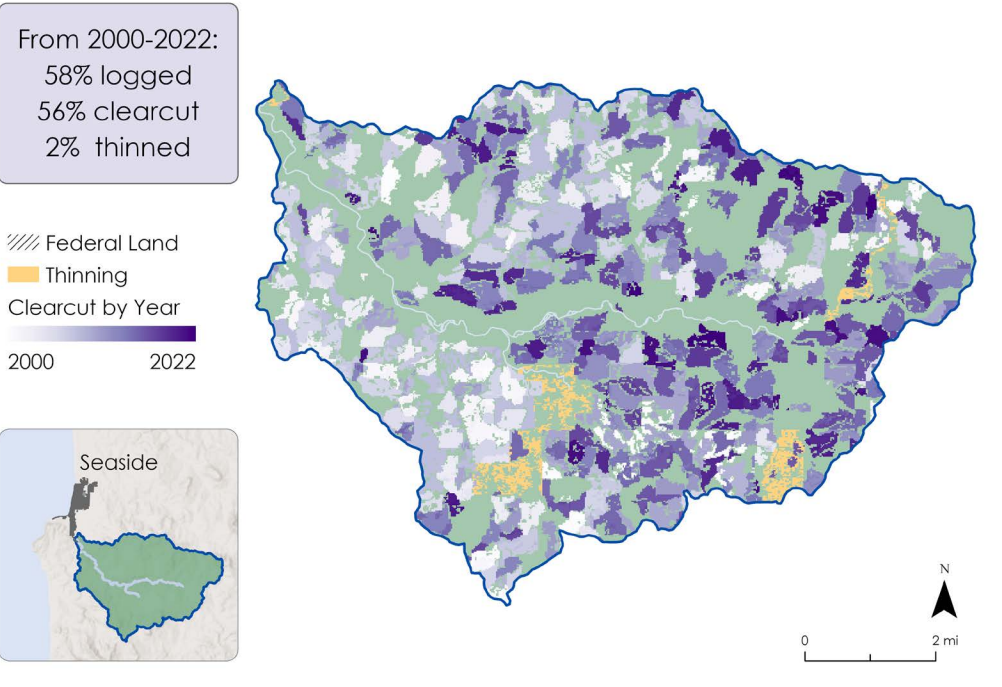
and reduce water quality/quantity challenges for communities, but the program is new and will need more funding.

The upgrades to Oregon's logging laws that fully go into effect in January 2024 that came with the historic Private Forest Accord will

benefit drinking water but more targeted solutions are needed.

And now that NASA helped shine a light on Oregon's clearcut problems in Coast Range drinking watersheds, there is no hiding the truth that more needs to be done to protect clean water from the impacts of industrial logging. ☺

City of Seaside Drinking Watershed



Protecting drinking water at the source

Sami Godlove, Central Oregon Field Associate

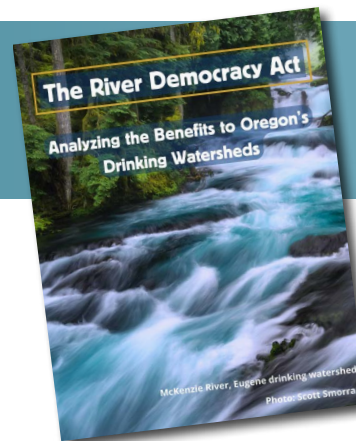


Oregon is known for its wild river systems consisting of evergreen forests, cascading waterfalls, and snow-capped mountains. These systems provide drinking water to a majority of the state's population; 71% of Oregonians get their drinking water from surface water sources (i.e. streams, rivers, and lakes).

However, Oregon's source waters are some of the most polluted in the nation, a result of widespread clearcut logging, agricultural runoff, mining, damming, and industrial development. A 2022 study by the Environmental Integrity Project found that Oregon has the most miles of 'impaired' rivers and streams—meaning the water is too polluted to meet standards for drinking water, fish consumption, swimming, or sustaining aquatic life—of any state nationwide. Our recent work with NASA (see pages 8-9) illustrates how clearcut logging has been contributing to the degradation of drinking watersheds in the Oregon Coast Range.

Fortunately, we now have a historic opportunity to protect more streams and rivers in Oregon, many of which provide clean drinking water to communities across the state, through Senator Ron Wyden's River Democracy Act.

This fall, we released a report highlighting how the River Democracy Act would protect drinking water sources and how many Oregonians and communities would benefit from these protections. We found that 1,315,000 Oregonians get their drinking water from sources that would receive increased safeguards from the River Democracy Act. Communities that would benefit include those that receive drinking water from the McKenzie River watershed (Eugene, Springfield, Halsey, Deerhorn), the Tumalo Creek watershed (Bend), the Clackamas River watershed (Lake Oswego, Oregon City, West Linn, Estacada, Milwaukie), the Rogue River watershed (Medford, Grants Pass, Gold Hill, Gold Beach, Cave Junction, Shady Cove), and many others.



This report highlights the communities in Oregon that would see increased protections to their drinking watersheds through the River Democracy Act.

There is still plenty of work to be done and Oregon Wild remains deeply committed to passing this bill to safeguard clean drinking water sources, fish and wildlife habitat, outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities, and other important values. ☺



Scan this QR to read the report and visit www.oregonwild.org/rivers to take action and help get the River Democracy Act across the finish line!



Migrations

In late summer, the Oregon Wild team bid farewell to **Kelly Fuller**, our Western Oregon Field Coordinator based in Depoe Bay. Kelly came to Oregon Wild with a wealth of experience earned all across the country fighting for endangered species and against fossil fuel development. Here in Oregon, Kelly helped build support for the River Democracy Act in coastal communities, connected supporters with efforts to reintroduce sea otters to the coast, and worked to ensure the Siuslaw National Forest stayed true to its restoration-first priorities. A highlight of her time at Oregon Wild was rallying her community in Lincoln County to stop a large parking lot from being built at Don Lindly Park on the Alsea River. We wish Kelly the best in her future endeavors!

LIZ HARRINGTON The Tumalo Creek watershed is the primary drinking water source for the city of Bend.

Conservation round-up

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director



GARY MILLER Hart Mountain coyote

Wildlife killing contests banned on public lands

In September, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission finally took action to ban cruel wildlife killing contests on public lands. In these contests, participants compete for cash and prizes to kill the most, the largest, and the smallest coyotes and other wildlife

within a specified time period. The Commission voted unanimously to prohibit contests targeting unprotected mammals on public lands, making Oregon the ninth state to restrict these gruesome competitions.

The move is not a total ban; wildlife killing contests are still allowed on private lands. But it is

a giant step forward in the face of fierce opposition from some county governments, livestock interests, and anti-conservation hunting groups. Those groups blocked previous efforts to restrict killing contests when the issue came up in the Commission and the Oregon legislature.

Oregon Wild joins tribes to challenge salmon trucking rule

For decades, Oregon had strong rules requiring that artificial barriers that block migratory fish like salmon, steelhead, and pacific lamprey be upgraded to allow fish to swim freely past them.

Unfortunately, in December 2022, the Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) quietly weakened those rules, allowing dam operators and others to instead substitute trapping salmon and hauling them around barriers in trucks—a process with much lower survival

rates. They did so without meaningful public notice or input, and without consulting tribal governments.

On September 5, Oregon Wild joined the Nez Perce Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, along with seven fish advocacy groups, to file a legal challenge over this change. With legal representation from Crag Law Center, we aim to restore strong rules to protect migratory fish and to send a clear message that decisions like this cannot be made behind closed doors.

Climate Forests Campaign targets mature, old-growth logging nationally

Oregon is not the only place where mature and old-growth forests are threatened by commercial logging. For the past several years, Oregon Wild has worked closely with groups around

the country on the Climate Forests Campaign—an effort to secure strong, permanent, national protections for these trees through federal rulemaking. Our collective efforts are having an impact, from last year's cancellation of the Flat Country logging sale in Oregon, to the Yaak Valley Forest Council's legal victory in August blocking the Black Ram logging sale in Montana, to growing public opposition and media coverage of Forest Service mature and old-growth logging in Wisconsin, Vermont, and West Virginia.

Next up, we are working with Climate Forest Coalition partners across the country to generate Christmas cards and tree ornaments calling for mature and old-growth forest protection as a natural climate solution. The grassroots effort will culminate in a lobby week in December, where these ornaments and cards will be delivered to Congressional offices, agency decision-makers, and the White House to ramp up the pressure for a strong, national rule. ©

Congratulations to the 2023 Outdoor Photo Contest winners

These images ignite a deep connection with nature, inspiring people to protect these places and wildlife. Read on to learn how each image connects to our work.



WILDLIFE. KEITH WALLACH. SNOWY PLOVER, OR COAST. Snowy plover chicks may look like little cottonballs on toothpicks, but they have to stay busy to survive - foraging for tiny beach invertebrates just hours after hatching. Snowy plovers are listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.



ZOOMED IN. BRYCE WADE. MOUNT HOOD SALAMANDER. Found in the western Cascades and Coast Range, Cascade torrent salamanders like the one captured here, spend their lives in fast-flowing, cold headwater streams like many Oregon Wild works to protect.



PEOPLE. JOSH HAVELIND. LINCOLN CITY SURFER. The near-shore ocean waves that surfers enjoy are also important habitats for all sorts of wildlife that Oregon Wild values and works to protect. From marbled murrelets fishing off shore, to salmon making their way to the mouths of their home streams, it's important to recognize that these waters help support more than bobbing boats and boards.



WATERS. SCOTT SMORRA. JEFFERSON PARK. Jefferson Park offers one of the most iconic views in Oregon. The gorgeous alpine lakes and headwater streams flowing from the flanks of Mount Jefferson feed the Brienbush and North Santiam Rivers - and while their headwaters are protected in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness, downstream is not.



WILDLANDS AND FORESTS. PATRICIA DAVIDSON. JONSRUD VIEWPOINT. The Jonsrud Viewpoint, part of the City of Sandy's park system, is a popular and accessible place to take in the view of Mount Hood. A few miles downstream from here, 24 miles of the Sandy River is designated as a Wild & Scenic River under 1988 legislation. A few miles upstream, 6.8 more miles are proposed for Wild & Scenic River status under the River Democracy Act.

Celebrating joy and tenacity at Call of the Wild

Wren Wells, Development and Events Coordinator

It was Friday the 13th, and nearly 300 Oregon Wild members, supporters, and partners turned out to Call of the Wild to face today's horrors: habitat destruction, reckless clearcutting, poaching, and apathetic land management agencies. However, our community confronted these challenges, not with despair, but with the opposite. Call of the Wild was an infusion of camp-inspired joy, hope, and fun, celebrating nearly 50 years of wildlife and wilderness protections with the community that shares a deep love for Oregon's natural wonder.

Together, we raised over **\$105,000**, and everyone who bought a ticket, bid in the auction, entered the raffle, played the games, raised their paddle, or supported from afar had a hand in this record-breaking event.

We feel endless gratitude to old and new friends who celebrated and supported Oregon Wild's tenacious work to battle the

horrors while enacting lasting change for our wildlife, forests, and rivers.

Thanks to our incredible event sponsors: Mountain Rose Herbs, Killian Pacific, Earthwell, Mahonia Realty, Trailhead Credit Union, Wyld, Bamboo Sushi, and B&B Print Source!

Thanks to our Tent Sponsors: Beneficial State Bank, Java Jacket, Mazamas, Oregon Brewery Running Club, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Shift Advantage, Lisa Billings, and Curt and Julie Stevens! Thanks to Hopworks, Breakside Brewery, Bull Run Distillery, Crater Lake Spirits, Wilderton, RAFT, Fullerton Wines, and Schilling Cider for a night of tasty drinks, and thanks to the nearly 100 businesses and individuals who contributed to the silent auction, raffle, and games. And, of course, thanks to our event volunteers who made Call of the Wild run like clockwork.

Call of the Wild continues to be one of the best and most fun traditions to fuel our work. We thank you for celebrating the joy of our wild places and protecting them with unyielding tenacity. ☺



Mark your calendars: We'll party like it's 1974 at next year's Call of the Wild, celebrating 50 years of Oregon Wild on October 18, 2024, at The Redd in Portland!

A more open and inclusive future in the outdoors

Sami Godlove, Central Oregon Field Associate

Oregon Wild is working to build a more inclusive conservation community by connecting people of diverse backgrounds to Oregon's wild and special places. This work is crucial because, although public lands are supposed to be managed for all, many communities and individuals have not felt safe or welcome there.

Over the summer and fall, Oregon Wild worked to connect with historically underserved communities across the state and offer a space for discussion, reflection, community, and playing outside.

We connected with BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities at summer events such as the Come Thru

farmers market, which highlights black and indigenous farmers and business owners, and the Portland Pride festival. Further afield, we co-led a hike for students from Wonderfolk, a youth leadership development organization.

We also partnered with organizations on a number of film screenings and discussions around public lands and recreation.

In August, we sponsored a showing of the Love is King film "Blackwaters," a story about a group of Black fishermen and their relationship to fishing and the outdoors. We also sponsored a film festival hosted by Vamonos Outside, a Central Oregon-based organization working to connect

local Latinx and BIPOC communities to the outdoors.

In front of a packed audience in Bend this fall, we joined Bend-based skier and filmmaker Mallory Duncan for a screening of his film "The Blackcountry Journal." The screening was followed by a panel discussion on skiing, public lands, and representation in the outdoors with Mallory, Vamonos Outside, and Oregon Wild staff.

These events would not have been possible without the support of our partner organizations, who are working in their communities to provide equity and access to the outdoors, and are inspiring a new generation of outdoor enthusiasts and environmental advocates! ☺



On the trail again

Chandra LeGue, Senior Conservation Advocate

From downtown Portland to the Oregon Coast, and from the slopes of Mount Hood to Bend's drinking water source, Oregon Wild offered numerous opportunities for our supporters to explore some of our favorite places this summer. Back after a three-year hiatus, we offered 19 outings for the public and our members and got more than 140 people out to explore the forests, wild rivers, and wildlife habitat we love. We were excited to work with Portland Audubon, Great

Old Broads for Wilderness, Eugene Environmental Film Festival, Siuslaw Watershed Council, Cascade Lakes Brewing, and Pro Photo Supply for some great experiences and added expertise.

We hope to expand our partnerships in the coming year and continue to make our outings program an inclusive place for outdoor lovers to connect, learn, and advocate for the places they explore together.



JOHN PERSELL JT Flowers moderates a discussion after the "Blackwaters" screening.



ANNA LAPTOVA Filmmaker Mallory Duncan discusses his award-winning film "The Black Country Journal" at a Bend screening.

Standing up for imperiled species on Capitol Hill

Alijana Fisher, Wildlife and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Associate



From across the nation, advocates streamed into Washington, DC, in September to celebrate and defend the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on its 50th anniversary. Fly-in participants prepared for meetings on Capitol Hill by first attending presentations from scientists, tribes, conservation organizations, and government officials illustrating the importance of the ESA.

Oregon Wild's own Danielle Moser was a highlight during a showcase of success stories of species recovery in Oregon. Moser featured the peregrine falcon, golden paintbrush, and Oregon chub, the first fish species to be delisted due to recovery.

After listening to inspiring stories, Oregon Wild staff took on Capitol Hill,

leading passionate advocates from Oregon during lobby meetings with elected officials. Activists highlighted the need for a renewed commitment to combating the extinction crisis by defending and fully funding the ESA.

An awards ceremony was held to honor champions of the ESA. Oregon Wild was privileged to nominate two highly deserving tribes, the Nez Perce Tribe and the Yurok Tribe, for their on-the-ground work recovering imperiled species.

The Nez Perce Tribe played a critical role in the return of wolves to Oregon and across the West. In 1995, when Idaho refused to support wolf recovery, the Nez Perce Tribe stepped up and became the first tribe to work in

partnership with the federal government on statewide recovery of an endangered species. Additionally, the Nez Perce have been leaders in the fight to recover salmon by advocating for the removal of the lower four Snake River dams.

The Yurok Tribe received an award for its commitment to returning California condors to the Pacific Northwest. Last year, the Tribe took a historic step by releasing these magnificent birds into the wild around Redwood National and State Parks, marking the first time in over a century that condors were present in the region. The Yurok Tribe was also commended for their leadership in breaching the Klamath dams for imperiled salmon runs.

During the ceremony, tribal representatives discussed how the Endangered Species Act remains a vital tool for recovering species across ancestral homelands and how these species, in turn, heal the land and culture. Their successes emphasized the importance of the Endangered Species Act and why it must be safeguarded for the next 50 years and beyond! ©

“The protection afforded by the Endangered Species Act coupled with on-the-ground recovery efforts have far-reaching impacts; the power to bring species back from the brink of extinction while also restoring habitats.”

—Danielle Moser



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TOP FIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2023

~ All made possible by the generous support
of Oregon Wild members like you! ~

1

Challenged the Trump administration's rollbacks of the Eastside Screens in court **and won, reinstating critical protections for the largest and oldest trees across 7 million acres of public lands.**

2

Led a national coalition that generated **half a million public comments** calling on the Forest Service to protect mature and old-growth forests for their immense climate benefits.

3

Secured a **critical court victory defending President Obama's expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument**, the only monument designated primarily to protect biodiversity, from attacks by the logging industry.

4

Halted cruel and inhumane wildlife killing contests on public lands in Oregon.

5

Advanced the largest expansion of river protections in Oregon history closer to the finish line as the River Democracy Act aims to designate 3,000+ miles of our waterways as Wild & Scenic Rivers.

As we head into 2024, Oregon Wild will be celebrating our 50th anniversary as a strong, unrelenting voice for Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters. We'll be working to advance some of the biggest conservation campaigns in our five-decade history. But we can't do it without you.

Please consider a special year-end donation to help us keep Oregon wild in 2024 and beyond!



JEFF RISHER