

Oregon Wild

Summer 2016 Volume 43, Number 2



Beyond the Bundys

THIS LAND IS OUR LAND



OREGON WILD

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

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COVER PHOTO: JEREMY FORREST Public lands are the heartbeat of our country, of the state we call home. These are the lands that provide clean water, clean air, homes for native fish and wildlife, and places to recreate and inspire; our health is dependent on their protection and their place in public hands.



From the Director's Desk From the outside looking in

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

I'm not a big TV watcher. My wife and I have long since cut the cable cord. One thing I have a hard time living without, though, is "comedy news." Like many other Americans, I get a substantial portion of political updates and in-depth reporting from *Last Week Tonight* with John Oliver and the new incarnation of *The Daily Show* with Trevor Noah.

Aside from being hilarious and bitingly satirical, these two men share a profound trait – they're not from around here (Oliver is a native Briton and Noah hails from South Africa). Considering the stupefying twists and turns of the current presidential election cycle, they may be glad to claim some distance from the good old U-S-of-A.

Still, it is fascinating to hear non-Americans comment on our politics, culture, and policy. It makes me wonder, what would an outsider make of Oregon today?

Of course, anyone arriving in Oregon for the first time would immediately be blown away by the beauty and diversity of our natural landscapes. Our mountains, forests, rivers, beaches, and deserts top the list of why people move to Oregon in the first place.

If they showed up in Oregon at the beginning of 2016 and tuned in to the Malheur occupation, they might have had the impression the entire state was under siege (see page 4). If they listened to the complaints of the armed militants, they'd probably wonder what the fuss was about. To a casual observer, there seems to be no shortage of livestock on Oregon's range and plenty of clearcut logging to go around.

Seeing recent opinion polls, they'd learn that Oregon citizens care deeply about the environment, so much so that a majority would sacrifice economic gain for environmental protections.¹ Then

they'd read the headlines and wonder why Oregon's elected officials bucked public opinion and prioritized industry over the environment time and again.

From stripping endangered species protections for wolves (and promptly having ODFW kill four members of the Imnaha Pack due to conflict with livestock) to falling asleep at the wheel in regulating air pollution in our state's largest city, Oregon doesn't look a lot like the green utopia the rest of the world envisions.

While an outside observer would get a full view of Oregon's shortcomings on the environment, they would also see rays of hope. Thousands rallying across the state to support public lands. Momentum to bypass weak-kneed legislators and reform Oregon's embarrassingly lax forest laws directly at the ballot box. Mounting evidence that communities across Oregon are poised to reject polluting and



exploitative projects like LNG pipelines and selling off state forest lands.

We've got a long way to go to ensure Oregon lives up to its conservation ideals, but a grassroots movement is building to overturn the business-as-usual mentality that pervades our halls of power. For those of you already chipping in and doing your part – thank you. For those who are new to Oregon or

have been sitting on the sidelines – the time is now to make Oregon's environmental policy as inspirational as the land it protects.

¹ Oregon Values & Beliefs Project oregonvaluesproject.org

Beyond the Bundys – the old & new fight for our public lands

Arran Robertson, Communications Coordinator



TJ THORNE Our public lands take many forms, both in ecology – high desert and volcanic peaks to coastal rainforest – and in designation – National Parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, Wilderness, and more. The common thread is common ownership – these lands belong to all Oregon citizens.

On any given day, tens of thousands of Oregonians will head out to enjoy our public lands. From hiking and kayaking to fly fishing and cross-country skiing, Oregon – and by extension many Oregonians – are defined by our love of the outdoors and the amazing wildlands around us. From Crater Lake to the Willows, the Oregon Coast to the Owyhee Canyonlands, we are truly blessed.

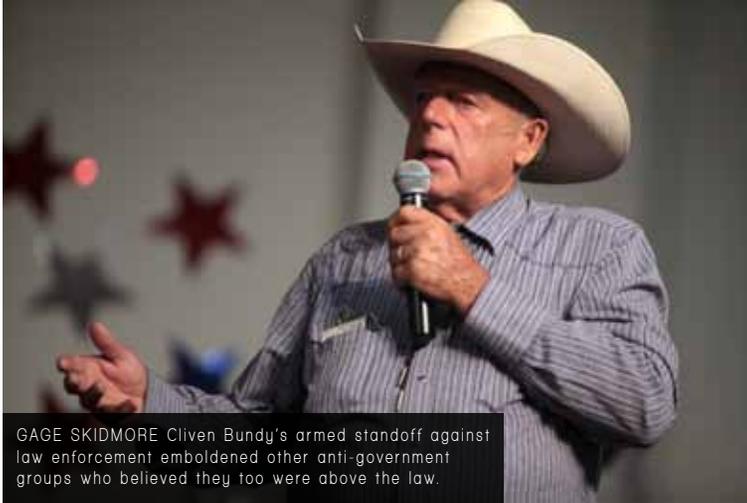
What many outdoor enthusiasts may not realize, or did not appreciate until recently, is that for decades, a small cadre of politicians and their industry allies have been working to seize these lands from the public. They view an old-growth forest, undammed river, or protected wildlife area as a wasted resource, something that should be turned over to private interests for logging, mining, drilling and livestock grazing. They have spent years working quietly in the background in Congress and in state legislatures to undermine laws like the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, and advocate for turning over national public lands to state politicians and private developers.

In January of 2016, things changed here in Oregon. The public lands seizure movement went public when a group of armed militants occupied the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, declared themselves above the reach of the law, and demanded that national public lands be “given back” to county governments.

Suddenly, the campaign to steal public lands was no longer being waged behind the scenes with dark money and lobbyists, out of public view. Its ugly face exposed, those of us who cherish our public lands received a wake-up call that these treasures are under attack.

Roots of rebellion

The armed stand-off at the Malheur Refuge had its roots in a much earlier conflict: the Sagebrush Rebellion of the 1970s and '80s. Then (as now), logging, mining and energy development interests were angry over environmental protections on national public lands. They agitated for more “local control” and privatization, claiming that doing so would spur an economic boom in rural communities.



GAGE SKIDMORE Cliven Bundy's armed standoff against law enforcement emboldened other anti-government groups who believed they too were above the law.

While the Sagebrush Rebellion fizzled, a Nevada rancher named Cliven Bundy brought the conflict back into national awareness. He grazed his cattle on public lands for over a decade without paying the modest fees required for the privilege, running up a bill and fines totaling over \$1 million. When the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) moved to seize Bundy's cattle for failing to pay his fees, Bundy appealed to anti-government militia groups, sparking an armed standoff where "patriots" threatened to murder BLM staff and law enforcement officers. Fearing a bloody showdown, the authorities backed off.

Bundy's victory over law enforcement agencies encouraged a number of subsequent armed standoffs,

including one in southern Oregon in 2015. A pair of miners, who had failed to fully file required paperwork with the BLM, rallied many of the same groups and individuals involved in Bundy's standoff to "defend" their mineral claim on public lands in Josephine County. These militants closed public roads and set up military-style checkpoints complete with body armor, AR-15s, and camouflage uniforms near the Sugar Pine mine. Some of the militants phoned in death threats to local federal buildings, prompting offices in Grants Pass and Medford to close.

Dark money

Visitation to America's public lands skyrocketed this last decade. Unfortunately, a major expansion in

the campaign to give them away also developed.

Ken Ivory, a Utah state representative, formed the American Lands Council in 2012 specifically to advocate for the destruction of America's public lands system. Crisscrossing the West lobbying for states and counties to pass resolutions to seize national public lands, Ivory is backed by some very powerful interest groups, including the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). It has received funding from Americans for Prosperity, the dark-money group funded by the Koch Brothers.

While Ivory's legal argument has been widely discredited, that hasn't stopped him from receiving hundreds of thousands of tax dollars from counties. Numerous studies, including one prepared at the request of pro-privatization Utah lawmakers, have found states have no legal claim to America's public lands and state governments do not have the necessary resources to manage national lands effectively. States would likely be forced to auction lands off if they were transferred.

The Oregon connection

In Oregon, the logging industry was fueling anti-public lands sentiment long before Ammon and Ryan Bundy arrived at the Malheur Refuge. The American Forest Resource Council, a logging industry

lobby group, has funded their own action groups to spread misinformation about land management for decades. Working with conservative Tea Party county politicians, they recently sought to transfer BLM "O&C" forest lands out of federal management so they could be clearcut under weak state logging rules.

Complaining of cash-strapped budgets, some rural Oregon counties embraced the anti-public lands movement. Klamath and Wallowa both contributed tax dollars to Ken Ivory's American Lands Council, and Clackamas County adopted a resolution supporting the seizure of national public lands. Four national public lands transfer and study bills

were introduced by Republican lawmakers during the Oregon Legislature's 2015 session (including a nearly identical copy of ALEC model legislation).

In November 2015, state Representative Greg Barreto submitted a rant on his official legislative letterhead to the Forest Service, and railed against public lands, accusing the agency of pursuing a "stranglehold" on rural communities. "Teaming up with your armor bearers, the EPA and ESA, who are always ready to implement the strong-arm tactics through supposed endangered species like owls, salmon or sage grouse," wrote Barreto. "I'm wondering if soon



KENNETH COX The occupation of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge threatened not just our public lands, but the homes of the voiceless as well.

License to shrill

Fueled by a distorted view of the constitution and well-funded corporate backers, the anti-public lands movement is capitalizing on a mainstream media that is hungry for sensationalism. Whether seizing their own 15 minutes of fame or taking the opportunity to publicize their long-held extremist views, these Oregonians made life easier for the occupiers.



Rep. Dallas Heard
(R-Roseburg)

Traveled to meet the militants even as the FBI and Republican colleagues were telling him to stay away. Claimed to be on a "fact-finding" mission, but it was later reported that he and other militia sympathizers fed information to the Bundys straight from law enforcement.



Rep. Carl Wilson
(R-Grants Pass)

Introduced public lands giveaway bills in the 2015 Oregon Legislature, claiming that Josephine County, home of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness and stretches of the famed Wild & Scenic Rogue River, was "land poor."



Joseph Rice -
Josephine County
Oathkeepers

The Oathkeepers are made up of former armed services members who vow to "disobey 'unconstitutional' orders" from the government. Rice, the local leader in southern Oregon, traveled to Harney County to provide "security" during the occupation. A year before, Rice led the Oathkeepers in an

armed defense of the Sugar Pine Mine on BLM land near the Rogue River.



Central Oregon
Patriots

Spawned from the Tea Party movement, this group recently hosted the "constitutional scholar" KrisAnne Hall who visited Harney County during the occupation and had this to say: "The people are not acting lawlessly. It is the federal government that is acting lawlessly."

humans will be the endangered species in our national forest?"

In December 2015, Congressman Greg Walden got into the act when he proposed legislation in Congress to transfer 200,000 acres of the Fremont-Winema and Klamath National Forests to county politicians.

The takeover

When Ammon and Ryan Bundy first arrived in Oregon, it was supposedly to protest the criminal sentences of two eastern Oregon ranchers, Dwight Hammond Jr. and his son Steven. The Hammonds had a long and ugly history of making threats against and intimidating local conservationists and government biologists. The two had been convicted of multiple incidents of arson on public lands (one of them to cover up poaching mule deer, according to eyewitnesses).

Immediately following the protest, however, the Bundy brothers took military hardware to the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and refused to leave. They demanded that, along with the release of the Hammonds, the Malheur Wildlife Refuge be turned over to local interests for logging, mining, and grazing.

The response to the Bundy occupation from Oregon's political

figures was mixed. Representatives Earl Blumenauer and Peter DeFazio quickly and strongly denounced the anti-government militia, and pointed out that the lack of any consequences for Cliven Bundy's original 2014 standoff was to blame for emboldening the militants. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley were largely silent.

Representative Greg Walden, on the other hand, tried to have it both ways. He distanced himself from the tactics of the Bundys, while repeating much of their rhetoric. He proudly distributed a half hour-long speech he made to Congress in which he attacked public lands managers and fish and wildlife conservation. During a series of town hall meetings in January and February he used his podium to rail against environmental laws.

While much of America mocked the Bundy occupation as #YallQueda, the humor missed the larger problem. The Bundys weren't just crazy people with pocket constitutions and a shortage of snacks. They were the result of years of highly effective anti-public lands, anti-environmental campaigns by logging, mining, and grazing interests. Unless something is done to push back, they just might win.

Pushing back is exactly what Oregon Wild had in mind when we partnered with other public lands groups and organized “Refuge Rallies” in over a dozen locations on January 19th. Thousands of citizens across the west, from hikers to hunters, birders to boaters, took time out of their lives to declare both their opposition to the Bundy occupation and their love of public lands. More than 400 attended the rally in Portland, with hundreds more in Eugene, Bend, and elsewhere. These rallies marked a turning point in the media coverage of the Bundys, and finally helped focus public attention on their real agenda.

The end and the beginning

The Malheur occupation lasted 41 days, and will ultimately cost taxpayers millions of dollars. It also unfortunately claimed the life of one of the Bundys’ misguided followers, Robert “LaVoy” Finicum.

Yet the threat to our national public lands goes on. Mere hours after Finicum’s shooting, the American Lands Council sent out a fundraising appeal centered around the incident. The Koch Brothers expanded their funding to a new project called “Federalism in Action,” which hired Ken Ivory and will advocate for more land seizure legislation. In

Congress, Rep. Jason Chaffetz introduced a bill to restrict the law enforcement powers of the Forest Service and BLM, and Rep. Walden continues to rail against efforts to protect special places like the Owyhee Canyonlands as “government overreach.” Former presidential candidate Sen. Ted Cruz campaigned in Nevada promising to privatize public lands.

So while the armed occupation of the Malheur may be over, the threat to our public lands is not. The good news is the Bundys helped open the eyes of people across the country who use and love our National Parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and other

public lands. They’ve also brought together a strong new coalition of conservation groups, recreation interests, outdoor businesses, and others to oppose the destruction of America’s public lands system.

Oregon Wild joined this diverse coalition of public lands groups to launch a new initiative, helping to tell the story of our public lands and to engage a new generation of Oregonians in their protection. If everyone who enjoys public lands stands up and speaks out for Oregon’s special places, these land seizure schemes will fail. If we take them for granted, we just might lose them. We hope you’ll join us! ☺



Take Action!
Find out more about
joining the public
lands protection
movement at
protectyourlands.org

Keep Public Lands in Public Hands

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

Ammon Bundy & Co. captured all the headlines when they took over the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, armed with rifles and a severely distorted interpretation of the Constitution. But the threat to public lands in Oregon and beyond has extremely deep pockets and includes dozens of influential elected officials who are doing everything in their power to chip away at our special places.

From the billionaire Koch Brothers to influential elected officials at both the state and national level, the anti-public

lands movement is gaining steam and putting our public wildlands, wildlife, and waters in jeopardy.

In fact, a Koch Brothers-backed bill introduced in the Oregon Legislature just last year called for all the federal public lands in Oregon to be turned over to state and private control. Thankfully, Oregon Wild and partner groups were able to help defeat this dangerous proposal. But the threat to our public lands – the lands that make Oregon such an incredible place to live, work, and play – continues to grow.

Oregon Wild works year-round to protect Oregon’s public lands – from the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and Crater Lake National Park to the Columbia River Gorge and the Wild Rogue River.

Will you stand up for Oregon’s public lands by joining our Evergreen Society with an automatic monthly gift of \$10 or more? Visit oregonwild.org/donate



Oregon Wild proudly presents

Oregon Wild SUMMER 2016

Find your wild. To register visit www.oregonwild.org

Oregon Wild summer outings are guided by experts and require online reservations. Please leave pets at home. For your comfort and safety, please wear appropriate attire, bring plenty of water, a lunch, and your sense of adventure! Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult.



CHIMERA SINGER

🌊 Saturday, June 4

Upper McKenzie/Tamolitch
Pool Brewshed® (EUG)

Leader: Chandra LeGue

(Easy-Moderate, 4.2 miles) Celebrate Eugene Beer Week by taking in the clear blue waters of the McKenzie River, lava flows, gorgeous old-growth forest, and stunning geology on this quintessential hike in Eugene's brewshed®.

🌲 Thursday, June 9

Lookout Mountain Wildflower
(BEND)

Leader: Sarah Cuddy

(Easy-Moderate, 5 miles) Experience the Ochocos in bloom on this scenic hike up Central Oregon's Lookout Mountain.

🌞 Sunday, June 19

Drift Creek Falls (EUG)

Leader: Jason Gonzales

(Moderate, 3.1 miles) Drift Creek Trail leads the way to a 240 ft. suspension bridge, which overlooks Drift Creek Falls. Below is a 75 ft. horsetail waterfall, best viewed in the spring or fall after seasonal rains.

🌲 Wednesday, June 22

Vista Ridge to Wy-East Basin
(PDX)

Leader: Jonathan Jelen

(Difficult, 7.9 miles) The Vista Ridge hike is arguably the most scenic alpine trail on Mount Hood in mid-summer when the wildflowers bloom. We'll enjoy amazing vistas of Mount Hood and wildflowers and learn about Oregon Wild efforts to prevent logging along this trail.



JIM DAVIS

🌲 Friday, June 24

Burnt Lake (PDX)

Leader: Jonathan Jelen

(Moderate, 6.8 miles) Burnt Lake is one of the gems of the Mount Hood Wilderness. We'll hike a well-graded trail to the lake itself and pass a waterfall, wildflowers, and huckleberries along the way. But our ultimate reward will be a magnificent view of Mount Hood from Burnt Lake.

🌲 Sunday, June 26

Lowder Mountain
Wildflower (EUG)

Leader: Tanya Harvey

(Moderate, 5.6 miles) Take in old-growth, mountain views, and stunning wildflowers – the focus of this hike – on this botanizing trek into the Three Sisters Wilderness.

🌲 Friday, July 1

Boulder Lake (PDX)

Leader: Jonathan Jelen

(Moderate, 5 miles) Discover the aquamarine waters of one of the best-kept secrets in the Mount Hood National Forest.

Friday, July 8
Opal Creek Wilderness
Ancient Forest (PDX)

Leader: Marielle Cowdin

(Moderate, 5-7 miles) Join us for a walk back in time to an ancient Oregon forest in one of the state's signature Wilderness areas.

Saturday, July 9
Carpenter Mountain & Lookout
Creek (EUG)

Leader: Chandra LeGue

(Moderate, 6 miles) Climb to the top of Carpenter Mountain, with stunning views of the Cascades and lovely wildflowers; and explore ancient forests along nearby Lookout Creek.

Saturday, July 23
Devil's Staircase Wilderness
area, Dark Grove (EUG)

Leader: Chandra LeGue

(Difficult, 4 miles) Explore the beautiful and rugged old-growth forests and streams of the proposed Devil's Staircase Wilderness area.

Saturday, July 30
Bunchgrass Ridge/Warner
Burn (EUG)

Leader: Jason Gonzales

(Moderate, 5 miles) This beautiful high elevation ridgeline trail looks into the historic Warner Creek burn area, following along the edge of the burn but staying in the shade of the treeline with views of bunchgrass meadows, Cascade peaks, burned mosaic forest, old growth, and wildflowers.

Saturday, July 30
McNeil Point (PDX)

Leader: Jonathan Jelen

(Difficult, 9.6 miles) Located on the northwest shoulder of Mount Hood, this McNeil Point hike offers all the best that alpine has to offer. Wildflowers, mountain-fed creeks, and a fantastic mountain view.

Friday, August 12
Tilly Jane-Cloud Cap (PDX)

Leader: Jonathan Jelen

(Difficult, 6 miles) Explore the subalpine forests beneath Mount Hood's largest glacier.

Saturday, August 13
Timpanogas Lake & Cowhorn
Mountain (EUG)

Leader: Chandra LeGue

(Difficult, 12 miles) Explore the very highest elevations within the Middle



FRANK WALTER

Fork Willamette Watershed with this trek from Timpanogas Lake to the summit of Cowhorn Mountain south of the Diamond Peak Wilderness. This area is also the northern reaches of the Crater Lake Wilderness proposal.

Friday, August 19
Paradise Park (PDX)

Leader: Shasta Zielke

(Difficult, 12.1 miles) A beautiful alpine meadow around Mount Hood, this area is best known for its late summer blooms! Join us on this rewarding and iconic, high-elevation trek.

Saturday, August 27
Gwynn Creek/Cook's Ridge
Loop (EUG)

Leader: Jason Gonzales

(Moderate-Difficult, 6.3 miles) With ocean views and stands of old growth Spruce and Fir, this loop along the edge of the Cummins Creek Wilderness is steep enough to be a difficult hike at times.

Wild rendezvous

Throughout the summer and into fall, Oregon Wild is hosting these special trips and events for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages and types! Mark your calendars and find the full list of happenings at www.oregonwild.org/explore-oregon

**12th Annual Oregon Wild
Outdoor Photo Contest**
June 1 - September 16

(see back cover for details)

**Ochoco Mountains
Campout**
June 24 - 26

Pam Hardy & Sarah Cuddy

Gentle mountains and valleys, views of the Cascade range, old-growth pines, old friends, new friends, homemade music around the campfire...the perfect weekend in the Ochoco Mountains with Oregon Wild and the Sierra Club!

**Seventh Annual Northeast
Oregon Wolf Rendezvous**
June 9 - 12

Rob Klavins & Lena Spadacene

Wolves in Oregon are at a serious crossroads and their recovery hangs in the balance. What better way to

understand this complex issue and these remarkable native predators than to walk in their footsteps in one of the most beautiful landscapes in the west!

**Second Annual Crater
Lake Area Wolf
Rendezvous**

September 8-11

Jonathan Jelen

Don't stop believin! Learn about wolf recovery through the lens of Oregon's first wolf pack west of the Cascades in nearly a century and explore this incredible region we're working to protect for bipeds and quadrupeds alike.

**Call of the Wild –
a camp-inspired benefit
for Oregon Wild**
Friday, October 14

(Leftbank Annex, Portland)



MARIELLE COWDIN

Howling for justice

Rob Klavins, Northeast Oregon Field Coordinator & Lena Spadacene, Wildlife Coordinator



The disconnect between the values of Oregonians and the politicians and agencies that serve them sometimes seems as deep as Hells Canyon.

Last year, the Wildlife Commission ignored the law along with tens of thousands of citizens and dozens of independent scientists when they prematurely stripped wolves of their most basic protections. Public agencies like the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) are no more above the law than the Bundy bunch. So we, and our allies, took them to court.

In response, politicians beholden to the livestock industry introduced their ninth anti-wolf bill in six years. The bill's only practical effect: blocking the public's right to hold

our government accountable to its own laws.

After sailing through the Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee (yes, wildlife is the purview of the Agriculture Committee), two-thirds of House Democrats voted against the bill. Unfortunately, misinformation and deception overpowered the nays and it went on to the Senate.

Senators acknowledged their House colleagues passed the bill based on behavior that was not "above board," before leadership quashed a minority report and whipped votes as part of an 11th hour deal to get Republicans to simply show up.

Governor Kate Brown's own staff helped to craft the bill, and as such she declared a state of emergency and

signed it. The Attorney General quickly moved to dismiss our request for judicial review of her agency's decision. We're fighting that motion.

Days later, kill orders were issued for the Imnaha Pack. Within hours, what was left of OR-7's natal family – OR-4, a potentially pregnant female, and two yearlings – had been shot from a helicopter.

Not long after celebrating success, last year was a setback for wolves.

The news isn't all bad, as Oregon's recovering population has grown to 106. This year may decide their future. ODFW is reviewing the plan that will guide wolf policy for the next five years. It's a chance to honor Oregon values...or follow Idaho's lead.

We are asking for transparency, clarity, and a focus on conflict *prevention*, while special interests are calling for more aggressive killing of wolves – even a hunt as soon as 2017.

Over the last year, thousands of you have written letters, testified, celebrated, and cried with us. It's been a trying road, but we – and the wolves – need your voice again. ©

Take Action!
Call Governor Brown's comment line today and share your desire for a wolf plan update that prioritizes conservation and conflict prevention: [503-378-4582](tel:503-378-4582).



Howl for Steph

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

In this issue we'd like to give huge thanks and a big wolf howl to Steph Taylor. After starting as an intern back in January 2015, Steph moved into a staff role organizing on behalf of Oregon's recovering wolf population. And boy did she organize.

Over her 15 months at Oregon Wild, Steph helped to train, motivate, and inspire thousands of citizen activists – hundreds of whom showed up to critical ODFW meetings during the wolf delisting process. She played a huge role in two wildlife lobby days and was the impetus behind numerous film screenings and other educational events.

Steph has a deep dedication for Oregon's wild places and wild critters and we know we will see her down the road as a strong advocate for keeping our state wild. Thanks Steph!

A eulogy for a wolf (OR-4)

Rob Klavins, Northeast Oregon Field Coordinator



PHOTOS BY ODFW

We met three times, but I imagine I barely registered in his life.

To him I was no more than an occasional scent on his trail or a tortured imitation of a howl.

But to me, no animal ever has been or likely ever will be as important or consequential in my life as OR4.

He escaped kill orders and poachers. He endured at least four collarings. He beat the odds. There aren't many ten year old wolves out there. Today* there is one less.

OR4 was shot and killed. And it hurts. Anyone celebrating his death, the killing of his likely pregnant partner, and two of his

pups, must have a hardened heart indeed.

He became a symbol for those who revere wolves as well as for those who hate them and hate the wild.

He was imperfect. He challenged us. He was loud. But he was tough and he was tenacious. He was resilient, and he was a good father.

OR4 and his partners leave behind an unparalleled legacy. His offspring include OR7, the first pups in California in nearly a century, and other wolves quietly retaking their rightful place on the Oregon landscape.

He never set paw in Salem or DC, but for better and worse, he had more impact on policy and politics than any animal I know of.

He also leaves behind questions. Questions about our future - the future of his offspring...and ours.

Above all, as I heard the helicopter take off near my home this morning, I wondered if our society

will leave room for the wild on the landscape...and in our hearts.

Despite his collars and dayglo ear tags, OR4 was wild.

But OR4 is now dead, and we killed him.

But we'll keep fighting for his legacy as imperfectly and tenaciously as he did.

The story of Oregon's biggest and baddest wolf didn't end in "happily ever after." But the story for wolves

and those of us who value the wild is still not fully written. It's a new chapter. I'm no starry-eyed optimist. So I'll stubbornly cling to hope and tenacity.

The alternative is surrender. OR4 was no quitter. And we shouldn't be either.

He was loud. And he was annoying to those who hate the wild.

We should be too.

**written March 31, 2016*



Wildlands Roundup

Chandra LeGue, Western Oregon Field Coordinator & Doug Heiken, Conservation & Restoration Coordinator



BRIZZ MEDDINGS

Uncertainty for O&C/WOPR Jr.

With the release of the Bureau of Land Management's proposed "Resource Management Plan" this April, a three-year process developing a new management plan for western Oregon's nearly 2.6 million acres of BLM-managed public forests is nearly complete.

The BLM is expected to issue a decision to adopt the plan this summer, after administrative protests and a state review are completed and resolved. Over 4,000 comments on a

draft plan were submitted by citizens and recreation, environmental, wildlife, timber, and other concerned groups. However, a robust public process is not, in this case, an indicator that a plan will be widely accepted.

On the contrary, the BLM's plan met instant opposition from the timber industry and County governments (for not logging enough), as well as environmental interests (for reducing protections for streams, wildlife, and old-growth forests). It remains to be seen if Congressional representatives will make good on threats to "fix" this debacle with legislation that would likely scale up destructive logging even more.

Success on Jordan Cove LNG

In a rare move, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) affirmatively denied both the Pacific Gas Connector pipeline and the Jordan Cove LNG Export facility, citing the project's lack of customers and determining that there are no clear public benefits.

If approved, this project would seize private property along the 230-mile pipeline route; threaten salmon and

waterways; clearcut old-growth forests; drive up domestic energy costs; expose communities to increased hazards from fire, tsunamis, landslides; and become the single largest greenhouse gas emitter in Oregon. While the project's backers are scrambling to keep the project alive and have asked FERC to reconsider, this decision is a significant victory for Oregon!

In related news, the backers of the "Oregon LNG" Project have pulled the plug on their proposal for LNG export from the Skipanon Peninsula near Astoria. The project would have dredged more than 1 million cubic yards of salmon habitat

in the estuary near the mouth of the Columbia River. LNG export would require a high-pressure pipeline roughly following the I-5 corridor in Washington. Due to opposition by Clatsop County and control by the Army Corps of Engineers on some of the land needed, the project was a longshot, but it is nice to see it a few steps closer to a permanent grave. ©



KELLY MORGAN

Take Action!
See oregonwild.org/blm-plan-revisions for more info and ways to take action for our backyard forests.



Three wild cheers for Bridget

Erik Fernandez, Wilderness Program Manager

Bridget worked tirelessly these past two years. She gave presentations and traveled to all of Crater Lake's gateway communities, fired people up with her contagious energy and inspired them to help protect the Crater Lake Wilderness. Both a strong advocate and a great diplomat in working with Oregon Wild members, the public, coalition partners, businesses, and others, we'll miss Bridget's enthusiasm, leadership, and sass. We wish her the best of luck in her next adventure.

Conservation roundup

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director



BRETT COLE

Klamath struggles

Snow pack in Oregon is somewhat better this year than in 2015, but the long-term trend for wildlife in the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges continues to be grim. That's one reason why Oregon Wild and a coalition of other groups filed a legal challenge against the US Fish and Wildlife Service for their failure to develop a comprehensive management plan for Tule Lake and Lower Klamath refuges. Under a settlement agreement struck with the agency, they need to have a final plan by the end of August. Stay tuned for how you can weigh in on behalf of wildlife, fish, and wetlands in the Klamath.



NW RAFTING COMPANY

Waterways win

In some very good news for Oregon rivers, Governor Kate Brown announced two additions to the State Scenic Waterway system in January. Portions of the Molalla River, a tributary of the Willamette south of Portland, and the Chetco River, a scenic gem on the Southwest Oregon Coast, were protected. Their designations are due to a lot of hard work by Oregon Wild and others during the 2013 legislative session to revive the State Scenic Waterway Act as a conservation tool. These are the first new Scenic Waterways in Oregon since 1988 (the year Oregon Wild and others protected dozens of streams through a citizens initiative petition).



JOSH MORE CC

Wolverine win

In a victory for wildlife, we learned in April that a federal judge ruled in favor of Oregon Wild (and Oregon's three known wolverine) over whether these fierce animals deserve protection under the federal Endangered Species Act. U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologists initially said yes, but higher-ups in the Obama administration blocked their protection. That forced Oregon Wild, the Western Environmental Law Center, and a coalition of other groups to go to court. USFWS must now re-evaluate whether the Lower 48's estimated 250-300 wolverine are eligible for endangered species protections, and actually follow the science.

©



Welcome, Lena!

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director

Fish and wildlife in Oregon have a new champion in the legislature, and with state and federal agencies. Lena Spadacene joined the Oregon Wild staff as our Wildlife Coordinator on February 1st, and immediately began working in Salem to beat back attacks on wolves and the Oregon Endangered Species Act.

This wasn't Lena's first run in with anti-wildlife legislators. Before joining Oregon Wild, she worked in Washington, D.C. on the Wildlife Protection program at The Humane Society of the United States. In addition to fighting bad bills in Congress, Lena worked in state legislatures around the country to advocate for wildlife.

Not so clear-cut

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director



If you are an OPB Radio listener, or you watch popular television shows online on Hulu, chances are you've heard or seen an ad from the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI).

Cheerful announcers talk about how strong Oregon's forest laws are, and how forest practices on state and private land protect clean drinking water, and wildlife.



It is hard to square these cheerful ads with the ugly reality that clearcuts are ravaging the Oregon Coast Range. That's because their ads are almost entirely works of fiction. OFRI is a publicly-funded greenwashing campaign for logging corporations.

Established by the Oregon legislature in 1991, OFRI was a reaction to the public backlash against old-growth clearcutting. It mimicked the public relations campaigns of the tobacco industry, using slick marketing and an official-sounding name to reassure the public that clearcut logging and toxic chemical spraying go hand in hand with a healthy environment.

Logging corporations enthusiastically backed OFRI, and even supported taxing

themselves to pay for it. By law, Oregonians with a tie to a conservation organization are forbidden from serving on the OFRI board, and over the years this quasi-government agency used tens of millions of dollars of public money to promote clearcutting and weak protections for wildlife, salmon, and drinking water.

These days, much of OFRI's advertising is aimed at assuring the public that current logging standards do plenty to protect rivers and clean water. This is despite (or perhaps in response to) the federal EPA revoking over a million dollars in grant funding because of our abysmal logging rules, and science showing our rampant clearcutting is raising stream temperatures and putting salmon at risk.

So the next time you hear an OPB spot or TV ad touting how wonderful Oregon's state and private lands logging practices are, remember those clearcuts in the Coast Range. ☹

Reforming Oregon's weak logging laws

Jason Gonzales, Forest & Watershed Campaign Organizer

This winter and spring, Oregon Wild has been laying the groundwork for comprehensive reforms to Oregon's logging laws, otherwise known as the "Oregon Forest Practices Act." We have worked with partners up and down the coast, holding film screenings and town-hall style events, attended by hundreds of rural Oregonians who want Oregon to protect their communities and clean drinking water from dangerous industrial logging practices.

With help from advocacy group Beyond Toxics and local business Mountain Rose Herbs, we submitted nearly 4,000 signatures to the Secretary of State to take steps to get logging reforms on the ballot this November.

Take Action!

Sign Oregon Wild's petition calling on Governor Kate Brown to do more to protect Oregon's forests and drinking water at: tinyurl.com/reformOFFPA

Green or greenwashed?

Arran Robertson, Communications Coordinator



For decades, Oregon electeds have touted the state's cutting-edge leadership when it comes to environmental protection and sustainability. These days, as the state seems to stumble from one environmental crisis to the next, those claims are sounding increasingly hollow. From losing \$1.2 million in federal grant money due to water pollution and our weak logging rules, to politically motivated attacks on our small gray wolf population, to the recent toxic air crisis in Portland, Oregon is starting to look less like a "green" state, and more like a "greenwashed" state.

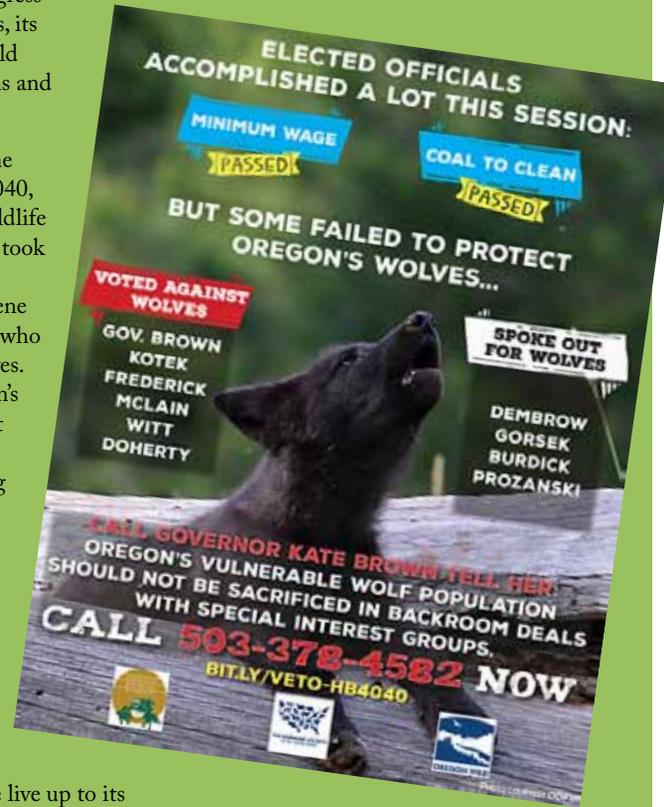
Oregon's political leaders have been slow to acknowledge the state's failures when it comes to things many citizens take the most pride in – clean air and water, healthy forests, and abundant wildlife. Reluctance to

hold decision makers responsible for policies that damage the environment, and preventing positive ideas from moving forward at the behest of polluting industries, has enabled these failures. If Oregon is to make any progress addressing its shortcomings, its political leaders must be held accountable for their actions and inaction.

Following the passage of the anti-wolf legislation HB 4040, Oregon Wild and other wildlife conservation organizations took out full page ads in the Willamette Week and Eugene Weekly naming lawmakers who had voted against gray wolves. After Governor Kate Brown's controversial signing of that bill, Oregon Wild ran internet radio ads criticizing her lack of environmental leadership. Those ads then became the subject of several media stories, including a feature story on Oregon Public Broadcasting.

Oregon Wild will continue to work for solutions that help our state live up to its

green reputation, and will support leaders that are working to toward that goal. The key will be getting politicians to stop saying that Oregon is a green state, and help us actually start living in one. ☺



Gaby joins the team

In early 2016, Oregon Wild welcomed a new face to our team. Joining the Portland team as our new Office Manager is Gaby Diaz. After standing up for wolves as a volunteer at wildlife lobby day, Gaby joined the team in March. She comes to Oregon Wild with experience in outdoor education, public health services, and a strong passion for all things wild.





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2016 Oregon Wild OUTDOOR PHOTO CONTEST

Public lands, public lens.

For over a decade, the Oregon Wild Outdoor Photo Contest has been a platform for stunning portraits of our state. Amateur and professional photographers alike have submitted incredible images of the mountainscapes, rivers, and elusive creatures that, for many of us, define our home. Many of those features and creatures are found in Oregon's increasingly threatened public lands, so in 2016, we're sharpening our focus on these special places. Send us images of the Oregon you

love and — like our public lands — think should be shared: an Oregon for all.

Photographers of all ages and abilities can enter photos in the 12th annual Outdoor Photo Contest's four main categories: Wildlands, Wildlife, Waters, and Endangered Places — this year subtitled Take Refuge, featuring the stunning Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, recently occupied and under threat. By capturing and sharing what you love about the Malheur as only a nature photographer can, you'll help us keep our public lands in the public view.

Great prizes from Pro Photo Supply and other local businesses for the winners, and their work will be showcased in Oregon Wild publications. Winners will be announced at our biggest party of the year — Call of the Wild — on October 14 at Leftbank Annex.

SEE CONTEST RULES AND DETAILS
AND SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS AT
oregonwild.org/photo-contest

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