

# OREGON WILD

Summer 2019 Volume 46, Number 2

OREGON'S NEW  
WILDERNESS



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

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COVER PHOTO: ERIC DEBORD It's been a decade since new Wilderness legislation has become law for Oregon. With the passage of the Oregon Wildlands Act, there's more to love.



From the Director's Desk

## The people united

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

Believe it or not, it's been almost 10 years since the *Citizens United* Supreme Court decision threw open the doors to unfettered money in our nation's politics. While the country has been obsessed with super PACs and the Koch brothers, Oregon's dirty little campaign finance secret has garnered fewer headlines.

That is until this spring, when the consequences of our no-limits-on-spending elections were laid bare in a blockbuster series in *The Oregonian*. You can read more about the "Polluted by Money" exposé on page 11, but the results of corporate spending are sadly unsurprising – polluters buy the policy that protects their profits.

As much as money-influenced politics feel like a problem of the

21st century, our politicians have been swimming in a sea of logging industry cash since timber barons first invaded the west after clearcutting the rest of the country. In the 1980s and '90s it was nigh impossible to find an elected leader in Oregon willing to speak for the trees.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Northwest Forest Plan this year (see page 8), we should all recognize that – left in the hands of our politicians – the ancient forests spared in 1994 would likely be but a memory today. The industry had all the money and all the power, and they wanted the rest of the old growth.

But it was the people – through protest, advocacy, and litigation – who forced protections for northern spotted owls, native salmon, and the ecosystem they relied on.

Things haven't changed much

over the decades. We still can't match the campaign contributions of corporate polluters. However, we'll always be able to beat them when it comes to passion and dogged persistence. That's how we won this year in a battle to protect the Devil's Staircase Wilderness that started way back in 1979 (see overleaf).

Whether it's massive campaign donations, industry PR spin, or the false narrative of economy versus environment, we're always facing long odds in our work to protect what's left of wild Oregon. You are the only thing that helps us break through and overcome the power of the status quo.

Money in politics stinks. So does corporate pollution. But the smell of salmonberries below a 500-year-old western red cedar in the newly protected Devil's Staircase Wilderness? That smells like keeping Oregon wild. ©

DREW WATSON Teamwork makes the dream work.



# The Devil's in the details - Oregon's new Wilderness

Chandra LeGue, Western Oregon Field Coordinator



BRIAN KIBBONS Wassen Creek at the heart of the new Devil's Staircase Wilderness and an essential part of this coastal forest watershed.

*"Wassen Creek is undoubtedly the wildest place left in the Oregon Coast Range."  
- Sherry Wellborn, Oregon Coast Range Wilderness, 1980, Siuslaw Task Force*

Back in 2007, Oregon Wild staffer Doug Heiken and I spent some time poking around the edges of a big roadless area in the Coast Range which looked to have some old forests that could be at risk of logging under a new Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plan being developed at the time (known as WOPR). Exploring the area, we found some overgrown roads and giant trees. We didn't venture in far from the roads as the terrain was steep, the vegetation thick, and there were no trails to follow. We started talking with other forest advocates about the area, nestled in the rugged landscape between the Umpqua River and Smith River, east of the town of Reedsport, and learned that it had actually been proposed for Wilderness protection decades earlier. A book produced by the Siuslaw Task Force in 1980 laid out the case for protecting the Wassen Creek Wilderness.

One key excerpt from the booklet resonates well with any who have ventured into this thick coastal rainforest: "Rated on a scale of one to ten (for both beauty and hiking difficulty) Wassen Creek

Wilderness scores 20+." The authors continued, "the slopes are extremely steep and the understory vegetation...is often very dense, making cross-country travel a challenge."

Despite the known difficulty, a few intrepid souls started exploring the area in their free time, pioneering routes that Oregon Wild and others have since used to guide people into this wild, rugged place as we launched a new campaign for the Devil's Staircase Wilderness (a more exciting name than Wassen Creek, and based on the notoriously hard to find waterfall in the heart of the area). Our campaign sparked interest with Congressman Peter DeFazio, who braved the elements and brush to reach the namesake waterfall. Later, Senator Jeff Merkley did the same. Rep. DeFazio first introduced legislation to protect the area in 2009 and has consistently pursued variations of this bill in each following Congress. Nearly always stymied by politics, Devil's Staircase advocates remained hopeful that someday we'd see the protections this place deserved.

Meanwhile, a campaign to protect a large chunk of the wildlands surrounding the Wild & Scenic Rogue River, where it runs through lands managed by the BLM, also gained momentum. With timber sales proposed in old-growth forests above important tributary streams and the BLM's new management plans threatening far worse, advocates drew attention to the need to finish protecting one of the most iconic landscapes in the country. The nearly 60,000-acre Wild Rogue Wilderness proposal and associated Wild & Scenic River designations for many of the Rogue's tributaries included old-growth forests and key salmon and steelhead spawning tributaries that were left out of 1978 Rogue River protection legislation due to opposition from logging companies. It's been under constant threat from logging and mining development ever since.

Our legislators have recognized the importance of this area too, introducing protections for the Wild Rogue and its tributaries year after year since 2008,

packaging it at various times with Devil's Staircase and other protections as "Oregon's Treasures" and "Oregon Wildlands" over different Congressional sessions. But the protections the Wild Rogue landscape deserved remained elusive.

In early 2019, after years of persistence from Oregon Wild supporters and our elected representatives, we finally got our chance to celebrate. A sweeping public lands package passed through Congress which included the Devil's Staircase Wilderness as well as Wild & Scenic designations for beloved Oregon rivers like the Molalla, Elk, and Chetco. While many of its tributaries were added to the Wild & Scenic River inventory in the bill, the Wild Rogue Wilderness additions were unfortunately left on the cutting room floor – the victim of political deal-making that favored extractive industries over public values.

**THE POLITICS OF WILDERNESS: THE INS (AND OUTS) OF PASSING A BILL**

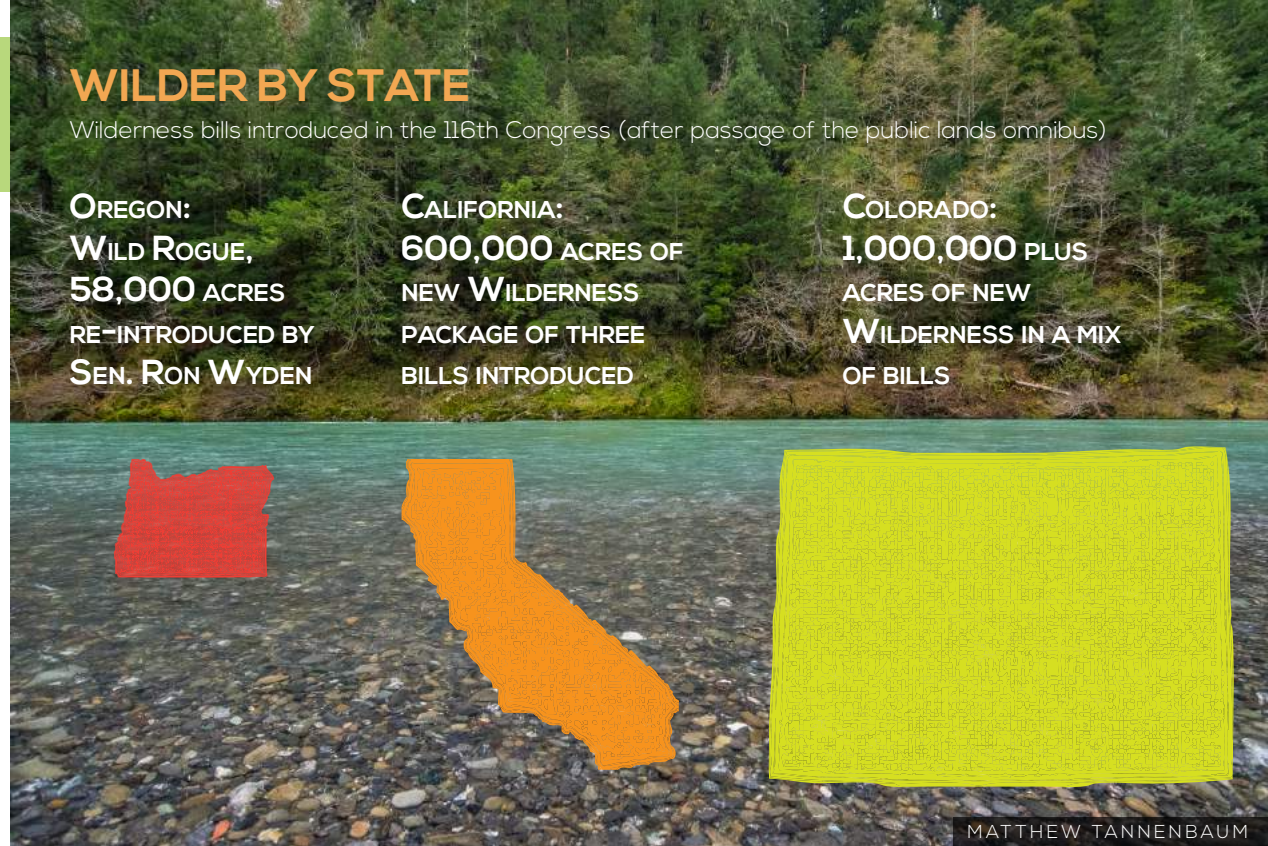
**WILDER BY STATE**

Wilderness bills introduced in the 116th Congress (after passage of the public lands omnibus)

**OREGON:**  
**WILD ROGUE,**  
**58,000 ACRES**  
**RE-INTRODUCED BY**  
**SEN. RON WYDEN**

**CALIFORNIA:**  
**600,000 ACRES OF**  
**NEW WILDERNESS**  
**PACKAGE OF THREE**  
**BILLS INTRODUCED**

**COLORADO:**  
**1,000,000 PLUS**  
**ACRES OF NEW**  
**WILDERNESS IN A MIX**  
**OF BILLS**



MATTHEW TANNENBAUM

While the efforts of grassroots advocates who love Oregon wildlands and rivers is vitally important for protecting special places, in the end, whether a place is protected or not often comes down to the support of our elected officials and...to politics.

Luckily for Oregon's wild places, we have some excellent champions in our Congressional delegation. The steadfast support

of Senator Ron Wyden and Rep. Defazio, reintroducing these protections year after year, has been vital in keeping our wilderness dreams alive. Senator Merkley, and Representatives Earl Blumenauer, Suzanne Bonamici, and Kurt Schrader have also played important roles in advancing these bills. Unfortunately, having this broad support from elected officials representing areas slated for

protections isn't always enough either.

Those who would like to log Oregon's remaining old-growth forests and those who see resource extraction as the highest and best use of our pristine watersheds have been relentless in trying to block the protections our elected leaders support. Over the past ten years, broad Congressional efforts to limit public lands protections



ALAN HIRSCHMUGL Boundary Springs, the headwaters of the Rogue River.

have stymied passage of the Devil’s Staircase Wilderness, Wild Rogue, and other river protection efforts.

The latest example: last fall, after Sen. Wyden re-introduced the Oregon Wildlands Act with the Wild Rogue Wilderness in it, a major logging industry lobby launched a campaign to block protection for the area. They reneged on a previous agreement to support Wilderness for the area, and worked with Rep. Greg

Walden to strip Rogue protections from a final public lands deal scheduled for a vote early in the new year. (The Wild Rogue isn’t even in Walden’s district!) Designations for National Recreation Areas on the Wild Rogue and Molalla Rivers were also stripped out.

Even getting the Oregon Wildlands Act – stripped down as it was – that far in the lame duck Congress had seemed like a long shot, but Sen. Wyden made

sure that when Congress returned in January 2019 the deal brokered by the Senate moved forward. With a series of quick votes, Oregon stood poised for a package with major wildland and river protections. Despite his attempts to sabotage the bill and disappointing opposition to protecting Oregon’s beloved Wild Rogue, even Rep. Walden voted for the bill.

Officially called the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, the public lands bill became law on March 21, 2019, with the unlikely stroke of President Trump’s pen.

### OREGON’S NEWEST WILDLANDS AND WATERS PROTECTIONS

Victories like this clearly don’t come easily these days, which is why it’s so important to take a moment to celebrate the protections gained this year: Oregon’s first new Wilderness in 10 years, the addition of 256 miles of Wild & Scenic Rivers, permanent protection for the Chetco River from mining, and

the Frank and Jeanne Moore Steelhead Sanctuary on the North Umpqua River. Woohoo!

The new Devil’s Staircase Wilderness is a vitally important area of contiguous, unlogged forest in the Coast Range. If you have ever driven through Oregon’s Coast Range, you know there isn’t a lot of intact forest left. Much of this landscape’s ancient cathedral forests were logged long ago and replaced with private industrial clearcutting operations. Taken together with the unlogged portion of the Elliott State Forest just to the south of the new Wilderness, this area provides a critical, large block of intact forested ecosystem, providing high-quality fish and wildlife habitat, and storing vast amounts of carbon, helping us combat climate change.

Add to that an additional 256 miles of rivers and streams designated as Wild & Scenic Rivers, Oregon’s total reached 2,424 Wild & Scenic river miles. This designation protects the forests surrounding these

free-flowing streams; prohibits future dams and mining; and helps safeguard clean drinking water, our world-class recreation opportunities, and the critical salmon habitat many communities rely on. From the Nestucca River in the northern Coast Range to the tributary streams of the lower Rogue River to the pristine headwaters of the Elk River on the south Coast – we will see the benefits of these river protections for generations to come.

River advocates can also celebrate a long-sought correction to a loophole for mining in the designated Wild & Scenic Chetco River on the south coast, finally protecting one of Oregon’s most beautiful rivers from the potential of damaging mining practices.

### NOT DONE YET

While it was frustrating to see the Wild Rogue Wilderness additions and the National Recreation Area designations for the Rogue and Molalla Rivers left out of the bill that passed, neither we nor our Congressional

champions are giving up on making sure these other worthy places are protected. In May, Senators Wyden and Merkley introduced legislation to capture the pieces left out of this last round of protections – the Oregon Recreation Enhancement Act (OREA).

While it's been great to celebrate the successful efforts for the special places included in the Oregon Wildlands Act, millions of acres of public lands across our state remain unprotected. With just 4% of our state protected as Wilderness, Oregon is still far behind our neighboring states. The OREA is a great next step, but to really make up this deficit and do our spectacular wildlands justice, we need to go further. We need our elected leaders to step up and do more.

Fortunately, they seem to be listening. This spring, Sen. Wyden and Rep. Blumenauer held a public forum and have been soliciting feedback from the public about what wildlands should be considered for protections next. They've been

hearing from wildlands advocates about special places as yet unprotected – from the Owyhee Canyonlands, to the Ochoco Mountains and the wildlands surrounding Crater Lake National Park. With the ongoing support and pressure from people like you, we hope to be celebrating the next round of wildland protections well before another decade goes by. ©

## TAKE ACTION!

Thank Senators Wyden & Merkley for introducing the Oregon Recreation Enhancement Act to protect more of the Wild Rogue River and the Molalla River, and urge your Congressional representative to do the same.



# What's next for Oregon Wilderness

Erik Fernandez, Wilderness Program Manager

JACOB DURRENT

One week after the Oregon Wildlands Act was signed into law, Congressman Earl Blumenauer and Senator Ron Wyden hosted a public forum in Portland to ask the question of what's next for public lands conservation legislation in Oregon.

People from all across the state turned out to advocate for their favorite natural treasures. Central Oregonian's talked about the need for protecting the Ochoco Mountains National Recreation Area. The area is home to classic old-growth ponderosa pine, wildflower meadows, and on a super clear day, views stretching from Mount Shasta to Mount Rainier.

Locals advocated for increased safeguards around Mount Hood for places like Tamanawas Falls, Boulder Lake, and Salmon River - home to some of the region's best hikes as well as key wildlife habitats.

Roseburg and Douglas County advocates spoke about the need to expand protections for the recreation and wildlife corridors that lead in and out of Crater Lake National Park. These corridors are where several of Oregon's iconic rivers have their headwaters, including the Rogue, Umpqua, Klamath, and the Deschutes. Other areas suggested include the Wild Rogue, the Oregon Redwoods, the Owyhee, and more.

These natural treasures are a part of Oregon's heritage and we have a responsibility to safeguard them for future generations of Oregonians, both people and animals. It's encouraging to see Sen. Wyden and Rep. Blumenauer looking to do their part for the Oregon legacy.

# 25 years under the Northwest Forest Plan

Doug Heiken, Conservation & Restoration Coordinator



RHETT WILKINS Northern spotted owl.

The Northwest Forest Plan went into effect on May 20, 1994 and immediately brought improved management to federal forests within the range of the northern spotted owl. After 25 years, we can celebrate the plan's successes, lament its failures, and continue the fight for better management to protect old growth, water, fish and wildlife, carbon, and quality of life.

The plan came into being after decades of unsustainable clearcutting and road building radically altered forest ecosystems. The northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet were listed under the Endangered Species Act just prior to the adoption of the plan, and many stocks of salmon were listed shortly after. In court, federal agencies lost a string of lawsuits

and were found guilty of a “remarkable series of violations of the environmental laws.”

Brought to life by President Clinton and guided by some great scientists, the Northwest Forest Plan established a comprehensive federal policy for managing 24 million acres of federal forests in western Washington, western Oregon, and northwestern California. Key components of the plan include:

- Large “reserves” to provide habitat for wildlife dependent on old-growth forests. Most, but not all, of the remaining older forests are protected in reserves. The agencies have exploited loopholes to log old growth in the reserves, especially after fires;
- Generous stream buffers to protect water quality and habitat. The agencies have excuses to do a lot of logging in these stream buffers;
- A requirement to survey and protect rare species that may be in the path of old-growth

logging. The agencies have made numerous attempts to eliminate these requirements; and

- Logging is allowed, including some old-growth logging, in the “matrix” between the reserves.

We are only 25 years into a plan that is supposed to take 100-200 years to accomplish, and the plan is already coming under pressure, while new reasons to conserve forests – such as climate change – are not getting the attention they deserve.

Many things have changed since the Northwest Forest Plan was approved. First, the global climate crisis is upon us. In the decades preceding the Northwest Forest Plan, liquidation of the carbon-rich old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest added significantly to the cumulative over-abundance of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The plan reduced logging to such an extent that northwest forests switched from being a source of carbon emissions to become a

net sink of carbon. This highlights that forests can be part of the climate problem or part of the climate solution. Unfortunately, the agencies continue to approve logging projects that exacerbate global warming.

The timber industry has also shifted to rely mostly on small, second-growth logs and the broader economy has changed and diversified. Some predicted a significant economic downturn would be triggered by limiting the timber industry’s access to federal timber. This did not materialize. The regional economy added far more jobs than were lost due to federal logging restrictions. The future of the regional economy depends much more on maintaining our unique quality of life, not commodity extraction.

In 2016, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) adopted new Resources Management Plans for more than 2 million acres of western Oregon forests. The new plans shrink stream



buffers, weaken protection for old forest reserves, and eliminate requirements to protect rare wildlife, all in order to emphasize timber production. This effectively ended BLM's participation in the Northwest Forest Plan, unless pending litigation in the 9th Circuit reverses their decision.

The Forest Service manages over 20 million acres of public forests spread across 3 states that are

governed by the Northwest Forest Plan. They have initiated steps to amend and update the plan. We fear that they will follow BLM's path toward more logging, which would be directly counter to the best available science. Instead, we'd like to see reflection of the continued need to protect and restore old-growth forests to safeguard our clean water, viable populations of fish and wildlife, stable climate, and quality of life. ©



GREG VAUGHN Three Pyramids - part of the new Oregon's Ancient Forests hiking guidebook.

## Oregon's Ancient Forests: A Hiking Guide published!

After two years of research (aka hiking all over the state in beautiful forests), writing, editing, and design, the long awaited publication of staffer Chandra LeGue's book *Oregon's Ancient Forests: A Hiking Guide* is upon us! Officially available July 1st from Mountaineers Books, the book promises to inspire readers to get outdoors and advocate for the protection of our last remaining ancient forests.

The book is designed to be user friendly, dividing the 91 featured hikes into 14 forest regions and providing key information like distance, difficulty, and trailhead location up front. And while it features descriptions of each trail like any hiking guide, this book focuses on seeing the forest for the trees – offering natural history information to help you hone your forest knowledge, as well as background on how and why a forest is (or isn't yet) protected.

The book's beautiful photos of hikes in dripping, giant Douglas-fir forests, high desert groves of massive ponderosa pines, and lush mixed conifer forests lure you in to Oregon's diverse ancient forests. These vital ecosystems support fish and wildlife, provide clean water, help mitigate climate change, and offer some of the best hiking in our state. With so little left, the book is a timely reminder of the need to protect and restore our ancient forests before it's too late.

**TAKE ACTION!** Get your copy anywhere books are sold, at Oregon Wild's online store, or at upcoming book release events this summer – [www.oregonwild.org/explore-oregon](http://www.oregonwild.org/explore-oregon).



**OREGON'S ANCIENT FORESTS** A Hiking Guide  
Chandra LeGue



# Oregon Wild Women

Gaby Diaz, Membership & Event Manager



Last September we hosted *Wild Women: A Celebration of Women in Conservation* at a historic homestead in Eugene. Joined by members and supporters, we heard from three women who spoke about the challenges they faced in their respective environmental-related fields and what their experiences were like growing and developing into leaders. It was inspiring and validating to hear these stories, in addition to learning about the women who helped make Oregon Wild what it is today.

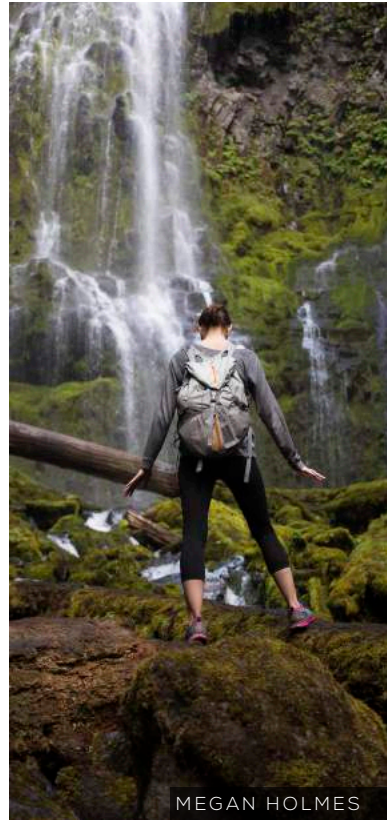
The catalyst for this event was a culmination of conversations that focused on the unique challenges facing women in the outdoors. Staffer Chandra LeGue found some barriers are logistical, societal, and emotional. As an advocacy organization we want to help break down barriers for women (including ourselves!) who want to recreate and advocate for our public lands.

That's why we're proud to

introduce the **Oregon Wild Women program**. This program is designed to engage and empower women in environmental advocacy and the outdoors through special events, hikes, leadership development opportunities, blogs, and workshops for women, by women. As we continue to grow as a community, the more likely we'll pass these skills on to the next generation and create a lasting legacy of women in the outdoors.

Our goal is to raise \$3,000 by the end of the year to fuel these efforts, and to support someone wanting to work in conservation. These funds will power a paid internship to spearhead the Wild Women campaign and to strengthen the program for years to come.

Help us reach our goal by making a donation online at [www.oregonwild.org](http://www.oregonwild.org). Stay tuned for more Oregon Wild Women programming and consider making a donation for the Wild Woman in your life! ©



MEGAN HOLMES

Oregon Wild proudly presents

## OREGON WILD SUMMER '19



Saturday, June 29  
Devil's Staircase  
Wilderness - Dark Grove  
Hike (EUG)  
Difficult, 4 miles



Thursday, July 11  
Opal Creek & Jawbone  
Flats Hike (EUG)  
Moderate, 7 miles

Tuesday, July 2  
Oregon's Ancient  
Forests: A Hiking Guide  
Book Release Party  
Base Camp Brewing, Portland

Saturday, July 20  
Bunchgrass Ridge Fire  
Ecology Hike (EUG)  
Moderate, 5 miles



Saturday, July 6  
Cape Perpetua & Gwynn  
Creek Loop Hike (EUG)  
Moderate/Difficult, 6.4 miles



Thursday, July 25  
Fifteenmile Creek (PDX)  
Difficult, 11.3 miles

Wednesday, July 10  
Oregon's Ancient Forests  
Book Release Party  
Claim 52, Eugene

Thursday, July 25  
Oregon's Ancient Forests  
Book Release Party  
Roundabout Books, Bend



Friday, July 26  
Lookout Mountain (Bend)  
Moderate, 6-7 miles



PROTECTED  
WILDERNESS



PROPOSED  
WILDERNESS

REGISTER AT

WWW.OREGONWILD.ORG

# Polluted by money

Arran Robertson, Communications Manager



Oregon has a reputation as an environmentally progressive state. We passed some of the nation's first laws for public beaches, land use planning, and recycling. Unfortunately, Oregon's landmark environmental victories are now decades old, and the state is currently grappling with the fact that, from logging and endangered wildlife to clean air and water, we have some of the weakest laws on the West Coast. So how has one of the once greenest states in the nation gone

from the front-of-the-pack to bringing up the rear?

Oregon is polluted by money.

In a shocking four-part series, investigative journalist Rob Davis and *The Oregonian* dove into the state's campaign finances. Davis found that Oregon does little to limit or regulate campaign donations. Corporate interests donate more money per resident in Oregon than in any other state. Oregon politicians are the

nation's top recipient for contributions from the logging industry.

That money has been a disaster for Oregon's environment. Oregon Wild worked with Davis for years, helping document how politicians traded or stopped conservation priorities at the behest of corporate interests. Even so, the resulting "*Polluted by Money*" series shocked us. Clean air initiatives stopped with a phone call. Logging and pesticide lobbyists had their language introduced verbatim as budget amendments. Agency officials made timid were forced to defend their budgets and threatened every time they've tried to enforce Oregon's already weak environmental laws. Davis summarizes:

"Oregon's most powerful industries have killed, weakened or stalled efforts to deal with climate change, wolf recovery, disappearing bird habitat,

## Oregon: Polluted by Money Defended by You

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

The Oregonian's *Polluted by Money* series was as sobering as it was revealing of the very real disconnect between Oregon's green reputation and the actions of our elected officials and agencies.

Regardless of how unbalanced the playing field might be, Oregon Wild isn't backing down. We know we're not going to match the bank accounts of the industries built on exploiting our ecological riches. So we work to maximize the impact of each and every donation we receive, because we know that you – and the ancient forests and keystone species on whose behalf we advocate – are counting on us.

To counteract the industry influence outlined in *Polluted by Money*, Oregon Wild works year-round to protect and defend our wild places. **The best way to support our work is by joining our Evergreen Society with an ongoing monthly gift.** So no matter what checks the industry is writing in hopes of wielding their influence, you know that your dollars will be working each and every month to keep Oregon wild.

cancer-causing diesel exhaust, dwindling groundwater, industrial air pollution, oil spill planning and weed killers sprayed from helicopters."

*Polluted by Money* is a stunning indictment of Oregon's political landscape and environmental neglect. But it's also a call to action for people who care about

our state's wildlands, wildlife, and waters. Over 50 years ago, Oregon Governor Tom McCall declared that the state lived by an 11th commandment: "Thou Shall Not Pollute." It's time we enforced it.

Read the series at <https://projects.oregonlive.com/polluted-by-money>. ©

# Forests for All!

Jason Gonzalez, Forest & Watershed Campaign Organizer & Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

Oregon's awe-inspiring forests and pristine waters are enjoyed and appreciated by all of us, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, or creed. Unfortunately, the voices representing communities of color, and other traditionally underserved communities, have largely gone unheard in the conversation of how best to protect these special places. That needs to change.

Oregon Wild has been investing in becoming a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive organization. With generous support from the Meyer Memorial Trust, we're launching *Forests for All* – a grassroots initiative to weave together our conservation mission with our equity priorities.

Partnerships are at the core of *Forests for All* and one that embodies these important priorities and exemplifies its potential impacts is with *Soul River, Inc.* Using the power of fly fishing trips, they connect military veterans and inner-city youth with the outdoors to develop leaders for

environmental justice and advocacy. After teaming up with Soul River on a “deployment” to the Ochoco Mountains last summer, we're partnering with them again to help the group explore the heart of Oregon's wolf country: the Willows.

Through *Forests for All*, we'll be deeply engaging in equitable organizing for the outdoors and environmental protections. Recently, our very own Jason Gonzales has been honored to serve as Chair of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Committee for Eugene/Springfield, working with community leaders to recognize that the people most impacted by environmental degradation and climate change are often left out of the decision-making process and working towards change.

Frontline communities bear the brunt of pollution, clean-water access, and climate change impacts – yet they're often the least heard and most knowledgeable when it comes to implementing solutions. Using our resources to raise the voices



of those communities, we hope to build opportunities for all people to enjoy Oregon's wildlands, while also addressing racism and other forms of bigotry that many experience when exploring public lands.

Additionally, we're working to empower rural and coastal communities to strengthen laws for the health of their communities, forests, and watersheds. For our campaign

organizers, *Forests for All* means that they have the resources and time to deeply invest in equity work with new communities, support allies, and show up for marginalized and underserved communities. ©

# Taking Trump to court

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director



JIM CHAMBERLAIN

Oregon Wild has never been shy about using the law to defend Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters.

When Trump announced plans to shrink the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument back in 2017, the logging lobby and allied county commissioners filed a flurry of lawsuits to back him up. Oregon Wild and several other groups intervened to defend this ecological wonder. In March, we won the first round when a judge rejected Murphy Timber's claim that the 1937 O&C Act barred so-called "O&C" lands from ever

being protected for conservation. It was just the first of three lawsuits attacking the monument, but an important victory nonetheless.

The fight goes on in other corners of Oregon. Near Springfield, we've gone to court to block a Trump administration plan to log hundreds of acres next to the Thurston Hills Natural Area. The logging, which includes clearcutting, would damage wildlife habitat and impair scenic and recreational values. Worse, by replacing mature and old-growth forests with dense young stands,

it puts nearby homes at greater risk from forest fires.

With the Trump administration's announcement of their plan to strip federal Endangered Species Act protection from gray wolves in western Oregon, we are gearing up for yet another battle on behalf of this iconic species. Working with our allies at Earthjustice, we will fight to ensure that the handful of wolves roaming Mount Hood and the South Cascades remain protected. ©



ODFW

# Brewshed® goes to Salem

Marielle Cowdin, Outreach & Marketing Coordinator



MARIELLE COWDIN Our Brewshed Partners and other business leaders met with Sen. Floyd Prozanski.

When we launched the Oregon Brewshed Alliance back in 2015, we were in a pre-Trump world. Sure, we still were staring the climate crisis in the face, but the progressive vibes of the Obama Presidency wrapped us all in a warm blanket of hope - hope that the folks at the top were doing their best to make the world better in all ways. That cozy era allowed those of us privileged enough to feel comfortable in our day-to-day a fine pass to complacency.

The 2016 election shattered that bubble. Suddenly, any mad idea was possible and all bets were off - especially for environmental policy. But the silver lining?

**Action** - a new, exciting kind.

Oregon Wild has always been an organization of action - from grassroots campaigns to safeguard coastal communities and their watersheds, to decades-long petitions and negotiations with electeds to protect more public

land. And while our dedicated supporters, members, and activists have helped us accomplish great feats over the years, a big and influential voice had remained silent until now: the businesses of Oregon's New Economy.

Where timber once was king, small organic farms, outdoor recreation, and the craft brewing industry are now at the heart of Oregon's economy - trumping timber jobs and revenue 2 to 1.

The dire state of political, environmental, social, and climactic affairs jump started many of these businesses into true engagement with policy and our Brewshed Alliance partners are no exception. Their livelihood depends on clean water and a clean environment, after all.

On March 11, 2019, Oregon Wild and our Brewshed Alliance partners from **Widmer Brothers, Wildcraft Cider Works, Falling Sky Brewing, and Migration Brewing** joined Beyond Toxics, Mountain Rose Herbs, and members of the Oregon Organics Coalition in Salem for a special lobby day.

Meetings with state representatives and senators were scheduled throughout the day to thank bill sponsors and show support for pending legislation regarding watershed health and pesticide use.

It became clear that our Brewshed partners, in sharing their passion and reliance on clean water and protected watersheds helped amplify this message to electeds

in an extraordinary way and we couldn't be more thrilled and proud of what they accomplished.

We look forward to future advocacy work alongside our partners in the Brewshed Alliance to ensure our forests and watersheds are protected for future generations. Cheers to a sustainable water future for Oregon from source to pint! ☺



YACHATS BREWERY

# Migrations

Maybe you heard of the outdoors lifestyle hashtag #vanlife when it exploded on social media in the last few years. Well, it seems that our former finance staffer, **Tony Mounts**, noticed. After two-plus years of keeping our financial house in order, Tony took off for Mexico in his camper van on an epic road trip. While it was hard to blame

TONY MOUNTS



Tony for fully embracing retirement, he left some big shoes to fill. Gamely stepping in to the financial fray is our new finance manager **Ellen Yarnell**! With decades of for-profit and non-profit accounting under her belt and a real passion for Mother Earth, Ellen is a perfect fit at Oregon Wild. When not in the office you can find her getting her permaculture on in her home food forest and garden.

ELLEN YARNELL



The spring proved to be a time of changing weather and a changing of the guard for the Oregon Wild board. After four years of service a piece, **Hillary Barbour, Danielle Grabiell, and Mellie Pullman** are all leaving the Oregon Wild board. Each of these fantastic women brought their own passion and expertise to the board and we wish them well in future endeavors (and know that they will continue to support our efforts to keep it wild).

At our May meeting, we welcomed two new voices to the Oregon Wild board. Fresh off a ten-year run serving on the board of the Forest Park Conservancy, marketing industry veteran **Darcie Meihoff** is ready to make an immediate impact. She has a passion for the outdoors (she led the communications effort on the successful Outdoor School for All ballot measure) and we are eager to get her communications mind working on behalf of wild places and critters. Joining the board with Darcie, is political consultant turned real estate agent/local business owner/philanthropist/

HILLARY BARBOUR



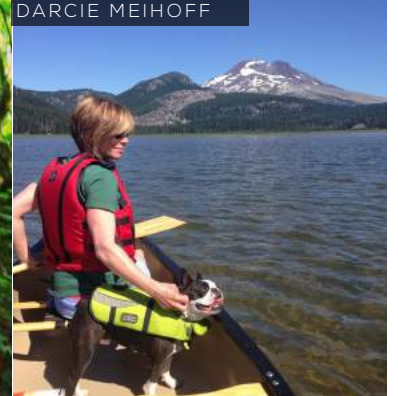
MELLIE PULLMAN



DANIELLE GRABIELL



DARCIE MEIHOFF



non-profit founder **Seth Prickett**. After a decade running political campaigns and working in the Capitol, Seth now spends his time as a real estate agent and founder/operator of Framework International, a non-profit that

helps to build schools in Ghana. He brings a wealth of knowledge of the state's inner-workings and a desire to see the environment move up the priority list for elected officials. Welcome to both Darcie and Seth! ☺



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## 2019 OUTDOOR PHOTO CONTEST

All submissions due by September 6, 2019 at midnight.

Our forests have lived many lives. Over the last 45 years, Oregon Wild has worked to ensure our mature and old-growth forests are protected for generations to come. We're celebrating with a special photo contest focus this year along with special hikes in Oregon's diverse ancient forests through our 2019 Outdoor Program. Whether you're an amateur or professional photographer, you can help us put the focus on our stunning peaks, vibrant forests, dynamic rivers, and precious wildlife and help give them and us a future simply by entering the 15th annual Outdoor Photo Contest.

Photographers of all ages and abilities can enter photos in the 15th annual Outdoor Photo Contest's four main categories (see



below). By capturing and sharing what you love about Oregon as only a nature photographer can, you'll help spread awareness and passion for safeguarding our natural world for generations to come.

Help us keep Oregon wild simply by entering photos in the 15th annual Outdoor Photo Contest's four main

categories - **Wildlands, Wildlife, Waters, and Endangered Places** - this year subtitled ANCIENT, featuring Oregon's diverse ancient forests as featured in Chandra LeGue's new guidebook: *Oregon's Ancient Forests: A hiking guide.*

Prizes from Pro Photo Supply and other local businesses await the

winners, who will be announced at the best outdoor-themed party of the year: CALL OF THE WILD on October 11th at Leftbank Annex in PDX.

See contest rules and submit your photos at [www.oregonwild.org/photo-contest](http://www.oregonwild.org/photo-contest).

Sponsorship inquiries welcome.