

# OREGON WILD

Winter/Spring 2019 Volume 46, Number 1



FOREST DEFENSE IS  
CLIMATE DEFENSE



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

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COVER PHOTO: RHETT WILKINS The climate conversation has been dominated by energy and transportation issues, but here in the Northwest, our forests hold a key piece of the climate puzzle.





From the Director's Desk

# From defense to offense

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

- Train budding activists at our monthly Wild Ones gathering;
- And meet with allies to discuss how to keep the pressure on King Clearcut as we endeavor to modernize the Oregon Forest Practices Act

Even though we are a relatively small non-profit, it sometimes feels like we are everywhere at once – knowing that if we don't show up, some part of Oregon's landscape will suffer. That vigilance has always been part of our DNA, and we know we need it regardless of the political landscape.

November's elections were hugely important for the environment. The much-hyped "flipping" of the House of Representatives into Democratic control has many consequences, but perhaps none is bigger than this: the most anti-public lands member of Congress (Rep. Rob

Bishop) is losing his gavel as chair of the House Natural Resources Committee. That means that the unceasing attacks on endangered species, National Monuments, and almost every single one of our bedrock environmental laws will stop.

Taking Bishop's place is Rep. Raul Grijalva – an outspoken champion for wild places and wildlife. With new leadership in place, it is imperative that our Congressional delegation seize the moment and push through important protections for Oregon's special places. Oregon Wild will be there to remind them of the importance of this moment.

As you'll read in our main story this issue (pages 4-7), climate disruption continues to wreak havoc across the globe. The scientific consensus is clear that swift action is needed now more than ever before. Yet, policymakers continue to miss

the climate fighting tool right in our backyard – Oregon's forests.

While Oregon Wild has fought across five decades to safeguard our forests for wildlife habitat, clean water, and recreation, it may be that the most important reason to keep our ancient forests standing is to save our planet from climate catastrophe.

It's time to shift from defense to offense – to put lines on the map and to strengthen the laws that protect our forests, rivers, and wildlife. We can't just hold the line any longer. Join us in creating a new natural legacy for the future.



ZACK KENNEY With each election cycle, it is the dawn of new approaches, new angles, and new challenges to our environmental work.

As this issue of *Oregon Wild* goes to print, we've got a lot going on.

In just one week, the Oregon Wild team will collectively:

- Join forces with our partners at Soul River Inc. to lobby Congress to protect the Ochoco Mountains National Recreation Area;
- Host the third in a series of forums aimed at explaining the important connection between forest defense and climate protection;
- Attend an all-day stakeholder meeting where the fate of Oregon's wolves is on the line and we must be their voice;

# Enlisting our forests to fight climate change

Alexander Harris, Public Lands Fellow



Global climate change presents perhaps the most profound and complex challenge the human species has ever faced. As the planet continues to warm at an unprecedented pace, we will continue to see significant impacts to Oregon's economy, communities, and ecosystems. Today, there is roughly 50% more CO<sup>2</sup> in the atmosphere than pre-industrial levels, and the amount of carbon in the atmosphere continues to increase at an alarming rate.

Fortunately, it appears that the State of Oregon is finally ready to take meaningful climate action in 2019. In November's pivotal election, Governor Kate Brown was re-elected and Democrats expanded their majorities in the State House and Senate. Democrats now hold supermajorities in both houses of Oregon's State Legislature, which means they don't need a single Republican vote to pass climate legislation that charges corporations for their greenhouse gas emissions.

Indeed, the legislature is primed to pass the **Clean Energy Jobs**

WES BAKER Oregon's native forests hold a wealth of carbon storage and continued sequestration - but only if we protect them.



bill, a cap and trade bill that would be similar to the programs in California and Canadian provinces. The Oregon Legislature's six-month session begins in January and this bill is one of the top priorities.

The bill must pass if we want to avoid catastrophic climate change. However, notably absent from the bill is Oregon's largest source of carbon emissions: **logging**. Recent research, including a groundbreaking study from Oregon State University, shows that Oregon's logging industry emits more carbon into our atmosphere than any other sector.

The destruction and mismanagement of Oregon's native forests over the past century has transferred massive amounts of stored carbon to the atmosphere, contributing significantly to the warming of the planet. But if we improve our forest management practices, Oregon's forests can actually be part of the solution to climate change, not the problem.

It's becoming increasingly clear that the single biggest step

Oregon can take to combat climate change is to modernize our weak logging laws. If we do this, alongside better protection of our public lands, the sprawling forestlands that blanket half of our state could become an invaluable asset in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

### How do trees store carbon?

Carbon is a building block of life. As forests grow, trees take in carbon from the atmosphere, building living structures by storing it in their trunks, bark, branches, and extensive root networks. This natural process, known as "carbon sequestration" converts carbon dioxide from its gaseous state into a solid that remains safely stored for long periods of time.

Forests are among the largest stores of living carbon on the planet, and it turns out that the forests of western Oregon have a higher carbon density than almost any other forest type in the world. Oregon's oldest forests are particularly good at capturing and storing carbon, and they continue to absorb carbon even after tree

## LET THE TREES GROW!

Arran Robertson, Communications Manager

This fall, the world's leading climate scientists warned that we have only twelve years to ward off the most dramatic impacts of global warming. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) urged world leaders that urgent action is necessary to head off an increase of more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. While we're already seeing the impacts of rising global temperatures, the scientists warned that continued increases would result in mass coral die-offs, coastal flooding, extreme weather events, ecosystem collapses, and other global disasters.

The report provided policy recommendations to curb carbon emissions, including a section on forests. Maintaining (or increasing) forest area and canopy cover, fighting forest degradation, and increasing carbon density in forests and soil were the report's leading mitigation measures.

The IPCC report is a wakeup call for policymakers in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest to get serious about protecting our native forests and modernizing forestry laws. Basically, we can help by just letting the trees grow! Climate change is a global crisis, and we have an opportunity to step up and do our part. Fortunately, looking to our forests to help combat climate change has the added benefit of cleaner water, better wildlife habitat, and preserving the spectacular Oregon forests and landscapes we all love!



STEVE HANSEN

growth appears to have slowed.

The logging industry has falsely claimed that fast-growing young forests are better at absorbing

carbon; however, research shows that old forests store far more. Logging older trees and replacing them with younger ones emits tremendous amounts of CO<sup>2</sup> and

creates a "carbon debt" that takes many decades or centuries to repay.

# FOREST DEFENSE IS CLIMATE DEFENSE

CONNECTING FORESTS, CLIMATE, AND CLIMATE CHANGE



ERIC DEBORD (COVER PHOTO) Oregon Wild recently released a report called "Forest Defense is Climate Defense," which gives a succinct overview of how forests sequester carbon and how industrial logging emits it. You can find the report and our works cited at: [www.oregonwild.org/climate-report](http://www.oregonwild.org/climate-report).

## Logging: Oregon's biggest climate polluter

Unfortunately, a century of industrial logging practices has

eliminated most of Oregon's original old-growth forests and disrupted this natural carbon cycle. Logging kills trees, stops them from growing, and accelerates the transfer of carbon from the forest to the atmosphere. Our carbon-intensive logging practices *make the timber industry Oregon's largest source of global warming emissions.*

To understand where all this carbon comes from, you need to look at the entire lifecycle of wood products. When a forest is clearcut, the branches, tree tops, and other logging residue left behind is usually burned or left to decompose. This

process, accelerated by removing the protective forest canopy and drying out soils, releases large amounts of carbon that would

have otherwise remained stored in the forest for many more years. There are also significant carbon emissions from the fossil fuels burned by logging equipment and log trucks. Once logs reach a mill, even more carbon is lost as the wood is processed and cut into lumber. By the time wood products reach their end destination, only a fraction of the original carbon from the forest remains.

## The industrial forestry carbon debt

Fully understanding the carbon consequences of industrial forestry means understanding the concept of "carbon debt." Before the chainsaw was invented, our forests kept vast amounts of carbon out of the atmosphere, which helped stabilize the climate. But during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the rampant clearcutting of our old-growth forests transferred much of that carbon from our forests to the atmosphere.

When timber corporations replaced Oregon's ancient forests

with tree plantations (logged on a 40-year cycle), they created a carbon debt that we may never fully repay. More than 1.5 billion metric tons of net carbon was removed from western Washington and Oregon forests in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by converting old-growth forests into short rotation plantations. This debt significantly alters the carbon balance our forests found with the atmosphere over millennia, further exacerbating climate change.

The timber industry often argues they should be exempted from carbon regulation because industrial logging is "carbon-neutral." According to their narrative, the trees they replant after clearcutting eventually re-capture the carbon that was originally emitted, and therefore the entire operation balances emissions and sequestration.

But this narrative is fundamentally flawed, as it fails to recognize the historical

## HOW SIGNIFICANT ARE EMISSIONS FROM WILDFIRE?

Despite their impressive smoke plumes, Oregon's wildfires are not major sources of carbon emissions. Researchers with Oregon State University have estimated that between 2011–2015, **forest fires only accounted for 4%** of Oregon's total carbon emissions each year, whereas logging accounted for roughly 35%. In fact, forests hold on to the majority of their stored carbon even after severe wildfires, as long as the standing dead trees (snags) are not targeted by so-called "salvage" logging. The reality is that wildfire has always been an essential and unavoidable element in our forest ecosystems, so eliminating emissions from these fires is both unattainable and ecologically harmful. Instead, we must focus our efforts on anthropogenic carbon emissions such as clearcut logging and rampant fossil fuel use, which are the actual causes of climate change.

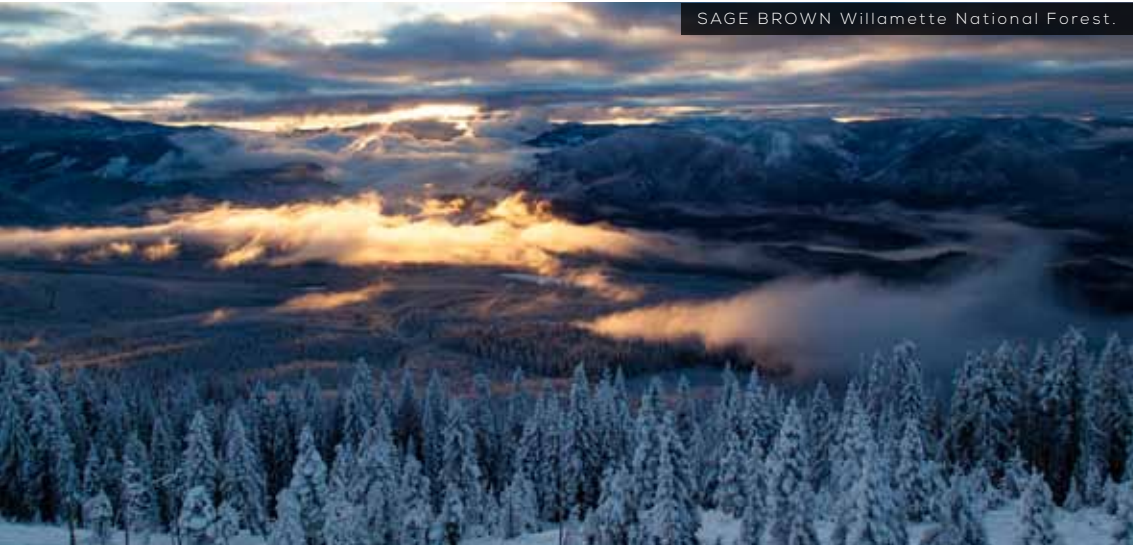


capacity of carbon storage in Pacific Northwest forests. Today, our National Forests are only storing two-thirds of their carbon storage potential. And the amount of carbon stored on industrial timberlands is just a fraction of their historical levels, because timber corporations continue to clearcut these forests every 40 years. If the rotation age increased to 60 or 80 years, then we would begin to repay a portion of the carbon debt we have incurred.

*Put simply, industrial forestry inflames the underlying cause of climate change: excess levels of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.* The good news is that, unlike carbon from fossil fuels, forest-carbon can be recaptured and stored where it belongs. By protecting and restoring our public forests and improving the management of Oregon's private timberlands, we can begin to repay our carbon debt and help stabilize our climate.

### Climate resilience

Expanding protections for our public lands and reforming our outdated forest management practices not only would help us reduce excess carbon emissions, but also would help make Oregon's forest ecosystems more resilient to the impacts of a changing climate. By defending and restoring our forests, we can safeguard clean drinking water and help plants and animals adapt to climate change. ☺



# TAKE ACTION

The policy choices we make today will either continue to make Oregon's forests a part of the climate problem, or ensure that they are part of the solution. Two of the best ways Oregon can act on climate change are to modernize our weak logging laws and to better protect our National Forests and other public lands.

## 1. Modernize Oregon's outdated logging laws to reduce clearcutting and encourage climate-smart practices

Oregon's timber industry adds more carbon pollution into the atmosphere every year than any other sector.

Oregon's state and private forest lands can only reach their potential to combat climate change if state logging laws are reformed and incentives are created to encourage climate-friendly practices. Read more about the grassroots movement to modernize Oregon logging laws at [oregonwild.org](http://oregonwild.org), and take action by asking Governor Kate Brown to support stronger logging rules: **503-378-4582**

## 2. Permanently protect our remaining old-growth forests and encourage forest restoration on our public lands

Over the past few years, there have been numerous efforts to sell off our public lands and increase the scope and scale of logging in our public forests. One of the best ways to ensure that our forests continue to capture and store carbon is to reduce the rate of logging and permanently protect our forests as Wilderness. Call your Senators and your Congressional Representative today (look up your reps in Congress and their numbers at [www.govtrack.us](http://www.govtrack.us).)

# From the Willamette...

Danielle Moser, Wildlife Coordinator



Let us not forget Salem. While national politics – the new Democratic majority in the House and, of course, our troubling President – command much of the public’s attention, the state legislature still remains a place where critical policies are enacted that affect our wildlands, wildlife, and waters.

In Oregon, the results of this year’s election give Democrats a supermajority in both the House and Senate (plus Kate Brown is back in the Governor’s seat). More individuals were elected to local and statewide offices who have outspokenly criticized Oregon’s logging practices and echoed the urgent need to tackle climate change. Yet the question remains: does a supermajority necessarily mean a green majority? We plan to put them to the test!

The 2019 session is sure to be filled with as much excitement, challenges, and outright ludicrous bills as every legislative go-around. Soon, leadership will decide who receives the gavel for key committees like House

Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources. A change in committee chair(wo)manship could have a positive benefit for our issues.

## Oregon Wild’s priorities

- We will be working with our conservation and business partners to support legislation to stop aerial spray on public lands, implement new pesticide restrictions, and to provide better notification systems that will help communities protect themselves from the impacts of industrial clearcutting and aerial spray.
- For all things wildlife, we will be tracking and continuing to provide input for Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife’s biennium budget, especially on matters related to conservation, anti-poaching, and wolves. ODFW is asking the legislature to add 5 full-time employees to the wolf



## TAKE ACTION:

Be sure to sign up for our Wild Ones list in order to receive details about future opportunities to participate in lobby day efforts in Salem. Lobby days are a great way to tell your legislators why you care about wildlands, wildlife, and waters.

[WWW.OREGONWILD.ORG/WILDONES](http://WWW.OREGONWILD.ORG/WILDONES)

CHRISTOPHER WASHTOK

program, which we support, insofar as any additional taxpayer dollars are used to deploy non-lethal measures and continue research and monitoring, not hiring more staff to kill more wolves quickly.

- Last session, the Senate hit the pause button on approving two Fish & Wildlife Commission appointments. Now that the election is over (and two more seats are opening up on the Commission in

2019), we fully expect to spend a majority of our time in Salem advocating for non-biased, scientific-supporting candidates to be approved for the Commission. ©



# To the Potomac

Erik Fernandez, Wilderness Program Manager



After the midterm elections, everything and nothing has changed with the politics of protecting Oregon's public lands. While we are cautiously optimistic that the new Congress will be friendlier to the values Oregon Wild and our members hold dear, it's not going to be all rainbows and unicorns.

The national congressional landscape changed significantly, but Oregon's delegation didn't change at all. Senator Ron Wyden has long been influential on public lands issues, and Senator Jeff Merkley is quickly gaining influence. On the House side, our Democratic Representatives should be able to advance significant conservation measures. Republican Congressman Greg Walden remains a challenge on public lands. A decade ago, he voted in support of Oregon Wilderness, but more recently he has expressed sympathy for the Bundy movement.

Oregon hasn't protected any new Wilderness areas in Oregon in 10 years, one of the longer droughts in state history, which we hope to remedy.

## Ripe for a vote in Congress

The Oregon Wildlands Act includes Wilderness protections for the Wild Rogue and Devil's Staircase, and 250 miles of Wild and Scenic River designations for the Molalla, Nestucca, and other waterways. As of press time, this package of conservation bills is on the short list for what will be a chaotic end-of-year run in Congress. If it doesn't pass in 2018, it will be primed and ready for passage in the new Congress.

## Works in progress

Oregon Wild and our allies will advocate for key conservation proposals in the new Congress, including protections for:

- The Ochoco Mountains: a central Oregon gem, home to old-growth ponderosa pine forests, wildflower

meadows, fishing, and views that stretch from Mount Rainier to Mount Shasta.

- Crater Lake: a proposal to protect the recreational and wildlife corridors leading into and out of Oregon's only National Park. Currently, the Forest Service plans to log in these corridors right up to the edge of the park.
- Mount Hood: spectacular potential Wilderness areas like Tamanawas Falls and the Salmon River remain open to logging, as do hidden treasures like Boulder Lake.

## Defense

The forces of extraction will continue to advocate for more clearcutting of our National Forests and weakening bedrock environmental laws like the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. With the House flipping,



defense will be easier but not a walk in the park. We have held off some of the worst bills of the Trump era thus far, but the threats remain active.

In a split Congress deals will be cut, and we will need to be vigilant to ensure that Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters are not bartered away. ©

# Heading the call

Gaby Diaz, Membership & Event Manager



SHINO YANAGAWA

This year's *Call of the Wild* was another celebration for the books. Old friends and new gathered around the "campfire" at Leftbank Annex in a powerful display of support for our work across the state. Backed by local businesses, partners, and YOU, we raised **over \$60,000** to continue our work to keep Oregon wild!

Whether you bought a wildlife-inspired raffle ticket, tried your hand at the ring toss, gave generously during the program,

submitted a photo to our annual photo contest, or supported the event from afar, **thank you** for making this event so special.

We'd like to thank our supporters who bring the party - our **Tent Sponsors!** Thanks to Hillary Barbour, Lisa Billings, Rex Burkholder and Lydia Rich, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Outdoor Project, Curt and Julie Stevens, Clara Soh, Mellie Pullman, Seth Prickett with Mahonia Realty, JJ Lee-Kwai with Two Rivers

Mortgage, and Rhiannon Wood!

Our success is also due in part to a generous community of folks who either provided funding or donated goods, services, and time to make this our biggest event of the year. Many thanks to our business sponsors **Trailhead Credit Union** and **KEEN!**

We're also thankful for our **Oregon Brewshed® Alliance partners** who armed us with tasty libations for the evening and for our friends at La Bonita, Dick's Kitchen, and Devil's Food Catering for providing delicious camp inspired bites. A big thanks to **Something Borrowed** for transforming the space with their rustic décor, **XRAY.fm** for the on air promotion, **ProPhoto Supply** for our photo contest winner prints, and the Steelhead Stalkers Duo for serenading us. A special thank you to our board president Kate Blazar for

## OUTDOOR PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS 2018



*Clockwise from top left:*  
WILDLANDS  
*Alvord Desert, Daniel Gomez*



WATERS  
*White River Canyon, James Armstrong*  
WILDLIFE  
*Short-eared owl, Wendy Duncan*  
ENDANGERED PLACES  
*Owyhee River, James Parsons*



inspiring many of our supporters to give generously, our roaming Bear and Wolf, photographers Kelli Pennington and Shino Yanagawa, and stellar volunteers.

Last but not least, thank you to the dozens of businesses who provided items for our silent auction. This wide ranging community supports our efforts

to protect places across the state like the Ochoco Mountains, Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, and the Nehalem River (just to name a few!).

All in all, thank you to everyone who made *Call of the Wild* such a success. We look forward to seeing you at next year's Call of the Wild on **Friday, October 11, 2019 at Leftbank Annex!** ©



# Vive tu propia aventura (*Live your own adventure*)

Mackenzie Martinz & Jorge Guzman, Vive NW



Founded in 2016, Vive NW was created to connect the Latino/a community and other diverse communities to the outdoors by providing powerful and enriching experiences offered through nature. Our mission is to culturally diversify participation in the outdoors and empower all communities to live a more engaged and active lifestyle while creating a sense of ownership and stewardship towards nature.

Vive NW evolved from the highly-successful Hispanicpros, a networking and mentoring organization with 4,000+ members, founded in 2008. Hispanicpros is geared towards the development of Latino/a students, professionals, and entrepreneurs. Headquartered in downtown Portland, Oregon, Vive NW is the only organization in the Pacific

Northwest focused on increasing diversity in the outdoors and outdoor industries through outdoor experiences, research, and workforce diversity. Jorge Guzman, founder of both Hispanicpros and Vive NW, serves as the Executive Director.

Vive NW and Oregon Wild have partnered in the past to create unbelievable

outdoor experiences for our Vive NW members. The most recent trip together was on October 20th where both organizations visited one of Oregon's 7 Wonders: The Painted Hills! The fun weekend getaway consisted of a hike in the beautiful Ochoco Mountains and then an overnight stay near the Painted Hills. The action packed

weekend started with a 4-mile loop at Lookout Mountain in the Ochoco Mountains. During this beautiful hike we saw old-growth ponderosa pines and caught incredible views. After the fun hike in Ochocos, we headed over to Spoke'n Hostel for our overnight stay. Oregon Wild, Vive NW, and our members, ended our Saturday night with a group dinner, bonfire and stargazing. On Sunday the 21st,

we headed over to the Painted Hills to catch the incredible breathtaking sights. It was an amazing trip and Vive NW looks forward to continuing to collaborate with Oregon Wild for years to come. Find out more at [www.vivenw.org](http://www.vivenw.org).<sup>®</sup>

**LEA ESTE ARTÍCULO  
EN ESPAÑOL:  
[WWW.OREGONWILD.ORG](http://WWW.OREGONWILD.ORG)**



# Oregon's sleeping economic giant - outdoor recreation

Sean Stevens, Executive Director



MARIELLE COWDIN

In January 2018, the country's largest outdoor-industry trade show opened for the first time in Denver after 20 years in Utah. The big move followed years of feuding between show organizers and Utah politicians who had grown increasingly hostile to public lands protection.

The move stood out as a high-profile political statement from an increasingly activist industry. It wasn't just traditionally eco-minded companies like Patagonia and KEEN speaking out, but an entire industry rejecting attacks on National Monuments and pushing back against public lands privatization schemes.

While Utah politicians may collect big campaign contributions from oil and gas companies, the trade show move alone is estimated to cost their actual constituents \$45 million in lost economic activity every year.

The awakening of the outdoor recreation industry is happening all across the country – and with recent developments, Oregon is now set to lead the way.

Industry data tells a big part of the story. In Oregon alone, outdoor recreation accounts for 172,000 direct jobs and \$16.4 billion in consumer spending.

Nationally, spending on camping gear, birding trips, and bike racks is a bigger part of the economy than pharmaceuticals and automobiles.

Thankfully, industry leaders recognize that the strength of those economic numbers is built on the foundation of public lands. Here in Oregon, an unprecedented coalition is

forming to speak louder for the outdoors.

## The three-legged stool

Recognizing their shared interests and a lack of strategic coordination, leaders from the outdoor industry, recreation groups, and conservation non-profits came together in 2018 to form **Oregon Outdoors** – a coalition dedicated to the preservation of Oregon's outdoor assets for future generations.

With over 30 members and growing, Oregon Outdoors has already weighed in to support federal legislation like the Oregon Wildlands Act and the re-authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Closer to home, we've identified priorities around increasing funding for equitable access to the outdoors and protecting state forests from excessive logging.

Oregon Wild has served on the steering committee of Oregon Outdoors since its inception and we are excited to see how this coalition can change the

conversation in the state capitol where logging lobbyists and other extractive industries have long held sway. Protecting public lands has always been the right thing to do for so many intrinsic reasons. It just so happens that it is also the right thing to do for Oregon's bottom line. ☺



[www.oregonoutdoors.org](http://www.oregonoutdoors.org)

## IN OREGON OUTDOOR RECREATION GENERATES:

**\$16.4 BILLION**  
IN CONSUMER SPENDING ANNUALLY



**172,000**  
DIRECT JOBS



**\$5.1 BILLION**  
IN WAGES AND SALARIES



**\$749 MILLION**  
IN STATE AND LOCAL TAX REVENUE



OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION



# Conservation roundup

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director



SVITLANA IMNADZE

## Elections 2018

Most of the November elections news coverage focused on the “Trump effect” and the huge swing in the House. The results have big implications for Americas’ environment and public lands.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, the incoming Democratic majority means anti-public lands, anti-wildlife zealot Rob Bishop (R-UT) is losing his chairmanship of the

House Natural Resources Committee. He will be replaced by Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), an environmental champion who plans oversight hearings to look into the potentially criminal behavior of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. With Grijalva chairing the committee, the door is open for Oregon Reps Earl Blumenauer and Peter DeFazio to advance Oregon Wilderness and wildlife protection bills.

The Senate will remain a tough place for conservation, but recent

years have seen occasional pro-environment bills sneak through. With the change in the House, there is again the potential to win conservation gains through compromise “omnibus” bills that package multiple measures together. Senator Ron Wyden will be key on both advancing conservation and blocking efforts to include poison pills into new Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers legislation.

At the state level, Governor Kate

Brown’s re-election and larger Democratic majorities in the state legislature should, in theory, open the door to a stronger environmental agenda. The 2019 legislative session will likely focus on budget shortfalls, education funding, and passing a climate change bill. A key question is how Democrats will view the logging companies and polluting industries who gave nearly \$1 million to Brown’s opponent, and spent heavily against Democrats. Will the governor and legislative leaders finally stand up to them?

## Taking Trump to court

The Trump administration is keeping our attorneys busy. Hearings are scheduled in January in both the legal battle

over the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (which logging interests and the Trump administration wish to shrink) and the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges (where agribusiness drains wetlands and displaces wildlife).

We are also working to reform – or block – a variety of destructive logging proposals stretching from the Lostine River in Northeast Oregon to the east slope of Mount Hood.

And we are gearing up for a fight over the BLM’s plans to log the Thurston Hills Project near Eugene, which includes popular recreation trails. ☺



DREW WATSON

# Twelve months of wild

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

The threats facing Oregon's wildlands are as varied as the landscapes themselves. But one thing they all have in common is that The Oregon Wild Evergreen Society plays an essential role in helping us fend them off - *each and every month*. Evergreen members' monthly support allows us to more effectively plan out our campaigns and provides the flexibility to respond to urgent threats. Here are some successes we achieved thanks to our Evergreen members:

In **January**, we secured a victory for wildlife in the Malheur National Forest through our public lands monitoring program. In **February**, we dealt a blow to the timber industry's anti-public lands agenda by convincing the state's most populous county - Multnomah - to withdraw from the Association of O&C Counties. In **March**, we launched the "Clearcut Express" in Portland - MAX trains and Trimet buses carried our message exposing the timber industry and calling for modernizing our forest practices.

**April** featured a special Earth

Day film screening with Soul River Inc. highlighting the need for more diversity in the conservation movement. We hosted our 3rd annual Oregon Brewshed® Alliance Brewfest in **May** showcasing its 60+ brewery industry partners advocating for clean watershed protections. In **June**, we halted industry efforts to allow rampant salvage logging in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

In **July**, Devil's Staircase got one step closer to permanent protection as Rep. DeFazio reintroduced our bill (Senators Wyden and Merkley reintroduced the Senate companion bill, the Oregon Wildlands Act, shortly thereafter). In **August**, we scored a victory to protect wildlife habitat and clean water when a judge ruled overwhelmingly in our favor, rejecting a reckless OHV plan in the Ochoco National Forest. That same month, we partnered with Soul River, engaging youth and veterans in exploring and advocating for the Ochocos! In **September**, we hosted a special "Wild Women" event celebrating

the invaluable leadership of women throughout the conservation community!

**October** brought the release of our "Forest Defense is Climate Defense" report, kicking off a series of statewide public forums highlighting the climate impacts of logging and how managing our forests for carbon storage can slow climate change! In **November**, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act with events statewide. **December**, well, it's too early to tell. But defeating a dangerous effort by this lame duck Congress to roll back protections for wolves and significantly weaken the Endangered Species Act is atop our wishlist. ☺

If you're already an Evergreen member, thank you for standing with us! If not, please consider joining - for the cost of one lunch a month, you can rest assured that, no matter the threat, you'll be helping us keep Oregon wild!

[WWW.OREGONWILD.ORG](http://WWW.OREGONWILD.ORG)



SEAN HASELDEN



# Migrations

When the Bundys brought their brand of anti-public lands extremism to Oregon, we quickly realized that we needed to organize and push back. Thanks to the Wyss Fellowship program, we were able to do just that by hiring **Alex Harris** in 2016 as a Public Lands Fellow. Now, after two years of grassroots events, activist trainings, challenging county politicians with cozy ties to the timber industry, and highlighting the connections between forest protection and climate defense, Alex's two-year fellowship with Oregon Wild is

ALEX HARRIS



coming to an end. We'll miss his ever-present passion and the amazing example he sets for truly enjoying work and life. We hope he finds some "juicy" (a favorite adjective of Alex's) old-growth wherever his future adventures take him! Thank you Alex!

In September, we bid farewell to two Oregon Wild board members – **Nathan Kennedy** and **Brett Sommermeyer**. Both Nathan and Brett helped see us through the development of our last strategic plan and served in leadership. A special thanks goes to Nathan for his financial acumen in the Treasurer role and to Brett for stepping into the Vice President role before Seattle (and exciting opportunities with Sea Shepherd Legal) called.

Also at the board level, we are excited to announce that **Kate Blazar** has taken the reins as our newest board president! Kate's years of experience in the environmental non-profit field will be a huge asset in her new role and she will be surrounded by an all-female executive team on the board. Big thanks to Kate for

stepping up and to **Vik Anantha** for his years of service as the preceding board president. ©



NATHAN KENNEDY  
BRETT SOMMERMEYER



## OREGON WILD WINTER OUTINGS



NACHIKET.RAJDERKAR

🚣 Saturday, January 12  
Walton Lake Cross-Country Ski Adventure (BEND) *Easy-Moderate, 4.5 miles*

🚣 Sunday, February 10  
Walton Lake Cross-Country Snowshoe Hike (BEND) *Easy-Moderate, 4.5 miles*

🚰 Saturday, January 12  
Upper McKenzie River Snowshoe Hike (EUG) *Moderate, 4.3 miles*

🚣 Date TBD  
Twin Lakes Snowshoe Hike (PDX) *Moderate, 4 miles*

🚰 Sunday, February 3  
Diamond Creek Falls Snowshoe Hike (EUG) *Moderate, 4 miles*

Oregon Wild guided outings are free and welcome all ages and abilities. Find your wild. To sign up or learn more, check out: [oregonwild.org](http://oregonwild.org)



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NATIONAL REC AREA WITH PROPOSED WILDERNESS



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# TOP 10 REASONS TO SUPPORT OREGON WILD:

1. To ensure **FUTURE GENERATIONS** have enough clean water, open space, and habitat to thrive.
2. To advance the #1 thing Oregon can do to help **FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE** – reform our outdated forest management laws.
3. To prevent privatization of public lands by the Trump Administration, especially in one of the most ecologically diverse places in the country: **CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT**.
4. To be a strong voice for **IMPERILED WILDLIFE** and our last-remaining **OLD-GROWTH FORESTS**.
5. In support of our efforts to make Oregon's conservation community **AN INCLUSIVE, REPRESENTATIVE, AND EQUITABLE MOVEMENT**, giving rise to the critical missing or diminished voices in our state.
6. In honor of the 50th anniversary of the **WILD & SCENIC RIVERS ACT**.
7. To **HONOR YOUR UNIQUE WAY** of connecting to and experiencing nature.
8. To protect **CRATER LAKE, DEVIL'S STAIRCASE, THE WILD ROGUE, AND THE OCHOCOS** as Wilderness – improving our state's small (4%) percentage of protected Wilderness – the lowest amount on the entire west coast.
9. To help us continue **WATCHDOGGING** the approximately 200 projects proposed each year that could have significant impacts on our public lands, clean water, and wildlife habitat.
10. Because although the Trump Administration is temporary, without **STRONG ADVOCACY FOR CONSERVATION**, its negative impact on Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters could be long-lasting.

CALEB JACOBSON

Become an **EVERGREEN MEMBER** today!

Starting at just \$10 a month, it's the best way to support our work.

Find out how at [www.oregonwild.org](http://www.oregonwild.org).