

# OREGON WILD

Summer 2022 Volume 49, Number 2

THE STORY OF OUR FORESTS

Also: Wolves and wolverines win in court!



**OREGON WILD**

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

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GARY G. MILLER Opal Creek Wilderness



# From the Director's Desk Tiny worlds, big implications

Sean Stevens, Executive Director

Recently, when my wife and I had our niece over for a sleepover, we stumbled across the show *Tiny World*. Focusing on the smallest creatures (some of them seemingly impossibly small, like a snake the size of half a piece of spaghetti!), this series left us all utterly amazed by what nature is capable of. It had me thinking about the things unseen that deserve our attention and reverence.

We've talked a lot lately at Oregon Wild about "Letting Giants Grow" and protecting old-growth forests for their role in staving off climate disaster (see overleaf). And, no doubt, staring up at a 200-foot ponderosa pine, towering above the forest floor, you definitely feel a bit humbled by your place in the world.

But when we talk about protecting massive ancient forests, Wilderness areas, free-flowing rivers, and the like, what are we actually saving? Yes, the giant trees - their carbon-

storing trunks that you can't wrap your arms around; the furrowed bark that comes only with age - but looking closer we realize that we are really seeking to protect the minute operations of ecosystems that make this whole planet spin.

The crazy thing is, we sometimes barely seem to have scratched the

surface in terms of understanding nature's intricate workings. Too often, a critical ecosystem function relied on by wildlife and humans alike is destroyed or impaired before we even knew its importance.

It's why Oregon Wild has always sought to save the best of what's left as a core part of our mission.

We have only protected 4% of our state as Wilderness and something like 85% of our old growth is gone. If we don't urgently act to safeguard what's left, who knows what tiny worlds across the state will be essentially lost forever. ☹

It seems there is a new generation of nature documentaries hitting your favorite streaming service these days. For those who grew up watching Jacques Cousteau or were left gob-smacked by David Attenborough's *Planet Earth* there is magic in seeing far-flung wonders and the amazing species that call them home being given the full Hollywood treatment.

At their best, these documentaries don't just wow us with amazing camera work. They also contextualize species trying to survive in unique biomes, struggling against competitors, predators, and weather while always fighting the forces of modernization around them that shrink their space in the world.



CHRISTY PITTO Scorpionfly.

# The future of our forests

Chandra LeGue,  
Senior Conservation Advocate

In May 2018, I joined Expedition Old Growth for an ascent into a 200-year-old tree on the edge of the Opal Creek Wilderness. My view from roughly 150 feet up in the canopy lasted just 10 minutes, but it gave me a new perspective on everything this tree had witnessed in its life: the rise and fall of a mining community, the growth of an education center, legislation permanently protecting its watershed, and the many people who had come to marvel at the forest ecosystem it belongs to. This tree stood when lightning ignited a fire a few miles away in the summer of 2020 and later, driven by strong winds through its branches, the ensuing fire reduced many of its neighbors to blackened trunks. If it survived, this tree's seeds will contribute to a forest reborn, just as its predecessors have done for tens of thousands of years.

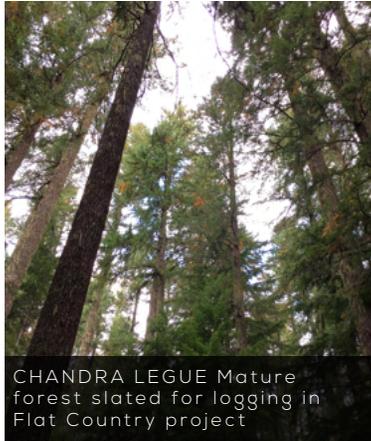
Forests are constantly subject to the whims of nature - wind, snow, disease, and fire - but in the last century, they have also become



CHANDRA LEGUE Climbing a tree in Opal Creek.

subject to the forces of the modern human-made socio-political landscape. These human factors have become increasingly dominant in determining whether forests are protected and allowed to grow, or slated for logging. For the tree that I ascended, located in a protected area where humans value the naturally regrowing forest for the many ecosystem benefits it provides, the future is far different than on some nearby lands. There, logging of burned trees and quick conversion to the next profitable crop is prioritized.

But what about other trees across Oregon? In what ways do the needs and desires of people shape the fate of trees and forests?



CHANDRA LEGUE Mature forest slated for logging in Flat Country project

Let's say that one tree, a Douglas-fir, matured near the headwaters of the McKenzie River, in the Willamette National Forest. It sprouted along with a cohort of siblings when a raging fire burned through its parents' stand, killing most that were there. In the 100 years since, it's grown quickly along with its neighbors, nourished by the nutrients returned to the soil through fire and decay, adding girth at a steady rate while its limbs reached for the sky. The dense canopy shades out most undergrowth, but ferns and other shrubs have started to grow

on the ground below. Lately, some young seedlings of hemlock and hardwoods have sprouted in small openings left by fallen trees that succumbed to competition or were toppled by wind.

A third of the way through this tree's life, a plan - the Northwest Forest Plan - was created to protect and restore some of the last remaining habitat for wildlife and fish after decades of logging. While similar trees were protected, the Plan drew lines that landed

this tree in the "matrix" designation and made it vulnerable to logging. Though it has avoided the chainsaw and bulldozer for decades to grow and mature, increasing timber harvest targets set by Congress have turned the Forest Service managers towards this tree's forest. Far below its canopy, foresters and biologists argue over the value of mature trees - better for lumber or to develop over time into habitat for owls, tree voles, and other wildlife?

*"... There are no ecological justifications for harvesting more than 2,000 acres of mature forest in the Flat Country Project. ... It is time to stop logging magnificent mature forests like those in the Flat Country Project once and for all. These forests simply contribute too much ecologically, socially, and spiritually in their current state."*

- Jerry Franklin and Norm Johnson, professors emeritus at University of Washington and Oregon State University in a Eugene Register-Guard opinion, April 27, 2021.



## WatchDog

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

In between work, school, taking care of the kids, paying bills, house projects, seeing friends, and maybe even getting out for a hike or two, have you had a chance to thoroughly monitor and review the 200+ detailed timber sales and other proposals the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have proposed for our public lands over the past year?

What about the potentially huge negative impacts those proposals could have on old-growth forests, native wildlife, and clean water?

No? It sounds like you could use a WatchDog.

With all that life throws at us, it's no wonder that almost nobody has the time, know-how, and expertise to watchdog the seemingly endless threats to our public lands. Thank goodness for WatchDog!

Each and every year, Oregon Wild's Restoration & Conservation Coordinator, Doug Heiken, monitors the hundreds of proposals that threaten to clearcut our forests, despoil our waterways, and shrink critical wildlife habitats.

Just a few months ago, Doug turned 60 years old. For nearly half of those years, he's been a vigilant watchdog for Oregon's forests, rivers, and native species. And with literally hundreds of proposals threatening our public lands coming down the pipe every year, we all need and rely on WatchDog.

Make a special donation today in honor of "WatchDog" Heiken.



While the debate rages, plans for logging in this tree's forest advance. Crews have marked some neighboring trees to be cut. Will this tree become old-growth or will it be cut before reaching the grand potential that eons of evolution have gifted it?

**Another Douglas fir stands miles to the west**, on a knoll on the eastern edge of the Coast Range. The hillsides and drainages comprising its view have all been clearcut multiple times. Over the 300 years since it was a seedling,

the tree has survived the long saws of homesteaders, the bulldozing of roads, and the industrial clearcutting frenzy of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The forest it stands in is an island, a few hundred acres of natural forest that is today managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) surrounded by corporate-owned lands managed for timber production. This tree nurtures nesting birds and wildlife, and filters the water that springs from near its base. Its stand is a visual salve for the people who live

nearby and walk under its canopy seeking golden chanterelles each fall after the rains come.

Under the same Plan that left the mature tree to the east vulnerable, this tree was protected as critical habitat for spotted owls that once frequented its branches. But the original Northwest Forest Plan is slowly disintegrating and BLM's new policies are set up to defy public challenges and implement logging plans that put this small old-growth oasis at risk. At the same time leaders and scientists

around the world call for protections of our oldest forests, ancient stands like this are being targeted for profit once again. Perhaps this ancient tree will remain standing, its value measured for more than the reductive board-foot.

**A 400-year-old ponderosa pine stands in eastern Oregon** - with thick orange bark that fits together like a puzzle. At its base is a blackened scar, healed over and reopened multiple times by the low ground fires the tree has

experienced in its centuries of life. It doesn't grow in rich soil; it grows slowly - adding tiny rings and tons of stored carbon each year. Cavities formed by snapping branches and boring insects - expanded by woodpeckers - have become nests and dens for countless wildlife.

Protected a few decades ago by the "eastside screens" rule for trees 21 inches in diameter or larger, it's been allowed to thrive here in the backcountry, where the cutting of large pines wasn't as devastating



CHANDRA LEGUE Old forest logging on BLM land, leaving few standing trees.

as in other areas. In 2008, Oregon Wild worked with Senator Ron Wyden and other partners to develop legislation that would protect these old and large trees, while promoting the restoration of eastside forests. Unfortunately, Congress couldn't agree to move this forward.

Cousins to this pine that lived closer to human communities have lately been subject to much discussion where local groups and forest managers have said they want to focus on restoring fire-resilient forests, thinning small trees, and lighting managed

fires to mimic a natural ecosystem. But this work is expensive, and some large, old pines were cut to help fund it.

Public opinion and scientific knowledge about the importance of large trees like this pine have not changed, but the politics have. Loopholes and excuses for cutting more of these trees have expanded - even in the backcountry where this tree lives. Under the Trump administration, the US Forest Service went so far as to roll back the 21" protection rule. The future for this tree remains uncertain.



ERIK FERNANDEZ Large trees cut along Phil's Trail near Bend.

*"...local residents in Bend are furious with the Forest Service for a timber sale that involved logging older, fire-resistant trees along a popular mountain bike trail outside town in the name of wildfire prevention. That's just one example of the kind of timber sales around the state where environmentalists say federal agencies offer up older trees to make the sales more economically attractive to timber companies."*

- Ted Sickinger, The Oregonian, April 23, 2022

#### **The view from the canopy:**

Like the lives of these trees, forest advocacy comes with evolving challenges and growth. At times, strong winds batter a tree's branches and test the strength of its roots; or a drought makes it difficult to grow at all - like being up against political forces pushing hard against conservation. At other times, water and nutrients are plentiful and growth is rapid - as when the political climate is

favorable for environmental protections.

As we look to the future, Oregon Wild will use the tools we've developed over many years and our collective human force to protect these trees and forests from forces that seek to exploit them. Some of the trees and forests growing in the wildest places in Oregon, like the tree on the edge

of the Opal Creek Wilderness, have been permanently protected through our work - enjoying designations as Wilderness or Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Public pressure is mounting to protect mature trees like the one targeted for logging in the McKenzie River watershed. The timber sale threatening that tree, called Flat Country, is opposed by a growing chorus of scientists,



GEORGE SEXTON Rep. Peter DeFazio in the woods.

politicians, and activists. Through the Climate Forests Campaign and President Biden's Executive Order (see page 9), a call for protecting mature and old-growth forests and the role they play as a natural climate solution is loud and clear.

That old-growth Douglas-fir in the island of BLM forest is still standing because of Oregon Wild defensive work (see WatchDoug

*“One of the best tools we have in the fight against climate change is protecting our natural world, particularly our old-growth forests which are a leading source of carbon sequestration.”*

- Rep. Peter DeFazio, from a press release by Congressional offices on April 22, 2022 regarding the E.O.

on page 5). We're ensuring forests like those are protected as essential wildlife habitat, even as shortcuts in environmental analysis and public involvement allow aggressive logging for the sole purpose of producing timber at the expense of all else.

Ancient ponderosa pines were, for years, protected through important rules like the Eastside Screens and a focus on restoration and collaboration. With large tree protections off the table, we're standing up for these forests in court and filing litigation with our allies to reinstate them. And where we once saw hope in finding common ground around restoration needs in these forests, a breakdown in agreement has led us to stand firm against arguments to log our biggest, oldest pines.

From the perspective of a tree which can live for hundreds of years, the wild swings of human forces through the decades are hard to conceive. The fact

*“What once was an opportunity for diverse interests to find common ground and guide the Forest Service to better outcomes has become another place to create a mirage of public support for increasingly controversial logging practices and projects. We can no longer allow Oregon Wild's name to lend credibility to these efforts.”*

- Jamie Dawson, Public Lands Campaigner, Oregon Wild, in a press release regarding the organization's withdrawal from the Ochoco Forest Collaborative.

remains, the fate of these forests is very much subject to human whims and the victories and defeats of those fighting to protect them. It's our goal at Oregon Wild, with the support of people like you, to allow ancient trees and forests the opportunity

to keep growing and adding to the beautiful complexity of nature with as little impact from our brief (and shortsighted) human influence as possible. With your help, the future of these forests can be bright. ☺



CHANDRA LEGUE Old-growth ponderosa pine



## President Biden takes the first step to protect our climate forests

Victoria Wingell, Forests and Climate Campaigner

**“These are the forests that store, sequester incredible amounts of carbon and help us fight climate change...” - President Joe Biden Apr 22, 2022**

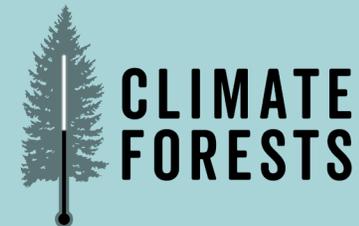
On Earth Day, President Biden announced an Executive Order that recognized the importance of mature and old-growth forests and started a process that could lead to their protection. The order directs the Forest Service and Department of the Interior (home to the US Bureau of Land Management) to inventory and map America's remaining mature and old-growth forests, analyze threats to their continuing survival, and develop policies to protect them. In the past, the Forest Service and BLM have refused to protect mature

forests, or even acknowledge their value. Most recently, David Hayes (President Biden's climate policy czar) set the bar at protecting trees 80 years and older. This is a huge step forward.

Unfortunately, Biden's order stopped short of protecting these forests from their #1 threat: logging across federal public lands. We know we have our work cut out for us to ensure lasting, durable protection from this grave threat.

Oregon Wild is driving the Climate Forests Coalition, comprised of over 100 groups nationally, to raise awareness about the importance of our climate forests. Through rallies, webinars,

social media campaigns, and collaborations with grassroots organizations, the coalition is mobilizing hundreds of thousands of activists across the country to elevate forest conservation as a climate policy solution as important as solar power and wind turbines. We will be pushing Biden to use the mountain of existing evidence to begin drafting rules to protect these trees and forests in parallel with the national inventory making.



# Fur and feathers: an Oregon wildlife update

Ally Fisher and Danielle Moser, Wildlife Program Team



USFWS Middle Fork Wolf

## Wolves

Earlier this spring, the annual wolf count was released by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), revealing a tumultuous year for our state's recovering wolf population. When wolves first returned to Oregon, there was robust annual population growth. Unfortunately, since wolves were removed from the state endangered species list in 2015, their growth and dispersal have slowed considerably. Last year's growth rate of 1.16% is a new low and underscores a wolf population in crisis.

By the numbers: minimum known wolf count in 2021 was 175 (up by only two from 2020); breeding pairs went down from 17 to 16; there were 26 known wolf

mortalities, 21 of them human-caused - 8 were killed by ODFW, 8 were poached, 4 were struck by vehicles and the last one was killed by a rancher.

There's no hiding the fact that human-caused mortality is the number one factor putting the species' recovery in jeopardy. And as more wolves attempt to disperse out of NE Oregon into other suitable habitat around the state, we must allow them to do so without harm.

That's why Oregon Wild is working hard at the state and federal levels to address those issues standing in the way of significant wolf recovery across Oregon: rampant poaching, lack of federal protections for wolves in

Eastern Oregon, and insufficient safe wildlife crossing structures over major roads and highways.

## Legal Victories for Oregon's Wildlife

While there's much work to do to ensure Oregon's wolf population can thrive across the state, we were elated when earlier this year a federal district court struck down a Trump administration decision from 2020 that removed federal protections from gray wolves across much of the U.S. For Oregon specifically, that means wolves found West of Highway 395 have federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections once again!

In other legal victory news, the red tree vole - a vulnerable species that lives in nests at the top of old-growth trees - has been given another chance for ESA listing. In response to litigation filed by



ODFW Wenaha pups

## Gray wolves beat Trump in Court!

Jonathan Jelen, Development Director

In February, a federal district court ruled in favor of Oregon Wild and partners by striking down a 2020 Trump Administration decision that removed Endangered Species Act protections from gray wolves across much of the U.S.

**As a result of our successful lawsuit, federal Endangered Species Act protections have been reinstated for wolves in Western Oregon and 43 other states!**

While victories like this are inspiring, our work isn't done. Present and future generations of keystone species like gray wolves, sea otters, and condors depend on us to be their voice. And sadly, with never-ending anti-wildlife proposals at the

state and federal levels continuing to threaten the future of wildlife in Oregon, we'll need to be a strong voice for wildlife for generations to come.

With that in mind, we'd like to ask you to please consider including Oregon Wild in your planned giving. Planned giving isn't just for the wealthy. Whether your bequest is \$500 or \$5 million, you'll help ensure that future generations of wildlife always have a voice.

To make this easy, we've partnered with FreeWill to offer Oregon Wild supporters a free tool to help take care of who and what you value most. **To access this tool and include Oregon Wild as part of your legacy, go to: [www.freewill.com/oregonwild](http://www.freewill.com/oregonwild)**

# Our **PRICKLIEST** Wildlife Webcast Yet



## Porcupine of the Pacific Northwest (July 20th at 6PM)

Although porcupines may be slowpokes, most other animals know to keep a wide berth from those razor-sharp quills! The porcupine's prickly self-defense mechanism makes it easily recognizable, but their importance in Pacific Northwest ecosystems is often less recognized.

Having evolved with forests, these rodents are directly intertwined with healthy forest lifecycles, turning trees into critical habitat for a multitude of other species. Biologist Cara Appeal from Oregon State University will uncover the mysteries surrounding Oregon's second-largest rodent and forest habitat engineer.

Oregon Wild and wildlife conservation partners, on May 25<sup>th</sup>, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) agreed to reconsider whether red tree voles on Oregon's North Coast warrant more protections. The Service has until January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, to make a decision.

As one of few mammals that can subsist entirely on conifer needles, tree voles rarely venture from the treetops to the ground, making them vulnerable to forest fragmentation. With the loss of ancient forests due to logging and fire, tree voles have been nearly eliminated from the North Coast of Oregon, including on the Tillamook and Clatsop state forests. That's why this recent decision is so important for the future of this imperiled Oregon species.

Last but not least, on May 31<sup>st</sup> a federal judge invalidated a Trump administration decision denying protections to wolverines under

the ESA. This is the second time a court has rejected a Service decision to deny protections for wolverines, which number only about 300 in the contiguous U.S. This update immediately reinstated wolverines as a "candidate" species proposed for listing.

Wolverines rely on snow year-round, something climate change is putting at risk. With their large paws, wolverines can travel easily over snow, and often rely on deep snow for hunting, denning, and rearing of young. Snow is also a "freezer" that permits the wolverine to store and scavenge food. Given the growing threats to wolverines and their specific habitat needs, it's imperative the Service take this into consideration when making their final determination.

Learn more  
about these  
important  
wildlife wins:



## Condors

On a sunny day in early May, the Yurok Tribe, in partnership with Redwoods National and State Parks, released two California condors (prey-go-neesh) in Northern California. This momentous occasion marks the furthest north the species has been since it was extirpated from the region over a century ago.

Condor A3 took flight first. His nickname, Poy'we-son, translates

to "the one who goes ahead". This name also harkens back to the traditional title for a headman of a village who helps lead and guide the village in a good way. The sight of Poy'we-son taking flight delighted hundreds of livestreaming onlookers and wellwishers, but also clearly intimidated nearby turkey vultures, scaring them away! Smaller scavengers will have to get used to the species at the top of the food chain being back again; the Yurok's restoration program seeks to reintroduce condors each year for 20 years into the future.

After a brief pause, and bated breath from onlookers, A2 followed his friend into the wild. Condor A2 is nicknamed Nes-kwe-chokw', translating to "He returns" or "He arrives", and was born in Oregon. With the ability to fly up to 150 miles per day, he may well return to be the first California condor in Oregon skies in generations! ©

# Anglers and hunters support river protections

This spring, over 40 angling and hunting businesses, organizations, and community groups from across Oregon released a letter in support of Senator Ron Wyden and Senator Jeff Merkley's "River Democracy Act" legislation. One of those businesses is Oregon Pack Works, a hunting pack company owned by Karl Findling of Bend. Karl grew up in eastern Oregon and is a stalwart advocate for our state's public lands and wild rivers.

"As a lifelong Oregon fisherman, big game, and bird hunter, I've seen the connection between healthy riparian zones, clean water, and robust fish and wildlife populations firsthand. For hunters and anglers, rivers are the lifeblood of our way of life. Wild and Scenic protections will increase the possibility that clean water will run for fish, wildlife, and for many future generations of Oregonians. My business relies on robust opportunities for hunting and fishing, and I applaud Senator Wyden's efforts to increase Wild and Scenic protections across our great state."



KARL FINDLING

# Will we finally protect the Wild Rogue?

Jamie Dawson, Public Lands Campaigner

This spring brought us some great news on long-awaited protections for the Wild Rogue in the form of Congressman Peter DeFazio's "Wild Rogue Conservation and Recreation Enhancement Act"! The House bill joins the "Oregon Recreation Enhancement Act" introduced by Senators Wyden and Merkley, which has received bipartisan support in the Senate.

Despite its breathtaking beauty, destructive mining, reckless road-building, and misguided logging projects have long plagued the Rogue. This legislation is the result of a decades-long effort by conservationists and river lovers to call attention to these threats and urging permanent protections for the beloved Rogue River and its surrounding wildlands. DeFazio's bill would protect 59,000 acres of forested roadless area as Wilderness, including picturesque spots like Rainie Falls. Wilderness designation will safeguard carbon-storing old-growth forests and will prohibit clearcut logging and road-building projects that would degrade the

landscape and increase fire risk. The bill also proposes a 98,000-acre public lands National Recreation Area that would wrap around the Wilderness area, steering conservation and recreation management of the special landscape beyond the areas that qualify for Wilderness.

Rivers and streams would be protected from new mining claims and dams, which is especially important for the sturgeon, steelhead, Chinook salmon, and Coho salmon that spawn in the region. By safeguarding the smaller tributary streams that feed into the Rogue River will also help maintain the backbone of one of Oregon's most important sport and commercial fishing industries.

The wildlands surrounding the river are also integral to wildlife habitat connectivity and migration, acting as a link between inland and coastal habitats. Roosevelt elk, bald eagle, osprey, northern spotted owl, black bear, and cougar are just a few of the species that call this area home.

From hiking along the Rogue River Trail, to rafting and fishing the famous Wild & Scenic River, the Wild Rogue is an enchanting landscape that is more than deserving of these protections. We are so grateful to Rep. DeFazio and our Senators for their efforts to safeguard this landscape and will do all we can to see its passage into law. ☺



HANNA ANDERSON Rogue River

# Conservation round up

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director



PAUL THOMSON Mt. Hood

## A Step Backwards for Mount Hood Protection

Public lands around Mount Hood are facing a growing list of environmental threats, from commercial logging to overcrowding to climate change. That is why Oregon Wild was pleased when Rep. Earl Blumenauer released a proposal for new legislation to address these threats in December of 2021. His proposal envisioned protecting 30,000 acres of endangered forests as Wilderness (including protection for threatened areas like Tamanawas Falls), a new protected buffer along the Pacific Crest Trail, and a 350,000 acre National Recreation Area (NRA) designation that would prioritize environmental, recreational, and scenic values over logging.

Unfortunately, the actual legislation Blumenauer introduced on May 9th (dubbed the REC Act) largely abandoned his commitments to protect Mount Hood. Proposed new Wilderness was gutted down to just 7,500 acres, with the protections for forests most urgently threatened by logging (and nearly everything on the east side of the mountain) stripped. Blumenauer's proposed NRA language actually expanded the Forest Service's rationales for logging (including logging to enhance scenic values). Pacific Crest Trail safeguards were deleted.

The REC Act does contain some laudable ideas, including a stronger role for Native American Tribes in management decisions, better transportation planning,

and direction to create more equitable access and recreation opportunities for low-income communities and persons of color. However, at the end of the day, this bill does little to address the core threats facing Mount Hood, and Oregon Wild cannot support it.

## Elliott State Forest Old-Growth Protected

The 80,000-acre Elliott State Forest – Oregon's only old-growth state forest – has long been threatened with clearcut logging. Decades ago, the state linked revenues from logging there to funding for the Oregon Common School Fund, which pitted conservation values against education. When the State Land Board proposed to privatize and sell the Elliott in 2016 to get

around environmental protections, Oregonians reacted with fury.

Now, five years later, the Elliott and its old-growth are finally getting permanent protection. In March, the Oregon Legislature passed SB 1546 and provided \$221 million dollars to the Oregon Common School Fund while transferring the Elliott to Oregon State University. The debate over its future isn't over, but this is a giant step forward.



GREG VAUGHN  
Elliott State Forest

## Private Forest Accord Signed

The landmark agreement reached between Oregon Wild, our conservation allies, and the logging industry to vastly improve Oregon's private forest regulations was signed into law by Governor Kate Brown at a ceremony in mid-May. The package of policy updates, dubbed the Private Forest Accord, will expand no-cut buffers around streams, increase protections for landslide-prone hillsides, overhaul the extensive logging roads network, and much more. ©

See remarks from Executive Director Sean Stevens at the bill signing:



# Migrations and spring growth



**Ellen Yarnell**

As the trees budded and new baby critters entered the world, Oregon Wild experienced some spring growth. But before before we grew, we had to bid the fondest of farewells to **Ellen Yarnell**, who retired from a long career in finance that ended with her tenure as our Finance Manager. We will miss a lot about Ellen - her mix of cheery optimism and dire climate doomsaying; her love of permaculture and her quick advice about herbal remedies; and her passion for Oregon Wild and deep appreciation of those who took action to protect this planet. Thank you Ellen!



**K. Anne Conrad-Antoville**

Stepping into the financial breach is **K. Anne Conrad-Antoville** who already had familiarity with Oregon Wild as a long-time donor. Along with keeping the budget in order, Anne is going to help us manage our organizational growth on the human resources front in an expanded Finance and Administration Manager role. She'll be able to lean on years of experience running non-profits and managing finances and people in Northern California and the Portland area. Welcome Anne!



**Victoria Wingell**

Joining the team almost at the same time, is our new Forests and Climate Campaigner, **Victoria Wingell**. With a charge to add grassroots organizing capacity to the growing Climate Forests campaign, Victoria will bring her experience at Columbia Riverkeeper and Urban Nature Partners PDX to bear. Hailing from the East Coast but finding a home here in Oregon, Victoria describes taking joy in being a “major pain-in-the-butt” for industries that prioritize profits over people and the planet. Sounds good to us Victoria!



**Hanna Anderson**

A rock-climbing junkie like Victoria, we also welcomed to the team our new Communications Associate, **Hanna Anderson**, in February. With a background in promoting voting rights and equity in the outdoor recreation industry, Hanna will be charged with taking Oregon Wild digital communications to the next level. She hasn't convinced us to get on Tik Tok yet, but you never know. Welcome Hanna!



**Kelly Fuller**

Joining the team in May - just in time to go zip lining on our staff excursion since the pandemic began - is **Kelly Fuller**. With a long and varied career in the conservation movement (she's protected the environment in over two dozen states!), Kelly is set to hit the ground running in her new role as Western Oregon Field Coordinator. She'll be located in Depoe Bay, so if you're on the coast or in the Coast Range, give her a shout and welcome her aboard! ☺

# Campfire Quiz

1.

Hemphillia malonei, a slug endemic to Mount Hood and the Columbia River Gorge, uses this novel defense mechanism to avoid predation:

- A) Emitting a sour, sulfur-like smell
- B) Flattening itself like a pancake
- C) Making a corkscrew jump
- D) Stabbing with a spined shell

2.

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Southwestern Oregon and Northwestern California is the only national monument:

- A) To encourage llama grazing in its management plan
- B) To be designated specifically to preserve biodiversity
- C) To feature ancient preserved human remains
- D) To include a relocated and restored 1800s mining town

3.

Sea otters may be returning to the Oregon Coast! These mammals have this incredible attribute:

- A) They are the only native wildlife in North America to use tools
- B) They are the only known natural predator of purple urchins
- C) They have the densest fur of any mammal
- D) They can learn simple sign language and teach it to their young

4.

Oregon is home to two species of flying squirrel, Humboldt and northern, but this other critter has also demonstrated an aptitude for gliding and parachuting across tall tree canopies of the Pacific Northwest:

- A) The wandering salamander
- B) The red tree vole
- C) The common porcupine
- D) The sharptail snake

5.

Oregon's forests, especially the coastal temperate rainforests, are the most carbon-dense in the world. But the trees of these forests hold another surprising secret:

- A) A food preservative from big leaf maple
- B) A chemotherapy drug from Pacific yew
- C) A substitute vanilla extract from Ponderosa pine
- D) A cooling gel incorporated into microchip production from quaking aspen

6.

Oregon's largest organism is a:

- A) Tree
- B) Mollusc
- C) Fungus
- D) Whale

1 - (C) This particular critter's unusual behavior is revealed by its common name: the Malone jumping slug. When it encounters a predator such as a snail, beetle, or salamander, it coils up and straghtens out quickly, hopping around and enabling itself to fall off of wherever it was sitting. Not only does this tactic hide the slug from view, but it also breaks its slime trail making it impossible for predators to tell where it went.

2 - (B) Designated in 2000, the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is located at the intersection of the Cascade, Siskiyou, and Klamath Mountains. This intersection of distinct ecosystems has created an incredible concentration of biodiversity, featuring hundreds of different species, many of them unique to the monument. The CSNM was expanded in 2017 to better protect these rare plants and animals.

3 - (C) Sea otter pelts feature 26,000 to 165,000 hairs per square centimeter, which helps insulate their bodies in the cold waters of the Pacific Ocean. These dense coats made them highly prized and led to their near-extinction by fur traders.

4 - (A) Researchers recently discovered that wandering salamanders, which spend their entire lives in the crowns of the world's tallest trees, have evolved impressive sidwining skills to avoid terrestrial predators. Biologists tested these wandering salamanders in wind tunnels and found they were able to exercise control over their decent speed and pitch, even though they lack any skin flaps.

5 - (B) Pacitaxel, a chemotherapay drug used to treat breast, ovarian, and lung cancer was discovered in the Pacific yew. While the increasing scarcity of the yew made its harvest on a large scale for this purpose prohibitive, a semi-synthetic compound was derived from yew extract for widespread use.

6 - (C) Some scientists believe the mycelium network of a single Armillaria in the Malheur National Forest is thousands of years old. Also called the shoestring fungus or honey mushroom, it's estimated this fungus is spread out beneath over 3 miles of soil and could fill 250 semi-trucks!

# The Annual Oregon Wild Outdoor Photo Contest is back and better than ever!

This is your opportunity to share your photos of Oregon's unique wildlands, waterways, native wildlife, and the people who enjoy them.

This year's categories include:

**Wildlands & Waters** - From stunning peaks and vibrant forests to dynamic rivers, wilderness is a unique part of Oregon's natural heritage.

**Wildlife** - Featuring Oregon's incredible diversity of native fish and wildlife

**Endangered Places** - Giving special focus to Oregon's climate forests.

**\*NEW\* People** - Featuring the people who enjoy Oregon outdoors.

**\*NEW\* Social Media Photography** - Giving space to up-and-coming phone and social media photographers.

Submissions will be judged by a diverse panel of photographers, outdoor recreationists, bloggers, and local business owners, in addition to Oregon Wild staff.

Prizes include a package from ProPhoto Supply worth \$250, a 2-night stay at Smith Creek Lodge, Trout Creek Wilderness Resort, Alsea River House, or Barking Mad Farm, a photography masterclass from Greg Vaughn, and more!

Visit  
[photocontest.oregonwild.org](http://photocontest.oregonwild.org)  
for submission guidelines and to  
submit your photos!  
Submission Deadline:  
**September 5th at midnight**

**Good luck!**



PHOTO CREDITS: RHETT WILKINS, D'ARTAGNAN FEARON, WENDY DUNCAN, KELLY MORGAN, LUCAS RIETMANN

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