

CASCADIA REVIEW

DEVIL'S STAIRCASE WILDERNESS AND OTHER OREGON TREASURES PROTECTED!

Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Legislation Crosses Finish Line

by Josh Laughlin, Executive Director

Long-time conservationist Brock Evans' approach of "endless pressure, endlessly applied" was used for years by Cascadia Wildlands, our conservation allies, and supporters like YOU to help create the 30,500-acre Devil's Staircase Wilderness in the Coast Range and protect other Oregon treasures. The legislation finally crossed the finish line on

to the lower Rogue River. The bill also permanently withdraws portions of the salmon-rich Chetco River, the drinking water

source for the City of Brookings, from mining claims. On the North Umpqua River, the 100,000-acre Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Special Management Area was created, named after two legendary fish and wildlands advocates of the area.

Left out of the legislation due to political interference by Big Timber and out-of-towner Rep. Greg Walden was the 56,000-acre addition to the Wild Rogue Wilderness in the

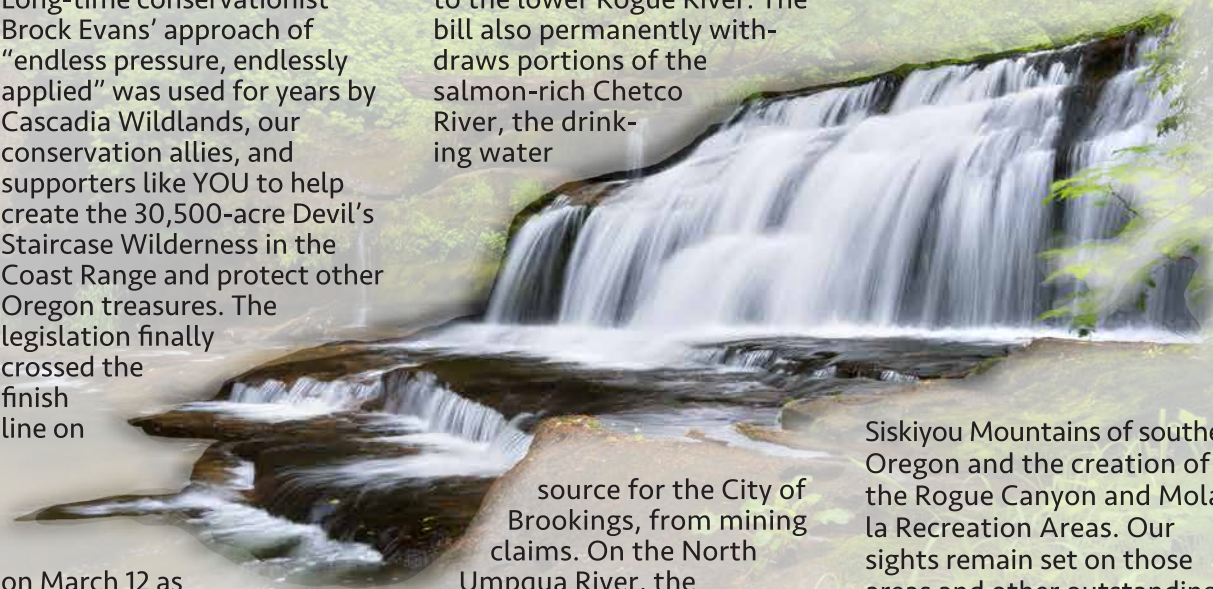
Siskiyou Mountains of southern Oregon and the creation of the Rogue Canyon and Molalla Recreation Areas. Our sights remain set on those areas and other outstanding landscapes moving forward.

It felt like pushing a boulder up a hill at times, but with our combined perseverance, wild nature won the day. Thank you for being there and for all you do to keep it wild in Cascadia for generations to come!

IMAGE: Devil's Staircase (photo by Andrew Kumler).

on March 12 as part of a national package of public lands bills authorized by the president.

The Oregon Wildlands Act, championed by Representative Peter DeFazio and Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, also safeguards 303 miles of waterways, including 256 miles as Wild and Scenic Rivers, including the Molalla and Elk Rivers and tributaries



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NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET

Questions Linger on the Elliott State Forest

by Josh Laughlin, Executive Director

While public lands enthusiasts like YOU successfully helped jettison the privatization proposal for the Elliott State Forest in the Oregon Coast Range in 2017, momentum continues to build in Salem for Oregon State University to become the future public owner and turn it into a "research forest." Cascadia Wildlands remains skeptical about this prospect due to the little information we have been provided on how the forest would be managed and the durability of any safeguards. What we won't stand for is reckless forest management masquerading as "research."



The Department of State Lands has formed an advisory group that will meet monthly through December 2019 to help guide the Oregon State University proposal. Simultaneously, the state is drafting a Habitat Conservation Plan for the forest to outline how it will meet its legal duties to protect imperiled species, like the marbled murrelet and coho salmon, that live there. Cascadia Wildlands remains closely engaged to ensure a lasting conservation and management plan is achieved for the Elliott.



IMAGE: Marbled murrelets live their lives out at sea, but return to land to lay a single egg in a nest they build within the branches of large, old-growth trees. (Above, photo by Angus Wilson). (Left, photo by Andrew Reding-Flickr Creative Commons).



On the legal front, we are continuing to contest the disposal of two parcels of the Elliott State Forest that the State Land Board sold in 2014. Our challenge of the privatization of the 788-acre East Hakki Ridge parcel sold to Seneca Jones Timber Company will be argued in front of the Oregon Supreme Court on June 4. Our case against Scott Timber's purchase of the 355-acre Benson tract was argued in federal district court in Eugene in May. Central to both cases are threatened mature forests and imperiled species that reside in them.



IMAGE: Map showing the location of the Elliott State Forest (graphic by Capital Press). Superimposed stars show where East Hakki Ridge and Benson Ridge parcels are.

- ★ East Hakki Ridge parcel
- ★ Benson Ridge parcel



1998 · 20 YEARS · 2018

CRITTER IN FOCUS



IMAGE: Coho salmon, also known as silver salmon, returning to fresh water to spawn (courtesy of Jessica Newley/Smithsonian Magazine).

Coho salmon

Oncorhynchus kisutch

Currently listed in Oregon as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, their numbers are thought to have ranged between 1-2 million in Oregon before white settlement and colonization. Periods of poor ocean conditions, logging, agriculture, dams, and road culverts are blamed for reducing their numbers to about 30,000 in Oregon coastal rivers by the 1990s.

Cascadia Wildlands and 19 other organizations filed a petition in April with Oregon's Board of Forestry to improve protections on rivers and streams from logging activities on state and private timberland.

FAST FACTS:

- In their ocean phase, coho have silver sides and dark-blue backs
- After entering fresh water to spawn, they develop bright-red sides with bluish-green heads and backs
- Mature females and males both develop a large kype (hooked jaw) during spawning



IMAGE: Top, The Elliott State Forest was named after Oregon's first state forester, Francis Elliott (photo by Tim Giraudier). Bottom, It has been a long-fought battle to safeguard the Elliott State Forest (photo by Cascadia Wildlands).



CASCADIA CALENDAR



JUNE

June 1. SATURDAY, all day **DEVIL'S STAIRCASE WILDERNESS** **CARBON BASIN HIKE**

Join Cascadia Wildlands and Our Forests for an all-day hike into one of the most primeval places left in Oregon. This hike is the first in a summer series of hikes to the Devil's Staircase Wilderness Area, and while it does not go to the waterfall, we will see one of the most extensive old-growth forests remaining in the Coast Range. Group numbers are limited. *Registration is on our website!*

June 4. TUESDAY, 9:00am **EAST HAKKI SUPREME COURT** **TRIAL @ OREGON SUPREME** **COURT, SALEM**

Come see Cascadia Wildlands, Audubon Society of Portland, and Center for Biological Diversity argue in defense of the 788-acre East Hakki parcel of the Elliott State Forest. In 2018, the Oregon court of appeals ruled that the sale of this parcel to a private timber company was illegal, and now the fight is in the Supreme Court. Join us in support of this special public land!

June 27. THURSDAY, 6-7:30pm **WILDCAT GENERAL MEETING** **@ MAHONIA BUILDING** **COMMUNITY ROOM**

Join us for our monthly WildCAT volunteer meeting. Refreshments provided. All are welcome! *The Mahonia Building is where Cascadia Wildlands' office is: 120 Shelton McMurphy Blvd. Eugene, OR.*

JULY

July 12-14. FRI-SUN, 11am-7pm
OREGON COUNTRY FAIR (OCF)
@ OCF FAIRGROUNDS, VENETA
OCF is Lane County's most widely attended summer event, and Cascadia Wildlands is happy to announce that we'll once again be running our outreach table all weekend! We'll be talking wolves, forests, and wildlife; come say hi!

July 13. SATURDAY, all day **DEVIL'S STAIRCASE HIKE**

This is the second in our series of summer hikes into the newly designated Devil's Staircase Wilderness Area. Join the all day trip and see why we fought so hard to protect this incredible wilderness. *Registration is on our website!*

July 18-21. THURS-SUN, all day
NORTHWEST STRING SUMMIT
Held at Horning's Hideout, you can catch us at String Summit this year. Pick yourself up some of our new merch before we sell out! We'll have a booth overlooking Main Stage; come say hello!

July 20. SATURDAY, all day **WARNER CREEK AND** **BUNCHGRASS RIDGE HIKE**

Cascadia Wildlands, Oregon Wild, and FUSEE are teaming up for a hike in the historic Warner Creek forest east of Oakridge. We'll trek Bunchgrass Ridge through the fire area, as we learn fire ecology from resident experts, and hear stories from Cascadia Wildlands' forest defense history.

July 25. THURSDAY, 6-7:30pm **WILDCAT GENERAL MEETING** **@ MAHONIA BUILDING** **COMMUNITY ROOM**

Join us for our monthly WildCAT volunteer meeting. Refreshments provided. All are welcome!

AUGUST

Aug. 3. SATURDAY, 11am-5pm **WHITEAKER BLOCK PARTY**

WBP is the annual arts and music celebration hosted by Eugene's funky, enviro-friendly Whiteaker neighborhood. Stop by Cascadia Wildlands' outreach table for new merch, meet our amazing WildCAT volunteers, and get plugged in with what's hot this summer!

Aug. 9-12. FRI-MON, all day **CASCADIA GROUNDTRUTHING** **BASE CAMP IN THE SIUSLAW** **COASTAL FOREST**

Join Cascadia Wildlands' WildCAT field checking team for a weekend learning the ropes of field-checking in a coastal timber sale! We'll spend the weekend exploring our public lands, skill sharing, and collecting information that can help us protect this local forest. *Register on our website to let us know you're coming!*

Aug. 24. SATURDAY, all day **DEVIL'S STAIRCASE HIKE**

This is the final hike of our summer series in the newly designated Devil's Staircase Wilderness Area. *Registration is on our website!*

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 7. SATURDAY, 6-10pm

HOEDOWN FOR CASCADIA'S ANCIENT FOREST

Bluegrass. Dancing. Bonfire.

Camping! Time to grab your hat and lace up your boots, because we're bringing back the Hoedown! Join us at an incredible new location — Rockin' HK Barn in Veneta — for some good old fashioned square dancing, sack races, egg tosses, and local fare. Stay late around the bonfire and camp overnight on the expansive forested grounds. Bring a friend, and your Cascadian spirit, for this end-of-summer celebration.

*Visit our website to learn more,
tickets coming soon!*



INTERN IN FOCUS • BERNARD COWEN •



BERNARD COWEN, Cascadia's GIS intern, was raised on Vashon Island in Washington's Puget Sound. He spent his childhood frolicking around the island's forests, beaches, and creeks while also dedicating time to playing music and sports. Bernard is finishing his B.S. in geography and spatial data science at the University of Oregon, and has a passion for using GIS technology to protect wild nature. He has been busy using his GIS skills by making field-checking maps for WildCAT (Cascadia Action Team).

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Recognizing Interns, Board Members Old and New!

SARAH PETERS and **SHANNON ROSE-PETERSON** recently circulated off the Board of Directors after powerful and long-term service. Both served as Presidents during their tenure and helped bring the organization to the next level. Thank you, Shannon and Sarah!

GARY HENDERSON and **DAN SNYDER** recently joined the Board. Gary brings a wealth of non-profit experience and a deep passion for all-things-wild to the organization. Dan is an accomplished attorney with the Law Offices of Charlie Tebbutt, where he leverages the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act, and other bedrock statutes. Welcome, gents!



SARAH PETERS



GARY HENDERSON



SHANNON ROSE-PETERSON



DAN SNYDER

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS, IN WONDERLAND

16th Annual Wonderland Auction Smashes All Records

by Kaley CoslowSauer, Operations and Communications Director

350 community members turned out to our 16th annual Wonderland Auction on December 1, and helped us celebrate 20 years of keeping it wild in Cascadia. Venue 252 provided a swanky new location for the festivities, and together we raised a very humbling \$100,000 to support our lofty conservation programs in 2019 and beyond! We are so grateful for the deep support of our community who helped make the evening unforgettable.

Championed by premier event sponsor **Mountain Rose Herbs**, and with the participation of hundreds of businesses, volunteers, and community members, the evening was complete with live and silent auctions, dinner and drinks, live jazz by the Halie Loren Trio, keynote speaker Kelsey Juliana, and plenty of holiday cheer.

Check out Wendy Gregory Photography's images of the night on page 7, and in our Auction 2018 Facebook album.

**Thank you generous
2018 Auction Sponsors:**

Premier Sponsor:
Mountain Rose Herbs

Wildlands Sponsors: *Tacovore, The Wheel — Apizza Pub, Opine Cellars, and Cameron & Company*

Species Sponsors: *Thinking Tree Spirits, Pedal Power, Doak Creek Native Plant Nursery, Coconut Bliss, Ninkasi Brewing Co., SugarTop Buddery, Falling Sky Brewing, Elevate Kombucha, TJ's Dispensaries, and WildCraft CiderWorks.*

Thank you generous 2018 Auction Item Donors, including:

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Ballet Fantastique
Baxter Vineyard
Beppe & Gianni's
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Cascades Raptor Center
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Merry Hempsters
Michael Sherman
Midtown Pilates Center
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Mississippi Studios
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and Cultural History (MNCH)
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Noble Estate Winery
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Northwest String Summit
Oakridge Lodge & Guest House
Oakshire Brewing
Off the Waffle
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Oregon Country Fair
Organic Redneck
Out on a Limb Gallery
Papa Don's Toys
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Wolf Haven International
Yamikiri Vineyard



SMOKE AND MIRRORS IN THE THURSTON HILLS

BLM and Seneca Jones to Clearcut Next to Homes and Recreation Area

by Sam Krop, Grassroots Organizer

As spring rains give way to long summer days, the specter of wildfire looms over the landscape, and many understandably fear for their safety. Thankfully, while wildfires are natural and inevitable, it is not a given that they will threaten our homes and communities. Currently, many communities are working together and taking the initiative to create defensible space around homes and rethinking zoning laws in fire-prone areas. These commonsense approaches can work to keep our communities safe, but as long as our federal forest managers continue irresponsible logging practices, our community-led efforts will be an uphill battle through thick smoke.

While the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) claims to be reducing fire risk in the backcountry with its timber program, it is simultaneously pitching timber sales that would make fire hazard worse in urban areas. Currently in Springfield, the BLM and timber company Seneca Jones are moving forward with the so-called "Pedal Power"

timber sale, a 105-acre clearcut proposal adjacent to the 655-acre Thurston Hills Natural Area and literally in the backyards of many Thurston-area residents. In its own documentation, the agency admits that the cut will increase the fire hazard for the next 40 years. That is part of why Cascadia Wildlands has taken them to court.

When Cascadia's WildCAT volunteer team went door-to-door in nearby neighborhoods, we found that most Thurston-area residents had not heard about the proposal and had no idea the BLM and Seneca will be putting their community at risk. This triggered a large showing at a Town Hall forum we recently sponsored about forest practices in the area.

Decades of science-backed studies have informed us that clearcuts make fire hazard worse. In fact, forests that have been degraded by decades of clearcut logging actually burn more severely



IMAGE: WildCATs canvass the Thurston Hills neighborhood (photo by WildCAT).

than older, native forests. But for the BLM and Seneca, it is all about the board feet and revenue stream.

The Thurston Hills sale is just one example of a growing pattern of the BLM prioritizing timber revenue at the expense of recreation, watershed health, and community safety. While we cannot put out every fire in the backcountry (nor would we want to), we can work together to keep flames in the forest and not in our homes. Community members are already working toward a future of thriving with fire. It's time the BLM gets with the program.

THE FIGHT FOR OUR FUTURE

Communities Across Oregon Link Arms in Opposition to Jordan Cove

by Gabe Scott, In-house Counsel

Things are coming to a dramatic head with the Jordan Cove LNG project, the pipeline and energy scheme that would ship fracked gas from Canada and the Rockies across the Cascades to a new terminal at Coos Bay, where it would be exported to markets in Asia.

A company called Pembina is racing to win construction permits under the corrupt Trump administration, while communities across Oregon are racing to stop them. The major federal draft environmental study was released in early April, sparking resistance-filled hearings and a public comment period this summer. State and local permits are also in review. It is all hands on deck in a flurry of activity. This is the fight for our future.

Climate kids and retirees are

linking arms to bring the heat on Governor Kate Brown to take a stand as she promised to abide by the Paris Accord and stand up for our imperiled climate. Fracked gas exports from Coos Bay would cause so much carbon and methane pollution making that promise impossible, even if we otherwise went 100% renewable.

The pipeline company plans to seize private land and needs to build its pipeline through traditional territories of several Tribes. Land and water protectors are not taking that lying down. Scowling third-generation ranchers are rising to fight for their heritage alongside Tribal governments and members who have never stopped fighting for theirs.

But there are two sides to everything. While the project

is massively destructive and disrespectful, it's also incredibly dangerous.

The high-pressure, 36-inch pipeline is an explosive hazard along its proposed 229-mile length. Firefighters, schools, churches, and homes in the blast zone are crying foul at lax safety standards in areas prone to wildfire.

The LNG terminal itself would require building two huge tanks for super-cooled and pressurized fracked gas — containing more energy than a nuclear bomb — in the estuary right at the shore of Coos Bay. The terminal, and the huge LNG tanker ships it would serve, would be nakedly exposed to tsunami and earthquake hazards.

Projects this horrific don't come around every day. This is a fight for our future, and Cascadians are rising together to fight it.



IMAGE: Lobby day in Salem against the Jordan Cove LNG, a fracked gas pipeline scheme (photo by Rogue Climate).

WHEN YOU JOIN US
AT AN EVENT IN
OPPOSITION OF THE
JORDAN COVE LNG/
FRACKED GAS PIPELINE,
BE SURE TO WEAR
RED IN SOLIDARITY!

WOLF POPULATION GROWS IN OREGON & WASHINGTON

New Territories Re-Occupied in Pacific West

by Nick Cady, Legal Director

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) recently released the 2018 wolf count, and Oregon's population increased from a minimum of 124 wolves to 137 state-wide from the previous year. Breeding pairs increased from 11 to 15. The report also revealed that wolves have returned to Lane County with the establishment of the Indigo wolves southwest of Diamond Peak Wilderness, not far from where the last wolf in Oregon was killed for bounty in 1946. This slow and steady increase and establishment of new territories demonstrates the species' resilience in the face of poaching, state killing, and hard winters. However, the recovery of wolves is still in its infancy and maintaining protections for the species is critical at this juncture.

Wolves are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the western two-thirds of the state, but the Trump administration, specifically the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is



IMAGE: The Indigo group, a newly named wolf troop first confirmed in February 2019, has taken up residence in an area within Douglas and Lane Counties (photos by USFWS remote camera).

proposing to remove these protections. The removal of federal protections will greatly hinder, if not altogether prevent, the successful spread of wolves across the West, but will also certainly have effects here in Oregon. For example, the removal of protections will likely mean the death of famous OR-7's Rogue Pack near Crater Lake, which has come into repeated conflict with livestock.

Cascadia Wildlands has been gathering voices from the public in opposition to the proposal, and is preparing for another legal fight to uphold the scientific integrity of the ESA to ensure the species genuinely recovers across its historic range.

Amidst the proposal to strip federal protections, the state of Oregon is also currently trying to weaken its Wolf Plan and dramatically expand the situations in which wolves can be killed. The state is proposing to deputize members of the public so individuals can hunt and trap wolves and keep the pelts for themselves. This comes at the expense of the state's prior focus on preventing conflict between wolves and livestock through proactive, non-lethal measures. Shockingly, Governor Kate Brown recently appointed three individuals to the Fish and Wildlife Commission that don't represent conservation interests and will likely attempt to weaken protections for a host of native species at the state level.

UPDATE:
**THANKS TO YOUR
STAUNCH OPPOSITION,
A TROPHY HUNTER / SON
OF THE TREASURER OF
OREGON CATTLEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION, HAD HIS
NOMINATION TO THE
OREGON FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION
WITHDRAWN!**

6 wolves / 1 pack

Cascadia Wildlands and our partners will continue to face these threats head on through a suite of strategies. As always, your resolute support for wolf recovery has been critical to its success.



Cascadia WILDLANDS

we like it wild.



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inside?

THANK YOU!

for being a part of our Cascadian movement

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE SOON!



**IT'S A PARTY
IN VENETA, OREGON
TO CELEBRATE
OUR ANCIENT FORESTS**

Cascadia Wildlands'

HOEDOWN

**SEPT. 7, 2019
6-10:00PM**

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