

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SUMMER 2008

Coastal Rainforests: Halting Elliott State Forest Clearcutting

Alaska: Copper River vs. Big Oil

Photo Essay: Travels through Alaska's Dr. Seuss Country

Spotted Owl Recovery: New Plan Falls Short

Mark Your Calendar: 7th Annual Hoedown, October 4th



EXPLORE OREGON: HIKE WITH US!

Crabtree Valley Hike, August 2: Hike to a millennium grove in Crabtree Valley on Salem BLM land and learn about the Bureau of Land Management's proposal to open up old-growth reserves to clearcutting under a process called the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR).

Wassen Creek Hike, August 16: Hike to enchanted Wassen Creek on Coos Bay BLM land and learn about the Bureau of Land Management's proposal to open up old-growth reserves to clearcutting under a process called the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR).

McGowan Creek Hike, September 6: Hike through nearby old-growth at McGowan Creek on Eugene BLM land and learn about the Bureau of Land Management's proposal to open up old-growth reserves to clearcutting under a process called the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR).

Warner Creek Burn Hike, September 20: Hike through the 1991 Warner Creek Burn across Bunchgrass Ridge and learn about post-fire ecology and forest succession.

Rogue River Hikes, Ongoing: Last Saturday of every month (through October '08). Hike along the famed Rogue River and learn about the proposal to designate additional wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers in the area as well as the BLM's clearcut logging proposals. Carpools leave the Gooseberries Natural Foods parking lot (1533 NE F St.) in Grants Pass at 10:00 am and will meet at the Graves Creek Boat Ramp. Bring hiking shoes, clothing layers, food and water. Hikes are moderate and approximately 5-7 miles. For more information, contact KS Wild at lesley@kswild.org or 541-488-5789.

General Cascadia Wildlands Hike Info: All hikes meet at 9:00 am at Kinko's back parking lot (13th and Wilamette St. in Eugene) unless otherwise indicated. For all hikes, bring hefty lunch, 1/2 gallon of water, raingear, and stout boots. Hikes are off-trail and not for the thin-skinned. Hypothermia, broken bones, falling trees and branches, dermatitis, and even vehicle accidents are an inherent hazard to this activity and participants assume all personal risks and liabilities. Cascadia Wildlands Project cannot be held responsible for personal injury or property damage incurred during hike activities. For all hikes, please RSVP to jlaughlin@cascwild.org or 541.434.1463.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SUMMER 2008

Suit of a Champion p 2

News in Cascadia p 3

Copper River vs. Big Oil p 4

In Focus: Pam Reber p 4

Dr. Seuss Country: a Photo Essay p 5

Spotted Owl Plan p 6

Upcoming Hikes p 8

Mark your calendar for our biggest, rowdiest Hoedown ever.

Saturday, October 4th
Avalon Stables, Cottage Grove

More information will be available on our website in September.

www.cascwild.org

7th Annual
Ancient Forest
Hoedown

CASCADIA QUARTERLY



NEWSLETTER OF THE CASCADIA WILDLANDS PROJECT

COASTAL RAINFORESTS FALLING

CASCADIA REVIVES ELLIOTT STATE FOREST CAMPAIGN

by Josh Laughlin

Some of the oldest and largest trees being logged in Oregon can be found on the little-known Elliott State Forest, located just inland and south of Oregon's Umpqua River mouth. This 93,000-acre publicly owned state forest is a stronghold for a number of endangered species, including marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl and coho salmon, mostly due to the structural complexity of the forest and the degraded nature of the millions of acres of privately owned, industrial forestland surrounding the Elliott.

Because of its deep soils, plentiful rain and year-round growing season, the Elliott produces big trees real quick. This makes for superb habitat for older forest-dependant species

as well as some of the finest, tight-grained, knotless timber around. With it becoming increasingly difficult for the timber industry to log older forests on federal public land due to looming extinction, the Elliott State Forest has become the feeding trough for a number of westside mills that process large diameter logs.

Clearcutting on the Elliott is facilitated by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), the state agency that employs 1960s-style silviculture on the forest. Each year, anywhere from 500-900 acres of older forest are sold off to the highest bidder and clearcut. Once roaded and logged, the areas are burned, planted with Douglas fir and sprayed with herbicide by inmate labor to prevent anything but

continued on page 3



The Elliott is home to huge trees, coho salmon, marbled murelets, spotted owls, and much more. It is also the site of the Millicoma-Cougar logging project, pictured here.

J. Laughlin

THE CASCADIA
WILDLANDS PROJECT
works to protect and restore
the forests, waters, and
wildlife of Cascadia.



STAFF

Cadence Barkhurst

Legal Intern

Candice Cook

Executive Assistant

Dan Kruse

Legal Director

Josh Laughlin

Conservation Director

Quarterly Editor

Jay Lininger

Executive Director

Jeremy Pyle

Legal Intern

Kate Ritley

Development Director

Quarterly Design and Layout

Gabe Scott

Alaska Field Representative

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amy Atwood, AAL

Linda Carnine, PhD

Jim Flynn, President

Jeremy Hall

Jeff Long

Pam Reber, Secretary

Steve Witten

CONTACT US

Headquarters:

PO Box 10455

Eugene, OR 97440

541.434.1463

info@cascwild.org

Alaska Field Office:

PO Box 853

Cordova, AK 99574

907.424.3835

gscott@cascwild.org

WWW.CASCWILD.ORG

SUIT OF A CHAMPION

RAMBLINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I laughed aloud at the hilarious image that ran on Anchorage television of our Alaska field representative, Gabe Scott, with recently cut flaming red hair, stylishly trimmed beard and a thrifty blue suit and red power tie, presenting to the state's governor-appointed Environmental Commissioner inadequacies of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline oil spill contingency plan.

Anyone who knows Gabe would guffaw, too. He last donned a tie nearly two decades ago when he alienated one of the University of Oregon's most powerful professors by spurning a national debate championship title hunt with the Ducks for greener pastures at the University of Alaska, where his coach let Gabe "cut cards," dress and recreate anyway he wanted.

Gabe was a champion debater, on his terms, at Anchorage. That's where he started advocating for threatened Pacific salmon runs. He campaigned nationwide to dismantle dams on the Elwha River in Washington, an effort that is now bearing fruit.

Nowadays, Gabe aims to prevent immense environmental damage that an oil spill from the pipeline could do to the Copper River and its tributaries. (See article on page 4.) I recently joined him to visit pipeline-river crossings and sites identified by Alyeska Corporation where they say oil could be stopped from flowing downriver and ruining one of the world's premier salmon fisheries.

It was clear from conversations with Alyeska workers that current pipeline management practices make a catastrophic oil discharge in the Copper nearly inevitable and almost certainly irreversible. The only way to ensure protection for the many communities and commercial industries that need a healthy Copper River and its wild salmon to survive, and what Gabe advocates, is to amend state policy with a zero oil discharge standard.

Stepping up to battle in suit-and-tie war dress and putting professionalism before personality, Gabe is a champion for the Salmon Nation of Cascadia.



Alaska Field Rep. Gabe Scott addresses state decision-makers and media.

KTUU news

IN FOCUS: PAM REBER

There are many qualities we look for in potential board members. Experienced. Well-connected. Professional. Resourceful. Pam Reber is all these things, and she adds a lot to the list: energetic, passionate, insightful, sassy, and empowered. Although she spent her childhood in the Midwest, college brought her to the Northwest where she quickly took root. She now lives in Cottage Grove with her "dog child" Jed, a shepard/lab mix, and coordinates the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council.



She joined the Cascadia Wildlands board in 2006 and keeps us all in order as Board Secretary. In her own words, "I love the unwavering commitment Cascadia Wildlands Project has to monitoring the actions of federal land managers. The ethic has always been nose-to-the-grindstone in performance, but some of the best and most fun outreach events."

When Pam takes a break from her responsibilities, she can be found rafting with close friends (legend has it she is quite the wilderness bartender). She loves waking up by the river, sipping coffee, and chatting with friends in the morning sun. We are privileged to have her on our board. Thanks, Pam!

-Kate Ritley

Need a Cell Phone?

Buy online at www.PhonesForGood.com and we get \$50! It's so easy:

1. Go to www.phonesforgood.com and select Cascadia Wildlands Project as your designated charity.
2. Choose a phone (how about a snazzy Blackberry for \$50 or a RAZR for FREE?)
3. Choose a carrier (Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, T Mobile, or Nextel) and plan.
4. In 2-3 days, you'll receive your activated, ready-to-use cell phone, and we'll receive \$50!



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of our new and continuing members and the many volunteers who help us protect wild places! Huge thanks to the foundations, businesses, and groups who have recently supported our work:

444S Foundation
Acorn Foundation
Alaska Conservation Foundation
Ben & Jerry's Foundation
Burning Foundation
Charlotte Martin Foundation
Deer Creek Foundation
Emerald Valley Kitchen
Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation
Fund for Wild Nature
Furthur Foundation
Get Fried Rice
Jubitz Family Foundation
Laird Norton Foundation
Mazamas
McKenzie River Gathering Foundation
Meyer Memorial Trust
Mountaineers Foundation

Mountain Rose Herbs
Ninkasi Brewing Company
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Oregon Community Foundation
Pacific Tree Climbing Institute
Patagonia
Paul's Bicycle Way of Life
Ralph Smith Foundation
Resist, Inc.
Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund
Ring of Fire Restaurant
River Jewelry
Sperling Foundation
Strong Foundation for Environmental Values
Tactics Board Shop
Titcomb Foundation
University of Oregon Outdoor Program
Whole Systems Foundtion

LEAVE A LEGACY FOR CASCADIA

The Cascadia Wildlands Project has a combined vision of protection and restoration for Cascadia's public lands. We invite you to leave a legacy for Cascadia's wild places by including the Cascadia Wildlands Project in your estate plans. We can help you plan a bequest or other deferred gift. To learn more, please call or write Kate at 541.434.1463, kritley@cascwild.org, or PO Box 10455, Eugene, OR 97440. We look forward to working with you to create a lasting environmental legacy!

SPOTTED OWL PLAN = "WOPR-LIGHT"

OLD-GROWTH FORESTS REMAIN THREATENED DESPITE NEW PLAN

by Jay Lininger

On May 16, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) issued a plan to recover threatened northern spotted owl populations ranging from the Olympic Peninsula to the Trinity Alps in 30 years.

FWS listed the spotted owl, a raptor associated with old-growth forest in the Pacific Northwest, under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1990 after clearcut logging ravaged most of its habitat. Today the bird remains in decline due to ongoing forest destruction for commerce, displacement by the aggressive and generalist barred owl, climate change and severe fires.

The draft recovery plan failed multiple scientific reviews and was tainted by interference from political appointees in the Bush administration.

The final version answers the most serious criticisms by designating "Managed Owl Conservation Areas" (MOCAs) on 6.4 million acres of federal land west of the Cascade Mountains to be managed for spotted owl recovery. It also asks for "high quality" spotted owl habitat to be retained

everywhere for 10 years.

Left off the MOCA map are 1.1 million acres where the Northwest Forest Plan currently forbids logging driven by economics. The biggest omission is of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) reserves in the Oregon Coast Range. Another big reserve in the Umpqua National Forest also is left out.

There are 24 million acres of federal land within the range of northern spotted owl. Under the new plan, only one-quarter of public forests are dedicated to bird recovery. No private or state forestlands are affected.

Moreover, one-eighth of the spotted owl's range is located east of the Cascades Crest where fire is a regular natural disturbance. To "save" owls from fire on the eastside, the recovery plan invites more thinning in existing old-growth forests on about 2.5 million acres.

And, while it exists, the owl plan abets widely anticipated revisions of forest management plans for BLM districts in western Oregon. BLM initially proposed last year in its Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR) to clearcut 700 percent more old growth by abolishing reserves and replacing them with unprotected "management areas" similar to the MOCA concept.

BLM will incorporate the new owl plan into WOPR.

"Alternative 2 is gone," said Alan Hoffmeister, BLM's quarterback for WOPR, in the Roseburg News-Review on May 20. Previously, BLM stated preference for Alternative 2, which would have maximized timber production by clearcut-

PLAN BASICS

- Designates 6.4 million out of 24 million acres in the bird's range for population recovery.
- Omits from recovery emphasis 1.1 million acres currently protected from logging.
- Recommends increased logging on 2.5 million acres old-growth forests east of the Cascade Mountains.

PLAN DOES NOT:

- Protect old-growth forests from logging, especially east of the Cascades.
- Stop the Bureau of Land Management from increasing logging in western Oregon.
- Limit the worst forestry abuses on private and state lands.

ting 140,000 acres of older forest in the first decade.

BLM now appears to be backing away from the maximum logging alternative because there is no way for the agency to argue that it would obey the ESA.

Instead, BLM now pursues a watered-down but still unacceptable logging increase in formerly reserved forests without adequate watershed protections. BLM's talking point is that the final version of WOPR will be much better than environmentalists thought.

Nevertheless, the WOPR remains a shady collusion among Bush officials, the timber industry and county governments that could at least double clearcutting on two million acres where the spotted owl and salmon cling to existence in low-elevation forests and battered watersheds in need of restoration.

NEWS IN CASCADIA

Malheur NF Post-fire Clearcutting Project Settled

In summer 2006, a series of wildfires burned near Aldrich Mountain, just southwest of John Day in eastern Oregon's Malheur National Forest.

Within weeks of the fire, the Forest Service proposed the Thorn Fire Salvage Project, a large-scale commercial logging project across 2,529 acres of the burned landscape, including extensive logging in wilderness-quality road-

less areas. With litigation looming and trees about to fall, the Cascadia Wildlands Project and allies sat down with the Forest Service and timber industry to try one last time to keep the chainsaws out of the previously untouched areas. After more than two weeks of intense negotiation, an agreement was finally reached on May 23 that, among other things, protects all of the unroaded, wilderness quality forest in the Thorn Fire area from clearcutting.

Suit Filed to Halt Gray Wolf Slaughter

Represented by Earthjustice, on April 28 the Cascadia Wildlands Project and 11 co-plaintiffs filed for an injunction to

reinstate the northern Rocky Mountains population of the gray wolf to the Endangered Species Act. US District Court Judge Donald Malloy in Missoula, Montana, is expected to make a ruling any day. Since federal delisting on February 27, at least 37 wolves have been killed under state-sanctioned wolf management plans. Public wolf hunts are planned for this fall in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Idaho's governor has publicly stated he wants to see the state's wolf population reduced to 100 animals and stated at a recent rally, "I am prepared to bid for that first ticket to shoot a wolf myself."

Once numbering more than 350,000 in the American West, wolves were hunted to near extinction before being granted endangered status in 1973. Wolves have begun to rebound in the West with numbers nearing 1,500 in the three-state area, but plaintiffs maintain delisting remains premature in light of the hostile, recently approved state management plans.

Oregon's recently passed Gray Wolf Recovery Plan is predicated on wolves dispersing west from the three-state area. Delisting and turning management over to the states will cripple that potential.



After the GW fire, these old-growth trees in the Deschutes National Forest are scheduled for clearcutting.

Elliott continued from page 1

industry-desired fir from growing. The Elliott continues to get chipped away at year after year; today, approximately half of the forest has been converted to even-age tree farms that no longer act as habitat for imperiled species. The northern spotted owl is especially feeling the pinch.

In 1995 the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the federal agency in charge of recovering endangered species, approved a habitat conservation plan for the northern spotted owl in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Forestry that would facilitate logging in the Elliott. Unbelievably, the plan allowed for the "take" (read: kill) of up to 43 individual owls (out of a total of 69) over a

60-year period based on long-term mitigation measures outlined for the species.

Shockingly, the plan lived up to the allotted 60-years worth of spotted owls kill in an eight-year period as highlighted by a 2003 ODF spotted owl survey. But the 1995 plan never considered a significant new threat to the species on the Elliott: the barred owl.

The barred owl has expanded its range from the East Coast to the West Coast over the past few decades, is a more aggressive species of owl, and is now displacing, and in some cases, interbreeding with spotted owls. The 2003 survey alarmingly found that of the 13 remaining spotted owl sites on the Elliott, barred owls were present within six of them. This critical new

information compelled us to file a 60-day notice of intent to sue the US Fish and Wildlife Service who, by law, must re-consider this information before any further habitat degradation can occur. The agency has until early August to respond, and then we will be entitled to file a legal challenge.

We are working with a coalition of conservation allies including Umpqua Watersheds, Center for Biological Diversity, KS Wild and attorneys Dave Bahr and Stephanie Parent to ensure the US Fish and Wildlife Service follows the law on the Elliott. We are also keeping a close eye on a new habitat conservation plan expected out this summer that will address the three listed species and supposedly make it even easier to log older forests on the Elliott.



R. Wilson

The recovery plan approves cutting trees like this.

COPPER RIVER RESIDENTS UNITE

BIG OIL PUT ON THE STAND TO PREVENT ANOTHER EXXON-VALDEZ

by Gabe Scott

Like a Macoma clam running from a Western sandpiper on the Copper River Delta mudflats, Big Oil and the State of Alaska are burying themselves in the sand in response to stakeholder criticisms about shoddy oil spill prevention and response along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

We hauled team Big Oil before an administrative law judge the week of June 9-12, challenging their most recent oil spill contingency plan. Witnesses from throughout the watershed testified to our case while statewide media picked up the story. The Copper River is pristine today, they explained, but if oil ever did get into the water, it would be a catastrophe for the salmon. The oil company plan entirely ignores the famous, wild Copper River, in spite of the fact that 180 miles of pipeline are within the watershed, and a spill could very quickly escape downstream. The industry response is, "no comment." The conflict is between interests of increased profits for oil companies and environmental security for Copper River residents.

The state and oil companies have been dismissive of downstream residents. The contingency plan for a spill into the Klutina River, for example, would only send poorly equipped responders to the river mouth hours after spilled oil had already passed that point. When residents point that out, repeatedly and passionately, the total silence in response is a shorter way of saying, "so sue me."

Oil is bad for salmon, and

what is bad for wild salmon, is bad for everything here.

"Salmon are a keystone species," testified Kristin Smith of Copper River Watershed Project. "We have a salmon economy. We have a commercial salmon fishing economy. We have a subsistence salmon economy. We have a sport-fishing salmon economy."

Karen Linell, from the indigenous Ahtna village of Chistochina, talked of the two months she spends each summer at "fish camp" on the Copper River, catching salmon for her family and village elders. "The Copper River defines us as a people," she said. "Any spill into these rivers could, really, devastate our way of life."

James Brady, Alaska's fisheries manager in Prince William Sound during the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill, explained that the range and diversity of pristine habitats are what make the Copper a world-class salmon river. Having gone through it before, Brady explained in horrifying detail how oil in the water would unleash a cascade of horrifying effects: fishery closures, pollution of habitat, and acrimonious



Pipeline crosses the Gulkana River just upstream from the Copper River confluence.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to the following for their exceptional support of the Copper River hearing:

Cordova District Fishermen United, EcoTrust, Brainerd Foundation, Alaska Conservation Foundation, Gulkana Seafoods, Alaska Wild Salmon Co., Copper River Watershed Project, Alaska Center for the Environment, Ahtna Inc., and Native Village of Eyak

litigation.

Dune Lankard of the Eyak Preservation Council testified to the irreversible damage from the Exxon spill and corporate bad faith in dealing with residents since. Local fisheries are just now recovering by value-adding and direct marketing wild fish, although another spill would doom those efforts.

At this hearing, the government and oil companies were represented—fittingly enough—by four mute attorneys and a gaggle of interns and paralegals.

Now we have to wait for the decision from Alaska's environmental commissioner, expected sometime in August. Given the industry's only game is to stay hidden, if the commissioner scratches at the surface at all, Big Oil is due for a comeuppance on the Copper River.

TRAVELS THROUGH DR. SEUSS COUNTRY

PHOTO ESSAY FROM THE COPPER RIVER

Essay and Photos by Kate Ritley

The morning wind lapped at the rainfly on my tent, bringing me out of a deep sleep. Bundled in fleece and down, I emerged from my cocoon onto a sandy bank of the Copper River. The drip-drip-drip of melting ice beckoned me to the river's edge, where suspended silt and icebergs rushing by resembled iced coffee *au latte*. Fragments of salmon skeletons protruded grotesquely from the silt-sand, relics of last season's upriver journey.



Spawned salmon on river bank.

After breaking camp and hiking along the crumbling Copper River Highway, we drove into Chitina and stopped at Uncle Tom's. We sat at the bar facing a wall of rifles, rusty license plates, and antlers. Around us, rugged locals bragged about winning the Chitina Giant Cabbage Contest and IceFest Fishing Contest.

Several fellows donning plaid shirts and trucker hats turned to me, asking if I knew about the local controversy. Without pausing for a response, the man next to me launched into a lively explanation of the local hullabaloo: a mile-long bike path from town to a small lake.

On the first day of construction, a woman fought off the construction workers with a stick. The state cops came to town to monitor the project. From the end of the bar a man hollered, "Why can't they just ride on the road like everybody else?"



Moose strolls through Chitina.

"Yeah, f*#@in' state government with their heads up their asses. I ain't never seen a biker out there," another local chimed in. Several others grumbled in agreement as we finished our drinks then headed out the door.

We drove north on the highway toward Glenallen, paralleling the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, through a sea of black spruce. It could have been a picture in a Dr. Seuss story: lumpy, leaning trees and spongy moss-covered hummocks sprawling up to the snowy flanks of Mt. Wrangell. We caught a glimpse of several caribou crossing the highway, members of the 40,000-head Nelchina herd migrating west.

For the next four days we met with

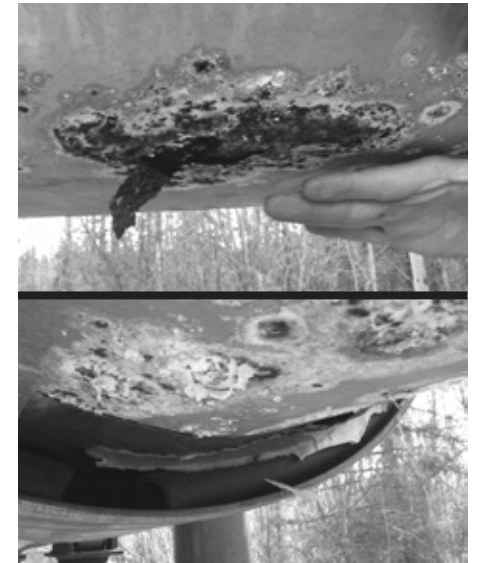


Black spruce "Dr. Seuss" forest.

locals to talk about the pipeline and threat of oil spills. Over and over, they described how devastating an oil spill would be. "We can't eat money. We're just concerned about our drinking water and the fish," explained a member of the Gulkana Village. Indeed, an oil spill near any of the tributaries the pipeline crosses would be disas-

trous for Copper River salmon and local communities. Yet, the Alyeska Corporation, a Big Oil conglomerate, has failed to adequately prevent and prepare for a spill.

We walked along several segments of the pipeline, horrified by corrosion, punctures, dents, and loose pieces of metal and insulation flapping in the wind. We snapped photos of corro-



Corrosion and loose patches on the pipeline.

sion holes three inches deep, noted proximity to rivers, and grew angrier by the day at the gross neglect of the pipeline. One anonymous Alyeska employee described the inadequacy of oil spill response equipment, personnel, and facilities. "From what I've seen, these guys couldn't pick up oil off a mud puddle," he said without a hint of sarcasm.

Our Alaska field rep, Gabe Scott, has just returned from Anchorage where he testified at a legal hearing on the status of the Alyeska Corporation's oil spill response plans (see article on page 4). Thanks to Gabe's organizing and coordination, many of the locals we talked to on our trip were there, too. Their message remains clear: the Copper River is precious, an oil spill would devastate communities and fisheries, and Alyeska must recognize the threat that its corroding, aging pipeline poses. As long as oil flows through that pipe, there must be a top-notch maintenance program and air-tight plans for responding to a spill.

WELCOME TO CASCADIA! We are delighted to introduce you to three new additions to our lean, mean organization: Steve Witten, Cadence Barkhurst, and Jeremy Pyle. Steve Witten, a plant geneticist, recently joined our Board of Directors. Steve brings business-savvy, botanical expertise, and a zen-like energy to our diverse board.

Cadence and Jeremy, both UO Law School students, are interning with Legal Director Dan Kruse this summer. Cadence and Jeremy impressed us as they rolled up their sleeves and dove right into their research and writing.

Welcome, Steve, Cadence, and Jeremy!