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Cascadia Quarterly

Newsletter of the Cascadia Wildlands Project

Setting Our Sights in 2009 Bureau of Land Management Remains in the Crosshairs

by Dan Kruse

The Bush administration made suing the government fun. It is incredibly satisfying to feel both mischievous and righteous at the same time, like a firefighter who enjoys axing down a wall just as much as he enjoys rescuing people trapped inside. There was something rewarding about using the system to beat the system, about having the ability to wreak havoc upon the government by simply enforcing its own laws. There may be very few reasons to feel nostalgic about the Bush administration, but there was a certain unique fulfillment that came from suing those guys.

Fortunately for our lawyers, the

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has energetically and heartily embraced George Bush's environmental ethic, and it doesn't appear that the previous administration's forest policies will die soon. In many ways, 2009 and 2010 are set to be the most aggressive and controversial years ever for the BLM's timber program. Decisions on the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR) were made in the last days of 2008 and set the stage for a new era of older, public forest liquidation across 2.5 million acres of western Oregon. Under the WOPR, streamside protection buffers have been cut in half, while old-growth reserves have been equally

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Hike in Devil's Staircase

Massive old growth trees, spectacular creeks and waterfalls, and a completely wild experience. Join us March 7 or April 4 for a hike in one of the Oregon Coast Range's last original forests. More information inside.



Community members hike with us through Eugene BLM forests threatened by WOPR.

D. Tvedt

Protecting and restoring the forests,
waters, and wildlife of Cascadia.



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Cheers to Change

Ramblings from the Executive Director

After eight years of hell, we can finally relax. Bask in the glow of Hope and Change. Kick back and leave it to Obama to save our planet.

No We Can't. Species are teetering on the brink of extinction, climate change looms, and salmon are returning to spawn at record lows. The stakes have never been higher. Recall what the Hare taught us: snooze before the finish line and you lose. It is time to push harder than ever before to protect endangered forests and critters.

The stars of political power, public awareness, and economic necessity have finally aligned. The federal government is ripe for progressive eco-policies. The harsh economic reality has opened a door for sustainability to redefine economies of every scale. Citizens are more engaged in the democratic process and aware of environmental issues than ever before. Green is hip and nearly *everyone* is a self-proclaimed environmentalist.

But the obstacles are daunting. Bush left generous old-growth-logging gifts for the timber industry. The economic collapse weighs on every mind.

Our opportunity trumps these obstacles. We can pass legislation to protect our magnificent old-growth forests, designate new Wilderness at Devil's Staircase and on the lower Rogue River, and promote economies based in restoration forestry. We will do away with the Western Oregon Plan Revisions and hold Big Oil accountable for the corroding Trans Alaska Pipeline that threatens the Copper River, home to one of the world's most productive salmon runs. We will build a movement to reclaim Cascadia's forests, waters, wildlife, and communities.

Simply put, this is our time.

I am excited to work with you to change the status quo.

Kate

Comings and Goings

The economy is in the toilet, but our people power is growing! Although we said goodbye to administrator **Judith Osborn**, we recently added a new staff member, five fabulous board members, and five stellar interns.

The Board of Directors welcomes **Kate Alexander, Paul Kuck, Tim Ream, David Tvedt and Dee Tvedt**. These folks bring an incredible array of knowledge and skills to the board: public policy, sustainable business, community organizing, environmental law, health, recreation, graphic design, and more. Most importantly, they bring new energy, perspectives, and ideas to keep us on our toes.

Our interns each adopt a project to call their own. Right now **Alyssa McClelland-Bane** is building digital media archives; **Russell Hilkene** is the wizard behind our database overhaul; **Sandra Bronstein** is our branding/marketing goddess; and **Richard Burton** and **Kate Homer** are coordinating key aspects of the Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival.

Sally Curran completes the picture as our new Operations Manager. She brings a lifelong love of the Northwest, a hawk-like eye for detail, and an insatiable appetite for big ocean waves and deep powder.



New Operations Manager Sally Curran recently traveled around the world.

E. Cummings

News in Cascadia

Sticking Up for Spotty

Though George W. Bush has left the White House, Cascadia Wildlands is still fighting many of the rollbacks his administration pushed through in its final months. In December, the Bureau of Land Management finalized the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR), drastically reducing both streamside and old-growth reserves and significantly increasing older forest logging across 2.5 million acres of western Oregon. A few months prior, the US Fish and Wildlife Ser-



J. Haas



Brett Cole

Spotted owl populations continue to plummet.

vice (USFWS) revised its “recovery” plan for the spotted owl, vigorously deemphasizing the need for habitat protection and failing to establish any goals or criteria for the species’ recovery. USFWS followed this recovery plan by immediately removing tens of thousands of acres of designated “critical habitat” for the spotted owl. Cascadia Wildlands, with our attorneys at Earthjustice, recently filed lawsuits against all of these new threats in federal court.

Obama Halts Wolf Killing

Immediately after taking office, President Obama put a freeze on all new rules and orders that the Bush

administration had signed but not yet formally published. Among these unpublished rules was the latest attempt to remove northern Rocky Mountain gray wolves from the Endangered Species Act. Recall that the last Bush administration

attempt to de-list was found illegal by a federal judge earlier in 2008. The states of Oregon and Washington are relying on the dispersal of a robust northern Rocky Mountain gray wolf population to assist with recovery in their states.

The Obama freeze is not necessarily permanent, and the new administration will review each rule before deciding to either publish or throw it out. Cascadia Wildlands is cautiously optimistic about the new administration but is ready to challenge the legality of the new wolf delisting rule if and when it is published.



Tactics

This is literally the biggest check we've ever received! Local businesses like Tactics generously support our work to protect wild landscapes. Above: Tactics rider Forrest Shearer, Executive Director Kate Ritley, Conservation Director Josh Laughlin, and Tactics co-owner Matt Patton



G. Scott

Shipyard Bay, Prince William Sound.

Subsistence Wins Over Subdivisions

State Pulls Hawkins Island Proposal After Citizens Respond

by Gabe Scott

Most places in the world, when people talk about “subsistence,” they refer to bare poverty. Living off the land, hand to mouth, hunting and gathering.

Subsistence—hunting deer, fishing salmon, gathering berries, and cutting firewood—is not poverty in Cascadia’s northern frontier. As our Alaska field office has evolved through the years, listening to folks who’ve been here longer, I’ve come to understand that subsistence is wealth, and a value every bit as noble and in need of protection as wilderness. Subsistence is harmony, rather than exploitation.

This truth hit home these last few months in response to a State of Alaska proposal to auction off 300 acres of wild land for a housing subdivision on wild Hawkins Island in Prince William Sound, near Cordova.

As word of the subdivision proposal made its way to our Alaska field office, the refrain from our members and other locals was consistent: “Hawkins Island? No way! That’s where we get our deer!”

The State’s proposal grew out of Alaska’s unique constitution, which holds that wild lands should be used to the maximum extent possible. To State bureaucrats and politicians, that means turning every forest into lumber; every field into a farm; every expanse of tundra into an oilfield; every mountain into a mine.

The “maximum use” constitutional provision often makes it hard to argue for conservation. If development is the law of the land, how can you argue for leaving wild land alone? This was the problem we faced when the state proposed to turn these 300 pristine forested acres into a subdivision.

That’s where subsistence comes in. Hawkins Island is immensely valuable, and is extensively used, as wild land. The old-growth forest provides winter cover for deer, which are harvested in large numbers by a majority of Cordovans. The wild island puts food on tables every bit as surely as any 9 to 5 job. (Actually, subsistence foods are more stable than a 9 to 5 because they rely only on a healthy environment, not some abstract global marketplace.)

When the State made its pitch for a subdivision in the island’s Shipyard Bay, we took the position that the island was most valuable as it is: that the maximum use *is* subsistence. Then we did what we do best: organize. Conservationists started coming out of the woodwork. We put together a fact sheet that was widely circulated. Everybody told their own circles. We pulled together a community meeting. The mayor, State fish & game biologist, even local real-estate brokers showed up.

It’s always inspiring to find common cause with neighbors and work

together. Sometimes those causes seem hopeless. Every environmentalist is used to losing.

But not this time! Taking advantage of our open-door policy, the State bureaucrat who proposed the subdivision came. If this made me a little nervous at first, I relaxed quickly when he started talking, addressing the assembled crowd. “I’ve been getting flooded with comments opposing this subdivision,” he said. “O.K., I hear you. From what I’ve heard already, I’ve determined that Shipyard Bay is not suitable for a subdivision.”

While he still wanted to hear the objections to the subdivision, he now asked the assembled crowd to turn their attention, and comments, to legally reclassifying the land away from “settlement,” and perhaps to “recreation” or “habitat.”

In less than two months, through grassroots community organizing, the threat of a subdivision had been turned into an opportunity for permanent protection.

This whole experience reminded me of a bit of profound wisdom I got from Cordova local Rob Massolini. Rather than try to convert his young friends to become environmentalists, he said, “I prove to them that they are environmentalists. I ask: Do you hunt? Do you fish? If your livelihood comes from the land, then you’re an environmentalist!”

It may not work everywhere, but in this part of Cascadia the opportunity is still here to live off the land. The choice is not environment versus jobs, but between subsistence and exploitation.

For my money, Mother Earth is a far more reliable investment than Wall Street.



G. Scott

Hawkins Island in Prince William Sound will continue to support subsistence lifestyles.

Devil's Staircase Hikes

Explore this spectacular area with us!

Exploring Devil's Staircase is not a walk on a trail. "Rambo-crawling" under thickets of thorny salmonberry and getting whipped in the face by vine maple tangles are expected. The experience is entirely off trail and is only for the thick-skinned. If this sounds like you, join us on an upcoming outing to the proposed Wilderness area, located near the confluence of the Smith and Umpqua Rivers east of Reedsport. More information on the Wilderness effort can be found at www.cascwild.org.

March 7: This off-trail hike in the proposal area will be in less rugged terrain and while still difficult, it will be less demanding than most other hikes into the area. Hike leaves at 8:00 am sharp from Kinkos back lot (13th and Willamette St. in Eugene) and will return at approx 6-7 pm. Email Dave and Dee Tvedt at david@dtvedt.com for RSVP and for more information.

April 4: The destination of this long and very difficult off-trail hike will be to the actual Devil's Staircase waterfall. Hike leaves at 7:15 am sharp from Kinkos back lot (13th and Willamette St. in Eugene) and will return at approx 8 pm. Email Dave and Dee Tvedt at david@dtvedt.com for RSVP and for more information.



A. Stahl

In late October, Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR), his District Director Karmen Fore, and coalition allies bushwhacked seven miles round trip into the proposed Devil's Staircase Wilderness area in the Oregon Coast Range. Rep. DeFazio, who represents Oregon's 4th Congressional District where the area is located, has expressed his desire to see the unique forest and waterfalls permanently protected. Take a moment to thank him for his support by calling 202.225.6416 or writing 2134 Rayburn Bldg., Washington DC, 20515. Also contact Oregon's new Senator, Jeff Merkley, and express support for the wilderness proposal: 202.224.3753; SDB-40B Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC, 20510.

BLM continued from page 1

reduced. The WOPR directs the BLM to leave zero - literally zero - trees per acre standing after logging is complete. The BLM's goal is to increase the cut nearly four-fold to 502 million board feet of timber each year, the carbon emission of which will be equivalent to adding approximately one million cars to Oregon's roads.

It is going to be fun to sue the BLM in 2009.

It is disappointing to see how these BLM lands are being managed, particularly given the alternatives. For example, the nearby Siuslaw, Umpqua, and Willamette National Forests are, for the most part, focusing on restoring previously logged areas by thinning dense second-growth stands. Removing most of the trees from these plantations can begin to inject structural complexity and species diversity back into the forest,

accelerate the development of old-growth characteristics, and generate jobs and wood products at the same time. When agencies head down this road, they don't get sued.

You don't need to look further than within the BLM itself to see a striking comparison between what works and what doesn't. For the past five years, the Salem and Eugene BLM Districts have focused almost exclusively on thinning out young, previously logged tree plantations. These thinning projects have generated tens of millions of board feet of timber every year, kept thousands of people working, and have not resulted in a single lawsuit. On the flip side, the Medford and Roseburg BLM Districts have spent the past five years shoving one old-growth timber sale after another down the public's throat, and they currently have more than fifty 50 older forest timber sales, totaling over 13,000

acres, tied up in thus far successful litigation. The Medford and Roseburg BLM Districts have little to show for the past five years but gridlock and controversy.

There is a very clear way forward for the BLM, and an even clearer way backward. We are already starting to see WOPR timber sales surface. The Coos Bay BLM District just released for comment the Edson Regen timber sale, which would clearcut 1,400 acres of older public forest and build 10 miles of new road.

If the BLM unclenches its fist and follows the model set by its own Salem and Eugene offices, it may discover an extended hand from us. If it stubbornly insists on implementing the same tired policies of the Medford, Roseburg and Coos Bay Districts, the agency is going to be fought, and defeated, every step of the way.

Big Bucks for Big Trees

10th Anniversary Auction Raises Record \$40,000

by Kate Ritley

Two months before our biggest fund-raising event of the year, the economy tanked. But we pushed on as planned, determined that even a global economic collapse couldn't slow us down. We were right.

In December we had our most successful Wild Wonderland Auction ever. We raised over \$40,000 to protect endangered forests and wildlife. Local businesses sponsored the event, underwriting the costs so that every dollar raised could go directly to our programs. Guests dug deep and bid high to support the landscapes they love (and win great items, including a trip to Costa Rica and a book autographed by President Obama).

Our annual auction is a fundraiser, but it is also a great party and the holiday event to see and be seen. Over 300 guests packed in to celebrate our work, eat and imbibe, and share the holiday cheer. Legal Director Dan Kruse and Jeff Kane provided live jazz entertainment as community members caught up and connected with each other. A far cry

from the rootin'-tootin' good time of our annual Hoedown, auction-goers seize the opportunity to dress up and prove that non-fleece apparel does, in fact, exist in the Northwest.

To all who attended our soiree and supported our work, thank you. Every year we will make this event bigger, smoother, and more fun. We look forward to seeing you again this year on December 12!



K. Ritley

Guests donated \$9,000 during the live auction to help designate the new Devil's Staircase Wilderness.

Special Thanks...



Sandra Lee Bronstein
Kirk Giudici
Jane Ritley
Suzanne Hanlon

The 60 wonderful volunteers who helped make this event possible!

In Focus: Cadence Whiteley and Jeremy Pyle



Cadence and Jeremy field check the Roseburg BLM's proposed South Umpqua Regeneration (i.e. Clearcut) Plan.

It is incredibly rare to find a person who is smart enough to develop comprehensive legal arguments, righteous enough to fight for what is good in the world, and yet sadistic enough to enroll in law school. Last summer, we had the great fortune of having not one, but two such individuals on our team. Cadence Whiteley and Jeremy Pyle are both second-year law students at the University of Oregon. They spent their summer prosecuting reckless public land logging projects, researching ways to invalidate the Bureau of Land Management's Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR), and fighting to protect our treasured forests and waters.

Cadence, an Oregon-grown, owl-calling, trilingual ex-firefighter is currently a co-director of the 2009 Public Interest Environmental Law Conference in Eugene. Jeremy, who hails from the Midwest, spends his free time editing the prestigious *Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation*. He enjoyed catching the Bush administration perjuring itself in open court, and was hit particularly hard when the Chicago Cubs, yet again, biffed it in the playoffs. We wish both Cadence and Jeremy long and happy careers, and we look forward to following their success for many years to come!

— Dan Kruse

Help us thank our generous auction donors:

Amy Palatnick	Deborah Rocha	Klink Cycles	Ralph McDonald
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Bev McDonald	Fina Taqueria	Michele Taylor	Sundance Natural Foods
Bier Stein Bottleshop & Pub	Flow Toys	MorningSun Flutes	Sunshine Limo Service
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Creations by Tim Boyden	John Lind	Play Poi	UO Duck Store
Dan Kruse	Josh Laughlin	Polar Babies	UO Outdoor Program
Dave Tvedt	Julia Butterfly Hill	Pollyanna Lind	Walter Higgins
David Minor Theater	Kalapuya Books	Quillayute River Resort	WildWood Designs
Davis' Restaurant	Keystone Cafe	Rainsong Winery	Willamette Valley Vineyards
			William Sullivan
			Yogi Tea

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of our individual and family supporters and the many volunteers who help us protect wild places! Huge thanks to the foundations, businesses, and groups that recently supported our work:

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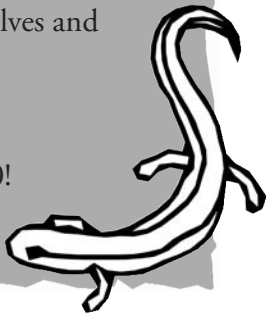
Setting Our Sights: BLM Targeted for 2009

Alaska: Subsistence Beats Out Subdivision

News in Cascadia: Wolves and Owls

Hike Devil's Staircase

Auction Raises \$40,000!



Write Your Congresscritter and a Letter to the Editor

You can affect change with your fingertips. Grassroots action takes many forms, but an easy one is a simple, heartfelt letter to your elected officials and local newspaper. Oregonians, use the contact information below to speak up on behalf of the landscapes you love! Other folks, do a quick internet search for your representatives' and local papers' contact information. This is what democracy is all about!

Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR)

2134 Rayburn Bldg
Washington DC 20515
defazio.house.gov

Eugene Register-Guard

Letters under 250 words, send to: rgletters@registereguard.com

Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR)

223 Dirksen Building
Washington DC 20510
wyden.senate.gov

Eugene Weekly

Letters under 250 words, send to: editor@eugeneweekly.com

Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR)

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The Oregonian

Letters under 150 words, send to: letters@news.oregonian.com