



ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Cascadia
WILDLANDS
we like it wild.

CASCADIA WILDLANDS

educates, agitates and inspires a movement to protect and restore Cascadia's wild ecosystems.

Sally Curran

Operations Manager

Dan Kruse

Legal Director

Josh Laughlin

Conservation Director

Kate Ritley

Executive Director

Gabe Scott

Alaska Field Rep

staff

Kate Alexander

Amy Atwood

Jim Flynn

President

Jeremy Hall

Paul Kuck

Jeff Long

Tim Ream

Pam Reber

Secretary

Dave Tvedt

Dee Tvedt

Steve Witten

board



On the road to extinction? Northern spotted owl populations continue to drop by 4% every year (*J. Johnston*)

Cascadia is our bioregion, an area defined by natural boundaries rather than political ones. Cascadia extends from northern California to south-central Alaska—along a coastline once cloaked in nearly continuous rainforest.

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meet Kate



Executive Director, alpine skier, dance club diva, and jazz vocalist.

I admit, I am intoxicated by the groundswell of energy around us. I revel in the electricity of jam-packed events. Every donation, whether it's \$5 or \$500, makes me slightly giddy because I know someone took the time to invest in Cascadia.

But nothing beats the rush of victory. Halting wolf hunting, transforming a proposed subdivision into a protected "subsistence" area, brokering a deal to cancel logging in an area now up for Wilderness protection... these are the real motivation. Saving forests feels *amazing*.

Thank you for making it all possible.

Has it really been ten years since a rag-tag group of passionate, brilliant folks formed Cascadia Wildlands? From that small team we have expanded into a stable, highly effective organization with a truly grass-roots core. We have kept thousands of acres of imminently-threatened old-growth forests standing and changed the way people value and manage wildlands from Oregon to Alaska.

In 2008, empowered by our innovative new Executive Director, we led a coalition opposing the greatest threat to Pacific Northwest forests in over a decade: the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR). With a surge of board energy, we launched a campaign to protect Devil's Staircase as Wilderness. Led by our Legal Director on a quest to hold our government accountable to its own laws, we halted logging disguised as "fire risk reduction" on the Deschutes National Forest.

Now ten years smarter, equipped with an impressive track record and every bit as committed, we look forward to a new decade of working with you to protect the place we call home.

—Jim, Pam, Dave, Kate, Jeremy, Amy, Paul, Tim, Dee, Jeff and Steve

Legal Director Dan Kruse visits Five Buttes after winning our case in federal court (*left*); Board member Dee Tvedt marvels at a massive cedar in the proposed Devil's Staircase Wilderness (*center, D. Tvedt*); Alaska Field Rep. Gabe Scott cooks dinner on the Lost Coast after a day of exploring and mapping restoration sites (*right, B. Cole*).





2008 HIGHLIGHTS



FISH WIN ON THE MCKENZIE For 45 years salmon have journeyed up the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, turned left at the McKenzie River, navigated roaring rapids and finally smacked into a concrete wall. Thanks to the agreement we signed in October with 16 other agencies, tribes, and organizations, these fish will have a much happier ending: the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) agreed to build a \$59 million fish passage at Trailbridge Dam.

When EWEB applied to renew its federal dam licenses, there were no provisions for improving fish habitat or facilitating fish passage. The new settlement creates ongoing habitat improvement projects, including gravel and wood debris placement and increased water flow between dams. Passage at Trailbridge Dam will include a fish ladder for upstream travel and turbine screens for safe downstream migration. The ladder will give threatened Chinook salmon, bull trout, and other aquatic species access to nearly 8 miles of prime spawning habitat.

RETURN OF THE WOLVES One summer night in 2008, biologists howled into the darkness in the Willowa Mountains in eastern Oregon, as they had for two years. But for the first time, wolves howled back. And yipping wolf pups joined in. A pack in Oregon for the first time in over 60 years.

In 2005, we led a statewide effort to shape Oregon's wolf recovery plan, the plan that now protects wolves as they repopulate our state.

In 2008, the Bush administration removed wolf protection in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and 1/3 of Oregon and Washington. Along with our allies we sued, securing an injunction against looming wolf hunts. As this battle continues in court, wolves continue their comeback.



meet Josh

Conservation Director, whitewater captain, journalist, and scrappy Ultimate frisbee player. He runs our campaigns and focuses on public education, community organizing, collaboration, media outreach, and political networking.

Moss and snow cling to the banks of the McKenzie River (top, B. Cole); gray wolves returned to Oregon in 2008 (bottom, J. Haas).



PIPELINE In summer 2008, we hauled team Big Oil before an administrative law judge. Our challenge: the Trans-Alaska Pipeline's oil spill contingency plan is completely inadequate. Gabe Scott organized witnesses from all over the Copper River watershed to testify. Attorneys for Big Oil watched in total silence.

180 miles of the aging, corroding pipeline traverses the Copper River watershed. A study we commissioned from James Brady, fisheries manager for Prince William Sound during the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* spill, showed that the pipeline poses an immediate threat to the river's world-class salmon run. He declared that an oil leak into a tributary or the main channel would unleash horrifying effects: fishery closures, habitat destruction, and decades of litigation.

We still await a ruling from the state of Alaska, but we are not losing momentum. We are organizing grassroots pressure and forming an official Citizen Oversight Council that will have influence over pipeline management and oil spill planning. The *Exxon Valdez* agreement formalized a Prince William Sound citizen council, but this time we'll beat them to the punch by forming the council before a catastrophic spill.

HAWKINS ISLAND Ask locals in Cordova, Alaska about Hawkins Island and they'll put it simply: "that's where we get food." Most Cordovans rely primarily on wild food (access is by plane or boat, so importing food is expensive and inefficient). Hawkins Island is prized for clams, ducks, mushrooms and winter deer hunting.

In November, the State of Alaska proposed a 300-acre subdivision on Hawkins Island. Cascadia Wildlands sprang into action, circulating an action alert and calling a community meeting to kill the proposal. Locals, hunters, landowners, real estate brokers, the local wildlife biologist, the mayor, media and others gathered in the Union Hall building on Main Street to devise a plan.

The Natural Resources official behind the proposal appeared at our meeting. Instead of placating our concerns, he took them to heart. To our amazement, he suggested the island be protected instead of developed. He explained the state's process for updating the island's management plan and redesignating it as a protected area. In less than six weeks, we turned an outrageous proposal into an opportunity.

Twenty years after *Exxon Valdez*, Cordova's herring fishery has not returned and oil lingers on beaches. Last year's US Supreme Court decision to deny punitive damages was a devastating blow to Cordovans. For a downtrodden town, Hawkins Island inspires hope and reflects the power of solidarity and united action.



The Trans-Alaska Pipeline crosses the swift Gulkana River just upstream of the Copper River confluence (top); photo-documenting the pipeline throughout the Copper River watershed revealed extensive corrosion of the outer sheath (right, quarter for scale).



EASTSIDE WIN In 2006, eastern Oregon's Malheur National Forest went up in flames. The Shake Table wildfire swept across a vast roadless area, creating a mosaic of old-growth survivors and scorched gaps ready for saplings.

When the Forest Service announced plans to log 2,529 acres of these ultra-fragile forests, we put our foot down. The proposal included heavy logging in wilderness-quality areas near Aldrich Mountain southwest of John Day. Represented by Dan Kruse, Cascadia Wildlands and allies filed suit in federal court. In May, Dan negotiated a settlement with the Forest Service and timber industry, brokering a deal to keep chainsaws out of the roadless forests. The area was subsequently tapped for Wilderness designation.

CALLING A BLUFF Under the banner of "forest health" and "fuels reduction," the Deschutes National Forest hatched a plan to log 2,000 acres of old growth on both sides of Oregon's scenic Cascade Lakes Highway.

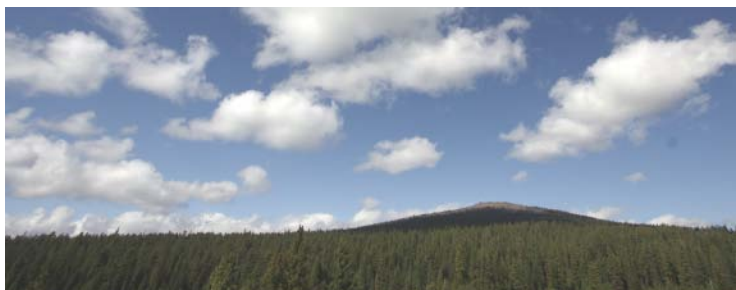
We urged the Forest Service to focus on younger forests, where thinning can genuinely improve forest health and decrease fire risk. But the final Five Buttes project approved long-term harm to old-growth habitat within designated old-growth reserves. Dan provided lead counsel when Cascadia Wildlands, the Sierra Club, and Blue Mountains Biodiversity filed suit. Federal Judge Michael Hogan ruled the project violated the Northwest Forest Plan and failed to address cumulative environmental impacts. The ruling prohibits the Five Buttes project from moving forward.

We continue our vigilant watch for deceptive, scientifically-unsound logging plans. We eagerly seek opportunities to collaborate with the Forest Service on *genuine* forest restoration and community safety projects.

Managed fire restores overgrown forests on the Deschutes National Forest (*left, B. Cole*); Dan stares into a wilderness of blackened trunks and fragile saplings on the Malheur National Forest (*bottom left*); our Five Buttes case halted logging plans for this butte along the scenic Cascade Lakes Highway (*bottom right*).



Legal Director, jazz musician, vegan chef, national Tae Kwon Do champion, and card-carrying member of the Eugene Astronomical Society. As a grassroots lawyer, he represents the public when the government breaks laws, organizes plaintiff groups, translates cryptic planning documents, and recruits attorneys to the conservation movement.





WESTERN OREGON On December 31, 2008, in the single greatest threat to Northwest forests in over a decade, Bush approved a plan to increase old-growth logging and road-building on 2.7 million acres of public land in western Oregon. This plan, the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR), approves 1,000 miles of new logging roads, clearcutting half of old-growth reserves and 200,000 acres of fragile streamside forests, and designating 100,000 acres for off-road vehicles.

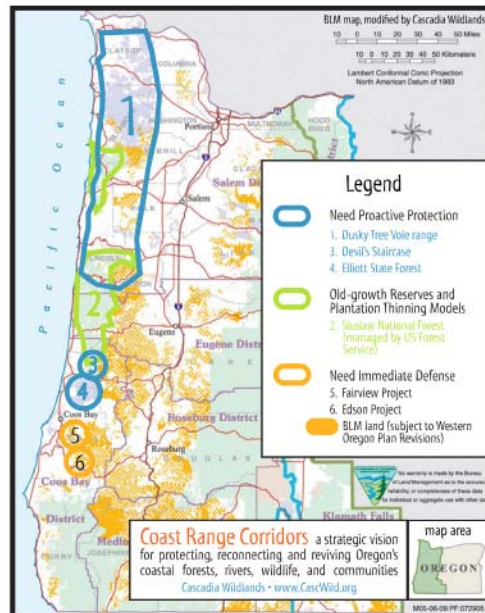
We developed a comprehensive plan to defeat WOPR. We organized plaintiffs and built our case. In early 2009 our coalition filed suit in Washington DC, represented by Earthjustice. We used grassroots organizing, political advocacy, and media outreach to ensure WOPR will never be implemented. The first WOPR projects are emerging and we are compiling legal information and rallying communities. We still have work to do, but we are confident that WOPR will soon be history.

In 2008, we developed the Coast Range Corridors program. Oregon's rugged Coast Range was once blanketed in temperate rainforests. Today, less than 5% of those original forests remain. The program's long-term goals are to maintain and create viable wildlife migration corridors and promote healthy, vibrant communities. Short-term goals are: protect wild forests from immediate threats; recover spotted owls, murrelets, salmon, and other native fish; permanently protect intact forests; cultivate a grassroots movement; and promote restoration as a viable alternative to old-growth logging.

Under this program, we launched campaigns to protect Devil's Staircase as Wilderness, halt old-growth logging on the Elliott State Forest, and secure Endangered Species protection for dusky tree voles and their old-growth habitat.

meet Sally

Operations Manager, world traveler, snowboarder and surfer, yoga instructor and personal trainer. She manages our volunteers, sets new standards for "customer service" and community support, coordinates events, and keeps our grassroots organization in ship shape.



Clockwise from top left: Migration corridors and uninterrupted habitat are critical to wildlife like spotted owls (*B. Cole*), wild salmon (*B. Cole*), and marbled murrelets (*unknown*). The Coast Range Corridors program identifies short-term strategies and long-term goals for connecting and restoring Oregon's coastal rainforests (*modified BLM map*). Supporter Sue Gabriel shows us BLM forests adjoining her property.



REVIVING THE LOST COAST



The Lost Coast, a stretch of temperate rainforests snuggled against steep snowy peaks and deep glacial valleys, connects the Chugach and Tongass National Forests in Alaska. This little-known mountain paradise, home to wolves, bears, and vibrant salmon runs, has been devastated by a decade of clearcutting. Local mountain goat populations have plunged by 80%. Over 20,000 acres of publicly-owned old-growth forests were leveled, with no buffers for salmon-bearing streams, and shipped to low-grade overseas markets.

Logging operations ended in 2008 with no plan for managing or restoring this massive landscape. Cascadia Wildlands saw a unique



opportunity to empower locals to implement a long-term, grassroots restoration plan. We reached out to locals, rugged prospectors, trappers, artists, and native families, often spending hours around a woodstove listening to their stories. We brought in a slew of experts to advise on the specifics of forest and stream restoration. Facilitating input from all parties, we drafted a plan based in science and personal experience.

In 2008, we completed on-the-ground reconnaissance and several pilot restoration projects with a team of local volunteers. These pilot projects prioritized locations with ecological significance (in subsistence areas, this implies human significance), such as Charley Creek, a primary local source of salmon and sole source of water for a family. In 2009 we will return to gauge the success of the pilot projects and finalize a long-term, community-driven, all-volunteer restoration plan for this vast, wounded landscape.

Clockwise from bottom: no protection for salmon-bearing streams (Gabe and husky for scale); in 2008, log trucks hauled their last loads from the Lost Coast; flying over the Lost Coast, a break in clouds reveals a devastated landscape (B. Cole).

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

CATALYZING CHANGE

Over the past decade, Cascadia Wildlands has protected tens of thousands of acres of native forests and redirected land managers to focus on restoration projects that provide stable jobs in rural communities. Many of our victories are concrete: court rulings, legislation, and agency decisions. Our greatest successes are less obvious but still profound. For example, in the 1990s the Willamette National Forest was the number one producer of old-growth timber in the country. After years of organizing grassroots pressure, litigating, and collaborating, the Willamette NF finally changed course, now focusing on restoration rather than old-growth logging.

TRUE GREEN The planet is in serious peril and we all have a responsibility to lighten our footprint. In honor of our

ten-year anniversary, Cascadia Wildlands launched a True Green Initiative to make our organization carbon-neutral, low-waste, toxics-free, and more. Local business partner Mountain Rose Herbs helped us buy carbon credits to offset all of our travel. We invested in durable dinnerware for all of our events. Every piece of paper we mail is hemp or post-consumer. This is our comprehensive, long-term commitment to walking the walk and taking sustainability seriously.

ALL GROWN UP As we reflected on 10 years of growth and change, we decided our name needed to grow up with us. In early 2009, we shortened our name to Cascadia Wildlands (no more Project!) and adopted a new tagline: we like it wild. Keep an eye out in 2009 for many more changes!

Evening light illuminates ponderosas in the Deschutes National Forest (top, B. Cole); 350 folks kicked up their heels at our 2008 Ancient Forest Hoedown (bottom).

COMMUNITY

“ We deeply appreciate the relationship that we have formed with Cascadia Wildlands. Our home in the Pacific Northwest is a revered place which has spiritual and emotional connections for all of us, and we shudder at the thought of the Cascadia Bioregion without the protection of Cascadia Wildlands.

”

– Mountain Rose Herbs



2009 AND BEYOND



Hidden under rock and snow, the Alaska pipeline crosses the Chugach (top); community events are an opportunity to educate all sorts of folks (center); the woods become a classroom (bottom).

We envision vast hills and valleys of old-growth forests, rivers full of wild salmon, wolves howling in the backcountry, and vibrant communities sustained by the unique landscapes of the Cascadia Bioregion.

TIMES ARE CHANGING

Cascadia Wildlands' goal of permanently protecting remaining old forests on federal public lands in the Northwest is within reach. Oregon's senior politicians, Senator Ron Wyden and Representative Peter DeFazio, have made public commitments to pass legacy forest legislation. In 2008, we offered feedback to Rep. DeFazio on his draft bill language and Senator Wyden on his legislative concept paper.

We continue to advocate for the strongest protection possible, mobilize community support, and work hand-in-hand with conservation groups across the region to send a strong message to Congress. 2009 could very well be the year that we protect Cascadia's legacy forests for good.

Alaska Field Rep, national debate champion, aspiring subsistence dweller, and superb salmon smoker. Gabe keeps Big Oil, the State of Alaska, and other major players in check in south-central Alaska while building long-term community relationships.

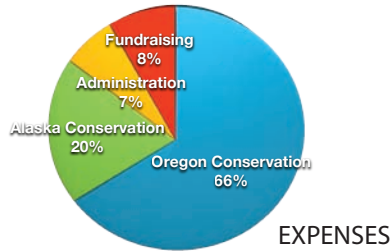
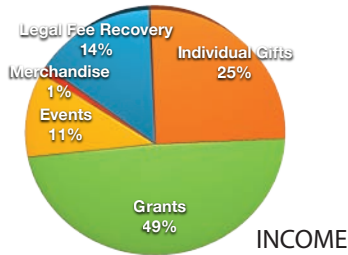
TURN UP THE HEAT

Cascadia Wildlands is on a mission to capitalize on a new administration, a shift in Congress and heightened public awareness. This year, we are pushing harder than ever for proactive change. Our top priorities:

- Formalize a Citizen Advisory Council for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline
- Eliminate the Western Oregon Plan Revisions
- Protect Devil's Staircase as Wilderness
- Halt old growth logging on the Elliott State Forest
- Pass legislation to permanently protect old forests
- Complete pilot restoration projects on the Lost Coast
- Have fun



FINANCIAL REVIEW



total income: \$215,516

assets: \$51,236

(as of December 31, 2008)

total expenses: \$228,044

liabilities: \$1,997

TO: **the interns** who worked for nearly nothing,
the volunteers who donated thousands of hours,
the businesses that contributed to the Hoedown and Wild
 Wonderland Auction,
 (special thanks to Ninkasi Brewing • Ring of Fire Restaurant • the
 Outdoor Program • Paul's Bicycle Way of Life • Tsunami Sushi)
the businesses that made substantial cash contributions,
 Mountain Rose Herbs • Patagonia • Tactics Board Shop
the grantmaking foundations and charitable funds,
 444S Foundation • Acorn Foundation • Alaska Conservation Foundation
 • Ben & Jerry's Foundation • Brainerd Foundation • Burning Foundation
 • Deer Creek Foundation • Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation • Fund
 for Wild Nature • Kenney Watershed Foundation • Joyce Thomas and
 Rob Castleberry Fund of MRG Foundation • Mark Frohnmayer Advised
 Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation • Mazamas • McKenzie
 River Gathering Foundation • Suwinski Family Foundation • Titcomb
 Foundation • Winky Foundation
**and EVERY individual and family who invested in
 Cascadia in 2008,**

THANK YOU.

“ I am amazed by how much Cascadia Wildlands does for our planet. They are connecting with people, changing the world from the roots up. Thank you for joining me in supporting their work, for being part of this movement, for sharing your passion and love for the Earth. ”

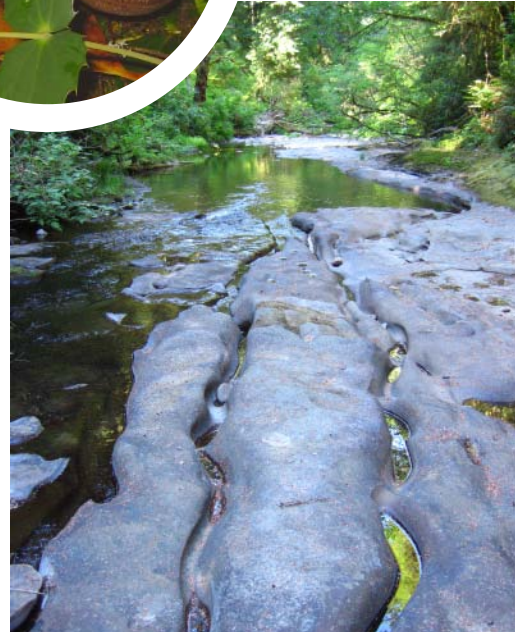
– Julia Butterfly Hill





DEVIL'S STAIRCASE

Deep in the Oregon Coast Range, a rugged oasis rises out of a sea of clearcuts and tree farms. Old-growth giants tower over shoulder-high ferns and stunning moss gardens. Bears feast on salmonberries, elk plow trails, and beavers toil tirelessly to contain creeks. Far from any road or trail, coho salmon hurl themselves up the mystical, elusive Devil's Staircase waterfall on Wassen Creek. Let's make it Wilderness: www.cascwild.org/devilsstaircase.html



Clockwise from top: massive old growth (staff); salmonberry-lined creeks become a summer paradise for bears; lucky hikers may discover a Pacific giant salamander; adventurers come here for creek hiking and canyoneering on stunning sandstone bed and walls; the remote, elusive Devil's Staircase waterfall (D. Tvedt). Cover: Wyatt Falls (J. Johnston).