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# Wild Wonderland Auction

Saturday, December 8th 6 - 10 pm EMU Ballroom, UO, Eugene

Join us for a festive evening of live jazz, delicious food, and locally crafted beer and wine. Bid on exciting silent and live auction items, including a vacation for 8 in Costa Rica, a week-long rafting trip for 2 down Alaska's Copper River, coastal condo and mountain cabin getaways, an iPod, outdoor gear, and more!

For more information, to view auction items, and to purchase advance tickets, visit www. cascwild.org.



### **BURNED FORESTS = HEALTHY FORESTS**

THORN PROJECT SHOWCASES ABUSIVE MANAGEMENT

by Jay Lininger

Decades of government propaganda featuring Smokey Bear brainwashed most Americans into believing that wildland fire is a destructive force of nature.

In truth, fire is a biological necessity in forest ecosystems throughout Cascadia. Native plants and soil organisms are adapted to recycle nutrients through combustion. Animals like fir engraver beetle and its predator, black-backed woodpecker, prefer torched forests as habitat. Even the northern spotted owl preys on rodents that congregate in burned patches to munch on delicious new plant growth.

A living example of the selfrenewing capability of fire-adapted forests is on display in the 1991 Warner Creek fire area of the Willamette National Forest outside Oakridge. The U.S. Forest Service and timber industry claimed the 9,000-acre fire was catastrophic and required salvage logging to recover the forest and protect it from future fires. Sixteen years later, thanks to a peaceful forest defense campaign that prevented logging without laws under the 1995 "Salvage Rider," Warner Creek now teems with a fantastic diversity of life that offers unparalleled opportunities to study fire ecology. The Forest Service lost interest in Warner Creek after the public forced it to withdraw logging plans there.

Its myopic attachment to industrial "salvage" of burned forests is on display yet again as the agency finalizes

continued on page 3



Wildland firefighter patrols the perimeter of the 2006 Thorn Fire in Oregon's Malheur National Forest.

Northwest Timber Fallers

# THE CASCADIA WILDLANDS PROJECT

works to protect and restore the forests, waters, and wildlife of Cascadia.



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### GAINING FORWARD MOMENTUM

### RAMBLINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A palpable sense of momentum gathering energizes our work these days. In Alaska, our effort to protect the world's best salmon habitat from oil spills

out of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline got a boost from the state's Commission on Environmental Conservation, which granted us a hearing to test the adequacy of spill response planning in the Copper River basin. Recognizing the hearing as a major strategic advance for their interests, the Cordova fishermen's union stepped forward to assist with our legal costs. Combined with our collaborative work to restore the planet's biggest clearcut on the Lost Coast, the relationship between Cascadia Wildlands Project and communities in south-central Alaska that depend on a healthy environment is poised to flourish.

In Oregon, our legal director scored a victory in his first lawsuit challenging government violations of environmental law. We sued the Deschutes National Forest to prevent it from destroying forests that naturally burned in the 2006 Black Crater fire with a post-fire timber sale. The area is a designated old-growth reserve and critical to recovery of the threatened northern spotted owl. Incredibly, the Forest Service claimed that burned forests no longer function as owl habitat. Dan presented scientific evidence that the spotted owl evolved with wildland fire and regularly uses burned forests for nesting and hunting. He persuaded a federal judge to restrain the timber sale while we negotiated a settlement that protects critical habitat and al-



Legal Director Dan Kruse, aka The Sheriff, made 40 gallons of chili for our recent Hoedown

lows some logging in 14 percent of the area next to a main forest road. Our next step is to work with the Forest Service to designate a Research Natural Area at Black Crater and promote learning about fire ecology.

We spend most of our time pushing back against the Bush administration's horribly conceived backroom deal with the timber industry called the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR). You might have seen our presentations in the community or heard from us in news media about the proposed revival of clearcut logging in old forests. Our voice is centrally positioned in a lively public debate, and we've delivered a strong message that Oregonians do not have to choose between protecting treasured old forests and sustaining essential services that county governments provide. We collaborate with partners across the political spectrum to educate policymakers about forward thinking solutions. By December, we will have submitted comprehensive legal comments on the draft environmental impact statement for WOPR based on our research and systematic field visits to old forests that could lose protection.

Forward movement in our varied campaigns makes derailing WOPR seem a lot more manageable than it would if it were our entire focus. So does a fun party. If you attended our 6th annual Hoedown for Ancient Forests and enjoyed square dancing to the old time music of the Conjugal Visitors, thanks for coming and making it a great evening.

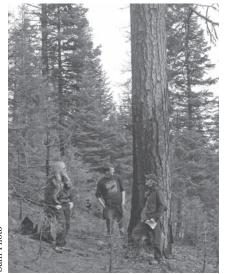
With your ongoing support, we'll stay on the offensive.

Jay

# NEWS IN CASCADIA

## **Black Crater Post-fire Timber Sale Settled**

In early October, the Cascadia Wildlands Project and allies Oregon Chapter Sierra Club and Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project settled our lawsuit challenging the Black Crater timber sale, which was proposed in the aftermath of the 2006 Black Crater fire. Located in Oregon's Central Cascades, the Black Crater timber sale was less than one mile from the Three Sisters Wilderness and entirely within an old-growth reserve and designated spotted owl "critical habitat." Represented



Black Crater post-fire forests saved from logging.

by our Legal Director, Dan Kruse, we quickly went one up with an award of a temporary restraining order by Federal Judge Ann Aiken in August. After two settlement conferences and a precedent setting decision by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in a related case, the Forest Service settked. Ultimately, seven of eight logging units were cancelled entirely, and the remaining unit was the furthest away from the wilderness area and little more than a long skinny stretch of trees wedged between a road and a massive private land clearcut.

#### Roads Across Public Land Near Roseburg Challenged

In late September, Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center, Cascadia Wildlands Project and Umpqua Watersheds challenged the legality of two proposed roads across Medford Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land to access private timber. The roads total 712 feet in length, are projected up to 60 feet in width, and would be built directly through one of the remaining stands of mature forest within the Galesville Old-Growth Reserve southwest of Roseburg, Oregon. Plaintiffs have raised specific concerns about the impacts of increasing road densities on wildlife and water quality and the BLM's complete refusal to consider or acknowledge the cumulative impacts of past logging and road construction in the area. The government and Seneca Jones Timber Company have agreed to a temporary stay of ground disturbing activities pending the court's decision.

#### Lawsuit Filed Against Five Buttes Logging Project

On October 2, the Cascadia Wildlands Project, the Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project, and the Oregon Chapter Sierra Club filed a federal lawsuit challenging the Five Buttes Project on the Crescent Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest. The timber sale proposes to remove more than 2,000 acres of spotted owl habitat through intensive logging in order to "protect" spotted owls from the risk that fire could burn their habitat. While the Forest Service expects it to take up to 50 years for spotted owls to nest, roost and forage in the logged areas again, the fire risk could return to current levels in as little as twenty years. The Five Buttes Project has been broken into about a half-dozen different timber sales, two of which have been sold already. Plaintiffs are represented by Eugene-based attorney Ann Kneeland and CRAG Law Center's Ralph Bloemers from Portland.

### Fire continued from page 1

plans for its largest post-fire logging project of 2007 on 4,000 acres burned by the Thorn fire in the Malheur National Forest near Dayville.

The purpose of the project is to capture economic value from burned trees. Ironically, logging will create a net financial loss to taxpayers of \$2.4 million, according to Forest Service analysis.

Government foresters are so determined to log the big ponderosa pines and Douglas fir at Thorn that they propose to amend the Malheur Forest Plan to allow logging in a variety of currently protected environments including elk winter range habitat and other wildlife emphasis areas, oldgrowth reserves, and a large roadless area centered on Chrome Ridge.

The temporary nature of the plan amendments, whereby the agency will restore pre-existing management direction to protected areas after they are logged, amounts to a series of deliberate forest plan violations and moots the planning process by giving foresters leave to disregard otherwise binding plans at their pleasure. Federal law does not allow such arbitrary government behavior.

Cascadia Wildlands Project acknowledges a real economic need for some logging and wood products manufacture from the Malheur National Forest. Recent mill closures in John Day, forced by depressed log prices and escalating fuel costs, left that community reeling from the loss of dozens of family wage jobs. For this reason, we suggested an alternative that would limit logging at Thorn to road corridors and lands where the forest plan allows it without any need for amendment. This alternative protects important areas and allows reduced but significant economic use of natural resources.

Fundamentally, however, burned forests are healthy forests. The idea that post-fire logging salvages value that otherwise would go to waste is erroneous. Logging demolishes the very structures that host evolution in forest ecosystems and reinforces the boomand-bust economic cycles inherent to the timber industry.

The Forest Service will issue its Record of Decision amending the Malheur Forest Plan and authorizing post-fire logging any day. Stay tuned.

# QUIET DAWNS ON ALASKA'S LOST COAST

RESTORATION REPLACES DECADES OF CLEARCUTTING

by Gabe Scott

Things are looking up for Alaska's Lost Coast. The last old-growth spruce and hemlock trees are being cut this week, ending over three decades of savage clearcutting in one of the world's biggest wildlands.

The legacy being left behind is 35 miles of coastline stripped of nearly all the old trees. The old-growth forests, which take centuries to build up in the wake of retreating glaciers, have been set back centuries. The biggest trees here were eight and a half feet in

diameter. With all of those trees and the winter cover they provided gone, the mountain goat population is a fifth of what it was. Wild coho and king salmon, brown bear, marten, and bald eagle populations have all been hurt.

The logging camp that had built up at Icy Bay—which at its peak included a functioning K-12 school and post office— is packing up and being hauled off. This winter, for the first time in decades, Icy Bay will be a pure wilderness again.

With logging ramping down, our

Lost Coast restoration project is ramping up. We've been working in concert with local artist Jen-Ann Kirchmeier, state and local agencies, residents, and scientific advisors to cooperatively do forest restoration work.

Our first successful field season is done. The time on the ground has answered a lot of questions.

Because the Lost Coast is so remote, knowledge gaps and logistics are our biggest challenge. We've gotten the baseline information we need to write a watershed restoration plan this winter. This will form a solid, scientific basis for a lasting restoration effort.

A major theme has been monitoring the road close-out of about 100 miles of logging roads. We found numerous areas where roads were eroding into salmon streams, and one segment of a major king salmon stream that had been diverted through a huge clearcut.

A highlight of the summer was the field visit with professional wildland photographer Brett Cole (www.wildnorthwest.org). We'll be sharing his stunning images at an outreach event at the Eugene Public Library on November 6 at 6:30 pm.

We'll be in the field in spring implementing the first restoration projects. In the meantime, the wild again reigns supreme in the world's biggest contiguous wilderness.



South-central Alaska's Lost Coast

### IN FOCUS: OUR MEMBERS

Our members form the foundation of our grassroots organization. Each year, hundreds of people donate to ensure the places they love are protected for centuries to come. In addition to providing substantial financial resources, our members give us a powerful and diverse political voice.

Our youngest member, Rio Nesta Long, is only three months old. He might not be fully aware of how much his contribution is making a difference right now, but someday he will hike through magnificent old-growth forests that his membership contributions helped protect. Our oldest member, Mary Ritley, will turn 95 this year. We have mem-

bers who live next door to old-growth forests, across the globe in New Zealand, and everywhere in between. Some have been donating since the beginning of the organization in 1997, while others join our community of supporters each week. Some of our members are celebrities, some are veterans, some are student activists, and others are families who love to hike through wild places.

We celebrate every new member and every donation we receive, and are honored to have your support. On behalf of all the forests, waters, and wildlife we protect each year, thank you!

-Kate Ritley



Baby Rio is ecstatic to be our youngest member!

# OPPOSITION IS GROWING

### CITIZENS SEE THROUGH BUSH PLAN FOR BLM FORESTS

by Jay Lininger

The Bush administration faces growing opposition to its proposal to accelerate logging of low-elevation forests in western Oregon.

Citizens from Cottage Grove to Coos Bay and Corvallis are asking tough questions only to find that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offers few good answers about the sustainability, necessity and legality of its radical forest policy shift in the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR).

The proposed WOPR makes logging the dominant use of over two million acres managed by the BLM and increases seven-fold the cutting of forests older than 200 years above what the Northwest Forest Plan allows today. Ninety percent of the projected 700+ million board foot annual timber sale volume will come from the largest and oldest trees remaining on public land.

It also resurrects the archaic practice of clearcutting. "Regeneration harvest" comprises 80 percent of the planned cut and no longer will include "green tree retention" of pre-existing forest structure. BLM intends to transform natural forests into tree plantations on more than 140,000 acres in just 10 years.

The Eugene *Register-Guard* calls the proposal "an exercise in excess," and the Portland *Oregonian* ridicules BLM for making promises that it cannot deliver because of push-back from Cascadia Wildlands Project and others.

#### Unsustainable

BLM says its plan will produce more old forests in a century than exist today. It counts on calling plantations "old forest" after 80 years. BLM neglects to say that structurally complex stands older than 200 years will be eliminated from its harvest land base. In addition, supposedly protected areas will be clearcut and planted whenever they experience wildland fire, which will be more common in a warmer climate. Biological properties of native forests, and ecological functions they support, will be lost forever.

#### **Boom and bust**

BLM analysis shows that increased sawmill production under WOPR could partly offset inevitable job losses in local government and plywood manufacturing, with a net loss of 2,000 jobs in Douglas County. And it could generate up to 90 percent of historical timber payments to which a handful of counties are addicted.

But high-grade peeler logs will be consumed after 20 years, according to BLM. After that, thinning of less valuable saw logs in young stands will dominate public land forestry. Sawmill jobs and county payments will fade along with economic options.

#### Illegal

The Bush strategy on Endangered Species Act is to shift spotted owl recovery goals away from habitat conservation toward slaughter of the barred owl, a competitive species. Its recovery plan flunked six independent peer reviews, and time is running out to give BLM the free pass it needs to clear-cut spotted owl forests.

New road construction and logging in streamside forests under WOPR also will violate Clean Water Act standards for sediment and thermal pollution in water quality limited streams throughout the Willamette basin.

#### Take action!

Please speak up for old-growth forests and demand their long-term protection! The most helpful action citizens can take is to write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.

BLM extended by 30 days the period for comment on its draft environmental impact statement. The new deadline is December 10. You can comment on our website at www.cascwild.org.

Summary and background information on WOPR, as well as important points to make, are available at www. oregonheritageforests.org. Please send copies of your letters and comments to Governor Kulongoski and members of Congress at the addresses below. Governor Ted Kulongoski, 160 State Capitol, 900 Court Street, Salem, OR 97301-4047; Rep. Peter DeFazio, 2134 Rayburn H.O.B., Washington, DC, 20515; Sen. Ron Wyden, 223 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-3703.

# WILD ROGUE MOMENTUM BUILDS

Our diverse coalition effort to designate an additional 98 miles of Wild and Scenic River corridors and 60,000 acres of wilderness along the famed lower Rogue River continues to gain momentum. Summer 2007 saw our list of business endorsers surge above 50 and interest increased from Rep. Peter DeFazio and Sen. Ron Wyden. Key staff from both offices was given a briefing of the proposal and a tour of the lower Rogue River this summer. The response from each office has been encouraging, yet it is clear

that we have much work ahead of us to actualize this landmark proposal. We also earned a number of high-profile media pieces, including cover stories in the *Eugene Weekly* and the *Medford Mail Tribune*. Elected officials made it clear they need to hear from people like YOU on this issue. Contact Rep. DeFazio, 2134 Rayburn H.O.B., Washington, DC 20515; Senator Wyden, 223 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-3703; and Senator Smith, 404 Russell Building, Washington, DC 20510.



Rafting the wild Rogue River.

# GOOD OL'-FASHIONED FUN!

6TH ANNUAL HOEDOWN A SMASHING SUCCESS

The colorful leaves, pumpkins on porches, and chilly weather can only mean one thing: it's time to Hoedown! On October 6th, more than 350 community members put on their finest duds and made their way to Avalon Stables in Cottage Grove for our 6th Annual Hoedown for Ancient Forests.

This outdoor celebration featured

piping hot soul food prepared by staff attorney and vegan chef Dan Kruse, locally crafted beverages by Eugene's Ninkasi Brewery, old time Appalachian twang by the Conjugal Visitors, square dances called by Rich Goss, and an exhilarating fire dancing performance. A "cow and farmer's wife" duo won the coveted costume contest, though there was stiff competition from dozens of

others sporting massive belt buckles, mustaches, and petticoats. This year's hoedown proved to be our biggest ever, with over \$4,000 raised to protect ancient forests!

-Kate Ritley



### THANKS, Y'ALL!

Deepest thanks to Janine
Nilsen for hosting the Hoedown at Avalon Stables,
Dan Kruse and Ivy Knox for
preparing an incredible buffet,
Ninkasi Brewing Company for
donating tasty beverages, the
Conjugal Visitors for getting
our feet stomping, and the
many other volunteers, businesses, and supporters who
offered their time, energy, and
goods to make this event an
incredible success.

# Sean F

# **OPENING DOORS IN ALASKA**

THE FIGHT FOR OIL PIPELINE OVERSIGHT

by Gabe Scott

Oil companies and governments are like little children. Leave them alone in a room for too long, and they're certain to raise mischief.

This is the case on the 800-mile Trans-Alaska Pipeline. The Cascadia Wildlands Project has been sleuthing behind the scenes and have found that the oil companies have systematically cut their costs by cutting corners on spill prevention, maintenance and safety. Remote and behind closed doors, Exxon, BP and Conoco have been getting rich by gambling with Alaska's environment.

Consequently, we are implementing a legal strategy that will put their oil spill readiness on trial. This summer, the state's top environmental official granted our request for a legal adjudicatory hearing to investigate shortcomings in protection of Environmentally Sensitive Areas on the Copper River.

According to oil company figures, there has been on average a spill each

and every month over the life of the pipeline, spilling a total of 147,880 gallons. Luckily, up to now, the spills have been in convenient locations and were contained away from any rivers. Alaskans, who remember the Exxon Valdez, wonder how long our luck will hold out. The nightmare danger is that a pipeline oil spill will not be contained and will escape into one of Alaska's prized rivers. Especially concerned are downriver residents in the Copper River drainage, whose subsistence lifestyle and worldfamous salmon fishery are at risk on 170 miles of pipeline snaking through the upper watershed.

The oil companies calculate the chances of a major spill from the pipeline at 94%. Recently, corrosion-caused spills on the North Slope, and a botched automation project on the pipeline, highlight growing risks.

Our sleuthing uncovered some interesting number crunching by the oil companies. Turns out they find it cheaper to fight damages in court later,

than be ready to respond to a spill. Their lawyers save them the costs of protecting the Copper River by denying that it is an "environmentally sensitive area," a designation that would require them to protect it.

We think that's dangerous nonsense, and almost everyone here agrees. We are joined in the action by Cordova fisherman Bill Black, and entrepreneur Lauren Padawer, whose "Glacial Facials" mud masks are the rage in New York. Most recently, the union representing the Copper River commercial fishing fleet contributed to help with legal fees. Native Corporations, who are the major landowners along the river, offer enthusiastic blessing and welcome the chance to make their perspective heard.

The root cause of this problem is that oil companies and the state make decisions behind closed doors. And that is why we are forcing our way into the room.

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Join us for a festive evening of live jazz, delicious food, and locally crafted beer and wine. Bid on exciting silent and live auction items, including:

- a vacation for 8 in Costa Rica
- a week-long rafting trip for 2 down Alaska's Copper River
- coastal condo and mountain cabin getaways
- iPod
- outdoor gear
- lessons in dancing, horseback riding, knitting, and more
- a variety of services, from massages to car repairs to dogsitting
- exquisite wines
- many other wonderful gift items

For more information, to view auction items, and to purchase tickets, visit www.cascwild.org.

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** 

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Whole Systems Foundtion

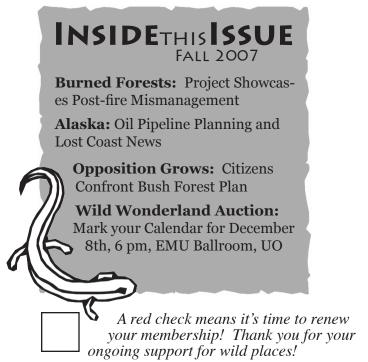
**Mountain Rose Herbs** 

### 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!



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### EDGE OF THE ICE AGE: ALASKA'S LOST COAST AND COPPER RIVER

Join us for an evening of stunning aerial photography and discussion about saving Alaska's Copper River from the threats of the aging trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

Tuesday, November 6 \* 6:30-7:30 pm Tykeson Room, Eugene Public Library (10th and Olive St.)

Join Gabe Scott, the Cascadia Wildlands Project's Alaska Field Representative for an informative and stunning slideshow about Alaska's unparalleled Copper River, its rich Delta and threats they face from the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline and commercial extraction interests. Gabe has spent the past 8 years in Cordova, a quaint salmon fishing village on the mouth of the delta and on the eastern shore of Prince William Sound, working with fishermen and locals to ensure the world-class salmon fishery and surrounding wildlands remain unspoiled for future generations. The event is free, open to the public and wheelchair accessible. For more information, contact the Cascadia Wildlands Project, 541.434.1463, www.cascwild.org.

### **ECO-FRIENDLY STOCKING STUFFERS**

Looking for a thoughtful, unique holiday gift? Shop our online store at www.cascwild.org. We offer organic t-shirts, reusable carabiner-handle mugs, stainless steel hip flasks, Ultimate frisbees, recycled notecards, and more. Gift memberships also make a wonderful gift for any outdoor enthusiast. Items are shipped in recycled/reused packaging, and all proceeds help protect endangered forests and wildlife. This holiday season, feel good about giving!