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NEWSLETTER OF THE CASCADIA WILDLANDS PROJECT

THE PENDLETON RISE-UP

SUPPORT FOR WOLVES IN THE LEAST LIKELY OF PLACES

by Dan Kruse

The vast majority of people in this world who have ever heard of Pendleton, Oregon, know about it for exactly one reason: an annual rodeo hullabaloo called the Pendleton Roundup. Each September since 1910, people from across the West have gathered in Pendleton to join the spectacle, march in the parades, and watch the steer wrestling, bull riding, calf roping, wild cow milking, and a half-dozen other cowboy competitions. The Roundup is an annual renewal of old western traditions, and the event has made Pendleton a modern-day symbol of Oregon's cattle country.

So when the Cascadia Wildlands Project's caravan rolled into Pendleton on March 7 to testify in front of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) about the importance of federal wolf protection, we were not expecting a particularly warm welcome. Historically, wolves and cows have not gotten along well — their relationship being that of predator and prey. As a result, wolves and cowboys don't always get along so well either. Just ask the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

We rolled into town just as the hearing began. The first person to testify was a sheep farmer from eastern Oregon. The rough looking man wore a flannel shirt, over-sized belt buckle and cowboy hat and, in spite of all our presumptions, spoke eloquently about how important wolves were to western ecosystems and how critical

wolf protections were to the survival of the species. The next person to testify was a woman from Portland who drove several hundred miles to express her love for wildlife and to plead with the USFWS not to take wolves off the Endangered Species List.

One by one people spoke, and we sat there as person after person poured their hearts out about the value and beauty of wolves, about the ecological importance of large predators, and about the need for federal wolf protection. Our testimony was met with applause, not a bombardment of rotten tomatoes like we expected. Of the twenty-six people who spoke, all but four wanted to see wolves remain fully protected under federal law, and two of those four were government officials. It was absolutely astonishing. Perhaps the only thing more uplifting than the unexpected outpour of wolf

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 15: Fire ecologist George Wuerthner presents a stunning slideshow on his new coffee table book, "Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy." 7 pm, 180 PLC, University of Oregon (14th & Kincaid), Eugene.

May 17: Slideshow presentation on resource management in the McKenzie River watershed. Learn about dam relicensing, endangered species, logging projects, and restoration opportunities. 7 pm, Ben Linder Room, University of Oregon, Eugene.

May 19: Explore the upper McKenzie River watershed, the source of Eugene's municipal water supply and habitat for a host of endangered species. Hike through old-growth forest along the river's headwaters to Tamolitch Pool. Sign up for the hike at the UO Outdoor Program office in the Erb Memorial Union (13th and University St.).



Howling gray wolf pup.

International Wolf Center

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



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NEW SKIPPER AT THE HELM

RAMBLINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is with great excitement that I introduce you to Jay Lininger, the Cascadia Wildlands Project's new Executive Director. Jay comes to us from the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion with a wealth of knowledge and a passion to protect the wild places and critters that make the Pacific Northwest so special. Jay recently finished his Master's degree at the University of Montana, writing his thesis on stand-scale restoration with a focus on wildfire. Before moving to Missoula, he was the Conservation Director with the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center in Ashland.



Jay is actually not new to the Cascadia Wildlands Project or Eugene. In 1998-1999, while at the University of Oregon, he worked as a contractor at the budding organization. For his diligent work writing comments and appeals of old-growth timber sales, he was paid \$50/month and got to live rent-free in co-founder James Johnston's "house." Jay was a good find even back then. With Jay's addition to the organization, I will be spending my time exclusively on our conservation campaigns as our Program Director.

This is an exciting time for our organization and the lands we work to protect. We have grown significantly since our beginning in the late 90s, from a group of volunteers called the "Cascadia Forest Monitoring Project" to a professional staff with a diverse, 8-member board of directors. We have expanded from a member base of six people to over 700. Our annual budget has grown from just \$23,000 to over \$200,000.

Our incredible growth and significant list of victories are due in much part to your support. Thanks to you, we have grown into a regional voice for conservation and have systematically changed the way forest managers do business. In places like the Siuslaw, Willamette and Umpqua National Forests, the old-growth wars are now over, and most of the debate revolves around restoring what we have messed up over the past 100 years. We have not just persevered 6.4 years of the Bush administration's all-out attack on the environment, but we have beat it back. We helped get the popular Clinton-era roadless rule re-instated, maintained safeguards in the Northwest Forest Plan, shot down the watered-down national forest planning rules and killed post-fire clearcutting legislation in Congress. Through grassroots campaigns and legal challenges, we have stopped dozens and dozens of timber sales that would have turned some of our favorite places into stump fields. And we are now unleashing an offense. Advancing legislation in Congress that will permanently protect remaining older forests in the region has become not just a priority for us, but for policy makers.

It is impressive to reflect on what we have accomplished together over the past 10 years. With a robust staff and board, new director at the helm, ever-growing membership and ongoing foundation supporters, it's exciting to think about the possibilities for conservation in the region over the next decade. Cascadia's wildlands and critters are counting on us. Thanks again for your ongoing support.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Tony Silvaggio, board member for the past three years, has left to devote more time to his professorship at Humboldt State University. Tony was most well-known for cooking the scrumptious food at our annual hoedown and holiday auction. With the departure of one board member, we see the arrival of three more. **Amy Atwood** is a take-no-prisoners attorney with the Eugene-based Western Environmental Law Center who is always up for a game of poker. **Jeremy Hall**, former staff of Oregon Wild, has returned to Cascadia from the Southwest and is leading up our conservation committee. **Jeff Long**, our outreach and education coordinator from 2004-2006, has also joined the board. We also welcome contractor **Andy Kuss** as our Outreach Associate. Along with specializing in engaging the public and building membership, he is an accomplished bluegrass picker from Ohio.

NEWS IN CASCADIA

Salamander Success

On January 19, a federal court ruled in favor of our lawsuit, ordering the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to reconsider endangered species protection for the Siskiyou Mountain and Scotts Bar salamanders. These forest-dwelling salamanders, found only in the Siskiyou region of southwest Oregon and northern California, have been heavily impacted by decades of logging activities. In March, USFWS determined that they will consider both salamander species for endangered status and initiated a 12-month study on the species' condition. Cascadia Wildlands board member Amy Atwood of the Western Environmental Law Center and Erin Madden provided legal representation for the suit, filed jointly



KS WILD

The Siskiyou Mountain salamander is finally being considered for protection.

with KS Wild, Center for Biological Diversity, Oregon Wild and Environmental Protection Information Center.

Stream Protection Restored

The 1994 Northwest Forest Plan, the guiding management plan for public forests of the Pacific Northwest, included an Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) to protect and restore watershed health, waterways, and salmon and steelhead habitat. Accordingly, management activities could not compromise stream habitats or watershed health. In 2004, the Bush administration removed these watershed protections by excusing logging activities from complying with the ACS at a site-specific scale. In late March, a court held that such rollbacks of stream protection cannot occur without public review and thorough scientific discussion. This landmark decision reinstates the original watershed and fish habitat protections of the ACS.

Bush Loses Again

The 1976 National Forest Management Act was designed to protect wildlife, soils, water, and outdoor recreation opportunities. In 2005, without public input or environmental analysis, the Bush administration announced that National Forests would no longer be required to maintain wildlife species viability.

On March 30, a federal judge threw out Bush's 2005 policy, ruling in our favor by declaring it violated the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Administrative Procedures Act. Original forest management regulations to protect public forests have been restored. Peter Frost of the Western Environmental Law Center provided legal representation.

Cougars Attacked

As a top predator, cougars play a critical role in forest ecosystems. Despite the 1994 voter-instituted ban on hound hunting, Oregon's mountain lions are being killed at higher rates thanks to lower prices on cougar tags and longer hunting seasons. Though there has never been a verified cougar attack on a human in Oregon and there is no scientific justification in killing them, the state legislature is considering allowing civilian hunters to act as government agents to kill cougars using hounds. At the same time, the state has launched a Cougar Management Plan to kill 40% of Oregon's cougars. Cascadia Wildlands recently thwarted federal participation in the cougar killings through a lawsuit, but Oregon's governor and legislators need to listen to the public and stop the slaughter of our state's big cats. Learn more at www.cascawild.org.

Wolves continued from page 1

adoration was the stunned expression on the faces of USFWS personnel who had fully and justifiably expected to hear nothing but praise and support for their anti-wolf plans.

The USFWS under the Bush administration has decided to take a staunchly anti-wolf position. They have recently proposed to make the Rocky Mountain wolves a "distinct population segment," and to remove them entirely from the Endangered Species List.

If delisting occurs, there will be nothing to stop another state-sponsored wolf eradication program like those in the early 1900s. Idaho's Governor Butch Otter has already promised to kill the vast majority of

wolves in the state if federal protections are dropped, and recently bragged that he was "prepared to bid for that first ticket to shoot a wolf myself." Wyoming's state plan was so vicious toward wolves the feds haven't even approved it. If the Rocky Mountain wolf population is decimated, as is the plan, there will be little to no chance of wolves recovering in Oregon in the foreseeable future, as the recently-approved Oregon plan relies precisely on these wolves to re-colonize our state. The recent uprising in Pendleton sent a loud message to the USFWS about how Oregonians feel about wolves. Unfortunately, we've still got a long way to go.

Please submit comments to the USFWS before **May 8** about its proposal to delist the gray wolf.

Comments can be electronically mailed to NRMGrayWolf@fws.gov or mailed to US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wolf Delisting, 585 Shepard Way, Helena, MT. Contact us for talking points if you need them. And call Idaho Governor Butch Otter at (208) 334-2100 and tell him he's a jerk!



MacNeil Lyons, NPS

Gray wolves are a critical component of forest ecosystems.

ART AND ECOLOGY IN ALASKA

OIL PAINTINGS BUILD SUPPORT FOR LOST COAST RESTORATION

by Gabe Scott

CORDOVA, AK— In a living marriage of art and ecology, the Cascadia Wildlands Project has teamed up with Alaskan artist Jen-Ann Kirchmeier to restore Alaska's biggest clearcut.

The work of accomplished Alaska artist Jen-Ann Kirchmeier, Wolf Hill Studios, has been on display this spring at Art Expo, one of the premier spring shows in New York City. Kirchmeier is privileged to be one of the featured artists at the show by Art Exchange (www.artexchange.com). Art Exchange is one of the largest on-line arenas for the buying and selling of art by professionals, designers and trend-setters.

This series of oil paintings is in a contemporary impressionist style and

captures the spirit of a rainforest in Alaska. Jen-Ann explains:

"Within the complete and natural forest, there is a feeling of a living presence, a living entity, with moods and awareness. These forest paintings I am offering up to this Lost Coast work have everything to do with portraying the aspects of the soul of the forest – the moods, the joy, the interchange, the synergy, dynamics, and always, the spirit within."

The story behind the "Alaska's Lost Coast" series is almost as engaging as the art itself. Kirchmeier's art is inspired by living at a remote homestead in a little-known corner of Alaska's coastal rainforest, a place so remote it's known as "the Lost Coast." The old-growth spruce and hemlock rainforest here was a majestic, pristine wilderness.

The Lost Coast, near Yakutaga, has been heavily logged by the State of Alaska University and Mental Health land trusts. Logging concerns will pull out completely by 2008, leaving 20,000 acres of clearcuts and Kirchmeier, the daughter of a Wisconsin logger, heartbroken.

The magical, living forest Jen-Ann portrays in her art is real. To give back to the forest that inspired her artwork, Kirchmeier has founded an ecological restoration project that will be supple-

mented by the sales of her paintings and artwork. Every art sale gives support to restoration. Every supporter of the restoration project receives a piece of Lost Coast series artwork.

On the ground restoration is where the Cascadia Wildlands Project comes in. This spring we are in the field setting up base camp and doing surveys to identify the highest-priority work. Early collaboration shows strong support for objectives of watershed restoration for salmon and rehabilitation of winter mountain goat habitat. The more than 200 road crossings of salmon streams are an early subject of concern. There are lots of simple things we can do to properly steward this land. Stabilizing streambanks, planting trees on steep slopes—these small things really can make a difference.

"It is my dream that someday we will learn to keep these forests intact," said Kirchmeier, "and when we harvest trees that they be removed with care and regard for the forest as a complete complex ecosystem."

With support of Kirchmeier, Marion Weber, Titcomb Foundation, Laird Norton Foundation, and others, we have begun planting the seeds of a long-term restoration of the Lost Coast's ravaged wildlands.

To learn more about the project, go to www.LostCoastRestoration.org.



Cathedral Forest by Jen-Ann Kirchmeier. Oil on canvas, 36 x 48.

IN FOCUS: OTIS, WALLY, AND LADY

In an organization that daily confronts destructive logging proposals and federal schemes to roll back environmental protections, it could be easy to slip into a state of gloom. Fortunately, we have a well-established gloom-prevention program. Some corporate offices cover their walls in motivational posters. Some managers end employee meetings with a pep talk. We have Otis, Wally, and Lady.

They aren't official Cascadia Wildlands staff, but their positions are indispensable. Wally's primary respon-

sibilities include snoring loudly, licking office visitors, and blowing bubbles out of his nose (an unusual talent, to be sure). Lady labors endlessly at keeping the couch warm and being beautiful. Otis works double-duty as a vacuum cleaner (ensuring no rubber bands or paper clips litter the floor) and office clown (primarily by chasing his shadow, chasing his tail, chasing Wally...).

Come by our office anytime and meet our canine companions. They only ask that you bring a few treats.

-Kate Ritley



On top of Spencer's Butte (l to r): Otis, Lady, and Wally.

OWL HABITAT SAVED FROM LOGGING

LEGAL CHALLENGE SAFEGUARDS TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ACRES

by Dan Kruse

There's not much good news these days about the federal agency responsible for protecting America's threatened and endangered wildlife. In March 2007, the Interior Department's Inspector General reported that one of President Bush's political appointees to the agency, Julie MacDonald, has for years been wrongfully giving non-public, internal government documents to private industry groups, and has been altering and manipulating scientific documents to favor the administration's policies and to assist developers. According to interviews from US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) employees, MacDonald—the agency's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks—bullied, threatened, and harassed scientists to change documents, ignore good science, and alter biological reporting regarding the Endangered Species program.



Brett Cole

Northern spotted owl

You may have also seen the USFWS in the news recently because of a successful lawsuit we were part of that found the agency had been illegally allowing the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to kill unlimited amounts of endangered spotted owls within dozens of timber sales in Oregon. According to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on February 21, the FWS used an "Incidental Take Statement" to permit the killing of every single spotted owl within 22,227 acres scheduled to be logged in southwest Oregon. We were joined in *ONRC v. Allen* by KS Wild, FLOW, Oregon Wild and Siskiyou Project, and were represented by Kristin Boyles with Earthjustice.

Under the Endangered Species Act, the USFWS can permit the incidental taking (i.e., killing) of a threatened or endangered species, but only under certain circumstances and only if the action will not "jeopardize the existence" of the species or "adversely modify" its habitat. This "incidental take" provision is an enormous loophole in the Endangered Species Act that has allowed the USFWS to authorize timber sales that could otherwise not legally occur. Incredibly, and as if the loophole wasn't big enough, the USFWS has been using incidental take permits illegally to allow the killing of even more threatened and endangered species.

Following this 9th Circuit decision, a similar lawsuit led to another wave of Incidental Take Statement withdrawal. One of the withdrawn documents



Logging plans for the Trapper timber sale, in the shadows of Wolf Rock in the Blue River watershed, have been put on hold.

covered 847.5 acres of logging within twelve timber sales in the Willamette National Forest and for the time being stopped reckless projects like Trapper and South Pyramid that we have been contesting for years; another covered 978 acres within five timber sales on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forests; another allowed the killing of all spotted owls in 40,000 acres across northwestern Oregon; and the biggest one that we know of covered the entire 426,019 acre Roseburg BLM District. The most recent biological opinion that has been withdrawn permitted logging of dozens of horrific timber sales on the Medford BLM and halted some of the worst logging projects in the country like Kelsey Whisky, Westside and Boney Skull.

We are joined in this second suit by KS Wild, Bark, Oregon Wild, Umpqua Watersheds and the Northwest Environmental Defense Center and represented by Stephanie Parent of the Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center.

NOW THAT'S CRAZY TALK!

Rejoice in global warming

"Global warming, based on verifiable evidence, is a natural phenomenon, as is global cooling. Man has had absolutely nothing to do with either. These cyclical changes predate modern man's habitation of the Earth...

Stop and think. Generally, the same people who gave us the spotted owl theory to shut down our timber industry - and who also have co-opted our legal system, pretty much ruined public education and are hellbent on changing our form of government to socialism - are the ones who are endorsing the myth that man is responsible for

global warming."

— Sherman Talbot

Letter to the Editor, Eugene Register-Guard, March 22



Cascadia responds

For those who would like a rebuttle to Mr. Talbot's global warming claims, we will refer you to Al Gore's recent film, *An Inconvenient Truth*, which eloquently presents opinions of the vast majority of non-industry-funded scientists. As for the other claims, well, we're speechless.

POST-FIRE CLEARCUTTING PROPOSED

FOREST SERVICE TARGETS EASTERN FLANK OF OREGON CASCADES

by Josh Laughlin

Not surprisingly, the Deschutes National Forest has pumped out a post-fire clearcutting project in the wake of the 2006 Black Crater fire, which



Our staff, colleagues, and dog Otis recently explored the proposed Black Crater logging units.

burned in a mosaic pattern across 9,000 acres on the eastern flank of the Cascade Crest. Black Crater, which looms above and to the west of the fire area, is a dormant volcano adjacent to

North Sister. Post-fire management in this area has become notoriously controversial, as the Sisters District has offered up some of the most egregious timber sales in the region over the past few fire seasons, including clearcutting schemes after the 2002 Eyerly complex and the 2003 B&B fires.

The Black Crater Project, although not nearly as grand in scope as the other two, is just as controversial.

Instead of analyzing this 200-acre clearcut through a standard environmental analysis, the Sisters District has decided to “categorically exclude” this from a detailed review. This is especially questionable as the project lies wholly within a protected old-growth reserve and is within designated “critical habitat” for the threatened northern spotted owl. The Cascadia Wildlands Project has field checked the project area extensively and filed an administrative appeal with the regional forester in early April.

The science continues to tell us that one of the most harmful practices after a natural wildfire is to clearcut the forest, that northern spotted owls utilize burned forests, and that forests regenerate naturally on their own like they have for thousands of years. Our action to file an appeal is based precisely on the best available science out there. Stay tuned.

Mother's Day Gifts



Our fun, sustainable Mother's Day gifts are perfect for any mom! Proceeds help us protect wildlife habitat in the Pacific Northwest. Gifts shipped to you, or directly to mom with a card recognizing your gift.

Recycled Wildlands Notecards

Your mother can use these notecards for any occasion! Notecards featuring 10 different wildlands images by Brett Cole of Wild Northwest Photography. Printed on 100% post-consumer, khaki-colored cards. Blank inside. Set of 10 cards and envelopes, \$15.

“Wildlife” Organic Chocolates

Give mom the best: chocolate recently named “Best Organic Chocolate” by Time Magazine and “World’s Best Chocolate” by CNN. Organic, fair-trade Dagoba dark chocolate squares featuring images of baby wildlife and mothers. 30 chocolates in a recycled paper pouch, \$20.

Gift Membership and Card

For moms who have it all, give a meaningful gift membership to the Cascadia Wildlands Project. Includes a subscription to our quarterly newsletter, invitations to hikes & events (for moms in Oregon), and protection for wildlands and wildlife! One-year membership and Mothers Day card, \$25.

To order, visit www.cascwild.org or call 541-434-1463 by May 8th. Shipped in recycled/reused packaging.

SIGN UP AS A MONTHLY SUPPORTER AND WE GET \$100 FOR WOLF PROTECTION

With the federal government proposing to take the wolf off the Endangered Species list and Idaho's governor ready to shoot all but 100 of the state's wolves, we need your help.

Your ongoing monthly support will enable us to confront these attacks and ensure wolves fully recover throughout Cascadia. Now is the perfect time to sign up because a generous donor is giving us \$100 for each monthly supporter who joins by June 1st!

- Secure, automatic withdrawals directly from your checking account.
- No more annual fundraising appeals.
- Gives us the support and stability we need to protect wolves.
- As little as \$5 or \$10 a month will make a huge difference.



"I'm prepared to bid for that first ticket to shoot a wolf myself."
-Idaho Gov.
Butch Otter



Just use the enclosed envelope to sign up.

Questions? Call 541-434-1463 or email info@cascwild.org. Thank you!

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:

Acorn Foundation
Alaska Conservation Foundation
Ben & Jerry's Foundation
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River Jewelry
Sperling Foundation
Strong Foundation for Environmental Values
Titcomb Foundation
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!



CASCADIA WILDLANDS PROJECT

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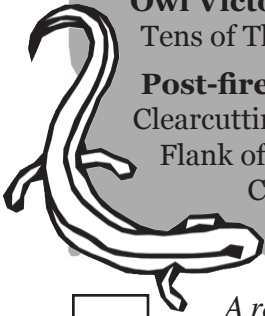
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Art and Ecology in Alaska: Paintings Promote Forest Restoration

Owl Victory Halts Logging: Tens of Thousands of Acres Saved

Post-fire Logging Proposed: Clearcutting Threatens Eastern Flank of Cascades after Black Crater Fire



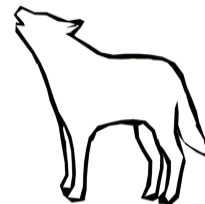
A red check means it's time to renew your membership! Thank you for your ongoing support for wild places!

ACTIVIST TOOLBOX

The Cascadia Wildlands Project works to empower people and communities to advocate for their public lands. Each quarter we offer useful information and tips you can use to help protect and restore the landscapes of the Pacific Northwest!

On January 29, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposed to remove protection for the gray wolf in the intermountain West. Once removed from the federal Endangered Species Act, "open season" on wolves would be permitted and wolf recovery efforts in Washington and Oregon would be severely undermined. Please write to the USFWS by **May 8th** in support of wolves and maintaining their Endangered Species status.

USFWS
Wolf Delisting
585 Shepard Way
Helena, MT 59601
NRMGrayWolf@fws.gov



CASCADIA FILM FESTIVAL: MAY 22

Join us for an evening film festival as we show **Mekong - The Mother of All Waters** and **Decades - Born in Fire**.
May 22, 7 pm, 100 Willamette Hall, University of Oregon, Eugene.

Mekong - The Mother of All Waters

In 2004, Brian Eustis chronicled the first-ever complete navigation of the Mekong River from Tibet to the South China Sea. The film explores and celebrates the cultures and environments of the Mekong while illuminating human-rights abuses and environmental degradation. Finalist at the 2006 Banff Film Festival.

Decades - Born in Fire

Film by Trip Jennings, Kyle Dickman, and Becky Kennedy uncovers the truth behind natural wildfires and post-fire logging of sensitive landscapes. This film takes you on a journey down the Wild Illinois River, weaving together stories, science, and spectacular photography, with emphasis on the Biscuit fire area.