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THROW A PARTY!

2008 marks the 10th year of educating, organizing, and agitating for the Cascadia Wildlands Project. Help us celebrate!

This summer, **host a backyard barbeque, wine tasting, or other gathering for all your friends!** The only difference from your past parties: **everyone who comes is invited to become a member of the Cascadia Wildlands Project for just \$20.** Of course, your friends who are already members are welcome to give a special gift.

If 10 of your friends become members, that's \$200 for protecting wild places! If 25 of your friends join, that's \$500! By seeing the total of your party's donations, **you and your friends will be inspired and excited about the impact you've made!**

This is a fun, easy, and significant way you can help build the conservation movement. Funds raised from your party will ensure protection for wild places over the next 10 years.

Planning your party is easy. Call or email Kate at 541.434.1463 or kritley@cascwild.org. She will give you all of the information and materials you need. Our staff are happy to help you at your party as well.

Let's have some fun, build a movement, and get ready for another 10 years of protecting wild places!

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CASCADIA QUARTERLY



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NEWSLETTER OF THE CASCADIA WILDLANDS PROJECT

WHAT GRIDLOCK?

RESTORATION ECONOMY MARCHES FORWARD

by Josh Laughlin and Jay Lininger

Not long ago, old growth timber sales in the central Oregon Cascades like Clark, Straw Devil, Wyatt, Judie and Little River Demo dominated our newsletters and action alerts, and they drew intense public opposition that doomed them to the dustbin of history. Today there are no "hot" old growth wars in Cascadia due, in large part, to grassroots citizen organizing and successful litigation.

However, the relative quiet we now enjoy is not for lack of government effort to cut old forests on public land. Cascadia Wildlands Project and allies last year forced the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to withdraw several "biological opinions" that would have authorized clearcut logging of more than 20,000 acres of old forest and unlimited killing

of northern spotted owls in dozens of timber sales throughout western Oregon, including the hotly contested (and still alive) Kelsey-Whisky project near the Wild & Scenic Rogue River.

In addition to fixing an eagle eye on federal logging plans, we work to facilitate active forest management and build a restoration economy on public lands. We engage foresters, loggers, scientists and others to advance projects that generate skilled family wage jobs and useful wood products as well as improve watershed function and wildlife habitat. Those efforts generally focus on thinning in tree plantations to introduce structural complexity, releasing mature pines and oaks from fir encroachment in meadows and savannas, road and culvert removal, in-stream wood

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Wildlands life beauty

Art Exhibition
DIVA, Downtown Eugene

April 1 - April 30, 2008

Opening Friday, April 4th
5:30 - 7:30
during First Friday ArtWalk

This exhibit weaves art, ecology, activism, and wilderness experience into a vibrant interpretation of Cascadia's wild places and conservation movement. From photos that capture the art inherent in natural forms to short films illuminating the struggle to protect endangered ecosystems, the exhibit explores political, social, ecological, economic, and spiritual elements of wildland conservation.



Our staff works with stakeholders in the field to promote restoration projects.

WWW.CASCWILD.ORG

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



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WE WON'T STOP RAMBLINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cascadia Wildlands Project added program and development capacity this quarter with the hire of a new part-time worker. I am delighted to welcome Candice Cook to the staff as our new Executive Assistant.

You may have met Candice at our Wild Wonderland Auction, which she deftly organized alongside our inspired development goddess, Kate Ritley. The holiday event raised more than \$35,000 for our vital conservation work, and it was a great party. If you attended, thanks for enjoying such a special evening with us.

Candice will help us implement best financial management practices and liberate me and Kate from time consuming machinations of running a non-profit organization. As a result, you'll see me doing more frontline program work and reinvigorated fundraising efforts that make giving more fun.

The change couldn't be timed any better. Right now is a crucial moment for us to maintain aggressive forward momentum toward permanent protection of old forests on public lands in Cascadia.

A temptation for some activists is to ease off after commenting on the Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR) and wait to see what happens. We know the Bush administration must work feverishly to beat the clock and finalize WOPR before its term ends in less than a year. Cascadia Wildlands Project is the only grassroots conservation group in the bioregion with a staff attorney dedicated to defeating WOPR in court. It behooves us to work even harder than the Bushies to prepare our legal challenges and simultaneously plan solutions with a new federal executive on the horizon.

In this issue of CQ, you'll find preliminary details of a bill drafted by Rep. Peter DeFazio that would neutralize WOPR and fundamentally transform forest policy in the Pacific Northwest. We thank the congressman for his responsiveness to input. There are things we don't like about the draft, but overall, it appears to us a big step forward in the right direction. We expect to have plenty of dialogue and even disagreement about the legislation with colleagues, but given what we know of administration policies and future prospects, we're inclined to help make the bill into law.

With your support, we won't stop until forest policy is transformed for the better.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jason Blazar stepped down from our board of directors after two years of service. In addition to deepening our community relationships and securing fantastic donations to our annual holiday auction, Jason bravely overcame appendicitis to facilitate our first-ever appearance at the 2007 Oregon Country Fair, where we introduced thousands of fairies to the "Doug," a cross section of an eight-foot-wide Douglas fir tree logged on the Willamette National Forest. Deep thanks to Jason for leaving our organization stronger than when he found us.



Candice Cook helped coordinate our recent auction, which included a rafting trip down Alaska's Copper River

Wild lands
life
beauty



Art Exhibition
DIVA, Downtown Eugene

April 1 - April 30, 2008

Opening Friday, April 4th 5:30 - 7:30
during First Friday ArtWalk

This exhibit weaves art, ecology, activism, and wilderness experience into a vibrant interpretation of Cascadia's wild places and conservation movement. From photos that capture the art inherent in natural forms to short films illuminating the struggle to protect endangered ecosystems, the exhibit explores political, social, ecological, economic, and spiritual elements of wildland conservation.

This confluence of art and wildlands conservation epitomizes the City of Eugene's motto, "World's Greatest City of the Arts and Outdoors." Proceeds from exhibit sales benefit both the Cascadia Wildlands Project and DIVA, two critical nonprofit organizations working to enhance the quality of life in our community. The exhibit includes a commemoration of the Cascadia Wildlands Project's 10th anniversary.

THANK YOU!

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

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

Mountaineers Foundation
Mountain Rose Herbs
Ninkasi Brewing Company
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Oregon Community Foundation
Pacific Tree Climbing Institute
Patagonia
Paul's Bicycle Way of Life
Ralph Smith Foundation
Resist, Inc.
Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund
Ring of Fire Restaurant
River Jewelry
Sperling Foundation
Strong Foundation for Environmental Values
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, kritelley@cascwild.org, or PO Box 10455, Eugene, OR 97440. We look forward to working with you to create a lasting environmental legacy!

CELEBRATING IN STYLE

5TH ANNUAL WILD WONDERLAND AUCTION BREAKS RECORDS

Community support fuels our grassroots organization. Every year, we work with thousands of people to write letters to government officials. Dozens of volunteers donate their time and talent. Hundreds of people give generous gifts to sustain our programs.

Our Wild Wonderland Auction is yet another manifestation of this incredible community support. In December, over 300 individuals gathered to celebrate wild places, enjoy live music and gourmet food, and raise funds to support our work over the next year. Over 150 diverse businesses and individuals contributed outdoor adventures, international vacations,

exquisite wine, outdoor gear, and much more to the auction. Mountain Rose Herbs, Revolution Cycles, and Emerald Valley Kitchen sponsored the event, Ninkasi Brewing donated locally-crafted beverages, and Ring of Fire and other local restaurants donated an array of international dishes.

Because of this outpouring of community and business support, this event was the most successful fundraiser in the history of our organization. We raised over \$35,000 to sustain our critical conservation programs through the next year.

We hope you all will join us again this December!

-Kate Ritley

THANK YOU!

Deepest thanks to Kirk Giudicci for coordinating food for this event, Ninkasi Brewing Company for donating tasty beverages, Ring of Fire for donating catering services, and the many other volunteers, businesses, and supporters who offered their time, energy, and goods to make this event an incredible success.

PREVENTING ANOTHER EXXON-VALDEZ

FIGHTING FOR OIL SPILL REPOSE OVERSIGHT IN ALASKA

by Gabe Scott

It seems with everything we do in Alaska lately, it somehow all comes back to that Black Friday in 1989, when Exxon's tanker Valdez ran aground in Prince William Sound. First, there is the Supreme Court hearing on Exxon's case, February 27. At issue there is whether Exxon should be punished for the spill. The corporation argues it was all the ship Captain's fault, and that the Clean Water Act exempts them from punitive damages.

The 30,000 injured fishermen



Workers fight to contain an oil spill in Alaska.

and Natives, many of whom have died waiting for justice, know better. They know the Supreme Court case is a critical test of corporate environmental responsibility, not just for themselves but for all Americans. That is why we are helping spread the word on the "Whole Truth" campaign. Visit the website at www.wholetruth.net to learn more.

Exxon's crime wasn't only running up on the rocks—that kind of thing is inevitable, sooner or later. The crime was they recklessly put a drunk behind the wheel and then weren't ready or able to deal with the spill when it happened.

And they still aren't prepared. Oil companies find it cheaper to fight litigation after an oil spill than to spend the money upfront on prevention and response.

While holding them accountable for the past is important, we also need to look to the future. That's what we've been doing on the corroding Trans-Alaska pipeline, 200 miles of which run through the Copper River watershed. We're engaged in a legal fight there against the oil companies about their response plans, which leave the river exposed.

On that case, we recently commissioned an expert analysis from James Brady, the state's fisheries manager during the Exxon spill. We asked him, given his experience in Prince William Sound, to predict what would be the consequences of a spill from the Trans-Alaska pipeline into the Copper River.

His opinion shows Exxon didn't learn a thing from the 1989 spill. Using their own assumptions, Brady projects that spilled oil would transport hundreds of miles downstream— all the way down the Copper River, into Prince William Sound, through lower Cook Inlet as far as Kodiak. He also concludes unequivocally that an uncontained spill would shut down the famous Copper River fisheries.

That's not a worst-case disaster scenario—that's their plan.

The oil industry's reckless positions continue to shock the conscience. I predict their bullying tactics will backfire, and that even W's new Supreme Court will agree that Exxon's unaccountable, profit-first, pro-pollution arguments do not represent the kind of world we want to live in.

NEWS IN CASCADIA

Deschutes National Forest Proposes Logging After GW Fire

The Deschutes National Forest has proposed to log 234 acres of public land that burned in last summer's GW Fire. On a positive note, the Forest Service has already decided to steer clear of logging old-growth reserves, a policy shift that the Cascadia Wildlands Project is proud to have induced as a result of our successful Black Crater post-fire case. The project area, just west of the town of Sisters, has already been so intensively fragmented by past logging that many of the newly proposed units represent everything that has not been logged within a several mile radius. Despite the substantial damage already done to the area, the Forest Service has classified the GW Fire Logging Project as a "categorical exclusion" and will therefore not conduct any formal environmental analysis or make public disclosure of the project's environmental impacts. The Forest Service anticipates issuing a final decision early this summer, and the Cascadia Wildlands Project will continue to monitor its progress closely.

Lawsuit Filed to Halt Cougar Slaughter

On January 22, the Cascadia Wildlands Project and a coalition of six other groups, including Goat Ranchers

of Oregon, filed a lawsuit in federal district court in Portland to halt the federal government's contribution to the state-sanctioned slaughter of Oregon's big cats.

In 2006, the state approved a plan to kill up to 2,000 cougars across Oregon. The federal government then agreed to help carry out that plan. Plaintiffs contend the federal government's implementation of the plan is based on fear mongering and scientifically flawed data, specifically the alleged "excess" of cougars in the state. Plaintiffs also charge that officials at the US Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services did not examine all the adverse environmental impacts of their decision to kill cougars on behalf of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Plaintiffs believe the government largely ignored the use of non-lethal, preventative alternatives for managing cougars, including educational campaigns for ranching interests and the general public. When successful, the lawsuit will only halt the federal government's involvement in the killing, not the state's.

WOPR Comment Period Closes; Eugene City Council Opposes Plan

On January 11, the Bureau of Land Management officially closed the com-

ment period on its 1,660-page Western Oregon Plan Revision, a proposal that would radically increase old-growth logging in currently protected reserves on western Oregon BLM lands. All told, nearly 30,000 comments were submitted as part of the record.

The BLM plans to digest substantive public comment and issue a Final Environmental Impact Statement and Records of Decision by this summer. Oregon's Governor, Ted Kulongoski, will then have a 60-day sufficiency review period. His approval of the WOPR is critical in order for it to proceed. Now is a critical time to weigh into the governor's office. Comments can be sent to Natural Resources Advisor, Mike Carrier, Michael.Carrier@state.or.us.

Of note, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Environmental Protection Agency both weighed in during the comment period and wrote scathing critiques of the proposed action, specifically addressing concerns over listed fish species and water quality.

In February, the Eugene City Council voted to oppose the Western Oregon Plan revision in its entirety and direct Congress to pass legislation that would permanently protect remaining mature and old-growth forests in the region. Kudos to Councilor Betty Taylor for introducing the resolution.

NOW THAT'S CRAZY TALK!

AS ALWAYS, WE'RE PLEASED TO SHARE THE CRAZY STUFF WE COME ACROSS...

"Fire is the 900-pound gorilla hanging from the trapeze above everything. If we don't have major extraction . . . your old-growth you are so concerned about is going to burn up."

— Dave Schott, executive vice president of the Southern Oregon Timber Industries Association, cautioning Sen. Ron Wyden that massive wildfires will result if old growth forests are not logged on public land (*Medford Mail Tribune* 1/10/08)

Cascadia Responds:

Overwhelming empirical evidence derived from scientific

experimentation and forest management literature clearly shows that logging old growth trees dries out soil and remnant woody fuels, increases lateral wind movement over the ground surface, and renders forests more vulnerable to severe fires rather than less. Planting tree crops after cutting down old growth does even more damage to natural fire regimes by creating unnaturally combustible fuel complexes prone to "self-reinforcing cycles of catastrophic fire," according to Dave Perry, a forest ecology professor emeritus at Oregon State University. Assertions of timber industry mouthpieces that their economic self-interest also protects public resources from major fires are disingenuous and downright dangerous.

RESTORATION

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

placement, and wildland fire use for resource benefits.

Free of controversy or litigation, ongoing active management of public forests demonstrates that people of varying interests can work together to build a sustainable and even profitable restoration economy for the 21st century. The experience of an equipment contractor from Cottage Grove who recently bid jobs to decommission the same forest road his father built in the 1960s says it all. With our help, the North Umpqua Ranger District spent considerable time in the past five years assessing strategic road decommissioning opportunities to improve watershed function and fisheries habitat.

Some people will say anything to polarize forest management in pursuit



Improving spawning habitat and removing obstacles to fish migration are important components of our restoration work

of narrow economic self-interest. The old growth logging industry and their American Forest Resource Council mouthpiece fabricate myths that the Northwest Forest Plan never delivered “promised” timber targets, and “anti-business obstructionists” like Cascadia Wildlands Project bear responsibility for a county government financing crisis in western Oregon with roots that extend back three generations.

Facts prove otherwise. Thinning sales in young Douglas fir plantations on the Eugene BLM district in the past two years offered nearly 80 million board feet of commercial timber to market, and similar activities on the Willamette and Umpqua National Forest produced double that volume in the same period, earning combined revenues to the U.S. Treasury over \$30 million. Timber targets are met or surpassed every year because those agencies choose not to log older forests, and instead propose restoration thinning in plantations where management can be ecologically beneficial.

Cascadia Wildlands Project actively helps to move projects like these forward as viable alternatives to logging what little remains of our publicly owned old forests – the very lungs that will help our planet breathe through an era of unprecedented climate change. We spend considerable time in the field and around the table with forest managers providing feedback and identifying priorities for restoration of degraded areas.

Restoration is an easy topic to engage since most professional

land managers understand that the social license for logging old growth ended a long time ago, and that fresh attempts to liquidate old forests will meet gridlock. We look forward to undertaking more hard work to build the restoration economy in Cascadia.

ALASKA: SHEPARD POINT DECISION

The Bureau of Indian Affairs recently signed the Record of Decision approving construction of the Shepard Point road and port project, north of Cordova, Alaska. Under the guise of “oil spill response,” this misdirected project would bring an industrial port to the eastern Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta. Cascadia Wildlands Project has proposed a compromise location that is much better for spill response, and avoids the environmental pitfalls of BIA’s proposed industrial port. The decision is probably a last-ditch attempt to force the road through before George W. Bush leaves office. Our hand is strong, however. Even the Army Corps of Engineers endorses our alternative. We filed a FOIA lawsuit in late January to compel critical documents, and will continue to stay on the offensive.

LOGGING FORESTS TO SAVE THEM

DESCHUTES PROJECT TARGETS OWL HABITAT

by Jay Lininger

Volcanic uplift of the Cascade Range creates an orographic effect that stops Pacific Ocean moisture from drifting farther inland and forces organisms living in its rain shadow to adapt to an arid environment. Thick-barked conifers that dominate dry forests of east Cascadia evolved with natural fire and insect disturbances that cull dying trees, release strong ones, create habitat for wildlife, and boost forest health and biological diversity.

During the 20th century, common logging practices east of the Cascades removed the largest and most valuable pines and firs from the landscape while foresters in the cult of Smokey Bear suppressed ignitions and excluded natural disturbances from these parched ecosystems.

As a result, these forests face big problems. They’re diminished and less resilient to disturbance. Many scientists say thinning and burning the woods is necessary to stop catastrophic fires from wiping out large areas of habitat for threatened fish and wildlife.

Government foresters last year approved the Five Buttes project to thin and burn 5,000 acres of the Deschutes National Forest near Davis Lake. This style of active management can promote ecological restoration by freeing larger trees to grow stronger and ease reintroduction of fire. Generally speaking, conservation activists like us support those activities, even if they

generate commercial grade wood for market.

However, part of Five Buttes would remove large fire-resistant trees for economic purposes and open forest canopies damaging 2,000 acres of nesting habitat for threatened northern spotted owl, which ranges a short distance east of the Cascades where suitable habitat exists. It also proposes logging in the Davis Late-Successional Reserve where the Northwest Forest Plan says habitat protection trumps economic considerations.

Cascadia Wildlands Project appealed those portions of Five Buttes that would damage owl habitat. The Forest Service admits that logging will commit stands to non-nesting quality for 50 years, and we documented a systematic agency failure to acknowledge scientific evidence that logging can undermine its purpose of fire hazard reduction.

We did not challenge thinning of small trees or burning in any portion of the project area, nor did we contest selective logging on nearly 3,000 acres of low-elevation pine forest where we did not perceive it to threaten old growth forest or habitat values.

The heart of the Five Buttes controversy is the government’s preference for economic use of forests known to host threatened birds whose populations continue to decline. It is one of



Our staff carefully field-checks proposed logging areas.

several new timber sales intended to accelerate logging of old forests in the Pacific Northwest, upholding Bush administration promises to the timber industry, even though stumpage prices are severely depressed by low demand for wood products.

In our view, logging forests in an attempt to save them from fire is foolish because it trades a hypothetical risk of natural disturbance wiping out habitat for a certainty that logging will do the same job – for a half century. More, the trade is reckless because less-intrusive alternatives can reduce fire hazard without compromising habitat.

Cascadia Wildlands Project currently leads a lawsuit testing Five Buttes in federal court. We expect to prevail on our claims defending threatened owl habitat, and we trust the Forest Service will move forward with the unchallenged majority of the project.

IN FOCUS: LINDA CARNINE, PHD

Dr. Carnine makes the Energizer Bunny look lethargic. A career education specialist and a Cascadia Wildlands Project board member for the past two years, Linda brings to the organization a passion for wildlands, a knack for restoring beat-up timberlands in Lane County, and an active personal campaign that has deepened the organization’s community relations. And she does it all with a whole lot of oomph.

When not knee deep in work, Linda may

be found at her cabin located in the rainforest of the McKenzie River or exploring other Cascadian gems. Last summer, she and her husband Doug had the opportunity to float the Copper River for seven days and explore the landscapes our Alaska field office has been working to safeguard for years. She’s now become a strong advocate for the area. Thanks for all your enthusiasm and tireless effort Linda!

-Josh Laughlin



DEFAZIO BILL COOKING

Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) will introduce legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives this year to protect old forests on federal public land and boost thinning in plantations and management of dry stands prone to fire and insect disturbance.

A draft circulated in February would override the Northwest Forest Plan and put old forests off-limits to chainsaws. Right now, the plan dedicates more than one million acres of old growth to clearcutting, and agencies routinely at-

tempt to log old stands in reserves.

In west Cascadia, the bill would direct agencies to thin artificial tree plantations for multiple values including habitat restoration and wood production. In east and south Cascadia, it would authorize management of degraded natural stands to address consequences of past logging, fire exclusion and grazing.

In all cases, the bill would prohibit cutting large mature trees, which are rarest on the landscape.

To facilitate thinning, DeFazio would exclude small projects from impact studies. More significant actions would face scrutiny in citizen advisory committees empowered to propose projects and manage disputes. Environmental laws would remain in effect, and judicial review opportunities would be preserved.

There are many things we like about this bill, and some things we don’t like. Cascadia Wildlands Project will stay engaged with Congress and keep you updated as new developments emerge.