

# CASCADIA QUARTERLY

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SUMMER 2007



Status Quo is Unacceptable.....	p 2
News in Cascadia .....	p 3
Protecting the Chugach .....	p 4
In Focus: Andy Kuss .....	p 4
Keeping the Wild Rogue Wild .....	p 5
Crazy Talk .....	p 6
Spotted Owl Recovery Plan .....	p 6

## HOEDOWN AND AUCTION

### HOEDOWN FOR ANCIENT FORESTS

*Saturday, October 6th, 6 pm  
Avalon Stables, Cottage Grove*

Featuring the foot-stompin' live music of the **Conjugal Visitors**, square dancing, belly-warming food, and locally-crafted beverages. Info available beginning Sept. 1 at [www.cascwild.org](http://www.cascwild.org) or 541.434.1463.

### HOLIDAY BENEFIT AUCTION

*Saturday, December 8th, 6 - 10 pm  
EMU Ballroom, U of O, Eugene*

Join us for a festive evening of live jazz, delicious food, silent and live auctions featuring a Costa Rica vacation, coastal get-aways, outdoor gear, and more.



NEWSLETTER OF THE CASCADIA WILDLANDS PROJECT

## WHAT A WOPR!

### BLM PROPOSES TO TRASH OREGON FOREST RESERVES

*by Jay Lininger*

Western Oregon features some of the best forests in Cascadia. They provide clean drinking water, flood control, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and jobs in resource management and tourism. Amenities provided by healthy forests attract skilled workers and stimulate local economic development.

A new and major threat to low-elevation forests on public land in western Oregon is emerging. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to eliminate 1.5 million acres of protected forest reserves on Oregon and California (O&C) Grant Lands and dedicate them exclusively to timber extraction.

The BLM calls its initiative the Western Oregon Plan Revisions. We call it a WOPR ("whopper").

A backroom deal between BLM and the American Forest Resources Council (AFRC), a timber industry group, birthed the WOPR. The AFRC claimed in a lawsuit that the O&C lands are for logging only. Courts twice dismissed the suit because it lacked merit, but George Bush gave it new life by inviting a settlement and ceding everything

industry wanted.

The stakes are huge. Fully 20 percent of the remaining old-growth and mature forests in western Oregon would go on the chopping block. Less than 10 percent of historic forests exist in Cascadia after a cut-and-run logging binge in the 20th century. We lost much of our immense forest wealth, and the WOPR would further impoverish the region by converting natural forests into managed tree farms.

The WOPR diverges radically from the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan (NFP). The NFP created a forest reserve network to protect habitat, recognizing that the rate and scale of clearcut logging in the 1980s caused fish and wildlife populations to crash toward extinction. BLM reserves are pivotal in the NFP network with their unique

*continued on page 3*



James Johnston

*The BLM's proposal threatens streamside forests.*

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



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## STATUS QUO IS UNACCEPTABLE

### RAMBLINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As a biologist and wildland firefighter in a federal agency, I saw first hand the difficulties encountered by land managers seeking to do the right thing by communities and ecosystems under a presidential administration bent on suppressing science for political objectives. I joined the Cascadia Wildlands Project to improve forest policy, empower land managers to apply science and benefit wild places and rural communities.

So it was with delight that I accompanied our Conservation Director, Josh Laughlin, and friends from the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center and Oregon Wild in June for a week on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. We exchanged ideas with policymakers on topics ranging from forest restoration to fire preparedness, all in pursuit of goals identified by our board of directors and strategic plan.

An opportunity to realize big improvements in forest policy emerged with the Democratic sweep of the 2006 election. The Bush administration now gets withering scrutiny of its efforts to accelerate industrial plunder of our treasured forest legacy. Moreover, U.S. Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR) faces election in 2008, and he will have to facilitate rather than block conservation to earn another six years in office.

But none of that will stop Bush from trying to leave his mark. The forthcoming Western Oregon Plan Revisions and new rules affecting northern spotted owl (see page 6) pose major threats to wild forests in Cascadia. Our campaign strategies respond with organizing, policy advocacy and litigation to neutralize those threats and will produce substantial gains in the coming few years.

Some activists disagree with our approach and will bash new forest legislation even if it achieves net gains for conservation. They should remain mindful that the status quo is both unacceptable and ephemeral. It is unacceptable because irreplaceable old forests continue to be sold to the timber industry. We invest substantial resources in public education and expensive litigation because current policy does not protect old forests. We are effective in holding the line most of the time, but incremental losses continue to mount, and it's time to move on. The status quo is ephemeral because of the very bad and strategically devious administration initiatives named above. Without legislation that permanently protects old forests and redirects agency management to thinning of young managed plantations, the new reality, which could outlive the next administration, will be far worse than what we know now.

The Cascadia Wildlands Project is committed to securing protection for old forests and promoting restoration of degraded lands based on defensible science. Where we see opportunities to advance those goals, with your support, we will work to realize them instead of sit and rationalize the status quo.



*Josh Laughlin and Jay Lininger  
spent a week in D.C. meeting  
with policymakers.*



# NEWS IN CASCADIA

## Five Buttes Logging Targets Eastern Slope of Oregon's Cascades

The Forest Service recently authorized the Five Buttes Project, a 4,235 acre timber sale in the Crescent Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest. Sitting just east of the Cascade Crest, the Five Buttes Project area is predominantly high elevation mixed-conifer forest and is home to bald eagles, golden eagles, spotted owls, herds of elk and mule deer, and loads of other wildlife.



*Ponderosa pine in the Five Buttes logging project area.*

While parts of the project area have been logged in the past and may benefit from some restoration work, the Forest Service has proposed to heavily log other areas that are healthy and beautiful forests. The Cascadia Wildlands Project has provided detailed comment on the proposal and will continue to monitor it closely.

## Black Crater Post-fire Timber Sale Temporarily Halted

On June 29, a federal judge granted the CWP a temporary restraining order against the Black Crater logging project, preventing the Forest Service from auctioning or awarding the timber sale until our legal claims are heard more fully. The Black Crater logging project, near Sisters, Oregon, was planned after the 2006 Black Crater Fire, and would log all but six dead trees per acre across 201 acres of old-growth reserves and critical habitat for the spotted owl. While our fight to protect the fragile but vibrant landscape is far from over, this initial victory is a great step in the right direction. The preliminary injunction hearing is set for August 2.

## Thorn Post-fire Project Planned in Malheur National Forest

As forest advocates across the Pacific Northwest are still recovering from

the devastation created by the massive Biscuit timber sale in southwest Oregon, the Forest Service has proposed a sequel. This time, the setting is in eastern Oregon's Malheur National Forest, southeast of Dayville near Aldrich Mountain. The Thorne Project was planned after the Shake-Table fire burned in the summer of 2006 and proposes logging over 41 million board feet of timber from more than 3,900 acres of national forest lands. The Cascadia Wildlands Project and allies in eastern Oregon have submitted extensive comments and continue to monitor this project closely.

## Governor Kulongoski Signs Cougar Hounding Bill Into Law

On June 27, Governor Ted Kulongoski signed HB 2971 into law, re-instating hound hunting of cougars in Oregon. The law essentially overturns Measure 18, a 1994 voter-approved ban on hounding of big cats, by permitting the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to deputize citizen hunters to implement the Department's Cougar Management Plan. That plan calls for killing nearly 2,000 cougars across the state. The plan is based on a manufactured fear of cougars and a false claim that the Oregon's big cats are decimating wild ungulate populations.

## WOPR continued from page 1

concentration of old forests below 3,000 feet in elevation. They sustain crucial habitat corridors for dispersal of threatened wildlife between the Cascades and the Coast Range as well as fresh water refuges for endangered salmon and steelhead. Eliminating those reserves will cause significant losses of habitat and irreversible declines in biological diversity.

Some western Oregon county governments want the WOPR. The 1937 O&C Act entitled them to 50 percent of timber sale receipts from affected lands. That worked well for decades as foresters steadily increased the cut. Federal payments continued instead of receipts after the timber program crashed, but will expire in

2008. Facing cuts in services and jobs, elected leaders of Jackson, Josephine, Curry and Douglas Counties openly advocate an old-growth logging revival.

There is a better way forward. More than half of the O&C lands are tree farms that need thinning to restore wildlife habitat and mitigate fire hazard. Over two billion board feet of timber available in plantations could support diminished but stable county payments and a smarter, leaner timber industry in rural Oregon. Pending legislation in Congress would require BLM to thin plantations, like the U.S. Forest Service does now, and leave old forests alone for future generations to enjoy.

Please get involved! A draft environmental impact statement for

the WOPR will circulate for public comment for 90 days from August to November. For more information, visit [www.oregonheritageforests.org](http://www.oregonheritageforests.org).



*1.5 million acres of old-growth reserves in western Oregon are at risk.*

# PROTECTING THE CHUGACH

## ALLIANCE FORMS AT NATIONAL FOREST'S CENTENNIAL

by Gabe Scott

I love this time of year in Alaska. The fish are in on the Copper River, bringing yet another record-breaking year of fishing. The flush of fish brings people too, bringing wads of money to spend and excitement to our little town of Cordova. This brief explosion of energy is enough to last through the winter and until next year.

These wild salmon, and the tourists they attract, are living proof that conservation pays. If you protect the watershed and live within its means, the land provides a living.

This year we are giving special



Brett Cole

*South-central Alaska's temperate rainforests and glacier-capped peaks.*

thanks for this legacy to President Teddy Roosevelt and his forester, Gifford Pinchot, who established this area as the Chugach National Forest exactly 100 years ago, on July 23, 1907.

Pinchot and Roosevelt had just seen what unchecked greed did to the frontier in the Oregon territory. They saw vast forests cleared without heed for water or soil quality. They noticed wealth from the binge did not accrue for the noble pioneers, but was exported to Wall Street speculators. They also knew how easily frontier politicians were bought off by the big trusts.

The Klondike Gold Rush had just happened, and Alaska was being discovered as the Last Frontier. Roosevelt and Pinchot were determined to conserve what they could of the American West and prevent the same mistakes from happening in the North.

Their response was a revolutionary ideology: Conservation.

Originally, the whole of south-central Alaska, the northern end of Cascadia's rainforest, was conceived as Wild Salmon Park. They knew forests, fish, and visitors were an interconnected and sustainable system. Eventually they settled on a Forest Reserve system, Pinchot's small staff drew up maps, and the Chugach and Tongass National Forests were created.

Their legacy is a blessing, and a responsibility. Where Roosevelt and Pinchot held off the big trusts and

unscrupulous pioneers, it falls on our generation to conserve this land amidst forces like global climate change, oil spills, and hordes of tourists.

That is why the Cascadia Wildlands Project is a founding member, together



with Alaska Center for the Environment, Sierra Club, Trustees for Alaska, National Wildlife Federation and the Wilderness Society, of a group calling itself the Chugach Alliance. Our mission is to use the centennial to achieve lasting protections for the next hundred years. We've hired a coordinator, and through a series of centennial meetings with stakeholders in Alaska's remote communities, we are building a grassroots proposal.

A hundred years from now, we hope our children's children's children can celebrate another centennial with their own wild salmon barbeque.

## IN FOCUS: ANDY KUSS

Earlier this year, our small organization grew a little bit bigger but a lot more effective with the hire of Outreach Associate Andy Kuss. Andy sees his job and his civic duties as one and the same. Whether he's encouraging folks to become members of the organization or helping kids color cards for Senator Wyden, his work enables community members to participate directly in the democratic process.

Andy grew up in Ohio and earned his degree in Geology at Miami Univer-

sity. He's new to Oregon, but is quickly exploring the spectacular landscapes of our region. From his perspective, a guitar is "essential gear" for any camping trip. His favorite campfire tunes include *Angel from Montgomery* and *Rollin' in my Sweet Baby's Arms*.

If you see "the Doug" (our slice of old-growth Douglas fir mounted on a trailer) at a community event this year, be sure and stop by to say hello to Andy. He's always happy to see a Cascadia Wildlands supporter!

-Kate Ritley



*Andy enjoys a day at the Oregon coast.*



# KEEPING THE WILD ROGUE WILD

## COALITION MOVES FORWARD WITH PROTECTION EFFORT

by Josh Laughlin

Located in the heart of the Siskiyou Mountains is the largest forested roadless area the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers in the country. It is here on the Lower Rogue River, too, that we are not only fighting to stave off a horrible BLM timber sale, but also actively advancing a proposal that will forever safeguard this unprotected swath of rugged, wild country.

For years the Medford BLM, aided and abetted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, has been trying to push through the Kelsey-Whisky timber sale, an aggressive logging proposal that would log the heart out the Zane Grey roadless area, named after the famed author who resided in a mining claim cabin and wrote on the banks of the river in the early 1900s. In *Rogue River Feud*, he described the natural destruction that had already occurred to the Rogue in the early part of the century. He'd be rolling in his grave over the current logging proposal.

The 1,400-acre Kelsey Whisky timber sale has hit a few legal snags over the years and has yet to be cut. The biological opinions issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service have consistently been found illegal by the courts or have been yanked due to legal vulnerability. A biological opinion is required by the



Rolf Skar

*Rafting the Rogue River.*

Endangered Species Act to prove the logging project won't jeopardize the existence of an endangered species, in this case, the threatened northern spotted owl. The agency has had a tough time proving a massive logging project in an old growth forest and designated "critical habitat" for the owl is a good thing for the species.

As the US Fish and Wildlife Service continues to reshuffle its paperwork, the Cascadia Wildlands Project is working with allies in the region to advance a proposal that will create a Congressionally designated 58,000-acre Wilderness in the unprotected roadless area and also establish 98 miles of additional miles of Wild and Scenic River corridors along many of the Lower Rogue's cold, clear tributary creeks, like Kelsey, Whisky, Mule and others. These unprotected creeks give way to ideal spawning habitat for endangered fish runs like Chinook salmon, of which the Lower Rogue is famous for.

Part of our coalition effort has been to secure business endorsers for the campaign. To date, we have 50 businesses on board, all of which have a vested interest in a healthy Lower Rogue River. This show of support will play a pivotal role in Congress' ability to move the proposal forward. Rep. Peter

DeFazio (D-OR), whose district encompasses the Lower Rogue River, is a key target in our effort.

As business endorsements build, we have also experienced other showings of support. On June 27, local acclaimed author John Daniel joined us at an outreach presentation we hosted at the Eugene Public Library. He opened up the 70-person event with readings from his recently published work, *Rogue River Journal: A Winter Alone*. The award-winning book documents a recent winter he spent in a secluded cabin on the Lower Rogue, reflecting and writing about his life and his experience on the river's edge.

As we continue to educate the public about issues facing the Wild Rogue and building business endorsers, we maintain a staunch opposition to the Kelsey-Whisky timber sale and will pull out all the stops to halt this ill-advised project. Contact us to get involved in the campaign, 541.434.1463, or find out more about the effort at [www.savethewildrogue.org](http://www.savethewildrogue.org).

**TAKE ACTION:** Contact Representative Peter DeFazio today to voice your support for Wilderness protections and Wild and Scenic River additions for the Lower Rogue, 405 East 8th Ave. #2030 Eugene, OR 97401; (541) 465-6732.



*The wild Rogue River*

## POLITICS TRUMP SCIENCE IN SPOTTED OWL RECOVERY



In April, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a draft recovery plan for threatened northern spotted owl. Independent scientists invited by the agency to work on the plan say that high ranking Bush administration officials overruled their consensus recommendations and issued a different

plan in political service to the timber industry.

Dominick DellaSala, a forest ecologist with the National Center for Conservation Science and Policy, participated on the science panel and told Congress that his group found the existing system of habitat reserves under the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) to be the most credible basis for owl recovery. However, he testified that Bush officials insisted on building more "flexibility" into the recovery plan and refused to adopt scientists' findings.

It just so happens that the recovery plan coincides with the Western Oregon Plan Revisions, which would eliminate 90 percent of NFP habitat reserves from Bureau of Land Management forests. Option 2 of the recovery plan would give federal agencies discretion to "manage" owl habitat without committing to protect any reserves, let alone identify them on a map.

— Jay Lininger

## HOLIDAY AUCTION GOODS

Funds raised at our Holiday Auction sustain us throughout the year. We invite you to contribute to this festive event! Please consider donating your art, professional services, cabin/condo vacation, or other wonderful items to be auctioned off. Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. You will be recognized in auction literature and on our website for your generosity. To inquire about donating and to make arrangements, please contact Kate at 541.434.1463 or [kritley@cascwild.org](mailto:kritley@cascwild.org). And remember to mark your calendar for the Holiday Auction on December 8th from 6 - 10 pm at the EMU Ballroom, U of O, Eugene.

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

With her recent departure, we want to express our deep gratitude to **Megan Kemple**, who has served on our board over the past few years. Before joining the board, Megan was a five-star volunteer. She continued her volunteerism and expanded her leadership role after joining the board, mostly as an unparalleled food coordinator at our fundraising events, and also as the treasurer of the organization. Megan's attention to fiscal detail has educated us all and has greatly assisted the growth of the organization. Fortunately, she will remain involved in an advisory role, and you're likely to see her at future events. Thanks Megan!



## NOW THAT'S CRAZY TALK!



"If we're going to ramp down the formula we need to ramp up the timber harvest... I'd like to go back to the old fashioned way of managing our lands and providing jobs." - *U.S. Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR) on federal payments to Oregon counties at a July 2 meeting with local officials and business leaders in Gold Beach, as quoted by the Curry County Reporter.*

### Cascadia responds:

Oregonians should not have to choose between the remaining old forests on public lands and essential county government services including public health, road maintenance and law enforcement. For decades, rural counties



received a percentage of receipts from federal timber sales in lieu of property taxes. By 1989, county budgets swelled and services proliferated because logging in old forests had become so reckless that wildlife populations plummeted toward extinction. Legacies of this short-sighted indulgence include impaired watersheds, endangered fisheries, and a busted timber economy that overshot the limits of its natural resources.

It is realistic to expect timber payments to counties at diminished but stable levels. It is realistic to expect active forest management that creates many more jobs in the woods than currently exist. However, Sen. Smith's fantasies of turning back the clock and "ramping up" logging in older forests are wildly irresponsible. The social license for old forest logging ended a long time ago. Our common duty is to identify appropriate restoration thinning projects that benefit watersheds and generate wood products without compounding mistakes of the past.





# Home Sweet Home

If you don't ask for it, you won't get it... and we're asking for a house! This is not a make-or-break need, but it would sure make our work to protect wild places a lot easier and more effective!

Right now five staff members are packed into a 600-square-foot, one-room office. Frequently two people are on the phone, two are meeting together, and one is trying to concentrate on writing a legal brief amidst the noise and chaos of so many conversations. You can imagine how challenging this can be.

A 3-bedroom house would provide quiet, private working space for our staff, with common areas for conferences, meetings, volunteer potlucks, and small slideshows.

If you could donate a house, donate a down payment, offer reduced rent in your investment property, or help in any other way, please contact Executive Director Jay Lininger at [jlininger@cascwild.org](mailto:jlininger@cascwild.org) or 541.434.1463. Donations are tax-deductible. 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:

**444S Foundation**  
**Acorn Foundation**  
**Alaska Conservation Foundation**  
**Ben & Jerry's Foundation**  
**Burning Foundation**  
**Charlotte Martin Foundation**  
**Deer Creek Foundation**  
**Dillard Foundation**  
**Emerald Valley Kitchen**  
**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**  
**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](mailto: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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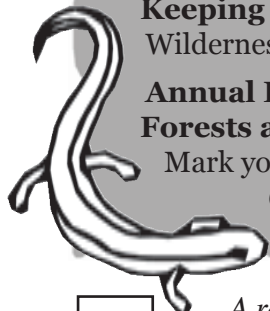
**What a WOPR:** BLM Proposes to  
Trash Forest Reserves

**Protecting the Chugach:** Alaska  
Alliance Forms at Forest Centennial

**Keeping the Rogue Wild:**  
Wilderness Efforts Gain Traction

**Annual Hoedown for Ancient  
Forests and Holiday Auction:**

Mark your Calendars for October  
6th and December 8th!



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

**VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE!**  
[WWW.CASCWILD.ORG](http://WWW.CASCWILD.ORG)

## HIKES AND EVENTS

Visit some of Oregon's last wild public lands with those who know them, and the threats they face, best! Sponsored by the Cascadia Wildlands Project and Oregon Wild. For details and to RSVP, please contact Josh at 541.434.1463 or [jlaughlin@cascwild.org](mailto:jlaughlin@cascwild.org).

### **Saturday, August 25th: South Waldo Lake**

Hike one of several loops on the south end of beautiful Waldo Lake and learn about recent developments in efforts to preserve the Waldo lake wilderness experience. Hike is moderate to strenuous, about 8 miles.

### **Saturday, Sept. 22nd: Drift Creek Wilderness**

Few know that there is Wilderness in the lush Oregon Coast Range, but Drift Creek is a gem to be discovered. We'll hike along the Horse Creek Trail and discuss management of the surrounding public and private lands. Hike is moderate to strenuous, about 6 miles.

### **Saturday, October 13th: McKenzie Headwaters**

We'll complete the loop around Clear Lake's crystal waters through unique geology, old-growth forests, and stunning fall colors. Hike is moderate, 6 miles, pretty flat.

### **Saturday, October 20th: BLM Old-Growth**

Hidden away on small pieces of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and surrounded by clear-cuts are some of the oldest and biggest trees in Oregon. Explore some of these hidden treasures and learn about threats to BLM old-growth forests on this fall trip into little-known but spectacular old-growth stands. Hike is easy to moderate: 1 to 3 miles with very little elevation gain.

