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## Obituary: Western Oregon Plan Revision *December 30, 2008 - July 16, 2009*

by Dan Kruse

The worst idea in a decade was pronounced dead at 11:28 a.m. on July 16, 2009. To those who knew it well, the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR or "The Whopper") will be remembered most for its vulgarity — an embarrassment among embarrassments, an indignity among bureaucratic indignities, a disgrace even among all the politically charged science-squelching, fear-mongering, carbon-emitting, bunny-killing policies of the previous administration. Causes of death: chronic system failure and a potent but underestimated little bug called GCOAKP (Grassroots Community Organizing of Ass-Kicking

Proportions).

In eight years, the Bush Administration did a lot to try and roll back environmental laws and standards, and WOPR was one of its crowning achievements. Under WOPR, protection buffers along streams and rivers throughout public land in western Oregon would have been shrunk in half, tens of thousands of acres of old-growth forest reserves would have been opened to clearcutting, about 1,000 miles of new logging roads would have been built, and post-fire landscapes would have been leveled to the ground. The carbon emissions from all the logging proposed under WOPR would have been equivalent to adding one million cars to the roads

*continued on page 6*

## Check Out Cascadia Adventures and Events!

**August 30, September 13, and September 27:** Hikes to the proposed Devil's Staircase wilderness area. See page 3 inside for more information.

**September 9:** Devil's Staircase Now! **Pizza Bash Benefit** at Pizza Research Institute. Join us for an evening of Eugene's most scrumptious pizza, beer and wine, campaign updates, and music. Proceeds from the night's sales to benefit Cascadia Wildlands. 530 Blair Blvd. 5 - 10 pm.

**October 10:** Get ready for the 8th Annual Ancient Forest **HOEDOWN!** Square dancing, hearty dinner, local beverages, live music, sack races, costume contests, and more for all ages! Avalon Stables, Cottage Grove. Details to follow.

**December 12:** Mark you calendar for our **Wild Wonderland Auction!** Guaranteed to be more exciting, more elegant, more entertaining, and more hassle-free than ever before. EMU Ballroom, UO, Eugene. 6 pm.

## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar  
for these upcoming  
events!

• Pizza Bash Benefit,  
September 9, Pizza  
Research Institute

• 8th Annual  
Hoedown for  
Cascadia's Ancient  
Forests, October 10

• Wild Wonderland  
Auction,  
December 12



*This WOPR timber sale, Ginger Creek, is now off the books.*

J. Laughlin



Cascadia Wildlands  
educates, agitates, and  
inspires a movement  
to protect and restore  
Cascadia's wild  
ecosystems.  
**we like it wild.**

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# So Long Gabe, See You in Three Years

Ramblings from the Executive Director

Saying goodbye to Alaska Field Representative Gabe Scott was not easy. At least he won't be gone for too long.

This summer, in between restoration expeditions to the Lost Coast and talking with senators about the corroding Trans Alaska Pipeline, Gabe and his wife, Meadow, packed up their Cordova home. More than a decade after setting up shop in the sleepy fishing village of Cordova, Gabe is taking a break to become a lawyer.

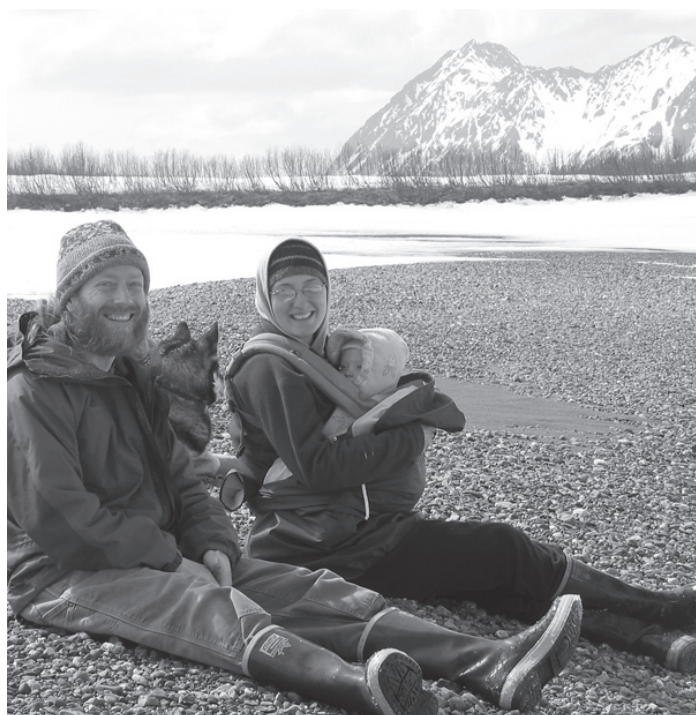
And where might a rugged Alaskan go to law school? New Orleans. Definitely.

Gabe has a full scholarship to Tulane Law School. Along with Meadow, baby Willow and the bun in the oven, Gabe will spend the next three years in NOLA. Between the festivals and food, we hope Gabe learns a thing or two about environmental law.

Gabe is a champion debater who topped the charts with his LSAT score. In other words, he is going to be one *fierce* lawyer. We can hardly wait.

The plan: Gabe will return to work for Cascadia Wildlands as a staff attorney. He will hold Big Oil accountable for their aging Trans Alaska Pipeline, defend south-central Alaska's wild forests and pristine rivers, and continue in the fight to preserve America's last frontier. Gabe's mantra has always been, "Stout boots. Vicious attorneys." (See page 4 for a brief review of his accomplishments over the past 10 years.)

I'm really going to miss Gabe on speakerphone at our weekly staff meetings. In particular, I'll miss his repertoire of sign-offs. "So that's the news from Lake Wobegon." "Over and out." "So, that's the universe."



Gabe, Meadow, and Willow at home on the Copper River.

*Kate*

*K. Ritley*

# Connect with Cascadia

Have a question? Want to volunteer? Want to know how YOU can help build the Cascadia Wildlands movement? Get Connected!

## Eugene, Oregon Office:

541.434.1463

PO Box 10455  
Eugene, OR 97440

## On the Web:

[www.CascWild.org](http://www.CascWild.org)  
[info@CascWild.org](mailto:info@CascWild.org)  
Facebook Causes: Cascadia Wildlands  
[www.twitter.com/cascwild](https://www.twitter.com/cascwild)

## Urgent Update

For a limited time, every dollar you give to protect Devil's Staircase will be matched by a generous donor, making your donation go twice as far to create the Pacific Northwest's next wilderness! Bills have been introduced into Congress to protect the Staircase, so we need to keep up momentum. Log on to [www.cascwild.org](http://www.cascwild.org) today to double your impact!

# THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of our individual and family supporters and the many volunteers who help us protect wild places! Huge thanks to the foundations, businesses, and groups that recently supported our work:

444S Foundation  
Acorn Foundation  
Alaska Conservation Foundation  
Astrov Fund  
Backcountry Gear Ltd.  
Ben & Jerry's Foundation  
Brainerd Foundation  
Burning Foundation  
Deer Creek Foundation  
Emerald Valley Kitchen  
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Tactics Board Shop  
Titcomb Foundation  
Tsunami Sushi  
University of Oregon Outdoor Program  
Winky Foundation



# The Death of the WOPR

WOPR continued from page 1

for more than a hundred years say our colleagues at Oregon Wild.

As bad as WOPR was, it had the unintended effect of bringing together an unprecedented coalition of community members, grassroots organizers, and environmental activists. When you looking back at what's been accomplished in the past three years, it's really quite amazing: Cascadia Wildlands worked with no fewer than 24 other non-profit organizations to challenge the WOPR decision, and more than 20,000 individuals sent written comments to the government in support of protecting old-growth forests and clean rivers.

We educated the Eugene and Corvallis City Councils to pass resolutions against WOPR, and even Governor Kulongoski filed a written appeal asking for WOPR to be withdrawn after receiving thousands of postcards we helped generated at outreach events in the region.

Hundreds of community members were led on hikes to areas threatened by WOPR. Local newspaper editors were briefed on the issue and opined against it. Presentations were given to law schools, community college classrooms and retirement homes. In the end, the Bush Administration spent millions of dollars in its attempt to roll back our environmental safeguards in western Oregon, and not a single old-growth tree was cut down.

All this effort – years of our work – has culminated not only in the withdrawal of WOPR by the new administration, but also in the renewal of a cohesive and powerful voice for old-growth forest protection in the Northwest. The death of WOPR thus presents a new opportunity; with the Obama administration less hell-bent on clearcutting every acre of old growth that is left, we aim to seize the energy that was mobilized against WOPR and direct it toward proactive changes.

Now is the time to really make things

happen, not the time to sit back and think we've won. In the face of adversity we've been able to come together, but it is in the face of opportunity that we can accomplish the most. In this vein, we will spend considerable time over the next nine months to ensure that the next iteration of the northern spotted owl recovery plan is based on the best available science and ultimately protects the habitat essential for the species' recovery. (Recall, the 2008 spotted owl recovery plan, which was based more in politics than science, was voluntarily withdrawn by the new administration after we filed suit against it.)

All that being said, we can't forget to celebrate victories, and you are invited and encouraged to host your own WOPR memorial service, which, if properly planned, might consist of you and your friends at a karaoke bar drinking beer and singing James Brown's "I Feel Good," Lionel Richie's "Easy Like Sunday Morning," or anything by Bruce Springsteen. Enjoy!

## In Focus: Laura Beaton



There are not nearly enough attorneys out there with criminal records.

Clarification: there are not nearly enough attorneys out there with the good kind of criminal record – the kind you get from locking down in a senator's office or chaining yourself to heavy logging equipment. Cascadia Wildlands seems to attract this unique breed of rascally lawyer. Our first board president was a lawyer with an impressively virtuous criminal record, and our staff attorney has spent time behind bars in three states.

Keeping in this grand tradition, Cascadia Wildlands is pleased to introduce you to the newest, brainiest addition to our legal team. Laura Beaton is a second-year law student at the University of Oregon who has developed her own radical rap sheet through years of environmental activism. Laura has passionately defended Oregon's old-growth forests for nearly a decade and has recently decided to move her passion from the streets and forests to the courtroom. Among other things, Laura is a co-director of the world-renowned Public Interest Environmental Law Conference and a member of the prestigious Oregon Law Review. She has spent her summer with Cascadia Wildlands drafting legal arguments in our Five Buttes case, appealing and commenting on reckless logging proposals, and sharpening her legal skills for what promises to be a long and righteous career. This isn't the last you are going to hear of Laura!

— Dan Kruse

# News in Cascadia

## Enormous Timber Sales Proposed in Tongass NF

Our work to protect the Tongass National Forest is taking on new urgency as a raft of huge, new timber sales are forced through. This spring we appealed the Navy timber sale, which is comprised of over 3,000 acres of clearcuts.

The appeal was granted in part, and the Decision reversed, by the Regional Supervisor because the selected alternative wasn't analyzed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

Over the summer our Alaska legal intern, Jordan Beckett, appealed the Logjam timber sale, which also proposes over 3,000 acres of old-growth clearcuts, on Prince of Wales Island. Beckett challenged the failure to repair logging roads eroding into salmon streams and blocking fish passage. That's illegal under the Clean Water Act.

Meanwhile, with Crag Law Center and Greenpeace, we're litigating four other timber sales on the Tongass

because of scientific fraud in modeling impacts to wolves and deer. We're currently in the midst of briefing before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

## Rocky Mountain Wolves Remain in the Crosshairs

Immediately after taking office, the Obama administration put a freeze on new rules and orders the Bush administration had signed but had not yet formally published during its waning hours. Among those was Bush's latest attempt to remove Endangered Species Act protections for the gray wolf in the Rockies. But the Obama administration lifted its freeze and proceeded with the delisting this past spring.

Currently, the Idaho Game Commission is

considering its wolf quota for the state's proposed hunt, expected to begin this fall. Represented by Earthjustice, Cascadia Wildlands and other conservation organizations are considering filing for a legal injunction to halt the hunt and ultimately reinstate protections for the species.



The Obama administration has delisted the gray wolf in the northern Rocky Mountains

## Explore the Devil's Staircase Area With Cascadia Wildlands This Summer August 30, September 13, September 27

These guided hikes will explore various parts of the proposed wilderness and won't necessarily go to the Devil's Staircase itself. Devil's Staircase has some of the most steep, unpredictable terrain imaginable and is for experienced, off-trail hikers only. There are no trails or signs, and GPS units cannot be relied on in the area. We *strongly discourage* hiking without a guide who is intimately familiar with the Devil's Staircase area. Cascadia Wildlands cannot be held responsible for personal injury or property damage incurred during hike activities.

Bring two quarts of water, hearty lunch, gloves, appropriate clothing and stout boots. For RSVP and hike details, contact Cameron Derbyshire, 541.517.4906. Limit 12 people on each hike. Chip in for gas.



# To Ten Years in Cascadia's Northern Frontier

## Field Rep Gabe Scott Heads to the Swamp

by Gabe Scott

Here I am in the muggy heat of midnight New Orleans, looking forward to starting law school in a couple days. This will be the last dispatch from the Alaska field office for a while. Board member Kate Alexander is on the ground in Cordova, and we'll keep up on the ongoing projects, but things on the northern front will taper off as I take a three-year sabbatical.

As I look back on ten years running Cascadia's Alaska field office, memories of people and places stand out...

Here is James Johnston, Cascadia Wildlands co-founder, sitting on the curb outside Icky's Tea House in Eugene. I'd just come off a stint blockading logging roads in the Siskiyou, been arrested enough times for a while and was looking for another way to keep to the old-growth standing. "Why don't you help write appeals?" James grumbled. "Sue the bastards. Make THEM the defendants."

"I can't write appeals," I objected. "I'm not a damned lawyer."

"Of course you can," he said.

Here is Dune Lankard, Eyak native, welcoming a dirty and dreadlocked Gabe to Cordova, Alaska. Over a polished wood bar I explained Cascadia, how we wanted to help save this place, as the rest of Cascadia, by applying direct action techniques to law and grassroots organizing. "I'll help however I can," he said. "I believe in

you."

Here is Hatcher Pass, proposed site of a ski resort and subdivision. Here is an email from Crag Law Center in Portland, agreeing to represent Cascadia and sue the State of Alaska to stop it. Here is the settlement agreement they helped negotiate. Here is Hatcher Pass, still wild.

Here is the ghost town of Katalla, east of the Copper River Delta, a momma griz and cubs thrashing and growling in the bushes as we explored an abandoned oil derrick and toxic waste. Here is the oil man trying to explain this ground truth to investors. Here is Katalla, still wild.

Here is Cape Yakataga, savaged by Alaska's longest clearcut, abandoned by every environmental organization and government agency. The Lost Coast. Here is artist and resident Jen-Ann Kirchmeier, whose heart

would not allow letting go. Here are Erin, Hig, Katmai, and Jordan, planting baby willows according to our Yakataga Watershed Restoration Plan. Here is Yakataga, re-wilding.

As time goes by, my understanding of Cascadia—the people, the place, the organization—matures. At core, Cascadia to me is a fire in the belly. Cascadia is the arrogance that we can do anything, the confidence born of fighting impossible odds and winning, the absolute commitment to place born in the heartbreak of defeat, and the humility of knowing we live here as guests and on borrowed time.

Here's to the people and places that have made my last ten years in northern Cascadia more than any man has a right to expect out of life. I'll be back home soon, with a toolbox full of new legal tools to keep up the fight.

In the meantime, here's to Cascadia, forever wild.



*Downtown Cordova, home to Cascadia Wildlands' Alaska field office.*

B. Cole

# Landmark Legislation Introduced Into Congress

## Devil's Staircase, Wild Rogue, Oregon Caves to be Protected

by Josh Laughlin

On June 16, Representative Peter DeFazio and Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley introduced bills into the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress that would impressively add to the wilderness legacy in Oregon. The 29,650-acre Devil's Staircase Wilderness in the central Coast Range would become Oregon's next designated wilderness. The lower Rogue River in the Siskiyou Mountains would have an additional 143 miles of its primary tributaries protected under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

And the Oregon Caves National Monument in southwest Oregon would be expanded from 480 to 4,500 acres. The bills' introductions are a culmination of years of relentless advocacy and grassroots organizing. Potent coalition work between conservation organization, business supporters and people like you, were critical in the advance.

The Devil's Staircase area, named after a mystical, plunging waterfall on Wassen Creek in the heart of the wilderness proposal, is a Coast Range relic. Recent studies show only approximately 10% of the range's older forest remains today after decades of clearcutting. According to biologists, the area boasts possibly the greatest concentration of endangered northern spotted owls in the Coast Range and provides essential habitat for dwindling populations of marbled murrelet, a coastal seabird that, like the spotted owl, prefers older forest habitat for nesting. The lower reaches of Wassen Creek provide spawning habitat for endangered fish like coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

"Because a River Needs Its Wildands" is our campaign mantra for the lower Rogue for good reason. Tributaries like Kelsey, Whisky, Rum, and Big Windy Creeks provide the cold water refugia for the Rogue's

famous Chinook salmon run. These creeks, and many others in the legislation, would get extra-thick protection buffers and stave off extraction activities in the famed area ensuring the area remains wild for generations to come. A recent report commissioned by our coalition concluded that river-based recreation on the Wild and Scenic Rogue River, which includes rafting, fishing, hiking, and jetboat tours, accounted for not less than \$30 million in total economic output,

including \$15.4 million in personal income, and 445 full- and part-time jobs. Learn more about the campaign on our coalition website, [www.savethewildrogue.org](http://www.savethewildrogue.org).

Since its creation in 1909, monument officials have repeatedly called for an expansion of the 480-acre monument in the botanically diverse Siskiyou Mountains to adequately protect

the unique resource. Our

conservation colleagues at KS Wild have been leading the recent expansion effort, which also considers a buy-out of a public lands grazing lease from a willing rancher in the expansion area. More information can be found at [www.kswild.org](http://www.kswild.org).

We expect hearings on these bills in respective subcommittees this fall. Our goal is to put these bills on President Obama's desk by the new year. However, with health care, climate change and surface transportation issues taking up most of Congress' bandwidth these days, we need you to help us make sure Representative DeFazio and Senator Wyden ensure hearings happen. Go to [www.cascwild.org](http://www.cascwild.org) to send a quick note to both lawmakers encouraging hearings. Off-trail enthusiasts: Join us on a bushwhack into the wild and rugged Devil's Staircase area this summer (see enclosed hike schedule). These hikes are for experienced off-trail hikers only.



*Pacific giant salamanders call Devil's Staircase home.*