

CASCADIA REVIEW

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY'S BIG LOGGING BLUNDER

How Does Its Old-growth Logging Affect the Future of the Elliott?

by Josh Laughlin, Executive Director

Driven by direction from the State Land Board, political momentum has been building over the past year for Oregon State University's College of Forestry to become the new owner of the embattled 82,500-acre Elliott State Forest, located east of Coos Bay in the Oregon Coast Range.

Then, the College had a big oopsie this summer.

Its old-school foresters cut down dozens of old-growth trees on its

McDonald
Research
Forest in
Corvallis.

A local counted 420 rings on one of them. The interim Dean of the College called it a "mistake."

Many watching the process closely are rightly asking, "Is Oregon State University's College of Forestry the right entity to become

the future owner of this outstanding public forest?" Cascadia Wildlands is not convinced it is, not just because of this summer's...

continued on pg.10



IMAGE: Old-growth trees cut down by Oregon State University (photo by Friends of OSU's Old-growth Forests).

staff

Nick Cady
Legal Director

Kaley CoslowSauer
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Sam Krop
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Lauren Regan

contact us

PO Box 10455
Eugene, OR 97440
541.434.1463
info@cascwild.org

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Designed by Kaley CoslowSauer.

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PROTECTION OF FOREST WATERS AT Affected Rural Communities Leading the Effort

by Josh Laughlin, Executive Director

With systematic regularity, the office phone rings with a panicked rural land owner on the other end: "I just got a notification that X timber company is going to clearcut the stately forest next to me and then aerially spray herbicides all around us. What can be done to stop this?"



The sad, short answer is — not much. The archaic Forest Practices Act sanctions logging on private and state lands in Oregon and has about as much teeth as a newborn. The mudslides, the bulldozing of roads, the massive clearcuts, the poisoning of waterways and communities, and the loss of human life are just some of collateral damage of this outdated policy. You've seen the carnage driving through the Oregon Coast Range or the low elevation foothills of the Cascades.

Sadly, there has been little success over the years to

change this reckless law at the state's capitol. Although a Democratic super-majority reigns in Salem, legislation to reform forest practices on private and state lands dies on the vine, session after session. Big Timber's stranglehold on policymakers on both sides of the aisle is ever apparent, and rural communities across western Oregon that bear the brunt of this policy are at their wits' end. They intend to take the issue to the ballot in November 2020, where Oregonians will get the chance decide about their future and the importance of clean water, human health and salmon recovery.

The Oregon Forest Waters Act would update current policy by increasing the width of streamside buffers to safeguard imperiled salmon and steelhead runs; prohibiting aerial herbicide spraying over streams and waterbodies to

THE FOREST WATERS PROTECTION ACT SEEKS TO UPDATE OUR LAWS AND SECURE PROTECTIONS FOR OUR FOREST WATERS.

Current forest laws expose water supplies to warming temperatures, logging debris, and toxic chemicals.



Winberry Creek, Willamette National Forest (photo by Andrew Kumler).

Analysis of 60-year records from eight experiment areas in the Andrews Forest revealed that cutting down old-growth forest to turn into Douglas-fir plantations reduced the amount of streamflow by a whopping 50%. The study, by Timothy Perry and Julia Jones, was published in 2016 in the journal *Ecohydrology*.

Oregonians deserve better when it comes to private and state forest management, especially when clean water, salmon recovery and human health continue to be jeopardized as Big Timber runs to the bank with its profits.



The Oregon Forest Waters Act would prevent this kind of mismanagement (photo by Andrew Kumler).



1998 · 20 YEARS · 2018

CRITTER CORNER



Flying squirrel young, in their nest of lichens and other materials (photo courtesy of Reed Wilson).

Humboldt's Flying Squirrel

Glaucomys oregonensis

One of Cascadia's most beloved and elusive forest dwellers is the Humboldt's flying squirrel. This unique coastal species of flying squirrel, which lives only in Cascadia, was only recently determined by DNA studies to be a unique subspecies.

Small, dark-colored, and almost exclusively nocturnal, they are rarely seen but often heard, in the old-growth forest canopy as night falls. They feed on the fruiting bodies of mycorrhizal systems, like truffles and mushrooms, and can soar up to 100 meters and make sharp, midair turns.

In the above photo, two babies seen nesting in a hollow, broken top tree were discovered by volunteer surveyors inside a logging unit on the upcoming "QMS" timber sale in the Willamette National Forest. Flying squirrels are one of the many critters that receive no particular protection under current law.

* Humboldt's flying squirrel are one of only three species of flying squirrel found in North America.

WONDERLAND AUCTION ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

Don't Miss out on Our Biggest Party and Largest Fundraising Event!

by Kaley CoslowSauer, Operations and Communications Director



CAN'T MAKE THE EVENT?

Consider making a gift to Cascadia Wildlands to help launch us into 2020! It will be matched dollar-for-dollar during November by premier sponsor, and business champion, Mountain Rose Herbs.

You are invited to join Cascadia Wildlands, Mountain Rose Herbs, and a deep community of supporters to help celebrate the 17th Annual Wonderland Auction from 5:30-9:30pm on December 7 at swanky Venue 252 in Eugene. *Please note the evening will begin 30 minutes earlier than in years past.

There, you will enjoy a gourmet dinner and dessert, local libations including special "Gose of the Forest" conservation

benefit beer by The Wheel Apizza Pub, live and silent auctions, live music, seasonal cheer, and so much more. Secure tickets or reserve a table for 8 for you and your friends at CascWild.org before it sells out!



CASCADIANS GOT DOWN AT THE HOEDOWN

Rockin' HK Barn in Veneta Ideal Venue for This Barnstormer

by Gabe Scott, In-house Counsel

"If I can't dance, it's not my revolution!" - Emma Goldman

We are in it to win at Cascadia Wildlands. That means not just fighting the good fights, but also celebrating one another and building community for the long haul.

A stompin' good time was had by all at the Hoedown for Cascadia's Ancient Forests, roaring back to life in early September for a lucky 13th iteration at the Rockin' HK Barn in Veneta. Rosie called the steps

and Moonlight Jubilee picked the old-timey tunes while our merry tribe, young and old, spun and twirled and laughed long into the summer night.

"Gose of the Forest", a conservation collaboration beer between The Wheel, Mainstem Malt, Mountain Rose Herbs, and Cascadia Wildlands, was released at the Hoedown, and it and cider by WildCraft Cider Works helped fuel the barn dance. Trade was brisk at the Peaceful Palate and Navarro's Latin

Creole Kitchen food trucks. Gangs of kids ran wild with s'mores. Pedal Power Music amplified the bluegrass. The sack-race champions reigned triumphant. Many not-so-champion water-balloon tossers could be identified by wet clothes and big smiles.

Big thanks to event sponsors:

Mountain Rose Herbs, The Wheel, Wicked Kind, Pedal Power Music, WildCraft Cider Works, Cascadian Courier Collective, and the Rockin' HK Barn.

INTERNS IN FOCUS

NOAH MIKELL
& JESSICA BUTT



Cascadia Wildlands extends a huge thank you to JESSICA BUTT and NOAH MIKELL, our two summer legal interns from the University of Oregon School of Law.

JESS and NOAH assisted on everything from lawsuits, including the marbled murrelet victory and the Thurston Hills timber sale challenge, to representing Cascadia Wildlands at Oregon Country Fair, joining field checkers on groundtruthing trips, and addressing questions from interested members of the public.

NOAH MIKELL is a rising second-year law student at the University of Oregon School of Law. After spending the last few summers experiencing different aspects of non-profit work, he made it his goal to find an opportunity to continue learning about this career path during law school. When he's not studying, you can find Noah on the bike paths, hiking with friends, or exploring Eugene.

JESS BUTT grew up outdoors in each of the four corners of the U.S. After studying environmental sciences at the National University of Costa Rica, she then returned to the California redwoods to play collegiate soccer at Humboldt State University, graduating in 2013 with degrees in Anthropology, Spanish, and Environmental Ethics. Jess is currently a second-year law student at the University of Oregon School of Law, interested in water law and tribal land rights.

We say this every year, but hands down these were the best legal interns ever. We look forward to working with them further and following their environmental exploits!

OFFICE VOLUNTEER

EVA FREY



We would also like to thank our long-time office janitorial volunteer EVA FREY. Eva is a rockstar volunteer who keeps our office clean so we can focus on our critical program work. Eva has been volunteering with us for about a year now, and has been quickly gaining skill and experience since day one! Her enthusiasm continues to be a highlight of the week.

Eva enjoys hiking (you can see the Middle Sister behind her), biking, bowling, cooking, and a wide range of music. She is currently working on the Thriller dance routine, and being a buddy of a rescue dog.



THANK YOU SPONSORS!



IN THE FORESTS, IN THE STREETS, AND IN THE PAPERS

Spring and Summer Finds WildCAT Neck Deep in Action

by Sam Krop, Grassroots Organizer

Learn. Participate. Advocate. Activate. Become A WildCAT.

The definition of a WildCAT: a member of the **Cascadia Action Team**, a diverse group of volunteers who embody the spirit of their namesake; a wildcat is any various small or medium-sized cat, such as a lynx, noted for its ferocity — fierceness is understood to be the showing of heartfelt and powerful intensity of action.

Cascadia Wildlands volunteers spent the summer exploring threatened forests, rallying in the streets, and submitting to the papers. Our mission to defend and restore the wild places of Cascadia takes us to backyard forests, the halls of decision makers, and the streets of Salem. We go where action is needed, and work hard to connect with the places and people most impacted by destructive land and species management proposals.

This summer, our WildCAT field checking team has grown in ranks and become more dedicated, more scrappy, and more committed to groundtruthing threatened public forests.

IN AUGUST, we held our first ever field checking basecamp in the **N126 timber sale, a massive commercial logging proposal put forward by the Bureau of Land Management in a 33,000-acre project area near Triangle Lake west of Eugene**. During our long weekend of surveying, skill sharing and community building, we found unmarked streams, patches of old-growth forest and even sighted a threatened marbled murrelet flying under the canopy in the timber sale in the early morning hours. Our WildCAT team continues to explore threatened public lands across western Oregon, and as the timber sales mount, our numbers only grow. Meanwhile, as WildCAT increases its ranks, it's been upping its creativity as well.

IN JUNE, we rounded up allies from across the state for a **People's Meeting with Governor Brown where we rallied and spoke out in Salem against the climate-polluting Jordan Cove Project**.

IN SEPTEMBER, we demonstrated our opposition to the **BLM's Shotcash timber sale, a clearcut proposal in Shotgun**

Creek Recreation Area near Eugene, by holding a theatrical mock trial of the worst logging criminals right outside of the BLM's Northwest District headquarters. And in conjunction with every action and every new development, the WildCAT writing team has published advocacy pieces in local newspapers, written to decision-making bodies and ensured that the voice of wilderness-loving Cascadians echoes loud and clear throughout the bioregion.

Since its inception, the WildCAT team has taken the work of defending our bioregion to places near and far, and we only intend to grow our reach. Through our work, we've learned that every member of our community has a unique place in this movement, and we truly do need it all.

IMAGES pg. 7: WildCATs of all ages joined our Basecamp weekend (photos courtesy of WildCAT members and Cascadia Wildlands). ① The WildCAT Basecamp crew. ② Ghost Flower, *Monotropa uniflora*, is a herbaceous perennial plant native to temperate regions. It is white and does not contain chlorophyll. Instead of energy from sunlight, it is parasitic, a *mycoheterotroph* — a symbiotic relationship between plants and fungi. Its hosts are certain fungi that have a symbiotic relationship with trees (aka *mycorrhizal*). Meaning, it ultimately gets its energy from trees by way of fungi in a complex relationship that allows this plant to grow. ③ WildCAT Madeline, basking in a giant cedar tree.



IN THE COURTS WE GO

A Snapshot of Cascadia Wildlands' Current Legal Docket

by Nick Cady, Legal Director

It has been an incredibly busy spring and summer for Cascadia's legal team.

The threats to Cascadia's wild places and unique species continue to mount, and the courtroom remains a key venue to duke out the legality of reckless conservation policy.

Below is a rundown of recent cases and developments:

Cascadia Wildlands et al v.

BLM: Cascadia Wildlands and Oregon Wild filed a lawsuit challenging the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Pedal Power timber sale, which proposes to clearcut 100-acres of public forest on the edge of Springfield and directly adjacent to Willamalane's recently opened 665-acre Thurston Hills Natural Area. In their complaint, the conservation organizations and residents who live adjacent to the proposed clearcutting cite increased fire hazards and threats to recreation from the logging. Oral argument was held in federal court in Eugene in September, and we expect a decision soon.

Cascadia Wildlands et al v. Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission:

Cascadia Wildlands and five conservation allies filed suit against the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission for failing to uplist the marbled murrelet from "threatened" to "endangered" under the Oregon Endangered Species Act. The Commission voted in February 2019 to accept our uplisting petition for the imperiled seabird based upon relevant scientific information and pressing threats to the species. But the Commission caved to intense pressure from the logging industry and logging-friendly politicians at a subsequent meeting and reversed course. On September 12, the Court issued a judgment in our favor thereby allowing the Commission another opportunity to make a proper decision based on science and not politics.

KS Wild et al v. BLM: Cascadia Wildlands, KS Wild and Oregon Wild challenged the BLM's Lower Grave timber sale, which proposed clearcutting old forests that would have increased fire hazards and "taken" threatened

spotted owls near the Rogue River. We prevailed in federal district court in Medford, and the government has appealed that case to the Ninth Circuit. We will soon go through mediation with the BLM and our hope is to allow the BLM to proceed with the young plantation thinning component of the project and cancel the older forest logging and associated road construction.

Cascadia Wildlands et al v.

Scott Timber: In May, Cascadia Wildlands, Audubon Society of Portland and the Center for Biological Diversity finished a week-long trial in one of our largest and most ambitious legal cases challenging a timber sale that will harm marbled murrelets under the Endangered Species Act on former Elliott State Forest lands. These lands were sold by the state in 2013 to Scott Timber (subsidiary of Roseburg Forest Products), and our suit aims to prevent the clearcutting of pristine old-growth forests home to nesting murrelets and discourage any further efforts to privatize the embattled Elliott State Forest. We expect a decision this fall.

BREAKING VICTORIES FOR WILDLANDS & CRITTERS IN CASCADIA!

Thurston Hills Near Springfield Saved from the Saw!

On September 18, the **federal court ruled in our favor determining that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) violated federal laws when it approved clearcutting 100 acres of public land in the Thurston Hills** next to Springfield. The court said that BLM's environmental review failed to consider the fact that logging would increase fire hazard for nearby residents and failed to harmonize logging and recreation by buffering recreation trails as required by BLM's own rules. Cascadia Wildlands brought the case with co-plaintiff Oregon Wild with support from neighbors who live adjacent to the area proposed to be clearcut.

The area proposed to be logged is located directly adjacent to Willamalane's recently opened 665-acre Thurston Hills Natural Area. BLM's recently adopted

resource management plan (RMP) for western Oregon, and in collaboration with Willamalane, specifically designated this small area for recreation in order to complement the Thurston Hills Natural Area's recreation opportunities, specifically high-quality mountain biking and hiking.

In June 2018, Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) wrote the BLM regarding this timber sale and told them, "If the BLM proceeds with this project, it will inflict lasting damage to its reputation and will garner ill will from the community for decades. The agency will lose any trust or goodwill that has been built over the years by previous district managers."

Ban on Trapping Imperiled Humboldt Martens Approved!

In response to a petition from Cascadia Wildlands and a suite of our conservation colleagues, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife

Commission voted 4-3 on September 15 to protect Humboldt martens from trapping. Fewer than 200 of these cat-like carnivores survive in the state's coastal forests.

Only two isolated marten populations survive in Oregon. One group is in the Siskiyou National Forest, and another is in the Siuslaw National Forest. The lack of mature forest habitat on state and private forests stretching between the two populations has isolated them and put them at high risk of local extinction.

Humboldt martens were once common in the coastal mountains, from the Columbia River south to Sonoma, California. But logging of old-growth forests and fur trapping decimated and separated populations. California banned coastal marten trapping in 1946 and protected Humboldt martens as endangered in 2018.



ABOVE, Left: Trapping of Humboldt martens is now illegal (photo courtesy USFWS). **Right:** Only two Humboldt marten populations exist in Oregon (photo by Mark Linnell/US Forest Service).

...recent old-growth logging debacle, but because of the timber-dominant pattern and practice that seems to be at the core of the College's DNA.

Shortly after the 500,000-acre Biscuit Fire of 2002, the College of Forestry's dean was caught in an academic freedom scandal. He was at the center of trying to suppress an OSU student researcher's study results after the fire. The conclusion of the study — that post-fire clearcutting inhibits natural regeneration of the burned forest — wasn't compatible with the industrial logging agenda for the fragile, burned forest in the Siskiyou Mountains of southwest Oregon. Public records requests showed the dean was in close communication with the timber industry in an attempt to suppress the importance of the study, presumably so it wouldn't get in the way of logging. Incensed, the Oregon legislature held hearings about academic freedom and called the former dean to testify.

Recent field checks of the College of Forestry's other "research forests" in western Oregon by our volunteers documented extensive clearcutting operations, similar to what we witness on private industrial forestlands in Oregon. Will this be the management approach on the Elliott if it becomes OSU's next research forest?



OSU's Blodgett Research Forest, July 2019
(photo by Cascadia Wildlands).

Cascadia Wildlands continues to closely engage in the future disposition of the Elliott while monthly advisory meetings take place and a Habitat Conservation Plan gets developed. An OSU presentation to the State Land Board (trustees of the Elliott State Forest made up of the Governor, Secretary of State and Treasurer) is expected in December. A decision to transfer or sell the Elliott could soon follow.

Our vision for the future owner/manager of the Elliott remains consistent: protection for the remaining mature and old-growth forests, increased streamside buffers to safeguard wild salmon and steelhead, protection of known sites of endangered terrestrial species, public ownership and access in perpetuity, recognition of the outstanding carbon-storage ability of the Elliott to mitigate climate change, and restoration thinning in its dense second-growth forests. We hope this vision ends up in line with that of OSU's.





THANK YOU!

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS Our work would not be possible without the financial support of people like YOU! Individual giving accounts for nearly 50% of our operating income and allows us to protect clean water, restore imperiled species, and safeguard our treasured old-growth forests.

You are the fuel that keep our fire burning, and we are incredibly grateful for it!

BUSINESSES Whether through cash or in-kind donations, business support creates strategic cause-related marketing that benefits both Cascadia Wildlands and the supportive business. We are particularly grateful for the deep support of **Mountain Rose Herbs**, a company that sets the bar high year-after-year and which contributed \$25,000 to help us achieve our goals this year. While we can't name them all, we are also indebted to following businesses for their unwavering support.



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DONATE MONTHLY:

Set up a direct account transfer (ACH) and become part of our Keystone Circle (monthly donor program). This method is the most efficient way to give your support and ensures your entire gift goes to us and not also to a credit card processing fee.

GIVE THROUGH YOUR IRA:

If you are at least 70 ½ years old, consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly from your IRA to Cascadia Wildlands each year. This avoids the tax consequences of the Required Minimum Distribution while supporting your favorite non-profit!

DONATE STOCK:

Cascadia Wildlands works with RBC Wealth Management (DTC #: 0235) in Eugene to facilitate stock donations. Our account number is: 316-04682.

MAKE A BEQUEST:

Naming Cascadia Wildlands in your will as the beneficiary of a qualified retirement plan asset such as a 401(k), 403(b), IRA, Keogh or profit sharing pension plan will accomplish a charitable goal while realizing significant tax savings.

SUPPORT THROUGH A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY OR CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST:

A generous donor helped us launch an endowment fund last year as we celebrated our 20-year anniversary, allowing us to offer Charitable Gift Annuities or Charitable Remainder Trusts. These two options facilitate income for the remainder of a donor's life or for a specified number of years, while obtaining an income or estate tax benefit. At passing, funds are gifted to Cascadia Wildlands.

To learn more/get started, contact:
Executive Director, Josh Laughlin
541.434.1463
jlaughlin@cascwild.org

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FALL 2019

what's
inside?

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for being a part of our Cascadian movement

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17th Annual

Wonderland Auction

Saturday, **December 7, 2019**

in Eugene, OR at Venue 252

5:30-9:30 pm

*Tickets and Reserved Tables for 8 available at CascWild.org