

CASCADIA REVIEW

PUBLIC LANDS LOGGING RAMPANT AMIDST GLOBAL PANDEMIC

by Gabe Scott, In-House Counsel

The forests of Cascadia are full of promise and peril, this summer of the pandemic. As the normal world came to a halt, many have found occasion to renew our love for our home. Cascadia's beauty is found not mainly in postcard images, but in secret glades and hidden gems.

Residents have rediscovered wildlife worlds of their backyard forests, the aquatic communities in clear creeks running through towns, and the deep, abiding joy of sunrises over forested hills. That glorious smell of spring blowing off the ocean and over the forests has never felt so profound.

Our landscape feeds and sustains our health in direct, tangible ways, from clean fresh water to a stable climate. Even a few minutes a day spent in the company of forests is shown to improve immune function.

If our collective lockdown reminds us of the promise inherent in our bioregion, the global pandemic also has laid bare the peril from those who see only dollar signs and raw materials.

From the start, logging was considered "essential." Spring saw a flush of logging in the woods, while federal agencies scrambled with telework to keep the timber pipeline pumping.

We have been tracking this closely. In the western Cascades and Coast Range we are seeing native, mature and even old-growth forests targeted for industrial logging in hundreds of locations.

The backyard forest up 79th Street in the Thurston Hills, for example, is still being targeted by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for clearcutting. We sued and beat this proposal just last year in federal court for...

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Gabe Scott, In-House Counsel, Exploring the Thurston Hills timber sale (photo by Cascadia Wildlands).

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CASCADIA WILDLANDS PRESSES FORWARD Amidst Global Health Crisis

by *Josh Laughlin, Executive Director*

Like you, we have adapted mightily at Cascadia Wildlands as we navigate the challenges posed by the coronavirus. Staff has been working remotely since mid-March, and we are grateful for laptop computers and video conference technology. Defying all odds, we have brought on two new staff and have been successfully (and safely) onboarding them during this otherworldly time. **Welcome Martha Brinson and Dylan Plummer!**



Martha brings to us extensive experience in operations as our Membership and Operations Manager, and Dylan was hired as our new Grassroots Organizer. As a key member of WildCAT (*Cascadia Action Team*) for nearly three years, Dylan replaces **Samantha Krop** as she heads north chasing her passion to be closer to the Salish Sea. Sam leaves us big shoes to fill, but we know that we are in good hands with Dylan and the current leadership of WildCAT — which has

blossomed from an idea into a powerful force under her tutelage.

Earlier in the year saw the addition of Kim Hyland to the Board of Directors. For the past several years, Kim has volunteered at our Wonderland Auction — she may have even checked you in before! Kim brings a business savviness to the board and a deep passion for the mission and vision of Cascadia Wildlands. **Welcome aboard, Kim!**

The pandemic has caused anything but a slowdown here. Logging has been deemed an essential business, and federal agencies are going gangbusters with reckless proposals on our public lands. Staff and volunteers are safely out in the field surveying and field checking the barrage of egregious land grabs. We have been navigating the federal court system, with remote arguments being held in front of judges. As expected, Trump's energy commission greenlighted the controversial



MARTHA BRINSON



KIM HYLAND



DYLAN PLUMMER



CRITTER CORNER



Beavers front teeth have so much iron in them that they appear bright orange (photo courtesy of Steve).

North American Beaver

Castor canadensis

Beaver's — nicknamed "ecosystem engineers" and "nature's architects" — critically influence the ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest and play a fundamental role in creating and maintaining a diversity of flora and fauna associated with Oregon's streams, rivers, and wetlands.

Prior to European arrival in North America, Oregon's streams and rivers may have harbored an estimated one million North American beaver. Unfortunately, historic trapping efforts to create a "fur desert" in Oregon resulted in dramatic declines of the species and trapping continues to this day. Cascadia Wildlands is currently attempting to prohibit commercial and recreational trapping of beavers on federal lands through a petitioning effort to Oregon's Fish and Wildlife Commission.

WHAT IS A "FUR DESERT"?

A cruel policy of the Hudson Bay Company in the early 1800s, where Oregon rivers and streams were meticulously searched for beavers for the purpose of extermination. So when competing trappers came looking for beaver they would only find an empty, barren watershed, give up, and leave.

Size: 29"-35" body + 8"-14" tail

Weight: 24-71lbs

Life Expectancy in the Wild: 24 years

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Jordan Cove LNG Project and 230-mile Pacific Connector Pipeline while the country was knocked down during the early days of the quarantine. As the bureaucratic adage goes — never let a serious crisis go to waste.

A unique time in history it is, and together we will persevere.

If you have the means, get out to our treasured public lands, take a deep breath, bury your face in the blanket of wildflowers, and remember that you are such a part of our movement for a wild Cascadia. If you need anything, let us know and we will try our best.

Stay safe, and stay resilient,

Josh Laughlin
Executive Director



Gabe Scott, In-House Counsel, visiting Coos Bay BLM's Upper Rock Divide timber sale in the Oregon Coast Range before hand-delivering a legal protest of that sale decision (photo by Cascadia Wildlands).

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ADVANCES JORDAN COVE PROJECT

Against State and Community Opposition to LNG Pipeline and Terminal

by Dylan Plummer, Grassroots Organizer

From explosive reports revealing federal surveillance of grassroots organizers opposed to the project, to an approval from Trump's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), a lot has changed with the proposed Jordan Cove fracked gas pipeline and export terminal since last fall.

While this spring's FERC decision was an expected piece of bad news, Governor Kate Brown's strong opposition to the decision was a surprise. With FERC's approval coming after Jordan Cove failed to get three of the necessary state permits that it needs to begin construction, Brown made it clear that she would do everything in her power to stop the project from moving forward without all of the essential permits. US Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) joined the Governor in coming out in strong opposition to the decision, citing the proposed use of eminent domain to dispossess Oregonians of their property for the pipeline's construction as his primary objection.

Since the decision, the State of Oregon joined Cascadia

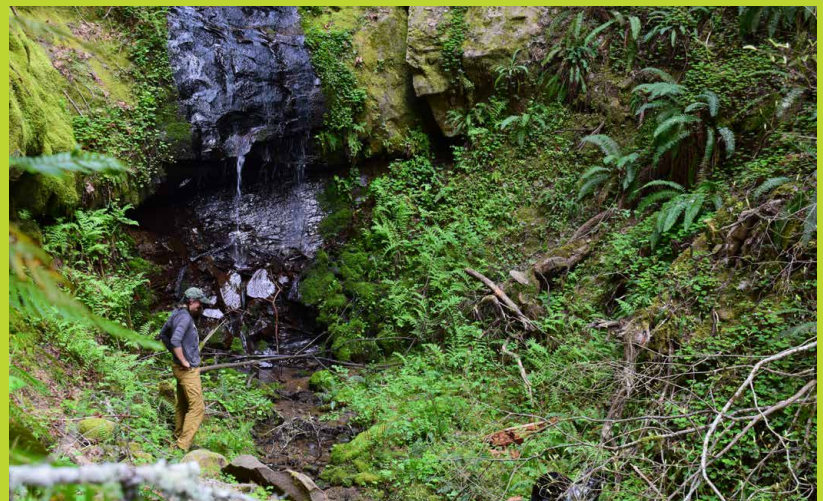
Wildlands and the No LNG Coalition—an alliance of Tribes, impacted landowners, and public interest groups—in filing a request for a rehearing to FERC, disputing the Commission's approval. This move is in line with Governor Brown's statement in opposition to the FERC decision, and puts the State directly at odds with the Trump administration's efforts to fast track this irresponsible project. As anticipated, our rehearing request was denied in mid-May, and we are now litigating the project.

Amidst the global pandemic, WildCAT (Cascadia Action

Team) has been hard at work field checking the route of the proposed 230-mile pipeline. Just a few weeks ago, a team of volunteers made a (socially distanced) trip to survey a portion of BLM land the pipeline would cross and found stately old-growth forests and crystal-clear streams — *all at risk of being destroyed by this irresponsible project.*

Cascadia Wildlands is committed to resisting this project until the bitter end; and will continue to fight alongside our allies until we stop this project once and for all.

Late this spring, WildCATs field checked the path of the proposed 230-mile Pacific Connector Pipeline (photo by Cascadia Wildlands).



LEGAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Bolstered by Aspiring Attorneys

Spring at Cascadia Wildlands is marked each year by a handful of aspiring attorneys joining our legal program from various parts of the country. Overseen by Legal Director Nick Cady, these law students receive real-world experience working for an environmental non-profit and are tasked with duties such as drafting complaints and preliminary injunctions, researching case law to support our claims, field checking timber sales and proposed pipelines, attending oral argument in state and federal court, and even hopping behind our outreach table at places like the bluegrass-heavy Northwest String Summit. Our legal interns greatly bolster our litigation efforts and help us notch lasting victories for the wildlands, waterways and species in Cascadia. Many have gone on to become leaders as our country's next generation of public interest, environmental attorneys.

• LEGAL INTERNS IN FOCUS •

We are excited to work with the following law students this summer:



NOAH GALVIN is a rising second-year law student at Northern Kentucky University. He completed his undergraduate degree in political science while playing collegiate baseball at Thomas More University. Northern Kentucky has been home for Noah all of his life, but he has spent many summer days on his family's farms in Lexington, Kentucky. He became interested in environmental law while working for local governments to analyze sustainable revenue options. After visiting family in Oregon, he fell in love with the Pacific Northwest and has made it his mission to experience more of this wonderful place. In his spare time, Noah enjoys hiking, cooking, and painting.



GENE MCCARTHY is a rising third-year law student at the University of Oregon School of Law, interested in water law and protecting public lands. He grew up in Tidewater, Virginia where his time on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries instilled a deep appreciation for the natural world. He was inspired to pursue a career in environmental law after attending the BP Oil Spill hearings during an internship in Washington D.C. He earned his B.A. in political science from the University of South Carolina. In his free time, he is either trail running, fly fishing, or scheming up his next backpacking trip.



CHELSEA STEWART-FUSEK is a rising second-year student at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon. She was raised among the redwoods in Humboldt County on the northern California coast. After years of working as a phlebotomist in her local hospital, her passion for wildlife conservation led her to attend Humboldt State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in wildlife biology. Chelsea decided to pursue law school in order to advocate for our wildlife and wild places through law and science-driven policy. In her free time, Chelsea loves to backpack and hike with her dog Ramona, disc golf, and garden.

2019 WONDERLAND AUCTION RAISES NEARLY \$150K FOR WILDNESS IN CASCADIA

by Kaley CoslowSauer, Communications and Events Director

350 community members turned out for our 17th annual Wonderland Auction on December 7, 2019, helping us celebrate the end of a decade and catapult into the roaring 2020s! Venue 252 in Eugene provided a swanky location, and our efforts were bolstered by a surprise matching gift opportunity through business partner, Patagonia. We leveraged your giving during the paddle raise portion of the night, and coupled with the live and silent auctions, together were able to raise nearly \$150,000 to support our conservation programs in 2020 and beyond!

The night was anchored by Premier Sponsor, **Mountain Rose Herbs**, and involved the participation of hundreds of businesses, volunteers, and community members. Cocktails by **Thinking Tree Spirits** kicked off the night, followed by live and silent auctions, dinner, drinks and dessert accompanied by the energetic trio **Inner Limits**. Conservation updates highlighted major gains of the past year and framed our upcoming battles. **WildCraft Cider Works** hosted a lively afterparty for those with some pep still left in their step. We are so grateful for the deep support of our community who helped make the evening unforgettable.

Auction photos on the following page and more on Facebook (by WildCAT, Anupam Katkar).

Thank You Generous 2019 Auction Sponsors!



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Many Thanks to Our Generous 2019 Auction Donors

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Wolf Haven International



ELLIOTT STATE FOREST NOT FOR SALE

Oregon Supreme Court Ruling Affirms

by Josh Laughlin,
Executive Director

In late 2019 the Oregon Supreme Court ruled in ***Cascadia Wildlands, et al v. Oregon Department of State Lands*** that the Elliott State Forest near Coos Bay can not be sold. We, along with the Center for Biological Diversity and Audubon Society of Portland, brought this case in 2014 after the Governor John Kitzhaber-led State Land Board threw a bureaucratic fit over our legal success protecting threatened old-growth on the Elliott and began selling off large chunks of the forest to private timber firms.

We said not so fast. ORS 530.450, created decades ago by the Oregon legislature, withdrew sale of the Elliott State Forest so this outstanding asset could be kept in public ownership for the benefit of school children. The Supreme Court ruling ensures a 788-acre forest parcel must revert back to public ownership and debunks the myth that the Elliott must be maximized for timber revenue.

The ruling also has significant implications for the larger conversation around the



Skunk cabbage lines Elliott State Forest's riparian zones (photo by Tim Giraudier).

possibility of Oregon State University's College of Forestry becoming the future public owner of the Elliott and turning this 82,500-acre Coast Range forest into the Elliott State Research Forest.

Well aware of the College's checkered past, Cascadia Wildlands continues to stay closely engaged with stakeholders about the research forest concept. Current discussion calls for turning over half of the forest into a permanent reserve to benefit carbon storage and imperiled salmon and wildlife, yet tension exists around the College's interest in research logging in a subset of the remaining mature forest found on the Elliott. We ask: *What more is there to learn about the impact of logging old forests?*

A generation of clearcutting across the Coast Range clearly demonstrates it is bad for clean water, older forest-dependent species, recreation, and carbon storage.

We continue to encourage OSU to focus on innovative research projects in the young, second growth stands found on the Elliott to help answer pressing questions about the climate crisis, watershed restoration and sustainable jobs in the woods.

Cascadia Wildlands anticipates Oregon State University will present its latest proposal at the fall 2020 State Land Board meeting, and we will certainly be calling on you to help ensure any research forest that gets created is one this and future generations will be proud of.

WOLF RECOVERY IN CASCADIA

Ups and Downs Across the Region

by Nick Cady, Legal Director

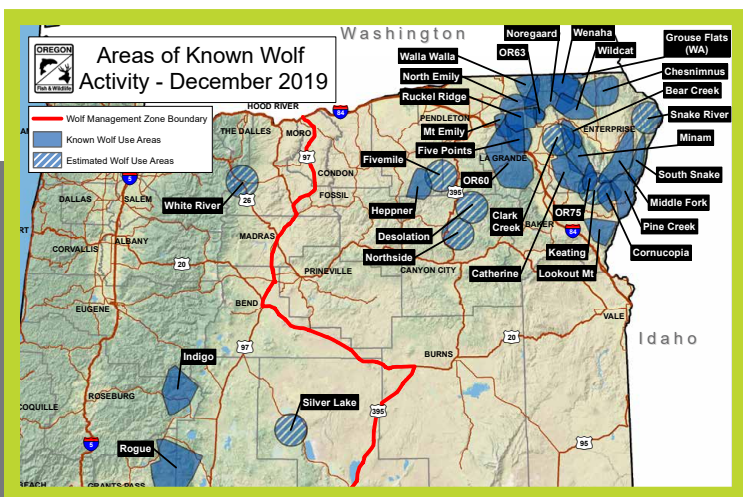
OR In April, Oregon released its annual wolf report which shows that wolf recovery is progressing impressively. There are a minimum of 158 confirmed wolves in the state, up 15% from last year. The number of conflicts with livestock on the other hand decreased by half. Under the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's new wolf management plan, no wolves were killed this past year. The state's focus on non-lethal preventative measures has yielded less conflicts and promising wolf-population growth and dispersal. There is some sad news, however. OR-7, the famous alpha wolf who journeyed thousands of miles from northeast Oregon's Imnaha Pack to ultimately start the Rogue Pack near Crater

Lake, is believed dead, likely of old age. But his landmark role of facilitating the return of wolves to the Cascades and northern California will never be forgotten.

WA Washington's 2019 annual report tells a different story. Although overall wolf populations posted modest growth (108 wolves, up from 97 wolves last year), the number of packs decreased. Given Oregon's large population gains this year, the stagnant growth in Washington was likely not a function of weather patterns, but again a function of significant lethal control. 20 wolves were killed in Washington last year by humans — nine by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, six by tribal hunters, and five by ranchers.

The annual culling of wolves in Washington by the Department or as permitted by lax state regulations is having population-level effects, and the rules and regulations surrounding wolf conservation in Washington need to be revisited. Cascadia Wildlands, along with conservation partners, has petitioned the Department to strengthen these regulations. Stay tuned for an opportunity to weigh in on these efforts.

AK In Alaska, the Board of Game recently lifted all trapping restrictions for wolves, and the result was an unprecedented number of wolves killed in the Tongass National Forest. Trappers killed a reported 165, wolves which is nearly as many wolves estimated to live in the entire region. Conservation organizations have reached out to the Forest Supervisor to suspend all trapping given the impending eradication of wolves in the region.



PANDEMIC LOGGING (continued from cover)

...hiding the neighborhood fire hazard it creates, and failing to designate and protect proposed recreational trails. The agency is trying to paper over its mistakes and log it anyway.

Along the North Umpqua River we've been field checking prime groves slated to fall in the Umpqua Sweets timber sale. Field checkers even found a 60-foot long, prehistoric arch in one of the units.

In a familiar irony, the government favors yield-quick profits for a few big companies, but fails to sustain the timber jobs that are so important to our communities. Mills, now facing a severe oversupply, are closing down. The federal land agencies, the BLM and Forest Service, are under hiring freezes. Our best and brightest are falling into unemployment as restoration and recreation is on hold.

The case for bold change with a Green New Deal has never been more obvious, more urgent, or more threatened.

As social distancing begins to loosen up, we hope to see you in the forest!

WILD CATS IN FOCUS

WildCAT (Cascadia Action Team) sibling duo **Bernard and Madeline "Mad Dog" Cowen** have been critical to our organization's work for over two years. Hailing from the foggy isle of Vashon in the Salish Sea, they both settled in Eugene to complete their higher education in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software at the University of Oregon. Since the founding of WildCAT, they have worked tirelessly to build our field checking capacity, and to bring our field work into the 21st century — integrating the use of GPS applications on smartphones to record important data in the field, which they then collated into comprehensive maps in the office. These maps have been used to further our campaigns and protect threatened public forests across the state. Both Bernard and Madeline are currently GIS contractors working with environmental nonprofits throughout the region.



GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING AT CASCADIA

Adapting During the Health Crisis

by Sam Krop, *Exiting Grassroots Organizer*

Even during the global pandemic, the Cascadia community hasn't stopped with our grassroots organizing, meeting (virtually of course) and continuing to fight for the unique species and wild places of this special bioregion.

Since the beginning of the quarantine, Cascadia's new WildChat program has brought Cascadia's volunteers and interested community members together for engaging online campaign updates, entertaining storytelling, and skill-building workshops led by Cascadia's very own WildCAT volunteer team.

Recent topics have included wolf recovery, wildfire in the woods, monitoring timber sales, and anecdotes from the field. Tune in for unique content and a panel of community activists engaged

in conservation, fossil fuel resistance, wildfire advocacy, timber sale resistance, and more!

Our organizing hasn't just been all online for the last few months. As industrial logging continues as an "essential activity" during the pandemic, Cascadia's field checking team is continuing to survey public lands slated for commercial logging using a new field protocol we developed for COVID-19 safety. Meanwhile, WildCAT writing and outreach teams are publishing in local newspapers, leading letters to the editor writing workshops, phone banking to connect neighbors with local issues, and continuing to build our community of engaged and active volunteers.



WildChats

with Cascadia

Upcoming WildChat and
Registration Info can be found at:
CascWild.org

HELP LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY IN CASCADIA

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 72 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 through the Oregon Community Foundation, 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
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jlaughlin@cascwild.org

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Ups and Downs

what's
inside?

THANK YOU!
for being a part of our Cascadian movement

Mark your Calendars for December 5, 2020!

mountain rose herbs
Premier Sponsor

The 2020 Wonderland Auction WILL HAPPEN THIS DECEMBER

– Though, with ever-evolving healthcare precautions –
We just don't know what the event will look like yet.

– However, we do know that it will be –
**Some combination of online bidding, live streaming,
live music, and a small in-person gathering.**

– But, no matter what, you can expect –
**The same amount of fun and cheer as we take time
to celebrate our remarkable bioregion.**

STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES. Thank you for helping us keep it wild in Cascadia!