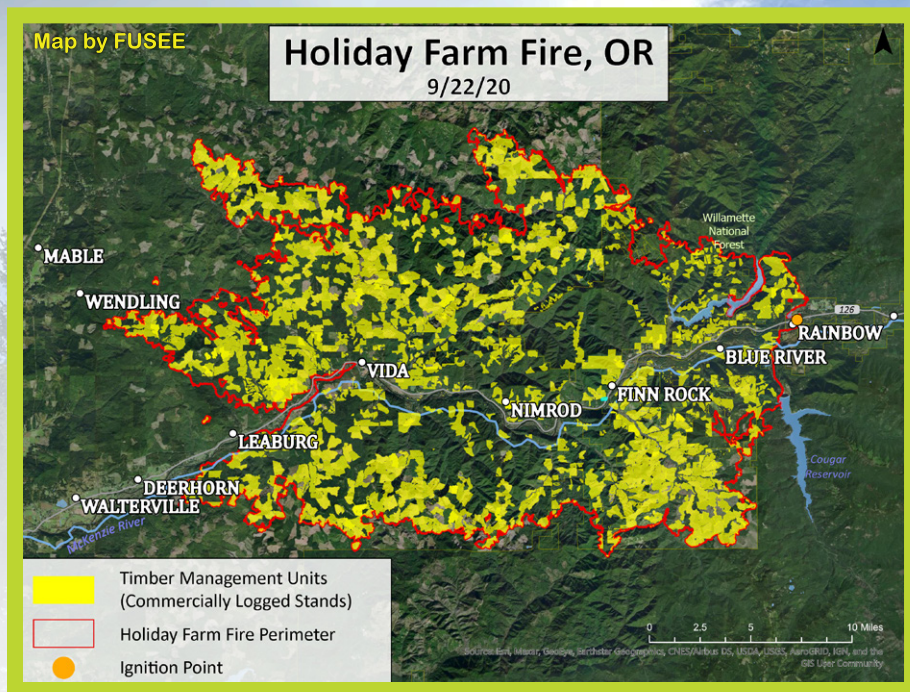


CASCADIA REVIEW

DEBUNKING THE NARRATIVE THAT LOGGING HELPS REDUCE WILDFIRE

by Dylan Plummer, Grassroots Organizer



FACT:
75% of the forests in the Holiday Farm Fire had been previously logged.

After an historic fire season that left millions of acres burned, thousands of homes destroyed, and dozens dead across our bioregion, it is imperative that we work to better understand wildfire — both how to protect our communities, and how it relates to our forest ecosystems and our changing climate. The innumerable tragedies of the past month are heartbreaking, and the unnecessary loss of lives and homes is inexcusable. Many of our friends and supporters lost their homes and business to the fires.

Yet, even before the smoke cleared, the timber industry and its politicians doing their bidding were beating the drum — blaming a “lack of active management” (logging) in our forests as the culprit for these fires. Despite peer-reviewed evidence that not only shows logging doesn’t stop fire but that it actually increases the fire risk, these claims have long dominated the public narrative about wildfire.

(continued on page 10)

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RIP GEORGE ATIYEH, 72

Opal Creek's Legendary Defender

by Josh Laughlin, Executive Director

A legend in the effort to confront the proposed clearcutting of Opal Creek east of Salem in the 1980s, and later to protect the iconic area as Wilderness, George Atiyeh, 72, was one of a handful of people tragically killed by the Santiam Fire that raged down the canyon on Labor Day evening.

Once a miner and logger, George became a fierce defender of the Opal Creek area and stood firmly by his principle to not let this area he grew up in succumb to destruction like much of the surrounding old-growth forest. He was a stalwart in the campaign to designate the 21,000-acre the Opal Creek Wilderness in 1996 (now part of a 35,000-acre larger protected area), and he helped found the Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center at Jawbone Flats, which also was burned in the fire.



Cascadia Wildlands last worked with George in Salem a few years ago as we successfully advanced suction-dredge mining reform legislation that banned this destructive in-stream practice in essential salmon habitat.

We will forever be inspired by George's decades of tenacity and dedication to conservation in western Oregon and will use his passion to propel our mission and vision for a wild Cascadia into the future.

Josh Laughlin
Josh Laughlin
Executive Director

“It seems like it happened just yesterday, in a lot of ways,” Atiyeh said in 2016. “I’m really happy with how it turned out. I’m happiest when I see little kids looking up at those giant trees. That’s when I know how important it was. I didn’t do it on purpose, I did it because I had to.”

— George Atiyeh

From a 2016 Statesman Journal feature “George Atiyeh: Guardian of Opal Creek” by Zach Urness.



PAGE 2: George Atiyeh (photo by Hillary Clements). **PAGE 3, Top:** In 1996, legislation established the 20,827-acre Opal Creek Wilderness, the 13,538-acre Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area, and a 3,066-acre Wild and Scenic River designation for Elkhorn Creek. **Bottom:** George Atiyeh, ‘Champion’ for the Forest (both photos from the Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center Facebook page).

CRITTER CORNER



Canada lynx (photo © Rob Stewart, from documentary film Revolution).

Canada Lynx

Lynx canadensis

This iconic wild cat species, immediately recognizable from the long tufts of black hair from its ears and large, padded paws for traversing snow, once commonly roamed snowy peaks in the North Cascades down to Crater Lake. Trapping, logging of and incursion into its habitat, and a changing climate has taken a severe toll on the Canada lynx, and it was listed under the federal Endangered Species Act in 2000. Despite this listing, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has failed to protect the species’ key habitat, and Cascadia Wildlands and our conservation allies continue to pursue action to restore this species across the backcountry in the region, including a forthcoming legal action.

Size: 19”-22” tall at shoulder; 11-37 lbs

Diet: a specialist predator, relying mainly on snowshoe hares for food

Habitat: prefer dense boreal forests across Alaska, Canada, and northern United States

Appearance: triangular ears with iconic long black tufts at the tips; long cheek hair resembling bold muttonchops; wide, snowshoe-like paws; long, dense fur is typically yellowish brown, can vary from brown or buff-gray in the spring and summer to salt-and-pepper gray in the winter

THE CROSSROADS OF CONSERVATION AND EQUITY

by Dylan Plummer, Grassroots Organizer

In light of the protests in response to the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and so many other Black Americans at the hands of the police, the environmental movement is again reminded of the contradictions at the heart of our work. This moment demands all of us to reckon with the history of oppression and genocide that has shaped our society.

Oregon is known for its pristine rivers, spectacular mountains and stately forests. But it is less known for its racist history of the dispossession of Indigenous lands, and the exclusion of Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities. From broken treaties in the 19th century that forced many of the Tribes west of the Cascades off of their ancestral territories, including the Kalapuya here in the Willamette Valley, to text in the state's constitution that denied entry to any "free Negro or Mulatto," white supremacy has shaped the very landscape and history of Oregon.

I grew up oblivious to this sordid history, innocently enjoying the beauty of public lands and spending my weekends at places like Table Rocks, a spectacular formation in southern Oregon. It wasn't until I became an adult that I began to

understand the legacy of blood and betrayal that is as much a part of the geography as the crags themselves.

In 1855, the Table Rock Reservation was the site of the "Lupton Massacre," in which Takelma, Shasta and Dakubetede Tribal members were murdered for their land by white settlers, violating the peace treaty that had been negotiated a few years earlier. After this massacre, the Tribes were forcefully removed from their ancestral land, which was promptly opened for white settlement. It was acts of genocidal violence like this and the removal of Indigenous peoples from the landscape that allowed places like Table Rock to become protected "public" land.

Cascadia Wildlands is part of a movement that has been fighting for decades to protect this same public land from mismanagement at the hands of industry and government. While significant conservation gains have been made in recent decades, our movement has remained predominantly white and affluent, while BIPOC communities still disproportionately bear the brunt of the impacts of environmental degradation and Indigenous communities still find themselves at odds with environmentalists undermining their sovereignty and fighting for

"public land" that to them is ancestral territory.

This is in large part due to the legacy of the systemic racism, colonialism and white supremacy at the core of our society and our movement. While the fight for environmental and climate justice gains momentum, many organizations are still mired in the traditional conservation ethos of the past, fighting to protect natural wonders without considering the ideologies that imperiled them in the first place.

If we do not confront white supremacy, we cannot truly protect our environment and communities from the systems of exploitation that its legacy has created.

That is why our movement must critically reflect on our work, and redouble our efforts to forward principles of justice, equity and accessibility in our fight to protect the environment. While we can't change our state's ruthless history, we can work to dismantle the inequalities that persist, focus our efforts to stand in solidarity with marginalized communities and fight for clean air, clean water and access to natural places for everyone.

ARCHIE CREEK FIRE BURNS THROUGH N. UMPQUA WATERSHED

Impacting Homes and Threatened Old-growth Forests

by Francis Eatherington, Umpqua Region Contractor

In late August, I visited with the WildCAT field checking crew at the Umpqua Sweets basecamp, enjoying the big trees and watching the sunset from the ridge at the top of what has become known as the “arch logging unit,” named after a fascinating geological rock feature. It had been a year since the Roseburg Bureau of Land Management issued its preliminary logging proposal, shocking us with a plan to clearcut 2,000 acres in the North Umpqua River watershed, including logging some iconic old-growth forests and the area around the unique rock arch.

We recently published a video about Umpqua Sweets:

Voices from The Umpqua
cascwild.org/umpqua-sweets

Voices documents the locals that live in the area and what they think about the clearcut proposal on public lands above the North Umpqua River. This prompted the local newspaper to ask for a visit, resulting in a story that memorialized some of the old-growth forests with pictures on the front page of the Sunday newspaper.

But, less than a week later, on Labor Day evening, the Archie Creek Fire ignited under intense east winds, high temperatures, and low humidity, and has thus far burned 132,000 acres along the North Umpqua River. All of the Umpqua Sweets proposed logging areas are within the Archie Fire perimeter, and we will closely watch what the BLM proposes in the aftermath of the fire.

The Archie Fire also heavily impacted the people featured in the Umpqua Sweets video. Many had to evacuate. Some lost their homes altogether. Frank and Jeanne Moore, both in their 90s and iconic conservationists of the North Umpqua watershed, saw their hand-built log cabin burn down along with over 100 other homes.

Wildlife habitat was impacted, too. Old-growth forest ecosystems have survived countless fires in the past, killing some big trees here and there, which allowed the rebirth and evolution of the forest. It is too early to tell how much of the old-growth we have come to love in the Umpqua Sweets proposal survived this fire. We will certainly keep you apprised if and when the BLM comes back with a post-fire clearcutting proposal, and what we intend to do to stop it.



WANT TO HELP?

Volunteer!

Become a WildCAT!

Sign-up to learn more
and register for online meetings at:

CASCWILD.ORG

Historic natural arch in the proposed
Umpqua Sweets timber sale (photo
by Steve Cole).

WASHINGTON'S RECOVERING WOLF POPULATION

Successful Petition Effort Bodes Well for the Species

by Nick Cady, Legal Director

In April 2020, Cascadia Wildlands and our wolf conservation allies petitioned the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission to draft new rules governing the killing of wolves involved in conflicts with livestock. The state has killed 34 wolves since 2012, a significant number considering that the state's total wolf population hovers just above one hundred individuals total. Twenty-nine wolves were killed for the same livestock operator on public land within the Colville National Forest. The Fish and Wildlife Commission predictably denied our petition in June, and our coalition appealed to Governor Jay Inslee, who had 45 days to decide whether to deny the appeal or require the Commission to create new wolf management rules.

In August, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife began again killing wolves in eastern Washington, eliminating the remnants of the Wedge Pack, and our organizations increased pressure on the governor to take action. On September 4, Governor Inslee granted our petition and explicitly recog-



A curious member of Washington's Lookout Pack, captured by trail cam on the east slope of the North Cascades in 2019 (photo by WDFW).

nized that the Department was failing to prioritize non-lethal methods to resolve wolf-livestock conflict. The governor gave specific directives to create rules, which require non-lethal preventative measures be employed prior to any wolf killing and strong clear sideboards that will likely limit future lethal control.

This victory has been a long time coming. Cascadia Wildlands and our wolf conservation partners in Washington first petitioned the Washington Department of Fish and

Wildlife to enact enforceable rules pertaining wolf conservation and management in 2013. Both Oregon and California have managed wolves pursuant to rules, which have held the agencies accountable to uniform standards and practices.

Washington, up until this point, maintained that its wolf management plan was only advisory, and that the agency was not bound to any of the requirements in that plan. Following the 2013 petition, the Department agreed to formulate a Wolf

WASHINGTON WOLF NUMBERS (as of December 2019)

108 individuals

21 known packs

10 breeding pairs

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation reported 37 wolves in five packs. They are not included in the state's wolf count, and are managed by the tribal wildlife agency.

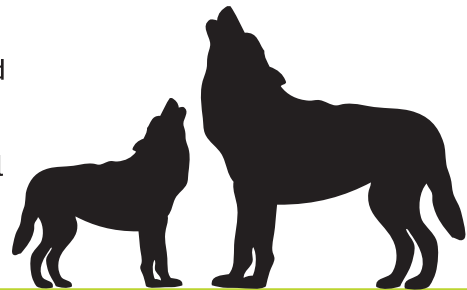
Advisory Group, but continually delayed taking any substantive action on promulgating enforceable rules, while year after year continually eliminating entire wolf packs. These killings began to stymie statewide population growth, and continued feet dragging prompted Cascadia Wildlands to initiate another rulemaking petition.

Governor Inslee's decision requires the Commission to start a formal rulemaking process, which includes giving

notice to the public and an ability to comment on proposed rules. The timeline for this process will be available on the Department's website when the rulemaking is announced, and we will keep you informed on opportunities to weigh in. While this is a huge step forward for wolves in Washington, we will have to work hard to ensure that the rules adopted by the Commission live up to Governor Inslee's requirements and truly ensure lethal control of wolves is a measure of last resort.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
SUPPORT OUR WOLF WORK,
YOU CAN MAKE A
DONATION TO OUR:**

Wolf Defense Fund
cascwild.org/wolf-defense-fund



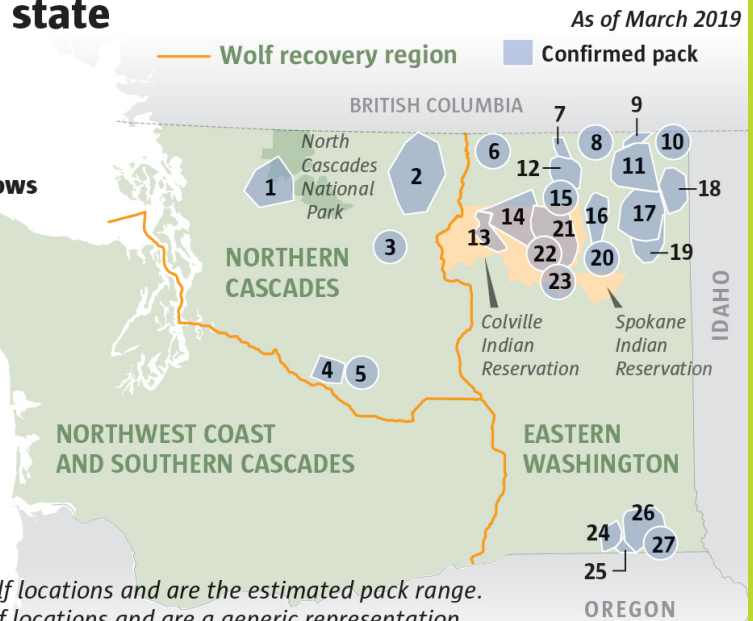
Wolf packs in Washington state

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Diobsud Creek | 15. Sherman |
| 2. Loup Loup | 16. Stranger |
| 3. Lookout | 17. Dirty Shirt |
| 4. Teanaway | 18. Goodman Meadows |
| 5. Naneum | 19. Carpenter Ridge |
| 6. Beaver Creek | 20. Huckleberry |
| 7. Togo | 21. Nc'icn |
| 8. Wedge | 22. Frosty |
| 9. Lead Point | 23. Whitestone |
| 10. Salmo | 24. Touchet |
| 11. Smackout | 25. Butte Creek |
| 12. OPT | 26. Tucannon |
| 13. Nason | 27. Grouse Flats |
| 14. Strawberry | |

NOTE: Polygons are packs that had multiple wolf locations and are the estimated pack range. Circles are packs that did not have multiple wolf locations and are a generic representation of the pack location.

Source: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

MARK NOWLIN / THE SEATTLE TIMES



PROTECTING ECOSYSTEM ENGINEERS

Petition Filed to Protect Beavers on Federal Public Land in Oregon

by Nick Cady, Legal Director

On September 10, Cascadia Wildlands and a diverse group of partners filed a petition asking the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to permanently close commercial and recreational beaver trapping and hunting on the state's federal public land and the waters that flow through them. Beavers are Oregon's official state animal, but they can be hunted and trapped with few limits.

The American beaver is a keystone species and offers widely recognized ecological, economic, and social benefits. Beaver-created and main-

tained habitat improves water quality, decreases the impacts of floods, and restores natural water flows. This benefits humans and a wide variety of fish and wildlife, including highly endangered Coho salmon. Beavers therefore play an important role in improving Oregon's water security and minimizing impacts of climate change on human and non-human communities.

The annual culling of the species, which occurs due to impacts they have on industrial tree farms, for example, has had significant negative

effects. Killing beavers suppress population growth and expansion into large swaths of unoccupied suitable beaver habitat.

The petition's requested changes preserve recreational and commercial hunting and trapping opportunities across approximately half the state, but would halt killing on the state's federal public land where they would be allowed to thrive and provide much-needed ecosystem services. The petition will be considered by the Commission this winter so stay tuned for opportunities to weigh in.



SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES WHO SUPPORT CASCADIA WILDLANDS!

It has been a rocky year, and it is imperative we as a community help out one another, like the many businesses that have done so much for Cascadia Wildlands over the years and who share the values we hold closely — big trees, raging rivers, wolves howling in the back country, and a fervent passion to keep it wild.

If you are able, let's help ensure these businesses can stay around. Of course, we couldn't name them all as hundreds of businesses have had our backs over the years. We are deeply grateful to the incredible business community that has supported us since our inception.

Share the love, wear a mask, and stay safe out there, friends!

Tacovore: Your carnitas torta or pescado taco wait is finally over. Dine-in/Take-out.

Mountain Rose Herbs: Secure bulk goods and natural body products from long-time business partner/champion MRH, and their website is full of DIY activities and recipes.

Opine Cellars Wine/Agate Alley Bistro/Hey Neighbor! Pizza House: Fine wine lovers don't despair, order Opine Cellars at Agate Alley Bistro (Agate Alley pinot noir/gris), or Hey Neighbor! Pizza House (Pizza House red/white).

Wicked Kind: Award-winning green thumbs based in Portland, find in retail outlets around the state. Need a wicked attitude adjustment?

WildCraft Cider Works: Scratch your hard cider itch. Curbside pick-up or free shipping on \$40 or more in bottle/case sales.

Doak Creek Native Plant Nursery: Ever taken home an evergreen huckleberry or sword fern centerpiece from a past Wonderland Auction? Open by appointment, local delivery available.

The Wheel Apizza Pub: Pizzeria/brewery. New Haven-style pies, fresh salads, and house-brewed craft beer. Dine-in/Take-out.

Blossom Barn Cidery: Unique new cidery with Cascadian roots. Call/text 541-514-2347, free local delivery to Willamette and Rogue Valleys

TJ's Gardens: A regular sponsor of our events, and Eugene's premier community-minded cannabis company. Doorstep delivery, retail shops in Eugene, or find their products on shelves outside of town. Their *Forrest Initiative*, serves the needs of underserved families by providing no-cost CBD oil for wellness.

Ninkasi Brewing Company: Find Ninkasi beers on tap and inside grocers across the region. Recently opened Better Living Room restaurant is ready for take-out or delivery.

River Jewelry: Sublime jewelry in downtown Corvallis. In addition, the owner has dedicated his life to field checking public lands timber sales and climbing the upper canopy of threatened forests.

Thinking Tree Spirits: Craft spirits at their finest in Eugene's Whiteaker neighborhood. Pick up bottles, and get their hand sanitizer to help reduce the spread of the virus. Visit the website for large orders. Dine-in/Take-out.

Klink Cycles: These bike aficionados live, sleep, and eat bikes and will take care of all your needs as your car takes a needed rest.

SugarTop Buddery: Eugene-grown, found in dispensaries throughout Oregon and in the Eugene/Springfield area. A fixture at Cascadia Wildlands events, they're known for boutique flower, variety packs of stubby bats, and a passionate commitment to our community.

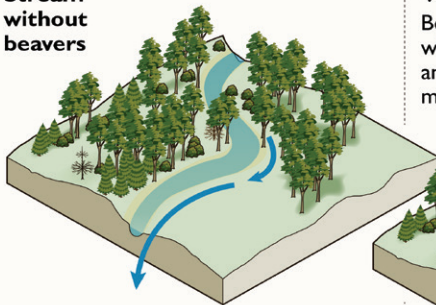
Falling Sky Brewing: Delectable, house-cured pastrami reubens and other deli classic menu items. Get house-made craft beer with your order to really make it pour. Dine-in/Take-out.

Caddis Fly Shop: Pick up all your fly gear through their online store or call for curbside pickup. Check out the Caddis Fly blog for informative tips, reports and how-tos.

Deep Woods Distillery: Got cabin fever during the COVID lockdown? Headed to the wilderness? As you pass through Oakridge, head to historic uptown, and stop off for some bottles of sin, like Fir of the Doug. Best to call 541-968-4623 first and ask for Mick.

How the dams help

Stream without beavers



Water flow is high during heavy rainfall and can cause flooding downstream

With beavers

Beavers dam a stream to create pool in which they build a lodge. Series of dams and pools slow and divert water flow so more can be absorbed by the land

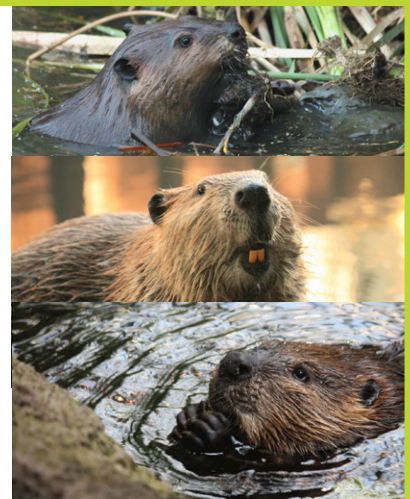
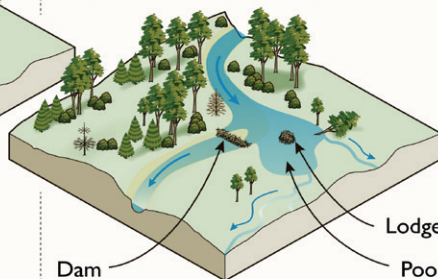


Illustration "How the dams help" (by The Times, www.thetimes.co.uk/article/beavers-are-back-to-fight-flooding-9xqb28bht). Right Side, top to bottom: Beaver kit, Beaver moving mud, Beaver's iron-rich orange teeth (photo courtesy of Cheryl Reynold / Worth a Dam, MartinezBeavers.org). Bottom: Close-up of beaver in water (photo by Márcio Cabral de Moura).

DEBUNKING THE NARRATIVE (continued from cover)

As the number of acres burned increases each year, wildfire has become central to conversations about forest management and climate change, and it has also become increasingly critical to Cascadia Wildlands' work. After over half a century of hearing the logging industry's refrain, "log it or let it burn," we now understand that it is not the lack of forest management, but rather the legacy of forest management that is helping fuel these mega-fires. Nonetheless, in many of the public lands timber sales that we encounter, "reducing the risk of wildfire" is one of the primary justifications for the proposed logging.

The dissonance between public lands agency objectives and the science has led to a string of recent legal victories for Cascadia Wildlands and our partners. For example, the Forest Service recently argued without scientific support that logging old-growth forests would reduce wildfire risks associated with the Crystal Clear timber sale on the eastside of Mt. Hood. The Ninth Circuit unanimously rejected that argument highlighting the lack of scientific support, and noting that the science before the agency indicates that logging old forests actually increases fire risk as the activity dries out a forest and further exposes it to wind events that drive fires. Additionally, the federal district court in Eugene rejected the Bureau of Land Management's disregard for its own analysis that showed clearcut logging proposed in the Thurston Hills outside of Springfield would increase fire risk for decades to come.

Now, with the devastation of the Holiday Farm Fire in the McKenzie River watershed east of Eugene, the science continues to stand up: miles and miles of clearcuts and industrial timber plantations couldn't stop, or even slow down the fire. Once the fire peters out with fall rains, the analysis will likely show that these "actively managed lands" burned hotter and faster than the fire-resilient native forests that we have worked to protect. It is simple: young, homogeneous, resinous fiber farms go "poof" when confronted with fire.

As we continue our work to defend the old, fire-resilient forests of the Cascades, we are also striving to change the paradigm about wildfire. Our bioregion was born in fire, and co-evolved with it since time immemorial. Yet the threats to communities are very real, especially in the face of the climate-driven conditions, like the intense east winds, high temperatures and low humidity that drove the recent infernos. As such, Cascadia Wildlands is working in coalition with forest defense and climate justice organizations to advocate for the reallocation of public funds away from fighting wildfire in the backcountry, and into "hardening" of homes to better to prepare and defend our communities for a future that will inevitably include more fire.

WildCAT in Focus: DAVE BARTA

For many in the forest defense community, Dave Barta is a legend. It's said that he can measure the diameter of an old-growth Douglas fir faster than anyone this side of the Willamette Valley. A retired telecommunications specialist for the University of Oregon, Dave now spends his time fighting for our forests with WildCAT (Cascadia Action Team).

From leading regular field checking trips into proposed timber sales, writing outraged letters to the editor, and helping train our dewy-eyed recruits, Barta plays a critical role in our work to protect our outstanding public lands. When he's not tramping through the woods, you can find him spending time with his wife and their new granddaughter.

Dave Barta in the wild (photos by WildCAT).



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 70 1/2 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
541.434.1463
jlaughlin@cascwild.org

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FALL 2020

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what's
inside?

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for being a part of our Cascadian movement

Join Cascadia Wildlands, Premier Sponsor Mountain Rose Herbs, and other event sponsors for the

18th Annual

WONDERLAND AUCTION

SATURDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 5, 2020

Live Streamed Event from WildCraft Cider Works

— Silent and Live Auctions —

Beginning Friday, November 27, an Online Silent Auction will be available to all during the week leading up to Saturday, December 5.

Our live streamed event on December 5 will feature live music by reggae legend **Norma Fraser**, a cocktail (half)hour, a brief conservation update, and a Live Auction with not-to-be missed packages.

— Tickets and Dinner Options —

To embellish your experience, as we practice social responsibility while celebrating all that is wild in Cascadia, various ticket levels contain options for dinner by **The Wheel Apizza Pub** and libations to be delivered locally!

We look forward to seeing you — *virtually* — for fun, friends, and philanthropy!

Details and important information on how to participate available now!

Visit: CascWild.org

