

fall 2012

- Coal Trains and Export Confronted
- Suction Dredge Mining Sucks
- Wild Salmon Reserve Proposed
- Community Calendar

what's  
inside?

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## Business Supporter in Focus: River Jewelry

Owner and master jeweler of River Jewelry in Corvallis, Reed Wilson knows precious metals and gems. He also knows red tree voles and old-growth forests. When not creating wedding bands or setting stones, he is typically out field checking timber sales on our public forestlands in western Oregon. His passion takes him high into the canopy of threatened forest looking for the elusive red tree vole, and his surveying efforts have helped Cascadia Wildlands protect many threatened areas. Old-growth forests in the Coquille, McKenzie, Mary's River, Cow Creek and so many more are now safeguarded from destruction because of Reed. A big thanks to Reed and River Jewelry for all the support.



Reed Wilson in his element

fall 2012

news + fun from cascadia wildlands

# CASCADIA QUARTERLY



A number of coal export terminals like this are proposed in Cascadia, including one in Coos Bay (Columbia Riverkeeper).

## Coal Trains and Export Confronted in Cascadia

Communities, Climate and and Wildlands Threatened by Giant Energy Scheme  
by Bob Ferris, Executive Director

Proponents of a coal terminal in Coos Bay, Oregon are starting to push their project to ship up to 10-million tons of thermal coal yearly to Korea. This coal will be mined on federal lands in the Powder River Basin of Montana and Wyoming and loaded onto trains. These trains are so heavy — 17,500 tons — that they need four locomotives and stretch for a mile and a third across the countryside.

The human health implications are significant as these locomotives will create roughly 1.5 tons of additional diesel particulates per mile annually — all along the more than 1,200-mile route through the Pacific Northwest. Diesel particulates — including nano-particles — are linked to increased risk of lung and heart disease as well as cancer. Coal dust from the open rail cars would also cause additional problems to those with existing respiratory conditions.

The environmental consequences of this project are myriad and range from oxygen-robbing coal dust

blown and washed into our waterways to the global implications for climate change and ocean acidification by enabling the creation of 18-million tons of new CO2 emissions along with acid rain compounds and mercury. It should be noted, too, that the train while on the Coos Bay rail link would cross waterways more than 100 times on an ancient, geologically challenging route and that the port would require the removal of 14 Rose Bowl stadiums full of Coos Bay bottom habitat before the behemoth bulk carriers could even approach the loading dock.

And the economic arguments for this project are deceptive at worst and faulty at best. When we talk about jobs we should talk about net jobs and factor in all the people who will be put out of work from small businesses isolated by lumbering unit trains blocking access across at-grade crossings for 5-10 minutes several times a day. Add to that the combined impacts of our government selling the coal at a discount —

*continued on p. 5*



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**Busy and Effective**  
from Executive Director Bob Ferris

October is the halfway point of my first year at Cascadia Wildlands. It has passed quickly because we have been very busy. Isn't everyone in America very busy — so what? Our “so what” is that we are busy and effective.

How do we define effectiveness? We define it by wolf numbers such as the seven pups born this spring to Oregon’s Imnaha Pack that would not exist had our legal team not gotten busy and halted the execution of one of the pack leaders and a yearling last fall.

Our effectiveness is also evident in the silence we brought to the 93,000-acre Elliott State Forest in coastal Oregon where all timber sales were voluntarily suspended pending resolution of our lawsuit on behalf of the threatened marbled murrelet, a seabird that nests in older coastal rainforest.

Our value is also evident to companies that are intent on exporting coal and liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Asia. We know that you cannot export coal or LNG without importing pollution including CO2, acid rain, and mercury. And now these global companies know that we are serious in our intent to stop these ill-conceived projects and their deleterious environmental, economic, and social justice implications such as climate change, ocean acidification, and compromised human health.

And the same can be said for the suction dredging industry booted out of California for the risks their motorized dredges pose to recovering salmon species and aquatic ecosystems. They are quickly discovering that their northward migration is being challenged (see article on p. 3). We demonstrate our effectiveness here, too.

We at Cascadia Wildlands hope you understand that our effectiveness is a reflection of your generosity. Without your moral and financial support, none of this happens. So invest now in more wolves and mature forests as well as clean air and water by taking advantage of Mountain Rose Herbs’ generous matching campaign this fall (see p. 5).

And I hope to see you at the Wonderland Auction on December 8!

**Welcome Tamara Schiff**

Tamara joins us from Atlanta, Georgia, where she graduated from Emory Law School in May. Tamara has a rich background in environmental law, and is currently working with Cascadia Wildlands as a legal intern on our projects to prevent the transport and export of Powder River Basin coal and fracking-derived natural gas through Oregon. Additionally, Tamara is helping Cascadia Wildlands protect our salmon heritage by researching impacts of suction dredge mining on endangered salmon and water quality in Oregon as well as exploring the impacts on native fish species from hatchery operations.



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 and community groups that have recently made substantial contributions to support our work:

444S Foundation	Furthur Foundation	Mark Frohnmayer Donor	Rex Foundation
Alaska Conservation Foundation	Kenney Brothers Watershed Foundation	Advised Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation	Sperling Foundation
Astrov Fund	Klorfine Family Foundation	Roger Millis Donor	Strong Foundation for Environmental Values
Ben & Jerry's Foundation	Leotta Gordon Foundation	Advised Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation	Suwinski Family Foundation
Brainerd Foundation	Loeb-Meginnes Foundation	McKenzie River Gathering Foundation	University of Oregon Outdoor Program
Burning Foundation	Mazamas	Meyer Memorial Trust	Weeden Foundation
Deer Creek Foundation	Mountaineers Foundation	Norcross Wildlife Foundation	Wilburforce Foundation
Earth Friends Conservation Fund			Winky Foundation
Fund for Wild Nature			

**BUSINESSES GIVE BACK**

A sustainable planet is essential to sustainable business. That’s why more and more companies are actively investing in Cascadia Wildlands. Business support saves wild places from imminent destruction and wildlife from extinction. *Please join us in thanking and patronizing the visionary businesses that recently supported our work with generous cash contributions:*

<b>Business Champions</b> (\$5,000+)	<b>Business Sustainers</b> (\$1,000-2,499)	<b>Business Friends</b> (\$250-999)
<b>Patagonia, Inc.</b>	Pivot Architecture	Backcountry Gear Ltd.
<b>Mountain Rose Herbs</b>		Medicine Flower
		River Jewelry
<b>Business Partners</b> (\$2,500-4,999)		Southern Explorations
<b>Tactics Board Shop</b>		Sundance Natural Market

In addition, hundreds of businesses contribute goods and services to support Cascadia Wildlands, especially through our annual Wonderland Auction. *Please help us thank the businesses that support our work with generous in-kind contributions:*

Discovery Voyages

Ninkasi Brewing Company

Paul’s Bicycle Way of Life

Cascadia Wildlands is a proud recipient organization of 1% for the Planet, an alliance of businesses committed to leveraging their resources to create a healthier planet.



**WWW.CASCWILD.ORG**

Check out our newly redesigned website to stay in-the-know and connect with your community. Sign up for e-alerts, join the cause on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and instantly take action on timely issues. (Cascadia Wildlands will never share or sell your information.)

THANK YOU!

# Join Us in Wonderland

**Saturday, December 8, 6-10 p.m.**  
**EMU Ballroom (University of Oregon)**

The Wonderland Auction is less than two months away, and this wildly popular event turns out a large and lively crowd that fills the expansive EMU Ballroom.

Join **Cascadia Wildlands, Mountain Rose Herbs, University of Oregon Outdoor Program, Ninkasi Brewing Co., Green Solutions Printing, Coconut Bliss, Back to the Roots Landscaping, Eugene Weekly, Ring of Fire,** and our community supporters for exciting live and silent auctions, a gourmet buffet dinner by Ring of Fire, Ninkasi microbrews, fine wines, Coconut Bliss dessert and plenty of holiday cheer!



This year's auction features fabulous coast and mountain getaways, an Alaskan adventure, rafting and fishing trips, handcrafted wood furniture, outdoor gear, wine packages, and much more.

Space is limited, so reserve your tickets today at [www.CascWild.org](http://www.CascWild.org).



Tickets are **\$35 in advance, \$40 at the door**, and kids 12 and under get in for free! See you on December 8 in Wonderland!

## Ninkasi Hosts Pints Gone Wild! on the First Mondays of the Month

Join **Cascadia Wildlands and Ninkasi Brewing Co.** on the first Mondays of the month for Pints Gone Wild! at 272 Van Buren St. A generous portion of pint sales at the tasting room on those days go to support our conservation work. Live music starts at 6 pm, followed by knee-slapping Cascadia Trivia Night. See you there!



## Vacuuming Up the River Bottom

**Suction Dredge Mining Threatens Wild Salmon**  
 by Josh Laughlin, Campaign Director

A new Gold Rush is happening, and it is occurring in some of the most sensitive wild salmon waterways in southwest Oregon. Over 150 years after the original rush, though, today's frenzy is occurring with gasoline-powered vacuums, called suction dredges, that are mounted to floating docks and literally suck up river bottoms as miners look for the last flecks of gold. The stakes are high for imperiled salmon and other fish species whose life cycles occur where the gold is being sought.

The New 49ers have set their sights on iconic river systems in southwest Oregon, like the Illinois, Rogue and South Umpqua, ever since California passed a moratorium on suction dredge mining in 2009. Litigation by the Karuk Tribe, citing impacts of the practice on fish species, coupled with widespread outreach and advocacy efforts, compelled the state of California to pass the moratorium and relieved river's like the Klamath, Scott, Salmon and others critical to the survival of wild salmon from suction dredge mining.

However, the ban in California has pushed the practice north into Oregon and the threat is serious as gold has reached \$1,700/ounce. The Rogue River and its tributaries have become ground zero for the practice. And over two-dozen gold mining claims were laid on stretches of the South Umpqua River above the community of Tiller in the Umpqua National Forest this past spring.

This stretch of the South Umpqua is renowned for its Oregon Coast coho salmon population that has been listed as threatened with

extinction. It also shelters struggling wild Chinook salmon and lamprey populations. The Forest Service and other entities have spent millions of dollars in years past working to restore fisheries habitat in this river system. Today, it faces the prospect of gas-powered vacuums sucking up the river bottom and disrupting the fragile life cycle of these imperiled fish species.

The science suggests great caution when suction dredging intersects with endangered fish habitat and that fisheries managers should be especially concerned when dredging coincides with the incubation of embryos in stream gravels. Researchers also express caution about suction dredging releasing mercury locked in the riverbed and the potential health implications for fish and other species. Agencies overseeing our federal waterways, like the Forest Service, aren't taking the implication of the practice serious enough.

Represented by the Western Environmental Law Center, Cascadia Wildlands and co-plaintiffs Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center and Rogue Riverkeeper on October 23 filed a lawsuit challenging the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest's failure to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service, the expert agency on endangered fish, a requirement of the federal Endangered Species Act when an action, like suction dredging, may impact a listed fish species and its critical habitat. Stay tuned as this case and other efforts on this issue develop.



Wedge Pack pup (WDFW)

## Washington Wedge Pack Exterminated

At Cascadia Wildlands, we have our hands full with wolf recovery in Oregon, but the recent aerial execution of the Wedge Pack in Washington has forced us to turn our attention north. The pack kill came in response to alleged depredation incidents on cattle attributed to the Wedge Pack. However, the validity of some of the depredation investigation reports and subsequent confirmations by the state of Washington have been questioned by outside experts. Additionally, the rancher who experienced the depredations had turned his cattle lose on public land without any meaningful supervision and was resistant to employ non-lethal prevention measures.

Cascadia Wildlands and other wolf advocates issued a formal letter to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, threatening to sue over the questionable kill order. Washington pulled back its sharpshooters temporarily, only to issue a Friday afternoon kill order and executed the entire pack. We hope there were lessons learned by the state as wolf recovery in Washington now has our full attention.



# In the Spirit of Pinchot and Roosevelt

## Wild Salmon Reserve Proposed in Copper-Bering Deltas

by Gabe Scott, Alaska Field Director

One of Cascadia Wildlands' proudest accomplishments is staving off oil drilling at the remote Alaska ghost town of Katalla, in the middle of the Copper River Delta. Through grassroots organizing and litigation, we stopped the drilling before it started, causing a 70,000-acre oil lease to expire.

Today, we are taking time to enjoy the place, and working to permanently protect it through a special designation – a Wild Salmon Reserve. Building on the vision of Gifford Pinchot and Teddy Roosevelt, we see this designation as a model of the working wilderness

supported local human communities for thousands of years.

No place has been more significant in the history of Conservation than Katalla. In the early 1900s, the J.P. Morgan-led Alaska Syndicate tried to build a metropolis here, “The Pittsburgh of the North,” before their hubris was exposed by a furious 1907 storm that smashed the harbor to pieces. Gifford Pinchot staked his reputation, and his job, on the conviction that this rich land be preserved for sustained production for future generations, rather than exploited for short-

term gain. The remnants of the town, and the sunken wreck of the SS Portland, the “Gold Ship” that started the Klondike gold rush in 1898, can still be found by attentive adventurers.

History has proved Pinchot correct, but threats loom. A Korean corporation owns the coalfield, and another corporation owns rights-of-way for roads. Climate change and human population stress the ecosystem, making ecological resilience

more important than ever.

The next step is a Wild Salmon Reserve designation. The opportunity is now for the Obama administration, with the current Chugach National Forest Plan revision. We are working in partnership with Eyak Preservation Council — which is brokering a deal to purchase conservation easements on the coalfield — to accomplish this precedent-setting action.

For a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a guided vacation to this natural wonder, accessible only by bush plane, come ready to bid at the Wonderland Auction on December 8.



The Copper-Bering River complex is the largest intact wetland in Cascadia (B Cole).

concept, and our best defense against a changing climate and challenging economy.

The Copper-Bering River complex is the largest intact wetland in Cascadia and is comprised of over 700,000 acres of braided channels, ponds, lakes, and muskeg, ringed in spectacular old-growth forests and jagged, ice-capped peaks. This spectacular landscape provides incredibly productive habitat for millions of migratory birds and waterfowl, bear and wolf. The Delta flats host the world-famous Copper River salmon fishery, while the uplands abound in spawning and rearing habitat. Returning salmon nourish the forest and are an economic powerhouse that has

## Mt. Rose Herbs to Match Your Donation up to \$5,000 to Support Cascadia Wildlands!

Cascadia Wildlands and our business partner, Mountain Rose Herbs love fish. They — like us — understand deeply that so much of what we value in Cascadia is tied to healthy waterways and robust populations of salmon and steelhead. **In fact, the folks at Mountain Rose Herbs love our native fish so much they have committed up to \$5,000 in matching money for this fall's fundraising drive to help Cascadia Wildlands expand our work to preserve our native salmon heritage.** These additional monies will be used to cover fisheries work from our emerging efforts in Alaska (see Alaska story) to confronting forest practices that damage salmon streams and evolving threats such as suction dredge mining for gold in endangered salmon habitat in Oregon (see suction dredging story). Mountain Rose Herbs is hoping that you and others understand the critical need for this work and are willing to join them in contributing to this vital initiative. Please visit the “Giving” section of our website (CascWild.org) for details or use the enclosed envelope to take advantage of this generous opportunity today. Thanks in advance for your support.



*continued from p. 1*

costing us millions annually in lost resource value — and job loss associated with shipping a discounted raw material to a competing economy. Toss in the needed public investment in rail infrastructure necessary to make this work for the rail companies, other freight traffic and communities from here to the mines and you come out with millions of reasons to oppose this project and few to support.

For Cascadia Wildlands, we cannot help but simultaneously look at how these facilities have historically operated and what is at stake in terms of wild places and wild creatures. On the one hand we see that the coal industry is long on promises about jobs and economic benefits and short on performance as our nation's landscapes are littered with coal terminals with fugitive dust problems and rail routes with

far too frequent derailments. Since the economic arguments are not broadly beneficial, on the contrary, we see no compelling reason to put our natural splendor and health at risk. This is not a project that should be allowed to move forward. No coal, no how.



Proposed coal shipping routes and export terminals in Cascadia.