

CASCADIA QUARTERLY



OR-14 was fit with a radio collar near the Umatilla River this past summer and is one of two wolves in this area (ODFW).

Gray Wolf Recovery in the West in Peril

US Fish and Wildlife Service Considering Stripping Protections in Lower 48

by Josh Laughlin, Campaign Director

Gray wolf recovery in the West is in a perilous state. Over 1,000 wolves have been trapped or shot to death in the northern Rockies since the animal was delisted from the federal Endangered Species Act in April 2011, effectively reducing the population in half. And it now appears the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the federal agency in charge of recovering species on the brink of extinction, is poised to remove protections for wolves in much of the rest of the lower 48 states, even though wolves have just secured a toehold in places like Oregon, Washington and California.

The prospects are daunting for comprehensive wolf recovery in the West unless FWS maintains these critical protections. Take Utah and Colorado for example. Scientists have mapped extensive wolf habitat and prey bases in both of these states, and wolves are knocking at the door. But with stripped federal protections, wolves will be trapped and shot as they migrate in, jeopardizing recovery potential in the

southern Rockies. Recently, the Utah legislature considered a mandate to capture or kill all wolves that move south out of Wyoming into the Beehive state.

The California situation is just as perplexing. OR-7, or Journey, the famous young male who migrated over 1,000 miles from northeast Oregon to northern California to become the first wolf in the state in over 80 years, may soon lose his protections. As Journey trots from county to county looking for a mate to establish the state's first pack in recent memory, it is unconscionable to think that this lone wolf may soon be stripped of its safeguards provided by the bedrock Endangered Species Act.

To the north, gray wolf recovery in Oregon and Washington is tenuously advancing. Oregon has over 50 wolves in seven packs; Washington closer to 100 wolves in eight packs. However, the great majority of the wolf habitat in both states has yet to be occupied by wolves. The Oregon Cascades, the Klamath-

Cascadia WILDLANDS

we like it wild.

staff

Nick Cady

Legal Director

Francis Eatherington

Conservation Director

Bob Ferris

Executive Director

Camille Gullickson

Development and Operations
Coordinator

Josh Laughlin

Campaign Director

Gabe Scott

Alaska Field Director

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Megan Kemple

Pollyanna Lind, MS

Beverly McDonald

Lauren Regan, AAL

contact

PO Box 10455

Eugene, OR 97440

541.434.1463

info@CascWild.org

WWW.CASCWILD.ORG

Goodbye 2012, Hello 2013

from Executive Director Bob Ferris

The new year is already galloping along, and we have a veritable harvest table full of issues all coming to critical junction points.

For example, this coming year promises to be a big year for western wolves with some end result in our ongoing Oregon wolf lawsuit due soon either from the suit itself or our associated negotiations with the state. We also expect to see a re-classification scheme from the US Fish and Wildlife Service this winter, and we will be all eyes and ears as we monitor the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as new wolves move into habitat once occupied by the Wedge Pack (see wolf story on cover).

We will be busy on the Elliott and with murrelets, too. Our lawsuit here is also likely to follow parallel tracks of the wolf suit with a likely court date in 2014, but negotiations with the state on a settlement potentially starting soon. In the interim, blessed silence in the Elliott.

We will also be doing our forest thing: watching, commenting, appealing and perhaps filing notices on actions in public wildlands in Oregon and Alaska (see Tongass story page 4). And we will be doing our level best and on a multitude of levels to make sure the Northwest Forest Plan originally crafted for the northern spotted owl, and other species on the brink, is not compromised through federal legislation or through forest plan revisions.

Blocking coal and liquefied natural gas (LNG) export from the Pacific Northwest also loom high on our climate agenda with proposals popping up all over Cascadia. And then there are salmon, steelhead, wolverine, and red tree voles to stand up for and a host of other challenges as well. Whew.

These and others seem to represent a collection of insurmountable challenges. The good news here is you. In 2012, your support allowed us to add programmatic and legal capacity to our team, and we are confident that you will understand all that is at risk in the above and continue or increase that support in 2013.

Welcome Jason Lugo

Jason Lugo has joined us as an intern from the Public Planning, Policy and Management program at the University of Oregon and is currently working on his Master of Community and Regional Planning. Jason grew up in the Northeast, rambling the Appalachians and swimming the Atlantic, and enjoys hiking, canoeing and biking. His love of nature has taken him to over 15 national parks and counting. This passion has prompted him to pursue a career in environmental planning. Jason has been assisting Cascadia Wildlands with its work on gray wolf recovery, recently creating a widely used GIS map of wolf pack locations and he is also assisting with public outreach.



Fighting Climate Change Tree, Tooth and Hoof

Forests, Otters and Cows Affect a Warming Earth

by Bob Ferris, Executive Director

2012 was the hottest year on record. As we try to deal with this reality and the associated implications — including ocean acidification — Cascadia Wildlands is doing all we can on as many fronts as possible to curb greenhouse gas emissions and to dampen the current and future impacts of climate change.

Some of our climate work is obvious, like our efforts in Oregon and Alaska to stop clearcutting. Our successes mean more big trees reserved and more carbon dioxide stored in tree fiber and soils. And temperate forests like these have been shown to be very efficient at capturing carbon, so we are once again focusing our work where it will be most effective.

Our campaigns to curtail exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and Powder River Basin coal in the Pacific Northwest seem a departure from our wildlands focus. But our work sequestering carbon in trees would mean little if fossil fuel use in China, India and South Korea accelerated because we allowed the Port of Coos Bay or anywhere in Cascadia to become a giant export conduit for fracking-derived LNG or underpriced coal.

Other elements of our climate portfolio are not as well developed or as obvious like our newly launched efforts to restore sea otters to the northern California and Oregon coasts and our educational efforts to bring attention and reason to the issue of cattle grazing — particularly on

public lands. Both of these are complicated issues.

With the sea otter (see otter sidebar) there are strong reasons for restoration, but otters are notoriously difficult to translocate and remain happily where you put them. Oregon and northern California are also where the ranges of northern and southern

“But our work sequestering carbon in trees would mean little if fossil fuel use in China, India and South Korea accelerated...”

sea otter populations meet, so there is not only a question of which otter where, but also a question of which otter is more likely to survive with changing ocean temperatures. We are committed to finding these answers.

Our access point on cattle grazing begins with wolves and wolf recovery. But our call for re-examining the economic and ecological efficacy of public lands grazing has climate implications as well. A recent paper by researchers at Oregon State University argued that if we are to prepare our public lands in the Northwest for climate change and also mitigating for the change then we need to reduce the number of native and non-native ungulates (cattle, sheep, elk, and deer). The team also asserted that native predators — like wolves — should be replaced as well. So our wolf work fits in this important mix, too.



Mom and pup (C. Tucey)

That Otter Do it

Sea otters are cute and cuddly. Unfortunately, their cuddliness nearly made them one of the first casualties of European exploitation in Cascadia, hunted for their fur to near extinction. In fact, they were thought lost in their southern range until about 50 were spotted near Big Sur, California in 1938. It is believed that all the sea otters in California, as well as the last otter that visited Oregon in 2003, are descendants from those few dozen.

Sea otters are a keystone species eating sea urchins and thus fostering kelp forests. With kelp forests come biodiversity, and researchers have determined that kelp capture carbon — an essential action in combating climate change and ocean acidification. Cascadia Wildlands wants sea otters restored along the northern California and Oregon coasts where they are missing. Stay tuned for developments on this front.

Tongass National Forest Missed the Memo

Old-growth Clearcutting on Public Lands Still Planned in Northern Cascadia

by Gabe Scott, Alaska Field Director

The era of using our national forests for big, old-growth timber sales is dead and gone. But apparently, on Alaska's Tongass National Forest, they didn't get that memo. So, here we are with a pile of massive logging proposals — Tonka, Big Thorne, Navy and others — that would log thousands of acres of pristine, public forests.

The Tongass, you'll remember, is that southern panhandle of Alaska, a gorgeous archipelago of primeval spruce, hemlock and cedar forests. These are Cascadia's great north woods — millions of acres of intact old-growth, uninhabited islands, wolf and bear, eagle and raven, wild salmon by the millions. This is the best of what's left.

In the old days on the Tongass, as in Oregon, the national forest was a cash cow for the logging industry. Two huge pulp mills ran 24/7, chopping hemlock and spruce into toilet paper and two-by-fours. The two big mills shut down in the late 1990s, leaving a few mid-size mills, loggers and support crews to straggle along. Today, only one mid-size mill remains in southeast Alaska.

These economic shifts have fundamentally altered the familiar "jobs-versus-environment" debate. The simple fact is this: it is no longer profitable to log old-growth on the Tongass. The numbers don't add up. It costs more to log, than not to log.

So it is perplexing why the Forest Service continues to crank out huge, old-growth timber sales. The Big Thorne project, for example, proposes to cut between 4,000 and 7,000 acres of old growth, far more volume than any local mill could ever cut. Many sales aren't sold. Others are sold, then aren't cut. Others are cut, but without mills to process the wood, loggers get

permission to export the trees to mills overseas.

With the underlying economics so bad, the only reason logging continues at all is because of huge subsidies. The Forest Service (read: taxpayers) pays to build and maintain logging roads, sort yards and barge landings. They pay to keep foresters, engineers, and others on staff designing new logging projects.



Old-growth on Prince of Wales Island is targeted with clearcutting (D. Beebe)

Exact numbers can be hard to untangle, but one recent report by economist Joe Merhkens concludes that, for each logging job on the Tongass, taxpayers fork out somewhere between \$224,000 and \$510,000!

So, at Cascadia, we have no patience for rehashing that tired "jobs versus environment" debate. The costs of old-growth logging — to salmon, deer, wolves, local residents, and to the federal treasury — are well-documented. But on the "jobs" side of the equation, there simply is no profit. That's why we'll beat Tonka, Big Thorne, and the rest of these nostalgic beasts.

The era of old-growth logging is dead and gone. The sooner the Forest Service gets it, the better.

You Helped Raise Over \$35K at Wonderland Auction!

It probably goes without saying, but it takes a village to pull off an event as fun and fabulous as our Wonderland Auction. Ten years in the making, this annual holiday event has become bigger and better every year, and this year's soiree in the EMU Ballroom on December 8 was no exception. More than 350 people enjoyed live jazz, incredible food and drink, and holiday cheer at this festive celebration.

A big thank you goes out to our event sponsors, whose underwriting made it possible for every dollar raised to go directly to our campaigns in 2013: **Mountain Rose Herbs, the University of Oregon Outdoor Program, Ring of Fire, Ninkasi Brewing Co., Back to the Roots Landscaping, Eugene Weekly, Coconut Bliss, Green Solutions Printing, and Medicine Flower.**

We'd also like to thank the more than 150 businesses and individuals who donated a wonderful array of items such as West Coast getaways, rafting adventures, handcrafted wood furniture, outdoor gear, wine packages, and much more for our silent and live auctions, allowing us to raise **more than \$35,000** to protect endangered forests, rivers, and wildlife.

Last, but certainly not least, we'd like to thank the many volunteers who came early and who stayed late, and who generally did whatever needed to be done to help make our event a success. If you missed this great event and like to plan ahead, we already have our date set for December 7, 2013, so mark your calendars!

— Camille Gullickson

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Siskiyou ecoregion in southwest Oregon/northwest California, the Coast Ranges of Oregon and Washington and the Olympic Peninsula are currently devoid of wolves, yet they may soon lose their federal protections.

Cascadia Wildlands is currently working on a number of fronts to challenge any premature delisting of the gray wolves. We are currently engaging politicians, scientists, lawyers and the greater public to speak up on behalf of gray wolves where they have not yet recovered.

The opportunity to hear the howl of a gray wolf in the backcountry has arrived, but without federal protections, this iconic experience may be jeopardized. The landscapes of the West have been silenced for too long. I encourage you to take action at www.CascWild.org to ensure wolves have protections maintained in the places they haven't yet returned to or recovered.



Hoedown for Cascadia's Ancient Forests

Late Spring 2013 (date TBD), 6-10 p.m.

Avalon Stables, Cottage Grove

We've moved the Hoedown for Cascadia's Ancient Forests from fall to spring! We hope you will come on out, kick up your heels and join us for some good old fashioned fun. We will have a caller and a live bluegrass band to whip you into a square-dancing frenzy. A vegetarian chili dinner and a drink ticket is included with admission, and a round-trip shuttle bus from Eugene will be offered.

Advanced tickets, volunteer opportunities and more information to be posted soon at **www.CascWild.org**. This is a family-friendly event not to be missed!



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. 25% of pint sales at the tasting room on those days go to support our conservation work. Live music runs from 5:30-7:00 pm, followed by knee-slapping Cascadia Trivia Night. See you there!



Monday, March 4: Gaye Lee Russell and the Badass Band (powerful blues and jazz)

Monday, April 1: Inoke (legendary latin jazz and blues singer-songwriter)

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

THANK YOU!

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:*

Business Champions (\$5,000+)

Patagonia, Inc.
Mountain Rose Herbs

Business Sustainers (\$1,000-2,499)

Pivot Architecture

Business Friends (\$250-999)

Backcountry Gear Ltd.
Medicine Flower
River Jewelry
Southern Explorations
Sundance Natural Market

Business Partners (\$2,500-4,999)

Tactics Board Shop

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.



**FOR THE
PLANET**

RECIPIENT

winter 2013

- Wolf Recovery in the West in Peril
- It is All About the Climate
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- Hoedown Slated for Late Spring

what's
inside?

Business Supporter in Focus: Patagonia

Patagonia, Inc. sets the bar high when it comes to outdoor retailers supporting conservation. Since 1985 the company has doled out \$47 million to critical conservation efforts across the US and world, including campaigns that Cascadia Wildlands has undertaken to protect the species, wildlands and waters of Cascadia. The company is so committed to conservation that it earmarks 1% of sales or 10% of pre-tax profits to conservation (whichever is greater).

Patagonia not only supports our work annually, the company has sent employees our way to intern for months at a time, donated gear to our annual Wonderland Auction, and provided lightly used gear to our volunteer field teams. Thanks for all your support
Patagonia!

patagonia[®]

Hope to See You at the PIELC Feb. 28- March 3

Cascadia Wildlands will be well represented at the annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC), the largest of its kind in the world. The conference will be held from Feb. 28-March 3 at the University of Oregon Law School in Eugene. Cascadia staff have organized a handful of panels and will also be presenting on a number of them, including issues surrounding **Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) export, Western Oregon BLM lands, state forest management and marbled murrelets, and gray wolf recovery**. We will also have an outreach table at the event. Stop on by and connect with us on critical conservation issues facing Cascadia. The conference is free and open to the public. Hope to see you there!