

CASCADIA QUARTERLY



Marbled murrelets spend most of their lives in the ocean but nest in older coastal rainforest. (A. Wilson)

Clearcutting Suspended in Oregon's State Forests State Voluntarily Halts Logging in Imperiled Marbled Murrelet Habitat

by Nick Cady, Legal Director

In July, Cascadia Wildlands and our partners at the Center for Biological Diversity, CRAG Law Center, and Portland Audubon succeeded in temporarily halting the clearcutting of mature rainforest in the Elliott, Tillamook, and Clatsop State Forests in the Oregon Coast Range. Faced with a broad-reaching motion for an injunction, the state of Oregon voluntarily agreed to suspend the logging or auction of 10 timber sales that would have clearcut nearly 800 acres of occupied marbled murrelet habitat. The state has also agreed to halt any further logging in the seabird's nesting habitat until the case is resolved.

The voluntary injunction is the product of our organization's ten-year campaign to reform reckless state forest management practices. At the heart of this controversy is the Elliott, a 93,000-acre contiguous block of mature coastal rainforest northeast of Coos Bay. Nearly half of the Elliott has never been logged. This intact habitat is extremely rare in the otherwise

heavily fragmented Coast Range and is critical for a variety of older forest-dependent species. As such, the Elliott acts as a stronghold for the marbled murrelet, a seabird that relies upon older coastal rainforest for nesting and raising its young. Due to a steady population decline, mainly due to habitat loss through logging, the species was listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act in 1992.

Despite an ongoing annual murrelet population decline of approximately 4%, in 2010 and 2011, the state of Oregon adopted new management plans for the three coastal state forests that ramped up clearcutting in the seabird's nesting habitat. The new management plan for the Elliott also abandons a species reserve system that was supposed to last 60 years and involves barbaric control measures for bears and beavers which have a tendency to compete with newly planted saplings after clearcutting.

continued on p. 5

Cascadia WILDLANDS

we like it wild.

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No Bells and Whistles Here

from Executive Director Bob Ferris

In my few months here I have found that Cascadia Wildlands is not really a “bells and whistles” kind of organization. And that is kind of cool.

We look after millions of acres of wild places—preserving critters and ecosystem functions, while fighting the most powerful industries to protect the most vulnerable. Remarkably, we do all that with a paid staff that can fit comfortably around a kitchen table. Our office is a modest affair where all phone calls are a community affair. And we like it that way.

Being lean and mean has its consequences. It means we do not have an endowment for hard times and don't engage in lengthy debates about bequests. It also means our printer door is often held shut by duct tape, we provide our own computers, and frequently we just have to do without.

Yet, in spite of the above “handicaps,” we still make serious noise. We stopped the state of Oregon from wiping out the Imnaha wolf pack. We are actively blocking LNG and coal exports out of Coos Bay thus keeping people and wildlife along the proposed delivery routes safe and healthy. Our legal filings are stopping clearcuts and protecting imperiled species on public forests. And we believe our efforts to return robust king salmon runs to waterways will bring environmental and economic prosperity.

I hope you continue to provide generous support even if that means your gift acknowledgement is not on fancy letterhead or it might arrive in a salvaged envelope. We hope you like us like that.

— Bob



Welcome Camille Gullickson!

Please join us in welcoming Camille Gullickson as our new Development and Operations Coordinator. She replaces long-time staffer, Sally Cummings, who recently moved on. Camille is a native Northwesterner, and she accredits her unique upbringing on picturesque Whidbey Island, Washington, for sparking her interest in conservation work.

Wielding a degree in non-profit management, she will be assisting us with donor relationship management, event planning, communications, and operations coordination. She loves to hike, travel, and enjoy the beauty and bounty of the west with her family. Welcome, Camille!



Draft “Critical Habitat” Re-Issued for Northern Spotted Owl

While Improved, Shortcomings Still Exist

by Francis Eatherington, Conservation Director

This fall the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will make a final determination on “critical habitat” for the northern spotted owl, which continues to decline at approximately 3% each year across its range. The designation of critical habitat is an important tool the Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides to recover species teetering on the brink of extinction.

Critical habitat for the owl was designated in 1992, shortly after it was listed as threatened under the ESA, but in 2008 the Bush administration drastically reduced its acres when it tried unsuccessfully to increase logging of old forests on Bureau of Land Management lands in western Oregon through the Western Oregon Plan Revisions. An investigation later confirmed that political interference from the Bush administration was the cause of the 2008 reduction. Represented by Earthjustice, we and our conservation allies, successfully litigated this illegal maneuvering. The courts ordered another revision.

This spring the FWS released its draft proposal, mapping out almost 14-million acres of critical habitat in Washington, Oregon and northern California. While this is a robust number, the FWS has also proposed to exclude over nine million of those acres, mostly for jurisdictional reasons (e.g. private and state land).

Another problem is that the proposal encourages “active management” (i.e. logging) within critical habitat, even to the point of destroying functioning owl habitat for the sake of meeting timber targets.

While the proposal does protect the best old growth,

mature forests 80 to 150 years may be open for logging. The proposal goes so far as to suggest that timber targets can take precedence and that the conservation of the owl must be “compatible with broader landscape management goals,” such as aggressive logging in areas designated for timber harvest in the Northwest Forest Plan.

We were pleased to see that 47,000 acres of spotted owl habitat in the Elliott State Forest was proposed as critical habitat. Unfortunately, the ESA has limited protections for non-federal lands, so in the FWS’ critical habitat economic analysis the state of Oregon proclaimed it does “not intend to alter timber management practices in response to the designation of critical habitat,” even though its plans will clearcut many hundreds of acres of this critical habitat every year.

Saving the spotted owl and its habitat has a myriad of social benefits. The owl requires carbon-rich forests to live, and humans require carbon-rich forests to clean our air. The old forests within the range of the spotted owl can store more carbon per acre than any other place on the earth thereby mitigating climate change at no cost to us. The economic analysis of the critical habitat proposal failed to calculate this ecosystem service.

Cascadia Wildlands, along with our lawyers and partners,



SIERRA NEVADA RED FOX *Vulpes vulpes necator*

In June, scientists discovered two new colonies of a native, alpine red fox in the Mt. Hood Wilderness Area that, until recently, was thought to possibly be extinct.

The Sierra Nevada red fox lives in harsh tundra and snow covered forests and previously ranged from southern Sierra Nevada to the Columbia River. A 2005 study of the then remnant population surviving on Mt. Lassen found that the foxes are nocturnal hunters whose diet was predominantly mammals — especially rodents and mule deer — supplemented by birds, insects and pinemat manzanita berries.

Invasive fox species, climate change, and public lands ranching are believed to have led to the species’ rapid decline.

Automated trail cameras have also recently captured images of the rare species in Crater Lake National Park in the southern Oregon Cascades.

The subspecies was petitioned for an Endangered Species Act listing in spring 2011 by the Center for Biological Diversity.

All Hail to the King (Salmon)!

Effort Launched to Safeguard Wild Salmon Heritage

by Gabe Scott, Alaska Field Director



After a three-year leave to attend Tulane Law School in New Orleans, I'm finally back home at Cascadia's Alaska field office in Cordova. Working for Louisiana tribes and fishermen facing the BP *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, and studying maritime law at Tulane, has provided me a whole new arsenal and reaffirmed devotion to defending Cascadia's wild places.

Having taken time to reflect on the future of Cascadia's Alaska field office, we've decided we need to think like a salmon. Here's what I mean:

Salmon start their lives in small, pure headwater streams. After a year or two of learning and growing in relative safety, they take the plunge into the deep, dark ocean. Nobody really knows what they do out there. Most never make it back, but those who do return to their precise places of birth are bigger, stronger, and hell-bent on multiplying.

As the poet Joanna Reichold says, let me be like that.

What distinguishes Cascadia is that we remain a religiously local, grassroots organization, yet also are unafraid to take on the great issues of the day. We are part of a global environmental revolution, yet we always, always, come back home.

Salmon are Cascadia's keystone species. From the Copper River to the Willamette, wild salmon are what makes Cascadia, Cascadian.

We all know that intact habitat is what salmon need to survive. But, here's the kicker: king salmon runs in Alaska, even on pristine rivers, are suffering a massive crisis. At the same time, king salmon runs in the Pacific Northwest are making a comeback.

What is going on? Two things are clear.

First, something is happening in the ocean that threatens our salmon. Global warming? Hatcheries?

Bycatch? Nobody knows, and those doing the looking are under immense pressure from some selfish, vested interests.

Second, the powers-that-be would like to unhinge salmon from habitat, bio-engineering and farming new species that don't need green forests and clean water. This is not science fiction. AquaBounty Technologies, Inc., has mixed king salmon genes with Atlantic salmon, creating a new "salmon" that grows twice as fast. The US Department of Agriculture is on the cusp of approving their application to sell you these fish, without labeling and without thorough environmental studies. The precedent is incredibly important — the first genetically engineered animal approved as human food.

So here's the plan.

Mt. Rose Herbs to Match Your Donation up to \$5,000 to Support Wild Salmon Heritage!

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 above) to confronting forest practices that damage salmon streams and evolving threats such as suction dredge mining for gold in endangered salmon habitat in Oregon. 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, and thanks in advance for your support.

First, we'll mobilize Cascadia's grassroots, from Alaska to Oregon, to advocate our uncompromising love for our wild king salmon runs — each unique and precious in its own way. Our friends at **Mountain Rose Herbs** in Eugene, and at the indigenous **Eyak Preservation Council** in Cordova, instantly offered their support for a wild salmon celebration.

Second, we will aggressively engage with scientists and tribes from California to Oregon to find out what is happening to the salmon in the ocean. And we'll use all the tools in our box to prevent AquaBounty from getting their "Frankenfish" approved.

Why? Because Cascadia is our home, always and forever. And we like it wild.

Cascadia in Focus: Cameron Derbyshire

Intrepid Bushwacker Shows Off the Innards of Devil's Staircase

Few people know the innards of the remote, proposed Devil's Staircase Wilderness like Cameron Derbyshire. For the past four years, Cameron has spent countless hours volunteering with Cascadia Wildlands by exploring the roadless backcountry of the Wasson Creek watershed and pioneering new routes into the remarkable area. With backcountry know-how, Cameron leads Cascadia Wildlands public hikes and tours media and Congressional staff into this remarkable area, showcasing its outstanding biological diversity and advocating for its permanent protection.

The proposed wilderness, championed by Rep. Peter DeFazio, Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley, encompasses nearly 30,000 acres of wild Coast Range country northeast of Reedsport and remains poised for designation in Congress.

When not tromping through head-high ferns, Cameron is a physician assistant on the coast in Florence, Oregon (the right person to have by your side in the highly secluded and ever-



Cameron at Devil's Staircase (J. Laughlin)

challenging Devil's Staircase area). Thanks for your leadership, Cameron!



Rally for state forest reform, October 2011 (T. Jennings)

continued from p. 1

In response, Cascadia marshaled the resources required for an Endangered Species Act lawsuit, alleging the state is "taking" (harassing, harming, killing, etc.) the marbled murrelet through these archaic logging practices. The bedrock statute has a strict prohibition against "take."

Due to the complexity of the case, this is by far the largest legal challenge our organization has ever been involved in. We have retained two of the foremost murrelet experts who believe that the state's practices are harming the bird. Powerful timber interests have forced their way into the matter in an attempt to undermine our efforts. Although we have already gathered tremendous support for this action, we are still in serious need of financial support to properly execute this case. We ask that you please help us at this time in this groundbreaking case. Thanks, and stay tuned.



Green Mt. Bluegrass Band to Play at Pints Gone Wild!, September 4

Green Mountain Bluegrass Band

Join **Cascadia Wildlands** and the **Green Mountain Bluegrass Band** on the **Ninkasi** patio (272 Van Buren St. in Eugene) on September 4 from 6-7 pm. This is part of our monthly Pints Gone Wild! benefit where Ninkasi generously donates a portion of pint sales to support the conservation work of Cascadia Wildlands. The benefit runs from 12 pm-9 pm, is free and is wheelchair accessible. Hope to see you down at the patio for some fine ale and foot-stomping bluegrass!

Join Us at Our 10th Annual Wonderland Auction Saturday, December 8, 6-10 pm, EMU Ballroom (University of Oregon)

Join **Cascadia Wildlands**, **Mountain Rose Herbs**, the **University of Oregon Outdoor Program** and community supporters at our 10th annual Wonderland Auction. Bid on exciting live and silent auction items, indulge in dinner by **Ring of Fire**, sip craft beer by **Ninkasi** and fine wines, and enjoy holiday cheer and conversation with the greater community that helps sustain our conservation work. This is our largest fundraiser of the year, so we hope to see you and your guests bidding wildly this year. More info soon at www.CascWild.org.

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:

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

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

Tactics Board Shop

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

Pivot Architecture

Business Friends (\$250-999)

Backcountry Gear Ltd.
Medicine Flower
River Jewelry
Southern Explorations
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.



FOR THE PLANET

RECIPIENT

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.)

summer 2012

- Clearcutting Halted on State Forests
- “Critical Habitat” Designated for Owl
- Wild Salmon Effort Launched
- Community Calendar

what's
inside?

Business Supporter in Focus: Medicine Flower

Founded in 1985, **Medicine Flower** specializes in essential oils and body care products and has a goal of providing products that support sustainable organic agriculture, fair trade, and values that nurture the Earth. Founder **Alysia Gaye** uses her background in cosmetic chemistry and cosmetic ingredients to travel worldwide in search of the highest quality essential oils and raw materials used in the art of perfumery and aromatherapy, as well as in cosmetics and body care.

Her passion for offering high-quality body care products is rivaled by her interest in safeguarding the environment. Based in the heart of Cascadia, Alysia and her company generously support the tireless conservation work of Cascadia Wildlands. You can visit Medicine Flower online at www.medicineflower.com.

Seven Pups Added to Wenaha Wolf Pack

On August 9, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) confirmed that the Wenaha wolf pack, Oregon's oldest pack since the species returned to the state in 1999, had at least seven pups this year.

The agency also confirmed on August 15 at least two pups for the Umatilla River pair, making this Oregon's fifth known pack in the state.

In June the ODFW reported the Imnaha pack had at least four pups this year. Recall, Cascadia Wildlands and allies halted a kill order of the Imnaha alpha male and yearling in late 2011. The injunction against state lethal control of wolves remains in place as we continue to negotiate with ODFW.

The five packs and a few known individuals make up the approximately 40 confirmed wolves in the state today.