CASCADIA REVIEW

Durable Conservation Solution Enacted for Embattled Elliott State Forest

by Josh Laughlin, Execuive Director

After over 20 years of advocacy with a strong partner coalition and supporters like you, Cascadia Wildlands helped usher into law a lasting conservation solution for the embattled 82,500-acre Elliott State Forest located in the Oregon Coast Range east of Coos Bay.

The plan passed the Oregon legislature with bipartisan support in early March and will:

- 1) Keep the Elliott in public ownership and ensure public access.
- 2) Create a 34,000-acre permanent reserve on the forest's west side in addition to smaller reserves throughout the forest to benefit imperiled species and climate security.
- **3)** Establish a system of checks and balances to ensure transparency and public accountability with the right to judicial review.
- **4)** Advance collaborative partnerships, including notably with western Oregon Tribes and incorporation of traditional ecological knowledge.
- **5)** Protect 93% of the remaining older forest on the Elliott.
- **6)** Appropriate \$121 million of general fund dollars to fully sever the tie between the Elliott and the Common School Fund so K-12 school

kids in Oregon are no longer pitted against the environment.

You may recall that the Elliott State Forest was where the worst old-growth clearcutting was taking place in our region in the early 2000s. Cascadia Wildlands knew that if we could put a human on the moon, we could break the archaic system of clearcutting priceless, old-growth forests to fund school kids in Oregon and find a better way forward.

It has been a daunting hill to climb over the past two decades, and it took three strategic lawsuits, hard-hitting advocacy campaigns, loud demonstrations, considerable public testimony, and unique partnerships to get us here.

Moving forward, the Oregon State University will be vested management authority of this public research forest, including the research logging and design,

... continued on page 14

Elliott State Forest (photo by Tim Giraudier)



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Printed on 100% recycled paper.

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Made with soy-based inks that don't pollute the air with harmful toxins.

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Resilience Defines Our Spirit

by Josh Laughlin, Executive Director

Resilience is what comes to mind while reflecting on the past two-plus years. Human resilience, organizational resilience, watershed and species resilience.

Generational-defining activity unfolded in front of us: a global pandemic, racial reckoning triggered by the murder of George Floyd and other Black Americans; the 2020 Labor Day fires here at home, a near-hijacking of our democracy, an unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia possibly triggering the next global conflict. The list is deep, has touched us all in profound ways, and this period has tested our mettle like no other.

Cascadia Wildlands' durability has also been challenged: remote workplaces; Zoom meeting fatigue; isolation; navigating Payroll Protection Program loans, homeschooling children; staff transition;

helping keep our business partners above water; and finding ways to connect with supporters like you.

And the relentless threats to the wildlands, species and waters of Cascadia haven't subsided: more wolves poached in eastern Oregon; old-growth timber sales proposed in our favorite watersheds; another "code red" Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report; Trump's anti-environmental legacy we have been left to clean up; a broken Congress...

Fortunately, we have refined systems in place to support our staff, weather the storms, and ensure the longevity of the organization. This has also allowed us to excel in some ways during these turbulent times. As you may have heard, we notched a series of monumental victories in recent months as further described



in this issue of the Cascadia Review: a lasting solution to keep the Elliott Rainforest public and protect its old forests; a final nail in the coffin of the Jordan Cove LNG **Project and Pacific Connector** Pipeline; gray wolves re-afforded federal protections as they mount their comeback from near extinction; the Thurston Hills on the outskirts of Eugene/Springfield safe from clearcutting.

Our organizational resilience and these victories have only been made possible by your support and generosity. It was during these defining past two-plus years that Cascadia Wildlands was the recipient of a few legacy gifts from a number of our supporters, ensuring not only that the wheels keep turning but providing an investment in our future capacity. Our

burgeoning legal internship program is now attracting some of the brightest, aspiring public interest environmental attorneys in the country, and in 2023 we will add legal and communications support to bolster our might.

As we hit the backside of omicron, we are indebted to you for the resilience you have helped create in Cascadia Wildlands. Thank you for that, and I hope to see you in-person on June 25, for Down by the River: A Summer Soirée and Auction at Mt. Pisgah for some much-needed celebration together.

> Josh Laughlin **Executive Director**



CRITTER CORNER



© photo by mypster (CC BY-NC) found on inaturalist.ca

Oregon **Giant Earthworm**

(Driloleirus macelfreshi)

The Oregon giant earthworm is one of the largest earthworms found in North America: it can grown up to four feet long. The species was first described in 1937 from a specimen found near Salem in 1903, and not much is known about it. Since its discovery, specimens have been documented in only 15 locations within Oregon's Willamette Valley and one additional site in the Oregon Coast Range.

What's that smell? When handled. or otherwise disturbed, the worm's saliva gives off an unusually pleasant aroma that smells like flowers hence their genus name Driloleirus, which means "lily-like worm."

Habitat: They live in the deep, wet soils of mixed hardwood and conifer riparian forests. Tunneling deep into the Earth, they dig permanent burrows fifteen feet below the surface. During wetter seasons these giant earthworms can be found closer to the surface in order to feed on the rich organic material that has accumulated on the forest floor.

Threats: Habitat loss and competition from introduced earthworms are thought to be two major threats. Little is known about this species, and more studies are needed to fully understand the threats they face.

Hellos and Goodbyes from Cascadia Wildlands









Cascadia Wildlands has had some personnel transition in recent months. We want to say thank you and goodbye to long-time and stalwart board member, Sarah Douglas. As board treasurer for much of her five-year tenure, Sarah helped lead us through a period of strategic growth and investment in our outstanding staff, which was made possible by her deep non-profit experience, financial savviness and commitment to our mission. Thank you, Sarah!

It is with deep gratitude that we are saying farewell to

Wildlands Director Rebecca White who has moved with her family back down to Humboldt County. Rebecca did an incredible job leveraging her prior experience as a Forest Service biologist and keen understanding of the law to push back against irresponsible land management proposals. Rebecca's move south gives Cascadia Wildlands the new pleasure of working with recently hired Grace Brahler. A University of Oregon School of Law graduate, Grace has worked with the Western Environmental Law Center, Oregon's Environ-

mental and Natural Resources Center, and most recently, focused on forest and climate issues with Beyond Toxics. Welcome, Grace!

The Fossil Free Eugene and Lane County Coalition, of which Cascadia Wildlands is a founding steering committee member, is pleased to welcome **Aya Cockram** as our Coalition Coordinator. Raised in Eugene, and now raising a young family here, Aya is deeply invested in ensuring a livable future in Eugene and throughout Cascadia for this and future generations.

WELCOME SUMMER LEGAL INTERNS!

Natalie Gillard was born in California where she grew up backpacking and hiking. She graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a B.A. in Physical Geography and Ecology, and Evolutionary Biology. She then earned a M.S. in Watershed Science from Utah State University. Natalie worked for the U.S. Geological Survey at the Oklahoma-Texas Water Science Center, focusing on groundwater sustainability. She started at the University of Oregon School of Law in Fall 2021. When not working, she enjoys running, backpacking, rafting, and being outside.

Kara Parker grew up in Seattle and graduated from the University of Washington with a B.S. in Biology. She also received a Graduate Certificate in Sustainability from Portland State University. Kara spent time working as a ski instructor and rock climbing guide in Oregon and Colorado. She is now pursuing her J.D. at Lewis & Clark Law School while still finding time to adventure in the mountains of the Pacific Northwest.





Legal Victories Stop Post-fire Clearcutting

On the Willamette and Umpqua National Forests

by Nick Cady, Legal Director

Before the 2020 Labor Day fires were extinguished, federal land managers began planning large post-fire logging projects in the Willamette National Forest and along the Umpqua River. Burned areas are especially vulnerable to the impacts of industrial logging, leading to erosion, degraded water quality, stymied natural forest regeneration, diminished habitat values, and carbon lost into the atmosphere. The clearcut logging and subsequent replanting of dense plantations in these areas also increases future fire risks for decades to come. Cascadia Wildlands and our co-plaintiffs have several legal victories to report after contesting many of these controversial clearcutting proposals.

1. Willamette National Forest Contract Change: Cascadia Wildlands and our conservation allies caught the Forest Service changing restoration thinning projects into post-fire clearcuts around Breitenbush Hot Springs and other areas without informing the public or analyzing the impacts of the switch. The district court in Eugene issued a restraining order against the Forest Service halting all logging.

2. Willamette National Forest Roadside Logging:

The Forest Service was also proposing to clearcut over 30 sq. miles/20,000 acres of post-fire forest (Eugene is ~40 sq. miles) along little used backcountry roads in the name of public safety. The court also stopped this logging, but at our request, the agency was allowed to proceed with logging that was genuinely related to public safety. Instead of moving forward with this narrowed approach, the agency pulled the entire logging project, proving that this logging proposal was simply a timber grab that had little to do with safety.

3. Umpqua National Forest Roadside Logging: The Forest Service had also proposed extensive post-fire clearcutting along little frequented spur roads above the famed North Umpqua River. Following our legal victory in the Willamette National Forest Roadside case, the Forest Service agreed to limit the logging to areas where there were genuine public safety concerns.

All of these cases would not have been successful without the ground truthing efforts of our WildCAT volunteers or the incredible legal representation by Crag Law Center.

VICTORY At Long Last, the Climate-Destroying Jordan Cove LNG Project is Dead

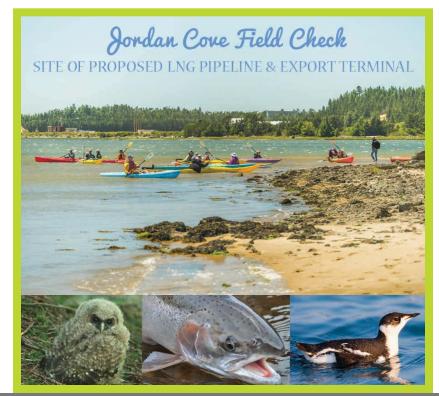
by Bethany Cotton, Conservation Director

A series of legal and permitting victories were the final nails in the coffin of the dangerous fracked gas Jordan Cove terminal and Pacific Connector Pipeline proposal. After fifteen years of sustained community and conservation resistance, including dozens of permit denials and appeals and several legal battles, the company behind the project is finally walking away. This truly David and Goliath story played out over more than a decade as evidence of how truly toxic fracked gas is for households and our climate became increasingly understood.

The proposed pipeline would have sliced across Oregon, from Malin to Coos Bay, crossing over 200 waterbodies and further fragmenting already-imperiled forests, and salmon and wildlife populations. The terminal would have been built in a tsunami inundation zone in Coos Bay, creating a hazard for the community and necessitating unprecedented dredging of the Bay to allow for giant ships. The terminal and pipeline proposals threatened

critical habitat of several imperiled species, would have increased fire risk along over 200 miles of the pipeline route, and would have locked rural Oregon communities into long-term investments in more fossil fuel infrastructure.

Cascadia Wildlands is forever grateful to our members, supporters, staff (present and past) and allies who combined resources and diligently fought this terrible project at every level — local, state and federal — for many years. Stay tuned for information about covid-safe celebrations being planned for summer 2022. This hard-won victory is a good reminder that we should never doubt the power of a small group of dedicated people defending the places and communities they hold dear.









Crater Lake is known by the Klamath Tribes as Giiwas — a band of Paiute Indians) signed the Treaty of 1864 with the

Fossil Free Eugene

At Center of Nationwide Effort to Move Beyond Fracked Gas

by Madeline Cowen, Grassroots and Digital organizer

Did you know that one hour of cooking on a gas stove produces nitrogen dioxide levels that would be illegal if found outdoors? And that children in homes with gas stoves have a 42 percent increased risk of asthma symptoms? "Natural" gas in homes and buildings is bad for the health of our communities and our climate. In fact, indoor gas use causes about one-third of the state's climate pollution-right behind the timber industry.

That's why Cascadia Wildlands, as part of the broader Fossil Fuel Eugene (FFE) Coalition, is urging Eugene City Council to uphold its climate promises. FFE is advocating for a mandate that homes and buildings take advantage of our state's clean, renewable electricity and begin working toward

retrofitting existing buildings with an emphasis on supporting low-income, BIPOC, and historically marginalized communities in the transition off of fossil fuels.

After over a year of public testimony and building community support, in the fall of 2021, the Eugene City Council took bold climate action and passed motions to draft language requiring all-electric construction for new buildings in the city. But our work is far from over. On April 13, the City Council will vote whether or not to move this ordinance language to a public hearing.

As our community braces for another potentially historic wildfire season, we were excited to hear strong support from the City Council for a work session to explore concrete policies to transition Eugene away from climate-polluting fossil fuels. We look forward to working with the council to forge ahead in the fight for climate justice and to join the dozens of cities across the country that have already passed similar policies.

EUGENE RESIDENTS:
Please consider testifying
at the virtual City Council
meeting on Monday,
April 11th at 7:30pm

Fossil Free Eugene is a coalition of grassroots organizations calling on the City of Eugene to follow through with the goals that it set for itself, and lead the way to forging a just transition away from fossil fuels.



VICTORY Federal Wolf Protections Reinstated

Across Much of Cascadia

by Bethany Cotton, Conservation Director

In February, Cascadia Wildlands and allies, represented by attorneys at the Western Environmental Law Center, won our lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's premature removal of Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections from gray wolves. The ruling immediately reinstated protections in much of Cascadia - the western two thirds of Oregon and Washington and all of California — as well as most of the lower 48 states. The decision, however, does not restore ESA safeguards to

wolves in the northern Rockies region, including Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, the eastern third of Washington and Oregon and a small portion of northern Utah. Protections in those areas were stripped by Congress in 2011 and can only be reinstated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Cascadia Wildlands supports reinstatement of protections across the United States, ensuring that management decisions are based in science, not false anti-wolf rhetoric. We are working at both the

state and federal level to address ongoing threats to wolves and their habitat and support coexistence efforts.

Horrifically, at least 10 wolves were poached in Oregon in the past year. The reinstatement of federal protections in much of eastern Oregon make these illegal killings both state and federal crimes. We and our allies are offering rewards for information leading to convictions, and are actively pressuring Oregon authorities to identify and prosecute those responsible.



Significant Conservation Successes Achieved During Oregon's 2022 Legislative Session

There is reason to celebrate the conservation outcomes of the 2020 legislative short session in Salem that ended in early March. As you know, Oregon has been long overdue in modernizing the way private industrial forestlands are managed in order to ensure clean water, human health and to protect our salmon and wildlife. Cascadia Wildlands is pleased to announce the passage of the Private Forest Accord, which will institute increased stream-side buffers from logging, and a reform of herbicide spraying and timber harvest tax allocations. These were the result of a successful negotiation with conservation organizations, the timber industry and the governor's office over the past nine months. While this marks significant progress for private industrial forestland reform, there remains much to do.

In addition to the hard-fought victories for the Private Forest Accord and the Elliott State Forest (see cover article), Cascadia Wildlands successfully advocated against bad bills that would have expanded county wildlife-killing programs and allocated \$1 million in taxpayer dollars to the flawed and prone-to-abuse state Wolf Compensation Fund. Other good news included the passage of the Heat Emergency bill, which provides subsidies for transition away from fossil fuel-powered boilers; allocation of funds to identify priority wildlife crossing locations in Oregon, and a bill addressing reducing the risk of future zoonotic disease outbreaks. We hope this positive trend for conservation legislation will continue in the next long session.



Suite of Federal Legislation Would Bring Key Protections to Cascadia's Outstanding Rivers

Cascadia Wildlands is supporting several bills in Congress that would lead to significant conservation gains in Oregon. The River Democracy Act, sponsored by Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, would double the number of river miles in Oregon with Wild and Scenic Rivers protections. The result of a public nomination process, many community meetings and consultation with Tribes, this bill will help safeguard many of Oregon's most treasured recreation destinations, protect key drinking water sources and preserve key habitat for imperiled wildlife.

Senator Wyden's Oregon Recreation Enhancement (ORE) Act in the Senate, and Congressman Peter DeFazio's expected companion bill in the House, will create the 98,000-acre Rogue Canyon National Recreation Area, anchoring a sustainable, tourism-based economy in southern Oregon. Additionally, the legislation expands the

Wild Rogue Wilderness by 59,000 acres. These bills also contain common sense wildfire and fuels management provisions, including a wildfire risk assessment. These protections would safeguard key fish-bearing streams and rivers and rare low-elevation, old-growth forests.

The Southern Oregon Watershed and Salmon Protection Act (SOWSPA) introduced by Congressman DeFazio, and included in Senator Wyden's ORE Act, will make permanent a 20-year mineral withdrawal, further protecting 100,000 acres of public land and wild salmon strongholds in famed southwestern Oregon watersheds from strip mining. We hope to see all of these bills included in a public lands package anticipated in late 2022, significantly enhancing conservation protections in Oregon and cementing Congressman DeFazio's legacy on the eve of his retirement.



Elliott State Forest (CONTINUED FROM FROM COVER)

...and you can bet Cascadia Wildlands and partners will continue to closely engage as this plan gets further refined and implemented. A forthcoming Forest Management Plan and federal Habitat Conservation Plan to protect imperiled species, like Oregon Coast coho salmon, marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl, will also be the focus of our attention over the next year.

While we didn't get everything we wanted in this deal, Cascadia Wildlands is proud of its durability, the significant protections built into it, and are reminded of how far we have come. Remember when the state of Oregon was clearcutting 800 acres of old-growth forests each year before our legal injunction in 2012? How about when the state of Oregon then sold off the entire forest to Big Timber in 2016 before

reversing course after mass public opposition?

This outcome for the Elliott will be a boon for imperiled species, water quality, carbon storage, and generations of public lands enthusiasts to come. Stay tuned for public hike opportunities to see the area yourself. You helped make this happen with your support over the years, and for that we are incredibly appreciative.

National Campaign Calls on Biden Administration

To Protect Old Forests for Climate Benefits

by Madeline Cowen, Grassroots and Digital Organizer

A week after being elected, President Biden made a commitment to protect 30% of US lands by 2030 and 50% by 2050 to help reverse climate change. Unfortunately, the administration has done little to uphold this promise. Agencies like the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have continued to push forward egregious timber sales targeting mature and old-growth forests in our region, which, if logged, would emit significant carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. That is why over 50 organizations including Cascadia Wildlands,

have launched a national campaign to let trees grow in order to protect the climate.

The Climate Forests campaign calls on the Biden administration to uphold its promises and to enact a strong, lasting rule across federal public lands that protects mature and old-growth trees and forests from logging and allows the recovery of old-growth forests that have been lost. We know that these forests are essential to removing climate pollution from the atmosphere and storing carbon, safeguarding wildlife, and providing

clean drinking water for our communities. Scientists tell us the temperate rainforests of the Pacific Northwest even store more carbon per acre than tropical rainforests.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT: climate-forests.org

TAKE ACTION! GO TO:

cascwild.org

Click on Get Involved, then Take Action to

Tell President Biden — U.S. Climate Strategy Must Protect Forests

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT CASCADIA WILDLANDS

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION THROUGH YOUR EMPLOYER

Did you know that thousands of employers will match employee donations? We just set up *Double Your Donation* to facilitate this opportunity. Use our search tool to see if your employer qualifies, then make a donation today!

To Find Out:

- Visit our website CascWild.org
- Click on Ways to Give, found at the top of our homepage menu
- then, choose from the drop down Will Work Match Your Donation?

GIVE WITH AMAZON PURCHASES

Many of us find ourselves on Amazon.com these days. If you do too, there's a free way to support Cascadia Wildlands. Signing up is easy and you only need to do it once. Then start all future shopping from **smile.amazon.com** and a portion of eligible purchases will be donated directly to us.

How to Set Up AmazonSmile:

- Visit smile.amazon.com, and then sign in to your Amazon account
- Choose our organization by searching for "Cascadia Wildlands"
- Start shopping and bookmark smile.amazon.com for next time!
- You'll know you have it set up when you see "Cascadia Wildlands" under the Amazon search bar.

TOPOGRAPHICAL PRINTS OF ICONIC PLACES IN CASCADIA

We've partnered with business supporter *Map Your Adventure* to offer prints of Cascadia's iconic mountains, waterways and wilderness areas. Created using the highest resolution data available, they are hyper-precise and often more accurate than a GPS app. Printed on high-quality matte paper and available in several different sizes, framed or not. Your purchase of a print of the Rogue River, volcanoes of the Cascades, or any other wild place listed on our site, will support Cascadia Wildlands.

Check it Out:

- Visit our website CascWild.org
- Click on Ways to Give (top-right of the main menu)
- Choose **Online Shop Map Your Adventure** (at the bottom of the drop down)



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. No 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.

ENDOWMENT FUND GIVING with 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 a specified number of years, while obtaining an income or estate tax benefit. At passing, funds are gifted to Cascadia Wildlands.

Learn more/get started, contact:

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- Legislation Would Protect Many Cascadia Rivers

SPRING/SUMMER what's inside?

THANK YOU!

for being a part of our Cascadian movement

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