SUCCESS BEGETS NEW OPPORTUNITY

Cobbling together the annual report (July-June activities) each year provides an opportunity to assess the progress of Cascadia Wildlands’ conservation and administrative goals, review the obstacles encountered and mistakes made, tweak systems, and reflect on how far we have come as an organization.

Like many budding non-profits, we didn’t start with much. I’m reminded of the late 1990s when we were housed in a shoebox, outfitted with a few colorful Mac clamshells to write timber sale appeals and grant proposals, bounced around logging roads in a beat-up Chevy Blazer, and worked with a shoestring budget to attain our lofty goals. Through trial and error, and by fine tuning systems, we’ve come a long way. You have played a key role in helping us mature into an organization that consistently wins strategic conservation campaigns, stands side-by-side with communities facing systemic racial and environmental injustice, and knows how to have fun amidst the heaviness of each day.

This year was particularly sweet, both in terms of long-fought victories and added organizational capacity. Through focused legal and organizing campaigns spanning 20 years, we were able to finally establish a lasting conservation solution for the embattled 82,500-acre Elliott State Forest in the Oregon Coast Range. Ultimately, SB 1546 was signed into law by Governor Kate Brown to create the Elliott State Research Forest, thereby retaining the forest in public ownership, protecting nearly all of its remaining mature and old-growth forest, establishing a 34,000-acre permanent reserve on its west side, meaningfully incorporating western Oregon tribes into the research, and critically, severing the archaic tie between school funding and old-growth timber receipts on the forest.

This year also saw the final nail in the coffin of the proposed Jordan Cove LNG Project and 232-mile Pacific Connector Pipeline slated for southern Oregon. Tribal interests, old-growth reserves, key salmon waterways and our fragile climate are all the winners with this coalition victory that was 15 years in the making.

And success appears to beget new opportunity for Cascadia Wildlands. We were the proud recipients of an unplanned $500,000 gift from the Evergreen Hill Education Fund that will be leveraged to increase organizational capacity in the coming years. It has facilitated a move into a larger office to accommodate our growing staff and legal internship program. Next year, we will be offering two, two-year fellowships — one for added legal capacity, and one to enhance our communications program. The gift will also be used to invest in our existing, stellar staff to ensure we keep them supported and around for the long haul, and to acquire a high-clearance, electric truck for field checking.

We remain incredibly grateful for your involvement in Cascadia Wildlands, and for helping us mature as an organization to achieve these kinds of landmark victories and developments.

Onward into our next year!

Mission

CASCADIA WILDLANDS DEFENDS AND RESTORES CASCADIA’S WILD ECOSYSTEMS IN THE FORESTS, IN THE COURTS, AND IN THE STREETS.

We envision vast old-growth forest, rivers full of wild salmon, wolves howling in the backcountry, a stable climate, and vibrant communities sustained by the unique landscapes of the Cascadia bioregion.

Josh Laughlin
Executive Director
Forest and Watershed Protection

Protecting rainforest watersheds in western Oregon is Cascadia Wildlands’ core motivation and skill set. The stately forests found here are strongholds for imperiled species, like the marbled murrelet and coastal marten, and the river systems flowing through them harbor unique species like steelhead and lamprey. Critically, these temperate rainforests help sustain life on Earth by sequestering and storing incomparable amounts of carbon from the atmosphere to help blunt the effects of climate change.

Highlights from 2021-2022 include:

Helped create the Elliott State Research Forest, which severs the archaic tie linking clearcutting the Elliott’s old-growth forests to public school funding, and enacts a durable conservation solution for this outstanding public forest in the Oregon Coast Range.

Won our federal Endangered Species Act “take” case against a private timber company from clearcutting Benson Ridge, a former parcel of the Elliott State Forest that is home to the threatened marbled murrelet.

Elevated the visibility of the Flat Country timber sale in the headwaters of the fabled McKenzie River as one of the worst Biden administration old-growth timber sales in the country.

Halted the Thurston Hills public lands timber sale outside of Springfield, Oregon for a second time in district court (and likely for good).

Stopped the Willamette National Forest’s plans to clearcut 200-foot-wide corridors along 400 miles of road under the guise of “safety” without any environmental impact analysis in the aftermath of the 2020 Labor Day Fires.

Advanced a suite of federal public lands bills being championed by Rep. Peter DeFazio and Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley that will permanently protect outstanding wildlands and waterways across Oregon, including the lower Rogue River and other famed waterways in the Siskiyou Mountains.

“It makes more sense for us to leverage QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS to Cascadia from our Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) than to make contributions with after-tax dollars. It’s a simple process, and we can use the funds we don’t pay in taxes to increase our donations to this great organization. Cascadia offers a glimmer of light in these challenging times.”

— Pat and Sally Knox
long-time Cascadia Wildlands supporters
Imperiled Species Recovery

Loss of essential habitat and climate change continue to wreak havoc on sensitive species in Cascadia. Our conservation work focuses on stopping ongoing impacts to imperiled species and facilitating their recovery.

Highlights from 2021-2022 include:

Reversed the Trump administration’s removal of 3.4-million acres of designated critical habitat for the threatened northern spotted owl via a coalition lawsuit.

Settled both our Canada lynx and wolverine Endangered Species Act cases, initially brought against the Trump administration. Lynx will remain protected under the ESA, and wolverine will receive another chance for federal safeguards.

Won our lawsuit challenging the Trump administration’s decision to prematurely remove Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves across much of the US, including in western Oregon, western Washington and all of California.

Played a leadership role in the Pacific Wolf Coalition, Oregon Wildlife Coalition and the Oregon Conservation Network to advocate for more wildlife-friendly commissioners and state and federal law and policy to benefit wolves and other threatened species.

“We love and want to preserve the old-growth forests of Oregon. MONTHLY GIVING helps both Cascadia Wildlands and ourselves budget with foresight and gives us satisfaction to know that we are actively participating in preserving these irreplaceable treasures for our direct benefit as visitors and for the well-being of our world.”

— Ernie and Marietta O’Byrne

long-time Cascadia Wildlands supporters

Background image: Wolverine (Gulo gulo) adult in the Rocky Mountains of Montana. Captive animal (photo by Daniel J. Cox/NaturalExposures.com).
Climate Defense

Our work to protect wildlands and waterways and recover jeopardized species will be all for naught if we do not arrest runaway climate change. That is why Cascadia Wildlands confronts new fossil fuel infrastructure, champions electrification and a just transition off of fossil fuels, and espouses the mantra “forest defense is climate defense.”

Highlights from 2021-2022 include:

Stopped the Jordan Cove LNG Project and 232-mile Pacific Connector Pipeline from being authorized in southwest Oregon. The climate-killing project is officially dead after nearly 15 years of coalition organizing and legal advocacy.

Put pressure on the Biden administration to protect old-growth forests, which led to two Earth Day executive orders calling for an inventory of our nation’s remaining mature and old-growth forests and development of a strategy for best conserving them as a hedge against climate change.

Co-led Fossil Free Eugene, a coalition of environmental, tenant’s rights, public health and racial and climate justice organizations working to mandate all-electric residential construction in Eugene beginning in January 2023 and facilitate a just transition for low-income and historically marginalized communities through electrification home retrofits. We moved the Eugene City Council steps closer to adopting the state’s first residential electrification ordinance.

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 Fidelity (DTC #: 0226) in Eugene to facilitate stock donations. Our account number is: Z40191931.

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.

DONATE CRYPTOCURRENCY: If you own crypto, you can help Cascadia’s Wildlands’ mission by donating it. The process is fast and secure, and donating crypto allows you to enjoy the tax savings on the gains.

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.

TO LEARN MORE OR GET STARTED, PLEASE CONTACT:
Executive Director, Josh Laughlin
541.434.1463 jlaughlin@cascwild.org
CASCADIA WILDLANDS’ EIN: 93-1293019

“For the past several years we have donated APPRECIATED STOCK to Cascadia Wildlands. We have found it an ideal way to support an organization we believe in, while also offering us several tax advantages.”

— Ann and Mark Hinnen, long-time Cascadia Wildlands supporters

Background image: Visit fossilfreeeugene.com for free, local delivery of a Fossil Free Eugene or Fossil Free Future yard sign (photo by Fossil Free Eugene).
DEVELOPING OUR LEGAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

With the generous backing of the Evergreen Hill Education Fund, we fortified our legal internship/externship program, attracting some of the brightest environmental law students in the region. In addition to assisting with our deep caseload, we are helping create the next generation of public interest environmental attorneys through the mentorship of our three attorneys on staff. We were blessed to have the following join us this year:

1 Natalie Gillard
   University of Oregon School of Law

2 Kara Parker
   Lewis & Clark Law School

3 Maddie Reese
   University of Oregon School of Law

4 Victoria Whalen
   University of Oregon School of Law

DOWN BY THE RIVER: SUMMER SOIREE & AUCTION

After all the last 2.5 years brought, it was exhilarating to reconnect with 225 Cascadians at our June 25 Down by the River: Summer Soirée and Auction at Mt. Pisgah. We were treated to the outstanding music of the Ric Robertson Band, featuring Sam Grisman and Tyler Neal, a scrumptious catered taco bar by our friends at Pandita, a welcome cocktail by Thinking Tree Spirits, a welcome mocktail by Mountain Rose Herbs, and a special-release benefit beer by The Wheel — Down River Pilsner.

Due to the generosity of business donors, attendees, and sponsors, we raised $87,000 to support the protection of Cascadia’s big trees, clean water and imperiled species. This total includes $9,800 raised for Planned Parenthood of Southwest Oregon’s patient access fund just one day after the Supreme Court’s abominable Dobbs decision overturning the constitutional right to bodily autonomy was issued.

Big thanks to our generous event sponsors who helped make the event possible: premier event sponsor Mountain Rose Herbs, The Wheel Apizza Pub, Pandita, Pedal Power Music, Doak Creek Native Plant Nursery, Thinking Tree Spirits, Opine Cellars, Hyphae Wellness, Tao Gardens, Tacovore, WildCraft Cider Works, and BNF Kombucha and Jun.

Thank You Soiée Sponsors!
WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE ALL THE INDIVIDUALS, FAMILY AND ADVISED FUNDS, BUSINESSES, AND FOUNDATIONS THAT SUPPORT OUR WORK.

Together, we are able to work toward a more sustainable and equitable future with vast old-growth forests, rivers full of wild salmon, wolves howling in the backcountry, a stable climate, and vibrant communities sustained by the unique landscapes of the Cascadia bioregion.

BUSINESSES While we can’t name them all, we are indebted to the following businesses for their incredible partnership.

Alesong Brewing & Blending
Andrew Kumer Photography
Backcountry Gear, Ltd.
Barking Mad Farm & B&B
BNF Kombucha & Jun
Buffalo Exchange
Caddis Fly Angling Shop
Café Mam
Cameron and Company
Capella Market
Coconut Bliss
Deep Woods Distillery
Doak Creek Native Plant Nursery
Elevate Kombucha
Elk Store
Falling Sky Brewing
Hyphae Wellness
Kiva Grocery
Klink Cycles
Lane United Football Club
Medicine Flower
Mississippi Studios
Moody Trout Guided Fishing
Morning Glory Cafe
MPTX Associates
Ninkasi Brewing Company
Northwest Garden Nursery
Northwest String Summit
Oakshire Brewing
Opine Cellars
Orca Adventure Lodge
Oregon Cliff House
Out on a Limb Gallery
Pandita
Patagonia
Pedal Power Music
Provisions Market Hall
Renaissance Remodeling & Restoration
River Jewelry
River Vista Vacation Homes
SeQuential Biofuels
Signature Surfaces NW
South Passage Outfitters
Sperry Tree Care
Steamboat Inn
SugarTop Buddery
Sundance Natural Foods
Tacovore
Tao Gardens
The Wheel Apizza Pub & Brewery
Thinking Tree Spirits
TJ’s Organic Provisions
Uncommon Scents
Wet Planet Whitewater
Wicked Kind
WildCraft Cider Works

FOUNDATIONS Our work would not be possible without the support of the following grant-making foundations over the past few years.

Acme Bader Community Fund of Oregon Community Foundation
Anne K. Millis Fund of Oregon Community Foundation
Aria Foundation
The Burning Foundation
Dayton Foundation
Deer Creek Foundation
Dillard Foundation
Elliequa Fund of Oregon Community Foundation
Evergreen Hill Education Fund of Oregon Community Foundation
Further Foundation
Guacamole Fund
Horowitz Family Foundation
Howard E. & Mildred M. Kyle Charitable Fund of the Dayton Foundation
Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation
Jill Heiman Vision Fund of Oregon Community Foundation
Jubitz Family Foundation
Larson Family Fund
Lazar Foundation
Leotta Gordon Foundation
Lush Charity Pot
Mark Frohmayer Fund of Oregon Community Foundation
Macomson Family Charitable Fund of Oregon Community Foundation
Meyer Memorial Trust
MillsDavis Foundation
Oregon Community Foundation
Patagonia
Rex Foundation
Suwinski Family Foundation
Towhee Fund of Oregon Community Foundation
Wilburforce Foundation
Winky Foundation
Zuniga Forbes Family Fund of Oregon Community Foundation

“As a BUSINESS OWNER with a background working in politics and public policy, I consider Cascadia Wildlands to be the pinnacle of non-profit work for social and environmental justice. Their successful grassroots efforts to protect the Cascadia bioregion is inspiring, which is why Hyphae Wellness and Tao Gardens will always support this incredible team.”

— Geoff Ostrove
Hyphae Wellness / Tao Gardens