

# CASCADIA REVIEW

## Biden Issues Mature and Old-Growth Forest Executive Order

Yet Reckless Timber Sales Still Being Pushed Forward

by Madeline Cowen, *Grassroots and Digital Organizer*



On Earth Day earlier this year, President Biden signed an executive order *Strengthening the Nation's Forests, Communities, and Local Economies*, marking an unprecedented step in the right direction toward permanent protections for carbon-rich, mature and old-growth forests on public lands to help blunt climate change. Yet, the administration's US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have continued with business as usual, pushing

forward egregious timber sales targeting remaining older forests on federal public land.

Among the worst is the proposed Flat Country timber sale on Oregon's Willamette National Forest. This proposal — a holdover from the Trump administration that the Biden administration has yet to withdraw — proposes logging over 5,000 acres, including "regenerating"...

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# Confronting the New Stain on Our Democracy

by Josh Laughlin, *Executive Director*



On June 24th, a day before our long-anticipated, in-person gathering "Down by the River: Summer Soirée and Auction," the Supreme Court issued its *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision, revoking the constitutional right to a safe and legal abortion and foreshadowing other abominable things to come.

Given the magnitude of the ruling, Cascadia Wildlands hit pause on our event planning, assessed and conferred, and made the decision to proceed with the event with a pivot.

In addition to raising revenue for Cascadia Wildlands' work to protect big trees, imperiled species and clean water on the 25th, we partnered with one of our local reproductive healthcare providers and added a special pitch for Planned Parenthood of Southwest Oregon. Soirée guests rose to the challenge,

and together we raised \$9,800 for the organization's access fund, which will allow in-need patients to travel to Oregon for services from trigger law states, like neighboring Idaho.

Justice Thomas' concurring opinion in *Dobbs* revealed what other constitutional protections may be next up on the Court's chopping block: the right to contraception, same-sex intimacy, and same-sex marriage. (Ironically, he didn't mention interracial marriage.) Reading it felt like a gut punch and decades of progress toward equality undone by an unaccountable court denying the will of the people.

Shortly after *Dobbs*, we got what we knew was coming: the Court's decision in *West Virginia v. Environmental*

## Supreme Court Destroys Its Own Legitimacy

*Cascadia Wildlands' 6/24/22 Statement on the Overturning of Roe v. Wade*

The decisions from the Supreme Court this week demonstrate that the court is no longer a neutral arbiter wedded to the Constitution, but instead is an arm of the minority extreme right-wing intent on removing rights and defying the will of the people. As an organization that has long used the law as a tool for good in our work to defend and restore Cascadia's wild places and wildlife, we are appalled by the recent dangerous decisions from the Supreme Court and deeply concerned about what will come next. We know that marginalized communities in our country will bear the brunt of the malicious impacts of these opinions.

For the first time in history, the court stripped the people of a Constitutional right, denying bodily autonomy to half of Americans. This dangerous trend includes a decision, expected any day, that may destroy the government's ability to regulate the causes of climate change. The language in the decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* imperils other fundamental rights as well: the right to marry who you love regardless of race or gender identity, and access to contraception.

We add our voices to the chorus of advocates calling for immediate changes both to codify reproductive freedoms and to address and remedy the politicization of the court. Our future — the health of individuals and the planet — depends on such actions.

*Protection Agency*, which handcuffs the agency's ability to regulate climate-killing carbon emissions in the power sector. The decision is like telling the Fish and Wildlife Service that it is not allowed to quantify the loss of endangered species habitat or individual populations. As you can imagine, we are watching this one closely.

To think this Court is an impartial arbiter of justice is laughable, and while we can't control who is on this bench

now, we can dictate how we respond to its horrid opinions and the alliances we build in response. Particularly, we can build power at the local and state level so that human rights and just policies are enshrined in ways immune to the Supreme Court's reach. Thank you for standing strong with us during this unfathomable time.



Josh Laughlin  
Executive Director

## CRITTER CORNER



Juvenile northern spotted owl in the Willamette National Forest (photo by James Johnston).

### Northern Spotted Owl

(*Strix occidentalis caurina*)

Curious and friendly, with plumes of chocolate brown containing messy rows of white spots, this owl the size of an upright mailbox has become the most iconic critter to symbolize tensions found in Cascadia's forests. As an indicator species, their presence means a western Cascade forest is healthy and meeting their habitat needs: mature and old-growth forests that include large snags for nesting, high canopies for protection from predators (including barred owls), and large down wood for prey base habitat.

However, the northern spotted owl's habitat has been long degraded through a century of industrial logging, and their population continues to decline due to ongoing habitat loss through logging, severe wildfire and barred owl competition. Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections were first granted in 1990, yet advocates and scientists continue to speculate whether survival of this unique species is possible.

**Diet:** At nightfall, northern spotted owls come alive. Perching on a large branch of a gnarled, ancient Douglas fir tree, they use their expert night vision and pounce on prey with sharp talons. They will catch an array of small critters including woodrats, flying squirrels, red tree voles, and sometimes small invertebrates, reptiles, or birds.



# Tell the World "I Like It Wild"

## New Cascadia Swag Has Arrived!

by Kaley CoslowSauer, *Design and Events Director*

Do you like it wild and want to show off some cool threads at the same time? We've got you covered!

Now is the time to stock up on Cascadia Wildlands koozies, t-shirts, tank tops, and sweatshirt in the Cascadia Wildlands office located at 120 Shelton McMurfhey Blvd Suite #250 Eugene, OR. Purchases can only be made in-person at the office at this time. Please call the office 541.434.1463 and talk to Martha to arrange your

purchase if you are interested in coming by.

We have spotted owl, gray wolf, red tree vole, and "i like it wild" images available in various colors, styles, and sizes from infant, toddler, youth, and adult XS to 2XL.



## CASCADIA WILDLANDS WELCOMES FALL LEGAL EXTERNS!

Cascadia Wildlands' legal internship and externship program is made possible through the generous support of the Evergreen Hill Education Fund of Oregon Community Foundation.

**Danielle** originally hails from coastal New Jersey, but feels a closer connection to North Carolina where she spent her college years. Danielle earned her B.A. in Environmental Studies from UNC Chapel Hill, spending time both on the coast and in the mountains of NC along the way. Her love for the outdoors generally, and mountain adventures in particular, drew her to the PNW where she started law school at the University of Oregon in 2020. When she isn't buried in textbooks, Danielle can be found running lots of miles, snuggling with her (newly turned 1!) cat, experimenting in the kitchen, or romping through the woods.



Danielle Curtis

**Case** spent most of his childhood in Spokane, Washington. He spent his summers camping and hiking in eastern Washington and lower British Columbia and exploring the Little Spokane River. After high school, Case moved to the Midwest and attended Drake University, receiving a B.S. in computer science and a B.A. in Economics and Data Analysis. Case's love for his home region never left and after graduating he knew he wanted to return to the Pacific Northwest. Case decided to attend law school at the University of Oregon. In his free time Case loves to camp, hike, read and spend time near the ocean.



Case Martin



# Lawsuit Launched to Protect Washington's Wolves

by Nick Cady, *Legal Director*

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has largely done a fine job at prioritizing and recruiting livestock producers into non-lethal programs that aim to prevent wolf-livestock conflict before it begins. While wolf-livestock conflict is relatively rare on the landscape, this non-lethal approach protects livestock from both wolves and numerous other predators, and has been the focus of Cascadia Wildlands' wolf-conservation advocacy since the state first inherited wolf management responsibilities from the federal government. Cascadia Wildlands has been working with the Department for over a decade on prioritizing this non-lethal approach, but Washington's wolf conservation program has one glaring deficiency: none of it is enforceable.

In Oregon, livestock producers are required to use non-lethal efforts to prevent wolf livestock conflict before the state will consider killing wolves that predate on livestock. While not perfect, this approach incentivizes livestock producers to exhaust non-lethal approaches to

prevent conflict because otherwise, the state will not assist. While some livestock producers prioritize these non-lethal approaches regardless, others don't.

Given this dynamic, a problematic pattern has emerged in Washington. Year after year, the same livestock producers demand the state exterminate entire packs of wolves on their behalf, and the Department has consistently obliged. This ongoing culling has stagnated overall population growth in the state.

To encourage these bad actors to meaningfully incorporate non-lethal measures, Cascadia Wildlands has repeatedly filed rulemaking petitions with the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission to require non-lethal programs and make the agency's lethal guidelines pertaining to wolves enforceable. Initially in response to this petition, the agency expended significant taxpayer dollars to facilitate a collaborative approach with the end goal of creating enforceable rules. After several years, no rules were enacted or even meaningfully discussed.



In May of 2020, Cascadia Wildlands and several conservation allies again filed a similar petition before the Commission, which was promptly denied. However, on appeal, Governor Jay Inslee overturned the denial and ordered state wildlife officials to enact wolf management rules. The order instructed the agency to undertake a formal wolf rulemaking process to require the use of nonlethal deterrence measures by livestock operators before authorizing the killing of wolves involved in livestock conflicts.

While the department started this process, in July the state's wildlife commission voted 5-4 not to enact the proposed rules. We believe this violates the Governor's order, and on August 5, 2022, Cascadia Wildlands and our conservation allies filed suit to enforce the order. We are hopeful that this suit will finally close the state's oft-exploited loophole within its wolf conservation program.

# VICTORY Federal Court Rules to Protect Murrelet-Rich Benson Ridge

## Former Parcel of Elliott State Forest Safe from Clearcutting

by Nick Cady, *Legal Director*

For the first time in Oregon's history, on June 28, 2022, a federal court permanently enjoined logging of old-growth forests on private lands in response to an endangered species lawsuit brought by Cascadia Wildlands and our conservation allies.

The case was initially brought in August 2016 when Cascadia Wildlands, the Center for Biological Diversity and Portland Audubon filed a lawsuit in federal court seeking to block Scott Timber from logging Benson Ridge, a 355-acre parcel of mostly old-growth forest and home to the threatened marbled murrelet. The Endangered Species Act strictly prohibits "take" (harm, harassment or killing) of threatened species like the murrelet, which, unlike any other seabird, nests on the wide branches of large, old trees, making a daily trip of up to 35 miles inland to bring fish to its young.

The Benson Ridge parcel was formerly part of the Elliott State Forest, but was acquired by Scott Timber as a part of the state's misguided efforts

to sell the entire Elliott State Forest back in 2014. Prior to Benson Ridge being privatized, volunteer biologists with Coast Range Forest Watch conducted marbled murrelet surveys in the contested parcel and documented extensive nesting behavior in the forest. Their testimony and that of our expert witnesses was critical in the successful ruling.

Cascadia Wildlands challenged a number of Elliott land sales between 2014-2016 in order to keep the much-loved forest open to the public. In 2019, the Oregon Supreme Court ruled in our favor that Oregon's efforts to sell chunks of the Elliott were illegal, and that the state's belief that these lands needed to be managed to maximize revenue were misplaced. However, the Benson Ridge sale was not included in that ruling, and thus this Endangered Species Act suit was necessary to protect the old-growth forests therein.

The court's ruling in our Benson Ridge case gives hope to the multitude of older

forest-dependent species that have been declining in recent years and builds on recent efforts to permanently protect the remainder of the Elliott State Forest. During this past legislative session in Salem, the Elliott State Research Forest was created, forever severing the link between old-growth timber sale receipts from the Elliott and school funding in Oregon.

### **The new research forest:**

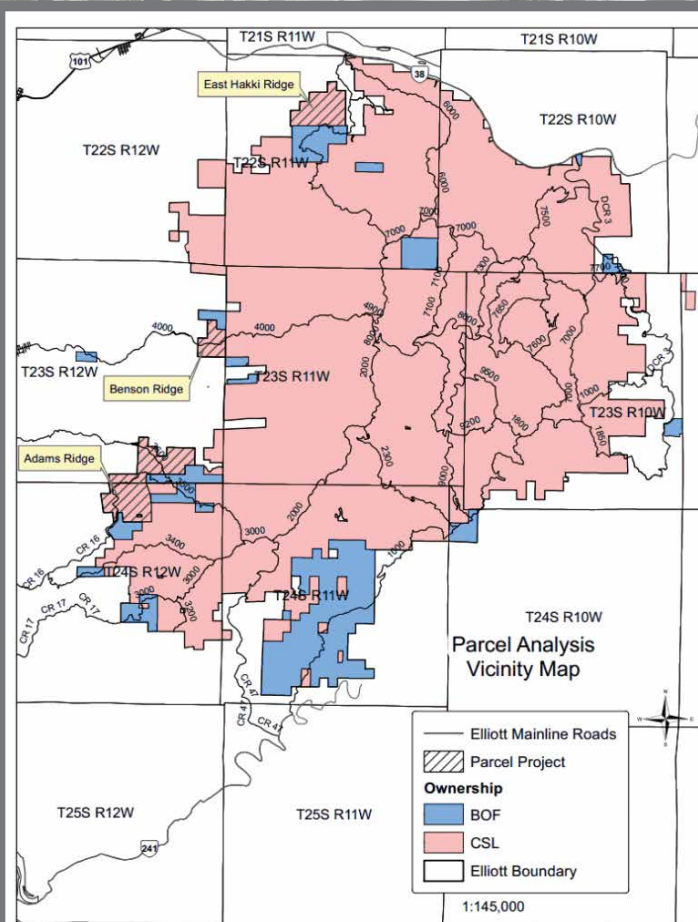
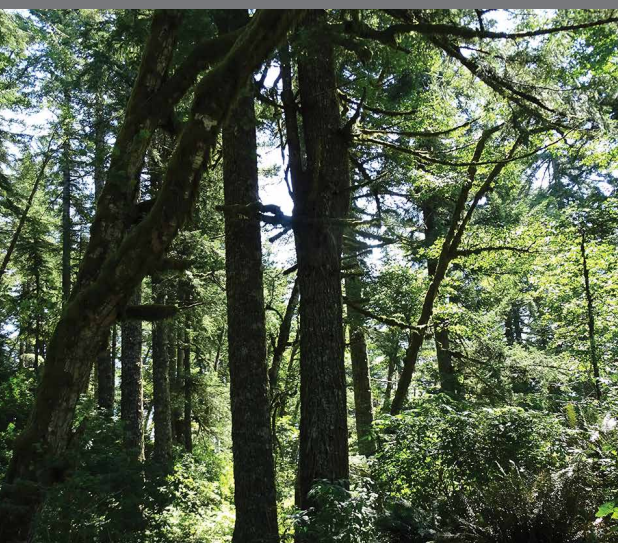
- 1)** retains the forest in public ownership
- 2)** creates a 34,000-acre permanent reserve on the west side of the forest to benefit murrelets and other imperiled species
- 3)** protects nearly all the remaining mature and old-growth forest left on the Elliott
- 4)** meaningfully engages western Oregon tribes in its management.

Cascadia Wildlands and partners continue to work to finalize the foundational documents that will support this new public research forest, which are expected by spring 2023.





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Top and bottom left, show areas within the Benson Ridge parcel (photos by Francis Eatherington). Marbled murrelet on the water where it spends most of its life except for when it nests in old-growth forests (photo by Rick and Nora Bowers).



A photograph of a massive, ancient-looking tree trunk in a lush forest. The bark is deeply furrowed and covered in moss. A person stands to the right of the tree for scale. In the background, a sign is visible on a smaller tree.

**Let's Stop the Fl  
Timber Sale To**

FOXES  
DEFENSE  
DEFENSE





# Flat Country together!

Madeline Cowen, Grassroots and Digital Organizer, field checking the pending Trump-era “Flat Country” timber sale in Oregon’s Willamette National Forest. The vast majority of the proposed logging in this sale would be in mature and old-growth forests with over 1,000 acres of clear-cut style logging, even though President Biden this year ordered his administration to prioritize conserving these forests as a crucial climate protection.

Within the Flat Country sale are the headwaters of the McKenzie River, which flows down from the Cascade Mountains to provide fresh drinking water to hundreds of thousands of residents in Oregon’s Willamette Valley. In addition to the benefits this old forest provides for clean water, clean air, and wildlife, this is a special place for outdoor enthusiasts across Oregon (photo by Andrew Kumler).



# Down by the River: Summer Soirée and Auction at Mt. Pisgah a Smashing Success

by Kaley CoslowSauer, *Design and Events Director*

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. It was an exciting and wildly successful event as we congregated safely in the open air, celebrated recent victories, and reconnected with one another on the banks of the Coast Fork Willamette River. We were treated to the outstanding music of the Ric Robertson Band, featuring Ric Robertson, Sam Grisman and Tyler Neal, a scrumptious catered taco bar by our friends at Pandita, a welcome cocktail by Thinking Tree Spirits and mocktail by Mountain Rose Herbs, and a special-release benefit craft beer by The Wheel Apizza Pub — Down River Pilsner. You can check out our photo album and short video of the event by SpringFed Media on our Facebook page.

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 Soirée Donors!

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# Eugene Leads Oregon in Electrification Efforts

## Fossil Free Eugene Advancing through City Council

by Bethany Cotton, *Conservation Director*

In July, the Eugene City Council passed four motions moving forward efforts to enliven the City's Climate Action Plan and facilitate a just transition from fossil fuel dependency in homes and businesses. The motions include one directing staff to draft ordinance language to mandate that all new homes be constructed 100% electric by June 1, 2023; a second advancing conversations to transition new commercial and industrial construction to require all electric; and a third directing the City Manager to formalize Eugene's goal of electrifying all existing residential and commercial buildings by 2035.

The votes came as the City of Eugene – along with much of Cascadia – sweltered in triple digit temperatures, the latest climate-fueled heat wave to strike the Northwest where access to cooling in homes remains low. In addition to cutting climate pollution, electrifying homes using highly-efficient electric appliances like heat pumps, which also provide affordable cooling, will also boost household resilience in the face of extreme heat.

This autumn the city will hold another work session on the residential electrification ordinance and then the Council will vote. These developments are very timely as the State of Oregon is about to roll out a \$25-million-dollar subsidy program for high-efficiency heat pump installation. The recently passed federal Inflation Reduction Act also includes a suite of subsidies, rebates and tax incentives for home electrification and weatherization, including up to \$10,000 toward installing a home heat pump. Homeowners nationwide are eligible, with some of the subsidies already available and others coming online in 2023.

In addition to voting to advance ambitious targets for electrifying homes and build-

ings, the City Council also voted to direct the City Manager to return to the city with a public engagement plan regarding the transition of existing buildings to all electric, focused on social, environmental and economic equity. To effectively serve the low-income communities and communities of color that are most burdened by fossil fuel pollution, high energy bills, and the climate crisis, Eugene's policy framework for transitioning existing homes to run on 100% clean energy must be developed in partnership with local community leaders. Having this plan include educating local landlords and homeowners about the available subsidies and incentives and facilitating easy access to those programs will be essential.



# Connecting with Cascadians at the Oregon Country Fair and Northwest String Summit

by Kaley CoslowSauer, *Design and Events Director*

After over two years without public events, we were incredibly excited to have connected with so many supporters this summer. We had a truly magical time on Strawberry Lane at the Oregon Country Fair in Veneta, Oregon! From July 8-10 we painted wolf and owl faces and connected with hundreds of people who learned about how to help stop the Forest Service's reckless Flat Country timber sale adjacent to the Mt. Washington Wilderness, and connect with gray wolf recovery efforts in the region.

Then, from July 21-24 we tabled at the 20th annual, and final, Northwest String Summit at Horning's Hideout west of Portland in the Coast Range. At this bluegrass mecca tucked into the forest, we painted more wolf and owl faces than we can count, engaged festivalgoers in playing "Stop the Chop" (old-growth forest logging) giant Jenga, and connected with so many others in how they can get involved in protecting old-growth forests on public land from logging! All told, we added 170 new contacts into our database, which we will plug in to help us keep it wild in Cascadia.

Following two summers of little face-to-face outreach, we had so much fun this summer. Be sure to check out photos from both events on our Facebook page and consider connecting with our volunteer WildCATs (Cascadia Action Team) to get plugged in.

Learn more about  
becoming a WildCAT at

[CascWild.org](https://cascwild.org)



Some of the many smiling faces that we met at Northwest String Summit and the Oregon Country Fair (photos by Cascadia Wildlands).



...(read: clearcutting with retention trees) 1,000 acres of old-growth forest. The proposal area is in the headwaters of the McKenzie River watershed, which provides drinking water to Eugene, Springfield, and a host of smaller communities, and the project is critical habitat for the imperiled northern spotted owl and bull trout.

Despite vocal opposition from Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and renowned forest scientists Drs. Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin, the Forest Service continues to advance its plans to log the area.

Cascadia Wildlands and partners recently sent a formal letter to the Forest Service asking the agency to account for the recent Biden administration executive order and the impact the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire had on the watershed. If the administration fails to withdraw the timber sale, we are prepared to litigate this illegal project.

Timber sales proposed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in western Oregon are just as egregious. The N126 timber sale in the Coast Range north of Walton is one of the largest logging proposals on

public lands in Oregon in decades. The project would aggressively log a whopping 14,227 acres of Late-Successional Reserve ("LSR") lands — these are areas supposedly set aside for older forest dependent species. Volunteer WildCAT field checking trips have invalidated the agency's claim that much of the forest is uniform young plantations in need of thinning by documenting extensive, fire-resilient old growth throughout. In May, Cascadia Wildlands and partners filed suit against the project to protect the older forest habitat and encourage the BLM to advance genuine restoration thinning in the reserve's young, homogenous plantations.

Federal agencies should instead work in collaboration with the public as the Forest Service did with the Quartzville-Middle Santiam timber sale east of Salem in the Willamette National Forest. After extensive back and forth with the agency and several field checking trips with the local chapter of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, the Forest Service listened to our arguments and ultimately dropped all proposed logging in mature forest stands. The agency seemingly recognized that these existing older forests

would not benefit from commercial logging. Science-based field checking and mobilizing our base into action greatly assisted with this outcome, and it is our hope that the agencies continue down this path with their forest management proposals in the future.

**TO LEARN MORE, VISIT:**

[CascWild.org](https://CascWild.org)

### Final Nail in The Coffin for the Thurston Hills Timber Sale?

Cascadia Wildlands has once again ended the Bureau of Land Management's plans to clearcut the recreation area in the Thurston Hills on the edge of Springfield. In July, the agency finally dismissed its appeal of Cascadia Wildlands and Oregon Wild's second consecutive legal victory over this reckless proposal due to impacts the clearcutting would have had on the mountain biking trails proposed for the area. We are now encouraging the agency to move forward with the construction of the much-anticipated trail system that would connect to existing trails in the Thurston Hills administered by Willamalane.

# 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 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 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, 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.

**Learn more/get started, contact:**  
Josh Laughlin, Executive Director

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jlaughlin@cascwild.org

CASCADIA WILDLANDS'  
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CascWild Merch Available

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FALL/WINTER

what's  
inside?

**THANK YOU!**  
for being a part of our Cascadian movement



Cascadia Wildlands and colleagues at KS Wild, Rogue Riverkeeper, and Western Environmental Law Center had a memorable day in August on the lower Rogue River with Rep. Peter DeFazio and his staff. The retiring Congressman is working to advance the Wild Rogue Conservation and Recreation Enhancement Act across the finish line before he leaves office. The legislation would add an additional 59,000 acres to the Wild Rogue Wilderness and create the 98,000-acre Lower Rogue National Conservation Area to protect this outstanding watershed for generations to come (photo by Cascadia Wildlands).