CASCADIA REVIEW

City of Eugene Adopts Residential Electrification Ordinance

Fossil Free Eugene Victory Sets Precedent for Oregon and Draws Backlash from Gas Industry

by Bethany Cotton, Conservation Director



In early February, Eugene became the first Oregon community, and joined nearly 100 municipalities across the US and the state of Washington, in adopting a building electrification policy. The city's ordinance requires new low-level residential construction be all-electric. Electrification is one of the policies available at various levels of government to meet climate goals, like Eugene's Climate Recovery Ordinance (CRO), which pledges to reduce fossil fuel use in the city by 50% of 2010 levels by 2030.

Electrification also has public health benefits because gas stoves and other gas appliances are notorious for leaking and contribute to dangerous indoor air pollution even when used properly with a hood vent. Recent peer-reviewed science shows 1 in 8 cases of childhood asthma in the U.S. is directly attributed to gas use in the home. These health impacts are disproportionately born by BIPOC and low-income communities.



If you prefer to have the *Cascadia Review* emailed to you, send us a message at info@cascwild.org or give us a call 541.434.1463 requesting the change.

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It's All About the Climate

In 2019 during a strategic planning retreat, Cascadia Wildlands staff and board added "a stable climate" to our vision statement to read: "We envision 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."

In the years leading up to that 2019 effort, it had become evidently clear to the organization that if we didn't do our part to better address the root causes of runaway climate change, our work to recover the imperiled species, waterways and landscapes of Cascadia would be all for naught. Afterall, we know climate change is negatively impacting snowpack in our region, and if we don't have cold, consistent water from snowmelt in the creeks, we lose the salmon, right?

This recognition is largely why we helped create Fossil



Free Eugene, which is a coalition of grassroots, social and racial justice organizations calling on the City of Eugene to follow through with the climate goals that it set for itself, and forge a just transition away from fossil fuels. Perhaps you heard that on February 6 Eugene made history by adopting a first-in-the-state climate policy to require new, low-rise residential construction be all-electric (see cover story).

Similarly, our work to protect mature and old-growth forests is not just about for the habitat, clean water, and recreational values they offer but also for the enormous climate change mitigation function they provide. The stately rainforests of Cascadia



are the most powerful forested ecosystems on Earth at sequestering and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere thereby helping mitigate climate change at no cost. When cut down, much of that stored carbon is released into the atmosphere, exacerbating the climate change and habitat loss crisis that we are facing.

We remain optimistic about a potential policy solution presented by the Biden administration's Executive Order on Mature and Old-growth Forests announced during Earth Day 2022. Cascadia Wildlands is working in coalition to highlight the threats to our older public forest and leverage this opportunity to create lasting policy to

permanently protect our remining mature and old-growth forests here in Cascadia. Forest Defense is Climate Defense!

Strategic planning is coming around again for Cascadia Wildlands. You can bet our work ahead will continue to look through the climate justice lens as we set organizational goals and build out campaign plans in the coming months and years.

Thank you for your long-time support and helping Cascadia Wildlands realize our vision as we push onward!

Josh Laughlin Executive Director



CRITTER CORNER



Black-backed woodpecker (photo by Nick Athanas).

Black-backed Woodpecker

(Picoides arcticus)

After the flames of a wildfire settle and the smoke begins to clear, life returns to the forest, and all that decaying, dead wood is perfect for big, wood-boring beetles. But not all larvae will make it to adulthood: many of those squiggly beetles-to-be will become a delicious meal for the black-backed woodpecker, who is fully equipped to chow down.

Contrary to most woodpeckers, the black-backed have three-toed talons (as opposed to four) that allow them to lean back farther to then achieve maximum pecking strength. They often forage on charred tree trunks, where their dark plumage helps them blend in remarkably well.

Although tricky to spot, you can identify these birds by their jet-black feathers with a sharp white stripe on their black faces. Some scientists point to their camouflage adaptation as evidence that severe forest fires have been shaping this species' evolution for millennia.

FAST FACTS:

- length: 9.1 in (23 cm)
- weight: 2.1–3.1 oz (60–88 g)
- wingspan: 15.8–16.5 in (40–42 cm)
- a fresh nest is drilled each year into the sapwood of dead trees
- adult male plumage has a yellow cap

Welcome Summer 2023 Legal Interns!

With the generous backing of the Evergreen Hill Education Fund of Oregon Community Foundation, we welcome our summer 2023 law clerks and are excited about helping build the next generation of public interest environmental attorneys.



Elissa is a second-year law student at the University of Oregon. She grew up in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in Northern California and graduated with a degree in politics from Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa. Elissa then worked on nuclear disarmament and progressive foreign policy issues before pursuing a public interest environmental law degree that will enable her to achieve the kind of positive impact she wants to make on people's daily lives and the planet.



Kelsey was born and raised in Seattle but has called the Portland area home for the last ten years. Growing up near Puget Sound instilled a lifelong love of forests, mountains, and saltwater. After several years working in outdoor recreation, Kelsey developed an interest in public lands and environmental policy. She especially enjoys helping fellow recreationists nurture their relationship with natural areas and encouraging them to become advocates. Her affinity for forest ecosystems eventually drew her to Lewis & Clark Law School, where she is a second-year student studying environmental law.



Andy grew up in Bend, Oregon, where he was inspired by the natural beauty of Cascadia from an early age. He spent his childhood fly fishing on the Deschutes River and skiing in the Cascade Mountain Range. His passion for the outdoors led him to the University of Oregon where he studied Environmental Science. He then worked in the fly fishing industry, connecting with anglers and wild fish around the globe before returning to the University of Oregon as a law student in 2022. When he isn't in the library, you can find Andy fly fishing, rafting, or camping somewhere in Oregon.

Flat Country Timber Sale Withdrawn!

Years of Tenacious Community Opposition Played a Huge Role

by Madeline Cowen, Grassroots Organizer

In May of 2018, the Willamette National Forest first proposed the egregious Flat Country timber sale, located on the traditional lands of the Molalla, Kalapuya and other indigenous peoples who've lived, traded and traveled on these lands since time immemorial. The sale would have aggressively logged 2,000 acres of older forests, which provide important imperiled species habitat and clean drinking water to hundreds of thousands of residents in the Willamette Valley. Astonished by its blatant targeting of carbon-rich, mature and old-growth forests, our community came together and began what would turn

into a five-year rumble.

From field checking every unit in the massive sale, writing opinion articles and letters to the editor, growing public awareness through community-centered events, like the 100-person flotilla on the McKenzie River and the robust Deep Roots: Trainings for Forest and Climate Action series, writing substantive comments to the Forest Service, hanging a banner across Highway 126, sending legal memos to the agency, rallying at the Forest Service's doorstep and everything in between... advocates, community members and rabble rousers unleashed a flurry of

tactics to protect this unique area.

And on December 29, 2022, we received promising news: The U.S. Forest Service withdrew the Flat Country timber sale. While the agency cited incompatibility with the Biden administration's Earth Day 2022 Executive Order, we know the withdrawal was also due to the years of tenacious advocacy from our members, feisty WildCATs, and supporters like you! We expect to see this timber sale resurface in the future, and we will work to ensure there is no mature and old-growth logging component to it. Stay tuned!



Oakridge Gravel Mine Dead, for Now

TV Butte Proposal Struck Down by Oregon Court of Appeals

by Josh Laughlin, Executive Director

Old Hazeldell Quarry, LLC's plan to blow up TV Butte, located on the edge of Oakridge, is dead. For now.

On December 7, 2022 the Oregon Court of Appeals struck down the applicant's mining plans, citing significant impacts blasting and industrial operations would have on resident deer and elk herds. Then on February 21, 2023, on remand, the Land Use Board of Appeals agreed with the higher court's decision, and put this proposal to bed.

Ed King III, owner of King Estate Winery and investor in Old Hazeldell Quarry, LLC has been pushing this ill-advised mine since 2015. Its impacts would be significant: 1) Silica dust from blasting and gravel crushing would exacerbate Oakridge's already serious air pollution problem, 2) a former Native American village and burial site would be desecrated, and 3) an important calving area for a local elk herd would be destroyed, among other issues, such as excessive noise, truck traffic and groundwater contamination.

Widespread community opposition to the gravel mine dates back years, and in 2021, both Oakridge and nearby Westfir's city councils unanimously opposed the proposal as bad for livability and the tourism-based economy of the area. Business leaders have also chastised the proposal as incompatible with the trajectory of the community.

"We are deeply relieved to not

be facing mountaintop removal mining on Oakridge's iconic skyline," says McKenzie Bowerman of the Oakridge Bike Shop. "It is contrary to the hard work we have done to support this beautiful recreational hub enjoyed by outdoor enthusiasts."

For the mining proposal to proceed, the applicant would need to restart the permitting process through Lane County.

In addition to Cascadia Wildlands, petitioners in the case included Save TV Butte, LandWatch Lane County, Linda McMahon, Tim Caughlin, Keegan Coughlin, Jenny Caughlin, Kevin Matthews, Michael Garvin, and Patricia Beard, and were represented by attorney Sean Malone of Eugene.



The Bureau of Land Management's New Bad Boy Timber Sale

The 42 Divide Project West of Roseburg Threatens a Unique Coastal Rainforest

by Madeline Cowen, Grassroots Organizer

In addition to timber sales like the N126 Project directly west of Eugene and its neighboring Siuslaw HLB (Harvest Land Base), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has tacked on another egregious landscape-wide timber sale in Oregon's Coast Range. The 42 Divide Project is in the Umpqua and Coquille River watersheds west of Roseburg, and spans a unique area where the Coast Range meets the Siskiyou Mountains. This temperate, low-elevation project area includes magnificent, mature and old-growth stands boasting old-growth Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, and rare sugar pine forests that support rich species diversity and cold, clear headwater streams essential for runs of salmon. steelhead and other imperiled

aquatic species.

As part of the 42 Divide Project, the Roseburg BLM proposes logging 5,280 acres, including clearcutting and commercial thinning on 1,728 acres, and building an extensive network of logging roads. Trees up to 200 years old are targeted for logging, and the project includes some of the most intensive tree removal that the BLM allows.

Science has shown us that logging mature forests removes the trees most resilient to wildfire and climate change, and deprives the forest of standing dead and downed wood, essential elements of a healthy forest, and degrades water quality. The BLM has refused to

correct mapping and inventory errors that mischaracterize areas of mature and old-growth forests. This has led the BLM to propose logging trees that are much older than the agency claims.

In November 2021 the BLM announced it was developing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project, so the Cascadia Action Team (Wild-CAT) has been out in the field regularly, collecting data, photos and getting to know the area. In response to the forthcoming EA, Cascadia Wildlands will advocate for the agency to undertake lighter-touch, restoration thinning in dense, second-growth stands younger than 80 years. Get involved by connecting with WildCAT!







WHAT YOU CAN DO

You can help protect forests in the proposed 42 Divide timber sale from logging by making a quick phone call today.

We need to make sure that the Biden administration takes the strongest possible action to keep these forests standing.

> Call the White House and let them know that our older forests are worth more standing.

Please make a phone call today!

Call The White House comment line: 202-456-1111

Threatened ecosystems like those in the Bureau of Land Management's 42 Divide project are actively storing vast amounts of carbon, providing precious habitat for imperiled species, and ensuring communities have clean drinking water and recreational opportunities.

Old-growth in the 42 Divide timber sale (photo by Cascadia Wildlands).

Habitat Conservation Plans Advancing for Western Oregon State Forestlands and the Newly Created Elliott State Research Forest

by Grace Brahler, Wildlands Director

The Oregon Department of Forestry is advancing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), crafted with substantial public input, to comply with the federal Endangered Species Act by protecting habitat for imperiled fish and wildlife across more than 600,000 acres of state-managed public forest in western Oregon. Upon approval by federal agencies, the legally binding plan will help protect clean drinking water, lock away carbon for its climate benefits, and conserve important wildlife and recreation corridors, including the Nehalem River, Kings Mountain, and the Wilson River. All salmon-bearing streams will earn wider forested buffers.

The HCP will help the department meet its obligation to manage Oregon's state forests to deliver a balance of benefits — from timber harvests to habitat for fish and wildlife, from clean air and drinking water to well-managed recreation spaces — for all Oregonians. The plan, which could be in effect for over 50 years, will enable logging to continue throughout its life, albeit in a significantly more sustainable manner than historically executed. While there are tradeoffs, finalizing the HCP will protect Oregon's public lands legacy, support a growing outdoor recreation economy on the North Coast, and safeguard our cherished

state forests and the species they sustain for generations to come.

The National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are expected to finish reviewing the HCP for Western Oregon State Forests and issue a Biological Opinion by mid-summer 2023. In September 2023, the Oregon Board of Forestry will decide whether to implement the HCP. As you can imagine, the timber industry is pushing back on these increased proposed protections, and we will be relying on you to speak up to ensure the plan is brought across the finish line this year.

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Long-term planning for the newly created Elliott State

newly created Elliott State Research Forest (ESRF) in the Oregon Coast Range near Coos Bay is also well underway. A result of decades of ardent advocacy from Cascadia Wildlands, partner organizations and supporters like you, the publicly owned ESRF will include a 34,000-acre permanent reserve, provide lasting protections for all northern spotted owl nests and marbled murrelet habitat, and meaningfully engage tribal nations in western Oregon in its management. Now, the Department of State Lands

(DSL) has developed an 80-year HCP for the forest, a final version of which will likely be available this year, as well as a companion forest management plan. A newly appointed Board of Directors, which includes several trusted conservation allies, will oversee the ESRF.

Earth Day Rally Calls on Biden to Protect Remaining Mature and Old-growth Forests

by Madeline Cowen, Grassroots Organizer

Last year on Earth Day,
President Biden announced an
Executive Order that directs
federal agencies to define,
inventory, and develop policies
to protect mature and
old-growth forests on federal
lands. As we approach the
one-year anniversary, groups
are rallying across the country
to increase our public presence
and call for a lasting, durable
rule that protects these
essential forests from logging
and associated carbon loss.

The Climate Forests Campaign, of which Cascadia Wildlands is

a part, is working to ensure the Biden administration ultimately enacts policy to protect mature and old-growth trees and forests on federal lands as a cornerstone of US climate policy. We know that safeguarded forests are an incredible climate change mitigation strategy due to their incomparable ability to draw down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Join Cascadia Wildlands and our allies for an Earth Day celebration and rally on April 22 at 3pm. Expect a splashy, family-friendly display of support for our forests, a march through downtown Eugene and ending with a celebration with our friends at WildCraft Cider Works, which coincides with their fun-filled Fiddlehead Festival.

More info at CascWild.org.

We hope to see you there!



Key Portion of the McKenzie River Will Soon Flow Free

Leaburg Dam to Be Decommissioned and Removed Following **Historic EWEB Vote**

by Grace Brahler, Wildlands Director

The Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) started the year strong by kicking off plans to decommission the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project and remove the nearly 100-year-old Leaburg Dam. The project, located on the McKenzie River about twenty miles east of Springfield, discontinued power generation in 2018 after staff discovered internal erosion and seismically vulnerable soils among portions of the Leaburg Canal. Following years of in-depth analyses and public engagement, the utility provider's board of commissioners voted on January 3 to formally cease power generation at the project and take

out Leaburg Dam, citing a multitude of financial and environmental benefits in support of the decision.

Restoring this stretch of the McKenzie River will help ensure at-risk fish species including bull trout and spring Chinook salmon — have the cold, clear water they need to survive and protect a precious drinking water source for the hundreds of thousands of Oregonians who rely on the beloved McKenzie River. Imperiled fish and wildlife, recreationists, and downstream communities will reap the benefits of EWEB's historic decision for generations to come.

While this is undoubtedly a major victory amidst the intensifying climate crisis, resulting changes will take vears to unfold. EWEB anticipates several years of planning and settlement negotiations prior to decommissioning and removal, projected in the 2030s. EWEB is currently developing an action plan to identify key milestones and chart next steps toward decommissioning the project and restoring the river to its free-flowing state. Thank you for your support and taking action to help achieve this historic outcome.



Living with Wildfire

Essential Steps to Reduce the Chances of Structure Loss During Fire Season

by Madeline Cowen, Grassroots Organizer

With the climate-driven wildfire season extending further into the shoulder seasons, it is now more important than ever to think about ways to protect our homes and communities from future fires.

Extensive research has shown that most homes lost to wildfire are ignited by embers that are blowing far ahead of the flames. These embers get into crawl spaces, attics, gutters and on top of roofs, igniting flammable material. By focusing on fire-proofing these areas, we can make our homes and communities safer.

Luckily, it is possible to retrofit your home to better resist wildfire. And some of the most effective modifica-

tions only cost a few dollars.

ZONE HOME —How to Prepare Your House

Here are the most important steps to take in order of importance based on the work of Dr. Alexandra Syphard:

- 1. Roof Ensure your roof is non-flammable. Generally, this means that if you have a wood roof, you must replace it with asphalt, metal, or another non-flammable material.
- 2. Windows Heat and debris blown by strong wind can crack single window panes and allow embers to burn the home from the inside out. Replace singlepane windows with double or triple-paned windows where the

outside pane is tempered glass. This is not cheap but comes with the added benefit of increased energy efficiency for heating and cooling.

- 3. Air vents Most houses have vents into the attic and/or crawl space below the house. If these are not covered, embers can blow in on a strong wind and burn the house from the inside out. Cover these vents using wire mesh with 1/8th inch openings or smaller. This can cost just a few dollars per vent and could prevent your home from burning down.
- **4. Gutters** Keep your gutters clean! Don't give embers a place to grow. Replace vinyl gutters with metal. Consider covering your gutters.
- **5. Siding** If flames come within 30-60 feet of your house, a non-flammable siding material such as hardy plank or even brick is advised. This is especially important if you have wood shingle siding.

These practices, coupled with removing flammable vegetation in the various zones around a structure, have been shown to reduce chances of loss.

More information and descriptions of the zones can be found at www.greenoregon.org/home-safety.



Electrification Ordinance (CONTINUED FROM FROM COVER)

Unfortunately, Oregon's largest gas company, NW Natural, is funding a ballot initiative effort to overturn this important climate policy. This tactic is increasingly employed to challenge progressive policies adopted at the local and state level where a corporation can outspend grassroots efforts, often by orders of magnitude. In fact, the fossil fuel corporation spent nearly \$1 million dollars in just three weeks to qualify for the ballot and will, no doubt, spend millions more. The only other contributions were two anonymous donations totaling just \$75. Paid canvassers gave misleading explanations of the electrification ordinance, claiming it applies to existing buildings and business, which it does not.

The new policy was the result of a lot of discourse. The Eugene City Council discussed the ordinance for two years, held multiple work sessions and the most well-attended public hearing in memory. Hundreds of Eugene residents testified in favor, including students, health care professionals, architects, contractors, parents and renters, who have little choice about their source of energy.

The Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) also confirmed it could meet increased demand for electricity, and clarified that it would not come from other fossil fuels, like coal.

NW Natural's campaign to undermine climate policy, including suing the state of Oregon over its Climate Protection Program, and funding an "astroturf" campaign in Eugene, called **Eugene Residents for Energy** Choice, stinks of the same profit-motivated - and ultimately desperate corporate misdirection that characterized past efforts to regulate dangerous products, including tobacco, lead paint, asbestos, DDT and hydrochlorofluorocarbons.

The Eugene community members who support electrification are motivated to ensure their kids and grandkids will have a livable climate, that Eugene and surrounding areas can be resilient in the face of climate change impacts we are already experiencing and those sure to come without decisive action. Ensuring that future homes in Eugene and across Cascadia are all-electric is a win-win: lower costs, lower greenhouse gas emissions, healthier indoor air.

We hope that you will join us in defending Eugene's electrification policy and supporting similar efforts in communities across Cascadia and in the Oregon legislature. As we know, Forest Defense is Climate Defense and likewise, Climate Defense is Forest Defense. We must all do everything we can to make our communities and bioregion more resilient to climate change. Ending our reliance on fossil fuels is an essential step.



OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT CASCADIA WILDLANDS



Are your .10 redeemable cans and bottles building up in the garage? You can now donate your Oregon Bottle Drop proceeds to Cascadia Wildlands!

THERE ARE 2 WAYS TO GIVE:



Nonprofit Blue Bags:

- Email Martha Brinson, Membership and Operations Manager, at martha@cascwild.org or call 541-434-1463 to arrange a time to pick up a bag at our office — ONLY LOCAL PICK UP AVAILABLE.
- · Fill your Blue Bag, and make sure a Cascadia Wildlands barcode is on the bag.

Individuals with Green Bags:



- If you have a Bottle Drop account and already use Green Bags, you can simply transfer any amount in your account to Cascadia Wildlands!
- Individuals are permitted to drop off a total of 15 bags in one or multiple trips within a 90-day period.
- Don't have an account with Bottle Drop? It's easy to sign up for an individual account. To open an account, go to bottledropcenters.com.

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)

GAS UP AND GIVE BACK When you get gas from SeQuential Biofuels, they give back to a local non-profit. You just need to let your gas attendant know you want your purchase to donate to Cascadia Wildlands the next time you visit the pump! SQ Station Location: 86714 McVay Hwy. Eugene, OR

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. 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 Wildlands' mission by donating it. The process on our website is fast, secure, and donating crypto allows you to enjoy the tax savings on the gains.

ENDOWMENT FUND GIVING with Charitable Gift Annuity and Charitable Remainder Trust: A generous donor helped us launch an endowment fund through the Oregon Community Foundation, allowing us to offer Charitable Gift Annuities and 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

> 541.434.1463 jlaughlin@cascwild.org

CASCADIA WILDLANDS' EIN: 93-1293019

Eugene, OR



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SPRING/SUMMER

what's

inside?

THANK YOU! for being a part of our Cascadian movement

Years of Keeping it Wild in Cascadia ce e matimes

Join Cascadia Wildlands and Moantain Rose Herbs

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2023

Down by the River: Summer Soirée & Auction

SILENT AND LIVE AUCTIONS (WITH AUCTIONEER TIM REAM)

MEDITERRANEAN-INSPIRED DINNER

LIBATIONS



6:00 - 10:00 PM

ROOTS REGGAE PERFORMANCE BY NORMA FRASER BAND

GOOD COMPANY



More info and tickets coming soon to CascWild.org

