

CASCADIA REVIEW

Hundreds of Thousands of Comments Submitted in Effort to Permanently Protect Mature and Old-growth Forests

Biden administration process provides unique conservation opportunity
by Madeline Cowen, *Grassroots and Digital Organizer*



Cascadia Wildlands' Madeline Cowen field checks the proposed Big Weekly Elk timber sale west of Roseburg (photo by a Cascadia Wildlands WildCAT volunteer).

On Earth Day 2022, President Joe Biden issued an Executive Order calling on the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to inventory and conserve mature and old-growth forests on federal land, eventually prompting a public comment period that opened spring of this year. By the end of July 2023, over 849,000 forest and climate advocates from Eugene and beyond joined forces to call on the land management agencies to stop cutting down the largest, oldest trees on our public lands and encourage them to adopt a

rule that protects mature and old-growth trees and forests on federal land as a cornerstone of U.S. climate policy.

In addition to the hundreds of thousands of people who weighed in, dozens of environmental and grassroots organizations submitted comments, including the Climate Forests Campaign, a coalition of more than 120 organizations working to protect mature and old-growth trees and forests on federal land...

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CASCWILD.ORG

25 Years in the Books

A reflection on our silver anniversary

As we move through our silver anniversary, it is hard not to reflect on the past 25 years — the lumps taken, the victories secured, the relationships forged, the lessons learned. It also gives time for pause and consideration of the next 25 and how Cascadia Wildlands will approach it.

We know one thing is for certain. The climate crisis will worsen in the short term even if the global community manages to drastically reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. This best-case scenario still means increased havoc wreaked on our wildlands, waterways, species and communities across not just Cascadia, but the biosphere. And it will surely impact those with the least the most.

Leading climate scientists across the world have been sounding the alarm for decades now, and the warnings are consistent and are unfolding in front of us in real time: rising global temperatures, warming oceans, shrinking ice sheets, retreating



glaciers, rising sea levels, and an increase in climate-driven, extreme weather events, like wildfires and hurricanes.

This all means more stress piled on top of an already overstressed natural world. I think about Cascadia's imperiled salmon and steelhead that require cold, clear and plentiful water to spawn and rear; endangered marbled murrelets that need stable ocean food sources and large blocks of older, coastal rainforest to breed successfully; and American pikas, which are hyper-sensitive to temperature increases in their subalpine habitats.

It is for these reasons and many more that Cascadia Wildlands will center our work around addressing the root cause of climate change — greenhouse gas emission



c.1998



**Cascadia
WILDLANDS**
we like it wild.

c.2010



**Cascadia
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we like it wild.

Current Logo



WildCAT
CASCADIA ACTION TEAM



scan to learn more about volunteering

into the atmosphere — and specifically focus on issues we have significant influence over, like older forest protection. You have heard us say it before: *forest defense is climate defense.*

One of our goals since our founding 25 years ago was to permanently protect remaining mature and old-growth forests on public lands in our special region. We have tried legislatively and administratively, and relied on you to be part of the loud chorus demanding this outcome. While we have greatly curtailed the federal government's mature and old-growth logging program in the region, we have not succeeded in this goal.

With your help, we have been particularly good at stopping older forest timber sales proposed by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management through grassroots organizing and litigation campaigns. But triage isn't a long-term, winning strategy.

That is why we are excited about the Biden administration opportunity in front of us

to permanently protect our older forests on public land through rulemaking. We are just as motivated by the prospect of securing durable older forest protection through the Forest Service's ongoing Northwest Forest Plan revision process.

By permanently protecting Cascadia's remaining mature and old-growth forests, we will do our part to ensure the vast amount of carbon stored in them remains locked away and not released into the atmosphere if logged. Keeping them vertical will also ensure they continue to absorb vast amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, provide habitat for unique and imperiled species, and help maintain our region's outstanding water quality.

While we can't predict all that we plan to tackle over the next 25 years, we do know we will be working tirelessly to attain this critically important goal. Thank you for being on this journey with us, and here is to the next 25 years!

Josh Laughlin
Executive Director

CRITTER CORNER



Castor canadensis (photo by Márcio Cabral de Mour).

North American beaver

(*Castor canadensis*)

Beavers critically influence the ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest and play a fundamental role in creating and maintaining a diversity of flora and fauna associated with Oregon's streams, rivers, and wetlands. Prior to European arrival in North America, Oregon's streams and rivers may have harbored an estimated one million North American beaver. Unfortunately, historic trapping efforts to create a "fur desert" in Oregon resulted in dramatic declines of the species and trapping continues to this day. Cascadia Wildlands is currently attempting to prohibit commercial and recreational trapping of beavers on federal lands through a petition effort to Oregon's Fish and Wildlife Commission.

What is a "fur desert?"

A cruel policy of the Hudson Bay Company in the early 1800s, where Oregon rivers and streams were meticulously searched for beavers for the purpose of extermination. So, when competing trappers came looking for beaver they would only find an empty, barren watershed, give up, and leave.

FAST FACTS

size: 29"-35" body + 8"-14" tail

weight: 24-71 lbs

Life expectancy in the wild:
24 years

Cascadia Wildlands Welcomes Communications & Legal Fellows to the Team!

Through the generous support of the Evergreen Hill Education Fund of Oregon Community Foundation, Cascadia Wildlands welcomes two, two-year fellows to help fill long-identified roles within the organization to increase our effectiveness.

Claire Barber — Communications Fellow



Claire (she/her) grew up in South Florida, catching lizards and watching storm clouds rumble over the water. She moved out West for university, graduating from Colorado College in environmental studies with minors in journalism and film. She specializes in combining her love for storytelling with environmental and outdoor activism. Before coming to Cascadia Wildlands, she dabbled in conservation and outdoor industry jobs. She considers herself an outdoor/ environmental journalist and still continues to freelance for national outlets covering the outdoors and the environment. When she's not writing, you can find her skiing, biking, or on long winding walks through Eugene's neighborhoods.

Peter Jensen — Legal Fellow



Peter (he/him) grew up exploring and playing in the Wasatch and Uinta mountains near his childhood home in Millcreek, Utah. He studied Environmental Science at the University of Utah, researched environmental and food justice, and led Patagonia's environmental grants and activism program in Utah before moving to Eugene to pursue his law degree. Peter is an attorney, dad, and lover of trees, trails, mountains, and fish. He is passionate about the intersections of law and science, health and the environment, litigation and policy, and learning from nature. In his free time, Peter can usually be found running through the woods, exploring the rivers of the West, or cooking and playing with his little family.

New Cascadia Swag Has Arrived!

by Kaley CoslowSauer, *Design and Events Director*

Want to show the world your support for Cascadia Wild-lands? We've got a bunch of new merch waiting for you! Our newest shirts are made with organic cotton and mineral-dyed colors, while our new embroidered hats are made with post-consumer recycled materials.

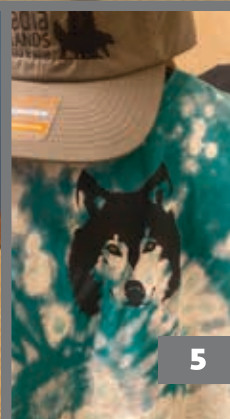
We have t-shirts with our 25th anniversary artwork, as well as a wolf face, spotted owl, and an image of the animals and trees from our logo. Shirts come in unisex sizes XS-2XL and we have some fem-cut v-neck shirts,

as well as some of our older stock that is tie dye!

Baseball and trucker-style hats are embroidered with our logo. We also have beanies, sweatshirts that say "we like it wild," custom-printed Hydro Flask water bottles, and custom-printed 16 oz. steel coffee mugs featuring a carabiner handle and a leak proof screw top lid. Humans and dogs alike won't want to miss out on our new USA-grown cotton bandanas, featuring wolf paw prints with hearts and a bold wolf face in the middle.

If you would like to purchase any of these items, please contact Martha in our office by phone 541.434.1463 or email martha@cascwild.org to schedule a time to come by. Pick-up at our office only at this time.

You can also plan to attend our **Holiday Open House on Thursday, December 14 from 5-7pm in the CW office** (120 Shelton McMurfhey Blvd. Suite #250 Eugene, OR 97401). Say hi to the whole staff, and enjoy a beverage and snacks while you pick out your merch — just in time for the holidays!



Summer Soirée a Smashing Success

Event at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum Celebrates 25 Years

by Kaley CoslowSauer, *Design and Events Director*

Cascadia Wildlands and supporters celebrated our 25th anniversary in style at our “Down by the River: Summer Soirée and Auction” on June 16 at Mt. Pisgah. In addition to commemorating this milestone with a catered Mediterranean dinner, local beverages, 225 festive supporters, remarks by former Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), and live music by legendary roots-reggae artist Norma Fraser, **we raised a humbling \$78,000** for our conservation work in 2023-2024 and beyond.

Increasingly, Cascadia Wildlands finds our work at the intersection of the conservation, environmental justice, human rights and social justice movements, and as part of the event, we were able to raise \$5,000 for colleagues at TransPonder, a trans founded and led non-profit based in Eugene providing support, resources, and education for the transgender and gender-diverse community and allies.

Thank you generous Auction Donors!

Alder Street
Andrew Kumler
Caddis Fly Angling Shop
Cascadia Wildlands
Cyndi Anderson
Doak Creek Native Plant Nursery
Down to Earth
Ernie Whitworth
Healthy Pet
Jim Flynn
Jonathan Leong
Josh Laughlin
Linda Galas and Charley Merten
Map Your Adventure,
Ian Peterson
Mountain Rose Herbs
MSA Designworks
Nick Cady
Ninkasi Brewing Company
Oakshire Brewing
Oakway Catering
Patagonia
Rainsong Vineyard
Ralph and Bev McDonald
Spring Fed Media,
Michael Sherman
Steve and Jaimee Massie
Susan Jane and Paul Brown
Sweet Life Patisserie
The Wheel
Tim Boyden
Toadstool Broom Company,
Waldo Przekop
Training Spot
Ty Manegold and Kate Ritley

Deep gratitude goes out to our guests, event volunteers, **premier sponsor** **Mountain Rose Herbs** and other incredible event sponsors:

The Wheel Apizza Pub
Opine Cellars
WildCraft Cider Works
Willamette Valley Alchemy
Hyphae Wellness
Tao Gardens
Doak Creek
Native Plant Nursery
Pedal Power Music
Oakway Catering

Thank you for helping make these 25 years so memorable!



Cascadia Wildlands Stands in Solidarity with the Transgender Community

Cascadia Wildlands finds our work increasingly at the intersection of the conservation, environmental justice, human rights and social justice movements.

Recent extreme rhetoric, policies and laws proposed and – in many cases – passed across the country evidence a revitalized right-wing effort to demonize and target the trans community and strip them of fundamental civil rights. Transphobic bigots' baseless claims echo anti-LGTBQ rhetoric from decades past. These attacks are occurring at joyous events like drag brunches, in the courts, in state legislatures, and our schools and libraries.

Unfortunately, the Cascadia region is not immune.

As an organization actively working to learn and unlearn, confront our privilege and leverage our influence, we reaffirm our unconditional support for the transgender and broader LGBTQIA2S+ community, for the right to gender-affirming healthcare, freedom of expression, freedom to marry, and freedom to love.

We invite you to join us in expressing solidarity with the trans community and introduce you to **TransPonder**, if you aren't already familiar with this organization. TransPonder is a transgender founded and led nonprofit based in Eugene providing support, resources, and education for the transgender and gender diverse community and their allies.

Learn more about TransPonder's critically important work and consider supporting them, visit their website: **transponder.community**.





Cascadia Wildlands' 25th Anniversary illustration, featuring left to right: marbled murrelet, Humboldt t
[Background photo] Cascadia Wildlands worked to protect the threatened forests above the Mo



marten, Canada lynx, gray wolf, Northern spotted owl, Chinook salmon, red tree vole (by Emily Poole).
Kenzie River located in the now-withdrawn Flat Country timber sale (photo by Andrew Kumler).

Report Back from Basecamp

Over 40 WildCATs participated in the weekend field check

by Lily Kuentz, *Summer Field and Events Coordinator*

One of the ways Cascadia Wildlands defends our older forests on public land from proposed logging is through on-the-ground field checking. Members of our active **Cascadia Action Team (WildCAT)** visit different timber sale units to get a sense of how a proposal will impact the forest. To get to know a forest, we make observations of its structure from the soil up to the canopy and everything in between. We record the life present in the forest by identifying trees, plants, fungi, and wildlife as well as by measuring tree diameters and counting the age of trees by their rings. In our field checking notes, we aim to capture a holistic understanding of the forest by also looking for signs of past fire, past forest management, and erosion and landslide/rockfall.

While anyone is welcome to

join us on our trips to learn these skills, our biggest field checking opportunity takes place at Cascadia Wildlands' annual Basecamp. In mid-August this year, we had over 40 people (20 first timers!) join us at camp to field check the Calloway timber sale in the Willamette National Forest north of McKenzie Bridge. This project proposal encompasses 45,027 acres (that's about 70 square miles!), with over 8,000 acres of logging proposed. According to the Forest Service, the federal agency proposing this timber sale, the project aims to thin stands 80 years old and younger, a practice that could prove beneficial to some of the overstocked plantation-type forests in the area.

However, the results of our field checking efforts found that while many proposed stands do indeed contain

young, even-age plantations, others were rich in diversity, structurally complex, and contained many old-growth and mature trees. In some stands, we sampled trees upwards of 500 years old! Using this field checking data, Cascadia Wildlands will be working to inform the Forest Service of these discrepancies to ensure forests over 80 years are removed from the project.

To get updates on the status of this project and others or to come along on other field checking outings, sign up on our email listserv at **cascwild.org** or join us at our **monthly WildCAT meetings on the second Wednesday of every month**. Contact Grassroots and Digital Organizer Madeline Cowen, madeline@cascwild.org, for more information.



Legislation Removes “Predatory Animal” Designation for Beavers

by Bethany Cotton, *Conservation Director*

While Oregon is the Beaver State, we haven’t always been the friendliest place for beavers to call home. Beaver-modified habitat enhances fire resiliency and creates climate refugia for other species. Beavers also improve water security, sequester carbon, and create healthy habitat for salmon. During the 2023 legislative session, Cascadia Wildlands and our partners supported

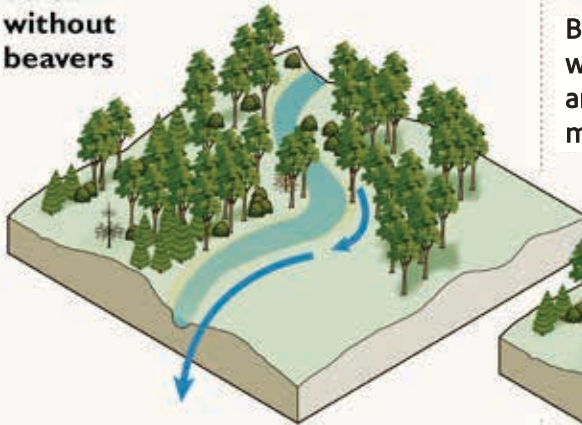
key legislation (HB 3464) that removes the “predatory animal” status for beavers, effectively shifting primary management of beavers from the Department of Agriculture to the much more appropriate Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Passed with strong bipartisan support, this new law will help private landowners access co-existence tools and

– hopefully – help Oregonians learn about how important beavers are as natural climate solutions, leading to more acceptance of their presence and to increased active restoration of beavers on the landscape. The law also closes data collection gaps outlined by state and federal agencies, public stakeholders and the Beaver Working Group for more informed beaver management.

How Beaver Dams Help Streams

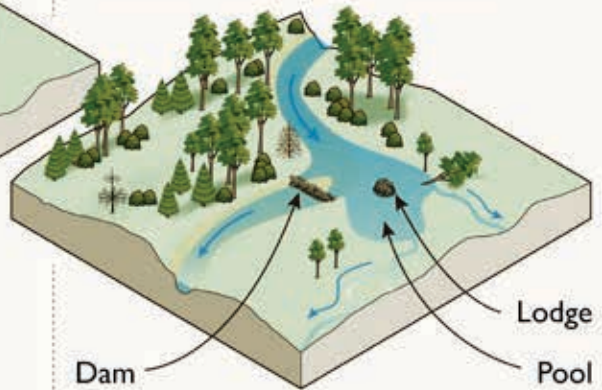
Stream without beavers



Water flow is high during heavy rainfall and can cause flooding downstream

With beavers

Beavers dam a stream to create pools in which they build a lodge. Series of dams and pools slow and divert water flow so more can be absorbed by the land.



Setbacks and Progress for Fossil Free Eugene

Ninth Circuit Decision Causes Some Uncertainty Moving Forward

by Bethany Cotton, *Conservation Director*

In February 2023, Eugene became Oregon's first community to adopt a residential electrification ordinance. In response, Oregon's largest gas utility NW Natural spent over \$1 million to refer the ordinance to the November ballot in an attempt to overturn it. Unfortunately, Eugene's city attorney interpreted city policy as precluding the city's sustainability staffers from speaking to the public or the mayor and city councilors about all electrification efforts because the issue was going to be on the ballot. This made it difficult to achieve progress on other electrification work underway in the city.

Then in April, a very conservative three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals invalidated the city of Berkeley's electrification ordinance in a surprise ruling. Eugene's ordinance is very similar to Berkeley's, meaning our ordinance would be unlikely to survive a legal challenge if the court's ruling stands. Berkeley has requested *en banc* review by a larger panel of the Ninth Circuit, which could result in a reversal of the ruling. Many entities, including the U.S. Department

of Energy and cities including Eugene also weighed in asking the Court to reconsider. We are hopeful the Court will re-hear the case and ultimately change the ruling, though it may take a year for the issue to be resolved.

In the meantime, the legal uncertainty and the direction for city staff not to discuss electrification were frustrating council's efforts. As a result, on July 10, the Eugene City Council voted to rescind the electrification ordinance, which also removed the issue from the November ballot. The Fossil Free Coalition – of which Cascadia Wildlands is a founding member – supports this decision so that other essential electrification work can proceed. At the same meeting, council directed staff to schedule a work session to discuss how best to help Eugene residents access all electrification incentives and stated their intent to meet within the year to revisit residential electrification. The city has since launched web-pages helping residents access electrification incentives, subsidies and rebates and outlining building decarbonization efforts.

Despite this setback, other communities are moving forward with electrification with our support, including Milwaukie, Ashland and Bend employing different approaches. The heat extremes, climate-driven wildfires increasing in frequency and severity, and the associated wildfire smoke air quality hazards are all more symptoms of the climate emergency we are experiencing. Electrification is one essential step toward the fossil fuel free future we will need to achieve climate resilience.

Stay tuned this autumn for events we will be co-sponsoring to help folks access Inflation Reduction Act and state subsidies, incentives and rebates for home retrofits, including heat pumps (which include air conditioning!), heat pump hot water heaters, insulation and windows and door upgrades in Eugene and statewide.



Cascadia Wildlands in the Courtroom

by Nick Cady, *Legal Director*

Cook Creek Road (Tillamook State Forest):

In response to a lawsuit we filed with the Center for Biological Diversity, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has pulled its authorization to rebuild the Cook Creek Road. The road would have been used to facilitate logging mature and old-growth forests proposed by the Oregon Department of Forestry in the northwest corner of the state. The day we filed the complaint, FEMA withdrew its authorization and agreed to re-evaluate its proposal in light of impacts to the area's older forests and species therein. Stay tuned for developments, but for now, this shortsighted proposal is dead.

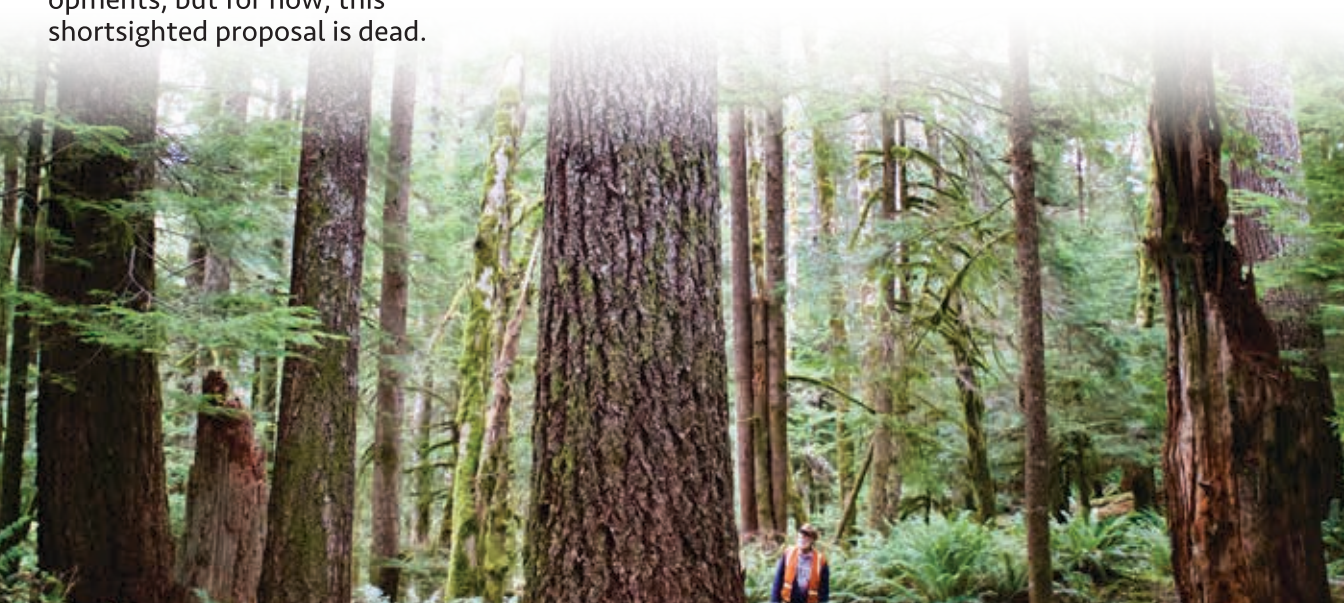
Benson Ridge (Elliott State Forest):

Roseburg Forest Product's appeal of our victory against clearcutting this 355-acre parcel once part of the Elliott State Forest has been briefed and will be argued before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Portland in December. This landmark case is one of the first Endangered Species Act cases brought directly against Oregon's private timber industry for attempts to clearcut habitat occupied by the threatened marbled murrelet. We anticipate a ruling this spring.

BLM Timber Sale Bonanza:

Cases against a slew of Bureau of Land Management projects targeting remaining mature and old-growth forests across western Oregon are proceeding in earnest.

We recently filed a complaint against the **Big Weekly Elk** timber sale (Roseburg BLM), and lawsuits are proceeding against the **IVM project** (Medford BLM), the **N126 project** (Eugene BLM) and the **Siuslaw Harvest Land Base project** (Eugene BLM).



Hundreds of Thousands of Comments Submitted (CONTINUED FROM FROM COVER)

from logging. The coalition, of which Cascadia Wildlands is a part of, has highlighted the threat to mature and old-growth forests in two reports, citing 22 of the worst logging projects on Forest Service and BLM-managed forests, including five in Oregon.

Right now, the BLM is gearing up to log stately forests in the Big Weekly Elk timber sale, in Oregon's Coast Range southwest of Roseburg, under the guise of "restoration." These threatened mature and old-growth forests are some of the most effective tools available for mitigating climate change and promoting biodiversity. They store huge amounts of carbon and absorb dangerous levels of carbon dioxide out

of the atmosphere. They also provide essential wildlife habitat and are the most fire-resilient trees in the forest.

As demonstrated by the resounding number of people who commented and came out to rallies and events across the country, it is clear that the public wants old-growth and mature forests and trees to be protected. It's well past time for the federal land managers and this administration to adopt a rule that provides durable protections for our forests, and recognizes them for what they are: a natural climate solution and a key ally in the fight for a livable future.



OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT CASCADIA WILDLANDS



BottleDrop

GIVE

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



PO BOX 10455 • EUGENE OR 97440

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FALL/WINTER

what's
inside?

THANK YOU!
for being a part of our Cascadian movement

SAVE THE DATE FOR CASCADIA WILDLANDS'

Silver Jubilee
Saturday, December 9, 2023
6:30-9:00pm

A SWANKY EVENING OF FUNDRAISING WITH FOOD AND DRINK
AT THE NINKASI BETTER LIVING ROOM 3RD FLOOR BALCONY AND BAR.

FEATURING: LIVE MUSIC WITH MEMBERS OF MHONDORO, MERCHANDISE,
a BRIEF CONSERVATION UPDATE, AND a SHOWING OF a SHORT
COMMEMORATIVE VIDEO ABOUT CASCADIA WILDLANDS' FIRST 25 YEARS.