

CASCADIA REVIEW

3,200 Acres on the Chopping Block in the Coast Range

by Grace Brahler, *Wildlands Director* & Madeline Cowen, *Grassroots Organizer*

We began our journey walking through thickets of salal, bright green and flourishing. Above, trees rose hundreds of feet in the air, branches splayed and covered in thick moss.



Grace Brahler and Madeline Cowen field check the Blue and Gold timber sale west of Yoncalla, Oregon

Cascadia Wildlands' employees and volunteers descended this summer on the Blue and Gold timber sale, an approximately 3,000 acre project located in the lower Umpqua watershed — where prime habitat for spotted owl and marbled murrelet is abundant, yet threatened by rampant logging.

In 2022, the Biden-Harris administration issued Executive Order 14072 to build on “historic and bold efforts to tackle the climate crisis.” The order seemed to want to address old-growth and mature logging in this country, acknowledging that “strengthening America’s

forests, which are home to cherished expanses of mature and old-growth forests on federal lands, is critical to the health, prosperity, and resilience of our communities.” The order similarly recognized that forests “provide clean air and water, sustain the plant and animal life fundamental to combating the global climate and biodiversity crises, and hold special importance to Tribal Nations.” And while Cascadia Wildlands can’t agree more, in the two years since the order, we have continued to see destructive logging of intact, biodiverse landscapes being proposed.

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.

staff

Claire Barber (she/her)
Communications Fellow

Grace Brahler (she/her)
Wildlands Director

Martha Brinson (she/her)
Membership & Operations Director

Nick Cady (he/him)
Legal Director

Bethany Cotton (she/her)
Conservation Director

Madeline Cowen (she/they)
Grassroots Organizer

Isa Eisenberg (she/they)
Summer Field & Events Coordinator

Peter Jensen (he/him)
Legal Fellow

Josh Laughlin (he/him)
Executive Director

Spencer McIntyre (they/them)
Development Manager

board of directors

Gary Henderson, Treasurer

Kim Hyland, Secretary

Sristi Kamal

Daniel Kruse, President

Jonathan Leong

Dan Snyder

sustainably made

Printed on 100% recycled paper.

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

contact us:

PO Box 10455
Eugene, OR 97440
541.434.1463
info@cascwild.org

our tax ID

93-1293019

The Critical Importance of Filling Your Cup

Through the generous support of long-time Cascadia Wildlands conservation partner, Wilburforce Foundation, we have had indispensable access to organizational resources provided by Training Resources for the Environmental Community (TREC). This stellar outfit has provided leadership training, strategic planning, conflict resolution, informative webinars, and one-on-one skill building for our staff. I have gleaned much from them over the years, but one mantra I have taken to heart is the critical importance of *filling one's cup*. Not with coffee, not with craft beer, not with kombucha. But with things that that bring you up when you are feeling down from the ills of the world, the depressing news cycle, the injustice, and the constant grind to save our special piece of the biosphere — Cascadia.

That is why we emphasize fun around Cascadia Wildlands, which I've always considered an organizational guiding principle. This past weekend we imbibed in some serious fun. We were a partner and beneficiary of **"Bigstock — Two Days of Music in the Mountains"** held at Hoodoo Ski Area west of Sisters in the incomparable Oregon Cascades. Incredible acts, including **High Step Society, Greensky Bluegrass, Margo Price, and Oteil and Friends** graced the stage and delivered the antidote to all the heaviness.

An extended CascWild crew spent a few days connecting with event-goers about our conservation priorities, swimming in high-elevation lakes, camping under the stars, and enjoying some seriously good music. It was just what the doctor ordered.



Some of the CascWild crew at Bigstock in September



CRITTER CORNER



RED TREE VOLE

(*Arborimus longicaudus*)

Red tree voles are mouse-sized arboreal animals dependent on mature and old-growth forest ecosystems. The north Oregon coast Distinct Population Segment of red tree voles is isolated from populations further south, comprising about a quarter of the species' total range.

Weighing less than two ounces, red tree voles live in conifer tree canopies, rarely touching ground. Primarily active at night, they predominately eat Douglas fir needles, but will occasionally dine on Sitka spruce or western hemlock needles.

Their thick coats can range in color from a reddish-brown to an orange-red. Tree voles are an important food source for threatened northern spotted owls.

Imperiled by habitat loss due to logging and development, Cascadia Wildlands and our partners will again be challenging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's failure to afford north coast tree voles with the protections granted by the Endangered Species Act.

by Bethany Cotton,
Conservation Director

We will continue to fill our cups on **December 14** and hope you will join us at the **20th annual Wonderland Auction** to be held at Venue 252 in Eugene after a four-year indoor hiatus. This is an opportunity to reconnect in person, share some stories, break bread and enjoy local beverages, groove to the cutting-edge, world jazz music of **Mhondoro**, and to raise some organizational revenue through silent and live auctions. Ticket and table sales for this not-to-be missed event will be available soon on our website.

I hope you, too, are taking the time to fill your cup because we need you now, more than ever, by our side working to *defend and restore Cascadia's wild ecosystems in the forests, in the courts, and in the streets.*

Gratefully yours,

Josh Laughlin

Josh Laughlin
Executive Director





Some of the festivities at Oregon Country Fair



Performer at Foliage Fest



CW friends at Sunday Daydream



CW friend posing in our Critter Corner at TransWild

Summer Season Full of Advocacy, Music, and Art!

by Madeline Cowen, *Grassroots Organizer &*
Isa Eisenberg, *Summer Field and Events Coordinator*

When building a grassroots movement, striking the balance between getting the hard work done and creating community is the key to success. With multiple timber sales requiring quality field checking work, on top of two unique opportunities to engage with groundbreaking policies including the National Old Growth Amendment (NOGA) and amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP), our volunteer squad — the WildCATs (Cascadia Action Team) — has been busy.

In time for the summer solstice, WildCATs spent five days field checking the proposed Divide timber sale, as part of our annual basecamp event, located on the traditional homelands of the Molalla and many other Indigenous peoples who have lived, traded, and stewarded these lands since time immemorial, in the area that is now known as the Willamette National Forest. The project proposes to commercially log about 1,647 acres of forest, both in previously managed stands and stands that have never been logged before. The WildCATs went above and beyond, extensively field checking over 12 units of the sale to gain a deeper understanding of the specific characteristics of the forest.

“When building a grassroots movement, striking the balance between getting the hard work done and creating community is the key to success.”

MADELINE COWEN AND ISA EISENBERG

Friend of CW with their new patch at Foliage Fest

The forest was diverse, with rich moist soil like red velvet cake and a canopy full of noble fir, grand fir, western red cedar, western hemlock and Douglas fir. Other regions were dominated by steep slopes and dry soil vulnerable to erosion if logged. WildCATs and Cascadia Wildlands staff also ventured to other proposed timber sales in our region this summer, including the Blue and Gold timber sale (see cover).

Aside from our extensive time in the woods, Cascadia Wildlands is known for bringing fun and creativity into our movement. This summer has been no exception. Inspired by the incredible ecosystems of Cascadia, the WildCATs worked over the course of two months to build what we're calling the "Cascadia Critter Corner," a handbuilt, interactive, painted mural meant to inspire action and spark smiles at community events (see page 3).

With the Critter Corner in tow, the Cascadia Wildlands crew collected thousands of Old-growth protection signatures at the **Oregon Country Fair**, chatted with friends at **Eugene Pride**, and at the end of the summer celebrated Cascadia at a slew of events.

First, we partnered up with our friends at Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and

Ecology (FUSEE), Oregon Wild, and 350 Eugene to put on the first ever **Foliage Fest** along the Willamette River in Eugene. We gathered with community to eat, go on nature walks, listen to local tunes, screen-print, and write personalized comments on NOGA. Next, we co-hosted the second annual **TransWild: Forest Frolic** with TransPonder and Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, where we focused on welcoming people from Queer, Trans, BIPOC, and other marginalized communities into nature.

And summer wouldn't be complete without our partnerships with some of the regions' best musical acts. The Cascadia Wildlands crew traveled down to San Rafael, California to share some good times at the Phil Lesh-inspired **Sunday Daydream** Vol. 4 day-long music event. Along with enjoying the tunes, the team was able to connect with long-time supporters and make new friends at our outreach table.

And to round out the summer, CW was incredibly humbled to be a co-beneficiary with Oregon Adaptive Sports for **Bigstock: Two Days of Music in the Mountains** at Hoodoo Ski Area featuring Greensky Bluegrass, Margo Price, and Oteil & Friends. Deep gratitude and appreciation to all of our incredibly dedicated and passionate volunteers, members, and supporters for making summer 2024 one for the books.



Thanks to Summer Legal Interns! Welcome New Staff! Goodbye to Others!

by Claire Barber, *Communications Fellow &*
Martha Brinson, *Membership and Operations Director*



Summer Field and Events Coordinator, Isa Eisenberg,
at Oregon Country Fair

This spring and summer, we welcomed a slew of new staff members and interns. With the generous backing of the Evergreen Hill Fund of Oregon Community Foundation, our legal team mentored a trio of outstanding summer law clerks with the goal of helping cultivate the next generation of public interest environmental attorneys.

Thank you **Aidan Bassett**, **Dana McHenry**, and **Hayden Wyatt** for your tireless work this summer. Our law clerks were able to help draft briefs, testify at public meetings, field check with our WildCATs, and of course get a taste of environmental litigation in the courtroom.

We also said goodbye to long-time staffer **Kaley CoslowSauer** and board member **Nadene LeCheminant**, who both contributed greatly to Cascadia's successes.

Our events this summer would not have been the same without **Isa Eisenberg**, our Summer Field and Events Coordinator. Isa was an integral addition to expanding our outreach, heralding in the first-ever Foliage Fest where we engaged over 100 community members in forest action, in addition to coordinating a suite of other events around Oregon. Thank you, Isa!

This August, we also welcomed **Spencer McIntyre** as our Development Manager. You'll be sure to run into them at future events (perhaps at the December 14 Wonderland Auction!) so make sure to say hello.

Cascadia Wildlands is excited to welcome **Sristi Kamal** as a new board member. Sristi currently serves as Deputy Director at the Western Environmental Law Center and spent years at Defenders of Wildlife as a senior representative for the Northwest Program. Cascadia Wildlands is eager to have Sristi's insight and intellect on our team.

For updates on our internship programs, please visit: cascwild.org/about-us/employment/



WildCAT volunteers and Cascadia Wildlands staff explore logging units in the proposed Blue and Gold timber sale west of Yoncalla.



Stop the Egregious Blue and Gold Old-Growth Timber Sale!

Despite the worsening climate and biodiversity crises, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to **log thousands of acres of pristine old-growth forest habitat** in Oregon's Coast Range.

The **Blue and Gold Project** located west of Yoncalla in the Umpqua River watershed, contains some of the last fragments of unlogged, carbon-storing forests in the region. Help us halt this awful proposal by sending in a comment via this QR code.



Blue and Gold

Roseburg BLM District

3,200 Acres on the Chopping Block

CONTINUED FROM COVER

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Roseburg District is marching forward with plans to aggressively log and punch roads through 3,200 acres of ancient forest habitat in the Blue and Gold timber sale. The project was first proposed back in 2019 and was revived in the last few months. CW has been on the ground ever since. According to the agency, the Blue and Gold timber sale includes stands reaching 140-years-old. However, our field work has found many stands are much older, with some trees aging over 400 years. When standing in a proposed logging unit beside a giant, seven-foot-wide Douglas fir with massive branches jutting out in all directions, it is easy to imagine why an imperiled marbled murrelet, after flying dozens of miles inland from the Pacific Ocean, would consider this a suitable spot to take refuge.

And in August, CW was able to see the Blue and Gold project from a bird's eye view. Hopping in a plane with our friends at EcoFlight, CW staff saw the striking impacts of industrial logging in the Oregon Coast Range.

The Blue and Gold project stood out as an

island of native forest sitting amidst a sea of private land clearcuts. Flying in from the coast, a marbled murrelet would have little habitat to choose from.

The answer is clear: logging in the mature and old-growth forests of Blue and Gold would degrade key habitat for imperiled species like the marbled murrelet, increase fire hazard for decades, compact soils, degrade water quality, and likely introduce invasive weeds into native forest stands. No matter how you look at it, this oversteps executive order 14072. Old growth timber sales like Blue and Gold cannot go forward.



A Cascadian hugging an old-growth tree in the proposed Blue and Gold timber sale

Farewell Staff, Board, and Summer Legal Interns!

As we say goodbye to several valued members of our team, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for their many contributions to Cascadia Wildlands. Their passion, dedication, and hard work have played a vital role in advancing our mission to protect and restore the wild places we cherish. Though they will be greatly missed, we wish them the very best in their future endeavors and know their impact will continue to be felt for years to come.



Aiden Bassett
Legal Intern
Georgetown
University Law Center



Dana McHenry
Legal Intern
University of Oregon
School of Law



Hayden Wyatt
Legal Intern
Lewis and Clark
Law School



Isa Eisenberg
*Summer Field &
Events
Coordinator*



Kaley
CoslowSauer
*Design & Events
Director*



Nadene
LeCheminant
Board Member





9th Circuit Court Upholds Decision to Protect Benson Ridge

by Nick Cady, *Legal Director* & Peter Jenson, *Legal Fellow*

Cascadia Wildlands prevails after over a decade of advocacy for coastal old growth and marbled murrelet habitat on a former parcel of the Elliott State Forest.

Back in 2016, Cascadia Wildlands and our conservation allies filed a lawsuit and a restraining order against Roseburg Forest Products' efforts to clearcut old-growth forests in southwestern Oregon.

This case was not brought lightly — it is one of the only instances in which conservation organizations have challenged private lands logging in Oregon under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The case was brought in federal district court in Oregon and alleged the proposed logging of the 355-acre Benson Ridge parcel would harm threatened marbled murrelets in violation of the ESA. The case involved numerous legal hurdles that lasted for over a decade.

The old-growth forests that were the subject of the lawsuit had formerly been part of the 82,000-acre Elliott State Forest, located near

Coos Bay. In 2012, following a decision by the state of Oregon to significantly increase logging levels on the Elliott, Cascadia Wildlands, the Center for Biological Diversity and Bird Alliance of Oregon (formerly Portland Audubon) sued the state for illegally logging occupied marbled murrelet habitat on the Elliott and other state forests. After a judge issued a legal injunction, the state settled the suit in 2014, agreeing to drop 26 timber sales and stop logging in occupied murrelet habitat. Following the settlement, however, the state sold the Benson Ridge parcel and two other tracts, totaling 1,453 acres, even though they contained mature and old-growth forests that were occupied by imperiled marbled murrelets. Prior to the finalization of the sales, our organizations specifically warned the timber purchasers that these forests were occupied by marbled murrelets given recent survey efforts by volunteers with Coast Range Forest Watch



A serene marbled murrelet. Photo by US Dept. of Agriculture

and that logging these forests would violate the ESA. The state finalized the sales regardless. We sued.

In 2022, Judge Ann Aiken, following a week-long trial that involved compelling testimony from former Conservation Director, Francis Eatherington, ruled that the “proposed logging operation will result in the impairment of other essential behaviors and in fewer nesting attempts, failure to breed, lower nest abundance, reduced breeding population, lower nest success, and a lower rate of survival in adults.” The case marks the first time a private timber company has been held to account in court for potential violations of the federal Endangered Species Act in Oregon.

The decision was affirmed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals following an appeal, and on September 9, 2024 the Ninth Circuit rejected a petition for reconsideration of that decision from the full Court. Roseburg has indicated that it will likely seek review from the US Supreme Court, but we are confident that this landmark victory will hold.

The conservation organizations were represented by Daniel Kruse of Kruse & Saint Marie LLC, Daniel Snyder of Public Justice, Nick Cady of Cascadia Wildlands, the Law Offices of Charles Tebbutt, and Brian Segee of the Center for Biological Diversity.

"This case marks the first time a private timber company has been held to account in court for potential violations of the federal Endangered Species Act in Oregon."

NICK CADY & PETER JENSEN

Legal Updates

Legal Wins for Cascadia Wildlands: Courts Halt BLM's Old-Growth Timber Sales, Protecting Critical Forests

by Grace Brahler, *Wildlands Director*, Nick Cady, *Legal Director* & Peter Jensen, *Legal Fellow*



Cascadia Wildlands has been pursuing a suite of legal challenges against an onslaught of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) logging projects targeting last remaining old-growth forests on these federal lands, and the victories have been rolling in.

In 2022, Cascadia Wildlands and our partners challenged the Siuslaw Harvest Land Base timber sale. There, the BLM targeted forests over 200 years old for clearcutting just west of Eugene. Because these forests were within BLM's logging-focused land allocation, the agency argued that it could ignore the project's negative environmental consequences. On April 10, 2024, the Court rejected BLM's argument and the proposed logging, and found the agency needed to consider the harmful

consequences of logging these old forests. The Court's findings are awaiting final approval, but this case will have far-reaching implications.

In 2023, Cascadia Wildlands and partners challenged the IVM timber sale in southern Oregon. There, BLM targeted mature forests in reserve allocations, areas set aside to recover imperiled species. The agency argued it was necessary to aggressively log these areas to abate fire risks. On May 24, 2024, the Court rejected BLM's argument. It found that BLM illegally violated protections for northern spotted owls and that the project, instead of abating fire risks, could lead to accelerated fire severity. This ruling is also awaiting final approval, but again we are confident this case will curb future BLM efforts to log within designated reserves.

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 or click this image.**

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.

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) 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, a sum of cash or property life insurance 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.

CONSIDER LIFE INCOME GIFTS:

Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Remainder Trusts are two options to 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, remaining 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
Tax ID #: 93-1293019

Getting gas for your rig?

SEQUENTIAL WILL GIVE BACK

**Cascadia
WILDLANDS**
we like it wild.



Ask for your purchase to benefit CASCADIA WILDLANDS!

CASCWILD.ORG

**Cascadia
WILDLANDS**

we like it wild.



US Postage
PAID
Nonprofit Org.
Permit No. 82
Eugene, OR

PO BOX 10455 • EUGENE, OR 97440

FALL/WINTER

- pg. 2 The Critical Importance of Filling Your Cup
- pg. 5 Summer Season Full of Advocacy, Music, and Art!
- pg. 8 Blue and Gold Timber Sale
- pg. 12 9th Circuit Victory for Benson Ridge
- pg. 14 Legal Updates

what's
inside?

THANK YOU!

for being a part of the movement for a wild Cascadia

SAVE

the

DATE



12



14



24

CASCADIA WILDLANDS

20th Annual Wonderland Auction

Venue 252

252 Lawrence St, Eugene, OR 97401 •

6-10 pm


mountain rose herbs
Premier Sponsor