

CASCADIA REVIEW

The Future of Our Forests: Centering Tribal Sovereignty & Conservation

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

For over 30 years, the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) has directed management across 24-million acres in national forests in western Washington, Oregon, and northern California.



East Fork Deadman Creek Drainage, Tiller Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest. Photo by Steve Cole.

A compromise adopted in 1994, the NWFP aimed to curb destructive logging on public lands and protect and restore old-growth forest and healthy stream habitat for imperiled species, while still allowing commercial logging. Despite its successes, the plan had major shortcomings. Most notably was the Forest Service's failure to involve federally recognized Tribes and Indigenous peoples in the plan's development, let alone consider the long standing and ongoing stewardship practices and relationships they have with these lands.

On November 15, 2024, the agency released a

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) analyzing proposed changes to the NWFP and kicked off a 90-day public comment period. Changes would include measures to expand Tribal inclusion in land management across the NWFP area through co-stewardship agreements, cultural harvesting and access, fire stewardship, workforce development, and youth education. These are long-overdue updates. However, the proposal also includes changes that would eliminate protections for mature forests and significantly increase logging volume outputs from national forests.

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Confronting the Making of a Kingdom

Since November 20, Trump and his loyalists have been dismantling the pillars of government to create a kingdom.

The strategy has been to throw anything and everything against the wall and see what sticks, regardless of the merit. The intention is to shock, overwhelm, paralyze, and instill fear while working to systematically undo the fabric of our democracy. We, particularly those sitting with privilege, must respond accordingly and not become complacent.

Those in the crosshairs and on the margins are already paying the price. As will the environment.

"Drill, baby, drill" was a campaign mantra, and industry cronies have been installed to facilitate increased fossil fuel extraction across the federal estate. But what about our priceless rainforests, unique species, and raging rivers in Cascadia?

Forest Service Chief Randy Moore, a holdover from the Biden administration, just stepped down, certainly in part over the bloodbath the agency undertook in the Musk quest for "government efficiency." Tom Schultz, an Idaho timber industry executive, was quickly ushered in.

The appointment was followed by a March 1 executive order entitled "Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production," which states "onerous federal policies" have created an "inability to fully exploit our domestic timber supply, impeded the creation of jobs and prosperity, contributed to the wildfire disaster, degraded fish and wildlife habitat..."

Translation: Anticipate new laws, directives, and policies to



Some of the CascWild crew hiking along the upper McKenzie River.



Sign-up on our website to get involved!

CRITTER CORNER



Western Pond Turtle

(*Actinemys marmorata*)

Western pond turtles are one of only two native freshwater turtles in Cascadia. Imperiled by invasive species, habitat loss and modification, collection for the pet trade, declines in water quality, disease and climate change, among other threats, western pond turtles call streams, ponds, lakes, and permanent and ephemeral wetlands home. While western pond turtles can live up to 50 years, they are slow to reproduce, meaning the loss of just a few individual adults can lead to rapid population decline. Non-native bullfrogs and introduced fish like bass predate on young turtles. Western pond turtles are listed as a "sensitive-critical" species by Oregon, a state "endangered species" by Washington state, and a "sensitive species" by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. Federal Endangered Species Act listing is under review. To help preserve these amazing turtles, never release captive turtles into the wild or capture native turtles.

by Bethany Cotton,
Conservation Director

weaken bedrock environmental laws in order to ramp up the cut of our treasured forestlands.

It is clear this administration will stop at nothing, and we will meet them at the line of scrimmage. It will require tracking and highlighting every move they make, showcasing what is at stake, engaging our elected officials, litigating in federal court, and building our collective power.

And it will require you to continue to be at our side, raising your voice, demanding accountability, and standing up for what is right. It's going to be a turbulent next few years, with our democracy teetering on the brink. And it will be up to all of us to inform how this plays out, and what ends up left for the next generation.

Yours,

Josh Laughlin
Executive Director





Photo of CascWild friends from TransWild in 2024.

“We hope you’ll join us in our efforts to build connections, increase our advocacy and take meaningful action to defend and restore the vital ecosystems in our region.”

MADELINE COWEN

Cascadia Wildlands’ Summer Events Guide

by Madeline Cowen, Grassroots Organizer

Building community with one another is more important now than ever, and Cascadia Wildlands is excited to be offering events and opportunities for folks in the region to come together as we face unprecedented and drastic political shifts. We hope you’ll join us in our efforts to build connections, increase our advocacy and take meaningful action to defend and restore the vital ecosystems in our region.

On April 19th, we’ll be co-hosting the 3rd annual **TransWild Forest Frolic** with partners at TransPonder and Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. TransPonder is a transgender-founded and led nonprofit based in Eugene, Oregon, providing support, resources, and education for the transgender and gender-diverse community and our allies. Their mission is to foster healthy communities through providing wellness programs, support meetings, socials, and special events. They also provide trans-inclusive resources, training and consultation services to improve the lives and outcomes of LGBTQIA2S people, emphasizing

trans and gender-diverse Oregonians. Transponder has received feedback from this community, as well as the broader Queer, BIPOC, and disabled communities, that they face a wide variety of barriers when it comes to access to the outdoors and nature-based activities.

In response, TransPonder, Cascadia Wildlands and Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, have developed a movement called TransWild. This movement seeks to create community partnerships and alliances that remove barriers by promoting active allyship, awareness, and community for Queer, Trans, BIPOC, and disabled people within outdoor settings. Join the TransWild movement from 12-5pm at the TransWild Forest Frolic — a FREE afternoon of outdoor workshops, nature walks, live music, activities, and more at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum! All are welcome.

Then, on April 25th, we are bringing back a loved Cascadia Wildlands tradition, lacing up our dancing shoes, and getting ready for the **Cascadia Mud City Stomp: A Spring Hoedown** at the Eugene Farmers Market Pavilion and Plaza.



Cascadia Wildlands supporters at the 2019 Hoedown.

Alongside the Mud City Old-Time Society, Cascadia Wildlands will be square dancing with a gender-neutral caller, sack racing, and connecting with community from 7-10pm on April 25th! **Get your sliding scale tickets at cascwild.org.**

Spring and summer are our busiest times for field checking timber sales. The weather is nice, days are longer, and everyone has that buzzy sunshine feeling. To help grow our capacity and firm up skills to do this important work, while also spending time in the woods with fellow advocates, we're so excited to host another **Field Checking BASECAMP** from June 20-25th. We'll provide you with all the tools and training you need to effectively field check, as well as food and a place to camp. This camp is a big undertaking and is not possible without the help of our WildCAT volunteers.

Want to help out? Have a relevant workshop or discussion you'd like to bring? Ideas and help more than welcome! **Head to cascwild.org for more information!**



Cascadia Wildlands friend field checking at BASECAMP in 2024.

20th Annual Wonderland Auction Recap

by Spencer McIntyre, *Development & Events Manager*

Our final major event of 2024, the **20th Annual Wonderland Auction**, was an unforgettable evening that surpassed expectations. 325 guests arrived to the vibrant sounds of **Mhondoro**, sipping welcome cocktails and mocktails from **Thinking Tree Spirits** and **Heritage Distilling**.

With over 50 silent auction items—from artisan goods to curated travel packages—there was something for everyone. Guests enjoyed a delicious menu, sweet treats from **Sweet Life Patisserie**, and drinks from **Opine Cellars**, **BNF Kombucha**, and a custom brew from **The Wheel**.

Emily Halnon's heartfelt speech moved the crowd, while **Tim Ream's** dramatic entrance set the stage for a thrilling live auction and paddle raise, helping us raise nearly **\$130,000!**

These funds will support Cascadia's mission to recover gray wolves, protect forests and waterways, and uphold crucial environmental policies.

A huge thank you to our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and guests—especially our premier sponsor, **Mountain Rose Herbs**, for making this our best auction yet. We can't wait for next year!



Cascadia Wildlands supporters bidding at the 20th Annual Wonderland Auction.

“These funds will support Cascadia’s mission to recover gray wolves, protect forests and waterways, and uphold crucial environmental policies.”

SPENCER MCINTYRE

20th Annual Wonderland Auction







Stand with Community Members — Say No to the Aloha Trout Timber Sale!

This area in the Oregon Coast Range near Alsea holds forests **over 130 years old**, home to spawning salmon, complex ecosystems, and frequented trails. But the Bureau of Land Management's Aloha Trout timber sale threatens to log **1,800 acres**, up to **95% of trees** in some areas.

For those who grew up in the PNW these forests are more than trees—they're a legacy to pass on. If this project moves forward, that legacy will be lost.

Speak up now! Tell the BLM to protect these lands, safeguard clean water, and honor community voices.

Take Action Today!



*Photo taken at the proposed Aloha Trout timber sale.
Photo by Dave Herasimtschuk.*

The Future of Our Forests

Centering Tribal Sovereignty & Conservation

CONTINUED FROM COVER

As we face worsening climate change, biodiversity loss, and uncharacteristically severe wildfires, we need an ecologically sound and socially just plan that not only ensures intact, thriving ecosystems, but also meaningfully upholds Tribal sovereignty, to guide us into the future. As the Trump administration directs agencies to significantly ramp up logging on federal public lands at the expense of all other values, it is crucial that we fight to uphold conservation measures across the NWFP area.

In January, Cascadia Wildlands took part in the Northwest Forest Plan Just Futures Symposium at the University of Oregon, which aimed to explore and amplify Tribal sovereignty and environmental justice in federal lands management in the context of the NWFP amendment process. We helped develop a series of webinars with the Pacific Northwest Forest Climate Alliance, presenting on proposed forest management changes in the NWFP. Then, in collaboration with Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology (FUSEE) and FireGen Collaborative, Cascadia Wildlands composed and submitted a letter to the

Forest Service with 61 organizations and 1,260 individuals calling on the agency to advance the full suite of Tribal inclusion provisions analyzed in the draft EIS into the final decision for the NWFP amendment.

While we have yet to see how the amendment process will conclude under the Trump administration, we are excited to be a part of a growing movement that aims to advance future forest management policies that uphold Tribal sovereignty and center Indigenous knowledge. Thank you to the many advocates speaking up for the future of public forests in the Pacific Northwest.



Photo taken at West Fork Canyon Creek Headwaters on BLM land in Douglas County, OR. Photo by Steve Cole.

Spring Has Sprung!

Warmer weather is here. That means it's time to start planning your outdoor adventures.

by Claire Barber, *Communications Fellow*



Communications Fellow, Claire Barber, hugs a tree at McGowan near Marcola, OR.

As we transition into warmer weather, bulbs are popping up from their slumber and our favorite trails are drying out. At Cascadia Wildlands, our crew is always up for a hike, romp, or forage nearby. Here are some trips to add to your list this spring and summer.

Aufderheide Scenic Byway

To view the natural “green up” of wildflowers and foliage in two post-fire zones, head to Aufderheide Drive. Throughout this 60-mile stretch, you can view the impacts and recovery of forests from the Terwilliger Fire (2018) and Cedar Creek Fire (2022). The bright greens and vibrant wildflowers remind us how important it is to allow burned areas to recover naturally. Best of all, the Aufderheide is a short day-trip from Eugene and can easily be made into a fun overnight cycling adventure or camping trip,

with at least five campsites to choose from along the route. Bonus — along the way you'll have a chance to soak at Terwilliger Hot Springs to rest your weary bones!

McGowan Creek Environmental Educational Area

Just a 20-minute drive outside of Eugene, the McGowan Creek Educational Forest (Bureau of Land Management) is the closest old-growth grove to town. We love the roughly 1-mile “Tall Tree Loop” for, well, its tall trees and healthy understory. This loop is an especially great go-to for off-leash hikes with dogs and for a mellow, relatively flat adventure. The loop is usually empty since it is off of an unmarked, paved spur road behind a locked gate.

The easiest way to find McGowan is to navigate yourself to the Mohawk General Store in Springfield. Then, turn right and drive up Donna Rd for about half a mile and left onto McGowan Creek Rd. You'll stay on McGowan Creek Rd. for 3.5 miles, and then you'll come across a fork to forest road 16-2-20 (unmarked). Park on the left shoulder, walk down and past the yellow gate, and up the paved spur road for 10-15 minutes. Then, you'll see the trailhead and a sign on the right. Happy trails!



Flowers bloom at the Cedar Creek Burn Scar near Waldo Lake in June 2024.

Summer 2025 Interns & Staff



Danny Billick

Summer Legal Intern

Danny was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he developed his love for nature, exploring the shores of Lake Michigan and the woods of northern Wisconsin. Danny attended Western Washington University, where he doubled majored in Spanish and Environmental Studies/Economics. Before attending UO School of Law, Danny worked on a state legislature campaign and for two environmental non-profits. Last summer, Danny externed for U.S. District Judge Adrienne Nelson in Portland. As a second-year law student, Danny conducted research as a fellow in Oregon Law's Environmental and Natural Resources Law Fellowship program, worked as a tutor in the Legal Research and Writing program, and served as a staff editor on the Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation. When not studying, Danny spends his time with his partner of ten years, working in the garden or playing with their dog, Zelda.



Nicole Morshead

Summer Legal Intern

Nicole is from Fort Mill, South Carolina, but found her calling to outdoor spaces while an undergraduate at the University of Wyoming. She majored in Environmental Systems Science as well as Environment and Natural Resources. She is fiercely passionate about advocating for wild spaces and more sustainable people-environment interactions. As a current law student at UO School of Law, Nicole has become especially interested in environmental law as it relates to food law, environmental policy, and environmental justice. Being deeply involved in her law school community, she has taken leadership roles in the Land Air Water student organization as a Public Interest Environmental Law Conference Co-Director, where she is honored to be a part of the PIELC community, and co-captain of the District Court Ultimate Frisbee team. During her free time (when she gets it), Nicole enjoys hiking, climbing, skiing, ultimate frisbee, running, and just about any activity that gets her outside.



Dara Evans

Summer Legal Intern



Flora Booker

Summer Field and Events Coordinator

Dara grew up moving around the country before her family settled in Southern California. While living there, she loved playing beach volleyball and taking her dogs to the local dog beach. She earned her bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University in 2021 and is now a rising third year student at the UO School of Law. She's excited to continue working in the PNW after graduation on environmental advocacy efforts. Since moving to Oregon, Dara's had to adjust to the rain and trees, but she has found a love for hiking and chasing waterfalls.

Flora grew up swimming through bull kelp and picking up Dungeness crabs in the icy waters of Bellingham Bay since childhood. Now entering her senior year in the Honors College at the University of Oregon, she is pursuing a B.S. in Environmental Studies with a minor in Biology. With a background in restoration and plant surveys, she is passionate about integrating fieldwork with environmental justice advocacy and community-based research. She is excited to bring her knowledge of Pacific Northwest plants, love for local ecosystems, and enthusiasm for community engagement to the Cascadia Wildlands crew this summer!



Legal Updates

Boldy Blasting Bureau of Land Managment's Buffoonery

by Nick Cady, *Legal Director*



1



2



3

1. Big Weekly Elk

Cascadia Wildlands and partners are challenging the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Big Weekly Elk timber sale located southwest of Roseburg and has oral argument before the Ninth Circuit this June in San Francisco. The Big Weekly Elk project proposes to log marbled murrelet nesting habitat; there are over 50 occupied sites in the project area. BLM has recently authorized additional timber sales under the project, but a win in June will prevent these from moving forward! Stay tuned.

2. Blue and Gold

Cascadia Wildlands and its conservation partners at Oregon Wild and Umpqua Watersheds are challenging BLM's Blue and Gold timber sale located near Yoncalla, Oregon. This project proposes logging the oldest forests on BLM lands, habitat for northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets, and a number of imperiled fish species. This is a rare block of native, unlogged old-growth. BLM's Resource Management Plan prevents the agency from logging old-growth, but the agency misrepresented the age of the forests to facilitate logging. Tireless work from Peter Jensen, Cascadia's new attorney, found evidence that will bring this deception to light before the Court. Our opening brief is due in April.

3. Big League

Back in 2023, Cascadia Wildlands and partners filed suit against the Big League project north of Marcola for a host of undisclosed aquatic impacts. BLM pulled the project, but has just recently re-authorized the logging, doubling down on its questionable analysis. Cascadia's lawyers are gearing back up with assistance from Crag Law Center in Portland. Stay tuned for developments.

Support Cascadia Wildlands



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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 or click this image.

**BottleDrop has 20% match for donations from
April 15-26 for Earth Week**

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SEQUENTIAL WILL GIVE BACK

**Cascadia
WILDLANDS**
we like it wild.



**Ask for your purchase to benefit
CASCADIA WILDLANDS!**

CASCWILD.ORG

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 70.5 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. Please let us know if you are donating stock.

MAKE A BEQUEST: Naming Cascadia Wildlands in your will as the beneficiary of a qualified retirement plan, a sum of cash, property, or 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:**
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inside?

THANK YOU!

for being a part of the movement for a wild Cascadia

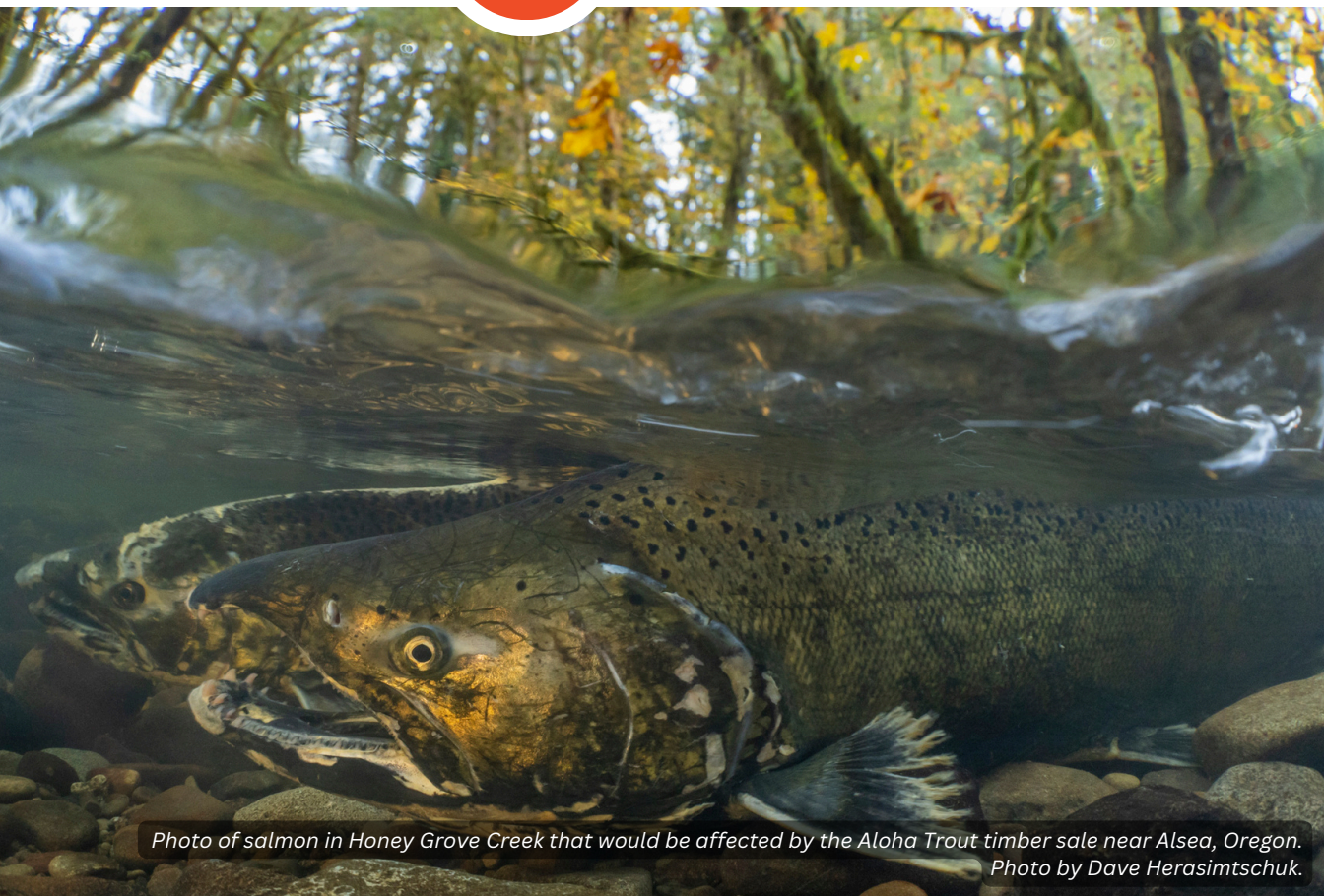


Photo of salmon in Honey Grove Creek that would be affected by the Aloha Trout timber sale near Alsea, Oregon.
Photo by Dave Herasimtschuk.