

# CASCADIA QUARTERLY



Oct.1 rally, beneath Sen. Wyden's office, urge halting sell off of over 2.5 million acres of public O&C forest lands. (Josh Laughlin)

## ATTENTION SENATOR WYDEN: Safeguard Our Clean Water and Wild Salmon

### Focus Turns to Senator Wyden as Rep. DeFazio's Clearcut Bill Passes House

by Josh Laughlin, Campaign Director

On October 1, over 200 Oregonians braved a torrential downpour and rallied at Holladay Park in northeast Portland to deliver a message to Senator Wyden, whose office looms stories above the park: "Protect our clean water and salmon!"

The rally was organized because Senator Wyden is currently drafting legislation that will likely increase logging and reduce critical protections on over 2.5 million acres of public forestlands in western Oregon, known as O&C lands which are managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The reserve system on these lands play a critical part of the 24-million acre Northwest Forest Plan strategy and without them, it does not function as designed.

The House of Representatives, led by Rep. Peter DeFazio, recently passed a bill that will turn approximately 1.5 million acres of our public forestland in western Oregon into a timber trust to be logged in perpetuity to fund county services. The bill would greatly impact drinking water quality (1.8 million

western Oregonians get their drinking water from BLM forests), habitat for imperiled salmon and wildlife, and degrade recreation opportunities as it would drastically shrink streamside and old-growth reserves and increase clearcutting.

The politicians suggest that if we don't ramp up clearcutting, western Oregon counties like Curry and Josephine will go insolvent. We don't believe that our federal public lands have to be the sole workhorse to fund counties. These struggling counties have the lowest property taxes in Oregon, and residents must recognize that they need to pay their fair share if they want basic services like road maintenance, libraries, and sheriffs. We also suggest that the state take a fresh look at the timber harvest tax in Oregon and find a way to capitalize on all the raw logs and private lands and jobs that are being shipped overseas to China.

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# Cascadia WILDLANDS

we like it wild.

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## What is Our Wild Mantra?

from Executive Director Bob Ferris



The anti-wolf crowd has had a mantra for years of shoot, shovel and shut-up. It is simple and painfully primal, but what should ours be? My sense is that it should be informed, involved and invested. But what would a card-carrying I3 person look like?

**You are informed about wildlands and wildlife issues.** You take the time to read blog posts, electronic newsletters and go to talks, lectures and film festivals.

**You are directly involved in protecting the wildness about us.** You sign petitions; submit comments agencies and legislators; and pen letters to the editor. You draw people to the cause by sharing blogs and petitions on social media and invite friends to events and get involved as well.

**You invest in groups that work for wildlife and wild places.** And you realize that protecting wildlife and wild places requires an investment not only of brain power and time but financial resources too. If you take all these important steps and the “you” in all these paragraphs quickly becomes an “I”. Please become informed, get involved, and invest in Cascadia Wildlands.

## Spend your money on something that pays out real dividends...

Your contributions, earmarked for our wolf fund before November 30, 2013, will be matched up to a total of \$5,000. Thanks to a generous donation from our friends at Mountain Rose Herbs!



## ... help keep our wildlands, WILD.



# USFWS's Wolf Delisting Fiasco

## Proposal to Strip Critical Protections Misguided

by Bob Ferris, Executive Director

When the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) submitted a proposal to remove protections for gray wolves in across nearly all of the US, it compromised the credibility of the agency, ignored the public will and opened themselves to what has become global criticism from the scientific community. This latter shortcoming was epitomized by the recent

predetermined outcome was further exacerbated by the agency's overreliance on agriculture and trophy hunter-dominated fish and wildlife agencies and legislators in the West as surrogates for the public they serve and as a back-up choir to their premature delisting proposal. This is particularly problematic when we have graphic and gruesome examples of the actions of the three Northern Rockies states post-delisting.

While we are rolling out shortcomings of the USFWS proposal, we also urge the agency to take a hard look at criteria-five listed in section 4(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act which goes like this: *There are other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.*

The agency should realize that wolf bigotry in many instances is manmade, and that it is and remains, a factor that affects the wolves' continued existence in places where they are and is a barrier to their continued recovery. While the Service is aware of this significant factor, they have done really very little to address it and have left it up to conservation groups and others to counter the myths promulgated by organizations like the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

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Wolf known as OR14, was GPS-collared by ODFW in the Weston Mountain area north of the Umatilla River on June 20, 2012. (ODFW)

letter in the international publication *Nature* called "Grey wolves left out in the cold: US plan to remove federal protection elicits howls of protest."

Now all of this reflects on the content of the proposal and whether it passes the giggle test, which it does not. In addition, there are also numerous process issues. First and foremost is the agency's selection of a foreign consulting firm with ties to the energy and development industries as a contractor to deal with scientific peer review and enabling them to purge dissenting scientists. This issue of agency bias and them forcefully walking this proposal to a



Black bear ([firstpeople.us](http://firstpeople.us))

## Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)

Black bears provide critical ecosystems with services that help habitats stay in balance. Their feeding and elimination patterns move seeds and nutrients across the landscape, and they help thin the forest, improving the growth of remaining trees. Bears also provide protection for plant communities by moderating herbivore populations and changing their feeding behavior. When the bears are at risk, so is the surrounding ecosystem.

All bears species are extinction prone due to their low birthrates, vulnerability to human-caused mortality and large habitat requirements. Current management for the species throughout Cascadia, which includes extensive sport hunting and lethal control, removes older individuals and creates a very young population, which is more likely to adversely interact with humans.

Throughout Cascadia, agencies are failing to use current science in managing top predators like black bears, and cannot definitively state that their population is stable and likely to stay viable. As long as the health of this keystone species is threatened, the future of Cascadia is in peril.

# Genetically Engineered Salmon Approval in Limbo

## Fight Continues to Flush “Frankenfish” Experiment

by Gabe Scott, Alaska Field Director



GE Fish, April 30, 2013. (*centerforfoodsafety.org*)

Our campaign against the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) approval for AquaAdvantage salmon, a.k.a. “Frankenfish,” is moving along successfully.

AquaAdvantage salmon, a genetically engineered (GE) cross of king and Atlantic salmon with a dash of ocean pout, would be the world’s first GE animal approved for human consumption. If approved for market, it would set a hugely destructive precedent.

On the regulatory side, the FDA is considering whether to adopt their Finding of No Significant Impact, put out in April. They’re mulling over 1.8 million public comments, which almost universally oppose that finding. Environmentalists, consumers, fishermen, doctors, indigenous groups, and consumer advocates all weighed in.

Meanwhile, our coalition has been gathering commitments from grocery stores not to sell GE fish if they ever do come to market. So far, over 60 companies (representing over 4,600 stores nationwide) have taken the pledge. Our good friends at Mountain Rose Herbs were instrumental in getting the word out to grocers, all over the country, from Oregon to Florida. Major news outlets have been covering the story. The message is getting out.

All this interest has not been lost on politicians. Senator Murkowski (R-AK) successfully sponsored a bipartisan

that would require labeling of GE salmon. The measure has not become law, but it is a significant step because it shows the votes are there. Similar measures have been sponsored by Sen. Boxer (D-CA), Begich (D-AK) and Reps. DeFazio (D-OR), and Young (R-AK).

On the science end, information continues to accumulate showing the danger of raising unregulated GE salmon. One recent study, published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Biological Sciences, found hybridization between GE salmon and wild brown trout. That means engineered genes can transmit into the gene pool of other species. The biologists call this a “novel ecological interaction.” In layman’s terms, it means the cat can get out of the bag.

If FDA does approve AquaBounty’s application, Cascadia Wildlands and others are prepping lawsuits to stop it. Laws regulating GE products are weak, but laws requiring that environmental impacts be studied remain strong. We are confident that FDA’s rubber-stamped “no significant impact” finding is a bridge too far.



A genetically engineered salmon (top) grows twice as fast as its wild counterpart (bottom). (AQUABOUNTY)

So while the project sits in regulatory limbo, there is a lot going on behind the scenes. We’re using every tool in our toolbox. This is one fight we cannot afford to lose.

### freaky frankenfish facts

GE salmon are being considered as a new animal drug, the process isn’t focused on what happens to people who eat genetically engineered animals.

Food safety advocates say GE Fish pose higher risk of allergic reactions, contain larger quantities of cancer-causing chemicals, and offer fewer health benefits than natural fish.

Environmentalists fear escaped GE Fish could interbreed with wild salmon, , decimating populations and unleashing a cascade of harmful ecological interactions.

## Rally, continued from page 1

While the legislative efforts to strip key protections on O&C lands continue so does the administrative effort, known as the Western Oregon Plan Revisions. We expect much of what is or may be in the legislative proposals to be in the new BLM Resource and Management Plans in western Oregon. Specifically, new so-called scientific approaches to managing streamside reserves and forest that will increase timber volume/acre are expected. The BLM has accepted initial public comment and is current drafting action alternatives. A decision is expected in 2015.

Even though resource management planning is ongoing, that doesn't mean things are quiet on the ground on the local BLM districts. The Eugene BLM district is currently in the early stages of planning two "variable retention harvests" projects being

promoted by forestry professors Dr. Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin. One is west of Eugene near Walton called Steam

Donkey Echo; the other is east of town near Vida called the McKenzie Landscape and Management Project. We continue to monitor, field check, and comment on both. Treesitters with Cascadia Forest Defenders continue to occupy the threatened older forests of the White Castle timber sale on the Roseburg BLM District near Myrtle Creek. And we are embroiled in a handful of ongoing legal challenges to reckless BLM sales that jeopardize social and ecological values important to us and you throughout the six BLM districts from Medford up to Salem.



# we like it wild.

## Wolf Delisting, continued from page 3

While the US Fish and Wildlife Service is demonstrating its anxiousness to step away from gray wolf recovery in the West, it has materially failed to provide a scientifically defensible proposal, polluted the process, and neglected to address one of the core reasons for imperilment of this important ecological actor.

This situation is only made worse by the woefully inadequate number and scope of public hearings, and the recent government shut down. The Service needs to go back to the drawing board and come back when it has made legitimate attempts to set and meet defensible recovery goals in the rest of the Pacific Northwest

and Southern Rockies, dealt realistically with these manmade factors, and broadly engaged the scientific community and addressed their issues.



# Celebrate Cascadia Wildlands' 15th Year Anniversary at the 11th Annual Wonderland Auction!

**Saturday, December 14, 6 - 10PM**  
**EMU Ballroom, University of Oregon**

The Wonderland Auction is less than two months away, and this wildly popular event turns out a crowd that fills the expansive EMU Ballroom. Join **Cascadia Wildlands**, **Mountain Rose Herbs**, the **University of Oregon Outdoor Program**, and our community supporters, for exciting live and silent auctions, a gourmet buffet dinner by **Ring of Fire**, craft beer by **Ninkasi**, tasty wine, and plenty of holiday cheer!

This year's auction features fine art, fabulous West Coast getaways, rafting adventures, handcrafted furniture, outdoor gear, wine packages, and much more.

Space is limited, so reserve your tickets today, at [www.CascWild.org](http://www.CascWild.org). Tickets are **\$40 in advance**, **\$50 at the door**, and kids 12 and under get in for free! (You can also special reserve a table for ten.) Admission includes dinner and unlimited drinks. **See you on December 14th!**



## Auction Sneak Peak: Featured Item

Striking 39" long mixed-media sculpture, donated by artist Stephen Braun, is masterfully emblematic of Cascadia Wildlands' work and the challenges we face. This generic salmon festooned with symbols of human pressures—clearcuts, oil barrels, tires and hooks—is not only visually appealing, but encapsulates many of the challenges we face in protecting this iconic fish. According to the artist "when hung properly the silhouette on the fish will be covered by the shadow of the viewer" hence the rock and the hard spot title as we, the viewer, are the hard spot. Both thought provoking and beautiful.

*Between a Rock and A Hard Spot*  
 by Stephen Braun

**Thank you** to all of our individual and family supporters and the many volunteers who help us protect wild places! Many thanks to the foundations and community groups that have recently made substantial contributions to support our work:

444S Foundation	Kenney Brothers Watershed Foundation	Mark Frohnmayer Donor Advised Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation	Sperling Foundation
Astrov Fund	Klorfine Family Foundation	Roger Millis Donor Advised Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation	Strong Foundation for Environmental Values
Ben & Jerry's Foundation	Lazar Foundation	McKenzie River Gathering Foundation	Suwinski Family Foundation
Brainerd Foundation	Leotta Gordon Foundation	Meyer Memorial Trust	University of Oregon Outdoor Program
Burning Foundation	Loeb-Meginnes Foundation	Norcross Wildlife Foundation	Weeden Foundation
Charlotte Martin Foundation	Mazamas	Rex Foundation	Wilburforce Foundation
Deer Creek Foundation	McIntosh Foundation		Winky Foundation
Earth Friends Conservation Fund	Mountaineers Foundation		
Fund for Wild Nature			
Furthur Foundation			

THANK YOU!

## BUSINESSES GIVE BACK

A sustainable planet is essential to sustainable business. That's why more and more companies are actively investing in Cascadia Wildlands. Business support saves wild places from imminent destruction and wildlife from extinction. *Please join us in thanking and patronizing the visionary businesses that recently supported our work with generous cash contributions:*

**Business Champions**  
(\$10,000+)

**Mountain Rose Herbs**

**Business Champions**  
(\$5,000-9,999)

**Patagonia, Inc.**

**Business Sustainers**  
(\$1,000-2,499)

**Tactics Board Shop**

**Business Partners**  
(\$2,500-4,999)

**Pivot Architecture**

**Business Friends**  
(\$250-999)

**Backcountry Gear Ltd.**

**Medicine Flower**

**River Jewelry**

**Southern Explorations**

**Sundance Natural Market**

In addition, hundreds of businesses contribute goods and services to support Cascadia Wildlands, especially through our annual Wonderland Auction. *Please help us thank the businesses that support our work with generous in-kind contributions:*

Discovery Voyages

Ninkasi Brewing Company

Paul's Bicycle Way of Life

Cascadia Wildlands is a proud recipient organization of 1% for the Planet, an alliance of businesses committed to leveraging their resources to create a healthier planet.



**FOR THE  
PLANET**

**RECIPIENT**

**fall 2013**

- ➔ O&C Rally: Halt Public Forestland Sell Off
- ➔ USFWS Gray Wolf Delisting Fiasco
- ➔ GE Salmon: The Fight Against Frankenfish
- ➔ Wonderland Auction Art Sneak Peak

**what's  
inside?**

## **Business Supporter in Focus: Dean Rand, Discovery Voyages**

Cascadia Wildlands is proud to partner with Dean Rand of Discovery Voyages. Operating small-boat adventures in Prince William Sound aboard the gorgeous vessel, Discovery, Discovery Voyages has



been a fixture in the environmental community since the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The

Discovery is a long-time favorite for coalition retreats has generously donated trips each of the last several years for Cascadia's Wonderland Auction.

In business, Discovery represents the best of nature tourism, bringing people in intimate touch with the wild without degrading the Wilderness. Knowing the nooks and crannies of Prince William Sound, the habits of whales and the habits of hunting guides, Discovery is the go-to source for information on happenings in this remote wilderness. Big thank you to Dean, and Discovery Voyages. More information found at: [www.discoveryvoyages.com](http://www.discoveryvoyages.com).

## **See You at Our Next Events!**

**Oct. 27th: 10-5pm**

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum Mushroom Festival

**Nov. 4th: 6-8pm, Pints Gone Wild!**

Eugene City's Eclectic Collective performs

**Nov. 7th: 5pm & 7:30pm, A Fierce Green Fire**

brought to you by Encircle Films and Cascadia Wildlands. Explore the modern environmental movement, through film & discussion at the Bijou. Two same day showings.

**Nov. 16th: 9pm -1am, at Lucky's Bar.**

Live music event featuring a major local band. Proceeds go to Cascadia Wildlands. *Look for details coming soon!*