

CASCADIA QUARTERLY



Salmon populations, like Frasier River sockeye here, face a myriad of new challenges (Matt Casselman).

Swimming the Gauntlet in Cascadia

Pacific Wild Salmon Face a Myriad of Emerging Threats

by Gabe Scott and Josh Laughlin

From the Klamath to the Copper, and all of the systems in between, each salmon run is different and unique. All are adapted in some mysterious way to bring their nutrients back home from the ocean faithfully. Feeding wildlife. Fertilizing the wildlands. Sustaining people. Supporting whole towns. Uniting Cascadia.

But our wild salmon continue to face a myriad of threats, and that is why Cascadia Wildlands launched a wild salmon heritage campaign last year.

Take, for example, the Frankenfish experiment. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is on the cusp of green-lighting an Atlantic salmon engineered with a Pacific king salmon growth gene. This is the first time a genetically engineered (GE) animal would be commercially produced for food, by anyone, anywhere, ever. It's a huge precedent, and the eyes of the world are on us. And GE salmon may turn out to be one of the greatest threats to wild salmon, and our wild

salmon economy, due to the possibility of genetic contamination in wild fish waters.

We are currently bringing grassroots pressure on FDA to conduct a full environmental review. Our coalition is made up of wild salmon advocates, grocery stores, businesses and others interested in keeping Frankenfish out of the gene pool. Mountain Rose Herbs, a critical business partner of ours with national reach, will be helping us work with fish retailers opposing this scheme. We are also preparing technical comments to build a legal record and have set up a petition on our website for people like you to sign.

If it is not mad doctors tinkering with fish genes, it is reckless mining methods that continue to threaten wild salmon. Cascadia Wildlands is part of the Oregon Heritage Rivers Alliance, a group of wild salmon advocates working to halt suction dredge mining in critical waterways essential to the survival of salmon in Oregon.

Cascadia WILDLANDS

we like it wild.

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Act Locally, Influence Globally

from Executive Director Bob Ferris

When I first became active in the conservation/environmental/biodiversity movement — right about the time of the first Earth Day — there was a slogan that worked: Think Globally — Act Locally. It was a wonderful sentiment, but I am not sure that it is enough anymore.

“Think” implies passivity and we cannot be passive. So we at Cascadia Wildlands design our campaigns and actions to make Cascadia a better and wilder place as well as using those actions to make a difference elsewhere.

What do I mean by this? In our work to stop coal and liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports from likely ports in Oregon and Washington, we do better and are more effective overall if we also engage on coal mining and fracking in the intermountain West and on climate change, too.

The same is true on wolves, but probably more so. In essence, our goal is to restore wolves in Cascadia, but that does not happen seamlessly if the federal government abandons science and its responsibility to this important species by proceeding with a plan to strip protections for wolves in the lower 48 states. This is why you see us engaged in dialogues about the anti-wolf rhetoric and recent allocations from the Utah legislature to fund the DC anti-wolf lobbying efforts.

Our work in Cascadia is important but so is this “overflow” work. We hope you will make our work more effective by sharing it with your social networks and also contributing to our spring fundraising drive. It all helps us in making change happen here and influencing it elsewhere. Thanks for your ongoing support.

Intern in Focus: Tom Schally

Originally from Minnesota, Tom was fortunate to have explored the northern forests and pristine lakes of the Canadian boundary waters. Today, Tom is a graduate student of public policy and head debate coach at the University of Oregon.

He brings his advocacy skills to Cascadia Wildlands as a communications and outreach intern to help defend the beauty of Northwest forests and species that captivated him. Tom has been developing communication and advocacy tools to assist us with our gray wolf advocacy efforts. When not at school or in the office, Tom enjoys rollerblading, bonsai, bonfires, and always welcomes a spirited game of backgammon. Thanks, Tom.



Of Wolves, Deer and Forest Service

Tongass Logging Thwarts Ecosystem Balance

by Gabe Scott, Alaska Field Director

Deep in the misty inlets and isles of Southeast Alaska's Alexander Archipelago, just over from the fishing town of Petersburg, right now, a deer is pawing through deep, crusted snow, searching wearily for food. The deer is hungry to the bones. Late winter, it is weak, having weathered one storm after another. The sheltering forest has been chopped apart by clearcuts. Even now chainsaws can be heard.

In the same place, right now, a wolf is also hungry. Its bones show through a matted pelt. Its pack has lived on deer for many generations. Deer are scarce.

Just down the hill, in a cozy little cabin, a human lives this drama, too. Like the wolf, his family has subsisted off of these deer for generations. Now, most folks run a boat to a different island, one with more deer. Some humans blame the wolves. But the wolves are struggling, too.

These things are not unrelated.

The common element is the loss of intact old-growth forest. The big trees are the linchpin. Take away the forest and winters get harder with deeper snows, more deer starve, and pretty soon, there are no longer enough deer to support both human hunters and wolves. Something has to give.

So, what gives? The Forest Service, which is in charge of the

trees, is determined to keep chopping them down. The Tonka project, the latest in a string of big old-growth sales, will cut a little over 2,000 acres of old-growth spruce and hemlock on the Tongass National Forest. The Forest Service is legally required to take care of wolves, but they say more cutting is okay because wolves could still seek refuge in nearby Wilderness areas.

“We think the Forest Service needs to preserve enough forest for the deer, wolves and humans all to coexist.”

The State of Alaska, which is motivated by deer hunting, is handling things by hiring trappers to kill off 80% of the wolves in the area, including in the Wilderness. They figure then people can kill more of what few deer there are. It's a vicious, predictable cycle.

Cascadia Wildlands is doing its utmost to stop this madness. We think the Forest Service needs to preserve enough forest for the deer, wolves and humans all to coexist.

So we'll be in court again, this time over the Tonka timber sale. The lawsuit will expose how the state and Forest Service collude to cut trees and kill wolves, and muzzle the scientists who might raise annoying questions.

Killing predators is not a solution for habitat loss — conservation is.



Alex. Archipelago wolf (John Hyde)

The Island Wolf

The Alexander Archipelago wolf (*Canis lupus ligoni*) is a unique subspecies of the gray wolf found only on southeast Alaska's Alexander Archipelago. They are believed to have originated, not from gray wolves dispersing from the interior, but from a now-extinct subspecies from Washington's Olympic Peninsula.

These wolves almost exclusively eat Sitka blacktail deer, unlike most wolves, which are generalists.

They have been petitioned for listing several times, based on the loss of old-growth forest (and consequently, of deer) on the Tongass National Forest and adjacent private lands. In 1997, based on a Forest Service standard saying adequate deer habitat would be preserved to support both wolves and human hunters, the first petition was denied.

The Forest Service since then has tried to avoid implementing that standard, and Cascadia Wildlands has been to court repeatedly to enforce it. As deer and wolf populations show worrying signs, another petition to list the Alexander Archipelago wolf was filed in 2011 by Greenpeace and Center of Biological Diversity.

Enjoying the Sounds of Silence

Injunction on Logging in Murrelet Habitat Quiets the Elliott State Forest

by Nick Cady, Legal Director

Francis Eatherington, Cascadia Wildlands' Conservation Director, has just returned to her Roseburg office after spending several days in the Elliott State Forest. Francis has worked to reform the state's reckless logging practices on the 93,000-acre rainforest for ten years now. The Elliott is a beautiful coastal forest, half of which has never been logged, and due to its establishment history, is mandated to generate revenue for Oregon's school children. After Francis' recent visit, she noticed that something was missing: the buzzing of chainsaws, the roar and exhaust of heavy machinery, and the spraying of herbicides.

Cascadia Wildlands, along with conservation partners Center for Biological Diversity and Portland Audubon, successfully silenced these activities through a lawsuit filed last year in May. The federal district court in Eugene ordered a stop to logging activities in habitat occupied by the marbled murrelet, an imperiled seabird that nests in coastal old-growth forest, suggesting that there was merit to our claim that the clearcutting is "taking" murrelets on the Elliott, Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests, a violation of the Endangered Species Act.

Cascadia will now begin working with the State of Oregon and timber industry intervenors to create a new

management paradigm for the coastal state forests. Our vision for these forests will leave behind the archaic practices of clearcutting mature forest, spraying herbicides, and killing beavers and bears that



Community members explore the Elliott State Forest (Bryan Robinson).

munch on saplings. Any new agreement for the forest will focus on restoring degraded landscapes, decommissioning harmful roads, and enhancing habitat for Oregon's imperiled fish and wildlife species, including salmon, spotted owls, and marbled murrelets. Additionally, thinning dense young plantations that resulted from past clearcutting will generate income for local mills and provide jobs for surrounding rural communities.

The Elliott in particular is one of last remaining bastions of high quality habitat for the murrelet in the Coast Range. In fact, biologists have recently concluded that any reduction in the bird's habitat on the Elliott would correlate with reductions in the murrelet population.

As a result of the legal injunction, all is quiet on the Elliott. So grab your kayaks and your fishing rods, dust off the camping gear and backpacks and enjoy the sounds of silence. And who knows, maybe you will run into Francis Eatherington emerging from a dense thicket!

2013 Numbers on the Elliott

The legal injunction has resulted in drastic forest management changes on the Elliott. The Oregon Department of Forestry had planned to clearcut approximately 900 acres of never-before-logged rainforest in 2013. The injunction halted this reckless plan plus hundreds of acres of older forest timber sales from previous years that would have harmed the imperiled marbled murrelet. Instead, this year the agency is moving forward with logging approximately 550 acres of dense, second-growth tree farms, which do not provide habitat for the marbled murrelet.

Where's Waldo? Lasting Protections for Iconic Lake in Sight

Cascadia Wildlands is excited to report that on March 25 SB 602, which would outlaw gas motors and seaplanes from iconic Waldo Lake in the Oregon Cascades, passed the Oregon Senate 18-11. This legislation will end the active campaign taken by an elite few to open one of Oregon's crown jewels to gas motors and noisy float planes. Cascadia Wildlands believes this unique lake environment should be safeguarded for its unparalleled water quality and quiet recreation experience. Thank you for weighing in on this issue over the years, and now it is on to the House!



Waldo Lake and the Charnelton Burn (James Johnston)

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Suction dredge mining uses a gasoline-powered motor and hose to suck up sensitive river bottoms in search of gold. Sediment plumes from dredging stretch as long as a half-mile. Among other things, the practice harms spawning beds, displaces food sources for salmon and re-suspends mercury into the water column.



Pink salmon (NOAA Fisheries)

This new Gold Rush has moved north since California enacted a moratorium thereby halting the practice in 2009. Critical waterways in Oregon, like the Illinois, Rogue and South Umpqua, have become ground zero for suction dredge mining. We are currently working on a legislative effort to end the practice, starting with our most sensitive salmon rivers.

Another threat to wild salmon that is beginning to receive the attention it deserves is hatcheries and the impact they have on sensitive and threatened wild salmon. The Sandy River, which flows off the western flanks of Mt. Hood, is a legal test case. Wild fish advocates argue that the state and federal governments' hatchery program, designed to maximize fish numbers in streams for angler success, is overwhelming wild salmon by creating too much competition for food and habitat, transmitting disease and reducing genetic fitness when the two breed. Cascadia Wildlands continues to follow this issue closely.

Cascadia's wild salmon are our heritage. We intend to guard and protect it vigorously, so that future generations can enjoy this same natural bounty and so that wild salmon can exist for their own intrinsic value.

10th Hoedown for Cascadia's Ancient Forests

May 18, 2013, 6-10 p.m. • Avalon Stables, Cottage Grove

We've moved the Hoedown for Cascadia's Ancient Forests from fall to spring! We hope you will come on out, kick up your heels and join us for some good old fashioned fun. The **Conjugal Visitors** and caller **Bob Ewing** are ready to whip you into a square-dancing frenzy. A vegetarian chili dinner and two drink tickets are included with admission, and a round-trip shuttle bus from Eugene will be offered.

Advanced tickets, volunteer opportunities and more information at www.CascWild.org. This is a family-friendly event not to be missed!



Ninkasi Hosts Pints Gone Wild!

Join **Cascadia Wildlands and Ninkasi Brewing Co.** on the first Mondays of the month for Pints Gone Wild! at 272 Van Buren St. 25% of pint sales at the tasting room on those days go to support our conservation work. Live music runs from 5:30-7:00 pm, followed by knee-slapping Cascadia Trivia Night. See you there!



Monday, May 6: Gaye Lee Russell and Her Badass Band (powerful blues and jazz)

Monday, June 3: TBA

Monday, July 1: Gaye Lee Russell and Her Badass Band (powerful blues and jazz)

Monday, August 5: Americanistan (mesmerizing belly dance troupe)

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

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 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 |
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| 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 | Mountaineers Foundation | | Winky Foundation |
| Earth Friends Conservation Fund | | | |
| 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 Partners (\$2,500-4,999)

Tactics Board Shop

Business Friends (\$250-999)

Backcountry Gear Ltd.

Medicine Flower

River Jewelry

Southern Explorations

Sundance Natural Market

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

Patagonia, Inc.

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

Pivot Architecture

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



FOR THE PLANET

RECIPIENT

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.

spring 2013

- Wild Salmon Heritage Threatened
- Hoedown for Cascadia, May 18
- Tongass Old-growth Logging
- Sounds of Silence on the Elliott

what's
inside?

Business Supporter in Focus: Tactics

Cascadia Wildlands is proud to partner with Tactics Board Shop (www.tactics.com), a prominent snowboard, surf, and skate retail business that has been operating in Eugene since 1999. Tactics has generously supported our conservation work over the years with both cash donations and by donating outdoor gear and apparel to our annual Wonderland Auction.

"We are proud to have been a long-time supporter of Cascadia Wildlands. Their work is critical and effective, and the staff is passionate and committed. We appreciate that they run a lean operation and, most importantly, remain on the frontlines of critical environmental issues for our bioregion," says Bob Chandler, co-owner of Tactics.

Businesses like Tactics make our conservation work possible and set the tone for others in the outdoor business community. Thanks Tactics!



Hikes Planned to Devil's Staircase

Cascadia Wildlands will be leading a series of hikes into the Devil's Staircase wilderness proposal area this spring. Hikes are planned for **April 6, April 20 and May 4**. Hikes leave at 8 am from behind FedEx Office (13th and Willamette St.), return at 6 pm and are not for the thin skinned. Hikes are off trail, and difficult. More information and RSVP to Cascadia Wildlands hike leader, Cameron Derbyshire, 541.517.4906. Hikes are limited to 12 people and won't necessarily go to the Staircase itself.

This is an exciting time of year to visit the area with the forest coming alive. Also, the bill to protect the area just passed the Senate committee. Now onto the House!

