

# CASCADIA REVIEW

## The Most Significant Victory for Wildlife in a Generation: 1.25% for Wildlife Becomes Law in Oregon

by Bethany Cotton, *Conservation Director*



A group of hardworking conservation activists, lawyers, and supporters after the passing of 1.25% for Wildlife in Salem, OR. Photo by Oregon Wildlife Coalition.

We are overjoyed that our priority legislation in Oregon's short session (HB 4134 – 1.25% for Wildlife) passed with bipartisan support. For decades, a proverbial Tragedy of the Commons played out in Oregon: we recognized the need for increased funding for imperiled non-game wildlife, fish and habitats, but no one wanted to pay the tab. That need has deepened as we face the twin biodiversity and climate crises and confront a federal administration hell bent on attacking conservation, including by cutting, delaying, or entirely denying federal funding.

Oregon's recently revised State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) identifies over 300 species as being at risk – more than a third of Oregon's fish and wildlife species – yet biennium after biennium the state legislature failed to allocate adequate general fund dollars. 1.25% for Wildlife is the solution. By increasing our state transient lodging tax by just 1.25% – meaning \$1.25 for every \$100 known as the Nature Conservation Fee – the state will generate long-term dedicated and reliable funding for conservation efforts. The funds will pay for implementation of the SWAP, Oregon Department of Fish and

**continued on page 10**



**CASCADIA  
WILDLANDS**  
We like it wild.

If you prefer to have the *Cascadia Review* emailed to you, send us a message at [info@cascwild.org](mailto:info@cascwild.org) or give us a call 541.434.1463 requesting the change.

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# Confronting a Force That Will Stop at Nothing

It can be hard to stay focused on conservation in Cascadia when ICE disappears our own community members, bombs explode across the Middle East, millions lose health coverage, and a pedophile network of the powerful remains immune to prosecution.

But it is critically important that you and I don't lose focus amidst the shock and awe of each day's news cycle because this administration, the Congress, and industry are surgically gutting all the tools we use successfully to keep it wild in Cascadia. These are the bedrock laws and policies that have made America great over the years: the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Northwest Forest Plan, and the Roadless Rule to name just a few.

They are the underpinnings of why gray wolves are recovering from near extinction, old-growth forests remain standing, and wild salmon are still spawning in their natal streams. It is these protections that safeguard all that is wild and what give us solitude, renewal, and hope for the next generation.

But it is all up for grabs right now, with our nation's conservation framework hanging in the balance. The stakes have never been higher as we look down the barrel of runaway climate change, species endangerment, and the pollution of our commons.

I like to believe Cascadia Wildlands has been in training for this moment for the last 30 years. It is what we were built for. We know how to mobilize the masses into action. We have and work closely with the preeminent lawyers that know how to confront this nonsense in the courtroom and win. And we have



The gloves are off at Cascadia Wildlands. Photo by Cascadia Wildlands.



Sign-up on our website to get involved!

## CRITTER CORNER



Photo by David Herasimtschuk.

## PACIFIC LAMPREY

*(Entosphenus tridentatus)*

by Noah Angell  
*Communications Fellow*

The culturally important Pacific lamprey is an anadromous, eel-like, jawless fish with a sucker-like mouth and no true paired fins, making it part of the Agnatha superclass — a primitive group of fish that has existed for over 450 million years.

Historically, Pacific lamprey ranged widely from Baja California, Mexico to Alaska and across the Pacific to Japan. Today, their distribution in the Pacific Northwest has been significantly reduced due to dams and culverts that block historic migration routes. They are also vulnerable to degraded stream habitat, poor water quality, changing ocean conditions, and climate change.

In Oregon, Pacific lamprey are listed as a Sensitive Species. Although, a 2003 petition to list them under the Endangered Species Act was deemed “not warranted,” it led to the creation of the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative (PLCI), a collaboration of Native American tribes, federal and state agencies, non-profits, and other partners working together to achieve long-term persistence of the species. **3**

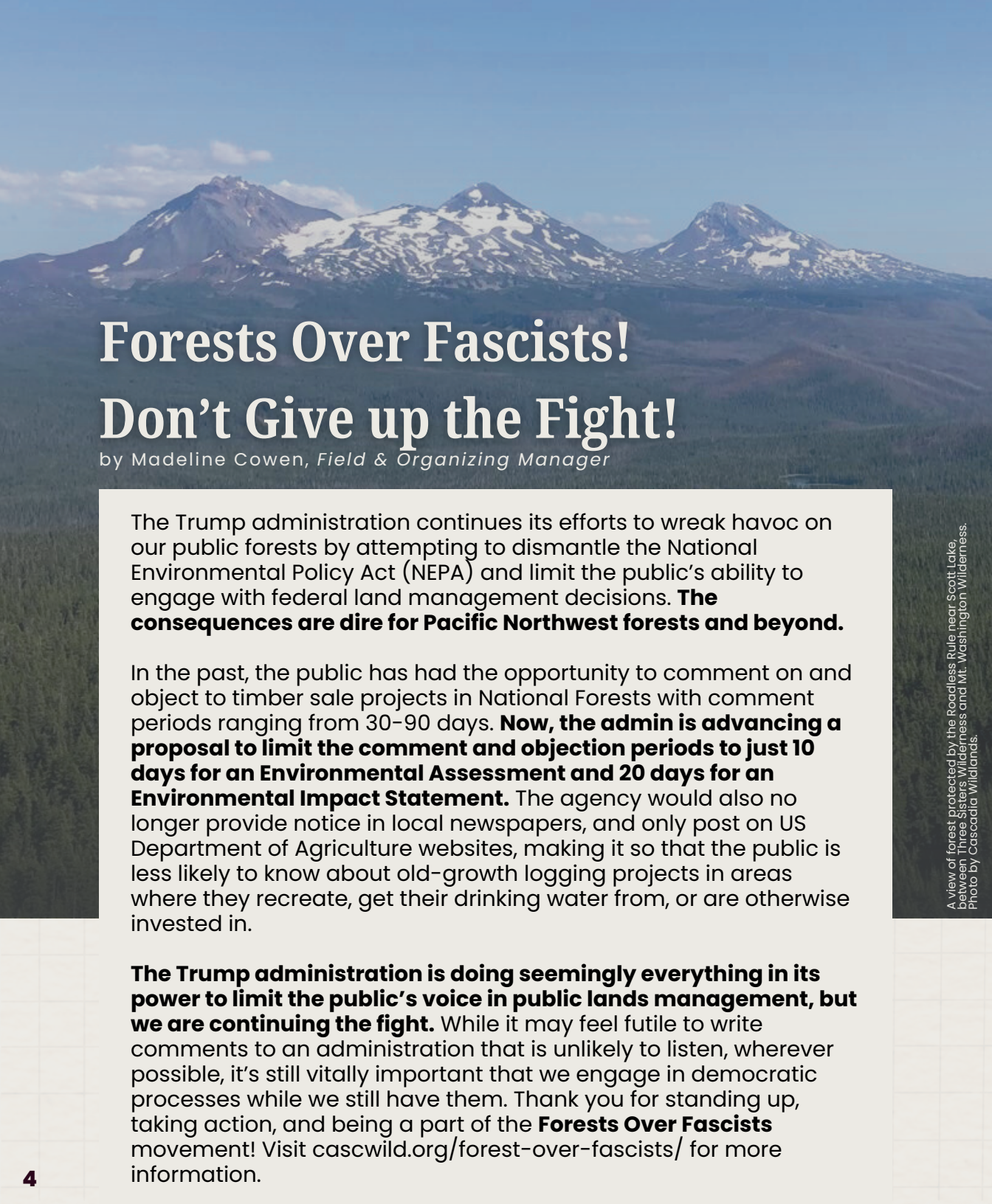
you — an essential part of a movement that won't back down when things get difficult.

With this power, we will continue to dig in to defend laws and policies that we have worked so hard to establish and maintain. There is no other option. Otherwise, they will destroy our remaining wild places in their quest to log, mine, and drill them into oblivion.

Further endangerment of northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, Pacific fisher and wild salmon, and the habitats that support them, will not be tolerated. Thank you for standing strong with Cascadia Wildlands as we confront this force that appears to stop at nothing.

**Josh Laughlin**  
Executive Director





# Forests Over Fascists!

## Don't Give up the Fight!

by Madeline Cowen, *Field & Organizing Manager*

The Trump administration continues its efforts to wreak havoc on our public forests by attempting to dismantle the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and limit the public's ability to engage with federal land management decisions. **The consequences are dire for Pacific Northwest forests and beyond.**

In the past, the public has had the opportunity to comment on and object to timber sale projects in National Forests with comment periods ranging from 30–90 days. **Now, the admin is advancing a proposal to limit the comment and objection periods to just 10 days for an Environmental Assessment and 20 days for an Environmental Impact Statement.** The agency would also no longer provide notice in local newspapers, and only post on US Department of Agriculture websites, making it so that the public is less likely to know about old-growth logging projects in areas where they recreate, get their drinking water from, or are otherwise invested in.

**The Trump administration is doing seemingly everything in its power to limit the public's voice in public lands management, but we are continuing the fight.** While it may feel futile to write comments to an administration that is unlikely to listen, wherever possible, it's still vitally important that we engage in democratic processes while we still have them. Thank you for standing up, taking action, and being a part of the **Forests Over Fascists** movement! Visit [cascwild.org/forest-over-fascists/](http://cascwild.org/forest-over-fascists/) for more information.

A view of forest protected by the Roadless Rule near Scott Lake, between Three Sisters Wilderness and Mt. Washington Wilderness. Photo by Cascadia Wildlands.



# Join WildCATs This Spring & Summer for Collective Action!

by Madeline Cowen, *Field & Organizing Manager*

With climate-driven weather, nonsense politics, and threats to our communities coming from virtually every angle, it can be easy to feel discouraged or even helpless. Thankfully, growing and maintaining connection with one another and building community with fellow advocates can provide an excellent antidote to despair. We hope you'll join the WildCATs (Cascadia Action Team) to help join the fight to defend and restore Cascadia's ecosystems in the forests and in the streets!

## Upcoming Events:

- **Spring & Summer WildCAT Meetings.** Unless otherwise noted, meetings are from 6–7:30 pm at the Cascadia Wildlands office or via Zoom. Dates for upcoming meetings: April 8th, May 13th, June 10th, no July meeting, Aug 12th, and Sept 9th will be a picnic celebration at Hendrick's Park.
- **Public Lands, Public Voices: A Night of Trivia, Inspiration, and Action for Roadless Forests, Tuesday, April 14, 5 – 7 pm.** The Trump administration's current process to repeal the Roadless Rule does not include a single public meeting—so our community is hosting our own. Join us and our friends at 350 Eugene, FUSEE and Oregon Wild, to

learn and celebrate how roadless protections support clean water, habitats, and local economies. Most importantly, we'll be taking collective action to stop this latest attack on our public lands.

- **TransWild Forest Frolic, Saturday, April 25, 12 – 5 pm.** Join TransPonder, Cascadia Wildlands, and Mount Pisgah Arboretum for an afternoon of fun and community! Enjoy performances, activities, workshops, community partners, and more, all in the beautiful setting of Mount Pisgah. Anyone comfortable in a trans and queer-centered space is welcome!
- **Wildflower Festival at Mount Pisgah Arboretum, Sunday, May 17, 10 am – 5pm.** Come visit Cascadia Wildlands at our table at Mount Pisgah for the annual Wildflower Festival.
- **Field Checking Basecamp, June 18–22nd.** The Trump admin is wielding unprecedented attacks against public forests. Join us at Basecamp to skill up in forest defense! We'll be camping in an offgrid, dispersal location in a proposed timber sale in western Oregon. No experience necessary, and all food is provided.
- **Oregon Country Fair, July 10–12th.** Come say hi to us at our OCF spot on Strawberry Lane!

# Cascadia Wildlands Welcomes Summer Interns and Staff



by Spencer McIntyre, *Development & Events Manager*



**Aubrey Carter**  
she/her

Aubrey is from the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Appalachian Mountain range of North Carolina. She studied Political Science and Philosophy at UNC Chapel Hill. Currently, she attends Lewis & Clark Law, in hopes of becoming an environmental attorney. Aubrey's favorite Cascadia critters are the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) and the Canadian lynx (*Lynx canadensis*). The bobcat has been her favorite animal since she was a child. However, through learning about the Endangered Species Act (ESA), she discovered the Canadian lynx, a close relative of the bobcat and a threatened species. Since then, she has longed to see one and hopes to work to legally protect endangered species and wild places.

Despite being a relatively new transplant to the Pacific Northwest, Jordan feels entirely at home in the mossy forests of the Cascadia bioregion. Having studied forest conservation at the University of Florida, he is excited to bring his background in forest management to the Cascadia legal team this summer. Jordan is a rising 2L at the University of Oregon School of Law where he plans to study environmental and land use law. In his limited free time, Jordan loves exploring public lands and adventuring with friends. He particularly enjoys watching the Vaux's swifts when they are in town for the season.



**Jordan Warmke-Robitaille**  
he/him



**Jamie Butikofer**  
she/her

Jamie has found her home in the West after years in New Mexico, Utah, and now in California. She is currently a rising 3L at University of Southern California Gould School of Law and intends to practice public interest environmental law after graduation. Her passion for environmental law began as an undergraduate at Utah State University where she worked on projects addressing the Great Salt Lake and the West's water crisis. Last summer, Jamie externed for Judge Joel M. Carson III on the Tenth Circuit and Judge Jennifer Rozzoni in the District of New Mexico. You can find Jamie antique shopping, practicing yoga at the beach, and exploring the Santa Monica Mountains with her husband and friends! Her favorite Cascadia critter is the pika and she hopes to spot one in the wild while exploring Oregon this summer.

Jack grew up playing in the ocean and exploring the chaparral in San Diego, California. He is currently an undergraduate at the University of Oregon with environmental studies and ethnic studies majors, and he's loving the Pacific Northwest. You may have seen Jack around previously as the youth intern for Fossil Free Eugene. When he's not in class, you can find him hiking, biking, running, swimming, climbing trees, or frolicking in the sunshine and rain. He is excited to be joining the Cascadia team this summer as the Summer Field and Events Coordinator!



**Jack Dodson**  
he/him

*These internships are made possible through the generosity of the Evergreen Hill Fund of Oregon Community Foundation.*

# TRUMP WANTS TO CLEARCUT THE LAST REMAINING OLD GROWTH IN WESTERN OREGON.

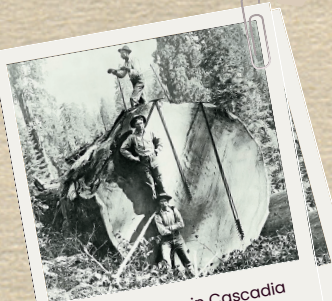
Prior to the 1990s, roughly **3 square miles of pristine, carbon-storing, water-filtering, fire-resilient, habitat-providing old-growth forests** were being clearcut daily.

Now, that's the devastating reality the Trump administration wants to return to. In March of this year, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) published its intent to revise the plan that guides forest management across 2.5-million acres of western Oregon public forests.

**The goal for revising the plans is clear: maximize timber production at the expense of all other forest values.**



1930's logging in Cascadia

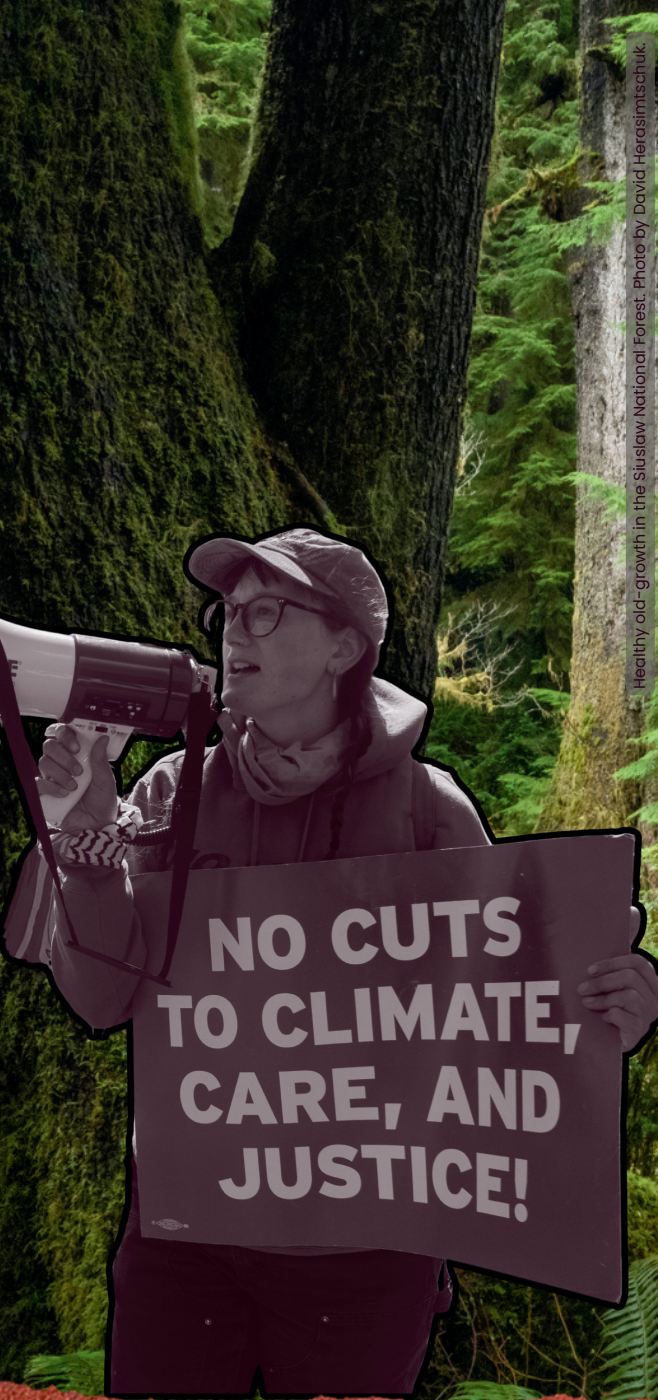


1930's logging in Cascadia



Recent clearcut in the Blue and Gold Timber Sale outside of Yoncalla, OR. Photo by David Herasimtschuk.

WE



The agency and industry are working hand-in-hand trying to convince the public that this plan is good for rural economies and wildfire resilience. The reality is this: **when communities are forced to clearcut their watersheds to fund basic services like emergency response and public schools, the long-term effects are depleted water quality, boom-and-bust economies, and climate catastrophe.**

Furthermore, aggressive logging does anything but support communities from wildfire. When a forest is clearcut, it opens the canopy and thus accelerates the growth of fast-drying, highly flammable grasses and shrubs (including invasives like Scotch broom, which produces an oil many firefighters will attest acts "like kerosene"). This, plus fewer trees, creates high wind speeds and results in more intense fire behavior.

Communities are standing up and saying **Hell No!** to this egregious proposal for western Oregon and are pushing for real solutions like sensible forest management, community protections focused on home-hardening and economies sustained by healthy and thriving ecosystems. Whether you live in a rural area or in the city, we're all affected by this proposal – **join us in the fight today!**



**SAY: HELL NO.**

# 1.25% for Wildlife Becomes Law in Oregon

continued from front cover

Wildlife's Wildlife Connectivity Program, wildlife rehabilitation facilities via the Wildlife Stewardship program, anti-poaching efforts, Oregon Conservation Corps' wildfire-risk reduction and youth job development work, and other core conservation priorities that have been chronically under or unfunded.

Why the tourism tax? Because wildlife and habitat are a huge draw for tourism. Travel Oregon reports that 90% of visitors cite Oregon's natural beauty as a primary reason for their visit. People come to whale watch on the coast, bird watch in the Malheur and Klamath regions, raft iconic rivers including the Rogue, McKenzie and Deschutes, and much more. Even folks who visit for other reasons get to enjoy our unique habitats and hopefully experience wildlife sightings, too. Investing in protecting our imperiled wildlife and their habitats is an investment in the foundation of Oregon's tourism industry and our shared future.

We are so grateful to our core partners in the Oregon Wildlife Coalition, including the leadership of our board member Dr. Sristi Kamal in her capacity as Deputy Director of the Western Environmental Law Center and Danielle Moser, Wildlife Program Manager with Oregon Wild. Thanks to each of you who joined us for the Wildlife Day of Action at the Capitol, who testified, submitted comments, and reached out to your legislators and the Governor, and to the businesses who spoke up in support.

We look forward to the conservation gains this bill will bring for wildlife and wild places, and to celebrating Oregon as a leader in solving this longstanding conservation funding challenge.

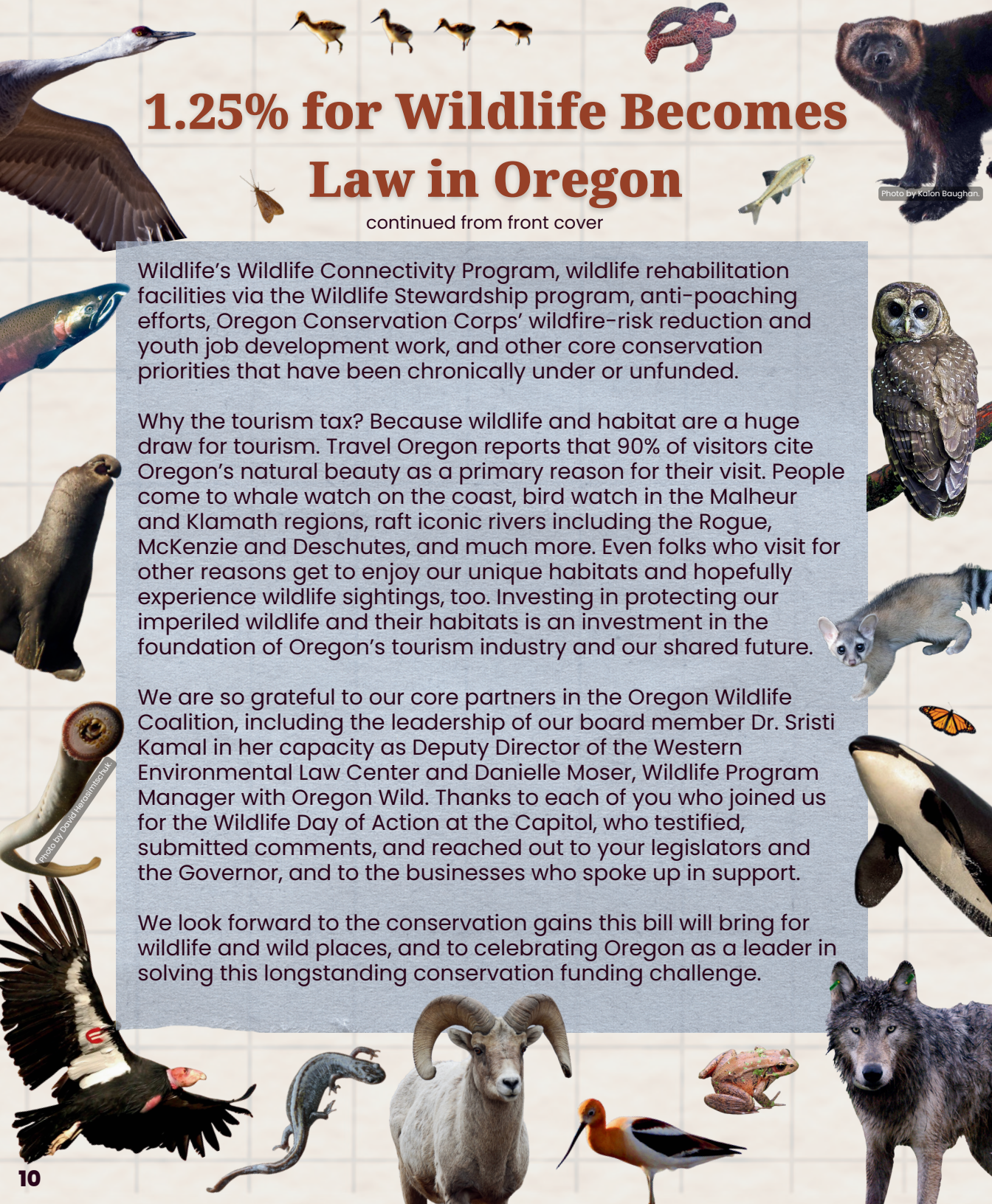


Photo by Kalin Baughan

Photo by David Harnisch-Hyk

# Trump Admin's Misguided Roadless Rule Rescission Still Looms

by Grace Brahler Newsome, *Wildlands Director*

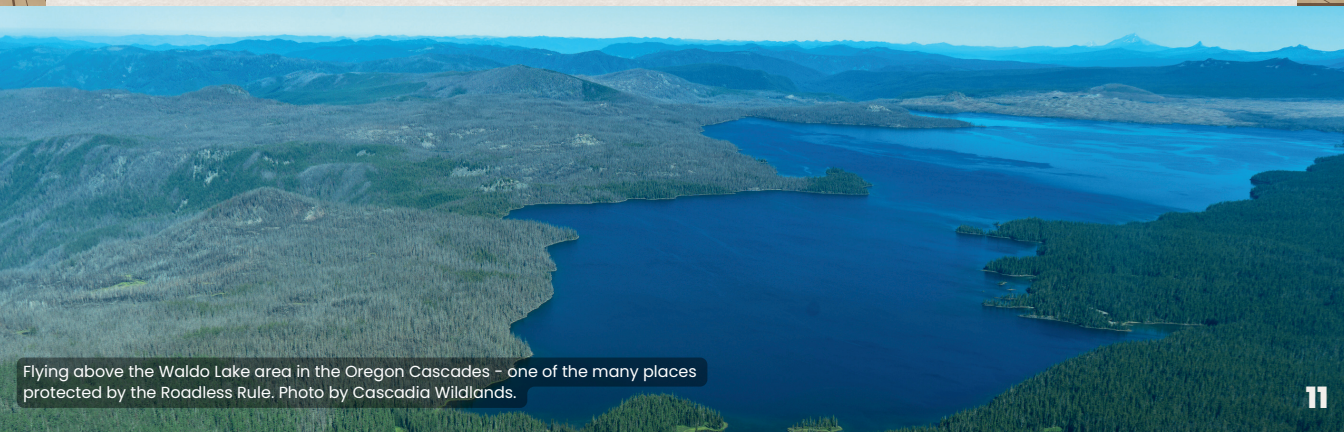
For over 25 years, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) has proven to be one of America's most important conservation policies by protecting large swaths of public lands as a home for wildlife, a haven for retreat and recreation, and a legacy for current and future generations.

As the dual climate and biodiversity crises rage on, the Trump administration is charging ahead with efforts to eliminate the rule altogether. This would put 2-million acres in Oregon and 45-million acres nationwide at risk from road building, logging, and other destructive practices. Carving roads into these areas – which include special places like Hardesty Mountain east of Eugene, sections of the Pacific Crest Trail near Waldo Lake, and the Oregon Dunes – would fragment habitat, increase fire risk, spread invasive species, hinder backcountry recreation opportunities, introduce noise, and threaten to put our last remaining

mature and old-growth forests on the chopping block.

While we anticipate a draft environmental impact statement assessing the impacts of the proposed rule rescission will be released this spring, public participation opportunities from the Trump admin will likely be incredibly limited or nonexistent. Regardless, the administration needs to hear from us!

With our friends at Oregon Wild, FUSEE, 350 Eugene, and Great Old Broads for Wilderness, we're coming together in support of protecting cherished roadless areas in Oregon and beyond. **Join us for "Public Lands, Public Voices: A Night of Trivia, Inspiration, and Action for Roadless Forests" on April 14, from 5-7 pm at Gratitude Brewing (540 E 8th Avenue, Eugene, OR).** We must continue the fight to keep our nation's remaining roadless forests intact. We hope you'll join us!

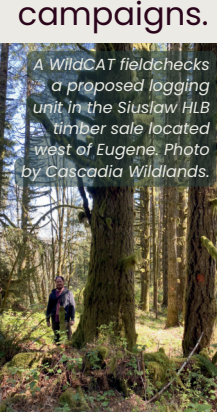


Flying above the Waldo Lake area in the Oregon Cascades – one of the many places protected by the Roadless Rule. Photo by Cascadia Wildlands.

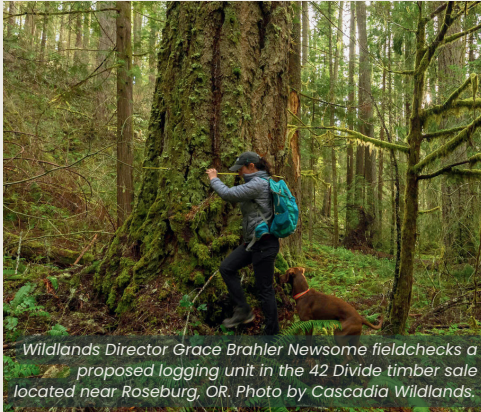
# Legal Updates

by Nick Cady, *Legal Director* & Peter Jensen, *Staff Attorney*

The legal team at Cascadia Wildlands is off to a busy start this year with the current administration's efforts to drastically increase timber volume, dismantle bedrock environmental laws, and weaken wildlife protections. Despite the changes, we are keeping the pressure on and finding success across our legal campaigns.



A WildCAT fieldchecks a proposed logging unit in the Siuslaw HLB timber sale located west of Eugene. Photo by Cascadia Wildlands.



Wildlands Director Grace Brahler Newsome fieldchecks a proposed logging unit in the 42 Divide timber sale located near Roseburg, OR. Photo by Cascadia Wildlands.



A group of WildCATs fieldchecks a proposed logging unit in the Last Chance timber sale located near Medford, OR. Photo by Cascadia Wildlands.

## 42 Divide Timber Sale (Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management)

In January, Cascadia Wildlands and our partners at Oregon Wild and Crag Law Center sued the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) over its controversial 42 Divide timber sale. The project does not advance BLM's purported purposes of restoration and resilience, instead

threatening imperiled wildlife, increasing fire hazard, and decreasing these forests' resilience to disturbance, in violation of its own resource management plan. Our attorneys are working quickly to get this case in front of the court before this project is underway.

## Last Chance Timber Sale (Medford District, Bureau of Land Management)

Cascadia Wildlands and our partners at KS Wild, Oregon Wild, and the Western Environmental Law Center are back in court over one of the Medford District's latest timber grabs, slated to occur in the Cascade foothills east of Sunny Valley, Oregon. After a brief pause, BLM is again

pursuing the logging project, despite serious impacts to bureau sensitive and imperiled species. Recently, we had a preliminary injunction hearing regarding our motion requesting a hard pause on project implementation until this case can be resolved on the merits.

## **Blue and Gold Timber Sale (Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management)**

In fall 2024, we and Oregon Wild sued BLM over its Blue and Gold timber sale. Despite clear directions in its own forest plan that preclude it from logging large-diameter trees established before 1850, BLM authorized expansive logging in some of the oldest forest remaining on Oregon BLM

land. We filed our summary judgment briefing last year and had oral argument in November. Now, plaintiffs, represented by in-house counsel and attorneys at Crag Law Center, are awaiting the Court's decision.

## **Siuslaw HLB Timber Sale (Northwest District, Bureau of Land Management)**

Cascadia Wildlands, along with partners at Crag Law Center and Oregon Wild, secured a big win in our challenge of the Siuslaw HLB timber sale—a five-claim sweep. However, BLM has appealed the decision, hoping to reverse the District Court's decision and reinstate its disastrous, 13,000-acre logging plan. Our attorneys are hard at work defending

the District Court's decision, this forest, and the core tenants of the law that require agencies to "look before they leap" and thoroughly disclose the environmental consequences of their proposals. We are currently briefing our response to BLM's appeal and anticipate a Ninth Circuit oral argument in late summer.

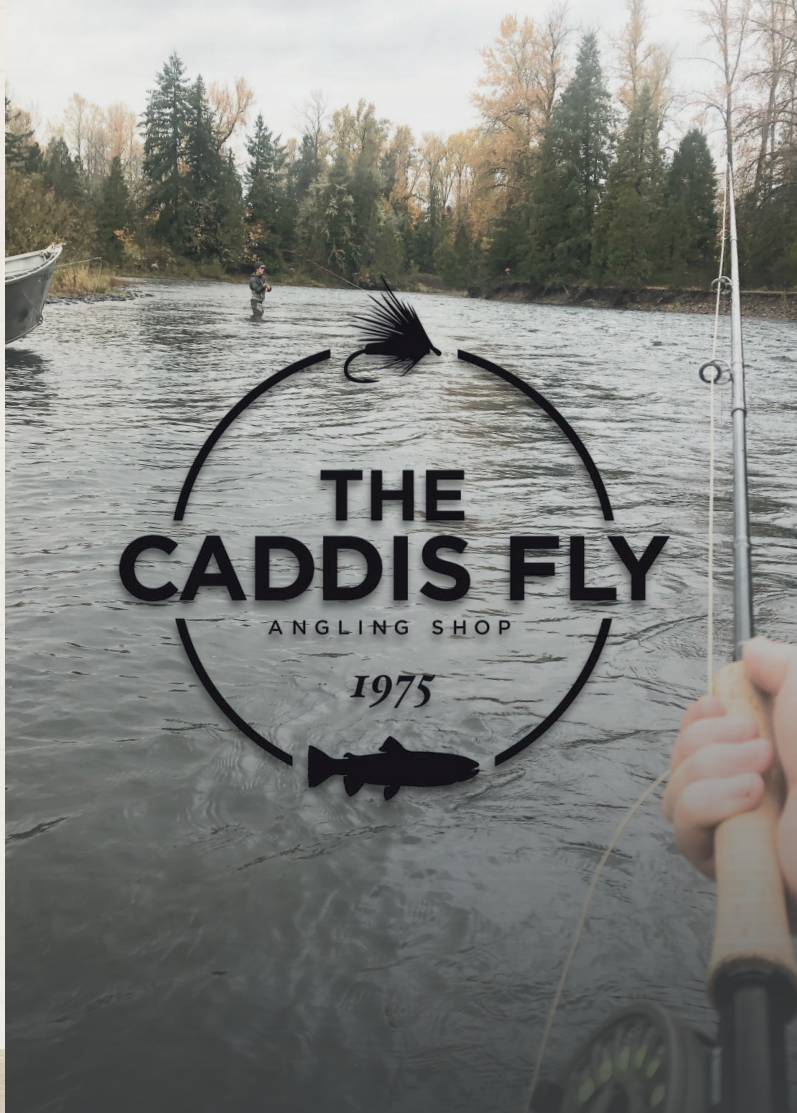


## **Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project (Upper McKenzie River, Eugene Water & Electric Board)**

Ongoing failures to provide safe and effective fish passage and protect federally listed Upper Willamette River Chinook salmon and bull trout at the EWEB Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project on the Upper McKenzie prompted legal action in March 2025. Subsequently, the District Court chose not to hear our claims as a matter of jurisdiction, ruling that all issues related to a hydropower license must be brought before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) or the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. We are headed full blast into FERC administrative procedures and processes, continuing our advocacy for volitional fish passage and far greater protections for these emblematic fish species.



Chinook salmon. Photo by David Herasimtschuk.



by Spencer McIntyre, *Development and Events Manager*

For over 40 years, the Caddis Fly Angling Shop has been a local gem in the Eugene, Oregon community—opening its doors to both first-time anglers and seasoned fly fishers alike. As a local business, Caddis has built a reputation not only as a trusted resource, but as a gathering place for those who share a passion for the water.

We have been honored partner with such an exceptional team over the years. From guided trips along the McKenzie River and the Middle Fork of the Willamette to unforgettable steelhead fishing

experiences, their knowledge, stewardship, and love for the outdoors shine through in everything they do.

Caddis understands better than most that healthy rivers and forests are essential—not only for thriving fish populations, but for strong, connected communities and meaningful recreation. We're grateful to work alongside partners who care so deeply about the places we all cherish. Visit the Caddis Fly Angling Shop at 168 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave in Eugene, or online at [caddisflyshop.com](http://caddisflyshop.com).

# BUSINESS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Together, we are able to work toward a more sustainable and equitable future with vast old-growth forests, rivers full of wild salmon, wolves howling in the backcountry, a stable climate, and vibrant communities sustained by the unique landscapes of the Cascadia bioregion.

## BUSINESSES

While we cannot name them all, we are indebted to many businesses for their reliable partnership:

Alder Street Band  
Andrew Kumlner Photography  
Buffalo Exchange  
Caddis Fly Angling Shop  
Café Mam  
Cherry Hill Band  
Danks Tree Creations  
David Herasimtschuk  
Dock Creek Native Plant  
Nursery  
EARTH sticker

Gratitude Brewing  
Heritage Distilling  
The Hybrid Gallery  
Moon Mountain String Band  
Mountain Rose Herbs  
Ninkasi Brewing Company  
Opine Cellars  
Oregon Cliff House  
Patagonia  
Rainbow Valley Design &  
Construction

RainSong Vineyard  
River Jewelry  
SpringFed Media  
Sugartop Buddery  
Summit Bank  
Sweet Life Patisserie  
Tacovore  
Thinking Tree Spirits  
Tao Gardens  
The Wheel Apizza Pub &  
Brewery

## FOUNDATIONS & FUNDS

We can't name all of our funders, but our work would not be possible without the support of grant-making foundations:

Acme Bader Community Fund  
of Oregon Community Foundation  
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Aria Foundation  
Burning Foundation  
Deer Creek Foundation  
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MillsDavis Foundation  
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of the Marin Community Foundation

Morton Family Fund  
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of the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation  
Zuniga Forbes Family Fund  
of Oregon Community Foundation

## 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.

**MAKE A BEQUEST:** Naming Cascadia Wildlands in your will as the beneficiary of a qualified retirement plan or life insurance plan will accomplish a charitable goal while realizing significant tax savings.

**DONATE CRYPTOCURRENCY:** You can help Cascadia Wildlands' mission by donating crypto. The process on our website is fast, secure, and donating crypto allows you to enjoy 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@cascawild.org](mailto:jlaughlin@cascawild.org)

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# CASCADIA WILDLANDS

We like it wild.

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Business Spotlight

SPRING/SUMMER

what's inside?

# THANK YOU!

For Keeping It Wild in Cascadia!



Cascadia Wildlands Field & Organizing Manager and Wildlands Director checking out some pristine old-growth forest in a proposed logging unit of the 42 Divide timber sale outside of Roseburg, OR. Photo by Cascadia Wildlands.