

# KS WILD NEWS

The Journal of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
FALL 2023



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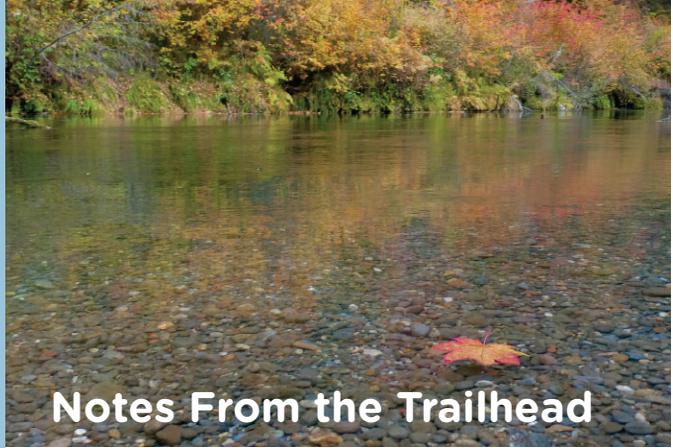
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## Notes From the Trailhead

The change of the seasons is coming with other big changes at KS Wild this month. After 24 years, our Climate Director, Joseph Vaile, is transitioning away from the organization. Over the past two-and-a-half decades, Joseph has worn many hats with the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, from campaign and program director to a six-year tenure as the Executive Director. I had the pleasure of working with and getting to know Joseph over the past decade, and I owe him a lot for bringing me into the KS Wild family as the organization's first development director in 2013.

We have grown a lot in the past 10 years, and I have learned a great deal about the region's forests, waters, and wildlife working alongside him. The campaign highlights and successes that come to mind include:

- In 2014, the organization helped secure a 10-fold expansion of the Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve while permanently retiring a 30,000-acre grazing allotment.
- In 2017, KS Wild and partners achieved a 20-year mining moratorium across 101,000 acres of public land in the Rough & Ready, Baldface, and Hunter Creek watersheds.
- In 2019, as part of the Oregon Wildlands Act passing, more than 120 miles of Rogue River tributaries were added to the Wild & Scenic River system.

KS Wild's mission is to protect and restore wild nature in the Klamath-Siskiyou region of southwest Oregon and northwest California. We promote science-based land and water conservation through policy and community action.

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In other supportive roles with allies, Joseph was instrumental in defending the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument from Trump-era rollbacks. Most recently, Joseph served as a core negotiator on the modernization of Oregon's Forest Practices Act, which covers 10 million acres of private forest lands across the state. His leadership and engagement on these issues has helped put KS Wild on the map in the greater public lands and forest advocacy world.

Joseph and his family are embarking on a new chapter and relocating to the upper Midwest, but all of us at the organization know that a big part of Joseph will remain connected to this special bioregion. Joseph has been an outstanding teacher and mentor to many, including myself, and he was always willing to share his wisdom and knowledge with colleagues. While we say goodbye (for now) to Joseph as 2023 winds down, we are excited to carry on with many campaigns and issues he established in his time at KS Wild. Our Climate program will forge on with Alexi Lovechio at the helm, and she will continue engagement with rural communities, scientists, land managers, and elected officials to help our forests and wildlands adapt to a hotter, drier world.

Moving forward, you will see KS Wild engaging with supporters, partners, and donors this fall to develop a collective vision for our future together. It will take all of us, our talents, and our time to overcome the challenges that climate change presents to our wildlands and wildlife.

*Michael Dotson, Executive Director*



I will always be grateful for Joseph's generosity and willingness to share his love of the Klamath-Siskiyou with me. One of my favorite treks with Joseph led us to the confluence of Baldface Creek and the North Fork Smith River, a special place threatened by mining proposals. I am honored to pick up where Joseph left off with our campaign to permanently protect 101,000 acres in the North Fork Smith River and Rough & Ready Creek watersheds. Photo: Michael Dotson

# THE SISKIYOU CREST VISION

The Siskiyou Crest is a truly special place that serves as an ecological hub and land bridge connecting the Cascades and the Coast Ranges. It is a sanctuary for flora and fauna alike as it provides the perfect environment for numerous endemic plant species and a safe haven for many migratory wildlife species. The Pacific Crest Trail also stretches across most of the crest, facilitating outdoor recreation opportunities that allow you to escape into the backcountry and savor the peacefulness of the high-elevation landscape.



We recently met with the Klamath National Forest and the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest offices to address new stewardship efforts on the Siskiyou Crest. Photo: Allee Gustafson

At KS Wild, we know how important it is to protect the unique environment the Siskiyou Crest provides. Unfortunately, unauthorized vehicle use is creating a significant threat to biodiversity on the Crest. That's why we're forging new partnerships with land managers to encourage responsible recreation in the area.

Our Stewardship Program is focused on restoring and protecting threatened areas across the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion. During a recent meeting with both Klamath National Forest and Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest representatives, we identified actionable steps we can take to address the issue of unauthorized vehicles in critical areas. In this new project, we will install interpretive signs to educate the public about the importance of the botanical areas, conceal user-created routes and fire rings, reintroduce native plants, and install barriers to prevent unauthorized access. We're also working to generate support from our land managers and the community at large through outreach efforts like letter-writing campaigns and phone-banking.

Ultimately, our goal is to ensure that the Siskiyou Crest remains a vibrant and diverse ecosystem for generations to come. With your help and support, we can continue to prioritize the preservation of this precious area and protect its many unique species and habitats.

Thank you for your commitment to ecological diversity and conservation in our region. To receive updates on this project and to join us, visit our website at [www.kswild.org/land-stewardship](http://www.kswild.org/land-stewardship).

*Allee Gustafson, Events & Volunteer Manager*

# LIVE LIKE LARRY

We're writing in tribute to the late Larry Koster, a local river guide and friend of Rogue Riverkeeper, who passed away earlier this year. Anyone who knew Larry knew his love for the Rogue River was a fundamental part of who he was.

In his honor, Larry's friends and family contributed \$2,482 to Rogue Riverkeeper. We would like to extend our gratitude to Sylvia Medeiros, Larry's wife, and to everyone who donated in Larry's memory. Sylvia had her remembrances called 'Live Like Larry' read at the Celebration of Larry on the Rogue River:

"Isabella Thorndike embroidered as a complete surprise to Sylvia on a piece of cloth thus giving her the theme of his celebration and inadvertently the guideposts for the rest of her life. The challenge, the gauntlet has been thrown down.

Live Like Larry, Love Like Larry, Learn Like Larry.

So what does it mean to Live Like Larry?

It means teetering on the rusty rack of your 1985 Ford pickup with a paintbrush attached to a telescoping handle (that you had fashioned yourself) to paint the underside of a streetlight that had shone into your bedroom for way too many nights. All with your ankle in a cast from a surgery to repair your Achilles tendon which you had snapped on day 2 of a 21-day Colorado River trip (then continued the trip rowing with a makeshift splint made from plastic water bottles, foam pad, and the blessings of his personal orthopedic surgeon, also a boater. Sylvia: Should he be medi-vacced out of the Canyon? Doc: What, and miss 3 weeks of boating?!)"

Legacy giving is a beautiful way to support a cause you love or honor a loved one. You can visit [www.freewill.com/kswild](http://www.freewill.com/kswild) to learn about leaving a gift for KS Wild or Rogue Riverkeeper in your estate plan. Thank you.



Larry's larger-than-life persona and dedication to Rogue Riverkeeper will be honored and remembered for many years to come. Thank you to Sylvia for the photo and supporting Rogue Riverkeeper in Larry's honor.

*Isaak Oliansky, Development Officer*

# COURT PROTECTS AN EXPANDED CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT

In a huge win for all western Oregon Bureau of Land Management (BLM) forests, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the BLM's broad authority to manage (and conserve) forests. This authority had been thrown into doubt by a lower court ruling, which would have doomed western Oregon BLM lands to a future of industrial management.

The BLM administers about 2.5 million acres of federal public forests in western Oregon that are home to spectacular areas like the Wild Rogue River and Grizzly Peak. These lands also have

a unique history. After colonization, these forests were granted to a railroad company in the 1800s under the condition the company would build a railroad. When the company defaulted on its promise, the government took the land back.

Then in 1937, Congress passed a law — the Oregon and California Lands Act (O&C Act) — to guide the management of this vast forest estate. The law stated these lands needed to be managed for forest production including selling timber, but also to regulate stream flows, provide recreation, and for other values.

Why are O&C Lands threatened? Certain timber and county interests have argued that the O&C Act is primarily a timber mandate and that other values such as old forest conservation, clean water, and recreation take a back seat. They argued that when President Obama expanded the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in 2017 on Oregon O&C lands, he violated the timber-dominant O&C Act. While courts have generally rejected arguments that BLM lands in western Oregon are only for timber, a federal judge in D.C. agreed with timber lawyers.

The recent ruling reversed the lower D.C. court decision, which had thrown the Monument's boundaries into doubt as well as the ability of BLM to manage for multiple values. This federal court ruling joins a victorious ruling from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in April that also declared the monument expansion lawful.

Western Oregon BLM lands provide clean drinking water, wildlife habitat, and countless opportunities for recreation. This decision ensures that these public lands, including the phenomenal Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, are managed for their many social and environmental values.



Fall in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.  
Photo: BLM Oregon and Washington

# MATURE AND OLD-GROWTH CAMPAIGN IS MOVING ALONG

## Background

On Earth Day 2022, President Biden issued an executive order calling on the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to conserve mature and old-growth forests as a climate solution. Following the executive order, the agencies released the first ever national inventory of mature and old-growth forests and completed a proposed rulemaking process seeking public input on how to address conservation of these forests.

## Campaign Update

Collectively, over half a million people spoke up calling for a lasting, durable rule that would protect mature and old-growth trees and forests from logging on public lands!

The Klamath-Siskiyou's Forest Service and BLM lands contain some of the most carbon-dense forests in the U.S., making them our best natural, low-cost climate solution if we let them grow. Protecting them also protects clean water, clean air, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, and recreation.

This action on behalf of the administration and the outpouring of support are momentous steps towards meaningful protections for our ancient forests. We are grateful for the overwhelming public support! Thank you to everyone who raised their voice in support of our forests, climate, wildlife, watersheds, and future generations.

## What's Next?

The agencies will analyze the public feedback they received and consider it for future rulemaking. We will continue to engage with the Forest Service and BLM as they take the next steps in creating the strongest policy to conserve mature and old-growth forests.

The Forest Service and BLM are currently conducting a threat analysis related to mature and old-growth forests as required by Biden's executive order. The analysis will provide information on how the agencies can effectively steward mature and old-growth forests with a climate-informed approach. We will share the report once it is completed.

*Alexi Lovechio, Climate Program Manager*



In addition to being climate-saving resources, old-growth forests offer unique recreation experiences. Photo: Haleigh Martin

# THE FUTURE IS BETTER WITH MORE OLD-GROWTH FORESTS, NOT LESS

It's as predictable as the sun rising every morning – the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will propose several timber sales every year and contend that they are retaining (rather than logging) old-growth while conservation organizations and the BLM's neighbors will argue that the BLM is in fact logging old-growth. So, who is right and what's behind the conflicting claims?

## **Old-Growth Forests are Ecosystems**

According to the BLM's Resource Management Plan, when implementing timber sales, the agency is supposed to generally protect old-growth trees over 36 inches in diameter from logging. To their credit, they do a pretty good job of this and most of the largest trees are indeed retained unless they are located in a yarding corridor, a log landing, or in the path of a new logging road. Unfortunately, leaving a few big trees in timber sale units does not mean that old-growth forests are protected from the BLM's logging agenda.

Old-growth forests that provide habitat for late-successional species such as northern spotted owls, Pacific fisher, and flying squirrels are comprised of four fundamental habitat elements:

- Big, old trees
- Multiple canopy layers covering at least 60% of the forest stand
- Standing, dead trees
- Large, down logs on the forest floor

When all four of these habitat elements are present, the stand can be called old-growth, an ancient forest, or late-successional habitat – all of which mean pretty much the same thing. But when the BLM conducts "selection logging," "gap creation," or "regeneration harvests," they remove forest canopy cover and layering to such an extent that the few remaining large trees no longer provide full old-growth habitat.

## **The Poor Windy Timber Sale is an Example of Old-Growth Logging**

There just aren't many people left who still openly advocate for converting the remaining old-growth forests into more timber plantations. There is widespread agreement among conservation advocates, climate scientists, fire managers, tribes, and communities that the future is better with more old-growth forests, not less. Old-growth forests store carbon, provide wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities, and contribute to healthy watersheds. Yet the BLM just can't get on board with that social consensus. This is in part because the BLM interprets the 1937 Oregon and California Land Act (O&C Act) as requiring all other forest values be placed behind the production of timber volume. The BLM also wrote a Resource Management Plan in which it directs its timber planners to ignore everything except timber production in the so-called "harvest land base."

As an example, the BLM has marked thousands of acres of old-growth forests along I-5 in between the communities of Grants Pass and Glendale for logging in the Poor Windy timber sale. Nearly all of the logging units would remove existing spotted owl nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat in order to produce timber volume and create what the BLM creatively refers to as “open seral habitat” (areas largely devoid of trees). While the BLM has marked many of the largest trees for retention, the idea is nevertheless to turn a functioning late-successional ecosystem into a condition in which the forest canopy has been removed and the habitat values are lost for at least the next 100 years.



### **What About Fire?**

Climate change is scary. We are bearing the brunt of it in the Klamath-Siskiyou region and will for the foreseeable future. The summers are too damn hot, the fires are often burning at stand replacing intensity, and lower elevation Douglas-fir stands are simply dying out. The BLM’s old-growth logging program won’t help with any of these challenges. While the BLM does propose admirable small-diameter thinning, prescribed fire treatments, and fuels reduction projects, these efforts are generally tied to decisions that also log old-growth forests in the backcountry in order to meet artificial timber production targets. If the BLM can’t or won’t join with the rest of us to protect ancient forests and conduct real restoration then perhaps it’s time for them to get out of the public land management business.

Kelsey, our Conservation Fellow, standing in the old-growth forest within the Poor Windy timber sale. Photo: George Sexton

*George Sexton, Conservation Director  
Kelsey Furman, Conservation Fellow*

# WATER QUALITY ACCOUNTABILITY

With the summer season and our Swim Guide program coming to a close, water quality remains in the conversation as we begin to see salmon returning to their natal areas in the Rogue basin. But what does water quality mean for salmon? Whenever I take people to the field to teach about salmon and water quality, I ask them to define “quality”. There are many factors that play into water quality for humans and salmon alike.



Rogue Riverkeeper advocates for water quality as it relates to aquatic life and water contact, and many water bodies in the Rogue Basin do not meet water quality standards for various pollutants including bacteria, temperature, and dissolved oxygen at certain times of the year. When it comes to bacteria, wastewater discharge from industry and sewage treatment facilities, stormwater runoff, confined animal feeding operations, irrigation water returning to streams, concentrations of wildlife, and other sources can contribute to bacterial contamination.

The Clean Water Act has a requirement to define the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for pollutants as determined by scientific data collection and analysis. The purpose of the analysis is to determine how much of a pollutant a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. Water quality standards are intended to protect the most sensitive beneficial uses in a water body which are often defined as aquatic organisms. Water bodies in Oregon that do not meet water quality standards are placed on a state list of impaired water bodies and a plan is developed to identify strategies and approaches to reduce pollutants. The plan identifies entities with the authority and jurisdiction to impact water quality. In the Rogue, that includes the counties, cities, federal and state agencies and irrigation districts among others.

Rogue Riverkeeper’s job is to demand those who have the jurisdiction to reduce pollutants to do so for the benefit of salmon and humans who rely on clean water. Your support of Rogue Riverkeeper allows us to do that work.

*Frances Oyung, Rogue Riverkeeper Program Director*



# THE FUTURE OF WETLANDS IN OREGON

The verdant wetlands of the Rogue River basin are more than just picturesque landscapes. They are the lifeblood of our region; vital in maintaining ecological balance, ensuring clean water, and providing sanctuary for countless species. For Rogue Riverkeeper, these wetlands embody the heart of our mission: protecting and restoring the Rogue River Basin's beauty and health.

Historically, wetlands were dismissed as wastelands. Today, their significance is undeniable. They're nature's defense mechanism against floods, sanctuaries for diverse wildlife, and essential in preserving our water's purity.

However, a recent shift in the national approach to wetland protections raises concerns for Oregon's wetlands. The U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling, involving an Idaho couple's property rights, has reduced the reach of federal wetland protections. Now, many wonder: are Oregon's wetlands safe under our state's robust Removal-Fill Law or do gaps remain?

While Oregon's state laws have provided certain protections and these very laws played a pivotal role in halting projects like the Jordan Cove LNG Pipeline, it would be naive to think they're infallible. That's where Rogue Riverkeeper steps in.

**Our role isn't just advocacy, it's vigilance. We are on the frontlines ensuring these laws are enforced and our wetlands remain protected.**

The beauty of the Rogue River basin—its shimmering waters and thriving communities—are the direct result of diligent oversight, tireless advocacy, and community engagement. Our work, especially in the context of recent legal challenges, is crucial. Oregon's wetlands might have state laws on their side, but the real safeguard comes from active and ongoing stewardship. It's essential to remember the broader picture: our responsibility towards the environment and the role Rogue Riverkeeper plays in it.

As threats loom and uncertainties prevail, Rogue Riverkeeper's commitment remains unwavering, but we cannot do it alone. Together, let's ensure that the waterways of the Rogue River basin retains its splendor for generations to come.

*Emily Bowes,  
Rogue Riverkeeper  
Conservation Director*



Wetland at Denman Wildlife Area in Central Point, Oregon that is important bird and wildlife habitat. Photo: Haleigh Martin

# SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: *PACIFIC SALMON*

Fall is a great time to get outside in the region to watch salmon return inland from the Pacific Ocean up rivers to their natal watersheds. Of the seven species of Pacific salmon, two occur in the Rogue basin: the Chinook salmon (also known as king), *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, and the coho salmon (also known as silver), *Oncorhynchus kisutch*. All of the Pacific salmon are anadromous, meaning that these fish are born in fresh water and then make their way to the ocean where they live for a period of time, reaching maturity, before returning to the freshwater streams and rivers where they were born.



Salmon spotted jumping over Rainie Falls while traveling upstream in the Rogue River. Photo: Holly Christiansen

There, the fish reproduce by laying their eggs in nests known as redds, and completing their lifecycle, thus rejoining the inland food web and contributing their bodies as nutrients to the surrounding water and land. The Rogue River and its tributaries support some of the largest salmon populations in Oregon. In addition to salmon, other anadromous fish in the Rogue include steelhead trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, the anadromous form of rainbow trout, and Pacific lamprey, *Entosphenus tridentatus*.

Spawning Chinook salmon occur in many Rogue basin locations in October. Look for them in areas of moving water with gravel- to cobble-sized substrate. Middle Rogue tributaries like Bear Creek flowing through Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Medford and Central Point often have Chinook spawning through the end of October into the beginning of November. In recent years, the expanded range of fall Chinook in Bear Creek all the way up to Ashland is one of the success stories for restoration in this watershed.

After Chinook start the fish spawning cycle in Bear Creek, other fish species spawn, including coho salmon, summer steelhead, cutthroat trout, winter steelhead, and Pacific lamprey spawning in the spring. As stream flows get larger and fall rains progress, it is harder to see these fish during spawning, but if you are in an area with suitable spawning habitat, you just might catch a view.

Chinook salmon are not as abundant as some of the other species of salmon, but can grow to a body size larger than any other Pacific salmon. Depending on the geographic population, coho are listed as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. In the Rogue, they are listed as threatened.

Rogue Riverkeeper works to protect and restore clean water so that native fish populations can continue to not only survive but thrive in the region. Every fall, we host salmon viewing events to see these miraculous fish in their journeys. We invite you to join us for one of these upcoming events so you can experience the wonder of these incredible creatures for yourself. Our salmon viewing events are family friendly and will include educational background about the salmon in the Rogue basin and our efforts to defend their habitats.

## SALMON VIEWING WALKS

Our salmon viewing hikes fill up quickly, so sign up today!

**October 14th:** Salmon viewing on the Upper Rogue River

**October 22nd:** Salmon viewing bike ride along Bear Creek

**October 27th:** Salmon viewing on the Applegate River

**October 31:** Halloween salmon viewing on Bear Creek  
Costumes are encouraged!

See a full list of these events and others at [kswild.org/events](http://kswild.org/events).

# Join the Wild Side!



**Thursday, October 19th from 4-5:30pm: The Haul in Grants Pass**

**Thursday, November 9th from 4:30-6pm: Skout in Ashland**

New to the KS Wild scene? Join us for a meet-and-greet happy hour to hang out with some of our staffers while learning more about our mission and how we accomplish it!

Join us at The Haul in Grants Pass on October 19th from 4-5:30pm or at Skout in Ashland on November 9th from 4:30-6pm. Drinks are not included, but a good time and some KS Wild goodies will be provided. We look forward to meeting you! More information at [kswild.org/events](http://kswild.org/events).

# LOOKING AHEAD

Throughout the epochs of history, Earth has cycled through numerous transitions in its climate. From ice ages to warming periods, the planet has changed and life has adapted with it. Most of these climatic cycles have occurred naturally due to variations of Earth's orbit over long periods of time. What sets our current climate change era apart is the undeniable fact that human activities have led to the current hastened atmospheric changes.

For decades, scientists have warned us about the impacts climate change will have on humanity. A changing climate alters global temperatures, exacerbates natural disasters, increases the loss of biodiversity, and more. In the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion, we notice altered precipitation patterns that have led to regional drought. Drought has contributed to a dieoff of numerous tree species across the region. A changing climate combined with drought and drier conditions contributes to more severe wildfire.

What actions can be taken in the face of climate change? First, we must be prepared for changing conditions. Most immediately in the KS, that means being prepared for wildfire. Harden your home and land against fire, sign up for emergency notifications, have an evacuation plan prepared, and have your go bag packed. You can find direction for wildfire preparedness and a wide range of other resources in the newest edition of our Forest & Fire Toolkit. Scan the QR code to get your copy today.



But being prepared isn't going to help slow climate change and the effects it will have. As a KS Wild supporter, you know we understand the value of activism, and we work hard to provide our community with opportunities to take action and demand for a more climate-focused future from our local representatives and land managers. In the spirit of activism, we invite you to join us for our Fall Film Series where we'll be showing two inspiring environmental films about the impact of activism. We will also have a special guest, Julia Butterfly Hill, a longtime KS Wild supporter and environmental activist. Learn more about this opportunity below.

*Haleigh Martin, Communications Manager*

## KS Wild FALL FILM SERIES

Join us for two nights of environmental activism featuring the films *Stewart Udall: The Politics of Beauty* exploring the origin of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act and *Sisters in Arms* following environmental activists in the 1990s and today.

We are excited to have Julia Butterfly Hill join us virtually for our November 16th showing! Julia is most known for having lived in a redwood tree for 738 days to prevent the logging of these incredible forests in the 1990s.

November 2nd & November 16th  
Southern Oregon University

 [www.kswild.org/events](http://www.kswild.org/events)



Photo: Julia Butterfly Hill by Yann Gaublin

A group of hikers is seen from behind, walking along a dirt trail through a dense forest. The trees are tall and thin, with sunlight filtering through the canopy, creating a dappled light effect on the ground. The hikers are wearing backpacks and outdoor gear.

# JOIN US FOR AN ADVENTURE THIS FALL!

© STILL MOUNTAIN STUDIOS

Join us for a hike or event this fall! Once you sign up for your chosen events online, you will receive more details including carpooling locations and what to bring. See all our upcoming events and sign up here: [www.kswild.org/events](http://www.kswild.org/events)

**Mushroom foraging and identification hike:** Sunday, October 8, 11am-3pm  
Fall is a great time to wander around the forest and forage for mushrooms in southern Oregon! Join KS Wild staffer Haleigh Martin and local fungiphile Eric McEwen on a walk through the woods in search of any and all mushrooms! We'll forage for our loot then spend time identifying the mushrooms together.

**Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument bike ride:** Friday, October 20, 9am-12pm  
Enjoy a rolling gravel bike ride in the Cascade-Siskiyou Monument! The ride is 20 miles over 3 hours with 1,800 feet of elevation gain (and loss!). A bare minimum of 38mm/1.5" tires with some tread required.

**Lake of the Woods old-growth hike:** Sunday, October 29, 9am-1pm  
Hike with us to find out the latest updates about our campaign to stop the Forest Service plans to log old-growth trees around the lake.

**Hike to the widest girthed Douglas fir tree known to exist in Oregon and summit Mt. Elijah for National Hiking Day!** Friday, November 17th, 7:45am-5pm  
Celebrate National Hiking Day by joining KS Wild on a hike to the largest-in-girth Douglas fir tree known to exist in Oregon! Be warned: This hike will be difficult! The hike will begin from the Oregon Caves National Monument and will climb 2,500' to the top of Mt. Elijah. You will be rewarded with sweeping views and major accomplishment!

## First Fridays at the KS Wild office in Ashland

Join us from 5-7pm at 562 A Street. Wine, bubbly water, and snacks provided.

**October:** Eva Thiemann

**December:** Betty LaDuke

View our full calendar at [www.kswild.org/events](http://www.kswild.org/events)



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## SAVE THE DATE

2024 Wild & Scenic Film Festival **IN PERSON!**

**Friday, April 12, 2024**  
Ashland Armory

**Sunday, April 14, 2024**  
Grants Pass Performing  
Arts Center

Stay tuned for more details at [www.kswild.org/events](http://www.kswild.org/events)

Cover: Lower Rogue River, Still Mountain Studios