

KS WILD NEWS

The Journal of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center

Spring 2020



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GET OUTSIDE

EARTH DAY WILDFLOWER HIKE

Saturday, April 18, 11am-2pm at the Illinois River

Celebrate Earth Day with KS Wild and local botanist Howard Erbe as he guides us on a hike along the riverside forests and meadows of the Illinois River. Experience rare and endemic species that thrive in serpentine soil, see insectivorous Cobra lilies and stop for lunch at a waterfall.

FIND OUT ABOUT FUNGUS W/ JOHN VILLELLA

April 24, 6pm: Talk at Geos Institute

April 25, 9am-3pm: Hike the CSNM Monument

This learning series includes a talk the night before with mycologist John Vilella, followed the next day with a walk in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

Sign up online to receive details including carpooling locations and what to bring. Visit kswild.org/events.

For a complete list of events during April's Earth Month: www.kswild.org/earthmonth.

**FIVE DAYS:
MAY 25-29
2020**



Join KS Wild and American River Touring Association (ARTA) on their 6th annual trip together exploring the Rogue River Trail.

ARTA guides ferry gear and food, along with preparing all the delicious meals, while KS Wild staff guide you along the trail. Plus, there is always the option to ride in the raft if you choose.

There is no better way to experience the Rogue!



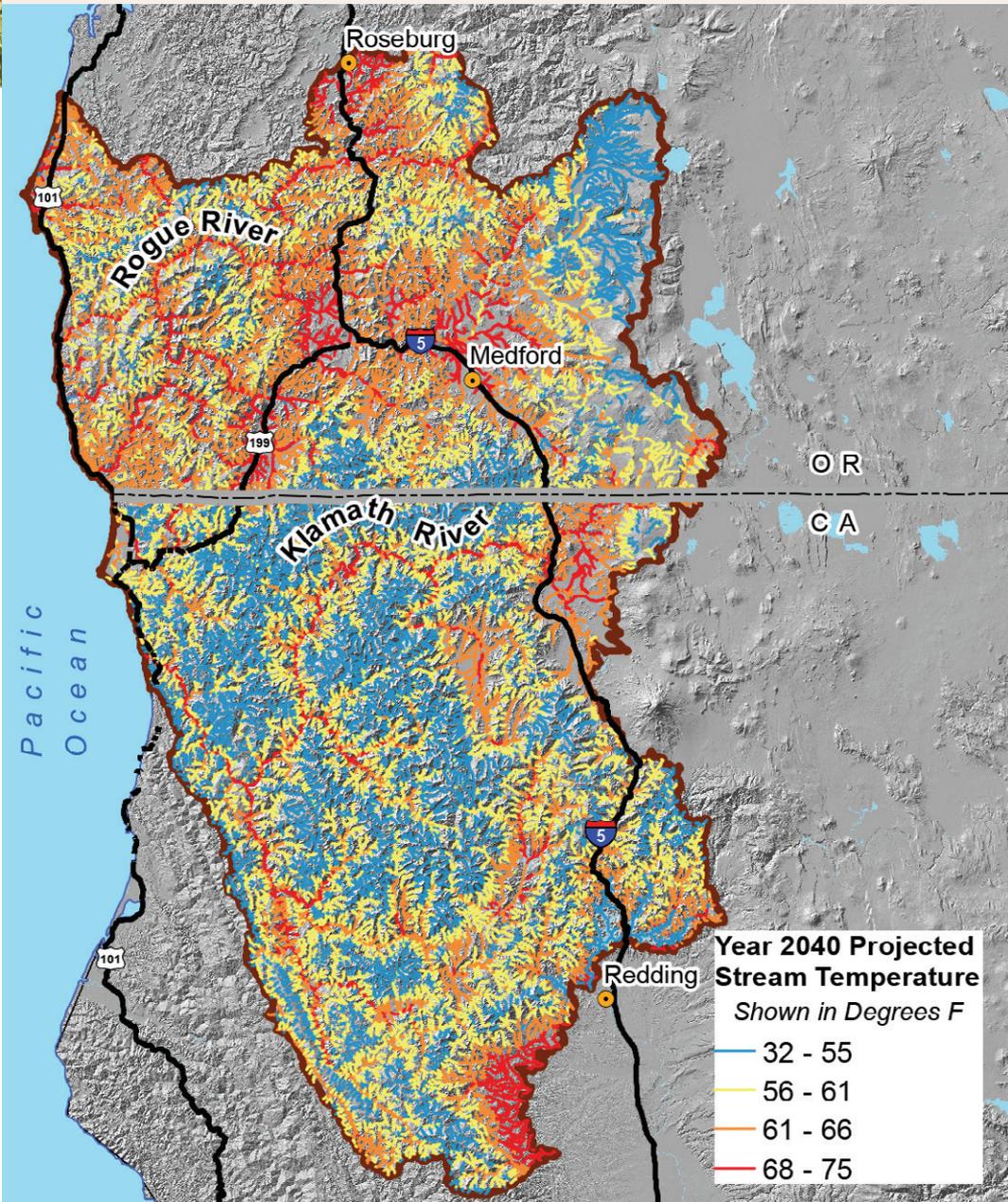
**ROGUE RIVER TRAIL
RAFT-SUPPORTED
HIKE**



THINGS ARE HEATING UP

2040 STREAM TEMPERATURE INCREASES

Keeping Rivers Cool—We need to keep streams cool for people and nature. Did you know that salmon migration can be delayed and diseases are widespread when streams are above 71 degrees? Read on to learn how we can best protect and shade our waterways in preparation for climate change.



KS WILD

2019 Impact Report



Every email advocacy form that you send...Every time you speak up at a town hall...Every hour you give of volunteer time...Every donation you make...They all add up. They all make a difference.

Along with providing insight on the campaigns that are important to you, we hope to use this edition of the KS Wild News to demonstrate the collective impact from our community of supporters. You make all this work possible.

You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.
- JANE GOODALL

Our team is supported by an all-volunteer Board of Directors, dozens of partner organizations, hundreds of volunteers, and more than 3,900 grassroots donors! Success is dependent upon people like you who volunteer, attend educational programs, sign petitions, speak up at town halls, or donate. More than 1/2 of KS Wild's grassroots donors give less than \$70 a year. This allows us to respond to immediate threats and invest non-discretionary funding into programs and projects that need it most.

We strive to keep administrative costs low. As a place-based advocate, we hope to invest your donation in campaigns that deliver the most protection for the region's forests, waters, and wildlife. Roughly 80% of KS Wild's revenue is devoted to program support, while the remaining 20% goes towards overhead/fundraising. We are pleased to receive an A+ rating from Charity Navigator for focusing your charitable investments in areas that matter most—on programs to alleviate the climate crisis and defend the region's wildlife and wild places.

Last year, KS Wild raised \$846,000 with expenses nearing \$844,000.

About 52% of KS Wild's revenue comes from foundations and grants, and the other 48% comes from contributions by individuals, families, and small businesses.



80% PROGRAMMING
20% ADMINISTRATION



KS WILD

by the numbers

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.

8 BOARD MEMBERS
13 STAFF MEMBERS
3,932 DONORS

8 million
ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND IN SW OREGON & NW CALIFORNIA

Focusing on the public lands that comprise the Rogue and Klamath River watersheds, KS Wild monitors and influences federal management of over 8 million acres of forest. We strive to protect and restore forests and watersheds that stretch from the Cascades to the Coast and down through Northern California.

140
MILES OF NEW TRIBUTARIES OF THE ROUGE PROTECTED AS WILD & SCENIC

KS Wild's Rogue Riverkeeper program, in partnership with community allies, worked for over ten years to secure southwest Oregon protections in federal legislation in 2019, which included the Oregon Wildlands Act.

23 years
DEFENDING THE KLAMATH-SISKIYOU

Forest Watch monitors and influences public land management across seven forest districts and two federal agencies. It is at the heart of KS Wild's mission defending the wildlands and wildlife of the Klamath-Siskiyou.

662
NEW DONORS
IN 2019

In 2019, more than 8,000 individuals contributed their time, skills, or charitable gifts to our forest and river conservation campaigns.

40
COMMUNITY EVENTS

9,277
ACTIONS TAKEN

Our advocacy depends on community members who use their voices to protect the voiceless. Your actions create change and influence policy.

127
STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Our Public Lands and You (PLAY) stewardship program is committed to restoring and protecting wild places by connecting volunteers to on-the-ground projects that improve and monitor biologically rich places in the Klamath-Siskiyou.

1
CLIMATE PROGRAM CREATED

KS Wild's Climate Program engages policy makers and land managers at the local, state, and federal levels to take bold action to prevent the worst impacts of climate change, while also advancing on-the-ground projects that prepare our region for coming changes.

Thank you for being a voice for the forest, waters, and wildlife of the Klamath-Siskiyou!



CAN WE OVERCOME THE CLIMATE CRISIS?

It's hard not to be distressed by climate change. Simply thinking about climate change gives people anxiety; it creates a deep concern about our future. That is why KS Wild is focusing our organization on action to prepare and combat climate change.

Being resilient in the face of climate change means acknowledging it, understanding it, and creating real solutions to deal with it. Forest defense is climate defense - as forests store carbon and keep the planet cool. KS Wild also uses the latest science to help forests, rivers, and wildlife adapt to a hotter, drier future.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

When we look at future climate projections, and zoom in to the Klamath-Siskiyou, we see that it is going to get hotter. We see about the same amount of rain, but less snow. With the increased heat, our landscape will be drier, and we are likely to see more wildfires. We could also see more flooding, as the rain will occur in downpours and as rain-on-snow events.

Increasing summertime temperatures may lead to droughts, low flows in salmon bearing streams, stress on populations of plants and animals—all of which double the effects of other ecosystem stressors. Species that need cool temperatures, like salmon, will have a difficult time thriving, as will cooler weather crops and species at higher elevations.

WEATHERING THE STORM

Looking back to past climatic shifts, the Klamath-Siskiyou region has served as an incredible refuge for plants and animals. The biological diversity here is unparalleled. Given our location at the crossroads of so many regions, northern California and southern Oregon continues to serve as a climate refuge. This region's geographic diversity supports a wide variety of local climate conditions, which in turn support a variety of plants and wildlife species.

We must take necessary steps to prepare our communities and infrastructure for climate change. We need roads that can withstand floods, hillsides that can withstand landslides, and crops that can withstand higher temperatures. Homeowners located in the forest interface need to take appropriate steps to firewise their properties.

WE HAVE A CHOICE

We have a lot of work cut out for us to ensure that the Klamath-Siskiyou is able to serve as a nature refuge. With a large percentage of our region being public land, managers at the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management serve critical roles in protecting the region from climate change. How we decide to manage our public rivers, forests, and landscapes will determine just how nature will fare into the future.

Let's make the choice and instead of ignoring climate change, let's face it, understand it and, do something about it. If you want to get involved, come to KS Wild's Fire & Climate Summit this June.



FIRE &
CLIMATE
SUMMIT
Medford, OR
June 11th - 13th
2020

For more information, visit:

www.kswild.org/fire-climate-summit

A FIRST STEP TOWARD FOREST PRACTICES REFORM

Currently, the Oregon Forest Practices Act, which manages state and private forestlands, allows stream-side clearcut logging and aerial spray practices that are prohibited in Washington, Idaho, and California.



David Christian

For the last four years, Rogue Riverkeeper has been advocating to the Oregon Board of Forestry to remove the “Siskiyou Exemption,” a regulation that allows industrial timber

companies on private forestlands to cut down trees much closer to streams than is currently allowed in other places in the state. Cutting trees near streams means less shade, and warmer, dirtier water, which can harm salmon and put clean water at risk. This leaves many streams in the Rogue watershed with weaker standards than the rest of western Oregon.

On February 10th, we joined groups from all sides to adopt a process that will hopefully lead to improved protections under current forest practices on state and private forestlands.

This agreement includes new rules on the spraying of pesticides, removes the “Siskiyou Exemption” in order to apply the most updated rules to much of the Rogue watershed, and establishes a process for adopting comprehensive reforms to Oregon’s current forest practices. It is a first step toward closing the gap and reforming forest practices in Oregon to better protect clean water, thriving forests, and healthy communities.

Critical for the waters of the Rogue, this agreement moves the ball forward for our region by removing the Siskiyou Exemption. This means that streams supporting salmon and steelhead in the Siskiyou region will now fall under the moderately more protective stream buffer standard that was adopted in 2017 for the rest of western Oregon. Further, it creates a new opportunity for comprehensive reforms of the Oregon Forest Practices Act here in the Rogue watershed and across the state.

WHAT’S NEXT?

There are no easy answers, and this first step would not even be possible without the hard work of community activists, organizers, and scientists across the state who have been calling for change for decades. However, improved protections for clean water and healthy forests are not guaranteed at the end of this process.

We’re committed to advocating for the strongest protections for the waters of the Rogue and for our communities here in southern Oregon that rely upon them.

SHARE THE BEAR CREEK LOVE

Want to get outside and make a difference for the Rogue?
Rogue Riverkeeper has established a monthly Clean Our Greenway program!

Join river lovers like yourself at our monthly clean-ups of Bear Creek from Hawthorne Park to McAndrews Road in Medford. Bear Creek supports iconic salmon (come join us in the fall to see firsthand), but is also heavily impacted by urban development and polluted runoff. At each clean-up event, Rogue Riverkeeper will give a brief presentation on current issues impacting Bear Creek and how organizations, municipalities, and community members like you are addressing them.



Be part of the change taking place on Bear Creek. We will supply water, gloves, grabbers, and trash bags—you supply the person power. Learn more at www.rogueriverkeeper.org/calendar.

HELP CLEAN UP BEAR CREEK AND SHARE A SPRING PICNIC Sunday, March 15th, 12pm - 3pm

Join Rogue Riverkeeper and KS Wild for a picnic and clean up event. Meet other volunteers and learn more about how you can directly engage in efforts to protect the Rogue and the places that we love here in southern Oregon.

We'll kick things off with a picnic and presentations before cleaning up Bear Creek from Hawthorne Park to McAndrews Road along the greenway. Invite your friends, plan to make some new ones, and get ready to get dirty to help clean up our creek!

For all of our clean up events, please park in the south parking lot off of East Main and meet near the dog park area of Hawthorne Park in Medford.

P.S. Stay tuned for some exciting community events happening this spring in Rogue River, Cave Junction, and other Rogue Valley locations where we want to hear your concerns related to how current practices on private forest lands impact clean water! Learn more at www.rogueriverkeeper.org/forestry-practices.



FOREST CANOPY KEEPS IT COOL

INTACT FOREST CANOPIES HELP WATERSHEDS AND WILDLIFE

Climate change is an existential threat like none that we have faced before, and the range of ways that we use to tackle the problem must be as varied as all of the policies and pollution that got us into this mess. Kudos to folks taking on fossil fuel production and consumption. Cheers to those working for carbon caps. A deep thank you to those working in vulnerable communities to help brace them for climate-related fire, drought, and rising sea levels.



TREES ARE OUR ALLIES

An often overlooked ally in our efforts to slow and mitigate the impacts of climate change are the vast forests of the Klamath-Siskiyou. The role our forests play in absorbing and storing carbon is well known—indeed the ancient forests of the region are an important “carbon sink.” Less well known is the role that intact forest canopies play to help rivers, wildlife, and fire management in the face of climate chaos.

If you have ever stepped into an ancient forest from an adjacent clearcut during summer then you know the dramatic relief that comes from entering the cool, refreshing micro-climate created by the overarching forest canopy. The temperature drops and the relative fuel moisture increases. This phenomenon is extremely helpful in mitigating extreme fire behavior during the hottest months. It is also helpful for a slew of species that are losing habitat and having their range reduced as climate change intensifies.

FISH LIKE SHADE

Due to development, road building, and logging, many of the streams and rivers in the Klamath-Siskiyou struggle with increasingly high temperatures; this is bad news for fish. Salmon, steelhead, and trout thrive in cold water. Streamside shade from intact forest canopies is key to reducing the impacts of a warming climate on cold-water fisheries. For years, the Oregon Department of Forestry exempted southwest Oregon from streamside buffer standards that protected fish-bearing streams elsewhere in western Oregon. With recent negotiations, it appears that water advocates are poised to achieve protections for trees that shade cold-water fisheries in our region. Unfortunately, BLM timber planners remain out-of-step with the times and continue to plan logging projects within "riparian reserves" adjacent to waterbodies.

Let's keep it cool and do what we can to retain these ancient forests!

GREAT GRAY OWLS IN TROUBLE

DOUBLE WHAMMY: BLM LOGGING AND THE CLIMATE CRISES

By any measure, Great Gray Owls are magnificent. Able to fly without making a sound they are known to perch and wait for prey, sometimes utilizing a face-first “snow plunge” ending with the gray ghost of a bird silently flying away with a vole in its talons. Talk about a “wow” moment!



Mel Clements

GREAT GRAY OWL, PHANTOM OF THE FOREST.

Great Grays are the result of millions of years of evolution, and there is no other animal that fills the ecological niche of these stealthy hunters. We

are fortunate that, until now, the old-growth forests and meadows in the Howard Prairie area east of Ashland have provided ideal habitat for this rare and elusive species. Indeed, the forests in the vicinity of Howard Prairie provide the single best “source” populations for these rare owls, which have been listed as threatened in California and are extremely uncommon throughout the west coast region.

BLM TARGETS OWL NESTS

For the last several decades BLM timber planners were required to establish habitat buffers for the forests surrounding Great Gray Owl nesting sites when logging the adjacent mountains. That changed recently when the BLM wrote itself a new “management plan” that eliminates wildlife habitat buffers for all of their public land timber operations. Worse yet, the agency immediately prioritized the logging of previously protected Great Gray Owl nesting sites to the north and east of Howard Prairie.

HERE COMES CLIMATE CHANGE

As any birder or biologist will tell you, Great Gray Owls are already very rare and their range on the west coast is extremely limited. Unfortunately, conditions are likely to get significantly worse for this keystone species as climate-induced habitat changes, heat, and dehydration reduce the fecundity and resilience of the owls.

What’s the best way to fight for the survival of these magnificent owls?

- Prevent the BLM from destroying the nesting sites of the last, best source population for Oregon and California.
- Develop strategies to slow climate change and mitigate its effects on wildlife and the habitat that they rely upon.

THE FUTURE IS NOT WRITTEN

KS Wild pledges to renew our efforts to prevent extinction, stop harmful timber sales, and implement effective climate defense strategies. Now is the time. We can do this.

UNDER SIEGE: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS

The Trump Administration is busy attempting to weaken core protections for our public lands, water, air, and wildlife. In direct contradiction to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's mission to "protect human health and the environment," the EPA under the Trump Administration is working to give polluters free reign.



At the top of the list? The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Clean Water Act, passed in 1970 and 1972 respectively during the Nixon Administration. At that time, protecting clean water, thriving forests, and healthy communities were not partisan issues. Unfortunately, in the current political climate these core protections for the environment and public health are under attack like never before.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT UNDER ATTACK

NEPA is the bedrock law of American environmental conservation. It provides public access to information and participation in the management of public lands. When the Forest Service wants to plan a timber sale, or an energy company wants to build a pipeline, there must first be an environmental review of the impacts of the project.

Unfortunately, under the guise of "streamlining," the Trump Administration is proposing to effectively block this process of public participation. If the Administration is successful in rolling back NEPA, federal agencies will be encouraged to ignore the impacts of logging, mining, drilling, development, grazing, and road construction on watersheds, wildlife, and climate change.

WATER IS LIFE

In 1972 a bipartisan Congress passed the Clean Water Act to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters" with the laudable goal of ensuring that our rivers and streams are drinkable, swimmable, and fishable. The Clean Water Act effectively made the release of pollutants from a point source, such as a



pipe, illegal without a permit to set limits on that pollution. It is the cornerstone of protection for clean water, drinking water, fisheries, and healthy rivers across the country.

In 2020, the Trump Administration took aim at the very heart of the Clean Water Act by dramatically reducing the kinds of waterbodies protected by the law. On January 23rd, the EPA finalized a new regulation that eliminates most protections for small streams and wetlands.

These rollbacks leave the entire Rogue vulnerable to increased water pollution.

The Administration is also working to undermine the careful balance of state and federal responsibility to protect clean water and healthy rivers. Section 401 of the Clean Water Act allows states and tribes to review applications for federally licensed or permitted projects, such as the Jordan Cove LNG project, in order to assess impacts to water quality. This proposed rule is a thinly disguised effort to fast-track dirty energy infrastructure projects.

STANDING TALL AND FIGHTING BACK

KS Wild and Rogue Riverkeeper are working diligently to track and respond to these ongoing threats to NEPA and the Clean Water Act. With your support, we're standing strong with communities across the country to fight back against these rollbacks to America's core conservation laws.



I'M HERE FOR THE BUTTERFLIES

The world recently lost two dedicated defenders of biodiversity and culture when Homero Gomez Gonzalaz and Raul Hernandez Romero were killed for their courageous efforts to protect the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve from illegal logging and avocado production.



Intimidation, detention, threats, and even killings cannot stop the international conservation movement and our dedication to life, love, and justice. At KS Wild, we are extremely grateful to be able to work to protect forests, rivers, and wildlife in a place where we feel supported and cared for by our community. We hope to shine that love back to you. Together we can forge a future based on compassion and kindness for the Earth and each other. !Estoy aquí por las mariposas!

FIND CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AT KS WILD!



A healthy ecosystem combines many active pieces to create a habitat that can flourish, resist external threats, and nurture plants and animals year-round. From mycelium to sugar pines, newts to wolves, each organism has a role in the whole. When it comes to protecting the ecosystems of the Klamath-Siskiyou, KS Wild depends on our community of volunteers to take part and join in a circle of defense and restoration.

If you have never volunteered at KS Wild, we encourage you to give an hour or two this year and discover the rewards. Not only will you find fulfillment in knowing you are making real positive change for the places you love, but you will also find yourself making friends among a community of fun people who love the Klamath-Siskiyou wilderness.

KS Wild volunteers are as diverse as the botany of the KS, and we have jobs for all interests. If you like to work at events, outreach in the community, or help in the office, we have a place for you. Find your place at www.kswild.org/volunteer.

For those who like to do physical work in nature, KS Wild's Public Lands and You (PLAY) stewardship program is planning a series of restoration work days at Eight Dollar and Days Gulch botanical areas, where you'll find landscapes bursting with rare wildflowers, teeming with wildlife and flowing with clean water. These areas continue to be threatened by illegal off-road vehicles (ORVs). Volunteering to help restore these areas allows us to prevent further damage to plant life in these botanically diverse serpentine hotspots. Check out the KS Wild website for more details on our Memorial Day Weekend Campout, where we pair volunteer restoration days with back country fun! www.kswild.org/land-stewardship.

FIND YOUR PLACE IN THE WILD!

There are many roles to take as a KS Wild volunteer. Join us for our **Spring Volunteer Engagement, March 15, 12pm-3pm** at Hawthorne Park in Medford. For more information contact: brandy@kswild.org



SISKIYOU FILM FEST

All photos by Marga Laube



Sincere gratitude to our sponsors for the 18th annual Siskiyou Film Fest. Thank you for helping bring this inspirational 'call to action' event to the community. Support the businesses that support us.

Rise! Up Artisan Bread • Oregon Solar Works
Mark Flynn - Century 21 Broker • Aquarius Books & Gifts
Rogue Law Firm • Diggin Livin • Oshala Farm • Redwood Nursery
Takubeh Natural Market • Clear Creek Family Practice
Southern Oregon Mediation Center • Dan the Backhoe Man
Sun Spirit Farms • Southern Oregon PBS • Rogue Valley Messenger
Oregon Books & Games • Grassroots Sound Co.



KS WILD MISSION

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.

KSWILD.ORG

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SAVE THE DATE

Annual Dinner for the Wild

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH
ASHLAND HILLS HOTEL

Member of
EarthShare
Oregon



www.kswild.org

www.rogueriverkeeper.org

Cover: Swallowtail on columbine, Rogue-River-Siskiyou National Forest.