

KS WILD NEWS

The Journal of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center

Winter 2020



DEFEND WHAT YOU LOVE

GET OUTSIDE

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FAMILY HIKE: JACKSONVILLE FOREST PARK

Saturday, January 25, 11am-3pm

Join local natural and human history expert, Clayton Gillette, along with KS Wild staff for this moderately difficult, slight up and down stroll through this historic park. Enjoy examples of the geology of the Klamath-Siskiyou region, remnant evidence of a mining culture, seasonal waterfalls, and great bird watching.

REDWOODS HIKE

Sunday, February 2, 9am-5pm

Winter is a great time to explore the Redwoods! The Boy Scout Tree trail winds through beautiful old growth Redwoods to a small waterfall. The 5.3 miles round trip, easy trail is well maintained with a small elevation gain. This is a great hike for families.

PILOT ROCK HIKE (OR SNOWSHOE)

Friday, February 21, 9am-2:30pm

Enjoy winter with a 4 mile-hike to iconic Pilot Rock where the Siskiyou meet the Cascades! Join KS Wild's Conservation Director on this easy hike or moderate snowshoe depending on weather and snow levels.

Once you sign-up online you will receive details including carpooling locations and what to bring. kswild.org/events

STORIES OF COURAGEOUS RESISTANCE



1. G.O. Road Indigenous Blockade (1970-1990).



2. Bald Mountain Road Blockade (1983).



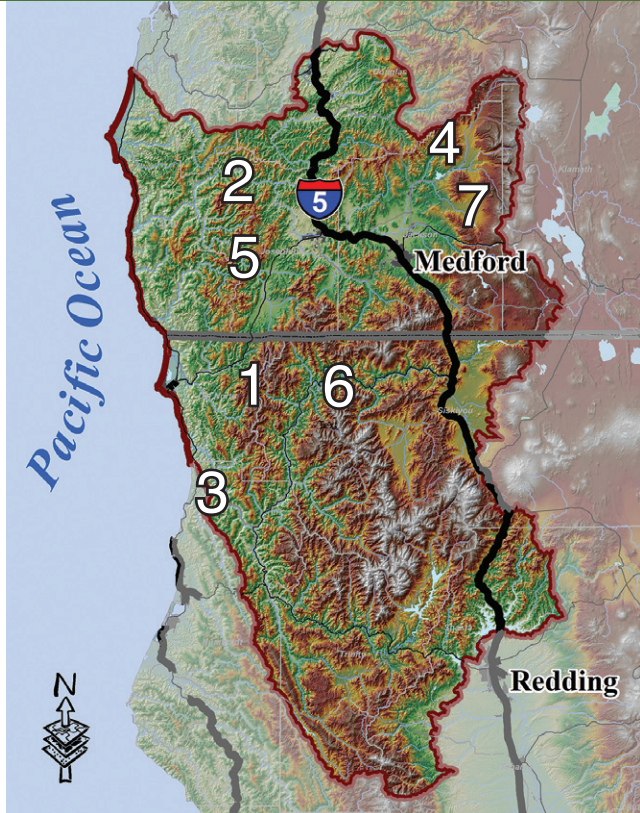
3. Redwood Summer (1990).



4. Peak Old-Growth Treesit (2002-03).



5. Biscuit Salvage Protest (2006).



6. Karuk Westside Salvage Blockade. Tribal members defended ancestral lands near the Marble Mountain Wilderness when the Klamath National Forest proposed to clearcut in watersheds important for salmon. (2016).



7. The Jordan Cove LNG export proposal has inspired a broad and diverse coalition to stop what would be the first gas export terminal on the U.S. West Coast (14 years and counting).



NOTES FROM THE TRAILHEAD

KS Wild is the voice for our region's wildlands, forests, rivers, and wildlife. We protect the public lands of the Klamath Siskiyou from threats like old-growth logging and strip mining. Along with our Rogue Riverkeeper program, we engage at the federal and state levels, often fighting on several fronts simultaneously, as is the case with the Jordan Cove LNG pipeline.

Legally, we challenge the actions of federal land managers, who continue to put corporate profits ahead of clean water, clean air, and wildlife habitat. Politically, we apply pressure to our elected leaders, and engage with state and federal officials to develop policies that will impact our region's communities, economies, and ecosystems. We organize in our communities to take action, providing a larger collective voice. Through these actions, KS Wild reconnects people to their community and to the wild places that make this a home like none other.

With the introduction of our new Climate Program, we now find ourselves joining the global movement to protect biodiversity, change policy, and ensure that the KS, and all the plants, animals, waterways, and people within it, can adapt to the changing climate. All the threats we face require response with swift, decisive action. KS Wild does that work. We keep you informed and engaged so you know when to raise your voice and raise your fist. We are in this together, and when the time comes to take action, we're ready—collectively.

In southern Oregon, the industrial management practices on private forestland has enormous impact for the surrounding public lands and rural communities. Over the coming year, you will see KS Wild and Rogue Riverkeeper participating in legislative and administrative efforts to reform the Oregon Forest Practices Act, complementing our usual watchdog and advocacy efforts on federal public lands.

In this issue of the *KS Wild News*, you will not only find the information you need to understand the current issues facing our region—BLM gutting the public process, ongoing efforts against the Jordan Cove LNG project, needed changes to the Oregon forestry practices, and climate smart actions—but we also provide the tools you need to engage with decision makers and elected officials, to raise your voice and share your opinion. Use our "Take Action" page to contact your elected officials and governing agencies tasked with managing the forests that surround our communities. Finally, we encourage you to support KS Wild as your local advocacy group, so together we can fight on behalf of the climate and speak up for the forests, waters, and wildlife of the beautiful Klamath-Siskiyou.



Contact your County Commissioners:

Advocate for the BLM to stop regeneration harvesting

Jackson County: (541) 774-6116; BoC-CAO_Admin@jacksoncounty.org

Josephine County: (541) 474-5221; bcc@co.josephine.or.us

Contact Oregon's Board of Forestry:

Let them know our logging laws are outdated and must be reformed

Call: (503) 945-7210; Email: BoardofForestry@Oregon.gov

Send a letter: Oregon Board of Forestry, 2600 State Street, Salem, OR 97310

Tell Senators Wyden and Merkley that we must prioritize climate resiliency objectives in federal forest management

Senator Ron Wyden: (503) 326-7525

Senator Jeff Merkley: (503) 326-3386

Tell Governor Kate Brown to say NO to Jordan Cove LNG

Governor Kate Brown: (503) 378-4582

Send a letter: Office of the Governor

900 Court Street NE, Suite 254

Salem, OR 97301-4047

Write a Letter to the Editor

How to: Keep it short! Make one or two points clearly stated in the first sentence. **Have an action at the end:** What should people do with the information you gave them? Check out the letters page of the newspaper you're targeting. You'll find instructions on how to submit a letter to the editor. **Follow up with a phone call.** Call the editorial page editor to make sure your letter was received.

Local Newspapers Contacts

- Ashland Daily Tidings: tidingsopinion@rosebudmedia.com (150 words max)
- Illinois Valley News: dan@illinois-valley-news.com (450 words max)
- Medford Mail Tribune: letters@rosebudmedia.com (200 words max)
- Siskiyou Daily: news@siskiyoudaily.com (400 words max)
- The Applegater: gater@applegater.org (450 words max)
- Grants Pass Daily Courier: letters@thedailycourier.com (250 words max)
- Rogue Valley Messenger: editorial@roguevalleymessenger.com

BLM TIMBER PLANNERS SHUT THEIR EYES AND COVER THEIR EARS

For decades KS Wild has held public lands managers accountable when they propose actions that harm wildlife, wildlands, and watersheds. We are also always willing to lend a hand to BLM and Forest Service employees who want to work with communities and stakeholders to restore and protect our forests. The



public is supposed to have a say in what happens to public lands. BLM forests belong to everyone, not just to timber companies, grazing permittees, and mining advocates. In particular the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is supposed to ensure that we have a voice in the management of our public lands.

BLM TELLS ITSELF TO IGNORE THE PUBLIC AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Recently the BLM withdrew from the NW Forest Plan so that it could increase “regeneration harvest” clearcutting while shrinking streamside buffers and eliminating the wildlife habitat protections of the “survey and manage” program. Under the new management plan that the BLM wrote for itself, the agency instructed timber planners that old-growth forest stands in the “harvest land base” should be turned into second growth tree plantations no matter what. Medford BLM timber planners have interpreted this to mean that they no longer have to analyze or disclose the effects of clearcutting and that they are free to ignore public input.

HERE COMES THE TIMBER BONANZA

The first wave of timber sales released by the BLM under its new “ignore everything but timber production” policy are just as bad as you would expect:

- The **Griffin Half Moon timber sale** in the Jenny Creek Watershed calls for logging known Great Grey owl nesting sites that were protected as wildlife buffers until recently. It also involves “regeneration” clearcutting that will increase fire hazard for decades through the establishment of dense young timber plantations.
- The **North Landscape timber sale** in the Spencer Creek Watershed will log “critical habitat” for Northern spotted owls and will build new logging roads in a portion of the forest that desperately needs restoration.
- The **Bear Grub timber sale** consists of native forests throughout Forest Creek, the Little Applegate, and Sterling Creek, and will log streamside buffer riparian reserves.
- The massive **Poor Windy timber sale** will slick-off old-growth forests on either side of I-5 for miles.
- The **Evans Creek timber sales** take aim at critical habitat for spotted owl and Coho salmon.

RESIST!

Bigwigs in the BLM may think they can ignore the public, and trash watersheds and wildlife habitat to “get the cut out,” but we know better. The communities of southern Oregon are not going to remain silent while the BLM slicks off beloved old-growth forests, increases sediment in salmon streams, and makes forests less resilient to wildfire. We know that our public lands are more than merely an ATM for the timber industry. There are concrete steps we can take to make our voices heard.

- **Tell political leaders** that the BLM must work with the public, incorporate science into management decisions, and cease clearcutting our watersheds.
- **Join with your neighbors** to visit BLM forest stands proposed for logging and let the BLM know what you think of their proposals even when they don't want to hear it.
- **Support efforts** to challenge illegal BLM logging proposals in court by donating to KS Wild, allowing us to continue advocating for our public lands, wildlife, and old-growth forests!

WE CAN WIN

The BLM has a long history of putting timber first while ignoring all of the watershed, wildlife, and recreational values that our public lands provide. As long as we stand strong and stand together we can turn back this latest attempt by the BLM to throw communities and forests under the log truck.

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. Friendly, helpful guides ferry all the heavy stuff and prepare all the delicious meals. KS Wild provides you with the nature nerds on the trail to point out wonders along the trail, and a pocket guide with map and points of interest, to keep and carry with you. You always have the option to ride in a raft if you choose.



ROGUE RIVER TRAIL
RAFT-SUPPORTED
HIKE



MOUNTING THREATS

Under the current administration, Jordan Cove LNG is seen as a priority for gas exports from the U.S. west coast. Trump's Environmental Protection Agency is attempting to dismantle crucial environmental laws like the Clean Water Act to fast-track projects like fossil fuel development while also attempting to remove states' authority to protect our own waterways. They will do everything in their power to put profits before people and corporate interests above clean water. We are up against the greedy and influential fossil fuel lobby and our very own federal government, but time and time again, the power of the people has stopped damaging projects while encouraging society toward safer, cleaner alternatives.



THE TIME IS NOW!

This February, we expect the Trump Administration to rubber stamp the first ever gas export infrastructure on the west coast. It is more important now than ever before for Oregon Governor Kate Brown and our state agencies to stand up for our clean water, communities, and the climate by saying NO to the Pacific Connector fracked gas pipeline and Jordan Cove LNG export terminal once and for all!

TAKE ACTION!

Here's what you can do to help stop Jordan Cove LNG once and for all.

- **Call Governor Brown** at (503) 378-4582 and tell her she must act now to #StopJordanCoveLNG
- **Submit a letter** to the Governor at www.rogueriverkeeper.org/act-now
- **Donate to Rogue Riverkeeper** to help support our staff in resisting this unprecedented project and stop Jordan Cove LNG once and for all!





WE NEED TO REFORM FOREST PRACTICES IN OREGON

If you spend any time exploring southern Oregon, you see the impact of current logging practices on private lands. It leaves a mark on our forests and rivers that is hard to ignore.

Private industrial forest owners are allowed to clearcut, spray chemicals, and replant their lands with the bare minimum of rules and oversight. In southwest Oregon, there are nearly 1 million acres of private forest lands. Current logging practices on state and private forest lands are managed under state law, known as the Oregon Forest Practices Act. Much of these private industrial forest lands are now owned by Wall Street “Timber Investment Management Organizations.”

Rural communities are at the front lines of these industrial management practices. Streams are polluted, water supplies are threatened, and forest viewsheds are transformed into a patchwork of clearcuts. The Oregon Forest Practices Act allows logging near streams that harm fish and heat streams in the face of a changing climate. Oregon allows aerial pesticide spraying practices that are banned in Idaho, Washington, and California. Spraying of toxic pesticides for industrial forest management has sickened people in communities adjacent to forestlands.

STANDING UP FOR THE ROGUE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

In a changing climate, it is more important than ever to protect clean, cold water upon which our communities rely. More than 75 percent of Oregon’s drinking water supplies are sourced from our forested landscapes. We need to adopt strong practices that protect our drinking water supplies and maintain healthy forests across the state.

The good news is that the tide is slowly starting to turn on timber here in Oregon.

Rogue Riverkeeper, a program of KS Wild, has been leading the charge in support of strong protections for streams in southern Oregon since 2016. Currently, streams that support salmon and steelhead in the Rogue are left with weaker protections than the rest of western Oregon under the Oregon Forest Practices Act. Rogue Riverkeeper also joined with 20 other conservation organizations to submit a petition to the



BIG BUTTE CREEK IN THE UPPER ROGUE WATERSHED.

Photo by David Christian.

Oregon Board of Forestry to review the impact of current practices on endangered salmon. We continue to work with our partners in the Oregon Stream Protection Coalition to push for the adoption of stronger stream rules by the Board of Forestry.

There is now also an opportunity to update the Oregon Forest Practices by taking this issue directly to the voters through a ballot initiative. The Forest Waters Initiative would update protection for forest waters from adjacent logging by buffering streams and creating common sense setbacks for fish bearing and other important streams. Updating requirements for aerial spraying of pesticides will help protect our communities, our workers, and our children from exposure to these toxic chemicals. Common sense logging practices grounded in strong science have the potential to reduce the overall risk of severe forest fires by increasing the amount of fire-resistant older trees adjacent to rivers and streams.

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Now is the time to update the laws that govern forest practices in Oregon. Join us!

- **Oregon's current stream buffer rules don't protect southern Oregon streams from the impacts of logging on private forestlands.** Add your voice and ask the State Forester and Board of Forestry Chair to strengthen protections for small streams in southern Oregon. Learn more about protecting small streams from harmful logging at rogueriverkeeper.org/forestry-practices.
- You can also **join communities across the state in support of broad reforms** of the Oregon Forest Practices Act at forestwaters.org. This initiative increases the no-logging protection near streams, expands protections against impacts from aerial pesticide spraying, and works to minimize landslide risks from logging.

By protecting and preserving Oregon's forest waters, we can protect clean water, the health of our communities, and our economic well-being.

CLIMATE IS CHANGING US

It is no secret that we need to take action on climate change. We need to reduce carbon pollution and we need to do it right away. When KS Wild took a hard look at climate change in our region, we realized it is the biggest threat to our world-class rivers and exceptional wild places. We now know that we need to develop immediate strategies to directly address how climate change will impact our corner of the world.



PRESCRIBED FIRE IS KEY TO ADAPTATION IN THE KS.

Here in the Klamath-Siskiyou mountains, the impacts from climate change include more severe wildfires, warmer summer droughts, and changes to our landscapes as species move to new habitats. The most vulnerable plants and wildlife include those that need cool temperatures at high elevations, species that need the shade of a forest canopy, and aquatic species that need cool streams.

There is good news – we can do something about it! While we can't stop all the impacts of climate change, there are real actions we can take to prepare communities and the natural world. KS Wild's new Climate Program was formed to best prepare the landscapes of the Klamath-Siskiyou region for climate change. The Program addresses the impacts of climate change by:

- 1) Helping **shape public land and industrial forest policies** to increase forest carbon storage and become "climate smart" by protecting and managing forested landscapes to prepare for climate change.
- 2) Working with public land managers to **implement on-the-ground projects** that support climate-adapted landscapes.
- 3) **Organizing** community leaders about the **need for climate-focused conservation**, providing rural residents with resources to protect their properties from fire and implement climate smart conservation on public lands.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CLIMATE SMART?

KS Wild is focused on the implementation of strategies known as "Climate Smart." According to the Wildlife Conservation Society, conservation must shift in targeted ways as the climate changes. The following are some examples.

Work in Strategic Locations. We must work in specific places where long-term conservation of wildlife species or other values is most likely. Because the Klamath-Siskiyou region has unmatched landscape diversity, our region will be critically important in a future climate as species move to new habitats.

Take Climate-Informed Actions. Land managers must modify actions to make them effective in light of projected climate changes. For example, we need better buffers to shade streams if we want to ensure future cool downstream water required for salmon.

Shift Timing of Actions. Actions may be needed at different times of the year. For example, as seasons shift we might also need to shift the timing of prescribed fire to ensure that pollinators have access to flowering plants.

Become Forward-Looking. The goal of conservation must evolve, leading managers to focus on new threats. In the face of climate change, we need to embrace change and favor species that are more likely to survive in the future climate.

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Together, we can take concrete steps to reverse the trends of climate change.

- Let our political leaders know that **NOW is the time to take bold action to stop climate pollution** and to prepare for the changing climate. Tell them that climate smart conservation of our forests is our best bet to survive climate change.
- **Support climate smart conservation** in the Klamath-Siskiyou by donating to KS Wild so we can ensure that climate change is no longer ignored by public land managers.
- **Save the Date!** KS Wild is working with partnering organizations to host a Fire and Climate Summit, June 11-13, 2020 in southern Oregon. More details coming soon!

Climate change is the greatest challenge of our time. In the midst of this crisis we can come together to find solutions that protect our communities and the natural world. KS Wild is working in the Klamath-Siskiyou region to prepare for climate change. Join us!

KEEPING CARBON IN THE FOREST

Did you know that the forests in the Pacific Northwest, including those right here in the Klamath-Siskiyou, store more carbon than any ecosystem on earth? Millions of tons of carbon is locked up in the trunks of large trees. Keeping that carbon in the forest will help limit climate change in the future. Cutting down the big trees releases this carbon store, making climate change worse.

CELEBRATE COMMUNITY

Thank you for another successful KS Wild Annual Dinner! Once again hundreds of supporters and volunteers came together to celebrate and support science-based conservation in the Klamath-Siskiyou. Highlights of the dinner included, beautiful music by Sage Meadows, our captivating emcee Maria Kelly, a compelling key note from Michael Dotson, and a touching tribute to Gary Powell and his partner Geronimo Diaz. The love was palpable and fun was had by all. Returning guests saw a few changes, including the addition of a professional auction company, Marquam Auction Agency, who kept the program running smoothly and helped KS Wild raise \$71,000, making 2019 our best year to-date!

THANK YOU!



all photos by David Christian

SUPPORT BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT US

Our success would not be possible without the support of community members, farmers, local businesses, artists, and recreational outfitters who provided food, drinks, time, and auction items to this year's Annual Dinner.

KS Wild is grateful to the extended community for your continued support:

- Whole Systems Foundation • Kimberly Kruger, Donor Advised Fund •
- Sunday Afternoons • Momentum River Expeditions • Full Circle Real Estate •
 - Plant Oregon • True South Solar • Diggin' Livin' • Ron Roth •
 - Cuckoo's Nest Cellars • Cowhorn Vineyard • Dan the Backhoe Man •
 - Southern Oregon Mediation Center • David Tourzan • Peter Salant •
- Oregon Shakespeare Festival • Brothers Restaurant • Neuman Hotel Group •
 - Piccadilly Cycles • REI • Backcountry Press • Bloomsbury Books •
 - Paddington Station • Bob Hunter • Jade Mountain Medicine •
- Oregon Cabaret Theatre • Sandy Bar Ranch • Case Coffee • Heyday Books •
- Wild Wines • Matt Witt Photography • Rogue Frameworks • Green Springs Inn •
 - Northwest Rafting Company • Wild Rose Herbs • Benna Gottfried •
- Smith River Alliance • Zoom Out Mycology • Ashland Chamber of Commerce •
 - Morning Glory • Cold Creek Inn • Ashland Creek Inn • Paula Fong •
 - South Coast Kayak Tours • Siskiyou Mountain Club • BeeSoleil •
 - Breitenbush Hot Springs • Common Block Brewing Company •
- Ashland Institute of Massage • Massif • Village Shoes • As You Like It •
 - Simple Machine • Mountain Provisions • Northwest Nature Shop •
 - La Baguette Music Café • Rogue Rock Gym • Rogue Riverkeeper •
 - Rogue Valley Runners • Rogue Creamery • By George Farm •
- Rise Up Artisan Bread • Ninkasi Brewing • Paschal Winery • Apple Outlaw •
 - Uber Herbal • Jen Sehm • Sequoia Photography • ARTA River Trips •
 - Wandering Fields Farm • Barking Moon Farm • Fry Family Farm •
- Wolf Gulch Farm • Sun Spirit Farm • L&R Ranch • Wandering Roots Farm •
 - Earth & Sky Farm • Dunbar Farm • Port Orford Sustainable Seafood •

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.



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www.roguekeeper.org

www.kswild.org