



# Summer Report

## Historic action to protect Oregon's rivers

### EPA to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act

Whether we're rafting on the Deschutes or going for a swim in a river closer to home, our rivers are a big part of what makes living in Oregon so great. Unfortunately, more than half the streams in our state don't have the protection they need due to loopholes in the Clean Water Act.

That's why Environment Oregon is working to protect the Rogue, the Sandy, and the other waterways we love and depend on for drinking water and recreation.

### 61,000 miles of streams at risk

In the last decade, two polluter-driven Supreme Court decisions weakened the Clean Water Act and left more than half of Oregon's streams vulnerable to unchecked pollution and development—the same streams that feed our rivers, like the mighty Rogue. This means 61,000 miles of streams—and the drinking water sources for 1.7 million Oregonians—are unprotected from toxic dumping, development, and more.

This past March, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finally put forth a long-awaited rule to close the loopholes and restore protections to all of our waterways. But with polluters and their lobbyists in Washington, D.C., already lining up to dismantle this commonsense proposal, Environment Oregon has launched a summer campaign to show public support for protecting all of Oregon's rivers and streams from pollution.

Polluters from the American Farm Bureau to Big Oil have promised to do everything



mypubliclands/Flickr

▲ Rafting on the Deschutes River

in their power to defeat this clean water plan, including in their own words, start "legal warfare" to keep the EPA from taking action.

### Clean water campaign launched

To counter their pressure, Environment Oregon staff will have in-person conversations with 70,000 Oregonians, educating them on the issue and urging them to take

action. Environment Oregon will also add to our growing list of small farmers and local business owners from across the state urging for clean water.

"It's no small undertaking, but we know that building support for this rule is the best chance we have at protecting our state's waters," said Environment Oregon Conservation Advocate Rikki Seguin.



Staff

### more online

◀ Environment Oregon collects photo petitions in Portland in support of closing Clean Water Act loopholes

To learn more and take action, visit: [www.EnvironmentOregon.org](http://www.EnvironmentOregon.org).



## To our members

As I write this, I can't help but be excited for the warm summer days ahead and the fun activities that are in store—hikes on Mt. Hood, trips to the coast, swimming in the Rogue.

Despite our state's indisputable beauty, year after year we are forced to fend off attacks on our environment on all fronts. This spring was no exception. I was busy making the case for clean air, clean water, and open spaces to our elected officials in Salem and in Washington, D.C., And, like always, the real power I brought to these meetings came from people like you—our members. When it mattered, you signed petitions, you made phone calls to decision-makers, and you believed it was possible to win real victories for Oregon's environment when we stick together.

Thanks for all you do. And I hope to see you out on the trail this summer!

Sincerely,

Rikki Seguin  
Conservation Advocate

## Recent action

### Green Future Fund: A new way to honor supporters

Environment Oregon's new Green Future Fund honors donors who ensure a greener future for Oregon by remembering Environment Oregon or our sister group, Environment Oregon Research & Policy Center, in their estate plans. Including Environment Oregon in your planning costs nothing today, while protecting the places we love and the values we share for the future.

With your permission, we'll recognize your gift in our publications, inspiring other members to make their own legacy gifts. Or you may choose to keep your gift private. Either way, any details you choose to provide about your gift will remain confidential.

To enroll in the Green Future Fund, or to learn more, call 1-800-841-7299 ext. 312, or email [PlannedGiving@EnvironmentOregon.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@EnvironmentOregon.org).

### 5,000 petitions delivered to stop reckless logging

For months, Environment Oregon has been working to stop a reckless proposal that would put more than 1 million acres of publicly-owned land at risk of aggressive logging and clear-cuts. With some of the most incredible forests in the country, we know that we can't sit back and let the timber industry and their allies in Congress bulldoze Oregon's public forests.

Since launching our campaign in October, Environment Oregon staff has had over 14,000 conversations with Oregonians from all walks of life about this shortsighted logging proposal. So far, more than 5,000 Oregonians have signed our petition urging Sen. Ron Wyden to protect Oregon's forests.

In February, our staff delivered these public comments to Sen. Wyden's Portland office, just days before the bill was taken up by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. We are continuing our push to stop this bill, which poses a huge threat to our forests, wildlife and waterways.



▲ Environment Oregon and coalition partners delivered over 5,000 petitions to Sen. Ron Wyden urging him to protect our forests.

# Delivering a one-two punch in the global warming fight

With more than half of Oregon's counties in the midst of drought and public concern about extreme weather on the rise, Oregon is proving we can't wait any longer to tackle the pollution that's fueling global warming. Oregon's clean energy and energy efficiency policies are significantly cutting emissions of carbon pollution—the leading cause of global warming—according to a report by Environment Oregon Research & Policy Center.

The report, "Moving America Forward," showed that Oregon's energy efficiency policies reduced carbon pollution by at least 1.31 million metric tons in 2012. That is comparable to the annual emissions from 272,000 cars.

"By using energy more efficiently, and by generating more power from clean, renewable sources, we are delivering a one-two punch in the fight against global warming," said Charlie Fisher, field organizer with Environment Oregon. "We've proven that we have what it takes to protect our children and future generations from the worst impacts of climate change."

Scientists say extreme weather like the wildfires seen last summer foreshadow what could be a new normal of weather extremes that could threaten our children and future generations if we fail to act on climate. Coal- and gas-fired power plants are America's largest source of the carbon pollution fueling global warming, accounting for about 40 percent of total emissions.

## The next major step

Right now, the EPA limits arsenic, lead, soot and other pollution from power plants—but not carbon pollution. Earlier this year, Environment Oregon applauded the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) plan to move forward with limits on carbon pollution from power plants as the next step to fight global warming and shift to clean energy.

## Firm national limits needed

This past January, at press conferences in

Portland, Eugene, and Ashland, Environment Oregon staff stood with Reps. Earl Blumenauer and Peter DeFazio, Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy, and state Rep. Peter Buckley, along with academics, students, and activists to draw attention to this important opportunity for Oregonians to take action on global warming.

Over two days of action, we enlisted hundreds of college students to submit comments to the EPA in support of their new rule to limit carbon pollution from power plants. These, along with thousands already collected by Environment Oregon activists and allies, sent a strong message to the EPA and members of Congress that they must act on climate.

Environment Oregon pointed to opposition from power companies, the coal industry, and other big polluters as a roadblock to action. Already, groups from the American Petroleum Institute to the National Mining Association have launched campaigns to block or undermine federal carbon limits.

"We've seen that climate solutions work—now it's time for the next round," Fisher said. "Our leaders can start by supporting the EPA's plan to limit carbon pollution from power plants."



 To read our report, "Moving America Forward," visit us online: [www.EnvironmentOregonCenter.org](http://www.EnvironmentOregonCenter.org)



## Obama's budget good news for Oregon parks

This March, President Obama released an annual budget that, if approved, would fully fund our nation's most successful conservation program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

For 50 years, this program has protected parks and public lands across Oregon from development and pollution, including the Oregon Dunes and Mt. Hood National Forest. Since its inception, the LWCF has invested nearly \$14.4 billion into protecting state and federal lands, approximately \$304 million of which has gone directly to Oregon's most treasured places.

Environment Oregon applauded the president for acting quickly on his State of the Union commitment to protect our public lands and using his authority to call for full funding for the LWCF. Now, we're bringing Oregonians together to urge Congress to follow the president's lead and make preserving special places a top priority.

If Congress fails to approve the president's suggested funding levels, the program could expire next year, a move that would leave Oregon's special places with less protection against pollution, logging and overdevelopment.

News, research, ways to get involved:  
[www.EnvironmentOregon.org](http://www.EnvironmentOregon.org)



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# Environment Oregon

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## Summer Report

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### Environment Oregon

#### Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind Environment Oregon. We focus exclusively on protecting Oregon's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

## Ashland, fourth Oregon city to ban the bag?

In April, Environment Oregon testified in Ashland alongside local activists, business owners, and students in support of a ban on plastic grocery bags. Following the public discussion, the City Council decided to move forward on a local plastic bag ban, pending one final round of votes. The decision will have big payoffs for Oregon's environment and the Pacific Ocean, and will remove approximately 6.6 million plastic bags out of the waste stream annually.

Environment Oregon collected more than 500 signatures from Ashland residents in support of a ban on single-use plastic bags, and enlisted nearly 100 local businesses to endorse the measure. On the day of the hearing, Environment Oregon helped pack the hearing room to capacity with supportive local businesses and citizens urging a ban on plastic bags. Ashland would be the first city in southern Oregon to ban plastic bags, joining Portland, Corvallis, and Eugene—where bans on plastic bags will eliminate an estimated 350 million bags.



govau/CC

### more inside

*Protecting Oregon's rivers; report on global warming; delivering petitions to stop reckless logging, and more.*

◀ *Help us protect wildlife from plastic bag waste by banning the bag in Oregon.*