



## Thousands sign on to protect Crater Lake

### New wilderness corridor would keep area pristine

Crater Lake is getting a groundswell of support from Oregonians who want to see it protected from logging, mining and destructive development. This summer we spoke with more than 90,000 Oregonians about the forest clearcut proposals that threaten wildlife habitat around Crater Lake. More than 25,000 people signed postcards to Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley urging them to prioritize protections for our state treasure.

Environment Oregon Preservation Advocate Dave Mathews spoke with the *Bend Bulletin* for a story on our conservation efforts. “This is a critical area that should be protected, no matter who is reaching for it,” Mathews said. As a result of our outreach efforts and media coverage, a growing number of Oregonians agree.

### Elk and Chinook salmon at risk

The woods and waters that surround Crater Lake are home to bald eagles, northern spotted owls, black bears and Roosevelt elk. However, much of the habitat is under threat from bulldozers, backhoes and chainsaws. Logging companies are pushing to clearcut thousands of acres of forest—land that shelters the headwaters of the Rogue and Umpqua rivers, which are critical for maintaining healthy runs of Steelhead, Coho and Chinook salmon.

### A plan to preserve vital habitat

In response to threats from loggers, miners and developers, Environment Oregon is calling on Congress to create the Crater Lake Wilderness, a 75-mile, nearly half-



flickr user: alumnoot

▲ Logging proposals threaten the elk and other wildlife that live near Crater Lake.

million acre wildlife corridor that would connect existing wilderness areas in the Cascades and enhance protection for Crater Lake.

Under the Wilderness Act of 1964, Congress has the authority to fully protect areas deemed wilderness from any kind of activity that diminishes the natural environment. In the language of the

Act, designations create “an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”

By activating our grassroots network, joining with other environmental groups and making the case to Sens. Wyden and Merkley, we’re helping to realize that vision for Crater Lake.

## Our campaign: By the numbers



Staff

**90,000** People we talked to this summer about our work and how they can get involved.

**25,000** Petition signatures gathered and delivered to Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden.

**400** People trained as citizen outreach staff to educate the public and develop grassroots pressure to protect Crater Lake.



## To our members

As the leaves turn and we settle in for another winter, I hope you can find a few moments to stroll along the Hood River, take a walk in the Willamette National Forest, or visit a special place closer to home. As you enjoy Oregon's natural treasures, I hope you'll feel proud of the important role you're playing in their preservation.

In this edition of our newsletter, you'll learn about the latest developments in our effort to protect Crater Lake from development, keep plastic bags out of the Pacific, reduce air pollution, and much more.

None of it would be possible without your financial support and activism. I'm grateful to be working with you toward a cleaner, greener, healthier future for Oregon.

Sincerely,

Anna Aurilio  
For Environment Oregon



## How do you want to be remembered?

You can be remembered as a someone who cared enough to keep up the fight for a cleaner, greener, healthier future by making a bequest to Environment Oregon.

For information, call: 1-800-841-7299, or e-mail [PlannedGiving@EnvironmentOregon.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@EnvironmentOregon.org).

## Recent action

### New standards will cut mercury, save lives

The Environmental Protection Agency is taking important steps to cut toxic air pollution from power plants, including northeastern Oregon's Boardman plant and others nationwide.

In March, the EPA proposed new rules to cut mercury emissions by 91 percent—a huge victory, given mercury's toxic effects on how kids think, learn and behave. Polluters and their allies in the Senate fought back with proposals to block the EPA, but staff and activists from our national federation were able to help defeat those measures—thanks in part to the activism of Environment Oregon members.

In July, our national federation delivered more than 800,000 public comments to the EPA in favor of the mercury rule—a show of the strong support that will be vital as the EPA fights back against attempts by Congress to block clean air rules.

### Grand Canyon at risk from toxic mining

Mere weeks after Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced that his agency would consider strong protections for 1 million acres around the Grand Canyon, the uranium mining industry launched an attack with its allies in Congress to block him.

More than 1,000 uranium mining claims have already been staked within just five miles of Grand Canyon National Park, and the radioactive waste that results from uranium extraction poses a real threat to the park's stunning landscape, its fragile desert ecosystems, and the rivers and streams that feed the Colorado River—which provides drinking water for more than 25 million Americans.

Two years ago, an outpouring of support from nearly 100,000 people like you enabled us to win temporary protection from new mining claims near the canyon. We'll keep working to ensure that those protections stay in place.



flickr user: Grand Canyon NPS

▲ Mule ride along the South Rim of the Grand Canyon.



flickr user: swanksalot

# Bag ban makes it to Salem

From Portland to Lake Oswego to Tillamook and beyond, momentum is building to ban the disposable plastic bags that pollute our beaches, threaten wildlife and contribute to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch—that swirling soup of trash off our coast.

With help from more than 20,000 Environment Oregon members and hundreds of small business owners, we pushed the bag ban idea to the top of the legislative agenda in Salem last session. The measure—which had bipartisan support—was narrowly defeated after the plastic industry stepped in with a misinformation campaign and lobbying efforts directed at swing voters in the Legislature.

## Plastic industry can't stop Portland

As of October 15, large supermarkets and retailers in Portland will no longer distribute plastic bags for most purchases. Officials in Newport, Beaverton and Lake Oswego are also considering action against plastic bags. These actions at the local level will have an immediate impact on plastic pollution while building momentum for a statewide ban.

## A growing threat to wildlife

Unfortunately, Oregonians still use approximately 1.7 billion plastic bags each year, about 500 per person. Too many of those bags become litter and make their way to the ocean, where they join the Pacific Garbage Patch—an area in the Pacific where plastic outweighs plankton by as much as 6-to-1.

Scientists are increasingly concerned about the toll this plastic pollution takes on birds, sea turtles and other marine animals that can strangle or choke on plastic pollution, or starve to death if their stomachs become filled with plastic.

A recent study from UC-San Diego found that 1 in 10 small fish collected in the North Pacific had plastic in its stomach. Since these fish form an important link in the food chain, larger sea creatures—

and possibly humans—end up ingesting plastic as well.

## Court victory opens doors

With more than 500 billion plastic bags distributed in the United States each year, it's no wonder plastic bag manufacturers are fighting tooth and nail to keep selling their product. But environmental activists are fighting just as hard to cut the flow of pollution into the Pacific, and the tide is turning in our favor.

In a decision that sets a great precedent for the expansion of bag bans up and down the West Coast, California's Supreme Court ruled that cities can progress with bag bans despite the protests of bag-makers. Environment Oregon will keep working to build a network of local bans that will have an immediate impact to reduce plastic pollution while building momentum for a statewide ban.



fotohunter\*

## Save energy, save cash

*We know energy efficiency is the cheapest and cleanest way to cut our fossil fuel use and pollution—but with all the options out there, it can be tough to figure out where to start.*

*Environment Oregon Research & Policy Center designed our "Plugging Into Clean Energy" guide to help you cut through the clutter and pick what works for you.*

Check it out at:  
[www.EnvironmentOregon.org/center/plug-into-clean-energy](http://www.EnvironmentOregon.org/center/plug-into-clean-energy)



The White House

## A huge boost for fuel efficiency

*With the costs of our oil addiction at an all-time high, we called on President Obama to take a bold step: Put us on the road to oil independence by making super-efficient cars the norm. He listened—announcing that fuel efficiency standards will double by 2025, to 54.5 miles per gallon.*

*In the weeks leading up to the president's decision, thousands of members of our national federation sent messages urging him to pass a 60-miles-per-gallon fuel standard. We pointed out that if all the cars on the road today were that fuel-efficient, the average Oregon household would save more than \$850 a year. Nationwide, we noted, a 60 mpg standard would reduce our oil consumption by 44 million barrels per year by 2025 and cut carbon pollution by 465 million metric tons—the equivalent of taking 70 million cars off the road.*

*While the president's decision fell a few miles per gallon short of the position we fought for, the new standard is a huge step toward a clean energy future, and the most important policy ever enacted to cut our dependence on foreign oil.*

*The president showed real leadership on this issue, and we should all be proud. Our activism—with help from our national federation and other groups—gave the president the support he needed to say "no" to oil industry lobbyists and "yes" to a cleaner future with less reliance on fossil fuels.*

▲ For the latest updates and news alerts, check out [Facebook.com/GetOffOil](https://www.facebook.com/GetOffOil)

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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.

## Willamette River under attack

Working with our national federation, we're fighting to restore Clean Water Act protections to the streams and wetlands that feed the Willamette River—and all of Oregon's waterways.

This spring, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson announced a plan to restore the Clean Water Act protections that years of polluter-driven lawsuits have eroded. But mining companies, developers and corporate agribusiness urged their friends in Congress to stop the EPA. ExxonMobil even threatened "legal warfare" over the issue.

Fortunately, we anticipated this assault, and had already begun to build support for the EPA's clean water initiatives. Field organizers in our network talked face to face with more than half a million people, mobilizing more than 100,000 to stand up for clean water.

The Willamette is a precious resource—we'll keep working to make sure we don't waste a single drop to pollution.



Staff

◀ Environment Oregon member Justin Boyles and his son Reed took advantage of a beautiful Oregon day to do some canoeing on the Willamette River just south of Portland.