



## 10,000 say no to Crater Lake clearcutting

### Oregonians stand up for our only national park

As we work to establish long-term protection for the Crater Lake area, we've kept a close eye on threats to this critical wildlife habitat. When the Bybee timber sale, a proposal to effectively clear-cut old growth on the edge of Crater Lake National Park, came up for public comment in February, we were ready.

Over the course of four months, we had already collected 6,000 public comments and talked with more than 60,000 Oregonians across the state. In February alone, we set out to reach our goal of 10,000 comments by the deadline.

Oregonians across the state answered our call to collect public comments in their own communities, mailing in more than 200 petitions. People also shared more than 100 photos of their favorite Crater Lake memories with us.

#### Media tour earns headlines

Environment Oregon planned and held a media tour on the way to the Medford National Forest Service office to deliver the 10,000 public comments. We invited and were joined by fellow advocates at Oregon Wild, KS Wild, UO students, SOU students, and volunteer activists. Charlie Fisher, Environment Oregon field organizer, worked with top reporters at the Oregonian, OPB, Bend Bulletin, Jefferson Public Radio, Medford Mail Tribune, and local television stations to highlight this threat in the media across the state.



Photo: Tom Reichner / Shutterstock.com

▲ Roosevelt elk

#### Now more than ever

While we're monitoring immediate threats, we're also working to protect this ecosystem permanently for future generations. That's why Environment Oregon also collected 12,000 petitions from around the state and delivered them in late January, urging Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley to support the Crater Lake wilderness proposal. The wilder-

ness proposal would permanently protect 500,000 acres in and around Crater Lake National Park.

"We know that the best way to permanently protect this area is for Congress to designate it as a wilderness area," said Environment Oregon's Charlie Fisher. "But in the meantime, we have to ensure there's still something left to protect."



Photo: Staff

#### more online

For more information on our efforts to protect Crater Lake, visit [www.EnvironmentOregon.org](http://www.EnvironmentOregon.org) or follow us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/EnvirOregon](https://www.facebook.com/EnvirOregon).

◀ Field Organizer Charlie Fisher (left)



Photo: Nicole Barker

## To our members

With the start of 2013 came Oregon's legislative session, and with it, a set of tough challenges from the usual suspects. While Big Oil dumped big money into blocking our effort to get Oregon off oil and the chemical industry fought toxic disclosure, the largest coal companies in the country sent lobbyists to peddle their dirty coal train proposal, and utilities continued to fight efforts to repower Oregon with clean energy.

As I write this, all the votes are yet to be counted in the Capitol. But despite this heavy opposition, here's what I do know: No great environmental victory in this state has ever been won without people like you. Right now, our members are answering our call to speak up in Salem. I know we can win real victories for Oregon's environment if we stick together.

Thanks,

Sarah Higginbotham  
State Director



## Toward a greener future

Environment Oregon and Environment Oregon Research & Policy Center gratefully accept bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities to support our work to build a cleaner, greener, healthier future.

For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 or send an email to: [PlannedGiving@EnvironmentOregon.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@EnvironmentOregon.org).

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## Recent action

### Budget recommends millions for conservation

For the first time, President Obama has proposed mandatory funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The president's recommendation of \$600 million in FY14 for the nation's premier land conservation program, with a goal of seeing full and dedicated funding starting in FY15, is very encouraging. Although we had hoped to see President Obama duplicate the full funding for the LWCF in FY14, which was included in the recent Senate budget, we are pleased that he is prioritizing our great outdoors at a level higher than previous years. Oregon's federal delegation made an excellent show of support, with Sens. Wyden and Merkley, and Reps. Bonamici, DeFazio, Schrader and Blumenauer demonstrating their support for fully funding the LWCF.

### Commitment made to tackle global warming

In his inaugural address, President Obama committed to do more to tackle global warming in his second term, building on the strong foundation his administration has laid over the last four years. He spoke more on climate change than any other issue in his speech.

"We will respond to the threat of climate change, knowing that failure to do so would betray our children and future generations," said President Obama. "Some may still deny the overwhelming judgment of science, but none can avoid the devastating impact of raging fires, crippling drought, and more powerful storms."

The president's commitment comes after increasing climate-related disasters, including severe and increased precipitation and storms here in Oregon.

"We have seen and felt the effects of the warming planet here in Oregon," said Sarah Higginbotham, director. "We hope the president takes bold moves now to secure a better future for all of us tomorrow."



Photo: Staff

▲ Federal Global Warming Program Director Nathan Willcox (right) with top climate scientist James Hansen (left) at the Forward on Climate Rally in D.C.

# 250,000 solar rooftops by 2025

Photo: Josemaria Toscano / Shutterstock

In the early months of 2013, we called on state legislators to put Oregon on track to building 250,000 solar roofs by 2025. Oregon has more than enough sunshine—and citizen support—to become a solar leader. Even in the often-cloudy Willamette Valley, the sun still shines more in a year than it does in Germany, the world's largest solar market. But now, less than 1 percent of our state's energy comes from this free, abundant source, when we could be generating power on every home, office, school, warehouse and retail store.

## Solar bills in Salem

Within a little over a decade, Oregon could produce 30 times as much solar energy as it does today—preventing 3.8 million tons of carbon dioxide pollution.

This legislative session provided the first opportunity to make real progress toward our goal. We worked to improve the two main ways Oregonians can currently access solar energy—net metering and our feed-in-tariff program.

While we prevented the feed-in-tariff program from being killed and won a modest extension through 2016, we have much work ahead of us to ensure a robust program that pays Oregonians a fair price for producing solar energy. We helped ensure a key step in that direction by securing a study that will help define a fairer value for clean, renewable solar power in the future.

## Utilities stand in the way

We also worked to propose new programs, like community solar. Environment Oregon supported a proposal that would increase access to solar for the 75 percent of Oregonians who currently can't go solar, because they live in apartments or don't have adequate roof space.

Unfortunately, even basic improvements to existing net metering policies, as well as innovative ideas like community solar, were met with major opposition from utilities across the state.

## More than 1,000 signatures

We worked in a coalition of groups to support strong solar initiatives that included Solar Oregon, Oregon Solar Energy Industry Association, Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon, Sierra Club, Oregonians for Renewable Energy Progress and Renewable Northwest Project. We signed on more than 15 environmental, consumer, social justice, faith-based and business organizations in support of our bold goal.

We talked to more than 1,500 Oregonians face-to-face and engaged more than 1,000 of them in signing a petition urging state legislators to take action. Moving forward, we'll need to talk to thousands more to help us reach our goal.

That's why this summer, we're continuing our work to show decision makers that Oregonians from across the state support going big on solar policies that will help us reach our goal. There's no time to wait to tap into our most abundant resource that doesn't pollute and never runs out.



Photo: Solar Oregon

## more online

To learn more about our research on Oregon's solar potential, visit [www.EnvironmentOregonCenter.org](http://www.EnvironmentOregonCenter.org)

▲ Oregon homeowner installs solar panels

## Say no to coal

In Oregon, we take pride in being an environmental leader, but with a shrinking market for dirty energy in Oregon and around the country, the coal industry has a new plan. They want to put 140 million tons of dirty coal on trains through Oregon so they can ship it to China.

## Toxic coal dust in the Gorge

They have a plan to send dozens of trains daily through our communities and the Columbia River Gorge, kicking up toxic coal dust along the way. If that weren't bad enough, China burning all this coal would mean 420 million tons of global warming pollution for the planet, and more mercury in Oregon's water, poisoning salmon and other species. It's the wrong way to go, and it could change the Oregon we love forever.

## It's up to our governor

The nation's largest coal companies are spending millions of dollars and lobbying furiously to get their way. So this spring, Environment Oregon set out to educate hundreds of Oregonians about this dangerous idea and the need to stop it dead in its tracks.

We join our allies like Sierra Club, Climate Solutions, Greenpeace, National Wildlife Federation and Columbia Riverkeeper in asking Gov. John Kitzhaber to stand up for Oregon's environment and health.



Photo: Gord McKenna / Flickr.com

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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.

## Bend moves closer to a bag ban

In January, we worked with local activists to kick off a campaign to ban the bag in Bend. More than 50 citizens turned out to watch a special screening of the documentary "Bag It" and attend a community meeting. Since the kick off, more than 100 businesses have signed on to support banning the bag, and more than 500 citizens have signed our petition.

In 2012, Environment Oregon banned the bag in Eugene, Corvallis and Portland, eliminating more than 350 million plastic bags from the waste stream every year. This summer, we're working to ban the bag in four more cities by working with activists and businesses around the state.

"We've already come so far and made a lot of progress to keep plastic out of the Pacific," said Sarah Higginbotham, director. "But we can't let up for a minute. Oregon shouldn't stop until we've become the first state on the West Coast to ban the bag for good."



Photo: Garrett Coakley / Flickr.com

### more inside

Standing up for Oregon's solar future; 10,000 say no to clearcutting near Crater Lake; Stopping coal trains dead in their tracks, and more.

◀ Plastic bag pulled from ocean