You can help protect Crater Lake now

Logging activities pose a serious threat

Oregonians like you know that Crater Lake is one of the most amazing places in the country. Its deep blue waters and 2,000-foot rim walls attract more than half a million visitors each year.

Unfortunately, when the national park was designated, the land surrounding it was left out and is unprotected. Now, logging companies are pushing to clearcut old growth forests right outside the park’s border.

With your support, our congressional delegation can protect Crater Lake by declaring a 500,000-acre, 75-mile wildlife corridor around the park. That’s why we need you by our side as we call on our leaders to take action before it’s too late.

Take a stand for the best of Oregon

With support from concerned Oregonians like you, and a strong and diverse coalition, Environment Oregon is calling on Sen. Ron Wyden to introduce a bill in Congress to protect Crater Lake.

This summer, more than 20,000 members and activists like you signed a petition calling for this bill. We delivered them to Sen. Wyden’s office in Eugene along with a mosaic of Crater Lake made up of photo-petitions from outdoor enthusiasts from across the state. Hundreds of supporters have also called Sen. Wyden in support of protecting Crater Lake with a wilderness area.

Our proposed wilderness would protect 500,000 acres around the park, which is home to Roosevelt elk, black bears and bald eagles, as well as the headwaters of the Rogue, Umpqua and Deschutes rivers, where Chinook and Coho salmon spawn.

Another 100 years preserving parks

Working with coalition partners, Environment Oregon hosted seven different hikes for members and supporters in the proposed wilderness area to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service this year.

With your support and action, we can protect Crater Lake for generations to come and set a precedent for protecting other special places across the country from reckless threats.

take action

We need your help to protect Crater Lake. Take action online to urge Sen. Wyden to act: www.EnvironmentOregon.org

Our national coalition is also building public support to permanently protect the Grand Canyon and more than 1 million acres of watershed and native heritage areas around it.
In this election year, with the climate movement growing stronger and more positive environmental progress happening every day, I feel like we’re in a time of great change. And I’m glad that you’re pushing for a cleaner, greener, healthier America.

Since our last update, we swarmed the Environmental Protection Agency with petitions from members like you to stop the use of bee-killing pesticides, delivered more than 20,000 signatures from Oregonians calling on Sen. Ron Wyden to permanently protect the Crater Lake ecosystem, and so much more.

All of this work happens because of you. You provide the financial backing that allows us to speak with millions of Americans. You make up the grassroots power that makes positive change possible, and your passion stirs leaders to enact that change on the issues that matter most to all of us.

Thanks for everything you do,

Rikki Seguin
Director

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**Recent action**

**All in for 100 percent renewable**

According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the United States has the potential to meet its current electricity needs more than 10 times over with wind energy, and more than 100 times over with solar energy. We can have healthier communities and a livable future for kids growing up today, but to get there, we need to transform the way we produce and consume energy.

With more than 19 cities, counties and states already committed to 100 percent renewable energy, and dozens of major companies like Google, Facebook, IKEA and Johnson & Johnson making commitments as well, it’s clear that now is the time to go 100 percent renewable.

To show that we have both the tools and the imperative to transition entirely off dirty fuels, Environment Oregon Research & Policy Center and our sister groups in other states distributed literature to more than 1.3 million households like yours this summer. The good news we’re spreading is that 100 percent renewable is 100 percent possible.

**Has your community gone solar?**

Perhaps it was on the rooftop of a superstore in Oregon, on a low-income housing development, or a solar carport project in California, believed to be the largest of its kind. But sometime in February, the United States installed its 1 millionth solar power installation, a milestone that says as much about where the solar industry is going as it does about how far the industry has come.

“IT took us 40 years to get to 1 million installations, and it will take us only two years to get to 2 million,” said Dan Whitten, vice president of communications at the Solar Energy Industries Association.

But according to a report Environment Oregon Research & Policy Center released in July, “Lighting the Way 4,” solar is under attack in the places where it has flourished the most, proving we have more work to do. You can call on your elected officials to bring more solar power to our homes, our places of worship, our schools and our communities.
Introducing America’s next top polluter

In June, Environment Oregon Research & Policy Center revealed the massive water pollution caused by industrial agribusiness in our report, “Corporate Agribusiness and the Fouling of America’s Waterways,” which makes it clear that America’s next top polluters are big agribusinesses and the factory farms they operate.

The report details the “water pollution footprint” of five major agribusiness companies: Tyson Foods, Smithfield, Cargill, JBS USA and Perdue Farms. These companies threaten our waterways with three sources of pollution:
1. Manure from factory farms;
2. Runoff from vast acres of grain grown to feed livestock; and
3. Direct dumping of pollutants into rivers from processing facilities.

Using data available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Agriculture, we documented the volume of manure and direct dumping of toxic pollutants by each of these corporations. For both measurements, Tyson comes out on top of the polluter pile—with more than 55 million tons of manure in its supply chain and direct dumping of 104 million pounds of toxic pollutants into waterways from 2010 to 2014.

Polluting our drinking water

Pollution from agribusiness is responsible for some of America’s most intractable water quality problems, and the pollution of countless streams and lakes. In fact, this pollution is so severe that it is beginning to threaten our drinking water.

For example, in Toledo, Ohio, runoff from agribusiness operations contributed to a toxic algae bloom in Lake Erie that contaminated the drinking water for 500,000 people in 2014.

In Iowa, nitrate pollution from agribusiness operations has so badly polluted the Raccoon River that Des Moines Water Works is now suing three counties for failing to stop contamination of its main drinking water source. And factory farms have contaminated drinking water wells from Washington to Wisconsin.

You can help clean up factory farms

In addition to our release of the report, the media also heard from second-generation farmer Terry Spence, who raises his cattle on a rotational pasture to nurture the soil and keep manure from flowing into nearby streams.

“As a farmer it is my duty to preserve our land and water resources for future generations,” said Spence. “It’s high time these companies look beyond their profit margins and do the same.”

The report concludes that to restore our rivers, lakes and streams, the industry must shift away from industrial-scale livestock facilities and overproduction of commodity crops that depend on heavy doses of fertilizers and pesticides.

You can also urge your state and federal governments to take immediate steps to protect America’s waterways, including temporary bans on factory farms, holding companies accountable for pollution in their supply chains, and shifting subsidies from industrial grain and meat production to sustainable farming practices.

Explore more online

Organizer Hayden Hamilton released our report outside a Tyson Foods facility in Houston, Texas.

To read our research on how factory farms are polluting our waterways, visit: www.EnvironmentOregonCenter.org.

The solutions are within reach

The solutions to curb agribusiness pollution are feasible and well known to the industry.

Halting excess application of manure and other fertilizer is the most effective means to preventing agribusiness pollution.

Perennial cover crops, buffer zones and other techniques can reduce runoff as well. Moreover, raising livestock in pasture at a smaller scale minimizes manure as a pollution threat. And for existing factory farms, when compelled by legal action, agribusiness companies have even found ways to haul massive volumes of waste out of endangered watersheds.

Supermarkets, food service companies and restaurant chains also bear some responsibility, and can exert enormous influence on how agribusiness operates.

For example, under pressure from consumers and investors, major restaurant chains—and some of their agribusiness suppliers—have recently committed to end routine use of antibiotics on livestock.

Yet as two top retailers—Costco and Walmart—enter into agribusiness production, it remains to be seen whether they will follow the industry’s polluting practices or chart a more sustainable path.
Environment Oregon

Together, we’re going big for the bees

Thanks to you, bees were all the buzz this summer. Environment Oregon and our national federation talked with more than 740,000 people across the country, gathering more than 280,000 signatures to call on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ban bee-killing pesticides.

At the end of June, Environment Oregon, along with coalition partners and beekeepers, delivered more than 4 million signatures to the EPA, culminating a coast-to-coast tour to raise awareness about recent massive declines in pollinators. Bees pollinate most of the world’s most common crops, including summer favorites like peaches and watermelon. But around 30-40 percent of U.S. honeybee hives die each year, costing the farming and beekeeping industry more than $2 billion annually.

“Given the support from millions of concerned citizens from across the country, officials should move boldly and swiftly to stop any and all uses of these dangerous chemicals,” said Anna Aurilio, director of Environment America’s Washington, D.C., office.

Support our efforts to save the bees and our food supply. Donate online at: www.EnvironmentOregon.org

Environment Oregon joined partner groups and beekeepers in June to deliver more than 4.5 million signatures to the Environmental Protection Agency, urging them to stop the use of bee-killing pesticides.