Protecting North Coast Forests

Stand up for fish, wildlife, clean water and recreation on some of Oregon's most treasured public forestlands.

A Forest Oasis in Oregon's Most Populous Region

Stretching across more than 500,000 acres of public land in Northwest Oregon between Portland and the Coast is an oasis of wild rivers, popular recreational trails and important hunting and gathering areas. One of the best places on the planet to grow large trees, these temperate rainforests are crucial habitat for rare species such as the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelets, and coho salmon, as well as important game species such as deer and elk. These forest filters and supply drinking water for more than 500,000 Oregonians. And they act as a massive carbon sink that are important in the fight against climate change.

A Public Resource

518,000 acres: in state lands in Tillamook and Clatsop counties.

500,000: number of people supplied drinking water by state forests.

Heart of the Recreation Economy

These lands are a key part of the growing $550 million outdoor recreation economy on the North Coast that employs 10,500 people. Fishing guides and outfitters depend on wild fish runs in the six world-class wild salmon and steelhead rivers here—the Trask, Wilson, Kilchis, Miami, Nehalem, and Salmonberry. Hunters, hikers, bikers, birders, mushroom gatherers, summer swimmers and off-road enthusiasts all use these lands and contribute to local businesses. The developing Salmonberry Trail, which will connect the Portland metro area to the coast, will run right through the heart of the state forestland. In short, these forests are at the center of expanding recreation opportunities and benefits for Oregonians.

The Recreation Economy

$550 million: estimated value of North Coast fishing, hunting, sport and leisure activities, and wildlife viewing in 2019.[1]

$52 million: State and local taxes raised by North Coast recreation economy in 2019.[1]

1) https://industry.traveloregon.com/resources/research/oregon-outdoor-recreation-economic-impact-study/

Durable Protections

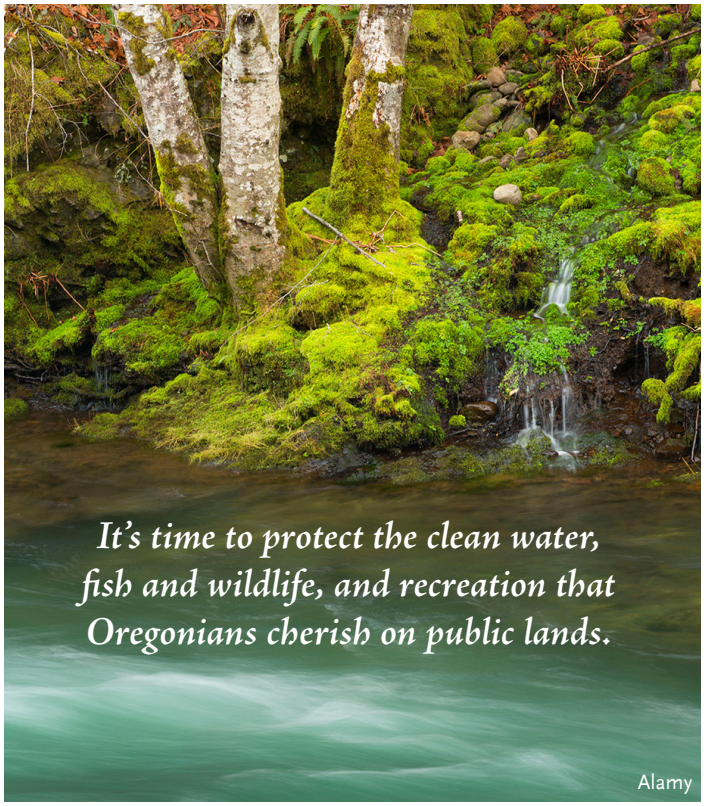
The Oregon Department of Forestry is advancing a plan, crafted with substantial public input, to protect North Coast state forests for fish, wildlife and people. It would conserve important wildlife and recreation corridors including the Nehalem River, Kings Mountain, and the Wilson River. All salmon streams will earn wider forested buffers. And the plan would be federally approved and remain in effect for 70 years. It's an enduring legacy of conservation and recreation for generations of Oregonians to come.

Unfortunately, a group of timber interests and politicians they fund are refusing to join this balanced forest management approach — which would include healthy, sustainable timber harvests. This group has spearheaded an effort in recent months to delay, derail, and outright stop the plan, including appealing to legislators and the governor in Salem.

Join citizens, business owners and conservation groups up and down the coast and across Oregon who overwhelmingly support fish and wildlife habitat, clean water, and recreation on our state public lands. Over the coming year, there will be several opportunities to speak up for forward-looking conservation on the North Coast.

June 7 is a key moment to Speak Up for Your Forests.

Tell the Board of Forestry to finalize a habitat conservation plan for Western Oregon state forests.



Habitat Conservation Plan

- Tillamook & Clatsop State Forests
- Proposed Habitat Conservation
- Other state, federal, and private lands