

*An open letter to Oregon's Congressional delegation and Governor*

**Defend Clean Drinking Water, Older Forests and Fish and Wildlife on Oregon's O&C Lands**

To the Honorable Ron Wyden, Jeff Merkley, Peter DeFazio, Earl Blumenauer, Greg Walden, Kurt Schrader, Suzanne Bonamici, and John Kitzhaber,

The undersigned organizations – representing millions of members in Oregon and across the country – urge you to defend clean drinking water, older forests, fish and wildlife, outdoor recreation opportunities, and the future of Oregon's economy by protecting our publicly owned federal forests on O&C lands in Western Oregon from increased clearcut logging.

Federal lands in Oregon – National Forests, Bureau of Land Management, O&C and Public Domain lands – are all an important part of our natural heritage, provide clean drinking water, and are essential to maintaining our quality of life. These lands provide the amenities that attract new residents, industries, investment, and jobs to the state and are the engine that powers our tourism and recreation industry.

As you seek solutions for the management of Oregon's O&C lands we urge you to preserve the protections that currently exist for Oregon's public lands to ensure adequate conservation for these forests and the rivers that flow through them. Our nation's bedrock environmental laws that protect clean drinking water, imperiled species, and public participation – the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and National Environmental Policy Act – must not be undermined by efforts to guarantee new higher logging levels or streamline review of logging impacts. In addition, scientists agree that the goals and strategies of the Northwest Forest Plan have improved water quality for drinking water, stabilized some endangered runs of wild salmon, and maintained healthy forests. These safeguards must continue to apply to our public lands. If we lose these protections we run the risk of damaging some of Oregon's most special places.

It is a critical time for the fate of Oregon's forests. We urge you to chart a course for the future and not repeat past mistakes. Please keep Oregon on the right path.

Respectfully,

American Bird Conservancy  
American Rivers  
Audubon Society of Portland  
Bark  
Cascadia Wildlands  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Coast Range Association  
Conservation Northwest  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Earthjustice  
Environment America

Environment Oregon  
Friends of Kalmiopsis  
Geos Institute  
Oregon Wild  
Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
Larch Company  
Pacific Rivers Council  
Sierra Club  
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council  
Wild Salmon Center