

**Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs  
Proposed Resolutions for 2024**



- 2024-1      Logging Should Stop Among California's Giant Sequoias
- 2024-2      Protect Drainages in Southern Oregon from Strip Mining
- 2024-3      Stop Logging in Federal Forests Until an EIS is Prepared
- 2024-4      Backing FWS Plan to Cull Numbers of Barred Owls in Old-Growth Forests to Aid Recovery of North Spotted Owls
- 2024-5      Stop Using Salt as a Deicer on Roads in Snowy Areas and Use Alternatives Instead
- 2024-6      Opposing Projects to Remove Pinyon Pines and Junipers from BLM Lands
- 2024-7      California's Shasta Dam Should not be Raised
- 2024-8      Supporting Efforts to Reintroduce Sea Otters Along Oregon's Coast
- 2024-9      Protecting Eelgrass in Bays And Estuaries Along the Oregon Coast
- 2024-10      Opposition to Expanding a Long Natural Gas Pipeline Through Northwest States
- 2024-11      Opposing The Rogue Gold And Poor Windy Timber Sales In Old Growth Forests Near Gold Hill And Grants Pass, Oregon
- 2024-12      Opposing Military Training Flights Over Wilderness Areas In The North Cascades
- 2024-13      Urging President Biden to Declare Colorado's Dolores Canyon as a National Monument
- 2024-14      Opposition to Mining near Montana's Blue-Joint Wilderness Study Area
- 2024-15      Mission Mountains Wilderness in Western Montana Should be Managed Under the Wilderness Act
- 2024-16      BLM's Control Over Grazing

**2024-1**

**LOGGING SHOULD STOP AMONG CALIFORNIA'S GIANT SEQUOIAS**

from Resolutions Comm.

The Forest Service now plans to log young giant sequoias coming up in the 13,000 acres burned in the Castle and Windy fires (2020 and 2021) in California's Sequoia National Forest. But some older trees are also likely to be cut.

Conservationists think this is unnecessary and will be destructive. For millennia, burned forests of this sort have recovered without logging.

This February they sued to stop these logging projects. The suits were brought by the Sierra Club and Sequoia Forest Keepers.

No Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) were prepared, nor was a "hard look" taken at this project. Only two assessments were made, including a finding of "no significant impact."

Conservationists are asking that the judge order the Forest Service to conform with the standards and guidelines of the plan for managing the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

They also cite growing evidence that post-fire logging causes new fires to spread more quickly and burn more intensely.

The FWOC joins the Sierra Club in opposing logging among Giant Sequoias.

[source: Sierra Club]

**2024-2**

**PROTECT DRAINAGES IN SOUTHERN OREGON FROM STRIP MINING**

from Resolutions Comm.

--The Smith River in the far north of California is recognized as one of the premier salmon streams in America. However, it has been threatened by strip mining in its upper reaches.

--In 1990, Congress passed a law banning such mining in all of its drainage in California. However, it did not protect its upper reaches in Oregon. 58,000 acres there are unprotected.

--Moreover, other nearby fine salmon streams are also unprotected, such as Hunter Creek, Pistol River, Baldface Creek, and the Rough and Ready Creek.

--The forests in these drainages are rich in biodiversity, having more than 21 species of conifers and insectivorous plants.

--They are threatened with strip mining for rocks rich in magnesium, iron, and other metals. These are in serpentine soils.

--S. 440, the Oregon Recreation Enhancement Act would withdraw nearly 100,000 acres in these drainages in Curry and Josephine counties from mineral entry and leasing. it would put them in the Rogue Canyon Recreation Area. 60,000 acres of them would be designated as wilderness.

--Withdrawn would be the drainages of the North Fork of the Smith River in Oregon, the Pistol River, Hunter Creek, Baldface Creek, and the Rough and Ready Creek.

--S. 162 would permanently ban the filing of new mining claims in the Smith River watershed and would designate 75 miles of the North Fork of the Smith River as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

--The FWOC endorses bills S. 440 and S. 162 to protect these drainages from mining and urges Congress to. approve them. Protected thereby would be the drainages of the North Fork of the Smith River, Hunter Creek, the Pistol River, Rough and Ready Creek, and Baldface Creek.

[source: FSEEE, Forest News, spring 2024]

**2024-3**

**STOP LOGGING IN FEDERAL FORESTS UNTIL AN EIS IS PREPARED**

from Resolutions Committee

--In 2022, President Biden issued an executive order (E0 14072) that directs the Forest Service and the BLM to develop an inventory of mature and old trees in the forests they administer.

--But, they did not. Instead, the Forest Service just indicated how much of their forests had old growth and mature trees. But, it was unclear exactly where these trees are. They just created an overview, but not an inventory.

--Biden has been trying to keep these old and mature trees standing so that they can store carbon and reduce its release, and thereby combat climate change.

--190 scientists working on enhancing carbon storage have sent an open letter to President Biden urging him to suspend cutting old and mature trees until an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement under NEPA) is prepared on timber sales on federal forests. Among them is professor Beverly Law at OSU's forestry school.

They suspect that the Forest Service is trying "to sidestep its obligations to protect old and mature trees." And they don't understand why it has taken the agency so long to get this accomplished.

--The FWOC endorses this effort to get timber sales suspended and urges the Forest Service and the BLM to stop making timber sales until they prepare an EIS on them.

[see R. 13, 2000; calls for an end to commercial logging on all federal lands]

[source: Columbia Insight newsletter]

**2024-4**

**BACKING FWS PLAN TO CULL NUMBERS OF BARRED OWLS IN OLD-GROWTH FORESTS TO AID RECOVERY OF NORTH SPOTTED OWLS**

from Resolutions Committee

--Over the last few decades, efforts have been underway to protect the Northern Spotted Owl in the forests of the Pacific Northwest. Logging has deprived them of much of their preferred habitat: old growth Douglas firs.

--In 1990, they were listed as threatened under the ESA.

--But their numbers have been steadily declining—by as much as 80% over the last two decades. Now, only 3000 of them remain on federal forest lands in the United States. In British Columbia, they have disappeared.

--One of the causes is the invasion of barred owls from the north and east. They outcompete with the Northern Spotted Owls, taking over their habitat and consuming more things. More of them can live in a given forest area than is the case with spotted owls.

--When barred owls come near to Northern Spotted Owls, they stop reproducing.

--Many things have been suggested to deal with this threat: sterilization, egg removal, and relocation. But. they are impossible at the scale required. And, no one wants to have these owls relocated in their forests.

--The Fish and Wildlife Service thinks that 15,000 of the barred owls must be removed each year for the next 30 years, or a half million of them. This would be only 30% of their population.

--These owls would be culled by expert marksmen using shotguns and non-toxic ammunition (no lead).

--Some wildlife groups don't like the idea of shooting owls, even ones endangering the existence of a population of another type.

--The FWOC supports the plan of the Fish and Wildlife Service to cull invasive barred owls because of the threat that they pose to an endangered population of Northern Spotted Owls.

[see FWOC R. 1, 2008 that expressed concern and wanted more research]

[source: New York Times, 4-30-24]

**2024-5**

**STOP USING SALT AS A DEICER ON ROADS IN SNOWY AREAS AND USE ALTERNATIVES INSTEAD**

from Resolutions Committee

Too many roads in snowy areas are cleared by using salt.

Nearby trees are damaged by all this use of salt. This was found by a soil scientist at the University of Nevada (Dr. Dale Devitt). He examined tree loss along roads around Nevada's Mt. Charleston near Las Vegas.

In places along the roads, water in nearby sources was more salty than sea water. The salt was also leaching toxic metals from pipes.

In a study over three decades, Forest Plant Pathologist John Guyon found clear evidence of damage to Ponderosa pines in the Spring Mountains near Las Vegas.

Alternative materials are available and competitive: ones such as the juice of sugar beets. It is 99% biodegradable and very effective. Calcium magnesium acetate also works and does little damage. And just sand has been used for years to provide better traction.

The FWOC urges the Forest Service and transportation agencies to stop using salt as a deicer on roads for snowy areas and to use alternatives instead.

[source: FEEEE, Forest News: Spring 2024]

**2024-6**

**OPPOSING PROJECTS TO REMOVE PINYON PINES AND JUNIPERS FROM BLM LANDS**

from Resolutions Committee

Across the Great Basin and on the Colorado Plateau, junipers and pinyon-pines are sprinkled across over 100-million acres. Native trees, these trees are a regular part of this ecosystem.

But since the middle of the last century, ranchers have wanted them cleared away to promote growth of grass for cattle. This despite the fact that the number of ranchers has been declining.

These trees were once being removed on a small-scale basis, but they are now being attacked in a massive way. The projects were scaled-up under President Trump, but they have yet to be scaled-back under President Biden.

In places they are being torn down by a chain dragged along between bulldozers. The woody debris is destroyed by machines called bull-hogs and giant masticators.

In southwest Idaho, 13,000 acres of these trees were removed and burned so that the soil was reduced to a dead hardpan. Dozens of removal projects are now underway.

Now, the BLM tries to justify the removal projects as needed to reduce fire risks, or even to protect endangered species. In reality, the removal projects destroy habitat, as for the pinyon jay. And, they promote the spread of the highly inflammable cheat-grass.

The FWOC calls for a stop to these efforts to remove pinyon pines and junipers from public lands.

[source: Sierra Club]

**2024-7**

**CALIFORNIA'S SHASTA DAM SHOULD NOT BE RAISED**

from the Resolutions Committee

Bills have been introduced recently calling for enlarging Shasta Dam by 18 and a half feet. This enlargement would flood another 5000 acres, some of it along the wonderful, lower McCloud River.

Forty sites, sacred to the remaining Wintu [Winnemem] people, would be lost. When the Shasta Dam was built, the Wintu people lost 90 % of their ancestral living space.

Enlargement of the dam would mainly benefit the Westlands Water District southwest of Fresno the largest water district in California.

The district has been buying land along the McCloud River and around the reservoir. It now uses more water than the state's two largest cities. At this time, the Westlands District claims to be backing out of the project, but has not made it final.

The Sierra Club opposes raising the dam. It points out that existing dams appreciably change this situation. It will also do little to improve the condition of downstream salmon runs. The Fish and Wildlife Service agrees.

The Club and the Service agree there are more effective and less destructive ways to help salmon. The project would also violate the state's Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

NRDC also points to new evidence of seismic risk, such as through cavitation. And it points out that the Bureau of Reclamation has never finished a Dam Safety Analysis. And, raising the dam to provide water for the Westlands Water District would reduce the water available for the State Water Project. The EIS on the project does not consider the effects of climate change.

While the project has been pending for years, the Obama administration withdrew, but the Trump Administration tried to move it forward. It is still undecided.

The FWOC firmly opposes raising the Shasta Dam and urges that more effective, and less destructive means, be used to improve downstream salmon runs.

[source: Sierra Club, NRDC]



**2024-8**

## **SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO REINTRODUCE SEA OTTERS ALONG OREGON'S COAST**

from Resolutions Committee

Sea Otters used to live all along the west coast from Alaska to California. This includes Oregon's coast.

Experts think that 4000 to 5000 of them might have flourished along Oregon's coast. Many places along Oregon's coast are named after sea otters, such as Otter Crest.

But by the early 1900s, they were hunted to near extinction. In 1907, the last sea otter along the Oregon coast was killed.

They were hunted for their dense fur, which was formed in two-layers and used for hats and fur-coats. It is the world's densest fur.

Now they have been restored along the coasts of Washington and California. However, they are still absent along Oregon's coast. This is the largest gap in the historical range of the sea otter.

A few years ago, Congress asked the federal Fish and Wildlife Service to do a feasibility study of reintroducing the sea otter along Oregon's coast. In 2022, the agency completed that study.

It found that that doing so would be feasible and provide many benefits. Having sea otters along that coast would promote balance in the near-shore marine environment.

The result would promote growth of kelp and seagrass. Both of them would provide habitat for hundreds of species.

Kelp also absorbs carbon, removing it from the atmosphere. It does so much more efficiently than forests on land [20 times more].

However, kelp is now being cleared away by too many sea urchins. Sea otters eat sea urchins, as do sea stars (which are being decimated by a wasting disease). Reintroduction of sea otters would help keep down the numbers of sea urchins. These sea urchins should also be removed or crushed by hand under the oversight of the state wildlife departments.

The sea otters that would be released would be taken from Alaska (which has many) and from aquariums, which raise them.

In the 1970s, an effort was made to reintroduce sea otters along Oregon's coast. 70 were released in 1970 and 1971 around Cape Arago and Port Orford, which have nooks and crannies they like.

But this effort failed. Many of the otters paddled away, though a few stayed and pups were born. Some think it was poorly done.

It is worth noting, none-the-less, that a lone sea otter was seen off Yaquina Head in 2022, having swam down from Washington.

Those who harvest Dungeness Crab worry about reintroducing sea otters. Sea otters are voracious eaters of crabs.

Others point out that climate change is raising sea temperatures and prompting algal blooms. These blooms release domoic acid, which can cause heart disease in sea otters.

While there are some drawbacks from trying to bring back sea otters along Oregon's coast, the benefits outweigh them, particularly in promoting the growth of kelp forests.

The Center for Biological Diversity agrees, which has filed a petition to speed up the process.

The FWOC urges the Fish and Wildlife Service to press ahead in re-introducing Sea Otters in promising places along Oregon's coast.

[source: Environment Oregon]

**2024-9**

## **PROTECTING EELGRASS IN BAYS AND ESTUARIES ALONG THE OREGON COAST**

from Resolutions Committee

Eelgrass is a flowering, marine plant found in bays and estuaries.

Eelgrass beds are important. Eelgrass cleans coastal waters, absorbing excess nutrients. It buffers these waters from sediments washing into them. And, and its beds provide a nursery for fish and sea life and provide food for migratory birds, such as Black Brandt.

And, they absorb and store carbon, acting as a "carbon sink." They produce oxygen and can remove toxic contaminants from sediments. Also, they reduce the acidification of ocean waters.

Eelgrass beds are among the most threatened ecosystems in the world. A quarter of a million acres of them have been lost globally over the last 30 years. Though, the size of their beds fluctuates annually.

It is not entirely clear why eelgrass is declining this much. Among the suspected reasons are: dredging harbors, pollution, disease, invasive species, grazing, rises in sea level, sedimentation, high temperatures, and drought.

Oregon has 22 major estuaries—from the Columbia River to the estuary at Winchuck River near the California border. Most of them are classified as "Important Bird Areas (15).

In addition to all the sea life that flourishes in estuaries, they safeguard coastal communities from storms and floods.

Since the 1870s, Oregon has lost 24% of its estuary habitat, including its beds of eelgrass. The rate of loss has slowed down since the 1970s. It is then that logging slowed down, releasing less sediment into estuaries.

Oregon is now revising its plans for managing estuaries. These revisions will probably put more emphasis on protecting them and propagating eelgrass. It is beginning by revising the plans for managing the estuary at Yaquina Bay. It is likely to be the model for these revisions.

For some time, Washington state has had a program to restore beds of eelgrass. Their situation is now stable, but eelgrass beds are not growing enough to meet targets.

The FWOC encourages the state of Oregon to put emphasis on an ecological perspective in its plan revisions, providing the strongest protection for habitat and eelgrass.

[source: Bird Alliance of Oregon, Environment Oregon]

**2024-10**

**OPPOSITION TO EXPANDING A LONG NATURAL GAS PIPELINE THROUGH NORTHWEST STATES**

from Resolutions Committee

A Canadian company (TC Energy) operates a 1400-mile pipeline carrying natural gas that runs from western Canada through Idaho, Washington, and Oregon and into California.

TC Energy has recently asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for permission to expand the capacity of this pipeline; it says it is needed to meet growing demand. The additional gas would come from fracking.

FERC has just approved the request despite opposition from the governors of Washington and Oregon, and the Attorney Generals of those states and of California. FERC routinely approves nearly all of such requests.

The Attorney Generals observe that this expansion would undermine the goals of their states' climate protection plans. They are trying to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 90 to 95% by 2050. A quarter of these reductions will have to come from natural gas.

This action would increase greenhouse gas emissions, being almost pure methane (which is the most potent greenhouse gas). Over the next 30 years, it would release an additional 3.47 million metric tons of carbon dioxide.

The opponents also argue that TC Energy has not made the case that demand is increasing, pointing out that production of such renewals as solar and wind are dramatically increasing and are readily available.

The Attorney Generals of these states are now in court trying to stop this action that FERC has approved. Columbia River Keeper and Rogue Climate have joined them.

But pending litigation has not stopped construction.

The FWOC opposes this plan to increase the capacity of this pipeline of TC Energy to carry natural gas through Northwest states because it would increase greenhouse gas emissions and it supports litigation to stop it.

[after losses in court, FWOC calls for implementation of the prescribed mitigation measures on the Ruby pipeline; see R. 3, 2012]

[source: Capital Chronicle in Salem, OR]

**2024-11**

**OPPOSING THE ROGUE GOLD AND POOR WINDY TIMBER SALES IN OLD GROWTH FORESTS NEAR GOLD HILL AND GRANTS PASS, OREGON**

from Resolutions Committee

The BLM is now proposing to log fine old growth forest stands in "Late Successional Reserves" near Gold Hill and Grants Pass in southern Oregon.

However, the agency has dropped the pretense that the timber sales would be good for the spotted owl and would reduce fire risk. It now admits that it is just keeping up the volume of timber production.

It argues that that the O & C Railroad Act of 1937 requires them to cut like this. But in the past, various appeal courts have rejected this claim. The law now seems to be clear that the BLM has wide discretion in managing these lands and is not required to log old growth. Fire hazards will increase with the kind of logging planned.

Critics have also argued that such logging ignores President Biden's directive that managing agencies protect mature and old trees.

This spring a group of conservation groups have filed a suit in federal courts in Medford to block the Rogue Gold sales. They include Oregon Wild, Cascade Wildlands, and the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center.

A similar logging project is underway nearby at Grants Pass on BLM lands. Some 400 year-old trees are being felled on 2200 acres in the "Poor Windy" sale. Protestors have climbed some of the trees. It also should be stopped by the courts.

The FWOC opposes the Rogue Gold timber sale and the Poor Windy sales and urges the BLM to protect old and mature trees instead of cutting them down.

[see R. 3, 2023 opposing similar timber sales there; Upper Windy, Griffin Half Moon, and North Landscape sales]

[source: Oregon Wild, KS Wild]

**2024-12**

## **OPPOSING MILITARY TRAINING FLIGHTS OVER WILDERNESS AREAS IN THE NORTH CASCADES**

from Resolutions Committee

The US Navy plans to expand its training air space over wilderness areas in northern Washington. It would fly over: parts of the Pasayten, Lake Chelan, and Sawtooth wilderness areas in the North Cascades.

These are in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests.

With peaks reaching 9000 feet, planes would fly closer to the ground than the Navy admits (which it measures from sea level). In places, they could only be 2500 feet from the ground.

Their noise could affect the behavior of endangered species ones such as the Northern Spotted owl, marbled murrelets, lynx, wolves, and grizzly bears. It could make their habitat inhospitable.

Wilderness areas are supposed to provide opportunities for "quiet solitude." And they are supposed to be areas free of human impacts.

With these low overflights, one would be bombarded with noise, doing away with any chance to enjoy "quiet solitude." Sudden noise impacts would startle visitors and would impact weekday users.

Its planes would also fly over the Methow Valley, impacting communities there like Twisp.

The Navy only prepared an environmental assessment. It ought to have prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This is a major federal action because it affects endangered species and world-class recreational opportunities.

There are many federal lands to fly over that are not in wilderness areas or other protected areas. Military readiness is not in question.

37 conservation-minded groups have signed a letter (written by Washington Wild) urging the Navy to find alternatives.

The FWOC opposes military training flights over wilderness areas in the North Cascades (Pasayten, Lake Chelan, and the Sawtooth wildernesses) and urges the Navy to find alternative training areas outside of protected areas.

[with no citation, the record shows a resolution concern about overflights above wilderness, and wanting no such overflights below 30,000 feet.]

[sources: Wilderness Watch and Washington Wild]

**2024-13**

**URGING PRESIDENT BIDEN TO DECLARE COLORADO'S DOLORES CANYON AS  
A NATIONAL MONUMENT**

from Resolutions Committee

The Denver Post has written an editorial hoping that President Biden will withdraw the Dolores River canyon in western Colorado as a national monument. It is in Mesa and Montrose counties.

It is a unique red rock area of about 400,000 acres. It runs for 230 miles to join the Colorado River in Utah. Most of the river in this canyon is used for river rafting. It is rich in biodiversity.

For 50 years, conservationists have worked to save it. According to a recent poll, 84 % of the state's citizens support making it a national monument. Its designation is also supported by the mayor of Grand Junction.

It provides habitat for river otters, bighorn sheep, mountain lions, black bear, elk, deer, and native fish and songbirds.

It also provides habitat for threatened and endangered species: including the Gunnison sage-grouse, the Southwestern willow fly-catcher, the Yellow-billed cuckoo, the flannelmouth sucker, and the roundtail chub.

Valuable archaeological and historic sites are there too. Fine groves of old Ponderosa pine also grow along the river. In places, it twists through the landscape.

The FWOC urges President Biden to designate the Dolores Canyon National Monument in Colorado of 400,000 acres under the Antiquities Act.

[source: Sierra Club and Denver Post]

**2024-14**

**OPPOSITION TO MINING NEAR MONTANA'S BLUE-JOINT WILDERNESS STUDY AREA**

from Resolutions Committee

The Blue-Joint Wilderness Study Area is found in western Montana's Bitterroot National Forest. In Ravalli County, west of Darby, it encloses 61,000 acres.

Most of it is bounded by steep slopes, with unique high, open meadows.

It is used by hikers, hunters, and anglers.

It is threatened by new mines nearby for rare earths. The federal government has leased 4700 acres near Sheep Creek for these mines.

Leaching would be used to mine them--but would produce huge amounts of toxic waste. This would flow into premier trout streams.

It would also flow into a state park and populated areas. It also would affect a corridor used by grizzly bears.

In a 1987 study, the Forest Service recommended that 28,500 of its acres be added to the adjoining Frank Church-River-of-No-Return Wilderness to the south.

Wilderness Watch has sounded alarms about these threats and wants these leases to be revoked. Located at the headwaters of the West Fork of the Bitterroot River, they think would be the worst possible place for mining.

The FWOC embraces its concerns and opposes mining near the Blue-Joint Wilderness Study Area in Montana.

[source: Wilderness Watch]



**2024-15**

**MISSION MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS IN WESTERN MONTANA SHOULD BE  
MANAGED UNDER THE WILDERNESS ACT**

from Resolutions Committee

The Mission Mountains Wilderness in the Flathead National Forest of Montana is under siege. The Forest Service is trying to manipulate its habitat in a major manner.

From helicopters, it plans to ignite fires on 5887 acres. These fires are supposed to be needed to protect homes miles away. In fact, such homes are best protected by controlling nearby vegetation studies show.

The result of burning is to fragment wildlife habitat.

Moreover, helicopters harass wildlife and undermine the wilderness experience for visitors.

Plus, the Forest Service would selectively plant white bark pines on 1860 acres.

Wilderness managers are supposed to be guardians, not gardeners.

Wilderness is supposed to be a place of free of intentional human intervention. It is supposed to be shaped by natural processes.

The FWOOC urges the Forest Service to cease manipulating the wilderness habitat the Mission Mountain Wilderness, and it supports the efforts of Wilderness Watch to get them do that.

[source: Wilderness Watch]

**2024-16**

**Maintain BLM's Control Over Grazing**

from Andy Kerr

Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon has long been trying to advance his bill setting aside 1.1 million acres of wilderness in the Owyhee Canyons of Southeast Oregon (S. 1890).

To get ranchers in the region to end their opposition, he came to include a provision giving the BLM more flexibility in regulating grazing there. It worked.

Now, he has gone too far. He has joined Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming in co-sponsoring his bill (S. 4454) which removes the power of the BLM to control grazing on 155 million acres of federal grazing lands.

Expert conservationists believe this provision is ten times worse than what Sen. Wyden did in his Owyhee bill.

The FWOC urges Sen. Wyden to drop his co-sponsorship of Sen. Barrasso's bill (S. 4454) that would remove BLM's control over grazing on public lands. This is unthinkable.