



## FWOC President's Message

### January 2026



The focus of the party that essentially controls the Executive Branch, both houses of Congress, and the Supreme Court may have recently shifted slightly away from matters of conservation and the environment. Yet, down the ranks of Federal agencies and others charged with preserving our environmental legacy, it is still very clear that there is still a full-fledged frontal assault against the progress we have made over the past 60 plus years.

Again, we remain steadfast and we *will* keep moving ahead. We have stepped up advocacy, we have nurtured contacts with those doing right, and we remain engaged.

And we have now also seen our first year of operation of our conservation grant program. Five worthy organizations received grants in 2025, and are using these funds to hire additional staff, conduct conservation programs, and reach out to the general public with the right messages. Briefly:

- California Alpine Club Foundation is supporting grass roots environmental efforts that focus on environmental education (children and adult), trail maintenance, citizen science and environmental monitoring and restoration.
- Friends of the Clearwater is getting a clear view of the impacts of several timber sales on old-growth forests, waterways, and the associated impacts to wildlife and recreation.
- Greater Hells Canyon Council is hosting stewardship outings on the Blue Mountains Trail.
- Oregon Wild is defending the Northwest Forest Plan.
- Ranger Foundation is conducting World Ranger Day Observations.

We'll be again doing this program for 2026, and we look forward toward our partners furthering their progress in these and other important areas.

As always, it's important to remember that our strength resides in the volunteer efforts of our members and member organizations, and that FWOC will continue to take action on important issues on behalf of members and member organizations. If you know of issues that are a concern that we can unite behind, don't hesitate to approach anyone on the Executive Committee.

Sincerely,  
John Rettig