

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



MCKENZIE RIVER BY TIM GIRAUDIER

*An Open Letter to Oregon's Congressional Delegation and Governor*

***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*

*Bark*

*Cascadia Wildlands*

*Center for Biological Diversity*

*Coast Range Association*

*Conservation Northwest*

*Defenders of Wildlife*

*Earthjustice*

*Environment America*

*Environment Oregon*

*Friends of Kalmiopsis*

*Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center*

*Larch Company*

*Oregon Wild*

*Pacific Rivers Council*

*Sierra Club*

*Soda Mountain Wilderness Council*

*Wild Salmon Center*

**Please contact Sen. Ron Wyden at 503.326.7525 or [wyden.senate.gov/contact](http://wyden.senate.gov/contact) and urge him to protect Oregon's public forestlands.**