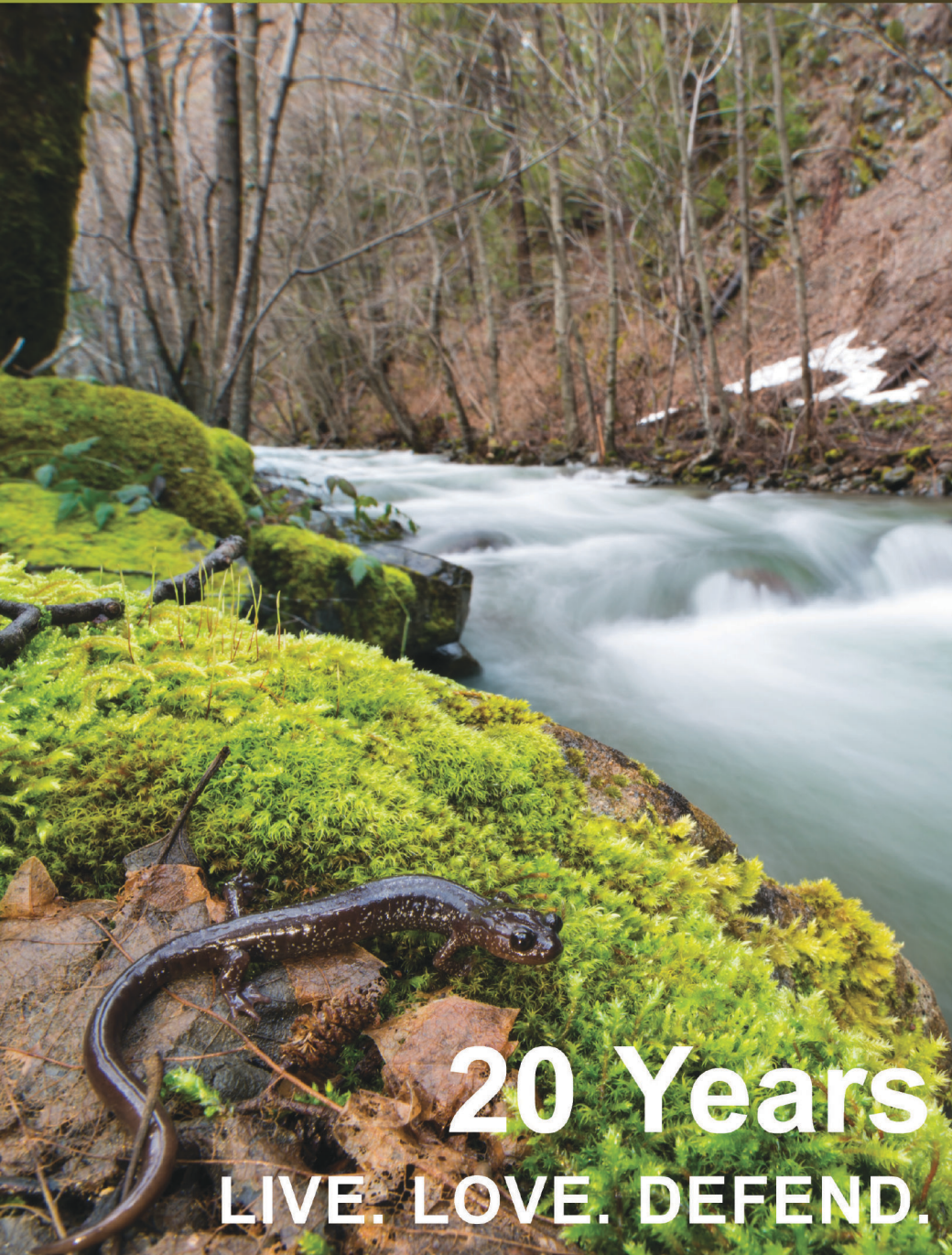


KS WILD NEWS

RESIST



The Journal of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Fall 2017



20 Years
LIVE. LOVE. DEFEND.

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Executive Director

Myra Villella
Bookkeeper



ROGUE RIVER TRAIL - MEMBERS ONLY HIKE

September 30

Join Development Director Michael Dotson on a fall hike to Whiskey Creek and learn about the historic Rogue River Trail and decades of conservation work that have kept this special place Wild & Scenic! For details and to sign up visit www.kswild.org/events.

Rogue Riverkeeper

Robyn Janssen
Rogue Riverkeeper

Stacey Detwiler
Conservation Director

Board of Directors

Shannon Clery
Shelley Elkovich
Joseph Flaherty
Tracy Harding
Bob Hunter
David Johns
Stuart O'Neill
Laurel Samson
Laurel Sutherland
Greg Walter

SALMON WALKS ARE BACK!



Join us for an annual pilgrimage to witness the astounding life cycle of Pacific salmon and watch fall chinook swim upstream.

October 8—Bear Creek Parkway
October 21—Illinois River
October 22—Bear Creek Parkway
October 29—Illinois Valley

For details and to sign up: www.kswild.org/events.

NEWS AROUND THE KS

ALEX HOLE

Alex Hole Meadows on the Siskiyou Crest protected from illegal cattle grazing when KS Wild volunteers and Forest Service build a fence to protect the fragile, wet meadows.

SMITH RIVER

The North Fork Smith River received the highest water quality designation in the U.S – an Outstanding Resource Waters!

CASCADE-SISKIYOU

Secretary Zinke issues secret Monument report. Leaked details suggest a major gutting of Cascade-Siskiyou. The fight goes on!

HORSE CREEK

Clearcut logging threatened the Siskiyou Crest, but KS Wild and our allies negotiated a settlement to restore, rather than exploit, this special place. See page 11.

MASSIVE FIRE SEASON

2017 is a fire season for the record books, affecting communities throughout the region. As KS Wild tracks the impacts of the fires, we continue to push for policies that restore forests and safeguard communities.

Covering nearly 11 million acres, the Klamath-Siskiyou region stretches from the Umpqua in the north to California's wine country in the south, from the Pacific Ocean to the mighty Cascades. The mountain ranges and river valleys that define this region harbor renowned biological diversity and are some of the most spectacular in America.

OR
CA

Crater Lake
National Park

Grants Pass

Ashland

Crescent City

Orleans

Eureka

Hayfork

Redding



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

GRASSROOTS ACTION, WILD SUCCESS

From Executive Director Joseph Vaile

When I laid eyes on the KS Wild office in 1999, I fully grasped the meaning of “grass-roots.” Tucked in the woods in Williams, Oregon, the “office” was a canvas yurt full of recycled furniture and hand-me-down computers. There, I met the two employees - Marty, a bona fide genius astrophysicist turned attorney, and Spencer, the charismatic founder. I quit my wildlife survey job to join the effort to protect the ecologically world-class Klamath-Siskiyou region.

Surrounded by local farms, forested foothills, and clear streams, community members in Williams quickly saw KS Wild as an essential group. Many residents realized something had to be done to stop the damage from clearcut logging, mining, and herbicide use near their homes. After a while, KS Wild was able to scrape together enough money to hire our first director, Amber, and to move the headquarters (well, ok...a corner in an office for \$50 per month) to Ashland.

We got to work researching and seeking protection for the rarest species in the region, like the beautiful, rare Siskiyou mariposa lily and the forest-dwelling Pacific fisher. We were stopping clearcuts and petitioning the feds for the protection of at-risk species.

We quickly found ourselves organizing around national campaigns that would have an enormous impact in our region, like the Clinton “Roadless Rule.” In 2000 we celebrated victory on that campaign while continuing to defend the rule in the courts and from the incoming Bush Administration.

George W. Bush brought enormous challenges to our mission as the very agencies that oversee public lands were pushing hard to open them up for more extraction (sound familiar?). To raise awareness of what was at stake, in 2004 we drove a slab of a 440-year-old tree across the U.S. to Washington D.C. to protest increased logging of Pacific Northwest ancient forests.

By the late 2000s, KS Wild's advocacy had led many national forests to shift focus away from old-growth logging to small-diameter thinning. We set legal precedent to protect species that rely on older forests in our region. By the end of the Bush Administration our outreach in the region had grown and our support network reached 5,000 people.

In 2009, KS Wild launched Rogue Riverkeeper, bringing aquatic advocacy to our conservation work. We also celebrated halting Bush's Western Oregon Plan Revisions that would have opened up a huge swath of southwest Oregon's public lands to ancient forest logging.

We grew again in 2011 when we combined forces with the Illinois Valley's Siskiyou Project, bringing a conservation track record dating back to 1983 to one of the most biologically diverse areas in the region: the greater Kalmiopsis.

My personal highlight came in 2015 when we finally completed a grazing allotment retirement following the expansion of the Oregon Caves National Monument. This took many hard-fought years. When I returned recently to hike around the area, I was overcome with gratitude as I looked out upon the natural landscape, no cowpies or buzzing flies in sight, just clean water and stunning wildflower meadows.

As I look back, I couldn't be more proud of KS Wild, our allies, and the activists that came before us. I can hardly fathom what would have happened to the rivers, mountains, and forests in the Klamath-Siskiyou without people speaking up for the special place we call home. There would be more clearcuts and more strip mines; less salmon and protected areas. Wildlife would have less habitat and outdoor lovers would have less public land to explore.

It has been a wild ride. I am acutely aware of what the conservationist David Brower once opined, "All of our victories are temporary and all of our losses are permanent."

That's a reminder that next 20 years might be even more important than the last.



VICTORY!

SISKIYOU CREST PROTECTED FROM HORSE CREEK SALVAGE

The Klamath National Forest wanted to build roads and clearcut post-fire old-growth forests that provide a crucial wild-life corridor in the remote wildlands on the Siskiyou Crest. They tried to cast their plan in the language of restoration, but they did not fool anyone. To our total delight, they agreed to drop all of the Siskiyou Crest clearcut logging and road building.

Forest Service Misdirection

Rather than call this timber sale what it was, a back country old-growth timber grab, the Klamath National Forest named the massive logging project the "Horse Creek Community Protection and Forest Restoration Project." Who would oppose community protection or forest restoration?

From the beginning, the Forest Service could have adopted a plan from the Karuk Tribe based on thousands of years of living in and understanding how these forests work. This plan would have focused on restoring fire, thinning along roads and ridgelines, while increasing protection for homes and communities.

A Wild Highway

The Siskiyou Crest is one of the most dynamic and important ecosystems in the world. It provides a critical east-west passage for plants and animals, connecting the biological treasure trove of the Siskiyou Mountains to the mighty Cascade Range. It is a key biological corridor on the West Coast.

Thankfully, cooler heads prevailed. KS Wild our allies with the Karuk Tribe, EPIC, and others negotiated an agreement with the Forest Service. We were able to save the most important, high-elevation wild areas. The Klamath National Forest agreed to drop all of the Siskiyou Crest salvage clearcutting units while implementing important parts of the Karuk Alternative! Hooray!



**TO PROTECT OUR WILD HERITAGE, PLEASE DONATE TO
KS WILD'S WILDLANDS DEFENSE FUND:**

KSWILD.ORG/WILDLANDS-DEFENSE-FUND

SECRET REPORT:

AIMING TO GUT OUR MONUMENT

As we go to press, Interior Secretary Zinke sent a secret report to President Trump reviewing 27 National Monuments, including Cascade-Siskiyou. Details leaking out suggest they want to shrink it.

The Cascade-Siskiyou is the only National Monument designated primarily to protect biodiversity. Hundreds of thousands of comments poured into the Interior Department in favor of continued protection. Groups nationwide are calling for all Monuments to be left intact. KS Wild, Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, and allies will continue to fight any rollbacks to the Cascade-Siskiyou. Stay tuned.



Photo: Alan Hallmark

WORST. LOGGING. BILL. EVER!

You might remember the horrors of a 1995 logging law called the “Salvage Rider” and the “Timber Wars” it sparked. Well, it is hard to believe, but Congress right now is considering legislation that is far worse. The Resilient Federal Forest Act of 2017 would lead to levels of logging few alive can even remember. As unbelievable as it sounds, the following is no exaggeration. It’s a greedy timber baron’s wildest dream.

- ✱ Public lands logging projects of 15 square-miles, plus herbicide spraying, could regularly occur without environmental review or public input, including projects as big as 47 square miles in some cases.
- ✱ The BLM in Oregon would be required to log two and one-half times more forest than what they themselves say is sustainable. The Endangered Species Act would be made optional for logging projects.
- ✱ Protected areas like the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and the Wild Rogue Wilderness could lose protection and be sold as timber sales.
- ✱ Private landowners could gain permanent easements across public lands, effectively privatizing huge swaths of public lands.
- ✱ KS Wild and our allies would be prevented from receiving court-ordered injunctions to stop clearly illegal logging projects.

It’s simply insane. A weaker form of this bill failed to pass Congress last term. We need to make sure this super-charged version in the era of Trump meets a similar fate. If you haven’t yet, please call or write your Representatives and Senators now!

As bad as the 1995 Salvage Rider was, it had a silver lining because it was the driving force to create KS Wild in the first place. But let’s use the 20 years of power and experience we’ve built to make sure nothing like that ever happens again!



NEW SUCTION DREDGE REFORM LAW PROTECTS OREGON'S RIVERS!

We celebrated increased protections for Oregon's rivers and salmon on June 14, 2017 when Governor Kate Brown signed the Suction Dredge Reform bill into law. With bipartisan support in the Oregon Legislature, the new law permanently places rivers and streams that provide habitat for sensitive salmon and lamprey off limits from suction dredge mining.

Suction dredge mining is a type of recreational gold mining that is particularly concentrated on the Rogue and Umpqua Rivers. This type of hobby mining traps and kills young fish and eggs, smothers spawning gravel for salmon, and stirs up legacy mercury from historic mining operations. The new law protects Oregon's rivers and the communities that rely on them by prohibiting suction dredge mining in essential salmonid habitat. Outside of these areas, suction dredge mining can only occur under an approved permit from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Together with our partners, from local landowners to commercial fishing industry representatives, we've worked for many years to reform harmful suction dredge mining practices. Championed by the late Senator Alan Bates from southern Oregon, the new law takes a measured approach to protecting rivers and streams that are the most vulnerable to pollution from this mining practice. Special thanks to our local representatives, especially Representative Pam Marsh (D-Ashland), who carried the bill on the House floor, and to Senator Alan DeBoer (R-Ashland) who voted for the bill in a show of bipartisan support on this critical issue for the Rogue!

LNG PIPELINE FIGHT HEATS UP

Jordan Cove's proposed LNG pipeline and export terminal project is back with a vengeance. With broad support for pipeline projects under the Trump administration, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) kicked off its "scoping" period in July to identify potential issues with the project before it begins its formal environmental analysis. The bare minimum public comment period and total absence of a Jackson



County hearing show that this will be a very different fight to defeat the project than the last round. As Jordan Cove begins to submit its permit applications this fall, your voice is more important than ever to make sure that Oregon's state agencies stand up for our communities, clean air, and healthy rivers.

Sign up for our e-news to get the latest opportunities to take action!

Rogue RIVERKEEPER

SYRCL'S

WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL

WHERE ACTIVISM GETS INSPIRED

SAVE THE DATE!

Nov. 10TH 2017

AT THE HISTORIC ASHLAND ARMORY

AT THE EDGE

Films. Beer. Wine. Prizes. Speakers. Food. Fun!

Photo: © 2017 Deborah Peck, 2017

A HISTORY OF WILD



SUCCESS

- 1997** ✱ KS Wild started in a canvas yurt in Williams, Oregon. It was a very cold office in the winter.
- 1998** ✱ Won our first lawsuit against old-growth logging in the Applegate Valley.
- 1999** ✱ Completed a comprehensive survey of at-risk species to prevent extinction by seeking protections under the Endangered Species Act.
- 2000** ✱ Ashland office opened, outreach expanded in the Rogue Valley. Membership grew to 1,000. Organized on the “Roadless Rule” hearings.
- 2001** ✱ Sought protection for Siskiyou mariposa lily and Pacific fisher, one of the most at-risk plants and a rare forest mammal in the Klamath-Siskiyou.
- 2002** ✱ Celebrated the “Roadless Rule” victory while continuing to defend the rule in the courts with our allies.
- 2003** ✱ Drove a slab of a 440-year-old tree across the U.S. to Washington D.C. as part of our protest of increased logging of Pacific Northwest ancient forests.
- 2004** ✱ KS Wild’s advocacy against the Klamath National Forest old-growth logging program resulted in a shift away from ancient forest logging to small-diameter thinning.
- 2005** ✱ In the wake of the Biscuit Fire, defended against attacks by the Bush administration to log one of the wildest areas in the Klamath-Siskiyou: the Kalmiopsis. Established case law that natural recovery is the best course for areas intended to be managed for conservation (Timbered Rock Fire, Upper Rogue).
- 2006** ✱ Established protections for old-growth loving Red Tree Voles. Prevented illegal logging in the Cottonsnake sale, setting precedent across the Pacific Northwest.
- 2007** ✱ Increased outreach in the region by engaging watershed-based groups, grew membership to nearly 2,000 members, and supporters topped 5,000.
- 2008** ✱ Defeated the Kelsey Whisky logging project and turned the victory into a campaign to expand the Wild Rogue Wilderness Area.

2009 ✱ Launched Rogue Riverkeeper, bringing focused aquatic advocacy to our conservation work. Stopped the Bush administration’s Western Oregon Plan Revisions that would have opened up widespread public lands to ancient forest logging.

2010 ✱ Released a comprehensive plan for restoration in the Rogue Basin.

2011 ✱ Combined forces with the Siskiyou Project, bringing a conservation track record dating back to 1983. Engaged in “travel management” to reduce the impacts of logging roads on streams, meadows and wildlife.

2012 ✱ Launched the Adopt-a-Botanical-Area program to protect and restore the botanical gems of the region and to help connect people to their public lands.

2013 ✱ Worked to get a five-year mining withdrawal on the Chetco River.

2014 ✱ Celebrated the completion of a campaign to expand the Oregon Caves National Monument ten-fold and establish a National Preserve.

2015 ✱ Halted timber industry plans to kill endangered Coho salmon and spotted owls by challenging Fruit Grower’s Supply logging plans on the Klamath River.

2016 ✱ Completed a grazing buyout of 30,000+ acres of Wild Siskiyou backcountry.

2017 ✱ Celebrated the 20-year ban on strip-mining the headwaters of the Smith and Illinois Rivers and the near doubling of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. We now have 3,000 members and 10,000 online supporters—thank you!



Photo: Northwest Rafting Company

LEARNING FROM LOSS

You can’t win ‘em all. KS Wild stood shoulder to shoulder with our conservation and tribal allies in 2015 to challenge thousands of acres of post-fire clearcutting in the Klamath National Forest “Westside Timber Sale.” We were heartbroken when we failed to stop the destruction. Salmon spawning streams were polluted. Old-growth forests were clearcut. It. Was. Devastating.

So we’ve gone back to the drawing board and are developing new strategies to protect forests and watersheds from aggressive Forest Service logging and road construction. We work with impacted communities, conservation organizations, and regulatory agencies to ensure that going forward, forests and watersheds are protected rather than ravaged. We may have lost a round, but we will never give up fighting for wildlife and wild places.

PICKETT WEST TIMBER SALE

A RETURN TO THE BAD OLD DAYS

It's official: the Medford Bureau of Land Management has turned its back on community input and forest restoration in favor of "getting the cut out." The Pickett West timber sale would log ancient forests and streamside reserves surrounding Applegate, Illinois Valley, and Rogue Valley communities and homes regardless of the impacts to their neighbors or to wildlife and watersheds.

Right out of the gate BLM decision-makers eliminated the Applegate Adaptive Management Area that would have required the BLM to involve the public and incorporate community values into Pickett West.

Then the BLM held several public meetings in which local residents repeatedly asked the agency to restore nearby public forestlands and to meaningfully engage neighboring landowners. The BLM responded by proposing to log thousands of large, fire-resilient trees greater than 20 inches in diameter. These trees

are the remaining lynchpins of forest and watershed health. Then the BLM went ahead and marked ancient forest groves for logging at the same time they were claiming to take public input on the timber sale.

One of the tragedies of the proposed forest destruction at Pickett West is that the BLM knows there is a better way. For several years, forward-looking BLM timber planners and decision-makers had been working with impacted communities to develop "dry forest restoration" projects that sought to increase forest resiliency and decrease fire hazard through careful small-diameter thinning. This was working!

Some in the timber industry were against this collaborative public approach to public lands management and filed lawsuits in Washington D.C. to force the BLM to reject collaboration and restoration and to increase "regeneration harvest" clearcutting. While the lawsuits were largely frivolous, the BLM nevertheless heard loud and clear that its politically powerful industry allies expected the agency to remove, rather than restore, public forests.

For those of us who value community input, ancient forests, wildlife habitat and healthy watersheds, now is the time to unite and stand tall for our backyard public lands.





FEATURED HIKE



GROUSE GAP SHELTER, PACIFIC CREST TRAIL, SISKIYOU CREST AND TRESPASSING COWS!

Grouse Gap is one of those special places on the Siskiyou Crest where wonderful things come together. The wildlands and ancient forests of the 12,000-acre McDonald Peak Roadless Area plunge off to the north while corn lily meadows and aspen groves line the Pacific Crest Trail on the south side of the Siskiyou Crest. Grouse Gap rests on the dividing line between the massive Rogue River and Klamath River watersheds, with Mt. Shasta towering from California and Mt. McLoughlin visible over the Oregon Cascades.

A rustic shelter and picnic area on the Klamath (south) side of Grouse Gap provide a popular destination for Pacific Crest Trail hikers in the summer and cross-country ski trips throughout the winter. It's a lovely spot to enjoy the forests, meadows, and views for which the Siskiyou Crest is known.

Unfortunately, the Grouse Gap area is subject to repeated and often severe "trespass" grazing originating from the East Beaver Grazing Allotment on the Klamath National Forest. It is common to find the shelter full of stinky cow pies and for the surrounding meadows to be denuded of vegetation. Forest Service managers on the Klamath National Forest seem unable or unwilling to enforce the terms of the public lands grazing allotment that precludes grazing of this recreational and botanical hotspot.

Despite the destructive cattle, Grouse Gap is a top-notch destination. Only 20 miles from Ashland, the sweeping views, the old-growth forests, the flowering meadows and the Pacific Crest Trail near the Grouse Gap Shelter draw visitors throughout the year. Other nearby hiking options in addition to the PCT include summiting nearby McDonald Peak or Siskiyou Peak.

As phenomenal as Grouse Gap is now, its only going to get better when we pull together to get the Klamath National Forest to follow its own rules and stop the destructive cattle grazing that mars the meadows, the shelter, and the watershed.



FRUITS OF OUR LABOR: WHAT THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION HAS TAUGHT US ABOUT COMING TOGETHER

For the last 20 years, one of the pillars of KS Wild's work has been grassroots activism—beginning with organizing to protect one of our regions' greatest assets, our forests, from rapid degradation by unsustainable logging. We are proud to continue serving as leaders in regional and national conservation movements.

This year, every move of the Trump Administration brings new questions about the well-being of our communities. Simultaneously, our grassroots work has been reinvigorated. Almost immediately after the election, we felt the energy of our members through an outpouring of requests to volunteer and further support our work. Ten months later, the Klamath-Siskiyou community continues resisting attacks from the government and is growing the network needed for a resilient future.

There are so many important issues on the table right now that are all interconnected: women's and LGBTQ rights, healthcare, climate justice, anti-racism, immigrant rights. They are all about justice. The most important opportunity the conservation community now has is to band together with diverse interests working for justice, to build coalitions that can efficiently organize together, and to provide tools for the People. We must work together to create the resilient communities and ecosystems that we collectively envision. Join the movement! Visit kswild.org to get involved.

SOME 2017 COMMUNITY BUILDING EFFORTS

- ✳ **Activist toolkit volunteer training:** Empowering people to create meaningful change.
- ✳ **Earth Day, People's Climate March:** Demonstrating conservation and climate support.
- ✳ **Volunteer-powered restoration on Siskiyou Crest:** Protecting wildflower meadows.
- ✳ **Monumental defense:** 300+ say "Yes Monument" to the Interior Secretary in Medford.
- ✳ **Public Lands for All:** Local businesses and organizations gathered to celebrate public lands while the struggle to protect them carries on.

20 YEARS



• RESILIENT •

CELEBRATE
20 YEARS OF KS WILD

AT OUR 13TH ANNUAL DINNER
AND AUCTION FOR THE WILD!

SATURDAY OCTOBER 14TH, 2017

DOORS OPEN AT 5PM

AT THE HISTORIC ASHLAND ARMORY
208 OAK ST. ASHLAND

HAPPY HOUR

LIVE MUSIC BY 33 STRING DRIVE

DINNER BY BUTCHER AND BAKER

LOCAL BEER AND WINE

SILENT AND LIVE AUCTIONS

LOVE

WHERE YOU LIVE.

DEFEND

WHAT YOU LOVE.



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KS WILD'S MISSION

KS Wild mission is to protect and restore wild nature in the Klamath-Siskiyou region of southwest Oregon and northwest California. We promote science-based land and water conservation through policy and community action.

KSWILD.ORG

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Cover photo: Siskiyou Mountain Salamander (*Plethodon stormi*). Photo: Chad Lane