



Our program report

on the actions you made possible

Fiscal Year 2024

For a greener Oregon



A letter to our supporters

In the Siuslaw National Forest, which spreads out from the coastal mountains to the Pacific Ocean, a few trees have been alive nearly as long as our country has existed. They're the elders in a multigenerational forest that provides shelter to animals and plants, from the Roosevelt elk to red foxglove, along with adventure to people from all walks of life.

Over the past year, Environment Oregon staff and supporters worked to stop plans to log the oldest trees in the Siuslaw and other national forests across the nation—just one of the actions we advocated to put our country on a greener, healthier path.

We also worked to call for permanent protection of the Owyhee Canyonlands; to stop the careless dumping of tiny plastic pellets that are making an oversized contribution to the pollution of our oceans, lakes, rivers and streams; and much more.

Your action and support make all this work possible. Nature can't thank you, but we certainly do.



Celeste Meiffren-Swango
State Director

Environment Oregon is a policy and action group with one mission: to protect and restore the natural world.

But we can't do it without you. Our staff researches the issues, educates the public and advocates tangible results for a greener world. Our members give us the resources to carry out our mission and put grassroots support behind all of our campaigns and programs.

To keep up to date with our work and learn more about our campaigns and progress, you can follow us at the addresses below. We'd also love to hear from you—feel free to email us at info@EnvironmentOregon.org

EnvironmentOregon.org

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10 trillion 'nurdles'



WILDLIFE OVER WASTE

We called for plastic-free waters

As our members know, birds, fish and other wildlife are often harmed and sometimes killed by plastic that has entered our waterways. Some of the most dangerous plastics are also the smallest.

Plastic “nurdles,” which are tiny plastic pellets used in making plastic products, have been spilled or dumped into rivers, streams and other waterways, where they can be eaten by wildlife. About 10 trillion pellets are carried into our oceans each year, making them the second-largest source of marine microplastic by weight.

In December 2023, our Pennsylvania affiliate worked with Three Rivers Waterkeeper to take legal action against Styropek, a plastic manufacturer found discharging nurdles into a tributary to the Ohio River. On April 10, staff gathered in Washington, D.C., to lobby for bipartisan support in Congress for the Plastic Pellet Free Waters Act, which would ban the discharge of tiny plastic nurdles.



(Left) Our efforts around the country exposed the breadth of the microplastic problem. (Above, clockwise from top) Environment Oregon's State Director Celeste Meiffren-Swango (center left), Conservation Advocate Justin Boyles (third from left) and colleagues meet with U.S. Rep. Andrea Salinas about microplastic pollution; a handful of nurdles; Steve Blackledge, director of our national conservation campaigns, huddles with staff before lobbying members of Congress. Photo credits: (Left) Garrick Schmitt; (above, clockwise from top) Athel Rogers; Brendan Gibbons, Oil & Gas Watch News; Athel Rogers.

2.5 million acres



CONSERVATION

We're working to protect the Owyhee Canyonlands

The Owyhee Canyonlands is a beautiful stretch of more than 2.5 million acres of canyon, river and steppe located in Southeast Oregon. It's home to over 200 species of wildlife and could be one of the last places in the continental U.S. to see the night sky without light pollution.

That's why Environment Oregon is fighting to preserve the Owyhee Canyonlands and designate it as a national monument, which would prevent industrial development and environmental degradation.

Over the past year, we have lobbied elected officials, raised awareness and gathered testimonials from people who want this vital place permanently protected. In March, we held a public event to show off the beauty of the Canyonlands and its recreational opportunities. In August, Gov. Tina Kotek publicly endorsed protecting the Canyonlands.



(Left) Owyhee Canyonlands. (Above, clockwise from top left) Pronghorn antelope; Justin Boyles leads a community event about the Owyhee Canyonlands; Oregonians showed their support for protecting the Owyhee Canyonlands. (Left) CSNafzger via Shutterstock; (above, clockwise from top left) Tom Reichner via Shutterstock; Staff.

50 million acres



SAVE OUR FORESTS

Hundreds of thousands of us called for new protections for old-growth forests

As our supporters know, the most special forests are often the oldest, composed of trees that have been standing for longer than most of us have been alive. That's why in 2022 we called for new protections against logging on federal lands for more than 50 million acres of mature and old-growth forests, including the hundred-year-old-plus trees in the Siuslaw National Forest.

Last year, we reported that our coalition helped convince President Biden to direct the U.S. Forest Service to develop policies protecting mature and old-growth forests, and we delivered over 500,000 public comments supporting strong action.

In December 2023, the administration took the next step and proposed a plan for adding new safeguards against logging. Our coalition gathered another 100,000 comments to urge the administration to strengthen and follow through on this plan.



(Left) Willamette National Forest; (Above, clockwise from top) Environment Oregon's citizen outreach staff; a great horned owl; a black bear.
Photo credits: (Left) Jennifer Bosvert via Shutterstock; (above, clockwise from top) staff; Tim Malek via Shutterstock; BGSmith via Adobe Stock.



Beth Ruggiero-York via Shutterstock

In August 2023, President Biden and Interior Secretary Deb Haaland announced the new Environment America-backed national monument, Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni—Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon. More than 900,000 acres of land will be protected from new toxic uranium mining.



Joe Liebezzeit, Bird Alliance of Oregon

In March, Gov. Kotek signed a bill to increase funding for Oregon's Marine Reserves Program by almost \$1 million. This bill is the result of Environment Oregon, backed by thousands of Oregonians, and our coalition partners, calling for greater reinvestment into our nearshore ecosystems, and is an important step towards supporting marine conservation and management.



Marc Olivier Le Blanc

From April to July, applications for the Monarch and Pollinator Highway Program opened up for states. This program supports bee-, butterfly- and other pollinator-friendly practices, like reducing mowing and introducing native plants along state and federal highways. We urged Congress to fund the program.

RIGHT TO REPAIR



Staff

In March, Gov. Kotek signed the Right to Repair Act into law, which requires manufacturers to provide individuals and small businesses the tools to repair their electronics and other devices. Going into effect on Jan. 1, 2025, Right to Repair will reduce electronic waste, help Oregonians avoid wasting money and preserve natural resources.

BRING THE SEA OTTERS BACK



Doug Meek via Shutterstock

In April, over 150 students from the University of Oregon came out in support for bringing back sea otters to Oregon coasts, which would limit the population of purple sea urchins and promote healthy, diverse kelp forests. On Earth Day, Environment America worked on campus to build student support for this campaign.

WILDLIFE OVER WASTE

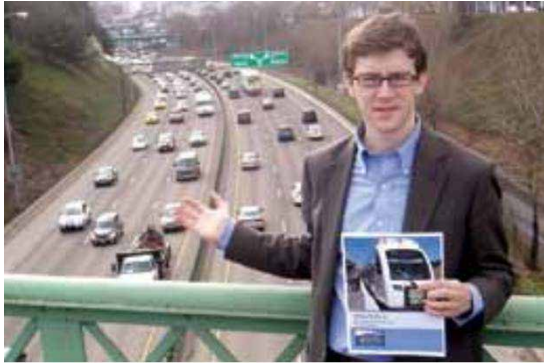


Oceana

In June, Amazon announced its plans to phase out plastic air pillows in North American shipments by year's end. This move, along with an 11.6% reduction in single-use plastic from 2021 to 2022, paves the way for other corporations to join the drive to reduce plastic pollution and microplastic proliferation.

OUR LEGACY: A GREENER AMERICA

Together, we have a long legacy of victories for clean air, clean water, clean energy and more—including state and local wins that have provided blueprints for action nationwide.



2007: Regional effort to reduce greenhouse gases launched

Environment Oregon works with Gov. Ted Kulongoski to launch the six-state Western Climate Initiative. The collaboration was created to identify, evaluate and implement ways to reduce greenhouse gases in the region.

2009: More infrastructure for greener transportation

Environment Oregon helps win a requirement that the Portland Metro region reduce its transportation-related climate pollution, with greater funding for biking infrastructure and public transit.

2012-2014: Environment Oregon leads local plastic bag bans

Between 2012 and 2014, Environment Oregon helps pass bans on single-use plastic bags in various municipalities and counties. Prior to the introduction of these bans, Oregonians were using approximately 1.7 billion plastic bags each year.

2018: Progress made against lead in child care centers

Environment Oregon wins requirements that all child care facilities test their water for lead. We submit a coalition letter along with other prominent environmental and public health groups, as well



as petitions signed by hundreds of Oregonians urging Oregon's Early Learning Council to strengthen the proposal and protect our children from lead in their water.

2018: Portland Metro's TriMet commits to electrify its bus fleet

Environment Oregon heads a coalition that successfully convinces the state's largest transit agency to commit to a zero-emission bus fleet by 2040. Many Environment Oregon members join us at TriMet budget workshops to advocate for electric buses.

(Left to right) Environment Oregon's Brock Howell shows how investing in public transit helps reduce climate pollution; staff and activists supporting plastic bag bans in Oregon; TriMet bus in downtown Portland. Photo credits: Staff; Staff; Joe A. Kunzler Photo, AvgeekJoe Productions, growlernoise-AT-gmail-DOT-com via Flickr, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 DEED, flickr.com/photos/avgeekjoe/38461820982, creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/



2019: Oregon bans the bag

Oregon becomes the sixth state to ban plastic grocery bags statewide. Leading up to the state ban, city level bans on single-use plastic grocery bags sweep across Oregon thanks in part to Environment Oregon's organizing.

2020: Conservation gets \$900 million annually

After winning the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in 2019, Environment Oregon and our national network win full funding of \$900 million annually for the LWCF the following year. It's the nation's most effective conservation and

recreation law, putting billions of federal dollars into national and local parks, playgrounds and trails across the country over the last 50 years.

2021: Oregon commits to 100% clean electricity by 2040

The commitment makes Oregon tied with New York for the fastest transition to clean power. Environment Oregon had built support for clean energy by distributing educational materials to more than 400,000 Oregonians.

2022: Oregon sets goal to put more EVs on the road

Environment Oregon helps win



policies that incentivize the adoption of zero-emission vehicles. The new rule requires all new cars sold in Oregon be zero-emission vehicles by 2035.

2022: Historic investment in climate action

In 2022, President Biden approves our country's largest-ever investment in clean energy and climate solutions. Environment Oregon and our national partners at Environment America had advocated for expanded tax credits for clean energy, giving people and local and state governments crucial support for a transition to a cleaner future.

(Left to right) Our staff distribute lawn signs calling on Congress to fully fund the LWCF; Environment Oregon State Director Celeste Meiffren-Swango and her daughter celebrate 100% clean energy in Oregon; Celeste (left) and other advocates celebrate historic investments in clean energy and climate action. Photo credits: Suzanne Navarro Photography; Staff; Staff



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To see a full staff list and learn more about our campaigns, visit us online at EnvironmentOregon.org.

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