CRA History

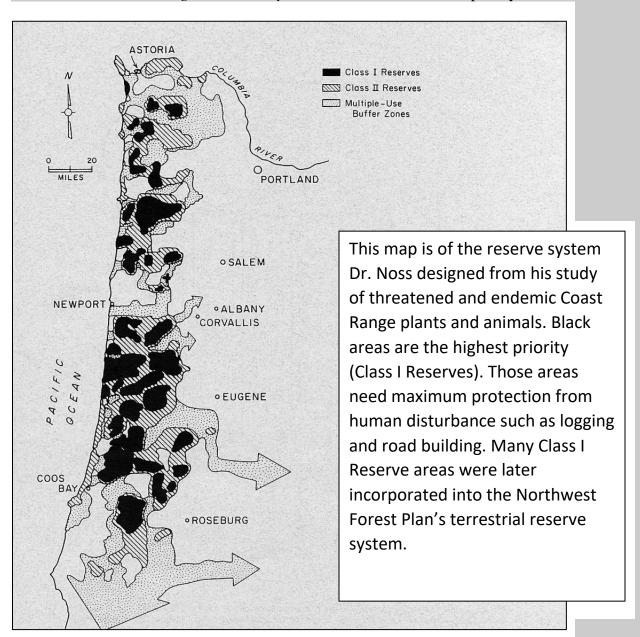


The First Decade: 1990 to 1999

1990 - Coast Range Association Founded

1991-1993

Produced the Coast Range Biodiversity Conservation Plan developed by Dr. Reed Noss.



Our work on the Reed Noss biodiversity conservation plan was undoubtedly the reason the CRA received the *Grassroots Conservation Organization of the Year* award from the Oregon Natural Resource Council (Oregon Wild).



1992 Conservation Achievement Award Member Organization of the Year Coast Range Association

WHITE HOUSE FOREST CONFERENCE President William J. Clinton Vice President Albert Gore, Jr. April 2, 1993 Portland, Oregon

Coast Range Association is invited to President Clintons 1993 Forest Summit in Portland. Chuck Willer attends for the organization.

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

April 2, 1993

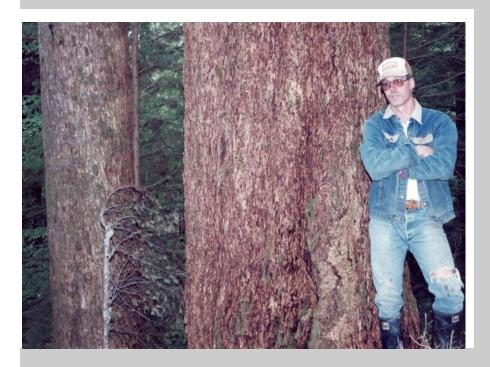
Dear Friend:

Thank you for joining me here in Portland for this important Conference. I am here to listen and learn so that together we can examine and discuss the forest and economic issues facing this region and then begin the difficult, but urgent, task of working toward a balanced, comprehensive, long-term policy that recognizes the importance of both our nation's old growth forests and this region's jobs. I am confident that with your help we can start today and move forward toward breaking the impasse that has stalled progress and restoring hope where frustration and fear have too long remained.

Thank you for joining me, the Vice President and members of the Cabinet and for lending your voice and your ideas to the Forest Conference.

Sincerely,

Buy Clintan



Our first community talk in was about the difference between natural Northwest forests and forest plantations. The essence of our natural forest is big trees and large amounts of biomass on the forest floor and a remarkable, unseen biological world in the forest soil. The Coast Range old growth forest is characterized by a dense multi-layer canopy of Douglas fir, Western Hemlock and Western Red Cedar. Trees are made of carbon and Coast Range forests can arguably store more live tree carbon per acre than any other forest in the world.





1990-1995

The CRA worked within a broad movement to secure protections for federal forests with the goal of preserving the last remaining native forests, ensuring stream water quality and securing watershed values. The outcome of this effort was the adoption of the Northwest Forest Plan for federal lands in the range of the Northern Spotted owl (Western Oregon, Western Washington and Northern California). Since 1995 we have worked to defend and improve the Northwest Forest Plan and its Aquatic Conservation Strategy.

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The Ancient Forests of the Pacific Northwest

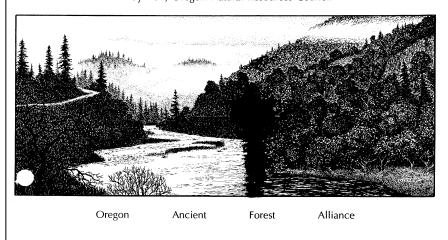
Protecting a Vanishing Ecosystem

A Sourcebook for Activists

Collected and Edited by Heather Diefenderfer

with review by

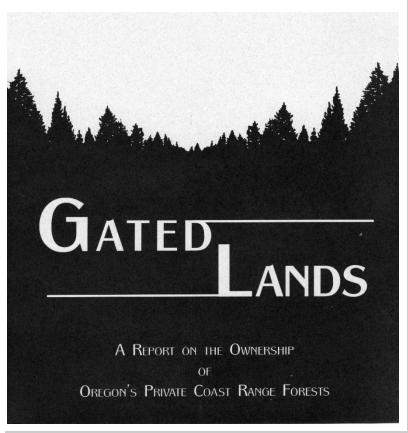
Richard T. Brown, National Wildlife Federation Lynn Herring, Audubon Society of Portland Robert M. Freimark, The Wilderness Society Andy Kerr, Oregon Natural Resources Council



1991 -2004

During this period the CRA was a conservation leader in efforts to secure an ecologically robust forest plan for the 700,000+ acres of state forest within the Coast Range region. In fact we were the first organization in 1992 to question the Oregon Department of Forestry's lack of a real forest plan for the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests.

Worked to secure a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Forest Management Plan for the Elliott State Forest in Coos County. Efforts by a coalition of conservation groups resulted in a credible plan using long forest harvest rotations and strong protections for aquatic values.



1995

Published *Gated Lands* a report on the ownership of Coast Range private lands. Compiling all land ownership records for 13 Coast Range counties allowed us to determine that approximately 80% of all private land was owned by large corporations.

1995 was a year of intense organizing around endangered salmon, watershed protection, and how the conservation community might advance the Northwest Forest Plan. The CRA also began a robust engagement with the Oregon Department of Forestry on state lands management. Numerous coalitions and collaborative relationships were established with conservation colleagues.

1996

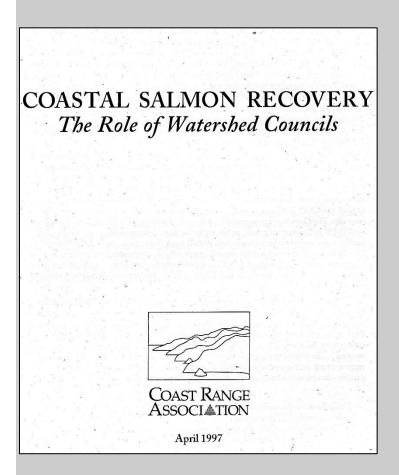
The CRA worked to form the Westside Forest Alliance. Throughout the year the CRA made community presentations on endangered salmon and much needed watershed protection for forested, mountainous watersheds. We participated in Save Our Salmon coalition and attended numerous watershed council meetings. All during 1996, we engaged the National Marine Fisheries Service over their refusal to list the Oregon Coastal Coho under the Endangered Species Act.

1997

Established clear leadership in Northwest private forestry reform and watershed protection.

CRA staff person Lisa Brown led efforts to overturn a National Marine Fisheries Service decision denying Endangered Species Act protection for Oregon's coastal coho. A federal court ruled in our favor and Oregon's Coastal Coho was listed in 1997 - just as the best available science recommended.

We researched and published *Coastal Salmon Recovery: An Assessment of Watershed Councils*. The report highlighted the importance of watershed councils for stream restoration efforts and identified crucial weaknesses in the council process.



For work on endangered salmon and watershed protection, Chuck Willer received the Native Fish Society's 1997 award as a *Stalwart Conservation Advocate for Native Fish*.

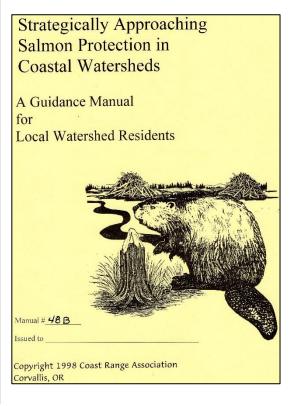
In recognition of outstanding advocacy, scientific work, grassroots effort, sheer personal effort and sacrifice on behalf of native fish and their habitats in the Pacific Northwest Biosphere, The Native Fish Society presents this certificate of appreciation and accomplishment to: Chuck Willer Conservation Director for the Coast Range Association Stalwart Conservation Advocate for Native Fish Presented on April 13, 1997 at Troutdale, Oregon by: Bill M. Bakke, Director

Due to the work of Lisa Brown, work with the Coos Bay BLM on the correct interpretation of the Northwest Forest Plan, the district awarded the CRA a Partner Appreciation Award for "significant contributions to public lands management."



1998

We organized watershed advocates in Coast Range watershed councils and published *Strategically Approaching Salmon Protection in Coastal Watersheds: A Guidance Manual for Watershed Residents.* Our report prompted the state of Oregon to issue its own watershed assessment manual.



The CRA organized and was lead-author on a multi-group salmon recovery position paper co-signed by twelve other conservation organization. We published the statement under the title Conservation Statement on the Recovery of Coastal Coho.



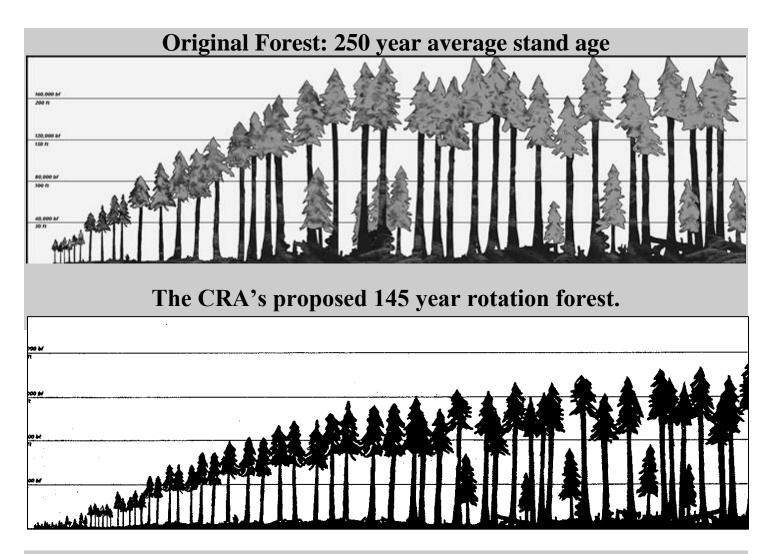
The essential and necessary elements that must be convincingly addressed in any defensible plan to recover the coastal coho

- A CONSERVATION STATEMENT BY -

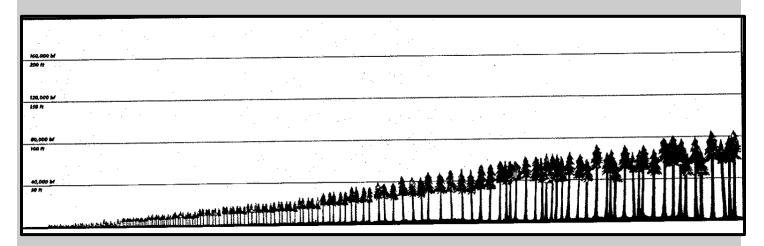
Coast Range Association
Headwaters
Kalimiopsis Audubon
National Audubon
Native Fish Society
Oregon Natural Resource Council
Oregon Trout
Pacific Rivers Council
Portland Audubon
Siskiyou Audubon
Siskiyou Regional Education Project
Umpqua Watersheds
Water Watch

1999

Completed a forestry exhibit comparing the performance of short 45 year industrial forestry and a long rotation 145 year forest management. Our findings were published in a booklet titled *Forests That Work*. Our conclusions called for a new community-based forestry.







7,000 copies of *Forests That Work* were printed and distributed across Western Oregon. Our efforts produced several firsts in Oregon forestry:

1. First long rotation analysis using modelling software based on credible input data provided by staff at the Siuslaw National Forest. Our report was the first widely available analysis to demonstrate the viability, both in production and profitability, of a dramatically less damaging forestry.

2. The CRA developed the first visual characterization of the actual size of short and long rotation forests and the original native forest the coast range region.

Forests That Work

A Proposal for a New Forestry

Dealing With the Problem of Investor Driven Forestry



An Exhibit Developed by the Coast Range Association



The Forests That Work project was a five year effort to advance a more ecologically friendly and productive forestry into the private lands discussion for Western Oregon. The exhibit is pictured at the Florence Public Library.





In 1999, we produced the *Watershed Rapid Assessment Manual* for use by citizens working to protect their local watersheds. The manual alerted local watershed residents, many working in newly formed watershed councils, to key processes in watershed health. The role of large wood in streams to help form salmon habitat was emphasized.

CRA Rapid Assessment Project

An
Early Regional Assessment
of the
Salmon - Land Use
Connection

Coast Range Association

PO Box 2250, Corvallis, OR 97339

All during our watershed and salmon education period we consulted the best scientists about our representations. Numerous federal, academic and private scientists provided us with materials to use in our work.



Decade Two: 2000 to 2009

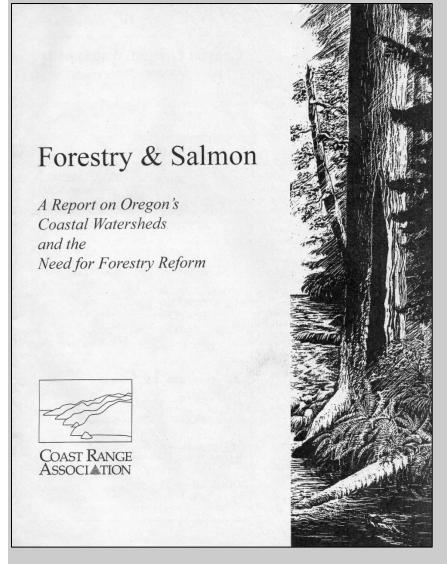
2000

Opened the Coast Range Association web site www.coastrange.org

For much of 2000 we toured the Forest That Work display and distributed the accompanying booklet.

2001

The CRA published Salmon & Forestry: A Report on Oregon's Coastal Watersheds and the Need for Forestry Reform. In this report, for the first time, we made public the results of thousands of federal and state stream habitat surveys. The surveys documented the poor habitat conditions found in almost all coastal streams. We demonstrated that the higher the percentage of a watershed managed by private Wall Street owners the worse off were stream habitat conditions.



In partnership with the Native Fish Society we published *Salmon & Survival: Why Native & Hatchery Salmon are Different*.

We researched, wrote and published *Drinking from the Tillamook Rainforest: A report on water quality and forest management in Northwest Oregon's state owned rainforests*. This report was part of a coalition effort to secure permanent state forest protections for the Tillamook and Clatsop Sate Forests.

2003

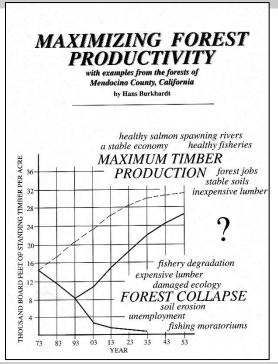
We published *Case Statement on Forestry Reform*. The document provided analysis of forestry economics, silviculture, and law required for sustainable forestry. All during this period we consulted grassroots colleagues on strategies to reform private forestry. The evidence was clear: a new forestry was possible and water quality and salmon habitat was in peril from industrial forest management. Yet, nothing changes in Oregon's regulation of forestry. In fact, the industry seemed to being going backwards – cutting ever more intensely shorter. We knew that a transition in ownership was occurring but the full story of new forms of financial forest management still waited to be discovered.

2004

We published *The Economics of Forestry* an article that explores the economic thinking behind large industrial Wall Street forest owners. We revealed the driver of corporate forest management as the singular goal of maximizing the return on investor equity.

The Economics of Forestry completed a six year program of analysis exploring the difficulties inherent in Wall Street financed forestry for conserving ecological values. From this body of work we determined that a change in ownership was the path to sustainable, community-centered, conservation based forestry.

The CRA worked as part of the *Tillamook Rainforest Coalition* in support of Ballot Measure 34 - a citizen ballot measure to secure permanent protection for 50% of the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests. The measure failed to pass. Numerous reports and papers were prepared in support of the ballot measure.



All during the 1995 through 2005 period we sought out practical forestry knowledge. Often we disagreed with some aspect of a proposal but our goal was to assemble the best thinking on various aspects of forest management that might apply to private corporate forestlands. One of the first documents that influenced our thinking was Hans Burkhardt's book Maximizing Forest Productivity.

Han's book was based on his practical work in Mendocino, CA that demonstrated longer rotation times improve yield and maintained forest structure and composition.

There was a flowering of ideas for an ecological forestry during this period.

WASHINGTON FOREST LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT –

A Pragmatic, Ecological Approach to Small-Landscape Management

> Andrew B. Carey Catherine Elliott Bruce R. Lippke John Sessions Charles J. Chambers Chadwick D. Oliver Jerry F. Franklin Martin G. Raphael

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON FOREST LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

> Report No. 2 1996

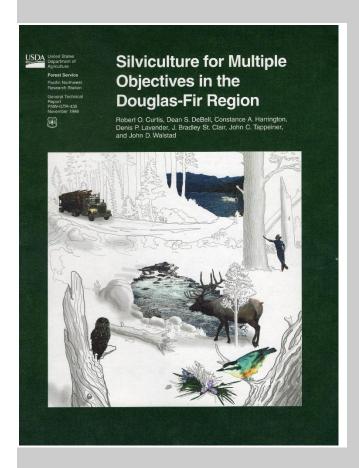
This research was supported by funds provided by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station.







Many forest management proposals in this era were designed to conserve biodiversity in working forests. In this period it must be remembered that the overarching issue across the globe was species extinction. Many scientists declared that the planet was in its 6th mass extinction event.



One reason our history of advancing new management proposals for corporate forestlands has never been attacked by responsible industry leaders is that we always relied on the best research and we worked hard to get our facts right.

By 2005 we had come to the conclusion that, although a new conservation and watershed friendly forestry was technically possible, the industry was not only going to not change – it couldn't change. Slowly the awareness sank in that financial control by investors locked the industry into its singular financial mode of forest management.

The corporate mandate for financial forest management, a mandate of shortened time between harvests, was simply the essence of modern forestry. Our strategic discussion shifted to a focus on forest ownership and the exploration of strategies to transition ownership away from Wall Street financial control.

During this period, the nation was still in the grips of security concerns over the attack on the World Trade Center towers in New York City. The Iraq war, by then revealed to be a fool's errand, was draining federal dollars away from social expenditures. This was a strange time.

2006-2014 The CRA Community Forest Initiative

The Coast Range Association Board committed the organization to a locally focused strategy of forming community forest organizations as an alternative to corporate forestry. Thus began an eight year effort to create the Oregon Coast Community Forest Association (OCCFA). Spearheading this effort was former CRA Board President Penelope Kaczmarek and CRA Board member Don Andre. Our focus was on Lincoln County which suffered under the extensive impacts of financial forest management and yet had a large base of forest oriented activists.

For three years we worked in Lincoln County discussing the community forest concept, defining its purpose and exploring practical details. During this period we encountered Portland-based forest consultant Tom Tuchman. Mr. Tuchman had previously convinced the Oregon Legislature to approve the use of tax exempt bonds for community forest financing. Mr. Tuchman's firm, US Forest Capital, specialized in negotiating forest purchases and financing.

Out of the CRA's early exploratory efforts the Oregon Coast Community Forest Association (OCCFA) was formed. Chuck Willer secured funding for the organization's legal incorporation and tax exempt status application as well as a contract to engage the services of Mr. Tuchman.

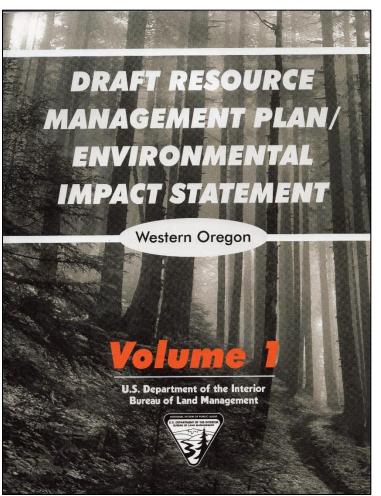
The CRA's interest lie in the OCCFA lie in a large forest purchase from an industrial owner and the organization of an economically viable community forest. That goal was never achieved even with the support of Mr. Tuchman's firm. In retrospect we now know why. Or, we at least understand one important factor that blocked our way.

Beginning in 1980 with Ronald Reagan, federal tax law and monetary policy shifted from supporting wage growth to the support of asset prices. Global wealth flowed into the US in order to invest in US assets. By 1990, one of the prime assets to buy was investment grade forestland.

Industrial forest property prices began a 20 year climb to ever higher prices as prior owners sold out to new investor money. By the time we began the effort to purchase forest property, asset prices were greatly inflated – even after the 2008 financial meltdown. The tide had gone out on small money buying forestland and the big money tide had come in.

Also unbeknownst to us at the time was the slow transition by the state of Oregon to relieve forest owners of almost all their prior tax obligations. The free ride of Oregon's regulatory system over forests and a state and federal tax system that all but ended forest owner taxation meant that big money was in the driver's seat.

2004 to 2008 BLM Forest Planning: WOPR 1.



The Coast Range Association worked hard to convince the BLM that its planning process, called the *Western Oregon Plans Revision* (WOPR-1), was in error.

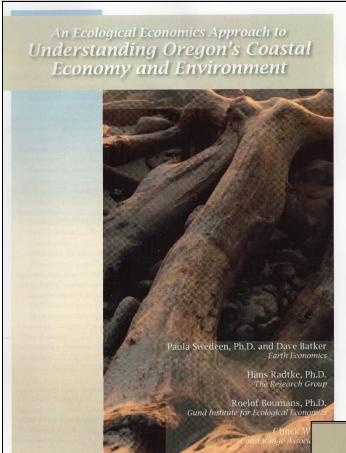
The BLM rejected developing a plan based on the *best available science* and came up short of its legal mandate. In 2008, the Obama administration set WOPR-1 aside admitting the plan was based on politically contrived science. The BLM then began developing WOPR-2.

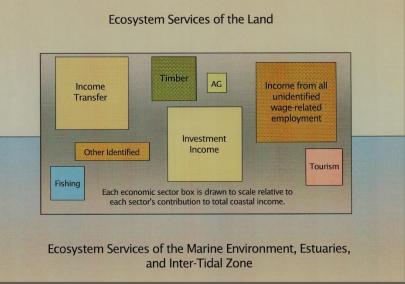
The forest planning process for federal lands results in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Pictured here is Volume 1 of the four volume Draft EIS for the BLM's Western Oregon lands.

The CRA became the first organization in the Northwest to use Google Earth to view Forest Service and BLM stand data. We built KLM files for use in Google Earth allowing the public to see where native forest exist on federal lands. We converted all native forest stands on BLM lands into KML files and published the files on a standalone website.



The CRA conceived and managed the production of *An Ecological Economics Approach to Understanding Oregon's Coastal Economy and Environment*. Paula Swedeen was lead author and the report was published by the Audubon Society of Portland. This was our first major contribution to a new approach in coastal resource management, an approach grounded in an ecological economic perspectives.





The CRA developed a community presentation on the financial crisis. Themes of equity, ownership, and finance animate our forest products industry and were revealed to have relevance to other sectors of the economy.

One of the main themes of the 2008 financial crisis was why no one saw it coming. This caught our attention since Chuck Willer had been arguing with the mainstream economics taught at the OSU School of Forestry. The 2008 financial crisis was an opportunity to dig deep into the failing of the dominant economic model. The result were enlightening.

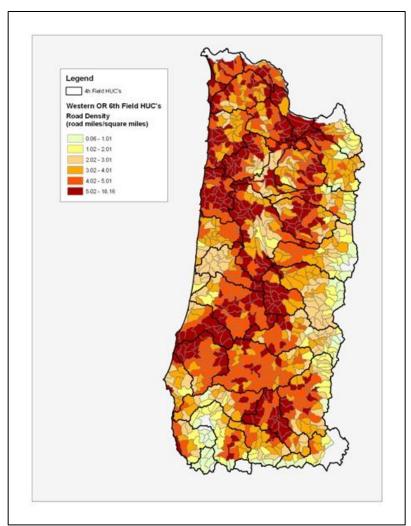
Below is pictured one slide from the presentation. A few key points of the mainstream economic model were:

- 1. There is no money or debt in the model just prices, supply and demand.
- 2. The economy has no balance sheet. The loss of biodiversity means nothing because there is no material value.
- 3. Nothing has inherent or material value there is only exchange value.
- 4. Institutions, law and power are either ignored or, when addressed, only seen in terms of property rights and ownership.
- 5. There are no real people in economics only the ethereal qualities labor supply, being a consumer or an owner.



Mainstream economics didn't see the 2008 financial crisis coming not because of what it says in the core microeconomic model, but because of what it doesn't address.

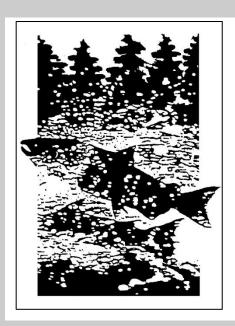
The economics learned out of the financial crisis period motivated us to explore new, modern schools of economics not taught in the US. Most notably Post-Keynesian economics. This prepared us for rapidly understanding Modern Monetary Theory and the much talked about Green New Deal.



Road Density Analysis of Watersheds

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) initiated a review of the Coastal Coho's Endangered Species Act listing. The review occurred over 2009 and 2010. During that period Dr. Chris Frissell led the conservation communities input into the review process. In 2010, we used the BLM's detailed GIS map of all roads, including logging roads, for Western Oregon and determined road density for all 5th and 5th field watersheds. The resulting analysis was the first credible analysis of watershed road density for Western Oregon. We provided the analysis to Dr. Frissell for inclusion into the federal Coastal Coho review process.

The map of Western Oregon road density was developed for the Coastal Coho ESA listing evaluation.





Decade Three: 2010-2019

2006-2012

The CRA embarks on a coastal program highlighting the land-sea connection. We worked to secure a network of marine reserves along Oregon's state owned coastal marine waters. In 2012 the state of Oregon established a network of six nearshore marine reserves.

2009-2012

CRA Director Chuck Willer worked with an international team of scientists to address integrated landsea conservation planning. This effort resulted in a major global review paper published in the *Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution and Systematics*.

Aquatic Resource Protections in the Northwest Forest Plan: Evaluating Potential Consequences of Proposed Riparian Reserve Reductions for Clean Water, Streams and Fish



Coast Range Association
August, 2013

Full report available at coastrange.org

2013-2019: Federal Forest Planning

Our work focused on the defense of the *Northwest Forest Plan* (NWFP). Our long history with salmon and stream conservation had set the stage for our leadership in defense of the *Aquatic Conservation Strategy* (ACS) of the Northwest Forest Plan. We engaged Dr. Chris Frissell to advance the *best available science* into public discourse and agency deliberations.

One outcome of Dr. Frissell's work is the August, 2013 release of his science report titled Aquatic Resource Protections in the Northwest Forest Plan: Evaluating Potential Consequences of Proposed Riparian Reserve Reductions for Clean Water, Streams and Fish. The report laid the basis for convening a science panel of best available scientists to assess new science relevant to the ACS of the Northwest Forest Plan.

In December we sponsored the science panel of leading aquatic scientists. We asked the scientists to assess new science relative to the Aquatic Conservation Strategy of the Northwest Forest Plan.

CONSERVATION OF AQUATIC AND FISHERY RESOURCES IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST:

Implications of New Science for the Aquatic Conservation Strategy of the Northwest Forest Plan

Frissell, Christopher A.
Baker, Rowan. J.
DellaSala, Dominick A.
Hughes, Robert M.
Karr, James R.
McCullough, Dale A.
Nawa, Richard. K.
Rhodes, Jon
Scurlock, Mary C.
Wissmar, Robert C.



FINAL REPORT July 30, 2014

Capyright © 2014 Caxet Bange Association

2014

On March 31 we submitted the science review panel's findings to the BLM as public comment on the BLM's WOPR-2 planning effort.

On August 15th, the final report of the aquatic science review panel was publicly released. Titled Conservation of Aquatic and Fishery Resources in the Pacific Northwest: Implications of New Science for the Aquatic Conservation Strategy of the Northwest Forest Plan, the report can be download here: ACS Report

Starting April 1st, 2014 Jim Carlson became the CRA's full time coastal staff person working to implement Oregon's new marine reserve system and support and support community activists concerned about ocean issues.

The CRA, through Jim's work, helped form two coastal community groups supporting marine reserve implementation: The Friends of Cascade Head and Friends of Cape Falcon.

2015

All during the year we engaged the BLM's new WOPR-2 planning process. This involved developing a voluminous set of comments on Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements. The key departure from the Northwest Forest Plan the BLM wishes to achieve was over aquatic issues. All of our comments addressed the BLM's departure from the ACS.

The USDA Forest Service begins their planning process to redo all National Forest plans in the three state area of the Northwest Forest Plan. In March, we released a reader friendly version of the 2012 Forest Planning Rule which guides re-planning for all US national forests. Prior to our release, the Planning Rule was an almost impossible to read notice in the Federal Register.

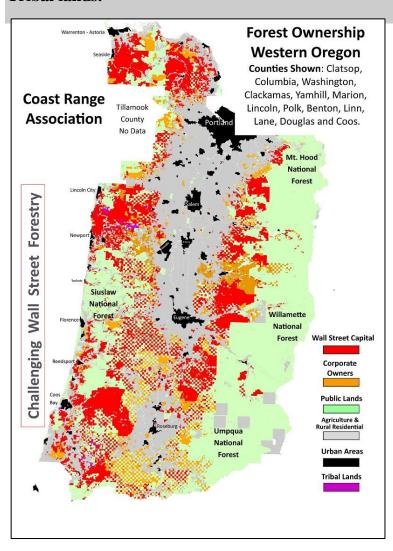
Additionally, we reformatted the Forest Service's own internal guidance document on the Planning Rule and built both documents into one pdf file. All total, our readable reformatted document was 404 pages long. The document, which still guides national forest planning efforts, is available on the CRA website.	
The CRA was a founding organizational member of the Oregon Marine Reserve Partnership (OMRP). As a coalition member, Jim worked with colleagues to assist the state of Oregon's implementation of nearshore marine reserves.	



Being a major election year 2016 was understandably low-key on the work front. We kept our heads down and focused on the state's implementation of the nearshore marine reserve network. The BLM was heading toward finalizing their WOPR-2 plan. With our extensive prior input into the planning process we waited for the plan's approved through a Record of Decision. That decision in August of 2016. While the BLM's final plan was greatly improved due to unrelenting input from the conservation community, it came up short in its ACS – failing to adequately incorporate the firm Standards used in the Northwest Forest Plan. We then began preparation of formal Protest comments required to pave the way for a lawsuit challenging the final plan.

New Work: Challenging Wall Street Forestry

In 2016 we completed a massive ownership analysis of Western Oregon. Property records for all counties, except Tillamook, were acquired in GIS form. In all, we acquired about 1.5 million records for every parcel of real property. We then deleted all parcels within Urban Growth Boundary areas. This left approximately 500,000 parcel records for rural lands. Next we coded all parcels as one of five property types: Wall Street forest ownership, traditional Corporate forest ownership, rural residential & agriculture, public lands (state, federal and municipal) and Tribal lands.

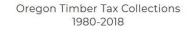


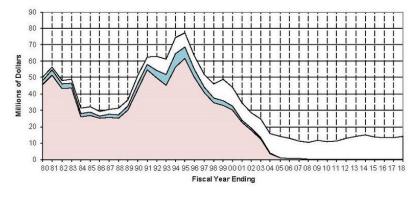


2017-2018

Wall Street Forestry: Taxation

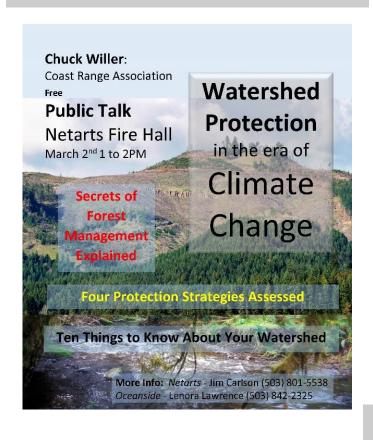
During this period, we accessed state reports on timber and property tax taxation for Western Oregon. To our dismay, we found a dramatic decline in timber industry tax support going to local government.

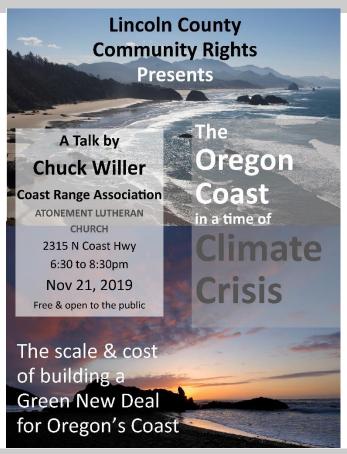




2018- 2019 Grassroots Advocacy:

Beginning in 2017 we realized that our Wall Street ownership and taxation research had resulting in a dramatic story to share. Thus we launch a series of community presentations that continues to this day. Many lessons were learned in our community work. For one, almost no one realized the degree to which corporate forestland had been converted to financial ownership in the form of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITS) or Timber Investment Management Organizations (TIMOs). Secondly, almost no one was aware of the decline in taxation for local governments by big industrial owners.





2019 and beyond:

Guided by our deep research of financial forestry in Oregon, our understanding of economic theories and practices that are rarely taught in the US, and our strong background in natural resource science, the CRA started working on the intersections of forests, communities, and climate change. This has culminated into the important work of educating the public on the importance of and advocating for a <u>Green New Deal for Oregon's Rural Communities and Forests.</u> This work is foundational to the many issues facing Oregon. With increased staff capacity to expand our outreach and media work, a



brand-new website, strong grassroot donor support, and a laser focused mission, the CRA is tackling the Climate Crisis and Oregon's important role in providing natural and built climate solutions to this global threat.

In the US, there is only one national proposal addressing the climate crisis – House Resolution

109 otherwise known as the Green New Deal (GND). The Coast Range Association has a goal of educating thousands of Oregonians about how HR-109 applies to Oregon. We are sharing good news about how a GND will revitalize rural areas and transform our agriculture and forest lands for carbon sequestration. The future we need is one of electric vehicles complimented with an efficient electric rail system. The future we need is one of regenerative land use that stores carbon while providing people both abundant food and fiber. It's a future where we quit wasting resources on endless war and a broken health care system and devote freed economic capacity into rebuilding the economic foundations of society.

To get involved and learn about our Green New Deal work visit the new <u>website</u>.

For more information and to read Chuck's 2019 End of the Year Report click <u>here</u>.

