



Major Exposé by OPB, Oregonian & ProPublica Reproduces CRA Research



Photo: Brett Cole

In June we mailed out our spring update. Shortly after, to our surprise, the groundbreaking OPB/Oregonian/ProPublica corporate forest exposé hit the streets. The story was patterned after four years of prior CRA research and public advocacy.

For decades, the CRA has unwaveringly spoke truth to power and educated Oregonian's about the true nature of Oregon's timber industry. Our Executive Director, Chuck Willer, has given countless community presentations across Western Oregon speaking about the timber industry's tax avoidance, abandonment of rural communities, lost forest production, and Wall Street owners shipping profits to the wealthy investor class.

The OPB/Oregonian/ProPublica story is [essential reading](#). We are gratified to see CRA's financial forestry critique hit the mainstream.

Please [read](#) the story and share it widely. Submit a letter to the editor (LTE) for your local paper, demand change and hold your local Oregon House and Senate officials accountable. In your LTE mention, note the CRA's role in daylighting forest issues that Salem's leaders have ignored for decades. If you like, [Contact us](#) for guidance on writing your LTE.

The Movement for Racial Justice

Since our June letter was sent, the movement for racial justice has exploded onto the national stage. All of us here at the CRA are heartened and proud to join in this global uprising for racial justice. We give our full support to Black Lives Matter.

The long history of white supremacy and colonialism harms us all. In the final analysis, we are all caught in the workings of an unjust social order. That's why at the CRA we have always brought a social justice perspectives to our forest advocacy work. The power, wealth and privilege that destroys native forests benefits from racial and gender social division. At the same time, the poor and marginalized around the world disproportionately suffer the impacts of a warming climate.

Our movements must come together as a united force to build a world that works for everyone. Ending Wall Street's financial control of Oregon's forests is essential to a just transition toward a carbon free future. Enacting a Green New Deal is a major goal for our liberation.

A Path Forward

Climate change will challenge every aspect of our lives and society. The sooner we transition forest ownership away from Wall Street and to workers and communities, the sooner we can realize justice for all in Oregon. That is why the Coast Range Association is working towards a Green New Deal that benefits everyone.

[Read our Forward Strategy](#)



[DONATE](#)

We need your support

Since the Covid-19 pandemic hit we have seen our donations plummet. This is right as our work is more critical than ever. We are engaging multiple coalitions who need our unique messaging. We have made major breakthroughs calling out financial forestry in Oregon. We need your support now more than ever. Please consider a generous donation to the CRA.

The OPB article has created a surge of interest in the CRA's work. Here's a link to our Audio podcast and webpage that provides a quick overview of our work.

[Forests & Climate Change: The Coast Range Association Strategy for Oregon](#)

Listen to our podcast episode on Wall Street Forestry and join in our work to find justice for Oregon's rural communities through a Green New Deal.

Read our Forward Strategy

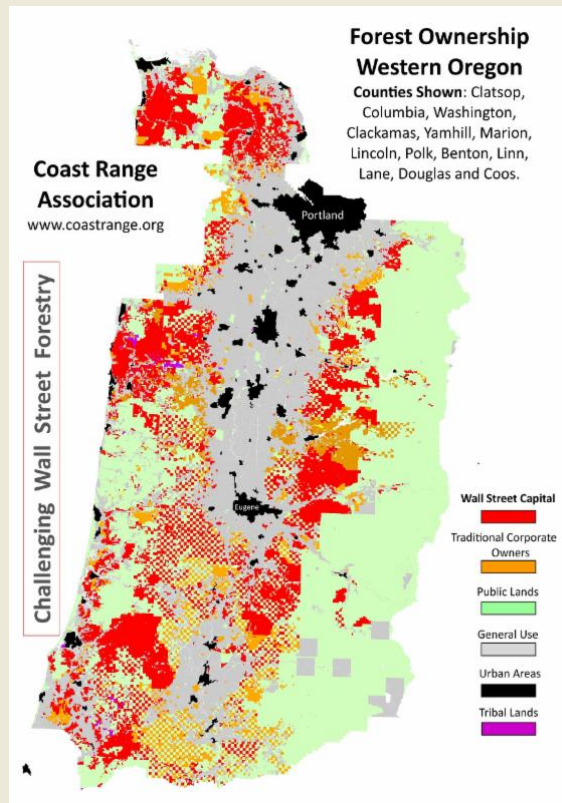
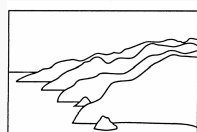


Photo: Luke Flynt

CRA's Spring Update



COAST RANGE ASSOCIATION

A Pandemic
A Climate Crisis
Injustice & Social Unrest
When will the locusts arrive?

No doubt we are living in a historic moment. Since the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic we are in uncharted territory. Consider the larger situation: A global pandemic, economic disruption not seen since the Great Depression, an unprecedented climate crisis and now massive social unrest over the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. All while a momentous presidential election is only months away.

I sincerely hope this letter finds you in good health. I am doing well and grateful that Oregon is one of the best states for flattening the coronavirus curve. Let's hope the state's relatively good fortune continues.

I write to provide a brief update on Coast Range Association (CRA) programs and share news about our near-term plans. Amidst much work progress, two CRA programs received bad news in May. Perhaps our bad news is just part of the headwinds Senator Merkley refers to? Of course, please consider a donation to our visionary work. Here's the update.

The BLM Forest Plan

A three judge panel of the 9th Appellate Court ruled against our BLM Western Oregon forest plan lawsuit. The ruling ends three and half years of litigation and eighteen years of CRA engagement with the BLM over forest planning. **We gave it everything we had and then some.** The central contention in our lawsuit was inadequate protection for streams and wild salmon. I believe the Appellate Court ruled the way they did for at least three reasons:

1. This was the 2nd BLM plan. The first one went down in flames in 2008 due to its blatant illegality. The BLM was much smarter in its 2nd Plan as the Obama Administration 'balanced' more old growth forests in reserve with less stream protections.
2. Our key legal arguments was that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) failed to explain how the science warranted reduced stream protections for endangered salmon. In fact, the wider stream buffers in the prior Northwest Forest Plan had been ignored by the BLM for over a decade, a **fact we pointed out in our 2016 planning protest** The new BLM Plan has smaller stream buffers, but the agency says they will be strictly adhered to. Therefore, the same amount of protection is carried forward. Whew, go figure.
3. Since Trump has been in office, federal courts have been under great pressure to allow commercial interests to exploit public resources. Compared to the widespread abuse of public lands across the West, the BLM's Plan may have looked good enough to the judges. I guess the federal courts are facing their own headwinds.

Coastal Marine Program

The second item of bad news is that the Lazar Foundation ended funding for our coastal marine reserves program. This was our only program dependent on foundation funds. Funding supported Jim Carlson's work on behalf of marine reserve implementation at Cascade Head and Cape Falcon. Obviously, current economic conditions influenced the foundation's decision. Jim will continue to monitor the Cascade Head and Cape Falcon reserve implementation and will report on developments.

And, we will do our best to continue publishing the CRA's *Ocean News* e-newsletter. The newsletter has been warmly embraced by coastal advocates and serves to amplify news from numerous coastal grassroots groups.

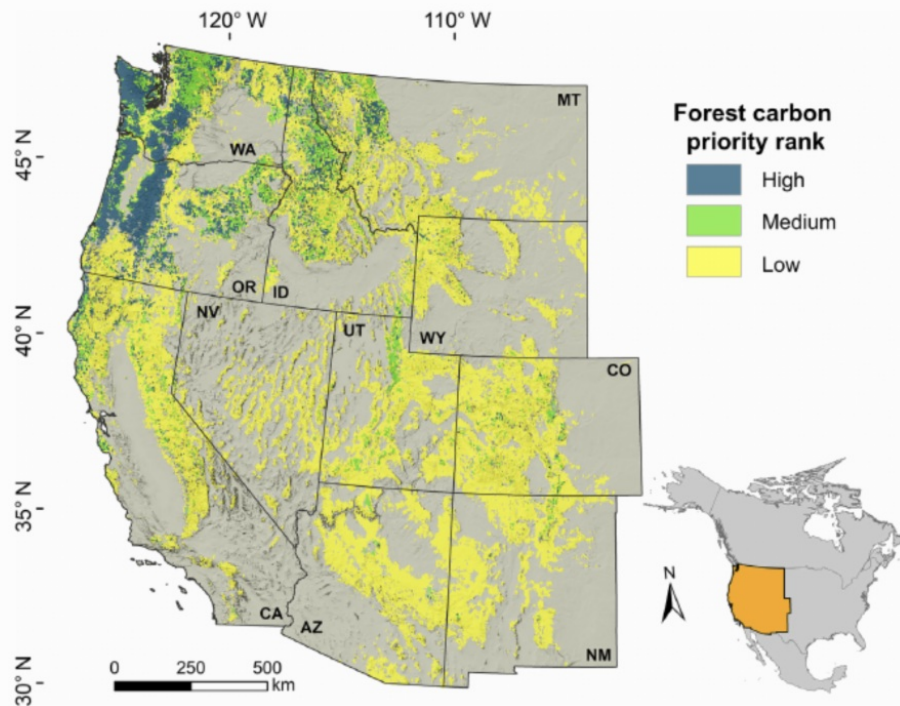


FIG. 1. Forested land in the western conterminous United States classified into priority for preservation to mitigate climate change based on the spatial co-occurrence of low vulnerability to drought and fire and low, medium, and high potential carbon sequestration. WA, Washington; ID, Idaho; MT, Montana; OR, Oregon; CA, California; NV, Nevada; UT, Utah; CO, Colorado; AZ, Arizona; NM, New Mexico.

[Read our Forward Strategy](#)

Climate & Forests

As I previously reported, our work is now informed by the climate crisis. Specifically, we are exploring how House Resolution 109 (Green New Deal) may apply to Western Oregon. We continue to research the on the ground changes needed for Oregon to become a climate leader. In every sector, we have the opportunity to enact a just transition. A transition from carbon intensive practices to actions that reduce emissions and sequester carbon while providing for people and communities. Needless to say, the impact of the coronavirus has added difficulty to the project.

On March 10, Governor Kate Brown released executive order, EO 20-04. The Order lays out the goals for Oregon's climate response on an emergency timeline. In the coming months, we will assess state agency responses to the Governor's order. For example, EO 20-04 states:

"In coordination with ODA, ODF, and OWEB, the Oregon Global Warming Commission is directed to submit a proposal to the Governor for consideration of adoption of state goals for carbon sequestration and storage by Oregon's natural and working landscapes, including forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands, based on best available science. The proposal shall be submitted no later than June 30, 2021."

We are not holding our breath that the OR Department of Forestry (ODF) will develop a serious statement regarding forests & climate. However, we will engage both the ODF and the OR Global Warming Commission in collaboration with advocacy partners. The state refuses to recognize the serious contribution forestry plays in the state's greenhouse gas emissions. We will work to end that denial.

New Partnerships

We have exciting opportunities in the coming months to build partnerships in support of climate and forest work. We intend to work closely with the Center for Sustainable Economy's (CSE) *Wild and Working Forest Campaign*. The CSE's new forest campaign manager, Samantha Krop, began work June 1st. We will be in close discussion regarding our proposal to transition Wall Street owned lands from growing dollars toward growing carbon dense forests to mitigate climate change.

Secondly, we are in discussion with the Rural Organizing Project (ROP) to explore common goals of revitalizing rural communities and social justice. It is our belief that the Green New Deal's emphasis on social justice and its goal of rebuilding the US energy infrastructure fit closely with ROP's longstanding rural agenda.

Lastly, we are considering how we fit in with the emerging Oregon Forest Water Coalition. The Forest Water Coalition's goal is the reform of forest practices rules in Salem. We believe, given our limited resources, that our mission is best served by educating the broader public about the true nature of Wall Street driven financial forestry and its terrible impact on communities and the environment.

CRA Communications Work

I'm very happy to report that the CRA's **Communications Program** is growing through the skillful leadership of Andrew Collins-Anderson. I'm proud to announce that these community stations are playing our monthly [Coast Range Radio](#) program:

- KEPW 97.3 FM, Eugene: 2:30pm every Saturday
- KMUZ 100.7 and 88.5 FM, Salem: Mondays monthly at 12pm
- KYAQ 91.7 FM, Newport: Thursdays, 4:30pm and Sunday, 6:30pm
- KXCR 90.7 FM, Florence: Mondays monthly at 4:30pm
- KQUA 99.7 FM, Roseburg: Saturdays weekly at 11am & Sundays weekly at 6pm

We're in discussions with KMUN in Astoria and KBOO in Portland to also air the program. Coast Range Radio is on all major podcast distribution services ([Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Stitcher](#), and [Spotify](#)). You can follow and subscribe to get the newest episode each month.

This summer and fall we'll produce coastal field videos and interviews that document environmental and social issues. Our goal is a set of low cost but effective videos that illustrate longstanding themes in our work. We recently purchased a high-quality video camera and related equipment. Coupled with our new video editing computer, we have full video production capability. All the videos will go on the Coast Range Association **YouTube** channel and social

media.

Andrew has the skills to accomplish difficult work but equipment and staff time costs money. Please consider a generous donation to help build our communications program. The truth must be told.



DONATE

We need your support

Since the Covid-19 pandemic hit we have seen our donations plummet. This is right as our work is more critical than ever. We are engaging multiple coalitions who need our unique messaging. We have made major breakthroughs calling our Oregon's financial forestry. We need your support now more than ever. Please consider a generous donation to the CRA.

Change IS Possible!

Today, the power structure is being challenged by millions of people in the streets demanding an end to brutal police violence. Every Friday, millions of students throughout the world remind leaders that a climate emergency is upon us and nothing less than fundamental change will avert disaster.

When I spoke in Newport in December, I gave an overview of the climate crisis and argued why a Green New Deal was necessary. **Then I went one step further.** I tried to illustrate the financial dimension required to make the GND real. What does it mean to spend \$1 trillion to \$1.5 trillion per year for ten years to transform US energy systems and is such additional spending even possible?

Although the audience seemed to kindly accept my spending facts, I don't think I made a convincing case by citing Roosevelt era programs and WWII spending. Then in mid-March the coronavirus pandemic hit. Large segments of the US economy were closed. At that moment, Congress did what I argued it could do. Republicans and Democrats passed a \$2 trillion+ relief package. No new taxes were involved. After decades of punishing austerity, suddenly \$2 Trillion dollars appeared out of nowhere. The actions needed to transform our energy systems are, as we now have seen, easily within reach of the federal government.

The Coronavirus and Rapid Change

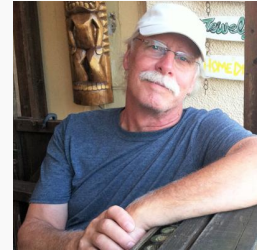
On March 8th Governor Kate Brown declared a State of Emergency to address the Coronavirus. Suddenly businesses and schools closed. Social distancing became the norm. **Think back to your conversations before that moment.** I know in the weeks prior to March 8th, my family was negotiating plans to attend my niece's April 9th wedding near San Antonio, TX. We discussed ways to travel that might be safe. We discussed changes in our shopping habits. In almost every instance, we underestimated what was about to unfold. Suddenly everything changed. My niece cancelled her wedding. The reality of the pandemic set in and we were in a new world.

I believe we are in a similar period regarding climate. Political leaders in Salem negotiate this or that climate half measure so as to not disrupt the current order. Half measures are proposed. Republicans run from capital. Hard choices are pushed forward in time.

There will come a moment when the reality we've all been warned about will undeniably arrive. Will we look back and wish we had acted earlier? Will it be too late? For thirty years, the Coast Range Association has spoken truth to power based on evidence and the best science. Thanks to your continued support, we continue our mission and overcome today's headwinds. Do we have a choice? I don't believe so—we owe it to our children and their children to build a safe and sustainable world.

Our voice will be heard and the change that's required will occur.

A better world IS possible!



Chuck Willer
Director

PS. Almost alone among Oregon conservation groups, the CRA views forests through a social justice lens. That's why we are challenging Wall Street forestry. A donation today will help amplify our much needed message.

Coast Range Association
costrange.org
PO Box 2250 Corvallis, OR 97339

Board of Directors
Yoko Silk: President
Tom Petrusich: Vice President
Joan Stephens: Secretary/Treasurer
Alex Lackey
David Radtke
Michael Gaskill

Staff
Chuck Willer: Director
Andrew Collins-Anderson: Communications

DONATE

