

# Wilderness Craziness

*Can We Really Afford More Wilderness?*

Current State of Maryland  
MEASURE  
EXHIBIT: 1  
2012 SPECIAL SESSION H AG & NAT RES.  
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# Rogue Wilderness Expansion Act

- Representative DeFazio has introduced a bill in Congress to withdraw almost **1/4 of all O&C lands** in Josephine County (HR 3436)
- Senators Merkley and Wyden are co-sponsoring the Senate version of this bill (S 2001)
- This bill would permanently remove these lands from the jurisdiction of the O&C Lands Act, and condemn all resources on them to be forever **off limits to economic utilization**

# Why Do We Care?

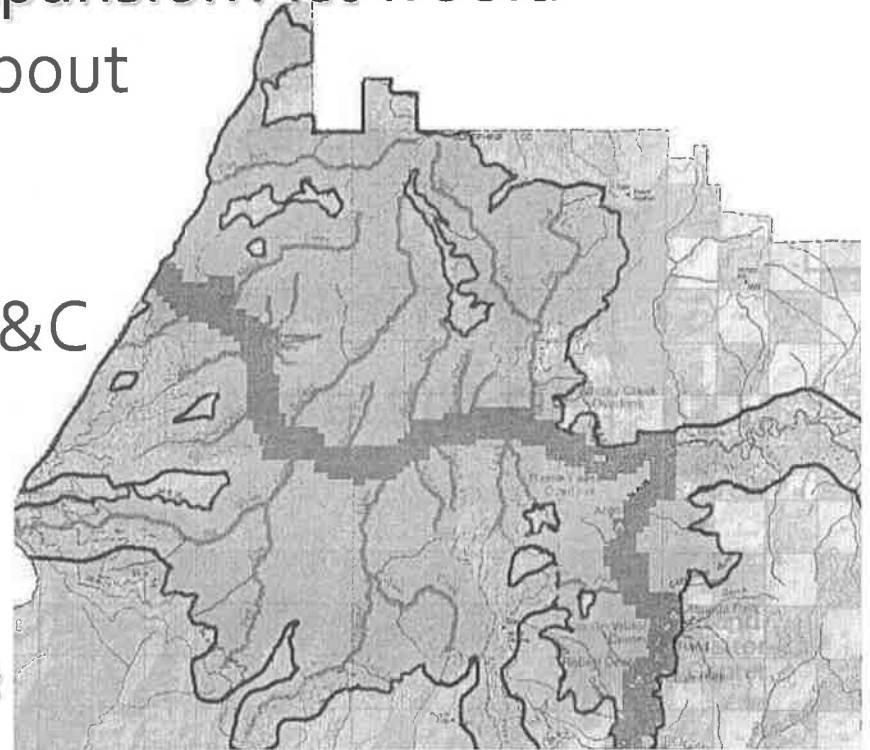
- Josephine County is in dire economic straits
  - Chronic high unemployment leads to high poverty rates
  - Loss of federal subsidy decimates public safety funding
- Wilderness expansion means permanent loss of valuable economic resources
  - Losing 25% of our O&C lands will curtail future potential of restoring historic base of county revenue and jobs
- Our county cannot be self-sufficient without economic utilization of this land

# HR 3436 / S 2001

- The Rogue Wilderness Area Expansion Act<sup>1</sup> permanently withdraws about 77,000 acres of O&C lands from economic utilization -- 64,000 from Josephine County
  - Section 1. Expansion of Wild Rogue Wilderness Area withdraws 58,100 acres of contiguous O&C lands
    - Over 50,000 acres from Josephine County
  - Section 2. Wild and Scenic River Designations withdraws lands within ¼ mile on each side of 93.2 miles of creeks
    - 2,500-3,000 additional acres in Josephine County
  - Section 3. Additional Protections for Rogue River Tributaries withdraws lands within ¼ mile of 47.8 miles of creeks
    - 11,300 additional acres in Josephine County

# Withdrawal of O&C Lands

- Josephine County has 259,559 acres of O&C lands
- Rogue Wilderness Area Expansion Act would permanently shut down about 64,000 acres of them
- That's almost 25% of all O&C lands in Josephine County
- O&C lands are the lands we can least afford to lose





# Significance of O&C Lands

- Over 70% of Josephine County is federally owned
  - County receives no tax revenues on federal land
- In O&C Lands Act of 1937, Congress dedicated a portion of that land to permanent sustained-yield timber production for the benefit of the county
  - 50% of O&C timber revenues go to county general fund
  - O&C timber revenues have historically funded our Sheriff's Department and most other county services
  - O&C land provides jobs in logging, mills, trucking, lumber

# Historic Josephine County Economy

- Timber industry has been only real economic base in Josephine County
  - O&C revenues provided 100% of county services 1970-1981
  - Timber industry *directly* paid 26% of all wages in county<sup>2</sup>
  - Every 1 MMBF of timber harvest creates 22 direct and indirect jobs<sup>3</sup>
- Josephine County has abundant natural resources
- If access to our natural resources is withdrawn, our local economy is unsustainable
  - Many economic alternatives have been proposed
  - None have been successful in restoring our economy

# Current Josephine County Economy

- 14.4% unemployment in 2011<sup>4</sup> (16.2% in 2010)
- 19% of county residents below the poverty level<sup>5</sup>
- 28.6% of county receiving food stamps<sup>6</sup>
- 40.7% of households with children receiving public assistance<sup>7</sup>
- 7.1% home foreclosure rate<sup>8</sup>
- 127 businesses closed from 2008-2010<sup>9</sup> (2011 data not available)
- Potential loss of 75% of Sheriff's Department when *Secure Rural Schools* funding runs out



# Josephine County Employment

- Peak total jobs in Josephine County in 2011: 22,980

- Top five employment sectors:<sup>10</sup>

1.	Healthcare	4,130	18.0%
2.	Government	3,920	17.1%
3.	Retail	3,510	15.3%
4.	Leisure & hospitality	2,600	11.3%
5.	Manufacturing	2,260	9.8%

- Only 10% of current jobs bring new wealth into county
- 90% are service jobs that recirculate existing wealth
- This is not a sustainable economic model

# Will Wilderness Increase Tourism?

- Wilderness expansion will have no impact on river recreation
  - Strict quota on number of permits issued each year for rafting Wild & Scenic section of river
  - Every acre of land visible from river is already protected under current Wild & Scenic designation
- Most tourists who use area for hiking, camping, hunting, etc. require roads for access
  - Shutting down roads will **decrease access**
- The net effect will be **less tourism, not more**

# Wilderness Tradeoffs

## PRO

- Preserve solitude for elite few who are able to hike many miles with no roads or trails, scaling steep slopes, carrying all supplies on their backs

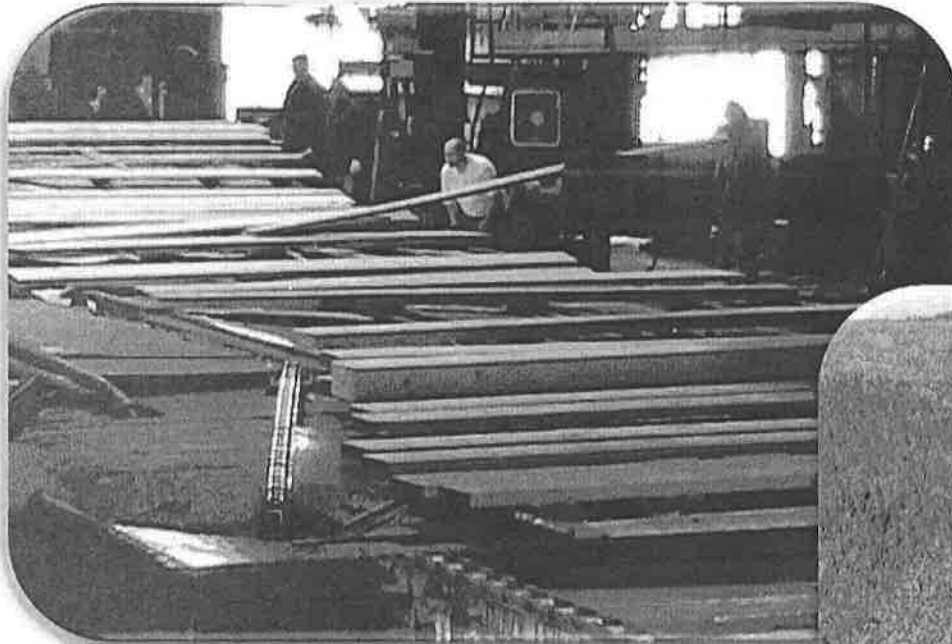
## CON

- Sequester the land from people who require road access for hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, off-roading, photography, and other common recreational pursuits
- Condemn natural resources that provide economic sustenance for our county and jobs for our citizens

# Our Investment in Wilderness

- 26.7% of all land in U.S. is federally owned
- 70.9% of all land in Josephine County is federally owned
- 4.9% of all land in U.S. managed as wilderness
- 7.0% of Josephine County managed as wilderness
- HR 3436 would increase that to 12.8%
- We've *already* contributed more than our share

# Return on Investment



\$12 million average annual county revenue from O&C lands (before NWFP)

\$0 county revenue from wilderness



- Can we really afford to invest in *more* Wilderness?

# Wilderness Defined

"A wilderness ... is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are **untrammeled by man**, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.

An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land **retaining its primeval character and influence**, without permanent improvements or human habitation, ... and which generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the **imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable ...**"

-- Wilderness Act of 1964, Section 2(c)



# Is This “Primeval in Character” and “Untrammeled by Man”?

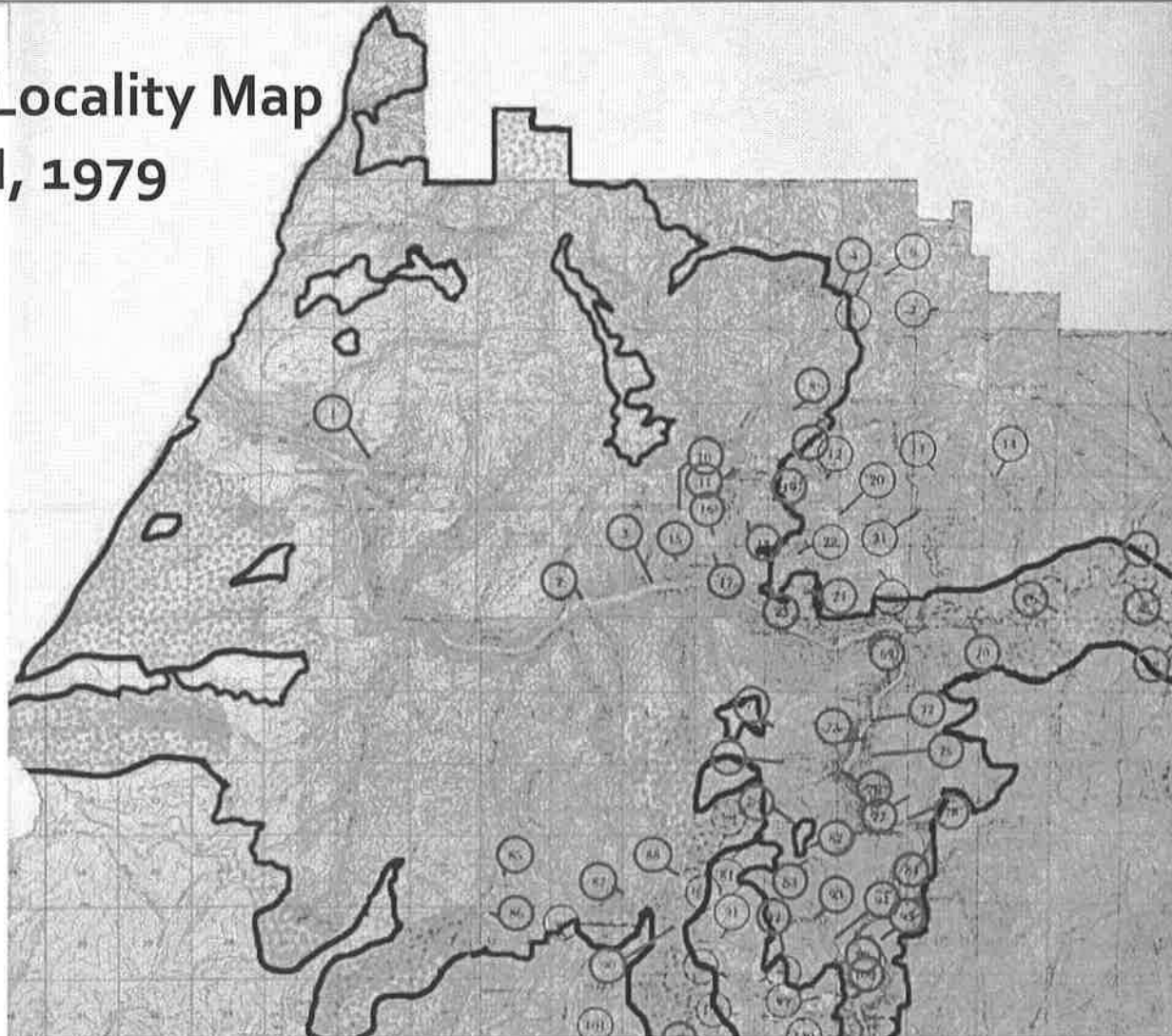
- Almost all is 2nd and 3rd growth timber
  - Various stages of regeneration from past clear cuts
- Expansion area encompasses two mining districts
  - 1979 Mineral Locality map shows over 40 active mines
  - Not including claims filed in last 32 years
- Expansion area contains logging and mining roads
- Expansion area contains buried fiber optic cable
  - How will that be maintained with no road access or mechanized equipment?

# *Is This Untrammelled by Man?*

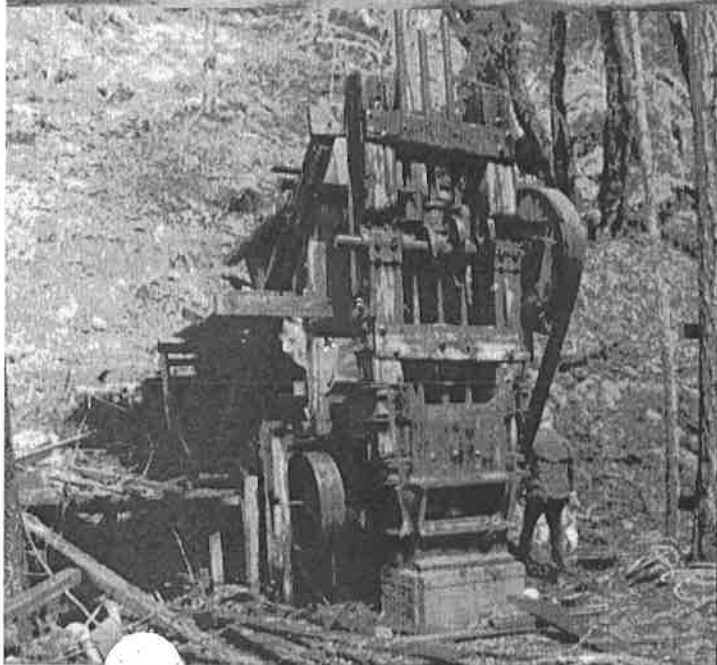


# Has *This* Land Retained its Primeval Character and Influence?

Mineral Locality Map  
DOGAMI, 1979



# Is the Imprint of Man's Work here Unnoticeable?

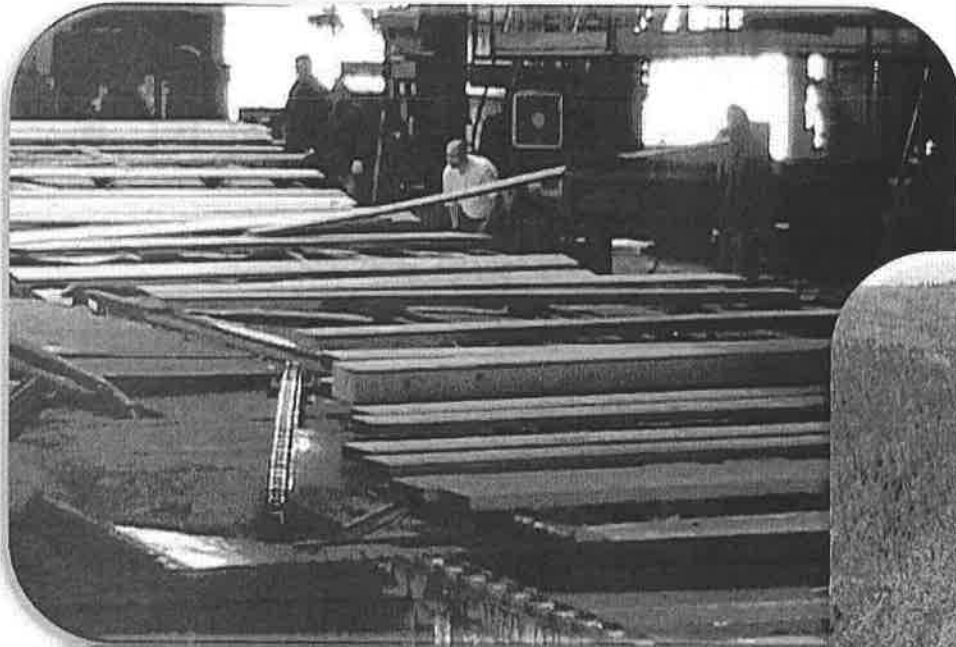




# BLM Says This is Not Wilderness

- In 2007, BLM listed all O&C lands that meet federal criteria for both Wilderness and Wild & Scenic designations
- Only **5667 acres** in expansion area meet federal criteria for Wilderness designation, according to BLM<sup>11</sup>
  - **Rogue Wilderness Expansion Act** designates **over 52,000 acres** as Wilderness **that don't meet federal criteria**
- BLM deemed **5083 acres (16 miles of creeks)** in expansion area "suitable" for Wild & Scenic designation, but **none were eligible** according to federal criteria<sup>12</sup>
  - **Rogue Wilderness Expansion Act** designates **over 92 miles** of creeks as Wild & Scenic **that don't meet federal criteria**

# You Decide



Use it



Or lose it

- Can we really afford **more Wilderness?**



**Thank you**

# Reference List

- <sup>1</sup> HR 3436 Rogue Wilderness Area Expansion Act of 2011  
<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=h112-3436>
- <sup>2</sup> Oregon Employment Dept (1970's statistics acquired from Timber Data Company, Eugene, OR)
- <sup>3</sup> Mason, Bruce and Girard Study, included in WOPR Final EIS
- <sup>4</sup> Rogue Valley Labor Trends <http://www.qualityinfo.org/pubs/lt/03-11/0311-rv.pdf>
- <sup>5</sup> 2010 US Census Data  
[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_10\\_3YR\\_S1701&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_10_3YR_S1701&prodType=table)
- <sup>6</sup> The Oregonian, *In rural Oregon, middle-class life is slipping away*  
[http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2011/12/in\\_rural\\_oregon\\_middle-class\\_1.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2011/12/in_rural_oregon_middle-class_1.html)
- <sup>7</sup> 2010 US Census Data  
[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_10\\_1YR\\_B09010&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_10_1YR_B09010&prodType=table)
- <sup>8</sup> The Oregonian, *Oregon Foreclosure Rate Leaps 20 Percent*  
[http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2010/07/oregon\\_foreclosure\\_rate\\_falls\\_2.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2010/07/oregon_foreclosure_rate_falls_2.html)
- <sup>9</sup> Oregon Employment Dept, staff analyst Ainoura Oussenbec (Medford Office)
- <sup>10</sup> WorkSource Oregon  
<http://www.qualityinfo.org/olmisj/CES?areacode=04000033&adjusted=0&action=annual&startyear=2011>
- <sup>11</sup> BLM, Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Western Oregon Plan Revision, 2008  
Vol I, Table 3-73
- <sup>12</sup> BLM, Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Western Oregon Plan Revision, 2008  
Vol I, Table 2-34, Table 2-35, Table 3-76

# Backup Slides

# O&C Lands are Timber Lands

- O&C Lands Act of 1937 mandates permanent sustained-yield timber harvests for benefit of O&C counties
  - Being both prior and more specific, O&C Act has legal precedence over NWFP
- According to ESA, Section 4(a)(2), lands can be excluded from critical habitat based on economic impact
  - NWFP is based on ESA
- O&C lands should be excluded from critical habitat and exempt from NWFP based on economic impact
  - They should be managed according to O&C Lands Act of 1937

# Economic Impact of NWFP

- 71.6 MMBF/year average harvest from O&C lands in Josephine County in 1970s
- Only 5.2 MMBF/year average harvest from O&C lands in Josephine County since NWFP
- Josephine County is on the brink of insolvency
- With *Secure Rural Schools* funding going away, we have both legal and economic justification to demand O&C exemption from NWFP, and compliance with O&C Lands Act of 1937

# ESA - Exclusion from Critical Habitat

The Secretary shall designate critical habitat ... on the basis of the best scientific data available and after taking into consideration the economic impact, the impact on national security, and any other relevant impact, of specifying any particular area as critical habitat.

The Secretary may exclude any area from critical habitat if he determines that the benefits of such exclusion outweigh the benefits of specifying such area as part of the critical habitat ...

Endangered Species Act of 1973, Section 4(a)(2)



# Use of Wilderness Areas

## PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN USES

(T)here shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this Act and ... there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area.

-- Wilderness Act of 1964, Section 4(a)(3)(c)

# Additional Withdrawals in Rogue Wilderness Expansion Act

WITHDRAWAL. - Subject to valid rights, the Federal land designated \_\_\_\_ by this section is withdrawn from all forms of -

- 1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;
- 2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
- 3) disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

-- Rogue Wilderness Area Expansion Act (HR 3436 / S 2001)  
Sections 1, 2, & 3

# Federal Land Burden

- **26.7%** of all land in U.S. is federally owned
  - 2.3 billion acres total land in U.S.
  - 615,060,009 acres owned by federal agencies<sup>2</sup>

■ BLM	253,366,500	■ Fish & Wildlife	90,825,335
■ USFS	192,791,156	■ National Parks	78,127,018

- **70.9%** of all land in Josephine County is federally owned
  - 1,000,038 acres total land in Josephine County
  - 709,426 acres owned by federal agencies
    - BLM 308,179 (includes 259,559 acres of O&C lands)
    - USFS 400,759
    - National Parks 488

# Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Breakdown

- **4.9%** of all land in U.S. managed as wilderness
  - 109,663,992 acres designated Wilderness areas
  - 4,031,360 acres designated Wild & Scenic River areas<sup>3</sup>
- **7.0%** of Josephine County managed as wilderness
  - 46,776 acres currently designated Wilderness areas
  - 23,455 acres currently designated Wild & Scenic River areas
- HR 3436 would increase our contribution to **12.8%**