



F^OREST NEWS

The Newsletter of Forest Service Employees For Environmental Ethics

Summer 2017

Fighting to Survive

*The Endangered
Species Act is under
attack. Will the
law that seeks to
prevent species
extinction survive?*

Inside

A Tropical National Forest / Salmon in Peril / Wilderness Overrun / FSEEE's 2016 Annual Report

Threatened, Endangered, Extinct

This spring, a user named “Sudan” created a profile on a popular online dating site. Like the site’s other users, Sudan was looking for a companion. Unlike the other users, Sudan was a five-thousand pound northern white rhinoceros. The profile was a stunt to raise awareness about the plight of the species—Sudan is the only male white rhino left in existence. The funds raised through the awareness campaign will be used in an attempt to save the species through in vitro fertilization. But efforts to bring the white rhino back from the brink may be futile.

Today’s extinction rates are hard to pin down. Estimates range from one thousand to ten thousand times the background extinction rate, or the rate at which species are expected to go extinct naturally. What we do know is that humans are contributing to the alarming increase in species extinction.

In response to the worldwide loss of biodiversity, the United States implemented the Endangered Species Act. In the nearly fifty years since the act’s passage, it has become one of the pillars of environmental law. It has been the force that has prevented numerous plant and animal species from disappearing through the restoration and protection of millions of acres of critical habitat.

But it has not been without its detractors. Opponents have long argued that the ESA is government overreach at its worst, telling landowners what they can and can’t do with their property and hamstringing the economic vitality of natural resource industries.

Critics have worked for decades to diminish the power, scope and effectiveness of the law. With a conservative majority now in charge of both the legislative and executive branches of the federal government, efforts are underway to dismantle the law completely. And the ESA’s outcome may portend the fate of our other environmental laws as well.

More than 2,000 species are currently protected by the Endangered Species Act. If the act doesn’t survive, those species may be doomed, too.

Sincerely,


Andy Stahl
Executive Director

Inside

3 | Featured Forest

The only tropical national forest offers a diversity of plant and animal life in paradise.

4 | In Depth

As the Endangered Species Act nears its 50th year, forces in Congress and the administration are seeking to dismantle this pillar of environmental protection. Is the law itself heading toward extinction?

6 | Briefly

A land agency considers moving out of Washington, D.C.; U.S. Senate saves methane rule; mining under wilderness halted.

7 | Dispatch

California’s salmon find themselves in hot water; Forest Service implementing visitation limits at popular recreation sites; shake up in the country’s largest forest restoration initiative.

10 | 2015 Annual Report

A review of FSEEE’s activities and finances.

12 | Tidbits

Action Alert: National monuments on the chopping block. New at FSEEE: An updated website and logo give FSEEE a fresh look.



Featured Forest

El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico's Luquillo Mountains, in El Yunque National Forest, rise abruptly from the blue Caribbean, interrupting the ever-blowing trade winds and wringing out an astounding quantity of rain. El Yunque is the only tropical national forest and the wettest. Some 200 inches of rain falls each year. The temperatures are dependably in the 70s. The growing season never ends.

At 28,000 acres El Yunque is also one of the smallest national forests, but it harbors an abundance of botanical diversity. There are 240 species of trees; 23 of them grow only here. Epiphytes hang everywhere. A combination of rain and acidic soils support a unique "dwarf forest" 3,000 feet above the sea.

There are no large animals—no jaguars or pumas or tapirs that are star attractions on the Central American mainland. But there's plenty of animal life to be found. Lizards stalk the forest floor and the treetops. Bats dart through the sodden night air, accompanied by the signature call of coquí frogs.

More than 50 species of birds can be found, including, for a fortunate few, the endemic Puerto Rican parrot, considered one of the 10 rarest birds in the world. The island's parrot population numbered in the hundreds of thousands when Columbus made landfall. By the mid-1970s only about a dozen parrots remained, their numbers ravaged by deforestation and other human factors. Conservation efforts have brought those numbers up to perhaps a few dozen today.

Spain's King Alfonso XII set the area aside in 1876, making El Yunque one of the first preserves created in the Western Hemisphere. But its human history is far older, as attested by petroglyphs etched in streamside boulders by Taíno people, depicting shamans and gods, the sun, birds, snails, turtles and frogs. **FN**



© All Photos: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Going, going, gone

By Matt Rasmussen, FSEEE Policy Analyst and Forest News Editor

Photos above (top to bottom, left to right):

Ocelot, Endangered

Morro Bay Kangaroo rat, Endangered

California tiger salamander, Endangered

Attwater's prairie chicken, Endangered

Yreka phlox: Endangered

Rio Grande cutthroat, Candidate for Listing

Southern sea otter, Threatened

Lake Erie watersnake, Recovered

Checkerspot butterfly, Endangered

In the waning days of 1973, Richard Nixon signed into law the Endangered Species Act. It was anything but a controversial step for the embattled president, who a few months later would resign his office. Earlier that year, the ESA had passed the Senate unanimously; the tally in the House of Representatives was 390 to 12.

From a conservation standpoint, the ESA has been a resounding success. Its critics like to point out that only a small fraction of the more than 1,650 species in the U.S. that have been listed under the ESA have recovered to the point where those protections are no longer necessary—the number stands at 37. But that's disingenuous.

When a species is listed under the ESA, it is because scientists have determined it is in imminent risk of going extinct (endangered) or likely to reach that point in the near future (threatened). A much more useful measure of the act's success is the number of species that have not gone extinct. Only 10 of those species have blinked out over the past 44 years, meaning many hundreds of species still roam, fly, swim and grow on our planet today in large part because of protections afforded by the ESA.

The bipartisan support that marked the ESA's birth has, of course, vanished. The Republican Party that now controls the executive and legislative branches of the federal government has morphed from one that counted "conservation" as a natural component of being "conservative," to one that is hostile to environmental regulations in general.

According to the Center for Biological Diversity's count, no fewer than 28 bills that would weaken the ESA are under consideration in the current Congress. Since Republicans took

control of the House of Representatives in 2011, the group says, more than 230 pieces of legislation have been introduced that would weaken the ESA.

Of all the landmark environmental-protection measures enacted in the 1960s and the 1970s—legislation that includes the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Wilderness Act—the Endangered Species Act seems most vulnerable. Its opponents have succeeded in tying the ESA to the states' rights movement. And they have managed to cast the debate as one pitting the fate of obscure creatures that virtually no one will ever see versus jobs.

Lost in that debate is the fact that the act is about much more than snail darters and spotted owls. It is about the ecological health of entire ecosystems. The language is right there in the opening paragraphs of the act—that the act is designed “to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved.”

If Republicans succeed in revising or even rescinding the ESA, the gates will be open for a wide variety of industrial development in places where such activities are off-limits today.

The Endangered Species Act protects some of the most iconic animals found in the U.S.—California condors and gray wolves and Chinook salmon and polar bears—but most of the species protected under the act are not household names. The act protects the Lost River sucker and the Topeka shiner. More than half of the protected species are plants, including the narrow pigtoe and the Nipomo Mesa lupine. Only about 4 percent of the protected species, a total of 96, are mammals. The act protects insects and spiders, snails and reptiles, crustaceans and clams.

Even before the current efforts to undermine the law were launched, the ESA faced challenges. The Fish and Wildlife Service, the primary agency responsible for administering the ESA (the other is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) suffers chronic budget shortfalls.

Of the 1,653 U.S. species currently listed under the act, nearly 30 percent lack recovery plans, which the act requires. The federal government spends more than \$1 billion each year to protect endangered and threatened species, but the majority of those funds go toward helping a handful of the listed animals.

In 2014, the last year for which figures are available, 20 species of mammals, birds and fish accounted for nearly half of all ESA-related expenditures. One in four of the listed species received less than \$10,000 in funding that year.

Budget shortfalls have also prevented the Fish and Wildlife Service from considering petitions to list new species under the ESA in a timely fashion. Over the years, the agency has issued a series of “warranted, but precluded” findings on the status of species. In other words, federal scientists believe a particular species is sufficiently imperiled to warrant ESA protection, but the government lacks the resources to move forward with a listing.

Recent court settlements have reduced the number of “candidate species” to just 30. A 2011 agreement between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Center for Biological Diversity required the agency to make decisions about whether to list 251 species for ESA protection. By the end of the 2016 fiscal year, the agency had granted 176 of those species protection under the act.

“Nothing is more priceless and more worthy of preservation than the rich array of animal life with which our country has been blessed...it forms a vital part of the heritage we all share as Americans...a heritage which we hold in trust to countless future generations of our fellow citizens. Their lives will be richer, and America will be more beautiful in the years ahead...”

-President Richard Nixon's remarks at the signing of the Endangered Species Act

The ESA allows private citizens and advocacy groups to petition species for listing under the act. The law calls for federal officials to make a determination on petitions within one year. In practice, however, determinations have taken, on average, more than 12 years, according to a study published last year in the journal *Biological Conservation*.

Currently, the Fish and Wildlife Service faces a backlog of more than 500 petitions.

Despite its long history of lawsuits and controversies—and in no small part because of them—the ESA has produced tangible successes. Species including bald eagles, black-footed ferrets, gray wolves and Steller sea lions have all benefited from protections afforded by the act. So have many other species that use habitat occupied by endangered and threatened species.

But the act seems more imperiled now than at any time since Nixon's pen stroke. Previous attempts to weaken the act at least paid lip service to conservation goals. These days, no such discretion is required. In December, Utah Republican Rob Bishop, the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, proved the point during a House hearing. “I would be happy to invalidate the Endangered Species Act,” he said.

So far, no such proposal has made it to Donald Trump's desk. But a bevy of bills that would devastate the ESA have been introduced in both chambers of Congress.

Among them is the “Endangered Species Management Self-Determination Act.” The measure would require congressional approval every five years for a species to remain listed under the act. It would also allow states to take over management of species that are only found within their boundaries. Since many threatened and endangered species are endemic to a specific area, that would include the majority of listed species in the U.S.—as many as 1,100.

The proposed legislation would thus eviscerate a central tenet of the ESA—if states fail to protect rare plants and animals, the federal government will step in. The legislation would also end the ability of regular citizens to file petitions seeking ESA protections for species.

The bill's sponsors say the legislation puts responsibility for managing wildlife where it belongs—at state and local levels. “We can better protect endangered species by empowering state leaders to implement a strategy more tailored to their specific

circumstances,” said Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul. “Instead of continuing Washington’s ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach to regulation, this bill puts local needs first and guards against bureaucratic overreach.”

Other legislative challenges include the Litigation Relief for Forest Management Projects Act, which would remove the requirement that land management agencies consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service when new species are listed under the ESA or when critical habitat is designated for listed species.

Still other bills would remove the requirement that the “best available science” be used when considering listing species and would remove requirements for ESA reviews of oil and gas projects.

Taken together, these efforts to undermine the ESA represent an assault on one of the strongest environmental laws ever enacted—anywhere. And they represent a stark departure from the clear-eyed acknowledgement that human activity threatens other living things, voiced more than four decades ago by those who supported the act.

“Only natural extinction is part of natural order,” said John Dingell, a Michigan Democrat who coauthored the bill. The act itself acknowledges that various species “have been rendered extinct as a consequence of economic growth and development untempered by adequate concern and conservation,” and that other species “have been so depleted in numbers that they are in danger of or threatened with extinction.”

And, in those first passages, the bill’s authors articulate the reasons why saving imperiled plants and animals is a worthy endeavor, writing that “these species of fish, wildlife, and plants are of esthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value to the Nation and its people.”

In 1973, those principles were beyond partisanship. Not anymore. In 2017, the question of whether we should try to save species teetering on the brink of extinction is very much open to debate. **FN**

Back from the Brink: ESA Success Stories

While only two percent of species listed under the ESA have officially recovered, many species have seen their populations rebound and are trending toward delisting. Here are three species saved by the ESA.

American Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)

The widespread use of the pesticide DDT resulted in dramatic declines in raptor populations. By 1975, only 325 nesting peregrine pairs were believed to remain. Thanks to ESA listing and aggressive recovery measures, the peregrine falcon was delisted in 1999.



Louisiana black bear (*Ursus americanus luteolus*)

This black bear subspecies was listed in 1992 due to population declines from habitat loss. 600,000 acres of forestland were restored across the bear’s range from east Texas through Louisiana and Mississippi resulting in removal from the endangered species list in 2016.



Oregon Chub (*Oregonichthys crameri*)

This small fish was pushed to the brink of extinction by habitat loss and competition from nonnative species. At one point, the population numbered less than 1,000 individuals. The chub was delisted in 2015. It is the first fish to be removed from the endangered species list.



Photo Credit, top to bottom: © U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; © U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; © U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Courtesy of Rick Swart - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Go West, BLM?

Two Republican lawmakers from Colorado have introduced legislation that calls for moving the Bureau of Land Management's headquarters from the nation's capital to a western state.

Sen. Cory Gardner and Rep. Scott Tipton introduced the legislation earlier this month. It calls for moving the BLM headquarters from Washington, D.C., to one of 12 western states—Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington or Wyoming.

"It is critical that land management decisions impacting the West are made by the people who know the land best," Tipton said in a press release. "Moving the BLM's headquarters to a western state would help ensure that federal agencies have a full understanding of the ways their decisions impact our families and communities."

Gardner, who has spoken in support of moving the headquarters to Grand Junction, Colo., asked Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke about a possible move during his confirmation hearings earlier this year. Zinke made no commitment on the matter.

The BLM manages more than 237 million acres of public lands. All but about 15,000 of those acres are in the western U.S.



Senate Upholds Climate Change Rule

A rule designed to limit the amount of methane released from drilling for oil and natural gas on public land will remain in place—at least for now. The Senate voted 51-49 in May against rescinding the rule, one of many the Obama administration promulgated to fight climate change.

A "no" vote from Arizona Republican John McCain came as a surprise to congressional observers. "While I am concerned that the BLM rule may be onerous, passage of the resolution would have prevented the federal government, under any administration, from issuing a rule that is 'similar,' according to the plain reading of the Congressional Review Act," McCain said in a statement.

McCain and other Republican lawmakers, as well as Trump administration officials, vowed to work to revise the rule or pursue other means of rescinding it altogether.

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas that accelerates the pace of climate change. The Obama rule requires oil and gas companies to capture methane, rather than "flaring" it at drilling sites. According to the Environmental Defense Fund, nearly 10 million metric tons of methane are emitted from wellheads and from natural gas supply chains in the U.S. every year.



Emphatic Ruling Against Montana Mine

Question: How many laws can the federal government violate by giving the green light to a copper and silver mine in a wild corner of Montana?

Answer: At least five.

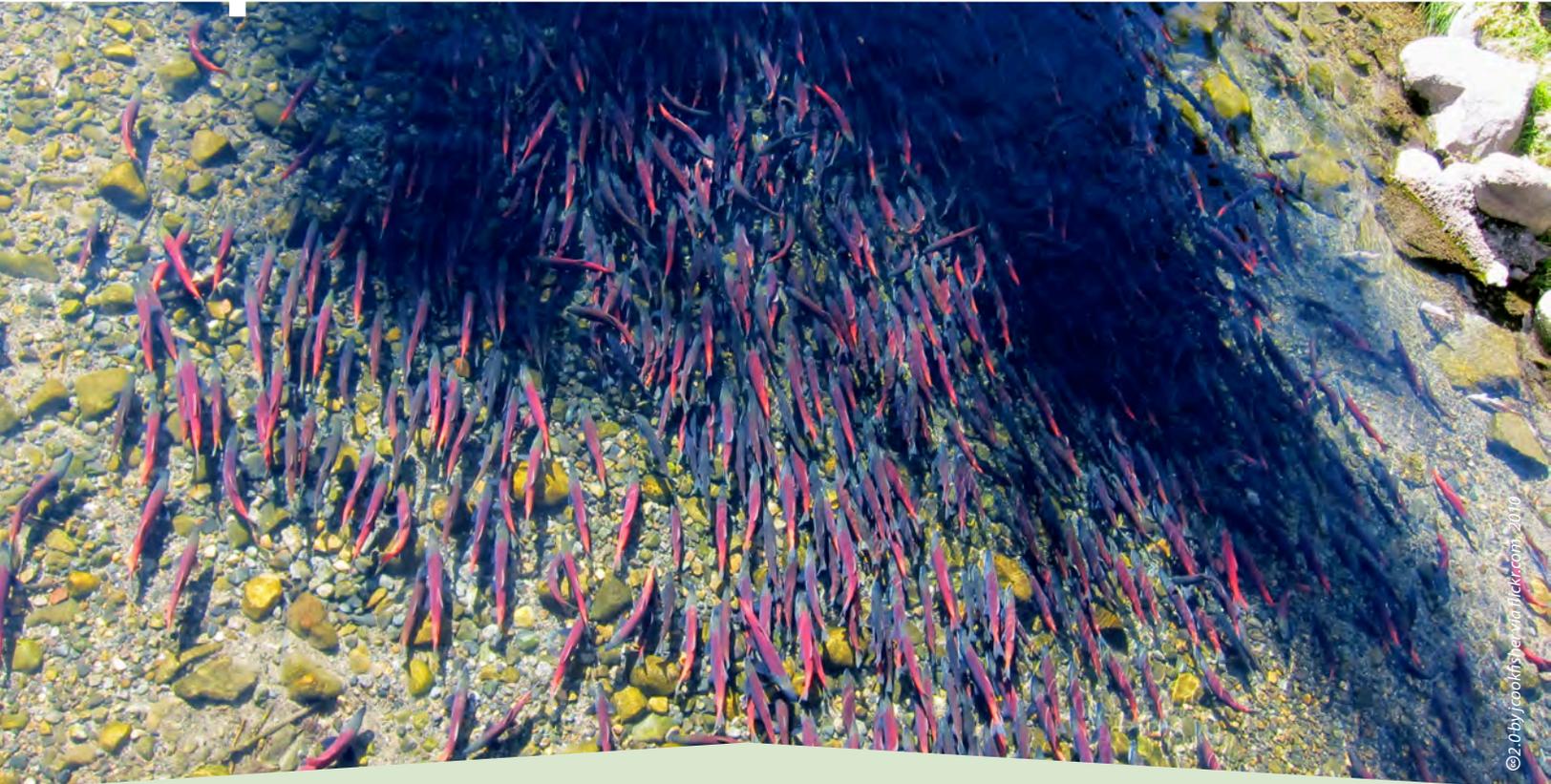
In late May, U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy took the Forest Service to task for approving the proposed Montanore mine on the Kootenai National Forest in northwest Montana. Molloy determined that the agency ran afoul of the Clean Water Act, the National Forest Management Act, the Organic Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. In a separate ruling, the judge found that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service violated the Endangered Species Act by failing to consider threats the mine would pose to grizzly bears and bull trout.

In their lawsuits, conservationists contended the mine would drain water from pure mountain streams and would harm the trout and the bears, which are both protected by the Endangered Species Act.

The mine, proposed by the Idaho-based Hecla Mining company, would be located adjacent to the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area. The company wants to drill at an angle to access ore located beneath the wilderness area. Hecla vowed to continue its efforts to open the mine.



Photo Credit, top to bottom: © 3.0 by Varodrig via Wikimedia Commons, 2012, cropped photo; © U.S. BLM, 2003; © 2.0 by Troy Smith via flickr.com, 2010



Trouble for California Salmonids

Salmon, trout and steelhead in California face a grim future if present trends continue, according to a study released this spring, and climate change is the primary culprit.

The report, titled “Fish in Hot Water,” estimates that 45 percent of the state’s salmonid populations will disappear over the next 50 years unless steps are taken to help the fish. Nearly three-quarters will be gone in the next hundred years if current trends continue.

The analysis, from California Trout and the University of California, Davis, considered prospects for 32 populations of salmon, trout and steelhead in the state. The findings have implications beyond the fate of those fish.

“Their health and their resilience indicates healthy waters, which is important

for all Californians’ drinking water, agriculture, commerce, and the health of the people and the environment in which we live,” said Curtis Knight, California Trout’s executive director. “The decline of the fish indicates the decline of all of our water. That’s important to all Californians.”

Salmon, trout and steelhead need cold water to survive. As the climate warms, fewer rivers and streams will be cool enough for the fish.

A warming climate also is expected to reduce the upwelling action of the California Current. That upwelling brings a bounty of nutrients from the ocean depths to the surface—nutrients that are critical for ocean-going salmon and steelhead.

Rising sea levels will also harm the fish, according to the report, as saltwater inundates estuaries and lagoons that provide key habitat for juveniles.

Other threats include agricultural activities that require large quantities of water and thus reduce streamflows, and competition from nonnative species such as brown and brook trout.

One native species has already been extirpated from California. The last bull trout in the state was documented in 1975.

The report lays out a number of steps

that can be taken to help the fish survive in the state. Those include safeguarding the most productive habitat, including the Smith and Eel river systems.

Restoring meadows high in the Sierra Nevada would result in a slower release of water during California’s increasingly hot summers and would help counter the effect of reduced snowpacks.

Taking steps to mimic natural habitats and processes can also help fish species, the report says. That could include letting some farmland flood when not in use, providing habitat for juvenile fish.

“This report should rightly be considered an alarm bell, but it should also be seen as a roadmap for how we can correct course to better support native aquatic species,” said Peter Moyle, associate director of the Center for Watershed Science at UC Davis and the report’s lead author. “Thanks to ongoing scientific research, we now know what to do—and where—to improve the plight of native fish.”

The study serves as an update to a similar report issued in 2008. Since that time, more than four out of five populations of salmon, steelhead and trout in California have declined, according to the most recent report. **FN**

CAMPING RESTRICTIONS CONSIDERED FOR COLORADO WILDERNESS

Forest Service officials in Colorado are laying plans to limit camping in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness Area, which holds some of the most iconic mountain scenery in the nation.

The number of visits to the most popular destinations in the wilderness area nearly tripled from 2006 to 2015, according to Forest Service statistics, creating a host of environmental concerns.

Some of the overnight visitors are camping in illegal sites, cutting down trees for firewood and leaving behind piles of trash and unburied human waste.

In April, Aspen-Sopris District Ranger Karen Schroyer and other officials with the White River National Forest described the problems to the Pitkin County Board of Commissioners.

"In 2015, there were 327 illegal campfire rings cleaned up and 346 violations for illegal campfires," Schroyer said. "In 2016, there were 293 instances of unburied human waste. And each year there is more and more gear left behind."

The restrictions would apply to five of the most-visited locations in the 181,000-acre wilderness area, starting with Conundrum Hot Springs, which bubbles near timberline 8.5 miles up a trail outside of Aspen.

The area surrounding the springs includes 18 designated campsites. But on busy weekends as many as 300 people

camp in the area. The Forest Service wants to limit camping there to a maximum of 20 parties per night. Group sizes average about 2.3 people, Schroyer said.

Other areas that are being considered for camping restrictions include Crater Lake, Snowmass Lake, Capitol Lake and West Maroon Valley. None of the camping restrictions would go into effect until 2018, according to the Forest Service.

GOOD EARTH POWER SUED AGAIN

The company that holds the largest forest restoration contract ever issued by the Forest Service is being sued by two former executives who claim they are due more than \$4 million in unpaid salary and damages.

Good Earth Power AZ is tasked with thinning 300,000 acres of forests in northern Arizona as part of the Four Forest Restoration Initiative, or 4FRI. That plan calls for thinning an overall total of 2.4 million acres that the Forest Service says have grown unnaturally dense after decades of wildfire suppression and overgrazing.

In a lawsuit filed in federal court in May, Martin Gillard, Good Earth's former chief operating officer, and Darren Gurner, the company's former managing director, charge Good Earth and its owners with breach of contract. They both allege they were fired last winter without cause.

The lawsuit is the latest blow to a project that has been beset by delays and broken promises.

Nearly five years after the contract was issued, only about 8,000 acres have been thinned. Good Earth has struggled to find ways to turn a profit from the small-diameter trees and brush it is obligated to clear.

Last December, the company agreed to pay a former partner more than \$1.2 million to settle a separate lawsuit alleging fraud and breach of contract. Good Earth had hired Oregon-based Campbell Global to coordinate much of the on-the-ground restoration work that the 4FRI contract requires.

Gurner and Gillard's lawsuit names Good Earth and its owners as defendants. That includes the company's chief executive, Jason Rosamond, and his wife, Maya Minkova, who is the company's vice president.

It also names as a defendant Alawi Zawawi, who is an associate of Rosamond's and a citizen of the Sultanate of Oman. The

lawsuit identifies Zawawi as an owner of Good Earth and one of the company's "top executives." Zawawi is also chairman of the Zawawi Group, which describes itself as "the Omani family conglomerate."

The complaint identifies four companies as Good Earth's "parent holding companies." All of those companies were registered in the British Virgin Islands, a small territory in the Caribbean that is considered one of the world's foremost corporate tax havens. According to the lawsuit, all four of those firms lost their registration in the British Virgin Islands last May for "non-payment of registration fees."

From November 2013 until his termination, the lawsuit says, Gurner was entitled to receive \$1.1 million in compensation, plus additional amounts for bonuses and incentives. He actually received less than \$200,000, the document says.

The lawsuit accuses Good Earth of shorting Gillard by more than \$600,000. Arizona law provides for tripling the amount paid by employers for back pay.

The court document says Gillard and Gurner were "further frustrated" because Good Earth "received multiple significant infusions of millions of dollars in capital from various investors" over the past three years. It does not identify those investors.

Last year, according to the lawsuit, the U.S. Department of Labor impounded timber cut by Good Earth because it failed to pay wages it owed its employees.

The company has come under increased criticism in recent months as it falls farther behind the thinning and restoration pace called for in the 4FRI contract.

In March, Arizona Senator John McCain sent a letter to Forest Service Chief Thomas Tidwell asking if Good Earth's "failure to perform" should prompt the Forest Service to terminate the contract. He called the shortfall "profoundly disappointing" and said that it subjects "large swaths of my state to an excessive risk of catastrophic wildfire."

In May, the company announced it was changing its leadership. Rosamond will remain an employee, but a new chief operating officer, Bill Dyer, would take over. The *Arizona Daily Sun* reported that Dyer is among a group of investors that stepped in last fall to get the 4FRI work "back on the right track." Dyer also told the newspaper that the company was changing its name to NewLife Forest Products. **FN**



©U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2011

2016 Annual Report

Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics



Safeguarding Our Forests

Our 2016 program highlights included:

- **Reining in the Wildfire Wars.** FSEEE filed a lawsuit to require environmental review of standard wildland firefighting tactics.
- **Keeping Helicopters Out of Wilderness.** The U.S. Army abandoned plans to land training helicopters in a designated wilderness area in Washington state.
- **Defeating dangerous legislation.** The “Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015” would have caused immeasurable harm to our public lands.
- **Stopping the Lochsa Land Swap.** The exchange would have traded 39,000 acres of clearcuts for healthy public forests.



Educating the Public

Our staff responded to public inquiries from around the nation providing guidance and advice on **whistleblowing, citizen activism and on-the-ground public lands management.** We published three editions of FSEEE’s educational newsletter, *Forest News*, which were distributed through both print and electronic means to over 25,000 recipients. FSEEE staff also participated in a variety of public education events like the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference and **forest education days** for youth. Staff engaged with the public on hikes and at Forest Service events and worked with citizens around the country to combat problematic projects.



Advocating Ethics

FSEEE’s membership in 2016 included more than 6,000 active members. We issued several **action alerts** asking our members and the public to fight proposals that would have harmed our forests. Our emails of Forest Service news along with periodic FSEEE updates and newsletters kept our members and the public informed about our work and public lands issues. We sent informative email updates to more than 15,000 Forest Service employees. Staff also attended a number of Forest Service events where they provided advice regarding specific projects. And FSEEE worked with our conservation partners to grow the environmental community.

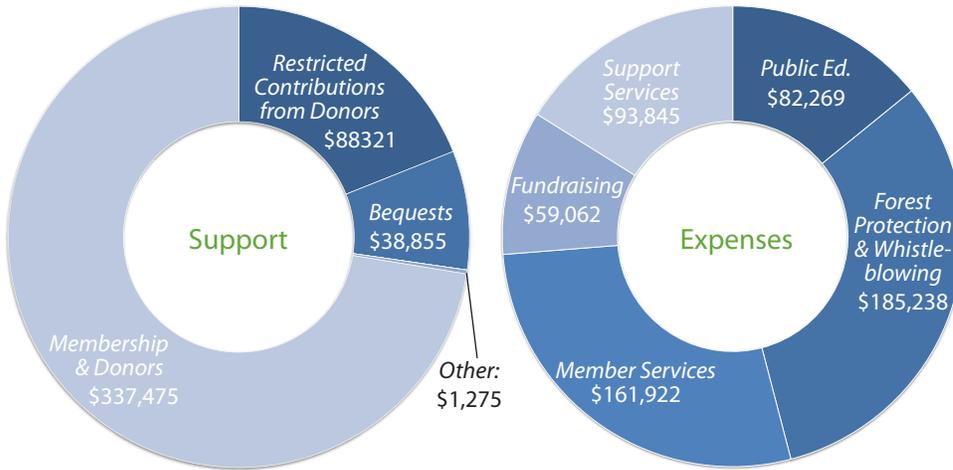
In 2016, an epic political battle was brewing that held public lands in the balance. The standoff at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon moved public ownership of our federal lands to center stage and compelled many Western states to lay the groundwork to rescind federal ownership of our forests and other public spaces. In Congress, legislation to limit the power of our bedrock environmental laws and close the courthouse doors to citizen activists would have had a chilling effect on responsible forest management across the country. And at the local level, logging projects masquerading as “restoration” treatment eroded the environmental integrity of our National Forests.

FSEEE spent the election year educating the American people about these threats and fighting the individual projects, policies and plans that endangered the health and integrity of our public estate.

While there is considerable uncertainty as to what the coming years may have in store for our public lands, FSEEE stands ready to protect both our National Forests and the courageous men and women in the Forest Service who care for America’s public lands and serve the American people.—Andy Stahl, Executive Director



2016 FINANCIAL REPORT



Financial Highlights: Net Assets Beginning: \$566,470 Net Assets Ending: \$450,060

FSEEE continues to be funded by the generous contributions from our members, whether it be through general membership dues and donations or contributions restricted to specific program work. FSEEE does not accept or solicit any contributions from government agencies or affiliates.

We would like to recognize the generous bequests received in 2016 from Robin Lode-wick, Doris Still and Winifred Caldwell .

2016 FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Cameron Foundation	Money / Arenz Foundation
Dun Foundation	The Price Foundation
Elkind Family Foundation	The Silver Foundation
FJC, A Foundation of Philanthropic Funds	The Ungar Family Foundation
Florsheim Family Foundation	Winky Foundation
Kohnstamm Family Foundation	Zadek Family Foundation
Leatherback Foundation	Zurlo Family Foundation
Mills Family Foundation	



FSEEE is a member of EarthShare Oregon and National. At both levels, EarthShare is a diverse federation of conservation groups that represents us in workplace donation campaigns. EarthShare promotes FSEEE and manages the administration of payroll contributions that allow individuals to have money deducted from their paycheck to support FSEEE's work. We use this money to safeguard our national forests in the most effective and efficient way possible. Federal employees giving through the Combined Federal Campaign can also designate their donations directly to FSEEE.

Many employers offer matching gifts when you donate to FSEEE. To find out if this is an option for you, please contact your human resources representative.



Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics

PO Box 11615 • Eugene, OR 97440
(541) 484-2692 • Fax (541) 484-3004
fseee@fseee.org • www.fseee.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Dave Iverson, President**
Social Scientist, Ogden, Utah
- Jackie Canterbury, Vice President**
Wildlife Biologist, Bighorn, Wyoming
- Stephen Horne, Secretary/Treasurer**
Archaeologist, Los Olivos, California
- Kevin Hood, At Large**
Wilderness Specialist, Juneau, Alaska

FSEEE board members are current or former U.S. Forest Service employees. See board biographies at www.fseee.org.

STAFF

- Stephanie Boytz-Detwiler,**
Administration and Finance Director
- Jennifer Fairbrother,**
Development Director and Public Lands Advocate
- Matt Rasmussen,** Policy Analyst and Newsletter Editor
- Chuck Roth,** Office Manager
- Andy Stahl,** Executive Director

Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to protect National Forests and to reform the U.S. Forest Service by advocating environmental ethics, educating citizens and defending whistleblowers.

This newsletter is printed on paper made with recycled content using vegetable-based inks.

Photo Credits Opposite Page

Top: Salt Creek Falls, Willamette National Forest, © Andrew Coelho, 2015
Lower photos (Right to Left): © U.S. Forest Service, 2016; © Ray Anderson, 2015; © Ray Anderson, 2016



FSEEE

Forest Service Employees
for Environmental Ethics

PO Box 11615 ~ Eugene, OR 97440 ~ www.fseee.org

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EUGENE, OR
FOREST SVC EMP

Take Action!

President Trump has signed an executive order directing the Department of Interior to review the designations of all monuments founded since 1996. The review could open millions of acres of national monuments to industrial development or even rescind such designations altogether—a move no previous president has ever attempted. DOI has begun its review and is seeking public comment. We need your help to ensure the continued preservation of these spectacular landscapes.

Send a letter to Secretary Zinke telling him to maintain protections for existing national monument designations!

Mail comments by July 10 to: Monument Review, MS-1530, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20240

New at FSEEE

FSEEE is excited to introduce the next generation of our website! We're keeping it full of up-to-date content on what's happening on your public lands including original articles, timely action alerts and more.

Along with our web redesign, our tech gurus helped us update the FSEEE logo. We are thrilled to have a fresh look while still providing great content for our members, whistleblowers and the public.

Check out the new website today at www.fseee.org!



FSEEE

Forest Service Employees
for Environmental Ethics