

Fall Issue 2017

**OREGON Fish & Wildlife JOURNAL**

**Will You Listen Now?**





# WHAT'S INSIDE...

**My Voice...** By Cristy Rein... 5

**Nature Doesn't Give A Damn What You Want...**  
By Jim Peterson, Evergreen Magazine...7

**Fishing In Alaska 2017...** By Jeff Plew... 13

**Wildland Fire Directive...** By Department of Interior  
Secretary Ryan Zinke...19

**Bugged...** By Mickey Bellman... 23

**The State Factor: Federally Managed Lands In The West:  
The Economic and Environmental Implications...**  
By American Legislative Exchange Council... 25

**2017 Oregon Forest Fires: Still  
Predictable And Preventable...** By Dr. Bob Zybach... 31

**The Spirit Of The Wapiti...** By Cam Ghostkeeper... 41

**Women Can Fish!...** By Jimmy Keitges... 46

**What You Need To Know Before You Go...** 52

## OUR COVER



Our cover photograph is of the Eagle Creek fire in the Historic Columbia River Gorge.

### PUBLISHER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Cristy Rein

FORESTRY EDITOR

Mickey Bellman

OFFICE MANAGER

Nicole de Leon

ADVERTISING SALES

Nicole de Leon

### CONTENT CONTRIBUTORS

Cristy Rein, Dr. Bob Zybach, Mickey Bellman,  
Jim Peterson, US Department of Interior  
Secretary, Ryan Zinke, American Legislative  
Exchange Council, Jeff Plew, Cam Ghostkeeper,  
and Jimmy Keitges

We can be reached at (503) 657-6962

FAX (503) 657-3410 • P.O. Box 1325

Clackamas, Oregon 97015

email: [RZPublish@aol.com](mailto:RZPublish@aol.com)

[www.OregonFishAndWildlifeJournal.com](http://www.OregonFishAndWildlifeJournal.com)

Oregon Fish & Wildlife Journal is published quarterly by  
R-Z Publishing, Inc. Unsolicited editorial contributions  
are welcome but should be accompanied by return postage.

Editorial contributions will be handled with care;  
however, the Publisher assumes no responsibility for  
safety of artwork, manuscripts or photographs.

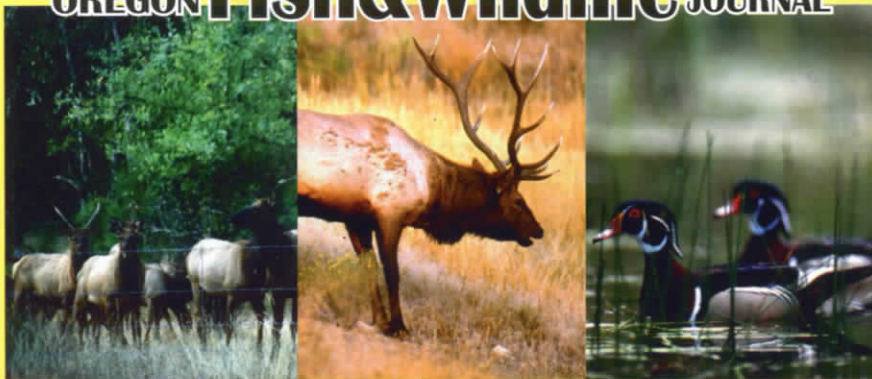
Publisher is not liable for any claim based  
on contents of published advertising.

Publisher is not liable for content supplied by contributing editors.

© Copyright 2017 Oregon Fish&Wildlife Journal

Subscribe Today!

OREGON **Fish&Wildlife** JOURNAL



To Subscribe: Send a check or money order to, P.O. Box 1325, Clackamas, Oregon 97015

To use your VISA/Mastercard call 503-657-6962 or fax information to 503-657-3410  
or email to, [RZPublish@aol.com](mailto:RZPublish@aol.com) • [www.OregonFishAndWildlifeJournal.com](http://www.OregonFishAndWildlifeJournal.com)

One Year (4 issues) \$24.95 • Two Years (8 issues) \$46.50 • Four Years (16 issues) \$83.95

# MY VOICE

By *Cristy Rein*

Will you listen now? Our theme for this issue. We are focusing on the connection between government land management policies and forest fires.

For decades, lands have been managed by popular opinion instead of by scientists.

Many of our representatives get so much money from groups that work for nothing but shutting down any use of our lands or resources. Then these representatives sponsor legislation to make sure they keep their big contributors happy. It is so wrong not to do what's best, but to do what lines their own pockets.

Money and power sits behind many of our policies instead of what's right and what needs to be done. The fires this year have finally gotten the attention of the city people, they breathed in the smoke and watched their favorite places burn. This is the time to turn things around. There will probably never be a better time to make things right!

If we don't take care of our lands fires will be bigger and more numerous next year and all the years that follow. This is a fact!

There are so many facts and points made in the various articles within this issue, I don't want you to miss any of them, so I'm going to give you the highlights!

Be sure and read the article by Jim Peterson of Evergreen Magazine on page 7, it is full of facts showing why our lands are burning. Jim has been a leader in education on forestry issues for decades!

Check out page 19 where Ryan Zinke, Secretary of Interior has issued a strong directive to manage our lands so we don't have another year like 2017, where so far more than 8 million acres have burned.

Page 25 has a powerful article showing how inefficient our federal government is in the management of our lands. Federal regulations have driven

the costs so high that without changes, our resources aren't even worth retrieving. The studies and regulations have grown to such a point that they cancel out all value. Can you imagine? This should have been corrected so long ago. This article is shocking to me, I knew it was bad, but this is so much worse! This really illustrates how far off course we are. Please share this information!

Then on page 31, Dr. Bob Zybach educates us on the current state of our lands and fire expectancy. The fact that our fires are predictable and preventable is actually good news unless we continue to let politics govern how our lands are managed. Ignoring facts and science has brought us to this place. Dr. Zybach has his doctorate in Western Oregon Wildfires. He is the expert!

Finally we have a new feature on the last page (52) called, What You Need To Know Before You Go. These are facts we just couldn't publish without sharing with our readers. Please pass them on!

All this education would be wasted if you don't share it! Letters must be written to those in charge! Phone calls must be made to hold our land managers accountable.

It's shameful how we have wasted, neglected and politicized our lands. It is time to come back to common sense. Lands are not healthy by preserving them. Lands and forests are healthy when and only when we take care of them.

Old attitudes of let nature take its course is quite silly. We have altered all things natural by our very presence for thousands of years, there is no changing that. It is time for facts from experts to dictate policies and not politicians and their special interest groups who donate.

So if you already know all this... please tell someone who doesn't!





# 2017 Oregon Forest Fires

# Still Predictable and Preventable

**Dr. Bob Zybach**

In the five or so years I have been writing articles and editorials for this magazine a recurring theme has been that most large-scale and catastrophic forest wildfires in Oregon have been “predictable and preventable.” This condition has been particularly true during the past 30 years, and continues to hold true with the current 2017 forest wildfires. And will most likely continue for years to come.

For purposes of this article, and based on my academ-

County and the Willamette National Forest, are both likely to be added to this list before Fall rains end this year’s fire season.

Note: Even though many eastern Oregon wildfires often exceed 10,000 acres and more in size, they are not included in this definition because they typically involve grasslands and shrublands rather than forest trees. The fuels for the 68,100-acre Nena Springs Fire on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, for example, are described

Name	County	River	Land Manager	Cause	Date	Size
Chetco Bar	Curry	Chetco	Kalmiopsis W.	Lightning	July 12	188,000
Eagle Creek	Hood River	Columbia	Columbia Gorge	People	September 2	37,600
High Cascades	Douglas	Rogue	Crater Lake NP	Lightning	August 13	60,400
Horse Creek	Lane	McKenzie	Willamette NF	Lightning	August 10	31,700
Horse Prairie	Douglas	Umpqua	BLM		August 26	16,400
Miller	Jackson	Applegate	Klamath NF	Lightning	August 14	34,500
Milli	Deschutes	Deschutes	Three Sisters W.	Lightning	August 11	24,000
Umpqua North	Douglas	Umpqua	Umpqua NF		August 11	41,400
Whitewater	Marion	Santiam	Mt. Jefferson W.	Lightning	August 10	13,700

**Table 1. Major Wildfires Currently Burning in Western Oregon, September 15, 2017.**

ic research of last century, we can define a “large-scale” forest fire in western Oregon as one involving more than 10,000 acres in size, and a “catastrophic” forest fire in western Oregon as more than 100,000 acres in size. In this sense, “catastrophic” is defined as “a sudden, unexpected event causing widespread change and destruction over the land.”

Currently (September 15, 2017) there are nine forest wildfires of 10,000 acres or more in size that have been burning out of control for more than a month in western Oregon (see Table). One result has been the thick, sickly haze that has descended along the most populated portion of the state during the past summer -- along the I-5 corridor from Portland/Vancouver to Eugene, and southward to Roseburg, Grants Pass, Medford, and northern California.

As this is being written, all nine of the listed fires remain out of control and are increasing in size. The Rebel Fire, at 8,700 acres in the Three Sisters Wilderness in Lane County, and the Jones Fire, at 9,600 acres also in Lane

as “grass, dormant brush,” while the 52,500-acre Cinder Butte Fire fuels in Harney County are given as “short grass, dormant brush, hardwood slash.” In these instances, fire often has a positive, cleansing, and rejuvenating effect on the burned vegetation and there is little, if any, damage to timber or other resources.

### **Chetco Bar Fire: 15-Year Jinx?**

The Chetco Bar and Eagle Creek fires provide good examples of predictability and preventability – and both for similar reasons. Both fires are continuing to burn and expand as this is being written in mid-September, but the Chetco Bar Fire in particular had been accurately predicted by a long-time acquaintance and self-proclaimed wildfire expert more than 10 years ago, while we were surveying Biscuit Fire damage in the Eight Dollar Mountain and Babyfoot Lake area.

At that time my friend predicted the 2002 Biscuit Fire would reburn in 2017 -- that the fire would take place in late summer and early fall and be driven by an east wind

were given: those have been common characteristics of almost all large-scale forest fires in western Oregon for more than 165 years, since the late 1840s.

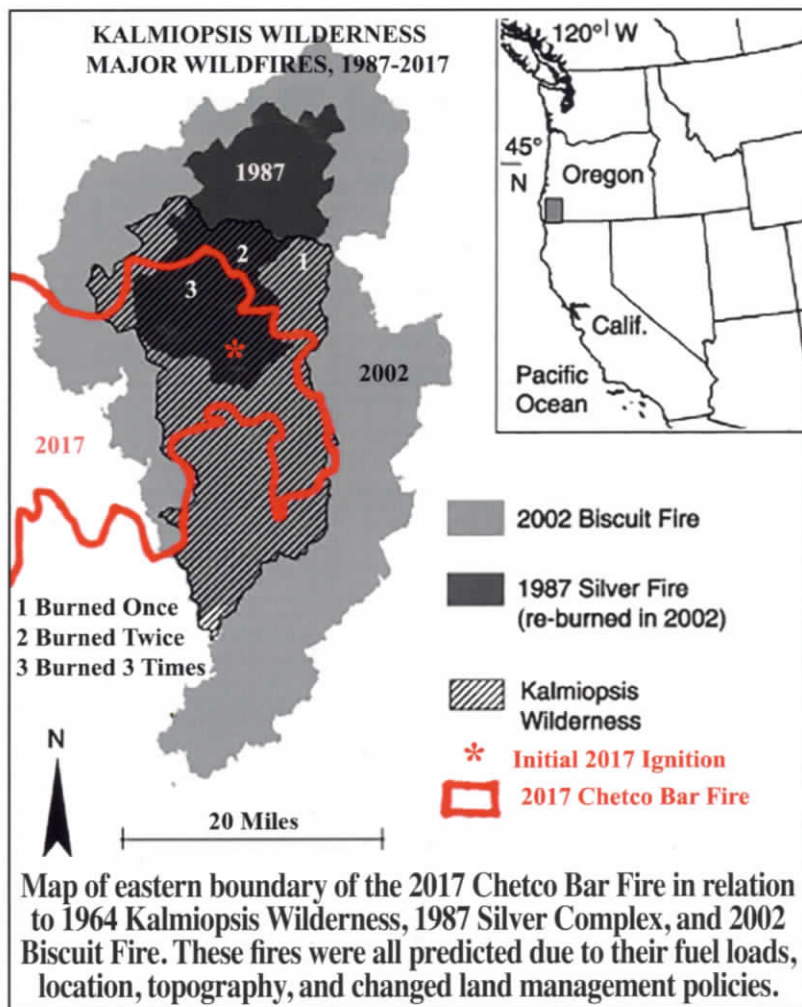
This prediction was made somewhat humorously, but led to several good discussions. It was based largely on my own research regarding the “Six-Year Jinx” Tillamook Fires of 1933, 1939, 1945, and 1951; on the 1987 Silver Complex Fires; and in our common interest in the “predictable and preventable” 2002 Biscuit Fire.

On August 3, while the Chetco Bar Fire was still under 2,000 acres in size and had been monitored for several weeks by paid observers, my friend emailed me: “Chetco Bar Fire, Estimated Containment Date Sunday October 15th, 2017. Right on schedule. Care to guess the final acreage?”

I replied, jokingly, “17,236.” Later I amended this number: “if the wind blows, add a zero. If it’s a west wind, cut in half.”

Three days later, August 6, the fire had increased to more than 6,100 acres and the email discussion became a little more caustic: “The fire crew is apparently standing around hoping it will blow up so they can get a fat check. 66 people, 0% contained, very little growth. They are doing their east wind dance.” By early September the fire had expanded greatly on east winds and exceeded my “10 times” estimate of 172,000+ acres. Fuels were described as: “The area is comprised of mixed conifer and deciduous forest, brush and snags from the previous fires. The fire is burning in areas of fire scar and islands that were previously unburned. The combination of down, dead fuels with a newly cured grass makes the terrain quite hazardous for firefighters.”

In 1989, following the 1987 Silver Complex, I worked with an OSU graduate student team analyzing the fire. The recommendation was to salvage dead trees ASAP in order to gain maximum market value and to reduce the likelihood and severity of future wildfires. Following the 2002 Biscuit Fire, the same recommendations were made and likewise ignored. The current 2017 Chetco Bar Fire was inevitable. And preventable.



### Eagle Creek Fire: National Scenic Wildfire Smoke

The Eagle Creek Fire was reportedly ignited by kids playing with firecrackers about a mile south of Cascade Locks on September 2. Within a day it had increased in size





to over 3,000 acres. As this is being written on September 16, it is 45,600 acres, an increase of 8,000 acres since yesterday. Much of this increase likely has to do with purposeful backfires set to keep the fire from populated areas and to help direct its spread; possibly due to revised estimates as well.

As with the other major forest fires this year, the Eagle Creek Fire started -- and is mostly taking place -- on federal lands: Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, Mark O. Hatfield Wilderness, and Mt. Hood National Forest. The 1901 Langille USGS Forest Reserve map shows much of this land was classified as "Burned Timber, Not Restocking," "Burned Timber, Restocking," or as contiguous stands of young timber likely growing from past fire events. The photographs, probably taken by Langille at the same time he was constructing his map in 1899 and 1900, illustrate the types of fuels he is representing, and their volatility.

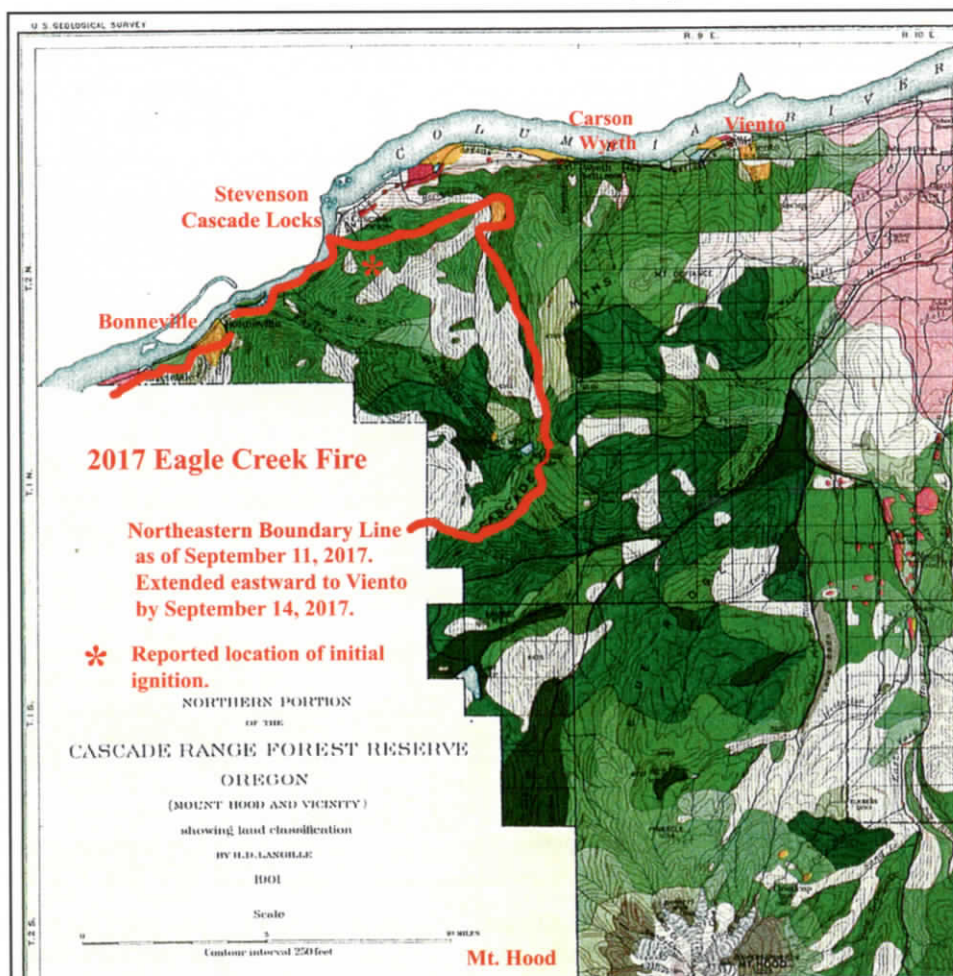
The Eagle Creek Fire is still burning out of control and is continuing to have severe negative effects on the air quality of nearby communities, which include some of the heaviest concentrations of people in Oregon and Washington. Despite this massive amount of air and water pollution, disruption to local commerce and transportation, widespread discomfort and illness, and deaths of thousands of wildlife, local environmental groups are already using this event as an opportunity to raise money and awareness for their organizations!

A significant amount of the fuel contributing to Eagle Creek Fire and pollution can be directly traced to litigation by environmental organizations intended to halt salvage and logging operations in the Mt. Hood National Forest,

and to passive management regulations adopted through legislation creating National Scenic Areas, ESA, and Wildernesses.

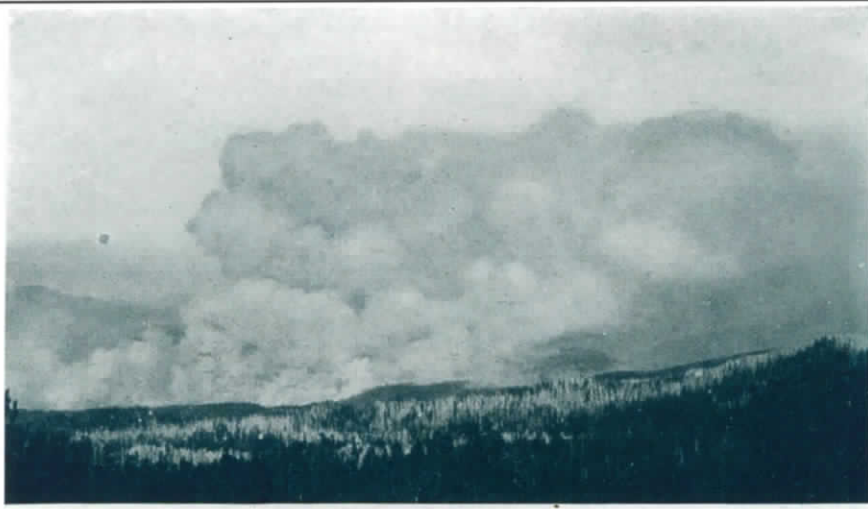
One of the key players in Mt. Hood-based litigation is BARK. The non-profit organization was created in the late 1990s "to transform Mt. Hood into a place where natural processes prevail." Its principal method for doing so, to date, has been by raising money to pay lawyers to file suits against active management of the mountain's forestlands. Such management actions are not deemed "natural processes" and therefore must be stopped, whereas destructive forest wildfires are considered "natural" and are to be expected, even celebrated. This legal strategy has greatly increased overhead costs to the USFS and American taxpayers, had a serious negative effect on local forest-based businesses and employment, and contributed significantly to the risks, explosiveness, and unhealthy pollution associated with recent wildfires on Mt. Hood, including Eagle Creek Fire.

Yesterday I received an email solicitation from BARK (I usually get several a year) from their "Meeting Facilitator" David Osborn, who is "grateful to BARK for educating [him] about fires." That education has apparently resulted in an understanding that "science shows that weather, not fuel, dictates fire behavior," and that "logging releases more carbon than fires." Thus, we need to write the Governor and our Representative to "not be a science denier!" Instead, we need "to advocate for climate justice" and urge them to "use science about fire, climate change, and logging to inform their policy decisions." I was also invited to participate in their next "Radi-



**Annotated portion of 1901 USGS map of Mt. Hood forestlands by Harold D. Langille. Note the vertical brown lines in large polygons within the Eagle Creek Fire's boundaries: these represent "Burned Timber, Not Restocking," such as the snags shown in the photo of Ghost-tree Ridge. The remaining polygons likely represent pre-1890 wildfire events as well: the light green areas with vertical brown lines represent "Burned Timber, Restocking," with increasing darkness of green mostly representing increasing volumes of second-growth Douglas Fir that burned and reforested at different times. The scattered darkest green polygons represent stands of "50,000 and Over" [board feet/acre],**





Forest Fire on east fork of Hood River. From a photograph taken at Cloud Cap Inn five minutes after the fire started.



Mount Hood from Ghost-tree Ridge. Whitened trunks of trees killed by forest fires.

**Photographs from John H. Williams' 1912 book, "The Guardians of the Columbia". Images are from Chapter III "The Forests," written by Harold D. Langille, who also authored the 1901 map of Mt. Hood and may have taken the pictures at that time.**

cle Activist Training," titled "Intro to Forest Policy: Forest Fire Edition." Because of my "privilege" and "responsibility."

### **CO2 & Global Warming: Smoke Gets in Your Eyes**

CO2 (carbon-dioxide) is a beneficial gas routinely pumped into greenhouses in order to encourage plants to grow. It is odorless and colorless and is considered a "building block of life" on planet Earth. A recent study has shown a nearly 10% increase in the Earth's forestlands during the past 33 years, including 40% greater forest cover in "dry lands" than previously measured. Many scientists are suggesting this apparent increase in forest growth may be due to increased levels of CO2 in the atmosphere

during the same time period.

Other people are concerned that increased CO2 is largely responsible for catastrophic weather patterns and other consequential and negative effects on the climate. This concern has largely devolved into a political issue during the past few decades: Democrats seem to think that CO2 is highly dangerous and needs to be regulated by the government for that reason, and Republicans seem to think that such concerns are mostly a paranoid belief not necessarily based on fact. Many people who believe in Global Warming also seem to believe, along with David Osborn, that the evidence is clear and recent wildfires offer proof.

In the past forest fires have killed thousands of people – the 1871 Peshtigo Fire in Wisconsin, for example, is estimated to have killed between 1500 and 2500 people. In the Pacific Northwest, the 1902 Yacolt Fire killed 38 people along the Lewis River in southwest Washington. Today, direct loss of life to people not actively engaged in firefighting is very unusual, due in large part to modern transportation and communication systems.

Instead, the main health problem associated with wildfires today is caused by ash and other particulates in the smoke, which can be very harmful and even life-threatening to young children and older adults with asthma, emphysema, and other breathing-related problems. Even healthy adults can experience painful eye irritations, coughing, sneezing, and other discomforts due to smoke-related effects. Bad tastes, unpleasant odors, and obscured vistas are other problems being reported throughout the western US during the current fire season.

The primary air pollution and public health problem associated with wildfires is not CO2, it is smoke.

### **What to do?**

The steps needed to reduce the costs, occurrences, and damages caused by Oregon forest fires in Oregon over the past 30 years remain the same:

1) First, we must recognize that virtually all of these fires are taking place – and have been taking place – on federal lands: Wilderness areas, National Forests, Monuments, and O&C Lands. For the most part, they are not taking place on private timberlands and tree farms at all – unless those lands are adjacent to burning federal lands. This clearly shows that these wildfires have nothing to do with "Global Warming" or "Climate Change" and everything to do with management practices. From 1951 to 1987, a 36-year period during which our National Forests were being actively managed and Wildernesses and ESA were just coming into existence, there was only





**This photograph went “viral” shortly after being posted anonymously on Facebook and then being posted to Reddit -- where it currently has 116,000 retweets and 229,000 Likes - and then Yahoo News, Golf News Net, and the New York Daily News. On September 7, The Oregonian revealed the amateur photographer as Kristi McCluer, who had not given permission for the Reddit posting and was initially unaware of all the media attention.**

**The photo is of the Eagle Creek Fire on September 4, 2017, as viewed across the Columbia River, south from the Beacon Rock Golf Course. Because golf courses are actively maintained, seasonally irrigated, and trees are placed individually or in small groves away from one another, they are a very safe environment – except for possible air pollution – from adjacent wildfires. The same is true for irrigated croplands, wetland prairies, many public parks, and other locations with a minimum of flammable structures, flat or rolling terrain, widely spaced trees and groves, and well maintained grasses and shrubs.**

one large-scale forest fire in western Oregon. Today there are nine, and counting. The climate has not changed that much in the past 30 years, but management of federal lands has.

2) Environmental organizations have claimed many times that these fires “burn hotter” and are “more damaging” on conifer plantations and young, even-aged stands of trees, as typified by industrial forest management and past USFS and BLM practices. That description fits almost all private forestlands today, yet these areas – despite having the exact same weather patterns as federal lands – remain mostly fire-free during these events. The primary difference between the two is management: private lands

are actively managed to protect their investments, while federal lands have been passively managed for most of the past 30+ years.

3) Get to work. There are tens of thousands of family-wage jobs needing to take place on public forestlands in the west, other than just seasonal firefighting: logging, road improvements, tree planting, prescribed burning, campground construction, trail maintenance, etc., and thousands more jobs needed to house, feed, clothe, and transport these workers -- and most of these jobs produce tax revenues, rather than use them. It’s a big job but it has major benefits to US society, including rural Oregon, and it needs to be done. Just look at the air. 