Willamette National Forest

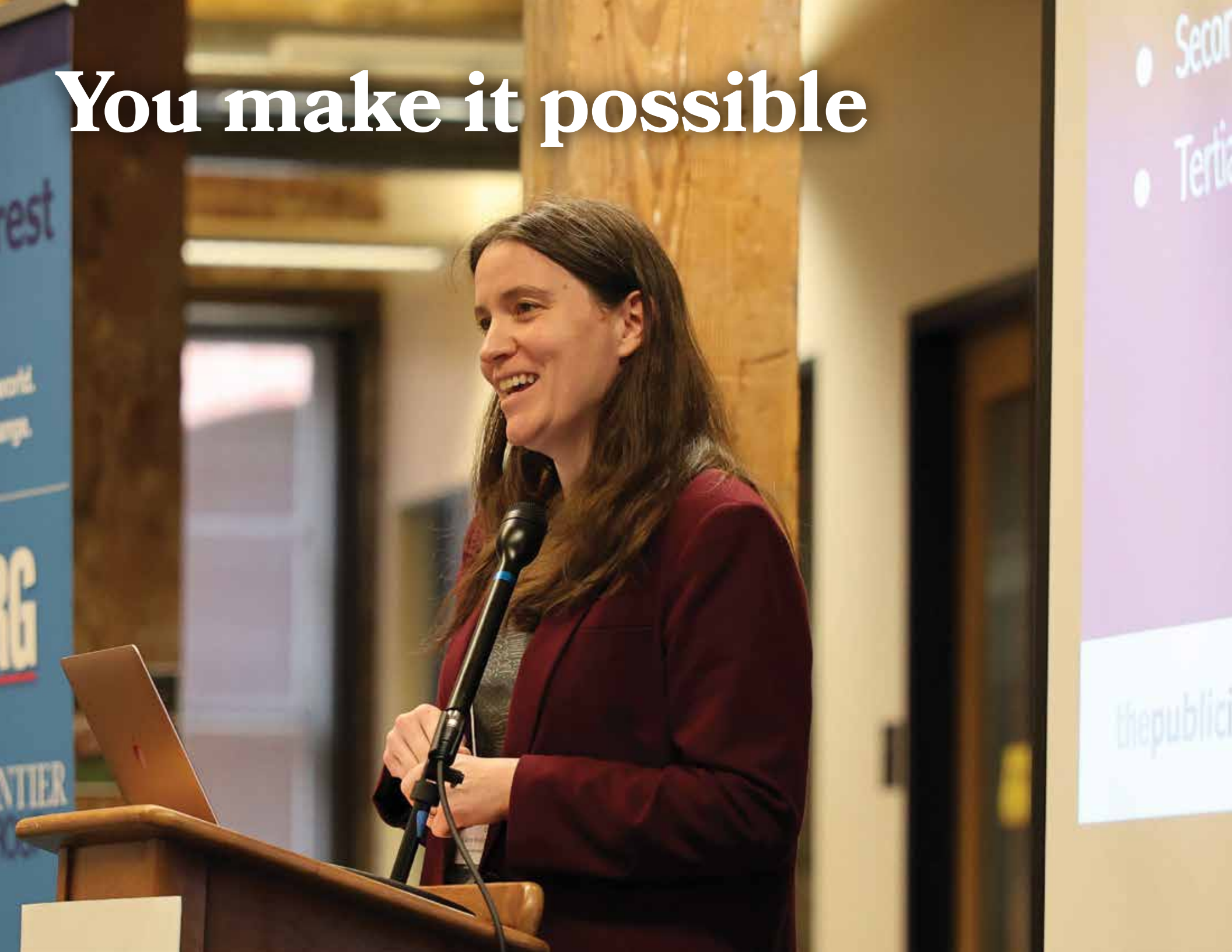
ENVIRONMENT OREGON

Our annual report

on the actions you made possible

Fiscal Year 2025

You make it possible



Thank you

You can measure Environment Oregon's impact in many ways, as evidenced in this Fiscal Year 2025 annual report.

You can tally the reports researched and publicized by our staff; the petitions signed and other actions taken by our members; the laws, lawsuits and other victories won by staff and members together.

Harder to measure, but more important, are the bees and other pollinators that thrived where we've limited pesticide use; the whales and other marine wildlife that survived because we've cut plastic waste; the forests that stayed wild where we've protected them from logging.

Last but not least, our most important impact—our north star—lies in the hearts and minds of the people, like you, who decide to make the environment a top priority. After all, no matter what other challenges Oregonians face, a better future for our children and grandchildren depends on a healthy natural world.

Thank you, from all of us at Environment Oregon, for making it all possible.

Celeste Meiffren-Swango
State Director

(Left) Celeste Meiffren-Swango. Photo credits: (Front cover) CSNafzger via Shutterstock; (left) staff.

Environment Oregon is a policy and action group with one mission: to protect the natural world.

But we can't do it without you. Our staff researches the issues, educates the public and advocates tangible results for a greener world. Our members give us the resources to carry out our mission and put grassroots support behind all of our campaigns and programs.

To keep up to date with our work and learn more about our campaigns and progress, you can follow us at the addresses below. We'd also love to hear from you—feel free to email us at info@EnvironmentOregon.org

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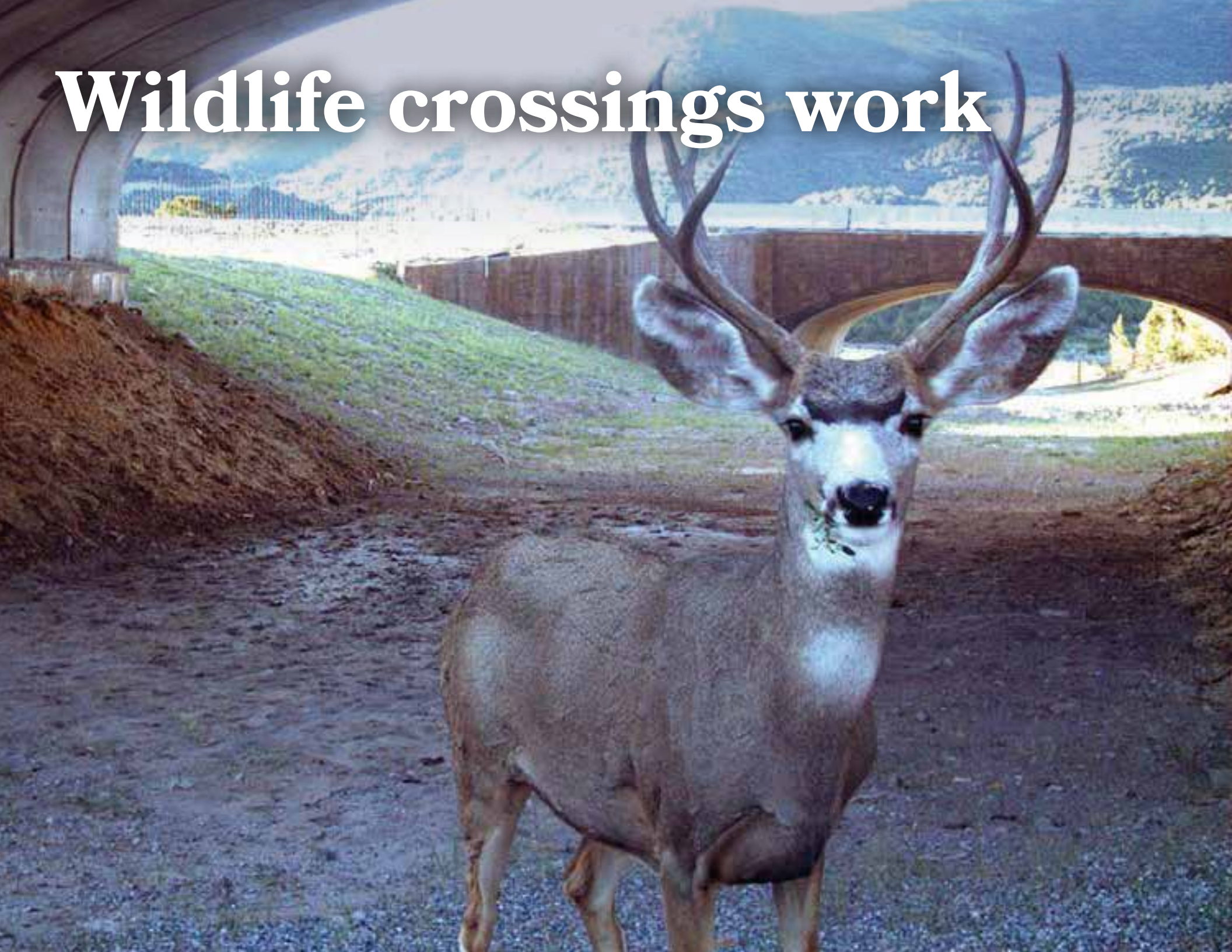
Wildlife crossings work



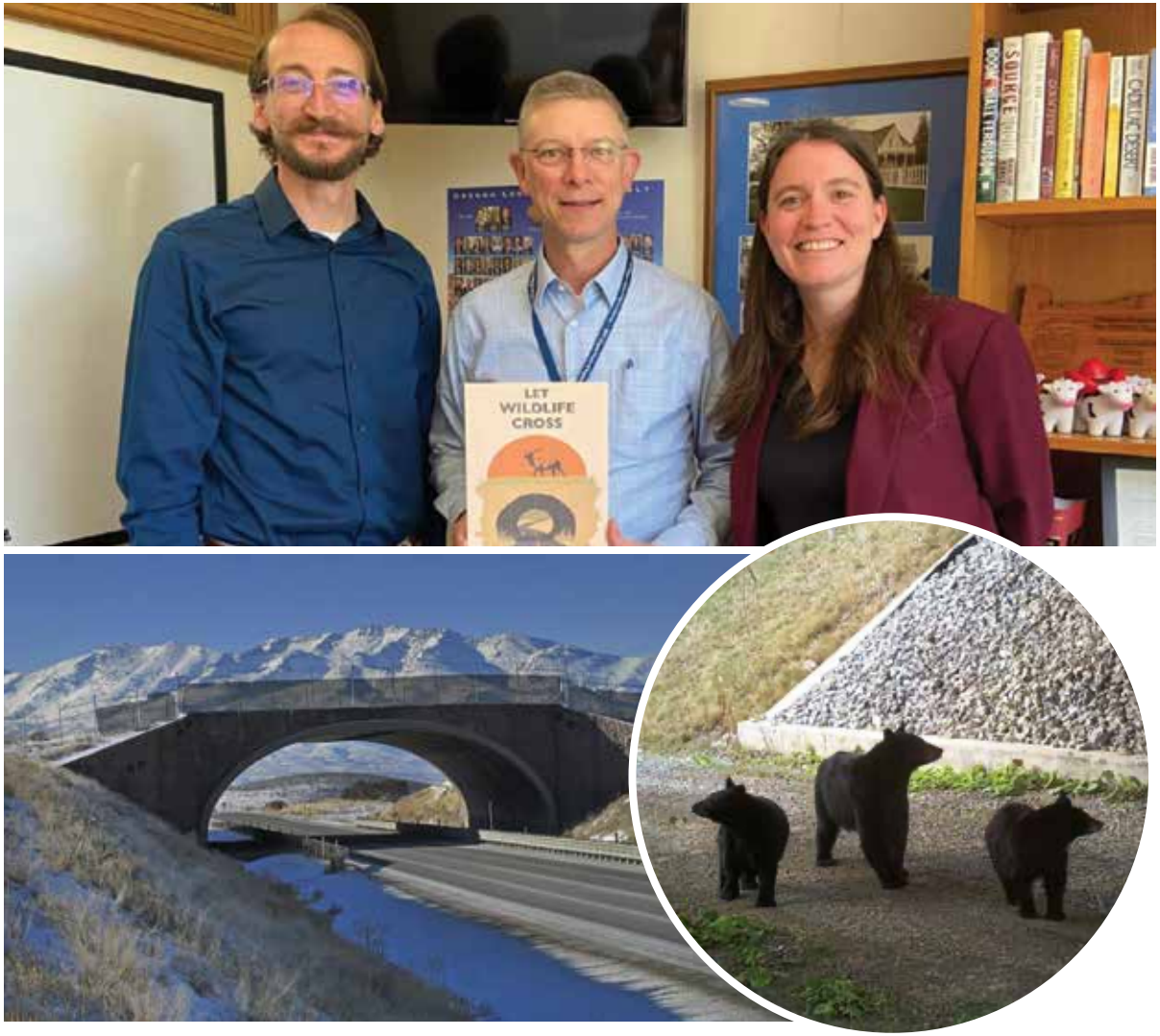
SAVE AMERICA'S WILDLIFE

Oregon to build new wildlife crossings

Oregon has taken a major step to protect wildlife and drivers alike by creating a statewide wildlife crossings program. Signed into law by Gov. Tina Kotek, the bill strengthens collaboration between the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to both identify and prioritize crossing projects across the state.

More than 7,000 large animals are struck by vehicles in Oregon every year, causing injuries, fatalities and costly damages. Studies show that wildlife crossings, which are overpasses and underpasses that reconnect migration corridors, can help reduce collisions by up to 97%.

Environment Oregon worked with a broad coalition of scientists, advocates, community leaders and members like you to win this victory. The next step is to secure the funding necessary to build these structures and ensure safer roads for all of Oregon's drivers and wildlife.



(Left) A mule deer uses a Utah wildlife crossing. (Above, clockwise from top) Celeste Meiffren-Swango and Conservation Advocate Justin Boyles pose with HB 2978 chief sponsor state Rep. Ken Helm; bears use a Pennsylvania wildlife crossing; a Nevada wildlife crossing. Photo credits: (Left) Utah Division of Wildlife Resources; (above, clockwise from top) staff; PennDOT; Nevada Department of Wildlife.


Cascades to Haystack Rock

WILDLIFE & WILD PLACES

We highlighted the places that make Oregon special

From the rugged coast to the lush forests of the Cascade Range and the landscapes of the Oregon desert, our state parks are among the most scenic in the nation.

Despite their beauty and importance, Oregon's state park system is facing unreliable, insufficient funding, with an estimated $200 million worth of deferred maintenance costs. That's why Environment Oregon organized a series of free, guided walks – bringing communities together with Oregon state park staff – across the state.

These walks showcased the ecological, cultural and recreational value of Oregon's public lands. Each one offered residents a chance to explore and speak up for the places they use and love, and show first-hand why these parks need more funding.

Folks from La Grande to Coos Bay and St. Helens to Klamath Falls connected to celebrate the responsibility we share in protecting Oregon's state parks for the next generation.

(Left) A view of the trail connecting Sunset Bay and Shore Acres State Parks. (Above, clockwise from top) As part of our campaign to support state parks, Conservation Advocate Justin Boyles (left) brings community members together for a guided walk at Catherine Creek in Oregon; Justin Boyles, Oregon Parks & Recreation Department Manager Nathan Seable and Medford City Councilor Garrett West in Tou Velle State Recreation Site; a group of locals on the walk show their love for Oregon's amazing state parks. Photo credits: staff.

Winning on waste

WILDLIFE OVER WASTE

Environment Oregon scored a victory with an updated bag ban

Thanks to your petitions, support and dedication, Oregon has finally closed its plastic bag loophole.

This summer, Oregon strengthened its landmark plastic bag law by banning all plastic film bags at checkout. Beginning in 2027, grocery stores, restaurants and retailers will be prohibited from distributing plastic film bags, including the thicker plastic bags that popped up after the original bag ban was passed, cutting down on waste and pollution statewide.

The law passed with bipartisan support and will build on Oregon's existing statewide bag ban. Environment Oregon advocated for this update by building public support and highlighting the harm disposable plastics cause to wildlife and communities.

With this new law in place, Oregon is moving toward a cleaner and less wasteful future.

(Left) A sea turtle chasing a plastic bag. (Above, clockwise from top) Celeste Meiffren-Swango joins state Sen. Janeen Sollman, her Chief of Staff Nickole Vargas and Charlie Plybon from Surfrider Foundation to celebrate Oregon's strengthened bag law; plastic bags; in the 2010s, we worked to pass bag bans across the state. Our campaign events included a "bag monster" made up of 500 plastic bags – the average number of bags used per person per year at that time. Photo credits: (Left) Willyam Bradberry via Shutterstock; (above, clockwise from top) Sen. Janeen Sollman; staff; staff.

PROTECT OUR OCEANS

Staff

The Oregon Coast Aquarium's Washed Ashore exhibit features marine animal sculptures made from plastic debris collected along Pacific Northwest beaches. The exhibit highlights local advocates, including Environment Oregon's Celeste Meiffren-Swango, and raises awareness about how single-use plastics threaten ocean wildlife.

SAVE THE BEES

Dave Angelini

Twelve U.S. states have restricted the sale of bee-killing pesticides. Oregon had a chance to join that group in its 2025 legislative session, but a bill to restrict neonic usage didn't pass out of committee. To build support for pollinator protections, our team spent last summer going door to door and speaking to thousands of Oregonians about this issue.

GOSOLAR

Staff

In May, Environment America Research & Policy Center released the "State of Renewable Energy 2025" dashboard to track the growth of clean energy around the U.S. In 2024, America produced enough solar energy to power 28 million homes—7.7 times as much as in 2015.

SAVE AMERICA'S WILDLIFE

Staff

Western monarch butterfly populations have declined by 90% in recent decades, partly due to habitat loss and pesticide use. In June, two Congress members reintroduced legislation to restore their habitat. Environment Oregon and our national network continue to support the bill, which offers a path forward for these iconic pollinators.

SAVE AMERICA'S OLDEST FORESTS

Dennis Biela

In June, USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins proposed rolling back protections which shield nearly 60 million acres of wild forests from road-building and logging. Environment Oregon and our national network helped rally support to defend our forests, contributing to over 600,000 public comments submitted in defense of these special places.

SUMMER CANVASS 2025

Staff

Last summer, canvassers knocked on over 500,000 doors, holding nearly 200,000 conversations with Environment America supporters and other citizens about issues in their state. Collectively we delivered over 60,000 petition signatures to lawmakers and held 30 events to highlight our campaigns.

OUR LEGACY: A GREENER AMERICA

Together, we have a long legacy of victories for clean air, clean water, clean energy and more—including state and local wins that have provided blueprints for action nationwide.

2025: Recycling Modernization Act launches

Environment Oregon supports the passage of a law that will hold producers accountable for the plastic they create, expand recycling services into rural areas and ensure the things Oregonians recycle actually get recycled.

2025: A better bag ban aims to reduce pollution

Environment Oregon helps Oregon pass bans on single-use plastic bags in 2020. Gov. Tina Kotek signs a bill into law this year that bans any bags with plastic in them at checkout, including thick ones that weren't banned in the earlier bill, reducing plastic pollution across our state.

2022: Oregon sets goal to put more EVs on the road

Environment Oregon helps win policies that incentivize the adoption of zero-emission vehicles. The new rule requires all new cars sold in Oregon be zero-emission vehicles by 2035.

2021: Oregon commits to 100% clean electricity by 2040

The commitment makes Oregon tied with New York for the fastest transition to clean power. Environment Oregon had built support for clean energy by distributing

educational materials to more than 400,000 Oregonians.

2020: Conservation gets $900 million annually

After winning the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in 2019, Environment Oregon and our national network win full funding of $900 million annually for the LWCF the following year. It's the nation's most effective conservation and recreation law, putting billions of federal dollars into national and local parks, playgrounds and trails across the country over the last 50 years.

(Left to right) Wasteful plastic grocery bags; Environment Oregon State Director Celeste Meiffren-Swango and her daughter celebrate 100% clean energy in Oregon; our staff distribute lawn signs calling on Congress to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Photo credits: staff; staff; Suzanne Navarro Photography

2019: Oregon bans the bag

Oregon becomes the sixth state to ban plastic grocery bags statewide. Leading up to the state ban, city level bans on single-use plastic grocery bags sweep across Oregon thanks in part to Environment Oregon's organizing.

2018: Portland Metro's TriMet commits to electrify its bus fleet

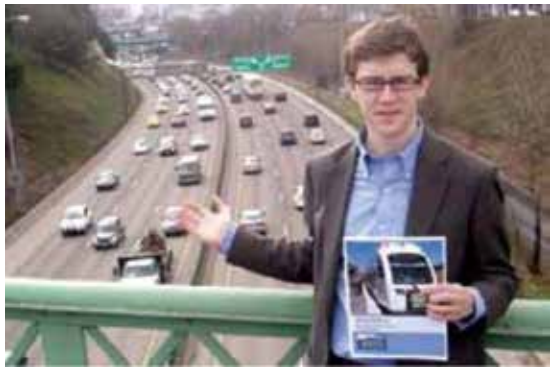
Environment Oregon heads a coalition that successfully urges the state's largest transit agency to commit to a zero-emission bus fleet by 2040. Many Environment Oregon members join us at TriMet budget workshops to advocate for electric buses.

2018: Progress made against lead in child care centers

Environment Oregon wins requirements that all child care facilities test their water for lead. We submit a coalition letter along with other prominent environmental and public health groups, as well as petitions signed by hundreds of Oregonians urging Oregon's Early Learning Council to strengthen the proposal and protect our children from lead in their water.

2012-2014: Environment Oregon leads local plastic bag bans

Between 2012 and 2014, Environment Oregon helps pass bans on single-use



plastic bags in various municipalities and counties. Prior to the introduction of these bans, Oregonians were using approximately 1.7 billion plastic bags each year.

2009: More infrastructure for greener transportation

Environment Oregon helps win a requirement that the Portland metro region reduce its transportation-related climate pollution, with greater funding for biking infrastructure and public transit.

(Left to right) TriMet bus in downtown Portland; staff and activists supporting plastic bag bans in Oregon; Environment Oregon's Brock Howell shows how investing in public transit helps reduce climate pollution. Photo credits: Joe A. Kunzler Photo, AvgeekJoe Productions, growlernoise-AT-gmail-DOT-com via Flickr, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 DEED, flickr.com/photos/avgeekjoe/38461820982, creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/; staff; staff

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Our staff

To see a full staff list and learn more about our campaigns, visit us online at EnvironmentOregon.org.

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