Priorities for a Healthy Oregon 2013

The Oregon League of Conservation Voters coordinates the Oregon Conservation Network, a coalition of over 40 organizations throughout the state united in one message: together, we can pass pro-conservation priorities, protect our unique quality of life, and ensure a better Oregon for our children. For nearly 20 years, OCN has advocated for a shared agenda, our Priorities for a Healthy Oregon, while also identifying and fighting policies that threaten our natural legacy.

Clean Fuels for Oregon

Oregon’s Clean Fuels Program can create thousands of jobs while reducing our state’s $7.7 billion-a-year dependence on imported gas and diesel. The Program encourages lower-carbon fuels like Oregon-made sustainable biofuels, electricity, natural gas, and propane that will improve air quality and help address climate change. Clean Fuels are projected to save households and businesses as much as $1.6 billion through increased consumer fuel choices. Removing the Program’s 2015 sunset will create the certainty the clean fuels industry needs to bring sustainable jobs to Oregon.

Contacts: Angela Crowley-Koch, Oregon Environmental Council, angelac@oeconline.org, 503.867.3378
Jana Gastellum, Oregon Environmental Council, janag@oeconline.org, 360.618.2722

Protecting Oregon’s Waters

Responsibly managing Oregon’s waters helps ensure a legacy of healthy rivers for everyone and everything that depends on our waterways, including fish, birds, aquatic species, water users, and all Oregonians who depend on healthy stream flows and water supplies. A modest fee on water rights across Oregon will create a reliable source of funding to promote better water management and support critically needed field and scientific capacities for the Water Resources Department.

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Teresa Huntsinger, Oregon Environmental Council, teresah@oeconline.org, 503.222.1963 x112

Energy Efficient Appliances

A key aspect of energy efficiency efforts is establishing strong standards for appliances used in both homes and businesses. If appliances are built to use energy efficiently from the start, then less energy is needed to power those appliances. That means consumers have a lower energy bill – and Oregon moves towards its conservation goals. 2013 legislation will establish standards for battery chargers, outdoor pole lighting, televisions, and plumbing fixtures.

Contact: Jeff Bissonnette, Citizens’ Utility Board of Oregon, jeff@oregoncub.org, 503.516.1636
Safeguarding Scenic Waterways from Destructive Mining Practices

Scenic waterways protection will safeguard some of Oregon’s most beloved rivers, protecting drinking water, wild salmon, and the scenic values that make Oregon such a special place to live and recreate. Countless Oregonians depend on iconic waterways such as the Rogue, Umpqua, Sandy, Grande Ronde, and McKenzie for their unique economic, public health, and recreational benefits. Yet, many of these Oregon treasures face a growing threat from largely unregulated and destructive uses such as suction dredge mining. Extending the State Scenic Waterway Act’s protection to more Oregon rivers for the first time since 1988 will stop these and other harmful activities.

Contact: Jonathan Manton, Oregon Heritage Rivers Alliance, jonathan@sawneeservices.com, 541.729.2923

OCN is coordinated by the Oregon League of Conservation Voters and powered by the tens of thousands of Oregonians who belong to OCN’s member organizations. Contact Christy Splitt at 971-404-7279 or christy@olcv.org or visit www.forahealthyoregon.org.