



## Pacific Rivers Council

***Founded in 1987 as the Oregon Rivers Council, Pacific Rivers Council (“PRC”) has a long history of success in changing public policy to protect and restore western watersheds. Our science-based approach to aquatic conservation is now central to many natural resource debates, both across the West and nationally. This is a chronology of our work over the last 20 years.***

**2008 \$40 million from Congress for Forest Service Road Remediation and Removal.** Played key role to bring needed public funds to the large and growing problem of harmful forest roads. Hosted highly successful Watershed Restoration and Forest Roads Symposium.

**2007 Aquatic Conservation Strategy Restored.** Won legal challenge to Administration's inadequate and illegal replacement of the aquatic protections in Northwest Forest Plan. Worked to protect and restore our irreplaceable forests, rivers, and watersheds.

**2006 Major Victory for Roadless Areas.** Helped win reinstatement of Clinton Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Landmark decision allowed 58 million acres of roadless lands to continue to provide clean water, native species habitat, and recreation for generations to come.

**2005 Watershed Restoration Alternative for Biscuit Burned Area.** PRC's restoration plan for the Biscuit Burn Area illustrated how to benefit the environment and economy. This site-specific, ecologically-based plan focused on road work necessary to protect key habitat for salmon, trout and amphibians.

**2004 Post-Fire Forest Management Report Published.** Facilitated peer-reviewed publication of 1995 Beschta report on the ecological effects of post-fire treatments (*Conservation Biology, August 2004*). Reaffirmed original conclusion that many management practices do more harm than wildfire.

**2003 Defending the Endangered Species Act.** Commissioned landmark study concluding even the best salmon hatcheries unlikely to aid recovery of Oregon coastal coho and healthy salmon populations depend primarily on protection and restoration of habitat.

**2002 Infusing the Fire Management Debate with Sound Science.** Saved critical bull trout strongholds and stopped 100 million board feet of logging on Bitterroot National Forest by providing best scientific information during a precedent-setting negotiation over salvage logging. Public appeal rights preserved.

**2001 Protecting National Forest Watersheds.** Understanding roads are a leading threat to aquatic resources on national forests, worked to strengthen Forest Service road rules, influencing landmark national policy prohibiting road building in roadless areas, followed by a companion policy dictating ecological sustainability, not transportation, as the driver of national forest roads management.

**2000 Protecting Native Western Trout.** A lead science and policy advisor in Western Native Trout Protection Campaign for key scientific studies, conservation plan reviews, and an independent science panel convened to identify effective conservation and recovery efforts.

**1999 Protecting Salmon on Private Industrial Forestlands.** Continued longtime campaigns in Oregon and Washington for major changes to states' timber harvest rules to protect native salmon. “Salmon survival checklist” included reduced logging near streams and on unstable slopes, focus on best habitat, and roads.

**1998 Salmon-Safe in the Marketplace.** PRC's innovative Salmon-Safe certification program expanded dramatically in the farm community and in the marketplace. Over 15,000 acres certified in important Northwest salmon watersheds. Public education campaign featured in 200 natural food stores and grocery retailers.

**1997 Protecting Watersheds in the Southeast.** worked with the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition to nationalize the issue of aquatic ecosystem health by beginning a campaign to protect the public lands in Conasauga River watershed, perhaps the highest biodiversity river in the temperate world, and threatened by the same problems we've faced for years in the Northwest.

**1996 Landmark Reports Released.** PRC releases two reports that prove pivotal in battles with Congress over environmental legislation. The reports dramatize the connection between clearcut logging, road building, and landslides in forested watersheds and the importance of environmental protection to the Northwest economy.

**1995 Monumental Post-Fire Management Report Released.** PRC released a significant report offering a scientific framework for federal policy development regarding wildfire and salvage logging. This includes consensus recommendations by university, government and tribal scientists. (“The Beschta Report”).

**1994 Geographic Expansion in the West.** PRC responded to rapidly growing demand for our conservation work with offices in California, Washington, and Montana. We engaged with scientists in the Sierra Nevada and Northern Rockies to develop aquatic strategies in those areas.

**1993 Ecological Restoration and Refuge Protection.** PRC starts the Knowles Creek watershed restoration project with a private timber company and federal agencies. This project has since validated PRC's restoration strategy to prioritize protection of intact areas as salmon refuges.

**1992 Federal Lands Aquatic Conservation Strategy.** Played key role in developing, advocating, and implementing the nation's first comprehensive aquatic conservation strategy adopted in the President's Northwest Forest Plan. This plan protects watersheds key to salmon survival throughout national forests in the Pacific Northwest.

**1991 Fish & Forests Campaign.** Coordinated efforts to protect endangered Northwest salmon and old growth forests. By organizing commercial and sport fishing groups and river-related businesses, PRC helps shift public debate from jobs vs. the environment to jobs vs. jobs

**1990 Pioneering Approaches to Citizen Involvement.** PRC begins establishing model watershed restoration programs in 1990 to empower local citizens to develop watershed protection and restoration plans.

**1988 Protecting Oregon's Rivers.** Crafted the nation's first large federal river protection bill, the landmark Oregon Omnibus National Wild and Scenic River Act which added 40 rivers totaling 1,500 river miles to National Wild & Scenic River system, and remains the largest river protection legislation in our history.