

West Bend Project Chronology

March 3, 2022

- Oregon Wild publishes “Deschutes National Forest to log old-growth trees in popular Phil’s Trail area” on their website.

March 4, 2022

- Central Oregon Daily News publishes “Oregon Wild questions new West Bend Project tree removal plan”
 - “A number of DCFP [Deschutes Collaborative Forest Plan] Steering Committee members did not feel that the mark in this unit was consistent with the overall vision of the West Bend NEPA document or the DCFP recommendations and suggested that retaining the oldest and largest trees would move these stands towards the desired condition of large and old pine in open stands faster.”

March 6, 2022

- The contractor reports “vandalism” of his equipment. “an unidentified liquid had been poured on the exterior and interior of an excavator”.
 - No police report filed

March 11, 2022

- OPB publishes “Group sounds alarm over plan to cut big, old trees near Bend.”
 - “These trees aren’t inappropriately marked” said Jean Nelson-Dean, public affairs officer for the Deschutes National Forests. “They are not old growth. They are not demonstrating old-growth characteristics”
 - “But Chang added that, in his opinion, the marked trees Oregon Wild has drawn attention to are different — not quite old growth, but definitely older than most of the trees on the landscape.”
 - “I don’t think this mark really aligns that well with the purpose and need for the West Bend Project overall,” Chang said.”
 - “Chang, Russell and collaborative Vice Chair Ed Keith issued a statement last week saying that “if 99 percent of the acres commercially thinned are moving our forest in the right direction then we don’t think it is appropriate to vilify the Forest

Service for the 10 acres which could be inconsistent with the overall intent and vision of the [Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project].”

March 24, 2022

- WGC sent Mayor Russell a letter raising three questions:
 - Is there a date and time set for the logging of the mature Ponderosa Pines at issue?
 - Is cutting the trees in question consistent with the letter and spirit of the logging contract.
 - What is the driving motivation for cutting the trees in question?
- In that letter we requested a hold on the project to discuss options.
- We also point out the objective outlined in the Record of Decision to retain large diameter trees to increase fire resistance.

March 25, 2022

- Around this time the large ponderosa were removed.

April 8, 2022

- Central Oregon LandWatch publishes “ Let’s not lose another big tree: Large trees logged along Phil’s Trail.
 - COLW argues for adoption of the 21” rule to save large diameter trees.

April 8, 2022

- KTVZ published story that T2, the logging contractor from Sweet Home had equipment vandalized.
 - Says combustibles were put in exhaust pipes, believes it 'was intended to cause harm'

April 18, 2022

- WGC sends follow-up letter to Forest Supervisor Holly Jewkes.
 - “We are not questioning the thinning of lodgepole pine, white fir, and other species less tolerant of fire than ponderosa in the effort to reduce overall susceptibility to wildfire. We are only questioning the rationale to cut the large diameter ponderosa pines that, if left intact, would help achieve the overall objective of returning the forest to conditions described as within the Historic Range of Variability.”

April? (No Date)

- Phil Chang publishes his paper “The Dangers of Oversimplifying Forest Management” and attempts to have it picked up by the Bulletin.
 - “The more dangerous oversimplification came from Oregon Wild.”
 - “I believe that inflammatory rhetoric like this, in turn, led to vandalism of the thinning contractor’s equipment. The vandalism led to the contractor racing to complete the thinning and get their equipment out of the area to avoid more vandalism.”

April 21, 2022

- WGC sends a letter to Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkely requesting their support to reinstate the Eastside Screens Rule (21” rule).

Early May, 2022 (No Date)

- Bend City Council sends a letter to Holly Jewkes, Deschutes National Forest Supervisor supporting the preservation of trees greater than 21” diameter.