

200,000 Oregon acres designated wilderness

by *Bend_Weekly_News_Sources*

SALEM, Ore. — Governor Ted Kulongoski yesterday celebrated President Barack Obama's signing of legislation that designates 200,000 acres of land in Oregon as wilderness, the highest protection provided by federal law. The hard fought legislation (H.R.146) ensures lasting protection for five special places in Oregon by creating the following new wilderness areas: Copper Salmon Wilderness, Oregon Badlands Wilderness, Spring Basin Wilderness, Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument/Soda Mountain Wilderness, and Mt. Hood/Columbia Gorge Wilderness.

“Oregon is fortunate to have vast areas of forests and wildlands that are relatively untouched by humans. Here, old growth trees still stand tall, rivers run wild through pristine watersheds, desert wildflowers bloom, and wildlife thrives,” Governor Kulongoski said. “Passage of HR 146 demonstrates our commitment to conserving these special places for future generations to enjoy. I am deeply grateful for the leadership that our Oregon Congressional delegation provided to ensure this bill's passage.”

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