

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, DC 20240

November 16, 2016

Dear President Obama and Secretary Jewell:

As Pacific Northwestern and national religious leaders, we are grateful for the treasure that is the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Oregon. It is home to an abundance of God's creatures. As the Psalmist declares, "The Earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it." God's creation is not ours, but God has put it in our human care. This year, God's creation near the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument needs our special attention and stewardship.

The Cascade Siskiyou National Monument contains one of the most biodiverse areas in the United States. Thanks to our nation's conservation efforts by naming it a National Monument in 2000 and making the Soda Mountain Wilderness Area within it in 2009, the unique interconnected web of God's creation in this region has a good chance of remaining intact.

Yet, a growing number of scientists are reporting that the boundaries of the Monument do not fully align with the needs of God's web of creation, imperiling God's beloved creatures. A patchwork of vital habitats and watersheds remain unprotected, and if they were to be harmed, we could disrupt the wildlife safe-haven our communities have striven to create over the past 16 years.

Furthermore, climate change is putting unprecedented stress on God's creation. Creatures and vegetation are feeling pressure from warmer temperatures and the arrival of invasive species. We confess to our complicity in contributing to climate change. We are called to restore a right relationship with God's creation by swiftly taking conservation action. May we share the gifts of God's creation with all plants and animals, so they are able to adapt to climate change and migrate if necessary.

God's creation helps us know our Creator. Please act with urgency to care for God's creation with the reverence it merits, and expand the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument this year.

In Hope,

## RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF THE NORTHWEST

Bishop Marc Andrus  
Diocese of California, The Episcopal Church  
San Francisco, California

The Rt. Rev. Patrick W. Bell, Bishop  
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon  
Cove, Oregon

Paul Belz-Templeman, Stated Clerk  
Presbytery of the Cascades  
Portland, Oregon

Mike Bessonette, President  
Greater Pacific NW Mission Center, Community of Christ  
Redmond, Oregon

Rev. Dr. Walter John Boris, Conference Minister  
Central Pacific Conference - United Church of Christ  
Portland, Oregon

Bp. David Brauer-Rieke, Bishop  
Oregon Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Portland, Oregon

Rev. Dr. Chuck Currie  
University Chaplain, Pacific University  
Forest Grove, Oregon

Jan Musgrove Elfers, Executive Director  
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon  
Portland, Oregon

Rev. Holly Hallman, Regional Minister  
Presbyterians for Earth Care  
Seattle, Washington

Barry McPherson, Co-Chair  
Eco-Justice Team of the Presbytery of the Cascades, Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Newport, Oregon

The Right Reverend Staccato Powell  
Bishop, Western Episcopal District, AME Zion Church  
Fontana, California

Dr. A.J. Swoboda, Executive Director & Co-Founder  
Seminary Stewardship Alliance & Blessed Earth Northwest  
Portland, Oregon

Sarah Withrow King, Co-Director  
CreatureKind  
Eugene, Oregon

#### NATIONAL RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Shantha Ready Alonso, Executive Director  
Creation Justice Ministries  
Washington, DC

Bishop Carroll A. Baltimore, President/CEO  
Global Alliance Interfaith Networks  
Lorton, Virginia

Rev. Dr. Brooks Berndt, Minister for Environmental Justice  
United Church of Christ  
Cleveland, Ohio

Patrick Carolan, Executive Director  
Franciscan Action Network  
Washington, DC

Rev. Carol L. Devine, Senior Minister  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Nicholasville, Kentucky

Jacqueline "Jackie" Dupont-Walker, Director  
Social Action Commission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Los Angeles, California

Father Proto Deacon Sergei Kapral, Assistant Ecumenical Officer  
Orthodox Church in America  
Plains, Pennsylvania

Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian, Representative to Creation Justice Ministries  
Armenian Church in America  
Racine, Wisconsin

Rev. Dr. Ian Mevorach  
Co-Coordinator, American Baptist Creation Justice Network  
Natick, Massachusetts

Phoebe Morad, National Program Coordinator  
Lutherans Restoring Creation  
Braintree, Massachusetts

The Rev. Amy Reumann, Director  
Advocacy, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Washington, DC

Rev. Pat Watkins, Missionary for the Care of God's Creation  
United Methodist Caretakers of God's Creation  
Atlanta, Georgia