

OUTDOORS WEST

Summer 2010

The Official Publication of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

Volume 33, No. 1



FWOC's 78th Annual Conference

**Partnerships for the West:
PROTECTING PUBLIC LANDS
IN AN ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE**
October 1–3, 2010
California Alpine Club's Alpine Lodge
Mill Valley, California

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COVER PHOTO:
Redwoods National Park
by Raelene Gold

FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS

Established in 1932 for the Mutual Service and for the Promotion of the Proper Use, Enjoyment and Protection of America's Scenic Wilderness and Outdoor Recreation Resources

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NOTICE!

The Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center in Williams, Oregon has applied for membership and will be voted on by member clubs at the Conference business meeting.

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CO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Joan Zuber

The 2009 FWOC Annual Conference was hosted by FWOC member club the Hobnailers in Spokane, Washington. The outstanding 3 day event took place at historic Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute. The Hobnailers were able to showcase the area's many environmental accomplishments, outstanding scenic beauty, and great hospitality. The presenters held our interest, the food was great, and the camaraderie of the like minded enhanced our experience. Thank you, Hobnailers!

For those of you unable to attend, you will be given another chance at this year's conference at the California Alpine Lodge in California, October 1-3, 2010. Our local member clubs, the California Alpine and Contra Costa Hills promise to make this another memorable event.

At the 2009 conference, I was elected along with Raelene Gold to serve as FWOC Co-President. Raelene suggested I tell a little about myself and my environmental background. My environmental activism was awakened in the 1970's after moving to my small woodland farm in the Cascade foothills, 50 miles south of Portland. The previous harsh winter resulted in a 50% winter kill to the deer population. I was alarmed by what I considered irresponsible hunting regulations following this event. My activism included speaking out against 1080 use, cougar tags, and herbicide spraying on neighboring forest land. I became involved in land use planning issues after realizing a nearby land speculator had plotted an illegal subdivision. Fortunately, this was at the time the landmark land use bill SB100 had become law. I had come to the understanding that habitat management was the key issue to protecting the environment. The dreams of financial gain through natural resource exploitation are continuous. However, as the rest of you, I feel I have made a difference in my tiny corner of the earth.

After years of hiking, climbing, and skiing with the Mazamas, I joined the Mazama conservation committee in 2000. I have been a member or a "friend" of the committee ever since. I attended my first FWOC conference in 2003 representing the Portland, Oregon based Mazamas, served as an Oregon vice president, vice president, and now as co-president.



Joan Zuber and Raelene Gold at Spokane conference.

Joan Zuber
received the
FWOC
Conservation
Award.



FWOC ANNUAL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 1, 2 & 3, 2010

The California Alpine Club and the Contra Costa Hills Club look forward to hosting you in the Bay Area of California for the 78th Annual Conference.

Joe Fontaine of FWOC has lined up many outstanding presenters for this year's theme: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE WEST. Bruce Hamilton from the Sierra Club has agreed to speak to us about what the Sierra Club is doing to combat the impacts of climate change with the Resilient Habitats campaign. He has a very good program and a power point presentation. Christy Davis, Executive Director of the California Wilderness Coalition, and Shaaron Netherton, from the Friends of Nevada Wilderness, will speak about Partnerships for Wilderness in the West and will focus on what the environmental groups can do to help the agencies take care of wilderness.

When you are not taking in all this up-to-date information, you will be enjoying tasty meals prepared by the great cooks of the California Alpine Club. CAC has two lodges among the trees on Mt Tamalpais to provide for comfortable sleeping arrangements. Just down the mountain is the famous Muir Woods, which will be one of our field trips, to see the magnificent Redwoods. On Sunday the Resolution Session is scheduled and an alternative, a hike to Mt. Tamalpais, from Rock Springs to West Point. On Saturday, hopefully we can get away still in the daylight to see the ocean at Stinson Beach prior to socializing and dining at the Parkside Café.

If you haven't been to Marin County California, you are in for a lovely opportunity to learn and soak up beauty. If you have, I need not coax you; you know the treat you are in for.

2009 FWOC CONFERENCE

By Beryl Vonderheid

The 77th Annual Conference of the Federation was held August 28-30, 2009 at the Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute in Spokane, Washington and hosted by the Hobnailers. Seventeen clubs were represented and fifty-six people attended.

Friday afternoon began with a field trip led by Chris DeForest to a Northwest Inland Trust property, a ranch with a conservation easement. Chris brought big black pieces of foam to cover the barb wire fences so we could get through and get to a lovely spot that overlooked the city of Spokane and the Pacific Palisades. It was very hot and we drank a lot of cold water.

The Friday evening speaker was **Dr. John Osborn**, a Physician and Spokane environmental leader. He presented on the Columbia River watershed. He said that when he was an Intern he decided that something needed to be done to protect the land they called home. He and other physicians who were concerned about the environmental effects on people's health, started the Inland Empire Public Lands Council.

Mike McCloskey spoke on the fate of nature in President Roosevelt's New Deal. President Franklin Roosevelt had more positive accomplishments than any President before or since (see pg. 5 for excerpts from presentation).

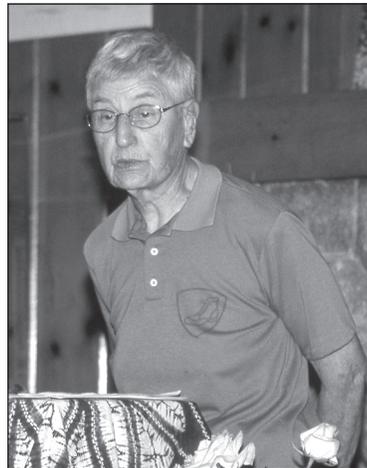
Overnight it had rained, so Saturday was cooler and more pleasant. The morning began with a Panel moderated by Hobnailer President **Virginia Danke** and featured leaders of local conservation organizations. **Chris DeForest** talked about the Northwest Inland Land Trust. The land trust has 4,000 conservation easements which serve as buffers between private land and open space.

ABOVE CENTER:
Hobnailer's President Virginia Danke, winner of the FWOC Service Award.

RIGHT: *Conference attendees at Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute.*



Chris DeForest leads field trip on NW Inland Land Trust property.



The Federation would like to give special thanks to the Hobnailers. Their President Virginia Danke and member Joy Stocking did a great job with overseeing the arrangements. Also thanks to the Hobnailers who helped preparing and serving such wonderful meals and others who volunteered for other tasks. The great volunteers were Leroy Leaf, Larry Charneski, Myra Decker, Carolyn Fletcher, Elnora Wildermuth, Carol Juillerant, Sharon Spear, Marilyn DeCoster, Kitty Johanson-Woods, Peck Ritter, and Jim and Jinny Buckholz.



HOW NATURE FARED UNDER THE POLICIES OF THE NEW DEAL

By Michael McCloskey

Excerpts from Keynote Address to Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs Spokane, Washington August 29, 2009

It is in an error to say that we have conquered nature. Rather, we must start to shape our lives in a more harmonious relationship with Nature. (Jan. 24, 1935; F.D.R. in a message to Congress on the National Planning Board)

For many years, it has been common to assert that nature did not fare too well during Roosevelt's New Deal. It has been said that time was all about promoting development, ostensibly to revive the economy and to promote jobs. This was a time for building dams, roads and parkways, lodges, windbreaks, and promoting a better version of wise use, such as with soil conservation.

It is true that there was then a great emphasis on building things. But that was not the whole story about the impact of the New Deal. It also did a great deal on the side of preserving nature. It also promoted parks, wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, and the protection of forests and nature. His administration put strong emphasis on the value and importance of public lands and outdoor recreation. They made major expansion of public land systems: the national parks, the national forests, and the system of wildlife refuges. Journalist and F.D.R. advisor Irving Brandt wrote:

President Roosevelt's interest in conservation covered so much of the field, and was so spontaneous, that even when most immersed in affairs of state, he was ready to give part of his time and thoughts to environmental subjects.

FDR created national monuments by executive order more times than any other president. He did this 29 times; more times than even his cousin, Teddy. FDR was a fierce defender, as well, of his right to use the Antiquities Act expansively. In 1933, all of the Forest Service's national monuments were transferred to the National Park Service. Forty-seven new units were added to the National Park System, many involving bills that they had to get through Congress. He created 150 new national wildlife refuges, more than doubling the size of the federal refuge system. The Civilian Conservation Corp planted almost three billion new trees.

In the context of today's problems, this dual commitment to both development and preservation seems contradictory. FDR seems to have believed in both. As a boy, he was interested in birds and collected them. Throughout his life, he was devoted to the Boy Scouts. From an early age, he was interested in

natural resources. When he was first elected President, he referred to himself as the "Forester in Chief."

His administration felt there was room for both at that time. They did not perceive that it was an "either/or" choice. At his core, Roosevelt believed that the wellbeing of the land and the welfare of man were connected, in fact, inextricably linked. His administration saw a seamless web here. They could not accept the notion that the two were divorced. He saw science and planning as the key to bringing all of this together.

2009 RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE FWOC CONVENTION

August 30, 2009

Mukogawa Ft Wright Institute • Spokane, WA

1. Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions
2. North Cascades NP Enlargement
3. Protection of the American Black Bear
4. Retention of Quota on Bear Hunting in CA
5. Improved Habitat Plans for the Bull Trout
6. Opposition to Electronic Billboards
7. More Aggressive Action to Reduce CO₂ Emissions
8. Elected Officials Should Support Green Industry
9. More Funding to Restore Habitat at Walker Lake, Nevada
10. Removal of Fish Lake Dam in Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness
11. No loaded Firearms in National Parks
12. Phase out Snowmobiles in Yellowstone NP
13. Need for More Aggressive CAFE Goals
14. Opposition to Helicopter Tour Flights in Crater Lake NP
15. Restoring Lake Tahoe's Waters
16. Continued Opposition to LNG Terminals and Pipelines in NW
17. Designate Molalla River in Oregon as Wild River
18. Protective Management of Mt. St. Helens Natl. Mon.
19. Support for NREPA
20. Opposition to Routing Ruby Gas Pipeline thru Sheldon Refuge
21. Support for Scotchman Peaks Wilderness in Idaho/Montana
22. Restoring Reporting Requirements under Wilderness Act
23. Improved Management of the Sheldon Natl. Wildlife Refuge
24. Careful Siting of Solar and Wind Projects
25. No Stocking of Fish in North Cascades NP
26. Put Snowmobiles under FS Travel Management Planning
27. Hold a West-wide Conference on Water for Wildlife
28. Implement Framework to Monitor Conditions of Wilderness
29. More Environmental Protection in Wind Project Permitting
30. Need to Expand Oregon Caves Natl. Mon.
31. Oppose Closing California State Parks

The full text of each Resolution can be found at our website www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org

CONSERVATION UPDATES

By Raelene Gold

ALASKA

USFWS received an estimated 52,000 public comments on its update of the **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge** Comprehensive Conservation Plan. The Plan will guide future management for the refuge's 19 million acres. Congratulations to **Wilderness Watch** who got a number of Alaska's scientists to write guidelines to help with comment writing.

This December is the 50th Anniversary of the creation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The 1.5 million acre coastal plain, known as the 1002 area, has been the battleground between the oil industry wishing to drill there and environmentalists, in a relentless 30 year struggle. The environmental community is hoping it will be permanently protected as wilderness in this the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Arctic National Refuge (Range). Arctic Ocean offshore oil rigs and exploration are of increasing concern and under scrutiny since the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

CALIFORNIA

The **Western Wilderness Conference** held April 8-11th on the UC Berkeley campus drew over 550 attendees demonstrating a continuing strong wilderness movement. A "Wilderness History" panel began with the wisdom of Mike McCloskey, Polly Dyer and Doug Scott. The final morning attendees were enlightened by Roger Kaye on the "Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," by Carl Rountree on "BLM's National Landscape Conservation System" and finally an invigorating Dave Foreman on "Rewilding North America."

IDAHO

Both the **Idaho Conservation League** and **Wilderness Watch** report they are pleased with the new Senate version of the **Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Bill** (CIEDRA, SB 3294) introduced by Idaho Senators Crapo and Risch, adding to Idaho Representative Simpson's similar bill in the House. Prior bills have been the subject of long standing controversy because of the land exchanges they contained. The new bill would preserve three wilderness areas including the White Clouds, Hemingway-Bounders and Jerry Peak.

MONTANA

Senator Tester (D-MT) has introduced a Forest Jobs and Recreation Bill that includes new wilderness areas in Montana. It could designate about 700,000 acres of wilderness in the Beaverhead and Deerlodge National Forests. The **Montana Wilderness Association** and **Greater Yellowstone Coalition** support the bill. Two other wilderness proposals are also gaining support, the Rocky Mountain Front and Scotchman Peaks.

OREGON

Responding to concerns that a helicopter touring company was proposing air tours over Crater Lake, Oregon's Senators got legislation passed that would allow the Park managers to determine if helicopter tours were appropriate over **Crater Lake National Park**.

The **Molalla River** was designated a Wild and Scenic River.

The **LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas)** facility planned for **Bradford Landing** near the mouth of the Columbia River and the **Palomar Pipeline** are on "indefinite delay." Northern Star, the Houston based energy investment company recently declared bankruptcy. The LNG terminal at Bradford Landing would have been the source of imported gas to enter the Palomar Pipeline that was to cross northern Oregon and the Mt. Hood National Forest. So for now, the future of the Bradford Landing project and Oregon LNG is shaky. The Coos Bay terminal site fight is ongoing. Abundant cheap domestic natural gas makes imported LNG unnecessary and financially uncompetitive.

WASHINGTON

Seattle Audubon has been focused on evaluating proposed wind farm projects in Western Washington as to their impacts on birds. Seattle and **Willapa Hills Audubon** have opposed Radar Ridge, a project on state land near the Washington south coast, because it is a nesting site for ESA threatened Marbled Murrelet. SAS has not opposed another wind project Whistling Ridge which is on a private lumber company land. However Portland based, **Friends of the Columbia Gorge** is opposing this project because of its 50,420 foot tall wind turbines would cover 1000 acres of highly visible ridgelines and impact scenic aspects of the Gorge.

The **Mountaineers** continue to work on gathering support for the American Alps Legacy Project that would expand the North Cascades National Park.

BROCK EVANS: A "RIVER HERO"

Brock Evans was excited to attend a National River Network's Rally in Utah where he received the group's James R. Compton River Achievement Award, for a life-long commitment to river conservation. Brock is currently the President of the Endangered Species Coalition. A past President of FWOC, he has remained our Washington DC Representative. He writes that the "great energy, excitement, enthusiasm, savvy and commitment of the 600 participants was the closest to what it felt like during the First Earth Month in 1970. Maybe this old battered little planet is going to be OK after all!"



CLUB NEWS

Compiled by Shirley Cameron



To be included in Club News, please remember to send your club's newsletter by mail or email to Shirley Cameron, 35479 Ross Lane, Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or shirleycam@pacinfo.com

CALIFORNIA

The CALIFORNIA ALPINE CLUB was required to do extensive remodeling at Echo Lodge to meet Forest Service, ADA and local building codes. In true cooperative club spirit, the trustees of Alpine Lodge loaned Echo trustees \$35,000. A drive to help repay the loan was launched. The reserve accounts of the three entities are badly stressed so the Board took the unusual course of authorizing a one time assessment. Those who are financially unable to pay will be exempt.

The *Trails* reported that Sea Otters are to the local coastline what the Spotted Owl is to the forests of the Northwest. They provide insight into the entire habitat. The only funding source to study what is killing them is the California Sea Otter Fund. Californians can donate on their 540 tax form.



Not only did the CONTRA COSTA HILLS CLUB learn about plate tectonics but eighteen hikers walked the Hayward Fault. Starting at the U.C. campus, they inspected several sites affected by the earthquake, including a creek displaced sixty feet and a misaligned curb. When they reached the memorial stadium, which is designed in six pieces so it can move with a quake, they saw a crack in section KK.

From the *Knapsack* comes a tested remedy to prevent shrinkage for boots inundated by salt water: Remove inner soles and laces and open boots wide. Fill with tight balls of crumpled newspaper. Place in a cool, dry place out of the sun.

COLORADO

The GREAT OLD BROADS FOR WILDERNESS joined the Western Watershed Project in filing suit to challenge the USDA Wildlife Services's mismanagement

of public lands in central Idaho for using helicopters to dart and radio collar wolves in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Helicopters are prohibited in wilderness areas except in real emergencies.

A new group called the "Polly Dyer Cascadia Broadband" held their mini-boardwalk in the Dosewallips watershed. The Olympic National Forest wants to build a road through the old-growth Polly Dyer Grove which abuts the Buckhorn Wilderness. However, there was a large public response to the June 2008 Environmental Impact Statement draft in favor of converting the abandoned road to a trail, with other agencies and local tribes in agreement. The Washington Trails Association volunteers have put in a trail taking people above the washout and back to the abandoned road leading to Elkhorn and Dosewallips campgrounds in the Olympic National Park.

MONTANA

It was a protracted four year battle to preserve the wilderness nature of the Tongass National Forest. WILDERNESS WATCH took the lead, enlisting allies in southeast Alaska. The issue was the Forest Inventory and Analysis program – to survey the nation's timber plus vegetation by establishing Forested survey plots. The Forest Service determined that helicopter access would be required to survey most of the plots. Even after public review and comment, the Forest Service believed that low level helicopter reconnaissance flights would be needed to guide ground crews to potential plots. Wilderness Watch urged that crews keep track of the plots in ways that would leave no permanent impact, such as photos, GPS readings, and written descriptions and above all, to eliminate helicopters. Finally acceding to the arguments, the Forest Service agreed to preserve the Tongass.

NEVADA

Seventy volunteers from the FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS pulled fence, installed signs and restored habitat on the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. Those volunteer hours resulted in the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service receiving funding to study pika genetics and population resiliency in the face of climate change. FRIENDS are working with other groups to save the Sheldon from Uranium mines and restore wetlands and native plants.

For the last four years, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, England's largest conservation volunteer charity, has worked with local Nevada volunteers in wild places to complete several restoration projects. One woman from London said: "I would have been happy with big skies and open country but I've seen so much more."



The TOIYABE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB happily reports that two out of three proposed coal plants have been mothballed due to intense organizing by environmentalists and local residents.

Bad news for the Nevada Sage Grouse! U.S. Fish and Wildlife decided not to list the Greater Sage Grouse for protection under the ESA. It will be added to the candidate list to wait for more funding.

The wild horse and burro initiative of Interior Secretary Salazar is being supported by the Toiyabe chapter as a short term solution. It sets up a system of reserves for horses on grasslands in the Midwest and other areas rather than only in the West. It emphasizes increased contraception and herd management plus roundups to reduce numbers on public rangelands. The club put forth suggestions for long term solutions as well.





CLUB NEWS

Compiled by Shirley Cameron



OREGON

Last winter, with snow and temperatures in the thirties, fifty-two MAZAMAS and five Forest Service employees planted seven hundred Douglas Fir and Western Red Cedar trees along the Salmon River in Welches, Oregon.

The numbers truly support Peggie Schwartz, the executive director, when she said "Climbing is the backbone of the Mazamas. It is who we are and why we exist. It is both our history and our future." In 2009, seventy five climb leaders offered 333 summer climbs and forty-two winter climbs.

Among the club's skill building classes are: Wilderness Navigation, Advanced Crevasse Rescue and Advanced Snow and Ice.

The Mazamas played a key role in the passage of the Lewis and Clark Mt. Hood Wilderness Act of March 20, 2009. They provided valuable information for the decision makers who were involved in its drafting and passage.

Since many of the hiking trails on Mt. Hood fall within the wilderness areas, hiking groups will now be restricted to a maximum of twelve persons.



The TRAILS CLUB OF OREGON was founded in 1915 to celebrate the completion of the Larch Mountain Trail. They say "trails are in their organizational blood."

Tyee Lodge has a new type of roof. They used a design with structural engineering specifications, increasing the thickness of the metal and substantial upgrading in anchorage systems and water tightness to withstand the snow loading they experienced last winter. They now have a ten year no-leak warranty. The crew stayed at the lodge and was fed by club volunteers. This lowered the price of the roof.

The Forest Service has been applying credit to the Trails Club as a result of their work on the Multnomah Basin Rd.

which accesses their Nesika Lodge. The credit reduces the Special Use fee they are charged for Tyee Lodge.

The Richard Montague Conservation Award was presented by the Mazamas on November 21, 2009 to Susan Saul, Trails Club president. Her conservation successes are many, including establishing and co-signing the Mt. St. Helen's Volcanic Monument, adding wilderness areas under the Washington Wilderness Act of 1984, founding the Gifford Pinchot Task Force, leading the Washington Trails Association Advocacy program, championing protection of the Dark Divide Roadless area and stopping construction of a cross monument highway.



From the newsletter of the OREGON CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB, *The Oregon Conifer*, we learned that John Kroger, Attorney General for the State of Oregon proposed and the legislature approved the state's first environmental crime prosecutor. Later there will be two prosecutors and an investigator who will work closely with the DEQ. Since Oregon has some urgent air and water pollution problems, this is an important step forward.

The Sierra Club in Oregon has a campaign to kick coal addiction in the state. The Oregon Beyond Coal Campaign wants to phase out the Boardman Coal Plant in the northeastern part of the state as well as all coal-fired power imported into Oregon. Coal accounts for forty-one percent of Oregon's energy mix and electricity generation from coal releases more than thirty percent of the total carbon dioxide emissions for the U.S. The Boardman coal plant emits five million tons of carbon dioxide every year in addition to other harmful pollutants.

The Many Rivers Group is committed to working for the preservation of two fragile ecosystems: the Amazon Creek

and its watershed and working to have the Umpqua Forest Rogue River area designated a National Recreation Area.

Michael McCloskey, former Executive of the Sierra Club and founder of the Oregon chapter has begun an interesting series in *The Oregon Conifer* titled "Milestones and Recollections." He is explaining how the places we love in Oregon were saved.



Forty-five CHEMEKETAN canoe and kayak paddlers were featured on TV! Salem's Capital Community Television filmed a trip to Devil's Lake when the club joined with Salem Audubon Society on International Migratory Bird Day. Another paddle was to Portland's 2,000 acre Smith and Bybee Lakes wetland, the largest wetland in an American city. The TV shows aired in March and April last year.

Family Friendly Hikes was a program given by author Bill Sullivan in January of this year. He emphasized hikes for kids and grandkids to foster a love of the outdoors. It was held at the Salem Public Library and was open to the public.

The trails coordinator for the Detroit Ranger District asked that Chemeketan hike leaders make note of the condition of the trails on an informal basis and report to the Forest Service. A reporting form is available on highcascadesvolunteers.com.



A half-ton of clay and Mt. St. Helen ash plus two firings of more than seventy individual pieces resulted in a beautiful ceramic relief mural near the entrance to the OBSIDIAN lodge in Eugene. The well-known artist Dallas Cole, an Obsidian, designed the mural which shows two backpackers waving to each other. It is titled "The Obsidian Spirit."

The climbing movies, *The Mountain*, *The Eiger Sanction*, *Cliffhanger*, and *Touching the Void*, were reviewed in an *Obsidian Bulletin*. Several club members were asked



CLUB NEWS

Compiled by Shirley Cameron



to name their favorite climbing movie. *Third Man on the Mountain* and *Lost Horizons* were mentioned but *Touching the Void* seemed to be the most popular. Go to videoclimb.com to see climbing videos on the net.

Obsidians noted that the Rogue River flows free from the Savage Rapids Dam for the first time in 88 years. On October of 2009 the dam was demolished, allowing Coho salmon and steelhead to reach their spawning grounds unimpeded. In the litigation resulting in the dam removal, EarthJustice attorneys represented WaterWatch, the environmental organization dedicated to the health of Oregon's rivers and streams.



FRIENDS OF COLOMBIA GORGE and their coalition partners will be able to present their case in court to clean up the PGE Boardman coal plant, Oregon's number one polluter. The Supreme Court ruled the Gorge Commission erred when it did not require evaluation and avoidance of cumulative adverse effects when reviewing new development proposals.

In 2008, their founder, Nancy Russell, bequeathed five properties to the Friends of Columbia Gorge Land Trust, totaling 612 acres. This was in addition to the previous donation of her Mosier Plateau property. Because of her vision and generosity, the land trust now holds more than 650 acres she had purchased for conservation.



In the belief that the best way to achieve permanent protection for the region is to obtain Wilderness and Wild and Scenic designations throughout the area, the SISKIYOU PROJECT initiated a series of conversations with regional, state and national environmental groups toward building consensus about priorities for conservation efforts in 2009–2010. Thus, The Siskiyou Wild Rivers Campaign was

adopted as Oregon's next conservation priority.

The primary goal of this campaign will be to expand Wilderness protections to over 250,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas and secure Wild and Scenic river status for over twenty streams.

WASHINGTON

In late August last year, THE HOBNAILERS turned their attention to hosting the FWOC conference. The volunteers did a great job and attendees were impressed with the city of Spokane, which is undergoing changes relating to the North/South US395 corridor project. The plans provide for park and ride lots, space for high capacity transit, a bike/pedestrian trail, gas savings, improved air quality, safety and reduced travel time. Nickel Funding, five cents added to the gas tax, provides part of the support for these changes.

A tip from *Traildust*, the Hobnailers' newsletter, tells us what to do if we are forced by a robber to withdraw money from an ATM machine. You can notify the police by entering your pin number in reverse. The ATM recognizes your pin is backwards and will still give you the money but will notify the police.



Trail running events were held at Guye Cabin last summer. The WASHINGTON ALPINE CLUB hosted high school cross country runners and included an Ultra Trail run.

We learn from the club's bulletin that wolves are making a natural comeback to Washington. They play an important ecological role, especially in the restoration of the predator-prey relationship and the overall health of the ecosystems. There are now two confirmed packs in Washington, in Okanogan and Pend Oreille counties, with a possible third pack in the Blue Mountains of the southeastern part of the state.

An online resource for weather, snowpack data, and snow profiles is <http://www.nwac.us/resources>.

One of their club members, Pat O'Brian, completed his long-time quest to summit Washington's 100 highest mountains, becoming just the 33rd person to accomplish this feat.

Cooperative Campers, made up of folks who attended camps at Mt Rainier, was the group that spawned the Washington Alpine Club.



At the MOUNTAINEERS Open House May 2nd of their new ultra-deluxe building, sixty goats were hired to eat the blackberries and other invasives before volunteers started landscaping for a Native Plant garden. The goats must have a good union as they seem to be having a rest break and their fee is pretty high especially in a recession: \$825/hour plus a \$300 mobilization fee! That's \$13.75 per hour per goat! Human volunteers get pizza and soft drinks for their work.



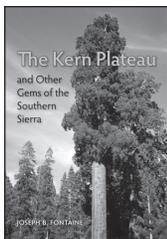
Goats from Rent A Ruminant on lunch break.



BOOK REVIEWS

The Kern Plateau and Other Gems of the Southern Sierra

By Joseph B. Fontaine, 2009. Review by Marjorie Bell.



Backpackers, campers, sportsmen and even casual visitors to the southern Sierra will appreciate the solid research behind Joe Fontaine's recent book, *The Kern Plateau and Other Gems of the Southern Sierra* (2009). Written with deep affection for the mountains of Kern and Tulare counties, the 152-page volume explores not only the geography, biology and geology of this part of California, but also the region's rich history.

"I wrote this book for people who live mainly in this part of the state," said Fontaine, a Kern County native who now lives with his wife, Bugs, in Bear Valley Springs on Bear Mountain. Fontaine started to research and write the book over 30 years ago, then updated and revised it after his retirement from teaching science at Foothill High School in 1994.

Fontaine wants readers to understand that the book is not a guidebook. "It's intended to give a person background information." In researching his subject, he used his own experience as a geology major in college, but also consulted Forest Service biologists and fishery experts, a Cal Tech geologist, and descendants of Native Americans still living in the Kern River Valley. An extensive bibliography for further reading appears at the end of the book.

The volume is illustrated with exquisite pen and ink drawings by Tehachapi resident and retired teacher Georgette Theotig. Of note are illustrations of Olancho Peak, deer in Casa Vieja Meadow, and the South Fork of the Kern River.

The final chapter about stewardship of the Kern Plateau explores fairly recent events such as the establishment of the Giant Sequoia National Monument in 2000. The Monument is important for preservation of wildlife and plant species, and also the Giant Sequoia groves, which attract thousands of visitors annually.

Fontaine also chronicles threats to the area, including large-scale logging operations during World War II at Johnsondale. There was also a highly publicized plan in 1965 by the Walt Disney Corporation to develop a year-round resort and ski area in Mineral King. Eventually Congress stopped the project by adding Mineral King to Sequoia National Park in 1978.

The author is proud of his nearly 50-year affiliation with Sierra Club, in which he served as both chapter chairman (1965-'66) and national chair (1980-'82). For many years he, Bugs, and their Sierra Club friends would take an annual backpack into the Golden Trout Wilderness. "We'd get back from the road sometimes 15 miles or more. We'd see all kinds of wildlife, including bears and such. These are people who really like the outdoors and the camaraderie of being together."

Fontaine, who has an undergraduate degree from UCLA and M.A. in earth science from Cornell, sees environmental preservation as a responsibility of everyone. "We all have an obligation to future generations to pass on an environment that is in better condition than when we found it," he said in a phone interview. For many readers, this book could offer a key to understanding the unique beauty of the natural world close to our own backyards, thus could lead us to find the will to protect it.

The book may be purchased for \$24.95 by emailing the author at fontaine@wildblue.net.

Carving Up the Commons: Congress and Our Public Lands

By Janine Blalock, *Western Lands Project*, 2009. Reviewed by Raelene Gold.

Alarmed by federal land exchanges that were giveaways to private interests, former forest activist Janine Blalock founded the Western Land Exchange Project (now the Western Lands Project) in 1997. The Project monitors federal land exchanges and scrutinizes legislation that would privatize public lands. They are dedicated to educating the public about the history of public land deals and sharing the tools to enable citizens to combat the bad ones. The Project has also been on the front lines of the battles over many recent contested Wilderness bills. It exposes a number of western public land deals and the Congressmen who made them. This is Blalock's third book, being preceded by *Commons as Commodity? The Dilemma of Federal Land Exchanges* in 2000 and *Citizen's Guide to Land Exchanges* in 2001.

Erica Rosenberg, a former congressional staffer, writes in the Foreword:

"Armed with insider know-how, Janine distills an astoundingly complex political process into an accessible manual. Although the process remains unwieldy, Janine's illumination of the legal framework and political context makes it far less so. In *Carving Up the Commons*, Janine has provided a much needed window into a shady world of back-room deals, special interest and cronyism, while offering pragmatic information and a tactful approach to citizen involvement."

This book is invaluable for all those who care about protecting public lands. It is also recession timely as the entire book (106 pages) can be downloaded in PDF format for free from: www.westernlands.org/download/Carving_up_the_Commons.pdf.

2010 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs 78th Annual Conference

Partnerships for the West: PROTECTING PUBLIC LANDS IN AN ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Alpine Lodge + Mill Valley, California

Noon Friday, October 1 until noon Sunday, October 3, 2010

Name _____ M F
Club or Organization _____ Delegate? Yes No
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

FEES	Conference package: Including conference registration, 4 meals (Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch, Sunday breakfast) social hours and lodging in Alpine Lodge.	\$130	\$ _____
	Conference Package without Lodging	\$ 90	\$ _____
	Friday only (includes conference registration, social hour, dinner)	\$ 35	\$ _____
	Saturday only (includes conference registration, lunch)	\$ 30	\$ _____
	NOTE: Saturday social hour and dinner will be held at Parkside Café in Stinson Beach not including alcoholic beverages. Include payment with registration.	\$ 42	\$ _____
	TOTAL	\$ _____	

If you are lodging at Alpine Lodge, please Email or phone what you require in a room assignment. Your needs and what we have available will be matched to make a comfortable lodging assignment for you.

Mail check(s) and form to:

Mae Harms, 5941 Garden Park Drive, Garden Valley, CA 95633.

Payee for all conference expenses:

Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs.

Please make out one form and one check for each attendee.

Please send registrations by September 24, 2010

Questions: maeharms@mindspring.com, 530.333.1058

Motels in the area: Larkspur Hotel, 415.332.5700

Check for information on:

- Transportation Carpools
 Take riders Need ride

2010 RESOLUTION PROPOSAL FORM

Submitted by _____ (Member Organization or Individual)

Contact Person _____

Email _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Date _____

Resolution Title or Topic _____

Deadline for submission is September 10, 2010

Background: Explain the issue, how the matter arose, why it is important, where it stands now.

Proposed Resolution: This is the FWOC's position or stand. Use the appropriate action verb. (For example: The FWOC urges... The FWOC opposes... The FWOC supports... The FWOC condemns... etc.)

Send Resolutions to: George Nickas, Resolution Chair, P.O. Box 9175, Missoula, MT 59807, gnickas@wildernesswatch.org by September 10th.



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*A Walk Through
the Redwoods
by Raelene Gold*