

# **Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs (& Associates)**

*Establish 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*

## **President's Message – January 2018**

### **Greetings Everyone,**

First, thanks to all who participated in the 2017 convention held at the Siskiyou Field Institute, located within The Klamath-Siskiyou, known as the most biodiverse region in North America. Studied by international groups, researchers from Scotland were just leaving as we arrived. Special thanks to Jan Walker, our outgoing Oregon Vice President, for her persistence to bring our convention to the Siskiyou Field Institute and all her work to create such a successful event.



An important outcome of last year's convention, my introduction of scheduling a strategic planning for members of the Executive Committee (Ex-Com), before the next convention scheduled for August 17-19 of this year, hosted by the California State Park Rangers Association and the California Alpine Club. In place of the winter Ex-com meeting, this separate planning meeting is scheduled for March 10-11, and being conducted by Denis Lee, an outside facilitator. The primary focus, "Where do we want to be in five years?" & "How are we going to get there?" Part of the plan, to review our organizational structure and make the changes needed to more effectively serve the overall Federation membership.

Our reality, damaging decisions made on a daily basis in Washington DC, dismantling conservation and environmental policy. FWOOC is one of many organizations available to help educate the public on what effect these reversals will have for us and our planet and on future generations. The FWOOC niche so to speak, our dedication to protecting our natural environment through the adoption of resolutions, ones representing member organization issues of concern.

The University of Washington sent me a copy of the "Crown Jewel Wilderness, Creating North Cascades National Park," by Lauren Danner to review. This provided me the privilege of comparing its message to a similar read, "Conserving Oregon's Environment: Breakthroughs That Made History," by Michael McCloskey. Both of these wonderfully written publications are a reminder of the historic efforts in Washington and Oregon to establish present conservation and environmental policies. The lessons nationwide, nothing is accomplished easily or quickly, even maintaining the status quo will continue to present challenges.

We have received so many requests for help and support on a tremendous number of concerns to the conservation community, acting on many as able. Preserving wilderness and public lands appears to be the most noticeable struggle, but that does not reduce the importance of campaigns to stop oil and gas pipelines crossing both private and public land and the coal and oil trains that continue to travel across the country, along with many other concerns both locally and nationally. The question, how do we maximize our Federations response with extended support of member clubs, conservation organizations and individuals? Stay tuned for answers to this question, and others being brought forth by Denis Lee interviewing Ex-Com members prior to the March meeting.

Special thanks to members of the Ex-Com, for participating in the upcoming strategic planning pre-interviews. The outcome will focus our March planning agenda on efforts to better unite Federation membership in a shared agenda.

Sincerely

*George Milne*