

RESOLUTIONS FOR THE 2021 FWOC ZOOM SESSION

notes

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2021-1 Urging Biden to Restore Trump's Rollbacks

Just as the *New York Times* kept track of how far President Trump was able to go in trying to rollback environmental policies, the *Washington Post* is now keeping track of how far President Biden has been able to go in restoring them.

Biden has overturned 40 of his rollbacks and has targeted 72 more that he is working on restoring. It sometimes taken time to complete the processes of overturning them. The *Post* thinks 7 are going to be difficult to overturn, and 22 will present medium amounts of difficulty.

And the *Post* has identified 125 more that he needs to target. 43 of these involve drilling and extraction; 35 air pollution; 7 water pollution; 16 permitting; 8 involve chemical safety; and 15 wildlife.

In addition to dealing with rollbacks, President Biden has added 24 new policies that he has put into effect. And, he is working on 19 more that he intends to add.

Biden has made it clear that he intends to make resisting climate change the centerpiece of his environmental policies. He immediately rejoined the Paris Climate Accord. He is trying to cut America's greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 and to eliminate them by 2050.

He is trying to shift the nation away from fossil fuels and has paused most oil and gas leasing on public lands and waters.

He also thinks it is important to keep natural systems intact, providing greater resilience in dealing with climate change and a way to store carbon. He has committed his administration to the goal of conserving at least 30% of our lands and waters by 2030.

Proposed Resolution

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs congratulates President Biden for his policies on resisting climate change and for his progress in rolling back Trump's bad environmental policies.

Moreover, it encourages him to keep working to complete the rollback job; there is still a long way to go.

But his beginning is encouraging. We look forward to more.

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Proposed by: the Resolutions Committee [9-29-21, 10-8-21]

2021-2 Resisting Intrusions into Alaska's Izembek NWR

For decades, efforts have been made to trade away land in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge on the Alaskan peninsula to build a road connecting the town of King Cove with the village of Cold Bay.

This refuge provides habitat for almost all of the world's black brant. It has one of the world's largest beds of eelgrass.

Nearly all of this refuge for waterfowl is in designated wilderness. It was also the first wetland to be designated under the RAMSAR convention as a wetland of international significance.

The Alaska Wilderness League opposes this road project. The land exchange was made during the Trump administration, and the state of Alaska is trying to get clearance to build the road.

In an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the Fish and Wildlife Service found that the road would do irreparable harm to wetlands of international importance for migratory waterfowl. It would also invade designated wilderness and a RAMSAR wetland. It would also have negative impacts on brown bears and other wildlife.

When the Trump administration tried to forge ahead to proceed with this project, it was sued by nine environmental groups. In this suit, the federal district court for Alaska ruled that the reasoning of the Trump administration was inadequate and failed to show why the existing EIS was no longer applicable. His Justice Department pleaded their case for the federal govt.

This road has not yet been built. Now that administrations have changed, generally the new Biden administration is taking the course environmentalists want.

However, they have **not done** that in this case. The Justice Dept. is still pushing in court to clear the way for this road, defending a 2019 land exchange. The Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit is now hearing an appeal of the decision of the district court in Alaska.

Proposed Resolution

The FWOC urges the Biden administration to cease arguing the case for building the road and to instead oppose the project. Their approach should be guided by protecting the integrity of this important NWR.

Proposed by: the Resolutions Committee [9-29-21, 10-8-21]

2021-3 Opposing the Willow Oil Lease in Alaska

In 2021, the Biden administration is defending efforts to lease Alaskan lands in the National Petroleum Reserve on the arctic plain for oil drilling. It is called the Willow lease and has been made to Conoco-Phillips, which paid \$2 billion for it. Some think that it will yield 100,000 barrels of oil over a 30 year period.

While President Biden has cancelled all efforts to lease land in ANWR—for which we are grateful - he has proceeded to support this lease a hundred miles west of ANWR. Trump had tried to open ANWR to oil drilling, but no major companies bid on it. Biden's Interior Dept. is examining the issue involved in the Willow lease.

Most of those fighting climate change realize that we have to end consumption of carbon fuels, which implies that we have to end drilling to provide more oil for that purpose. The Int. Energy Agency has proclaimed that no new oil and gas fields should be developed to meet the terms of the Paris Climate Accord.

Pres. Biden is thought to have gone ahead with this to earn the goodwill of Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, who wants it in light of the declining production of the state's existing oil wells. Biden desperately seeks her support on his hopes for getting Congress to approve his \$1 trillion funding for infrastructure improvement.

Biden's Justice Dept. has filed a brief in U.S. District Court for Alaska this spring defending the Willow lease, which was made under Pres. Trump. But that court has stopped development of it while it examines legal challenges.

Proposed Resolution

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs urges the Biden administration. To stop defending the Willow lease made by the Trump administration. In light of the urgency of stopping climate change, oil drilling and oil consumption must be brought to an end. Moreover, the Biden administration. should have a consistent position in defending the arctic plain against further oil drilling.

Proposed by: the Resolutions Committee [9-29-21, 10-8-21]

2021-4 Restoring Environmental Components in Biden's Infrastructure Program

President Biden is seeking funding from Congress for plans he has for massive infrastructure improvements. He is starting with plans for spending under a \$1 trillion tranche.

In this plan, there is too little money provided for environmental needs. In budget negotiations with Republican senators, the environmental items were frequently slashed.

More funding is needed for public transit, rail, and charging stations for electric vehicles. Too little is provided to replace old lead pipes—too many are left in place, thereby endangering drinking water. A huge number of school busses are still powered by diesel fuel, which is a major source of air pollution. Hardly a start is made in replacing them with modern electric busses.

Proposed Resolution

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs urges the Congress and President Biden to work together to restore funding for many environmental programs that had been in President's larger plans. The need is still pressing and won't go away. The environmental components were not treated fairly in recent negotiations.

Proposed by: the Resolutions Committee [9-29-21, 10-8-21]

2021-6 Urging Member Clubs to Adopt Their Own Climate Change Strategy

The Mazamas recently adopted the following Climate Strategy within our organization:

Purpose: Provide a plan that enables the Mazamas to realize their climate commitments

Climate Commitment / Mission:

- We will strive to address the root causes of climate change, such as carbon emissions, deforestation, and inappropriate management of public lands, through political advocacy and scientific research.
- We will develop resources to keep our own organization climate positive, offering sustainable choices for members as they plan trips and expeditions.
- We will continue efforts to reduce and offset the carbon footprint of our facilities.
- We will continue to offer our members resources to be individually climate positive

By acting locally and thinking globally, we make the commitment to being part of the solution.

We believe that by setting an example in our actions, and in urging other organizations to do similar, we can make a positive difference in reducing Climate Change.

Policy history: The Mazamas sponsored a previous adopted policy, 2007-21, which also urged member organizations to take action to reduce climate change, with the following specifics: each member organization should examine its own contributions, educate its own members on the matter, and take steps to minimize its own carbon footprint and offset it.

Proposed Resolution

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs urges all member clubs to adopt a climate strategy within their organizations that fits their mission and operations, and also to urge their own memberships to be climate positive as individuals.

Proposed by: the Mazamas

Processed by: the Resolutions Committee [9-29-21, 10-8-21]

2021-7 Urging Biden to Make More of his Executive Order on Electric Cars Binding

On August 5, 2021 President Biden issued an executive order that set a goal of having half of all new cars made by 2030 be electric. He also urged EPA and the DOT to improve emission standards for vehicles, beginning in 2026, with a ten percent increase in their stringency.

Biden deserves to be congratulated for moving in this direction, but he should have gone further by making them binding wherever he could. For instance, he should have **directed** these agencies to improve these standards. He should have made it difficult for future administrations to roll them back.

Proposed Resolution:

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs urges President Biden to make his order of August 5 binding wherever he legally can. This order puts our nation on the course of having at least half of all new cars produced by 2030 be electric.

Proposed by: the Mazamas

Processed by: the Resolutions Committee [9-28-21, 10-8-21]

2021-8 Pledging Support for Legislation Adding More River Mileage in Oregon to the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Program

Oregon senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley have introduced a bill to add 4700 miles of dam-free rivers in Oregon to the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers System. They are calling it the River Democracy Act of 2021 (S. 192).

With passage of this Act, the number of river miles in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System in Oregon would roughly triple, going from just under 2% to over 6% of the state's rivers.

Inclusion of these river segments would protect them from being dammed and would keep mining and other disturbance out of a ¼ mile riparian bankside buffer on either side of each river. Only federal lands would be involved.

Inclusion would protect the quality of the drinking water affected, and would help store carbon. The local recreation economies would benefit too.

The bill proposed by senators Wyden and Merkley would encourage managers to assess and implement plans to reduce wildfire risks in these corridors and to work with Native American tribes to ensure that they have a stake in how the rivers are managed.

Private property rights, existing water rights, and mining claims are not impacted.

Proposed Resolution:

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs supports the passage of the Rivers Democracy Act of 2021 (S. 192), adding 4700 river miles in Oregon to the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers System and calls upon the senators of all other states to join in supporting it. It also calls upon other states to expand their river mileage in the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers program.

Proposed by: the Mazamas

Processed by: the Resolutions Committee [9-28-21, 10-8-21]

2021-9 Restoring Quiet in National Parks

In preparing management plans for some national parks and putting forth options on which the public is invited to comment, the National Park Service is not offering the option of “no-flights.”

The National Park Service is now permitting lots of commercial over-flight tours.

These are both by helicopters and fixed-wing planes. In the West, this is happening in Mt. Rainier, Olympic, Glacier, and Death Valley national parks.

These overflights destroy quiet and solitude in these national parks. Many visitors seek this there, and many species of wildlife need it to survive and thrive.

Proposed Resolution:

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs urges the National Park Service to protect the parklands it administers from the noise and intrusion of commercial air tours. It should offer “no flight alternatives” in options for public comment.

Source: Wilderness Watch
By: Resolutions Committee

Past: Urges that drones be banned in Natl. Wildlife Refuges and
polices: state parks; notes that they are already banned in
national parks (Res. 5, 2018)

Proposed by: the Resolutions Committee [10-8-21]

2021-10 Establishing “Big Quiet” Zone over Owyhee Region

The U.S. Air Force is planning to expand low-level training flights of fighter jets over a portion of the Owyhee region in southeast Oregon and southwest Idaho and the Jarbidge Wilderness in northern Nevada. Under their proposed regulations, these flights could be as low as 100 feet.

Currently an out-of-court settlement restricts such flights over most of the wilderness in the Owyhee region, but the new proposal would allow supersonic flights low over the area north of Three Forks, including Big Antelope Creek and the West Little Owyhee and extending to Oregon’s borders with Idaho and Nevada.

These areas provide superb rafting opportunities, as well as times for hiking, hunting, and photography. With their isolation, they should afford a great area of “Big Quiet.” They are candidates for wilderness areas.

The noise of the flights would also harm such wildlife that lives there such as the greater sage-grouse, which is now in decline because of cattle grazing. It also provides habitat for bighorn sheep, pronghorn, elk, cougars, badgers, and river otters. Such noise imposes harmful stress on wildlife.

So far, the Air Force has not offered to hold hearings in Oregon and has given little publicity to this proposal.

Proposed Resolution

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs urges maintenance of a large area of “Big Quiet” over the Owyhee region. It opposes operating low-level training flights over this area, particularly supersonic ones. It urges that the existing restrictions be continued and that low-level flights not be expanded over any of the Owyhee region and the Jarbidge Wilderness.

It asks Senator Ron Wyden to seek to have hearings in Oregon on this issue.

Past Policy:

Res. 9, 2015: called for protection for the Owyhee as wilderness and its streams as wild rivers.

Proposed by: the Resolutions Committee [10-8-21]

2021-11 Restoring Efforts To End Oil and Gas Drilling on Federal Lands And Waters

At its outset, the Biden administration pledged to end oil and gas leasing on federal lands and waters, and it stopped such action. However, in June a law suit by the oil industry produced a judgment by a federal district court in Louisiana that required the federal government to begin leasing again. After delaying as long as it could, it has now started the leasing process again.

However, it is appealing the district court ruling to the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

And its Interior Department is still conducting a review of the entire process of past oil and gas leasing and hopes to finish soon. The Biden administration claims it still trusts it will be able to end the whole leasing program as part of its climate program.

Proposed Resolution

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs believes the federal government has wide discretion in deciding whether to issue leases to drill for oil and gas on federal lands and waters. It fully backs the Biden administration in its efforts to end the whole leasing program. It congratulates it in its resistance to the efforts of the oil industry to get it going again.

It urges the Interior Department to propose a termination program.

Past policy on this matter:

Res. 8, 2015: called for ending the oil and gas leasing program, as well as leasing for coal.

Proposed by: the Resolutions Committee [10-8-21]