

Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

President's Message

January 2025



This is a very difficult message to write to members.

We have already seen what the change of administration is bringing along with it. The Executive Branch, both houses of Congress, and Supreme Court are all in the hands of (or leaning toward) only one party. We are officially not a political or a lobbying organization and we normally just call the shots as we see them impacting our mission and causes. But we only need to examine the promises made during the election run-up, as well as the past history of those who will be assuming authority, to know that it is not going to be a favorable time for conservation and the environment.

And yet, we must move ahead. As I sought out wise counsel for the times approaching, I found it in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving."

We *will* keep moving. If anything, we will have to do more advocacy, inasmuch as the castle is under siege, and our main weapon *is* advocacy. At such times, you find your allies, you unite efforts, and you face the enemy with strength.

We are right now going full-speed ahead with one of the goals I set last year, which was to initiate a conservation grant program. It will start out modestly, as we elected at the Annual Meeting to keep the Winchell Hayward funds an endowment, not a sinking fund. But even small grant amounts can help our worthy partners to hire additional seasonal staff, conduct conservation programs, and reach out to the general public with the right messages.

As always, it's important to remember that our strength resides in the volunteer efforts of our members and member organizations, and that FWOC will continue to take action on important issues on behalf of members and member organizations. If you know of issues that are a concern that we can unite behind, don't hesitate to approach anyone on the Executive Committee.

Sincerely,
John Rettig

<https://www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org>