

OUTDOORS WEST

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Ancient Forests of Bumping Lake Deserve Wilderness Protection

By Brock Evans, FWOC Washington DC Representative



Ancient Forests and Bumping Lake, near the William O. Douglas Wilderness and Goose Prairie, WA. Photo courtesy of David E. Ortman.

In the Central Cascades east of Mt. Rainier, in the Wenatchee National Forest, there is a gem of a place called Bumping Lake. On two sides of the lake are large stands of truly magnificent ancient forests that are adjacent to the William O. Douglas Wilderness.

Over the past twenty years, I have been to these forests three times and each time I am awed by their size and extent: an untouched 2,000–3,000 acre gathering of giants, 8–10 feet in diameter, harboring, east side, ponderosa and sugar pine, and west side, Douglas fir and western hemlock. I have hiked most of the trails and climbed many peaks in the Cascades, but I have never seen anything quite like these Bumping ancient forests. To be able to wander on level terrain through ancient forests at the end of a lovely lake, that is a rare Cascades experience!

Last August I returned with a convivial party of Washington State Sierra Club and Audubon members. The best and deepest part of these famous forests is reached about three miles in via a lakeside trail. When we arrived there, a great silence, borne of awe, came over us. There are literally hundreds of places to camp and stroll beside these great massed columns of giants, alongside beautiful Bumping River where it flows into the Lake.

We were there to devise a plan and a strategy to *protect* this special place. For there are powerful and wealthy special

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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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 79th 2011 FWOC Annual Conference, "Defending our Environmental Legacy in the West," was co-hosted by FWOC member clubs, the Mazamas and the Trails Club of Oregon, and took place at the Mazama Lodge on the slopes of Mt Hood at Government Camp, Oregon. Many Northwest environmental challenges concern Mt. Hood National Forest.

Mike McCloskey organized the program for this year's conference and provided a sobering summary of attacks on our nation's environmental laws by Republican members of the House of Representatives.

Professor Dick Waring, from Oregon State University held a mini field trip near the lodge about conifer health, as well as a side trip up the Tilly Jane trail to examine the recovery of the Gnarl Ridge fire on the North slopes of Mt. Hood. A fire caused by lightning erupted the day of the field trip and was still smoldering nearby. It burned hundreds of acres before it was contained.

In 1931, the Mazamas invited 20 mountain climbing and recreation clubs in the Pacific Northwest to come to the dedication of their lodge and bring a stone from their home area for the new fireplace as a symbol of common interest and cooperation among the groups. This meeting led to the founding of the FWOC the following year.

In 2011, in the spirit of replicating the past, each member club was asked to donate a patch or logo to be added to a framed FWOC flag. Most clubs have responded by sending in their patch, but there are a few more to be added before this commemorative can be completed. If your club hasn't sent in a patch or logo, please do so as soon as you can.

The Mazama lodge was an ideal location for this year's conference. Lodge manager Charles Barker provided conference attendees with first-rate lodging, food, and hospitality. The Trails Club provided hike leaders, additional beds at their nearby lodge, and much appreciated conference support. Thanks especially to Trails Club volunteers George Milne, Leonard Murphy, and Randy Dietrich.

Joan Zuber, FWOC President



Joan Zuber,
FWOC President and
Mazamas Conservation
Committee Member

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Website: www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org

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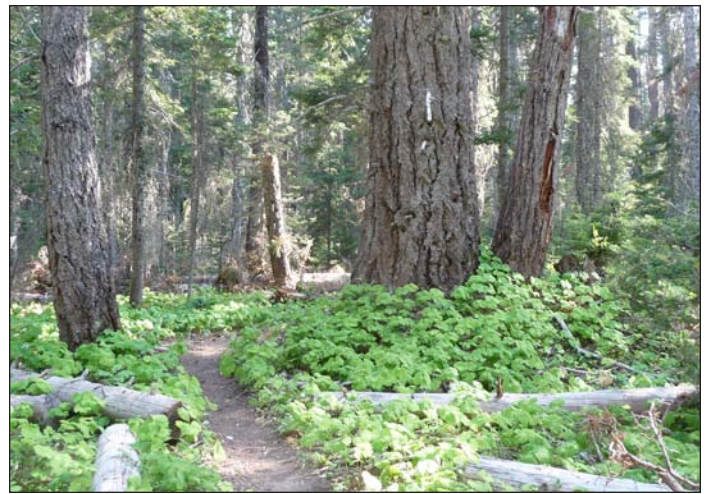
interests that seek to destroy it soon. We who love it will have to fight to save it. Bumping forests are an integral, *biological* part of the adjacent William O. Douglas Wilderness, even if not officially inside its boundary. The spotted owls and endangered bull trout and all the other ancient forest species inhabiting this special niche, don't understand all this human palaver about "political" boundaries; they just go on about their normal lives.

"Politics"? Haven't we in the Federation, the Sierra Club, and so many other groups, fought for the past fifty years to have these one-of-a-kind forests included in Wilderness, where they naturally belong? Yes we have; but each time, starting in the 1970s, it is water politics that has kept them out. The Bumping region is a part of the Yakima River watershed, in a drier part of the state. The Yakima River Basin already contains many taxpayer-funded dams and reservoirs, and canals, including "Lakes" Kachess, Kecheelus and Cle Elum, built long ago, to subsidize ranching and irrigation farming.

Now vested interests want more "insurance dams," to be built for "storage" in case of future long droughts. The federal Bureau of Reclamation has convened a "Yakima Basin Working Group," which is recommending two new dams: at Bumping, drowning out the ancient forests; and at Wymer, a downstream site which would destroy habitat of the endangered sage grouse.

Now we have all learned to expect such "proposals" from the Bureau, which in my experience has never seen a free-flowing river that didn't need "improvement." The same for "water users," assuming that they can get taxpayers to pay for the new projects.

But the new shocking wrinkle this time is that the Bureau has included two "environmental" organizations in its "Study" process. And even more shocking and sad, these two have



Trail through Bumping Lake Ancient Forests

stated they would support these new dams if the dam-promoters would agree to purchase about 40,000 acres of logged-over "checkerboard lands," in the Teanaway River valley, about a hundred miles away as "mitigation."

To which my colleagues and I say: *No! No Way!* If the Teanaway acres are important for open space reasons, though that is difficult to imagine, they can be purchased with other funds, not in some kind of "deal" with outside anti-conservation interests.

The great forests of the Bumping *cannot* be "mitigated." There is now *no other place* in our Cascades where there can be found such a unique classic ancient forest habitat, alongside a lake at level ground.

In 1978 FWOC adopted resolutions, which oppose the destruction of the Bumping forests and urged adding them to the William O. Douglas Wilderness. This October I had the privilege of representing the Federation and the Endangered Species Coalition in Washington DC, visiting Members of Congress and agency officials to deliver the following message:

1. *There are better and cheaper ways to provide more water in this region than building dams.* Water conservation and efficient use of existing water, as is already being done in other dry areas, could save 200,000–400,000 acre-feet of water without a single new dam.
2. *Conserving water is not only the way of the future; it would also save taxpayers a lot of money and greatly improve salmon habitat.*
3. *There are numerous other ways to find funding for saving the checkerboard lands of the Teanaway from potential future subdivisions.*
4. *But there is no other way to replace, or to "mitigate" for a loss of the unique ancient forests of the Bumping.*

We must win the fight to save the Bumping ancient forests and get them included in the "official" Wilderness this time around, making them safe forever.

TAKE ACTION NOW: Submit comments on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Integrated Water Resource Management Plan, Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project.

- Oppose building new dams in the Yakima River Basin, especially a new Bumping Lake dam, which would flood ancient forests and endangered spotted owl and bull trout habitat located on roadless areas of the Wenatchee National Forest.
- Support water conservation efforts to curtail wasteful water practices by Yakima irrigators

NOW: Submit written comments to Candace McKinley, Environmental Program Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, 1917 Marsh Road, Yakima, WA 98901 or email yrbwep@usbr.gov. Deadline for comments is January 3, 2012. For more information, suggested comments and updates, go to: www.washington.sierraclub.org/uppercol/ucr/yakima/water_overview.html

SUMMER 2011 FWOC CONFERENCE AT THE MAZAMA LODGE

By Beryl Vonderheid, California State Vice-President and David Czamanske, FWOC Vice-President

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs held its 2011 conference at the Mazama Lodge on the slopes of Mt. Hood during the weekend of August 26th–28th. It was a beautiful setting: from the large front porch of the lodge, through the trees, there was an inspiring view of Mt. Hood. Lisa Osburn, Trails Club of Oregon member, led the Friday afternoon hike through nearby trails. At the opening session, we were welcomed by **Joan Zuber**, President of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, **George Cummings**, President of the Mazamas and **Randy Dietrich**, President of the Trails Club of Oregon. The evening program was on “Oregon’s Outdoor Legacy” by photographer **Eric Fernandez**, Wilderness Coordinator for Oregon Wild.

Saturday morning’s first two presentations concerned threats to Mt. Hood. **John Rettig**, Mazamas Conservation Chair, informed us about the Timberline Lodge management’s proposal to develop a lift assisted mountain bike park. Specialized



*John Rettig,
Mazamas Conservation Chair*

downhill mountain bikes with body armor clad riders would navigate on newly constructed technical trails at high speed through the delicate alpine meadows and forests. At the end of the run, riders would load their bikes onto the chairlift for a ride back to the top. In order to build this trail, the fragile, thin alpine soils would be disturbed, likely causing

erosion and damage to the watershed despite mitigation efforts. The meadows would be impacted displacing the elk herds from their summer range and calving area. He urged us to oppose this Disney like park. **Lori Ann Burd** from BARK, illustrated some of the group’s efforts to speak out and take action on behalf of the Mt. Hood National Forest.

Our next speakers informed us about two energy development proposals that pose threats to Northwest’s public lands, river and coasts. **Joan Zuber** updated us on proposed Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) Terminals and associated pipelines in Oregon. Originally proposed to import LNG, documents recently made public reveal the real intent is to export fracked natural gas from Wyoming via the Ruby Pipeline to a proposed LNG terminal in Coos Bay, Oregon. **Cesia Kearns**, Portland Chapter of the Sierra Club, brought us up to date on the Oregon Beyond Coal Campaign and status of the coal-burning Boardman power plant, which is the largest carbon polluter in Oregon. The National Scenic Columbia River Gorge air is polluted by toxic emissions in smog and haze from the Boardman Plant. Portland General Electric has agreed to an earlier than planned closure in 2020. There are proposals to transport Powder River Basin coal from Montana through the Columbia River Gorge to west coast terminals. Freight trains transporting coal next to the Columbia River though the gorge presents the hazard of coal dust blowing onto lakes, rivers and towns and derailment.

Mike McCloskey summarized the House of Representatives anti-environmental legislation and proposals and President Obama’s mixed environmental record. He said the President has only a tepid interest in the environment. (See article pg. 6.)

After lunch, **Andy Stahl**, Executive Director of the Forest Service Employee (FSEEE), reported on the administration’s



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Timberline trails amid lupines on Mt. Hood by John M. Martin

proposed new guidelines for changing the 1978 National Forest Management Act (NFMA). He said these changes would take us back to the 1970s when it was the environment versus jobs. When the forest service say “Trust us, we don’t do it that way anymore,” can we trust them? Timber sales pay the Forest Service budget, providing offices, roads and cars. Many people lobby for the timber industry. We need to speak out for the forests!

Late in the afternoon, Richard Waring, retired Professor Emeritus in the Department of Forestry at Oregon State University, took us into the diverse forest outside the lodge and taught us how to identify trees and obtain bore core samples to evaluate past events and predict the future of forests. He spoke of the die off of lodgepole pine, especially in British Columbia and said Oregonians were lucky to live where the forests are still healthy.

FWOC AWARDS

This year’s 2011 FWOC Service Award went to **Beryl Vonderheid**, our California Vice-President for her commitment to promoting FWOC among the San Francisco area Member Clubs.

The 2011 FWOC Conservation Award went to **Jan Walker**, our Vice-President for Oregon. Jan is a leader for



Beryl Vonderheid,
FWOC Service Award
Winner

Conservation in the Siskiyou area. She organized the memorable 2009 FWOC Conference at the Siskiyou Institute, and has been able to bring a number of new member clubs to our organization.

Also, **Susan Saul** was present to receive her 2010 FWOC Conservation Award for her outstanding leadership in the establishment and protection of Mount St. Helen’s National Monument in southwest Washington. Susan is also a former President of the Trails Club of Oregon.

2011 FWOC ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

Every year since our inception in 1932, the Federation has invited Member Clubs and Individual Members to submit Resolutions on important conservation issues to be considered at the annual conference for adoption by FWOC. Our Resolutions form the basis of our advocacy work and we hope they will garner support from our member organizations also. Listed below are the Resolutions adopted on August 28, 2011. The full text of the Resolutions may be found at our website, www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org/fwoc_2011resolutions.html or click on the individual resolution below. Our Policy Guide of our Resolutions passed since 2010 by topic can also be found at our website.

1. [Curbing Herbicide and Pesticide Use](#)
2. [Reaffirm opposition to Timberline Lift-Assist Mountain Bike Facility](#)
3. [Preserve Lake Tahoe Bi-state Compact](#)
4. [Oppose radioactive waste transport through Columbia River Gorge](#)
5. [Support NEPA regulations of Wind Farms](#)
6. [Oppose HR1581 re releasing BLM WSAs and Forest Service roadless areas](#)
7. [Support BLM Wild Land Studies](#)
8. [Oppose development of Oregon Coast LNG Import/Export Facilities](#)
9. [Support NEPA requirement for mining exploration](#)
10. [Support the Wild Olympics Campaign](#)
11. [Oppose Removal of “Species Viability” Directive in NFMA Rules](#)
12. [Oppose coal transport through Columbia River Gorge and export from Pacific Coast ports](#)
13. [Thank you to conference host clubs](#)

CONSERVATION ISSUES

The Gathering Storm: Damage Done and Threats to the Environment by the House of Representatives

By Michael McCloskey, FWOC Senior Policy Advisor
(Excerpted from Aug. 26th presentation at the FWOC Conference)

Historically, both Republican and Democratic administrations have been sympathetic and at times hostile to the environment. Now things are different, the current House of Representatives, dominated by the “tea party” faction of the Republican Party, have become extremely anti-environmental. They tried to severely damage the credit of the United States by blocking efforts to raise the debt ceiling. The last minute rescue plan raised the debt ceiling by about \$2.5 trillion, but at a cost of long-term curtailment of discretionary appropriations, which would impact environment and conservation funding. If the new Super Committee cannot come to agreement on budget cuts and raised revenue, a 4% budget cut will occur across the board.

In the FY2011 budget negotiations, House Conservatives tried attaching 19 riders to funding bills that were aimed at wounding environmental programs. Most were stripped out by Senate Democrats, but these did pass:

- Funding was eliminated for Interior Secretary Salazar’s “Wild Lands” policy on BLM lands, which had been designed to promote new wilderness.
- The gray wolf was delisted as an endangered species in Montana and Idaho.
- Funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund was reduced from \$278 million in FY2010 to \$165 million in FY2011.
- There were modest cuts to the NPS, USFWS, USFS, and the BLM budgets. (More severe cuts are threatened to these agencies as well as the EPA in FY2012.)

However, in spite of the rather modest damage actually done, some of bills and 38 riders proposed by the House Republicans that did not pass are truly outrageous and threaten damage in the future:

- Elimination of all funding for endangered species listing under the ESA.
- Defunding the Council on Environmental Quality.
- The EPA would be restricted from using federal funds to reduce CO₂ emissions.
- EPA funding eliminated for devising standards for mercury and toxics in emissions from power plants.
- EPA prevented from regulating air pollution from some sources.

House Republicans would like to move even more odious legislation forward such as:

- Rollback of the Roadless Rule, release of all Wilderness Study Areas and ending Salazar’s BLM Wild Lands policy.
- Authorizing oil and gas leasing in critical areas such as ANWR and Utah canyon lands, and promoting rapid oil shale development.
- Suspending environmental reviews of proposed oil and gas leasing on public lands.
- Environmental Laws would be waived for Homeland Security’s border protection activities.

The House Republican agenda shows a deep-seated hostility toward the positions of the environmental movement. We face the stark reality that one major party has become our determined adversary, while the other is re-evaluating how close to us they want to be. We haven’t lost much ground yet, but the future is fraught with perils. But then again, when was it not?

Four Days of Volunteer Lobbying in Washington, DC

By David Czamanske, FWOC Vice-President

At the invitation of Sierra Club Resilient Habitats organizer Jill Workman, I spent September 18–21, 2011, in Washington, DC on a Sierra Club lobbying campaign. Sierra Club volunteers from all across the country met with Members of Congress and staff to encourage support for several major public lands issues facing Congressional action in the next few months. I visited the offices of ten California Democratic Members of Congress, with the objective of shoring up their support for several key issues including:

- Defense of the Endangered Species Act against delisting of protected species.
- Opposition to HR 1581, a bill to release 58 million acres of public land currently protected by the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule issued by President Clinton.
- Codification of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.
- Support for ending gas and oil subsidies.
- Opposition to a proposal by Sealaska, a Native American corporation, to harvest prime old-growth forests in Tongass National Forest by changing boundaries of lands allotted to them by the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

My visits with legislative staff, sometimes with other volunteers and sometimes by myself, all went well without exception. Several staff members were very well informed on the issues discussed, while others benefited greatly from the information we provided.

In addition to visits to Congressional offices, I also attended parts of three legislative hearings on environmental issues. I enjoyed the lobbying process, and encourage all who have the opportunity to visit Washington for this purpose to do so.

A Vision 27 Years Ago, Reality Today; Elwha Dams Come Tumbling Down

By Richard Rutz



Richard Rutz was the Seattle Audubon Science Advisor and a Mountaineers Conservation Committee member when he masterminded the legal and environmental strategy that led to the event. Thanks to the Mountaineer for extracts for this article.

On October 8, 2011, the sound of breaking concrete could be heard on the Olympic Peninsula as contractors began the historic work of removing the two Elwha River dams that have blocked fish passage for a hundred years.

In 1984 the Elwah and Glines Canyon Dams on the Elwha River were up for relicensing required every 20–30 years by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Through my research I discovered that the 1921 Power Act states that you can't license a dam in a National Park or a National Monument. Also that the upper dam was inside the park hadn't been grandfathered in. So now we have all the pieces. The Glines Canyon dam is in the park, it's up for relicensing, there's no grandfathering, and the law says you can't license a dam within a park. Relicensing is a new commitment, which means you can't license the thing in there, and without a license, it must come out. So the relicensing process gave us the leverage to force removal of the dams as long as we had the determination to see it through.

When in 1984, I first proposed dam removal, the reaction of most agencies, politicians and environmental groups was universally negative: "What a radical, irresponsible, crazy idea" they chorused. "Tearing out a dam? You can't do that! It's crazy!" Several organizations were brave enough and interested enough to provide backing for me to work towards that seemingly unreachable goal. A coalition of Seattle Audubon, Friends of the Earth, Olympic Park Associates and the Sierra Club Cascade Chapter was soon joined by the Lower Elwah Klallam

Tribe, which had opposed the dams because they destroyed their abundant Elwha River fishery. In 1986 the environmental groups and the tribe separately intervened in the hydrolicensing proceedings for the two dams. We both petitioned for removal of the two dams, and for restoration of the fish runs and ecosystem of the Elwha River and Olympic National Park.

Along battle ensued, requiring much advocacy, lobbying, technical work and legal review. Agency and tribal fisheries experts provided scientific support of dam removal and ecosystem restoration. Finally, the General Accounting Office, an investigative arm of Congress, agreed with our position that it was illegal to relicense the Glines Canyon Dam and the National Park Service studies confirmed that removal of the dams provided the only prospects for restoration of the Elwha River's legendary fish runs.

In 1991, FERC was forced to consider dam removal as a full alternative in an Environmental Impact Statement. And in 1992, Congress passed the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act.

The removal of dams is the result of much hard work and tough questions from many people. Controversial approaches and bold, new initiatives aren't started or pushed by agencies or politicians. It was citizens in conservation groups and the tribe that made this happen. I also learned you don't have to be an attorney to understand the law and regulations.



PASSIONATE ABOUT CONSERVATION?

The Federation offers opportunities for volunteers to have meaningful roles in the protection of our western wilderness, forests, wildlife and waterways. We especially welcome those who care deeply about conservation issues, have been officers of member clubs, are retired or just want to learn how to be more effective advocates. Please phone or email our President, Joan Zuber, at 503.829.8709 or zuberj@juno.com to discuss the opportunities available on our Executive Committee or in helping with our annual conference or the newsletter.

CONSERVATION UPDATES

Member Clubs are invited to send their conservation news to be included in Conservation Updates by email to raelene@seanet.com

CALIFORNIA

By Joe Fontaine, FWOC State VP for California

Tejon Ranch is a key area to maintain a biological corridor between the California Coast Range and the Sierra Nevada. Several national environmental organizations signed an agreement with the Tejon Ranch Corporation to protect 90% of the 370,000-acre ranch. Two key provisions of the agreement have already been implemented. A conservancy to adopt a management plan has been established and staff has been hired to inventory the important natural resources on the ranch. That is moving smoothly ahead. Another provision was to find money to buy easements on the areas on the ranch that were slated for future development. A generous donor provided funding for the easements and those areas are now protected in perpetuity. The FWOC supported protection for the ranch and we can now be proud that we played a role in the preservation process that is well underway.

The **Sierra Club Sierra Nevada Resilient Habitats Campaign** extends from Interstate 5 near Tejon Ranch north to the Oregon border. The campaign is co-chaired by Sarah Matsumoto on the Sierra Club staff and Joe Fontaine. FWOC member clubs in the campaign area are the MOTHER LODE, TEHIPITE and KERN KAWEAH chapters of the Sierra Club. We are working with Federal land managers, primarily the Forest Service and the National Park Service, to find ways to manage those areas in a manner that will enable wildlife and plant species to cope with the impacts of climate change. We have a committee working with Yosemite National Park and are in the process of starting a committee to work with Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park. Both parks are in the beginning stages of developing new wilderness management plans and our member clubs are involved with that process. Yosemite is developing management plans for both the Merced and Tuolumne Rivers. We are closely involved in those projects. We are working with the Forest Service to help develop land management plans that are environmentally sound. The first new management plan will be for the Lake Tahoe basin to be released later this year.

The FWOC has passed resolutions in the past that call for protection of **Giant Sequoia National Monument** and for management of the Monument by the National Park Service instead of the Forest Service. The Sierra Club went to court when the Forest Service announced its first management plan for the Monument claiming it did not comply with the Presidential Proclamation that created the Monument. The court agreed and told the Forest Service to do it over.

Now the Forest Service is writing a new plan with a final plan to be released by April 2012. We are working with the Forest Service to develop a new legal plan that conforms with the direction in the Proclamation.

MONTANA

The MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION supports the Rocky Mountain Front Act (S.1774) introduced by Senator Max Baucus this November. The Act would add wilderness to the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wildernesses and establish a Conservation Management Area. The bill aims to add big game habitat for hunters and sportsmen.

NEVADA

By Marge Sill, FWOC State VP for Nevada

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has released its draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the management of the **Sheldon Wildlife Refuge** in Northwest Nevada. The preferred alternative includes removal of the wild horses as soon as possible and the designation of over 300,000 acres of the refuge as wilderness. This alternative is strongly supported by conservation organizations in Nevada including the SIERRA CLUB and FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS because it will preserve important riparian areas for the wildlife, including pronghorn, sage grouse, and many other creatures.

OREGON

The Devil's Staircase Wilderness Area, 30,000 acres in Oregon's Coast Range, which contains black bears, elk, mountain lions and the threatened spotted owl, would achieve wilderness designation in S.766 introduced by Oregon Senators Wyden and Merkley.

WASHINGTON

The Alpine Lake Wilderness in the central Cascades east of Seattle, Washington State would gain an addition of over 22,000 acres and the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie and Pratt Rivers as Wild and Scenic in S.322 introduced by Senators Murray and Cantwell.

The MOUNTAINEERS are a member of the Wild Olympics Campaign that has resulted in Senator Murray and Representative Dicks introducing a proposal to add 130,000 acres of new wilderness on the Olympic NF, designate 20 wild and scenic rivers, and add to the Olympic National Park.



MEMBER CLUB NEWS

Compiled by Shirley Cameron



To have your Club news included, please remember to send your club's newsletter by mail to Shirley Cameron, 4059 Donald St., Apt. 1, Eugene, OR, 97405

CALIFORNIA

Good food, wine, art and jazz drew 50 people to the CALIFORNIA ALPINE CLUB's party sponsored by their Foundation. Over \$1,800 was raised for next year's grants. Another of their ideas: A celebrity chef volunteered to teach a weekend cooking class at Echo Lodge (including wine tasting) to support the lodge.

The deck at Alpine Lodge is much loved by members so there was great concern when they learned it was sagging. Five concrete piers holding the vertical beams had dropped three inches and were tilting downhill. This caused the middle of the outside edge to sag five inches. Many corrective measures were taken beginning in May including new piers going 18-20 feet into the ground.



The CONTRA COSTA HILLS CLUB viewed what can happen when a community comes together. The club hiked to the Visitacion Valley Greenway in San Francisco. Composed of six block-long parcels of a former utility easement, there is now a native plant garden, fruit trees, public art, agricultural crops, an herb garden and a Senior Pavilion.

Another hike in San Francisco took them to the Potrero Hill District where they were impressed with the Potrero Hill Community Gardens where organic gardening methods are used.

COLORADO

The GREAT OLD BROADS FOR WILDERNESS just showed up! But their presence and signs made an important statement at the SPEAR (San Juan Entry & Access Rights) rally sponsored by the local ATV club. That club was frustrated over the closure in 2007 of the illegal ATV trail in Recapture Canyon of Utah.

Outnumbered ten to one, the GOB's gracefully stood their ground in the face of ugly expressions of outrage.

Last Fall, the Great Old Broads for Wilderness and the Oregon Natural Desert Association settled with the BLM in a case regarding 14 miles of road the agency illegally constructed on Steens Mountain in the Blitzen Wilderness Study Area. The groups plan to jointly re-seed and do restoration in 2012.

MONTANA

Where isn't WILDERNESS WATCH working to prevent illegal activities in Wilderness areas? They shine their light on an amazing variety of places and issues. The use of Helicopters is one concern. The California Fish and Game proposes landing these big mechanical birds in wilderness areas of the Sierra Nevada in order to capture and collar Bighorn Sheep.

The same method is proposed for non-conforming dam related activity in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Wilderness Watch asked the Forest Service to consider breaching or removing the dam and to use traditional methods. As it happened, the Montana Conservation Corps did the maintenance work using crosscut saws, peavey hooks, cables, and highline rigging setups. But the Forest Service is still being asked by Wilderness Watch and other groups to rewind the Selway-Bitterroot.

George Nickas, Wilderness Watch's Executive Director and FWOC VP for Montana, was the recipient of the Friends of the Clearwater's Plank Award for lifetime achievement in protecting the wild places and native species of the Northern Rockies. Congratulations George!

NEVADA

Good news for the Sage Grouse is reported by FRIENDS OF NEVADA

WILDERNESS. Senator Reid pledged \$16 million to help Nevada's Sage Grouse. The Friends will be involved in related projects.

Bighorn Sheep will have easier passage to water after Spring break when students from both campuses of the U of Nevada tore down a huge fence, then packed two tons of it through rugged desert to trucks for recycling. Strong students!



The Southern Nevada group of the TOIYABE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB is forming the Las Vegas Inner City Outings. First formed in San Francisco, the program now includes 50 ICO groups in the U.S.

The Sierra Nevada Resilient Habitat Campaign is mapping the entire Sierra to determine how well its protected habitats are connected and prioritize additional areas to protect from development when there are gaps.

OREGON

How are new residents of the area introduced to the OBSIDIANS? Get Acquainted Hikes, that's how!

2.5 miles, 300 ft. elevation morning and afternoon hikes have been popular and also bring in new members. The hikes go past the Obsidian meeting lodge, eliciting questions from children about the alpenstock and a photo of a climber jumping a crevasse: "What's the dude doing? Why?"

To experience a unique kind of energy, there is a Chi Gong and Meditation hike. Starting out in silence, the hikers learned walking and standing meditation and Chi Gong techniques to increase energy flow.



The first joint project between the CHEMEKETANS and the USFS was the Little North Santiam Trail. From 1986



MEMBER CLUB NEWS

Compiled by Shirley Cameron



until it was completed in 1989, a large number of club members participated in the hard work. Protection came later as a State Scenic Waterway, then part of the Bull of the Woods Wilderness and finally protection for the entire valley and Opal Creek as the Opal Creek Wilderness.

A cultural experience was the highlight of the club's two one week base camps at Canyon de Chelly. The warmth and generosity of generations of Navajo welcomed them into their lives. Great trails took them to different areas and on potluck night there was drumming, singing and dancing.



In June, fourteen TRAILS CLUB OF OREGON hikers, straight from their campout at Belknap Hot Springs met up with eight Obsidians for a Clear Lake-Sahalie Falls hike. Their newsletter, *Trail Blazer*, reported that the hike was one big nine mile walking Gabfest.

Bicycling enthusiasts will be interested in the club's Rails to Trails bike trip in the panhandle of Idaho. They pedaled on the rails to trails section of four different railroads built in the late 1800s. A plus was the sag driver who provided all the meals.

Trails club workers stepped up to construct a temporary bridge ramp at Multnomah Creek to ensure access to a turnaround in time for the August work party at Nesika lodge. Much work was accomplished during Nesika's work weekends. The *Trail Blazer* has nice photos of the refurbished "multi-use dorm." Progress was also made on the removal of the cedar siding on all four sides, installing plywood sheeting, Tyvek moisture barrier, and larger windows.



MAZAMAS have a goal to preserve public lands around the North Cascades National Park, a treasure for all of us. The club has joined other organizations,

including the Mountaineers, the North Cascades Conservation Council and FWOC to support an expansion of the park. Forty years after it's creation, pristine rivers and streams, scenic mountains, low-land old growth forests, wildlife habitats and recreation sites are still unprotected. For information: www.americanalps.org.

"Round the Mountain" was a big success in spite of the challenges. The plan: 40 participants hiking the Timberline trail in 13-15 segments with just a daypack. Vans would return hikers to the Lodge for food, showers and bed. But the Forest Service objected to the teams of 12 crossing each other so new plans needed to be drawn up. Then another challenge: The Dollar Lake Fire! The amazing leaders figured it all out and the hikers had a fine time.

WASHINGTON

We learned from the Bulletin of the WASHINGTON ALPINE CLUB that Snoqualmie Mountain is one of the Ten Lodge Peaks named by the Mountaineers in 1923. A second set of Ten Lodge Peaks was named by 1930, including Guye Peak, for which the club's Guye Cabin was named. Snoqualmie Lodge was a frequent base camp for mountaineers because there are more than 30 peaks in the region that can be climbed.

Another tidbit: Seattle Mountain Rescue was officially organized in the spring of 1948 under the sponsorship of the Washington Alpine Club, the

Mountaineers and the Northwest Region of the National Ski Patrol.

A sixteen-hour Wilderness and Remote First Aid class is offered every Fall at Guye Cabin. The class involves hands on, interactive learning.



The MOUNTAINEERS joined the effort to keep State lands open to recreation by supporting the proposal for a statewide recreation pass as a solution to the loss of general funds. Thus, the "Discover Pass" which is required for vehicular access to State recreation land and water sites. \$30 per year or \$10 for day use.



SEATTLE AUDUBON found itself in the news after their opposition to the proposed Radar Ridge Wind Farm on state lands near the coast in southwest Washington resulted in cancellation of the 23-wind turbine project. The Conservation Committee worked to show the project would negatively impact threatened Marbled Marrelet nesting sites. Some locals are not happy about the cancellation of a project they saw as a boon to their depressed economy. SAS stressed that it was the siting of this wind project that was the issue, it continues to supports wind energy.

Raelene Gold, FWOC Past President, was awarded the Seattle Audubon Conservation Award in June of 2011 for Conservation leadership.

PASSAGES – LARRY CASH

The mountains are calling and I must go. – John Muir

Larry Cash passed away in July of 2010 at the age of 94 attesting to the benefits of hiking to insure a long life. Active in the Obsidians, he also was an FWOC Vice-President and last attended our Conference in Idaho in 2004. He was recently recognized in the newsletter of the Pacific Crest Trail Association for his long time dedication to the Pacific Crest Trail, serving as volunteer President of the Pacific Crest Trail Conference for six years until 1992. He received the PCTA's Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997.

BOOK REVIEW

By Raelene Gold

Rosalie Edge, Hawk of Mercy: the Activist Who Saved Nature from the Conservationists

By Dyana Z. Furmansky, University of Georgia Press, Athens and London, 2009

Dyana Furmansky has resurrected Rosalie Edge (1877–1962) from historical burial to a place of honor as our nation's first true environmental activist. Rosalie Edge emerged during the Great Depression, between the preservationist fervor of John Muir and Theodore Roosevelt, and the science based exposure of pesticides by Rachel Carson. During that period, she and her Emergency Conservation Committee set the national conservation agenda and became the conservation conscience of the age. Furmansky's detailed research and powerfully descriptive writing result in a classic environmental history of this period.

Rosalie Edge was born in 1877 into Manhattan's social aristocracy, the same as that of Eleanor Roosevelt. The newly married Mrs. Charles Noel Edge lived a life of idle, pampered luxury and world travel until her "awakening" by the radical women's suffrage movement taking place in England. Returning in 1915 to live near Central Park, the then mother of two small children, was swept into the New York women's effort to secure the vote. As Corresponding Secretary of the New York campaign, Rosalie Edge rapidly developed important skills in writing slogans and pamphlets, delivering rallying speeches and lobbying legislators until women's suffrage was won in New York in 1917.

As an Audubon member and passionate birder on her Long Island estate and in Central Park, Rosalie is transformed after reading a 1929 Pamphlet, "Crisis in Conservation," written by Willard Van Name, a scientist and curator at the American Museum of Natural History. Van Name exposes Audubon and other national bird conservation organizations for their failure to protect bird species from extinction. Rosalie, Van Name and Irving Brant, a journalist an FDR confidant, join forces, forming the Emergency Conservation Committee. Rosalie becomes

Chairperson and the public face of the organization, protecting the anonymity of contributing scientists and biologists who need to maintain their job security. From 1929 to 1962, the ECC published a series of provocative, widely read pamphlets exposing the failures of conservation organizations and government agencies to protect birds and wildlife from extinction and national forests from destruction. Rosalie's select mailing list includes persons who will write influential letters to those in power.

The dramatic highlight of the book is Rosalie's audacious presence at the annual meetings of the Audubon Society, causing tremors in the President and Board members. One issue is the President's secret collaboration with Gun and Ammunition makers to secure his higher salary. She is raptorial, ruthless and unrelenting in her determination to affect their reform, at one point taking them to court. And when Audubon fails to act to stop the annual fall slaughter of migrating hawks in Pennsylvania, Rosalie does. She leases the land, posts it and hires a warden to guard it, establishing the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.

Rosalie then turns her interest to National Parks playing a pivotal part in the establishment and protection of the Olympic National Park. Though attaining Monument status in 1909 by departing President Theodore Roosevelt, the slaughter of the Roosevelt Elk and widespread timber harvesting continued within the Monument. Working with Irving Clark, member of the Mountaineers, Rosalie visits the Olympic Peninsula in 1935 organizing locals to give testimony for the national park bill in Washington, DC. Rosalie also collaborates with the Roosevelt Administration's Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes to maintain public support for the Olympic National Park created in 1938. Rosalie goes on to work with the Sierra Club for the protection of the Sugar Pine forests in the Sierras.

This is an inspiring story relevant to our concerns in the environmental movement today. It shows how a determined woman and a dedicated few with only modest financing can make a major difference.

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2012 CALENDAR

February 29, 2012

FWOC WINTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

12:30 lunch, 1–3 pm meeting
Mazamas Mountaineering Center, 537 SE 43rd Ave.
(at Stark St.), Portland, OR
Representatives from Member Clubs are invited to attend.

March 1–4, 2012

30TH ANNUAL PUBLIC INTEREST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CONFERENCE

University of Oregon Law School, Eugene, OR
Info: www.pielc.org

June 2, 2012

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Join your member club or environmental organization to help with a trail activity or project.

*Giant Douglas fir in
Ancient Forest at Bumping Lake*

