

# OUTDOORS WEST

Summer 2013

The Official Publication of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

Volume 36, No. 1



*Wenatchee River near Leavenworth*

## **FWOC FALL CONFERENCE**

### ***Change and New Challenges for Conservation***

**September 13–15, 2013**

**Barn Beach Reserve, Leavenworth, WA**

This fall the Federation will resume our Annual Conferences. The lovely location is the Barn Beach Reserve, a nine-acre nature reserve on the Wenatchee River, in Leavenworth in the Cascade Mountains in central Washington State. Our Conference co-sponsor will be the Wenatchee River Institute, which owns and operates the Barn Beach Reserve, and serves the community with events and environmental education for youth and adults.

This year's theme will be ***Change and New Challenges for Conservation***. There are many interacting changes within environmental organizations and their shifting coalitions, as well as the outer changes of new powerful constituencies, political stalemate, influence of corporate and individual money and climate change. Presentations, panels, and discussions will focus on how these issues impact our conservation work for National Parks, Monuments, Wilderness, National Forests and rivers and waterways.

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## 2013 MEMBER CLUBS

Angora Hiking Club, Astoria, OR  
 California Alpine Club, Mill Valley, CA  
 Cascadians, Yakima, WA  
 Chemeketans, Salem, OR  
 Chinook Trail Association, Vancouver, WA  
 Contra Costa Hills Club, Oakland, CA  
 Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Reno, NV  
 Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Portland, OR  
 Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Durango, CO  
 Hobnailers, Spokane, WA  
 Idaho Environmental Council, Idaho Falls, ID  
 Indian Creek Botanical Mission, Selma, OR  
 Klahhane Club, Port Angeles, WA  
 Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, Williams, OR  
 Marin Canoe and Kayak Club, San Rafael, CA  
 Mazamas, Portland, OR  
 Montana Wilderness Association, Helena, MT  
 Mt. St. Helens Club, Longview, WA  
 Mountaineers, Seattle, WA  
 Nature Friends, Mill Valley, CA  
 Obsidians, Eugene, OR  
 Olympians, Hoquiam, WA  
 Oregon Nordic Club, Portland, OR  
 Santiam Alpine Club, Salem, OR  
 Sequoia Forestkeeper, Kernville, CA  
 Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter, Los Angeles, CA  
 Sierra Club, Kern-Kaweah Chapter, Bakersfield, CA  
 Sierra Club, Mother Lode Chapter, Sacramento, CA  
 Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter, Portland, OR  
 Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter, Fresno, CA  
 Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter, Reno, NV  
 Siskiyou Audubon Society, Grants Pass, OR  
 Siskiyou Field Institute, Selma, OR  
 Skagit Alpine Club, Mount Vernon, WA  
 Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Salt Lake City, UT  
 Tamalpais Conservation Club, Mill Valley, CA  
 Trails Club of Oregon, Portland, OR  
 Washington Alpine Club, Seattle, WA  
 Wilderness Watch, Missoula, MT  
 Willapa Hills Audubon Society, Longview, WA  
 Winter Wildlands Alliance, Boise, Idaho

# 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

## ABOUT OUR NEW OFFICERS

FWOC's new Secretary, **John Rettig**, has been a Mazama member since 1999 and co-chairs their Conservation Committee, chairs the Governing Documents Committee, and serves on the Nominating Committee. He was awarded both the Mazamas' Sixteen Major Northwest Peaks climbing award and the Parker Cup (for outstanding service to the organization) in 2012. He is also interested in Urban / Rural interface land use issues and serves as a volunteer Planning Commissioner for Multnomah County, Oregon.



Our new Treasurer, **George Milne**, joined the Trails Club of Oregon (TCO) in 1981 after a hike to Nesika Lodge in the Columbia Gorge and soon became active with the Nesika Futures Committee, which decided to replace the existing deteriorated log building with a new structure along with one of the dorm buildings. Replacing a dorm building and the main lodge building took 15 years to complete using 90% volunteer labor by the members.

George has served as the Trails Club's President, Vice-President and a member of the Conservation Committee, the Properties Advisory Committee, and the History Committee. He became involved with FWOC while serving on the TCO Conservation Committee and immediately recognized the immense potential that was available to organizations that were participating in FWOC. The organization's great leadership under then President Mike McCloskey was extremely impressive. In 2011 he joined the Executive Committee and became VP for Oregon.



George and his wife Sylvia have three sons that work for his construction company, Milne Masonry, Inc., a sixteen year old granddaughter, a four year old grandson and a one year old granddaughter.

### OFFICERS

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### STATE VICE PRESIDENTS

**California:** Joe Fontaine, Beryl Vonderheid

**Montana:** George Nickas

**Nevada:** Marge Sill

**Oregon:** J. Michael McCloskey, Jan Walker,

**Washington:** Marianne Scharping

### OUTDOORS WEST

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**Contributing Editors:** John Rettig, Jan Walker, David Czamanske

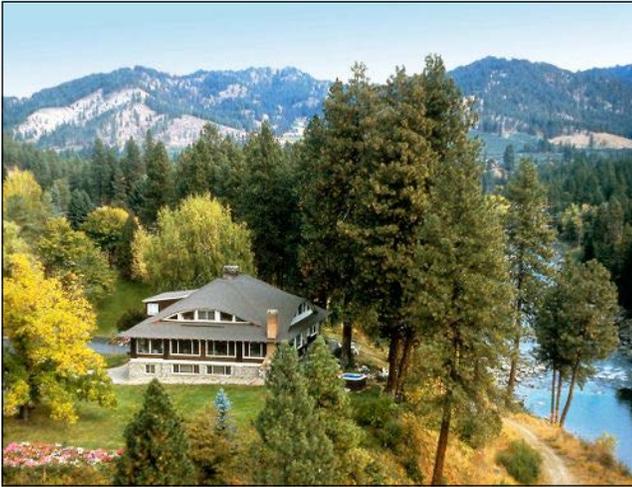
**Deadline for Winter 2013 issue: October 31, 2013**

Submissions of letters to the Editor, conservation articles or opinions, or club activities are welcomed. Send to Raelene Gold at [raelene@seanet.com](mailto:raelene@seanet.com)

**Website:** [www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org](http://www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org)



# 2013 FALL CONFERENCE



*River Haus and Wenatchee River*

*Continued from page 1*

**Leavenworth** was a dying logging and railroad town until the 1960s when the residents joined in the idea of transforming the town into a Bavarian village, becoming one of the most popular tourist destinations in the state. But it has been the surrounding scenic beauty that draws outdoor enthusiasts into the neighboring Alpine Lakes Wilderness that was designated in 1976 with the help of many of the environmental groups in the Federation. Local resident, environmentalist, and philanthropist, Harriet Bullet, who is a founder of the Bullet Foundation, the Barn Beach Reserve and the local Sleeping Lady Resort, has also immeasurably enhanced the area's environmental and cultural consciousness. You will find the Leavenworth area a vacation experience rich in both recreational and cultural experiences.

**Convenient Lodging** is available at **The Evergreen Inn**, two blocks from the conference at 1117 Front Street; for information go to [www.evergreeninn.com](http://www.evergreeninn.com) and call 509-548-5515 or 800-327-7212 to make your own reservations. Another close choice is the **Alpine Rivers Inn**, at 1505 Alpensee Strasse, [www.alpineriversinn.com](http://www.alpineriversinn.com); call 509-548-8888 or 1-800-873-3960 for reservations. There are many other lodging, U.S.F.S. campgrounds and RV campground choices in Leavenworth. Contact the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce at [www.leavenworth.org](http://www.leavenworth.org) or call 509-538-5807.

**Traveling** to Leavenworth is by way of Highway 2, which can be accessed from Interstate 5 from Seattle or directly from Spokane, or by Highway 97 from central Oregon. The **Amtrak** Empire Builder also stops in Leavenworth once daily coming from Seattle or Spokane. See [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com) or call 1-800-USA-Rail for reservations. A shuttle meets the train to take passengers to their lodging.

## PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

### Friday, September 13 – River Haus at Barn Beach Reserve

- 1–4 pm Executive Committee meeting – members and delegates welcome
- 2–6 pm Registration opens; Upper Valley Museum, Icicle Creek Gallery, Nature Reserve, and Town tours
- 5 pm Dinner in Leavenworth on own
- 6 pm Reception co-hosted by the Wenatchee River Institute at the River Haus

### Evening Program – The Barn

- 7 pm Estella Leopold – Presentation of “Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time”
- 8:15 pm “Out of the Mist” – Crest Pictures

### Saturday, September 14 –The Barn

- 9 am Welcome – Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, Wenatchee River Institute
- 9:30 am “Changes Affecting Environmentalism,” Michael McCloskey
- 10 am Pathways to Designation: National Parks, Monuments and Preserves – Jim Davis, Director, American Alps Legacy Project; Susan Saul, Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Adams Advocate
- 11 am Challenges in the Designation and Protection of Wilderness – Estella Leopold, UW Professor Emeritus of Biology; George Nickas, Wilderness Watch; Graham Taylor, Sierra Club
- Noon Lunch with \*Brock Evans, President, Endangered Species Coalition
- 1:30 pm Forest Protection – Karl Forsgaard, North Cascades Conservation Council
- 2:30 pm New Threats to NW Rivers – Miles Johnson, Attorney, Columbia Riverkeepers; David Ortman, Sierra Club
- 4–5 pm Social – **The Barn**
- 6:30 pm Carpools to Plain, WA
- 7–9 pm Banquet at the **Mountain Spring Lodge in Plain, WA**

### Sunday, September 15 – The Barn

- 9 am FWOOC Business Meeting
- 10 am FWOOC Resolution Session – Delegates vote on submitted Resolutions
- 10 am Alternative Hike to Alpine Lakes Wilderness
- Noon Conference adjourned

# FEDERATION NEWS

The **2012 Federation Fall Conference** was held October 10<sup>th</sup> at the Mazamas Mountaineering Center in Portland. The conservation program featured a presentation by Ed Henderson who is with the North Cascades Conservation Council and the Alpine Lakes Protection Society. Ed gave an informative presentation on the American Alps Legacy Project, which seeks the expansion of the North Cascades National Park boundary to protect vulnerable forests and river headwaters that were excluded from the final Park bill that passed in 1978.

There were also updates on two other issues we have 2011 Resolutions on. Mike McCloskey and Raelene Gold reviewed the issues regarding the Bumping Lake Reservoir expansion and the new Wymer Dam that are part of the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Enhancement Plan. John Rettig gave an update on the proposed Timberline lift-assisted downhill mountain bike skills park at Mt. Hood.

At the business meeting the **Siskiyou Audubon** was voted as a new member organization and 6 organizations were dropped from membership for non-payment of dues. The Mt. Baker Club resigned stating they were no longer involved in conservation.

The current **officers** were reelected along with a new Secretary, John Rettig, and a new Treasurer, George Milne, who replaces our long serving Treasurer, Jack Walker. Many thanks were expressed to Jack Walker for his long years of trusted service to the Federation.



The Federation also testified at four hearings of the Washington State Legislature urging the removal of the Bumping Dam and

Reservoir expansion from inclusion and funding in the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Enhancement Plan.



The Federation has signed on to support the following environmental group letters recently:

- Letter to Oregon Governor Kitzhaber asking him and state agencies to protect the citizens of Oregon from the risks to the economy, lands, water, and fish associated with the current efforts to develop LNG terminals and pipelines in Oregon for export to Asia. 6/13
- Letter to House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi expressing support for Representative Raul Grijalva (D-NM) to be the Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee. 6/13
- Letter to Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley and Representative Peter DeFazio urging their action now to protect the Rough and Ready Creek, a tributary of the Wild and Scenic Illinois River, and Baldface Creek, a tributary of the Wild and Scenic North Fork of the Smith River from the threats of industrial strip nickel mining. 4/13
- Letter to Senator Patty Murray and Representative Derek Kilmer expressing support for the Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River Act as introduced last year and urging them to introduce the same bill in this Congress. 2/13
- Letter to President Obama, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and the Director Don Ashe of the US Fish and Wildlife Service requesting the withdrawal of the consent decree that eliminates critical habitat protections for the marbled murrelet. 10/12

## 2012 ADOPTED FWOC RESOLUTIONS

Five new **2012 Resolutions** were adopted including:

- #1. Support for designation of the Tule-Springs Fossil Beds National Monument to be managed by the National Park Service.
- #2. Support for the Nevada/California environmental Coalition's efforts to improve the proposed management plan of the Lake Tahoe Basin National Forest.
- #3. Support for the Court decision regarding the unmitigated environmental impacts of the Ruby Gas Pipeline (extending from Wyoming to Oregon) and support for the mitigation of these impacts.
- #4. Urging legislation requiring the labeling of foods containing Genetically Modified, Genetically Engineered, or Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO).
- #5. Urging the Governor of Oregon request a comprehensive analysis of the impacts from coal exports to China.

# CONSERVATION ISSUES

## SEVEN REASONS WHY WE NEED FEDERATIONS AND COALITIONS

by John Rettig, Co-Chair, Mazamas Conservation Committee

I am often asked, “How do we find out about the issues that we get involved in?” A second – and almost as common – question is “How do we track the issues, discern the right action to take, and formulate a response that has impact?” The answer, quite simply stated, is that we take a significant role in actively participating in federations and coalitions. This is a two-way street – we both participate and contribute to them, and we also benefit from them.

But the reasons for getting involved with federations and coalitions, and then staying active with them in the long term, run much deeper than just this. There is much more offered than this.

I offer seven reasons why we have federations and coalitions and must maintain them:

**1. They offer the expertise of focused organizations that can share their specializations.**

This one is pretty obvious. The areas and issues we must be involved in to conserve the earth are very diverse, and so are we. No one organization can possibly cover it all, nor should they even try to do so. We collectively cover mountains, valleys, deserts, coastlines, rivers, plains, oceans – in short, all of nature. But we each focus our energies into a given area or issue, and avoid diluting it by trying to take on too broad a scope. It’s the best way to stay on top of things in our respective areas and keep our member interest high.

Those organizations representing a pure conservation advocacy often have staff employed to investigate issues, write position statements, organize member advocates, follow through with action, respond to legal matters, etc. Often, this serves as a tremendous resource for other organizations that share an interest but lack the permanent staffing.

**2. They provide strength in numbers.**

By having member organizations take positions outside of their core focus area that cover our federation and coalition partners, our strength is greatly leveraged. Remember the times we’ve witnessed a Congressperson who, about to take action under the assumption that there was little constituency behind an issue not even in his or her district, suddenly discovers there are constituents in coalition organizations representing 20,000 members in the district pounding their fists on the table and demanding to be heard? That’s the power of federations and coalitions.

**3. They offer local contacts and “eyes on the street” to keep track of issues.**

None of us can be looking everywhere all of the time. Our partners can help us out by being the “eyes on the street” for us – there’s no set of eyes like a local set of eyes. This is absolutely necessary for large geographic regions or very complex issues overlapping many areas or advocacies, e.g. the dam system on the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

**4. They allow us to see the commonality within various issues, or to spot a trend with the same issue recurring across many jurisdictions.**

Remember the time the BLM was coming under fire simultaneously for management practices across many areas and regions – be it cattle grazing, stream protection, forest management, OHV trail issues, etc? Each unique area or issue may have had a different conservation organization watching them, but by staying connected and comparing notes, it was clear that the issue wasn’t always just a local manager issue – it was an institutional behavior established at the top that percolated down through the local land managers. Without federations and coalitions, it may not have been possible to spot the trend as quickly, realize its magnitude, and of course address it.

**5. They provide us networking opportunities and sharing of tools to do what we do.**

Issues differ. The tools we use to go about the tasks of advocating for various causes often are the same, however, and we can learn from each other. Movers and shakers always have their favorite tools and list of contacts ready at the drop of a hat. And it’s through coalitions and federations that we build the human networks to share these tools. Need a letter-writing campaign organized? Someone’s already certainly done that. Need to get a Congressperson’s attention and invite them to a community meeting to hear concerns? Someone probably knows which staff person can set it up and make it happen, and just might drop your name to them.

**6. They provide us a guidepost to avoid getting lost.**

Organizations can get off route for various reasons, whether it’s internal staff issues, lack of member volunteers, financial issues, losing sight of the mission, etc. Another organization that has already been there and experienced that can often offer their expertise and set us back on a straight path.

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## PNW CLIMATE ADVOCATES CLASH WITH COAL EXPORT PLANS

by Raelene Gold

**Coal terminals and their connecting coal trains** have drawn widespread and intense opposition since they were proposed for the Pacific Northwest in 2011. Of the six initially proposed coal terminals in Washington and Oregon, only three remain in consideration: the **Gateway Pacific Terminal** at Cherry Point near Bellingham, Washington; the **Millennium Bulk Terminal** in Longview, WA; and the **Coyote Island Terminal** near Boardman in Oregon. The 18 a day (9 full and 9 empty), 1.5-mile long coal trains coming from the Powder River Basin in Montana and Wyoming would utilize existing freight tracks through the major cities of Billings, Missoula, Spokane, and Vancouver (WA), Longview, Tacoma, Seattle, and Bellingham. The trains would also run through the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

The transition of power plants from coal to natural gas and lower domestic demand has led a struggling coal industry to look for new markets in the fast growing economies of Asia. The Alliance for Northwest Jobs and Exports is a pro-coal group promoting the projects, claiming it will increase jobs and our export economy.

The proposed **Gateway Pacific Terminal** at Cherry Point on Puget Sound would have open storage and ship 48 million tons of coal annually. It has drawn a united and diverse opposition from environmentalists, politicians, tribes, the medical

## SEVEN REASONS WHY WE NEED FEDERATIONS AND COALITIONS

*Continued from page 5*

### 7. They keep us connected and prepared for the beginning of the next modern social-conservation movement.

Who can forget the 1960s and 1970s and the massive upheaval that the first modern social-conservation movement caused, beginning with the publishing of *Silent Spring*? None of the big steps forward came without the massive push from grassroots organization and activism involving many individuals and organizations uniting behind them – the 1964 Wilderness Act, the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the 1970 formation of the EPA, 1970 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the 1972 banning of DDT, and finally the 1980 Superfund Act and the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. As new opportunities present themselves, we have to be ready.

profession, first responders, local businesses, and local residents. Washington State recently closed its last coal-fired plant and pledged to cut its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 50% by 2050.

The initial public scoping hearings conducted by the Army Corp of Engineers and the state Department of Ecology, held in seven cities last September and October, drew thousands of opponents requesting the study of the impacts on a myriad of concerns including air and water quality, human health, local traffic and businesses, ocean acidification, global climate change, etc. The comment period closed on January 21 and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is pending. Seattle's Mayor, Mike McGuinn, with other political and tribal leaders formed the Leadership Alliance Against Coal and Washington Governor Jay Inslee and Oregon Governor Kitshaber wrote letters asking for a study of the cumulative impacts of the terminals. The Army Corp of Engineers recently announced they would not study the cumulative impacts of the terminals nor the effects on climate change or air pollution of burning the coal in Asia.

The second proposal by Ambre Energy North America and Arch Coal is the **Millennium Bulk Terminal** on the lower Columbia River near Longview, Washington. Coal would be brought by train, stored at the site and 48.5 million tons of coal per year would be exported by ocean going vessels to Asia. Its environmental review will be conducted by Cowlitz County, the state Department of Ecology and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. Scoping meetings are scheduled for September and October in Longview, Spokane, Pasco, Vancouver, and Tacoma.

The third proposal is the Morrow Pacific Project at the **Coyote Island Terminal** proposed by Australian Ambre Energy at the Port of Morrow on the Columbia River in Boardman, Oregon. The 8.8 million tons of coal a year would arrive by train from Spokane, then stored in covered buildings until transferred to barges to be transported through the Columbia River Gorge to Clatskanie, Oregon, where it would be loaded onto ocean vessels sailing to Asia. Ambre Energy has requested storm water, and air and water quality permits from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, which held hearings on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

Oregon and Washington have recently closed their remaining coal powered electric plants at Boardman and Centralia, and are lowering their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Nevada is phasing out its existing plant. California has no coal powered plants. Exporting coal, which would increase global warming and result in the air pollution only returning to the west coast, would only undermine the progress that has been made.

For more information and how to get involved go to: [www.powerpastcoal.org](http://www.powerpastcoal.org) and [www.columbiariverkeeper.org](http://www.columbiariverkeeper.org).

# CONSERVATION UPDATES

## WILDERNESS

The 112<sup>th</sup> Congress was the first to fail to pass any wilderness bills. Most of the 2012 bills have been reintroduced for 2013. So it was a surprise when recently the Senate unanimously passed three wilderness bills including the **Alpine Lakes Wilderness** expansion in Washington and the **Devils Staircase Wilderness** Bill in Oregon. There are indications that the House may also be supportive.

## CORRECTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Editor received a letter from John Gatchell, Conservation Director for the **Montana Wilderness Association** concerning errors regarding Montana's Wilderness bills in the last issue of *Outdoors West*. We omitted the **Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act** and the **Forest Jobs and Recreation Act**, both sponsored by Montana's Senators. *Both these bills have been reintroduced in 2013.*

Also, information about the **Sportsman Heritage Act** was very wrong: it was the House bill that superseded the Wilderness Act, not the Senate bill, which was corrected by Senator John Tester in the Senate version. *This bill has been reworked as the **Hunting and Fishing Heritage and Opportunities Act** and reintroduced.*

*With apologies,  
The Editor*

## THE INTERIOR WEST

With little progress on their state's wilderness bills in Congress, environmental groups in Idaho and Utah are turning to the option of national monument designation by President Obama under the 1907 Antiquities Act for protection of their proposed wilderness areas. . The Idaho Conservation League is promoting designation for the Boulder White Clouds wilderness, which is a part of the stalled Central Idaho Economic and Recreation Act (CIEDRA). The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance is now aiming to protect the Greater Canyonlands as a national monument.

They also are vigorously opposing their state legislature's efforts to transfer federal public lands to state ownership.

## BUMPING LAKE DAM AND THE YAKIMA BASIN INTEGRATED PLAN

In spite of testimony from the Sierra Club, the North Cascades Conservation Council, FWOOC, the Olympic Forest Coalition, and other environmental groups, the Washington State

Legislature included both the new Bumping Lake and the Wymer dams as part of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. The new dams would flood 1000 acres of ancient forests with Northern Spotted Owl habitat at Bumping and 1000 acres of shrub steppe Sage Grouse habitat at Wymer. With strong support in the state Senate, YBIP was approved and the early action items for all components of the plan funded. Some of the \$32 million will go to feasibility studies of the Bumping and Wymer dams. In addition, funding for purchase of the 48,000 acre private timberland parcel, a key component of the Lands subcommittee package, was funded at \$99 million, \$10 million of that a loan from the Department of Natural Resources, which will manage the purchased timberland.

The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan now needs Congressional support and additional funding for the \$5 billion project in the other Washington.

## COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY REVIEW PROCESS

In April, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission invited environmental groups to a workshop in Portland on the Columbia River Treaty 2014/2024 Review. The Columbia Basin tribes' purpose was to propose and get support for their effort to integrate "Ecosystem-based Functions" with flood control and hydropower as a component considered in the modeling for different decisions about the revision or renewal of the 50-year-old treaty. The tribes want a more natural flow cycle restored for salmon migration and wildlife, co-management, and possibly fish passage at Grand Coulee Dam. Info:

[www.critfc.org](http://www.critfc.org).

Bonneville Power and the Army Corp of Engineers recently released a Draft of a Regional Recommendation for the CTR. The draft can be found at: [www.crt2014-2024review.gov/RegionalDraft.aspx](http://www.crt2014-2024review.gov/RegionalDraft.aspx). Comments on the draft are due August 16<sup>th</sup> and can be sent to: [treatyreview@bpa.gov](mailto:treatyreview@bpa.gov).

Notification of decisions to renew, revise, or terminate the Treaty by both the U.S. and Canada must be made by the end of 2014, and the new Treaty would go into effect in 2024.

## GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO) LABELING

GMOs are reportedly harmful to human health and the environment, and groups are working to introduce GMO labeling laws. In California, the GMO Labeling Proposition 37 was defeated in last November's election, with over \$46 million spent by the opposition. In Oregon and Washington, recent state legislature sessions failed to pass GMO labeling bills. Hope remains in Washington State, where Initiative 522 will be on the ballot in November of 2013.



## CLUBS IN ACTION



Member clubs and organizations are invited to send news of their activities to be included in the next *Outdoors West* by October 31, 2013 to [raelene@seanet.com](mailto:raelene@seanet.com)

### **GOLD MINING RUSH IN OREGON'S RIVERS** **KS Wild Takes Action to Reform Suction Dredging in Oregon**

*by Jan Walker*

Over the past few years, suction dredging and the resulting damage to streams has increased at a rapid pace throughout southwest Oregon. After a ban on suction dredging in California stopped the gold rush there, dredgers turned to Oregon's rivers. Dredging permit registration in Oregon doubled from 2011 to 2012.

Suction dredging is a form of gold mining developed in the 1960s. A portable underwater gasoline powered vacuum sucks up river bottom sediments and then filters out the gold. When performed legally, suction dredging damages the structure of rivers and streams, reducing the spawning success of salmon. It can also mobilize toxic mercury and spew mud downstream. Along with legal dredging, dredgers frequently illegally use high-pressure water and rock bars to excavate stream banks and create dams, which can muddy smaller creeks up to a mile downstream. Since 2008, permit registrations for this activity have increased by more than 300%.

The **Klamath Siskiyou Wild** and Rouge Riverkeeper are working on a number of solutions in the courts and the State Legislature to curb this destructive practice.

In 2010, the Northwest Environmental Defense Center, represented by the Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center and Western Environmental Law Center, filed a suit against the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) challenging the Oregon suction dredging permit for violating the Clean Water Act. The case was settled with DEQ and we will be working with DEQ to revise the permit language to better protect our streams.

One of our major concerns is the negative effect that streambed alteration from suction dredging has on threatened Coho salmon. In response, we filed a suit against the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest for authorizing suction dredging activities in critical habitat for Coho salmon, in violation of the Endangered Species Act.

We recently had a victory in the Oregon State Legislature, which passed Senate Bill 838. This enacts a 5-year moratorium on suction dredging in salmon habitat throughout the state. It limits the permits for suction dredging to 850 per year, from the 2500 currently issued, and requires the Governor's office and state agencies to craft a new regulatory framework that is simpler and more protective of our waters and salmon.

For more information visit [www.kcwild.org](http://www.kcwild.org) or [www.rougekeeper.org](http://www.rougekeeper.org).

### **WILDERNESS WEED WATCHERS PROGRAM** **GROWING LIKE ... WEEDS?**

*by Sarah Kruger,*

*Mountaineers' Public Lands Program Director*

Weeds travel to the interior of even the most remote wilderness areas by hitchhiking on boot tread, trail maintenance tools, stock feed, and even the camping gear of unsuspecting hikers. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, invasive non-native species are one of the leading threats to global biodiversity. In order to protect the native flora and fauna of our wildlands, land managers must have information about the presence of invasive species to properly manage wilderness areas and control infestations before they become unmanageable.

Last year, The Mountaineers launched a citizen-science effort to inventory invasive species in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness with support from the National Forest Foundation, The Mountaineers Foundation, REI, Alpine Lakes Protection Society, and matching donors. The program put boots on the ground and documented the presence – and absence – of non-native plants along 160 miles of trail. Given the success of the program, the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest asked for our help surveying six additional wilderness areas, and the National Forest Foundation has pledged to support the effort with another generous grant. Starting in 2013, The Mountaineers will train dozens of new volunteers to survey the Mt. Baker, Noisy-Diosbud, Boulder River, William O. Douglas, Clearwater, and Norse Peak Wilderness Areas, spanning from the northern reaches of Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest to the southern terminus near Mt. Rainier. Trainings will take place throughout western Washington this spring. Visit [www.mountaineers.org/weedwatchers](http://www.mountaineers.org/weedwatchers) for more information.

### **GREAT OLD BROADS GET BROADER**

**The Great Old Broads for Wilderness'** long time Executive Director, Ronni Egan, retired at the end of 2012. In her ten years at the helm, Ronni has been a remarkable, adventuresome, and innovative leader, who made broad strides in expanding Broads's membership to 4500 and in expanding the number of local Broadbands to eighteen nationally. Ronni has been a very creative and passionate advocate for wilderness protection and vocal opponent of livestock grazing on public lands. Shelly Silbert hired on as the new Executive Director and Rose Chilcoat continues as Associate Director. Broadbands sponsor local Broadwalks to wilderness areas in the West. For information on upcoming Broadwalks: [www.greatoldbroads.org](http://www.greatoldbroads.org).



## CLUBS IN ACTION



### JOIN THEIR SUMMER/FALL NATURAL HISTORY AND FIELD TRIP COURSES

by Kathleen Pyle, Program Coordinator,  
The Siskiyou Field Institute

The Siskiyou Field Institute introduces people to the fascinating and diverse Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains through field-based natural history classes. Our classes offer lifelong learning opportunities about this wonderful region to people of all ages. Go to [www.theski.org](http://www.theski.org) or call 541-597-8530 for more information and for registration. Remaining summer courses include:

#### Siskiyou Field Institute 2013 Single-Day Classes (\$50 Tuition)

- Introduction to State of Jefferson Dragonflies, July 27
- Intermediate Study of State of Jefferson Dragonflies, July 28
- Botanizing Crater Lake's Sphagnum Bog, August 4
- Salmon Snorkeling: A Family Adventure, August 4
- Birding on Bikes, September 14
- Winter Ecology and Tracking on Snowshoes, January 25, 2014

#### Multiple-day classes

- Crash Course in Flowering Plant Families, July 19–22, \$250
- Between a Rock and a Hard Place, August 3–4, \$100
- Mushrooms! November 8–10, \$140

**Adventure Learning** that combines physically challenging fun with immersion learning in the Klamath-Siskiyou Wilderness.

- Exploring Conifer Country in the Siskiyou Wilderness, July 13–14, \$100
- Streams Hike: Mt. Elijah to Oregon Caves, July 21–22, \$100
- Salmon Snorkeling: A Family Adventure, August 4, \$50
- Birding at Sea, August 14, \$140
- Rogue Undammed: River Ecology from a Raft, August 25, \$100
- Afloat in Lake Ecology, September 14, \$90

### KS WILD TAKES ON WYDEN'S BLM FORESTS BILL

**KS Wild** is organizing advocates for western Oregon's forest protection to take part in western Oregon's BLM current federal forest planning process. They are also organizing opposition to Oregon's Senator Ron Wyden and members of Congress O&C (former railroad lands) Trust Bill that would clear cut most of the 2.6 million acres, waiving environmental laws in a short-sighted attempt to solve the funding crisis of local counties. For more info and to sign their petition go to: [www.kswild.org](http://www.kswild.org).

### TRAILS CLUB CHALLENGES PORTLAND'S FOREST PARK SINGLE TRACK PLAN

The **Trails Club of Oregon** has formed a History Committee, chaired by Sylvia Milne, to conduct member oral histories and collect materials and photos for their archives. A number of the photos that were found and archived are of past Federation Conventions that Trails Club members attended. The project is in preparation for the Trail's Club Centennial Celebration in 2015. If anyone has articles or pictures of their connection with the Trails Club that would add to the history files, please email Sylvia at [historian@trailsclub.org](mailto:historian@trailsclub.org).

Now that history is being well utilized in the current fight over new "single track" cycling trails in Portland's beloved Forest Park, the only wilderness park in a major city. Their records document that Trails Club members, including Garnet "Ding" Cannon, were the founders of Forest Park in 1947. Mr. Cannon was also the President of FWOOC at the time and worked to have the Mazamas and FWOOC support their effort. Only passive activities such as hiking, walking, running, and nature study and cycling were allowed in the park.

The Trails Club is now urging the City to open up the process to public input, and challenging the project as violation of the 1995 Forest Park Natural Resources Management Plan. The Trails Club assures cyclists they do not oppose mountain biking, as there are over 30 miles of trails in the 5157-acre park now open to mountain bikes. They oppose the new "single track" track trails, which are only 18 to 36 inches wide, and designed for speed and challenges. These "single track" trails exclude pedestrians, children, and seniors from safely sharing the trails.

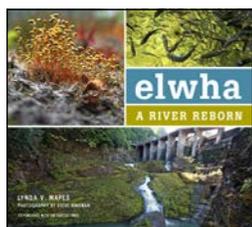
The Trails Club is seeking other organizations to help with this issue. More information can be obtained at the website: <http://tinyurl.com/restoreforestpark>.

### WASHINGTON ALPINE CLUB'S CLIMATE MONITORING

**Washington Alpine Club's** Guye Cabin at Snoqualmie Pass is the perfect spot to observe climatic changes. Annually in February they measure the snowpack near the cabin, which this year was 75 inches, a little more than last year. By June, President Mike Mahanay reported the snow has melted, the streams and rivers were running high and the Avalanche Lillies and Skunk Cabbage were in full bloom. The mountains beckon hikers to come up. Federation members are welcome at the cabin. For info: [www.wacweb.org](http://www.wacweb.org).

# EXPLORING THE MEDIA

By Raelene Gold

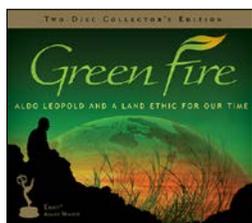


**BOOK: *Elwha: A River Reborn***, by Lynda Mapes with photography by Steve Ringman. Co-Published by Mountaineers Books and *The Seattle Times*. 184 pages, 2013. [www.mountaineersbooks.org](http://www.mountaineersbooks.org).

This is a beautiful book about the realization of the largest dam removal project in North America and the actual restoration of a river's ecosystem. This well told scientific story is the follow-up to the Lower Elwah Klallam tribe's years of dedicated persistence to restore their river's fishery, Rick Rutz's "crazy idea" of a strategy in the dam relicensing process, the advocacy of environmental groups, and the long tortuous path to Congressional approval and funding. Beginning in the summer of 2010, *The Seattle Times* dispatched stellar reporter Lynda Mapes and photographer Steve Ringman to

shadow the engineers and scientists who took on this daunting task. They chronicle the story from the dynamite blasting of the two dams, to the draining of the reservoirs and the return of the river to its natural bed. The creative descriptive text synchronizes with the "into the river" photography to transport the reader to the river's edge and bottom as the transformation unfolds. We witness the uncovered 700 acres of mudflats and massive cedar stumps that had been cut and flooded by the reservoirs. We see the reshaping of the river and the revegetation of mudflats, and the return of "all the parts," large and small, of the ecosystem.

The Olympic and Cascade Mountains are the source of the Northwest's robust river systems that early on attracted the hydropower industry, leading to the era of dam building and the tragic loss of free running rivers and their historic runs of salmon. This story brings hope in a sea of pessimism that something that was long lost can actually be returned.



**DVD: *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time***, produced by the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the US Forest Service, and the Center for Humans and Nature, 50 min., 2013. The DVD can be purchased from the Leopold Foundation based in Baraboo, Wisconsin. [www.aldoleopold.org](http://www.aldoleopold.org).

Leopold biographer and conservation biologist Curt Meine narrates this documentary on the life of legendary conservationist and ecologist Aldo Leopold, who lived from 1887 until his death in 1948. Following graduation from Yale University School of Forestry, Leopold worked for the Forest Service in the southwest. It was on these arid overgrazed lands that his thinking about the value of wilderness and wildlife began. This led to his founding of the first national forest wilderness area, the Gila Wilderness Area in 1924, and to be a founder of the Wilderness Society in 1936. At the University of Wisconsin, he developed the field of game management and spent his weekends at "the shack," where he engaged his family in the restoration of a worn out farm. The documentary shows many contemporary conservation efforts that have been inspired by Leopold's vision of community and land, the "land ethic."

It is certainly timely to remember Leopold's vision, for he foresaw most of the crises of the present and that loom in the future. Leopold's classic, *A Sand County Almanac*, published posthumously in 1949, and his essay, "A Land Ethic," continue

to inspire conservationists, as much that he advocated has yet to be really accepted or realized. Leopold also is a wonderful writer, with a creative use of language that seems fresh even today. Leopold writes with such a sense of empathy and understanding of each part of nature and how all the parts move in synchrony. Leopold shares a way of thinking about nature that is imbedded in a deep understanding of how all the parts work together to create the evolved present, and how human actions eliminating or introducing a component has consequences for all the others. The *Green Fire* demonstrates what he saw in the eyes of the dying wolf he shot, which is in the essay "Thinking Like a Mountain." From the perspective of the mountain the loss of the wolf, means the overpopulation of the deer, browsing of saplings, and deforestation of the mountain. Can we think like a mountain to the longer-term impact of our actions?



*The Shack, Baraboo, Wisconsin*

# 2013 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

## The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs Annual Conference *Change and New Challenges for Conservation*

September 13–15, 2013

Barn Beach Reserve • Leavenworth, Washington

Name \_\_\_\_\_  M  F

Club or Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Member organization delegate (votes at Sunday Business Meeting and on Resolutions)?  Yes

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>FEES</b>	<b>Full Conference:</b> Includes conference registration, Fri. Reception, Sat. lunch, social, and Banquet at Spring Mt. Lodge in Plain	\$90 _____
	<b>Separate items:</b> Fri. evening Reception and Program	\$10 _____
	Sat. conference registration, lunch, and social	\$35 _____
	Sat. evening Banquet at Spring Mt. Lodge in Plain	\$50 _____
	Annual individual dues (2013)	\$10 _____
	<b>Total enclosed:</b>	\$ _____

If attending the **Saturday evening Banquet**, please check one main course preference:

Beef  Chicken  Fish  Vegetarian

**Banquet reservations and main course choice must be received by August 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Mail Registration Form (one form for each attendee) and check payable to FWOC to:

Mr. George Milne  
Treasurer, FWOC  
1864 SE Anspach St.  
Oak Grove, OR 97267-2619

**Registration Form must be received by Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> with Banquet included, without Banquet deadline is September 6<sup>th</sup>.**

### 2013 RESOLUTION PROPOSAL FORM

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Member Organization or Individual)

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution Title or Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

**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:** Joan Zuber at [zuber@molalla.net](mailto:zuber@molalla.net) by September 1, 2013



## FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS

c/o FedExOffice  
19574 Molalla Ave.  
Oregon City, OR 97045

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## CALENDAR



- Sept. 13–15, 2013 **FWOC Annual Conference**  
*Change and New Challenges for Conservation*  
Barn Beach Reserve, Leavenworth, WA  
[www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org](http://www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org)
- March 2014 **32nd Annual Public Law Conference**  
University of Oregon Law School, Eugene, OR  
[www.pielc.org](http://www.pielc.org)
- April 30–  
May 2, 2014 **Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference**  
Washington State Convention and Trade Center,  
Seattle, WA. For more info:  
[www.wvu.edu/salishseaconference/index.shtml](http://www.wvu.edu/salishseaconference/index.shtml)
- Oct. 15–16, 2014 **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Wilderness Conference**  
Albuquerque, NM  
More info: [www.wilderness.net](http://www.wilderness.net)

*Mt. Stuart, Alpine Lakes Wilderness, WA – photo by T. Woodburn*