

OUTDOORS WEST

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Surface melt streams carve the Columbia Glacier below Monte Cristo Peak, photo courtesy of Tom Hammond

North Cascades Glacier Studies Document Global Warming Impacts

Tom Hammond is the current president of the North Cascades Conservation Council and staff at the University of Washington Information Technology Department. Since 2004, Tom has spent his summers as a volunteer field scientist studying and photographing glaciers as part of the North Cascade Glacier Climate Project. The project was founded in 1984 by Dr. Mauri Peltó, a glaciologist and Professor of Environmental Science at Nichols College, in Dudley, Massachusetts.

The North Cascades have over 700 glaciers, 315 are in the North Cascades National Park. All glaciers in the study, and indeed, across the range are experiencing negative mass balance and some have disappeared completely, with significant impacts to the streams and rivers they feed. The Columbia Glacier pictured above drains into the Skykomish watershed. The termini of all North Cascades glaciers in the study retreated significantly in 2015 and 2016 – in the case of the Columbia Glacier 20 meters in two years. More importantly, the glaciers are thinning at a rate even scientists call “catastrophic.”

For more photos of other North Cascades glaciers and info: www.nichols.edu/departments/Glacier and www.northcascades.org

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2017 MEMBER CLUBS

Angora Hiking Club, Astoria, OR
 Bark, Portland, OR
 California Alpine Club,
 Mill Valley, CA
 California State Park Ranger Association
 (CSPRA), Bowman, CA
 Chemeketans, Salem, OR
 Chinook Trail Association, Vancouver, WA
 Contra Costa Hills Club, Oakland, CA
 Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Portland, OR
 Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Reno, NV
 Friends of Mt Hood, Clackamas, OR
 Friends of the Oregon Caves and Chateau,
 Grants Pass, OR
 Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Durango, CO
 Hobnailers, Spokane, WA
 Idaho Conservation League, Boise, ID
 Indian Creek Botanical Mission, Selma, OR
 Klahhane Club, Port Angeles, WA
 Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, Williams, OR
 Mazamas, Portland, OR
 Montana Wilderness Association, Helena, MT
 Mt. St. Helens Club, Longview, WA
 Nature Friends, Mill Valley, CA
 North Cascades Conservation Council,
 Seattle, WA
 Obsidians, Eugene, OR
 Olympians, Hoquiam, WA
 Olympic Parks Associates, Seattle, WA
 Oregon Nordic Club, Portland, OR
 Oregon Wild, Portland, OR
 Rusk Ranch Nature Center, Cave Junction, OR
 Santiam Alpine Club, Salem, OR
 Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter, Los Angeles, CA
 Sierra Club, Kern-Kaweah Chapter,
 Bakersfield, CA
 Sierra Club, Loo Wit group, Vancouver, WA
 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
 Whitman College Outdoor Program,
 Walla Walla, WA
 Wilderness Watch, Missoula, MT
 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

FWOC Welcomes Five New Member Organizations

FWOC warmly welcomed five new or reinstated Member Organizations at last summer's Convention. Three of these have long histories of being at the forefront of northwest conservation efforts to expand and protect our national parks, wilderness, and forests.

Since 1957, the **North Cascades Conservation Council** has worked to protect and preserve the North Cascades' lands, waters, plants, and wildlife through public participation and legal channels. They support the American Alps Legacy Project to expand the North Cascades National Park, establishing new Wilderness Areas, protecting wildlife, promoting environmentally sound recreational use in wild areas, and protecting old-growth trees. They take action to stop damaging timber sales, while supporting responsible forest management and protecting forestlands from conversion to non-forest uses.

The **Olympic Park Associates** was founded in 1948 to defend the national park's old growth forests from the timber industry. They have continues to doggedly defend the beauty, integrity and biological diversity of the park and the olympic ecosystem.

They lobbied to add the Olympic coastal strip and Queets corridor to the park in the 1950s and organized a national effort to stop the "salvage logging" of Olympic forests. OPA organized two hikes led by U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas to turn back efforts to build a highway along the Olympic coast, and they led the effort to add Shi Shi Beach and Lake Ozette to the park in the 1970s.

Oregon Wild in Portland, Oregon works to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters as an enduring legacy for all Oregonians. Founded in 1974, Oregon Wild (formerly the Oregon Natural Resources Council or ONRC) has been instrumental in securing permanent legislative protection for some of Oregon's most precious landscapes, including nearly 1.7 million acres of Wilderness, 95,000 acres of forests in Bull Run/Little Sandy watersheds (to safeguard the quality of Portland's water supply), and almost 1,800 miles of Wild & Scenic Rivers.

Friends of the Oregon Caves and Chateau in Grant's Pass, Oregon was formed in 2008 to save the Chateau and now works with the National Park Service for the preservation, stewardship, and improvement of cultural and natural resources of the Oregon Caves National Monument.

The **Rusk Ranch Nature Center** in Cave Junction, Oregon was formed in 2007 following the donation of 50 acres of meadows and forests along the West Fork of the Illinois River. They are forming an interactive learning environment with a community center, featuring the unique flora and fauna of the area, and interpretive trails. Their goal is to benefit the community and provide opportunities, particularly for young people, to appreciate the natural world and develop a sense of stewardship.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Everyone,

Recently I was enjoying a TV program, remembering many past cowboy actors. Several of them had a repeating theme song, one with a recognizable message of what was to follow. The point that struck a chord with me, Gene Autry's, "Back in the Saddle Again."

Autry's theme seems especially fitting for us this year as we face extreme challenges to what so many people and organizations have protected. Similar to our predecessors, we must get back in the saddle and work tirelessly to support groups actively questioning misdirected actions and information related to issues with clean water, climate change, and the giveaway of our public lands for logging, drilling, and mining. Our latest election brings with it a wakeup call, reminding us a few in power are ready to ruthlessly deny expectations, rights, and wellbeing of so many. If we are not focused in our mission to protect our forests, rivers, lakes, and natural world as we all know it, there will be no second chance, once any of these resources are gone.

FWOC, established for mutual service in 1932, is retooling to offer individuals, clubs, and organizations a virtual means to communicate about environmental issues and rally for just resolution. Sylvia is working diligently to organize all the data needed to establish a List Serve, which will extend our email Alerts beyond the Executive Committee. Soon this opportunity will allow you to voice your opinion electronically while learning from club/organization members about the

latest conservation and environmental issues.

Currently the Federation membership of clubs, organizations, and individuals, represents over 100,000 people. One thing I have learned as a member of FWOC, numbers are influential in legislation. While outreach to new members is important, so is nurturing active participation of all those people symbolized by these numbers.

As I mentioned in an earlier President's Message, a recent statement from Kevin Gorman, long-term Executive Director with Friends of the Columbia Gorge, gives me hope. He said, "We have been here before," which I interpret to mean if we work together and focus on a strategic course we can again overcome adversity. Our plan as a Federation is to build on our infrastructure and connect all the potential voices with ways to speak out on behalf of conservation and environmental issues.

FWOC invites you to renew your membership, or become a new member, and actively help us continue our "good work" of protecting country and planet.

Sincerely,

George Milne
FWOC President



George Milne
FWOC President

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IN MEMORIAM

Two Great Wilderness Champions Leave Us

POLLY DYER (1920–2016)

Celebrated Northwest Conservationist, Polly Dyer, passed away at age 96 on November 20, 2016. Polly, an enduring icon in the northwest environmental movement, established a remarkable legacy of accomplishments in national park and wilderness protection, and in environmental education. Her endless determination and perseverance contributed to the passage of the Wilderness Act, the inclusion of coastal beaches in the Olympic National Park, the designation of the North Cascades National Park, the removal of the Elwah River dams, and the protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Polly and John Dyer, a Sierra Club activist and mountain climber, met and fell in love in Alaska in 1945. The Dyers moved to the Seattle area in 1950 and with David Brower, organized the northwest chapter of the Sierra Club, which then included Alaska. Utilizing her secretarial skills, Polly soon volunteered and became active in the Mountaineers, the Olympia Park Associates, the North Cascades Conservation Council and the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. She organized the Federation's first two northwest wilderness conferences in 1956 and 1958 when she was the Federation's first woman President. At the 1956 conference, Howard Zahniser unveiled his first draft of the Wilderness bill, and Polly joined him in Washington, DC to testify in Senate hearings for the Wilderness bill, which passed in 1964.

Besides continuing to organize wilderness conferences, Polly worked at the University of Washington's Institute of Environmental Studies as Director of Continuing Environmental Education, bringing a wide range of people into discourse and activism on emergent environmental issues.



Polly Dyer

MARGE SILL (1924–2016)

The Mother of Nevada Wilderness, Marge Sill, died at age 92 at her home in Reno, Nevada on October 23, 2016. For over 50 years she contributed to the protection of each of Nevada's 70 Wilderness areas. She was a founding member of the Friends of Nevada Wilderness and of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Marge was a pillar of strength to the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. From about 1996 on, she served as a Vice-President for Nevada, representing the Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club. She chaired the Resolution Committee over many years, instilling a needed discipline to what could become a very heated process. Marge submitted many Resolutions protecting the wildlands of Nevada and California. She also organized memorable programs for FWOC Conventions at Echo Summit Lodge near Lake Tahoe, the last one in 2014.

Marge was instrumental in the passage of the Wilderness Act for Nevada which protected Nevada's National Forest lands. She also was a leader in the designation of Nevada's first National Park – Great Basin National Park. She continued to work for the designation of wilderness and parks and monuments in Nevada and California throughout her life.

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune wrote: "From Lake Tahoe State Park, to Great Basin National Park, to the designation of more than 700,000 acres of wilderness in Nevada, Marge's fingerprints are on almost every protected vista of the West. Her dedication helped bring about the California Wilderness Act, the Nevada Wilderness Act, and the California Desert Protection Act. For more than half a century she fought tirelessly to protect wild spaces from encroachment. She once said that she loved wilderness as a vision for the future. Today we celebrate that vision as we celebrate her life, and we look with confidence, as she did, to continued wilderness protections."

Marge also worked closely with Nevada Senator Harry Reid who issued the following statement: "No one cared more about protecting Nevada's breathtaking wilderness than Marge Sill, and no one fought harder to ensure it stayed that way. Marge worked tirelessly to help pass the Wilderness Act of 1964 and she played an important role in preserving Nevada's wilderness ever since. Over the past five decades, every protected acre in Nevada has had Marge's fingerprints on it. The Silver State is better off because of her hard work and dedication to Nevada's natural wonders."

Thanks to the Friends of Nevada Wilderness, the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, and the Reno Gazette Journal and Las Vegas Review for information for this article

Another Wilderness Champion Retires and Returns to the Northwest

Brock Evans and his wife Linda Garcia have both retired from their long careers in Washington, DC and have relocated back to their beloved Northwest in La Grande, Oregon.

Brock became an environmental legend and hero over the years as he led many of its greatest battles. As a young lawyer and former marine, Brock fell in love with the Northwest and in 1966 became staff as the Northwest Conservation Representative, a position funded by the Sierra Club and the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. In 1972 he moved to Washington, DC to work for the Sierra Club, and later for the National Audubon Society. Most recently he was with the Endangered Species Coalition. Linda had a very successful 20-year career as a Professor at Georgetown University and Director of its Communications, Culture, and Technology program.

Brock and Linda chose La Grande because of their many friends there from earlier environmental battles. Brock writes “We wanted to retire to a smaller, less intense place, with good friends already there, already bonded by sharing common interests and causes over the years. And that is exactly what we have found here in La Grande: a most warm and friendly place ... where every day I get to drink my coffee and look out across a vast panorama of places fought for and won, like the mountains and forests of the Wallowas and Wenaha-Tucannon and the great gorges of the still free-flowing Snake River, Hells Canyon.” However, “last winter, which the local newspaper said had the most snow and cold in 70 years, was quite an adventure. I have never before lived in a place where one goes “downtown” to shop wearing ice crampons, and I also take along my ice axe from Seattle Mountaineers days along for balance.”

“I intend to stay as active as time and circumstances allow. I am never going to quit speaking out, writing about, testifying, lobbying, campaigning for, any and all the places still unprotected and needing it ... always seeking to gain and gather

us new allies, always seeking to expand public understanding and acceptance of our values and goals – that is, the complete protection of our Northwest’s precious wild legacy ... and, as possible or needed, around the nation as well, where my national connections can perhaps help a larger cause, such as climate change. I continue to be active in the Endangered Species Coalition.

“But first for me, above all is my love for the Pacific Northwest and all the magical places I already know and love so well ... that is the resting place of my true heart ... and that is the place I intend for it to reside, forever.”

Wilderness Legends Inducted into Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame

Ken and Florence Baldwin, founders of the Montana Wilderness Association, were posthumously inducted into Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame on December 3, 2016 in Helena. Ken and Florence Baldwin dedicated their lives to Montana’s wild places and wildlife. The Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame honors people, both living and deceased, who made significant and lasting contributions to the restoration and conservation of Montana’s wildlife and wild places.

In 1958, the Baldwins, who were avid hunters, were determined to stop the decline in the state’s wildlife. They wrote 100 friends across Montana inviting them to Bozeman to discuss wildlands protection and support a Congressional bill creating a national system of wilderness areas. The group formed the Montana Wilderness Association which worked for the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act with their Senators James Murray, Mike Mansfield, and Lee Metcalf, all original sponsors of the bill. Thanks to the Baldwins’ leadership, the Bob Marshall, Cabinet Mountains, Gates of the Mountains, Anaconda-Pintler, and Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Areas were all designated with passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964.

The Montana Wilderness Association joined FWOC and the Baldwins were active; Ken was President from 1967–1969, and Florence was President from 1982–1984. The MWA hosted FWOC Conventions in 1970 at the University of Montana in Missoula and in 1981 at Montana State University in Bozeman, where the Baldwins lived. They submitted many Resolutions to FWOC concerning wilderness and wildlife protection.

Ken and Florence were married for 77 years and everyone who knew them saw how much they loved being together. They were inseparable. Their love for Montana kept them young, vibrant, and engaged, even when they were in their 90s. Florence passed away in January 2007 at the age of 95. Ken passed away just one month later at the age of 98.

Thanks to John Gatchell, Montana Wilderness Alliance, Senior Conservation Advisor



Brock Evans and Linda Garcia at ALPS 40th Anniversary Gathering in Seattle

BEARS EARS AND GOLD BUTTE NATIONAL MONUMENTS DESIGNATED BY PRESIDENT OBAMA

Before leaving office President Obama designated the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, Gold Butte National Monument in Nevada, and an expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in southwest Oregon and northern California, under the Antiquities Act.

During his presidency, President Obama designated far more land as monuments than any prior President, 553,559,000 acres to be exact.

The **Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance**, continuing its uphill battle to protect wilderness in Utah, supported the 1.9 million-acre Bears Ears monument proposal led by the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal coalition. The Navajo, Ute Mountain, and Uinta Ouray Ute, Paiute, Hopi, and Zuni Tribes all have ancestral ties over millennia to this area in San Juan County, in the mountains and redrock canyons of southeastern Utah. The area contains an intact archaeological record of the presence of Native American civilizations there and is considered sacred to the tribes. It continues to be utilized for ceremonies, and hunting and gathering. Last October the Coalition formally delivered the proposal for the Bears Ears Monument to the Obama administration, also requesting collaborative management of the area between the Tribes and federal government.

*Thanks to Redrock Wilderness Summer 2016
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, www.suwa.org*

Friends of Nevada Wilderness celebrated President Obama's designation of Gold Butte as a National Monument under the Antiquities Act. The designation of Gold Butte was something the late Marge Sill had worked hard to accomplish. It is described as Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon. "It is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders located between the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument and Lake Mead National Recreation Area. And today Gold Butte is our nation's newest national monument. Its marvels include thousands of petroglyphs, historic mining and pioneer-era artifacts, rare and threatened wildlife, dramatic geologic features like red sculpted sandstone and rock spires, and fossil sites that are now protected forever." But now there are concerns over the new administration and the details of the Management Plan.

NEW CONGRESS THREATENS PUBLIC LANDS; PUBLIC OUTCRY DEFEATS LANDS PRIVATIZATION BILL

Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) withdrew his legislation that would have transferred 3 million acres of land from federal to state ownership, citing objections from constituents who

complained that the move would limit access to public hunting and fishing grounds.

The Disposal of Excess Federal Lands Act, which would have shifted federal holdings to state governments in Utah, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Wyoming, prompted an outcry among hunters and anglers' groups. Introduced three weeks after House Republicans enacted a rule change to make it easier to sell off federal land, the measure prompted two separate rallies in Santa Fe, NM, and Helena, MT, that drew hundreds of people opposed to the measure. "I am sensitive to the perceptions this bill creates in the current environment," Chaffetz wrote in his letter to House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah). "As a proud gun owner, hunter, and public lands enthusiast, I want to be responsive to my constituents who enjoy these lands. I look forward to continuing to work with stakeholders in the broader public lands discussion in a collaborative manner."

Source: Oregon WildBlog, www.oregonwild.org

EMBOLDENED CONGRESS PROPOSES ANTI-ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

In the House:

- **H.J. Res. 44 / S.J. Res. 15** – Joint Resolutions to overturn BLM's New Planning Process, would repeal BLM's Planning 2.0 rule that passed in December and allows for more public transparency and participation of the planning process.
- **H.J. Res. 46** – Oil and Gas Rights in National Parks. This resolutions repeals safety and enforcement standards for oil and gas drilling taking place already or potentially in national parks where private companies may have or acquire subsurface drilling rights. Allows drilling without Park Service input. See: www.npca.org for more information.
- **HR 621** – Disposal of Public Lands Act (see above). Representative Chaffetz (R-Utah) withdrew this bill after an outpouring of opposition from hunters, fishermen, and outdoor enthusiasts from the affected 11 western states.
- **HR 622** – Local Enforcement for Local Lands Act replaces USFS and BLM law enforcement with local agencies funded by grants which weaken protection of public lands from illegal activities like poaching, grazing, or vandalism.
- **HR 232** – State National Forest Management Act of 2017 authorizes state legislatures to purchase up to 2 million acres of land from the Forest Service for timber production. Another way to transfer federal lands to the state.
- **HR 637** – Stopping EPA Overreach Act of 2017 would repeal federal climate change regulations and prohibit agencies from regulating greenhouse gases in any way. Regulating

CONSERVATION NEWS

Compiled by Raelene Gold

greenhouse gases is the key to slowing or reversing climate change.

- **HR 861** – To Terminate the Environmental Protection Agency. The title spells it out pretty clearly – this bill would terminate the EPA on December 31, 2018. The EPA is the agency that's tasked with protecting human health and clean water and clean air.

In the Senate:

- **S 33** – Improved National Monument Designation Process Act removes the President's power to designate National Monuments.
- **S 132** – National Monument Transparency and Accountability Act of 2017 requires the President to get Congressional approval to designate National Monuments.
- **S 22 / HR 243** – Nevada Land Sovereignty Act requires the President to get Congressional approval to designate National Monuments in Nevada.

However, on a positive note, H.Con.Res. 27 America's Federal Lands are National Treasures Resolution, is a bipartisan bill affirming that our federal lands are a national treasure that belong to all Americans and should be maintained for future generations. Thanks to Representatives Alan Lowenthal (D-CA-47) and Dave Reichert (R-WA-08) for introducing this bill. Please contact your Representatives requesting they sign on as Sponsors.

WILDERNESS IN CONGRESS: THE EXPECTED ONSLAUGHT

*Thanks to the Guardian, newsletter of Wilderness Watch,
February 28, 2017*

Wild public lands in the United States, especially those lands designated by Congress as Wilderness under the 1964 Wilderness Act, face the most serious threats and assaults in the half-century since the landmark law passed Congress. The new 115th Congress that began in 2017 is probably the most virulently anti-wilderness Congress ever, with wilderness-hating members chairing the key committees in both the House and Senate. That, coupled with the new bull-in-the-china-shop, pro-development Trump Administration, spells HUGE trouble for Wilderness. The 1964 Wilderness Act itself might easily be gutted. The very idea and definition of Wilderness could be lost.

Up until this year, even though the Republican party held majorities in both the House and Senate, anti-wilderness Republicans in Congress knew that their most egregious bills wouldn't likely pass muster with the Obama Administration. And the Obama Administration did oppose many of the worst bills, testifying against some of the bills and threatening vetoes against others.

But now the backstop of the Obama Administration is gone. The new Trump Administration's positions on Wilderness are not entirely clear at this point, but the early indications of advancing oil and gas drilling on public lands, of approving the construction of oil and tar sands pipelines, of promoting coal development, and of denying climate change, all indicate that the new administration is more interested in developing public lands rather than protecting them. And without the backstop of the Obama Administration, the anti-wilderness members of Congress are gearing up their attack on Wilderness, figuratively salivating at the opportunity to pass their worst anti-wilderness bills and have them signed into law by Donald Trump. For rest of article, go to www.wildernesswatch.org

ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE STALLED

Last November 18th, 2016, west coast Governors Brown of California, Inslee of Washington, Brown of Oregon, and Premier Christy Clark of British Columbia committed to take action on climate at the close of the United Nations Climate Conference in Morocco. The Governors of Washington, Oregon and California, and the Premier of British Columbia, joined together in making a statement reaffirming their commitment:

"Today, as COP22 comes to a close – two weeks after the Paris Agreement came into force – leaders from across the globe have renewed their commitment to climate action. In California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia – from the Mexican border to the edge of the Yukon Territory – we stand with the international community. Our success demonstrates that taking action on climate change goes hand-in-hand with robust job creation and a thriving clean energy economy. We know what's at stake because we have seen the destruction firsthand – from year-round wildfires and historic drought to devastating sea-level rise. These impacts don't respect borders or wait for the next election. Our resolve is strong. We will continue to take bold action to achieve the targets set in the Paris agreement. We will mobilize our resources and our people. We will join with other like-minded cities, states, and regions committed to action and lead this global fight."

In Washington State Initiative 732, a revenue neutral carbon tax Initiative, was defeated in the November 7th election garnering just 40% of the vote. In the current Washington State Legislative session, Governor Inslee's budget includes a carbon tax with the revenue going to fund education, but so far the Republican majority Senate is opposed to a carbon tax.

In the Oregon State Legislature, two cap and trade bills, SB 557 and HB 2135, would create a cap and trade system similar to those already in place in California and several Canadian provinces. Those bills would set limits on carbon emissions and

create a market for trading carbon credits. A third option, SB 748, nicknamed a “cap and penalty” bill, would create a carbon pollution permit program that would collect money from fees and penalties. The funds would be used to reduce emissions and help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Another bill, HB 2468, sets a cap on emissions and directs the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission to develop a system to meet that goal. A bill that has yet to be introduced, LC 1242, would create a carbon tax that would increase annually to create an incentive for reducing emissions.

CLIMATE KIDS WON IN STATE COURTS: NOW PREPARE FOR THE FEDERAL COURT

Thanks to Our Children's Trust, www.ourchildrenstrust.org

Making headlines are the youngsters that have gone to court regarding climate change and are winning. In Washington State, a group of youths, ages 10 to 15, who with the help of the Oregon no-profit, Our Children's Trust, petitioned the Washington State Department of Ecology to adopt stricter science-based regulations combating climate change. King County Superior Court Judge Hollis Hill ordered Ecology to promulgate a carbon emissions reduction rule by the end of 2016 and make recommendations to the state legislature on science-based greenhouse gas reductions in the 2017 legislative session. Judge Hill also ordered Ecology to consult with the youth petitioners in advance of that recommendation. The kids were ably represented by Andrea Rogers of the Western Environmental Law Center. The kids also recently traveled to the Washington State Capitol in Olympia to testify on a stringent green house gas emission bill.

Similar lawsuits seeking more aggressive action on climate change have gone forwards in other states. In Oregon, a judge allowed a lawsuit against the federal government on behalf of 21 teenagers and children, also helped by Our Children's Trust, to go forward. These lawsuits utilize the Public Trust Doctrine, which has been part of American jurisprudence since the founding of the country and provides that a government holds essential natural resources “in trust” for present and future generations.

Now youth plaintiffs in *Juliana v. United States* filed a notice with a federal court in Oregon, naming Donald J. Trump as a defendant in their landmark climate case on pace for trial this fall. Plaintiffs have substituted President Trump as a named party in place of former President Barack Obama under the Federal Rules. In *Juliana v. United States*, 6:15-cv-1517-TC, 21 young plaintiffs sued the federal government for violating their constitutional rights and their rights to vital public trust resources. The complaint alleges the government locked in a fossil-fuel based national energy system for more than five decades with full knowledge of the extreme dangers it posed.

The plaintiffs have been further emboldened by President Trump's blatant climate denialism, inspiring them in their fight to secure climate justice and a safe future.

Their complaint asserts that, through the governments affirmative actions in causing climate change, it has violated the youngest generation's constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property, as well as failed to protect essential public trust resources.

BIKES IN WILDERNESS AREAS?

by Rick McGuire, North Cascades Conservation Council Board member, excerpted from The Wild Cascades, Fall 2016

The conservation community has been startled, and alarmed, by S 3205, a bill introduced by Utah Senators Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee, to change the Wilderness Act and allow bikes into Wilderness areas. NCCC strongly opposes opening up Wilderness areas to mechanized travel. This position is shared by nearly all organizations in the conservation community. Although motorcycles were considered as much more of a threat when the Wilderness Act passed in 1964, the Act's authors, including Washington's Senator Henry Jackson, specifically chose to exclude “mechanized” rather than “motorized” activity from Wilderness areas.

Wilderness areas, along with National Parks, have been called the country's “crown jewels,” as well as “America's best idea.” No other country can match the United States in the quantity and quality of lands that have been set aside to stay in their natural state. Other countries may have spectacular mountains and wild areas, but no other country has established such a network where the prime directive is to just leave it alone, not mess with it, not try to “improve” it, but to simply let it be.

Wilderness areas were not established as hiking areas, although that, along with animal packing, has been the only way to visit them. They were established for their own sake, and many of them have large portions where there are no trails at all, just Nature in its purest state.

No one is opposed to biking. Most conservations probably own one or more, and most hikers also enjoy biking. But not in Wilderness areas, which have been set aside not for recreation but simply for their own sake, to remain as untouched and unmodified as possible.

Even some dedicated mountain bikers have questioned the motives of the two Utah Senators who have introduced this bill. They have been widely known as enemies of public lands. It requires no paranoia to wonder if their real motives are to start the process of watering down the Wilderness Act any way they can. First bikes, then motorcycles, and maybe drilling rigs someday. This is one slope that really is slippery and leads down to who knows where?



CLUBS IN ACTION

Compiled by Raelene Gold



Member Clubs and Organizations, please send any news you wish to share to Raelene Gold, raelene@seanet.com by May 15th, 2017 for inclusion in the next **Outdoors West**. We'd love to hear from you. Also, please send your newsletter to raelene@seanet.com so we can be aware of the great things you are doing.

FIGHTING THE MILITARY

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is taking on the Air Force's attempt to take over the remaining Desert National Wildlife Refuge, and 1.2 million acres of proposed wilderness, that is home to one of Nevada's largest desert bighorn sheep populations. The Desert National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1936 to provide habitat for the desert bighorn sheep and is the second largest wildlife refuge in the US. Since 1940 the military has had joint administration with the Forest Service of the western half of the Refuge, and now it is attempting to seize control of most of the rest of the Refuge. This would threaten wildlife, eliminate public access and prevent future wilderness designation forever. To sign their petition and get updates go to: www.nevadawilderness.org (Marge Sill would want all of us to help with this).



Olympic Park Associates is fighting the Olympic National Forest's decision to approve the Navy's proposal to conduct electromagnetic warfare training over the western Olympic Peninsula. They are permitting electronic emitter trucks on Forest Service roads as contact points for the EA-18 Growler fighter jets overflights, that can occur up to 16 hours a day, 260 days a year. The thunderous noise of the growlers will disturb the quiet and natural soundscapes of the Olympic National Park and Forest and the Olympic Coast National Marine

Sanctuary. The Park attracts over three million visitors a year and is a pillar of the local economy. The Forest Service ignored the public comments concerning the noise pollution, impacts on wildlife, and park visitation. OPA is urging us to contact our Senators and members of Congress. For more information and how to take Action: www.olympicparkassociates.org

IN DEFENSE OF PUBLIC LANDS

North Cascades Conservation Council, founded in 1957 in Seattle, Washington, is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year. Their last newsletter, *The Wild Cascades*, Winter 2017, features an article entitled, "We will resist any privatization of public land." Listing a long list of the looming threats from the new administration, NCCC urges its members to: "speak out against the new administration's actions that would accelerate global warming, sell off our public lands to the highest bidder, silence scientists, and deny future generations their right to enjoy our planet unimpaired. This will be a long, difficult fight, so get out into the wilderness to sustain joy and hope and remind yourself what we are fighting for. But then come back to the struggle. Call your representatives. Sign petitions. Take to the streets. Together, we will resist." This is a great issue, find it at www.wildcascades.org



Great Old Broads for Wilderness also are gearing up to protect our Public Lands from actions by Congress. In response to many queries of "What can we do NOW?," Broads gives advice on "How to Take Action NOW!" Here are the highlights:

1. **Get Political** – Write letters, sign petitions, and schedule in-person meetings. Let leaders know you

are paying attention and that you care. Take a stand on issues and let them know how you feel and how it affects you directly. Be persistent and practice resilience.

2. **Get Local** – Start at home. Change begins right in your backyard. Developing relationships with those around you is a great way to build power. Deepen your connections with your neighbors. Share stories, host a gathering, attend meetings, or start a Broadband. Determine who has a strong voice in your community, who has influence, who can help you achieve your goals. Get to know your community partners and diversify your constituency.
3. **Get Educated** – Education is power. Staying updated on the issues you care about is key to being a part of the change, as is helping others learn about issues with which they may not be familiar. Choose an issue or two or three to follow closely to build your knowledge; seek out resources, talking points, and fact sheets.
4. **Get Public** – Hold people accountable for their decisions. Make your work visible. Take it to the streets, to council meetings, to public gatherings. Contact newspapers, local magazines, and radio and television stations. Tell your story: don't allow the destruction of wildlands and wilderness to be normalized.
5. **Get Organized** – What are your goals? Who is with you? Get that advocacy calendar out and start mapping connections and strategies. Where do you start, what is your message, and who will you work with? Make a plan of action and identify the best process to support your actions.
6. **Get Out** – When people connect with nature, they want to protect it. Get out and explore on your own or bring a whole group of folks out for



CLUBS IN ACTION

Compiled by Raelene Gold



an adventure. Volunteer with your local land management agency or with like-minded organizations. Find stewardship opportunities. Hike with a purpose and learn more about threats faced by the places you love.

7. **Get Celebrating** – Shout the wins out! Thank your decision makers, your partners, your friends. We continue to gain momentum and re-energize when we acknowledge our wins. And always, pause to have some fun! “Silence will not protect you. Be courageous. Be bold and don’t apologize for taking a stand.” www.greatoldbroads.org



Oregon Wild has organized Wild Ones in various cities for training of advocates for public lands on how to speak up effectively at Town Hall meetings and hold public officials accountable. Oregon Wild is also working to stop a proposal to sell the Elliott State Forest and its old growth to a logging company. Over 200 people testified in December at a hearing urging Governor Kate Brown and other state officials to reject the proposal to sell the State Forest to Lone Rock logging. Oregon Wild is now developing a proposal that protects the old growth and keeps the forest in public hands. The Elliot State Forest is Oregon’s first State Forest and is in the Oregon Coast Range near Coos Bay, Oregon. Ninety percent of the forest forms part of Oregon Common School Fund devoted to supporting public education statewide. On February 10th, Governor Brown stated she now opposes the sale of the Elliot State Forest. But the Governor is only one of three members of the State Land Board that makes the determination and the two others support the sale. www.oregonwild.org



Idaho Conservation League in Boise, Idaho joined a March 4th Idaho Day Rally on the Capitol steps in Boise to “Keep Idaho Public Lands in Idaho Hands.” www.icl.org



The Montana Wilderness Association participated in a rally for public lands, “These Lands Are Our Birthright,” on February 2nd, in Helena, MT. Over 1,000 Montanans showed up to hear their Governor Steve Bullock speak. Soon afterwards, Utah’s Representative Jason Chaffetz announced he was withdrawing his bill, The Disposal of Excess Federal Lands Act, which would have disposed of 3.3 million acres of public lands in 10 western states including Montana. www.mca.org



Southwest Utah Wilderess Alliance continues to have the hard task defending public lands and wilderness in Utah. Recently they are collecting sign-ons for a letter for lobbying Congress in March during a volunteer lobby week. They are hoping to get support to defend the newly designated Bears Ears National Monument and to find more sponsors for America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARRWA). SUWA field organizers are also offering to give presentations to groups on SUWA’s public lands. www.suwa.org



Winter Wildlands in Boise, Idaho had a very successful SnowSchool program taking more than 32,000 kids to 60 different sites to snowshoe last winter, introducing many to the snowy alpine environment for their first time. The desire to protect these landscapes inspires Winter Wildlands work to protect these landscapes. Their Executive Director Mike Menlove writes:

“The desire to protect wild winter places as sanctuary for this experience of amazement and wonder, not just today but for my children and for future generations, first brought me to Winter Wildlands Alliance and it continues to energize me through a dozen years of this work. I suspect it is the same with our volunteer advocates who, with support from Winter Wildlands and using new federal guidelines we helped establish, are working tirelessly to protect their local winter landscapes. To further support these efforts we’re sharing the celebration of winter by sending our Backcountry Film Festival to more than 100 showings around the world and in the process raising more than \$150,000 for local grassroots groups and SnowSchool.” www.winterwildlands.org

GOING TO COURT

Klamath Siskiyou Wildland Center in Selma, Oregon, and a coalition of local partners are defending the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Court. They intervened in two lawsuits to protect the Monument from challenges brought on by local timber interests. Originally designated by President Clinton in 2000, President Obama expanded the Monument last January 2017. The Cascade-Siskiyou Monument is noted for its plant and animal biodiversity, as well as being a connectivity corridor for animals, and was designated specifically to protect its ecological integrity. The expanded Monument has strong local support. Parties in the suit beside KS Wild include the Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, Oregon Wild, and The Wilderness Society. They are represented by the Western Environmental Law Center and Earthjustice. www.kswild.org





CLUBS IN ACTION

Compiled by Raelene Gold



On February 23, 2017 **Columbia River-keeper** and four other groups sued the new Head of the Environmental Protection Administration, Scott Pruitt, using the Clean Water Act to claim the agency must take action to protect salmon in the Snake and Columbia Rivers which are at risk due to the water's high temperatures in the summer.

OTHER CLUB NEWS

KS Wild in southwest Oregon is also working to protect the Smith River, which arises from the Kalmiopsis Wilderness via the 28 mile long North Fork, joining the Middle Fork near Gasquet, and then flowing into the 43 mile long South Fork from the redwoods of the Smith River National Recreation Area. The Smith River is renowned for its wild salmon and steelhead runs and extremely pure waters. They now have the chance to enhance protections for this amazing river. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has proposed to designate the North Fork Smith as Outstanding Resource Waters under the Clean Water Act. This would distinguish the North Fork Smith River as the first Outstanding Resource Waters in Oregon! Please go to www.kswild.org to help by contacting the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

The rule is a critical step to safeguard the pristine waters of the Smith River watershed. www.kswild.org



The **Siskiyou Institute** has published its 2017 Field-Based Natural History Courses in and about the Klamath-Siskiyou. Based in Selma, Oregon, the Siskiyou Institute this year is expanding its course offerings to focus on youth education programs, courses for professionals, and adventure learning for adults that combines lectures and field trips for

adults. Courses are offered in all areas of natural history including birds, botany and geology. The Institute is also available for your group conferences and retreats. FWOC held a conference there and it was a memorable experience. To receive your catalog go to: www.thesfi.org



The **Obsidians** in Eugene, Oregon continue to expand their trip offerings including exciting extended trips to places of great interest. Upcoming trips include: an April 24th–30th Owyhee River trip that includes hiking, birding, and camping; a May 1st–5th camping event at the Siskiyou Institute's Deer Creek Center with hiking into the Kalmiopsis Wilderness and along the Illinois River, and a visit to the Oregon Caves Monument; and a May 19th–21st trip to the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge for exciting birding at the Refuge where three major bird migration corridors converge, followed by lodging at the historic Frenchglen Hotel. For more info: www.obsidians.org



The **Trails Club of Oregon's** newsletter, the *Trail Blazer*, features an article by club Historian Sylvia Milne highlighting her understanding of the significance of small archives of local past history to inspiring the future. First organized in 1915, the Trails Club's archives tell an important story of a hundred years of the outdoor movement that includes much of FWOC's history also.

She is soliciting donations for a lease so the History Committee's work can continue. Please consider donating. Those who wish to contribute may send a check to the Trails Club at PO Box 69061, Portland OR 97239-0061, making sure to mark the check "History Fund" to ensure it gets properly credited. Also, please email Sylvia Milne,

Historian@trailsclub.org to share contribution information. Everyone's support is greatly appreciated. www.trailsclub.org



California Alpine Club celebrated the National Parks Service's Centennial in August of 2016 by holding a reception in honor of the National Park Service's 100th anniversary at their Alpine Lodge on Mt. Tamalpais. Invited guests were NPS staff members and volunteers who work at the nearby Muir Woods NP, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and the Golden Gates National Parks Conservancy. The CAC had helped these groups with a unique Centennial event "Packing the Parks" last July 2016. Young people on a 4-day Mt. Tamalpais backpack were thrilled to meet CAC members at a mountain lunch stop where the club was stationed to give encouragement, information, and very welcome refreshments. CACers were also on hand at Crissy Field in San Francisco for the hike's conclusion on July 24. Club members once again had delicious refreshments and congratulations to offer to the young and mostly novice hikers.

CAC was happy to cooperate with the National Park Service & Conservancy staff and volunteers in making this Centennial trek a success. It brought many younger people, some from disadvantaged backgrounds, on their first visit to beautiful public lands. It also showed how hiking is a way to get in touch with the world of nature. CAC hopes the hikers will be inspired to appreciate parks and public lands in continuing ways. www.cac.org





FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS

1864 SE Anspach St.
Oak Grove, OR 97267

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR

January 19–April 1, 2017

Friends of the Columbia Gorge announces an exhibit:
The Columbia River: From Source to Sea, with Photographs by Peter Marbach at the Oregon Historical Society, 1200 SW Park Ave., Portland, OR. Friends is also hosting a special event March 10th, 5:30–7:30pm with the photographer. For info go to:
www.gorgefriends.org

April 7, 2017

KS Wild's Kalmiopsis Wild Celebration, Selma, Oregon, 6–9 pm,
kswild.org/get-involved/Events/kalmiopsis-celebration

April 22, 2017

Earth Day March for Science events to defend science are taking place at: Main mega march at the Washington Mall, Washington DC; satellite events taking place in Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Idaho Falls, Boise, Denver, and Montana (site TBA). For details go to www.earthday.org

June 3, 2017

Celebration of the Life of Polly Dyer, first woman President of FWOOC in 1956, 1 pm at the Mountaineers Program Center, Magnuson Park, Seattle, WA. For more info, contact Donna Osseward at osseward@gmail.com

August 25–27, 2017

FWOC Convention, Protecting Our Public Lands and Waters, Sisikiyou Institute, Selma, Oregon. Go to: www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org