

OUTDOORS WEST

Spring 2018

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Volume 40, No. 1

The Write Environment: Writers and Writings Promoting & Protecting Outdoor Values

2018 FWOC Conference

August 17–19, 2018

El Retiro San Inigo

The Jesuit Retreat Center (JRC)

300 Manresa Way

Los Altos, CA 94022

The Jesuit Retreat Center is located in quaint, quiet Los Altos, just south of Palo Alto, in the Peninsula Hills overlooking San Francisco Bay. The Center has ample conference meeting rooms, and sleeps up to 84 in single and double rooms with private bathrooms. The beautiful 38-acre site includes woodlands, trails, gardens, views, and a labyrinth for strolling and contemplation. It is 20 minutes from San Jose Airport by Uber, taxi or van. The site is also near many parks and nature preserves including the Big Basin Redwood State Park, and the spectacular San Mateo coast and Halfmoon Bay. The Center was founded in the 1920s by the Jesuits who wanted to develop a retreat center. The historic buildings are in the Spanish mission style. For more information, directions, and a great video, go to www.jrclosaltos.org.

The Program features major writers on the environment showing how writers and writings are a powerful tool for conservation, protecting the outdoors, and helping people understand that wildlands have significant value for all.

The keynote speaker is Michael McCloskey, former Sierra Club Executive Director and author of *A Glimpse Into History: What Prominent People Have Said About Nature in Oregon and the Need to Conserve It*. Also featured is Jason Mark, the editor in chief of *Sierra* magazine and the author of *Satellites in the High Country: Searching for the Wild in the Age of Man*. The conference is co-hosted by FWOC member organizations, the California State Parks Ranger Association, and the California Alpine Club. More information on pages 4, 5, and 11.



Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos, CA

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2018 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

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 Mt Hood, Clackamas, OR
 Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Reno, NV
 Friends of the Oregon Caves and Chateau, Grants Pass, OR
 Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Durango, CO
 Hobnailers, Spokane, WA
 Indian Creek Botanical Mission, Selma, OR
 Klahhane Club, Port Angeles, WA
 Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, Williams, OR
 Mazamas, Portland, OR
 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
 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, ID



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 News

Jorry Rolfe was elected to be FWOC's Vice-President at the last Convention. She is the Conservation Chair of the Obsidians based in Eugene, Oregon and had been a Vice-President for Oregon.

Jorry has lived in Eugene for about 35 years and enjoys hiking, camping, kayaking, and canoeing. She recently retired from being a librarian for the Linn-Benton Community College in Albany, Oregon.

Jorry states that living in Oregon, experiencing Oregon's wildernesses and forests, and reading about environmental degradation and climate change all have made an impact on her. Her oldest son has been a huge inspiration since he founded the Environmental Club in his high school. Also, she sadly witnessed huge devastation of forests when she was in Borneo, Indonesia 5 years ago.

Jorry plans to assist FWOC President George Milne, appreciating effective, strong yet compassionate leadership. She will support the outcomes from the recent ExComm strategic planning retreat to ensure the health and success of FWOC.

OFFICERS

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The deadline for submissions for the Fall 2018 Issue will be September 30, 2018. Send to: raelene@seanet.com

Website:

www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April 2018

Greetings Everyone,

In my January message I mentioned an upcoming strategic planning retreat on March 10–11th for the Executive Committee. Twelve of the seventeen members attended. The goal was to outline where we wanted to be in 3–5 years.

Shelley Spalding proposed using Edgefield Manor, east of Portland, as a location. John Rettig coordinated retreat details and recommended Denis Lee, a facilitator used by the Mazamas. To maximize planning time at Edgefield, prior to the event Denis interviewed all the Executive Committee members, including those unable to attend. John hosted a cozy dinner at his home near Forest Park on Friday prior to the event.

All this preliminary work paid dividends. We were able to start promptly at 9 a.m. Saturday morning with productive discussions, working through until dinner with lunch and a few 10 minute breaks. During this time, we established what the Federation needed most to fully recognize our mission and conservation goals. Sunday, what seemed improbable on Saturday became more achievable. Motivated, everyone agreed to extend our lunch hour to provide time for Michael McCloskey to promote his newest book, stories detailing tenacious work of individuals over the past century to protect Oregon's natural resources.

Please refer to John Rettig's report of the success of the retreat in this issue of *Outdoors West*. We owe John a very large thank you for the time and effort he put into coordinating the retreat. I agree wholeheartedly with John's statement, "These are exciting times for reinvigorating the organization, and we ask for your help and cooperation as we move forward!" Thanks again, John, for your dedication and expertise towards conservation and the mission of FWOC.

An ongoing priority for FWOC continues to be the use of the Federation's historic Resolution database, now online thanks to Michael McCloskey and John Rettig. Many FWOC members and organizations have used Resolutions to add to, sign-on, or direct letters to support member initiatives.

In addressing many concerns FWOC, and the number of organizations it represents, are quietly making a

difference. Along with 132 organizations, the Federation signed on a letter to Congress to preserve wilderness. Others included efforts to oppose mountain bikes in wilderness; to object to the Waterman Bill; objecting to Bears Ears and Grand Staircase reduction; increasing the Point Reyes acreage; the Alpine Lakes Dam threat; support for wilderness designation of the Scotchman Peaks in Washington; oil trains along the Columbia River; and many other campaigns not mentioned here.

Of local interest for me, Portland Oregon's Forest Park, which FWOC helped develop. Needing our help to oppose improvements outside the 1995 master plan, Sydney Herbert and I wrote letters to the City on Federation stationary, which lists our 40 member organizations comprising over a 100,000 collective members. Our 2013 FWOC Resolution, opposing single-track biking in Forest Park, was attached to our letters. After testifying at City Council meetings on this topic and the lack of adequate fire lanes, a subject I brought up following the Eagle Creek Fire in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, I was privileged to represent FWOC in both television and radio interviews. In the future, a primary goal is to multiply these types of efforts to help Federation members become more visible and effective in protecting natural resources and the environment as a whole.

Sincerely,
George Milne



FWOC Officers: President George Milne, Vice-President Jorry Rolfe, Secretary John Rettig and Treasurer Sylvia Milne.

2018 FWOC RETREAT

Executive Committee Retreat a Success

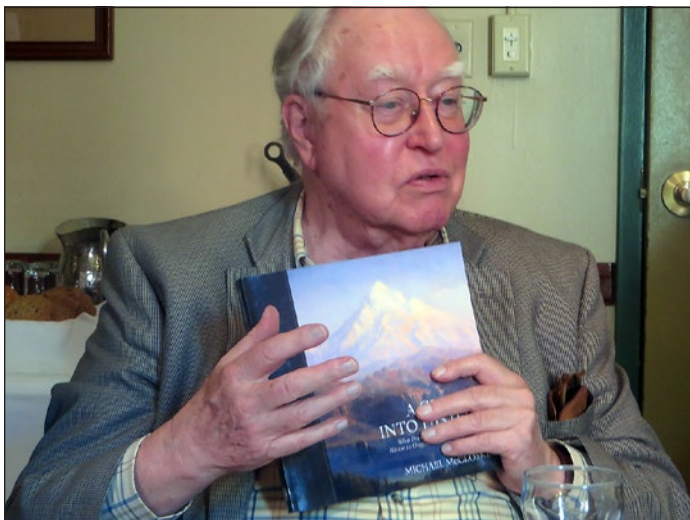
by John Rettig

Over the weekend of March 9–10–11, 2018, the Executive Committee met for a strategizing retreat at the historic McMenamin's Edgefield Lodge in Troutdale, OR. The "ExComm" consists of the four core officers, plus most all of the state Vice Presidents, and we attained a majority of these officers (twelve) in attendance. Furthermore, the in-person and telephone pre-interviews conducted beforehand included 100% of these officers. We were led through the process by an excellent facilitator, Denis Lee, who has an extensive professional background working with both businesses and nonprofits.

It was established fairly early in the weekend sessions that everyone thought that we needed a more effective strategy going forward to fulfill our mission, and that we wanted to establish some basic actionable strategies going forward to do this. Late afternoon the first day, we enumerated a list of issues that we faced, and this list became the basis for prioritizing, reducing, and setting forth a trackable action plan the next day.

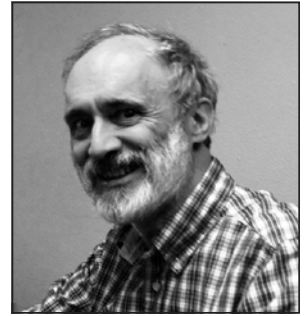
This action plan already has some of the actions assigned and execution happening, and as we get more attention on the plan during our upcoming ExComm meetings, you will hear more about all of it. The six key points that we developed are:

- **Prevailing Strategy 1:** Reinvigorate VP Outreach to Members and Member Organizations
- **Prevailing Strategy 2:** Increase Frequency of FWOC Executive Committee Meetings



Mike McCloskey presenting his new book at the retreat.

John Rettig,
FWOC Treasurer
and Retreat Organizer



- **Prevailing Strategy 3:** Provide Visibility to FWOC Finances
- **Prevailing Strategy 4:** Finalize FWOC Revenue Generation Strategy (501c3 Conversion)
- **Prevailing Strategy 5:** Ramp up Volunteer Recruitment Activities
- **Prevailing Strategy 6:** Pursue FWOC Technical Infrastructure Opportunities

There is already action in place for Strategy 1, and Member Organizations will be hearing from their state VP assigned very soon. We have also "walked the talk" on Strategy 2 and set a schedule for quarterly ExComm meetings by teleconference, and the first of those conferences has already taken place. The remaining items are being set into action very soon.

These are exciting times for reinvigorating the organization, and we ask for your help and cooperation as we move forward!



President George Milne at McMenamin's Edgefield Lodge

2018 FWOC CONFERENCE

Conference Presenters

Mike McCloskey is the author of *A Glimpse into History: What Prominent People Have Said About Nature in Oregon and the Need to Conserve It* (2018); *Conserving Oregon's Environment* (2013); and *In the Thick of It: My Life in the Sierra Club* (2005). Mike was the Executive Director of the Sierra Club from 1969 to 1985 and a member of the Sierra Club Foundation. An Oregon native, he retired to live in Portland, Oregon. He is a past President of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs and longtime Policy Advisor. McCloskey received the John Muir Award of the Sierra Club (1979), the Fred Packard Award of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (2003), and the Conservation Award of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs (2004).

Jason Mark has been the editor in chief of *Sierra* magazine since 2015, and is a former editor of the *Earth Island Journal*. He is the author of *Satellites in the High Country: Searching for the Wild in the Age of Man* (2015). His writings on the environment have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *TheAtlantic.com*, and *The Nation*, among other publications. He is a co-founder of Alemany Farm, San Francisco's largest food production site.

Jordan Fisher Smith spent 21 years as a park and wilderness ranger for the Forest Service, National Park Service, and State Parks in California, Wyoming, Idaho, and Alaska. He is the author of *Nature Noir: A Park Ranger's Patrol in the Sierra* (2006), which was a *Wall Street Journal* summer reading selection, *San Francisco Chronicle* Best Books of 2005 pick, and an *Audubon Magazine* Editor's Choice. His second book *Engineering Eden: The True Story of a Violent Death, a Trial, and the Fight Over Controlling Nature* (2016) won the Silver Medal for nonfiction in the 2017 California Book Awards and was longlisted for the 2016 PEN/E.O. Wilson Award for Literary Science Writing. Jordan has also written for *The New Yorker*, *Men's Journal*, *Aeon*, *Discover*, and *Orion*, and his magazine work has been nominated for awards from the American Society of Magazine Editors and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Jordan is a principal cast member and narrator of the film "Under Our Skin," which was shortlisted for the 2010 Oscar for Best Documentary Feature. He lectures, teaches writing workshops, and coaches writers on their projects from his base in the northern Sierra Nevada mountains.

Mark Jorgensen is the author of *Desert Bighorn Sheep – Wilderness Icon*, which includes the amazing desert bighorn behavior photos by photographer Jeff Young. Mark has served as a state park ranger, resource ecologist, and superintendent of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in his 36-year career in

California State Parks. He has spent 5 decades studying desert bighorn sheep, and managing their habitat, in the struggle to provide habitat for the desert bighorn from Nuevo Leon west to Baja California, Mexico, and from Texas west to California.

He is clearly dedicated to sharing his love for and understanding of these amazing animals.

Directions to the Los Altos Retreat Center:

San Jose International Airport is the recommended airport because it is closest and most convenient to the Los Altos conference of all the SF Bay Area airports. flysanjose.com is its website. Go there for needed information about available shuttles, rental cars, public transportation, Uber, Lyft, etc. that can provide transportation to the JRC in Los Altos. The conference location website has directions and map: jrclosaltos.org



Ann Meneguzzi, Vice-President for California for FWOC, and Vice-President of CSPRA and the California Alpine Club, promotes the FWOC Conference at a meeting of the California State Parks Ranger Association. Photo by Mike Lynch, President of CSPRA.

2018 FWOC CONFERENCE

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17TH

- 1:00 Executive Committee Meeting
(Open to all interested)
- 2:00–4:00 Optional hike at local park (details TBA)
- 4:00 Registration & Check in
- 5:00 Hospitality Session
- 6:00–7:00 Dinner
- 7:15 Welcome and Conference Update
- 7:30 *DamNation*, an award-winning film

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18TH

- 8:00–9:00 Breakfast
- 9:15 Welcome and schedule review
- 9:30 Keynote: Mike McCloskey –
“Guiding the Sierra Club Through Its
Greatest Achievements: My Role”
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Jason Mark, Editor of the Sierra Club
Magazine
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:15 Jordan Fisher Smith, Author *Engineering
Eden and Nature Noir*
- 2:15 Sustaining Grandeur – celebrating 100
years of Save the Redwoods League
- 3:15 Break
- 3:30 Save the California Plastic Bag Ban –
Environment California
- 4:15 Monumental Public Lands Attack –
Sierra Club
- 5:00 Hospitality Session
- 6:00–7:00 Dinner
- 7:15 *Desert Bighorn Sheep* – Wilderness Icon
(slide program), Author Mark Jorgensen
- 8:30 Visiting

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19TH

- 8:00–9:00 Breakfast
- 9:15 FWOC Annual Meeting
- Club Reports
 - Resolutions
- 12:00–1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Departure

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: August 19–21

Overnight lodging at the California Alpine Club Lodge at Mt. Tamalpais, Marin County, at member rates of \$21 per person per night. Info/RSVP Ann Meneguzzi at Ann@cspra.com.

Submitting Resolutions for the 2018 Conference August 17-19, 2018

by Sydney Herbert

An important part of the annual meeting program is the adoption of resolutions which guide the actions of the President and Vice Presidents in carrying out the interests of the FWOC. Member clubs and organizations in good standing and individual members are encouraged to submit resolutions representing the regional, state, and national concerns of their member clubs and organizations.

The format is simple: The name of the submitting club or member; the date; a section called BACKGROUND which details the nature of the problem and possible solutions; the resolution which recommends action: e.g. the FWOC supports, the FWOC opposes. We welcome all resolutions, but urge member clubs and organizations to research the policies and past resolutions (which will be found on the website) for conflicts and duplications. FWOC is not just a discussion group, but an action group which is guided by the resolutions.

If you wish to have your concerns considered as a resolution, create a draft or fill out the Resolution Form and send it by email it to Sydney Herbert, FWOC Resolutions Chair at psydneyl@msn.com.

FWOC 2018 RESOLUTION FORM

Submitted by: _____
(Member Organization or Individual Member only)

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Website: _____

Contact person: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Resolution Title or Topic: _____

Background of Issue: _____
(explain the issue, its history, current status...)

Proposed Resolution: _____
(use an action verb, such as: FWOC supports, opposes, etc....)

Suggested Actions: _____
(who to write, where to testify etc....)

Please email completed Resolution Form to:
Sydney Herbert, Resolution Committee Chair,
at psydneyl@msn.com

CONSERVATION

Repeal and Replace Bears Ears and Grand Staircase National Monuments? Citizens Say 'No!'

by Ann Pelo, volunteer, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

Utah's Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments are in the spotlight these days after President Trump ignored millions of public comments and repealed both monuments in December, replacing them with vastly smaller protected areas. Bears Ears was reduced by 83%, leaving rare archaeological sites and stunning wildlands without protection from looting, prospecting, oil and gas drilling, uranium mining, or off-road vehicle damage. Grand Staircase-Escalante was slashed by nearly half, opening wildlands for coal extraction. Here are some avenues to resist this move to "repeal and replace" our protected public lands.

The wilderness nature of these lands is in danger with the removal of monument designation, threatened by mining, drilling, off-road vehicle use, and road construction, as well as by increased looting of archeological sites. You can act to protect the wilderness quality of the lands by submitting comments by April 11 with the BLM during its public comment period, as the agency works to develop land management plans for



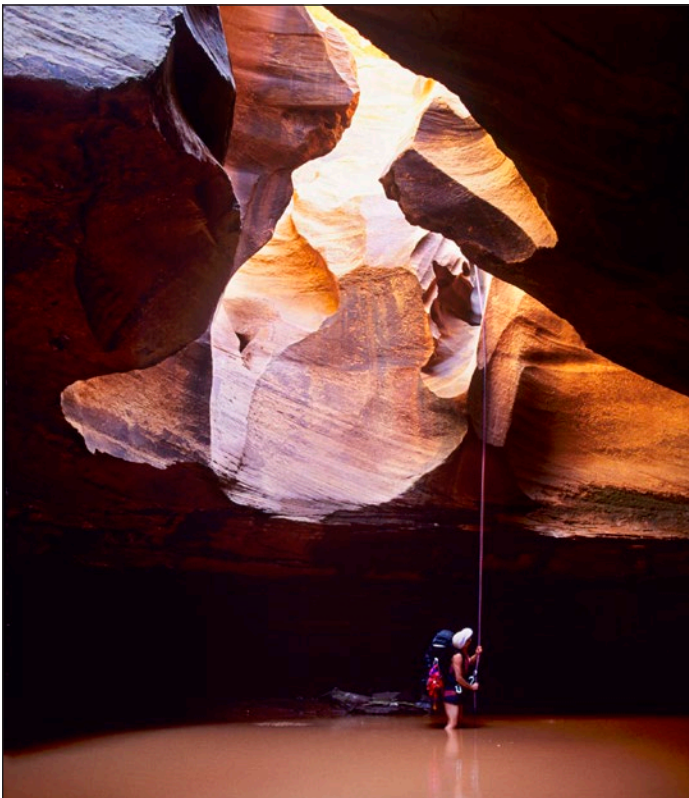
*Ancient Pueblo Site at White Canyon
in repealed part of Bears Ears National Monument.*

the reduced units formerly known as Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante. Information about how to submit comments is at grandcanyontrust.org.

There are three lawsuits currently in motion against the Trump administration, charging that the president violated the 1906 Antiquities Act and the U.S. Constitution by eviscerating the monuments. Alarming, two members of the Utah Congressional delegation have introduced legislation into the House that would make an end run around that legal action, and would codify the reductions in Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante. You can contact your Representative to voice your opposition to H.R. 4532 (codifying the reduced Bears Ears) and H.R. 4558 (codifying the reduced Grand Staircase-Escalante). Learn more about both bills at BearsEarsCoalition.org and at the National Parks Conservation Association website, npca.org.

Senator Tom Udall recently led a group of 18 Democratic senators in introducing legislation to enhance protections for national monuments. The America's National Treasures of Immeasurable Quality Unite, Inspire, and Together Improve the Economies of States (ANTIQUITIES) Act of 2018 (S. 2354) reinforces Congress' intent in the Antiquities Act of 1906. Only Congress has the authority to modify a national monument designation. Contact your senator to ask her or him to support the S. 2354 ANTIQUITIES Act of 2018.

*White Canyon in repealed part of Bears Ears
Note: Both photos are courtesy of SUWA*



CONSERVATION

Washington Department of Ecology Continues to Aggressively Pursue New Water Projects in the Yakima River Basin (including at Bumping Lake) and Alpine Lakes Wilderness

by David E. Ortman, Attorney-at-Law, Seattle, WA

At its 2016 annual meeting, FWOC passed Resolution 2016-2 in support of water conservation and efficiency for the Yakima River Basin and opposition to new uneconomical and environmentally damaging irrigation dams. Since then the Washington Department of Ecology and the Bureau of Ecology, with the help of American Rivers and Trout Unlimited, have continued to lobby Congress and the WA legislature for funds for the Yakima Plan. In 2017, Representatives Newhouse and Reichert introduced H.R. 4419 in Congress, to authorize the entire Yakima Plan, including a new Bumping Lake dam, a new Wymer dam, and pumping up to 200,000 acre feet of water out of Lake Kachess. This is a companion bill to S. 714, a reintroduced bill by Senators Cantwell and Murray. In addition, Ecology and the Bureau intend to release an EIS on the Lake Kachess pumping project later this spring.

And in March, a Washington State “climate change” coalition filed a carbon fee initiative to generate billions of dollars over the coming decades to invest in clean air, clean energy, clean water, healthy forests, and to transition away from fossil fuels. While a carbon fee is a good idea, regrettably, this Initiative #1631, should

it receive enough signatures for the November ballot, contains a little read Sec. 5, which creates a “clean water and healthy forests account” where hundreds of millions of dollars could be spent to “Increase the sustainable supply of water” (i.e., new irrigation dams). [https://ballotpedia.org/Washington_Carbon_Emissions_Fee_and_Revenue_Allocation_Initiative_\(2018\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Washington_Carbon_Emissions_Fee_and_Revenue_Allocation_Initiative_(2018))

Ecology and the Bureau, as well as American Rivers and Trout Unlimited have also been busy giving presentations on how the Yakima Plan is a national model for aggressively pursuing new water supplies. It has led to a similar Icicle Work Group, which has prepared a plan for new water storage projects in Washington’s beloved Alpine Lakes Wilderness. See: http://www.alpinelakes.org/newsletters/alpine_2017_01.pdf

What you can do: Write to your Senators and Representatives and ask that they oppose S. 714 and H.R. 4419. If you live in Washington State, think twice about supporting Initiative 1631. If you want to be alerted to the issuance of the Lake Kachess pumping plant or Icicle Plan (Alpine Lakes Wilderness) DEISs, contact me at: deortman@msn.com

For background on the Yakima Plan see: http://www.ucsierraclub.org/ucr/yakima/water_overview.html

MEMBER ORGANIZATION NEWS

Compiled by Raelene Gold

To have your member organization’s news included, send your newsletter or alerts to: raelene@seanet.com

CALIFORNIA

Contra Costa Hills’ Conservation Committee Chair, Beryl Vonderheid reports on local environmental issues in the San Francisco Bay area. In the city of Alameda, Ocean Cleanup, a nonprofit headquartered in the Netherlands, is launching an ocean cleanup of the “Great Pacific Garbage Patch,” a massive vortex of plastic drifting between California and Hawaii. They will use a floater attached to a screen, which will concentrate the debris and allow it to be collected.



Sierra Club’s Kern-Kaweah Chapter in Bakersfield supports environmental justice and civil rights as well as the

environment. At their Annual Banquet on May 12, 2018, the keynote speaker will be Delores Huerta, a labor leader and civil rights activist who states, “For us Latinos, our ties to nature, to Divine Creation, are summed up in the phrase ‘Amor por el terruno – Love for the Land.’”



Sierra Club’s Mother Lode Chapter in Sacramento collaborated last November with Tuleyome, Alianza, a nonprofit that works with the undocumented, to take 14 teenagers and young adults on an adventurous hike into the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. The goal was to help the participants connect and find respite from the ongoing stress

of the current political climate and the uncertainty surrounding their status. The Mother Lode Chapter also puts a Spanish translation of its activities on its website.

COLORADO

Great Old Broads for Wilderness seems to always be in action springing into numerous service projects and Broadwalks around the country. Their Broadwalk in Colorado’s South San Juan Wilderness, exploring the reintroduction of wolves connecting them to their habitat, sounds like a great learning experience for wildlife lovers. Their Broadwalk to Chaco Canyon in New Mexico, which will look at the areas

outside the Chaco Culture Historical Park that are now threatened by oil and gas leasing, looks especially interesting. Check out all the opportunities at www.greatoldbroads.org.

NEVADA

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is campaigning to protect the Bighorn Sheep in the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, which the military is expanding into.

DON'T BOMB THE BIGHORN: Desert bighorn sheep need YOU to take action! The Desert National Wildlife Refuge, just outside the city lights of Las Vegas, is nearly 1.6 million acres and home to one of Nevada's largest desert bighorn sheep populations. 1.2 million areas of the Desert Refuge were proposed as Wilderness by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in 1971. Immediately threatened by this round of military expansion is the broader Sheep Range proposed Wilderness (Sheep Range, Las Vegas Range, Gass Peak).

On December 7, 2017, the military released their legislative EIS with details on how much more of the refuge and proposed Wilderness they want to take over – it is a LOT! Sign the petition below to tell the military and our Congressional leaders #DontBombTheBighorn, and keep checking back – once we complete our analysis, we will be updating our page with how you can take further action to help defend the Desert National Wildlife Refuge.

MONTANA

Wilderness Watch's Advocate-Organizer George Wuerthner is on the road with "Wilderness Under Siege" presentations. He is traveling the country to raise awareness about Wilderness and the threats facing it. "Geo" is talking about the challenges facing Wilderness, helping people better protect the Wilderness in their backyards and around the country, and organizing against congressional and administration efforts to weaken or repeal the Wilderness Act. He is a well-known writer on conservation issues,

having published 38 books and innumerable articles, essays, and opinion pieces. To see if "Geo" will be giving a presentation near you, or to organize one in your area, go to: www.wildernesswatch.org.

OREGON

Friends of the Columbia Gorge is joining with land trusts in Oregon and southern Washington to take a members survey regarding attitudes about land conservation and Friends activities. DMH Research, an independent research firm based in Oregon that does research on beliefs and values, will conduct the research. Friends hope that the survey will better inform them of people's priorities and engage them in Friends conservation efforts.

Last summer's draught led to a September 2nd Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area Eagle Creek wildfire that spread to over 48,000 acres in a mosaic pattern, closing trails in both the Oregon and Washington sides of the Gorge. **Friends** are involved in both recovery and resilience efforts. Read more at www.gorgefriends.org.

BARK transitions to **Meow!** Member Mt. Hood forest activist group **BARK**, finding itself repeatedly hounded by calls confused they are about DOGS, and being sent a letter to desist using the now trademarked name, has officially decided to change its name to **MEOW**. Executive Director Rod Sadowsky writes, "We are rebranding in the image of Mt. Hood's most elusive and nonchalant predator, the mountain lion. A fierce, yet purrful animal that waits patiently for the right time to strike and adeptly ponders the motives of the Forest Service as it laps from muddied streams."

Unfortunately this announcement sent April 1st turned out to be for April Fools and I fell for it. I thought it was very funny, especially their new slogan: "Together, Our Meows Become Roars: Donate to Bark Today." Check out their website to see all the great work they are doing to protect Mt. Hood forests. www.bark-out.org

It's spring and the **Siskiyou Institute** in Selma, Oregon has put out its catalog of adventures and educational field courses for everyone including toddlers, high schoolers, youth, natural history lovers and professionals. FWOC has enjoyed a number of our conventions here in the beautiful Illinois River valley and highly recommend their courses, and the opportunity of stay over in their dorms and yurts. As this is the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, they have added adventures on wild and scenic rivers. Go to www.thesfi.org to get your catalog and plan your summer adventure.

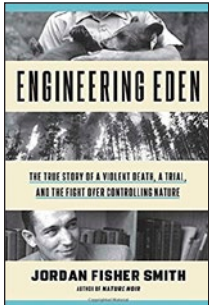
WASHINGTON

Chinook Trails Club reports that the Eagle Creek fire closed the southern portion of the Chinook Trail which is in Oregon in and around the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. These trails will be closed at least until the spring of 2018 or longer. There is expected to be severe weather impacts to the trail as burnt trees topple and landslides occur. Check the National Forest websites for updates. The Forest Service plans to open trails on the east and west ends of the burn first along with the Pacific Crest Trail.

Olympia Park Associates protested the National Park Service's intent to drastically hike up entrance fees in Olympia National Park and 16 other heavily visited national parks. Their entrance fee would jump from \$25 to \$70 for vehicles. Hikers' and bicyclists' entry fees would shoot from \$10 to \$30. The fee hikes are purportedly to address an \$11 billion maintenance backlog in the nation's parks. But they are coupled with a Trump administration budget that would cut park funding by 13 percent. The fee increases would impact medium and low-income visitors to the parks – and affect surrounding rural communities. (The Park Service heard from 100,000 people opposed to the fee increase and are now reconsidering it.) www.olympicparkassociates.org

BOOK REVIEWS

Preview of Books featured at the Conference



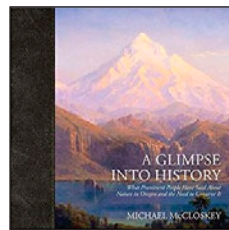
Engineering Eden: The True Story of a Violent Death, a Trial, and the Fight over Controlling Nature

by **Jordan
Fisher Smith**

reviewed by
Jim Baird, CSPRA member,
jabaird@suddenlink.net

I just finished reading Jordan Fisher Smith's newest book, *Engineering Eden*. I recommend this book to anyone that has worked for a resource agency, or anyone who is interested in resource management issues, wilderness, or the politics of resource management. On the cover it says: The true story of a violent death, a trial, and the fight over controlling nature. The title may mislead you to think the focus of the book is a trial about a park visitor killed by a Grizzly bear in Yellowstone in the early 1970s, but it is much more than that. The fight over how to control (or manage) nature in our National Parks may be the real central theme of the book. The book lets you into the heads of several of the country's leading resource managers from a variety of disciplines. This allows you not only to understand what they were advocating for, but why. In resource management there are often competing ideas and philosophies, and the book excels in explaining how the philosophical and scientific differences clashed and evolved over time. The book really covers the evolution of resource management in our National Parks, and by extension, other resource agencies. It focuses largely on the period from World War II to the present, but gives you glimpses of landscapes back to the 1850s.

It is an interesting read for the scientist or lay person. It excels in providing the history of resource management in the National Parks under one cover. This book helps you understand the research and thought behind the science, and the differing thoughts on how it should be applied in our parks. You will also note from your own experiences that everyone isn't always on board with the same opinions. I enjoyed the Epilogue and Afterward also and felt the author's conclusions were pretty spot on. I won't tell you what they were, read the book!



A Glimpse Into History: What Prominent People Have Said About Nature in Oregon and the Need to Conserve It

by **Michael McCloskey**
Inkwater Press 2018

reviewed by *Raelene Gold, Editor*

A Glimpse into History is a beautiful gift for all Oregonians and for all those who love Oregon. It movingly captures the inspiring words of a diverse group of explorers, pioneers, scientists, poets, politicians and environmental activists. Their writings are grouped by historic period, selected with great care, and compliment each other, building an understanding of Oregonians continuous deep appreciation and reverence for their natural treasures. The chapters "Oregon in the Environmental Era" and "Environmentalism Becomes the Norm" are especially meaningful for recollecting people that shaped the evolving land ethic in Oregon and the northwest.

This is a book that will become a classic in environmental writing to be

treasured over time and shared with future generations. It should be in everyone's library; buy this book!

Michael McCloskey is also the author of *In the Thick of It: My Life in the Sierra Club* (2005) and *Conserving Oregon's Environment* (2013).



Desert Bighorn Sheep: Wilderness Icon by Mark Jorgensen

review by
Curator of Imperial Valley Desert Museum

This new book offers a glimpse into the lives of the elusive desert bighorn sheep: their habits, their social lives, and their natural habitats. It is written for the general reader in a casual and engaging writing style that contains enormous amounts of fascinating information without feeling like a science lecture. I was particularly interested in the inclusions at the end of the book, where Jorgensen discusses sheep conservation and the current status of the sheep in the U.S. and Mexico in regions they traditionally call home. This included not only their current numbers, but conservation efforts, hunting restrictions, challenges they face (such as the inclusion of non-native plant species in their habitat), and successes like Arizona's highway overpasses, allowing sheep to successfully travel from one location to another without crossing highways.

Mark Jorgensen has served as a state park ranger, resource ecologist, and superintendent of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in his 36-year career in California State Parks. He has spent 5 decades studying desert bighorn sheep and is clearly dedicated to sharing his love for and understanding of these amazing animals.

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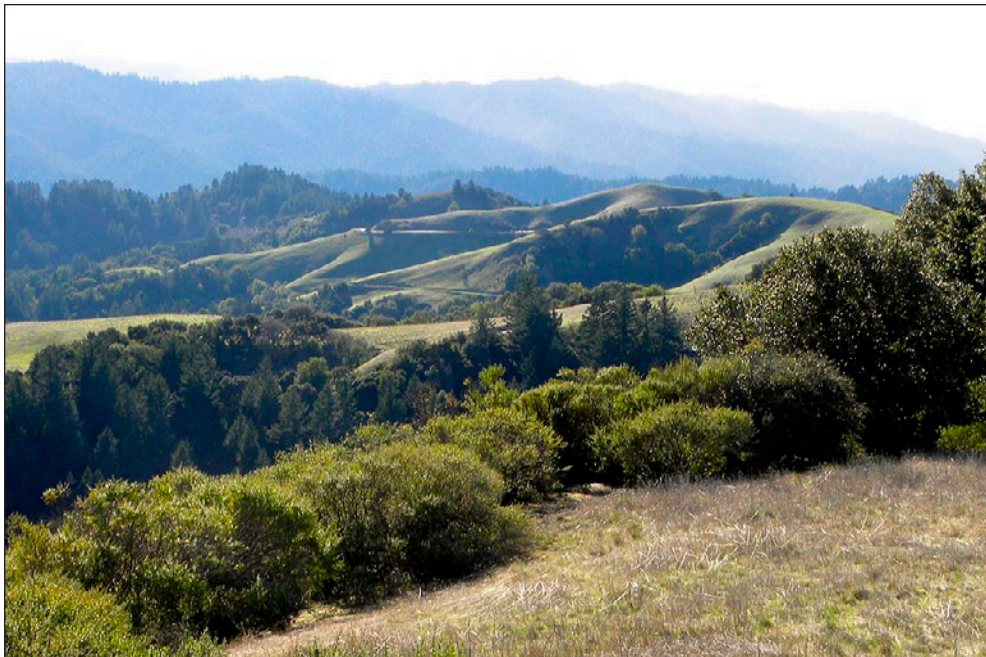


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