

# OUTDOORS WEST

Summer 2008

The Official Publication of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

Volume 31, No. 1



The Wild and Scenic Illinois River in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

*Please join us and enjoy the Siskiyou!*

**FWOC's 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

**FORESTS, FISH, FARMS AND FOOLS:  
THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE**

**Deer Creek Center at the Siskiyou Field Institute**

**Selma, Oregon • October 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

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**COVER PHOTO BY BARBARA ULLIAN OF THE FRIENDS OF THE KALMIOPSIS:** *The Wild and Scenic Illinois River, was designated in 1984, and is a proposed addition to the Kalmiopsis Wilderness in the Siskiyou National Forest.*

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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

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# OUTDOORS WEST

Outdoors West is the newsletter of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. It is published biannually.

Please send submissions to:

Mae Harms  
maeharms@mindspring.com

Deadline for the next issue is October 31, 2008

Co-Editors

Raelene Gold, Mae Harms

Associate Editors

Shirley Cameron, Bob Haage,  
David Czamanske, Marge Sill,  
Joan Zuber

Layout Editor

Carol White

Printing

EcoGraphics  
Kirkland, WA



## FWOC WEB PAGE

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

Webmaster: Joe Hargrave • [josephhargrave@att.net](mailto:josephhargrave@att.net)

### OFFICERS

#### President

Raelene Gold  
4028 NE 196th Street  
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155  
206-363-4107  
[raelene@seanet.com](mailto:raelene@seanet.com)

#### Vice President

Mae Harms  
5941 Garden Park Drive  
Garden Valley, California 95633  
530-333-1058  
[maeharms@mindspring.com](mailto:maeharms@mindspring.com)

#### Secretary

Joe Hargrave  
4841 East Burnside Street, No. 17  
Portland, OR 97215-1178  
503-235-6791  
[josephhargrave@att.net](mailto:josephhargrave@att.net)

#### Treasurer

Jack Walker  
P. O. Box 129  
Selma, OR 95738  
541-597-2410  
[jack.jan.indiancreek@mailbug.com](mailto:jack.jan.indiancreek@mailbug.com)

#### Past President

Joe Fontaine  
PO Box 307  
Tehachapi, CA 93581  
661-821-2055  
[fontaine@lightspeed.net](mailto:fontaine@lightspeed.net)

### STATE VICE PRESIDENTS

**Arizona**  
Shirley Cameron

**California**  
David Czamanske, Mae Harms,  
Robert Haage, Joe Fontaine,  
Winchell Hayward

**Idaho**  
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George Nickas

**Nevada**  
Marge Sill

**Oregon**  
Michael McCloskey, Jan Walker,  
Joan Zuber, Kris Richardson

**Washington**  
Roger Anderson, Fran Troje

### POLICY ADVISOR

J. Michael McCloskey  
2829 SW Sunset Blvd.  
Portland, OR 97239  
Phone: 503/892.2664  
FAX: 503/892.2484  
[jimmccloskey@aol.com](mailto:jimmccloskey@aol.com)

### WASHINGTON, DC REPRESENTATIVE

Brock Evans  
5449 33rd St. NW  
Washington, DC 20015  
Phone: 202/244.7138  
FAX: 202/682.1331  
[bevans\\_esc2004@yahoo.com](mailto:bevans_esc2004@yahoo.com)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The need for Change and Hope are dominant themes in today's political, environmental and social discourse. But equally apparent is the strong resistance to change in our practiced institutional and personal behaviors.

I represented the Federation on the Planning Committee of the Wilderness 2008 Conference April 4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> in Seattle. The Conference was evaluated by attendees as very successful in the excellence of the presentations and the great opportunity it provided for new relationships and networking among environmental activists. But from the evaluation provided by Dr. Ted Whitesell of Evergreen College, we did not accomplish the changes hoped for in reaching out to other constituencies, such as youth, minorities and other than environmental insiders. The theme of the impact of climate change on our planetary life systems heralds the potential changes to come and the adaptations necessary for plants, animals and humans. The importance was stressed of both rapidly reducing our greenhouse gas emissions as well as adapting to the changes that are inevitable.

*Backpacker explores the Siskiyous.*



Photo courtesy of the Siskiyou Project



Photo courtesy of the Siskiyou Institute

*Deer Creek Center at the Siskiyou Institute,  
Site of October FWOC Convention*

Change is visible here in Seattle. Public transit ridership is up 28%, straining the system. Urban vegetable gardens and farmer's markets proliferate. Urban creeks and forests get passionate protection. Plastic bags and bottles and bottled water are out. Drinking "straight from the Cascade Mountains" tap water is urged. There are numerous drop off sites for recycling batteries and electronics and everything else.

I want to warmly invite all of you to the Federation's Convention October 10<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> in the wonderful Siskiyous in southwest Oregon. The Federation's annual conventions provide a unique opportunity to experience special places in different parts of the west. We learn from local environmental leaders about the area's natural treasures, the threats and the planned solutions. This is a particularly important time to come together to assess the ground we have lost in the last 7 years, what we need to vigorously defend in the next 7 months and to plan an environmental agenda for the future.

Raelene Gold, President  
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

# THE 76TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

## Forests, Fish, Farms and Fools: The Challenges of the Future

This year's FWOC Convention will be held Friday through Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> at the Deer Creek Center, a part of the famed Siskiyou Field Institute in Selma, Oregon. Selma is near the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and Kalmiopsis Wilderness. This year's theme is "Forests, Fish, Farms and Fools: The Challenges of the Future." The Friday evening program is an overview of the area by Julie Norman, the Deputy Director of the Siskiyou Project (formerly with Headwaters.) The Saturday program will begin with a presentation by Tim Hermach, President of the Native Forest Council, and conclude with keynote speaker Roger Brandt on the Oregon Caves National Monument.

The Siskiyou Field Institute and Southern Oregon University Foundation offer Natural History Courses in and about the Klamath-Siskiyou spring through the fall (except the weekend we will be there). We will be staying at the Deer Creek Center, an 870-acre education and research station near the Wild and Scenic Illinois River. This special place

allows us to directly explore the area's remarkable biodiversity with its serpentine geology, diverse conifer forests, endemic plant species, wildlife and salmon bearing streams.

Jan and Jack Walker, members of the host club, the Indian Creek Botanical Mission, are organizing the event. The other host club will be a new club, the Siskiyou Project. The Project has been working on the Siskiyou Wild Rivers Campaign to protect the area as a National Conservation Area. This would restrict commercial logging, mining and off-road vehicles. The area is "the heart of biodiversity in the West."

The area also has many attractions you may want to include in your trip. The Mystic Corridor is a scenic by-way connecting Crater Lake and Redwood National Parks passing through Selma. There will be an optional trip to the Oregon Caves National Monument in Cave Junction on Sunday afternoon. The Upper Rogue River Canyon, the USFS office in Cave Junction and the Kerbyville Museum and History Center in Kerby are also points of interest. There are also many wineries with tasting rooms in the area.



*Siskiyou Cobra Lily*

Photos courtesy of the Siskiyou Project



*Black Bear*

### *Some suggested motels in the area:*

**Holiday Motel** in Kerby, 8 miles from Selma, 24810 Redwood Hwy. (Hwy. 199), 541-592-3003. Rates: Single \$49.00, Double \$52.00, Queen \$62.00.

**Junction Inn** in Cave Junction, 10 miles from Selma, 406 S. Redwood Hwy., 541-592-3106. Rates: 1 person \$59.95, 2 Queen \$64.95, 2 double beds \$69.95, 2 Queen beds \$74.95.

**Motel Del Rogue** on Rogue River in Grants Pass, 20 miles away, 2600 Rogue River Hwy, Grants Pass, 541-479-2111. Rates: single \$90.00, multiple \$125, \$75 for a room back off the river.

# 2008 CONVENTION PROGRAM SCHEDULE

## Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

- 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting  
1:00 p.m. **REGISTRATION OPENS at Deer Creek Center**, 1241 Illinois River Road, Selma  
2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Hike to Explore Deer Creek Center  
4:00 – 6:00 p.m. WELCOME, OPENING SESSION and CLUB REPORTS  
6:00 p.m. Social Hour – hosted by Indian Creek Botanical Mission  
7:00 p.m. Dinner – Kate Dwyer Catering  
8:00 p.m. PROGRAM: **Overview of the Biodiversity of the Siskiyou**  
Julie Norman, Deputy Director, Siskiyou Project  
9:00 p.m. Movie – Broken Limbs

## Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast – Kate Dwyer Catering  
9:00 a.m. **Forests for the Future**, Tim Hermach, President, Native Forest Council  
9:30 a.m. **Forest Fauna in the Future**, Jay Doino, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
10:00 a.m. Break and SW Oregon Shrub Guide, Book Signing by Jan Walker  
10:15 a.m. **Farms for the Future**, Don Tipping, Seven Seeds Farm, Williams  
10:45 a.m. **Farming Urban Forests**, Tal Blankenship, Oregon State University Extension, Grants Pass  
11:15 a.m. **Fish in the Future**, Ian Reid, District Fisheries Biologist,  
Wild Rivers District of Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest  
11:45 a.m. Dave Grosjacques, VP, Southern Oregon Fly-Fishers and Stream Table Expert  
12:30 p.m. Lunch – Kate Dwyer Catering  
1:30 p.m. **Fools of the Future: Western Oregon Plan Revisions**  
Lesley Adams, Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
2:00 p.m. **Are We Fooled By Fuels of the Future?**  
Jennifer Krauss Phillippi, Rough & Ready Lumber Company,  
Cave Junction, Cogeneration Plant  
2:30 – 5:30 HIKES: Star Flat – Fall color, Darlingtonia Fen, Illinois River. Easy. Leader – Rich Nawa  
Rough & Ready Creek – Serpentine endemics. Longer. Leader – Kathy Lombardo  
Lone Pine Prospect Trail. Longer. Leader – Romain Cooper or Greg Walter  
5:30 p.m. Social Hour and Member Club Information Sharing  
Suggested topic is E-newsletters and websites  
7:00 p.m. Dinner – Kate Dwyer Catering  
8:00 p.m. KEYNOTE **Oregon Caves National Monument**, Roger Brandt, Oregon Caves  
National Monument; Sue Densmore, Oregon Caves Chateau

## Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast – Kate Dwyer Catering  
8:00 a.m. FWOC BUSINESS MEETING: Election of new officers  
9:00 a.m. Adoption of Resolutions  
12:00 noon Convention Adjournment  
12:30 p.m. New Executive Committee meeting  
1:30 p.m. OPTIONAL AUTO TRIP: OREGON CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT  
Leader – Roger Brandt

*The Convention Registration Form is on Page 15*

# WILDERNESS 2008 CONFERENCE

By David Czamanske, Angeles Chapter of Sierra Club and member of the Club's National Parks and Monuments Committee

I have included 3 summaries of the more significant presentations regarding national park and refuge issues at Wilderness 2008 Conference held in Seattle, April 3-5, 2008. I hope these are helpful to those unable to attend.

One of the most evocative presentations was by **Roger Kaye**, US Fish and Wildlife Service wilderness specialist and author of *The Last Great Wilderness: The Campaign to Establish the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge*, who presented on "The Arctic Refuge: An Evolving Symbolic Landscape."

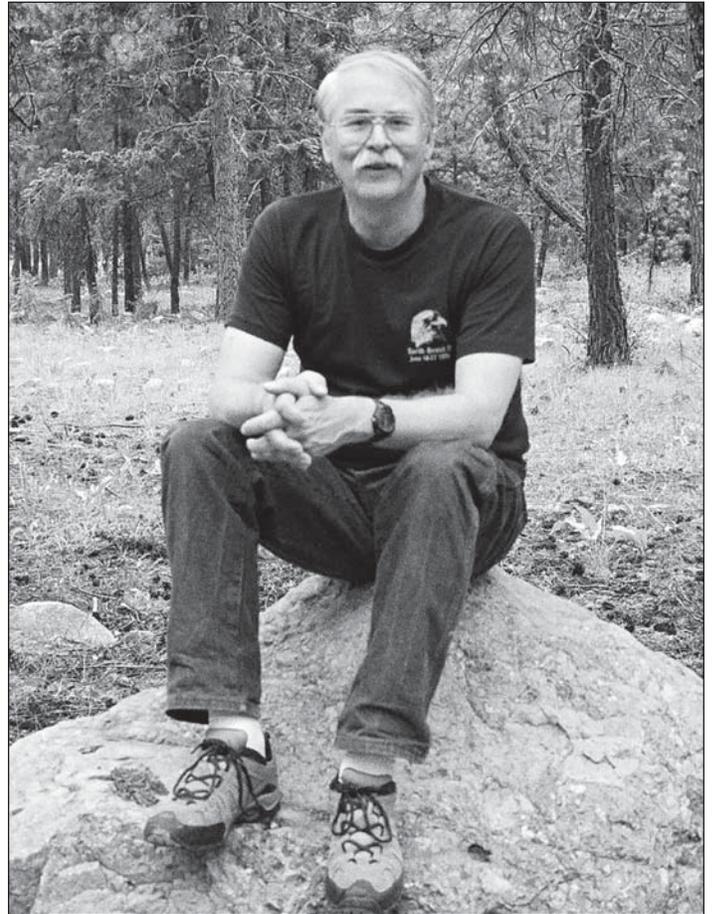
Roger described the background that led to the establishment of the Refuge. Inspired by Bob Marshall's call in the 1930s for wilderness protection of Alaska's natural wonders, Alaska residents Ginny Wood and Celia Hunter urged protection. NPS author and photographer Lowell Sumner wrote a feature article "the Last Great Wilderness" for the 1953 Sierra Club Bulletin. Renowned Alaskan conservationists Olaus and Mardy Murie took up the torch, and were supported by Aldo Leopold, Starker Leopold, Sigurd Olsen, Frank Darlington, and others.

The campaign to protect Alaska wilderness was going on at the same time as the campaign to enact the Wilderness Act.

Rather than wilderness, in 1960, Interior Secretary Fred Seaton set aside the area as the Arctic National Wildlife Range "for the purpose of preserving unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreation values." The founding values were to protect wildlife, such as the grizzly bear, wolf and wolverine, within an ecological setting for species not tolerant of, or tolerated by, civilization.

As perceived by Lowell Sumner, it warranted special protection as a place of evolutionary processes: "This area symbolizes freedom, freedom to continue, undiminished and forever, if we are willing, the particular story of Planet Earth! the unfolding, of whole ecosystems and their life processes."

Kaye highlighted the Refuge as "a place of scientific studies, a place of esthetic values beyond scenic, a remnant of America's cultural heritage, a connection to our more distant heritage, a refuge from civilization, and a bequest to



Roger Kaye presented on *The Arctic Refuge: An Evolving Symbolic Landscape*.

the future." Experience and self-reliance are required when visiting the Refuge, as there are no maintained trails, no designated river crossings and no planned visitor activities.

Perhaps the late Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas said it best after visiting the Refuge: "this last American Wilderness must remain sacrosanct!"

**John Miles**, a Professor at Western Washington University is the author of the soon to be published book, "Playground or Preserve: A History of National Park Wilderness."

Miles says the NPS has long struggled with the idea of wilderness and whether it is appropriate to its mission. Yellowstone National Park was established to protect its

# WILDERNESS 2008 CONFERENCE

awesome natural features for people to observe, not to protect wilderness. It was John Muir who first established the concept of protecting wilderness for its own sake as a national park. Mather and Albright, the first Directors of the National Park Service established in 1916, believed a major mission of building support for the new agency was to provide public access by securing funds for park roads and facilities.

In the 1920s and 30s there were bureaucratic battles between the National Park and the Forest Service over providing recreational services to the public on their respective lands. The Forest Service used the idea of administratively creating “primitive areas” and “wilderness areas” on Forest Service lands as a foil to the establishment of more National Parks. However FDR’s Secretary of Interior, Harold Ickes was successful in spearheading the establishment of three additional national parks, the Olympic, Kings Canyon and Everglades.

Not surprisingly, the NPS opposed passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964. It considered wilderness designation as a redundancy to the agency’s mission. Though the Wilderness Act did require the NPS to evaluate within ten years all its lands for determination if additional lands warranted wilderness protection, the NPS has never systematically reviewed its land holdings for this purpose. By 1994 there were 43 million acres of congressionally designated wilderness within the National Park System. Still there is no significant wilderness planning staff at the NPS headquarters in Washington, DC and management of NPS wildernesses are inconsistent.

**Jonathan Jarvis**, the Pacific West Regional Director of the NPS, spoke on “Climate Change and Wilderness Trammeling.” Jarvis is currently responsible for 54 NPS units in states of California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands.

In reference to the Wilderness Act’s use of the expression “untrammelled,” Jarvis said the dictionary definition of “trammel” as a hindrance or impediment to action. A fundamental principal of the Act is to allow wilderness to dominate. He remarked that the natural processes of the National Parks, including wilderness areas, are being impeded by climate change, which gives rise to the

question: “What, if anything, should the Park Service do in response?”

Impacts from climate change are already being experienced by National Parks and are significant. There is less snowpack and lower water density in the snow that falls. There is accelerated melting of glaciers and earlier spring rains and resulting flooding. There are a record number of wildfires in last 2 years. Plant and animal species are migrating upwards in response to higher temperatures at lower elevations. Coral reefs are diminishing in Pacific Islands.

Jarvis convened a several-day meeting of all NPS superintendents and senior staff three years ago to address climate change issues. The group heard extensive scientific evidence, and discussed how to address the complex of issues involved.

Jarvis asserted that it’s NPS responsibility to protect the National Parks for future generations by acting now to address climate issues. He asserted that the Pacific West Region is a leader in addressing this issue. All National Parks in the Pacific West Region will be carbon neutral by 2016. Last year enough solar panels were installed on Pacific West Region facilities to offset all regional travel. A new visitor center meeting LEED Platinum standards is being completed at Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Jarvis believes NPS must prepare for resilient adaptation to climate change. There are tough questions to be addressed. Should we put in sprinkler systems around the Sequoia trees to keep them from dying as groundwater dries up? Is there a way to preserve Joshua trees in Joshua National Park as rainfall decreases? What should be done about the disappearing glaciers in Glacier National Park? However, he concludes not adaptation, but only world-wide action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions would save these glaciers, and prospects for that happening soon are minimal.

Jarvis concluded noting some optimistic events. A \$100 million contract to take down two dams on the Elwha River in Olympic National Park was signed after a decades-long planning process. After last year’s drastic flooding in Mt. Rainier National Park, many people and groups volunteered to help restore damaged trails, roads, and other facilities.

# CONSERVATION ISSUES

## THE OREGON WHOPPER

*By Jan Walker, VP for Oregon,  
member Indian Creek Botanical Mission*

The 1937 O & C Act gave control of large tracts of land to the Bureau of Land Management. These lands had been given to the Oregon & California Railroad to promote development in the West. When they failed to do so the government took back the land and gave control to the BLM.

The BLM was to manage the land “for permanent forest production... under the principle of sustained yield for the purpose of providing a permanent source of timber... and contributing to the economic stability of local communities and to provide recreational uses. It mandated that certain amounts of money be given to those affected counties every year to maintain services.

In the 1980's when the Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts protected the salmon and the spotted owl, the timber industry was effectively shut down in southern Oregon.

In 1994 Clinton's Northwest Forest Plan guided the managing of forests on 24 million acres of 19 national forests and 7 BLM districts. The BLM was given the authority to cut 260 million board feet (mbf) a year.

The Medford BLM District has fallen far short of its 2007 goal of 57 mbf because the district insists on cutting old growth, which immediately gets them into court battles to determine if BLM is following the intent of the Northwest Forest Plan's more responsible management of the forests.

In contrast, by adopting a policy of thinning rather than clear-cuts the Umpqua National Forest sold 46.2 mbf in 2007 with no court challenges. Rogue River-Siskiyou NF sold over 50 mbf in 2007 without a single lawsuit.

In 2003 the Bush Administration opted to not fight the timber industry in court and instead negotiated a settlement, which required the BLM to reevaluate the way it manages its 2.6 million acres of forest. That plan, the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR) would negate the NWFP. It would bring back clear-cut logging and allow cutting 750 mbf a year while throwing out fish and wildlife habitat protection. It would increase the logging of old growth trees by 700 percent.

The plan's Alternative #2 would bring in lots of money, but it is not realistic. A team of federal scientists has said that the WOPR probably overestimates the habitat that will be left for fish and wildlife and underestimates the environmental impacts. Computer models could be overestimating timber production as well because they fail to take into account factors such as wildfire, and political, legal and budget limitations.

The Bush Administration and the BLM have taken comments on the plan and the BLM plans to release a final draft of the plan in September of 2008.

Hopefully science will prevail!

## WYDEN'S STOPPER

Oregon Senator Ron Wyden recently released draft legislation that would protect Oregon's old growth forests while increasing large scale thinning and restoration efforts to create rural timber jobs. The recently released draft proposal is titled the Oregon Forest Restoration and Old Growth Protection Act. It would give new guidance to the USFS and BLM for both westside and eastside forests in Oregon.

## STOPPING A LNG TERMINAL IN COLUMBIA RIVER ESTUARY

*By Joan Zuber, VP for Oregon and Mazamas member*

Liquefied natural gas, or LNG, is natural gas that has been supercooled, condensing it into a liquid that takes up to 600 times less space than in its gaseous state. LNG can be transported over long distances across the ocean from countries that have large supplies of natural gas to those where the fuel is in demand. Currently natural gas usage in the US is from domestic and Canadian sources not requiring ocean transport.

Northern Star Natural Gas is a Texas based energy speculator that plans to build the first LNG import and storage terminal on the Pacific coast at Bradford, Oregon. The Bradford terminal would be located approximately 20 miles upstream from the mouth of the Columbia River. The project is in the permitting process being conducted by the FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Bradford terminal is only one of the Oregon LNG proposals, along with a 2/3 mile wide “energy corridor.”

## CONSERVATION ISSUES

The facility would import more LNG than was imported into the entire USA in 2006. The project is intended to send natural gas to California since the state has rejected numerous plans for LNG terminals along its coast.

The proposed 200+ mile long 36" pipeline would cross thousands of wetlands, farmland, rivers, and over the Cascade Range to Madras, Oregon to connect with the California-bound TransCanada pipeline.

The provisions of the Bush-Cheney 2005 energy bill allow the threat of eminent domain for private profit, with very little power by the state to reject terminals and pipelines.

Citizens across Oregon have come together to demand that elected officials stand up against the LNG proposals. The governor, our congressional delegation (with one exception), county commissioners, SWCD districts, the farm bureau, conservation organizations, tribal leaders, and other elected state and local officials, have come out in opposition. Law suits have been threatened or filed, voter referendums filed. Oregonians do not want our coastline, our private farm and timber lands, our watersheds, our National Forest lands suffering the inevitable environmental damage. Hopefully, citizens on both coastlines will get congress to revise the 2005 energy bill and put a real effort into non-foreign energy alternatives for our country.

Oregon's Department of Energy issued a report in May stating LNG had higher greenhouse gas impacts than domestic gas and costs twice as much, - concluding that

there was no need for foreign LNG in Oregon. Two other LNG terminals are proposed in Oregon, one at Coos Bay and the other at Warrenton.

Though the proposed terminal is on the Oregon side of the Columbia River estuary, the plan would include the construction of an associated pipeline through Cowlitz County, Washington. The Willapa Hills Audubon Society headquartered at Longview in Cowlitz County passed a resolution, which Audubon Washington also passed, opposing the LNG terminal at Bradford, OR and the related pipeline construction through Cowlitz County. A letter was sent to Washington Governor Gregoire urging her to oppose the project.

### NEVADA

*By Marge Sill, VP for Nevada*

Much of the conservation effort in Nevada is now directed at opposing all proposed coal-fired power plants and endorsing alternative energy – solar, geothermal, and wind. Coal is not only the largest source of carbon dioxide, the principal contributor to global warming, but coal plants also use a huge amount of water and release quantities of mercury into the air. Since there is no coal to be found in Nevada, any supply would have to come from the Powder River Basin in Wyoming.

Because of massive propaganda efforts of off-road vehicle organizations such as the Blue Ribbon Coalition, a local group known as the Coalition for Public Access has been formed to oppose all wildernesses in two Nevada counties. Friends of Nevada Wilderness, in coordination with other members of the Nevada Wilderness Coalition, is launching an educational and media effort to let citizens know the advantages of wilderness designation for areas of real wilderness value. Many organizations in Southern Nevada are studying the possibility of legislation establishing a National Conservation Area and associated wilderness at Gold Butte along the Colorado River North and East of Las Vegas. Field trips have been scheduled to show members of Great Old Broads for Wilderness and the Southern Nevada Group of the Sierra Club the magnificent scenic and archeological values of Gold Butte, which are threatened by unwise off-road vehicle use.



*Leaping Chinook Salmon*

# CONSERVATION UPDATES

## TEJON RANCH IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PROTECTED

The Sierra Club and its partners, including NRDC and Audubon California, announced May 8th an agreement to protect the privately owned Tejon Ranch near Bakersfield. It is 270,000 acres of diverse, heritage landscapes including desert, woodlands and grasslands. The agreement would preserve 240,000 acres (90% of the property), while leaving 10% near Interstate 5 to be developed.

About 30,000 acres is proposed as a California State Park, while the remainder of the protected lands would remain in private ownership and be managed by a Conservancy.

## THE OREGON TREASURES ACT

Oregon's delegation is working to insure more protection for its natural treasures in the proposed Oregon Treasures Act. This bill would add to the proposed Mount Hood Wilderness Bill.

It would also enlarge and add protection to the Oregon Caves National Monument and Lower Rogue River Wild and Scenic River, giving designation to 142.9 miles of its tributaries.

## REFORM THE 1872 MINING LAW

### *Submitted by the Siskiyou Project*

The nation's Civil War era mining law has been on the books for 136 years without change since it was signed by Ulysses S. Grant in 1872.

The law gives mining of uranium, gold and other "hardrock" minerals priority status on many public lands in the West--regardless of its impact on water and wildlife or proximity to natural treasures like the Grand Canyon. It still allows the mining industry to take precious metals from public lands basically for free, unlike oil and gas companies that are required to compensate taxpayers for resources taken. According to the federal government, hardrock mining has contaminated 40% of western watersheds and could cost \$50 billion or more to clean up.

Last fall, the House of Representatives passed bipartisan legislation that would modernize the 1872 law and provide meaningful protections to the environment and taxpayers. The Senate is currently drafting its own reform bill, but

allies of the mining industries are dragging their feet. Please call or write your Congress people to support reform of the 1872 Mining Law.

Courtesy of Alaska Wilderness League

## ESA AND POLAR BEARS AND THE POLAR BEAR SEAS

After several years of delay and lawsuits, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) announced on May 14th that Polar

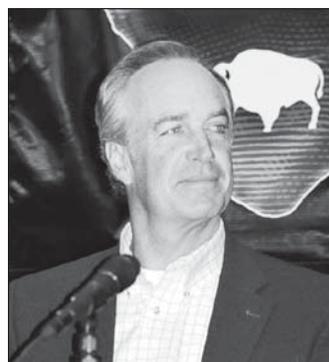


*Polar Bear and Cubs*

Bears were listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). However, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne stated polar bears were affected by melting sea ice not oil development. He issued exemptions to the ruling in regulations protecting oil companies that ensured polar bear habitat would not be protected. The ESA is supposed to regulate any activity that might affect a species' habitat, or jeopardize its continued existence, yet this listing includes a special exemption releasing federal agencies from any obligation to address greenhouse gas emissions, the very thing that is impacting the bear and its habitat.

While the listing decision was pending, the administration had been determined to auction off leases for oil exploration and drilling in prime polar bear habitat in Alaska's Beaufort and Chukchi Seas (known as the Polar Bear Seas).

However, Representative Inslee (D-WA) and Senator Kerry (D-MA) have introduced the Polar Bear Protection Act of 2008 (HR 6057, S 2568) which would call for a halt on oil drilling until critical habitat and a recovery plan for the bear is determined.



Please call your Senators and Representative to be a co-sponsor and supporter. For more information go to [www.stopextinction.org](http://www.stopextinction.org) or [www.alaskawild.org](http://www.alaskawild.org).

*Secretary of Interior  
Dirk Kempthorne*

# CONSERVATION UPDATES

## ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Astronomical gas prices are being used as justification by the Administration and many Republicans to demand opening up the north slope of the Refuge as well as our coasts as an easy solution.

Thanks to Senator Reid of Nevada for reminding everyone that oil companies now have 68 million acres of leased public land and coast they are not utilizing, not to mention that a refinery hasn't been built in 30 years. The north slope of the Refuge is essential to the Porcupine Caribou herd, the polar bear and most of our migratory birds. Please call your congressperson and tell them to vote against any bill that would open the refuge and urge them to co-sponsor and support the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act (S2316, HR39) that would give permanent protection to the coastal plain of the Refuge.

## WILD SKY IN WASHINGTON STATE MAKES IT, FINALLY!

The Wild Sky Wilderness in the Skykomish River watershed in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest was officially declared wilderness. This is Washington States first new wilderness designation since the 1984 Washington Wilderness Bill passed.

The new law protects lowland old growth forests, wetlands and meadows. Logging, mining and use of snowmobiles, off-road and other types of motorized vehicles will be banned. Hiking, hunting, fishing, rafting and other recreational activities will be allowed. Also, floatplanes can continue using a large, high-mountain lake, and a paved recreation trail accommodating people in wheelchairs will be created.

Other wilderness proposals in the state include the Alpine Lakes addition and Dark Divide in the Cascades and the Columbia Highlands in northeast Washington.

## CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS FROM MEMBER CLUBS

FWOC Member Clubs are invited to send in resolutions regarding conservation issues that they are concerned about and wish wider support for. The Resolution Committee reviews, edits and publishes the resolutions for convention attendees. Submitted resolutions may be revised to be consistent with previously passed resolutions. A synopsis of previously passed resolutions may be found on our website. Member clubs' convention delegates vote on them at the convention Sunday morning and they are published in *Outdoors West* and placed on our website.

Thanks,  
Joe Fontaine  
Resolution Committee Chair

### 2008 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 in Word format by email or by mail to:**

George Nickas, gnickas@wildernesswatch.org, PO Box 9175, Missoula, MT 59807

*Deadline for submissions is September 21, 2008*



# CLUB NEWS

Compiled by Shirley Cameron



To be included in Club News, please remember to send your club's newsletter by mail or email to Shirley Cameron, 35479 Ross Lane, Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or [shirleycam@pacinfo.com](mailto:shirleycam@pacinfo.com)

## CALIFORNIA

Alpine Lodge was the scene of the CALIFORNIA ALPINE CLUB'S Henry Hillman Conservation Fund-raiser Dinner-Dance. Information was presented about the vision of a 500-mile ridge-top trail encircling San Francisco Bay. 300 miles are now permanently protected. More information is available at [www.ridgetrail.org](http://www.ridgetrail.org).

A Members' Forum is now on the California Alpine Club's website for the purpose of exchanging information and making connections.



The CONTRA COSTA HILLS CLUB was a reality before the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs was formed. The club hosted the first FWOC convention in 1942 at Castle Craggs State Park and hosted again in 1946 and 1957.



East Bay Regional Park District, a system of 65 parks covering nearly 96,000 acres in the east bay area of San Francisco bay, is the largest urban park district in the U.S. It was founded in 1934 and the success of the campaign to create it was due in part to the efforts of members of the Contra Costa Hills Club.

## COLORADO

GREAT OLD BROADS FOR WILDERNESS has joined a suit to halt the proposed Rock Creek

Mine next to the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness in northwest Montana. The companies competing for the mineral rights want to dig horizontally from outside the wilderness boundaries to tap copper and silver ore they believe lies deep within the federally designated wilderness. Rock Creek Alliance, EarthJustice, and the Natural Resources Defense Council are among the environmental groups bringing suit against the U.S. Forest Service.

## MONTANA

After a seven year battle along with two other groups (High Sierra Hikers Association and Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics), WILDERNESS WATCH announced that a ruling in federal court goes a long way to protect Sierra Wildernesses from excessive commercial pack stock use. The judge ruled the Forest Service's management plan violates the Wilderness Act's requirements to preserve wilderness character and limit commercial services to only those that are truly necessary. The court determined that it is unlawful to allow Wilderness conditions to be harmed in order to maintain or increase current levels of commercial use.

## NEVADA

TOIYABE CHAPTER, SIERRA CLUB members, undaunted by wind and rain, tackled barbed wire

removal. A volunteer resource person from the BLM used a radio to direct the group. It was a long day as there were other areas needing attention (Nasty Hog Wire!) At the end, good food and a campfire were welcome rewards.

"Toiyabe Trails" reports on the partnership between the Sierra Club and Clorox's line of "Green Works Cleaners" made from plant based ingredients and affordable.

## OREGON

In the mid-week hiking series the TRAILS CLUB OF OREGON is offering a naturalist hike for camera buffs and birdwatchers (good for just dawdlers, too). The club held their Fall Festival at the Nesika lodge. Besides partying and food, there was music, hiking, and mushroom picking.



The OBSIDIANS have planned 22 hikes for visitors to this summers U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials and the Oregon Bach Festival (June 27-July 13). Outings include 12 coastal, forests and mountain hikes plus 10 urban hikes. The schedule is available at [www.obsidians.org/otrials](http://www.obsidians.org/otrials).

Four intrepid Obsidians held a mock survival experience at Gold Lake Snow Park in January. It was an effort to increase the awareness of day trippers to possible dangers in winter wilderness and for them to make better decisions about what



# CLUB NEWS

Compiled by Shirley Cameron



they carry with them. The information will be available at the FWOC convention in October.



To stay safe on backcountry trips, the **CHEMEKETAN'S** Route Finding School is here to help. It's a three part series of workshops focusing on learning and practicing map, compass and GPS skills – equal parts lecture and field sessions.

The Conservation committee heard from a representative of the American Hiking Society on the effort to organize a statewide trails/hiking organization that advocates for the protection of trails and promotes volunteerism. Oregon does not have a statewide group to represent hiking interests.



For new members, the **MAZAMAS** now have "Discovery Night." Instead of formal presentations and speeches, it's a party format. People will circulate among displays by activity committees, enjoy slide shows, free food and drink.

The club has launched an Outreach Pilot Program. It will partner with a social service organization with professional staff, the target population being economically disadvantaged and ethnically diverse youth. Club members want to use their outdoor experience to provide opportunities for youth who have not spent time in the outdoors. A map and compass course was taught to sixth graders which culminated in an orienteering-like "Treasure Hunt."

To avoid active members dropping out of sight after they have children, the Mazamas have expanded their family offerings, including some family climbs.



**FRIENDS OF COLUMBIA GORGE** has been opposing a proposed off-reservation casino in Cascade Locks for ten years. Now, tighter guidelines from the Dept. of the Interior may lend support for an on-reservation alternative along Hwy 26: There must be a comprehensive analysis of the proposed Casino's compatibility with existing uses on adjacent land and whether such uses would be negatively impacted by traffic, noise, and development.

Air quality in the Gorge is another concern and one aspect is the threat that atmospheric pollutants pose to rock image stability. A study by the Columbia River Treaty Tribes will examine the preservation of Native American rock images and sources of pollution in the Gorge.



The "Oregon Conifer," journal of the **OREGON CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB**, reports a victory for ancient forest reserves and spotted owl habitat in an area that was burned by the Black Crater Fire west of Sisters, OR. First, a judge's restraining order stopped the sale of 194 acres. Then a ruling in a separate case which states that old growth reserves designated by the Northwest Forest Plan cannot be logged after fire for strictly economic purposes.

Along with the Sierra Club in this effort was the Cascadia Wildlands Project and the League of Wilderness Defenders-Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project. Congratulations also to the Chapter on their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrated this spring.

## UTAH

The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) continues to work for passage of the America's Red Rock Wilderness Act (ARRWA), which would designate over 9 million acres of BLM land. It has vigorously tried to protect these lands from oil, gas and coal development and ORV abuse, while expanding public support for protection.

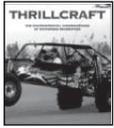
## WASHINGTON

Children as young as 4 years of age can learn basic skills in the **WASHINGTON ALPINE CLUB'S** Junior Nordic Program. Sessions are: Treasure Trails (4-6), Little Nords (6-9), and Freeheelers (9-13). One of the club's biggest events at Guye Cabin was the Annual New Snow Dinner in December to welcome in the Winter Season. Guye Cabin, the site of numerous Federation conventions has been described as the "heart and soul" of the Washington Alpine Club. Their "Yahoo Waclist" is helping members who are looking for partners for skiing, hiking, biking, or climbing.



## BOOK AND DVD REVIEWS

### **Thrillcraft: The Environmental Consequences of Motorized Recreation**



by George Wuerthner,  
Chelsea Green Pub., 2007,  
312 pp., \$60.00, but available  
on the Internet for \$38.00.

Reviewed by Roger Kaye

Here's an oversize, thick book filled with big color photos of natural landscapes, from Alaska to Florida, but quite unlike those that might grace your coffee table. Its pictures are disgusting and offensive – and intended to motivate you to support initiatives to rein in the damage being done by ATVs, dirt bikes, monster trucks, jet skies, and other such machines, collectively termed thrillcraft.

While there have been many exposés of the environmental impacts of motorized “wreckreation,” *Thrillcraft* is both the most vivid and most comprehensive treatment of this growing national issue. Editor George Wuerthner has put together chapters by activists, policy experts, economists, and environmental and social scientists that go beyond describing the abuse being wrought upon our public lands.

The book is filled with facts you can use to refute the arguments of off-roaders and the powerful industry lobbyists seeking to motorize, commercialize, and privatize outdoor recreation. No, the damage isn't caused by “just a few bad apples,” it's the cumulative effect of increasing numbers of people who use these vehicles for the purpose for which they were designed, promoted, and marketed. Just look at the ads. And no, agency efforts to mitigate, to expand and harden ATV trails (at great public expense), and to educate

and regulate users haven't reduced the overall degradation; they've accommodated it. Riders are regular folks being discriminated against by environmental elitists? The demographic research refutes it, as well as the claim that off-roading is a family activity – 95 percent of ATVers are male. And there's interesting little facts like the correlation a Cornell University researcher found between men who feel insecure about their masculinity and their purchase of a vehicle seen as “masculine.”

The book points out that the way we use public lands for recreation teaches attitudes about our relationship to and responsibility toward the natural world. Traditional backcountry activities – hiking, birding, hunting, and fishing – convey a sense of appreciation for and connection to nature. Contrast that with the message of domination crafted and widely promoted by the thrillcraft industry. Consider their ads – the thrilling pictures, and the slogans: “Don't just hit the trail, pound it mercilessly.” (Bombardier); “It frees the beast within you.” (Polaris); “The Goodyear Mud Runner” (Goodyear); “Brute. As in beats up stuff.” (Kawasaki).

At a time when it's ever-more important to rethink our relationship to our increasingly stressed biosphere, thrillcraft culture may be having as a direct effect on the young minds it appeals to as it does on the landscapes it trammels.

*Thrillcraft* provides examples of places where efforts to either ban or restrict motorized abuse have been successful. But the book argues that if future generations are entitled to the same quality of public lands we inherited, nothing less than a complete ban

on off-roading through them is what's ultimately needed. And, it says, it's attainable.

### **Into the Wild**

150 min., Produced, directed and screenplay written by Sean Penn, 2007.

Reviewed by Raelene Gold

Since Thoreau in 1845 sought freedom at Walden Pond from the materialistic society of Concord, successive generations of Americans have embarked on a western wilderness pilgrimage searching for that special transcendent moment and hope of personal transformation.

The hero of *Into the Wild*, Christopher McCandless, wonderfully played by Emile Hirsch, is a recent Emory University graduate, who has eluded his family on a long road trip ending in the remote Alaskan backcountry. Alone, he revives an abandoned bus as his shelter, survives on wild game, fish and edible plants and writes in his journal.

From his sympathetic, younger sister's reports from the homefront, we come to understand Chris's flight from this family and their grief and change after his disappearance. The richness of the film is often in scenes of his westward journey and the empathic and responsive characters he meets along the way. These encounters provide much of what he missed at home, honesty, realness, caring and lessons. But as he is changed by them, they are equally moved and changed by him.

*Into the Wild* evokes many thoughts about the value of the solitary wilderness experience to humans. It places in balance what is to be gained becoming fully alive with the ever present danger of injury or death.

# CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

*The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention*

**FORESTS, FISH, FARMS AND FOOLS:**

**THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE**

**Deer Creek Center at the Siskiyou Field Institute • Selma, Oregon**

**October 10, 11, 12, 2008**

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

Club or Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Delegate?  Yes  No

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Fees:** Includes convention registration, social hours and 5 meals (Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast)

**Lodging Deer Creek Center**

Semi Private Room (includes linens and towels) \$155 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Wish to share with \_\_\_\_\_

Dorm Room –women only (bring linens and towels) \$135 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yurt – men only (bring sleeping bag and towels) \$125 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tent or RV camping on site \$110 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lodging off site \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday only \$ 35 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday only \$ 55 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please join FWOC as an individual member** \$ 10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you wish vegetarian meals: \_\_\_\_\_

Check for information on: Transportation \_\_\_\_\_ Carpools \_\_\_\_\_ (take riders) \_\_\_\_\_ (need ride) \_\_\_\_\_

Check for more information on off-site motels in area: \_\_\_\_\_ *Motel info is on Page 4.*

Please complete ONE form for each attendee and make check out to FWOC for the total fee.

**Mail Check and form to:** Mr. Joseph Hargrave, Registrar, FWOC Convention  
4841 E. Burnside Ave. #17, Portland, OR 97215-1178

**Please send in Registration by October 3** so meals can be ordered. Thanks!

Additional forms and convention updates can be accessed on our website: [www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org](http://www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org)  
For other questions about the convention, email Jan Walker at [jack.jan.indiancreek@mailbug.com](mailto:jack.jan.indiancreek@mailbug.com)



## FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS

c/o JR Mailing Services  
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Bellevue, WA 98004-3048

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## CALENDAR 2008



Photo courtesy of the Siskiyou Project

*Wild and Scenic River in the Siskiyou*

### June 28–December 31, 2008

EXHIBIT: *The Last Polar Bear: Facing the Truth of a Warming World*, with photography by Steven Kazlowski  
Burke Museum, UW Campus, Seattle, WA, [www.burkemuseum.org](http://www.burkemuseum.org)

### September 13–December 31, 2008

EXHIBIT: *Arctic Wings: Birds of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge*  
Burke Museum, UW Campus, Seattle, WA

### October 3–4, 2008

Washington Trails Coalition 2008 Conference, Spokane, WA  
Info.: [washingtonstatetrailscoalition.org](http://washingtonstatetrailscoalition.org)

### October 10–12, 2008

Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs Convention  
Forests, Fish, Farms and Fools: The Challenges of the Future  
Siskiyou Institute, Selma, OR

### February 28, 2009

FWOC Winter Executive Meeting, Portland, OR