

Resolution #1: Educating the Public on Human Caused Wild Fires

Background: Many wild fires are human caused, particularly in California where summer lightning is less prevalent. Most of the human-caused fires are a result of ignorance or accident. If people were educated on what activities to avoid during fire season, many of these devastating fires could be prevented. These activities include building campfires outside of campground facilities, driving cross-country through grass or weeds, target shooting except in special facilities, any dumping of ash from fireplaces, and not obeying fire restrictions. Funding for such a program should be available from fees and from budget allocations.

Resolution: The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs requests that public agencies in fire-prone western states institute educational programs on the prevention of human caused wildland fires..

Submitted by: Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club.
Contact: Marjorie Sill (msill@juno.com)

Resolution #2: Proposed Tule Springs National Monument

Background: Last year Senator Harry Reid introduced the Las Vegas Valley Public Lands and Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument Act. This bill was reintroduced this year by Senators Reid and Heller and by Representative Titus. The establishment of a 28,000 acre national monument, to be managed by the U.S. Park Service has support from the NV bi-partisan Congressional representation and from Clark County, Las Vegas, and North Las Vegas plus most environmental and scientific groups. Tule Springs has been labeled as "Las Vegas Valley's Treasure Trove of Ice Age Fossils", with an abundance of Pleistocene fossils, including mammoths, camels, ground sloths, and lions. It probably contains more specimens than the famous La Brea tar pits in Southern California. A national monument here would preserve this ancient history and provide public access to this special place.

Resolution: The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs strongly support the establishment of a national monument at Tule Springs in the Upper Las Vegas wash because of its scientific, educational, and recreational values.

Submitted by: Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club.
Contact: Marjorie Sill (msill@juno.com) August 30, 2013

Resolution #3: Regulation of Fracking in California

Proposal: Despite the fact that there have been numerous newspaper articles, environmental alerts, and even a movie, "Promised Land" with Matt Damon, most people in California don't know much about fracking. We need to know more. We need to regulate fracking in California.

Background: Hydraulic fracturing- pumping underground large quantities of pressurized water and sand along with a mixture of undisclosed chemicals. The pressure breaks the rock, creating a lattice of tiny cracks that the sand props open. Natural gas or oil trapped in the rock flows through the cracks towards the well. Stretching from L. A. north along the coast and into the San Joaquin Valley is prime fracking land. In Kern County, the epicenter of fracking in CA there were 170 wells fracked in the first 3 months of this year.

Concerns are:

Earthquakes: More than 300 earthquakes stronger than magnitude 3 struck in the last 3 years in the central and eastern USA. Previously there was an average of 21 a year. Many of the quakes erupt near wells where the dirty water left over from fracking is injected deep underground for permanent disposal. This disposal of water is linked to earthquakes. In CA, we live in earthquake country.

Water: The sheer amount of water needed to frack a well is astounding. In Pennsylvania - 4.5 million gallons of water. In Texas- 6 million gallons of water. This was the state with the terrible drought last year. California would only need 164,000 gallons of water, but we are already having water wars between farmers and fisherman, while in the Bay Area people are trying to conserve water.

Drinking Water: Methane is the main component of natural gas. In other areas methane was found bubbling from peoples tap water. Here, the burning off of methane and other gases is going into one of the most polluted air basins in America and some of the richest farmland on earth -the Central Valley.

Resolution: The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs strongly urges that fracking STOP, until all the chemicals are disclosed and the industry is regulated. The regulation should include disclosure of the identities and quantities of chemicals being injected into the earth during the fracking process, and comprehensive monitoring of the impacts of these chemical injections on underground and surface water resources, air resources, and the health of humans and wildlife.

Submitted by: Contra Costa Hills Club
Contact: Beryl Vonderheid (SSNZI@aol.com)

Resolution #4: Ban Arundo (giant cane) for Biomass Generation

Background: Portland General Electric is considering installation of a biomass generation facility in Boardman, Oregon upon closure of their coal fired plant in 2020. This is exciting news to local producers who would benefit by growing Arundo (giant cane) for use in the Boardman facility. The PGE website says the plant of choice, Arundo (giant cane) is not invasive because the seeds are sterile. The argument that it won't be invasive is a fallacy and ignores direct experience on the ground and the basic ecology of the plant because, like Japanese Knotweed, it reproduces vegetatively and from root and stem. Since it thrives in riparian areas, in the Columbia system it would be disastrous. In formal risk assessments, performed by ODA, the plant was ranked as being a class A (highest priority) noxious weed. It is furthermore on the prohibited plant species list for Multnomah County and City of Portland.

The unwanted spread of Arundo in California shows it is invasive. The potential risk is there for this 20 foot high plant to accidentally spread and infest the waterways of the Columbia River watershed, including the Columbia River Gorge, Hood River, Sandy River, and the Willamette, crowding out native vegetation.

Resolution: The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs strongly urges that Arundo and other invasive plant species be banned for biomass generation.

Submitted by: The Mazamas
Contact: Joan Zuber (conservation@mazamas.org)

Resolution #5: Maintain Stable Funding Levels and Preserve Access for State Parks Across the West

Background: In several states, state parks budgets have been (or are being) threatened for cutbacks.

Washington: The House and Senate biennial budget proposals differ; the Senate version proposes a 33% reduction that, if enacted, could significantly impact operations, cause closures, and cause imposition of higher user fees at popular sites like Horsethief State Park.

Web site: <http://www.wta.org/signpost/budget-proposal-contrast-on-revenue-state-parks>

Oregon: Two years ago, there were proposals to increase user fees for parks and tie increases to the CPI, because of directing fewer lottery dollars to state parks administration. Some of this has happened; we pay for parking at Smith Rock, for example.

Web site: <http://www.opb.org/news/blog/ecotrope/7-cuts-to-oregons-natural-resource-budget/> (scroll down to item 3)

Resolution: The FWOOC recognizes the value and popularity of state parks throughout the west and urges continuous state support as a priority especially during lean budgeting years, as well as maintaining reasonable access for all state parks users. Furthermore, user fees should be tied to actual cost of providing services, and not used to fund other operations, whether in parks or outside parks.

Submitted by: The Mazamas

Contact: John Rettig (conservation@mazamas.org)

Resolution #6: Oppose Single Track Bicycling and Shared Trails in Portland's Forest Park

Background: Portland's Forest Park, over 5,000 acres, is the largest forested municipal park in the nation. Mature, second growth mixed coniferous and deciduous forest with numerous streams and an old growth area provide hiking, jogging, nature study and bicycling recreation for more than 1 million people annually. There are more than 30 miles of bicycle paths already in the Park. Many paths are designated for hikers only, but bicycles intrude and threaten the safety of hikers and the integrity of the ecosystem. Why would the Federation concern itself with a city park? This is a wilderness park, a true hiking experience. Many more people than residents of Portland use it. It provides a connecting corridor to the Coast Range for wildlife. It provides a laboratory used by many schools and colleges for their students and the research of their professors. The Park was promoted and founded by Trails Club and Mazama members. The Trails Club leads hikes twice a week in the Park which are open to all and has for many years.

The press for single track bicycling is only one variety of "extreme sports" which substitute physical thrills and speed for the passive uses detailed in the management plan. The management plan was adopted in 1998, and, by ordinance, has the force of law. The plan was prepared in fulfillment of a requirement of the Land Use Law of 1973.

An organized, vocal and persistent group of cyclists is lobbying, successfully for sharing trails with hikers and building their preferred "single track" trails less than 3 ft wide. The plan requires 8 ft trails. The bikers are trying to get the Parks Dept. to rule that a 3 ft trails is not a non-conforming use and will not require an amendment to the plan and thus, no public process.

Resolution: The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs opposes trail-sharing and single track bicycle paths in Portland's Urban Wilderness Forest Park.

Submitted by: Trails Club of Oregon

Contact: P. Sydney Herbert (503 244 4415 psydnehl@msn.com)

Resolution #7: Coast to Cascade Trail

Background: The Coast to Cascade Trail is the only trail that connects northern California beaches at Redwood State and National Parks to Oregon's Cascade Mountains at Crater Lake National Park, a distance of 200 miles. The Coast to Cascade Trail is made up of existing trails, except for an eight mile segment needed to connect trails at Siskiyou Wilderness to trails in Red Buttes Wilderness. This eight mile section is on USFS land, and that department wants to finish the trail, but is low in funds at this time. Volunteers are needed to complete that project.

Resolution: The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs supports the Coast to Cascade Trail, and calls upon its member organizations to provide volunteers to support this effort.

Submitted by: Indian Hills Botanical Mission

Contact: Jack Walker

Resolution #8: Support the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act

Background: On August 1, 2013, Senator Feinstein (D, CA) introduced the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, cosponsored by Sens. Boxer (D, CA), Reid (D, NV), and Heller (R, NV). This bill would appropriate \$415M over the next ten years to improve lake water clarity, reduce risk from wildfires, combat invasive species, and restore and protect the environment of the basin. It would also support re-introduction of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, and prohibit mining in the basin. An annual report to Congress would be required, as well as public education on the values and threats to this national treasure. The bill has not yet been introduced to the House.

Resolution: The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs strongly supports the Tahoe Restoration Act, and urges that it be passed by Congress this year and signed into law.

Submitted by:

Contact: Marjorie Sill (msill@juno.com)

Resolution #9: Support Regulations Governing Restoration of Pit Lakes

Background: A yet-unresolved legacy of open pit hard-rock mining is the body of water left behind, known as pit lakes. Although mining companies are required to reclaim the landscapes affected to minimize visual scarring and control of possible water contamination, pit lakes remain unregulated in most states, including Nevada, which has more pit lakes than any other state. These lakes will consume a considerable portion of Nevada's scarce water. Most of these lakes still have very poor water quality, because of acids from waste rock exposed in the mining process. They can be neutralized and cleaned up, although many will remain high in salts. At present, Nevada has no objective water quality standards for pit lakes.

However, many of these pit lakes can eventually support fish and even water-based recreation, if the mining companies are required to fund the cleanup. The Nevada Department of Environmental Protection

is developing an in-house contaminant program for pit lakes, and eventually it is hoped that regulation and funding will turn many of these lakes into safe public recreational resources.

Resolution: The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs encourages state regulations on pit lake restoration, and the mining companies must assure funding to restore pit lakes left by open pit hard rock mining

Submitted by:

Contact: Marjorie Sill (msill@juno.com)

Resolution #10: Mountain Bike proposal from TCC (tabled until Feb. ExComm)