

FWOC President's Invitation to our Annual Convention

August 25- 26- 27, 2017 at the Siskiyou Field Institute in Selma, Oregon



There appears to be a strategy by President Donald Trump and many congressional members to attack the conservation and environmental successes of the past. Their hopes, similar to the old divide and conquer philosophy, rely upon the assumption individuals and organizations will only focus only on threats within their state or region.

Not considered, the power of grass roots efforts of a united federation of organizations able to focus on a wider range of issues. FWOC is a key force, if members come together and unite on a broader scope of opposition to these challenges. Lending signature support to letters and appeals, drafted by member organizations, is one way to build this solidarity.

Our primary focus this year is keeping public lands in the public domain. However, there are many other areas where we can share ideas and form coalitions to strategize how best to participate in the opposition to the devastating agenda dominant in Washington DC.

A definite reality, the escalating threat of turning our country's currently protected wonders to state or private ownership. The environmental and conservation efforts of us all will be required to overcome this threat. As we know logging, mining and drilling in any of these areas will have a negative impact on water, fish habitat, many endangered species and air quality locally, nationally and worldwide. Once the "takers" have done their worst it will never be the same. No amount of mitigation will revive our loss.

Also devastating, the fact Europe has decided they cannot trust the current US Administration to honor prior commitments on global warming and other environmental issues. We need to regain the trust of our global partners. Part of that entails convincing our country's elected officials to take a lead role in protecting our world's resources for future generations, including the home of this year's convention host - the Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI) nestled in the beautiful Oregon Siskiyou Forest.

Come and be a part of this year's convention where we will work together to become a viable solution to assure continued public rights to our many natural resources. Share your story and strategies with caring individuals and members of capable organizations, now operating on their own. Let's join the growing efforts among the conservation community and strategize on how best to speak up for what rightly belongs to ALL the people of our nation.

You are invited to join old friends, or make new ones, interested in taking part in this year's important discussions and adoption of new resolutions. For more "how-to" details review the article in this edition of *Outdoors West* and visit our website to review our resolution history, used effectively over the years to protect our natural environment. Thank you for taking the time to send resolutions to be considered for adoption during this convention by August 20th to Sydney.

FYI - Convention registration is a bit different this year. You will need to reserve your own lodging. The registration form details cost and availability of accommodations onsite, which is limited. Call SFI's phone number listed on the registration form as soon as possible. For your convenience other facilities, in close proximity, are listed.

I look forward to sharing the weekend with all of you.

George Milne