

OUTDOORS WEST

Winter 2016

The Official Publication of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

Volume 38, No. 1

Plan ahead to attend FWOC's Fall Convention in Washington State

Climate Change, Water Uncertainty and Resilience Through Conservation

**IslandWood Educational Learning Center
Bainbridge Island near Seattle, WA • September 16–18, 2016**



IslandWood

PHOTO: Bodhikai Imagery

This fall the Federation will hold its 2016 annual Convention September 16–18 at the IslandWood Learning Center on Bainbridge Island, near Seattle. IslandWood is a short ferry ride from downtown Seattle or accessible by bridge via Hwy. 3 from the South. Tucked in a backdrop of lush fir, hemlock, and cedar, IslandWood provides a rich, natural setting with nourishing food, contemporary sleeping lodges and flexible meeting spaces, all with windows which invite in light and views of the natural setting. The 255-acre campus hosts school and community programs for children and youth, and a graduate program in partnership with the University of Washington.

The 6 acres of buildings are a model of sustainable development being made with all recycled and sustainable materials; there is also solar heating, composting toilets and rooftop water collection.

Accommodations include two sleeping lodges set up for single, double, and triple occupancy on two floors with access to 6 ADA rooms at entry level. For those who need extra assistance, IslandWood will provide golf cart access between the parking lot, meeting/eating space and sleeping lodges. Every room has its own bathroom and a window looking out into nature.

Don't miss this opportunity to court new partnerships which will assist in accomplishing our Conservation Aims. Besides a range of amazing speakers, we will learn about how IslandWood has become a nationally recognized outdoor learning center with learning experiences geared to inspire lifelong environmental and community stewardship.

The Great Old Broads for Wilderness will be our host club and Shelley Spalding who represented the Broads at the 2015 Convention will be in charge of what will be a very innovative and informative program. Please plan now to attend. Details on the program and registration will be in our June issue of *Outdoors West*.

CONTENTS

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| 2016 Fall Convention | 1 |
| FWOC News | 2 |
| 2015 Summer Convention | 3 |
| Using FWOC Resolutions | 4 |
| 2015 Summer Resolutions | 5 |
| Student Scholarship Winner | 6 |
| Clubs in Action | 7-9 |
| Book Reviews | 10-11 |
| Calendar | 12 |



2016 MEMBER CLUBS

Angora Hiking Club, Astoria, 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 Nevada Wilderness, Reno, NV
 Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Portland, OR
 Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Durango, CO
 Hobnailers, Spokane, WA
 Idaho Environmental Council, Idaho Falls, ID
 Indian Creek Botanical Mission, Selma, OR
 Klahhane Club, Port Angeles, WA
 Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, Williams, OR
 Mazamas, Portland, OR
 Montana Wilderness Association, Helena, MT
 Mt. St. Helens Club, Longview, WA
 Nature Friends, Mill Valley, CA
 Obsidians, Eugene, OR
 Olympians, Hoquiam, WA
 Oregon Nordic Club, Portland, OR
 Santiam Alpine Club, Salem, OR
 Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter, Los Angeles, CA
 Sierra Club, Kern-Kaweah Chapter, Bakersfield, CA
 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
 Skagit Alpine Club, Mount Vernon, WA
 Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Salt Lake City, UT
 Tamalpais Conservation Club, Mill Valley, CA
 Trails Club of Oregon, Portland, OR
 Washington Alpine Club, Seattle, WA
 Whitman College Outdoor Program, Walla Walla, WA
 Wilderness Watch, Missoula, MT
 Winter Wildlands Alliance, Boise, Idaho

FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS

Established in 1932 for the Mutual Service and for the Promotion of the Proper Use, Enjoyment and Protection of America's Scenic Wilderness and Outdoor Recreation Resources

FWOC NEWS

FWOC is delighted to welcome **Ann Meneguzzi** to the Federation's Executive Committee as a Vice-President from California. Ann is a Board member of two member organizations, the California Alpine Club and the California State Parks Rangers Association. Ann is a retired California Parks Ranger who worked as a Peace Officer.

New officers include: **George Milne** as President and **Sylvia Milne**, taking over the Treasurer's position from George.

We also welcome two new member organizations. The California State Parks Ranger Association (CSPRA) and the Whitman College Outdoor Program.

The **California State Parks Ranger Association** is committed "to support, protect, and defend the integrity of State Parks for present and future generations." The last decade of the century has been a very difficult time for park professionals with tighter budgets, a growing population and pressures to find prime land for development. CSPRA serves as the conscience for the Department of Parks and Recreation, to do everything possible to maintain the integrity of the natural, historical, and cultural park heritage. CSPRA also has a role in advocacy effecting legislation.

The **Whitman College Outdoor Program** in Walla, Walla "fosters personal growth, facilitates learning and creates recreational opportunities through skills and risk management training, leadership development, and environmentally sound trips in a supportive community."

OFFICERS

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The deadline for submissions for the Summer 2016 issue is April 30th. Send to: raelene@seanet.com

Website: www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org

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2015 SUMMER CONVENTION

2015 FWOC Convention Fires Up Enthusiasm

Rome was not rebuilt in a day or a weekend. In my opinion, the mix of environment, spiritual presence, conservation elders and young adults present, invited youth into our organization.

Sylvia Milne, 2015 Convention Coordinator

Coordinated by Sylvia Milne, and hosted by the Trails Club of Oregon, the 2015 FWOC Convention August 28–30 at the Menucha Retreat and Conference Center in Corbett, OR was a big success. There were 42 registrants and seventeen of our member groups were represented.

“Innovative Conservation” was the theme celebrating the involvement of youth in the conservation movement and the innovative approaches they bring.

Keynoting the convention was the legendary, **Brock Evans**, author of the recent book, *Fight and Win*, which recounts for young people the winning pathways to the amazing conservation victories he participated in for the last 50 years. Friday night featured the video documentary “Treaty Talks: A Journey Up the Columbia River for People and Salmon,” with a discussion by the video photographer, Xander Demetrios, a former Evergreen University student, where the project began. On Saturday, Kristen Stallman presented on the Columbia River Scenic Highway and Ryan Rittenhouse, from the Friends of the Columbia Gorge discussed oil trains and terminals and the risks to the Columbia River. Saturday afternoon, Amy Harwood, from Bark, gave a very innovative presentation on the protection of forests.

Saturday evening, Fred Krueger, from the National Religious Coalition on Creation Care, gave an inspired presentation on the Spiritual Dimensions to Wilderness.

Marianne Sharping, Chair of the Award Committee, presented the Conservation Award to Sydney Herbert, Chair of the FWOC Resolution Committee. The Service



George and Sylvia Milne, receiving the Service Award from Marianne Sharping

Award was presented to George and Sylvia Milne, for their work on the convention. And a special award for Bravery was presented to Joan Zuber, FWOC Past President, for the courage and perseverance she showed in dealing with an accident resulting in the loss of her right hand.



Amy Harwood, BARK



Xander Demetrios, Columbia River Roundtable



Ryan Rittenhouse, Friends of the Columbia Gorge

2015 SUMMER RESOLUTIONS

Using Resolutions Adopted by Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

by Sydney Herbert, FWOC Resolution Chair and Trails Club of Oregon Conservation Chair

Perhaps you are confused about how to use the adopted resolutions? If your club has submitted a resolution, you probably have a pretty good idea of what you want to do with it, but if it is that submitted by another club, it may not be so clear. I can illustrate from my experience how I used FWOC resolutions adopted in 2014 and 2015, for conservation advocacy in three different situations:

First review the resolutions and the policy documents on the Federation website and be on the lookout for situations where they might apply.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sent a document for review: Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Plan (DEIS) for Western Oregon. I wrote critically on August 21, 2015 about various matters in the Plan, and managed to include two FWOC resolutions: salting glaciers on Mt. Hood and suction dredging the Rogue River for gold. In neither case were these activities addressed in the DEIS.

Trails Club of Oregon had submitted a resolution opposing single-track bicycle use in Forest Park (Portland, OR). When I learned, through the “grapevine” that the Mayor had taken the planning of comprehensive bicycle

use away from Parks and Recreation and given it to the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, under his direct control, and specifically to a planner who was a known bicycle enthusiast, my committee decided to take action by writing letters to the mayor explaining our opposition to single-track cycling. We learned that an advisory committee was already being formed and I applied for membership on it.

On October 8, 2015, I attended a hearing in Aberdeen, WA before the City of Hoquiam and the Washington Department of Ecology on the subject of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Westway and Imperium expansion projects in Grays Harbor County. The projects propose construction of new storage tanks, rail infrastructure and the Port of Grays Harbor to store and handle crude oil. The transportation was organized by Friends of the Columbia Gorge, and it was their resolution and explanatory materials that I used in submitting my testimony.

Lastly, I attended a hearing before the Portland City Council on November 4, 2015. The subject was two resolutions: one adopting a policy opposing all project proposals that would increase the amount of crude oil being transported by rail through the City of Portland and the City of Vancouver, WA. And the other opposing expansion of infrastructure whose primary purpose is transporting or storing fossil fuel in or through Portland or adjacent waterways. I spoke briefly and entered the Friends of the Gorge’s resolution into the record.

I hope this has given you some idea of the variety of uses to which you may put the resolutions. The essential thing is to be alert to the opportunity and timely in execution. It may or may not accomplish the objective, but it gives your club exposure, and I always include the fact that it is a FWOC resolution and give a few words of description of the FWOC, it gives FWOC exposure and increases its effectiveness.



Sydney Herbert, winner of FWOC Conservation Award with Marianne Sharping, Award Committee Chair

2015 SUMMER RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions Passed at the 2015 FWOC Convention

August 30, 2015

- Resolution 1: Revised Version of Resolution on Privatization** – opposes overt and subtle efforts to privatize parks and public lands, undermining the role they play in realizing our aims of safeguarding natural values.
- Resolution 2: Supporting the Antiquities Act** – strong support for the Antiquities Act and opposition to any attempt to weaken or destroy this important law that has been used to preserve so much of our country’s extraordinary scenic and cultural resources.
- Resolution 3: A Call to Action to Minimize Climate Change Impacts** – a bipartisan call to action to minimize climate change impacts, in particular by reducing fossil fuel extraction and transportation on public lands and prioritizing management of public lands to maximize carbon storage, biodiversity, and ecosystem function. We encourage public land management agencies to develop and implement plans to minimize the climate change impacts of land-use activities, such as logging, livestock grazing, roads and vehicular routes, and recreation. We also encourage a reduction in fossil fuel consumption, and the development of renewable energy systems – provided they do not adversely affect ecosystem function.
- Resolution 4: The Kalmiopsis Rivers – Preventing Industrial Nickel Mining in the Headwaters of Southwest Oregon’s Wild Rivers** – support for protection of the south Kalmiopsis and Wild Rivers coast region from nickel strip mining on industrial scale. It also calls for legislation that would withdraw the area from mining as proposed under the Southwest Oregon Watershed and Salmon Protection Act.
- Resolution 5: Golf Course Reconfiguration Project on the Upper Truckee River** – support for the restoration alternative known as “modified Alternative 2.” This alternative relocates golf-course holes now on the Upper Truckee River stream-banks. The links will be moved to higher elevation land previously logged and later mined for gravel before State Parks acquired the property in the 1980s.
- Resolution 6: Making Lands Eligible for Wilderness Designation in National Parks and Forests Off Limits to Bike Trails and Bike Use** – urges that all lands in the national parks and national forests that are proposed, recommended, or eligible for wilderness designation be off limits to bike trails or bike use. No agreement should ever have been made with the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA), and the Federation urges the National Park Service to end it so that the integrity of eligible areas is maintained against mechanical and vehicular use.
- Resolution 7: Opposition to a Measure Which Would Increase Logging in National Forests and Curtail Environmental Laws** – opposition to S. 1691 which would increase the amount of logging in national forests, curtail the application of important environmental laws, and limit judicial review.
- Resolution 8: Ending Federal Leasing of Rights to Develop Fossil Fuels** – urges an end to leasing rights to mine and drill for fossil fuels on federal lands and waters.
- Resolution 9: Protecting the Owyhee Canyonlands in Oregon as well as Idaho** – supporting campaigns to permanently protect the Owyhee Canyonlands in Oregon as well as in Idaho, along with designation of the Owyhee River as a wild and scenic river.
- Resolution 10: Environmental Protection of the Borderlands** – opposes attempts to negate or limit the application of environmental laws in the border regions of our country.
- Resolution 11: Opposing the Transfer of Federal Public Lands** – opposes these proposed transfers of federal public lands to the states.

The full text of the Resolutions can be found at: www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org

2015 SUMMER CONVENTION



Maelagh Baker

Following Up with FWOC Scholarship Winner Maelagh Baker

by Sylvia Milne

Maelagh Baker is a student at Oregon State University in Corvallis and was the FWOC student scholarship winner to the 2015 Convention. Maelagh speaks of her Menucha experience with gratitude. In particular, she was heartened and inspired by our Wilderness Act legacy and her new awareness of all the efforts people invested in passing an act to open the door to acquiring more areas. Yet she realizes, though “so much of the trail has already been blazed,” there is still much work ahead to maintain and expand precious areas.

Thanks to Jan Walker for inviting and bringing Maelagh to the 83rd annual conference. As a result of her experience, Maelagh is motivated long term to join our efforts to “keep the organizational trails maintained,” by encouraging other like-minded young people to attend our 2016 Convention. How that will play out long term is still in question; however we both agreed for now being selective about the values one holds is more desirable than quantity. Besides Maelagh’s attraction to FWOC’s mission, she appreciated being able to relate to so many approachable people who valued her participation and contributions.

Maelagh grew up within a blended family living in southern Oregon on 160 acres of mostly wooded property owned collectively by twenty-four families, each one with a vote with respect to water, phone, and road accessibility. Her ability to navigate FWOC waters so gracefully is definitely a tribute to her passion for environmental conservation and sustainability. She is currently enrolled in Oregon State University’s College of Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences.

She identified with Fred Krueger’s message of learning from our environment and nature. She especially enjoyed presentations by Ryan Rittenhouse, Xander Demetrios, and Amy Harwood of BARK. Maelagh agrees with BARK’s policy of meeting regularly with groups representing natural areas that are threatened by disregard, overuse, or exploitation for financial gain, which helps create that buy-in people need to stand up for the environment. BARK is the watchdog for the Mt. Hood National Forest. Mount Hood, unlike Mt. Rainier, is not protected by National Park status due to an early movement to capitalize on recreation.



CLUBS IN ACTION

Compiled by Raelene Gold



Member clubs and organizations are invited to send news of their activities to be included in the next *Outdoors West* by April 30, 2016 to raelene@seanet.com



Support of Public Lands Rally in Seattle

Member Clubs Take Action to Protect Public Lands

COLORADO

An important issue for the **Great Old Broads for Wilderness**, headquartered in Durango, CO, is the problems caused by cattle grazing on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service. Broads do not want to eliminate all grazing, but instead, advocate for management that ensures grazing practices are sustainable, allowing lands to remain ecologically diverse with healthy,

functioning ecosystems. Policies and programs must be developed that allow agencies to “retire” grazing and to help ranchers through these transitions. This is especially important as climate change grips western lands in extreme drought and with erratic weather. Broads and Broadbands across the country work with agencies to gather data and monitor the effects of livestock grazing on public lands, and partner with agencies on specific projects,

contribute to sensible grazing plans, and hold agencies to task on policies and enforcement activities.

Broadbands in Washington and Oregon were in the news as they helped organize rallies in Support of Public Lands, January 19th in Seattle and January 15th in Bend. Large rallies also occurred in Portland, Spokane and Boise, all in response to the armed occupation of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.



CLUBS IN ACTION



MONTANA

Wilderness Watch in Missoula, Montana has been very active and successful in collecting sign-ons from Federation member groups and other conservation organizations to letters concerning its top conservation concerns, including grazing rights and mountain bikes in Wilderness. They are asking for support for the Rural Economic Vitalization Act (REVA). They note that “grazing on public lands has made the national news lately with the Bundys’ armed thugs illegally taking over the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon. One longer-term solution to grazing problems is to remove cows from our public lands. Wilderness Watch supports the Rural Economic Vitalization Act (REVA, H.R. 3410), a bill that would allow ranchers to waive livestock grazing permits in Wilderness and on other federal public lands, and retire such lands from grazing. H.R. 3410 provides financial compensation for retiring these grazing permits and could benefit all public lands and Wildernesses that currently allow livestock grazing, one of the more destructive activities allowed on public lands.” They request organizations and individuals to contact their Congressional Representatives urging them to support the Rural Economic Vitalization Act.

They also circulated a group sign-on letter to Congress regarding mountain bikes in Wilderness.

Some mountain bikers and mountain biker organizations are working to introduce legislation in Congress to weaken the Wilderness Act to allow mountain bikes in designated Wildernesses. When Congress passed the Wilderness Act, it intentionally prohibited both motor vehicles and mechanical transport in Wilderness. The Act’s lead sponsor in the House of Representatives, Republican John P. Saylor, stated so clearly: “the stress and strain of our crowded, fast-moving, highly-mechanized and raucously noisy civilization create another great need for wilderness – a deep need for areas of solitude and quiet, for areas of wilderness where life has not yet given way to machinery.” For more information go to: www.wildernesswatch.org

OREGON

The Friends of the Columbia Gorge in Portland, OR took the lead there in organizing big turnouts for the hearings and for comments to the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Tesoro Savage oil terminal project in Vancouver, WA. At 360,000 barrels per day, Tesoro Savage’s project would bring four or more mile-long trains carrying explosive crude oil through the Columbia River Gorge and Vancouver every day. This would be the largest oil terminal of its kind in the country. Over 1,500 people turned out for the hearing and overwhelmed the

EFSEC Commission. Congratulations to Friends!

Friends of the Columbia Gorge remains vigilant in the protection of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area along the Columbia River in Oregon and Washington. Friends is involved in a lawsuit against Burlington Northern over its pollution of the Columbia River from coal dust from open railway cars. Friends has also filed an appeal in the federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals challenging a recent decision of the Bonneville Power Administration to allow the proposed Whistling Ridge Energy Project to connect to BPA’s energy grid; the wind energy project is sited near the boundary of the National Scenic Area marring scenic vistas. In April, Friends will begin their celebrated spring Gorge Hikes series that help many to appreciate the beauty of spring wildflowers in the Gorge.

For more information go to www.gorgefriends.org



Klamath Siskiyou Wild in southern OR also is working hard to protect our public lands. They took part in a packed visit to Representative Greg Walden’s office in Medford, OR and delivered a petition signed by 700 people supporting the protection of public lands. They also expressed the public’s concern over Representative Walden’s recent legislative proposals to divest 250,000 acres of public lands in southern Oregon and northern



CLUBS IN ACTION



California. They recognize that the armed occupation of Malheur is part of a greater movement to take over and turn over our national forests and refuges. Rather than transferring public lands, they believe in building upon our proud tradition of collaboration, consensus-building, and searching for common ground. KS Wild urges others to join the Social Media Movement, #MyPublicLands and enter their photo contest.

For info, go to: www.kswild.org



The **Mazamas' Bulletin** featured an article "We Climb High and Protect Public Lands" in response to the events happening in Harney County. Mazamas notes that most all of its mountaineering courses and activities occur on public lands, and they advise members to join trail tending or climber steward work parties, and also participate in rallies and events in support of public land protection.



The **Obsidians** located in Eugene, OR maintains a very active schedule of hiking, mountain climbing, biking, skiing and snowshoeing, and bus trips. Obsidians also joined the Eugene Climate Justice Community's November 28th walk supporting meaningful action at the Paris Climate Summit in December 2015.

IDAHO

Winter Wildlands Alliance in Boise, ID protects wild winter landscapes.

They worked on a new Federal Rule that tells the Forest Service to manage national forest lands in winter in a way that protects them for future generations. With their local partners they are working on new winter management plans on forests in Northern California, Wyoming, and Montana, as well as working through a multi-stakeholder process to protect the remaining undeveloped lands of the Central Wasatch in Utah. They also are looking to the future by taking nearly 30,000 kids out on snowshoes this winter, for many their first adventure on snow.

WASHINGTON

In the **Washington Alpine Club's Bulletin**, President Mike Mahanay relates the saga of his attempted October climb up the 10,600 foot high, active volcano, Mount Etna in Sicily. At 9,300 feet further ascent was halted by the wind and clouds, but Mike gives a great report about the volcanic features of the area.

NEVADA

by Marge Sills

The **Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club** has focused its conservation efforts on making sure public lands remain public. The three chapter groups (Great Basin, Southern Nevada, and Range of Light) continue to offer a strong program of outings including hikes, explorations of wild areas, and snowshoe trips. The principal conservation issue now is defense of public lands, particularly

with the present Nevada legislature and Congress. The chapter continues to focus on renewable energy and energy conservation and on water and wildlife. There are now two national staff persons in Las Vegas, one working on energy and one on a Wild America campaign for national monument protection. Forest planning for the Inyo National Forest and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Management Plans revisions are also being followed closely.



Friends of Nevada Wilderness has focused on stewardship of Nevada's wild places with staff and volunteers restoring trails, removing noxious weeds, and planting native shrubs and grasses in areas that have been burned. In Northern Nevada, work has commenced on designating two possible new wilderness areas in Washoe Co. and Pershing Co. In Southern Nevada emphasis is on protection of Gold Butte, probably with a national monument.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is celebrating the passage of legislation adding two new areas – Pine Forest with 26 thousand acres and Wovoka with 49 thousand acres – to the wilderness system in Nevada, making the total 70 areas with approximately 3.5 million acres of wilderness now in the state. The staff is working with volunteers to identify BLM lands with wilderness characteristics which were not included in the original Wilderness Study Area inventory.

BOOK REVIEW

Rediscovering National Parks in the Spirit of John Muir

by Michael Frome, 2015

Reviewed by Michael McCloskey

As a fluent and engaging writer, Michael Frome has had a long and successful career as a journalist. But at various times, he took jobs writing columns for somewhat conservative publications (*American Forests* and *Field and Stream*), which both fired him when he began to sound like an environmentalist.

As he nears the end of this career, he wants to be seen as someone who has fully embraced the nature-oriented goals of the environmental movement. But it has not always been so.

He began as a travel writer for a major auto club, reporting on the scenery that motorists might see. His early books, as on the national forests, missed major concerns of conservationists, such as over-cutting. He failed to see the shortcomings of the various public figures he praises, who sometimes were at odds with park advocates: people such as Gifford Pinchot, Horace Albright, Conrad Wirth, and Lawrence Rockefeller. He also expressed admiration for Mission 66, which put too much pavement in national parks.

In his latest book, *Rediscovering National Parks in the Spirit of John Muir*, he reminisces about encounters with people who shaped the environmental movement as it pursued its goals. Sometimes, he adds a dimension to well-known stories, but often does not. However, he does unearth an illuminating quote from a retired NPS official about the best solution to the problems of political interference with the Park Service: make it an independent agency, with long appointments for professional directors.

He deplores the way many superintendents ignore advice from their scientists, and sheds light on how many career officials have been inhibited in speaking their minds. But he does tell stories of a few intrepid “whistleblowers” in the service. He criticizes the regime at the National Park Service of George Hartzog (who

understood too little about conservation), but speaks admiringly of such directors as William Penn Mott and Russ Dickinson.

He also reveals how a number of Park Service directors have been eased out under pressures from politicians. For example, he asserts that Rep. Morris Udall caused William J. Whelan to be eased out because of pressures from concessionaires (but this was at the end of the Carter Administration). Also he claims some concessionaires have gone over the heads of superintendents and directors, even to the Interior Secretary.

In this memoir, the most reliable parts are the later parts when he had a firmer grasp of his subject matter, and was acting more as a reporter who dug into his stories. He reminds us that citizen watchdogs are always needed.



Michael McCloskey, Reviewer

Michael McCloskey is the author of *Conserving Oregon's Environment – Breakthroughs that Made History* and *In the Thick of It: My Life in the Sierra Club*. He is a past Executive Director of the Sierra Club and a Past President of FWOC.

BOOK REVIEW

Conserving Oregon's Environment – Breakthroughs That Made History

by Michael McCloskey, Inkwater Press, Portland, OR, 2013

Reviewed by John Rettig

Those of us of a certain age know of the big conservation victories of the 1960s and 1970s mostly from having lived through the times. To not know the how and why behind the Wilderness Act, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, National Environmental Protection Act, Earth Day, the Environmental Protection Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and many others, means you were either born after 1980, or you just weren't into conservation at that point in your life.

Yet, with a nod to Tip O'Neill's famous quote "All politics is local," I would offer that it's also been just as important for people to fight locally for conservation in their own backyards, as it is to accomplish monumental national victories. I strongly believe a person's day-to-day quality of life may be attributed to the effects of accomplishing many local conservation victories. But not growing up here left a great divide in local conservation knowledge, centered on the year 1980. My knowledge base "before 1980 was very sketchy, consisting of the early Willamette cleanup, the 1967 beach bill, the 1971 bottle bill, and the 1973 Senate Bill 100 Statewide Land Use legislation. I had no base knowledge of how this came about.

Michael McCloskey does a tremendous job of explaining the how, why, and who, behind many of these local conservation victories in Oregon. His background as the national Executive Director for Sierra Club, and before that as an attorney working for environmental advocacy, leaves him ideally situated to offer his wisdom and experience.

The chapters are arranged by topic, and chapters follow a chronological timeline, reading like a historical novel. The particular arrangement is really of no consequence, as the book is well cross-indexed and has extensive bibliographical references. Finally, it contains a master timeline, along with a map with cross-references to subjects

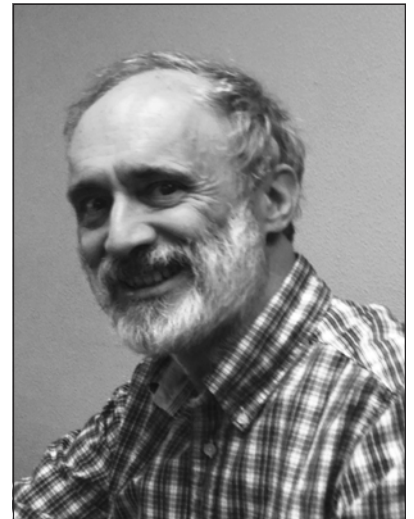
mentioned in the chapters. It thus will be my first choice for a reference book.

Of particular interest to me is the role that the Mazamas first President, William G. Steel, played in helping to defend the recently enacted 1893 Cascade Forest Preserve legislation. Why would such a man of average wealth and influence become so engaged politically to defend this legislation in its early years, and how did this play into the formation of the Mazamas within a year of passage?

There is some thoughtful analysis offered in the last chapter that helps explain why Oregonians appear to be different on conservation than the rest of the country. One sentence stands out that puts an exclamation point on Tip O'Neill's quote: "Most of them [conservation accomplishments] have either been initiated by citizen activists or maintained by them." It also touches on the recent tendency nationally and locally to associate conservation and environmental progressivism with only the Democratic party, pointing out how nationally and especially in Oregon, the historical record is anything but mixed. Finally, the book goes through a painful listing of where we have failed to act, or failed to act quickly or forcefully enough, and what we have lost.

I would strongly recommend this book as a necessary read for every Oregonian and others interested in conservation history.

*John Rettig,
Reviewer*





FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



CALENDAR

- May 14, 2016 FWOC Executive Committee Meeting, Trails Club History Office, 2060 SE Oak Grove Blvd., Suite 10, Oak Grove, OR, 9 AM–3 PM. Representatives from member clubs and individual members are invited. Info: George Milne, milnemasonry@frontier.com
- June 4, 2016 National Trails Day, the country's largest celebration of trails. Many member organizations have recreational or trail maintenance events planned. <http://nationaltrailsday.americanhiking.org>
- Sept. 19–21, 2016 FWOC Annual Convention: IslandWood, Bainbridge Island, WA. Save the date. Details in next issue of *Outdoors West*.

Walking Bridge at IslandWood