

Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs & Associates

Establish 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

President's Message – February 2017

Greetings Everyone,

Recently I was enjoying a TV program, remembering many past cowboy actors. Several of them had a repeating theme song, one with a recognizable message of what was to follow. The point that struck a chord with me, Gene Autry's, "Back in the Saddle Again."



Autry's theme seems especially fitting for us this year as we face extreme challenges to what so many people and organizations have protected. Similar to our predecessors, we must get back in the saddle and work tirelessly to support groups actively questioning misdirected actions and information related to issues with clean water, climate change, and the giveaway of our public lands for logging, drilling and mining. Our latest election brings with it a wakeup call, reminding us a few in power are ready to ruthlessly deny expectations, rights and wellbeing of so many. If we are not focused in our mission to protect our forests, rivers, lakes and natural world as we all know it; there will be no second chance, once any of these resources are gone.

FWOC, established for mutual service in the early 30s, is retooling to offer individuals, clubs and organizations a virtual means to communicate about environmental issues and rally for just resolution. Sylvia is working diligently to organize all the data needed to establish a List Serve, which will extend our email Alerts beyond the Executive Committee. Soon this opportunity will allow you to voice your opinion electronically while learning from club/organization members about the latest conservation and environmental issues.

Currently the Federation membership of clubs, organizations and individuals, represents over 100,000 people. One thing I have learned as a member of FWOC, numbers are influential in legislation. While outreach to new members is important, so is nurturing active participation of all those people symbolized by these numbers.

As I mentioned in an earlier Presidents Message, a recent statement from Kevin Gorman, long term Executive Director with Friends of the Columbia Gorge gives me hope. He said, "We have been here before," which I interpret to mean if we work together and focus on a strategic course we can again overcome adversity. Our plan as a Federation is to build on our infrastructure and connect all the potential voices with ways to speak out on behalf of conservation and environmental issues.

FWOC invites you to renew your membership, or become a new member, and actively help us continue our "good work" of protecting country and planet.

Sincerely,

George Milne

FWOC President