

**Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs
2016 Summer Annual Convention Resolutions**



**Sunday, September 18, 2015
IslandWood Educational Learning Center
Learning Studio Room 105
Bainbridge Island, WA
September 18, 2016**

1. Stop the Tar Sands Invasion (Contra Costa Hills Club)
2. Support of Water Conservation/Water Efficiency/Water Banking and Opposition to New Irrigation Dams (Washington Chapter of Great Old Broads for Wilderness)
3. Park Heritage Protection (California State Park Rangers Assoc. and California Alpine Club)
4. Preserving and Building on the Northwest Forest Plan (Great Old Broads for Wilderness)
5. Opposing Despoiling Wilderness and National Park Values on the Olympic Peninsula (Olympic Park Associates)
6. Supporting Removal of Enchanted Valley Chalet from Olympic National Park (Olympic Park Associates)
7. Supporting Protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge NOW (Olympic Park Associates)
8. Wilderness Protection for Devil's Staircase(Mazamas)
9. Siting Energy Projects and Development Near Protected Public Lands (Mazamas)
10. Support for Establishment of a Douglas Fir National Monument (Resolutions Committee)
11. Provide Support for New Regulations Reducing Releases of Methane (Resolutions Committee)
12. Opposition to Two More Proposed Fossil-Fuel Export Terminals long the Columbia River (Resolutions Committee)
13. Nevada's Gold Butte Should Be Made A National Monument (Resolutions Committee)
14. Support Legislation to Authorize Buy-outs of Grazing Permits on Federal Rangelands (Resolutions Committee)
15. Thwarting Efforts to Burden the Interior Department Budget with Anti-Environmental Riders (Resolutions Committee)
16. Protect North Side of Mt. Hood from Urban-Type Development (Friends of Mt. Hood)
17. High Speed Rail (David Czamanske)
18. Resolution of Thanks

Resolution 2016-1: Proposal: Stop the tar sands invasion. Urge President Obama to impose a ban on the tar sands tankers in all U.S. waters

Submitted by the Contra Costa Hills Club

Background

With the defeat of the Keystone XL pipeline, Big Oil has a new plan. They will build two massive pipelines from Alberta to Canada's East and West coasts. They will then transport this, the tar sands crude, to American Refineries by super tanker.

Concerns: This tar sands invasion will choke our skies with another 350 million metric tons of carbon pollution every year. Tar sands tankers are floating catastrophes waiting to happen. Tar sand oil is heavier than conventional crude and it sinks in water. Very little can be recovered using conventional spill technology. No one is capable of effectively cleaning up a major spill of heavy tar sand crude once it sinks. In 2010 a pipeline ruptured and spilled 800,000 gallons of tar sands crude into Michigan's Kalamazoo River. After 6 years and \$1 billion spent on cleanup the river is still contaminated with high levels of submerged oil. Imagine a super tanker running aground and spilling 84 million gallons, 100 times the amount of toxic tar sand crude that spilled in Michigan. A ban on tar sands tanker traffic in U.S. coastal waters would effectively make the pipeline to nowhere.

Resolution

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs strongly supports imposing a ban on oil tankers carrying tar sand crude in U.S. waters.

The information in this resolution is from the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Resolution 2016-2: Support Of Water Conservation/Water Efficiency/Water Banking and in Opposition
To New Irrigation Dams

Submitted by Polly Dyer Cascadia Broadband, the Washington chapter of Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Background

Whereas, under the 2009 Secure Water Act (P.L. 111-11), the federal Bureau of Reclamation has funded at least 12 studies of major river basins in the west to find new dams to supply water in response to Climate Change, and in 2012 testified before Congress concerning a Bureau study that found nearly one hundred potential sites for new storage dams; and

Whereas in 2009, the Bureau and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Office of Columbia River) established a "Workgroup," to develop a "Yakima Plan" for new storage dams for irrigation districts in the Yakima Basin with limited Workgroup membership, closure of the Workgroup implementation subcommittee meetings to the public, preparation of a \$20 million "Early Action Implementation Request" prior to release of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, and failure to include a range of alternatives in the Programmatic Impact Statement; and

Whereas the Yakima Plan calls for the construction of a new Bumping Lake Dam within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest near Goose Prairie, WA, which would flood out ancient forests, endangered species habitat for bull trout and Northern spotted owls, as well as National Forest Bumping Lake Trail No. 971; and

Whereas FWOC passed a resolution in 1978, opposing the construction of a new Bumping Lake Dam; and

Whereas, the Yakima Plan calls for the construction of a Wymer Dam between Ellensburg and Yakima, which would flood shrub-steppe habitat for sage grouse; and

Whereas a 2014 report of the State of Washington Water Research Center found that the costs of both a new Bumping Lake Dam and Wymer Dam exceeded the benefits; and

Whereas, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Office of Columbia River) together with Chelan County has established a "Workgroup" to develop an "Icicle Plan" for developing additional water storage within the Alpine Lakes Wilderness;

Resolution

That FWOC supports water conservation, water efficiency, water banking, and viable fish passage; and

That FWOC opposes any Congressional or state funding for the continued study or the construction of new irrigation dams that threaten our National Forests and trails, our National Wilderness Areas, our roadless areas, and endangered species habitat; and

That FWOC opposes any additional funding for the Washington Department of Ecology's Office of Columbia River.

Resolution 2016-3: Park Heritage Protection

Submitted by California State Park Ranger Association and California Alpine Club

Background

In early 2016, a well-publicized contract dispute over usage rights to historic place names in Yosemite National Park outraged that park's visitors and fans when it led to the renaming of popular venues. Delaware North, the departing concessionaire, claimed ownership of the original names of various lodgings and retail service sites even though those facility names predated that concessionaire's 23 year presence in Yosemite NP. During its 23 years as the NPS contracted concessionaire in Yosemite, Delaware North operated various lodging & business facilities such as the Ahwahnee Hotel, Yosemite Lodge, Curry Village, and Badger Pass Ski Area.

These famous names predate Delaware North's presence as the concessionaire for visitor facilities in Yosemite. Often there has been an historic significance to the existing and well-known names. Unknown to the NPS, Delaware North trademarked the historic names at some time during its tenure as concessionaire. When Delaware North lost the facilities operating contract to another company, it claimed to "own" the customary names and demanded to be paid \$51 million to transfer the trademark rights to the popular historical names. The NPS is seeking to have Delaware North's trademarking of the pre-existing Yosemite facility names declared void.

While this contract dispute continues to be fought in court, new signs with unfamiliar names have replaced the ones park visitors have known and used since establishment. Park visitors are confused and angered by the loss of what was there before. The popular view is that these iconic park names were hijacked and that the trademark claim is a violation of the public trust. People believe that Yosemite is a national treasure and the facilities there belong collectively to the people of the United States.

This contract dispute over Yosemite facility names has drawn attention to the importance of protecting familiar park names from being claimed by businesses contracted to provide services in parks.

Resolution

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs supports California Heritage Protection legislation and other measures that prohibit state park concession, contractor and others from the ability for a concessionaire or contractor to claim a trademark, copyright or other ownership interest in any name associated with a state park unit or feature.

Further Resolved: The FWOC Executive Committee is authorized to support in the name of FWOC other similar legislation, state, federal or local, that protects the iconic names associated with national, state or local parks and other protected natural and cultural sites from

concession and other business entities being able to copyright or trademark these names to the exclusion of the agency owning, managing or operating these protected areas.

Resolution 2016-4: Preserving and Building on the Northwest Forest Plan

Submitted by Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Background

The Northwest Forest Plan (the Plan), adopted in 1994, shifted federal lands management from primarily logging and natural resource extraction to ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation. The Plan designated new areas over 7 million acres of forest reserves to restore the greatly depleted late-successional (mature/old growth) forests, and additional streamside areas to protect imperiled species and improve water quality and quantity of watersheds. The Plan created a regional framework whereby management of nearly 25 million acres of federal lands is being coordinated by ten federal agencies, which is unprecedented. It also included transparent and scientifically defensible standards and guidelines for ecosystem management that allows the public to better track the agencies compliance with the Plan.

While it is premature to judge the efficacy of a 100-year plan after just two decades of implementation, scientific assessments and monitoring have shown that the Plan is achieving many of its ecosystem management targets that has led to significant progress in restoring some of the damages of unsustainable logging of previous decades. Because the Plan has been successful, now is not the time to cut into its protective elements but rather to build on them.

In particular, the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) is a cornerstone of the Plan. It is largely responsible for improvements to aquatic ecosystems and imperiled salmon runs. BLM-managed O & C lands are critical part of the regional framework of the Plan as these lands provide some of the last remaining low-elevation forests, drinking water for nearly 2 million Oregonians, and are critical to recovery of endangered species. Unfortunately BLM's new western Oregon plan revisions have departed from protective elements of the NWFP by reducing important safeguards for streams, while increasing logging in the habitat of imperiled species. This is of grave concern because the ecological reasons supporting adoption of the ACS are even more valid today due to climate change, poor stream conditions on private lands, ongoing logging, and other important aquatic issues that justify more, not less, protections. There is no scientific basis for reducing watershed protections in a changing climate.

Impacts from climate change, and subsequent management strategies to address anticipated changes, will play a key role in plan revisions. A hotter drier climate is expected to trigger more fires in places, resulting in even more fire suppression and increased pre-and post-fire logging with little consideration of the critical ecological role that fires play and the need to focus treatments on reducing risks to lives and property. More rain and less snow in the winter is already occurring and this has major economic and ecological consequences, particularly during summer months when communities that depend on snow pack are stressed by water shortages.

The 2012 Forest Service Planning Rule acknowledges that intact ecosystems are important carbon “sinks” and that carbon is to be considered one of the “multiple uses” in development of management plans. The Paris Climate Change Agreements also emphasized the importance of protecting the world’s forest as sinks or “reservoirs” for carbon, and stressed the need to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The Pacific Northwest has some of the most carbon dense forests in the world, mainly older forests on federal lands. In the words of conservation biologist Dr. Dominick A. DellaSala, “Older forests on public lands are vital to a safe climate. Simply put, forests are nature’s cooling and water towers. They scrub carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, helping to keep dangerous greenhouse gas pollutants from overheating the planet. They purify our drinking water, keeping excessive sediment out of streams, which is good for salmon and agriculture. What we do to these forests will set the price of climate change.”

Resolution

The FWOC supports

- A bipartisan call to build on the Northwest Forest Plan by additions to the reserve network of older carbon dense forests, reduction of forestry related global warming emissions, and new streamside protections as critical to preparing for climate change;
- Use of best available science to revise the regional framework of the Plan, including transparent peer review of agency science and forest plan revisions;
- Continuation of the Plan’s transparent standards and guidelines to provide clear directives and accountability for ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation;
- A substantial reduction of road densities via road ripping of low-use roads, significant funding for restoration of ecologically damaging roads, and road closures to reduce human-caused fire ignitions;
- A comprehensive fire policy that allows greater use of wildland fire for ecosystem benefits and reduces costs associated with runaway fire suppression by focusing treatments nearest homes to effectively lower risks to property and lives.

Furthermore, FWOC supports the continued education and engagement of our member organizations in the Plan revision process. The future viability of our forests for the myriad species and benefits they provide depends on engagement in the NWFP revision process by individuals and organizations such as are found in the FWOC.

Resolution 2016-5: Opposing Despoiling Wilderness & National Park Values on the Olympic Peninsula

Submitted by Olympic Park Associates

Background

Wilderness is the finest multiple-use of our land and water. Wilderness provides clean air and water to our land and people; gives a natural place for wildlife, native plants, and wild fish to live; protects genetic creations necessary for productive life in our future; makes available a place for appropriate human relaxation and recreation - recreation that does not render null and void the other values of wilderness. Over half of our pharmaceuticals come from the genetic material found in nature. Many agriculture advances come from nature. Wilderness preserves these critical elements necessary for future generations. One of our country's greatest assets is the wilderness that protects our creator's creations.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 preserves these values on "...undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation;..." [Wilderness Act of 1964]

The USDA Forest Service has a permit request from the U.S. Navy to deploy trucks carrying electromagnetic emitters on the roads of the Olympic National Forest. This would be part of the training of pilots in the detection and destruction of enemy emitters trying to detect U.S. bombers. The Navy has designated most of the western half of the Olympic Peninsula as an electromagnetic warfare training range. The range would allow jet formations to fly search patterns over this range. Under this permit, these training activities would occur for up to 16 hours a day, for up to 260 days per year. This training is now, and for a number of years, has been done in Idaho and Nevada.

The Forest Service permit would, by default, allow Navy planes to use the airspace over, or within a disruptive hearing distance, of designated wilderness on the Olympic peninsula. Specific wilderness areas affected are Olympic National Park's wilderness, USFWS Washington Islands Wilderness, and USDA Forest Service Colonel Bob Wilderness.

It would also use the airspace over the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, the Washington Islands National Wildlife Refuges, three Indian Reservations, Washington State Department of Natural Resources land, two towns, and thousands of acres of private land.

Resolution

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs opposes any activities by government or citizens that would despoil any of the many values of wilderness including solitude by noise pollution created by aircraft.

The FWOC appreciates and supports the men and women who serve in our armed forces. It opposes training activities that would compromise wilderness values and the health or wellbeing of its citizens. The FWOC therefore, opposes the granting of permits by any government agency that would dilute the values of designated wilderness or cause health damage to its citizens. FWOC opposes the use of air craft over designated wilderness and national park airspace lower than 30,000 feet.

Specifically, FWOC opposes the USDA Forest Service giving a permit to the U.S. Navy to use Forest Service land for deploying electromagnetic emitters on trucks on its Olympic National Forest roads.

Resolution 2016-6: Supporting the Removal of the Enchanted Valley Chalet from Olympic National Park

Submitted by Olympic Park associates

Background

The Enchanted Valley chalet is a log structure built in 1930-31 by a private organization as a recreational destination on then Forest Service land. The Olympic National Park was created in 1938 including the Enchanted Valley. Ninety-five percent of Olympic National Park was designated wilderness in 1988. The chalet is now well within that wilderness. The chalet was given historic status in 2007.

In the last fifteen years, the East Fork of the Quinault River, began to move very close to the chalet. In 2014 the river undermined six to eight feet of the chalet's concrete foundation. The Olympic National Park processed an EMERGENCY EA that allowed the chalet to be moved 100 feet back from the then edge of the river. This move was done to keep the chalet from being a source of pollution to the river and Lake Quinault downstream of the chalet. The river has since moved to within 30 feet of the moved chalet.

In June 2016 the National Park Service began a NEPA EA process to determine the final disposition of the chalet.

Due to its current condition and sitting on an unstable floodplain, the chalet is unusable as an administrative building or visitor shelter. If allowed to collapse into the river, it would be a source of pollution. Left standing, the chalet will have to be monitored continually by ONP staff and moved when threatened again. The 2014 move, and related NEPA, cost the park between \$300 and \$400 thousand at a time when park funding is in extremely short supply. Any future monitoring and/or moving would be equally costly.

Because of soil conditions and the natural self-relocations (river avulsion) of the river, there is no place safe for the chalet from the river in the valley. Further, moving the structure to any place in the valley would require disruption of the valley's ecosystem. Cutting trees or preparing a new foundation site, would require actions that are deemed illegal under the Wilderness Act of 1964. Such actions sets precedence that weakens the Act's future effectiveness to preserve wilderness. It would also place an Albatross on the ONP staff and budget to watch and attempt to protect such a building. Wilderness has far more value than a building that cannot perform its former historic purposes at this site.

The Historic Preservation Act only requires the structure be "fully documented" before removal.

Resolution

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs supports efforts by the National Park Service (NPS) to properly document the Enchanted Valley chalet and then remove the building down to its sill logs. This will prevent it from polluting the river and satisfy the requirements of both the Historical Preservation Act and the Wilderness Act. The NPS should not take any action with regard to the chalet that would violate the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Resolution 2016-7: Supporting Protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge NOW

Submitted by Olympic Park Associates

Background

Birds hatch and raise their young on the coastal shores of the Alaskan Arctic Ocean and then migrate to six of the seven continents of the earth. The only continent missed is Europe. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is an important part of this North American area so crucial to the earth's ecosystem. Birds, of all types, born in the Refuge, fly between North and South America and the Arctic along the Pacific Flyway in the Western United States. This migration is important to the ecology of the Western United States.

Whales migrate along the Pacific coast to and from the Arctic Sea areas off the Refuge. Whales feed off the rich plankton and fish of the Arctic Ocean as part of their worldly migrations. The beluga, bowhead, and narwhal whales are dependent on these waters. Six varieties of seal along with the walrus are marine mammals that depend on clean sea ice and water.

Polar bears are now threatened and face extinction if global warming continues or there is an oil spill in the Arctic Ocean or coastal areas. They give birth to their cubs in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Bordering the Arctic Ocean, the Refuge is an American Serengeti for bear, caribou, moose, musk oxen, and a multitude of smaller mammals.

For over fifty years attempts have been made to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from the exploitation that would destroy and disrupt this place so necessary for wildlife in the Western United States and the rest of the world. The time to protect it is now.

Resolution

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs supports any and all efforts to preserve the natural Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's ecosystem for its animals, birds, native peoples, and America's future generations.

Resolution 2016-8: Wilderness Protection for Devil's Staircase

Background

In Oregon's Coast Range, between the Smith and Umpqua rivers, is a place so remote that the wilderness derives its name from a rarely seen waterfall "The Devil's Staircase." It takes more than a day to get there (if you can find it)! The old growth Douglas fir, cedar and hemlock coastal forest has the highest density of northern spotted owls in the Coast Range. The soils are mostly classified as the highest landslide-prone soil type in Oregon. Unstable soils so plagued early efforts to log that, in the 1970s, the U.S. Forest Service withdrew from timber management all land between the Smith and Umpqua rivers,

The U.S. Forest Service has recognized the Devil's Staircase area's value as a wild, roadless landscape. However, half of the proposed Wilderness is managed by the BLM - which has not identified the area as Wilderness.

Resolution

The FWOC urges the BLM to recognize and take steps to designate Oregon's Devil's Staircase as a wilderness study area. The FWOC further urges Congress to protect the remote Devil's Staircase as a designated wilderness.

Submitted by the Mazamas

Resolution 2016-9: Siting Energy Projects and Development Near Protected Public Lands

Background

August 2016 celebrates 100 years of the National Park Service. The historic mission to leave the Park's scenery and wildlife "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations" is threatened by development outside park boundaries. The development of industrial energy projects: solar and wind turbine farms, mining, transmission lines, drilling, pipelines, encroaching housing tracts and malls endangers ecosystems. Migration patterns and wildlife corridors extend beyond the park boundaries. Park islands of protection may fail to protect many species as they must pass through hazardous industrial or encroaching housing sites.

Resolution

FWOC urges making ecosystem health the priority, extending beyond the borders of national parks, preserves, designated wildernesses, and monuments, when siting large scale energy projects and urban development.

Submitted by the Mazamas

Resolution 2016-10: Support for Establishment of a Douglas-fir National Monument

From Resolutions Committee

Background

National Parks and Monuments have been created to protect iconic species such as Redwoods, Joshua trees and bald cypress. A proposal to create a National Monument to protect Douglas-firs on 500,000 acres in the upper North, Middle and Santiam watersheds of the Willamette National Forest has been proposed. Some of this federal public forestland is already congressionally protected, but the vast majority is not. Much of it has some level of administrative protection, which is subject to change as federal administrations change. The purpose, among others, would be to maintain all existing old-growth forest and to restore that which has been logged.

The FWOC has supported old growth reserves in several resolutions, e.g. Resolution 2 1993:

“Federal forests in the Pacific Northwest should be managed with an emphasis on ecosystem management, watershed protection, long rotation schedules for managed forests, and the willingness to adopt principles of modern conservation biology in all aspects of forest planning. The centerpiece of planning should be designation of ancient forest permanent reserves that are protected from all logging, thinning, and salvage.” And, Resolution 2 1994:

“FWOC opposes that portion of the Administration’s Forest Plan for the Pacific Northwest and Northern California which would allow further logging of old growth timber that would destroy native species of plants and animals and cause further damage to the salmon population.The Clinton Administration is also urged to establish an Ancient Forest System in the Pacific Northwest and Northern California consisting of all existing old growth on federal lands that would remain inviolate from all thinning, salvage and logging in the region.”

The present proposal goes beyond preserving existing mature and old-growth forest; it would restore some previously logged lands to an older forest condition. It would also preserve hundreds of miles of hiking trails, scenic vistas, mountain meadows and more.

National Monuments are generally established by a presidential proclamation under authority granted to the President by the Antiquities Act of 1906. Some are established by Acts of Congress.

Resolution

FWOC supports the creation of a Douglas-fir National Monument in and near the Willamette National Forest, Oregon.

Resolution 2016-11: Provide Support for New Regulations Reducing Releases of Methane

From Resolutions Committee

Background

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, contributing to climate change.

The releases of methane gas from oil and gas developments also contribute to the risk of rising levels of cancer and other serious health effects.

Now EPA proposes to issue regulations to reduce releases of methane from new operations. EPA estimates its proposal will reduce methane releases by over a half million short tons by 2025 and produce substantial net benefits.

Its regulations are the first nationwide regulations limiting methane releases by the oil and gas industry.

The BLM also plans to release regulations governing methane releases from developments it licenses. Its regulations would limit the amount of flaring, require frequent inspections to find and repair leaks, and require that outdated equipment be discarded.

The two agencies have been coordinating their draft regulations so that they are complementary.

Resolution

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs supports regulations proposed in 2016 by the EPA and the BLM to reduce emissions of methane, and also to replace outdated equipment and to require frequent inspections and that leaks be repaired. It hopes these regulations become final; Congress should not try to hinder their progress.

Moreover, similar regulations need to be issued to apply to existing oil and gas developments. All oil and gas operations in the U.S., new and old, need to be subject to them so as to reduce releases of methane that spur climate change.

Resolution 2016-12: Opposition to Two More Proposed Fossil-Fuel Export Terminals Along the Columbia River

From Resolutions Committee

Background

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs has recognized the threats posed by increasing shipment of fossil fuels along the Columbia River and through the Gorge, both to the surrounding environment and to the world's climate and has opposed building any new export terminals for this purpose at Pacific Coast ports. [Res. 12, 2011, res. 7, 2014]

It appreciates the fact that many proposals for such new terminals have been dropped.

However, two proposals of this type are still pending: one in Vancouver (WA) which would be the country's largest oil export terminal, and one for coal in Longview (WA), which every day would bring at least a dozen more coal trains along these tracks and through adjoining towns.

The shipment of oil into the proposed terminal in Vancouver is particularly dangerous because it would be highly inflammable crude oil from North Dakota's Bakken fields. An accident is likely every 18 months to trains traveling to that terminal. Such a train carrying Bakken oil was recently de-railed near Mosier, OR, releasing a thousand barrels of oil and causing fires and pollution.

Union Pacific has indicated it wants to build double trackage along 4.3 miles near Mosier, Oregon, which would go through a national wildlife refuge (Steigerwald), a state park (Memaloose State Park), and through the most sensitive parts of the national scenic area (the Special Management Area).

The risk to these sensitive areas should not be increased.

The Federation also opposes granting permits to expand trackage near Mosier.

Resolution

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs opposes licensing and constructing these two new terminals and calls upon the pertinent officials of the state of Washington and the cities affected to deny the required permits and oppose granting permits to expand trackage.

Resolution 2016-13: Nevada's Gold Butte Should Be Made A National Monument

From Resolutions Committee

Background

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs has long called for added protection for the Gold Butte area of southern Nevada. This BLM land is Nevada's part of the Grand Canyon and is also rich in archeological resources. Further protection is needed to keep vandals from looting the area and to protect it from destructive ORV use.

In 2008 (res. 15), the federation called for legislation to establish a National Conservation Area there of 362,177 acres, mostly to be administered by the BLM. Of this, 120,000 acres should be managed as wilderness. Senator Harry Reid (D, Nev.) sponsored this legislation (S. 199).

However, the Bundy interests and their political supporters blocked enactment of this legislation.

Sen. Reid is now calling upon outgoing President Obama to instead establish the area as National Monument.

Resolution

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs supports Sen. Reid's call and urges the President to established Gold Butte as a National Monument. Friends of Nevada Wilderness supports this action.

Resolution 2016-14: Support Legislation to Authorize Buy-outs of Grazing Permits on Federal Rangelands

From Resolutions Committee

Background

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs has resisted efforts to weaken federal regulations governing grazing practices on public rangelands and has pushed for better control over the impacts which grazing has on the environment (res. 3, 1996, res. 9, 1998, res. 23, 1998, res. 17, 1999, and res. 21, 2003).

However, many holders of grazing permits on public rangelands persist in trying to weaken these regulations.

Efforts have been made unsuccessfully to buy-out the economic interests of permit holders on allotments in sensitive areas, but legal problems have arisen. Legislation is needed to overcome these obstacles so that willing sellers can relinquish their operations that harm the environment.

A bill to do this has been introduced in 2015 by Rep. Adam Smith (D, WA). This bill, H.R. 3410 (the Rural Economic Vitalization Act), would permanently close these sensitive areas to grazing. It would allow funds to be raised for this purpose by conservationists. They could then negotiate buy-outs for agreeable prices. Past experience shows that this can be done.

This legislation would apply to both the departments of the Interior and Agriculture. Once the permit holder accepts the buy-out, he/she would be obligated to turn in their permit, and the department would be obligated to terminate their right to graze cattle on the assigned allotment and never again issue permits to graze cattle on that sensitive allotment. Each year, this could not be done on more than 100 permits.

Resolution

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs supports this bill (H.R. 3410) to authorize buy-outs of grazing permits on public rangelands, and never again issue permits on these sensitive federal rangelands.

It would provide an important tool to address problems of long-standing.

Resolution 2016-15: Thwarting Efforts to Burden the Interior Department Budget with anti-Environmental Riders

From Resolutions Committee

Background:

In 2016 the leadership of the House of Representatives has crafted a long list of anti-environmental riders to the bill to authorize a budget for the Interior Department for 2017. These are regarded as “poison pill” riders which are not acceptable to the Office of Management and Budget, and in fact are strongly opposed by the Obama Administration. If President Obama does not sign this flawed budget, and members of his party in Congress stand with him, the budget for the Interior Department will probably be funded again through a continuing resolution.

Unfortunately, the Senate has concurred in some of these riders. Over 30 of these riders have emerged out of various processes.

Among the riders are ones that would block these various planned initiatives of the Obama Administration:

- blocking new EPA rules governing methane emissions (for FWOC position see Res. 12, 2006);
- blocking new EPA rules to reduce carbon emissions from existing power plants (for FWOC position see Res. 1, 1997 and Res. 10, 2008);
- blocking the EPA from trying to expand the definition of wetlands under the Clean Water Act;
- blocking the BLM from implementing a new rule governing “fracking” (for FWOC position see Res; 3. 2013);
- blocking the Fish and Wildlife Service from regulating nonfederal oil and gas activities in wildlife refuges;
- blocking the President from declaring new national monuments in many western states (for FWOC position see Res. 9, 2001 and Res. 2, 2015); and
- blocking the Fish and Wildlife Service from taking various steps under the Endangered Species Act, such as listing the greater sage grouse, and requiring the gray wolf in Wyoming to be de-listed.

Resolution

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs commends President Obama for opposing these anti-environmental riders and urges him to refuse to sign measures burdened with riders of this kind.

Resolution 2016-16: Protect North Side of Mount Hood from Urban-Type Development

Submitted by Friends of Mt. Hood.

Background

In 2001 a development proposal for the north side of Mount Hood came to the attention of Hood River Valley Residents Committee, (HRVRC) a public interest organization located in Hood River. The proposal was being presented by Mt. Hood Meadows Development Corporation (MHMDC). The plan included 450 condominiums, hotel rooms, and trophy homes, restaurants and high-end shops, more roads and parking lots, ice skating rink, amphitheater and space, golf course, multiple tennis courts and swimming pools, chairlifts, ski runs, and tubing hill for the north undeveloped "wild" side of Mount Hood.

Mount Hood Meadows Development Corporation holds a special use ski permit for 1,350 acres of Forest Service land, which allowed development, and, in addition, has 700 acres of forested land which they had acquired in a land trade with the County. The land trade with the County was questionable in that Meadows received a large piece of valuable timbered land (700 acres) in the Cooper Spur area for a much smaller and less valued piece of land that Meadows owned. The land trade was made without public visibility. The primary motivation for the County Commissioners to grant this land trade was, according to their statements, to pursue economic development that would provide jobs and a general economic boost to the community.

In 2002 under leadership of Mike McCarthy, HRVRC, and Ralph Bloemers, Attorney, CRAG law firm, a coalition of public interest groups called Cooper Spur Wild and Free, including Friends of Mount Hood, American Alpine Club, Audubon Society of Portland, BARK, Friends of Tilly Jane, Hood River Valley Residents Committee, Lower Columbia Canoe Club, Mazamas, Northwest Environmental Defense Center, Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club, Oregon Wild, Oregon Nordic Club, Oregon Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, The Ptarmigans, was formed to oppose the development plans. The Coalition worked hard at public outreach, fundraising, letters to the editor, op-eds, attendance at County Commissioner meetings as well as endless strategy meetings with Coalition members. It was a long hard fight.

In 2006, after four years of vigorous active opposition to the development proposal by the conservation groups, the Board members of HRVRC with leadership from Mike McCarthy, and Ralph Bloemers worked out a plan with MHMDC called the "clean sweep." This involved a trade for all MHMDC interests on the north side of the mountain as well as Forest Service land for 120 acres of valuable developable Forest Service land in Government Camp. The trade also included the forested land which Meadows had gained through a land trade with the County. The idea appealed to the MHMDC Board of Directors and they agreed to follow through. The land exchange was part of the Mount Hood Wilderness Bill which was signed by President Obama on March 31, 2009. The Forest Service was directed by Congressional legislation to do their part of the land trade, namely, do the preliminary paperwork and get appraisals for the land involved within 16 months. (Due approximately August 1, 2010).

Seven years later (September 2016), the Forest Service has not gotten appraisals or done any of the preliminary work required by Congress. At every step, the Forest Service made excuses and put up hurdles to impede progress on the land trade.

Mt. Hood Meadows, which had been enthusiastic about the land trade, began to get frustrated with the Forest Service. They appeared to begin to renege on previous agreements outlined in the "clean sweep." For example, they began talking about the forested land which they wanted to log. They asked to keep the Cooper Spur Inn. If the appraisals on the north side were greater than the appraisals at Government Camp, they wanted to be assured they would receive more and more of the land on the north side. This was not what the Coalition and Meadows had agreed upon with the "clean sweep."

With the lack of cooperation of the Forest Service over the past seven years, there is a strong chance that Meadows will change their commitments and walk away from the proposal of the land trade. We will lose the following:

- 1,350 acres of the Cooper Spur ski permit area
- 700 plus acres of forestland
- 2,000 acres of new Tilly Jane Wilderness
- Watershed protection for 2,000 acres in the Crystal Springs Zone of Contribution
- Wildlife habitat and migration corridors affecting elk, deer, cougar, black bear; habitat for spotted owls, raptors, lynx, wolverine.

It is obvious the stakes are high. Meadows will have the option to move ahead with their original proposed development. Their plans need Forest Service approval, and the Forest Service has indicated they have no inclination for conservation or the preservation of the north side.

The Forest Service must move ahead to fulfill their Congressional directives before Meadows walks away. After waiting seven years, it was decided by the Coalition including Friends of Mount Hood, to file a lawsuit against the USFS for unreasonably delaying the land trade. The first court hearing has been held and after hearing arguments, the Judge indicated she would take the matter "under advisement." Her request for further consideration involves the words "reasonable delay." What is reasonable? We are waiting for her decision. As part of the lawsuit, the judge has ordered the parties to give her monthly progress reports. The USFS has done more in the 12 months since the lawsuit was filed than in the previous 4 years.

Resolution

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs supports the efforts of Friends of Mount Hood and affiliated members of Cooper Spur Wild and Free Coalition to protect the north side of Mount Hood (the Cooper Spur area) from proposed urban-type development by encouraging the

current lawsuit and future legal efforts as we work through NEPA, the appraisal process and property equalization.

Resolution 2016-17: High Speed Rail

Submitted by Sierra Club Angeles Chapter

Background

It is embarrassing that, although several nations (including Japan, China, France, Germany, Italy) have HSR, there is no operating HSR system in the United States. HSR can make a significant contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as air pollution (especially of NOX and particulate matter) by reducing the amount of surface vehicular travel and airplane travel that currently transports travelers between major cities on the West Coast.

HSR also has the potential to reduce traffic congestion and accidents, which often cause death and injury as well as property damage that result from vehicular collisions. It has the same potential to reduce air traffic congestion, reducing the amount of time airplanes have to circle near airports awaiting permission to land, which results in generation of additional GHGs and air pollution than would be the case if airplanes could land on a more timely basis.

Additionally, HSR has the potential to improve the quality of life by reducing the time and stress of travel, and in so doing making more time and personal energy available for travelers to more efficiently conduct business and to enjoy family and leisure time, including engaging in outdoor recreation activities.

The State of California has taken the lead in building a HSR project for that state, and although it has encountered many legal, political, and financial impediments that have slowed it down, Governor Jerry Brown has lent the strong support of his administration to advance the project.

Extending the California High Speed Rail Project northward in the Central Valley to the Oregon border would be a necessary first step in such a HSR project, dependent on commitment by Oregon and Washington to build a new rail line through the valleys west of the Cascades to Seattle. The topography is suitable for construction through these valleys at reasonable cost.

Advancing a major project like this involves considerable risks, but we need only look back at the completion of the transcontinental railway in 1869, or John F. Kennedy's determination to put a man on the moon, to realize that great things with great benefits to society can accrue when bold steps are taken to advance ambitious endeavors.

Resolution

FWOC supports the concept of High Speed Rail to connect the three west coast states of California, Oregon, and Washington, and urges all three states to begin studies of the physical,

engineering, economic, and financial feasibility, as well as the environmental impacts, of such a project connecting the three states.

Resolution 2016-18: Resolution of Thanks

Submitted by Delegates

Resolution

The FWOC wishes to thank the following for hosting the 85th Annual Convention at Bainbridge Island, Washington: Polly Dyer Cascadia Broadband chapter of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Shelly Spalding, Sylvia Milne, George Milne, and Marianne Scharping.