

**Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs
2018 Summer Annual Convention Resolutions**

**Sunday, August 19, 2018
The Jesuit Retreat Center (JRC)
300 Manresa Way
Los Altos, CA**



1. Urging conferees on the Farm Bill to reject the version passed by the house
2. Tightening regulations on trains carrying coal and crude oil
3. Halting confined animal feeding operations
4. Containing fossil fuels during earthquakes
5. Banning drones in protected areas
6. Endorsing climate-smart forestry
7. Addition to the comprehensive policy on grazing adopted by the FWOC in 2017 Resolution 7
8. Revising Oregon Forest Practices Act for climate change
9. Supporting the Columbia River Treaty Negotiations between US and Canada
10. Resolution of thanks

**FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS
2018 RESOLUTION #1**

**URGING CONFEREES ON THE FARM BILL TO REJECT
THE VERSION PASSED BY THE HOUSE**

From the Resolutions Committee
August 3, 2018

Background:

By one vote in June, 2018, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a farm bill (H. R. 2) with many bad provisions on the environment, conservation, and wildlife. It now goes to conference with the Senate passed bill, which does not include them.

H.R. 2 includes these objectionable provisions:

1. Ones taken from the Westerman bill of previous years that would allow logging of as much as 15% of the national forest land **without environmental reviews** or public involvement. As many as 6000 acres could be logged in each project without environmental reviews. Congressional **exemptions from NEPA** law would be provided for 46 different kinds of projects. Up to three miles of roads could be bulldozed into roadless areas.

The FWOC opposed the Westerman bill in 2017, Res. 5.

2. The Endangered Species Act (**ESA**) **would be weakened** by not requiring the Forest Service to **consult** with wildlife experts when its projects might affect threatened or endangered species. Experts in NMFS and the Fish and Wildlife agencies could be completely ignored.

The Forest Service would not even be obliged to “**consider**” the impact of its projects and decisions on species protected under the ESA.

No longer would manufacturers and the applicators of pesticides be **liable**

for killing ESA wildlife.

3. It would **not allow** the Clean Water Act (CWA) to apply to **intermittent streams and wetlands**, which cover half the nation's watersheds.
4. **Permits** would no longer be required when those spraying pesticides and herbicides might get them into streams, including those providing drinking water. This activity would be **exempted from CWA coverage**.
5. Under the Farm Bill, federal law would **preempt** stronger state and local laws that provide more environmental protection.
6. The Conservation Stewardship Program would be **ended**; it has been the largest land conservation program for farm land.
7. It would **reduce** payments to farmers for putting their land into the Conservation Reserve Program.

Resolution:

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs urges the conferees now working in Congress on the Farm Bill of 2018 to reject the various anti-environmental provisions (described above) of the measure passed by the House of Representatives, H.R. 2.

**FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS
2018 RESOLUTION #2**

**ON TIGHTENING REGULATIONS ON TRAINS
CARRYING COAL AND CRUDE OIL**

By the Resolutions Committee
May 18, 2018

Background:

Concern is growing about the safety of trains carrying North Dakota crude oil through towns and sensitive environments. Oil from the Baaken fields being moved through such places is highly flammable. And fugitive dust is formed by bits of coal blown off coal trains.

In 2016 a train derailed in the Columbia Gorge near the town of Mosier, Oregon, causing a fire that burned for 14 hours. And a huge increase in the number and length of trains had been foreseen with the two new terminals that had been proposed but have now been turned down. But other proposals for such terminals are likely. With this upsurge in trains, serious accidents are predicted every 18 months.

Oregon has far fewer safeguards in place to prevent such accidents than Washington state and California. For instance, Washington requires the operators of the trains to prepare detailed plans to deal with emergencies. And before new terminals are permitted in Washington, full reviews of their environmental impacts must be prepared.

In the last decade, the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs has adopted a number of resolutions dealing with these concerns (Res. 12, 2011, Res. 7, 2014, and Res. 12, 2016).

It has opposed licensing new terminals for the export of coal and oil, called for assessments of the risks posed by such new terminals, and plans to deal with emergencies. It has also called for the disclosure of the volume of fossil fuels to be carried by trains, the types of fuels to be carried, the routes to be used, and the

frequency and duration of transfers at terminals. It has also asked the federal DOT to strengthen design standards for tank cars.

Resolution:

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs urges all states, especially on the West Coast, to adopt strong measures to deal with the threats posed by increases in the transport of fossil fuels along rail lines. It is particularly concerned about the transport of fuels, such as flammable crude oil and coal, through environmentally sensitive areas such as the Columbia Gorge and through towns and cities.

Oregon should improve its regulations to match those of the adjoining states so that it too requires railroad operators to prepare plans to deal with emergencies such as derailments and spills. Moreover, it should require that insurance be obtained to cover the costs arising from such emergencies.

Oregon should also require that any party seeking to construct a new terminal on state-owned land obtain a lease from the state. Before any such terminals are built, the developer should also be required to prepare a full assessment of the expected environmental impacts.

**FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS
2018 RESOLUTION #3**

ON HALTING CONFINED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS

By the Resolutions Committee
May 18, 2018

Background:

For the past half century, America has been raising a larger share of its cattle, hogs, and chickens in facilities where they are confined in either feedlots or buildings. These operations are commonly called CAFO's (confined animal feeding operations). The trend toward relying on them has been growing.

These operations produce huge quantities of animal sewage and other pollutants. Even the smallest of them produces the amount of sewage that would come from a human community of 16,000.

None of the means of dealing with these wastes is very effective, and sometimes not even these are installed. Where cropland is nearby, the wastes are usually dumped on them as fertilizer, but usually in excessive amounts, producing polluting runoff affecting surface and ground waters. Major fish kills have been produced by this runoff. Enforcement of the few regulations is usually weak.

These wastes from CAFOs include various pathogens such as E. coli bacteria, cryptosporidium, and salmonella, which can cause sickness and death. They may also include heavy metals and various pharmaceuticals used on the livestock. Over 160 gasses are emitted from these wastes, including ammonia, methane, and hydrogen sulfide, which are all problematic. Hormones and chemicals also are involved. Often the wastes include dead animals.

The pollutants often reach local waters, including ground water, and the ambient air. Often these wastes cause the level of nitrates in drinking water to become dangerously elevated.

One such dairy feedlot in Oregon produces the most ammonia of any CAFO in America. It has been licensed to contain as many as 30,000 cows. It has only

installed half of the number of required storage lagoons. It fails to make required weekly inspections and promptly notify state authorities of overflows. It has been charged with endangering drinking water.

In the past, the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs has deplored one proposed in Idaho for nearly 600,000 hogs (Res. 2, 2000) and called for a halt to licensing any more until the ones then in existence in the state are cleaned up.

Most environmental experts think such feeding facilities are not sustainable because of the amounts of fuel, electricity, and water that they use. They are heavily subsidized by the federal government through various farm programs.

Resolution:

The Federation of Western Outdoor Club calls for a moratorium on building any more CAFOs until existing ones in violation are cleaned up or replaced with facilities that are compliant, so that these facilities no longer pollute and endanger public health and wildlife. Each state should determine when all its CAFOs have met this standard.

The Federation also urges the federal government to end the subsidies that encourage development of such facilities.

**FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS
2018 RESOLUTION #4**

ON CONTAINING FOSSIL FUELS DURING EARTHQUAKES

By the Resolutions Committee
May 18, 2018

Background:

Earthquakes pose threats to people and wildlife because of the damage they may do to buildings and infrastructure. In the Northwest, the danger is posed by an earthquake at sea in the Cascade subduction zone. Sooner or later, geologists are predicting a class 8 or 9 earthquake from that source.

Particular damage may be done to tank farms storing oil and LNG tanks; ruptures in them will threaten the health of our rivers and pose dangers of fires.

Not enough steps have been taken by the owners to construct adequate structures to contain the oil spillage and limit fires that will come with earthquakes.

Authorities have enacted few measures to require owners to provide these safeguards, or to post bonds to cover the costs of cleanup and repair. But compensation will never be as good as prevention.

In most cases, states have the authority to require that preventive safeguards be installed, or at the very least, for bonds to be posted. In some cases, cities can provide the framework to make such requirements through building codes. In Oregon, county zoning can set up such requirements. In other cases, it may be done through special-purpose, taxing districts.

Resolution:

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs calls upon states subject to earthquakes to require that the owners of fossil fuel infrastructure, such as tank farms, install measures to contain oil spilled from tanks ruptured in earthquakes, as well as to contain any other fossil fuel released into the environment in an earthquake.

In lieu of doing that, owners should be required to post a bond sufficient to cover the remedial costs. The states should be able to delegate those powers to its subordinate jurisdictions.

FWOC Policy History:

The FWOC has little or no policy history of passing resolutions dealing with the dangers posed by earthquakes.

**FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS
2018 RESOLUTION #5**

ON BANNING DRONES IN PROTECTED AREAS

By the Resolutions Committee
Apr. 30, 2018

Background:

The use of drones is exploding in national parks, such as at Crater Lake National Park. The buzzing by drones disturbs the quiet and solitude that people come to parks to enjoy, as well as disturbing wildlife in parks, such as endangered species.

The use of drones in national parks has been banned since 2014. It is also banned in federal wilderness areas, and in many national wildlife refuges.

Notwithstanding such bans, too little has been done to enforce bans. Those who fly their drones there act as if such parks are “wide open.”

Rules made at the state level, as for state parks, are hard to remember when they are made on a case-by-case basis. They are easier to remember when they are applied uniformly to a broad category, such as for all state parks.

Resolution:

The National Park Service must enforce the ban against flying drones in national parks. It should also be unlawful to fly them in all national wildlife refuges.

Moreover, states should also ban flying drones in state parks and wilderness areas.

Administrators should still be able to use drones in the units they administer for such official purposes as fighting fires, search and rescue, aerial photography, scientific study, and inspections, which is now the case with the National Park Service.

FWOC Policy History:

The FWOC has not adopted resolutions on this topic, but it has adopted resolutions restricting overflights in Grand Canyon National Park, Death Valley National Park, and Crater Lake National Park, particularly by helicopters.

**FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS
2018 RESOLUTION #6**

ON ENDORSING CLIMATE-SMART FORESTRY

By the Resolutions Committee
May 18, 2018

Background:

Forests are ideal devices for storing carbon for centuries. Logging too much of them releases carbon to the atmosphere, changing the earth's climate. 17 per cent of carbon releases now come from forests in states such as Oregon.

Forests do not need to be logged to prevent wildfires that might threaten to release greenhouse gasses. Only a small percentage of the carbon stored in forests is released into the atmosphere in wildfires. Even in the most severe fires, most of the carbon remains stored on site in snags and roots.

Forested states such as Oregon do not yet manage their forests in a climate-smart fashion. Doing so would provide various benefits: it would keep our climate from deteriorating, it would provide clean water, provide habitat for fish and wildlife, and provide protection against floods.

We could get climate-smart forests by doing the following:

- protecting all remaining old growth on publicly owned forests;
- allow trees on privately-owned forests to grow to at least 80 years of age (i.e., the rotation age in forestry);
- by restoring forests on ones that have been clearcut.

The following changes would need to be made in public policies of forested states:

- taxes would have to be imposed on owners who permit clearcutting;

- incentive payments would have to be paid to owners who avoid practices that are climate-destructive, such as clearcutting.

By adopting these approaches Oregon can achieve neutrality in its capture and release of carbon.

This set of actions has been recommended by ecologist Dominick DellaSala of the Geos Institute in Ashland.

Resolution:

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs endorses DellaSala's plan for climate-smart forestry:

- protecting old growth on public forests;
- establishing an 80-year minimum for new growth on private forests;
- restoring clearcut forests;
- taxing clearcutting and paying incentives to avoid climate-destructive practices.

**FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS
2018 ADDITION TO THE COMPREHENSIVE POLICY
ON GRAZING ADOPTED BY THE FWOC IN 2017 RESOLUTION 7**

**ADDING WORDING ON CURBING INVASIVE PLANTS TO
FWOC'S COMPREHENSIVE GRAZING POLICY**

From the Resolutions Committee
June 18, 2018

Background:

[When the FWOC adopted its comprehensive policy on grazing, the topic of weed control was not explicitly considered.]

Poor grazing practices can spread weeds, which suppress native plants and degrade habitat.

That policy should be amended with explicit suggestions to control the propagation of weeds.

Amendment:

Add a new paragraph 3 to the resolved wording:

“To avoid churning soil, which encourages the spread of invasive weeds, the **number of livestock** grazed on each management unit should be **limited**. The **livestock** themselves should be **moved frequently** to reduce the impact they have on soil and runoff. Moreover, concentrations of them should be minimized by frequently **moving features that attract them**, such as watering troughs, salt blocks, and corrals.”

**FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS
2018 RESOLUTION #8**

**ON REVISING OREGON FOREST PRACTICES ACT FOR CLIMATE
CHANGE**

By The Mazamas and Trails Club of Oregon
Aug. 14, 2018

Background:

Oregon passed the Oregon Forest Conservation Act in 1941 which primarily addressed reforestation after timber harvest, and was the state's first statutory recognition of the importance of Oregon's forests to the state and her citizenry. The 1971 Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA) provided a comprehensive framework for forestry operations and practices.

1991 was the last major update of the FPA: Oregon Senate Bill 1125 further refined the minimum environmental protection standards for timber harvest, and led to new FPA administrative rules that increased minimum stream protection requirements in 1994. These rules have been consistently criticized by conservation groups and federal regulatory agencies as inadequate to meet minimum water quality standards or to allow recovery of imperiled salmon and trout. Although there have been minor amendments since 1991, the FPA has not been updated to address climate change, and the changing conditions it is bringing.

In July 2017, after over a decade of research demonstrating that FPA stream protection rules were inadequate to prevent prohibited stream warming, the Board of Forestry implemented new riparian buffer requirements for some small and medium fish streams only. The Board, rather than enacting rules which the research supported as fully protecting stream temperature, invoked the "maximum extent practicable" principle, on the basis of arguable economic harm to forest landowners, to enact rules that research shows will not reliably attain the state's coldwater protection standard under the federal Clean Water Act. The new riparian rules are widely publicized for their increased protection, in spite of falling short of what the best available science tells us is needed to protect water quality. This was the last major update of FPA administrative rules regarding stream protection.

Climate change is expected to bring continuing changes to Oregon's weather, with warmer temperatures overall, more challenges to water supply and quality, more dramatic swings in temperature and precipitation— both more flooding and more drought, and more and larger forest fires. Oregon's forested land is her best buffer and mitigating influence for climate change. Much attention is focused on the large-scale mitigating effects of forest retention for carbon storage, but more local and immediate effects from forested land include effects on local weather and rainfall, local effects on temperature, a dampening of the swings in temperature and precipitation, and local effects on groundwater temperature and supply.

The Oregon Forest Practices Act as it stands now does not provide us with the tools we need to optimally manage Oregon's forests as climate change progresses, to protect water quality, and to optimize the buffering effects of our forests on swings in temperature and precipitation.

We propose that the Oregon Forest Practices Act should be revised or replaced to prepare Oregon to optimally manage her forested lands as climate change progresses in the following respects:

- The FPA should provide flexibility to respond quickly to changing conditions. Currently, forest practices must be proven harmful before they can be curtailed. As demonstrated with the riparian rules, harm can be difficult to prove, even when harm is significant, often taking many years, during which harm continues to occur. The FPA needs to require practices reasonably challenged as causing harm to prove their safety, rather than requiring years of study to prove harm. The BOF needs the flexibility to impose temporary rules, especially as conditions rapidly change, while investigating possible harm.
- The FPA should more comprehensively and solidly base forest practices in best available science. For example, is there evidence that the green up requirement of 4yrs/4ft for reforestation plantings, before clearcutting of adjacent parcels, is adequate to provide the eco services of the mature trees cut 4 years earlier? Do we have science to support how much of a watershed can be clearcut without cumulative effects on water quality and quantity? The entire FPA should be scrutinized and revised in terms of current best available science.
- The Board of Forestry composition should be required to represent the full spectrum of those affected by forest health and water quality, and should further limit or eliminate conflicts of interest. Membership should not only include representation from timber industry, but representation from other major economic groups strongly affected by forest health and water quality,

such as recreation industries and fishing industries, and by those most qualified to represent the interests of all Oregonians, such as wildlife and/or fish biologists and climate scientists.

Resolution:

The Oregon Forest Practices Act should be fully revised or replaced with clearly stated objectives for water quality to fully meet Protecting Cold Water (PCW) and Federal Clean Water Act standards, and for watershed and forest health and resilience, with forest practices rules solidly based in best available science, and to provide mechanisms to quickly update forest practices rules as needed to achieve and maintain these objectives as climate change progresses.

**FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS
2018 RESOLUTION #9**

**ON SUPPORT FOR COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN US AND CANADA**

By Raelene Gold
Aug. 16, 2018

Background:

Whereas the Columbia River is the fourth largest river in North America, extending into seven western states and the Province of British Columbia; and its hydropower dams provide low cost electric power essential to the northwest economy.

Whereas in 1964 the US and Canada ratified the Columbia River Treaty, for cooperative management of the Columbia River, to prevent flooding and maximize power generation. Three new storage dams in British Columbia and one in Montana were built. The enhanced power benefits were to be shared equally by both countries.

Whereas the Columbia River Treaty is considered a highly successful transboundary river management agreement producing benefits for both nations, it did so at great costs to fish and wildlife populations: and to residents of southeast British Columbia and northwest Montana where farm and forest lands were lost; and to tribal and First Nation's fisheries.

Whereas prior to the 2024 treaty deadline, a CRT review has taken place with widespread public input, a Northwest Regional Recommendation was completed in 2013 recommending the addition of a third treaty goal of "ecosystem function" to ensure a more natural run of the river to benefit fish and wildlife.

Whereas the US State Department and the Canadian Foreign Ministry have currently begun renegotiations of the Treaty and are undertaking regional public meetings in the northwest.

Resolution:

The FWOC urges the US Treaty negotiators to renew a modernized Columbia River Treaty and add a third Treaty goal of “ecosystem functional” health to ensure the river is managed to also benefit fish and wildlife, and that there is a representative for this goal on the US negotiating team.

**FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS
2018 RESOLUTION #10**

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

By the Resolutions Committee
Aug. 19, 2018

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs expresses its thanks to the two organizations that hosted their 2018 conference:

- the California Alpine Club, and
- the California State Park Rangers Association.

And its deep appreciation to the two people who did most of the work: Ann Meneguzzi and Mike Lynch. They picked the place for the conference: the Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos, CA. They picked the theme; they planned the program and selected the speakers. They took the lead in stimulating a good turnout. Mike Lynch designed an updated logo, a banner, a fabric badge, and more such items.

We also extend our thanks to the Jesuit Retreat Center for allowing us to use suitable rooms in which to stay and meet; and for the fine meals and refreshments.

We are grateful to all of these institutions and people for facilitating a wonderful conference.