

OUTDOORS WEST

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*John Rettig, President of the
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs*

Starting Up A New Conservation Grant Program

John Rettig, FWOC President

The FWOC has always taken positions, pushed for policy and legislation, and carried out various other “back office” tasks that help assure we are headed in the right direction for local, state, and national level conservation and environmental actions.

On the other hand, our FWOC member organizations, along with many other like minded other organizations, have often taken this much further than is possible for us alone – they have always been more equipped and staffed to do all of the other things it takes to move things along for the environment and conservation, be it environmental outreach programs, training, educational programs, conservation work, investigating and reporting, ground truthing, and many more. This “feet on the street” part of it is also absolutely necessary.

We are now in a position wherein we can help our member organizations and these like-minded other organizations to further carry out their valuable work, and at the September annual meeting, we voted to initiate a small annual conservation grant program to do this. Two of the key measures we intend to use to assess whether we should fund an organization to carry out such work will be:

1. Whether the grant proposal addresses an area of the environment or conservation issues that are significant in the western US.
2. Whether the grant proposal addresses an issue within the FWOC priorities and objectives.

This leaves room for a very broad interpretation and scope of coverage for where we may apply grant funding.

We do want to put our money with our mouth is, and given the resources at hand, we feel this is the most effective way to do so.

We will be looking forward to partnering with many worthy organizations out there who can meet our selection criteria.

The deadline for 2025 grant submissions will be January 31, 2025. If you are aware of organizations who may be interested, please let them know about this.

More grant information and the application form can be found at:

<https://www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org/grants.html>

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OFFICERS

President: John Rettig, 1632 NW Aspen Ave., Portland, OR 97210
johnbrettig@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Ann Meneguzzi,
tmlann@hotmail.com

Secretary: Barbara Phalen, 3425 SE 5th St, Renton, WA 98058,
phalenbarbara11@gmail.com

Treasurer: John Rettig, 1632 NW Aspen Ave., Portland, OR 97210
johnbrettig@yahoo.com

Past President: George Milne, 1864 SE Anspach St., Oak Grove, OR 97267,
georgemilne44@gmail.com

FWOC Conservation Policy Advisor: J. Michael McCloskey, 503-892-2664,
jmmccloskey@aol.com

STATE VICE-PRESIDENTS

California: Ann Meneguzzi,
Beryl Vonderheid

Montana: George Nickas

Oregon: Brock Evans, Joan Zuber

Washington: Raelene Gold,
Barbara Phalen, Shelley Spalding

OUTDOORS WEST

Editor: Raelene Gold, send submissions to: raelene@seanet.com

Layout Editor: Carol White

Website: www.federationofwesternoutdoorclubs.org

Manager: Robertson Miller

Send submissions to:

RobertsonMiller2015@gmail.com

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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

New FWOC State Vice President Leaders Needed!

The FWOC was incorporated in 1932 to unite the many dispersed western outdoor clubs behind a shared conservation agenda and to be able to direct better policies and legislative action. At the time many outdoor climbing and hiking groups had been formed to explore the western outdoors and wanted to be able protect those precious public lands they knew and loved.

As noted above, we have significantly increased our positions that have been taken on key issues, and we are also taking the first steps to embark on a new conservation grant program. These will both I believe significantly increase our stature in the community and open new doors to partner with like-minded organizations on the issues that matter to all of us.

But we cover a broad geographical region and, as Tip O'Neill once famously said, "All politics is local." It's necessary to stay in touch with what these local issues are, and I believe the best way is to drive these toward the attention of the Executive Committee and stay in touch with them is from the ground up – we just can't always be everywhere and watching everything going on in the west!

The way we have always done this is through our State Vice President positions. These are not honorary positions, but real working positions, and their local work frees the Executive Committee from being stretched out too thin. They do outreach to member organizations in one state, or a part of a state, keep up with the activities of member groups, report on and initiate action on conservation issues, and represent these issues to the Executive Committee. While it's not a perfect system, it's been pretty effective when we have adequate coverage, and it has worked for us since 1932 – almost a century!

But that's where we are in need – we require new, motivated, volunteers to take on various State Vice President roles for Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, and Nevada. The return for this is that you get to drive your own local issues to the Executive Committee, and get results from the FWOC taking a position on your behalf – so there is a *quid pro quo here!*

Contact President John Rettig at johnbrettig@yahoo.com to learn more about playing a role in FWOC.

Major Changes Coming to Northwest Forest Plan

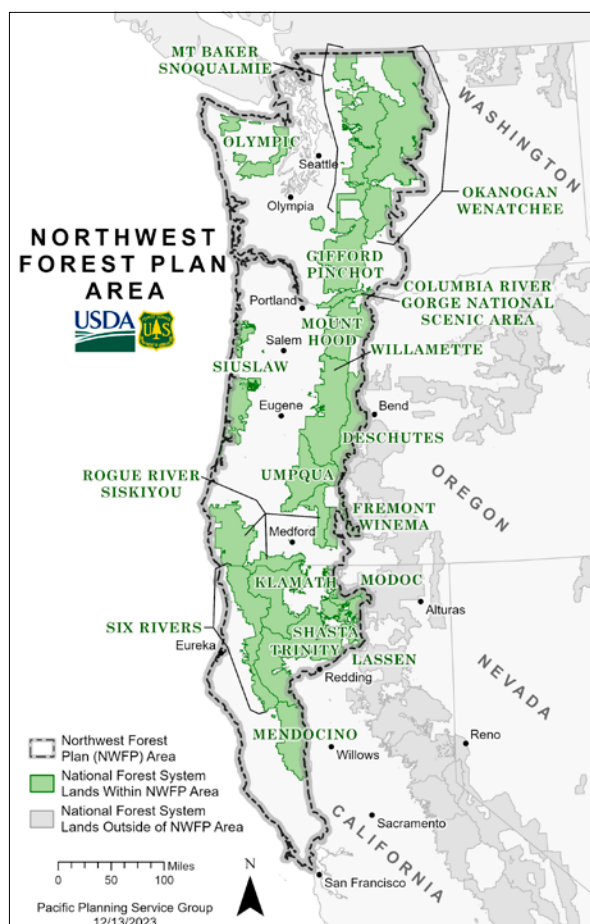
by Mike Anderson, senior policy analyst for The Wilderness Society

The US Forest Service is undertaking the first major update of the Northwest Forest Plan since the Plan was adopted 30 years ago to resolve years of controversy over logging of the region's federal forests. A far-reaching proposed amendment to the Plan, along with a draft environmental impact statement, is expected to be released for public comment in November.

The Forest Service has been working with a diverse 21-member Federal Advisory Committee to amend the Plan. As a member of that committee (representing wildlife conservation interests), I want to share some insights into key issues and changes to the Plan that will be evaluated in the upcoming Draft EIS.

Based on consensus recommendations of the Federal Advisory Committee, the Draft EIS will put forward some significant changes in management of the Northwest Forest Plan's major land use allocations – Late Successional Reserves (LSRs), Matrix, and Adaptive Management Areas (AMAs). Following is a summary of the advisory committee's forest stewardship recommendations:

- Conserve remaining unprotected old moist forests across Matrix lands and AMAs.
- Retain the passive management paradigm of LSRs intended to conserve and recruit large, contiguous blocks of moist mature and old growth forests.
- Raise the age limit to which younger age classes of moist forests in LSRs can be thinned to enhance late successional characteristics from 80 years to 120 years.
- Emphasize timber production that incorporates ecological forestry principles in plantations and other younger age classes of moist forests across Matrix lands and most AMAs.



- Accelerate ecological restoration of dry forests in all land use allocations as necessary to conserve older trees, restore characteristic old forest conditions, conserve wildlife habitat, and promote forest resilience in the face of climate change and fire.
- At the request of tribes, accommodate and support tribal cultural uses and co-stewardship across all land use allocations and forest types.
- Permit salvage logging in Matrix and most AMAs that retains important biological legacy features, but generally prohibit salvage logging in LSRs.

Note that the committee's forest stewardship recommendations sharply differentiate between moist forests in the western Cascades and dry forests mostly found in the eastern Cascades and northern California.

In addition, the proposed amendment will highlight the increasingly important role of northwest tribes in management of the region's national forests. While the Northwest Forest Plan is rightfully hailed as a science-based ecosystem management plan, it failed to recognize tribal treaty rights and indigenous knowledge. The proposed amendment will help to correct historic injustices and ensure that tribes are able to exercise their treaty rights to hunt, fish, and gather on national forest lands.

We believe that these and other proposed changes in the Northwest Forest Plan – such as increasing use of prescribed fire and providing habitat for beaver restoration – will help to defend the region's national forests against the perils of future climate change.

For the latest information on the Northwest Forest Plan amendment, check the Forest Service's website at https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r6/landmanagement/planning/?Cid=fsbdev2_026990.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Coming to Agreement on the Columbia River Treaty with Canada

by Raelene Gold, Member of the Columbia River Treaty NGO Caucus

The Columbia River is of utmost importance to the Pacific northwest, contributing 40% of US hydropower, irrigation for agriculture, transportation for commercial cargo, and a highway for migrating salmon. There was an extensive process that led to the 2013 Regional Recommendation. It included adding a third treaty goal of ecosystem health to help salmon survival. The other two goals are maximum hydropower production and flood risk management to prevent flooding in southern British Columbia and the lower Columbia.

In the current modernization of the CRT, Canada and the US announced an Agreement in Principle (AIP) on July 11. It included flexibility for Canada, a reduction in the Canadian entitlement that the US pays Canada, and a new flood risk management regime. It also included a new Tribal and Indigenous advisory body. But it excluded the third treaty goal of ecosystem health to help salmon. The Columbia River Treaty NGO caucus is composed of environmental, faith, and civic groups. They wrote a letter to the State Department and northwest Senators expressing disappointment in the AIP's exclusion of the third treaty goal, and listed five actions that the State Department and northwest Senators could take to improve the AIP. Fifty-seven organizations signed onto the letter.

Another major concern has been how little transparency or public involvement the US State Department has offered. In contrast British Columbia meets with and discusses treaty progress with BC environmental groups regularly. In August of 2023 the State Department did hold a "listening session." Though 80% of those testifying advocated for including a third treaty goal of ecosystem health to help salmon, this third goal was excluded from the recent AIP.

MEMBER CLUBS AND ORGANIZATION NEWS

Compiled by Raelene Gold

The Federation has a widely diverse group of member clubs and organizations. The 1932 founding members and early joiners were focused on getting outside into western landscapes and mountains climbing and hiking. They also had a strong interest in conservation and saw the Federation as a vehicle to address conservation legislation. Since the 1970s with the new environmental movement, new members, called environmental organizations rather than clubs, have tended to prioritize conservation of certain states or areas.

Please send your club or organization's news by April 30th, 2025 to be included in the Spring/Summer 2025 Outdoors West to the Editor at raelene@seanet.com. Also please remember to put FWOC on your group's newsletter mailing list and mail to FWOC c/o Raelene Gold, 10519 East Riverside Drive, Apt. 220, Bothell, WA 98011.

CALIFORNIA

The California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) has over 400 members and addresses threats and state legislation regarding current California State Parks. They also announced the opening of the new Dos Rios State Park. The 1600 acre Dos Rio Park is near Modesto in the San Joaquin Valley where the Tuolumne and San Joaquin Rivers come together. It is the largest public-private flood plain restoration project in California. It is the first new state park in 10 years. CSPRA also celebrated its annual Rendezvous and 60th Anniversary in the North Coast Redwoods. A highlight was a trip to Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, a site of California's remaining old-growth Redwoods.



The California Alpine Club offers hiking, camping and raft trips into the Sierra Nevadas. Mt. Tamalpais is also a popular hiking trip. They celebrated History Day and began to catalog photographs from their myriad of photographs from the 1920s on. Fire insurance for their two lodges, Alpine and Echo, is now too costly, so they are going without insurance, but taking precautions to reduce fires. On an August campout to Chickenfoot Lake, hikers were able to enjoy the spectacular hike as a mule caravan carried their gear.

MEMBER CLUBS AND ORGANIZATION NEWS

Compiled by Raelene Gold



Contra Costa Hills Club is located in the San Francisco Bay area and offers an active hiking schedule mainly using public transportation. Club Conservation Chair Beryl Vonderheid reported on the long struggle between a vineyard conversion and 14,000 mature oak trees that would be destroyed for the vineyard in Napa County wine country. Fortunately, the Land Trust of Napa County purchased the 2,300 acres. The riparian, oak, scrubland, and grassland habitat will be permanently protected as a nature preserve with public hiking trails.

MONTANA

Wilderness Watch is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act which protects federal wilderness and creates a formal mechanism for designating wilderness lands and waters of the National Wilderness Preservation system. A current focus for the organization is the National Park Service which identifies and recommends lands that qualify for wilderness designation for Congress, which designates wilderness. Wilderness Watch is concerned about the NPS's seriousness about Wilderness and the problems with its management of wilderness. Another focus are the threats coming from recreation groups who are trying to weaken the Wilderness Act to carve out exceptions for their own recreational activities, especially the rock climbers and mountain bikers.

OREGON

Mazamas is an Oregon-based organization that offers mountain climbing and hiking, education and conservation. They have two facilities, the Mazama Mountaineering Center in Portland and the Mazama Lodge in Government Camp. The current focus of their bulletin is rock climbing.



Oregon Wild, with others, has worked to ensure stronger protection for mature and old growth trees from the threat of logging on federal lands. In July the Forest Service published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Nationwide Old-Growth Amendment. The DEIS fails to provide strong enough protections for

old-growth trees, and does nothing to ensure safeguards for mature forests. Oregon Wild has worked hard to garner comments to ensure stronger safeguards.

WASHINGTON

Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Polly Dyer Broadband is focused on the removal of the four Lower Snake River dams erected in the 1950s. They are in the South central part of Washington State near where the Snake River joins the Columbia River. The dams and their reservoirs with warm water have caused the loss of migrating salmon. However, the dams allow for barging of wheat to the port for ocean transport, create hydropower, allow for tourist river trips, and more. Replacement for these benefits is an issue delaying any movement on breaching of the dams. The current updating of the 1994 Pacific Northwest Forest plan was the topic of a presentation by Mike Anderson, Senior Policy Advisor at the Wilderness Society and member of the updating advisory committee. The 1994 Northwest Forest Plan covered the national old growth forests of Washington, Oregon, and northern California. It preserved old growth trees and drastically reduced the timber being cut. Mike noted that climate change and wildfires are new issues to be addressed. Also the inclusion of tribal nations, that had been excluded in the 1994 NWFP, and the need for tribal and cultural burning. The new proposal will be released August 30th and there will be a 90 day public comment period.



The North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC)

The organization led a successful effort to ensure that there were National Park Rangers assigned to Stehikin, a popular visitor center at the north of Lake Chelan and the entry point into the North Cascade National Park and Wilderness. One thousand people, along with FWOC, signed NCCC's petition urging the Park Service to reverse this decision, and two Rangers were assigned. NCCC declared victory. Unfortunately this summer the Pioneer Fire on the Northwest slope of Lake Chelan and its smoke, has deterred tourists from the area and approached Stehikin. Wildfires have raged last summer in much of eastern Washington State.

A LOOK BACK

Forgotten Issues Remembered by the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

by Michael McCloskey, FWOC Conservation Policy Advisor

Since 1945: Among the many issues in our records, some are not remembered by most of our members.

- **1945, Res. 2:** the FWOC opposed putting radar and relay towers on peaks such as Mt. Hood, Mt. Adams, Mt. Rainier, and Mt. Shasta. *[not done]*
- **1948, Res. 5:** opposed the proposed Glacier View Dam on Montana's Flathead River, which would have invaded Glacier National Park, destroying wilderness. *[not done]*
- **1948, Res. 11:** opposed building dams that would have damaged Lake Solitude in Wyoming's Cloud Peak Primitive Area. *[there are no substantial dams in the present wilderness]*
- **1950, Res. 9:** opposed drilling for oil in the Condor Refuge in California's Los Padres National Forest since condor numbers were then so low. *[Now there are 17 wells in the Sespe Condor Refuge; oil didn't begin to be drilled there until 1978.]*
- **1953, Res. 3:** called for the establishment of a large wildlife reserve in Northeast Alaska owing to its ecological importance. *[Most have forgotten that this call was made six years before Interior Secretary Fred Seaton reserved it. Done.]*
- **1954, Res. 3:** opposed building a tramway in Mt. Rainier National Park. *[not built]*
- **1956, Res. 3:** opposed proposed dams on Idaho's Clearwater River at Bruce's Eddy and Penny Cliffs; studies had not been done on their impact on salmon runs. *[dams built in 1973]*
- **1956, Res. 8:** opposed proposed Beaver Marsh dam on Oregon's upper McKenzie River, which would have destroyed major waterfalls. *[modified to do less damage]*
- **1956, Res. 9:** opposed building the proposed "Shrine of the Ages" in the Grand Canyon National Park at the edge of the canyon its large size would have detracted from the view. *[not built]*
- **1957, Res. 5:** opposed making the Petrified Forest in Arizona a national park because of its lack of variety (unexpected stance). *[it was made a national park]*
- **1957, Res. 11:** favored putting the Gold Lake Bog in Oregon in the Waldo Lake Limited Area because it featured four types of carnivorous plants. *[made a Research Natural Area instead]*
- **1959, Res. 18:** urged establishment of a national park unit in Utah's Crystal Ball Cave near Gandy because of its unusual type of crystals. *[not done; now managed by the BLM]*
- **1960, Res. 4:** opposed taking Robinson Basin from California's High Sierra Primitive Area. *[not done]*
- **1961, Res. 26:** opposed construction of billboards along interstate and state highways (not our usual type of issue). *[They were ruled out along interstate highways.]*
- **1962, Res. 6:** urged the Secretary of Agriculture to reconsider the Forest Service's action in shrinking the size of the Selway-Bitterroot Primitive Area along the Idaho-Montana border by 22%. *[he did not reconsider their action]*
- **1963, Res. 13:** urged establishment of a national park on Hawaii's island of Kauai, including Waimea Canyon and Alakai Swamp. *[not done]*
- **1966, Res. 29:** urged incorporation of the Burnt Lodge Roadless Area within the wilderness of the Charles Russell Wildlife Refuge in Montana. *[done]*
- **1971, Res. 22:** opposed construction of the Lower Teton dam near Rexburg, Idaho, which would have destroyed 17 miles of prime trout stream. *[built, but when built it collapsed, causing havoc]*

All of these causes have been enrolled in the records of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. Over the years, its leaders have been far-sighted and have embraced our values. We still remember the ground over which we fought for these causes.

RESOLUTIONS

2024 Resolutions Passed at September 21 Annual Meeting

- 2024-1 Logging Should Stop Among California's Giant Sequoia
- 2024-2 Protect Drainages in Southern Oregon from Strip Mining
- 2024-3 Stop Logging in Federal Forests until an EIS is Prepared
- 2024-4 Backing FWS Plan to Cull Numbers of Barred Owls in Old Growth Forests to Aid Recovery of the Northern Spotted Owl
- 2024-5 Stop Using Salt as a Deicer on Roads in Snowy Areas and Use Alternatives Instead
- 2024-6 Opposing Projects to Remove Pinyon Pines and Junipers from BLM Lands
- 2024-7 California Shasta Dam Should Not be Raised
- 2024-8 Supporting Efforts to Reintroduce Sea Otters Along Oregon's Coast
- 2024-9 Protecting Eelgrass in Bays and Estuaries Along the Oregon Coast
- 2024-10 Opposition to Expanding a Long Natural Gas Pipeline through Northwestern States
- 2024-11 Opposing the Rogue Gold and Poor Windy Timber Sales in Old Growth Forests Near Gold Hill and Grants Pass, Oregon
- 2024-12 Opposing Military Training Flights Over Wilderness Areas in the North Cascades
- 2024-13 Using President Biden to Declare Colorado's Dolores Canyon as a National Monument
- 2024-14 Opposition to Mining near Montana's Blue-Joint Wilderness Study Area
- 2024-15 Mission Mountains Wilderness in Western Montana Should Under the Wilderness Act
- 2024-16 Maintain BLM's Control over Grazing

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

FWOC member clubs and organizations and individual members in good standing may submit resolutions representing regional, state and national environmental concerns. The format is below. Resolutions will be taken up at the annual meeting. Please send proposed Resolution before the Annual Meeting to J. Michael McCloskey, FWOC Conservation policy Advisor, at jmmccloskey@aol.com.

FWOC 2025 RESOLUTION FORM

Submitted by: _____

(Member organization or Individual member only)

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Website: _____

Contact person: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Resolution Title or Topic: _____

Background of Issue (explain the issue, its history, current status...):

Proposed Resolution (use an action verb, such as: FWOC supports, opposes, etc...):

Suggested Actions (who to write, where to testify etc...):



FEDERATION OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS

c/o Raelene Gold
10519 East Riverside Drive, Apt. 220
Bothell, WA 98011

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

National Election for President of the US
and for State offices

Saturday, December 14, 2024, 10 am–noon

Tentative date for FWOC
next quarterly meeting

Friday, January 31, 2025 Deadline for

FWOC Conservation grant applications

*Autumn along
the Naches River*

