**Great Old Broads Cascade Volcanoes Broadband MEETING May 24, 2023**

Mc Mennamin’s Kennedy School Community Room

**Present:** Trish, Bondi, Rosanne, Barb M, Barb F, Kathleen, Marie(welcome), Darlene, Jane Wilcox, Lorena, Nancy, Ellen, Joanna, Micky, LInda F, Linda B., Doran, Laurie, Carolyn M, and guest speaker Ally Fisher from Oregon Wild.

**Land acknowledgment**: Barb led us in a land acknowledgment.

**Introductions:** Laurie (Leader) had us introduce ourselves and what animal we’d be.

**Topic: “Oregon’s Keystone and Imperiled Species”. Guest speaker** Ally Fisher is DEIJ advocate/specialist for Oregon Wild. She started as an intern. Ally described the mission of Oregon Wild; then asked us to consider:

How can we protect imperiled species? She has an action table.

Why care?

Endangered species act-has its 50th anniversary this year-a strong law to protect imperiled species and habitat. Good news: Waterfowl are increasing. Threatened and endangered birds are actually increasing. Bad news: Every year some groups try to eat away at the ESA. One/week….. We need to tell legislators to preserve ESA.

How to engage? Your voice matters.

Why is biodiversity important? Primary reason is prevent habitat loss, mitigate climate change. Passenger pigeon now extinct. Very sad. Culture shift.

Recently a rider on federal level, stripped away protection for the prairie chicken and the right whale, part of genus baleen whales (they get caught in fishing nets).

Keystone species shape entire eco systems. Cultural keystone species.

Wolves are keystone species and native to Oregon. They were extricated in 1947. In 2015 USDA inventoried cattle/wolf incidents. Only .009 of cattle injuries/deaths were due to wolves. Eastern Oregon wolves are not protected by the ESA but are protected West of the Cascades. Current total of 186 wolves in Oregon. Oregon Wild is involved in litigation.

California condors: They really are native to Oregon but found from Mexico to Canada. Up to 10 ft wingspan. Condors are scavengers and recycle nutrients. In 1982 there were only 22 in the entire world, Now there are 500 condors, due to hard advocacy work. They are susceptible to lead which is why they can’t be released in Oregon. Yurok tribe is very tied into this work. For the first time, they released condors in their ancestral land near Oregon/Calif border on California side. Lead issue: Oregon Wild doing lots of education. In Oregon, there is no ban on lead bullets.

Sea otters: play important role in environment. Urchins are grazers eating kelp. We need kelp/sea otter duo to protect habitat. 300.000 sea otters estimated but the fur trade made a big negative impact. Since 1906, have been big introduction efforts. In 1969-1972, another reintroduction. Feasibility study, meeting with coastal residents-get input from supportive people,

Funding is needed. Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife spends only 2% of its budget on wildlife species protection, even though the non hunted or fished make of 88% of species in the state. Recently ODFW introduced **habitat recovery division.**

Recovering American wildlife act. Oregon would get $25 million-towards threatened and endangered species. Some $ to Native American tribes. Advocacy important; first with Ron Widen and then Merkley to strengthen the ESA (endangered species act). Petition available on website (Oregon Wild). ESA anniversary is Dec 28. Now is time to make comments for healthy forests.

Update from MIcky-Regarding the sage grouse; legislators created a rider saying we can’t spend funds on saving the sage grouse, due to ranchers’ opposition.

**ADVOCACY:**

Writing Comments: Darlene is working on comments for USFS (healthy forests) and BLM (rule- making) from CVBB (our Broadband) and encouraged Individual comments-Due by June 20, 2023

Lower Snake River Dams (LSRD) Micky announced that 5/25 is big listening session 10-1 for LSRD. Federal mediation center sponsoring. Taking public opinion about legal case. Comments can be submitted at https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/05/04/2023-09525/columbia-river-salmon-and-other-native-fish-request-for-information#open-comment. President’s council on environmental quality wants comments by July 3, 2023.\_. Both Laurie and Micky submitted oral comments during the 5/25 Listening Session.

Tribal Environmental Summit-Includes two Broads Debra Ellers and Felice Kelly (from our BB) on save the salmon 9-1 at Billy Frank Jr. Conference Center at Eco Trust in downtown Portland. Nez Perce tribal leader is also presenting.

Forest BRAT committee-working on comments for BLM forest component. In Oregon a couple million acres is on BLM land. Due June 20th.

No place for a mine. Parterns met with Congresswoman Marie G Perez, district 3-WA. She is still researching the campaign-not committed to mineral withdrawal. Broads will be spotlighted in the Green River Alliance website.

Trust Land Transfer: Good news: Gov Inslee signed Trust Land Transfer bill which allows for land to be transferred into public use in place of a parcel up for harvest.. Laurie contacted Center for Responsible Forestry to determine possible nominations for possible transfer of Trust Land. Hantwick was one of 3 in the state in which Clark County helped to purchase a comparable piece of land to transfer in place of the parcel along the Hantwick trail in Clark County.

Westport Golf Course, comment period extended to June 13. See google advocacy group for more details on the background/context. Laurie happy to share hers.

Red Rock Wilderness bill-Laurie part of group that met with Perez staffer. 8.4 million acres in Utah need protection. Legislator Dick Durban has a number of co-sponsors, including Senators Murray, Cantwell, Wyden, and Merkley.

Oregon Eastside Screen -Micky shared good news about the Northwest Forest Rule to cover east of Cascades forests-no cutting trees over 21”. Bill disappeared at the end of Trump admin. Great Old Broads sued along with other groups. The judge was favorable to our side.

Oregon State Forest Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Darlene shared HCP for protecting endangered species- Save State Forest. June 7 is the board meeting (you can request to be on agenda). HDT show benefits to all-not just timber industry. Annual operations plan. Focus on harvesting trees in protected areas-why? Petition for wildfire emergency act-Wyden and Merkley. Forest resiliency. Focus on community-not just about destroying biodiversity, but protecting homes. Distributed petition for Oregon residents to sign.

Portland Clean Energy Fund-Darlene-commented on first draft as individual but may approach Great Old Broads for chapter sign on. The fund addresses the needs of the most vulnerable to help improve energy efficiency and air quality. $40 million for urban forestry funding and planting and maintaining trees for 5 years.

Wild Olympics Bill-In April 2023 was reintroduced by Kilmer and Murray. Total endorsements total over 800. If passed it would permanently protect salmon and clean water. Fits into Biden’s 30x30 plan.

Natural Climate Solution Washington State-Signed by Inslee-2000 acres of structurally complex forests protected from harvest to boost carbon sequestration and clean water.

**EDUCATION**:

Wolf pack in Washington-Male and female wolves are traveling together. Laurie circulated article re: loosening of wolf protections in WA state. Discussed value of virtual fencing-as learned at Dry Falls Broadwalk on trip to ranch using virtual fencing which has many cost and climate benefits.

Movies at Kiggens Theatre in Vancouver-

June 7-*Atomic bamboozle* -documentary regarding efforts to kill local/regional nuclear power plants. Filmmaker and Atomic Days Author Joshua Frank will be participating

June 15*-Understory* film festival. Laurie has more info.

Book signing June 22-Cracked by Steve Hawley-at Patagonia store-deals with outmoded dams internationally.

Book group on June 30 5:30 PM at Linda B’s home-will discuss Atomic Days: the untold story of the most toxic place in America by Joshua Frank. Some copies available within our group, or try Clark County Public Libraries. Please rsvp by June 17 for planning.

Grazing webinar Laurie-Oregon wild staff Chandra-will be recorded-on BLM and forest service comments

Movie *Elemental* will be at Hollywood Theatre May 26-June 1. Concerns wildfire issues-emphasizes protecting structures rather than tree thinning. Well done.

**STEWARDSHIP:**

Solitude monitoring over 2 seasons. June-Sept. 5 weekdays and 5 weekends in 10 zones. Simpler than previous years: checking for hikers, make contact, and permit along with Monitoring (measuring)Social trails. Training is 9-1 June 10. Trout lake. Laurie will do zoom training to those who can’t attend. Final funding recommendations are expected June 1, 2023 for the 2023-2024 funding seasons.

**FUN:**

Annual CVBB Campout-to be held again at Morehead Park Aug 10-14. Roseanne reported on behalf of committee. Hot showers, large kitchen and simple cabins. Activities include Kayaking at Loomis Lake or water adjacent to campsite. hiking and biking-info on bike rentals to be provided. Again, there will be a concert Saturday night at Cape Disappointment. Discovery pass is required for WA state parks. Service project will be beach clean-up in Ilwaco or nearby. Meals- dinners provided and prepared by ourselves. Lunches and breakfast on our own. Until August 1 cost is $60. Afterwards price goes up to $75. No refunds. Look for the Registration to come out by June 7.

Next national Great Old Broads Broadwalk- Dates Oct 8-12 in Nevada-$400. Great caterer. Weather should be ok. Loop campsites. BIden just designated as new national monument. We want to expand national monument. Indigenous speakers scheduled.

Minutes submitted by Linda Buckley

5/31/2023