Cascade Volcanoes Meeting 9/21/21

Our first in person meeting in a long time was held in an inner courtyard at the Kennedy School. About 25 Broads were greeted by a beautiful purple Get Into the Wild banner hanging behind the guest speakers’ table and several table and chair arrangements for the rest of us. Laurie began the meeting with a round of introductions, revealing four Broads attending for the first time. Then Linda Buckley, on behalf of the Justice and Equity Committee, gave a gracious introduction of the two guest speakers, Diana Perez and Ed Rosales, both associated with LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens). Both speakers were extremely articulate and thoughtful, much more than my attempt to summarize reveals.

Diana Perez (interim chair of SW WA Equity Coalition, former USFS biologist, candidate for Vancouver City Council) gave a brief outline of her career and increasing involvement in working toward transformational systemic and policy change. She spoke of the need for allies wanting to collaborate with Latinx communities to include language and cultural “brokers” who look like and can speak with that community. She urged the centralization of DEI conversations, spoke about LULAC’s education efforts and their teach-in packages that can be purchased for online viewing.

Ed Rosales presented a fascinating historical overview of both local and national struggles and contributions of both LULAC and the Latinx community in general (advocating for an early education program that was expanded to become Head Start; filing suit to desegregate public schools prior to Brown vs Board of Education) as well as speaking about current efforts to develop leaders through the LULAC Youth Program. He urged allies to find connections through shared passions. Diana also suggested that Broads include in our values more indigenous ways of connecting with the land.

In the “business” section of the meeting:

**Advocacy**

**Pumice Plain**.

Western Environmental Law Center is providing the legal representation for Broads and others suing to stop construction of the road. There will be a decision after 12/3/21.

**Hantwick Trail** (WA) involves a proposed property transfer to stop logging next to the trail. There will be a comment period soon; Laurie will keep us posted.

Darlene gave several quick updates:

She is investigating the upcoming **Eena Festival** (beaver-related) upcoming 9/25 and passed around an info sheet related to that.

**Wild Olympics Campaign** to expand the wilderness area related to the park. A bill including expanded wilderness has passed in the House. Please contact Wyden and Merkley to urge their support in the Senate.

**Western OR Forest Mgt Plan Goals** – This is being drafted by the Dept. and Board of Forestry to accompany the Habitat and Conservation Plan drafted earlier. This plan needs to include provisions for carbon storage through forest protection. The Dept of Forestry Climate/Carbon Plan draft needs to focus more on preserving standing trees and long rotation.

Darlene’s next letter will be to Governor Brown urging her to support the 30x30 plan. Feel free to join her by writing your own letter.

**Chehalis**

Laurie gave two updates:

The most recent plan regarding addressing flood issues now splits $70 million evenly between dam construction and local flood control efforts.

Tree planting survival statistics: 75% survival for big leaf maple, 63% for doug firs, 39% for red alder. They are now interested in finding volunteers to help mark invasive species.

**Lower Snake River Dams** – Laurie has yard signs for WA people. Contact her if you want one.

**Stewardship**

**Solitude Monitoring**

Kathleen gave a quick update. All sessions are either completed or scheduled, so we are on track to finish our collaboration with USFS on this project. 9 Broads hiked over 100 miles to provide solitude data for designated trails. Least solitude was found in the Multnomah Basin area (20.6 people encountered per session) with Wahtum Lake following with 17.75. Cedar Swamp and Bear Lake are the only remaining areas needing completing.

**Columbia Land Trust**

Barb and Sarah are investigating a project along the Clickitat River involving clearing brush and making burn piles (possibly, with training, burning the piles). Trips would be scheduled on Wednesdays, Thursdays and/or Saturdays throughout the winter. Contact Barbara Fox-Kilgore if interested.

**Field Checking**

Laurie is working with the Center for Responsible Forestry to schedule a training so people can work in the field to document heritage trees in timber sale areas to provide that info to Dept of Natural Resources.

**Education**

**Book Group**

Linda Buckley will lead a book group discussing Isabel Wilkerson’s “Caste” – meeting 2-3 Monday evenings beginning in late October, either outside or on Zoom. She passed around a sign-up sheet; contact her if interested.

**Equity and Justice**

Linda invited interested people to join the committee as they explore the intersectionality of racial and environmental justice as well as other topics.

**2021 National Wilderness Workshop** (Nov. 15-19) is virtual this year, offering lots of opportunities for education and participation, which is probably free. See their website.

**Fun**- **Hikes**

Barb will be leading a Pumice Plain hike the week of 10/4-8, whichever is the best weather day. The hike will start from Johnson Ridge and will be either 10 (out and back) or 13 (loop) miles with 1800’ elevation gain. She’ll notify the hiking group with specific date.

**Website** – A question was raised about whether we should have one. **Anyone with skills to set up and maintain one, please contact Laurie. It would be great to make this happen.**

Your scribe, Kathleen Worley