Cascade Volcanoes Chapter Meeting Nov. 16, 2021

There were more than 20 of us in attendance, including 5 women attending their first meeting and a new Broadband leader from Olympia, Taylor Goforth, visiting to “see how it’s done.”

**Advocacy:**

Micky updated us on the Elliot State Forest. A number of Zoom meetings are planned to allow for comment. Info sheets were available at the meeting for anyone interested in participating.

There will be a rally on Saturday, 11/20 at noon at Waterfront Park in Vancouver supporting the removal of the Lower Snake River Dams. That date marks the 30th anniversary of salmon being placed on the endangered species list. At 5 p.m. that day Illuminations will be lighting buildings in Downtown Portland to commemorate the event as well. See Vigil for Endangered Salmon for more information. https://actionnetwork.org/events/vigil-for-endangered-salmon-2

Comment period ends Friday 11/19 for the NW Power and Conservation Council proposed plan Please send comments requesting that the council create a model for power usage WITH DAMS REMOVED. Letters to OR and WA governors asking them to request this will also be useful. An info sheet was passed out with sample letters.

Darlene had several forest-related reports. She has filed comments related to Santiam State Forest Fern Ridge logging proposal challenging the proposal to log 1-1/2 tree lengths along all roads rather than only in heavily used recreation areas.

The OR Board of Forestry passed the Climate Change Carbon Plan and there has been a Private Forestry Accord that agrees to provide WA-level protections (e.g. stream buffers) in OR forests. These regulations will go to the legislature for legal modifications to OR Forest Practices Act.

OR DEQ has lost federal funds because state regulations do not meet federal clean water standards. There is a new agreement, but it is short on specifics. Broads are invited to urge the DEQ to examine clean water standards in OR watersheds. In addition, in relation to OR Wildfire Bill, please push for focusing efforts on forest “treatment” near vulnerable communities, not arbitrary logging in various parts of the forest.

Laurie updated us on the current litigation related to the Pumice Plain, where the proposed road would lead to the loss of 25 crucial research stations. The judge should rule after 1/2022.

Also near Mt St Helens is the proposal for a copper mine in the Green River Valley. Cascade Forest Conservancy is holding a fundraising/awareness-raising event at Oakshire Beer Hall 11/17 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Members of the Chehalis Dam Steering Committee are working with scientists on non-dam alternatives and pushing for wildlife corridors along major highways as well as mitigation for pollution run-off from those highways. They are also surveying landowners regarding preferences to dam or non-dam alternatives.

**Education**

Sign-up sheets were passed around for two book groups:

Laurie will lead an in-person group discussing “Finding the Mother Tree” at her home 1/5 and 1/19 at 7 p.m. Contact her if interested.

Emma Dugan will lead a Zoom group discussing “Nice Racism.” Emails about both groups were sent to the books and movies subgroup with further info and contact information. Emma’s email is  beingpartofthechange@protonmail.com

Barb reported on the success of the book group led by Linda Buckley discussing “Caste.” She is also serving on the national committee for Justice and Equity about efforts to educate members about inclusivity practices, allyship and partnerships. There is discussion about changing the symbol of the Broads kokopelli figure so as not to offend Hopi tribal members. *Suggestions for new graphics are welcome.*

Laurie reminded us that the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance is online and free this year. Info at <https://www.wildernessalliance.org/2021_nww>

**Stewardship**

Laurie notes that solitude monitoring is completed for the season. Participants received a round of applause and one, Jean Brodahl, received an honorary metallic flagon. Participants have completed 24 four-hour sessions in the Mark O Hatfield Wilderness and covered over 100 miles of trails.

**Fun**

Micky filled us in on the difficulty of planning Broadwalks given the uncertainty of the Covid situation. She would like to do one at Camp Westwind but people would need to stay in dorms, which isn’t ideal. There is also discussion of a beaver restoration project on the Klammath in partnership with the Nez Perce tribe.

Plans for the chapter campout are also uncertain. Micky could use planning assistance. Email her if interested in helping with planning.

Barb is leading a hike on the Klickitat River Trail 11/17. Emails were sent to the hiking group. She hopes to lead more hikes and/or snowshoes this winter.

The holiday gathering will be at Laurie Kerr’s home 12/14 from 12-3 p.m. It is pot luck, BYOB, and bring 1 dozen cookies for a cookie exchange as well as a wrapped book related to the great outdoors. An info handout with address was available. If you need info, contact Laurie at lauriekerr@pacifier.com. Hope to see you there!

The Bad ASS Broad Award was given to the AMAZING Darlene Chirman, who has participated in numerous stewardship projects and has written incredible thoughtful and thorough comments on so many issues. Congratulations, Darlene! Keep it up!

Some solitude monitors picked up T-shirts; Laurie has additional ones for sale for $15.

Happy Holidays!

Next Chapter meeting scheduled for January 18 5:30 at Kennedy School.

Holiday Party December 14 Laurie’s house.

Submitted by Kathleen Worley