Minutes of Cascade Volcanoes Chapter Meeting 6/15/2021

SECOND IN-PERSON MEETING WITH A FOREST VIEW FROM THE PORCH

Warm thanks to Linda Buckley for inviting us to her back porch and providing chili (Laurie and Linda) as well as all the potluck equipment. Salads and cornbread were abundant.

JARED KENNEDY, Greater Hells Canyon Council (GHCC) [hellscanyon.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Clauri%5CDownloads%5Chellscanyon.org).

The meeting began with a presentation by Jared Kennedy. Jared is Development Director for the GHCC and is leading the effort to make the 530-mile Blue Mountain Trail a reality. They hope to educate Oregonians about the Blue Mountains and surrounding regions at a time when the trails are fading away due to disuse and lack of maintenance and the areas are impacted by timber harvesting. They also aim to disperse hikers more widely through the region to reduce pressure on the Eagle Cap wilderness. Beginning in the 1960s, a group of outdoor enthusiasts set out to create a trail network connecting regions of northeast Oregon. The original group has passed their vision on to the GHCC to continue the work.

The proposed 530-mile trail incorporates existing trails and forest roads, in many cases requiring bushwhacking between parts of the trail, and using maps to navigate. GHCC is presently remapping the trail and attempting to attract volunteers to assist with sections of the trail and also to build public advocacy for protecting the region. If you plan to hike a section of the trail, contact Jared at jared@hellscanyon.org for maps and information, and, if interested, sign up to receive a monthly newsletter and a trails list at hellscanyon.org. Jared said that he and Mallary Kennedy have joined the Cascade-Volcano Broads. Welcome new Bro and Broad!

Advocacy

Or. Darlene reported that the Wildfire Resilience Bill is now in the Ways & Means committee and noted that advocates still believe that the bill contains too much on forest thinning and other interventions that affect forest health.

Chehalis - $70 million is proposed for the Chehalis River Flood Projects in the next biennium draft budget and this figure does not allow for a non-dam version of the project. In the current budget, the appropriation is $3 million for protecting homes and businesses, and $40 million to build the flood control dam. Only $33 million is proposed for the aquatic species restoration plan. State government has not made an adequate effort to work with the tribes or respond to widespread calls for a non-dam plan. For a more thorough discussion, see our own Laurie Kerr’s letter to the editor of the Chronicle [https://www.chronline.com/stories/letter-to-the-editor-concerns-about-funding-for-flood-control-dam-on-chehalis-river,267271](https://www.chronline.com/stories/letter-to-the-editor-concerns-about-funding-for-flood-control-dam-on-chehalis-river%2C267271).

Zimmerly Mine – The gravel mine near (north of) Steigerwald Wildlife Area and Washougal continues to operate their mine illegally despite public advocacy to stop them.

Reimbursements

Lower Snake River Dams - Sadly the WA Congressional delegation and Gov. Inslee have flatly rejected the proposal put forward by Mike Simpson (ID) and Earl Blumenauer (OR) to breach the dams. Nevertheless, the advocacy by the Broads and so many other environmental groups will continue, including a 6/30 event in Seattle to celebrate Orcas and protest the Washington politicians who are ignoring the plight of the orca and salmon. More info soon.

Salmon – On a related front, NOAA fisheries proposes Amendment 21 to the Pacific Coast Fishery Management Plan aimed to limit the salmon fishing impact on the food supply for the resident Orca population. Members are encouraged to comment on Amendment 21 by the 8/2/2021 deadline. The link is <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/06/02/2021-11540/fisheries-off-west-coast-states-west-coast-salmon-fisheries-amendment-21-to-the-pacific-coast-salmon>

OR - Elliot State Forest—Darlene reported that the draft document for the forest’s habitat conservation plan is available on the state website. (Available and open for comments until Monday, June 21.) She noted that there are not adequate protections for Northern Spotted Owls, Marbled Murrelets, and Salmon in the document and urged members to submit comments regarding the plan to elliottproject.dsl@oregon.gov before the June 21 deadline.

Education

JEDI, now Justice & Equity – Linda and her cohorts are continuing to meet and have adopted the new name of “Justice & Equity” to harmonize with the national broads. This past month Barb Fox-Kilgore made a presentation on “allyship” to a national broadband group which is partnering with other BIPOC.

Book Groups

Justice & Equity is considering launching two book groups on subjects related to equity and is looking at books that catch the intersectionality of race and being out in nature. Barb recommended a podcast “The Red Table” whose September speaker is a Latina leader who involves kids in her projects. If you have ideas for particular books, email Linda or Barb.

Stewardship

Solitude Monitoring – The season is now open. Laurie has posedt excel spreadsheets, one per area, so people can sign up. Laurie will be point person for WA Spot device and Felice will be OR Spot person. Make sure you provide advance notice to “your” spot person and arrange for pick-up and return in advance of planned trips. Carpooling is recommended for vaccinated monitors, if reimbursement is requested.

This project needs volunteers for Multnomah Falls as well as Wahtum Lake, a two-day overnight trip. Cedar Swamp is still questionable due to the very poor road conditions.

Solitude Monitors must be fully vaccinated and be current dues paying members of Broads. Volunteers will carpool to trailhead and submit receipts for meals, camping, and RT mileage to Laurie. Reimbursement for meals and mileage is due to Laurie the 14th of each month. Volunteers will also be awarded a $25 swag item from the Broads merchandise on the website. Please sign up on the schedule which will be posted on the stewardship google group before going out and be sure to have a SPOT device and maps before you go. Sign up on the google sheet: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WajBMjZqcCqailsEDqeeLTT7fOJIDgUdYHd3G0HaEMM/edit#gid=0

Field Checking – The Chehalis Field Checking event on 6/23 is on. Meet at Seminary Hill Natural Area at 10 to join the Girl Scouts in Tree measuring/checking. See Laurie for details.

Washington Trails Association (WTA) Half-Day Women’s Work Party at Whipple Creek at 9am – 1pm on 7/10/21. This event has 8 slots open for Broads. It is near the Clark County Event Center. Participants need boots, gloves, and lunch. Sign up on this link:     <https://www.wta.org/volunteer/schedule/workparty/a2m2K00000AVesP/register?g=a3D2K000003BHVp>

Fun

Hikes – Two hikes in one week!

Ape Canyon Trail – Mt. St. Helens, Tuesday 6/22. Meet at Woodland Park n’ Ride/Information Center at 8:30 with the goal of being on the road at 8:45 for the drive to Cougar. (RSVP to Barb Fox-Kilgore to plan carpooling and group size and see detailed information in her recent email.) Bring 2-3 liters of water as it’s expected to be hot.

Harry’s Ridge, Johnston’s Ridge Observatory – Mt. St. Helens, Friday 6/25. Meet at Woodland Park n’ Ride/Information Center at 8:30 sharp. (RSVP to Barb Fox-Kilgore to plan carpooling and group size and see detailed information in her recent email.)

Kayaking – Kayak at Prescott Lake in the Cresap Bay Recreation Area on 7/6 at 9:30 am. Bring kayak, PDF, gear, appropriate clothing, lunch/snacks, and water. RSVP to Barb Fox-Kilgore and see Barb’s email for detailed information.

Campout is coming at Peterson Prairie August 5-8. If you have not completed the survey, do it today! Cost for the campout is $35 and there will be an additional charge for members who wish to drive alone.

Laurie is in charge of food which includes an option to take part in potluck dinners on Friday and Saturday night.

There will be opportunities for at least five organized hikes of medium length, including Cultus Creek (6.7 miles), Cultus Campground (8 miles) and East Crater Trail. Sharon Frazey, Mt Adams Resource Stewards, will be our speaker on Friday evening. Space is limited! Registration coming out soon.

There will be no July chapter meeting and our next meeting will be at the Campout at Peterson Prairie. We will resume meeting in September at McMenamin’s Kennedy School in Portland (9/21 at 5:30 pm).

Minutes submitted by Jane Wilcox

6/17/21