**Cascade Volcanoes Great Old Broads Broadband Meeting**

**October 23, 2024    McMenamins Kennedy School**

**Present: Laurie, Linda F, Lorena, Linda B, Anne H, Ann K. Micky, Joanna, Darlene, Bondi, Roxie, June, Maureen, Jane H, Ellen, Trish, Kathleen, Barb M.**

**We introduced ourselves, sharing our favorite recent reads-books, periodicals.**

**ADVOCACY:**

**Lower Snake River Dams: The Great Old Broads BRAT group sent a letter to WA-D Senator Maria Cantwell, and postcards were provided.**

**Dabbler Timber Sale Micky spoke to advocate to prevent old growth forest sale. She offered to arrange carpool to Castle Rock for hearing on Nov 21, plus a pre-hearing trip during Nov 12-20. She circulated signup sheet. Email her at:** [**mickyryan@aol.com**](mailto:mickyryan@aol.com)**. If interested. Good news is Friends of Clark County came out in REFLECTOR opposing this timber sale and advocating for alternative ways to fund school districts-other than timber sales.**

**DRAX updates: DRAX is the British company trying to build a biomass wood pellet site in Longview, Washington. DRAX was fined recently for starting to build a new plant without obtaining the proper air certification.**

**DNR-The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting three public meetings in fall 2024 to accept comments from Washingtonians on a draft Outdoor Access and Responsible Recreation (OARR) Strategic Plan.   The comment period is now open with  upcoming meetings: 10/28 in Lacey WA, zoom 10/29 at 5 PM (https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcld--rrDgjGNGFDxDlngxNxYxQrx\_ge6Ry#/registration), 10/30-10 AM-noon (https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYudOyrpz0rGtBWWl006Plhm22bYfs\_1JNQ#/registration). What is discussed here will inform future decisions as they discuss the OAR Plan.**

**NEXT Proposal Columbia River-  Next, a Houston-based company, wants to build a massive refinery and railyard on unstable soil, behind tenuous dikes, near homes, farms, and fish habitat in the middle of the Columbia River Estuary.   Farmers urge rejection of the project.   The refinery would produce, store, and handle millions of gallons of toxic, flammable, spillable fuel next to the river in an unstable flood-prone area.   The toxic runoff would pollute water for crops and ultimately flow into the Columbia River.    Write Gov Kotek with comments to urge the DEQ to deny the permit under the Clean Water Act section 401.**

**For more information:**

**https://www.columbiariverkeeper.org/focus-areas/fighting-fossil-fuels/**

**TRUST Land Transfer (TLT) letter signed on with Washington Wild supporting expansion of TLT program sent to Gov. Inslee.  Cascade Volcanoes was one of 116 other signers to Gov. Inslee to support TLT. The  Dabbler sale could be handled this way, thus protecting legacy forests.**

**Spirit Lake Project: Meeting October 30 at 6:30 PM. The Forest Service is accepting public comments on the Spirit Lake Outflow Safety Improvement Project during the scoping process from September 30 to November 15, 2024.** [**Submit comments or objections and learn more about the project here**](https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/giffordpinchot/landmanagement/?cid=fseprd1004094)**.**

**Northwest Forest Ammendment (Darlene) The DEIS has been delayed. The new release date is Nov 15. Regional GOB advocacy BRAT FOREST group will make comments.**

**National Old Growth Ammendment (Darlene) BRAT group made comments to meet the 9/20 deadline. Over 330,000 comments were gathered advocating the protection of old growth forests.**

**Zenith Oil Terminal: Joanna discussed the Zenith project. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) just announced the public comment period for Zenith’s draft Air Contaminant Discharge Permit (ACDP). This is the last permit Zenith needs to expand its dangerous fuel facility in Northwest Portland. From now until December 16 at 5 p.m., DEQ is accepting public comments about Zenith’s draft air permit.**

**Please sign the petition and add your comments:  https://www.columbiariverkeeper.org/actions/stop-zenith-oil-by-rail/**

**PDX360-has climate positions of various Portland city council candidates.**

**STEWARDSHIP**

**Solitude Monitoring:  Laurie proudly shared our completion of  50 out of 50 monitoring sessions in our grant. She updated us on National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance changes for future grants. NWSA is prioritizing (25%) how we engage with BIPOC stakeholders. Another change is a big reduction in national funding-from $500,000 to $125,000. And no greater than $20,000 in one year grants for this one year cycle. Some ideas for involving partners included LULAC youth group in SW WA (Linda B to contact), Tryon Friends (Gabe Shoeshif (Linda F). Another grant priority is increasing our skill set.  Grant applications are due by Dec 5, 2024. Consensus was to keep doing Solitude Monitoring. Both Mount Hood (Mark Hatfield) and Mt Adams (Trapper Creek) have asked us to do SM again.**

**Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership Tree Planting: Nov 2 at Salmon Creek. Several of us are participating. To register: https://estuarypartnership.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/estuarypartnership/event.jsp?event=1618**

**Trail work with WTA-Bondi is working with Stasia H on a half day trailwork after the New Year. Trailkeepers of Oregon does weekly trailwork at Tryon per Kathleen.**

**Friends of Trees: Ellen announced Saturday Nov 9 from noon-2 will plant trees in residential area of NE Vancouver.  Let Ellen know: ellenmendoza\_lido@yahoo.com         or go to** [**https://friendsoftrees.org/event-calendar/**](https://friendsoftrees.org/event-calendar/) **to sign up.**

**Frog Brigade (Trish): Last month we heard from 2 speakers involved in protecting red legged forest frogs on Harburton drive near Forest Park. Trish contacted the volunteer coordinator Jane Hartline-email** [**Sauviehabitats@gmail.com**](mailto:Sauviehabitats@gmail.com)**. Orientation for new volunteers will be mid/late November. Variables affecting frog travel include temperature and humidity. Large buckets are used to safely carry them across multi-lane roads and railroad tracks. Broads could sign up in twos or threes, then contacted by crew leaders.**

**EDUCATION:**

**WTA conference in Wenatchee:  Laurie and Carolyn M presented on our Solitude Monitoring project.  Laurie will send out the UTUBE video of the presentation when it is provided.   Laurie attended a workshop on the Silver Star Vision Plan, bringing together all the varied partners and their priorities/needs to develop the: *Outdoor Access and Responsible Recreation Strategic Plan*. Steve Jones, president of the Chinook Trail Association will be a speaker for us in the future.**

**E bikes USFS Region 6:  complicated explanation: there are 3 classes of E bikes, based on speed and pedal/throttle assisted. Class 3 can go up to 28 mph. Oregon has 24,000 miles of trails and Washington 9,000. 55% of work is done by volunteers. E bikes are classified as motorized vehicles with signs site specific. Questions asked: are current multi use trails appropriate for E bikes? Do they need separate longer trails? The Deschutes National forest requested permission to convert some areas to E bike use and received lots of comments. Each trail conversion requires an environmental impact study. E bikes offer equity to those unable to ride standard bicycles, trail conversion can reduce conflict and respond to increased technology. Motorized trails are funded by gas tax and non-motorized trails are not.**

**Wilderness and Beyond Conference: from our Broadband Laurie, Micky and Bondi attended. Micky attended Federal Forest Planning and Mining Law, the latter led by a distant relative John Leshy. He discussed the Good Samaritan Law, to protect those taking initiative to do clean up, from being held liable for doing it imperfectly. Bondi attended workshops on Crossings (protecting wildlife across roads) and Grazing issues and Wild and Scenic Film  fest amongst other activities. They were all excellent.**

**Book Groups:**

***Emerald Mile* at Laurie’s-Nov 6th- 2-4 PM full capacity-**

***An Immense World* online October 25 at 4 pm**

**FUN**

**Hike at Fort Vancouver:  Ann K and Rosanne are working on a date.**

**2025 Campout committee: has already started meeting, for best choices next year**

**Celebration: Laurie brought a lovely decorated cake to celebrate our Cascade Volcanoes Broadband being honored at the Wilderness and Beyond Conference as the Broadband of the Year.   The festivities were earned and enjoyed by all!**

**Minutes by Linda Buckley**