

February 9, 2019

Dear Chinook Pass Cabin Owners

On behalf of the Chinook Pass Cabin Owners Association, and its Board of Directors I welcome you all to the most scenic, and robust recreational area in Washington State, Chinook Pass. Our hope is that this letter finds you all in good health and cheer for the New Year and that you are planning all the things you want to do at your summer homes, from repairs to recreation. I would like to take this time to share a bit about the Chinook Pass Cabin Owners Association (CPCOA). In 2018 we completed and filed all the paperwork to become a 501 C-7 non-profit, not a charity.

Our Association goals are:

1. To protect our cabins and the interests of our members as they relate to the use of their cabins
2. Provide relevant educational information regarding the management, upkeep, and safety of our cabins.
3. To work with the Forest Service when and where possible in all matters relating to the management of our cabins.
4. Provide opportunities for members to socialize/recreate via meetings, educational outings (field trips), and work parties.

For more in depth information regarding the CPCOA please visit our web site <http://cpcoa.com> where you will find our Articles of Incorporation, By Laws, and other resources such as a membership application and calendar of events.

In 2019 the CPCOA will be focusing on the Fire Wise program, Forest Watch, and communication. These have been our primary focus for the past two years due to the most serious threat of fires in recent years, the influx of crime in our area, and the need to stay informed. Fire Wise and Forest Watch are programs that are extremely important as they provide a direct and positive impact on you and your cabins.

The Fire Wise program addresses actions you can take to make your cabin and tract more resistant to damage caused by fire. There are three tracts that have been approved as Fire Wise compliant; they are Cliffdell, Sleepy Hollow, and Union Creek. We encourage all tracts to look into becoming a Fire Wise Compliant tract. The Forest Watch program not unlike the acclaimed Neighborhood Watch Program is designed to help you get to know your neighbors and provide better security within the tract. Not only do these programs provide an educational component, they identify specific actions you can take to make your tract and cabin a safer place for you, your family, and friends. We encourage you to visit our web site or contact us for more information.

In regard to communication, we are asking each tract to develop a means to connect with one another within your tract by making a list of email and US mail addresses, and phone numbers. CPCOA member, or not, the sharing of information with each other is a benefit to the entire tract. Collaboration on cabin and tract safety and other matters of mutual concern will hopefully be a byproduct of your efforts to be a Fire Wise and Forest Watch tract. Contact us for help with ideas about how to become a Fire Wise or Forest Watch tract, or on how to organize your tract information.

The CPCOA has a letter template that members are free to use in support of your effort to organize your individual tracts. If you are willing to take on a leadership role for your tract, please let me know by emailing me at cpcoaWA@gmail.com and we will email/send you a copy of that letter and any assistance we can provide.

Whether you are new to the ranks of cabin ownership within a national forest, or a long standing cabin owner, I invite you to look at ways to enhance your experience and gain a greater appreciation for the nuances of owning a “cabin”. A great way to learn about the forest we share is by joining and becoming involved in the CPCOA. Knowing your neighbors; and sharing knowledge about good stewardship, the history, and the treasures in your area is all good. Two ways we try to share knowledge and foster relationships are through our potluck lunch meetings and field trips. At our meetings we share great food and have informative speakers who share relevant information about the cabin program at local, statewide, and national levels. Our field trips are always educational, interesting and fun. Events range from mushroom hunting, visiting old growth timber forests, mining sites, gold panning, and viewing the spawning of Bull trout just to name a few. Another great event held for the first time last year was our cabin tract tour where we visited a few cabins in various tracts. A lot of great ideas on cabin use and design were shared. Due to a large number of requests, another tour is being planned for 2019. Stay tuned!

The CPCOA Board invites all cabin owners, and associates to become involved in the Association. If you are not a member, join us, if you are a member become more active. Offer to work on field trips, work on organizing your tract in order to share relevant information as needed, offer to work on our emphasis programs, or serve on the board. The full membership meets twice per year, once in early summer and once in the fall.

The CPCOA is only as strong as you make it. To add to our strength in numbers the CPCOA is also a member of the Washington State Forest Homeowners Association (WSFHA) and the National Forest Homeowners (NFH). Your dues of \$75.00 to the CPCOA include dues of \$2.00 for the state and \$50.00 for the NFH. CPCOA Associate Dues are \$48.00 which includes \$2.00 for the WSFHA and \$30.00 to the NFH. Help us represent you by being involved. Dues are payable in the first quarter of the year.

I look forward to meeting you all this summer and wish you the best in the New Year. I encourage you to visit our web site (see below) and feel free to contact me with any questions and recommendations on how the CPCOA can be of assistance to you.

Our spring Association meeting will be Saturday June 22nd 2019. The fall meeting is set for Saturday September 21st 2019. Both meetings will be held at the Nile Community Church and begin with an 11:30 am potluck. Join us; we welcome fresh new ideas and enthusiasm.

With warm regard

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<http://cpcoa.com>