

Cabin tracks

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Date

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Important Dates to Remember

- *June 24-25 (tentative) - SUMMER PICNIC*
- *Spring and October 2006 (exact dates to be determined) - Mushroom Trips*
Mike Berriochoa, Leader
- *Weekend before or after Labor Day -*
Bull Trout Run
Carl Buchholz, Leader
- *Eco-system of our area - date TBA*
- *History of Bumping Lake/Goose Prairie*
- date TBA - Ray Foisy, Leader
- *Copper City Tour - date TBA*
- *Indian Blazed Trees - Jack Selby, with Jacquie Beidl - date TBA*

*****Volunteer Project with the Forest Service -

Carl Buchholz

It has been suggested that CPCOA and the Forest Service work together on a project or two in 2006. Working together will encourage a cooperative relationship between the Forest Service and cabin owners. The Forest Service's budget has been reduced but they continue to have as many demands on them as always. Not only does the Forest Service benefit from our help, but we cabin owners benefit from getting to know the Forest Service employees better, meeting and interacting with other cabin owners, having a good family event, and may even learn a new skill. Many of the other recreational clubs and associations, like horse back riders, dirt bikers, jeepers, and hikers do volunteer projects every year.

In January, Jacquie Beidle, Archaeologist & Recreation for the Naches Ranger Dist. Will provide some suggested projects for us to review. These will be posted on www.CPCOA.com. Contact me or comment directly on our website in the Forum section which ones you would participate in. If you volunteer two days in the same year, the Forest Service will give you a free Northwest parking permit which enables you to park where permits are required in the National Forest.

Lot Boundary

How many cabin owners have wondered where the corners are on their lot? No one seems to know in our Union Creek tract. One owner said his father told him where he thought they were, but everyone assumes that the boundaries must be somewhere between their outhouse and their neighbor's outhouse.

The Forest Service wants us to keep our lots neat and picked up, and we would like to do our part in fuel reduction. But how can we find out where our boundary is?

The Forest Service had a copy of the 1928 Union Creek Summer Home Tract in the Rainier National Forest. It even refers to the approximate section, township, and range, which are "unsurveyed". All of these measurements and directional readings come off a station number which is located in the "Naches Pass HWY" (State Road or Highway 410) that was a reference point in 1928. I assumed this point would be impossible to locate since SR 410 had been upgraded and resurfaced in the recent past. However, I was not about to give up without trying.

I then took the survey to the Department of Transportation in Union Gap expecting to be told that what I wanted (a point on a 1928 road) was impossible. Instead, I was sent downstairs to the Records Room in the basement where the Records Engineer was able to locate the information I was seeking (Station Number 194) which is 306.27 feet from the East end of the present Union Creek Bridge.

Now I have another project to work on as soon as the snow melts in the spring--armed with a transit, tape, and survey map I should be able to locate our lot corners! You, too, may be able to do the same if you have a copy of the survey that references a State road.

--Submitted by Carl Buchholz

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Page 2 "musings from Letter from our president - Mike Berriochoa

Dear Fellow Cabin Owners:

This year is coming to a close after more than a few surprises for many of us. From the inspections leading to permit renewals, to the water rights issues, few of us have escaped the mandated and sometimes seemingly unfair reach of bureaucracy at both the state and federal levels.

Through it all, the leadership team of the Chinook Pass Cabin Owners' Association has worked on behalf of all cabin owners, whether association members or not, to bring reason and understanding to these issues. A special thanks goes to Vice President Jack Selby, and Vice President for Special Projects Carl Buchholz for following these issues so closely and keeping all of us abreast of the changes that we are facing.

The strength of this organization is in its membership and the willingness of each of you to take action to protect your rights and the rights of all of us to continue to enjoy our cabins and the forest. We saw what happened a year ago when we contacted our legislators about our water issues and it's time for each of us to again contact our legislators to ask for a domestic exemption from water rights laws. We use so little water and give back so much to the forest that we should not be denied water for our domestic needs. A suggested letter format and talking points are now posted on the CPCOA website: www.cpcoa.com. I encourage each of you to use the information to craft your own letters to your own lawmakers so we can get the protection we need.

In spite of the important issues we faced during 2005, we still found time for fun. We tried something new and organized several field trips with topics ranging from salmon spawning to mushrooms and fossils. The field trips were so popular that we're going to do more in 2006. I encourage you to watch the CPCOA website for details.

I also want to encourage each of you to talk with other cabin owners in your respective cabin tracts and ask them to join CPCOA. A portion of the annual dues stays with this association and a portion goes for an automatic membership the national organization, which works on our behalf every day. For membership information, please contact our

treasurer, Greg Selby.

Another highlight of the year occurred at our fall meeting in early November when the current slate of officers was re-elected to another two-year term. We appreciate the confidence you have shown in us and we will do our best to retain your trust.

Lastly, I wish each of you a very happy holiday season. Our association is off to a great start for 2006 and your officers and directors look forward to working on your behalf.

Field trips - 2005 - By Carl BUchholz

Three very successful field trips were held this year. Everyone who participated learned a lot about the Chinook Pass area and had an enjoyable time.

The first outing (July 16) was lead by Ray Foisy, whose family has owned a cabin at Bumping Lake for over 40 years. Ray is very knowledgeable about the area, and he shared some of the natural history and historical events around the Little Naches River. The highlights for many of us were the fossils found in a sandstone outcropping and the approximately 150-175 foot tall water falls on West Quartz Creek.

The second outing (August 13) was on salmon and led by Richard Visser, a fishery biologist with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. We started at Hells Crossing, then continued west on the American River with stops at Pleasant Valley and Union Creek. The main focus was the spring Chinook salmon spawning. Richard also talked about bull trout. The salmon return to the American River was very poor this year, but we did get to see a video of them spawning (thanks to Richard's laptop). We visited the largest Western Larch tree in Washington State which is in the Pleasant Valley Campground. It is one of the largest in the country.

Darryl Ianni, a botanist for the Forest Service, led a mushroom identification outing (October 1) in the Little Naches area. I doubt there are any plants in the area he does not know. The highlight was finding some orange chanterelles that are excellent eating.

We want to thank Ray, Richard, and Darryl for giving up their afternoons for us and for providing these excellent field trips. It is time to start planning for next year's outing, so if you or anyone you know would like to lead an outing, please contact Carl Buchholz (509) 966-4861 or email buchcs@aol.com. We also enjoy hearing about the history of the area, so some of you who have had cabins in the Chinook Pass area for many years, please share your knowledge with us. We would love to hear your stories.

The following field trips have been suggested for 2006:

- Bull Trout during spawning (late August/early September)
- Bumping Lake area history
- Geology of the Chinook Pass area
- Copper City--visit and its history
- Spring Mushrooms and Wildflowers
- Fall Mushrooms and Trees
- Ecosystems of the Chinook Pass area
- Native American historical areas

We know we can't do all of these, so please let me know which ones you are interested in and other topics that would make good outings.

mike & carl"
November 30, 2005



letter to our legislators

[sample]

(Representative or Senator)
P. O. Box
Olympia Washington 98504-0600

Subject: Cabin Owners' Water Problems

Dear (Representative or Senator):

During the past two years, cabin owners in the Yakima River basin have faced problems with the domestic use of surface water due to the on-going struggle over water rights. Many of your constituents need your continuing assistance in arriving at a permanent resolution to the domestic use of surface waters in the Yakima River basin. There are 532 owners of cabins located on United State's Forest Service (USFS) land in the Chinook and White Pass areas that have been adversely affected by the on-going water problems.

In 2004, these owners received letters directly from the Washington State Department of Ecology (WSDOE) or indirectly through the USFWS terminating the domestic use of "surface" water from June until further notification or 10/31/04, whichever came first. This action followed a Yakima judge's ruling in June that the domestic use of surface water was to be terminated any year that the available water for irrigation is less than 80% of normal (the case last year and no doubt this year). The results was that many owners were denied access to the traditional water supply that had existed since the cabins were built. In some instances, a "Temporary water right" was purchased at a substantial cost to the owner.

In 2005, the problem was temporarily resolved due to the efforts of our legislators. The WSDOE at the encouragement of the legislature placed 60 acre-feet of water into the state's Trust Water Program to alleviate the out-of-priority consumption of water under your confirmed right or temporary permit. The WSDOE noted that the action provides only short-term relief for the 2005 irrigation season. Unless cabin owners reach some permanent solution for the limited domestic use of surface water, this no doubt will reoccur many times until water storage in the Yakima area is enhanced.

Currently, we are being directed by the WSDOE to install water meters on our cabin "water supply" even though we may be prohibited from using any surface water in a low water year. Apparently, this has been an un-enforced requirement since 1993.

The following is provided in an effort to better characterize the potential impact of domestic use of surface water by cabin owners. Several cabin owners analyzed their cabin usage and the potential impact on water resources. Most cabins on USFS land are primitive with only a kitchen sink, although some do have flush toilets and showers. Cabin owners are not permitted to have gardens or lawns. Most of the water that the cabins use is actually returned to the ground through a septic system. A net increase of surface water occurs in many cases since the owners bring drinking water from their own homes. It appears that on average that cabins are used about 30 days per year from April through November. Cabins are winterized from November through April to prevent freeze up. Thus, the water is shut off and the lines drained for approximately six months each year.

In one cabin area there are 23 cabins that comprise a water association. Based on experience by this group with chlorinating their water, it was estimated that the average cabin water usage is between 500 and 1000 gallons per month. Using the 1000 gallons per month, the six month's usage for the 23 cabins would be less than 138,000 gallons (approximately 0.4 acre-feet). Based on these analyses the 6-month surface water usage of 532 cabins would be less than 10 Acre-feet.

Mr. Tom Robinson, a hydrologist with the USFS, has been working on the water right issue with WSDOE. He suggested that the cabin owners need a law exempting the use of surface water for domestic use. The law currently exempts the use of ground water for domestic use if less than 5000 gallons are used per day. Based on our conservative estimates, our projected usage of 1000 gallons per cabin per month is substantially lower (e.g., < 1/100) of the exempted domestic use of ground water.

We are writing to you and fellow legislators in hopes you can help in resolving the water issue in the Yakima River Basin. It seems that a good, fair, and simple solution would be to pass a law that would exempt the small domestic uses of surface water. The WSDOE could determine what amount of surface water use per day would be appropriate for domestic use to be considered "small" and thus "exempt". If, on average each domestic use were less than several hundred gallons per day, this would represent a minimal impact on surface water used for irrigation.

We certainly agree that the control of water usage is important so that farmers have the necessary water resources for farming and we are willing to do our part. However, shutting down the domestic use of surface water has substantially reduced the value of cabins and makes them more vulnerable during the fire season.

