



CABIN TRACKS

Chinook Pass Cabin Owners' Association Vol. No. 3

Issue Number 1

2/28/07

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Cabin Owners:

Winter is slowly releasing its grip on most of our cabin tracts and soon we'll be in full swing, again enjoying our cabins to the fullest. And with the coming spring comes hope that our water rights issues may be finally be resolved. We have a unique opportunity before us to take action to enhance our cabin usage, but action by each of us is essential if we are to be successful.

As you know, the CPCOA, and more specifically our Vice-Presidents Jack Selby and Carl Bucholz, have been at the forefront working with the Washington State Department of Ecology and the Washington legislature to find a permanent water allocation for cabin owners across the state. Their efforts have been supported by other cabin owner groups in the state and have born fruit. The Department of Ecology concluded its study of the issue last fall and submitted a report to the legislature calling for funding of a water bank that will allow it to purchase pre-1905 water rights from private individuals and reallocate them for our use. It is commonly being referred to as Option #1 from their report.

In response to the Department of Ecology report, 8th District Senator Jerome Delvin of Richland has submitted a formal budget request for \$450,000 to purchase pre-1905 water rights and resell them to the 600-700 cabin owners in the state that have no water rights or have water rights issued after 1905. On the House side, 14th District Representative Charles Ross of Yakima has asked the chair of the House Appropriations Committee to support funding.

With the formal request now submitted, we must all begin contacting our legislators urging

must all begin contacting our legislators urging their support. When you write or call, stress three points: 1) Follow through on the Department of Ecology recommendations to fund a water bank as recommended in their 2006 study, 2) Option #1 is a permanent solution. Lawmakers won't have to address the issue again, and 3) This issue is also important to youth camps such as the Boy Scouts, Campfire, Camp Prime Time for handicapped children and many others. Lack of an assured supply of water has the potential of shutting these camps down and denying hundred of children an outdoor experience. Keep your comments succinct and to the point as they have little time to read lengthy letters.

If you don't know how to contact your legislator, simply go to <http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature> on the Internet and click on the "Find Your Legislator" button in the upper left corner. It's fast and easy and you can send your comments via email from the Web site. Also, after contacting your legislators, be sure to send comments to House Appropriations Committee Chair Helen Sommers, as well as to the ranking minority member on the committee, Representative Barry Alexander. You can find their contact information on the same Web site.

This type of legislative action on our behalf is a direct result of the work your CPCOA is doing to serve you. But the association leadership can't do it alone. Members must now step up to give voice to such efforts if we are to be successful.

I hope you had a wonderful winter and are looking forward to getting back to the cabin as much as I am.

- Best Wishes, Mike Berriochoa, President

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MESSAGE FROM MIKE ROWAN

All cabin owners should check to see if they have sent in their compliance form in response to the October 2005 letter that listed non-compliant items for each cabin and lot. These were to be returned by August 31, 2006 and to date we have received responses from only about 50% of the cabin owners.

It would be a good idea to return the compliance form even if you haven't completed all of the items. Just list what you have done and put in your best estimate as to how and when you would complete the remaining items. I realize it's easy for these things to sometimes slip through the cracks but it is important that we all work together to achieve compliance well in advance of 12/31/2008 when all of the current permits expire. We will not be able to reissue 20-year permits if compliance issues for your cabin have not been resolved. I do appreciate all the good work that has been accomplished thus far.

Mike Rowan, Resources Assistant
Naches Ranger District, Okanogan-
Wenatchee NF
10237 Highway 12
Naches, WA 98937
Phone: (509) 653-1400
Direct line: (509) 653-1452
FAX: (509) 653-2638
Email: mrowan@fs.fed.us

IS SOMETHING KILLING OUR FORESTS?

- Article by Janie McQueen, Northern Kittitas Co. Tribune

Instead of the deep green color of a healthy forest, people all over Washington State are seeing a crispy brown hue throughout the Cascade Mountain forests.

Once thriving with the aromatic needles of lively evergreen trees, most of us now crunch through lots of deadwood and moth infested areas in our public lands.

That all sounds pretty discouraging and if you're like me, it's difficult to understand what's taking place in the wondrous world of nature. So, I recently spoke with Connie Mehmel in Wenatchee and she helped eliminate many concerns that began a couple years ago when I first spotted dead and dying trees. I hope the facts will help relieve some concerns you might have as well.

WHAT IS ACTUALLY CAUSING TREES TO DIE?

The culprit in our forests is called a Western Spruce budworm and its spread throughout our state may seem alarming, but there are fewer dead trees than it appears. Mostly Douglas fir and Grand fir trees are turning brown because the larval stage (worm) of the Western Spruce budworm is eating the needles.

This year there are also incredible numbers of moths flying around which transform from the budworm. These moths don't even eat and are short-lived. Then, by

early September we might see the air full of tiny little thread-like larvae which throw themselves in the wind and then attach to trees in order to hibernate for the winter. If winter temperatures don't kill them off, the cycle of budworm repeats itself the following year. Usually, we see the infestation run out in four or five years.

This current infestation actually began around 1998 on lands south of the Naches Ranger District. In 1999, large patches of defoliation were seen in the South Fork drainage of Tieton River. Then, by 2000 large scale defoliation had spread. Smaller infestations were also observed in the Bumping and American River drainages and so it continues today.

WHAT CAUSED THE INITIAL INFESTATION?

Mild weather conditions in the last few years have been favorable for growth and development of the Western Spruce budworm. Combined with an overabundance of host trees (Grand and Douglas fir), our warmer winters and dry summers have resulted in optimal conditions for this bug's growth.

WILL ANY TREES SURVIVE?

Some trees will recover while other more stressed trees will die. And according to Connie, small trees are more likely to die. Large trees will many times survive an infestation and it's important to know that trees can indeed tolerate defoliation for a time. If defoliation is less than 4-5 years, most healthy trees will show reduced growth, but they usually sprout buds and recover.

"Sometimes you'll see dead branches in the crown," Connie said, "but what you're seeing is the result of defoliation from years ago."

The last time there was a big outbreak of this pest was in the 1970's and a later study showed that only 4% Douglas fir and 8% Grand fir were killed.

IS THIS BUG THE SAME AS A BARK BEETLE?

No. The budworm larvae eat a tree's needles and only cause defoliation. Sometimes when budworms cause tree stress due to defoliation, the tree becomes susceptible to bark beetles.

"When a tree is stressed," Connie shared, "the tree becomes more attractive to bark beetles." That's the real killer. Any stress caused by repeated needle loss whether it's

budworms or associated drought conditions can also make it more difficult for trees to resist bark beetle attack. These beetles kill trees by eating their cambium layer and girdling them. Healthy trees are usually able to use their pitch to fight off bark beetle attacks, but most tree mortality is attributed to the attack of bark beetles.

CONTROLS PLANNED?

Right now, there are no aerial sprays planned on USFS land. It is not considered efficient at this time because absolutely every bug and its larval stage would have to make contact with the spray. That might be conceivable on a small plot of ground, but it's impossible to accomplish on the millions of square feet inside our National Forests.

Plus, it would need to be sprayed each year to maintain effectiveness. So the long term consideration is to let the infestation run its course. If there were an aerial spray planned, local landholders would be contacted.

WHEN WILL IT RUN ITS COURSE?

The USFS has evaluated previous infestations and find the pattern for localized infestations to be:

Year one: detectable defoliation

Year two: large scale infestation

Year 3 or 4: continued infestation

Year 4 or 5: possibly reduced levels

However, it is emphasized that no guarantees are made based on this pattern. Infestations in other areas have been known to last as long as up to 20 years.

It will most likely take a weather change over to colder winters or springs and moister summers to end this infestation. Some infestations that continue over 4-5 years can increase levels of tree mortality due to tree stress and bark beetle activity.

No one can predict how long this infestation will last or the severity of tree mortality, because its control is so dependent on weather conditions that may or may not occur.

Contributed by Janie McQueen, Northern Kittitas County Tribune (email Janie@kvalley.com)

From information supplied by Constance J. Mehmel, Forest Entomologist, Wenatchee Service Center, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests, 1133 North Western Avenue, Wenatchee, WA 98801.

FIELD TRIPS IN 2006

Three field trips were planned in 2006, but the one to Copper City had to be cancelled because the leader was a member of the forest service who was working on a forest fire and was unavailable to lead the trip. This field trip has been rescheduled in 2007.

In July, Ray Foisy led a trip in the Bumping Lake area. Ray's family has been in the area over 50 years and he shared some of the history, natural history, and ecology surrounding Bumping Lake. How many of you have seen a pine martin set? If you had been on this field trip, you would have seen an old set and learned how the trappers made them. We saw some of the largest spruce, cedar, and fir trees in our local forest.

In late August, we met at the Hell's Crossing area for a bull trout field trip led by Mike Mizel, Richard Visser, and Grant Morgan, all from the Washington State Fish and Wildlife Department. Their expertise was in fish biology, fish habitat, and law enforcement. The biologist discussed the history, current situation, and research in progress. They demonstrated with a video how radio transmitters are implanted in bull trout and then with a receiver we could hear two of these trout in the American River. If you had any questions about bull trout, it was a good time to get them answered.

FIELD TRIPS IN 2007

Several trips are planned for 2007, but at this time only Copper City is finalized. Another has been set up, but the date has not been selected. Possible other trips are: forest ecology, wildlife, mushroom, and some history in the area. As soon as these trips are finalized, we will post them on the CPCOA website at CPCOA.com, in future newsletters, and at the summer picnic meeting.

The Copper City field trip led by Jacquie Beidl, historian from the Forest Service will be on 7/7/07. We will meet at the American Forks pavilion and leave at 1:00 p.m. Then we can car pool it to Copper City. If you would like to learn about some of the local history and are interested in how mining was conducted, do not miss this trip.

Dr. Paul Hammond, professor emeritus of geology, has spent many years studying the Cascade mountains. He will lead a field trip this summer. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about some of our local geology. The date of this trip has not been set.

If you have not joined a field trip in the past, try to attend one this year. You and your family will learn more about our area and, hopefully, this will add to the enjoyment of your cabin.

-Submitted by Carl Bucholz, Vice-president, Special Projects, CPCOA



CPCOA Membership Renewal Information

As an owner of a cabin along Chinook Pass, you are encouraged to join our Chinook Pass Cabin Owners' Association. It's a great way to keep informed about the actions of the Forest Service and other government agencies at all levels that impact our ability to enjoy our cabins.

By joining this local organization, you automatically become a member of the Washington State Forest Homeowners' Association and the National Forest Homeowners, which all network together to keep us informed on the state and national levels. It really is a great way to keep in touch on the issues that we all should. Our individual voices can't possibly be as effective as a group. Also, as an individual, it is difficult to keep informed of all the cabin issues, but an organization can more efficiently address them.

The Chinook Pass Cabin Owners' Association works on the local level --- local issues and concerns are addressed by the forest ranger, the Washington State Department of Ecology, the Sheriff's department, and county officials. Through our newsletter and meetings we have an opportunity to know each other and keep informed. This year membership dues are \$50.00 for a Regular membership and \$30.00 for an Associate member, which is for another person besides a "Regular" member --- adult children, co- owners, etc. This is the same amount as last year. So, for \$50.00 a year you are definitely getting a lot for your money --- group representation on the local, state, and national levels all working for your best interests in protecting your cabin ownership. In case you're wondering, \$35.00 goes to the NFH, and \$1.00 goes to WSFHA. The rest stays with CPCOA for postage, supplies, etc. To join or for more information, please contact Greg Selby, Treasurer (509) 735-2810 or Greg.Selby@Fluor.com or 6342 Umatilla Ave., Kennewick, WA 99336.

Chinook Pass Cabin Owners Association
2007 Membership Renewal Form
Due Date - March 31

Member Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone ____ - ____ - ____ Cell ____ - ____ - ____ Email _____

Tract Name _____ Lot # _____

TYPE of Membership: Individual _____ (\$50.00) Associate _____ (\$30.00)

Please make check payable to Chinook Pass Cabin Owners Association and mail to: Greg Selby, Treasurer; 6342 W Umatilla Avenue; Kennewick WA 99336-7637.

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Officers and Executive Board

President - Mike Berriochoa (509) 545-6853 Berriochoa@aol.com
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Vice President, Special Projects - Carl Bucholz (509) 966-4861 Buchcs@aol.com
Secretary & Co-editor, Newsletter - Reva Bunnell (509) 966-9894 revabb@msn.com
Co-editor, Newsletter - Sue Bucholz (509) 966-4861 buchcs@aol.com
Treasurer - Greg Selby (509) 735-2810 Greg.Selby@Fluor.com
Webmaster - Kevin Selby (509) 635-7348 Kevin@KevinSelby.com

Group Representatives

Group 1 - (Bumping Lake Marina Owner)
American Forks
Bumping Lake
Edgewater

Group 2 - Carl and Sue Bucholz
American River
Idlehour
Pleasant Valley
Sleepy Hollow
Union Creek
Timber Creek

Group 3 - Marvina McDonald
Willow Springs
Indian Flat
Little Naches

Group 4 - Frank Golob
Cedar Springs
Cliffdell
Crag Group
Hawks Nest
Idlewild
Stillwater

Group 5 - Myra Beard
Gold Creek
Kloshe/Gold
Lost Creek
Edgar Rock

Association Mailing Address:
Chinook Pass Cabin Owners' Assn.
6342 W. Umatilla Avenue
Kennewick, WA 99336

Important Dates to Remember:
March 17 - Town Hall Meetings
9 AM - Applecart Deli, Naches, WA
2 PM - Harman Center, Yakima
April 13-14 - NFH Convention, Heathman Lodge,
Vancouver, WA
July 7 - Copper City Field Trip

Helpful websites
www.leg.wa.gov/legislature
www.ecy.wa.gov
www.CPCOA.com
www.nationalforesthowners.org
ww.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/nachescabins