



Cabin Tracks

Chinook Pass Cabin Owners' Association Vol. No. 5 Issue Number 2 5/1/10

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Cabin Owners,

Your Chinook Pass Cabin Owners Association and National Forest Homeowners Association (NFHA) are looking back at 2009 with a lot of pride in what we accomplished on your behalf. Because of the strong support you showed throughout the year we were successful in getting the Forest Service to halt its annual fee increase plan until it can take another look at the original appraisal process. We were also successful in getting Washington Fourth District Congressman Doc Hastings to introduce new legislation to restore fairness to the process so we will be able to continue to afford our cabins. This gives us a rare opportunity to determine consistent and fair permit fees.

But having been successful on these fronts does not mean we can relax. We have a long way to go. We must continue to support the NFHA as it works with Congressman Hastings' office and we must continue to write to our respective members of congress to urge their support for Doc's bill, H.R. 4888. Sample letters are attached which I hope you will use. Inaction could result in the failure of the legislation, resulting in a continuance of the subjective appraisal process. Inaction could also be viewed as a lack of concern on our part and a neglect of our investment. We all must recognize that cabin ownership brings the responsibility to be involved in the effort to continue the recreation residence program. Please join your fellow cabin owners in a national endorsement of H.R. 4888. Each of us is a key player in determining the fate of future cabin permit fees. To find out how to contact members of congress via fax, email, snail mail or phone, go to www.contactingthecongress.org

The Forest Service is preparing to reassess our cabins as required by the Cabin User Fee Fairness Act. An informational meeting is scheduled on Friday, May 14, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to (as late as) 9:00 p.m. in the meeting room at Naches Presbyterian Church, 201 East 2nd Street, Naches, WA. Forest Service staff and Timothy Newman will answer any questions about the appraisal process. This will be our only opportunity to talk to them and get answers to our questions. I want to encourage everyone to attend if you possibly can.

With the snow rapidly receding from the high country most of us are again able to get to our cabins and look forward to another enjoyable year. Our association is planning a number of interesting field trips which we are looking forward to hosting. Our picnic will be held on June 12 and we will be presenting

new by-laws for your consideration. The old ones were woefully outdated and Jack Selby, Maureen Bell and I have been overhauling them. We'll send out a draft as soon as it is available.

Speaking of the picnic, the date is June 12 at the Nile Valley Church on Highway 410. Our traditional locations are already booked and the church is one of the few places big enough for our growing numbers. It also assures us of being warm and dry should the weather not be cooperative.

We will have a new membership count at the picnic. Many of you have already sent in your membership renewals and we appreciate that. We know a lot of you prefer to renew your membership at the picnic and that's fine too. For those who would like to do it now you can go to our web site at www.cpcoa.com and find our membership renewal forms and the address of our treasurer, Jim Lundeen.

I hope you all had a good winter and I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the picnic.

Best wishes,



Mike Berriochoa, President
Chinook Pass Cabin Owners Association

Fun Field Trips on the Schedule by Carl Bucholz

At this time I am hoping we will have three field trips. Dr. Paul Hammond will lead his fourth geology field trip for us. It will focus on the major geological event last fall, the land slide in the Naches River Valley. Everybody that tried to get to their cabin from the east side last fall knows how this land slide disrupted our lives. Dr. Hammond will show and explain why this slide happened, and discuss the past and future for more land slides in the area. This land slide was just a small one compared to the Sanford Pasture Slide which covers an extensive area in the Horseshoe Bend area of the Naches River. The date, time and meeting place will be determined later, but it will be in late July or early August on a Saturday afternoon.

I have asked a Forest Service fishery biologist and forester to lead field trips on fish and forest topics. Nothing has been finalized at this time.



Details about each field trip will be posted on our web site (CPCOA.com).



Irene Davidson is New District Ranger

I appreciate the opportunity to be part of your association newsletter. Over the last 18 years I've had the pleasure of working with the Forest Service, most recently as a District Ranger on the Aspen Ranger District in Colorado and now Naches.

My husband Bruce and I love camping and gradually graduated from a tent to a trailer which we find extremely relaxing. We enjoy many activities such as hiking, kayaking and identifying wildflowers, an activity related to our degrees in botany. I look forward to sharing the beauty of the northwest, the eastern Cascades and all they have to offer with my family. I am a firm believer that nature brings families closer together and fosters relationships.

We hope time allows for exploring many of the other areas in the northwest especially those offering kayaking. Another highlight of my life is digital photography. I enjoy taking photos of all of nature's wonders especially wildflowers, my family and of course our dogs.

In the short time I've been in Naches there have been some huge actions affecting Recreational Residence. As many of you know, this summer will be the kick off for the next round of appraisals on our 10 year rotation. I extend to you the opportunity to keep communication lines open and if you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact me or our district staff.

Irene Davidson, District Ranger
Naches Ranger District
Okanogan Wenatchee NF
idavidson@fs.fed.us
(509) 653-1415 office
(509) 834-9958 cell



Cabin Burglaries Always a Concern By Deputy Stephan Sutliff, Yakima County Sheriff

As most of you know, the winter was milder than normal in many areas. And with the mild weather has come more access to cabin groups by unwanted guests.

We had some burglaries of cabins on Old River Road the first part of December where it appears that two vehicles were involved. The burglars either walked or drove from cabin to cabin. Interestingly,

cabin owners reported that very little was taken. There was considerable damage to doors and windows that were bashed in to gain access, but they weren't interested in the old TV's or VCR's that they found because there is no market in stolen goods for the old style electronics. Thieves these days are looking for flat screen TV's and Blue Ray type players and other valuable items. That's the good news, but as sad as it is to say, the best advice we can give you is don't leave anything in your cabins that you don't want stolen.

Fortunately, since December we have had very little activity except for a burglary at a residence on SR 410 where a number of guns and other property were taken.

There is no way to prevent burglaries, whether it's at your cabin or your home, but here are a few tips that can help.

First, try to get to your cabin as often as you can or have a neighbor check things out for you if possible and don't keep valuables in the cabin, especially guns and valuable electronics.

If you do see suspicious activity around your cabin or that of your neighbor, try to get the following information:

- Date and time

- License plate of vehicle – Write it on the ground in the dirt if need be until you can put it on paper

- Color of vehicle

- Number of people in the vehicle

- Last seen direction of travel

- Description of persons Involved.

- Start at Head and go down from there with description:

 - Hat ?

 - Hair Color

 - Shirt Color

 - Pants Color

 - Shoes

And please, call the Sheriff's Office as quickly as you can if you see suspicious activity in or around the cabin groups. It may not always be as it appears, but we are more than happy to come up and find nothing, than to have to take a burglary report.

Stay safe and stay alert,
Deputy Steve

Thought for the Day

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue. Anonymous

Water Bank Update by Kelsey Collins, Washington State Department of Ecology

I'm happy to announce that the efforts of cabin owners and camp representatives are finally paying off! We have taken a significant step to avoid shut offs in dry years by buying water to mitigate for impacts to pro-ratable water users by post-1905 domestic water users with rights confirmed by the adjudication court.

There are two things going on at the same time; we're working toward a short term solution as well as a long term solution. In April, the Washington State Department of Ecology will ask Yakima County Superior Court to temporarily transfer water rights to trusts for camps and cabin owners. The court only has jurisdiction to make temporary transfers so they cannot make them permanent. If approved, the transfer will mitigate for this summer's post-1905 domestic surface water users. This short term solution requires no action by water right holders and, if approved by the court, will remain in effect through the irrigation season. However, it does NOT cover water users without a water right confirmed by the adjudication court.

The long term solution is still water banking. The purchased water rights are also in the process of being transferred to trust permanently and managed in a water bank. Once water is available, Ecology will offer mitigation credits to post-1905 water right holders so they can protect themselves from future shut offs. Water right holders will need to apply to Ecology as early as this fall to get this process started. I will let you know when we can start accepting applications.

In the future, Ecology hopes to expand the water bank to offer solutions to non-water right holders as well. Mitigating for non-water right holders is more difficult since it requires an additional case-by-case analysis. I will keep you posted on Ecology's efforts.

As always, feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions. If you need more background information check out the following sources:

- Ecology's website "Water Buying for Camps and Cabin Owner's in the Yakima Basin" at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cro/sb6861.html>

- "2006 Report to the Legislature: Potential Water Solutions for Domestic Surface Water Users --Yakima Basin Camps and Cabin Owners" that can be accessed at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0611044.html>

Kelsey Collins

Kesi461@ecy.wa.gov

15 W. Yakima Ave., Suite 200

Yakima WA 98902

509-575-2640

CPCOA Membership Update

We thank all of you who have paid your 2010 membership dues. As of April 1, 2010, we have a total of 58 full members. Twenty-one (21) of this total are new members to our association and we welcome you. We also have a total of 12 members who are Associate members (5 of which are new). For those of you who have not paid your membership dues yet, you will find a copy of the membership form at the end of this newsletter. We welcome your dues at any time or you may pay for them at our Summer Meeting & Picnic, June 12th to be held at the Nile Valley Community Church on Highway 410.



Officers and Executive Board

President - Mike Berriochoa (509) 545-6853 Berriochoa@aol.com

Vice President, Communications - Jack Selby (509) 396-3542 jmselby@gmail.com

Vice President, Special Projects - Carl Bucholz (509) 966-4861 Buchcs@aol.com

Secretary & Newsletter Editor – Maureen Bell (509) 638-3867 bellwayne@charter.net

Treasurer – Jim Lundeen (509)575-8315 jimgin@q.com

Webmaster – Dave Leinweber (425)643-02937 davel@spro.net

Find updated information on our website--<http://www.cpcoa.com>



Remember Summer Meeting & Potluck

Saturday, June 12, 2010—11:30 a.m.-2: 00 p.m.

Nile Valley Community Church

Beverages & place settings provided

Sample Letter

Dear Congressman/Congresswoman _____,

As your constituents, we are asking for your support of the Cabin Fee Act of 2010 (H.R.4888, Hastings-WA) and your consideration in signing on as a co-sponsor. The Recreation Residence Program and our cabin's future are threatened. Your support is needed to ensure that families, like ours, can continue to enjoy the recreation opportunities provided by this wonderful program.

PERSONAL Sample Option 1

My family and I have enjoyed our cabin for ___ years, and have shared it with many of our friends from around the country, and some even from other countries. Our children have developed a deep respect and love for the forest as a result of the time they have been able to spend at the cabin. (HERE TELL YOUR OWN STORY BRIEFLY.)

PERSONAL Sample Option 2

I and my family have been fortunate to enjoy one of these cabins on many occasions, as guests of a permit holder at the XXX Lake Tract on the XXXX National Forest. Our time at the cabin has been a wonderful and educational experience for all of us, and a great opportunity to strengthen our love of nature and of each other. Time in the forest is a real treasure to all. (HERE TELL YOUR OWN STORY BRIEFLY.)

The current appraisal process comparing our restricted use of forest land to privately owned land has resulted in unreasonably high fees. Fees we can't afford as an average American family. We believe H.R. 4888 will sustain the program for us and other American families *without incurring new costs.*

This bill does several important things:

- It provides an **affordable**, but 'market determined' fee.
- It creates a **simple, understandable and predictable** fee determination process.
- It offers a **revenue neutral** process that maintains revenues and guarantees a fair 'market rate' of return to the US Taxpayer.
- It creates a mechanism to address the **complex and interdependent ownership interests** in the Program.
- It assures future **cabin marketability**.

H.R. 4888 also ensures that:

- Forest Stewardship** by cabin owners will be allowed to continue and expand on local Forests.
- Program administration** will be simplified and also adequately funded from fees retained sufficient to cover Forest Service costs.
- Revenue streams** to state and local governments will continue, unabated.
- Support for **local businesses and employment** will continue with a positive financial impact on these rural communities.
- Collaborative dialogue** with the Forest Service will be encouraged and enhanced.

Please contact Congressman Hastings with your pledge of support. We ask for your leadership on this bi-partisan issue and are anxious to hear from you on this matter.

Mr. and Mrs. Cabin Owner
Address
Email
Phone

Sample Letter

Dear Senator _____,

The bi-partisan Cabin Fee Act of 2010 (H.R.4888) was introduced last week by Congressman Doc Hastings (WA) with 11 co-sponsors. **We are contacting you to seek your support for a companion bill in the Senate.** The Recreation Residence Program and our cabin's future are threatened. Your support is needed to ensure that families, like ours, can continue to enjoy the recreation opportunities provided by the cabin program.

PERSONAL Sample Option 1

My family and I have enjoyed our cabin for ___ years, and have shared it with many of our friends from around the country, and some even from other countries. Our children have developed a deep respect and love for the forest as a result of the time they have been able to spend at the cabin. (HERE TELL YOUR OWN STORY BRIEFLY.)

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The current appraisal process comparing our restricted use of forest land to privately owned land has resulted in unreasonably high fees. Fees we can't afford as an average American family. We believe H.R. 4888 and similar Senate support will sustain the program for us and other American families *without incurring new costs.*

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As your constituents, we ask for your leadership on this bi-partisan issue and are anxious to hear from you on this matter.

Mr. and Mrs. Cabin Owner

Address

Email

Phone

**Chinook Pass Cabin Owners Association
& National Forest Homeowners**

Membership / Membership Renewal Form

Member Name _____

Street Address _____

City / State / Zip +4 _____

Phone: ____-____-____ Work ____-____-____ E-Mail _____

Tract name & National Forest _____ Lot # _____

Check Type of Membership: Individual _____ (\$50) Associate _____ (\$30)

Please Make Check payable to Chinook Pass Cabin Owners Association and Mail to
Jim Lundeen / Treasurer
5100 Manor Dr.
Yakima, WA 98901-1635

Associate Membership Status

Associates are most often co-owners, family, or friends of CPCOA members. To gain or retain membership, a regular dues-paying member, either an individual or association member must sponsor associates. There is no restriction on the number of associate members a regular CPCOA member may sponsor.

Associate Member Sponsored By: _____
(Name)

If you have a question about CPCOA / NFH memberships or this form, please don't hesitate to contact the Chinook Pass Cabin Owners Association Treasurer:

Jim Lundeen
5100 Manor Dr.
Yakima, WA 98901-1635
(509) 575-8315
jimgin@q.com

The National Forest Homeowners web site is <http://www.nationalforesthowners.org/>. The CPCOA Web site is <http://www.cpcoa.com/>. Put these web addresses on your favorites today.

