



# Cabin Tracts

[Chinook Pass Cabin Owners' Association](#)—May 2015

## *President's Letter* - Dave Leinweber

2015 is shaping up to be a very good year for the Chinook Pass Cabins Owners Association. Membership continues to be strong with a few new members. Plans are firming up for some more cool field trips and other member activities. Our finances are in good shape. The latest edition of the CPCOA membership directory should be available at our June meeting and of course the Cabin Fee Act passed!



Life is good!

Still there is so much yet to do. This year's low snow pack reminds us of the water rights issues that still need to be resolved in most of our tracts. Should the region have a warm dry summer, wildfires may become a real threat to our cabins, so we need to prepare our tracts for the possibility of a forest fire.

With the help of the National Forest Homeowners association we all need to keep a watchful eye on how the Forest Service proposed to implement the Cabin Fee Act.

We also have a new Forest Supervisor, District Ranger and other new Forest Service staff to work with to build a better working relationship. A number of cabin ownership issues need to be resolved, including forest road closures, unreasonable permit clauses in some cabin permits and long waits to receive permission to update our cabins.

Resolving these and the many other issues cabin owners face will require an effective organization. So the CPCOA board is proposing a few changes to our by-laws in an effort to make it easier for members to become more directly involved. Specifics for these proposed changes are detailed at the end of this newsletter. (see page 7)

CPCOA has been very fortunate to have so many good folks serving on the board for many years. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve as president as well as all the help that the board members have provided me over a number of years.

However, it will soon be time for some of us to step down and have others take on the leadership of our organization into the future. Due to an error on my part, we will be holding elections for at least 3 board positions at the June 20<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. Please give careful consideration to increasing your commitment to CPCOA by applying for one of these positions.



## Treasurer's Report - Jim Lundeen

For 2015 to date, we have received 122 total memberships, representing 103 cabins. The totals for 2014 were 144 memberships, representing 123 cabins. Don't forget, you can still pay your \$60 dues at the June meeting.

After paying our assessment to NFH, our funds on hand are \$5,870 in the general fund, and \$2,825 in the cabin defense fund. Bills paid to date include web site maintenance and January newsletter expenses.

## Summertime Field Trips - Carl Buchholz.



There are four field trips planned for this year. One will be on geology lead by Paul Hammond, who has led them in the past, Tod Rossire will explore some of the Morse Creek mining activities with us, the Yakima Valley Mushroom Society will host a fall mushroom field trip, and Carl Buchholz will lead a rock hound trip different than last year's thunder egg site. Some field trip details have not been determined at this time. Some of the leaders are waiting to check on road conditions before they know exactly where each trip will go.

Paul Hammond's geology field trip this year will be into "Fife Peaks Volcano" on August 22nd. This field trip will have some walking, up to two miles. If Paul can do this, the rest of should be able to do so, too. I am sure the pace will be slow with many observations and comments from Paul. Later this summer Paul will send us the details about where and when to meet and exactly what he has planned for us. For people who have not gone on one of Paul's field trips in the past, you are in for a real treat to learn about the Cascade Mountains in the area near our cabins. It truly is a privilege to go on Paul's field trips.

All field trip details will be posted on our website (cpcoa.com) as they become available. Notices will be sent via email to everyone on our list. If you are not on our email list, let us know your email address and you will receive other electronic information in addition to field trip notices.



**Summer Potluck/Meeting**  
**Saturday, June 20, 2015**  
**11:30 a.m-2:00 p.m.**  
**Nile Valley Community Church**

Bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert to share  
 Drinks & table setting will be provided

## TWIGS - Alonzo and Lillian Joslin



Twigs (Trails Wilderness Information Group) is a group of all trail users (horsemen, hikers, off road vehicle users, hunters, cross-country skiers, snowmobilers etc) that usually meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Naches Ranger Station (enter through the back door). All trail users are welcome! Alonzo and Lillian Joslin represent CPCOA as well as the Horsemen Group.

Twigs members were provided the following information at their last meeting:

- *The Andy Creek trail head will have 8 places to park this summer, Hoodoo Management will have a 5/15 opening date for camp grounds they manage, Naches Pass Trail has received a \$10,000 grant for trail work, Motorized trails in the District have a delayed opening to be announced later, and Helicopter logging in the Nile will be finished by the end of April with all logging in that area completed by early June*
- *If anyone is interested in off road motorized usage on forest service roads contact: <http://waatva.org/hb/1632/> for appropriate equipment. Bill Zimmer, Resource Assistant with USDA Forest Service reported that HB1632 states that your ATV has to be street legal and certified to be driving on the approved forest service roads (Clover Springs and Bald Mountain). Maps of these soon to be opened roads will be available in June and the roads will be open June 26th.*
- *Saw certification through the Forest Service is scheduled for June 13. Contact the Naches Ranger District to register.*
- *There will be controlled burns in the District throughout the spring and fall.*

### CPCOA'S CLEAN UP SERVICE PROJECT

Our group has joined together to help the Forest Service and to give back to the forest cleaning up the Mather Memorial Rest Area. We will gather at the rest area across SR410 from Sawmill Flats Campground to pick up trash and sweep up pine needles and branches.



**WHEN:** Saturday, June 27, 2015—8am-noon (or when done)

**WHERE:** Mather Memorial Parkway Rest Area

**RSVP:** Kathy Hoffert - [hoffertk@charter.net](mailto:hoffertk@charter.net) or (509) 697-6780

Please bring brooms, clippers, shovels, and rakes. Portable generators are nice, especially with blowers and weed trimmers. After the work is completed, members enjoy sharing lunch together at the rest area, so bring something to eat as well.



## **“Little Naches (Little Crow) Restoration”** - *Wayne Bell*

Over a year ago President Dave asked me to represent cabin owners in the Little Naches Restoration Project with the Naches Ranger District. This group has been meeting regularly and now I represent all permit holders on the steering committee for this project. We have divided the large Little Naches Project into smaller projects in hopes of beginning work much sooner. The 3 main goals are: forest residency, aquatic restoration and maintain public access.

The first project, “Little Crow Restoration” area and involves approx. 1/3 of the Little Naches area. Presently a scoping letter is out asking for public input. The scoping letter includes decommissioning (destroying) 35 miles of Level I & II roads and closing 27 miles of non-approved roads in the “Little Crow Project.” This does not fit with the overall goal of maintaining public access.

If you do any recreation in the Little Naches area or know of anyone who does, please write or have them write a comment letter in opposition to closing all these roads. Access to your favorite areas may soon be closed. Send written comments to Ranger Kelly Lawrence at Naches Ranger Station, 10237 Highway 12, Naches, WA 98937-9254.

### **Don't Forget!**

**Summer Potluck/Meeting**

**Saturday, June 20, 2015**

**11:30 a.m-2:00 p.m.**

**Nile Valley Community Church**

Bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert to share  
Drinks & table setting will be provided

*Please invite you cabin neighbors to join us!*



# *Water Rights for Cabin Owners - Tyson Carlson*



As directed by Senate Bill 6861, the Washington State Department of Ecology is working to help Yakima Basin Cabin Owners with junior claims (post-1905) purchase mitigation credits to avoid being shut off in dry years. The program is also available to unauthorized water users that meet specific suitability criteria. Additional background on the program, including Ecology's report to the State Legislature on the problem, and their recommended solution can be found here:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/0611044.html>

Ecology's webpage dedicated to the program, including additional references, cost, and ongoing updates, can be found here:

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

Aspect Consulting is currently under contract with Ecology to help implement the recommended solution. Project contacts include:

**Kelsey Collins**

Statewide Trust Coordinator  
Department of Ecology, Water Resources  
Phone 509-575-2640  
E-mail [kesi461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kesi461@ecy.wa.gov)

**Tyson D. Carlson**

Hydrogeologist  
Aspect Consulting  
Phone 206-838-5842  
E-mail [tcarlson@aspectconsulting.com](mailto:tcarlson@aspectconsulting.com)

## **Current Status**

Since last summer we have been focusing on American River cabin tracts, and together with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), have been evaluating potential impacts to Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species, including Bull Trout, Steelhead, and Spring Chinook Salmon. This analysis is now complete and is scheduled to be presented to the basin stakeholders at the Water Transfer Working Group (WTWG) next month. Pending a "thumbs up" from the WTWG, Ecology can begin to actively issue new water right and/or mitigation contracts to American River cabin.

Next up – Naches River (i.e., downstream of the Bumping and American River confluence) cabin tracts. We have been in contact with representatives from many of these tracts and are actively collecting information about water use. We expect to be able to present these groups to the WTWG for approval this summer.

## Next Steps

If you are interested in learning more about the program, and have yet to be contacted by us or a designed representative in your cabin group, the following steps will need to be completed:

1. E-mail the project contacts (above) to express interest in the program. Please include your contact information, cabin location, and a brief description of your current water use, including whether it is surface water or groundwater supply, shared or community water system, or single domestic supply.
2. Depending on our familiarity with the area, a brief site visit may be required. During the site visit, we will request to observe the water source (spring/creek diversion, or groundwater well), place of use (i.e., cabin), and discuss your typical domestic water use. We will be scheduling site visits throughout the summer and fall of 2015.
3. Following the site visit, you will be provided with a summary email with options available to you for obtaining site-specific mitigation and/or a new mitigated water right permit. If a new permit is needed, the email will also describe all the necessary paperwork (Application for a Water Right, Public Notice, application presentation to the basin stakeholder group (WTWG), and the mitigation contract and/or draft Report of Examination (ROE)).
4. Please note, a breakdown of costs is included on Ecology's website (link above). A draft contract will be emailed to you for review, and Ecology will need your verbal agreement to pay, but payment will not be required until a water right permit is approved.

If there are any additional questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact either Kelsey and/or Tyson by phone or E-mail.

## *Announcements:*

***IF YOU HAVE NEW CABIN OWNERS WITHIN YOUR TRACK,  
PLEASE INVITE THEM TO JOIN CPCOA!***

***Information on CPCOA can always be found at: [www.cpcoa.com](http://www.cpcoa.com)***

**AVAILABLE AT OUR JUNE MEETING—UPDATED CPCOA DIRECTORY  
BE SURE TO ATTEND SO YOU CAN GET YOUR COPY!**

# Proposal to update the CPCOA By-Laws



Like most non-profit / social organizations, there has been a reluctance of CPCOA members to take on positions of leadership. Yet without a core group of individuals taking on these jobs, an organization like CPCOA will wither and die. During our March meeting, board members discussed ways to address this and came up with some proposed changes in our by-laws to insure the future of our organization.

There are 3 proposals which will be presented to the membership at the June 20th meeting:

- 1. Date change for electing board members.** For the past number of years, we have significantly more members attending our association meeting in the summer than in the fall, thus this change allows more people to directly participate in elections.
- 2. How officers of the board will be determined.** This proposal increases the number of board members to 9 and changes the way officers are elected. Members retain the responsibility for electing members of the Board of Directors but give the board the authority to select the officers. Over the years, it has been difficult to get CPCOA members to accept a nomination for an officer position without having first served on the board of directors. This proposal will hopefully result in more members being willing to serve on the board.
- 3. Term limit for board members.** This new language is proposed to let CPCOA members know that if they choose to join the board they won't be expected to stay forever. It will further ensure a greater opportunity for wider range of members to serve the organization.

## **Proposal #1:** (changes shown in *italics*)

### **Article IX - Change**

**Election of Officers:** Officers shall be elected by the membership at the ***1st regular*** membership meeting of each calendar year. Candidates will be nominated by the members for vacant offices. President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and at-large members shall be elected for a term of two (2) years. To ensure continuity, terms of office among those positions will be staggered as follows:

***Even years:*** President, Treasurer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of Membership Activities and one at-large member.

***Odd years:*** Secretary, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and one at-large member.

## **Proposal #2:**

### **Article VIII - Replacement**

***Board of Directors and Officers:*** ***The elected Board of Directors of this Association shall consist of 9 active members. The officers of this Association shall consist of President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President of Member Activities, Secretary, and Treasurer, each selected from the current Board of Directors.***

**Article IX - Replacement**

***Election of Board of Directors and Officers:*** *Directors shall be elected by the membership at the 1st regular membership meeting in each calendar year to a term of two (2) years. Officers will be elected by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the board following the first membership meeting of the year, as follows:*

*Even years—President, Treasurer, 2nd Vice President of Member Activities  
Odd years—Secretary, 1st Vice President*

**Proposal #3**

**Article IX - Amendment**

**Term Limits:** The following is added to the second sentence of Article IX as written above:

***“and may serve no more than three (3) consecutive terms. Board members may return to the board only after being off the board for at least one year.”***

**Final Proposed Text:**

Should the membership approve all three of these proposals, Articles VIII and IX of the CPCOA By-Laws will read as follows:

**Article VIII**

**Board of Directors and Officers:** The elected Board of Directors of this Association shall consist of 9 active members. The officers of this Association shall consist of President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President of Member Activities, Secretary, and Treasurer, each selected from the current Board of Directors.

**Article IX**

**Election of Board of Directors and Officers:** Directors shall be elected by the membership at the 1<sup>st</sup> regular membership meeting in each calendar year to a term of two (2) years and may serve no more than three (3) consecutive terms. Board members may return to the board only after being off the board for at least one year. Officers will be elected by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the board following the first membership meeting of the year, as follows:

Even years—President, Treasurer, 2nd Vice President of Member Activities  
Odd years—Secretary, 1st Vice President

The Board of Directors shall have the power to name any member of the Association to fill the unexpired term of any board member or officer, subject to ratification by the membership at the next regular meeting.

The current CPCOA by-laws can be found on the website: <http://www.cpcoa.com/about.htm>