From: Gretchen Valido
To: Gretchen Valido;
Subject: Juniper Group May Newsletter
Date: Friday, May 08, 2009 11:16:00 PM

Greetings!

Highlights--Tuesday night's program on ORV's, tomorrow's field trip to West Tumball just west of Bend, and upcoming hikes. We're asking for your support for DOJ's budget ask for an Environmental Crimes Enforcement Unit (item 3), and spend a day rallying for EPA's global warming regulation in Seattle (item 4). Watch for information about our Member and Friends picnic in August. Programs will resume in the fall after the summer break.

PROGRAMS

1. Tues, May 12 - ORV's - Motorized Mayhem or Wild Nature: Enjoying and Protecting our Forest Wonderlands. This slide presentation will address Off Road Vehicles in our forests and communities, given by Eastside Forest Organizer Asante Riverwind along with two Sierra Club volunteers. ORV damage has grown exponentially across our region's public lands and communities, though ORV users represent less than 5% of the public. ORVs bring intrusive motorized noise, displacing wildlife and disrupting the natural qualities and serenity of our forests. ORVs severely damage forest soils, meadows and native plants, spread invasive weeds, and harm wildlife habitat and salmon water systems. Sierra Club volunteers have been joining with local communities and other recreationists to help close damaged areas to prevent further damage. During 2009 the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests are developing plans that include greatly expanded ORV trail systems across our region's forests. Learning about ORV impacts will inform public communication to the Forest Service about their ORV trail development plans. 6:30 social, 7:00 program, at Central Oregon Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas, Bend. For additional information on ORV's, see our website: http://oregon.sierraclub.org/groups/juniper

SATURDAY FIELD TRIPS

2. TOMORROW - Sat, May 9 – West Tumball proposed fuels reduction project. The Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District is proposing to reduce hazardous fuels on approximately 1,302 acres along Forest Roads 4601 (Skyliners Road) and 4603 in the Tumalo Creek watershed starting approximately 10 miles west of the City of Bend to approximately 1/2 mile upstream of the confluence of Tumalo

and Bridge Creeks. We are looking to monitor this project and need volunteer help. Meet at 12:30 at the Central Oregon Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas, Bend, for voluntary carpooling. Return at 5:00 p.m. Contact Asante to let us know you're coming: 322-4065 or asante.riverwind@sierraclub.org.

Sat, June 20 – Lava Cast Forest, south of Bend. This "Timber Stand Improvement Project" was initiated in 2005. While volunteer efforts succeeded in significantly changing this "fuels reduction" project, its implementation still resulted in widespread logging harms. Despite Forest Service agreements to limit logging of trees greater than 18" diameter, retain wildlife cover areas in each logged unit, and drop areas of particular wildlife and old growth concerns, they proceeded to decimate forest habitat and cover. In some areas there were near clearcuts, with large areas of ravaged soils and logging slash debris. The Juniper Group is looking to document the significant harmful impacts from this project and conduct agency and public education to help prevent similar "fire-risk reduction/forest health" logging project harms. Meet at 12:30 at COEC, 16 NW Kansas, Bend, return by 5:00. Contact Asante: asante.riverwind@sierraclub.org.

ACTION ITEM BY MAY 14 - ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES ENFORCEMENT – HB 5022 & SB 797

3. Tell the State Legislature Ways & Means Committee Yes on HB 5022 and SB 797. The Sierra Club was an early supporter of **John Kroger** in his bid to become Attorney General. Now he's looking to implement a campaign pledge to prosecute environmental crimes in our state, by **creating a small Environmental Crimes Enforcement Unit (ECEU)** to work with District Attorneys, DEQ and EPA to prosecute polluters. The Ways & Means Committee is taking citizen input until May 15th. Tell them you want the ECEU funded! This unit will generate funds through fines/settlements and prevent future pollution clean-up costs at big savings to taxpayers. HB 5022 and SB 797 will establish an Environmental Crimes Enforcement Unit beginning with a $1 million investment from the legislature. This would allow DOJ to immediately start prosecuting Oregon's worst illegal polluters. That investment will level the playing field for companies that are playing by the rules, and send a strong message to companies that violate the law. This unit will change polluter behavior and save the state money. Please call/email your representatives and Ways & Means Committee Co-Chairs Rep. Peter Buckley (503-986-1405, rep.peterbuckley@state.or.us) and Sen. Margaret Carter (503-986-1722, sen.margaretcarter@state.or.us).

EPA RALLY IN SEATTLE - JOIN US

4. May 21 - Support global warming pollution regulation! Seattle is only one of 2 hearings in the U.S. Show the EPA and country you back this bold federal action on CO2 regulation! Details: Travel to Portland by carpool or van, then ride the 7:30 a.m. Sierra Club bus (free ride and breakfast) to Seattle. We'll arrive in time to join the rally at noon, then we'll return to Portland by 5:00 pm. Our transportation costs to Portland are reimbursable. Let's get a good group going to Seattle! Call or email Gretchen for reservations (contact info at end). For more info, see www.oregon.sierraclub.org/coal

LOCAL HIKES FOR SPRING

5. For all hikes, call leader in advance for carpool meeting location. Destination may change depending on weather or trail conditions. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Wear comfortable, broken-in boots and clothing appropriate for weather conditions. Sorry, no dogs.

a) May 16th meet 9:00 a.m. Hike Alder Springs approx 8 miles moderate. Beautiful canyon rock formations, wildflowers. One stream crossing (bring rubber sandals and/or hiking stick). Alison Hamway, 382-2035

b) June 16th meet 9:00 a.m. Hike Pine Mountain, approx 6 miles moderate. Mostly cross country, so wear long pants and sturdy boots. Wildflowers and views of the Great Basin. Alison Hamway, 312-9822

CHAPTER HIGH DESERT COMMITTEE HIKES

6. May 15-17 - Wildflowers, Landscapes and Shifting Climates: Learning the Lessons of Sutton Mountain and the Painted Hills. (A Joint Sierra Club/ Oregon Paleo Lands Institute Field Trip.) This two-day exploration will be based in Mitchell, Wheeler County. We will start our days with pre-breakfast birding, and then travel to Sutton Mountain where we will focus on ancient climates and ancient climate change--and its consequences as demonstrated in the fossil record. It will also provide extraordinary opportunities for landscape and wildflower photography. Hiking will be strenuous with numerous stops. Limited to 9 participants. Costs: $40. Covers lunches both days, rental of hall on Friday evening, and refreshments and a light breakfast on Saturday. Accommodations: in Mitchell motels or B&B, primitive camping near Sutton Mountain, or Forest Service campground 15 miles east of Mitchell.

To register contact: Irene, irenevlach@q.com or (503) 293-4182.

May 23-25 - Fort Rock/Christmas Lake. Spend the long weekend SE of Bend exploring the area between Fort Rock and Christmas Lake. We will take easy day hikes to visit the local Wilderness Study Areas and geological features. One of the goals of the trip is to assess the holiday weekend recreation use of the "lost forest" and "sand dunes" which are both areas with sensitive ecological values. To register contact: Borden, bborden@teleport.com or (503) 234-6723.

Jun 18-21 - Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge. Hart Mountain is a beautiful example of how high desert lands can recover from grazing. We will set up a base camp at the hot springs campground on Thursday and go out on day hikes to explore the refuge on Friday and Saturday. Soak your sore muscles away in the hot spring pool under the stars in the evenings.

To register contact: Heidi, hmdahlin@mac.com or (503) 631-2855.

July 17-21 - Steens Mountain: Fence Pull / Service Trip. Want to help add a bit more "wild" to Oregon's newest wilderness? Join us in removing the visual blight of redundant fencing that's also a danger to hikers and wildlife. Trip participants will pull and roll old barbed wire fence. We will also have downtime to explore the area. The work is strenuous and the climate hot, but you'll walk away with a feeling of accomplishment!

To register contact: Harry, haredoga@gmail.com or (503) 241-7035.

Aug 13-16 - StoneHouse: Activist / Grazing Monitoring. Join us to explore this little visited WSA on the north end of Steens. In addition to visiting the escarpment for some great views, we will continue monitoring grazing practices in the adjoining allotment for a fourth year. This would be a good opportunity to witness the effects of grazing on the landscape along with BLM/rancher efforts to improve management. Ken, ksnider@verizon.net or (503) 674-9574.

HELP NEEDED - EDITOR

7. Juniper Group Newsletter Editor – We're looking for a Wild Juniper Journal Editor to help publish three issues a year (hard copy). Please contact Gretchen at junipergrp@yahoo.com**.** if you'd like to know more about becoming WJJ's Editor.

UPDATED WEBSITE

8. Find out! The Juniper Group website has been beautifully updated! It's your resource for information on programs, committees, National Forest and Wilderness advocacy, volunteer opportunities, Wild Juniper Journal articles, contact information and more, at http://oregon.sierraclub.org/groups/juniper**/.** Thank you, Larry Pennington, Webmaster. Also check out the Oregon Chapter's newly reformatted website at http://oregon.sierraclub.org/.

Welcome to our new and transferring members!

We welcome you to the Juniper Group! Please join us on program night and for our Field Trips. Let us know if you'd like to volunteer.

Sierra Club--Explore, Enjoy and Protect.

Gretchen Valido, Chair

gbvalido@yahoo.com, 541-389-0785

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