

Wild Juniper Journal

A Publication of the Sierra Club Juniper Group

Spring 2008

Klamath Basin Water Issues-The Conflicts Continue

Part I: Klamath Dams Settlement-The Big Giveaway

by Lyn Mattei

On January 16, 2008, the Bend Bulletin published an extraordinary article entitled **"Klamath Groups Agree on Dam Removal Plan-Deal hammered out over two years would restore salmon runs."** According to the article, a deal calling for the removal of four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River to restore struggling salmon runs, had just been struck between farmers, Indian tribes, fishermen, conservation groups and government agencies long battling over water in the region. The plan, produced through closed-door negotiations, "overcame longstanding and bitter differences on how to divide Klamath Basin water between a federal irrigation project and fish protected under the Endangered Species Act" (ESA). It promises to bring about the largest dam removal in U.S. history, opening 300 miles of rivers that have not seen salmon in 100 years and restoring 60 miles of reservoir to free-flowing river.

According to the Bulletin, dam removal would depend on agreement from Portland-based utility owner Pacific Corps (PC), a Warren Buffett subsidiary; and on some \$400 million in new federal spending on salmon restoration "for a total of \$1 billion over the next 10 years." The deal contains no provisions for funding an estimated \$180 million to remove the dams, which is left entirely to PC. The utility stated previously that it would be willing to remove the dams if its ratepayers didn't have to pay; but that it was also pursuing a new 30 or 50-year operating license that would require it to spend around \$300 million for fish ladders. The Bulletin also reported that the Bush administration "supported the settlement process" but that the plan must be reviewed by the federal agencies.

The \$400 million earmarked for salmon restoration is welcome news. However, the Bulletin is silent on how the remainder of the \$1 billion package would be used. The article is also silent on the many mandatory conditions that transform the settlement plan into Klamath agribusiness.

According to the Los Angeles Times article, *Fields of Conflict in the Klamath*, dated May 7, 2007, and the Source Weekly story, *Troubled Waters: The Klamath Mess*, Part III, dated October 11, 2007, before the arrival of settlers in the West, the Klamath Basin wetlands totaled nearly 360,000 acres and carried clean Cascade runoff under skies filled with migratory birds. Change came in 1905, when Congress authorized a massive federal irrigation project in the basin to drain wetlands for homesteading farmers. Two years later, President Theodore Roosevelt established the 49,000 acre Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge (LKNWR), -the nation's first wildlife refuge-to protect some of what remained. In 1928, the Tule Lake (TL) and upper Klamath refuges were created, adding another 32,000 acres to the system.

The federal reclamation agency forged ahead, rerouting whole rivers and building dams and canals. In 1940, it bored a mile-long tunnel through a mountain to help drain Tule Lake. As the lake receded over the decades, farmers demanded to buy the fertile bottomland. Congress compromised and allowed farmers to lease refuge land instead. A quarter of the LKNWR is now farmed, along with half of the land in the TLNWR. The Klamath Reclamation Project currently provides water to 2,400 farms and ranches in the Klamath basin.

In September of 2002, the Klamath River (KR), suffered one of the worst fish kills in U.S. history, largely because irrigation interests diverted too much water in a drought year. In 2005 and 2006, commercial fishing communities in Northern California and along the Oregon Coast suffered devastating financial losses due to government cut backs in West Coast fisheries quotas in a last ditch effort to protect the remaining Klamath River Chinook run. These events have brought national attention to the plight of the Klamath River.

According to Glen Spain, Northwest regional director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association, the dams in the settlement deal provide little benefit to the public, no irrigation and only minimal flood control benefits. "They produce a little bit of power and destroy what was historically the third most productive salmon fishery in the country."

The Klamath Dam Settlement talks originated in 2005 as part of a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission process to re-license four PC dams on the Klamath River. However, the Bush administration made it clear when it entered the negotiations that the administration would not support dam removal or strong relicensing conditions unless the Klamath Project irrigators prevailed on the issues in an acceptable manner. At that point, "Water Watch (WW), and Oregon Wild (OW), were involuntarily excluded from the negotiations because [their] positions on in stream flow protections for ESA listed species and commercial farming on the refuges were counter to the position of the irrigators." Summary of Klamath Settlement Agreement, by Water Watch of Oregon, January 23, 2008.

The Hoopa Valley Tribe of Northern California also refused to endorse the settlement agreement because the Tribe "would never waive its fishery-based water rights," as demanded in a deal that provided no assurances for fisheries restoration. Hoopa Valley Tribe Rejects Klamath River Deal, January 15, 2008.

The WW Summary describes the proposed settlement in two parts: the so-called "Restoration Agreement" that covers water, power subsidies for irrigators,

commercial farming on the LK and TL NWRs, regulatory assurances, fish reintroduction and restoration issues; and the "Hydropower Agreement" that covers removal of the lower four PC dams. Although the two agreements are supposed to be signed simultaneously, **no Hydropower agreement exists.** Some interests are nonetheless pushing for finalization of the "Restoration Agreement" because it would deliver guarantees and monies to certain parties.

The "Restoration Agreement" (Agreement), now ties dam removal to permanent commercial agricultural development on the LK and TL NWRs and also guarantees water deliveries to Klamath agribusiness without any water guarantees for the survival of salmon. Water allocations for refuge wetlands are also cut dramatically in drought situations, with no requirement to reduce water deliveries to irrigated refuge lands during droughts. The wording would likely require the parties to support Endangered Species Act "sufficiency language" (that would essentially exempt the activities from ESA compliance).

In order to meet the "limitations" in the settlement deal, the irrigators budgeted themselves about \$100 million in funding to develop and implement their own water plan-without public oversight or apparent compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The deal also includes \$40 million in irrigator subsidies to cover newly mandated power rate increases to market rates; the promise of future legislation giving Klamath Project irrigators preferential power rates from the Columbia River Hydro System; and new cost sharing agreements with the Bureau of Reclamation concerning the irrigators' share of Klamath Project operation, maintenance and power costs, in possible violation of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982. In addition, all parties approving the settlement have been required to support many, if not all, of these benefits that can apply from 10 to 50 years.

The WW Summary also lists the "good parts" of the \$1 billion settlement plan. They include \$492 million for fisheries

restoration, fish reintroduction and fish monitoring over the next 10 years; \$80 million for the tribes; and \$45 million to "reduce water demand" above UKL by 30,000 acre feet over the next 10 years.

Jim McCarthy for OW, and Bob Hunter for WW, state in their Oregonian Editorial, dated December 21, 2007, that "dam removal alone won't restore the river and its salmon-or bring an end to the Klamath conflicts. They stress that even with dam removal, fish still need water, and it makes no sense to open up hundreds of miles of salmon habitat just to kill the fish with low flows," as happened in the catastrophic Klamath River salmon kill in 2002. The Oregonian, *Bringing Closure to the Klamath Conflict.*

McCarthy and Hunter envision a sustainable solution in the Klamath only when water demands are brought back into balance with actual supply and when wetlands are restored for improved habitat, natural storage and water quality. "The leasing of National Wildlife Refuge land for commercial farming must be phased out, in order that the needs of fish, wildlife refuges, tribes and downstream communities be given equal footing with the needs of agriculture."

OW's Wendell Wood sees hope in that the deal must go through Congress for the \$1 billion appropriation at a time of tight federal budgets and a worsening economy. OW's Steve Pedery thinks the best course for conservation groups is to wait for the Bush administration to leave office in 2009, and work with the new, and hopefully more environmentally friendly, administration. Last, McCarthy and Hunter see the possibility of another federally funded program under a new administration that would purchase land and water from willing sellers to address the Klamath problem of too many interests chasing too little water.

A second article is planned that will address restoration of 16,000 acres of wetlands adjacent to Upper Klamath Lake. *Lyn Mattei is a Juniper Group member. She works with Oregon Wild on wetland issues in the Upper Klamath Basin.*

Through the Tunnels of Ants and Foraging of Birds: Recovering Resilient Forests

by Asante Riverwind

Ever wonder, as a curious fascinated child or contemplative adult, watching ants travel across forest ground and vanish into myriad tunnels, of their journeys in soils' centuries deep weave of roots, fungi, and vanished trees? As ecologists continue to study the complexity of natural ecosystems, awareness grows of the importance of ants, and many diverse insects, on the well-being, resiliency and functioning of forests.

Individually ants may be small and seemingly insignificant, but their importance as a whole is immense. Subterranean insects and mammals creation of tunnels throughout subsurface soils helps reduce fire risk, and also spreads seeds and beneficial nutrients. Similarly, cyclic bark beetle population outbreaks help thin dense forests, winnowing weakened trees while creating habitat for woodpeckers and other

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insectivores. These in turn predate upon bark beetles and other insects, helping keep their population levels within nature's checks and balances.

Rainwater and seasonal snowmelt flow across forest floors, percolating into soil's moisture retaining depths through mazes of tunnels and root entwined pathways. Without aerated soils, riddled with innumerable miniscule underground pathways, much of the water falling on our forests as rain or snow would soon runoff, causing boom and bust style floods, and depriving forest vegetation including trees of essential soil-stored moisture during the dry summer fire season. The more available moisture, the more inherent tree resistance to fire as well as insects.

As past management harms and growing climate change comes to roost in increased fire frequency and severity, the clamor for thinning forests to prevent "catastrophic" fires, insect outbreaks, and/or forest disease continues to rise. A number of forest thinning Congressional bills are now planned for introduction. Federal agencies have also increased their proposals to thin forests to reduce fire risks, ironically "saving" the forest by cutting them down.

Some limited thinning of small diameter trees and fire-prone brush may be helpful in reducing fire risks near human residences. But, as nature abhors a vacuum, thinned areas are soon filled with new fire prone small trees and brush, as well as invasive exotic plants. Economically-driven mechanized logging-thinning often takes trees that have survived decades or even centuries of recurrent fires – such as the Deschutes National Forest's Five Buttes timber sales, which have logged 200 to 400 year old ponderosa pine trees under fire risk reduction pretense. Such thinning also harms forest soils, insects, birds, and small mammals, all of which play important roles in reducing fire risk and enhancing forest resiliency and well being.

Compaction of forest soils, resulting from heavy logging machinery, OHVs, as well as livestock, reduces the capability of subsurface earth to receive and retain moisture. Compaction and soil disturbance during logging, thinning, machinery use, and grazing, also harms subsurface insects and microbial communities that are essential for healthy resilient forests.

Restoring subsurface hydrological flow patterns and moisture retention capability plays a key role in increasing forest resistance to severe fires, as well as resiliency from the impacts of fire, insects, and forest pathogens. In other words, "all creatures great and small" are important in nature's bountiful beautiful dance of healthy wild forests.

Birds and many other species also play important roles in helping keep insect populations, such as bark beetles in check, while spreading beneficial fungi and microbial organisms, as well pathogens that naturally help thin overly dense forests. In reality, natural forest ecosystems fared quite well during the many centuries before European style forestry began to harm and unravel them

with a litany of logging and management tampering. It is not more logging that will ultimately restore our forests, but a better understanding and willingness to work with and within natural ecological processes. While some limited thinning may have potential benefit in helping restore forest resiliency, such thinning must be soundly based in and limited by ecological needs. Thinning alone is only one of many necessary steps to restore forests and reduce fire risks and harms. At root, protecting and restoring soils, hydrology, moisture availability, and biodiverse forest species will likely play a far more important role than thinning, which is too often based on economic rather than ecological motivations.

It is important as various restoration projects are planned across the region's forests, that these projects are held to high ecological standards. Thinning should not be allowed to further diminish the populations of forest dependent wildlife that are already imperiled from past over-logging, including many native and migrant birds, such as olive-sided flycatchers, band-tailed pigeon, rufous hummingbird, winter wren, song sparrow, golden-crowned kinglet, pine siskin, solitary vireo, willow flycatcher, tree swallow, red-eyed vireo, yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat, and others as well. Additionally, goshawks, flammulated owls, spotted owls, and many others are also at risk from such logging projects, as are numerous mammals large and small from ground squirrels and pine martens to rare lynx and wolverine. Thinning should also not be permitted to cut down irreplaceable centuries old trees nor harm soils, springs, creeks, rivers, or fish.

While many involved in designing thinning projects may have years of trained forestry "expertise," it is essential that we remember forest ecosystems are very complex. Societal awareness of forest ecological functioning and the need for restoration are relatively new found. Until very recently the main focus of forestry involved extensive clearcut logging, road building, and other harmful practices that have left our forests in fragmented tatters and imperiled numerous wildlife, aquatic, and plant species. There exists far more society's "experts" do not understand, and may not even be remotely aware of, about forest ecosystem functioning, resilience, and complex interwoven biodiversity, than is currently understood or even surmised. As awareness grows of nature's complexity through time, research, observance, and hopefully humility, our ability to work with rather than against natural recovery processes, helping to restore forests, will grow as well.

Your help in Sierra Club conservation efforts to monitor and change thinning projects being planned across our region's forests is essential in truly addressing fire risks while protecting imperiled birds and wildlife, as well as rare forest plants and flowers. Volunteering is a way of giving back to the forests for the wonderful gifts nature brings us all. Similar to ants, one individual's efforts alone may seem insignificant, but together our combined efforts can help ensure wild resilient natural forests for generations yet to come. To join in our successful ongoing volunteer efforts please contact us.

JUNIPER GROUP LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Co-Chair, Political and Membership Chair
Co-Chair and Newsletter Editor
Grazing Issues Coordinator
Water Issues Coordinator
Naturalist and Treasurer

Gretchen Valido
Fred Tanis
Dave Tracy
John Anderson
Marilyn Miller

The Juniper Group Sierra Club is one of five regional groups of the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club, originally formed by John Muir in 1892, now contains 65 Chapters nationwide. Its purpose: To restore the quality of the natural environment and to maintain the integrity of ecosystems; to educate the public to the need to understand and support these objectives; and to study, explore a the wildlands.

JUNIPER GROUP CONTACT INFORMATION

PO Box 6376 - Bend, OR 97708

Group Co-Chair, Gretchen Valido - 541-389-0785, gvalido@yahoo.com

Group Co-Chair, Fred Tanis - 541-385-3144, tanisfred@hotmail.com

<http://oregon.sierraclub.org/groups/index.asp>

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAM NIGHTS

Juniper Group Program Nights take place on the Second Tuesday of the months February, March, April, October, November, and December at the Central Oregon Environmental Center, starting with food, beverages and social time at 6:30; programs starting at 7:00. Program Nights are free and open to the public, you do not need to be a Sierra Club member to attend. Our next program night is planned for October 9th. For more information please contact Gretchen Valido at 541-389-0785, gvalido@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, April 8, Sierra Club High Desert Committee Presentation.

Central Oregon Environmental Center 16NW Kansas (at Lava St.) Bend
The Oregon Chapter Sierra Club High Desert Committee will make a presentation featuring slides of recent outings in Oregon's desert regions. They'll highlight their mission, goals and scheduled work parties and hikes in 2008.

JUNIPER GROUP OUTINGS

For all hikes, wear comfortable broken in boots, and clothing appropriate to weather conditions. Bring plenty of water and your lunch. We meet at a designated location and voluntarily carpool to the trailhead. Our trip officially starts at the trailhead. Call leader Alison Hamway 382-2035 for meeting location and to confirm attendance.

Saturday, April 12, Masden tract hike

Meet 9:00 a.m. Hike Masden tract (off Newcomb road) along Deschutes river. Approx 4 miles moderate; trail is rough, one scramble up hill. Long pants/light colors recommended.

Saturday, May 10, Alder Springs Hike

Don't miss this fantastic hike. 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). Call Alison Hamway 382-2035 for more details.

Saturday, June 14, Sutton Mountain Hike

Meet 9:00 a.m. Hike Sutton Mountain, approx 6 miles moderate. Explore this wilderness study area above the painted hills; hedgehog cactus may be blooming.

Saturday, June 28, Lookout Mountain Hike

Meet 9:00 a.m. Hike Lookout Mountain in the Ochocos; approx 7-8 miles moderate; great wildflower displays and views over Big Summit Prairie; trail goes by abandoned mine (If trail is still snow covered we will hike alternate destination).

A Sierran Speaks Out for John Kroger

by Gretchen Valido

Once in a while a candidate comes along who causes me to pause—my eyebrow lifts, my nostril expands, I incline my ear. I sense intelligence, I pick up on the guy's gut-deep beliefs, I hear earnestness—and I pay attention. This happens in just a few moments. Words begin registering, then I think, okay, all right! We're going somewhere here!

Such were my initial impressions over a year ago of John Kroger, candidate for Oregon's Attorney General. It's synchronistic that with the compelling and urgent need to start turning the ship around, to dig into the keenly important problems facing our state and planet, John Kroger's fresh air candidacy is happening.

Fellow Sierrans, our time has come: we finally have a candidate we can jump up from the bleachers and cheer for. Kroger intends to—excuse the expression—kick butt. He's tough, smart, dynamic, at ease before crowds and in the courtroom. And he's taken up the enviro standard as one of his highest priorities for the people of our state. Through a questionnaire and

interview process of both Democratic primary candidates, the Oregon Sierra Club wholeheartedly endorsed John early on. Since at this writing there's no declared Republican candidate, the May primary is a must win for us and is the focus of our energies now.

Kroger's campaign is grassroots, and he sees his role as Attorney General as broadly protecting the public interest. "Consumers, not corporations, are going to come first in this state if I am Attorney General," Kroger says. There are good environmental laws languishing on the books for lack of enforcement; tap-on-the-wrist fines for polluting have been defiantly ignored as the illegal polluting continues. The few lawsuits against polluters have favored early opt-outs rather than hard-hitting, message-sending, fine-hurting settlements. "My goal is to make Oregon the nationwide leader in environmental protection," states Kroger.

The 41-year old candidate's background is well suited to the job. He's a former U.S. Marine, graduated with high honors
(Article continued on the next page)

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in Philosophy from Yale with bachelor's and master's degrees, then headed to work on Bill Clinton's presidential campaign, becoming an economic and domestic policy advisor to President Clinton. Kroger then earned a Harvard law degree, magna cum laude, and put that degree to work as a federal prosecutor. He convicted 97% of the criminals he charged, including Mafia drug kingpins, drug traffickers and corrupt government officials. As a member of the Enron Task Force, he successfully prosecuted crooked Enron executives in one of the most infamous corporate fraud cases in U.S. history.

With over 1,000 court appearances and awards and commendations from Attorney General Janet Reno, the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the State Department, he says, "My record proves that I can take on powerful interests in court and hold them accountable for their actions. I have the experience you need to be a tough, effective Attorney General from my first day on the job."

When Kroger took three months off to bike across the country, ending up in Oregon, he "basically fell in love with the state." He took a professor job at Lewis & Clark Law School in 2002 where he teaches criminal law and legal philosophy.

His students have honored him twice with prestigious best teaching awards.

Kroger's five major priorities as Attorney General:

- (1) Fight meth aggressively, with more effective enforcement and a new plan for drug treatment.
- (2) Hold every polluter responsible for the damage they cause to our health and our environment.
- (3) Ensure that every single parent in the state gets the child support to which they are entitled.
- (4) Protect consumers and retirees from scam-artists and crooked companies.
- (5) Defend civil rights, a woman's right to choose, and the rights of Oregon crime victims.

As you can see, not only is Kroger intent on fighting corporate polluters, his vision is holistic when it comes to making Oregon better, safer, fairer, decent, cleaner. All these priorities point to a populist whose goal is to work for you and me, for the citizens. Take on the meth fight, you reduce child abuse, property crime and assault. Oregon's 45th-in-the-nation ranking in terms of drug treatment isn't good enough, Kroger thinks. "Drug

treatment is the number one thing we should be focusing on." A California study shows that four dollars are saved in incarceration and other costs for every dollar spent on treatment. That makes sense and is humane as well.

Kroger's endorsements include former Gov. John Kitzhaber, "I like John's deep courtroom experience and his thoughtful ideas for protecting our children and the environment. He's a fighter, and that makes him the right person for the job." County district attorneys, army veterans, city commissioners, environmentalists and others across the state, west side and east side, have endorsed John Kroger.

Right after changing personal habits to reduce our carbon footprint, the very most important thing we can do for the planet is to work as hard as we can to elect government leaders who understand the challenges of alternative energy and global warming. Elect them now. Our nation is awakening to the reality that climate change is not a partisan issue, that it takes us all working together. That's how progress is going to happen.

But we must, imperatively, elect leaders who get that concept. Kroger does: "I am deeply committed to tackling climate change, and to helping draft and pass laws

with real teeth to limit the damage we are doing to our world. I will do everything in my power to enforce any new laws put on the books, and I will cooperate closely with my Attorney General colleagues to make sure that our efforts are not undone by less aggressive enforcement efforts in neighboring states."

I admit it, I like this man; he's won me over. But that's only a small part of why I'm so enthusiastically supporting Kroger's run for Attorney General. He's got the drive, got the energy, got the smarts to do the job that needs doing. I have confidence in the guy. You watch, he'll inspire all those Justice Department newbie attorneys to do fantastic work. He'll shame the polluters into complying and paying up. He'll set the standard for how to get things done. Oregon will become a model for the nation.

So we've got the easy part: all we have to do is work hard to get John Kroger elected. That's also the fun part, because as you follow his campaign, you'll be inspired, too. Check out his website, www.johnkroger.com, join efforts to get him elected however you can—please! This is a grassroots campaign—that's you and me. Dig deep and donate, folks, donate big, work hard, and we'll be well rewarded.

Cast Your Vote for the Juniper Group ExCom !

Ballots must be received no later than April 29. Don't wait vote today.

Instructions

The Juniper Group election of ExCom members is underway. We have a total of seven candidates on the slate. These include: Gretchen Valido, Fred Tanis, Dave Tracy, Gary Kelly, Merry Ann Moore, Larry Pennington, and Marilyn Miller. Each candidate has made a brief statement about themselves that is included below. Your ballot for the Juniper Group Executive Committee is to the right of these instructions. The ExCom manages the affairs and activities of the Juniper Sierra Club. Seven members (four with two-year terms and three with one-year terms) will be elected. For this year's election Juniper Group members can vote for up to seven candidates. Two ballots can be submitted for joint membership households. Complete your ballot. Insert your ballot into an envelope clearly labeled with your printed name and mailing address. Mail or deliver your ballot to the Juniper Group ExCom Election Committee. All votes are confidential. Membership is verified from your name and address on the envelope before envelopes are opened and ballots separated. To ensure complete confidentiality, you may insert your ballot into a blank envelope inside your mailing envelope. Unverified ballots will be disqualified.

Juniper Group ExCom Election COEC
16 NW Kansas Avenue
Bend, OR 97701

Merry Ann Moore, Juniper Group Executive Committee Candidate

I've been a member of Sierra Club since 1986. I am president of Buckboard Provisioning, a healthy products fundraising company I co-founded in Sisters. I'd be pleased to serve the local environmental community. Relevant experience:

- Sierra Club San Francisco Group Executive Committee (member 1990-1994, chair 1993)
- Conservation Award for outstanding achievement, Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter 1993
- 1994 national Sierra Club Special Achievement Award for Kids at Risk, a video about lead poisoning in 3 languages.
- Communications consultant for environmental concerns (Flexcar, Electric Power Research Institute, San Diego County Public Works, City of San Francisco Recycling Program, South Valley Disposal & Recycling, others)
- Squaw (Why-Chus) Creek Volunteer Streamwatch Monitor for Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, 2004-2006
- Homecare raptor rehabilitator, Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley 1999-2001

JUNIPER GROUP SIERRA CLUB OFFICIAL EXCOM BALLOT

Instructions for completing this ballot are on the left. Vote for up to seven candidates:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gretchen Valido | <input type="checkbox"/> Fred Tanis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gary Kelly | <input type="checkbox"/> Merry Ann Moore |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dave Tracy | <input type="checkbox"/> Larry Pennington |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marilyn Miller | |

Fred Tanis, Juniper Group Executive Committee Election Candidate

I am an avid outdoor enthusiast and recently (almost) retired R&D researcher for the U.S. Government. Since moving to Bend five years ago from Ann Arbor, Michigan I have become a Sierra Club National Service Outings leader and have become active working with the Juniper Group ExCom and the Central Oregon Nordic Club Board. I have been a member of the Juniper Group ExCom for the past two years and have served as Group Co-chair during the last year. Since 2004 I've served as the newsletter editor for the *Wild Juniper Journal*.

I enjoy volunteering in the community and working with the Juniper Group to help defend our public lands. I also have interest in working on global warming and water issues in Central Oregon. My interest in Sierra Club activities at the local and chapter level extends into the 70's and was active in leading group trips as time permitted from work and family. Please support our Juniper Group ExCom with your vote. Our future lies in the hands of those who will give themselves to our world environment.

(See Page 4 for additional candidate statements)

Gretchen Valido, Juniper Group Executive Committee Candidate

As pressure on our Central and Eastern Oregon environment increases due to development and government policy, it's more important than ever to have a strong Sierra Club presence. As volunteers, members of the Executive Committee make decisions affecting an array of issues within the environmental realm.

Since early 2002 I've served in various capacities on the Juniper Group Executive Committee, including Membership Coordinator, Political Committee Chair, ExCom Co-Chair, and Oregon Chapter Political Committee member. Since 2006 I've served on the Oregon Chapter ExCom.

I'm running again for ExCom because I believe so strongly in the good work the Sierra Club has accomplished here and the important role it will play in the future. I enjoy being a member of the Juniper Group community of people with similar values, and it's given me an opportunity to act on my environmental concerns and hopes that otherwise would sit tangled in frustration.

As for my background, I grew up in a rural Chicago suburb, headed to the University of Washington after falling in love with the West's mountains as a kid, lived in the Bay Area much of my adult life, and moved to Bend in 1997. Since then I've worked from home with my transcription business and also co-founded a planet-friendly gift wrap company with my daughter in 2006.

Why do I volunteer for the Sierra Club? Because nature matters! Because there's a strong pull tugging at my conscience and soul that can't be described in words, circling around descriptors like respect, hope, connection, bigger-than-life, reverence, the life-germ of the journey from earliest-then to beyond-now.

By supporting these candidates for the Executive Committee, you'll participate in maintaining and growing its strength to effectively serve the Central and Eastern Oregon community. We value and honor the contributions of each ExCom member. Please vote today.

A vote for Marilyn Miller is a vote for the Environment

I have been on the Executive Committee of the Juniper Group Sierra Club for over seven years as a volunteer and am currently the Conservation Chair and the Treasurer. I have also held the position of Program Night and Publicity Chair. I have had a deep love of nature and wildlife as long as I can remember and have a firm commitment to protecting and speaking out in any way I can for our Mother Earth and her critters. My passion is protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat. I have volunteered thousands of hours during my time with the Sierra Club and promise to continue to do so. I am married to Craig Miller who is working on protecting Oregon's high desert with the Oregon Natural Desert Association. We have two geese and one (100 percent indoor) cat. We opted for furry, fuzzy children instead of the human kind!

My qualifications include:

- Federal Forest East Representative for the Oregon Chapter Sierra Club.
- Member of the Sierra Club Forest Committee.
- Certified Naturalist with a broad understanding of our natural ecosystems.
- Currently serve on the Travel Management Strategy Working Group for the Deschutes and Ochoco Forests and the Crooked River National Grasslands as a non-motorized representative.
- Currently serve on the Steering Committee for Central Oregon Partnership for Wildfire Risk Reduction.
- Currently serve on the Board of the East Cascades Bird Conservancy and their Conservation Committee.
- Awarded the Holly Jones Award two years in a row for on-going work trying to achieve permanent protection for the Badlands Wilderness Study Area east of Bend.
- Awarded the Juniper Group Award twice for working on numerous environmental issues and campaigns that were important to the Central Oregon Community.
- Received an Award from the BLM for Sage Grouse Lek volunteer monitoring work.
- Accomplished wildlife/nature photographer.
- Appointed by Bruce Babbitt to the South East Oregon Resource Advisory Committee for three years.

Vote for me and you will know that I will speak out aggressively for the protection of what we value here in Central and Eastern Oregon.

Larry Pennington, Juniper Group Executive Committee Candidate

I recently retired to Central Oregon, locating at Crooked River Ranch, from Pasco, Washington, where I worked for thirteen years at the Department of Energy Hanford Site. This followed twenty-two years in the US Navy and a short stint as a project engineer for Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation in snowy upstate New York. I have always been interested in the environment and conservation, but my recent retirement has allowed me the time to be active with organizations promoting those goals.

I am a long-time member of the Nature Conservancy and participated in four work weekends this last summer. I have recently joined the Oregon Natural Desert Association, and participated in a couple of Friends of the Badlands events this winter. I am now the Webmaster for the Juniper Group web site and a member of the recently formed Juniper Group Political Action Committee. I plan to participate in as many forest and desert field checks this coming spring and summer as I can fit in with my other interests (skier, hiker, computer geek, and political junkie).

I would enjoy serving the Juniper Group as a member of the Executive Committee because I bring a diverse background of experiences that may let me see some of the issues facing the group from a different perspective than others. Many of these issues are difficult – there is no “right” answer to many of them. And as long as humans continue to overrun the earth with uncontrolled population growth, the answers will only get harder. We need to get started educating our fellow humans NOW on the solutions and the consequences of inaction.

Dave Tracy

Juniper Group Executive Committee Candidate

I have been working on conservation issues in Central Oregon since the mid 1990's, and have been a member of the Juniper Group Executive Committee since 1999, currently serving as Juniper Group Secretary. I am running for re-election to the Executive Committee because I believe in the important work that the Juniper Group has accomplished in the past 10+ years and want to support the continuing efforts of other club members and activists. I have also served on the boards of Oregon Field Ornithologists and the East Cascades Bird Observatory.

Currently I serve as President of O.F.O and am on the E.C.B.C. Science Committee. Growing up in rural Southeastern Oregon, the mountains and desert have always provided me with places for recreation, solitude and inspiration. As a member of the ExCom, I will continue to work on the important issues that threaten these special places.

Gary Kelly

Juniper Group Executive Committee Candidate

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1995 and have always been a biker, skier, boater, and hiker. My home range through college was the Adirondack Mountains of New York with an occasional trip to the Whites. In college I was the leader of the “Outing Club” which organized weekly hikes and backpacking trips. After college I moved to California where I was active in the Sierra Club in the Bay Area - mostly cross country skiing. I also assisted with hiking, canoeing, rock climbing, and skiing trips being run out of De Anza college. I spent the next 20 years in Portland where I continued to do outdoors sports, but my emphasis shifted to work and family.

My career was developing Database and Operating Systems Software for many companies including Tandem, Intel, and Sequent. Later in my career I started and ran R&D offices for both Informix and Oracle in Portland. Now I'm retired and willing to “give back” to the community. I recently joined the board of the Central Oregon Nordic Club and assisted in the Nordeen Ski Hut rebuild project.