

NEWS FROM THE RAINFOREST by the 'FRIENDS OF THE CARBON CANYON' : About the Upper Carbon River Valley rainforest at the NW corner of Mt. Rainier National Park..... Fairfax area. July, 2001

Again, 'Friends of the Carbon Canyon', among other things, are working hard to preserve the last two parcels of public land up here. The DNR and county parcels hook together to provide the last remaining wildlife migration zone in the middle of this valley, connecting the river to high land going into wilderness areas. These are vital to restoring the wildlife which has all vanished in the last several years. Exciting things are happening! Our efforts are getting easier because of the contacts we're making. Thanks to everybody who gave their support. Whether you donated letters, phone calls, your vote, good wishes, or whatever, it has made a difference!!!! In case you cannot attend our annual gathering, here's an update of happenings from this area of Mt. Rainier's rainforest.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES' FAIRFAX PARCEL: This is the DNR's parcel that wraps around the town of Fairfax. It was put on the top of their Trust Fund Transfer list, thanks to all the support from many different groups. It has been approved for funding, but will take 6 months to get final word on what program it will be put into. Please don't call DNR for updates, call me first because the gal is swamped right now. When I called last week, she said, "Man, so many people have called on this, you guys sure must be organized." I was the only one who called from our group, so I assume other groups are on it too. Good work everyone! The critters thank you!

COUNTY'S FAIRFAX SECTION: Plans are moving forward for protection of this piece. Together with the DNR parcel, this will provide 1,000 acres of wildlife corridor in the heart of this valley that won't be cut and sprayed.

COPLAY BRIDGE: The Forest Service is rebuilding the bridge and should be done about November. This will open up this National Forest area that has been recovering for several years. We had one meeting with them on plans for the lake. It was full of rhetoric and political verbage on their part. We made ourselves perfectly clear. We'll continue to demand that the area has maximum protection for the lake, wildlife and habitat, and that all side-roads be closed to motorized vehicles. This lake will NOT become another 'Evans Creek' ORV area if we can help it. That is an historic elk migration zone. If we ever get any migrating animals back up here, this'll be intact. Please call, write, or attend future meetings. US Forest Service, 450 Roosevelt E, Enumclaw, 98022.....360-825-6585.

TRAPPING AND HOUND-HUNTING: In spite of efforts to restore both of these blood-sports, our valley is safe right now. HERE'S GOOD NEWS!!!! A very small percentage of our critters are starting to return again. Plum Creek hand-sprayed instead of helicopter spraying around the houses last year, this meant less poisoning of land and waters. Plus, the majority of the valley has already been clear-cut, so that is slowing down too. With traps out of the puny creek buffers, more of the roads being closed off to poachers, and less logging this year, we are seeing more life in the woods. We've seen a deer, grouse, frogs, eagles, vultures and more songbirds. But still no coyotes!

METH LABS: BAD NEWS!!! Meth labs are still a problem up here. Again, don't move any suspicious-looking garbage. Bottles with holes cut in the lid or liquids in them should not be moved. When left to sit, chemicals stabilize, but moving them can create toxic fumes. Propane tanks with a blue-green color on the valve means it was used for cooking meth. Call the local sheriff-253-798-4944, or police, or call PC Health Dept. at 253-798-6058

MT. RAINIER NATIONAL PARK: The Carbon River Ranger Station in Wilkeson is finally open!! And remember, there is still no drinking water inside of the park at either entrance, Carbon River (Ipsuit) or Mowich. BRING YOUR OWN WATER!!! Yearly passes are cheap, and you need a permit to camp. Consider a donation also. Stop in Wilkeson to get info, there's not always someone at the entrances. Mowich entrance will open the second week of July, call first to be sure, 360-829-5127. The clear-cutting right up to the park boundries has really dried things out. be careful. The foot-bridge to Chenuis Falls is in. The wildflowers are out. Go enjoy the Park's rainforest!!!

GAS-WELL DRILLING: They've slowed down some now. There's not as many water and fuel tankers on the highway anymore. However, watch for trucks at all times, and remember the Fairfax bridge is one-way only.

ON THE SIDE: ('Friends of the Carbon Canyon' are not involved). The appeal filed on a permit near the Park entrance on behalf of the 'Mountaineers' group and two of us locals was denied, but we are appealing that decision.

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