

News from the Rainforest to all Friends of the Carbon Canyon....June 2004

Summer's almost here!!! It was a windy winter. It's been 20 years since the east winds pounded us like this, there are many trees down or damaged! Favorite trails may not be open yet, check before planning a hike. It's very peaceful now in the valley. The wildlife continues to SLOWLY come back, but it'll still be many years before it's noticeable. However, much work is still going on to make sure there are places for us and the wildlife to be. We'll have some exciting news to share at the party, AUGUST 7TH & 8TH!!! The valley continues to draw much attention, many groups are involved, and we want to thank everyone for their efforts and good wishes. Your generous donations last year made this mailing possible; also online connections so we may watch for sprayings and cuttings around the houses and above the roads, letters and phone calls to our legislative representatives, meetings, etc. GOOD JOB EVERYONE!!!!!!

Pierce County Conservation Futures grant money has been accepted for the land known as Lower Fairfax Townsite. It's about 2 miles past the Fairfax Bridge on the lower road, just before the turnoff to the present Fairfax. There's very large rocks blocking the road, they were put there because too many pin-heads were dumping cars and garbage there. It'll be a while before it's decided what to do with it, but it has a rich history and is a real jewel ecologically.

Mt. Rainier National Park Charrettes. These meetings were held all around the mountain to gather ideas on ways the gateway communities could enhance the Park entrances. This gave neighboring towns a chance to co-ordinate energies and share similiar attractions. Signage was a big theme; kiosks, viewpoints, and directional brochures for each area were other ideas. These meetings were a huge success and the Park Service contributed design engineers to lay the ideas out.

National Parks Conservation Association featured the Carbon Valley in it's art museum at Pioneer Square last fall. This was to draw attention to the Mt. Rainier Extention project that both our senators and representatives in Washington DC are trying to get through the legislature. It was a beautiful exhibit with many well-known artists and photographers. However, the bill for the expansion is stalled and waiting for the money to expand the Park out a couple of miles from the Ranger Station to the Carbon River Ranch. There's a hearing on it June 8th, we'll have word at the party on the results.

Thank-you to the Rainier Timber Company for working with us on their new cut which is right above our houses on the Mowich Road. They are cutting around the headwaters of the water supply for all eight families that live up there. So far they are communicating well with us. Hopefully they'll be as agreeable when it comes time to spray their poisons on their land. We've been oversprayed twice. Plum Creek agreed to hand spray adjacent properties, which we really appreciated.

Carbon River Valley Conservation Project continues to meet monthly to discuss plans for the valley. This is 14 well-known working groups who are co-ordinating the different efforts to avoid overlapping our energies. By staying in touch, the project's more powerful and effective. There'll be more info at the PARTY!!!!

Mt. Rainier National Park.....Be sure to stop or call the Ranger Station in Wilkeson before heading to the Park. #360-829-5127. Or log on to www.nps.gov/mora. They're open daily 8:30 until 5 or 6:00 depending on the days. Fees are still \$10 a week or \$30 for a yearly pass. THERE IS NO DRINKING WATER PAST WILKESON !!! Bring plenty of your own water!! There'll be a camping fee at Ipsuit Campground this year of \$8 a night and \$20 or \$25 for group camping. Fires are allowed, bring your own wood, NO WOOD GATHERING is allowed. No pets on trails and only on leash in the campground. The road in is still rough, but passable. DO NOT FEED BEARS OR ANY WILDLIFE!!! On the trails and in camp, try not to spread ANY food around and pick up all trash. Any food attracts bears which may have to be killed if they become a problem!! Check before trying to go to Mowich Lake, it usually opens after the 4th of July. Paul's Peak trail had a lot of wind damage. REMEMBER...BRING YOUR OWN WATER!!!!!! The hike from Ipsuit to the Carbon Glacier is a good hike for early in the year. Our mountain and it's temperate, inland rainforest is unique from all the world!! Please enjoy the total silence, the glorious mosses and beautiful scenery with reverance and respect. It's our treasure!!

Forest Service lands.....Coplay Lake and Evans Creek.....The Forest Service office on Hwy. 410 in Enumclaw is open 8:00 to 4:15, Mon-Fri. and maybe Saturday. It's closed Sundays. #360-825-6585. Permits are \$5 a day or \$30 a year. Get permits at Burnett and Wilkeson store. NO DRINKING WATER AVAILABLE PAST WILKESON !!!! On the Mowich Road, (upper road), Evans Creek ORV Park and campground is about 5 miles from the Fairfax Bridge. Fires in campground firepits only. To get to Coplay Lake, take the lower road. Just before the Ipsuit entrance to Mt. Rainier Park, turn left and go across the long bridge. Up this road is the trail to Surprise Lake, Coplay Lake, the trailhead to Summit Lake and Summit Peak. Dogs on leashes, pack out what you pack in,

don't drop any kind of food on trails or campsites.

Public Forest Management.....DNR (Department of Natural Resources). The Board of Natural Resources is deciding to increase logging on our public lands for the next decade. This land belongs to all the citizens of our state, so they've been holding public hearings. The last one I attended was overflowing with people pleading to save the old-growth and pull back from the waters to protect salmon. However, one hour after that meeting, they voted to consider adopting a plan to increase cutting of old-growth, clear-cutting near the streams and on hillsides; and to reduce the number of trees left in the owl-circles, clear-cuts and headwaters. Under our new Lands Commissioner's leadership, (Doug Sutherland), we are reverting backwards in our forest management. This will make our timber very unlikely to be certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for a Green Label, that would have made our timber and our loggers more valuable in the future. This plan may also conflict with our Salmon Recovery Plan. If our state's plan for the salmon doesn't work, the Federal government will step in. Log on to www.wecprotects.org to find out more information. Doug Sutherland is up for re-election this year.....Please remember this when voting, Cooper for Lands Commissioner.

Meth Labs.....Still a problem in the valley and everywhere!!! The fried, theiving tweakers set up anywhere (campers, vans, tents), cook their POISON, dump their toxic waste into our creeks and then leave the dangerous garbage laying around. DO NOT TOUCH any garbage that looks suspicious. Report it or any strange activity to local or county police. Make a note of exactly what and where you saw it so you can report accurately. People can be harmed by this stuff!!! REMEMBER..... don't move any bottles with holes in the lid or with tubes in them. Toxins may lie dormant until stirred, then they can create dangerous fumes. Propane bottles with greenish-blue corrosion around the valve HAVE BEEN USED for meth-making. BEWARE !!!! Leave them alone and report them!!!!

Trapping.....Several bills were introduced during this short legislative session to address the trapping issue. One made it to the governor, and he vetoed it. The anti-trapping initiative remains intact. THANK-YOU GOVERNOR LOCKE !!! Legislators had a chance to compromise on I-713 (which was passed by a majority of citizen's votes), but the sporting groups continue to push for all or nothing. This original bill was meant for SPORT trapping and fur commerce ONLY !! But the way it has been interpreted has caused a lot of problems for some people. It could be fixed if an honest attempt was made to keep the intent intact. That's what the majority of people want!! In our valley, it has been a god-send. The small critters can recover and we'll have life back in the valley some day like it's supposed to be.

Toxic chemicals along your roads and in your schools, parks and drinking waters.....Do your children or pets walk alongside the roads? Do you know they spray twice a year? If your children eat the berries or pick flowers, they may be getting a high dose of toxins. Call or write the DOT (Department of Transportation) to encourage them to cut the brush instead of spraying. You can get "No Spray" signs for your property. Call your nearest county road shop to find out where to get them. SCHOOLS AND PARKS..... Call your school or city hall and ask if there's an integrated pest management system in place. Do you want your kids rolling around in herbicide and pesticide, having it on their skin, breathing it and not even knowing it? Ask city hall if your drinking water is monitored for chemicals, and what is being added to it. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW !!! You have a right to be involved in what is going on around you. Washington Toxics Coalition has some wonderful materials on safe alternatives for household and garden use.1-800-844-7233.

PLEASE REGISTER NOW TO VOTE!!!!****! ONE vote does make a difference!! Especially this year!!! Only 50% of registered voters in the United States of America vote. THAT'S AWFUL!!!!!! It's ridiculous when it's so easy to get a mail-in ballot and VOTE!!! Apathy can destroy a democracy!!! It can turn our great nation into a dictatorship!! Register now and be ready for November!!!! Call our state politicians with anything that's on your mind. They love it!! Call the toll-free number and leave your message with your name and address, the information will get to the proper representative.1-800-562-6000. Call your county and city politicians with any problems, you'd be surprised at how well they respond.

THE JOURNEY IS THE DESTINATION !!!!! HAPPY TRAILS !!!

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