

NEWS from the RAINFOREST to all Friends of CARBON CANYON !!!
June 2002

HELLO TO ALL, Things are moving so fast up here, something is always in the works. The Rainforest is finally getting the attention it deserves **** So many groups and individuals are Helping in, it's amazing. **WE THANK & APPRECIATE EVERYONE'S EFFORTS and donations*****, this is how they've been paying off: GREAT NEWS is that with the toxic spraying and logging easing up, the trapping stopped, we are slowly seeing the animals returning !!! There are more songbirds, birds of prey, grouse, rabbits, some deer and coyote, not to mention the return of Bee's, hummingbirds, and Dove's. We still need racoons, porcupines, skunks, weasels, Elk, bear, and big cats. THE NEW FAIRFAX FOREST, this IS your land !! Through a combined effort, there has been over 1,000 acres set aside for you, your children, and their children to come. This area will also remain home to the animals which live there now, and their young for the future.

It's the last patch of forest in the middle of the valley. It wraps around Fairfax on the east side, comes down from the top of the valley and crosses the river.

The upper part is 640 acres of county controlled land that has been put into "OPEN SPACE". We joined Audubon, (whom saved it 10 yrs. ago), and made a great case to the Pierce CO. Council, WHOM wanted to trade it to a DEVELOPER. The lower section is 400 acres of DNR controlled land --- Thanks Jennifer Belcher, for removing this land from a trade package before her retirement as Lands Commissioner. The legislature just put it into trust transfer, that will be set aside for some alternative management.

A PLAN for the VALLEY: Fairfax Forest was a seed sown and provided incentive for this plan - It connects to private lands along the river that Mt. Rainier National Park plans to acquire. It will be a new beginning for the Rainforest - - Protection, recreation, expansion of the Park, and wildlife !!!!!

We have land trusts, conservancies, county agencies, and partnerships involved. We will be discussing this at the PARTY (1st wkend in August), at Mowich Micks.

MT. RAINIER NATIONAL PARK: the new ranger station is open, (Hours -8:30 To 4:00 -7 days a week), PH.# 360-829-5127. Be sure to stop and get **PASS'S REQUIRED**. (\$10.00 /wk. & \$30.00 for a season pass), updated maps, current info. **ALSO, there is NO drinking water past this point**** not even in the Park - - - SO CARRY YOUR OWN !!!**

While at the ranger station, you may want to talk to them about MT. Rainier's new master plan. This plan contains some big changes for the park entrances - - - future road closures, shuttles, and expansion plans along the Carbon. These plans will help take the stress off this unique "virgin" rainforest inside its borders. We will update all this at the party - - so try to be there !!!

IPSUIT ENTRANCE: The road and campground are open. It's a 3 1/2 mile hike to the Carbon Glacier, and connects to all good hiking trails. Here is the heart of your rainforest ----GIANT mossy trees wrap you in peaceful, deafening silence. Please visit this area **

MOWICH ENTRANCE: The road is open past EVANS CREEK, but not yet to the Lake. Due to snow at that level it takes a little longer to drive in, but feel free to walk in. Check the rangers on opening dates, sometime after 4th of July. Tolmie Peak and Spray Park are just 3 or 4 miles from the lake. The parking lots fill up early on weekends, and again, don't forget your pass's - - -available at the ranger station in Wilkeson. BRING WATER, you will need it. **THEN - - - REMEMBER, as in life, the journey is the destination !! SO slow down, stop along the way, and ENJOY the RIDE *****

COPLAY LAKE: The new bridge is in and open. The Chenais road is abandoned. No side roads are gated, and the road to Summit Lake will soon be closed. Forest Service Pass required Here, available at Argo's in Burnett, and Wilkeson Grocery.

We were hoping to see more protection for the Lake with more side roads gated to help avoid (or stop) the ongoing METH-LAB dangers, GARBAGE dumping, and RENEGADE recreation vehicles. If you visit the area and think it needs more protection, PLEASE, send your comments to US FOREST SERVICE, 450 Roosevelt, Enumclaw, 98022.

To help re-establish the historic elk migration, Cascade Conservation Partnership is trying to buy 3 square miles of plum creek land in this area.

STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT : right now the Dept. of Natural Resources is laying out plans for the next decade of State Management. The DNR is steward of 2.1 million acres of our lands (us the people have a say in how we want this used). This is more than ANY TIMBER CO. We're concerned about protecting the tiny amount of OLD - GROWTH acreage left in our State, there is only about 5% of original Old Growth Forests left in our state !!!!!

It's of great importance that they don't remove wildlife protection, as our new Commissioner of Public Lands (Doug Sutherland), wants to do. We want to encourage the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), certification, or GREEN LABEL, for our Forests. This tells you that the wood comes from relatively well managed forests. It raises the value of our forests, and our Loggers, protects the air, water, wildlife, reduces flooding downstream, and protects our Salmon. Remember, if our states Salmon plan doesn't work, the Federal Regulators will take over and COST EVERYONE MORE !!! PLEASE WRITE SOON to DEPT. of Natural Resources, POBox 47001, Olympia, WA, 98504-7001, atten: Susan Yeager - - - comment on wildlife, old-growth protection, and encourage FSC certification.

METH-LABS : The problem up here is REAL, they set up, cook their poison, then dump their TOXIC waste into the creeks, and leave their Polluted garbage laying around. It's best to report any suspicious - looking garbage OR activity to the Local or County Police, or METH-LAB hot-line, at 253-798-7537. Also try Dept. of Fish & Game. **BE SURE TO MAKE NOTE of EXACTLY WHAT , AND WHERE you saw IT. This way you'll be able to be accurate when reporting !!! REMEMBER - - - don't move any bottles with holes in the lid or 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**

TRAPPING : They will try again next year to over-turn the anti-trapping initiative-I-713. This was never meant to stop mole trapping or predator control. IT was only meant to stop recreational trapping and Fur commerce. Sports groups want to throw the whole thing out. Trapping is a blood-sport, it's not killing for food. Contact State LEGISLATORS and encourage them to keep the original intent by accepting a Bill to reword or re-interpret it. There has to be a compromise possible, it can't be ALL or NOTHING - - Call the toll-free hot-line, 1-800-562-6000 anytime, give the person your name, address, message , and they will deliver it to your proper, respective Legislators*****

Mardel Chowen
360-897-8425
Friends of Carbon Canyon
P.O. Box 67, So. Prairie, Wa. 98385

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