

In 1996, our loaded schoolbus was just missed by a mudslide from a clear-cut in the Carbon Canyon. We protested and gathered to form the Friends of the Carbon Canyon. The logging company did promise they wouldn't cut above our road anymore, but two years later they cut right above the high bridge. From then on, we've been an active watchdog group. We go to Olympia, write letters and make phone calls. And Mick's annual party has evolved into our "Friends" gathering. Cuts above our roads and houses, preserving our public lands, meth labs, dumping, poaching, weight limits on the high bridge, speed enforcement, gas-well drilling, trapping, wildlife restoration, and poisonous sprays on the clear-cuts next to our houses. These have been some of our concerns over the past nine years. We've had amazing results!! While we can't take a lot of credit, we made a lot of noise and got the right people up here to see what a special place this is. We did convince the DNR and Pierce County to set aside over 1,000 acres by Fairfax. And now the county is buying properties; there's a National Park Expansion Plan; more protection for the National Park borders; Hucklechuck is secure; and we have the Cascade Land Conservancy along with over a dozen major groups working together as the Carbon River Valley Conservation Project. However, we also drew the attention of a developer who bought 1500 acres just south of the high bridge and already has it plotted. We'll still keep working hard to preserve the rustic nature of our valley and to get our native animal populations rebuilt..... Perry Crandall was there through every step of our "Friends" venture. He loved the valley and respected the animals, and he'll always be part of our efforts, and of this valley. His gentle spirit drifts like the fog and lingers with our thoughts as we gather again. We'll celebrate our nine years of "Friends", remember our friend Perry and his wonderful 'flan', and discuss our future and our responsibilities to our earth.

National Park Expansion Plan has recieved \$1 mil and will be getting another one this year. We're getting there!!!!

Pierce County. Conservation Futures has already purchased over 100 acres at the Old Fairfax Townsite along the river. Now Executive Ladenburg is drafting a \$20 mil bond to buy land, development rights and easements on 2,563 acres. Included is the Carbon Canyon (Gorge), 452 acres from Carbonado to the high bridge, and also the 203 acres that is Hucklechuck. These are two vital pieces to our valley!!!! These additions will make over 2,500 acres safe!

State Lands (our public-owned lands). Mixed news with the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) and it's Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI). It will certify our wood on 1.4 mil acres of Forest Trust Land, saying it's using responsible forestry (we have 2.1 mil acres of state lands). But most people feel this is just a token effort. Forest Stewardship Council certification (FSC) would have reduced logging near streams, had fewer clear-cuts and protection for old-growth.

Trapping. Senate Bill 5319 would have allowed for sport and commercial trapping again with body-gripping teeth, with serrated edges, and spring-pole devices. It died in committee. Our sparse animal population is safe for one more year.

Visiting the Forest Service (Coplay Lake and Evans Creek) and National Park (Carbon or Mowich entrance).....remember, THERE IS NO DRINKING WATER PAST WILKESON!!! And you need passes to get in. Forest Service passes at Burnett and Wilkeson Grocery; Nat. Park passes at Wilkeson Ranger Station or at entrances. Pack out what you take in.

Meth-labs. Still a poble. Still dumping their toxins and leaving dangerous garbage. DO NOT TOUCH anything suspicious. Note the location and please report it to local or county police so someone doesn't get hurt by it.

Toxins along roads, in schools, and in your water. Children are more suseptable to chemicals. call your school and city hall and see what is on the playgrounds, parks and in your drinking water. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW!!!! You can get 'No Spray' signs at your county shop for you roadsides. Call your county and state representatives to reduce toxins.Wash. Toxics Coalition has info on safe alternatives for household and garden use 1-800-844-7233.

Governmental concerns. State government...toll-free hotline for your state representatives is 1-800-562-6000. You can ask general questions or leave messages. Give your name, address and phone # and the person will deliver your message to your legislator, even if you don't know who he/she is. County government....253-798-7777, toll-free 1-800-992-2456, main switchboard for your county representatives. And remember to register to vote!!!!

THE JOURNEY IS THE DESTINATION!!!!

HAPPY TRAILS!!!!

Friends of the Carbon Canyon

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