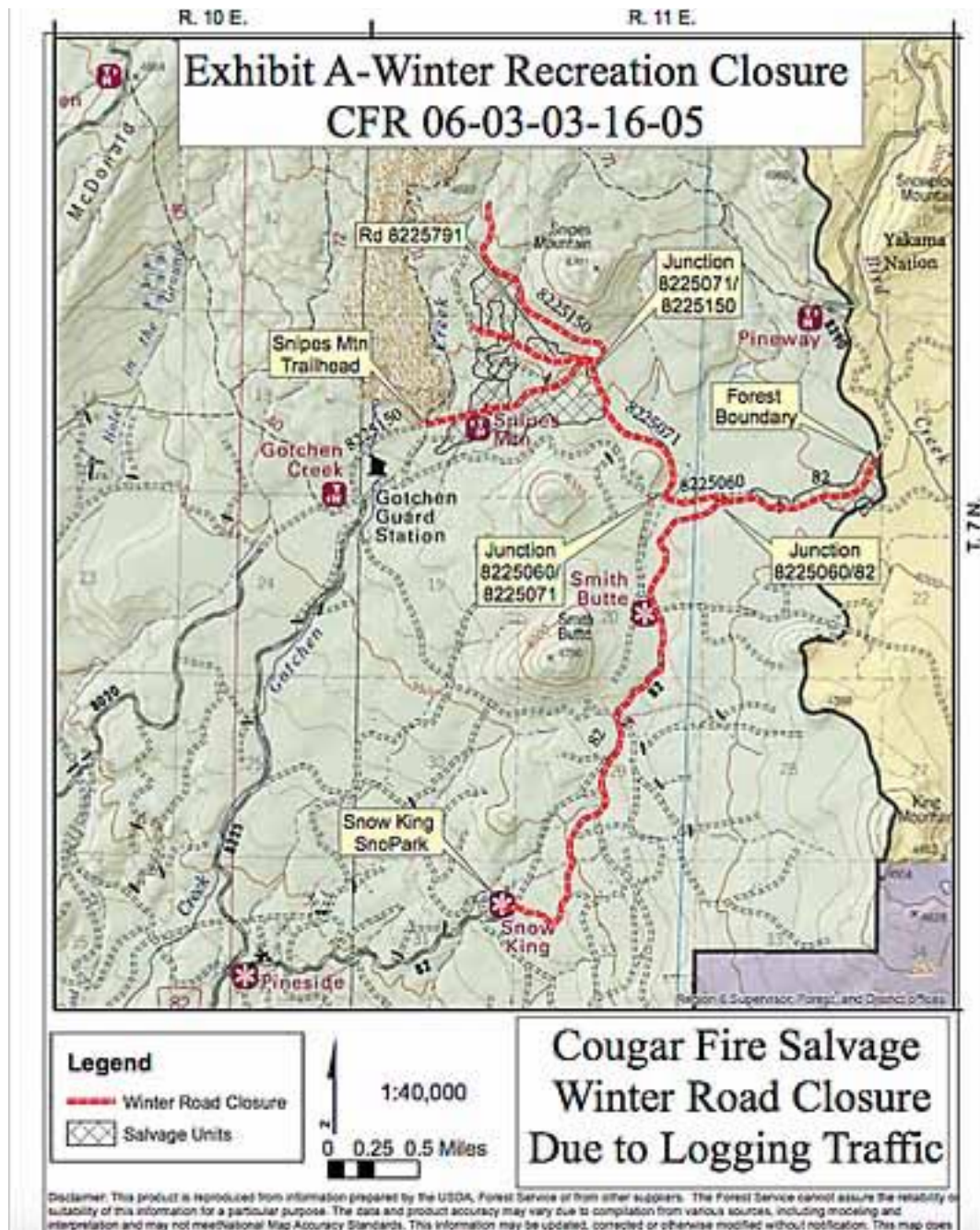


FRIENDS OF MOUNT ADAMS WINTER 2017 NEWSLETTER

By Darvel Lloyd. darvllloyd@gmail.com, Jan.15, 2017

Winter Road Closures in the vicinity of the Snow King SnoPark

The Mt. Adams R.D. has closed off a few roads to snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing because of salvage logging in areas burned by the 2015 Cougar Creek Fire. For more information: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd528320.pdf



Summer of 2017 Upper Bird Creek Road Closure Alert: Last summer, Yakama Nation crews partially restored road corridors and campground facilities in their “Mt. Adams Recreation Area”, but they are planning to close their portion of the Bird Creek Road once again for the entire upcoming season. However, the public will be allowed access via trails from the west (Tr. #9), the south (Snipes Mtn. Tr.) and the northwest (Sunrise Camp climber’s trail).

Restoration of the fire-damaged hiking trails in the Bird Creek Meadows and vicinity

FOMA is partnering with the Washington Trails Association with a project to restore trails and bridges in the Bird Creek Meadows and vicinity that were damaged by the Cougar Creek Fire. In December, FOMA donated \$1,000 to the WTA start the project. Volunteer crews will commence work in August and hopefully complete the project by the end of September.

Ryan Ojerio, WTA’s SW Washington Regional Manager, obtained enthusiastic approval by the Yakama Nation and the U.S. Forest Service, and is now coordinating the project. Since our seed money falls far short of project expenses, Ryan welcomes additional support through WTA memberships and volunteer sign-ups: <http://www.wta.org>; (206) 625-1367; At least two informal social events in May are being planned, featuring the Bird Creek Trails project: WTA’s annual “Hikers Potluck” in Vancouver; and a “Trails and Ales” event in BZ Corners. Dates and times will be announced soon.



Upper Bird Creek Meadows, off Trail of the Flowers. Photo by Darryl Lloyd, 8/2016

Mt. Adams Cattle Grazing Allotment and Drift Fence Issues

FOMA is also partnering with the Cascade Forest Conservancy (CFC)—formerly the Gifford Pinchot Task Force: <https://cascadeforest.org>—to assist us with continuing issues involving the Neil Kayser family’s cattle trespassing into the Yakama Nation’s Bird Creek Meadows and the Gotchen meadows in Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Since the Cougar Creek Fire burned much of the drift fence and some of it was not rebuilt last summer, cows and calves trashed out a small part of the meadows along Trail #9.

The YN plans to complete their fence re-building project this summer, but the Forest Service’s section has always been in poor condition—even before the fire. We are concerned about the long-lasting damage to the subalpine meadows and the fact that certain cattle will once again follow the fast-growing grass through the burned timber and into the lush meadows from July through September.

We’ve donated \$1,000 to the CFC because this worthy organization has the staff and resources to help us monitor the Forest Service fence line, advocate for a complete re-design and re-location, plus litigate if necessary.

We are also partnering with the CFC because their staff and volunteers have been extremely effective in the Mt. Adams area with monitoring Forest Service fire salvage sales, commenting on restorative forest thinning projects and road/culvert plans, photographing endangered mammals, mapping invasive species, and helping scope the Upper White Salmon Wild & Scenic River Plan.

Cascades Carnivore Project

In 2016 we produced a color brochure of some of the mammals on Mt. Adams that were being studied by PhD. Candidate Jocelyn Akins in her multi-year Cascades Carnivore Project. We distributed hundreds of these brochures at local Forest Service and Chamber of Commerce information centers. Jocelyn focused on the Cascade red fox, a rare sub-species of the red fox. If you haven’t read it yet, read her interesting article that was published by the Mazamas in Portland: <http://mazamas.blogspot.com/2016/03/by-jocelyn-akins-ph.html>. Jocelyn has since moved on to Mt. Rainier to continue her research.



Cascade red fox on Mt. Adams. Photo by J. Akins, 11-2012

Illegal Snowmobiling on Mt. Adams

Every spring, especially on clear, calm weekends, large numbers of snowmobilers converge on Mt. Adams. Most of them are up there legally, but there are always some that will blast into the closed Yakama Indian Reservation and the Mt. Adams Wilderness—especially the Bird Creek Meadows, Hell Roaring Ridge, Mazama Glacier, Klickitat Glacier, and Suksdorf Ridge. They harm the area by disrupting the wildlife, damaging the vegetation, causing increased melting and runoff on snowfields/glaciers. Snowmobile parts and wreckage have been found all over this wild and wonderful area! The Forest Service has beefed up patrols and the Yakama Nation is aware of the problem, but they cannot seem to devote enough resources for monitoring and enforcement.

FOMA Board member Alex Maule's attended the Gifford Pinchot Winter Partnership Meeting on 11/30/16 and reported that snowmobile club leaders want to keep their folks in designated recreation areas. Leaders say better signage is needed. WA State Parks & Rec. has funded an additional ranger to increase enforcement of snowmobile boundaries.

FOMA has allocated money for chartered airplane flights to monitor and photograph affected areas during rare, clear weekend days in spring. But planes and pilots are often in short supply.

Last August, Darryl and I found a snowmobile part (a large windshield) that partly dammed a small stream in the upper Bird Creek Meadows. (Photo by Darryl Lloyd)



This part was too large for us to pack out, so we hid it in a nearby clump of trees.

Yakama Nation's Cougar Creek Fire Salvage Timber Sales

The Yakama Nation has presumably completed Cougar Creek Fire timber salvage operations on the southeast, east, and northeast sides of Mt. Adams. The timber sales covered about one-third of the total burned area on the reservation, or about 14,000 acres. Sales were in very large units of 4,000 to 5,000 acres, and about 70 – 80 percent of each unit was apparently logged.

The Tribe is constructing a new Cougar Creek Guard Station about 10 miles NE of Glenwood at the reservation boundary (closed to the public). They expect it to be completed and manned by the 2017 summer season.

Other Updates and Announcements Concerning Mt. Adams and FOMA

Over-crowding on the South-Side Climbing Route: We have received reports of increasingly large numbers of climbers on the south-side climbing route, especially during weekends in July and August. The road from the Morrison Creek Campground to the Cold Springs (South Climb) Trailhead is in terrible shape, and we could barely make it up there with our low-clearance vehicles. Parking is limited at the trailhead, so please try to avoid driving up there during summer weekends.

FOMA's Mt. Adams Hikes, Sept. 10-11, 2016: The Lloyds and Dean Myers led successful hikes with a total of 32 participants in beautiful weather last September: to the top of Crofton Ridge on the SW side of the mountain, and to The Bumper on the west side from Rd. 23.

End of Year Donations to FOMA: We are very pleased to report that we received eight end-of-year donations totaling \$2,835 from very generous supporters, including our first sustaining donor, Tina Castanares. In addition to Tina, I must mention Larry Church who contributed a whopping \$2,000, and Kirk & Marsha Vogel (Vogel Foundation), with a donation of \$500. Repeated donations were received from M.A. Leonard, Hugh & Linda McMahan, Tom & Sandi Rousseau, and Kathy Keller-Jones, First time donors include: Charles Moore and Mary Ellen Kris.

Generous donors of cash to FOMA earlier in 2016 include: Kathy Keller-Jones and Barry Jones, Dan Anderson and Joy Strand, F. Nolan and Debra Jones, Keith Gunnar, Michael Mills, Leslie Labbe (a previous-year donor), Becki & Pat Rawson and Kelly & Marilyn Enochs (Kelly's B&B in Trout Lake).

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! All of you supporters, including present and past board members (going back almost a decade now): you are the very BEST FRIENDS OF MOUNT ADAMS!

Our present board members are: Darvel Lloyd, Chair; Alec Maule, Vice-Chair; Dean Myerson, Treasurer; Darryl Lloyd, Conservation Chair; Jurgen Hess, former Chair; Bill Weiler, Don Hardin, and Linda Turner. **We are looking for additional board members, especially someone with e-mail who can serve as Secretary. Plus, we need younger, energetic folks who love Mt. Adams!** Our next board meeting is Tuesday, March 14th, 6:30-8:00 pm, at the boardroom of Columbia Bank, White Salmon, WA. Let me know if you'd like to attend!

More information about FOMA: <http://www.mtadamsfriends.org> or our Facebook site.

Forest Service releases Draft EA for Upper White Salmon River Wild & Scenic Comprehensive River Management Plan

From Forest Service letter dated Jan. 12, 2017: “An Environmental Assessment has been drafted to inform a final Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP) for the White Salmon River and Cascade Creek, both designated by Congress as Wild and Scenic. The Forest Service will complete the CRMP to provide for the protection and enhancement of the river values which led to the designation. In addition, a final legal boundary description will be submitted to Congress. The EA may be downloaded from our website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50958>.”

According to Emily Platt, Mt. Adams District Ranger: “*The purpose of the EA is to provide the Forest Supervisor with information to:*

- *Establish a final river corridor boundary;*
- *Understand desired future conditions within the river corridor;*
- *Establish consistent and inconsistent uses within the corridor;*
- *Amend the Gifford Pinchot Land and Resource Management Plan with new standards and guidelines specific to the upper White Salmon Wild and Scenic River corridor;*
- *Determine recreational use capacity; and determine monitoring plan related to management and recreational use within the corridor.”*

Wild & Scenic White Salmon River, at confluence with Cascade Creek (on left). Darryl Lloyd photo

