



WRRRA Summer 2014 Newsletter

White River Recreation Association

REPRESENTING FEDERAL LAND PERMITTEES IN THE WHITE RIVER DISTRICT, SNOQUALAMIE NATINAL FOREST SINCE 1929

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Annual WRRRA Summer Picnic

**Saturday July 26, 2014 starting at 12PM
at the Dalles Campground**

Summer is here! And the picnic is right around the corner. This year's picnic will once again be held at the Dalles Campground.

The WRRRA will provide grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and chicken with all the trimmings. Beer, wine, (*for those over 21*) and sodas will also be provided. **We ask each family to bring a salad or dessert that will feed at least 8 people.**

The Picnic is **FREE** to WRRRA members and their children under 21. Guests are welcome and encouraged, a charge of \$6 for each adult, children under 6 free.

The following festivities will be taking place during the picnic:

Pie Contest:

If you like pie, bring your favorite for judging in our annual pie contest. We are lifting restrictions and criteria for the 2014 Pie Contest - it is "anything goes!! We want to see more pies this year Peach, Apple, Berry, Cream pies whatever you want to submit. All pies regardless of their type will be judged on general appearance, best tasting crust and best overall flavor.

Games, Activities, and Prizes:

There will be various games and prizes for all ages. Face painting for all ages too!

Volunteers Needed:

Help on the morning of July 26th starting at 10:00 AM to set up the picnic area – tables, grilles, etc. Also, cooks for the hamburgers, hot dogs, etc. on the grille. We are looking for a couple grilles to borrow for the picnic. Also, a couple volunteers to help organize and conduct the games.
Contact Floyd Rogers at floydr@nwlinc.com to sign up!

A message from the President, Bill Goodman:

Stewardship of our forest environment – This is one of our roles as cabin owners. While we all love to recreate in our forest lands (and parks) we want to do our part to maintain and improve the forest environment we all enjoy for the benefit of others and future generations. Let's all do our part to keep the forest natural. One way we can contribute is by keeping an eye out for invasive or noxious weeds. Be a weed watcher and report any infestations to the Snoqualmie Ranger District Botanist, Carrie Schreiber for Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, at 425-888-8753 at the North Bend office.

Also, if you would like to contribute ideas or content for the newsletter, please contact us at wrra-moderator@wrra.net.

Board Nominations

This is your opportunity to contribute your knowledge, skills and experience to WRRRA. Once again at our Fall Dinner meeting October 26th, WRRRA members will elect new Board members for several key positions. The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates interested in providing new leadership for the Board.

The following positions on the WRRRA Board are open for election at the fall dinner meeting:

- **President**
- **Vice President**
- **1 Silver Springs Representative**
- **1 Goat Creek Representative**
- **1 Deep Creek Representative**

Board members are elected for a two-year term and are expected to attend quarterly Board meetings and help with other projects/issues as time and talent permits. (*all tract representative*

nominations must be a member in the tract they are representing). The slate of candidates will be finalized by October 6th allowing for an email update to be sent out prior to the October 25th Fall Dinner Meeting. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else (with their permission) for one of these positions, please contact **Nominating committee chair Curtis Pepin** at dalles-rep@wrra.net or 425-564-0585.

GET INVOLVED!

Snowplow & Roads Report

Last fall we asked for \$ 100 per cabin for snowplowing and \$50 per cabin for road maintenance for a total of \$150 per cabin. Most cabins responded and we collected \$18940. Of that \$6300 went to the roads fund and the balance, \$12640, went to the snowplow fund. Thank you all who contributed.

In the past winter we expended ~\$9000 for snowplowing (3 plowings) leaving the snowplow fund with a current balance of ~\$16765. We want to start next winter season with a balance of ~\$25000, enough for 8 plowings, (you should remember winters circa 2009 when that was needed). Thus, we will be asking to raise ~\$9000 next fall to add to the snowplow account – This amounts to ~ \$60. per cabin which will be requested next fall (150 cabins).

In addition, we expended ~\$6000 for road maintenance last summer – These funds were used to repair the lower portion of FS 7174 (Corral Pass Rd) which was in bad shape and was closed to Corral Pass (FS Funding plus the sequester the FS had no funds to maintain). That left a balance of ~\$4000 in the road maintenance fund to which we added the \$6300 (see above) to bring us back to a ~\$10000 current balance in the road maintenance fund as of this date. While road maintenance projects for this summer are not defined it is likely we will expend a similar amount (\$6000)

this summer and will be asking to replace it next fall – About \$40. per cabin.

So, you can expect a request next October for a combined amount of \$100 per cabin for snowplowing and road maintenance funds for the Deep Creek, Silver Springs, Goat Creek and Silver Creek tracts for the 2014 -15 season.

Notes:

1. Our current permits make us (permittees) responsible for the roads in our tracts with the exception of FS 7174 (Corral Pass Rd). However, as noted above, the FS was unable to maintain FS 7174 last year due to lack of funding and our road maintenance fund expended \$6000 to maintain safe access to the cabins. It is unknown whether Corral Pass will open in 2015. Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest conducted a series of public meetings in the past year to seek input on which roads to keep open in the forests – The results are not known. Given last years' experience, cabin owners on FS 7174 are expected to contribute to the road maintenance fund.
2. PSE plans to bury the High voltage line to Crystal Mountain along a route adjacent to FS 7174 in the cabin area and then across and up "Mine to Market" road (FS 7176). This work is tentatively scheduled for 2015. PSE will be accountable for restoring the road to serviceable condition after work is complete. FS 7176 will be permanently gated above the cabin area.
3. All cabin owners are asked to help maintain the roads in the areas around their permits – for example, cutting back low hanging branches over the road and filling in potholes.

Your long standing committee members are: Linda Piper, Treasurer of the Snowplow fund; Barbara Mead, Treasurer of the Roads

Maintenance Fund; Bill Goodman, Secretary and Randy Iddings. Please consider volunteering to serve on these committees -- we would welcome your help. Likewise, if you have suggestions, please come forward. In either case, email: snowplow410@live.com

Spring Road Clean Up Wrap Up:



Thanks to Mark Wellington and the Silver Springs Tract for hosting the Spring Road

Cleanup and luncheon. It is one of the most important road cleanups due to the volume of trash left after the snow melt and winter ski season. It was well supported with over 13 WRRRA members participating including: Mark Wellington, Kit and Steve Ryan, Steve Jones, Carla P., Geoff Coburn, John Campbell, Kevin Bannon, Margot Hansen, Bill Jones, Carla Moschetti, David Lee, Sally and Dennis Ryan, Andrew Wellington, Ginny Cahill. Thanks to everyone that participated in the road clean up! Now visitors flocking to the area as the passes, parks, and roads open can see the natural beauty rather than garbage. Unfortunately someone left behind a North Face rain coat, black, women's size medium at Mark Wellington's cabin after the luncheon. Please contact **Mark Wellington at 206-304-4032 or markwellington@hotmail.com.**

Fall road clean up correction: We missed a participant in the fall road clean up – Diane DeWitt – thank you for your hard work!!!

Summer Road Clean up

Sunday after the Picnic, Goat Creek is organizing and hosting the road clean up. However, participants from all tracts are welcome and encouraged to participate, not just Goat Creek permittees. To sign up, contact **Ginny Cahill-Thorson GC #94** at gc-rep@wrra.net or **206-818-7025**. We will meet at 10:00 AM on July 27th at the Huckleberry Creek Road turn off from SR 410 (adjacent to the viewpoint parking area). Remember to dress for the weather and have a good pair of gloves for grabbing all the garbage! Lunch will be served afterwards.

Thank you to all the tract representatives for rotating the organization and hosting of this very important WRRRA activity. Below is the rotation schedule:

Goat Creek – Summer 2014
 Dalles - Fall 2014
 Deep Creek – Spring 2015
 Silver Springs – Summer 2015
 Goat Creek – Fall 2015
 Silver Creek – Spring 2015

Annual Summer Cabin Tour

WRRRA Cabin Tour following the Summer Picnic. Please volunteer to host a tour of your Cabin. This is a fun opportunity to meet your Neighbors Saturday, July 26th from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM. The cost is \$7.50 per person, \$15.00 per family benefiting the WRRRA Cabin Defense Fund. Tickets and brochure of cabins on tour will be available at the registration desk at the Summer Picnic. **To volunteer your cabin, contact Jody Nyquist & Paul Meyer at ss-rep@wrra.net or 206-714-3931 and/or 206-437-0650.**

Cabin Owner and Local Author Publishes New Book, *Silver Springs*



Silver Springs Lot 60 cabin co-owner Jennifer Baisch has just published a new novel *Silver Springs*, that tells the story of retired couple who become camp hosts after they lose their home in foreclosure. Although the story is entirely fictional, Baisch used the Silver Springs campground as the setting for the story.

"I love the campground in the summer, filled with families, the smell of wood smoke, kids riding the loops on their bikes. Our area is rich with natural beauty but it's also a dynamic setting with families, climbers, bikers, hikers, skiers, all who bring their own energy and adventure. It's perfect for inspiring stories."

Baisch's book can be found on Amazon, Goodreads, and Barnes & Noble. To learn more visit www.jenniferbaisch.com.

Trees, Altitude, Wonders of Diversity

By Floyd Rogers

My father and mother were Horticulture nerds. Dad was our Scoutmaster and we were always in the woods, mostly in Eastern Washington. As teens, we helped Dad harvest tree cones for sale to a company named SilvaSeed – they were located in Roy and sold seeds all over the world. Did you know that many of the re-forested areas in Europe that were logged-off were re-seeded using North American Silver Fir from the Northwest? It was kind of fun and often really cold – squirrels did the gathering, we stole or recovered the cones from squirrel

caches – sometimes they put them too close to the streams and they’d get washed into the streams into large rafts behind logs and rocks. Because of that interest, I have studied the tree species at the White River cabin area, and at Crystal Mt. There is a very large variety, mostly due to the ecological zones covered by the change in altitude from the cabins at 2600’ to the top of Crystal Mt and Silver King at 7012’. There are an astonishing 13 varieties of evergreen trees in the area! (There might be one or two others I haven’t discovered – Pacific Silver Fir in particular might be present.)

Western Red	Cedar	Thuja	Plicata
Yellow	Cedar	Callitropsis	Nootkatensis
Douglas	Fir	Pseudo Tsuga	Menziesii
Grand	Fir	Abies	Grandis
Noble	Fir	Abies	Procera
Sub-alpine	Fir	Abies	Lasiocarpa
Mountain	Hemlock	Tsuga	Mertensiana
Western	Hemlock	Tsuga	Heterophylla
Lodgepole	Pine	Pinus	Contorta
Western White	Pine	Pinus	Monticola
White Bark	Pine	Pinus	Albicaulis
Engelmann	Spruce	Picea	Engelmannii
Pacific	Yew	Taxus	Brevifolia



Western Red Cedar: Lots of these around the cabin area and at the base area. Some very big ones still left near the cabins. The

Kramer cabin DC-8 and a couple others have Red Cedar bark as siding, and it was used almost exclusively for roof shakes on the original cabins.

Yellow Cedar: This is a pretty common tree up at Crystal. Distinguished from Red Cedar mostly by the gray and short-stranded bark, the bracts can also be distinguished by their prickly feeling when brushed backwards. Also called Alaska Yellow Cedar.

Douglas Fir: The iconic northwest tree. There is a 9’ example in the Dalles campground, but it has recently died. There are 5’-7’ examples in the cabin area, especially near the river near DC-10. They grow all the way up to around 5,000’ elevation in the Crystal Mt. area. “Pseudo Tsuga” means “false hemlock”, if you didn’t know. And Menzies was the taxonomist that finally figured out where it belonged.

Grand Fir: This is one of the two most prevalent trees at Crystal. They begin on the Boulevard and continue up to around 5,400’ elevation. They can be distinguished from the other most prevalent species, Sub Alpine Fir, by their rather rounded tops and larger cones.

Sub-alpine Fir: In addition to being the most common tree at higher altitudes (above 5,000’), there are a couple interesting stories attached to this species. It is the most widely-distributed fir in western North America, ranging from Alaska and the Yukon (down to sea level) to southern New Mexico (elevations to 12,000’). Going up Forest Queen Express, the transition from Grand Fir to Sub Alpine Fir is noticeable when you crest the first steep place above the Downhill cat track: look for the round Grand Fir tops gradually disappearing in favor of the very spiky Sub Alpine tops.

Noble Fir: The Christmas tree is scattered around the Crystal Mt. area. After the logging that took place before Crystal Mt. was built, many were seeded and I can remember when the Forest Service allowed Christmas-tree cutting in the Sand Flats/Northway area. There are also some near the Northway chair. They are noticeably thinner-branched than the Grand Firs, and don’t have the thick appearance that the farmed ones do since they’re not constantly trimmed to make them that way. They have very large cones, 6” or more in length and a lot “fatter” than the Grand Fir cone.

Englemann Spruce: Englemann are almost impossible to tell from Grand Fir from a distance. However, their cones are quite different: they have a 2"-3" long furry cone that hangs down rather than a 4" cylindrical upwards-pointing one. There are some in the cabin area, but the most notable ones are near the ravines underneath Chinook Express: look for one on the right just past the last ravine, and others scattered in the area towards the cat track to Deerfly and Lower Ferk's. Their needles are quite shape – YOU WILL NOTICE THEM if you brush them.

Mountain Hemlock: The most notable examples of Mountain Hemlocks are very near the bottom of Forest Queen Express at Crystal, just after loading and as you go over the creek. There are some large 3' diameter older ones with very furrowed bark there that are quite beautiful.



Western Hemlock: The bane of our cabins' continued existence; the USFS people hate them. The big ones are all around 250 years old, at the end of their

lifetime, and they get uprooted easily by the winds; heavy snows will also topple them. Except for one exception, all the trees I've had to take down (or have toppled) at my cabin have been Hemlocks. They burn pretty well, and have lovely grain however. Most of the power outages are caused by these trees. Note that this is the "climax" tree in lowland forests, as its seedlings tolerate shade while Douglas Fir don't.

Lodgepole Pine: I don't know how it got there, but the one other tree at my cabin I had to have removed was a Lodgepole; they are usually found a bit further east, the other side of Chinook Pass and the Cascade Crest in drier

areas (although they are also on the Pacific Coast). It has two needles in each bundle, to distinguish it from the Western White Pine.

Western White Pine: Lots of these in the cabin area; I think the USFS and WSDOT planted quite a few after the SR 410 rebuild. I love the color of their needles, which are in groups of 5. Their cones are pretty large and often used as ornaments.

Pacific Yew: Many of the smaller trees in the cabin area are Yews. Their needles look quite a bit like Western Hemlock, but the bark is more scaly and colorful, and the trunks are almost always multi-branched, rather than a single trunk with horizontal branches. There are many in the DC area. Don't eat the berries.

White Bark Pine: I saved this one for last for a couple reasons. One, this tree is the most endangered tree at Crystal, due to its high-altitude habitat being threatened by warming. It occurs only above about 6,000', mostly on the ridges: Sunnyside and the long ridges of the Crystal Mt crest. The pine beetles love it, and the absence of prolonged cold isn't killing the beetles. The bark at the end of the smaller branches are quite white in appearance. It's also threatened by the spread of Sub Alpine Fir into the upper elevations; old pictures of Crystal Mt. reveal this in detail.



I will finish with a story I developed about how ecological succession works, regarding the White Bark Pine, the Clark's Nutcracker, and the Sub Alpine Fir. The Nutcracker (the gray bird everyone calls the Camp Robber) feeds on

the seeds of the Pine. It harvests the pinecones, and caches them in the rocks and talus slopes of the upper mountain. Of course, they always forget where 5%-10% of the cones are, so eventually the Pines spread along the more barren ridges and slopes as the seeds in those cones germinate. The Pines grow, and shed their needles below their branches, around the tree. Eventually reaching maturity, the Nutcrackers spread them further. However, the duff (compost) formed by the falling needles forms a good place for seeds from the Sub Alpine tree to blow into and germinate: eventually there is a small grouping of them surrounding the Pine. There is an iconic example of this to the left of the Forest Queen Express as it nears the top of the steep Magoo Face (about 200 yards before the top of the chair.) A Pine is almost completely surrounded by a group of Sub Alpine Firs that are now taller than the Fir. The Pine eventually dies, but the Sub Alpine Firs remain, eventually spreading to the mountain and ridge tops.

Eventually, I decided to use the terms “mommy tree” and “baby trees” when I was telling the story to very young children: makes much more sense to a 4-year old. A child I was telling the story to asked me: “why are there lots of dead Mommies”, after noticing that there were many dead pines along the upper reaches of Forest Queen (easily distinguished by their shape.) I just said: “well, they get old just like all living things, and eventually die.” However, what really happens is that the Baby trees steal the Mommies’ sunlight and water and kill the Mommy trees.

New Member Profile – Larsen Family

Welcome Lou (Ed), Kim and the whole Larsen Family who are part of "The Larsen Troop" at Lot 22, Deep Creek to the WRRRA!!

The oldest of 9 children Ed and his family have been frequent visitors to the White River area since his parents (Lou and Barbara Larsen)

purchased their cabin in 1982. His family connection to this area though goes back much further.

From the early 1900s to the early 1930s, the Mount Rainier Mining Company, owned and operated by his great grandfather, Peter Starbo, mined copper on Mt. Rainier in Glacier Basin at the foot of Inter Glacier. At its height, the company boasted a sawmill, powerhouse, plank flume, blacksmith shop and a 13-room hotel that could house 35 miners and feed 120. Much of Highway 410 follows Starbo's original roads cut into the area.



At the far end of the White River Campground on the way up to Sunrise, you will find interpretive signs talking about the Starbo mines and you can hike the 3+ mile trail into Glacier Basin where the mines were located and the excavated foundation of the hotel is still visible.

Ed grew up in Renton and began coming up to this area as a young child in the 1960s visiting and staying at his great Aunt Gunda Wierleski's (one of Peter Starbo's daughters) cabin located on Goat Creek which today is owned by her daughter's family, The Van Wieringens. Today, he is 53 and lives in Des Moines, WA with his wife Kim. They have 3 kids: daughter Jen 26, Son Kyle 23 and daughter Rachel 16. He is a Civil Engineering Project Manager that has worked on countless residential, multi-family and commercial projects for the past 30 years throughout the King, Pierce and Snohomish county areas.

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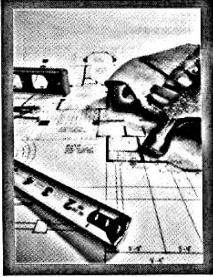
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Cabin Fee Act (CFA)

Washington DC Fly-in Report from NFH and C2 representatives

By Pete Bailey, C2 Steering Committee written June 19, 2014

Due to the vast effort of cabin owners all across the country, our grassroots 'Call to Action' was loudly heard by every Senator and Representative we met with this week. Our objective was achieved! Over 400 individual email messages were received in the Washington offices. This support resulted in a very successful trip! The urgency of getting the CFA passed was clearly conveyed, Thank You Cabin Owners.

We visited 30 individual offices over the three day period. We met with nearly every bill sponsor, co-sponsor and critical committee chairperson or their staff. Personal visits included Chairman Doc Hastings (R-WA), House Natural Resource Committee and sponsor of the House version of the CFA, Senator Jon Tester (D-MT), sponsor of the Senate version (S. 1341) and Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), our first supporter. Plus, a photo op and brief visit with Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), chairwoman of Senate Budget Committee. Perhaps the highlight of the trip was the warm reception by Chief Tidwell of the

Forest Service and his reaffirmation of support for passage of the CFA this year. Well received in every office, support for prompt passage of the CFA was nearly universal. A common message conveyed and documented was the urgent need for relief for those cabin tracts facing unpayable fees, inability to sell and the imminent loss of their cabins. We demonstrated that these problems exist all across the country. Though mindful of the political realities in Washington and the challenges presented by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) scoring

process, cautious optimism was shared by nearly all offices.

While we were in town, we were excited to learn that our revised CFA bill was introduced in the House. Chairman Hastings introduced the Cabin Fee Act of 2014 (H.R. 4873) on Tuesday. This morning the Natural Resources Committee approved the legislation, which sets the stage for approval by the full House. This bill, very similar to S.1341, contains language corrections to address the revenue scoring concerns raised by the CBO in March to S.1341. We have worked with the Forest Service Washington Office to ensure consistent, clear and mutually agreeable language. Plus, we have worked to align the language in both the Senate and House. We are very hopeful the CBO's updated scoring analysis will recognize these changes.

We have been informed by Committee staff that a prompt response from the CBO is expected. Assuming a positive analysis, Chairman Hastings may encourage Leadership to move H.R. 4873 to a floor vote ASAP. Our hope is that this bill, following a successful House vote, could be sent to the Senate in July. At that point we are pressing for swift consideration of the bill under Unanimous Consent in the Senate. The many meetings with Energy & Natural Resource committee members or their staff confirms their solid support. We encountered no objections to this type of expedited approval of the CFA. However, partisan and procedural tensions remain in the Senate, which could require us to continue our efforts into the fall if the CFA act hasn't passed before the August Congressional recess. We returned home with a level of renewed optimism due to the growing understanding of the urgent situation facing many cabin owners and the broad support for passing the CFA soon. However, the success of the grassroots 'Call to Action' may need to be repeated to secure

passage this year. Please be prepared to once again write your Senators in support of the CFA. NFH and C2 will provide the message and timing. Stay Tuned.

A special thank you goes to Lynne and Bob Eustance for their heartfelt contributions. Both are teachers and face the loss of their cabin at Seeley Lake, MT. Their story and 2014 fee obligation of \$19,500 truly resonated with all. Also assuring the effectiveness and success of our trip was the combined support and skilled direction received from Aubrey, Michelle and Heath.

Washington DC Trip Participants:

BRAD ASPELL, NFH Vice President
DOUG GANN, NFH Board of Directors
PETE BAILEY, Cabin Coalition 2
LYNNE & BOB EUSTANCE, Missoula, MT
AUBREY KING, NFH Washington Rep
MICHELLE GIGUERE & HEATH HEIKKILA
Ball Janik LLP

Yakima Herald Republic Article

Hastings' bill would set tiered fees for cabins

By Kate Pregelman June 20, 2014

proposed new fee structure for cabins on National Forest land could provide relief for owners who have watched costs skyrocket in recent years.

The House Natural Resources Committee on Thursday unanimously passed the Cabin Fee Act of 2014. Sponsored by Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Pasco, the bill would set a tiered fee structure based on the current appraisal of cabin lots.

The bills aim to address a problem created by a 2000 law that set cabin fees at 5 percent of the appraised market value. But it's hard to compare leased Forest Service land and its

accompanying regulations with private property values.

When that system took effect, annual fees jumped dramatically — from \$1,400 to more than \$17,000 for some cabin owners around Lake Wenatchee. Unable to afford the fees, some families considered selling or tearing down cabins.

The Forest Service began leasing cabin lots using a lottery system back in 1915. As of 2010, there were about 2,800 cabins in Washington and Oregon. In Yakima County, there are about 250 such cabins.

The 2000 Cabin User Fees Fairness Act sought to bring lease fees up to reflect modern land values. But, the complicated appraisal system created what Hastings has called a subjective and arbitrary fee system.

In the new structure, fees would range from \$600 to \$5,600, with 86 percent of fees for current cabin owners falling at \$2,600 or less. These fees would be based on a current appraisal and then be tied to future inflation.

The bill would also set a \$1,200 fee for selling a cabin lease.

In an announcement about the bill, Hastings said the new system would also simplify administration for the Forest Service, preventing the need for ongoing appraisals.

The bill now heads to a full House vote. A previous version of the bill passed the House in 2012 but was not passed by the Senate. This year, a similar bill that received bipartisan support in committee is currently waiting for a Senate vote.

Message from New NFH President

June 19, 2014

Dear NFH Member,

At the NFH Annual Convention in April of this year, I was installed as President of National Forest Homeowners. I am proud and honored to have been elected by our membership for this role and I aim to provide NFH with effective leadership and dedicated efforts over the years of my Presidency. That role is made easier by the very effective group of NFH Board Members who serve alongside me and complemented greatly by our dedicated staff members, Ernie Atencio, Executive Director and Barbara Warnock, Database Manager.

Assuming this leadership role in NFH, I'm able to communicate regularly with NFH members and Member Tract leaders. With this letter I am writing to introduce myself, outline some of my goals for NFH, and discuss how you can help NFH and the entire cabin program.

My wife, Lori, and I are co-owners of a cabin in Lake Tahoe, CA and have shared in many experiences and challenges that are common throughout the cabin community. Our cabin partners are family friends who we've known for over 40 years. The cabin is in Spring Creek Tract (137 cabins) and sits on forested land, but is not directly adjacent to any navigable waterway. We frequently visit Lake Tahoe which is a little over a mile from our cabin and enjoy year-round access to our cabins. We're fortunate to be nestled up against the Desolation Wilderness Area and have majestic Mt. Tallac overlooking our cabin tract. I've served on the board of the Spring Creek Tract Association for over six years, four of those years as President. Our tract was one of the last tracts in the country to receive our CUFFA appraisals earlier this year and permit fees increased two to three fold with these appraisals. We're currently in the process of obtaining second appraisals. Our tract is also in the early stages of a major water system renovation project necessitated by an aging system that was constructed in the early 1950s.

National Forest Homeowners has spent the last several years attempting to come up with a legislative solution (Cabin Fee Act or CFA) to stop the implementation of high fees that many cabin owners have faced with the implementation of CUFFA. NFH's main goal, and clearly also one of mine, is to push this legislation through Congress in 2014. If we're unsuccessful this year, it's extremely likely that we will be stuck with CUFFA and all its flaws for decades to come. Cabin owners who are relieved because they escaped the high fees of the latest CUFFA appraisals should be worried that the next round will produce permit fees that they won't be able to afford. High permit fees will cause this legacy program to suffer slow (or not-so slow) erosion, eventually become unsustainable, and then possibly disappear forever. Memories of cabin life will be just that—memories from generations past.

What can you do?

1. I'm asking all of our cabin tracts to consider donating funds to the CFA effort that is being coordinated by the Cabin Coalition 2, even if you've donated before. This is an urgent situation and lobbying Congress is a costly proposition.
2. I'm asking that you, **as cabin owners and NFH members**, impress upon your tract and family members the importance of contributing at whatever monetary level they can.
Donate online or find instructions for mailing a donation by [clicking here](#), or simply visit our website at www.nationalforesthowners.org.
3. I'm asking that Member Tract leaders who don't have 100% membership in NFH throughout their tract encourage non-member cabin owners to join NFH.
4. I'm asking current NFH members to encourage their children and friends to join NFH as Associate Members. NFH is supported entirely by voluntary member dues. Our 14-member board all are volunteers. The work of this board and our paid staff supports and strengthens your ability to continue to own a cabin. Remember that **NFH is the only national organization that solely serves the U.S. Forest Service Recreation Residence Program.**
Contact Barbara Warnock at bwarnock@nationalforesthowners.org or 714-836-7442 to add a Regular or Associate membership to your Member Tract.
5. I ask that you please take my message to heart and help us protect these wonderful cabins in the woods. It matters not if you've owned your cabin for 1 year, 10 years, or 50 years. These cabins, and the generational memories created in them, are worth protecting and preserving. We're all neighbors in this program and NFH is your Town Hall.

Thanks for your support, your help, and your willingness to act so we can all make sure that future generations will be able to create their own cabin memories. Please share this message with your tract members, family, and friends. Your efforts on behalf of your tract and the entire cabin program are much appreciated, and your support makes a difference. Best Regards,



Jay Tripathi, NFH President
Lot #42, Spring Creek Tract, CA

White River Recreation Association

REPRESENTING FEDERAL LAND PERMITTEES IN THE WHITE RIVER DISTRICT, SNOQUALAMIE NATINAL FOREST SINCE 1929

WEB:
www.wrra.net

E-MAIL:
wrra-moderator@wrra.net

FACEBOOK:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/116924811846669/>

The purpose of WRRRA is to promote and protect recreational interests along the Mather Memorial Parkway and throughout the Upper White River Valley; to do any and all things lawful, just and necessary to better the interests of the members of the Association; to secure equitable legislation; and to cooperate with the Forest Service in the protection and administration of all recreational feature.

BECKY MCAULEY
2257 72nd Ave SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040



WRRRA Summer 2014 Newsletter