



WRRRA Spring 2014 Newsletter

White River Recreation Association

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

Highlights:

NFH Conference
Highlights
Pages 3

CFA Update
Page 5

Spring Dinner Meeting

Saturday, May 17, 2014

Alpine Inn

Crystal Mountain Ski Area

This is a **NEW** format for our annual Spring Dinner Meeting, based on survey results (*see page 8 for summary of survey*).

The WRRRA Spring Dinner Meeting will be from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Come enjoy the company of your cabin neighbors and dine on the famous cuisine for which the Alpine inn is known. You might even want to ski before dinner as this is Crystal's currently announced closing weekend for Spring skiing!

Dinner

Dinner will feature a delicious dinner buffet, including mixed green salad, house pasta salad, fresh fruit and assorted cheese, seasonal vegetable de jour, baked Pacific cod fillet with herb aioli, Tuscan chicken, roasted red bliss potato and chocolate cake for dessert. A no-host bar available for alcoholic beverages or bring your own wine for a \$12 corking fee. **Cost is \$40 per person.**

Speaker/Topics

There is no speaker planned. Instead the meeting will feature a lot of social time and mingling, and most presentations or issues updates will be at information kiosks during the social hour. The kiosks will host the following topics: Board updates, Financials, History Project, Forest Service, Social calendar and more!

Childcare

In addition, we are pleased to announce that childcare will be available from 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. for those younger members ages 3 and up! There is a nominal **fee of \$5 per child**. Children should be dropped off at the Quicksilver Lodge lobby where they will be supervised, provided an activity and a pizza dinner.

For **RESERVATION** instructions, go to **PAGE 12**

A message from the President, Bill Goodman:

By Bill Goodman (SC#28)

As we are transitioning to spring and summer we are making plans for what we want to accomplish when the good weather arrives. Personally, I'm thinking of what hikes to do and maybe a trip or two. We at WRRRA are planning a couple outings in the cabin area in the upcoming months – maybe a limited field trip focusing on local geology and in October, a local field trip with a mushroom expert to learn the good from the bad.

We at WRRRA are also considering what we as an organization representing you, the cabin owners, should accomplish in the near and far term future. What's your opinion? How can WRRRA best serve your interests as a cabin owner – what should be our priorities?

Please give us some feedback and direction. Email president@wrra.net or call Bill at 253-381-2698.

Crystal Mountain Winter Season – Closing Weekend

By Becky McAuley (SS-60)



Left: Katie McAuley (SS#60)
Right: Chloe Vlases (SS#80)

If you weren't there for closing weekend it was full of interesting weather and a lot of fun activities including the Annual Bikini & Board Short Downhill and the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Alpine Inn. I can't say I know anyone from

the WRRRA was participating in the Bikini & Board Short downhill, but I can report that several of our younger cabin owners participated in the Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Crystal Mountain Hotels. If you didn't have a chance to participate with your children this year, mark your calendars for Easter Sunday April 5, 2015!

Crystal Mountain Spring Season – Update

Crystal Mountain announced their extended Spring Season, they will be open four additional **WEEKENDS from April 26th – May 18th**. Spring Pass now on sale for \$99 valid any daily now and weekends April 27th – May 18th.

Spring Road Clean Up:

Meet your fellow cabin owners, do a good deed, and have social time during lunch afterwards. Help WRRRA in its commitment to clean up our three mile section of highway 410. It's been a long time since the last road clean up in October. This time Silver Springs is organizing and hosting the road clean up. However, participants from all tracts are welcome and encouraged to participate, not just Silver Springs permittees. To sign up, contact Mark Wellington (SS #148) at markwellington@hotmail.com or 206-524-4036.

We will meet at 10 am on May 18th 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!

After Spring road clean up, lunch will be hosted by Mark Wellington at his cabin Silver Springs #148. Please join us for lunch and socialize with other cabin owners from all tracts.

Highlights - National Forest Homeowners Convention

*Reported from Reno
by Rena Irwin (DC#17)*

April 3-5, 2014 Reno Nevada

Americas' Great Outdoors - Recreation Residences: A model Public-Private Partnership

The new leadership of NFH introduced a new direction - closer partnerships with the National Forest Service and communities. This report is just a summary of two full days of education and connection with cabin owners. It was an outstanding conference. Among the excellent subjects and speakers were:

Keynote Speaker,

Kathryn Landreth of the Nature Conservancy, Reno Nevada.

She spent her childhood summers in a family cabin in South Dakota. From that experience she grew to love nature and knew at a young age, her life would be dedicated to that cause. Nevada is 87% Federal Land and the Mission in this Nevada area is Natural Conservation.

The Cabin Fee Act (CFA)

Pete Bailey Cabin Coalition 2

Representative, Lake Quinault, WA

Doug Gann NFH Director, Lake Wenatchee, WA

Aubrey King Neff Washington

Representative,

Gary Schiff, Assistant Director of Lands and Realty Management, USFS

Still the hottest topic that was discussed is the proposed repeal of CUFFA and replacement legislation of CFA. Recent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) green light is critical in order to move Senate Bill (S.1341) The CBO's recent opinion were not favorable. In response

after discussing this with them and with further research to clarify complexities such as the timing of CUFFA implementation, how the fee cap affects revenues during the transition period, the revenue impact of pending second appraisals and the potential loss of cabins under CUFFA have been proceeding. Proposed revisions to components of the bill include some changing to timing of some features of the fee retention, implementation and clarification of some other wording will clarify the intent of the bill and adjust some of the assumptions made by the CBO. These changes will also solve most of the revenue gap, however it is believed that a change to the fee table is required to close the remaining gap. What has been proposed by the C2 committee is to increase each of the eleven (11) CFA Fee tiers by \$100. First tier becomes \$600 and the 11th tier at \$5600. Without this increase NFH and C1 have little confidence that the passage of the CFA can occur this year. The NFH and the Cabin Coalition 2 endorse these changes. The next step as this is being reported to you the C2 Coalition will be confirming the proposed language to the bill with the Forest Service and bill sponsors. Then it is expected that the bill sponsors will take these changes back to the CBO for consideration and review. Hopefully the satisfying the revenue issue and allow the bill to move forward. And finally, the political calendar shortens daily and is further complicated by the election year. There is no assurance that passage of the bill will happen quickly, but every effort to achieve passage of the Cabin Fee Act this year is being made. It has been six (6) years that this initiative took legs. What can you do? Make calls to your senators and Representatives. Look for messaging and timing from C2 and consider making a donation to C2 in support of this effort. Thanks to over 800 cabin owners who have made donations so far in 2014. Time is of the essence!

Fire and Forest health- In Depth

A panel of three experts on fire, fire prevention, facts about global warming. Of particular note was the changing theory on whether leaving downed trees is good as it relates to the prevention of fires.

Dr. Tom Bonnicksen, a renowned forestry and wildfire expert/scientist and author of *America's Ancient Forests: from Ice age to the Age of Discovery*.

Gary Schiff, Assistant Director Lands and Realty Management for the U. S. Forest Service in Washington DC.

Laurence Crabtree, Supervisor of the Eldorado national Forest with 3 years of experience working forest fires.

A Report from Lands and Realty Management for the U.S. Forest Service in Washington D.C.

Greg Smith, Director

Addressed the attendees with a message of support for the Cabin Program from the U. S. Forest Service and a commitment of partnership.

Presidents' Workshop

A session of Tract Leaders, primarily presidents intends to introduce and share topics of common interest among various states and tracts. One of the issues that NFH is pursuing is that of Withdrawal of Land.

Cabins Owners on Bumping Lake in the Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest in Central Washington State are resisting FS efforts to add permit language that would enable the agency to terminate the permit with only 90 days notice without compensation or guaranteed opportunity to relocate to an -in-lieu lot if withdrawal of land is identified as necessary for reclamation development by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. The FS maintains that this new language (Supplemental Clause E-11) was left out of prior permits to an "administrative error" and simply recognizes the

already established agency authority. The NFH estimates that at least 349 cabins within the State of Washington could be subject to the E-11 Clause and an unknown number in other states. The NFH is working with Bumping Lake cabin owners to approach the national FS headquarters in Washington, D.C. and seek positive resolution of the issue. Other tracts are encouraged to review the pertinent language in the current and former permits to see what language may have changed and report to tract leadership who will get back to NFH.

New National Forest Homeowner Leadership

Jay Tripathi, our new NFH President from Spring Creek CA received the gavel from Geoff Anderson, Huckleberry Tract, CA after serving six years in office. In addition new board members and committee members were elected. Refer to the National Forest Homeowners website for more details.

Are you a National Forest Homeowner Member?

If you are not already a member, consider joining. Since 1962, NFH has assisted permit holders with numerous issues involving their cabins. Members have the ability to draw on the resources and political clout of the entire organization when issues like a fee regulation forest planning or permit renewals arise. There is truth that there is strength in numbers. And when you join NFH, you join over 6000 like-minded cabin owners. If you join through WRRRA, you receive a discounted membership. Think about supporting this organization because they support you. In 2015, the NFH convention will be close to home, Vancouver Washington. If the energy, enthusiasm, and content of the 2015 meeting is anything like this one, you will want to attend.

Cabin Fee Act: The CBO Finally Responds

By Pete Bailey (March 22, 2014), C2 Representative – Lake Quinault Tract, WA.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has issued their opinion of the Cabin Fee Act of 2013 (S.1341) and their conclusions are not favorable. As we have mentioned in the past, delaying passage of the bill into 2014 would have negative effects on scoring. This has proven to be true. Also, it must be understood that as the gatekeeper for revenue evaluations of legislation, created by the “Pay As You Go” rules of Congress, the CBO does not disclose exactly how they arrive at their conclusions, so we have done our best to interpret the CBO report and propose revisions to the bill to solve for the identified revenue gap. The challenges have been and continue to be formidable. We are having frequent and candid conversations with the Forest Service over the details and potential revisions to the bill. It must be stated again that the Forest Service continues to support the Cabin Fee Act and encourages open dialogue aimed at resolving differences and interpretations. Every effort is being made to be sure we view and interpret the bill the same.

Further research and discussions clarifying complexities such as the timing of CUFFA implementation, how the fee cap affects revenues during the transition period, the revenue impact of pending second appraisals and the potential loss of cabins under CUFFA are proceeding. That said, our proposed revisions to bill language and components of the bill are noted below.

- Change first year of Fee Retention to 2024, not 2023. Delays for one year when the FS can begin utilizing CFA funds.
- Change required completion of current appraisals under CUFFA to one year, not two. This reflects current timing

projections and moves full implementation of the CFA to 2016, not 2017, as noted by the CBO. This eliminates one year fee cap and increases the inflationary adjustment.

- Revise second appraisal paragraph, insert second appraisal reference in current appraisal section. Intent is to ensure that second appraisals apply only to completion of the current appraisals under CUFFA. No future appraisals will be permitted under the CFA.
- Remove ‘not to exceed’ and ‘at least’ from the CFA fee table. Intent is to allow the FS to assign permits to fee tiers in numbers that are as close ‘approximately’ to the stated percentages. This aligns with the House bill.
- Increase each CFA fee tier by \$100. First tier becomes \$600, the second tier becomes \$1100, and so on up to the 11th tier at \$5600. Without this increase NFH and C2 have little confidence that passage of the CFA can occur this year.

The first four changes above do not impact cabin owners, but will clarify the intent of the bill and adjust some of the assumptions made by the CBO. These changes will solve most of the revenue gap, however we believe a change to the fee table is required to close the remaining gap. The NFH and the Cabin Coalition 2 endorse these changes. Over the next week or so we will confirm the proposed language changes to the bill with Forest Service and our bill sponsors. Then we expect our sponsors to take these changes back to the CBO for consideration and review. Hopefully, we will satisfy the revenue issue and allow the bill to move forward. And finally, the political calendar shortens daily and is further complicated by the election year. We cannot be assured that passage of the bill will happen quickly, but every effort to achieve passage of the Cabin Fee Act this year is being made.

A Muir School Legacy: John Muir School Grove & Trail

By Gerald Elfendahl, John Muir School Class of 1952 AKA "Muir Mountaineers"

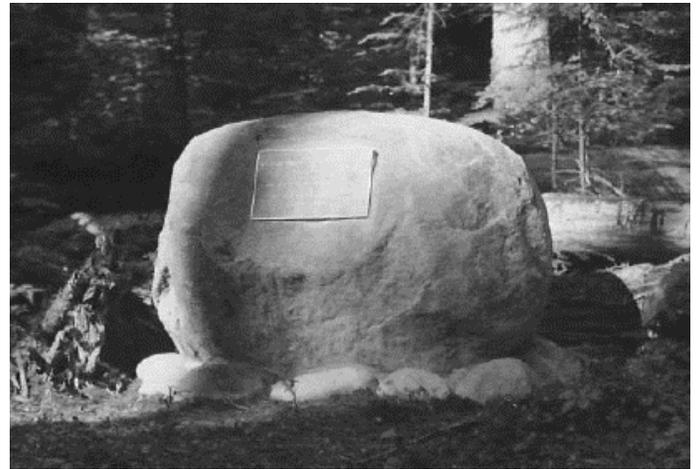
After naturalist John Muir died, Seattle Public Schools changed the name of York School to John Muir School and made outdoor Nature education one of their primary focuses. A large pageant, "Forest Trails" was written by Muir School staff and students and performed July 6, 1927 by over 10,000 Seattle Public School students for the 65th annual National Educational Association Convention! It overflowed UW Stadium (capacity: 30,000) as a crowd estimated to 50,000 attended. Thereafter, parts were performed at Muir and other school assemblies.

When Mount Rainier National Park was created, scenic highways to it were designed to rival any in the world for natural beauty. Foremost was the Stephen T. Mather Parkway named for the first National Park Service director. From Seattle, Tacoma and areas west of "The Mountain", the highway wove through forested river valleys, crossed alpine ridges and descended eastward toward Yakima. Dignitaries and prominent environmentalists dedicated the graded roadway in Chinook Pass's melting snowfields on July 2, 1932.

On a forested section of Mather Parkway by the White River, a particularly beautiful dense grove of giant firs, cedars and hemlocks was noted. National Forest and Park Service leaders aided by Asahel Curtis and the Rainier National Park Citizen Advisory Board set aside a half-mile of forest preserve where trees will never be logged. The site includes a Douglas fir that is 10 feet in diameter, comes straight up out of the ground and ascends 263 feet!!

An interpretive nature trail for public school children's outdoor education was created here. To prepare the site, the Civilian Conservation

Corps (CCC), a progressive federal program that taught young men outdoor work skills during the Great Depression, built a massive rustic shelter, trail and campground. A sculptor was commissioned to create a dedication plaque to be mounted on a boulder at the trailhead. And on Saturday, June 1, 1935, a throng of enthused pupils, parents and outdoors persons attended the dedication of "John Muir School Grove and Trail" marked at the trail head by the marker on a four-foot-diameter boulder



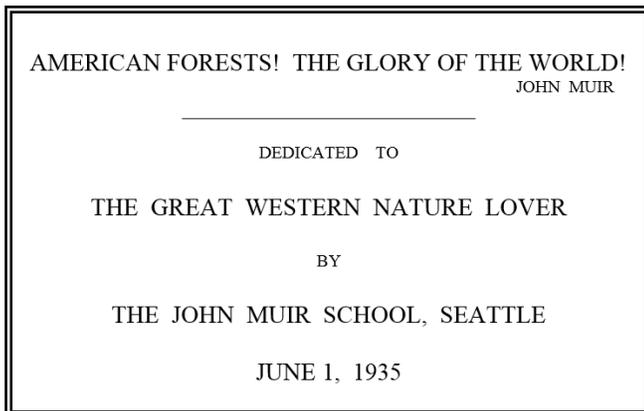
Improvements

In 1993, American Disability Act paved the Nature Trail so that those unsure afoot or in wheelchairs could enjoy the experience. Special new interpretive panels were created along the 0.8-mile trail. However the boulder with the 1935 dedication marker was not be moved at that time.

Today

Mather Parkway, State Highway 410, goes through Enumclaw in route to Crystal Mountain recreational area and Chinook Pass. Muir Grove is in The Dalles Campground, 25 miles from Enumclaw. The historic CCC shelter still stands near the new trailhead. "The Big Tree" still evokes awe and wonder. The dedication

boulder is seldom found beneath moss and windfalls away from 1993's improvements.



Now there is a desire to see if the boulder and marker can be relocated to the new trailhead and the trail re-dedicated by Muir School students, alumni and friends. Some of the foremost environmentalists on our planet have walked this trail. Some are still alive who attended the June 1, 1935, dedication. It would be fun and inspiring to re-dedicate it and to pass the environmental torch to today's youth. John Muir School Grove has been offered by National Forest Service for a gathering of students, parents, alumni, maybe a CCC alumnus and friends to re-dedicate the Grove and Nature

Trail probably sometime during the school year late this Spring or more likely next fall.

Wanted: historic photos of 1935 John Muir school grove dedication and CCC shelter construction in the Dalles Campground.

Contact: G. Elfendahl,
7823 Westerly Lane NE,
B. Is., WA 98110;
(206) 842-4164

Summary of Dinner Survey

A total of 92 surveys were submitted. Below are some of the most interesting and relevant inputs which informed the Spring Dinner format and location:

- Respondents who have attended selected SOCIAL TIME with other cabin owners, and ISSUES UPDATES, as the best elements of the dinner meetings
- The FOOD & DRINK QUALITY did not receive high ratings from respondents; for the Spring Meeting, the DAY (weeknight) and LOCATION also did not receive high ratings
- Respondents believe that IMPROVED FOOD & DRINK QUALITY, and BETTER SPEAKERS/PRESENTATIONS would contribute most to increased attendance and enjoyment.

Thank you for your input and hope to see you at the Spring Dinner with its new format, food, and location!

Crystal Mountain BLVD Improvement Project

Pierce County Public Works, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), is proposing to improve Crystal Mountain Blvd. A letter was published on February 24, 2014 outlining the proposed work and a comment period was opened from February 24th – March 24th 2014. Below are excerpts from that letter describing the location, project need, project description, and a map of the impacted area.

Location

The project is located on the Snoqualmie Ranger District of the MBS in Pierce County, WA, Forest Service Road 7190 a.k.a. Crystal Mountain Blvd. The project will impact the entire 6.3 mile stretch from Washington State Highway 410 to the Crystal Mountain Ski Resort.

Project Need

Crystal Mountain Blvd's current condition reflects its history of extensive ice and snow removal efforts. These efforts stress the pavement and guardrails. The proposed road improvements are designed to enhance safety and lower annual maintenance costs. The County has received funding from FHWA and the Pierce County Road Administration Board to make the proposed improvements to the road.

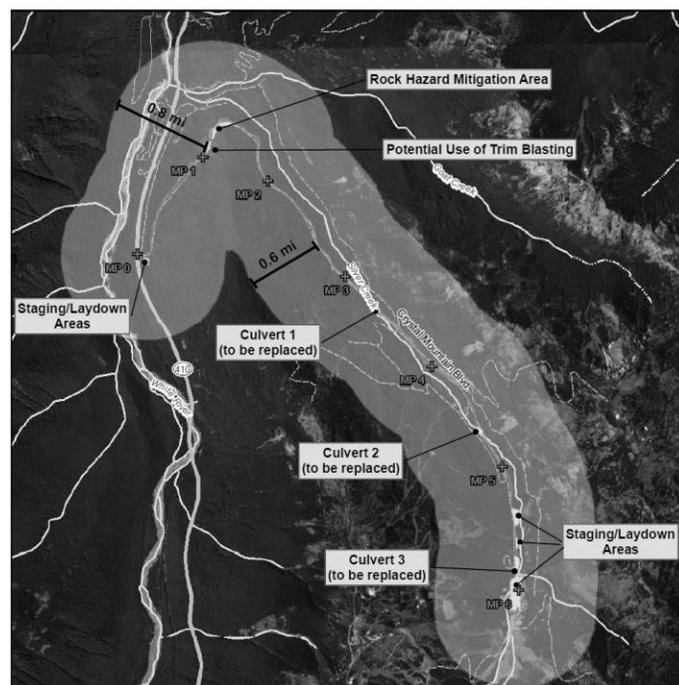
Project Description

Pierce County plans to complete the following primary improvements as part of this project:

- Roadway rehabilitation – grinding down approximately 6 to 8 inches of material that will be recycled and incorporated with the existing road surface material into a new road surface overlay.

- Guardrail repairs – replace structurally deficient posts, and new rails where needed.
- Three culvert replacements – these culverts are 15-30 feet below existing road surface, public access will be maintained during the work.
- Possible rock-fall hazard mitigation – located within Section 3.

See Map for all purposed improvements:



Snow Plowing & Road Maintenance Update

We collected and utilized \$9,000 toward the snow plowing in the 2013/2014 winter season. We plan to collect the same amount for the 2014/2014 season and we will be contacting cabin owners in the fall. If you aren't able to make it to Spring Road Clean up, consider walking the cabin roads and picking up trash. Remember we are stewards of the forest and ultimately responsible for the roads that service our cabins.

WRRRA History Project

Please consider contributing to the cabin history project by submitting a story, remember history is the study of past events! We all have stories and memories of our time at the cabin even if it was just last year or in the 1930's, all stories welcome. Please bring your story to the Spring Dinner and be entered into a drawing for **\$50 Alpine Inn gift certificate!**

Name:	
Cabin #:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Check <i>(all that apply)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> I can write and mail a story. <input type="checkbox"/> I can type and email a story. <input type="checkbox"/> I have pictures or source documents I can send. I need help making copies. <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to share but need help. I would like to set up an interview. <input type="checkbox"/> Please contact me about my story.
Briefly share your interesting story here:	

Not attending the Spring Dinner, you can **mail this form to:** Kevin Bannon, 4637 S. 168th St., Seattle, WA 98188 or Email: history@wrra.net

I give permission to share my story in a new book, a future edition of the WRRRA newsletter, on the WRRRA website, for research or environmental analysis or other reasonable non-profit publications.

Signed:

Date:

WRRRA

WEB:
www.wrrra.net

E-MAIL:
wrrra-moderator@wrrra.net

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.

Reminder: 2014 Annual Memberships are DUE

191 renewing members to date – **THANK YOU.**

Encourage your cabin mates and family members to renew today!
Don't forget the Summer Picnic & Cabin Tours are right around the corner!

White River Recreation Association Dues	\$35.00
National Forest Homeowners Dues (\$40.00 Optional)	\$ _____
Contribution to Cabin Defense Fund (Optional)	\$ _____
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

New membership? Yes/No Permit Holder? Yes/No Cabin # _____

Name(s): _____

Address 1: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cabin Phone: _____

Email Address (below)*: _____

**Email address is not printed in directory. Provide to receive WRRRA news updates. WRRRA will not share your email address.*

Make your check payable to WRRRA.

Return the completed statement, with payment to:

Kevin Bannon; WRRRA Treasurer, 4637 S. 168th St., Seattle, WA 98188

Calendar for 2014

UPDATED: Saturday, May 17th - Spring Dinner at Alpine Inn, Crystal Mountain

Sunday, May 18th - Spring Road Clean Up

Friday, July 25th - Board Meeting at cabins

Saturday, July 26th - Summer Picnic

Saturday, July 26th - Cabin Tour

Sunday, July 27th - Summer Road Clean Up

Monday, October 6th - Board Meeting in town

Saturday, October 25th - Fall Dinner

Sunday, October 26th - Fall road Clean Up

RESERVATIONS - WRRRA Spring Dinner Meeting

Alpine Inn, Crystal Mountain Ski Area

Saturday, May 17, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

NEW By Brown Paper Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/662334>
 By Mail: 4637 S. 168th St., Seattle, WA 98188 *(include the form below)*
 By Phone: Kevin Bannon 206-244-9683 *(between 6-8PM)*
 By Email: kabannon@comcast.net

Please include payment, payable to WRRRA, with reservation

Name(s):			
Number Attending		@ \$40/person	
Number of Children		@ \$5/child	
Total Enclosed:			

Reservations **MUST** be made by Saturday, May 3rd.

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

