

Minutes of the June 15 Westside Board Meeting

The WSMC Westside board met outside of the Maplewood clubhouse for our 2nd annual outdoor board meeting.

1st VP Tom Johanson called the meeting to order at 7:40PM

Kathy Earnst gave the treasurer's report.

Bob Pattie reported that the copier has broken down and that it would be more expensive to repair than to replace it. A motion was m/s/p to have Bob look into purchasing a new used copier for an amount not to exceed \$700.

Glenn needs to contact the North Bend Forest Service office about the bond for Hanson Creek.

Wagonmaster's report:

- 300 map books were made. They are for sale for \$5, the club keeps \$1 and sends \$4 to the WSMC
- The Burma Road trip is tentatively 7/10-11. Meet at sign post 26 on HWY 410 at 7:30AM and leave at 8AM.
- Pre-registration for the Burma road is required. There is only room enough on the motor homes for 2 drivers and 18 passengers. Contact Ed Lehman.
- A \$65 vehicle permit is required to access Weyerhaeuser roads. Roads are open 7AM-5PM weekends only.

Collecting site news:

- Split Rock area, SWB 1000 road is still locked and gated.
- Red Top still has some snow. First Creek has some nice nodules with unusual calcites.
- A motion was m/s/p to reserve the Mineral Springs group camp area for the WSMC meeting on August 21.
- The Walker Valley lease is due. Bob O'Brien will check.
- Dave Britten will look into getting a metal sign made for Walker Valley.
- There is a new addendum to the Gold & Fish regulations.

New business:

Bob Pattie has a bunch of old EIS reports, some of which contain maps. Marcy Kleckener will archive them.

Meeting adjourned,
Glenn Morita

Note: This is a slightly edited copy of a letter written by TRC secretary Rick Razor.

On December 4, 1998 the Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission adopted the most restrictive land and water use regulations in the country. These regulations were passed as a reform to current small-scale mining rules but pose a very real threat to anyone who owns property near any stream or who uses our natural resources for recreation. The rules were specifically written for prospectors, small-scale miners, and rockhounds, but under Section 12 of the Washington Constitution they must be applied equally to all citizens of the state.

Under the new rules any landowner may lose the right to use 200 feet of his own land on either side of a waterway, no matter how small. This means property bordering all rivers, creeks, streams, lakes, and even dry stream channels is subject to the restrictive rules of the WDFW. The new rules set arbitrary dates for each waterway in the state, and you may not do anything within streambanks except during those "open" periods. Most streams are restricted to a few weeks, generally July 1st through August 15th, but in a few cases the "opening" is as short as 15 days! The new rules will adversely affect landowners, campers, scout troops, anglers, and even folks who want to have a small garden on their streamside property.

The WDFW has adopted these new regulations as a means of protecting our fishery resources and habitat, but many of the new rules have no scientific basis and do little to protect those resources. Instead they inflict a hardship on landowners and recreational users of virtually all of our state. Recreational gold prospectors, small-scale miners, metal detectorists, and rockhounds throughout the northwest have banded together as The Resources Coalition (TRC) to lead the fight to overturn these unfair regulations and return our rights to use the public resources in a fair and reasonable manner. The Resources Coalition, a non-profit group, will speak for every citizen in Washington who believes their rights are being denied by unfair bureaucratic rules. For more information call us at 360-807-2167, we can use your support.

Richard Razor, Secretary
The Resources Coalition
225 Wells Ave S.
Renton, Wa 98055

The Absent Minded Rockhound

A certain rockhound, out in the geode country of Eastern Oregon, one day came upon a rather unusual geode. Wondering about adding it to his collection, he gave it a lick and attempted to wipe off some of the dirt. Suddenly, a Genie appeared and announced, "I am the Genie of this geode. For being a good rockhound, you have three wished."

After thinking a bit, the rockhound said, "I've dreamed of owning a collection of diamonds, so that's my first wish." Poof...it was done. Then he realized his camping rig was in bad shape, and wished for a new one with all the trimmings. Poof...it was done. He asked the Genie if he might save his last wish until later and think about it. The Genie nodded and disappeared.

The rockhound placed his treasure in his new rig and started driving down the road, happy as a lark. He flipped on the radio and began to hum along with the music. Soon he absent mindedly began to sing along with the tune: "Oh, I wish I were an Oscar Meyer Wiener"... and Poof...it was done.

from Trinity Tailings via The Petrified Digest 6/99