

Bulletin of the  
**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
OF OREGON**

Dedicated to the enjoyment, conservation, and study of  
Oregon's native vegetation

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## CHAPTER NEWS

### IMPORTANT NOTE TO FIELD TRIP PARTICIPANTS

Field trips take place rain or shine, so proper dress and footwear are essential. Trips may be strenuous and/or hazardous. Please contact the trip leader for information about difficulty, mileage, and terrain. Participation is at your own risk. Bring water and lunch. All NPSO activities are open to the public at no charge (other than carpool mileage), and friends, newcomers and visitors are always welcome.

**Notice to field trip chairs and leaders:** The Forest Service and other Federal agencies have set policies limiting group size in wilderness areas to 12. The reason for this is to limit the human impact on these fragile areas. As we are often in the position of asking them to follow their rules and regulations for conservation of our natural resources, it's time for us to do the same. Each group using wilderness must be no larger than 12.

### **Blue Mountain**

7 Oct., Sun.

**FIELD TRIP** up the Umatilla River for fall color, ect. Leave at 8am from the BMCC greenhouse.  
Leader: Ruth Rouse.

12 Nov., Mon.

**MEETING.** 7:30pm in Room 130, Morrow Hall, BMCC. Bring slides from your summer.

### **Corvallis**

8 Oct., Mon.

**MEETING.** 7:30pm at the Herbarium Library, Room 4081, Cordley Hall, Oregon State University. Bruce McCune will be our guest speaker with a talk entitled "The Role of Lichens in Oregon's Old Growth Forests".

? Oct., Sat.

**FIELD TRIP** for a Cascade Mountains Mushroom Hunt. Leave at 8:30am from the parking lot across from the Monroe St. Beanery. Bring lunch, appropriate clothes, and collecting equipment. Contact Dan Luoma (758-8063) for more information, including new date. New date also available at the meeting on the 8th.

12 Nov., Mon.

**MEETING.** 7:30pm at the Herbarium Library, Room 4081, Cordley Hall, Oregon State University. Our guest speaker is Boone Kaufmann speaking on "Maintaining and Restoring the Biological Diversity of Rangeland Ecosystems".

### **Emerald**

8 Oct., Mon.

**MEETING.** 7:00pm at Westmoreland Community Center, 1545 W. 22nd. Warren Pavlat will show slides on the Vegetation in Australia.

12 Nov., Mon.

**MEETING.** 7:00pm at Westmoreland Community Center, 1545 W. 22nd. Ken and Robin Lodewick will present "Texas vs. Canada".

## High Desert

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For information, call Bill Hopkins (388-7434).

## Mid-Columbia

3 Oct., Wed.  
and

**MEETING.** 7:30pm at the Mosier School. Don Eastman, author of the newly released book, "Rare Endangered Plants of Oregon" will be our guest speaker. We will see a sampling of his fine photography from his extensive travels and botanical research.

7 Nov., Wed.

**MEETING.** 7:30pm at the Mosier School. Berta Youtie of The Nature Conservancy will present a program on GRASSES; the most significant nativer grasses of Eastern Oregon. Taxonomy keys will be used to identify physical specimens.

## North Coast

11 Oct., Thurs.

**MEETING.** 7pm at the State Office Bldg., 3600 3rd St., Tillamook. Jaylen Jones will give a talk on poisonous mushrooms.

20 Oct., Sat.

**FIELD TRIP.** Jaylen Jones will lead us on a trip to study and observe mushrooms at Fort Stevens State Park. Leave 9am from the Cornet lot, or meet at Coffinberry Lake parking lot at 10:30am. For information call Al Krampert (842-2308).

## Portland

6 Oct., Sat.

**FIELD TRIP** for a full fantasy. South along the Pacific Crest Trail bordering the Washington Lava Beds. Leave at 8am from the NE 122nd and Sandy K-Mart parking lot. Second pick up will be at 9:15am from the parking area north of the Bridge of the Gods. Leader: Charlene Holzward (284-3444).

9 Oct., Tue.

**MEETING.** 7pm at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland. Jerry Igo, the Robin Hood of the Columbia Gorge, will present the first-of-its-kind video show & how-to, on producing video documentaries instead of slide show productions. Bring your check book along to reserve a copy of an adventurers view of Columbia Gorge wildflowers on video tape. The video contains over 200 plant species.

20 Oct., Sat.  
State

**FIELD TRIP** to the wetlands along the Columbia at Beacon Rock. Leave 9am from Lewis & Clark Park. Leader is Maxene Wilson (655-1526). Wear boots or tennis shoes.

3 Nov., Sat.

**FIELD TRIP** with special guest leader, Dr. Robert Pyle. A trip to the Cathlamet White Tail Deer Refuge to study riparian habitats: weeds vs. native plants. Leave 8am from the west side parking lot of Montgomery Park on NW Vaughn St. For more information call Elizabeth Handler (244-5320).

## Siskiyou

11 Oct., Thurs.

**MEETING** at 7:30pm in Room 171 of the Science Building at Southern Oregon State College. Russ Holmes, district Botanist for Roseburg BLM will speak on new species of Douglas County and other botanical wonders.

20 Oct., Sat.

**MUSHROOM FIELD TRIP.** (Call at least two weeks prior to the 20th as date is tentative according to rainfall.) Gordon Larum will lead a half day joint field trip with the Mount Mazama Mushroom Association. A choice of several collecting areas will be announced prior to departure. Mushrooms will be identified by speceis and whether edible or poisonous. Meet at the Food for Less parking lot at 8am. Information (772-1685). (Difficulty: easy)

## South Coast

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For information on formation of this pending chapter, contact Jim Curran (396-4939)

## Umpqua Valley

18 Oct., Thurs.

**MEETING.** Wildflower trails in Douglas Co. by Mildred Thiele. Tour of Herbarium. 7pm in the Douglas County Museum, just south of Roseburg, exit 123 off I-5.

20 Oct., Sat.

**FIELD TRIP.** The role of fungi in the forest community. 8am BLM parking lot, 777 Garden Valley Rd., Roseburg. we will drive to several sites, with short walks into the forest to examine woody conks, mushrooms and other fungi. There will be in-the-field interpretation of the fungi's role in the forest community. If there were no fungi.....there would be no trees.....no forest.....no lumber industry. For information, call Jack Hausotter (874-2462).

## Willamette Valley

To hear about unscheduled mid-week trips to places near & far, call Clint Urey (581-1805) or Barbara Halliday (371-1025).

15 Oct., Mon.

**MEETING.** 7pm at Room 225, First United Methodist Church, corner of SE Church and State Sts., Salem (use the NE entrance on State St). Linda McMahan, Executive Director of the Berry Botanic Garden, will give a slide lecture on "Native Plants in the Berry Botanic Garden".

6 Oct., Sat.

**FIELD TRIP** to Jefferson Park for the fall colors in the high country. Approx. 5 miles each way. Number of hikers limited due to wilderness regulations, call trip leaders to register. Leaders: George and Harriet Schoppert (859-2613, Stayton).

## William Cusick

15 Oct., Mon.

**MEETING.** 7:30pm at the Forestry and Range Sciences Laboratory, 1401 Gekler Lane. Paula Brooks, Forest Botanist for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, will present a program on threatened and endangered plants of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

### NEW OFFICERS FOR CORVALLIS CHAPTER

**President**-----Nancy Weber, 2160 NW Beechwood Place, Corvallis, Or., 97330 (753-9626).

**Vice-President**-----Esther McEvoy, 3290 SW Willamette, Corvallis, Or., 97330 (754-0893).

**Secretary**-----Phil Hays

**Treasurer**-----Thomas Kaye

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

This will be on Sunday, October 28th at 1pm, at Esther McEvoy's home at 3290 SW Willamette, Corvallis (754-0893). We will review progress to date and finalize an outline of the "Flowers of Oregon" slideshow. Anyone interested in helping on this project is welcome to attend this meeting or call me (Esther McEvoy, 754-0893) and see how you can help with this educational program.

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### CORVALLIS CHAPTER MEMORIAL DONATION

The Corvallis Chapter has made a donation in memory of Lynette Dillon (1934-1990) to the Greenbelt Land Trust. Lynette was an active member of the Corvallis Chapter, both as a chapter officer and as an active participant in our field trips. Lynette was also active in the local Audubon chapter and was an excellent photographer.

The first land acquisition of the Greenbelt Land Trust is an addition to the Bald Hill Park in Corvallis. On the north side of Bald Hill there is a remnant of the native grass prairie that once covered the Willamette Valley. Very little remains of this habitat type due to farming and urbanization. The largest known population of the rare Willamette Daisy (*Erigeron decumbens*) exists here.

---Esther McEvoy

## 1990 RARE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED PLANT CONFERENCE

Oregon's biennial Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plant Conference will be held this November. The conference has been held every other year since 1980, to review the status of rare plants in Oregon. This year, for the first time, the Conference will be jointly sponsored by the Native Plant Society of Oregon, the Conservation Biology Program of the State of Oregon (also known as the Oregon Department of Agriculture Endangered Plant Species Program), the Oregon Natural Heritage Program and the University of Oregon.

The meeting has been scheduled for Friday and Saturday, November 30 and December 1, at the Erb Memorial Union (the Student Union building) of the University of Oregon in Eugene. If there is interest, we will plan on a dinner (banquet) on Friday evening. Associated with this meeting on Thursday, November 29, will be a workshop for professional botanists.

The tentative schedule for the Conference is to review the status of all plants which are candidates for listing under the federal (US Fish and Wildlife Service) and state (Oregon Department of Agriculture) programs on Friday, November 30, and finish up on the taxa of significance in Oregon on Saturday, December 1. For people who can only attend the conference on one day, we will be willing to discuss candidates on Saturday and Oregon species on Friday.

We also intend to reorganize and then reprint the booklet, "Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals of Oregon". The one potential outcome is a joint, NPSO-ORNHP status for all of the plants of interest. We will discuss this, the format for the book, rare plant studies, the Oregon Flora, and other botanical issues on Saturday after we finish up with the list.

There will be a \$5.00 registry fee, which will help defray the costs of the conference. All attendees registering for the conference will be mailed a copy of the 1991 publication at no cost. Anyone interested attending should send a note with the registrants name, address, phone number, the days you plan on attending and interest for the Friday night banquet, to:

Bob Meinke  
Natural Resources Division  
Oregon Department of Agriculture  
635 Capitol St. NE  
Salem, OR 97310-0110

This will allow us to determine how many people plan on attending. If you wish, you can send a check for \$5.00 per attendant, made out to the Native Plant Society of Oregon to Bob Meinke at the same address along with your name, address, etc.

---Jimmy Kagan

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### DONNER UND BLITZEN WILD AND SCENIC RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN UNDER DEVELOPMENT BY THE BLM

The Bureau of Land Management has embarked on the planning process for the newly established Donner und Blitzen Wild and Scenic River. The initial step is to prepare a Resource Assessment. They are asking for public input on what values this area has.

The estimated 22,862 acre protected area includes the Donner und Blitzen River and its tributaries, Indian Creek, Little Blitzen River, and Fish Creek. The area is southwest of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

The area has high botanical value. This is little recognized due to the area's remoteness from population centers. The river system drains the west slopes of Steens Mountain. The entire area, which is very rugged, is little disturbed by human activity outside of grazing and the very rough Steens Mountain Road. Within the designated protected river corridor elevational gain results in progression from lowland sagebrush/bunchgrass communities to upper subalpine zones. A number of R&E plants find homes in the high Steens, including seven endemics.

The 72.7 protected miles of Wild and Scenic River varies in width. Exact boundaries will not be determined until finalization of the management plan. The interim plan shows boundaries mostly less than .5 miles wide, with some areas up to 1.5 miles wide. The boundaries cover primarily what is visible from canyon bottoms. It is important to note that both plants and animals occupy land out of the canyons and can only be fully protected by preserving land surrounding the canyons. It is these lands around the Wild and Scenic River corridor that could receive Wilderness designation or otherwise be protected from development---thereby reserving an ecological significant block of Steens Mountain.

The rivers still have high populations of native redband trout and other fish that elsewhere are scarce due to siltation from logging, agriculture and roadbuilding. Ravens, Prairie Falcons, Great Horned Owls and Turkey Vultures, among others, nest in the area. BLM states that 250 wildlife species use this area.

Four Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) overlap the boundaries of the Wild and Scenic River corridor. These are the High Steens, the Little Blitzen Gorge, The Blitzen River, and the South Fork Donner und Blitzen River WSAs. There are two Research Natural Areas (RNAs) here, the Rooster Comb and the Little Blitzen. These two were established according to the BLM to protect botanical values (i.e. R&E plants). And finally, the Steens Scenic Area of Critical Environmental Concern was established to protect visual resources. This plethora of potential wilderness areas and other protected areas have the potential in combination with the already-in-force Wild and Scenic River designation to allow wide-ranging protection for a significant chunk of what is now some of Oregon's least disturbed and valuable wildlands.

The Donner und Blitzen area has a very interesting geological history. Steens Mountain is the northernmost fault-block mountain in the Basin and Range province, and the largest fault block in the state of Oregon. Surface rock is mostly Steens Basalt, with some andesite and volcanic tuffs. The glaciation of the upper 2,000 ft. of the Steens is unique in the Basin and Range province, a region of desert mountains and valleys. The resulting U-shaped valleys are spectacular scenic assets. They are textbook examples and indeed photos of Kiger Gorge often show up in geology texts.

Portions of the Oregon High Desert Trail follow the river valleys. A backpack or horseback camping trip through the Wild and Scenic Rivers area can take several days. A network of trails covers the areas between the four arms of Wild and Scenic River. The scenery is dramatic and quite different from the Cascades. One can easily cross through several climate and vegetation zones in one trip, from near desert to alpine.

The BLM has produced a fairly good Resource Assessment for the Donner und Blitzen National Wild and Scenic River. They show awareness of scenic, wildlife, geologic, recreational and historical factors. However, they mention botanical values only in passing, never discussing it independently from other factors. This shortcoming needs to be corrected.

Protecting a ecologically significant portion of the Steens Mountain area is possible, given the Wild and Scenic River designation (stretching from Malheur Nation Wildlife Refuge into the high glaciated valleys of the Steens) and the seven WSAs, RNAs, and ACEC which would, if seen through to full protective status, cover much of the area.

A related issue is the planned 1991 upgrading by BLM of Steens Mountain road, currently a somewhat daunting drive. More campgrounds along the road are also in the works. The BLM is aiming to increase recreational use of the region. Any work in the area, due to its relatively undisturbed nature, needs to be carried out extremely carefully in respect to unnecessary disturbance, siltation human impact.

NPSO members can contact the BLM directly with concerns about the Donner und Blitzen Wild and Scenic River planning process, currently in its Resource Assessment stage. It is important to assert to them that botanical values must be assessed in detail, that the relatively undisturbed nature of the area must be taken into account, and that the entire area, mostly under BLM management, should receive recognition and planning as a single ecosystem, as it all is part of a single watershed. Deadline is October 19th.

Contact Fred McDonald at 503-573-5241 or write: Bureau of Land Management  
Burns District Office  
HC 74-12533 HWY 20 West  
Hines Or. 97738  
Attention: Glenn T. Patterson

The following 4-1/2 pages contain a series of articles on the Rooster Rock wetlands grazing issue. The first article is the Oregon State Parks position paper on the subject, repeated from last month's *Bulletin*, followed by three responses to it from different groups.

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## ROOSTER ROCK STATE PARK GRAZING ISSUE

Rooster Rock State Park, in the Columbia River Gorge, encompasses approximately 873 acres. The park is located on both sides of the I-84 freeway with the main day use area located between the Columbia River and the freeway. A portion of the area south of the freeway is under permit with Robert McMillen for grazing.

The grazing issue at Rooster Rock State Park has been controversial since the mid-1970s. At that time, a request was made from an adjoining landowner to lease land for grazing purposes. The concern over grazing had to do with the fact that there were several wetland areas within the land south of the freeway, as well as an area with an uncommon water plant, Wapato. Wapato was once thought to be threatened in Oregon.

At that time, State Parks sought the advice of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department and others who indicated that controlled grazing could offer some benefits to wildlife as well as vegetation management as long as the wetland areas and Wapato areas were protected. A task force appointed by Governor Straub to study Columbia Gorge issues also agreed that a controlled grazing program would be a compatible use of the property. As such, Parks issued a grazing permit and the property has been grazed since that time.

In September of 1989, the Parks Master Planning Unit identified significant natural and wetland areas and made recommendations regarding the grazing permit. These recommendations were incorporated into the 1990 permit for grazing use and include the following:

1. Repair of existing fences as well as construction of additional fences to protect wetland and riparian areas.
2. Control of blackberry, ash, thistle and other noxious weeds.
3. Development of a grazing plan in coordination with the Oregon State University Extension

Service which will include a schedule for cattle rotation and the number of cow/calf pairs that may be grazed on the property.

The permittee has been very cooperative in accepting the additional conditions that have been placed in the permit. This is evidenced by the fact that he built a fence to totally exclude the cattle from a large area of the pasture after a recent complaint about the cattle being within a couple of hundred feet from the Wapato area.

Parks goals for this area are to maintain the pastoral view by using integrated vegetative management practices without high labor costs. The 1981 Rooster Rock Master Plan suggests development of an interpretive trail connecting the day use area at Rooster Rock with Latourell Falls.

The current permit is Parks effort to improve management of this area. The permit will be reviewed at the end of the year to determine what additional provisions should be included or whether grazing should be terminated.

Parks will include interested parties (Native Plant Society, the Audubon Society and the Wildlife Federation) and experts as we review and update our management plan for this portion of the park.

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**'WHILE OREGON ON ONE HAND IS REWARDING RANCHERS AND FARMERS FOR KEEPING THEIR CATTLE OUT OF STREAMS AND WETLANDS, PARKS IS INTRODUCING CATTLE INTO THESE FRAGILE AREAS AT ROOSTER ROCK'**

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## THE WETLANDS CONSERVANCY WEIGHS IN.....

TO: Chairman and Commissioners  
Oregon State Parks and Recreation

FROM: John W. Broome  
The Wetlands Conservancy

As a participant in a recent "environmentalist" tour of the Rooster Rock State Park wetlands, I want to add my views to those already expressed by others in attendance.

I must say that as a wetland owner and steward I take a dim view of the use of cattle as a weed control measure. I have seen too many examples of wetland destruction from horse or cattle graz-

ing, and it is ironic to note that the work of the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board deals mostly with the protection of streams and riparian vegetation from damage by grazing cattle.

The Oregon Riparian Tax Incentive Program (ORS 308.025) was established specifically to provide tax incentives to farmers and ranchers to build fences to keep cattle out of the state's streams and riparian corridors. Improved water quality, wildlife habitat, soil erosion or compaction and other benefits are envisioned. Property eligible for tax exemption is the land extending 100 feet outward from the stream edge.

While Oregon on the one hand is rewarding ranchers and farmers for keeping their cattle out of streams and wetlands, the Parks and Recreation Department is introducing cattle into these fragile areas at Rooster Rock State Park and perhaps elsewhere.

After having walked the area in question and seeing the damaged wetland plants including Wapato, which is not too common anymore, and seeing the quagmire of trampled wetlands and streambeds, I find it hard to imagine how anyone can seriously make a case for the use of cattle in Rooster Rock State Park.

The noxious vegetation that has invaded the grazing areas is graphic and irrefutable evidence that cattle do not control blackberries, reedcanary grass, or thistle. These do, on the other hand, graze the tops off the willows, ash, rushes, and Wapato that are native to the wetlands.

I have a very telling slide photograph taking looking down the fence line separating grazed from not grazed land. Reedcanary grass, thistle and blackberry are profuse on the "cattle" side of the fence while on the other side is an open meadow of native species with some noxious plant invasion near the fence line. The *Oregonian* picture of Mr. Russ Jolley, standing at another part of the fence line is even more graphic and damning with its morass of cattle trampled mud along the fence line.

This cattle grazing practice in the Rooster Rock wetlands simply has to be stopped. There are other ways to control noxious weeds and the cattle method is not working in any case.

These wetlands with their spectacular backdrop of Crown Point is a rare gem of an ecosystem that

should be protected and managed for its wildlife and human enjoyment values.

To perpetuate cattle grazing in this area simply because it has been done there for "X" years in the past or because it provides a sylvan scene for the people traveling 65 miles an hour (or faster) on US 84 is not justified. Cattle grazing in wetlands was a bad farming practice in the past and it is still a bad practice. If we are to speak of historic uses, open wetland meadows and riparian vegetation prevailed in this part of the Gorge for thousands of years before the white man chose to master nature at all cost.

I take issue with the view that it would be costly to restore the native wet meadows. Other than removal of the man/cattle induced non-native species, the area would restore itself. Nature does far better at healing its wounds than man gives it credit for. I urge each and every member of the State Parks Commission to come tour this area with us to see for yourselves the damage caused by the cattle grazing practice. It should be done now before the fall rains set in...or perhaps we should wait. It will look much worse after the rains start.

Tour or no tour, I plead with you to halt this practice with the conclusion of the grazing agreement in December of this year.

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***ALTHOUGH THE NWF IS GLAD TO HEAR STATE PARKS CONCUR IN THE VALUES OF THE WETLANDS AT ROOSTER ROCK, THIS CONCERN IS DIFFICULT TO DISCERN FROM THE AGENCY'S ACTIONS.***

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#### **.....AND THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION.....**

TO: Larry Jacobsen, Deputy Director  
Parks and Recreation Department

FROM: Bruce Apple, Director  
National Wildlife Federation

This letter is in reply to your "response to the National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) concerns over grazing at Rooster Rock State Park. Although the NWF is glad to hear that State Parks concurs in the values of the wetlands at Rooster Rock, this concern is difficult to discern from the agency's actions.

The conservation community of Portland has been instrumental in protecting the esthetic beauty of the Columbia Gorge in cooperation with federal and state agencies. Even given this cooperation and effort, in many cases by volunteers, State Parks insists upon subjugating public enjoyment and benefit to the economic benefit on one individual.

Your letter alludes to using grazing to "control the invasion of brush in the open areas" and "as a means of vegetative control." As indicated in earlier letters and testimony, which have apparently been ignored, this reasoning is not scientifically supportable. Cattle in fact promote the invasion of brush, blackberries, reed canary grass, and other exotic species. According to experts in both Range and Water Resources Departments at Oregon State University, "Grazing causes disturbances and allows blackberries to invade and expand coverage...blackberry is an increaser on grazed habitat...and cattle have not been found to be very effective at controlling brush."

Moreover, your "response" speaks of providing public access for "enjoyment of the open space" and loss of "open space potential for recreational use" if cattle are removed. As an organization whose members have been deeply concerned with the protection of the Gorge and its natural heritage, the National Wildlife Federation finds this language extremely offensive. The NWF would be interested in obtaining information outlining the potential uses of the "open Space" created by the cattle. The only current use from our perspective would be "cow-pie" dodging.

Most members of the NWF and other conservation organizations, which have been instrumental in protecting the Gorge, are interested in native, natural characteristics. The presence of cattle on Rooster Rock State Park destroys these characteristics, causes visual degradation, offensive odors, and prevents public access. Due to the current lack of signs and access, and the shoddy appearance of the fencing and grazed wetlands, most of the public probably does not even know that the grazed areas are part of Rooster Rock State Park. The fences and grazing now present merely serve to block access and stifle public use of the wetland areas. If Parks is interested in providing further and better public access to this area, the cattle and fences should be removed, and a watchable wildlife areas set up in keeping with the nature and intent of Gorge preservation.

In addition, the "response" states that, "the grazed areas provide a characteristic pastoral scene which is in keeping with the scenic values of the Columbia Gorge". The letter continues by citing grazing as a historic use shown in a "photograph of the area, taken before construction of the Bonneville Dam". Parks believes that "letting these pastoral lands return to natural riparian woodland would mean the loss of the characteristic scenery of that area". All of these statements are oxymoronic. How could "letting pastoral lands return to natural riparian woodland" possibly destroy characteristic scenery? History did not begin when cattle were first grazed in the Gorge. Characteristic scenery for Rooster Rock is Wapato Wetland and riparian woodland. In fact, the construction of the Dam caused mass destruction of critical wetland habitat and only adds additional necessity to removal of the cattle and restoration of natural habitat at Rooster Rock.

Moreover, historical grazing practices of the type to which you favorably allude have wreaked untold havoc on public lands in the Western United States. Much of this damage occurred due to a lack of scientific information documenting the adverse effects of livestock grazing on range, riparian and wetland areas. Within the past half-century, however, information has become available showing that other management practices and the complete removal of livestock are the best method of preserving natural resource values. Recent historic livestock use of the wetland areas is no justification for its continued degradation from cattle grazing.

An even more disturbing implication of the statement that this so-called "characteristic scenery" must be preserved is that State Parks is will to ignore the stewardship responsibilities which ensue when land changes from private to public ownership. The grazing which occurred at the time of the photograph was taking place on private land. The National Wildlife Federation hopes that it is not Parks' policy to continue or renew destructive historical practices on sensitive land which comes under the Agency's management jurisdiction.

Mr. Jacobsen also contends that the grazing permittee "performs various maintenance tasks in return for his grazing right". These tasks provide nothing for the public. The permittee must repair fences and control noxious weeds. Neither of these tasks would be necessary if the permittee's cattle were not present.



Lastly, the "response" states that "restoration of these historically pastoral areas to native wet meadows would be extremely difficult and costly". This statement is ridiculous. The answer is simple. Remove the cattle when the grazing permit runs out in December. Remove the fences. And, selectively burn (which is more effective than grazing) or utilize other means to control noxious weeds. Such management will eliminate current management headaches.

The National Wildlife Federation hopes that State Parks will seriously consider the arguments put forth by the conservation groups involved in this controversy. At the very least, further information including a detailed map outlining grazing at Rooster Rock must be provided to interested parties. If planning is to be undertaken to develop a grazing program on the wetland it should only be done subsequent to removal of livestock after expiration of the current grazing permit in December 1990. Users should also be providing better access to these unique wetland areas of Rooster Rock State Park.

Many conservation organizations have placed significant effort and resources from a limited source into Gorge protection. State Parks' current non-responsive attitude and coddling of a private concern defies the public interest. The National Wildlife Federation is interested in obtaining some answers to current problems not further justifications and rationalizations.

We hope to hear from you soon.

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***'IT WAS ONLY AFTER THE NPSO AND THE LEWIS & CLARK TRAIL COMMITTEE PROTESTED THE GRAZING DAMAGE IN 1977 THAT OSP BEGAN TO NOTICE THE PROBLEM'***

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**.....AND THE NPSO ADDS  
A FEW CHOICE WORDS  
FROM RUSS JOLLEY**

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE OREGON STATE  
PARKS POSITION PAPER ON GRAZING  
AT ROOSTER ROCK STATE PARK**

Claim: "The concern over grazing had to do with the fact that there were several wetland areas

within the land south of the freeway, as well as an area with an uncommon water plant, Wapato."

Fact: This claim is completely untrue. We challenge OSP to produce dated documents to support their claim. In fact, OSP had no concern whatsoever for either Wapato or wetlands. A fence was built around the area to be grazed, i.e., all OSP land east of Mirror Lake between I-84 and the railroad. There were no interior fences at all to protect wetlands or Wapato. It was only after the Native Plant Society and the Lewis & Clark Trail Committee protested the grazing damage to wetlands and Wapato during the summer and fall of 1977 that OSP began to take notice of the problem.

Claim: "Wapato was once thought to be threatened in Oregon".

Fact: From the report of The Nature Conservancy to the Columbia River Gorge Commission (January 1989), we quote: "Wapato had long been considered a sensitive species by Oregon Natural Heritage Data Base, but has recently been dropped as it is now covered by the *Sagittaria* (Wapato) Marsh Association, which is considered endangered in Oregon."

Claim: "...Oregon Fish and Wildlife...indicated that controlled grazing could offer some benefits to wildlife...as long as the wetland areas and Wapato areas were protected."

Fact: In 1977, ODFW, like OSP, was totally unconcerned about protection of wetlands and Wapato from grazing at Rooster Rock State Park. ODFW, represented by Del Sanford, held that grazing would increase forage for geese, as it does at Sauvie Island. As it turns out, however there has been little use by geese during the 14 seasons of grazing. In over 70 visits to the area since grazing began, I have seen geese only a few times and then only in groups of 2-4. The use of the area by other wildlife also appears to be little changed, at least to the untrained eye.

Claim: "A task force appointed by governor Straub...also agreed that a controlled grazing program would be a compatible use of the property."

Fact: Environmental organizations were not represented on any governor-appointed task force dealing with grazing at Rooster Rock State Park.

Claim: "...recommendations were incorporated into the 1990 permit for grazing use and include the following:

1) Repair of existing fences..."

Fact: In 1990, cattle were in the park long be-

fore the fences were repaired. Even at the time of the July 28th field trip, a critical fence remained down, as it had for the past 10 or 12 years.

"2) Control of blackberry, ash, thistle, and other noxious weeds".

**Fact:** Ash is not a noxious weed, but a valuable native tree, an important component of the natural riparian forest along the Columbia River. Some of the ash trees at Rooster Rock State Park reach diameters of over three feet. Note also that by far the greatest concentrations of noxious weeds such as blackberry, thistle, and tansy ragwort are located on the heavily grazed area (formerly private) at the east end of the park.

**Claim:** "Parks goals for this area are to maintain the pastoral view by using integrated vegetative management practices..."

**Fact:** The vegetative management practices of the past 14 years--grazing--have resulted in the further invasion of the wetlands by reed canary grass, Himalayan blackberries, teasel, and other weeds. The most significant vegetative management that OSP could accomplish would be to rid the park of the patch of Purple Loosestrife located near Young Creek. If left unchecked, this pernicious weed will take over the entire wetlands, crowding out valuable native plant species. Purple Loosestrife is useless to most forms of wildlife. Grazing will definitely not do this job.

**Claim:** "The 1981 Master Plan suggests development of an interpretive trail..."

**Fact:** In 1977, the Native Plant Society urged development of nature trails, with boardwalks and removable bridges. After 13 years we have only barbed wire fences and even barbed wire across the entrance stiles. The public has been intimidated out of this huge area of state park.

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"Everyone needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike".

---John Muir



Monkshood  
(Aconitum)



Larkspur (Delphinium)  
with upper sepal  
spurred

Delphineum and Monkshood by Herm Fitz from  
Dec. 1979 NPSO *Bulletin*.

## BITS AND PIECES

---News and Information

From All Over

The Oregon Natural Resources Council and several other environmental groups are initiating The Oregon Coast and Ocean Conference, with the first annual meet this Oct. 12th-14th in Newport. The aim of the conference is to address environmental issues concerning Oregon's important coastal zone, and to discuss ways concerned individuals and groups can have an impact on these problems. Topics will include development, pollution, ocean mining, wildlife, and legal and political issues involving marine protection. A variety of experts and activists will share information, opinions, and experiences concerning our coastal regions and their protection.

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*The following has been excerpted from The Segoe Lily, newsletter of the Utah Native Plant Society.*

### AN INNER VOICE

Agency personnel often see a lack of compliance with environmental laws and an over-utilization, rather than sustained yield, of resources. Many people get frustrated and some are troubled by an inner voice. We know how to cut forests ecologically and how best to graze cows, but sometimes these best management practices are far removed from the practices of one's own organization. What should we do? Should we be loyal to the organization which is usually very good to us, or should we be loyal to the public? Listen some more to the "inner voice". Subscribe to the new *Inner Voice*, an association of Forest Service employees for environmental ethics, PO Box 11615, Eugene, OR 97440.

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**Ecosystem Management: Rare Species and Significant Habitats**, the Proceedings of the 15th Annual Natural Areas Conference, has been published as New York State Museum Bulletin 471. This conference included over 600 people involved with natural area science and management. The publication includes a wide variety of information on environmental issues surrounding biological resource scarcity. Cost is \$26.45 ppd. Contact: New York State Museum  
Publ. Sales-3140 CEC  
Albany NY 12230

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**GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS**

The NPSO *Bulletin* is published monthly, as a service to NPSO members and the public. Contributions of all types are welcome.

**Deadline: Copy is due with the editor by the 10th of the month.**

**Text Format:** Submissions can be in any form. Camera-ready copy should be in 3.334 in. wide columns up to 9.3 in long, with spacing between columns .22 in. The *Bulletin* uses 12 point "Times" font. Author's name and affiliation are added at the end of the article. Double space between paragraphs, and do *not* indent paragraphs. For special materials (e.g., plant keys) choose an appropriate format, keeping in mind that readers may wish to carry your article pasted inside their favorite field guide.

**Computer Disks:** The editor prefers articles submitted on MacIntosh

or IBM disks. Please contact the Editor for further details.

**Illustrations:** Line drawings and high contrast B&W prints are useable. Contact the editor about our current needs, or send along with your article.

**Credits:** If the item is not original, name and date the source. For original items, identify the author and indicate, for news items, if a by-line is desired. Indicate whether the item is to be used in its entirety or excerpted at the Editor's discretion.

**Scientific Nam** *acific Northwest* by Hitchcock et al., when appropriate. Use of both scientific and common names is encouraged. *Italicize* genus and species (underline if italic is not available). **Return of Originals:**

Membership in the Native Plant Society of Oregon is open to all.

Membership applications, renewals, and changes of address (include old address and zip code) should be sent to the MEMBERSHIP CHAIR.

**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter (if known) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ **Is this a change of address?**  
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\* **DUES** include monthly NPSO *Bulletin*. Full membership is for a calendar year, January through December. New memberships enrolled during September through December are charged a reduced "Quarter Membership" rate.  
 New  Renewal  Quarter Membership (Sep.-Dec.) \$3.00  *Bulletin* Subscription only \$12.00  
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 Rare and Endangered Plant Fund. .... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**Mary Falconer, NPSO Membership Chair, 1920 Engel Court NW, Salem, Oregon 97304.**

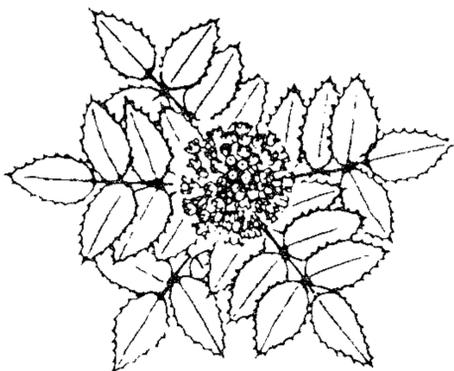
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