

Metolius photographer overcomes obstacles

By Conrad Weiler
Correspondent

Landscape photographer Gary Albertson continues his photographic work even though he has faced years of challenges with deteriorating sight.

Albertson has pigment dispersion glaucoma, which occurs when pigment cells in the eye slough off from the back of the iris and float around in the aqueous humor.

Gary ran his Sisters Gallery and Frame shop in Sisters for eight years. He has lived in Camp Sherman for 20 years and photographs the Metolius River and several of the local creeks. You may see some of his work at Sisters Gallery and Frame, on Facebook (search: Gary Albertson), or online at GaryAlbertson.com.

Albertson says his eye condition has made him depend more on other senses like hearing, smelling, touching and also remembering what came to him during composing and before taking a shot. Gary uses a Nikon D750 digital camera for most of his photo work.

To Albertson, the Metolius



PHOTO BY CONRAD WEILER

Gary Albertson continues to work along his beloved Metolius River.

River sounds like soft, enjoyable music.

"It also is much like a religious experience when working near the river," he says.

Gary's career as a corporate graphic designer gave him opportunity to see how photographers worked. He decided to go into photography and became a very successful landscape photo artist. He also enjoyed writing and created an outstanding book, "Fire Mountain," the story of Mt. St. Helens eruptions.

As we all age, it's good to remember to keep moving and do the things we enjoy, regardless of obstacles.

Gary Albertson, at age 70, is certainly an outstanding example.

TREE CUTTING: Project is to mitigate power line fire risk

Continued from page 1

which in turn sparked what would become the deadliest and most costly wildfire in California history.

"This proposal came to us last year, so that was post-Paradise and we wanted to be mindful of that," said Sisters District Ranger Ian Reid.

CEC Director of Member & Public Relations Brent ten Pas confirmed that mitigation of fire danger is a primary focus of the \$1.2-million project.

The project will replace poles that were originally installed in 1940. The current poles are 35 feet tall with a four-foot crossbeam; the replacement poles will stand at 45 feet with an eight-foot crossbeam. ten Pas said that the added height, which offers greater ground clearance, and the broader crossbeam allow poles to be set farther apart, which will improve safety.

Burying the power lines in the area is not a practical alternative, according to Reid.

"First of all, it would be very expensive," he said. "And there would be a lot of ground disturbance to bury them."

According to ten Pas, "To

bury the lines, the general rule of thumb is that costs are generally 2 to 1 more expensive. Each project is unique and expenses can vary significantly due to location, terrain, soil, digging, and unforeseen issues."

Reid said that the trees have been GPS located, tallied and marked. He said that the number of 500 trees is "a pretty tight number," though "there's a little bit of wiggle room just in case there's some ancillary lines going to come off to the tract homes out there in Camp Sherman."

The trees are categorized as small, medium and large, with the "large" category starting at 20 inches in diameter. Reid estimated that the

largest tree marked for felling is 52 inches.

"The bulk of the trees are in the small-to-medium category," Reid said, but "there are definitely some large trees in that corridor that are going to be felled."

The trees that will be cut are those within 10 feet of the center line of the corridor that pose a danger of falling into power lines.

Most of the felled trees will be sold as forest product, with about 40 to be used for in-stream habitat enhancement projects.

A decision on the project is set for March, because the Forest Service is "trying to get CEC authorized to get out there and do that work this spring," Reid said.

Art starts here.

You do not have to go to the ends of the earth to get away from it all. Visit the Sisters Harvest Faire. Second weekend in October on Main Avenue. Free admission & Live music. Make your escape to Sisters Country. Plan your next visit at sisterscountry.com.

SISTERS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
866.549.0252 www.SistersCountry.com

SISTERS Country

SHOP LOCAL

The Nugget is brought to you weekly because of our **advertisers' support**. So we ask you to **support the local businesses** which help make your community, hometown newspaper possible.

PHOTO BY GARY MILLER