

OP News & Views

Federal Fee Demo Program Extended Until 2004

by Brenda Tincher

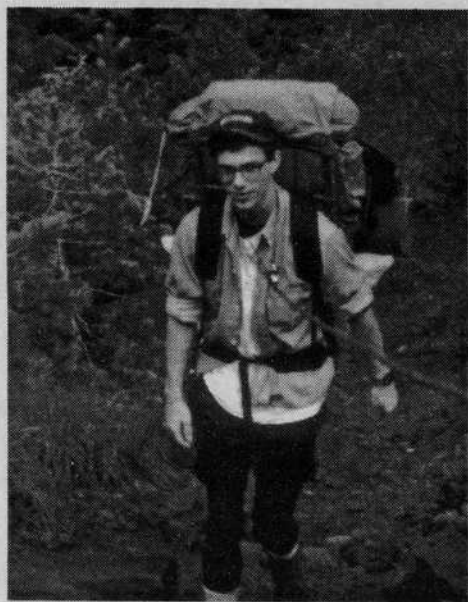
On November 5th, President Bush signed the Interior Appropriations Bill into law and extended the controversial Recreation Fee Demonstration Program until September 2004 and lifted the previous 100-site limitation. For hikers, bird-watchers, boaters, anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts, this means more fees collected at more recreation sites around the country.

Organizations like Free Our Forests charge that representatives of recreation industries drove the Fee Demo through Congress with the hope of gaining control of public lands and developing the land into high

Scott Silver of Wild Wilderness says the Fee Demo program "exists to promote commercialization, privatization and motorization of America's public lands."

The American Recreation Coalition (ARC) is the best known group of recreation industry representatives.

ARC membership



But the ARC draws criticism because private, for-profit, mechanized associations dominate its membership. Critics credit sustaining members like the American Council of Snowmobile Associations, The Coleman Company, Inc., National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds and the Walt Disney Company with providing the ARC its political clout.

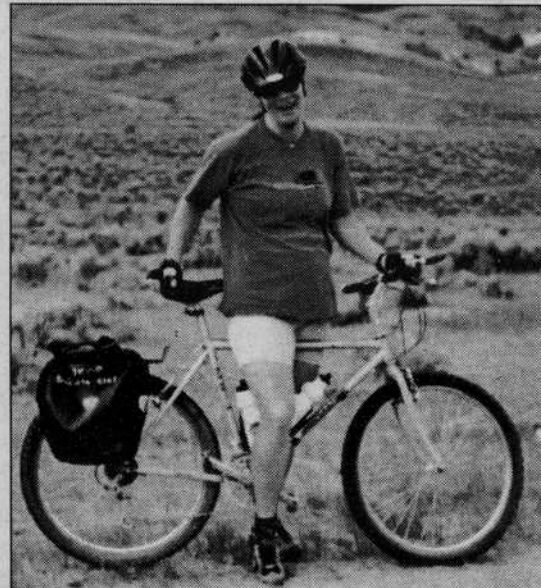
The group recognizes that the management of public lands requires money for operations and maintenance. Though the FSEEE recognizes that the Fee Demo has "illustrated the good, the bad, and the ugly of use fees with more failures than successes", it still supports a combination of progressively assessed income taxes and use fees to meet the goal of fair and equitable financing of public land management.

Wilderness First Responder Course and Recertification

The City of Eugene River House Outdoor Program is offering an 80-hour curriculum for the Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification over Spring Break, March 22-31, 2002 and Recertification April 5-7, 2002. The WFR certification is the current standard for outdoor leaders and guides. The course will be taught by the Wilderness Medicine Institute (WMI) whose certification is universally recognized. WMI is an institute of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). For more information, call Jen Murray at the River House Outdoor Program at 541-682-5329.

Assistant Director, Suzanne Hanlon has a bouncing baby girl

The Outdoor Program is pleased to announce the arrival of Grace Hanlon Ault. Assistant Director Suzanne Hanlon delivered a beautiful 7.1 lb baby girl in the early morning hours of November 11th. The Outdoor Program congratulates Suzanne and her family on their beautiful new edition.



Pregnant Suzanne during her summer bicycling trip in Montana

OP purchases new river kayaks

The Outdoor Program has recently purchased two new river kayaks to add to its collection of rental equipment. The new Perception Sonic and Super-sonic are geared for folks just learning, but are short and with modern flat hull designs that make for great playing at any level.



Local Club Focus

New U of O Kayaking Club!

The Outdoor Program is excited to welcome the University of Oregon Whitewater Kayaking Club to campus. The brand new Kayaking Club is a competitive, intercollegiate club for beginners and experts sponsored by UO Club Sports. Kayak Club coordinator Jacob Selander describes the club as a opportunity for novice paddlers to learn and perfect skills in order to field a competitive team from its members. The club is currently coordinating with other regional kayaking clubs to organize competitions throughout the year. Freestyle rodeo, downriver slalom, kayak polo are all example of competitive kayaking sports. Practices are scheduled to start winter term. For more information contact Jacob Selander at 338-7628 or Club Sports at 346-3733.