

A History of the Hippies of Takilma: by Kindi Fahrnkopf

Part 19-Solutions-The Environmental Years in Takilma

The evolution and impact of the environmental movement in Takilma is explored in the next chapter, of solutions.

The Siskiyou Regional Education Project, 1983-2013

The Siskiyou Regional Education Project was founded in 1983 in Takilma, Oregon. It started as a small but aggressive grassroots environmental group, which had organized around the Bald Mountain Road Blockade in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. The two main founders of the group were Pedro Tama, a tree planter and forestry worker from the Forks of Salmon, and Lou Gold a former political science professor from Oberlin College in Ohio. These two men were drawn together by their mission to save what was left of Oregon's magnificent old-growth forests.

In 1983, Pedro met Lou Gold at the first Bald Mountain Road Blockade into the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. Forest activists were calling for people to participate in the first non-violent blockade of a logging road being punched into the new wilderness, created in 1964. This led to six consecutive human blockades of the bulldozers building the Bald Mountain Road, 44 arrests, and eventually a legal victory which halted the construction entirely. The next week after his arrest, Lou was back on Bald Mountain and vowed to remain and bear witness to the attack on the forest and pray for its safety. He had bonded with many other young forest activists and had found an urgent mission in the protection of the few remaining ancient forests in southwest Oregon.

Lou Gold, had discovered the magic of a place called Bald Mountain, through which a line had been drawn between the Kalmiopsis Wilderness to the south and the remote roadless areas slated for logging on the north side. During his second summer, a series of ceremonies had been conducted and the Takilma Peace Circle dedicated Bald Mountain as a sacred place to pray for world peace. A group of friends had formed and were delivering food to Lou throughout the summers. Lou had been busy up on top of Bald Mountain cleaning up the debris and remnants of a fire tower which once

stood there, and the Forest Service had allowed him to stay on as a special volunteer. His agreement with the Forest Service called for him to maintain the Bald Mountain Look-out Trail.

Lou, began his career as a "Storyteller" during those early years, and carved many beautiful walking sticks, which he gave as gifts to the occasional visitors. He created a sign which read: Bald Mountain Sanctuary-Follow the Beauty Trail-Come in Peace. By summer solstice, Lou and a few friends had built a "Medicine Wheel" at the barren top of the mountain, based loosely on the traditional Native American Medicine Wheel, a prayer circle marking the four directions with flagpoles. They spent 24 hours fasting and praying in the silence of the sacred circle. Lou had a vision of many prayer circles; places of power and renewal, which would be sanctuaries for those who love the earth and her peoples.

During the fledgling non-profit's early years, Pedro Tama, along with a talented group of young activists had begun to educate and inspire the local community about the activities in the "bio-region." The "tree-free" Siskiyou Country Journal, brought the new eco-politics into the small eco-communities of Southern Oregon and Northern California. The journal provided a platform for Lou, and other writers to tell their stories, publish environmental analyses and appeal for public support of Lou's annual vigils on Bald Mountain. Then Lou got the idea to take his message on the road, and Marybeth Howell, of Portland, helped Lou organize a National Tour. Lou developed a slideshow and went to campuses across the nation, to generate over 3,000 letters in support of a Siskiyou National Park. The media had been calling Lou Gold the "hermit with the most frequent-flyer miles", but the Forest Service ignored the letters.

Lou met many on his travels, including people in high places. He flew over the vast Kalmiopsis with Congressman Jim Jontz of Indiana, who as a member of the House Agriculture Committee, had become compelled to be a champion of Pacific Northwest forests. The Siskiyou Project was able to open an office in Takilma, in the former home of the Takilma People's Clinic, started by Dr. Jim Shames.

Lou Gold continued to travel and connect with other environmental groups such as, the Environmental Law Conference in Eugene, the National Wildlife Federation, American Lands Alliance and the Wilderness Society. Some interested alliances were made and with the help of Dave Willis, Board member and wilderness guide, Bald Mountain camp became a meeting place for many powerful leaders in the movement. In 1987 dry lightning fires were ignited over southern Oregon, and started the Silver and Longwood Fires. Lou was driven out of his forest home on Bald Mountain and escaped through the Illinois River Canyon. The massive fires had spared the Bald Mountain sanctuary, racing up the slope only to die out before reaching the top. The passion to protect the beloved Siskiyou was growing.

Throughout the 80s and 90s the journal also reported news of an annual 3 day "Bio-regional Conference", which united advocates for the area. The conferences were a fertile breeding ground for alliances, new campaigns and strategies to develop in the environmental movement. The young educational group had expanded by 1987, to host the 3rd annual Bio-regional Conference at Humboldt State University, attended by 700 people. The Siskiyou Country Journal was 60 pages long, with 2500 copies per issue being sent out. In 1986, with help from the Oregon Natural Resources Council in Portland, the Siskiyou Project launched a campaign to protect much of the Siskiyou Wild Rivers area as a National Park, and garnered the support of Congressman Peter DeFazio.

In 1990, after proposing a study area for the bio-region the Smith Riv-

er National Recreation Area was created but the Oregon side remained unprotected.

Since forest policies were the predominant issues, and several timber sales were being planned in and around the forest communities, the young non-profit organization, found itself drawn into activism to counter proposals to log, mine and spray toxic herbicides on federal lands. The Siskiyou Project began its Forest Watch Program and was successful in stopping timber sales along the East Fork of the Illinois River, and obtained a moratorium on herbicide spraying, through administrative appeals and direct action.

In the early 1990s the Siskiyou Project, having centered on the goal of permanent protection, and achieved the financial support of foundations through the work of early administrator Shel Anderson, hired a staff of dedicated workers. Cathy Hocker came on to manage the books, and Romain Cooper and Barbara Ullian laid down a conservation program. Kelpie Wilson crafted the newsletter, now called the "Voice of the Wild Siskiyou" and worked to fundraise and develop the network

of supporters. Barry Snitkin and Deb Lukas began the process of local organizing. Steve Marsden took on the leadership role and took the conservation proposals to Washington DC, working with political leaders.

Author Kindi Fahrnkopf is a poet and flower child of the 60s who has lived in Takilma for 33 years. She moved to Cave Junction in 1979 with her husband and two small children to open the Cave's Cobbler shoe repair and Birkenstock shop.



Lou Gold; "The hermit with the most frequent flyer miles."



Lou Gold and others protesting a new road into the Kalmiopsis Wilderness at the "Bald Mountain Blockade."

From Weddings to Anniversaries & Everyday is Special
(541) 415-5378



All the Special Occasions in Between... with Flowers
228 S. Redwood Hwy. . C.J.

HOPE MOUNTAIN RADIO

Dedicated to providing some of the finest radio programming available, Takilma FM features a host of great artists usually not heard on most commercial media. Free Spirited and Eclectic! We are an ongoing art project and includes interviews, stories and reporting on controversial and obscure subjects, poetry readings, and excerpts from books as well as some local interest news.

Fundraiser for Grand Jackson
COME HELP A VERY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN FIGHT HER BATTLE AGAINST LUNG CANCER! WHAT BETTER WAY THAN A GREAT TIME-UP & GREAT PRIZES?

Leak Person
Victoria Britt
CREAM & FREAK
Altered States
Justin Sayne NSV
Mista Chief
Oregonized
SK4R3CROW
1/2 Noise

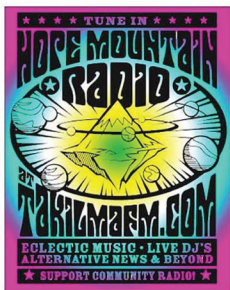
30 ITEM RAFFLE W/ 3 GRAND PRIZES (\$1000+)
DIAMONDS, FIREARMS, ARTISIN CLOTHES, WINE & MORE

10 DOLLAR DOOR DONATION (SUGGESTED)
ALL AGES WELCOME! CATERING AVAILABLE

Paleilama PRODUCTIONS
FOR MORE INFO ON HOW TO HELP OR DONATE MONEY TO KANDI, PLEASE CALL VISIT WWW.PALEILAMA.COM 541-651-8416

Takilma FM will be broadcasting Live thanks to G-Dub & Kimberly with Lost Forest Recordings

541- 592-4799



Tune In Friday's 8 PM to 1 AM With the SPACEMAM. Classic Rock, Folk Rock, Reggae, New Age, Worldbeat, Interviews, Live Music, Political Comentary, Satire, Obscure Topics, Metaphysics, and MORE!



TAKILMAFM.COM



Accepting New Patients

Siskiyou Community Health Center welcomes its newest providers, Abhilash Makkar, FNP and Elbert Collins, MD. We provide personalized, patient-centered care to help manage our patients'

individual and family wellness needs through all stages of life. Our goal is to provide a medical home that focuses on high quality primary and preventive care services for the whole family.



Abhilash Makkar, FNP

Family medicine specializing in chronic disease management such as hypertension, dyslipidemia, thyroid problems, diabetes and asthma. He performs skin biopsies, nail removal, skin tag removal, laceration repair and Cryosurgery.



Elbert Collins, MD

Specializing in women's health care and offers gynecology care and birth control options not previously available in Cave Junction, including implants and IUDs.

An Affordable Solution for Quality Health Care



Siskiyou Community Health Center

25647 Redwood Hwy. Cave Junction • 541-592-4111
www.siskiyouhealthcenter.com