

Science ... Continued from A-1

and protecting stream flows and caves currently managed by the U.S. Forest Service that may directly connect to Oregon Caves, according to Roth.

The current expansion proposal seeks to add about 4,000 acres to the monument. This includes Bigelow Lakes, which would provide protection for another important natural wonder in the region and help ensure the integrity of the monument's critical water systems.

Numerous scientists of many disciplines have also long-supported monument expansion because both the cave system and surrounding landscape combine unusually high levels of diversity in geology, soils, plants, trees, animals and insects — as well as important fungi and microbes. This globally significant diversity in a relatively small area draws researchers, experts, students and naturalists, many of whom refer to the monument as a veritable "Noah's Ark."

"Due to the closeness of the Cave's many features and creatures," Roth said, "visitors can discover more unusual and important relationships and processes than most anywhere else. We offer the only guided tour where the public can experience the extraordinarily active, complex and long-lived geology of western North America in a short visit. Places like Mt. St. Helens offer more dramatic views and seem more geologically active, but they don't convey the geo-complexity of this cave that was created by being near moving sea floors

for a quarter of a billion years."

The park's elevation, unusual east-to-west mountain orientation, location near an ocean, rare soluble rocks and the moderate climate all contribute to the concentrated biodiversity that is practically off the charts. The monument has higher numbers of species overall, and more endemic (found only here) species than only one or two other places in the nation, Roth said.

"The main cave is home to more life forms than any other single cave in the west," Roth said. "And topside, the land exemplifies a region with the world's second richest conifer forest. One millipede known only from the monument may be the world's most geographically restricted family. This monument exemplifies the value of maintaining high biodiversity and stability in the face of dramatic climate change."

Roth said the caves have the power to transform people.

"The physical exercise required to experience a cave, the understanding needed to appreciate a cave, and the physical beauty of the Oregon Caves invigorates the body, mind, and spirit by bringing us outside of ourselves to something bigger, older, and majestic," Roth said. "We only love what we understand and we only protect what we love."

Chamber ... Continued from A-1

During his presentation, Walter pointed out that the primary benefit of the OCRA will be increased opportunities for visitors to recreate, thereby extending their visits to the Caves. A recent study showed that visitors would stay at the OCNM longer if there were more trails and features. A 10 percent increase in stays would equate to \$2 million in local revenue. More than 80,000 tourists visit Oregon Caves each year, supporting jobs and local businesses in Cave Junction and pumping money into the local economy.

In 2008, the bill was modified to ensure that hunting will continue on the preserve, outside the original 480 acre boundary, subject to current state game regulations. Currently, most hunting occurs outside of the visitor season.

Most of the expansion is designated Late-Successional Reserve

under the Northwest Forest Plan. Currently, there's no scheduled program of timber harvest, but any existing contracts in the area would be honored.

In response to questions from Holiday Motel owner Jim Frick, Walter explained that the bill provides for the NPS and U.S. Forest Service to continue cooperating for wild land fire response. He stated that there are also several trained firefighters at the Monument to serve with the USFS. Fuel reduction work in the area has been more extensive than many other parts of the Rogue-Siskiyou Forest. There's currently funding available to finish the fuel break along the north boundary.

The OCRA is also "subject to valid and existing mineral rights." In this case, there are none because the main geologic feature is the caves.

In regard to off-road vehicles,

the area would be managed to keep vehicles out of the Bigelow Lakes Area. Much of the area's roads as they exist today would remain open in the near future with eventual closures on the side unit roads in the Lake Creek Drainage. The 4613, 4614, 960, 070 and 079 roads would remain open for both public access and fire escape routes.

Siskiyou Field Institute board member Karen Chase pointed out that when Capitol Reef became a national park, incomes and property values went up. A similar effect took place when Pinnacles was expanded, according to Walter.

Diggin' Livin' owner Eric McEwan asked if anyone could think of a downside to the proposed expansion, but got no response from the audience.

Class ... Continued from A-1

class reunions are like rites of passage. They provide much texture and meaning to our life experiences... We are fortunate that we come out of a small country school. Big graduating classes from big schools couldn't possibly bring together multiple classes like we do..."

On Friday, July 4, the Class of 1994 will raft the Rogue at 10 a.m. and the Class of 1979 will gather at Grayback Campground at noon for a family picnic. The Class of 1959 will meet at Taylor's Country Store from 4 to 6 p.m. and the Class of 1964 will meet at Carlos' Restaurante from 5 to 9 p.m. The Class of 1974 will meet at Wild River Pizza from 5 to 6:30 p.m., followed by the Class of 2004 at Wild River at 6 p.m. The 2004 group will move on to the Out 'n About fireworks at dusk.

Events kick off at 10 a.m. on July 5 as the Class of 1979 rafts the Rogue, later to meet up for dinner at McGrew's at 5:30 p.m. with karaoke at 8 p.m.

Also, on July 5, the Class of 2004 will gather at 11 a.m. for a barbecue and potluck at Rough & Ready Park.

All alumni, residents and friends are invited to a \$2 guided tour at the Kerbyville Museum at 2 p.m. on July 5 and the third annual Ice Cream Social on July 6 on the museum lawn from 1:30 to 4 p.m. The \$5 fee will include a tour of the museum facilities and entertainment by Dale and Sherry Hopper.

The Class of 1994 will gather at Taprock Bar and Grill from 5 to 9 p.m. on July 5, and again on July 6 at noon at Wild River Pizza.

The Class of 1959 will meet at Wild River from 5 to 7 p.m.; the Class of 1964 will again meet at Carlos' at 5 p.m.; and the Classes of 1949 and 1954 will convene at My Place Café at 5 p.m. My Place Café will also offer a special menu for "reunion-less" alumni beginning at 6 p.m.

The public is invited to the annual pancake breakfast at the Jubilee Park Pavilion on July 6 from 8 a.m. to noon provided by the I.V. Fire Department for \$7, or \$4 for children.

Ten percent of proceeds will go toward the IVHS scholarship fund.

Also at Jubilee Park, there will also be a silent auction from 8 a.m. to noon featuring treasures, bargains and gift baskets from the classes of '54, '59, '64, '74, '79, '94, '99 and 2004 as well as a barrel of beer from the Class of 1989. Donations of auction items to help fund the annual scholarships will be accepted at Kerbyville Museum until 4 p.m. on Friday.

At noon, 2014 president Jo-Anna Granville Gavlik ('99) will preside over the 20th annual meeting of the membership, including the Kerby Union High School classes of 1940 through 1944 and all KUHS alumni of the 1930's; will take place with the election of new board members and voting on the scholarship amounts for 2015.

The 2014 scholarship recipients will be announced and introduced if available. Last year's recipients included Jazmine Hancock and Natalie Wellen, who each received a \$3,000 academic scholarship and Krysten Siver who received the \$500 Roni Rausch Broeffle SOFCU Scholarship. These awards and the Bill Broeffle Vocational Scholarship will all be presented on Sunday after votes from each class are tallied.

Sisters Susie Bleser Culver and Adrianna Bleser Kamala have once again gathered a super list of items for the Great Outdoors Raffle with the first prize valued in excess of \$1,000 including a bistro dining set, barbecue and utensils, Britt Festival Tickets and more. The second prize "Caves Package" will include a night at the Chateau and the third prize offers the "O'Brien Package" including dinner at McGrew's. Tickets are only \$1 with six tickets available for \$5.

All alumni and Valley residents are welcome to become Friends of the IVHS Alumni Association for only \$5 a year or the bargain rate of \$20 for five years. Applications are available at the Kerbyville Museum or at the pavilion at Jubilee Park on Sunday.

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