

Public input invited for caves management plan and wild river study

The National Park Service invites the public to give their feedback on a vision for the future of the newly added 4070 acres of preserve lands at Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve. The park is seeking public input on the draft of the Preserve Management Plan and Wild which will guide resource protection and visitor experiences. The National Park Service is simultaneously conducting a Wild and Scenic River Study for five streams in the park and is also seeking public comment on the draft study findings.

The National Park Service is hosting open houses in Cave Junction and Grants Pass. You are invited to meet the planning and study team, learn more about the process, comment on the preferred alternative for preserve management and wild and scenic river study findings, and share your ideas, concerns, and thoughts about this special place. A schedule is provided below.

Schedule of Open Houses

Grants Pass Tuesday April 17, 5-7 p.m. at The Lodge at Riverside, Oak Room 1, 900 SE 8th Street Grants Pass.

Cave Junction Area Wednesday April 18, 5-7 p.m. RCC Kerby Belt Building. 24353 Redwood Highway Kerby.

The new preserve was designated by Congress in 2014, and surrounds the existing monument. The preserve includes a variety of facilities including a campground, roads, water lines, and trails. There are new National Park Service (NPS) management responsibilities, including management of hunting opportunities. In addition, the 2014 legislation requires the park to study five stream segments for potential designation within the wild and scenic rivers system.

Planning is being conducted by a multidisciplinary team, including staff and planners from the NPS and subject matter experts. Public involvement throughout the planning process is essential in the development of both the preserve management plan and the wild and scenic river study. Concerns, expectations, and values of all interested individuals and entities expressed during the public scoping period in 2016 were carefully considered and reviewed for inclusion in the plan.

All strategies and actions must

be consistent with the National Park Service's Organic Act of 1916, providing for protection of its natural and cultural resources while inviting appropriate visitor use and enjoyment of the preserve.

To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and NPS policy, the plan is evaluated through an Environmental Assessment (EA). The plan identifies issues and concerns and presents two management alternatives for public review. The EA will also analyze the environmental consequences of each of the alternatives, and identifies a preferred alternative. At the end of the EA process, after public comments have been reviewed, the NPS will issue a "Finding of No Significant Impact" which is the document that finalizes the decision on the preserve management plan.

The Wild and Scenic River Study evaluates the eligibility of five creeks for designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers, based on their free-flowing condition and presence of at least one outstandingly remarkable value. The draft study finds segments of two creeks to be eligible: Lake Creek and

Upper Cave Creek. After reviewing public comments on the draft study, the NPS will provide the final study to Congress. The final study report is only a recommendation; Congress would need to take action in order for the creeks to be designated as part of the national Wild and Scenic River system.

The National Park Service has developed a newsletter that provides a brief overview of the preserve management plan and the wild and scenic river study, describes the planning process, and contains detailed information about the open houses. Copies of the newsletter are available by contacting the park via mail or phone.

To learn more about Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve visit <http://www.nps.gov/orca> and to submit comments visit the National Park Service Planning website <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/preserveplan>.

Or contact:

Vicki Snitzler, Superintendent
Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve, 19000 Caves Highway, Cave Junction, OR 97523 Telephone: 541-592-2100

Letters to the editor

Illinois Valley News welcomes letters to the editor. Please e-mail them to dan@illinois-valley-news.com

POLICY ON LETTERS:

'*Illinois Valley News*' encourages letters to the editor provided they are legible and not libelous or scurrilous. All letters must be signed, including name, address and telephone number. The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity. The "News" reserves the right to edit letters. Letters are used at the discretion of the publisher.

(Editor's Note: Views and commentary, including statements made as fact are strictly those of the letter writers.)

Growing Up Oregon

The old man's face is flush with excitement! We have been

tracking a herd of Roosevelt Elk, hunting bow and arrow ready, deeper and deeper into untouched wilderness following their track through the thickets of the Oregon's Coastal Range.

Since dawn, we have been hiking and studying the ever-fresher signs as we are led into this ancient forest.

He puts his finger to his lips to indicate total silence now, and we step into the cathedral: a moss garden with giant old growth trees - spaced 30 or 40 feet apart, an inner forest meadow - with flowers and ferns taller than people. The small winding creek is so clear you can hardly tell there is water in it.

The silence here is pristine and soothing, and the beauty of it all shocks me into wonderment.

We can tell we are no longer alone and that we are being carefully watched. Then suddenly - an explosion of horns and hooves and

wild grunts as the whole herd, all around us now, bolt for far distant regions.

It was so exciting that we forgot about our bows and arrows. The experience of getting close to that much wildness was what we really came for anyway.

There are places like that around here. They are about to get clearcut. BLM has a project called CLEAN SLATE that has units that still retain their magic. You should go there, breath this air, take pictures and share your experience.

**Terry Davis
Cave Junction**

What we are experiencing with government in this country is a large well paid bureaucracy -U.S. democracy of the people. A federal government that allows voting only on representatives, not issues! The bureaucracy could be compared to the aristocracy of medieval times.

Then, as now, these people believe they are superior and should not be questioned. They don't want their salaries or taxes to be lowered. They live off taxes! They are supported by a well-paid unionized heavily armed police force and a large expensive heavily armed police force and a large experience/industrial prison system. True democracy is a threat to their lifestyle.

A classic example of this is the Oregon marijuana laws. The Oregon medical marijuana was law voted on and passed by a vote of the people and only legalized the growing of 6 plants per patient. The recreational law only 4 plants per household.

The complaints of smell, massive greenhouses and farms and large fences are things that are due to state bureaucratic regulations and massive industrial marijuana farms. It was never the intent of the voted on marijuana laws. The creation of a highly regulated, taxed marijuana

industry is the intent of the Oregon state corporate bureaucracy. Bureaucratic corporate greed only benefits a few at the expense of many.

It does create a thriving black market and industrial prison economy.

Locally three overpaid county commissioners are trying to ban all marijuana farming in Josephine County. After failing to ban the smaller marijuana gardens on rural residential properties because their power and authority is being questioned; they are trying to use a federal marijuana law that the people were never allowed to vote on and never will be! Bureaucratic greed, corruption and tyranny are also alive and thriving.

**Mark Wichers
Cave Junction**

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Save the date

April 12

IVHS boys' JV baseball game at home against Crater High School at 4:30 p.m.

April 13

IVHS boys' varsity baseball game at Coquille High School at 4 p.m.

April 13 & 14

RiverStars Performing Arts presents RED GOLD: an original dance/theatre performance on April 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. at Lorna Byrne Middle School in Cave Junction, Oregon. Pay what you can!

Set in the Illinois Valley, RED GOLD is a post-apocalyptic tale about learning to grow food again from the rubble. Learn more at [facebook.com/ivriverstars](https://www.facebook.com/ivriverstars) or call 541-649-2333.

April 14

*IVHS track varsity invitational at Crater High School at 9 a.m.

*Rough & Ready Wildflower Hike is Saturday, April 14, at 10 a.m. Meet in the parking area at Rough & Ready Botanical Wayside south of Cave Junction on Hwy. 199 at mile marker 34. This is a short hike on rocky, but relatively level ground with lots of beautiful wildflowers to see, many of them are rare or of limited range. A portion of the hike will be along a wheelchair accessible path so folks of limited mobility can come out and enjoy the wildflowers too. Be prepared, bring water, dress in layers and wear comfortable shoes. Bring lunch if you like, there's a picnic table overlooking Rough & Ready Creek. For more information call Suzanne Vautier at 541-291-8860. Sponsored by Cultural & Ecological En-

hancement Network (CEEN) and the Native Plant Society

April 21

The Rogue Valley Rose Society will have a parking lot/plant sale on Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dutch Bros. headquarters parking lot, located at 4th and G. Street (across from Grower's Market).

We will be selling roses and other plants household items, tools, books and more.

For More Information, call Barbara 541-955-8629

April 21, 22 May 5 and 6

The Coast Guard Auxiliary has just two more GPS and NAUTICAL CHART classes scheduled for this year on the weekends of April 21 -22 and May 5 - 6.

Saturday you will learn to read, use and plot courses on nautical charts with latitude and longitude with the tools provided for your use.

Sunday you can use our GPS units focusing on how the systems work, the different functions while navi-gating between screens and actually creating way-point and routes that you can follow outside.

The course offered by the Coast Guard Auxiliary at the Southwestern Community College Curry Campus at Brookings is from 12:30 to 4:30. April 21-22 and May 5-6. Space is limited so please reserve your spot. 208-863-8386, 541-469-8757, 805-350-0642

May 6

3 RIVERS CHORALE presents "To Carnegie Hall and Back" the music of Ola Gjeilo for chorus, piano and string orches-

tra on Sunday May 6, at 3 pm at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Grants Pass. Tickets are \$15 and available at Oregon Books and at the door. The Chorale is directed by Kate Campbell and Janet O'Donovan is the pianist.

The concert will also be presented on Saturday May 5, 3 pm at Immanuel United Methodist Church in Cave Junction with a more limited orchestra.

Admission to the Saturday event will be by donation.

Visit www.3riverschorale.org for more information or phone 541-592-2981.

Continuing

*Evergreen Elementary school is looking for SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) volunteers. The program will run Tuesdays through Thursdays and volunteers are asked to come to Evergreen around 11:30 a.m. and will be out at 12:45 p.m. To learn more about the SMART program you can call 541-734-5628 or visit the website at www.getSMARToregon.org.

*The I.V. Senior Thrift Store: Join the crew and make new friends. You don't need to be a senior citizen to volunteer at the store. Call us at 541-592-6630. Open Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

*Illinois Valley Democrats meet the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the I.V. Family Coalition, 535 E. River St. in Cave Junction. Join with like-minded people for camaraderie and to plan actions in support of the Democratic agenda. Call Anita 541-592-3073 to confirm meeting days. Check us out on FB!

*Public Health Clinic- Location: I.V. Family Coalition, 535, E. River St., CJ, 1st Thursday of every Month services offered STI Testing/Treatment, Women's Health Exams (Annuals/Problem Visits), Birth Control (All Methods Available), Pregnancy Testing, Pre-pregnancy counseling, 3rd Thursday of every Month: STI testing/treatment, birth control counseling (methods limited), Pregnancy Testing, Immunizations. Call 541-474-5329 for an appointment, and make sure to tell the receptionist to schedule you in CJ. Walk-ins welcome! Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

*The Sheriff's Office Substation in Cave Junction is now open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 to 2. Volunteers are still needed to staff additional days. Applications are available at the substation or on line at <http://www.co.josephine.or.us/Files/Volunteer%20Application.Mar%202014.pdf>.

*Cave Junction Patrol, LLC is looking for volunteers. CJ Patrol is a private citizen volunteer organization dedicated to effectively addressing heretofore-unchecked property crime in our city and neighborhoods. The primary mission of CJ Patrol is to prevent, interrupt, report and decrease property crime in the city of Cave Junction. Call 541-592-9665 or visit cjp patrol.org.

*Committee Meeting STATE OF JEFFERSON Josephine County 1st Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Black Forest Restaurant, Grants Pass and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m., Wild River Pizza in Cave Junction.

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