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photo by Jon Stinnett

A walk to draw awareness to climate change was planned before the federal government nixed a natural gas export terminal in Coos Bay. The Caminata wound along London Road for 6.6 miles last Wednesday, March 23 before a potluck and presentation at the First Presbyterian Church that evening.

Climate change 'Caminata' makes a local stop

Group passes through Cottage Grove on the way to state Capitol

BY JON STINNETT
 The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Lakeside Park at Cottage Grove Reservoir served as the staging point last week for the fourth day of a 235-mile walk to Oregon's capitol meant to draw attention to the consequences of global warming.

About a dozen walkers, including a few from Cottage Grove, joined Rev. Paula Sohl of Ashland on her way to Salem on Wednesday afternoon for the 6.6-mile jaunt from the lake to the First Presbyterian Church

in town, where a potluck and presentation awaited them that evening. The group had already journeyed from locales in Shady Cove, Milo and Roseburg and was scheduled to walk to Eugene the next day, Sohl said. They were hopeful for a meeting with Oregon Governor Kate Brown on Monday to address climate issues.

Sohl said the event, modeled after the Latin American "caminata," a walk meant to draw attention to social injustice, took place during Holy Week on the Christian calendar because, as

people of faith, the walkers also sought to recreate Jesus' walk to Jerusalem to "confront the powers that be."

"We're walking with people of all faiths and people of no faith," she said. "We have Unitarians, Quakers — we hope to connect and collaborate."

The walk was planned before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission denied applications from a Canadian company to construct a liquid natural gas export terminal in Coos Bay, though the prospect of an LNG pipeline in Oregon still looms

large for the group.

"It's been in the works for 11 years now, and we want to keep the pressure on the government to deny any permits," Sohl said.

Above all, she said the walkers are concerned about the future and the role human-caused climate change may play.

"We need to stop constructing infrastructure for fossil fuel consumption so that we are forced to transition to cleaner sources of energy," she said. "We need to put a price on carbon and put teeth into the plans to reduce our use."

Leave trilliums in the forest: USFS

Public urged to avoid picking the popular flower to leave them for others to enjoy

Ignoring the temptation to pick the white blossoms you see this time of year in the forest means other can enjoy them now and in the future.

Reports of trilliums being picked and then left on the forest floor have reached local Forest Service officials in Douglas County. Picking the flowers this early in the season means that the plant is stripped of its ability to make more energy to store in the root, also known as a rhizome. The depleted root then lacks the energy necessary



Forest Service officials point out that picking trilliums early in the season makes it unlikely that the plants will be able to bloom again next year.

for next year's showy bloom to appear.

"The interesting thing about trillium is they can grow to be very old," said Umpqua National Forest Botanist Richard

Helliwell. "There are trillium in the Siskiyou that are greater than 80 years. In some cases, the trillium can be older than the trees surrounding the plant."

Helliwell shared that trillium

is one of the earlier flowers to bloom, which can attract people to them. Two types of trillium grow within the boundaries of the Umpqua National Forest. The more frequently seen variety is the Western trillium, Trillium ovatum. The other is the giant trillium, Trillium albidum.

A general rule of thumb for seeing wildflowers is to stop and smell the flowers and take home a photograph instead of picking them. That allows the flowers to linger longer for others to enjoy.

Helliwell offered the idea that people could collect trillium seed to grow the flower at home or visit a plant nursery to purchase a plant.

More information is available through the Umpqua National Forest office at 541-957-3200.

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