



# Updraft

April 2014

*Center for Wildfire Education, History and Interpretation*

**Our Mission:** Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center will inform people of all ages of the historic impact and ecological role of wildland fire; the interaction of fire with human culture; the role of wildland agencies in fire management; and how the public can prevent / reduce the impact of wildfires



This issue of the Updraft is dedicated to the memory of George Honey, a board member of Columbia Breaks, who donated his time and resources to the interpretive fire center, to the Entiat Community and to projects throughout North Central Washington. Because of his generosity, CBFIC now has full ownership of its property and is free of any financial debt. We all will miss George's commitment, his humor, and his sage advice. We will also miss seeing him walk the interpretive trail every day with his best friend, Buster. We will continue to honor him with our continued dedication to a project in which he found so much pride.



## Where Are We Going?.....Where Do We Need Help?

We want to devote most of this publication to highlighting the specific projects that will help Columbia Breaks accomplish its mission. Hopefully, it will give our supporters a better idea of how their donations of time, funds, and artifacts are being directed. Our progress has been in bits and pieces. We are still far from our dream, but we have had a lot of fun getting to where we are today. We, at this time, do not want to create something that puts us in debt or requires paid staffing. Therefore, most of the interpretive information is self-guiding and is slowly added as funding and volunteer donations of time and equipment become available.

Our ultimate vision includes a large facility where visitors could walk through a simulated forest in various stages of its life cycle to see how fire and human intervention have shaped our forests into what they are today. A full description of "The Dream" can be found on our website at [columbiabreakswildfire.com](http://columbiabreakswildfire.com). Until that time, we are directing our energies to the following projects:

**If you would like to help us with any of these projects with your time or expertise or materials....  
or would like to make a specific donation ... or financially sponsor one of these projects...  
please call us at 509- 670- 4875 ... or email us at [daves60@aol.com](mailto:daves60@aol.com).**

## Entry Portal

CB has always had a problem with being more visible from the highway. We need to place something at the entrance that would attract the attention of potential visitors. We have a design for a portal that would consist of 20 foot poles rising from rock bases that would support model replicas of fire lookouts on top of them. Thanks to the Entiat Ranger District, we have the wooden poles. Most of the work would involve excavating the spots where the poles will set, setting the poles, and constructing the rock base around the poles. Once the model lookouts are installed on top of each tower, solar lighting could be added to light them at night. \$3000



## Electrical hookups at the amphitheater

The amphitheater is a beautiful site for concerts and gatherings. It needs more exposure and amenities to attract more events, such as weddings and larger concerts.

CB has an electrical outlet about 50 ft. from the amphitheater, which necessitates running extension cords to the site for any performance. We want to dig a trench and run a conduit from the electrical pole to the performing area of the amphitheater. Electricity would also enable us to provide lighting for any event. \$800



## Easier access to the amphitheater

Getting to the amphitheater can be a challenge for many people. We need to make the present trail, wheel chair accessible from East Flattop down to the amphitheater. In addition, we need to pave the trail that goes from the upper parking lot to the northwest corner of the amphitheater. We also would like to construct stairs from the upper parking lot to the back of the theater. \$5000 For past concerts we have borrowed a golf cart to transport concert guests. **If anyone knows of a used cart that CB could purchase, please let us know.**

## Electrical & water service to the Shelter

The shelter will attract more users if water and electricity are provided to the site. That would necessitate excavating a trench and running lines from the office building to the shelter. Like everything else at CB, any excavation involves extra work and extra dollars because we are located on a pile of rocks deposited during the glacial flooding events thousands of years ago. \$8000

## Miller-Hull Plans for Shelter

The first phase of our vision will be complete when we enclose the Arneson Shelter and provide interpretive materials according to the design created with the help of the Miller-Hull planning group....as described in the newsletter of April, 2013. This project will require about \$250,000 in funding.



## Display Boards at North End of Shelter

As per the design offered by Miller-Hull Associates, we will build a 20' X 5' display wall on the north end of the picnic shelter. It will consist of rough-cut, slightly blackened (burned) boards attached to free standing posts. On that wall will be posted photographs showing the regrowth of forests following major wildfires in the NCW area – hopefully examples of the work done by John Marshall. The intent of the display is to show the need for periodic, low-intensity burns in Eastside forests. \$300 for the wall & and unknown amount for the display.

## Interpretive Signs

Interpretive signs are constantly being upgraded and added. With the help of M&M Productions we are going to place QR codes on some of the signs. The codes will lead those with smart phones to web sites that will offer more information related to a particular sign. We also want to add more flora & fauna signs...small signs placed by plants that identify them and how they adjust to fire events...and signs that explain what happens to animals during and after fires. If anyone is interested in designing those signs, let us know. \$500



## Security System

As our collection of vintage fire-related artifacts increase, we also have an obligation to protect those items donated by generous donors. We will soon have a phone line and internet access connected to our office/display building. That will enable us to add a security system that will monitor both the meeting/business building and the shelter. \$1500

**Our interpretive trail is open all year, and the visitor center is open upon request and during weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Call 509-670-4875 if you want a personal tour.**

### Video Projector & Screen

We need an LCD projector and a pull-down screen that would be used not only in our office building, but also for presentations at the amphitheater. We have two videos available to visitors: 1) Our promotional video which was recently updated with the help of M&M Productions and 2) "Fire Lookouts: A National Treasure." \$1000

### Vintage telephone line from Chelan Butte Lookout to East Flattop Lookout

We have installed the #9 wire line between the lookouts, using various methods to support the line (i.e. a triangular crib & pole, a tripod, trees, a single pole). We still need to install the vintage phones. In order to do that we have to find some battery packs and circuit breakers ("Go to Hell" boxes) \$100



### Interpretive Trail Upgrade

About 3/4 of the interpretive trail is wheelchair accessible. Improving this part will involve a lot of regrading, boulder relocation, and gravel spreading. \$1000



### New Website Feature

You can now take a virtual tour the Columbia Breaks site by going to our homepage at [columbiabreakswildfire.com](http://columbiabreakswildfire.com). When you get to the home page, it will automatically start you on one of twenty-seven 360 degree panoramic tours. At any time, you can click on the circular paint pallet in the lower left, or on any of the circular arrow bullets that appear on each tour....which will take you to another tour at a different site at CB. This new feature is courtesy of Malcolm Keithley and Tim Oldfield at M&M Productions.

### Wayne Long Honored at Annual CB Banquet

The annual Fire Award, which recognizes the lifetime efforts of individuals for their commitment to fire education and to the mission of Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center, was given to Wayne Long. Wayne, a former board member who still donates a lot of time to CB projects, devoted his career to fire management. His knowledge of building, and craftsmanship and history have been an invaluable asset to our board. He can build anything...he is an artist.... historian of the Entiat Valley...a story-teller...and he always prods us to look at a broader vision.

### Email Addresses

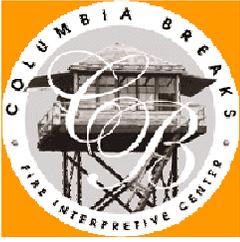
We would like to send, with more frequency, notices and information about events at Columbia Breaks. However, it is too expensive for us to send postal mailings every time. Thus, we would like to establish an email address list of those individuals who might be interested in hearing from us more. If you want to be on that list, please email us at [daves60@aol.com](mailto:daves60@aol.com) or include it on the enclosed donation form. We promise not to share our list with any other entity.



### Student visits

Students from the Eastmont and Entiat school districts will make their annual trek to the site the first week of June. In addition, to those large groups, we often have smaller private school groups visit CB. We can always use volunteers to help with the supervision and interpretation along the trail, in the lookouts, and at the amphitheater.





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Visit our website:

[www.columbiabreakswildfire.com](http://www.columbiabreakswildfire.com)

**Our annual Spring work day will be on April 12, beginning at 9AM: Please call 509-670-4875 if you want to help**

- \*\* Rake pine needles and debris from interpretive trail & amphitheater
- \*\* Repaint the outside of East Flattop Lookout
- \*\* Provide better drainage on one side of East Flattop
- \*\* Spread more gravel on parts of the trail
- \*\* Install directional signs
- \*\* Repair the grounding system on Chelan Butte Lookout
- \*\* Replace faded and damaged interpretive signs on the trail
- \*\* Remove/lift shutters on Chelan Butte & East Flattop Lookouts

Permit #  
44

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