



Updraft

Newsletter April 2010

Center for Wildfire Education, Training, Research and Interpretation

A Replica of a Unique Lookout Is Constructed at CB

Columbia Breaks added another fire lookout to its collection when volunteers from the CB board, the local communities, and the Forest Fire Lookout Association (FFLA) pooled their talents to build a replica of East Flattop Lookout. The original lookout of that name was built for the Forest Service in 1946 by the Alladin Company of Portland, Oregon. No other lookout was built with this design. It was located on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest near Trout Lake, and with its outward sloping windows, had a fantastic view of Mt. Adams. The lookout was abandoned in 1960.

The FFLA deconstructed it and stored it on a flatbed trailer at the Rimrock Lake work center on the Naches Ranger District. The FFLA offered the structure to CB. The board was excited to get another lookout that would be at ground level and more accessible for visitors who are physically challenged. In August of 2009 CB volunteers excavated and leveled a site about 20 feet north of the interpretive building for the concrete pad, which was poured on September 9. In early October a crew of volunteers and board members drove George Honey's flatbed trailer to the Rimrock Work Center to retrieve the remnants of the lookout. The FFLA crew arrived and construction began on October 3rd. Unfortunately, much of the original building materials had deteriorated to the point of being structurally unsound. However, the most important pieces of the old lookout, the 4 X 12 support beams, the window supports, and the rafters were in good condition -- which enabled the crew to reconstruct the original roof line and to provide support for the outward sloping windows. By October 10 most of the basic structure was complete -- roof on, cabin enclosed, windows installed, doors secured, seams caulked, and shutters fitted over the windows. The goal is to have the lookout completely constructed and furnished by the time the school classes visit the site in May.



Photo by Dave Spies

Thank You for Helping!!

Board Members	FFLA
Dave Anderson	Forrest Clark
Wayne Long	Dick Morrison
Bill Moody	Joe Chessie
Doug Bowie	Laurie Cange
George Honey	Leroy Beckwith
Dave Spies	Kinmarie Ryan
	Stan Whitehouse

Community Members

Tom Anderson	Rick Long
Duane Broaddus	Mike McComas
Chuck Wolf	Don & James Olin



Photo by Wayne Long

The Next Step

Eventually, East Flattop will provide visitors with an interactive viewing opportunity. Along with the interpretive trail, it will become the primary medium of fire education at the site. The fully restored lookout will educate visitors about the historical role of lookouts, the life of a typical lookout fire fighter, and the role of fire in our ecosystem. The program will provide the visitor with an opportunity to learn about the "full fire cycle" -- from pre-fire forest growth, ignition to detection -- to suppression -- to restoration of the forest following a fire conflagration. The first part of this plan is to film a lookout in operation during this summer's fire season.



Two Honored at Fall Fundraiser



Columbia Breaks depends entirely upon volunteers, who donate countless hours and financial support to keep its dreams alive. Columbia Breaks honored two of those pillars at our annual auction / fund-raiser in October – attended by about 100 supporters. Dave Anderson, who has been a board member since the second year of its inception, was recognized with a plaque for the hundreds of hours he has devoted to CB. Dave has taken the responsibility over the years for maintaining the lookouts, trails, and the general condition of the site. He attends every monthly board meeting and participates in all of our functions – definitely a huge commitment to the program. His membership on the Board has been crucial to keeping the project going. Dave also has a strong interest in the history of fire lookouts and presented a brief program that highlighted some of the more interesting facts of NCW lookouts.

**** Mark Your Calendars****

CB's **2010 dinner/auction fundraiser** is scheduled for 6:00 PM, October 23 at the Riverside Center in Cashmere

Bill Moody was also recognized for his commitment to CB and for his years of service in wildfire management & education. He was honored with the Columbia Breaks “Fire” award. This award will be presented annually to an individual who has shown a lifelong interest and participation in fire education / management. Bill, the first recipient of this award, exemplifies the nature of this honor. He began his career as a basic firefighter in 1956 and spent 33 years as a smokejumper, a smokejumper base manager, a regional / national fire / aviation specialist and instructor, a national fire team aviation specialist, the author of several fire-aviation operations guides and an international consultant. He has received performance awards for management, safety, and contributions to the smokejumper program. He has earned his fire knowledge on over 300 fires. He is currently an Air Tactical Group Supervisor on a type 2 incident management team – and since 2004, has been a consultant to Evergreen Aviation on the development of the Boeing 747 supertanker project. Bill, a founding board member, still finds time to drive all the way from the Methow to attend the board meetings and participate in all our functions.

Entiat Chamber Continues Support

The Entiat Chamber of Commerce and John Huselton continue to be an invaluable source of support for Columbia Breaks. For the past two years, they have partnered with CB to make our location a Visitor Center for travelers visiting the Entiat area. This summer that partnership will continue as CB and the Chamber host the visitor center between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Their contributions, both direct and indirect have provided CB with:

- **\$1000 towards the construction of East Flattop
- **A safety railing on the ramp leading to the door of the office building
- **Financial support of our utilities during the summer months
- **A wider entrance to the driveway that leads to the site.
- **Entry signs near the highway
- **Household items, both used and new, needed for maintaining the building
- **An outdoor water spigot on the building
- **Inclusion in promotional travel booklets / brochures for the Entiat area
- **Membership in their organization



Spring shows its colors at Columbia Breaks

HELP!!

Would you like to be part of the team that determines CB's direction? We have a board position open. If you are interested in that opportunity, or helping with any of our projects, please call Dave Spies at 670-4875.

CB Continues Its Partnership With IRIS

This past year, Columbia Breaks continued its involvement with Nancy Warner and the Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship (IRIS). We participated in a project to create the 2009 signature, narrated video story for the “Gathering Our Voice” segment of IRIS. The dvd is titled *Sustaining Success: Stewardship Stories from North Central Washington*. The main goal of this program is to “build a network of story gatherers and storytellers to collect and preserve stories of economic, community, and environmental stewardship throughout NCW.” CB’s role has been to collect oral histories from individuals who have been involved with the Center -- and from individuals who have been involved with or impacted by wildfires in the Entiat Valley for the past 50 years. Some segments of the first interviews are included in the *Sustaining Success* DVD. (If you want a copy of this video, contact Nancy Warner at 509-881-1812)

The first interview involved past and present members of the Board, including Nancy Belt, whose initial efforts resulted in the creation of Columbia Breaks. Board member, Christine Mallon, and Entiat High School student, MacKenzie Seldon, have conducted both individual and group interviews. Their goal is to interview as many people as possible about their fire experiences – about how fire management has changed – and what has been successful in their experiences. Our goal is to use segments of these interviews to create a program that can be used as part of our education program.

This project will be an on-going one for several years. We want to create an archive of “fire voices.” If you want to participate, either by being interviewed or helping us to transcribe the interviews, please call Dave Spies at 509-670-4875.



Education

CB is still working with the Eastmont and Entiat school districts to help their sixth graders understand the role of fire in their environment and the impact it has on their lives. The students spend a lot of time learning about fire ecology in the classroom before they visit CB. They use the materials that are provided in the curriculum boxes that Columbia Breaks and USFS developed with the help of resource education specialists. When they get to the site, they have the opportunity to see much of what they have been studying in the classroom. In addition they are treated to presentations by the Washington DNR and US Forest Service engine crews, a smokejumper, fire lookouts, and former wildland firefighters and fire managers. Smaller, private groups have visited the site – such as the Boy Scouts, and the Sammamish Montessori School. Younger learners also get excited about visiting CB – 12 excited first graders from St. Pauls School in Wenatchee climbed the ladder to Chelan Butte Lookout and hiked the interpretive trail with board member, Wayne Long.

Have Fun!! Support CB!! 2 Events!!



Sharon Glenn, Cowgirl Poet
&
George Thomson, Musician

Presented by Northwest Heritage Resources and funded by the National Endowment for the Arts

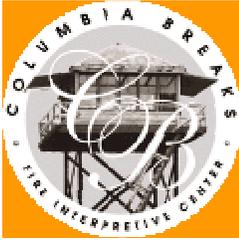
Thursday, June 3, 7PM
Wenatchee Valley Museum

Horse Crazy!!! Cowgirl Band

“When you need a spark,
you need Horse Crazy”

CB Amphitheater, Entiat
Friday, June 18 7PM
Entiat Summerfest Weekend





Board of Directors

Dave Spies

President/Secretary

Randy Uhrich

Treasurer

Dave Anderson

Mike Asher

Doug Bowie

Steve Goetz

Dick Gormley

George Honey

Wayne Long

Christine Mallon

Bill Moody

Susan Peterson

Visit our website:

www.wildfirecenter.org

2010 Site Improvement Projects

CB has numerous projects planned for 2010. Since our funding is limited, most of them will be completed with volunteer labor. The Board has larger projects that will be completed when the funding is available. The biggest priorities are 1) paying off the mortgage, 2) building the Arnie Arneson Memorial covered interpretive shelter, 3) creating an interactive video display for East Flattop. The funding that we receive from your donations and from the events such as the auction are used to maintain the site and pay for smaller projects:

- 🔥 Storage shed: An 8X18 ft. structure has been moved to the site, but is in need of shelving.
- 🔥 Lookouts: With the help of the Forest Fire Lookout Association, we will finish construction of East Flattop and install windows in Badger Mountain. We need to finish the flooring in Chelan Butte and paint its handrail. We also need to furnish all the lookouts. We have some furniture, but are searching for more items.
- 🔥 Interpretive Trail: We have replaced some of the damaged or faded signs on the trail. We want to add more signs that deal with the flora/fauna/geology of the site. We also want to finish making the trail accessible to the physically challenged.
- 🔥 AV Display: This summer, with the permission of the US Forest Service, we want to film a fire lookout in action. It will be the first step in making East Flattop an interactive video center. A long term goal is to add a video program that takes the visitor on a journey through the entire fire cycle of a forest: pre-ignition, ignition, detection, suppression, rehab, re-growth...
- 🔥 Office Building: The outside needs to be caulked and refinished.
- 🔥 Amphitheater: We need to build a trail from the upper parking lot to the amphitheater – a path with a less strenuous grade.
- 🔥 Security System: We will install a system to detect and thwart any unwanted activity at the site.
- 🔥 Memorial Benches: We will install three benches along the interpretive trail.

If you have a desire to help with any of the activities, please send an email to daves60@aol.com – or call 884-4139.



Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center
P.O. Box 644
Entiat WA, 988220644