



## CB Receives More Help from the Icicle Fund

In January, Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive (CBFIC) Center was awarded a \$6800 grant to work with **Miller-Hull Partnership** to develop a conceptual design for new interpretive exhibits. Miller-Hull has worked with CBFIC on previous planning projects. The project will result in a marketing document that will provide a vision of our next steps for the development of the CB site. It will include plans for an interpretive garden to be planted around the Arneson Shelter. The garden will feature native plants, along with signage, that would be considered “fire-safe” for landscaping around homes in the urban-forest interface.

A second part of the plan will include interpretive signage for the inside of the shelter. The theme of these signs will focus on fire ecology – specifically, showing a series of photo points of landscape succession/recovery following a major fire. The interpretive information will be designed so that it could also be used when the shelter area is enclosed.

We will also be looking at the interpretive trail and the entire site to determine how we can offer more educational opportunities with minimal expenses and low maintenance. A big part of that site plan will be to determine how the Entiat Historical Society’s vision might be integrated into the CB project.

## CB’s Partnerships Grow

Columbia Breaks and the **Entiat Historical Society** are actively working together to determine how the Historical Society can physically move to the CB site. Part of their vision is to build an authentic, turn of the century barn and related displays at CB. The structures would be built so that they are visible from the highway, south of the Shelter. The barn and displays would be compatible with, and blend with CB’s vision. Both groups are excited about the possibilities. The plan would attract more visitors to both sites and make it easier to apply for joint grants. Plus, it makes good sense to place the two educational facilities, with similar goals, at the same more-visible location

Last summer, CBFIC became the fiscal sponsor for the **Forest Ridge Wildfire Coalition**, a community of homeowners in the Squilchuck area whose mission is to “minimize the risk of, and impact from wildfire in the community.” They have done extensive fuels reduction work around their properties. Since they are not an official non-profit, they need a registered non-profit (CB) to sponsor them. The partnership supports one of CB’s goals — to promote fire-wise communities in North Central Washington.

Last summer, and again this summer, CB will work with the **Entiat Chamber of Commerce** to provide a location for the Entiat area visitor’s center. The Center will be hosted by Chamber and CB volunteers every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

## The School Education Program Continues to Thrive

Dave Anderson shares lookout life with students in Chelan Butte Lookout.



Providing young people with an exciting venue where they can explore the concepts of fire ecology, history and management is a primary focus of Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center. In 2011 over 600 students visited the site. In addition to our school visits, CB also participated this winter in the NCW Museum & Cultural Center's "Discovering the Shrub-Steppe" program. We are also working with Entiat H.S. school students and the Entiat Historical Society on their oral history project. If you know of any school group that is interested in our education program, please email us at daves60@aol.com.



Gathering information on the trail



Doug Bowie demonstrates the features of a weather station



Matt Lyons shares the excitement of being a smokejumper.

**\*\*Columbia Breaks has a new website address:**

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

## The Amphitheater — A Great Venue

The attendance was modest, but the enthusiasm was enormous at the concerts in the CB amphitheater. Our spring concert featured local artists, cowboy poet Fred Duzan, and singer/songwriter Chelsea Craven. This concert was made possible by Esther Dalgas and the Friends of the Entiat Library. The fall concert featured traditional Scottish fiddler, Ryan McKassen, and guitarist Dave Bartley. This concert was sponsored by Jill Linzee and the Northwest Heritage Resources which is partially funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Icicle Fund Foundation. The only regret expressed by concert-goers was that more people weren't there to enjoy the wonderful entertainment and ideal venue.



Ryan McKassen & Dave Bartley



Chelsea Craven

### The Next Events

**May 12, 3:00 PM :** TR Stewart — Songs from the Old West

**June 9, 7:00 PM:** Los Flacos — Music from the Central America, South America & the Caribbean

These events, fund-raisers for CB, are made possible by the Northwest Heritage Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Icicle Fund. Would you like to host an event at the amphitheater? Contact us at daves60@aol.com

\$5 donation and we suggest that you bring your own seating



Fred Duzan

## Dick Buscher Receives *Fire Award*

Dick Buscher, a long-time supporter of CB and fire education, was the recipient of the “Fire Education Award” at the annual fall fundraiser event. His distinguished career began at his birth, in an Iowa farmhouse basement during a tornado. As a young adult he began his adventures in the US Army as a drill sergeant and served in a military intelligence unit in Austria. His forest service career included timber, recreation, and fire positions. He served as a District Ranger, Deputy Forest Supervisor (Wenatchee NF), and as a Deputy Director of Recreation, Wilderness, and Cultural Resources. Among his accomplishments was serving as the FS lead planner for the proposed North Cascades National Recreation Area. When Senator Jackson decided to make it a National Park, Dick ended up drawing the boundaries for the legislation. He also took the lead for the Alpine Lakes Study – which Dick states, “became the last major land use study in Forest Service history to be completed on time, on budget, passed into law as we wrote it, and without litigation or appeal!”

He said that he never sought a job – he only responded to phone calls that said “the magic words – ‘Bush, I need you’” Dick has been a strong supporter of CB’s vision since it’s inception.

## A New “Voice”

### Will Be Added to the Site

By June CB will have another interpretive feature added to the site. Thanks to Nancy Warner and the Initiative for Rural Innovative Stewardship (IRIS), a listening post will be set up near Flattop and Chelan Butte lookouts. Visitors will be able to call a number that is posted, which will lead them to a narration from experienced lookouts. The narrations will be gleaned from interviews that were conducted with existing and former lookout personnel. The narrations will be developed by students at Entiat High School.

\*\*We are always looking for people who have a story to tell. If you or anyone you know wishes to be interviewed about your experiences with wildfire, please contact someone at CB, the Entiat Historical Society, or Entiat High School.

## Join Us:

The next spring clean-up date is scheduled for **Saturday, April 14, beginning at 9AM**. Bring your gloves and lunch and join us for a day of “fun.” Projects may include:

- \*\*Installing the weather station outside Flattop lookout.
- \*\*Making a short driveway from the entrance road to the north end of the shelter.
- \*\*Installing an old phone line between Flattop and Chelan Butte.
- \*\*Improving another section of trail.
- \*\*Installing a donation box and 3 sign posts.
- \*\*Painting the handrails on Chelan Butte
- \*\* Raking the trail and amphitheater
- \*\*Thinning out dead brush.
- \*\*Opening and cleaning the lookouts.
- \*\*Rebuilding picnic tables for the shelter

## DVD For Sale

Columbia Break’s newest CD, *Fire Lookouts: A National Treasure*, is available for \$15. It features the history of lookouts and the daily life of long-time, Goat Peak lookout, Bill Austin (Lightening Bill). Bill was the featured speaker at the fall fund-raiser event. Call 509-670-4875 if you want a copy.

The board of Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center meets every second Wednesday at 7pm at the CB meeting facility.

Would you like to have an active role in realizing our vision at Columbia Breaks? We are looking for individuals who might want to be a part of our Board. Call 670-4875 for information. **Our mission is to provide a variety of learning experiences that will enlighten visitors about:**

- **the ecological role of wildland fire**
- **the interaction of fire and human culture**
- **the history of fire management**
- **how wildland agencies detect and suppress wildfires**
- **what landowners and wildland agencies can do to prevent or reduce the destructive impact of wildfires.**



## Board of Directors

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## Visit our website:

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

## 2012 Site Projects

-  Work with Miller-Hull to create a professional site and marketing plan.
-  Lookouts: Paint the handrails on Chelan Butte. Furnish Chelan Butte with a stove and Flattop with a bed. Install the weather station outside of Flattop. Install an old phone line between the lookouts.
-  Interpretive Trail: Add more signs that deal with the flora/fauna/geology of the site. Finish making the trail accessible to the physically challenged.
-  Education: Continue to attract school groups and encourage them to use our curriculum boxes.
-  Security System: Install a system to detect and thwart any unwanted activity at the site.
-  Shelter: Add more picnic benches and install an IRIS listening post. Plan for an interpretive garden around the shelter. Plan for fire ecology interpretive signs.
-  Entrance Sign: Install more visible flag banners that lead visitors to the main entrance driveway. Eventually construct an entrance portal.
-  Promotional Brochure: Create an updated brochure to attract visitors to the site.
-  Purchase/Acquire folding chairs for amphitheater and shelter events.
-  Thin dead brush from site. Burn part of the site to provide photo point showing post-fire succession.
-  Develop and approve plans for constructing Entiat Historical Society structures/displays on the CB site.
-  Visitor Center: Continue to work with the Entiat Chamber and serve as a summer visitor center.
-  Amphitheater: Host 2-4 fundraising concerts.

**If you have a desire to help with any of the activities, please send an email to [daves60@aol.com](mailto:daves60@aol.com) – or call 509-670-4875**



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Permit #  
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