

The Fall 2003 Audubon Council of Washington, October 3-5, 2003

Hosted by Black Hills Audubon Society at Pack Forest near Eatonville

Mountain, Forest and Sound: Protecting Our Resources

Join us for another important ACOW gathering with Audubon chapter leaders from throughout Washington, and Audubon ~ Washington staff, including our new Executive Director, Debbi Edelstein.

As is ACOW tradition, this conference will begin on Friday afternoon (registration any time after 4 p.m.) and will conclude about noon on Sunday.



Accommodations: Pack Forest is the University of Washington's forestry field camp and one of its major research stations. Four miles from Eatonville on Route 7 heading toward Mt Rainier, the camp also serves as a conference center nestled within a 4300-acre Doug fir forest. Cabins sleep up to 8, and linens (sheets, and towels), pillows and blankets are provided. Restrooms and showers are conveniently located near sleeping cabins or dorm spaces.

Keynote Speakers:

Friday evening: George Walter, the biologist for the Nisqually Tribe, will update us on protective measures of critical habitat in the Nisqually Watershed.

Saturday morning: David Jennings will report on how citizens have used GIS and concepts of island bio-geography to protect critical habitat in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Saturday evening: Rebecca Hom, storyteller extraordinaire, will engage our imaginations.

Field Trips

Five terrific Saturday afternoon field trips to mountain, forest and Sound. See details following, and be sure to note your preferences on the back of the registration form.

...and our traditional chapter reports, updates on

important statewide initiatives, a conversation with Debbi Edelstein, and the usual Audubon fellowship! An important Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee meeting will be held on Sunday morning.

Nearby Housing Alternatives to Pack Forest

Motel: Mill Village Motel in Eatonville. Mention you are with Audubon and would like the "commercial rate." Rates run about \$45-70 depending on number of people and beds. (800) 832-3248

RV: Mill Village RV Park in downtown Eatonville. \$17.50 per night includes all hook-ups. (360) 832-3507

RV and Campground: Alder Lake, approximately 5 miles beyond Pack Forest going toward Mt. Rainier, on your right. First come, first served RV and tent sites. \$23 per night for full hook-ups, \$22/night for water and power, \$16 per night for tenting. (360) 569-2778

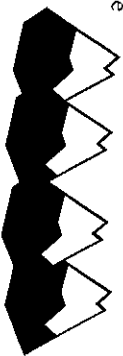
Registration deadline: September 19!

ACOW Field Trips—Saturday, October 4

All trips will depart from Pack Forest at about noon on Saturday, and return by dinner time.

Sack lunches come with your ACOW registration, for quick departures to the field! We'll arrange carpools on the spot, but need your indication of preferred trip on the back of the registration form.

More details about each of these trips can be found on the Audubon ~ Washington website: <http://waa.audubon.org>. Click on Events, and Audubon Council of Washington.



1. Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

NW Trek in Eatonville is a 615-acre park that is home to more than 200 animals in beautiful natural exhibits. The entrance fee, which ranges from \$4.00 for 3- and 4-year olds to \$8.75 for adults, includes all features and exhibits. There is

a tram ride from which you can see bighorn sheep, deer, Roosevelt elk, woodland caribou, mountain goats, bison, and more. Walking trails through forested areas feature grizzlies, black bear, wolves, bobcats, lynx, cougars, owls, and eagles. Trails, tram and other facilities are ADA-accessible. NW Trek is about 1/2 hour from Pack Forest.

2. Mount Rainier—Meadow Restoration

Carolyn Dobbs is an Evergreen State College faculty member in environmental studies whose special expertise is land use and protected areas. For several years, she has worked as a volunteer at Mt. Rainier National Park on the meadow restoration project. She will lead this trip in the Paradise area of the park primarily focusing on meadow restoration work but of course we'll keep our eyes peeled for birds—and bears. This trip will entail hiking to Glacier Vista and Panorama Point, a 5-mile hike with a 1400-foot elevation gain. Light hiking boots, and clothing for the unpredictable weather are advised; water, snacks, sunglasses and sunscreen recommended. \$10 per car entrance fee to Mt Rainier National Park.

3. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, where the Nisqually River and McCallister Creek meet Puget Sound, consists of about 2800 acres of a unique combination of estuaries, tidelats, freshwater marshes, riparian woodlands, dikes, and grasslands. It is preserved primarily as a wintering area for waterfowl, but also supports a wide diversity of raptors, shorebirds, and songbirds, and many other critters as well. We'll walk the short loop trail, and probably explore McCallister Creek too. Much of this loop is on boardwalks, and all trails are level ground. As with any field trip, be prepared for any weather. There is an entrance fee of \$3 per person into the refuge.



(More field trips—over!)

4. Mount Rainier Geology

Pack Forest is located near the western edge of the Cascades and sits along the historic road to Paradise, the first highway to be constructed from the Puget Lowland to the alpine meadows in 1916. DNR geologist and Mt. Rainier expert Pat Pringle will lead this afternoon excursion to Paradise to see geologic deposits and features that reveal some of the recent history of the Mount Rainier volcano. This field trip will involve some light hiking; wear sturdy footwear and be prepared with all-weather attire. Sunglasses, sunscreen and a hat are advised. \$10 per car entrance fee to Mt Rainier National Park.

5. Ecosystem Management at Pack Forest

Spend the afternoon on-site with Pack Forest staff exploring the approximately 4300-acre research and demonstration forest owned and managed by the University of Washington College of Forest Resources. At present there are just over 200 unique stands in the forest that vary in age from zero to 200 years old that are largely typical of the lowland Douglas Fir region. Learn about the philosophy of ecosystem management which guides management on this forest, and the research projects under way. Easy walking.

To register:

Please send in your registration ASAP and by **September 19** at the latest!

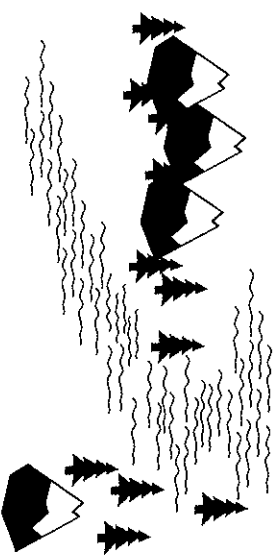
ACOW info!

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hosted by
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**Mountain,
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