

What's in this Issue?



River rafting on the Colorado River. For more, see “By the Numbers: Economic Benefits of Outdoor Recreation in Colorado” on page eight.
Photo by Jim Williams, US Fish and Wildlife Service.



Karst: An area of irregular limestone in which erosion has produced fissures, sinkholes, underground streams, and caverns. For more, see “Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter IN” on page four. Photo by Mary Cirincione, US Geological Survey.



Before and After pictures: on the left, damage caused by off-road vehicles; on the right, the same spot after it was allowed to recover. For more, see “New Report Reveals Solutions to Off-Road Vehicle Abuse of Public Land” on page three.

Commissioner of the Month Speaks— Kristin Jacobs, Broward County FL



Cities and counties will be critical in the national effort to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. In rural and urban America, local governments are already implementing innovative initiatives, including the conversion of municipal fleets to hybrid vehicles, the design and construction of energy-efficient buildings, and the development of communities that reduce vehicle miles traveled.

However, as President Obama and 111th Congress consider landmark climate change policy, the important function of local governments could be overlooked.

In December 2007, more than 25 local government climate leaders met in Washington, DC, to launch Climate Communities, a new national coalition of cities, counties, councils of government, utility districts, and other units of local government that is educating national policymakers on the critical role of local governments in reducing GHG pollution and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Climate Communities will ensure that Congress and federal agencies enact policies and programs that provide the resources, tools, and incentives localities need to meet the climate change challenge.

Already, Climate Communities is achieving results.

Climate Communities successfully rallied support for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program, which would enable cities and counties to enact strategies that reduce fossil fuel emissions, cut total energy use and improve energy efficiency; the House of Representatives provided \$295 million for the program in FY 2009. Climate Communities also worked with the House Appropriations Committee to create a \$15 million climate change demonstration pilot program that would allow the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide grants to units of local government for GHG reduction efforts.

In addition, as the Senate considered cap-and-trade legislation this year, Climate Communities demonstrated the important climate change role of local governments. The proposed Senate legislation initially included no direct resources for local climate activities. Due to Climate Communities' education efforts, the Senate amended its legislation and ultimately included more than \$300 billion for local climate actions. However, the leg-

islation failed in this session of Congress to reach the 60 votes necessary to close debate in the Senate.

Climate Communities is planning an ambitious agenda for 2009. In September 2008, Climate Communities partnered with ICLEI USA to host an historic climate action retreat at the Rockefeller family's Kykuit estate that brought together more than 40 of the nation's top local government leaders. These local government officials produced the "Empowering Local Government Climate Action: Blueprint for the New President and 111th Congress." The Blueprint focuses on national policies needed to empower local governments in promoting green buildings, increasing public transit and cleaner vehicles and fuels, fostering community-scale renewables, building green infrastructure, creating green jobs and businesses, and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Climate Communities and ICLEI USA will release the Blueprint in December 2008, and is encouraging local government leaders from across America to endorse its recommendations.

Already, more than 110 local government officials have endorsed the Blueprint. The deadline to endorse the Blueprint is November 28, 2008.

In February 2009, Climate Communities and ICLEI USA will convene local government

continued on page nine

New Report Reveals Solutions to Off-Road Vehicle Abuse of Public Land

Part One of this article was published in the Summer 2008 Networker.

By Jason Kiely

Motorized vehicle abuse has been called one of the biggest problems facing public lands – but many solutions are within reach, says a new report by Wildlands CPR and the Natural Trails and Waters Coalition.

The report, “Six Strategies for Success: Effective Enforcement of Off-Road Vehicle Use on Public Lands,” explores what can be done to solve this problem, in these times of limited resources and tight budgets.

The report is based on more than 50 interviews with public land managers, law enforcement officials, and community leaders, landowners and volunteers. Joe Gallagher, Acting OHV Program Manager for the Forest Service called the report “thoughtful and insightful” and is concerned that funding is not adequately prioritized to enable the use of many of the strategies detailed in the report.

Nonetheless, the report highlights case studies where officials and citizen groups have succeeded after making enforcement a priority. Rick Lint, a District Ranger on the Ocala National Forest in Florida requested additional officers and trained 15 existing field staff to make contact with riders. He said, “What you permit, you promote. We’ve permitted largely uninhibited access to public lands for so long that it’s come to be seen as a

right. We’re putting in a structure to manage motorized use to sustain the quality of the land over time.” In most cases, however, public lands agencies are overwhelmed by enforcement challenges. Lawbreakers too often scar the land, muddy streams and wetlands, damage habitat and create conflicts with law-abiding forest visitors. In the worst cases, these conflicts have erupted into violence and injury. (See attached case study of off-road vehicle abuse in western Montana.)

Jim Furnish, former deputy chief of the Forest Service and Wildlands CPR board member, tackled the issue in the early 1990s when he developed the management plan for the Oregon Dunes. Furnish recently said, “What’s been lacking is tough enforcement and the backbone needed to bring the runaway problem under control. Folks visiting our public lands expect enforcement that protects natural resources, ensures visitor safety, and reclaims a family-friendly atmosphere.”

Six Enforcement Strategies Summarized

1) Make a commitment—Engage in serious enforcement efforts.

- Expand enforcement capacity;
- Target and intensify patrol efforts;
- Look for new funding sources; and
- Do not tolerate damage from off-road vehicles.

2) Lay the groundwork—Create enforceable routes and regulations.

- Create off-road vehicle route systems with an eye toward enforceability;
- Make the route systems clear on

maps and on the ground; and

- Implement a system that identifies off-road vehicles or limits their numbers.

3) See and be seen—Engage in visible action and meaningful collaboration.

- Organize and publicize volunteer labor;
- Form broad coalitions for public support;
- Formalize law enforcement collaborations;
- Create opportunities for citizen reporting;
- Use nonprofit status to gather money; and
- Publicize progress.

4) Make riders responsible—Promote a culture shift among peers.

- Use mass media campaigns to educate riders and cultivate support;
- Work with off-road community leadership;
- Focus on common values; and
- Promote rider responsibility.

5) Use the force—Incorporate technologies that work.

- Use remote electronic monitoring;
- Track noise violations; and
- Track recurring problems and repeat offenders.

6) Fit the punishment to the crime—Make penalties meaningful.

- Toughen penalties;
- Consider natural resource damage

continued on page seven

Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter IN



County Commissioner Thomas Lamb knows what makes the Lost River special. It once swallowed one of his cows and spit it back out a few days later.

The Lost River is part of a limestone karst aquifer system centered in the northeastern corner of Orange County in southern Indiana. It has all of the significant features of such a system, like caves, springs, sinkholes, and a disappearing stream—namely, the Lost River. The bed of the river is about 90 miles long, but for most of the year about a quarter of that length is dry. The river normally disappears into the ground at “the terminus zone,” where visitors can see it swirling into “swallow holes” in the river bed and hear it falling beneath the ground under their feet. It comes back to the surface in a “rise” at the western edge of the karst zone and continues its surface journey.

One of the area’s caves is currently ranked as the state’s third largest and it is still being explored. The system also contains rare and endangered animals like blind cavefish and the Indiana bat.

A committed group of volunteers formed the Lost River Conservation Association in 1973 to promote and protect the river. They organize tours for the general public three times a year—spring, summer and fall—and also give special tours to visiting experts, geology classes, Sierra Club members, and anyone else who requests one. The group achieved one of its goals this summer when the U.S. Forest Service shifted the boundary of the Hoosier National Forest to include part of the Lost River.

Currently, only two parts of the river are protected by public ownership: the Wesley Chapel Gulf, which is under federal ownership

and is considered part of the national forest, and the Orangeville Rise, which is owned by the Indiana Karst Conservancy.

Commissioner Lamb knows both of these features well. He lives next to the rise and his family used to own the land around the gulf. In karst terminology, a gulf is a collapsed section of an underground stream. At Wesley Chapel Gulf (named for a nearby Methodist church) the Lost River appears at the surface in a pool that becomes a “boiling spring” when the underground system is full of water after a heavy rain. At those times, the surge of water makes the surface of the pool look like a pot of water beginning to boil.

As a boy, Lamb explored the large cave that lies next to the pool. On rainy nights in his bedroom he could hear the water rushing underground. His family used to grow crops on the land, but they gave that up because the ground kept collapsing when they plowed.

“We’d plow a row and when we came back a sinkhole would have opened up,” he recalls. “One time the front end of a tractor fell into one.” They switched to cattle, but the hazard didn’t go away.

“We counted our cows every day. One time a cow disappeared and two or three days later it came back.” The family concluded that the cow fell into a sinkhole and got washed out of the underground

continued on page seven

From the Director . . .



Executive Director Peg Reagan

The breaking news is that the Mack Reef I marine reserve proposal we'd devoted so much of our time and energy to this summer was just rejected by Oregon's Ocean Policy Advisory Council in a 6 to 7 vote.

Given that the Conservation Leaders Network focuses on working with county commissioners to protect America's natural resources, and how regressive the county commissioners are in this area, we probably should have known that it would be county government that would derail our efforts. We knew we'd never get the support of the

local commissioners but were frankly surprised by their ability to turn enough of the members of Ocean Policy Advisory Council against the proposal at the last minute.

Now it's on to the next big challenge, which we hope will be clean water work. We have been invited by a major foundation to submit a full proposal to organize counties in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa on this issue and will know by February whether it will be funded.

Now that we have a little more time, we are picking up our work on the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration. I just learned that Broward County FL recently endorsed the Declaration and other counties in Colorado, Florida and Idaho are considering following suit. In the near future, I will be reaching out to our allies in more than forty counties across the country to learn whether they think their counties might consider doing the same.

In organizational internal news, the Board of Directors of the Conservation Leaders Network has a new Chair and Secretary. First, our thanks to Humboldt County CA Supervisor John Woolley for serving as Chair of the Board for so many years. Orange County NC Commissioner Barry Jacobs, our former Secretary, has stepped up to serve as Chair. And long-time Board member Bob Freimark of the Wilderness Society is now our Secretary.

I'd also like to welcome new Board member Commissioner Bracken Burns of Washington County PA. Thanks for joining the board, Bracken!

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please give me a call.

I'd be happy to let you know what's involved and we'd welcome your new ideas and support.

Peg Reagan



The Conservation Leaders Network's Board of Directors, (from left to right): Supervisor John Woolley, Humboldt County CA; Commissioner Barry Jacobs (Chair), Orange County NC; Bob Freimark (Secretary), The Wilderness Society; Commissioner Bracken Burns, Washington County PA.

Leading the Way on Energy Conservation

New Jersey's county governments are leading the way on energy conservation. The following is a summary of what some are doing to save taxpayer dollars and protect the environment:

ATLANTIC COUNTY

Atlantic County has taken a number of steps to conserve energy. They include:

- Installation of a biodiesel tank and the purchase and use of 13 biodiesel paratransit vehicles. It ordered 13 more for 2008.
- The use of bio-diesel fuel in diesel trucks operated by the Public Works Department.
- The purchase of hybrid vehicles for the county fleet. So far, it has 12 such vehicles with 10 more on order for next year.
- Issued a Request for Proposals to study the feasibility of converting to hydroelectric power.
- Entering into a contractual arrangement for the installation of solar arrays at county facilities. Conducted an environmental conference in 2007/and looking for a follow up in 2008.

In addition, the Atlantic County Utilities Authority:

- Has a wind farm on their property in Atlantic City.
- Has a large solar array in Atlantic City.
- Uses the methane gas at the solid waste facility to generate electricity.

BURLINGTON COUNTY

With the installation of five new generators at its methane gas-to-electric generating plant, Burlington County is on its way to becoming one of the largest producers of "green" energy in the entire state.

A 6,500-square-foot building was constructed around the five large Jenbacher engine-generator sets. Each engine is 2,000 horsepower and 1,425 kilowatt electric output. The plant will reuse clean renewable resources and is expected to produce more than \$60 million in net revenues over 20 years. Most of the proceeds will come from the sale of electricity. Once completed, the plant is expected to generate 7.1 megawatts per hour, enough energy for 8,000 homes.

Electricity from the facility will be provided at no cost for operation of the solid waste processing and disposal facilities at the complex, representing an annual savings of about \$572,000. In addition, the County is guaranteed to receive annual revenues of \$1.75 million from the sale of electricity and other electrical products, such as renewable energy credits.

Because of the "green energy" aspect of the project, the County is also expected to qualify for and receive a total \$4.7 million in state grants.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Cumberland County has been very aggressive on energy conservation. It has:

- Committed to a 5-year plan for energy conservation that will include upgrading and retrofitting all county buildings for lighting, windows, heating and cooling systems.
- Committed to designing all new buildings, including our new 45,000 square foot prosecutor's office, to be LEED certified.
- Purchasing hybrid vehicles and switching to bio-diesel and other alternatives.
- Converting conventional vehicle engines for efficiency.

Cumberland recently participated in the National Association of Counties Change-a-Light Campaign, in which it gives coupons to all county employees and residents who pledge to switching one conventional light bulb in their homes or offices to clean fluorescent bulbs.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Most recently, Gloucester County became a signatory to the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, endorsed by the Sierra Club, which encourages local governments to adopt specific plans and policies to reduce their consumption of energy.

Over the past several years the County has taken a number of
continued on page nine

NACo Grants more than \$246,000 to Wetland Restoration Projects

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has awarded \$246,100 in grants through the Five Star Program Partnership to sustain 10 projects in various counties across the country to help implement locally-driven wetland and watershed restoration projects.

The Five Star funds act as seed money leveraging additional funds and services from local communities. On average, for each dollar of Five Star-sponsored funds, four additional dollars in matching contributions will be provided by local restoration partners in the form of funding, labor, materials, equipment, or in-kind services. As of this year, communities have committed a total of more than \$26 million in matching contribution to these projects.

Five Star Restoration projects involve a high degree of cooperation with local governmental agencies, elected officials, community groups, businesses, schools and environmental organizations working together to improve local water quality and restore central fish and wildlife habitats.

The 2008 NACo grantees are:

- Roanoke County Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, VA
- Miami Science Museum, Miami-Dade County FL
- Southwest Environmental Center, Dona Ana County NM
- Escambia County FL
- DeKalb County GA

- Georgia Wildlife Federation, Newton County GA
- Umcompahgre Plateau Project, Montrose and Delta Counties CO
- Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs LA
- University of Kentucky Research Foundation, Fayette County KY
- Upper Oconee Watershed Network, Clarke County GA

Since 1997, NACo has helped fund projects in 118 counties across the country, providing a total of more than \$1,196,000 for community-based environmental restoration and education. Five Star Restoration Program has supported more than 400 projects with more than \$4 million in federal funds.

Major funding for the program comes from the EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds. Other participating partners of the program are the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Wildlife Habitat Council with corporate sponsors Pacific Gas & Electric and Southern Company.

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Hoosier Chapter Sierra Club continued

continued from page four

channel by the river after a rain.

Lamb and his two fellow county commissioners support the efforts to promote the river and its karst features as a tourist attraction. They also know that the special nature of karst requires extra conservation measures. When he was a boy, his family stopped using chemicals on the farm to protect the groundwater.

The Lost River Conservation Association is creating a brochure describing the major features, which visitors can use for a self-guided tour, while it works with organizations like the Sierra Club and The Nature Conservancy to find ways to protect those features for future generations.

By Bowden Quinn, Conservation Program Coordinator, Hoosier Chapter Sierra Club.

Solutions to Off-Road Vehicle Abuse continued

continued from page three

- in determining fines;
- Add community service as a penalty; and
- Link off-road violations with other recreational privileges;
- and
- Impound vehicles.

This article originally appeared in The Road Reporter, Vol. 12.2, the quarterly journal of Wildlands CPR.

Six Counties Awarded \$350,000 for Coastal Restoration Projects

By the Numbers: Economic Benefits of Outdoor Recreation in Colorado

The National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Community-based Restoration Program, are proud to announce that the Coastal Counties Restoration Initiative (CCRI) has awarded more than \$350,000 to six community-led projects to support marine habitat restoration in coastal counties across the nation.

The Initiative provides grant funding for marine habitat restoration projects on a competitive basis. Funding is awarded to innovative, high quality county-led or supported projects that sustain wetland, riparian and coastal habitat restoration. CCRI is a partnership between NACo and NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP), which provides major financial support for the individual projects with grants ranging from \$28,000-\$100,000. Consideration for funding is based upon the level of county leadership and the ecological benefits for a community's coastal and marine resources.

The winning counties are: Mendocino County CA, \$100,000; Sonoma County CA, \$31,020; Barnstable County MA, \$33,600; Clackamas County OR, \$94,000; St. Johns County FL, \$50,000, and Galveston County TX, \$50,000.

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Photo by Milton Friend, US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Estimated dollars contributed annually by active outdoor recreation to the Colorado economy:

\$10 billion

Percent of residents who participate in trail running, day hiking, backpacking, or rock climbing:

41

Number of Colorado jobs supported by active outdoor recreation:

\$107,000

Estimated number of annual visitors to Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks:

500,000

Annual state taxes generated by active outdoor recreation:

\$500 million

Estimated average amount spent on a single trip by a climbing party visiting one of these peaks:

\$357.56

Value of annual retail sales and services from outdoor recreation:

\$7.6 million

Elation experienced on reaching a 14,000-foot summit:

Incalculable

Percentage of total state product generated by these sales:

4%

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Leading the way

continued

continued from page six

steps, which include:

- The systematic upgrading of all light fixtures in county buildings.
- Installation of a microcomputer controller on two boilers and a hot water heater at the county Justice Complex. The device will regulate water heating mechanisms to match demand, which should result in a 10-percent savings in fuel consumption for those systems. The county will analyze the actual savings and, depending on its findings, install the system in other buildings.
- Purchasing its first hybrid vehicle, a Ford Escape SUV to be used by the County Health Department's Environmental Unit.

MERCER COUNTY

Mercer County has taken a number of steps to reduce its energy consumption. They include:

- Ensuring that the design for its new county courthouse – the largest ever building project for Mercer County – is compliant with LEED standards.
- Reducing the number of vehicles in the county vehicle fleet
- Using ultra low-sulphur diesel fuel when possible.
- Replacing conventional vehicles with hybrid vehicles.
- Regulating building thermostats up or down depending on the season in order to reduce utility costs.
- Encourage county employees to drive less by installing a bike rack for county employees.

- Building an employee cafeteria so that workers do not have to drive off site for their lunch breaks; encouraging staff to take "fitness walks" during lunch instead of driving to nearby restaurants.
- Creation of a "Green Living" page on its website that provides tips for residents on how to save energy and money.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Among the 21 counties, Middlesex is fairly described as the leader in Green Technologies. In 1996, Middlesex County, thanks largely to the leadership of Freeholder James Polus, created what they call the Middlesex County Showroom of Energy Technology. The Showroom's mission is to provide financial, technical and logistical assistance to county government entities, municipalities and school districts that want to undertake clean energy and sustainability programs.

As a result, Middlesex County now boasts the largest hybrid vehicle fleet in the state, and through the Showroom and its various programs five municipalities have purchased hybrid vehicles that they would not have otherwise.

Working with Rutgers University and the state, Middlesex County recently installed a 120-panel, 25 kilowatt solar power system at one of its facilities. The project, which is the largest of its kind at any county facility, is expected to reduce energy costs by 40 to 50 percent. Just as

importantly, the facility serves literally as a "showcase" for municipalities, counties and even school field trips.

Because of its leadership, Middlesex County has been chosen by the State Department of Community Affairs to create a sustainability plan that will serve as a model for the rest of the state.

From the New Jersey Association of Counties web site, www.njac.org.

Commissioner of the Month Speaks

continued

continued from page two

leaders in Washington, DC, to present the Blueprint to President Obama's climate team. Climate Communities and ICLEI USA will also host a major climate change summit next May 2009 to communicate the Blueprint's proposals to Congress and the federal agencies.

While we have made considerable progress, much more remains to be done. It will take an ongoing, collective effort involving local government leaders from across the nation if we are to succeed in bringing significant, new climate resources to the local level. That is why I encourage you to join *Climate Communities*. For more information about Climate Communities, visit www.climatecommunities.us.

The Mack Reef I Marine Reserve Proposal

As has been reported in earlier newsletters, the Conservation Leaders Network has taken a leading role in developing a marine reserve proposal on the south coast.

The Mack Reef I Marine Reserve proposal just received a “High” rating by the state agency staff analysis. In order to come up with that overall “High” rating, our proposal was judged as “high” for ecological benefit, “medium” for avoiding significant economic impacts, “medium-high” for collaboration and “medium-high” for enforcement. They also said that “further evaluation could be used to better understand social/economic impacts and investigate re-configuration and/or use of an MPA to minimize economic impacts.”

The proposed site extends from north of Cape Sebastian to south of Mack Reef. This site extends approximately 7 nautical miles along the coast and out to the boundary of the Territorial Sea. The site consists of two no-take areas at the north and south and a marine protected area in the middle.

At approximately 7 nautical miles the size of the proposed Marine Reserve is consistent with the minimum size guidelines recommended by the Science and Technical Advisory Committee.

The location of this proposed area and its distance from ports make

it a challenging place to fish. As a result, this area receives less fishing pressure than other areas adjacent to larger ports. Because of this factor it is believed that there are many large individual fish in this area; protecting these reproductively superior fishes is important for the long term sustainability of the nearshore fishery.

The location of the Mack Reef Marine Reserve in relation to the reserve near Port Orford makes it consistent with STAC spacing recommendations as well.

The site was designed to be compatible with the needs of coastal communities in a variety of ways. The two main thrusts were the needs of commercial and recreational fishing. We respected the needs of commercial fishing by:

- staying out of the Port Orford Stewardship Area
- placing a marine protected

area in the center of the proposal, rather than prohibiting crabbing and salmon trolling throughout, and shrinking the size of the reserve.

We respected the needs of recreational fishing by:

- siting the reserve 10+ miles north of Brookings—the Port of Brookings-Harbor has more recreational fishing activity than any other Oregon port
- selecting a site that the Brookings charter boats don’t use and avoiding the popular reef just north of Brookings
- siting the reserve 6 miles south of Gold Beach, thereby avoiding the popular Rogue Reef and Hubbard Mound Rocks. All but one contact stated that no one goes south of Gold Beach to fish recreationally; one charter boat



The Mack Reef Marine Reserve Proposal

continued from Oregon Insert page 1

- operator advised that he does on occasion.

This site offers some of the best habitat diversity on the South Coast with rocky reefs, canopy kelp beds, sea stacks, sandy bottom, and rocky intertidal all exhibited at this location. Many studies have taken place in the area to monitor the seabird colonies that are found here; these should be continued long into the future as this location is the home to the 2nd largest breeding colony of seabirds on the Oregon Coast.

After agreeing on three areas, all of which included Mack Reef (one with Mack Reef near the northern boundary, one with Mack Reef at the center, and the one we have proposed with Mack Reef at the southern boundary), several members of the group met with a variety of ocean users and interested parties. These included an urchin and abalone diver, five charter boat operators from Gold Beach and Brookings, a surf shop owner, Port of Brookings-Harbor commissioner who also represented the Port of Gold Beach, a former commercial fisherman and business owner, two commercial fishing interests from Gold Beach, a county commissioner, four commercial fishing interests from Brookings, a seaweed harvester, several commercial fishing interests from Port Orford, a commercial fishing expert from Brookings, a retired resource management professional and recreational fisherman from Brookings, Oregon

state police and a representative of Oregon Anglers and the Recreational Fishing Alliance.

While not all were in support of marine reserves, almost all recognized the value of Mack Reef and many stated that that was where a marine reserve should be established on the south coast. We got significant positive feedback that we had selected the right location. Establishing the actual boundaries was trickier; the support for size and the specific boundary lines was more mixed.

After considering the input we got from the community, the group decided to create a proposal that consists of two reserves with a marine protected area between them in order to accommodate crabbing and salmon trolling, which are the only two extractive uses to be allowed within the marine protected area. After consulting with commercial crabbers, we decided that the core marine reserve areas should encompass the main rocky reef/kelp forest/sea stack areas where they typically don't crab as frequently with a buffer around those areas in hopes that the crab gear doesn't move into the core reserves.

This information was then shared with many of those who had provided input. Most of those we met with a second time were happier with our revisions than our original options but remained unwilling to support the proposal

as:

- they do not believe a reserve is necessary or will “work,” or
- they don't want to see any reserves until it is proven that they “work,” or
- they don't approve of the process or timelines, or
- they won't support a reserve until funding is in place, or
- they feel the fishing industry is already suffering and that a reserve will only make things worse for them.

Given the short timeline, our energies were focused on developing a proposal that met the Governor's and OPAC's criteria rather than educating the general public in an effort to counter the misinformation that has been spread on the south coast for years.

Twenty proposals were submitted and are being considered by the Ocean Policy Advisory Council.

The big news is that the initial analysis of these proposals conducted by state agencies resulted in a “High” overall rating for our Mack Reef I Marine Reserve Proposal. Ours was one of only two proposals that received that high rating that did not enjoy the benefit of several years of preparation. Only a total of four of the twenty proposals garnered the “High” rating and we are proud to be one of them. (But see *From the Director* for the bad news.)



Conservation Leaders Network
PO Box 46
Wedderburn OR 97491

www.conservationleaders.org

YES!

I want to join the Conservation Leaders Network, the only nonprofit organization in the country which focuses on providing support to and forging ties between county commissioners and environmental leaders to protect America's natural resources. Together we must work to encourage ethically and economically responsible decisions that will help protect the natural treasures that complement and complete our communities. *Individual and county memberships are now available. Individual memberships start at \$45/year; county memberships start at \$250/yr.*

With my membership, I will get:

- * four issues of the Conservation Leaders Network's quarterly newsletter "Networker"
- * priority access to the Conservation Leaders Staff for information and support
- * email notification of conservation and restoration funding opportunities for counties.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email address: _____

Membership contribution

Please make your check payable to the \$45

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