

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opinion Pieces and Letters to the Editor represent the opinion of the author, not that of the *Applegater* or the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper. We are a community-based newspaper that receives diverse opinions on different topics. Letters should be no longer than 450 words, and may be edited for grammar and length. Opinion Pieces should be no longer than 600 words. All Letters and Opinion Pieces must be signed, with a full street address or P.O. Box and phone number. Individual Letters may or may not be published in consecutive issues.

Address Opinion Pieces and Letters to the Editor to:

The *Applegater* c/o Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc.
7386 Highway 238 • PMB 308
Jacksonville, OR 97530
Email: gater@Applegater.org

Organic farming

Dear Editor,

With all due respect to Sioux Rogers (*Dirty Fingernails, "I am not a gardener anymore, Applegater Fall 2009"*), she is certainly entitled to her opinion and free to practice organic farming if she wishes.

Having said that, let's be realistic. We can't go back to the horse and buggy days. First of all organic farming cannot feed the world's population. That is a fact. Furthermore, I doubt that the people in third world countries who are already on the brink of starvation would care if their food was organic or not. They would simply like to have something to eat.

I almost wish farmers across the country could stop using crop protection chemicals and commercial fertilizers for just one year. Then, you would see what the quality, quantity, availability and prices of food would become.

Richard Cody, Applegate

Applegater: A community effort

Dear Reader,

For many years now I've worked on, with, and for the *Applegater*. The most fun I've had is in the self expression of articles. When we passed on from the Applegate Partnership into our own independent nonprofit, I was asked to be the Gater Board Chairman working as a volunteer (as usual) with a wonderful group of fellow volunteers. The learning curve was steep and the duties many in that first year, but it's calming down now to two issues: the steady production of the newspaper and the continual concern over money. We really only have one paid employee, the editor. We are not owned by a big company so we are free to write for you, the Applegate community and free to publish just about anything that you, the reader, send to us. We really see ourselves as your community paper. This is not a business, it's a service. There are no profits or shareholders to demand them. We barely make ends meet!

Over 15 years ago, we set our mission to get the Gater into every home in the Applegate Watershed free of charge. We feel the community connection, the science, information, local news and entertainment should get to all regardless of anyone's financial state.

The recent downturn in our economy has hit us as it has you. Our expenses, notably printing and postage, have gone up and continue to rise. We seem to be one or two issues away from empty coffers at every moment. It's a hard way to run a community effort. The grants of yester years have dried up though we have not given up trying for them. We work steadily on fund raising to try to keep our head above water. For this we are very grateful and thankful to all who have helped us and hopefully will continue to in any way large and small! It all keeps us going.

There may be new folks out there or some who just don't know how tight things have been or others that have already helped and might be able to again. It's for you all that I write this. If by some chance you are able to help us out financially, I invite you to consider doing so on a yearly basis.

Again, thanks to everyone for all you do including just reading and enjoying the paper. Even starting your fire with it when you're done—we're so useful!

Help us ensure that we have the ongoing support needed to publish the *Applegater*. All contributors will receive recognition in the *Applegater*.

Sponsor \$5 - \$50
Supporter \$51 - \$200
Contributor \$201 - \$500
Sustainer \$501- \$1000
Patron - over \$1000

All donations are tax-deductible and are greatly appreciated. Please make your checks payable to *Applegater* Newspaper and mail to:

Applegater
7386 Highway 238
PMB 308
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Thank you,
Greeley Wells
Board Chair of the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper
Jacksonville

OPINION

Williams community champions campaign for a Siskiyou Crest National Monument

BY PAUL TORRENCE

Williams businesses and organizations have endorsed the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (www.KSWild.org) campaign for a Siskiyou Crest National Monument Campaign (www.siskiyoucrest.org) that would conserve an ecologically critical scenic and recreational landscape.

What is the proposed "Siskiyou Crest National Monument?" It would consist of existing federal lands in an area of about 600,000 acres (about 940 square miles) and would have at its heart the high elevation peaks and ridges of the Siskiyou Mountains, running from just west of Ashland to east of Cave Junction and Takilma. To the north, it could include parts of (the headwaters) Williams Creek, and the Applegate and Little Applegate Rivers watersheds. Heading south, the monument could range nearly to the Klamath River and Happy Camp. It would thus be split equally between Oregon and California.

About 60 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail would be incorporated into the monument as well as the established Red Buttes Wilderness and, in the far southwest, the established Siskiyou Wilderness. There would be five inventoried roadless areas that would receive protection: Little Grayback (8,000 acres), Kangaroo (100,000 acre), McDonald Peak (12,000 acres), Condrey Mountain (20,000 acres), and the Kinney (10,000 acre). *No private lands would be included.*

A Siskiyou Crest National Monument would have as its overarching goal the protection of the remarkable species diversity that exists there. It would also provide a critical land bridge between the Cascade Mountains in the east and the Coast Range in the west. Such a corridor is of vital importance in these times of global warming and climate change to give species a chance to migrate and adapt.

Monument status (which would here be largely Forest Service administered) would provide recreational opportunities, including hunting, fishing and mountain biking, to name a few. It would also encourage recovery of the lands from the abuse of poorly managed and overstocked forest plantations, off-road vehicle degradation, livestock grazing, mining and a glut of old logging roads that pollute the streams. Continuation of these destructive practices will cripple the capacity of the Siskiyou to act as a land bridge and further imperil the remarkable landscapes and species found there.

Those who cherish the Applegate Valley will want to secure a robust future for the Siskiyou Mountains that nourish our bioregion. The ancient Siskiyou provide ecosystem services that are becoming more and more rare on our blue-green planet. Those benefits that often are taken for granted now will be viewed with great awe and appreciation in the future. It's time to place the heartlands and summits of our Siskiyou under greater protection. To begin, let's designate the Siskiyou Crest as a National Monument.

Visit the Siskiyou Crest website (www.siskiyoucrest.org) and find out why this proposal deserves *your* support.

A Siskiyou Crest National Monument would safeguard our backyard. It would protect the waters and forests while providing sanctuary to wildlife. It would benefit our generation and untold generations to come. A Siskiyou Crest National Monument would protect a region that is globally important in the struggle to preserve the diversity of life.

Paul Torrence • 541-846-6016

Williams businesses and organization championing The Siskiyou Crest National Monument Proposal

Williams Town Council,
Citizen Advisory Council
Williams Grange #399
Applegate Valley Artisan Breads
Dan the Backhoe Man
Forest Farm
Freedom To Heal
Good Oak Farm
Goodwin Creek Gardens
Herb Pharm
Horizon Herbs
Munger Creek Enterprises
Natural Necessities
Nature Spirit Herbs LLC
Out of the Way Café
Rogue Advocates
Seven Seeds Farm
Siskiyou Seeds
Southern Oregon Mediation Center
Spit n' Polish Antiques
White Oak Farm
Willowbend

Join Us! Sign on!

Contact
siskiyou-crest@ecologyfund.net



sanctuaryone

at Double Oak Farm

Meet Fresa!
This pretty red girl is about 19-years-old. She used to be a kids' lesson horse and is still quite rideable.



**Adopt, Volunteer
Donate, Visit us!**

Sanctuary One
(541) 899-8627
www.sanctuaryone.org