

## 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 Individual Letters may or may not be published in consecutive issues.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:  
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### In response to the Williams community support for a Siskiyou Crest National Monument

Dear Editor:

Greetings, I'm your neighbor on the other side of the mountains, in Seiad Valley California on the Klamath River. As a life long resident of Seiad, I too have enjoyed the Red Buttes Wilderness and the Siskiyou since before they were "wilderness". I do however question the movement to designate all this area (600,000 acres) as the Siskiyou Crest National Monument. I believe this will open the door to more government regulation and extreme environmental control and further stifle our already struggling communities. The effect to adjoining property owners in the near future can easily be envisioned. Personal property rights are threatened now and this will make it worse. Don't think your little farm, vineyard, or fish pond will be exempt from regulations, fees, lack of common sense and other bureaucratic red tape.

The population from the start of Highway 96 near I-5 to Happy Camp, a 70-mile distance, cannot be more than a few thousand, hardly an impact. Logging doesn't exist here anymore and neither does a mill. Recreational mining has been stopped and it's even difficult to go into the forest and gather firewood! Locally we have two small ranches with grazing permits that their families have held for 100 years. Together they probably run 75 pair. Again hardly an impact on the land, but a huge impact on those families if they lost their grazing permits. Recreation alone cannot support our communities.

We are regular people just like you all, trying to raise a family and make a living in communities we grew up in and love. We don't have much of a voice down here. Please put yourself in our shoes as you contemplate this Monument proposal.

Kathy Bishop, Seiad Valley

### Kudos to the Applegater

Dear Editor:

Keep on Keepin' on! We love the paper and want to support its continuance.

Barbara and Peter

Dear Editor:

Thank you so very much for your effort and commitment in producing the Applegater! We have lived here for four years and love to learn about the people and our beautiful valley. We hope you can continue for years to come!

Larry and Shannon Buscho

Dear Editor:

Your newspaper is excellent! The quality of the writing, the expertise of your writers, and the usefulness and interest quotient of the articles are just amazing. Hope you (we) can keep the paper going.

Connie

### Fund relocation

Dear Editor:

This letter is being written to explain why the Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council withdrew our funds from Chase Bank.

When our certificate of deposit matured in December of 2009, we were faced with the decision on how best to reinvest those funds to maximize our return in the forthcoming year. We went into a local Chase Bank to discuss the best options for reinvesting our funds. After some aggravation at the inconvenience of having to accommodate Chase Bank paperwork requirements, I went online that evening to see what the Chief Executive Officer of Chase Bank received in bonuses, last year.

To my amazement, the CEO of J.P. Morgan Chase received over \$21,000,000 in bonuses. In fact, this same J.P. Morgan Chase CEO received the 6th highest bonus of all the banks listed. The Capital One Finance CEO received a repulsive \$73,000,000. The Citi Group CEO received an equally repulsive \$31,000,000 and the State Street CEO received a paltry, but equally extravagant, \$28,000,000. Bank of America and PNC Finance followed with \$23,000,000 and \$22,000,000, respectively, before the J.P. Morgan Chase bonus of \$21,000,000.

I would speculate that if we added up the total salaries of all the Chase Bank employees in the entire Rogue Valley, the total of all their wages for their entire lifetime would not exceed the amount given to the Chase CEO, in just one year.

The obvious decision of what to do with our meager deposits slapped me in the face! The decision made was to move our funds to a local bank that didn't embrace paying their CEO such extravagant bonuses. In my opinion, the \$21,000,000 bonus given to the Chase CEO was not only repulsive and arrogant, particularly in an economy where our government is helping bail out failing banking institutions, it is criminal.

I am proud to say that we have relocated our funds to an institution that has a better sense of conservative fiscal values. I think it is time that folks who are incensed with such irresponsible actions, as multi-million dollar CEO bonuses, vote with their pocketbook and move their hard-earned funds to institutions that have responsible and down-to-earth values.

Jack Shipley, Chair, Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council

## OPINION

## Krouse/Copeland Applegate River Bridge

BY STEVE ROUSE

*Save Applegate Valley Environment (SAVE) is a community based organization supporting sustainable management of our natural resources since 2006. SAVE is cooperatively engaged with local landowners, resource companies, and regulatory agencies to develop a science based adaptive management plan for the Applegate Watershed.*

Mining, property rights, a poor economy and bad government are some of the concerns we have heard recently from many of our neighbors in the Applegate. We were invited by the Applegate Partnership to give a brief informational talk at their Board meeting on current Applegate mining activity and the bridge proposal. Well, that never happened. An article in the The Daily Courier must have ruffled some feathers in the community. Far too many folks showed up to squeeze into the small Applegate library. The Partnership wisely decided the fire marshall would object so they cancelled the meeting.

SAVE is not against mining; SAVE supports appropriate mining. We stayed around and listened to the folks who came. We learned a lot about what our neighbors were feeling, like:

**PROPERTY RIGHTS:** "I want to be able to do whatever I want on my property. I own it. I pay the property tax." We all identify with these words. We all feel this is how things should be. Yet there are laws that say we can't, laws that apply equally to all.

Fifty years ago we could pretty much do what we wanted with our land. No longer. Complex planning and zoning laws approved by voters in the 70s changed that. The population of the Applegate expanded. Whether we like it or not, change happens. Everyone would like independence for their land, but now we must respect neighbor's property rights and these laws. Sometimes we are unhappy about that, until the laws protect our own rights.

**GRAVEL:** The Krouse and Hill mining proposals involve the most complex laws. Just ask Copeland how difficult the permitting is for mining in an unpredictable river floodplain. Many impacts from mining are permanent and can effect areas miles away. Neighbors upstream and downstream of these mine sites are

very concerned about the effects to their property. They are protecting their property rights by questioning how a 400-foot concrete bridge will impact their safety and property value. Do you want these same property rights? They hired scientists who studied the impacts and the science says flooding could be devastating. Historically the greatest damage to property during floods has come around the river mines.

Did you know the neighbor next door to Krouse bridge had to win an appeal in Salem just to allow anyone to express concerns to the County?

**POOR ECONOMY:** "Times are hard, unemployment is high. Ranchers and farmers can barely make ends meet." True statements we all feel. Money is tight. Every job is important. Today the successful sustainable businesses are the wineries. Change can be beneficial.

**BAD GOVERNMENT:** We heard plenty of stories about the "stupid laws" we have. "They cost us money and limit our lives." We agree, but we are right back to change. We like a simple world, but today life is complex. So our government enacts laws. In America, we can still vote to change these laws or change the politicians.

Mr. Krouse and the Hills are all our neighbors. Their farms are gorgeous. Mr. Hill grows the best corn in the Valley. Mr. Krouse would drop everything to help if you were in need. We are all good people who live here together. Mining may or may not be allowed by law. Time will tell. But one law, Measure 37/49 does grant these farmers the three home sites each this year that they requested. SAVE sincerely hopes this helps our neighbors.

Working together we can live with respect and harmony.

For more information on the upcoming Krouse bridge hearing e-mail SAVE@APBB.net 846-1082

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## CHUTE

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Theater. I worked two nights a week, no matinees, and did a little cleanup in the theater. A ten-hour week was a blistering long one.

I made an astonishing \$2.50 an hour plus all the popcorn, Dr. Pepper (which I became addicted to, the Dr. P. curse) and peanuts I wanted. I decided it was best to take it easy on the candy bars, though. You gotta sleep sometime. And the best part – the "bin" was rent-free.

The "bin" served as headquarters for us plus the other theater employees: Rex Scarf and Phillip Hurtado and local outlaws, punk rocker Ricky Lee "Lizard Slayer" Costanza, Robert "Bad Bob" Ossana, Dave "Trapper" Hotze, Tom Arnold Jr. and Yawn Pratt. Moab Police chief Mel Dalton dubbed us "The Holiday Gang". There was just too much mischief and insanity brewed up in the "bin" what with all the girls, magnesium bombs, firearms, fireworks, lizard skins, infinite illegal thoughts, water balloons, howling at the moon (or was that a broken tail light?), 3 am Sunday morning movie previews, showers in the alley, motorcycles in the lobby, dancing on the roof, cheap, sweet and often sickening wine and movie popcorn

with extra fake "butter." What more could a 19-year-old boy and his dog want, I ask you? The lady who owned the theater did not seem to mind our shenanigans for it was a long time before she gave us the boot.

My absolute favorite home, though, is right here in the Applegate. I love our countryside, the forest of pine and fir, oak, maple and madrone trees, the cattle ranches, hay fields, vineyards and organic farms, the Applegate River, the Marble Mountains, Greyback and Billy Mountain, the many hamlets within our watershed from McKee Bridge, Wilderville to Williams (I really love the Williams Grange pancake breakfast), our history, geology, botanicals and wildlife, the people, neighbors, friends, and those I've yet to meet.

Home is where you make it. Here in the Applegate with my bride Sioux and dogs Utah and McGee in our little old log house by the creek, well, this will always be my home, my favorite home!



The Editor, J.D. Rogers  
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