12 Fall 2021 Applegater



See A Greater Applegate's article, "A Greater Applegate fine-tunes Community Vision," on page 7 for more information about the Community Vision Process shown above. You can also visit their website at agreaterapplegate.org/20-20-community-vision.

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You can help save **Wellington Wildlands** by submitting photos

BY WELLINGTON WILDLANDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Wellington Wildlands Council (WWC) would like to update the Applegate community about our efforts to protect the imperiled 7,500-acre Wellington Wildlands, which lies in the heart of our valley.

After the sad passing of our inspiring leader, David Calahan, there was a lot of deliberation regarding the future of the council. With the advice and support of the Applegate Trails Association, Applegate Neighborhood Network, and council members, we decided to form a nonprofit to go forward with this important work. Our main impetus is to carry on David and Barbara Calahan's vision to protect Wellington Wildlands, enabled by a generous donation from their trust.

We have formed a board, written bylaws and a mission statement, filed for 501(c)(3) status, and done all of the usual business of creating a new organization. We remain focused on the Bear Grub Timber Sale, which is the most immediate threat to the Wellington Wildlands. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is currently reviewing the formal protests to the timber sale. If BLM denies the protests that were filed, they will award the sale to Timber Products Company. The sale may move forward as soon as fall of this year. Actual logging is proposed to begin in the old forest at the top of China Gulch near Ruch. We continue to communicate with our partners at Applegate Neighborhood Network and KS Wild to protect these precious wildlands.

We are supporting the designation of 200 miles of Applegate Wild and Scenic Rivers and Streams in the River Democracy Act proposed by Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, and sent a request to the senators to include the three streams in Wellington. Long Gulch Creek has been included, but Balls Branch and Left Balls Branch have not yet been added.

Photo competition

We're also embarking on a fun community project—a photo competition! All interested community members are encouraged to submit their most gorgeous photos of the Wellington Wildlands to Audrey at WellingtonWildlandsCouncil@ gmail.com. A case of Apple Outlaw cider will be awarded to the best photo! It is our intention to include the photos in a calendar in the future.

For more information, email board chair Audrey Eldridge at WellingtonWildlandsCouncil@gmail. com, or call 541-899-8728.

> Audrey Eldridge, Liza Crosse, and Jeanette LeTourneux Board Members, WWC







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