

WILLAPA WHISTLER

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May/June 2006

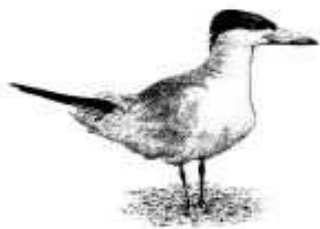
WHAS ANNUAL DINNER

Come celebrate with us!! The WHAS annual meeting and dinner will be held at 5:00 PM on Saturday, June 3, 2006. Join us for food, fun, and fellowship. A tasty light meal will be prepared by the folks at Thyme Square in the Merk Building, 1337 Commerce Avenue, in Longview. Soup, sandwiches, salad, dessert, and beverages will be offered. This year's casual atmosphere is planned to optimize conversation and camaraderie. Come catch up with old Audubon friends and make new ones.

A silent auction is planned with pieces of original art offered by our own Charles Kingsland, a signed Dennis Paulson book, a beach getaway, and other exciting finds. If anyone has items to donate, please call John Green at 360-575-9238 or email at jgreen2317@aol.com.

We are also planning an "open screen" and hope those of you who have interesting slides to show of travels or wild life and wild places, will bring them to share, (there will be a limit of 20 slides per person to allow time for all.) A conventional slide projector and Lite Pro will be available. Please call Margaret Green at 360-575-9238 or email at jgreen2317@aol.com.

To reserve a spot at the table, send a check for \$7.50 per person to WHAS, PO Box 399, Longview, WA 98632, by May 20.



Caspian Tern by Darrell Pruett, WDFW

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Eugene Kozloff is coming to Southwest Washington.

Dr. Kozloff, a marine biologist, and former director of the University of Washington's Friday Harbor Biological Laboratory, has developed a passion for plant life. This expert naturalist speaks with great and contagious enthusiasm for our world. His many books range in topics from marine biology to Northwest plants and animals to his most recently published (Timber Press) "Plants of Western Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia". Dr. Kozloff is May's featured "Northwest Voices" author, whose visit is sponsored by Willapa Hills Audubon, Lower Columbia College, and The Longview Library. The programs are free and open to all.

SYMBIOSIS – INTERESTING PERMANENT RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SPECIES

Tuesday, May 16, 1:30 PM

Lower Columbia College Student Center (STC) conference room

1600 Maple Street, Longview

For a map see <http://lcc.ctc.edu/maps/>

BIGFOOT'S FLOWER GARDEN – THE SLOPES AND VALLEYS OF THE SISKIYOU MOUNTAINS

Tuesday, May 16, 7:00 PM

The Longview Library

1600 Louisiana Street, Longview

NATIVE PLANTS FOR NORTHWEST GARDENS

Wednesday, May 17, 2006, 10:00 AM

Lower Columbia College

Student Center (STC) Conference rooms B and C

1600 Maple St., Longview, WA

For a map see <http://lcc.ctc.edu/maps/>

Please Join Us!

Support Willapa Hills Audubon Society by paying annual dues directly to this chapter. People who join National Audubon Society automatically become members of WHAS, however, National Audubon Society shares only a very small amount of the total dues money with WHAS—*currently less than \$2.00*. So, consider joining the WHAS chapter to help provide programs, field trips, bird counts and education projects here in our four-county region.

Chapter Membership

___ **\$20** for annual membership dues.

___ **\$15** for full time students. *Make check payable to Willapa Hills Audubon Society.*

National Audubon Membership

___ **\$20** for one year introductory membership in the National Audubon Society with Willapa Hills Audubon Society affiliation. *Make check payable to National Audubon Society*

Combination

___ Yes, you can do both options above, if you like.

Please write a check for each (\$20 to National Audubon Society and \$20 to WHAS.).

Willapa Whistler Only

___ **\$5** for six issues (one year). *No membership is included with this option. Make check payable to WHAS.*

For any of the options above, clip this form and mail it with your check to:

Willapa Hills Audubon Society
P.O. Box 399
Longview, WA 98632

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

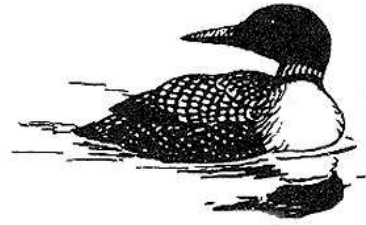
___ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities

___ Please add me to your Discussion email list

___ New **Y14**

___ Renewal **7XCH**

For more information about WHAS, You may call Wayne Nelson at 503-556-9379 or Betty Mayfield at 503-556-6841.



Common Loon by Bob Hines, USFWS

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Field Trip Schedule

Mount St Helens Birding Hike Saturday May 13, 2006

Russell Koppendrayer will lead a hike to some of his favorite birding spots of the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument area including the Hummocks Trail, where we can witness both the devastation of the 1980 eruption and the recolonization of life. This trip will be best suited for those interested in birding while hiking on park trails. We will leave Longview at 7 am and return by about 4 pm. To sign up for this trip contact Pam 360.560.3772, Ann 360.484.7119 or Russ 360.636.3245. Because smaller groups are best on trails, trip size limited to 10.

Native Plant Salvage and Nature Walk at South Nemah NRCA Saturday June 3, 2006

How would you like to see one of the last pieces of old growth forest in the Willapa Hills and help salvage native plants that will be used in a restoration project? On Saturday June 3, Carlo Abbruzzese of Washington DNR will lead a nature walk in some of the old forest at South Nemah NRCA. Afterwards we will dig native plants and collect seeds along an old road grade that is scheduled to be abandoned. The plants will be used to revegetate the abandoned road after deconstruction. We will leave from Longview at 8am and return around 3pm. For meeting location and details, call Carlo Abbruzzese at 360.425.6133.

Hiking Field Trip in Cascade Mountains Saturday July 1, 2006

Staff members of the Gifford Pinchot Task Force will lead us on a short hike in the south Cascades just east of Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. We will be visiting the area in which Idaho General Mines (IGMI), out of Spokane, WA, has applied for a lease from the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service to mine for copper, gold, molybdenum, and silver. This is in the Green River valley below Goat Mountain. Expect to be out all day, so bring a daypack containing at least water, a lunch, layered clothing, sunscreen and sunhat, as well as raingear, and wear supportive hiking shoes/boots. To register and for details about carpooling, contact Ann Musche at 360-484-7119, mrm@willapabay.org.



Participants in the Ellsworth Creek field trip on March 12th pose for the camera after a great day. *Photo by Julie Tennis*

Wenas Campout May 26-29, 2006

For over 35 years Audubon families have been camping at the Wenas Creek Campground, officially named the Hazel Wolf Wenas Creek Bird Sanctuary. The location, SW of Ellensburg, is now in an Important Bird Area which Auduboners are working to secure in protective status. The free, primitive campground along the north fork of Wenas Creek has exceptional opportunities for birding, botanizing and enjoying spring in the eastern foothills of the Cascades.

- * The campground is about 2,500' elevation, can be quite cold at night, hot during day.
- * Bring water for cooking and drinking (the creek is beautiful and bountiful but not potable).
- * We set up tents or use campers.
- * The committee rents portable toilets for four days. We share in the expense of that.
- * Bicycles and Frisbees are fun, telescopes and cameras standard gear.
- * Please leave pets at home.
- * There are organized field trips throughout the Wenas drainage and WDFW management areas.
- * In camp we have natural history workshops with some of the state's top birders, WNPS botanists, entomologists etc.
- * There are old-fashioned campfires in the evening with singing, story telling and recapping the sightings of the day.

(Continued on Page 4)

President's Message

By Steve Puddicombe

The Beauty of Solidarity

In the bird world one of the methods for promoting survival is to gather in flocks. In a flock there are more eyes and ears, the sheer volume of bodies closely linked together giving the impression of size and mass not possible on an individual basis. In this way the effects of predation might be limited, and survival enhanced in other ways too, as in migration or in finding and exploiting food sources.

And so it is with us. I am reminded of this constantly when involved in some group or other, at a rally or concert, wherever people come together for common cause. In particular I think of the yearly gathering of conservation minded folks for "Lobby Day" in Olympia, where Audubon Washington is a primary activist force. The idea is to flood the legislature with the voices of concern for the environment—This year we tramped through the cold February rain to the offices of senators and representatives to remind them that there is persistent, solid support for environmental protection in our state.

It was inspiring to see the United Church of Olympia jam packed with people for a morning pep talk and issue orientation; and humbling to recognize that politics winnows out so much of the conservation agenda, culls out and kills many admirable, science supported proposals that are weak from lack of public support. We are also but one group that lobbies like this and for one day only during the legislative session, vying with thousands of other citizens with different ideals that often counter our own.

Yet, I was greatly heartened by the efforts many made to come and speak their piece. Some traveled by special bus all the way from Bellingham. Participants were warmed by each others company while walking to lawmakers offices and by working together to present a united front. The Puget Sound Coalition, our Audubon leaders, and others did a good job organizing the effort. I was reminded that a grand gesture can be formed by gathering together many seemingly insignificant smaller ones. And the efforts paid off as all six major Audubon initiatives received favorable attention.

After a Grays River freshet I like to watch the flocks of Dunlin that show up when the valley is a shallow lake. Hundreds of these birds spiral and wheel in perfect unison, each ceasing to be an individual, bent to the

will of the larger interest as if the lot were controlled by some outside source. This dazzling choreography reflects the instinct to survive but, one should say openly, is also distinctly beautiful and true. The tribal instinct is deep in our bones too, ancient convocation rites replaced these days with Roberts' Rules of Order, but essential to our survival nonetheless. And when we gather together I like to think that we achieve, not only action on the business of the day, but a unity of spirit that is beautiful as well.

Wenas Campout *(Continued from Page 3)*

Visit the Wenas Website to see a familiar smiling face and get lots of downloadable information about our campout. <http://www.nwlink.com/~cyrus/wenas.html>. There's a bird checklist, directions to the campground, and more. If you don't do websites, contact me and I'll send you printed information.

Bring friends, family, and join us at Wenas Memorial Day Weekend - May 26-29, 2006!
See you there, Helen Engle, hengle@iinet.com, 253-564-3112.

WHAS Conservation Resolutions

The WHAS Board at its April 1 meeting voted to ask the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee to approve two resolutions at the WSACC June 24 meeting. One resolution opposes the proposed mine for the Margaret site near Mt. St. Helens. The other opposes the proposed coal-gasification power plant in Kalama—the exact wording of that resolution will be decided after the May 1 presentations by both sides of this controversy. WSACC membership is the Conservation Chairs of all the Audubon Society chapters in Washington. WSACC approval of these resolutions will bring more visibility and support from other groups as we battle these issues. Stay tuned for the result of the votes on these resolutions, which will appear in the July/August *Whistler*.

Reardan's Audubon Lake Saved

WHAS contributed to preserving Reardan's Audubon Lake from development two years ago. At the Spring ACOW on March 23 it was announced that this property south of Spokane was finally bought by Inland Northwest Land Trust, which will sell it to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. This is good news!

Charles Kingsland's Nature Art to Benefit WHAS

By Charlotte Persons

Charles Kingsland, an accomplished nature artist, joined WHAS in November 2005 upon his move to our area. His first act was to donate three sketches of a "whistler" swan for the new WHAS logo; two of these sketches will be auctioned at the WHAS annual dinner on June 3.

Mr. Kingsland will show his work from May 27 to July 30 at Redman Hall on Highway 4 in Skamakowa. Redman Hall is open to the public Thursday through Sunday from 12:00—4:00 p.m. The show will include original works in acrylic, watercolor, and pin-and-ink. Most of the subjects are wildlife from the Northwest. The public is invited to a reception on May 27 from 1:00—4:00 at Redman Hall to initiate the show.

Several copies of a print of an eagle at its nest, titled "Returned," will be sold at the show. Each print is signed and numbered. Half the proceeds from the sale of this print will benefit Redman Hall and half will benefit WHAS.

Mr. Kingsland has had a lifelong passion for art. He started learning through a correspondence course while in the service, and later studied with Mary Meeley at the University of Kentucky. He worked for a few years as a commercial artist. However, he was only able to really concentrate on his creative art when he retired from horse training five years ago.

WHAS Board Meeting Reports

By Charlotte Persons

February 25, 2006, Meeting

Steve Glucoft was welcomed as the new Publicity Chair. Guests at this meeting were Nina Carter, Director of Audubon WA, and Lisa Remlinger, a staff person. In her report, Nina Carter discussed legislative issues, science initiatives, education projects, and chapter relations. Audubon WA is assessing needs for funding and volunteers to help protect Important Bird Areas (IBAs). Number one priority IBAs are on Puget Sound and Hood Canal because of environmental pressures, but the second priority is Willapa Bay area IBAs. Discovery Coast Audubon Chapter is in provisional status; a decision about its becoming a permanent chapter will be made in January 2007.

WHAS received a grant through Washington Audubon for \$795 for taxidermy and travel cases for bird specimens, a project headed by Darrel Whipple.

April 1, 2006, Meeting

There was unanimous approval for a motion from the Finance Committee to place part of our funds in higher returning investments. After ballots were counted from WHAS members, a change to the bylaws was approved to allow one additional board-designated board member to sign checks in addition to the Treasurer, the President/s and Vice President. Another motion was to continue to send complimentary copies of the *Whistler* to former WHAS members now transferred to Discovery Coast chapter until Discovery Coast is no longer on probationary status, with the goal of remaining in contact until the matter is resolved.

Spring ACOW Education Summit in Port Townsend was inspiring, especially Finding Urban Nature (FUN) a series of eight one-hour schoolyard lessons for elementary children which takes little funding, just volunteers to work with small groups of children. ACOW Conservation Committee discussed legislative and other successes of Audubon WA, on two state initiatives for the November ballot, I-933 and I-937 (summarized in other *Whistler* articles) and on efforts to have wind power generation farms sited correctly to protect migrating birds and bats.

Pat Reistroffer will coordinate the WHAS booth at the Longview Earth Day Celebration, and Darrel Whipple will help coordinate Earth Day activities for Rainier. Darrel will also be in charge of the WHAS booth at Longview school's Forestry Days at Wake Robin on May 18 and 19.

Conservation Successes in the Legislature and Courts

This was a banner year for conservation forces—ALL of the bills and budget proposals supported by Audubon Washington during this Washington State legislative session except one were passed. Here are some of the new laws: SHB 2958 against the use of lead shot; SSB 6175 for new fee structures to support DNR's mining reclamation oversight; HB 1458 to improve septic system management in marine areas; SB 6508 to support new biofuel power; and SSB 6428 to recycle outdated computers, monitors, and TVs. (Continued on Page 6)

Conservation Successes

(Continued from Page 5)

Only one bill failed, by one vote—HB 1488, which would have eliminated bromine-based flame retardants in clothing. Funding was secured for: demonstration conservation projects to conserve forest habitat; the Olympic Loop of the Great Washington State Birding Trail; Spartina control; Puget Sound cleanup; and many other DNR and WDFW projects. **Thank you to all WHAS members who called and wrote legislators to support these initiatives.**

In addition, Washington Audubon was instrumental in creating additional protections for bird species reliant on old forests and riparian habitat, especially the still-declining Northern Spotted Owl. The lawsuit by Washington Environmental Council against the Commissioner of Public Lands was settled through a negotiated settlement after a King County Superior Court decision finding that the 10-year Sustainable Harvest Calculation for state forest lands was inadequate. The resulting agreement will protect habitat while balancing revenues for state trust land beneficiaries.

Ballot Initiative for a Clean and Renewable Energy Future

If 20 other states can do it, so can Washington

By Cy Berryman

Washington's environmental community has fought for years in the state legislature for a clean and affordable energy standard. In 2003 a clean energy standard was an environmental priority, only to be stopped by special interests from the fossil fuel industry.

Now Washington State is preparing to take an exciting step forward - toward securing clean energy sources for its people. Washingtonians for Energy Security, a broad coalition of environmental, business and labor organizations and concerned citizens, is launching an initiative campaign for the November 2006 ballot. The initiative will help the state's economy, environment, and rural communities by assuring our state's largest electric utilities purchase 15% of their power from renewable resources, like wind and solar; and will help homeowners and businesses save on energy bills by assuring that utilities invest in energy efficiency measures.

Among other added benefits, passing an initiative for clean, secure and affordable energy will:

- * Create jobs
- * Stabilize rates
- * Boost our local economy
- * Reduce dependence on foreign and polluting energy resources
- * Support family farmers
- * Not raise taxes

Renewable energy and energy efficiency provide a viable alternative to fossil fuels. Fossil fuels have a track record of polluting our air and land, contributing to global warming, increasing cases of asthma and lung disease, and being subject to severe price spikes. Home-grown renewable energy is insulated from the volatile price swings associated with fossil fuels, providing long-term rate stability to electric consumers. When utilities work to make homes and businesses more energy efficient they are putting money back in our pockets instead of buying from faraway gas fields.

The sponsors of the Energy Security Initiative support wildlife studies, Environmental Impact Statements and other research and design methods to ensure wind farms and other renewable energy projects are sited in areas that avoid negative wildlife impacts. Air and water pollution from burning fossil fuels pose a great threat to our state's wildlife. Thankfully, we can protect the environment and our health with clean, affordable and abundant energy sources. But we need your help to do it! To qualify the initiative for the November ballot, over 300,000 signatures need to be collected by June 30, 2006.

Please call the campaign headquarters at 206-283-3335 or go to <http://www.energysecuritynow.org> now to get involved.

Ballot Initiatives

By Margaret Green

YES ON I-937

The Clean Energy Initiative

Audubon Washington is part of a broad based coalition of environmental groups, businesses, rural organizations, and citizens from across the state who support I-937. This initiative requires Washington State's major utilities to gradually increase the amount of new renewable resources, such as wind and solar, in the electricity supply to 15% by 2020. The utilities will also be required to pursue all low-cost energy conservation opportunities for their customers.

(Continued on Page 7)

Ballot Initiatives *(Continued from Page 6)*

The voters of Washington deserve an opportunity to choose clean, renewable and affordable energy. **WE MUST HELP CREATE THIS OPPORTUNITY.** 300,000 signatures must be gathered on petitions by June 30 to place I-937 on the ballot in November. You can help by signing a petition. You could help even further by taking a petition to your neighbors, family, and friends, or to events you attend. Every signature is important. This is Washington's chance to join other states in passing legislation for clean and renewable energy, a move away from dependency on fossil fuels, and a move toward a better future.

To learn more, please contact, Yes on I-937 area coordinator, Tedine Roos at 360-423-0649. Additional information is available at www.yeson937.org.

NO ON I-933**The Development Loophole Initiative**

Like I-937, I-933 is also in the petition stage and is expected to be on the ballot in November. Audubon Washington strongly opposes this initiative. Special interest groups have designed the initiative to create loopholes for irresponsible development. Similar to Oregon's Measure 37, it can open the door to roll back hard fought environmental protections and land-use restrictions. Zoning and city planning will be in jeopardy if this initiative becomes law. It specifies that county governments must either pay landowners for claims of value lost because of regulations or waive the regulations

In Oregon, 37 has resulted in nearly 3000 claims against the state, and because no money is available to pay these claims, protections are being waived. Reasonable protections result in healthy neighborhoods, safer streets, and a higher quality of life. You can take a positive step by **NOT** signing an I-933 petition and by staying informed. To learn more or get involved, visit www.protectcommunities.org or call 206-323-0520.

Book Review*By Alan Richards***Winter World; The Ingenuity of Animal Survival**

Author: Bernd Heinrich, Publisher: Harper Collins Publishers, 2003.

Most of us are uncomfortable when we go out in freezing weather; even when we are dressed for it, we usually duck inside for hot chocolate after only a few hours outside. What if we tried to stay out in this cold weather for an entire day, or a night? Or for a week, winter camping in the mountains, so that we were in the snow and freezing temperatures for the entire time? Most of us would consider this quite a feat, worthy of considerable advance preparation and, of course, lots of the 'right' gear.

What of the trees, the birds, the amphibians, the other mammals, who do this exact thing, every winter, all winter, for weeks and months at a time, without any gear at all? Just imagine, and start to wonder how this is possible for so many creatures, and you will be ready to read Bernd Heinrich's book, "Winter World."

Heinrich notes that one of the smallest birds, the Golden-crowned Kinglet, who weighs 5 grams (the same as two pennies), endures the year-round coldest temperatures in areas inhabited by humans (humans with supplemental gear, often including houses, vehicles, big coats and hats), and some regions not even inhabited year-round by humans with any kind of gear, because it's too cold. How can this tiny bird survive the Vermont and Maine winters that Heinrich studies, year after year? How can some squirrels, who don't even hibernate, find enough to eat? And then there are the frogs to consider: they don't freeze, even when the water and mud they are submerged in is down below freezing; how do they do that?

Read the book to find out some answers to these questions, and much, much more.

Book Review*By Julie Tennis***Good News for a Change: How Everyday People are Helping the Planet***Written by David Suzuki and Holly Dressel*

I picked this book up because of its title and the section it was in. Good news for a change? In environmental writing? I needed some good news!

There are nine areas of focus in this book. Each section is bursting with examples drawn from around the world about people at all levels making conscious decisions and successful actions to live and operate in a sustainable manner.

(Continued on Page 8)

Book Review—Good News

(Continued from Page 7)

**Making Money Like the Bee* is an introduction to socially and environmentally sustainable businesses.

**Withdrawing Consent* discusses the need to maintain economic diversity by not allowing one type of business operating system, such as publicly-traded companies, to dominate our politics and economy.

**Using Coyotes to Grow Grass* recognizes that biodiversity is mandatory for the continuance of life in and use of an area.

**A River Runs Through It* addresses the finiteness of the resource, water.

**Eating Humble Pie* acknowledges the incredible impact of large-scale agriculture – not just on the environment, but also on our health.

**Listen for the Jaguar* discusses the role of forests in the health of our planet, and gives great examples of private and tribal foresters working in a sustainable manner.

**Song of the Albatross* was of particular interest to me because of its examples of sustainable fishing.

**Wrestling with Pluto* deals with reducing our reliance on toxins and cleansing our air.

**Breaking out of the Box* is about stepping up to the plate and doing what needs to be done to create a healthier planet for all of us.

The appendix contains a large contact list for the organizations mentioned in the text and a bibliography for future research into the topics discussed.

This book was even better than I expected. One of the things I appreciated was that the authors didn't try to sugarcoat current issues. Suzuki and Dressel are well aware of the environmental degradation occurring at a rapid pace in many areas of the world. In fact they review many of the current concerns about each subject area they discuss. The purpose of this book, however, is to inspire the reader and to provide a sketched road map to reveal the paths these groups, individuals and organizations forged and followed in order to make a positive impact. And this it does.

Reading this book will encourage those who've become overwhelmed by the issues, and will motivate all readers to join the movement towards living and working sustainably.

Proposed Mt. St. Helens Copper Mine

By Charlotte Persons

Editor's note: This article is a continuation from the last issue of the Whistler of Charlotte's report on the public meeting at Lower Columbia College concerning the proposed mine in the Green River valley near Mt. St. Helens. At that meeting, Ryan Hunter of the Gifford Pinchot Task Force and Matt Russell of Idaho General Mines, Inc., presented their respective views on the environmental issues and economic benefits of the mine. Here, Charlotte shares more of her meeting notes and thoughts with us.

The Margaret site should not be an “experiment.”

In the evening presentation, Ryan Hunter stated that the one point he wanted the audience to take away with them is that the Margaret site is a special place which we are lucky to have “in our backyard.” It is adjacent to our beloved National Monument, a favorite spot for outdoor recreation, overlaps with a roadless area important for wildlife conservation, and is part of a river system that affects endangered fish runs, agriculture, and our drinking water. Any kind of development in this lovely natural area would be shame—mining, with its certain noise and vibration pollution and strong possibilities for devastating water and air pollution, is a particularly harmful kind of development.

Summary of Matt Russell's Remarks

I spent three hours reviewing the LCC videotape so I could summarize for you the details of Matt Russell's presentation. The press articles did not mention very many of these technical details, and I feel like we WHAS members need the facts in order to intelligently participate in this debate.

Idaho General Mines, Inc.

First Russell explained the qualifications and history of IGMI. Three major figures are his father Robert Russell, the president of the company; James J. Moore, Manager of Metallurgy; and himself, a civil engineer. All have extensive experience managing and engineering smelters and open pit and block cave mines overseas and in the United States. The company, formed in the early 2000's, has a few hundred investors and assets of about \$6 million. It is growing but not yet big enough to be listed on the stock exchange. It is a “shell company” whose purpose is to attract investors for different projects, such as its current management of a molybdenum mine in Nevada. (Continued on Page 9)

Mt. St. Helens Mine *(Continued from Page 8)*

Mineral Exploration Lease

Russell next discussed the company's proposal made on March 24, 2005, to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service for a "consignment lease" to do exploratory drilling at the Margaret site, the 900 acres for which IGMI has 50% ownership of mineral rights. While the proposal is for drilling on this site, the BLM can issue fringe acreage leases on other mineral rights parcels adjacent to it. In fact, IGMI wants approval for the Margaret site and its parcels north of the Margaret site since only a large-scale mine can economically process the low-grade ore.



Approval of the consignment lease will allow IGMI to find investment funds for the other half of the mineral rights for the Margaret site and for other parcels. The exploration at the Margaret site will involve re-drilling a core that was discarded by a previous company in the early 1990's. Re-drilling will use existing drilling roads and will cost less than drilling from scratch. The discovery drilling will allow assays to confirm the ore's quality, which is about .4 to .8 % sulfide copper. The deposits are part of a large ore "pluton" which stretches from Spirit Lake to Glacier Peak on Highway 2, one of the largest deposits of copper in the world, maybe more than in all of Chile and Peru. The results of the exploratory drilling will allow IGMI to create a \$1 million feasibility study.

Feasibility Study of Three Types of Mines

The feasibility study will assess three different types of mines—open pit, underground "block cave," and a new

type of large-scale underground mine proposed by IGMI.

According to Russell, an open pit mine would provide the quickest and most economical mining of low-grade ore. However, he admitted that a pit mine could have the negative impacts on the environment summarized in Ryan Hunt's article, especially since seismic activity near Mt. St. Helen's might cause soil permeability and cave-ins. In addition, a pit mine would only be able to reach the top of the 3,000-foot deep ore deposits. Russell repeatedly said that he did not want to create an open pit mine that would destroy the mountain.

Russell admitted that a conventional "block cave" underground mine might also have environmental

problems such as surface subsidence or acidic mine drainage from tailings "if it was designed wrong." This is not because of seismic activity; he stated that the safest place to be in an earthquake is underground! He also asserted that the kind of deeply located, "up and down" seismic activity in the Cascades is not a problem for underground mining.

IGMI's Timetable

If the consignment lease is approved, based on the resulting feasibility study the government and the mining company investors would choose between a pit, block cave, or "new technology" mine. Development of actual plans for the mine would be a partnership of the mining company and the government. The proposed time table Russell displayed was: 2006/7--discovery drilling; 2008--feasibility study; 2009/11--planning (and getting more investors); and 2011--building the mine. *(Continued on Page 10)*

Mt. St. Helens Mine (Continued from Page 9)

Need for New Mining Technology

IGMI envisions a new kind of copper mine that would blaze the way for more economical and more environmentally safe mining technology for the low concentrate copper ores that are what principally remain in the world. Because copper mining can barely meet demand right now, the market price in the last four years had gone from \$.65 to \$2.30 per pound on February 6. A National Academy of Science study shows that world demand for copper will continue to rise, especially as China and India become consumer nations. More mines will have to be added each year to meet this demand; despite this, a huge gap between supply and demand will exist by 2016.

Russell repeatedly called for government funding for mining research and development to create environmentally safe mining technology. "Copper mining is the most destructive thing that man does to the crust of the earth, and the government does not support R&D for this most basic industry." He stated that this investment will not come from private capital; mining investors are accustomed to taking on the risk of exploring for ore sites but resist assuming the additional risks of creating and testing new technology.

Possible IGMI Innovations for Margaret Mine

However, since the costs of ore discovery at the Margaret site will be lower than at other sites and market prices for metals are so high, it might be an opportunity to try out some new large-scale technologies for the low-grade copper ore that is found throughout the Cascades. This would essentially be an underground mine on the scale of open pit mines. The proposed "new technology" mine would move 80,000 tons of material per day while an open pit mine moves 200,000 tons per day. To help the audience envision this amount of material, Russell said that would be the equivalent of 4,000 20-ton trucks passing by each day. Russell believes that the mine would exist for more than 10 years and possibly for 30 years.

Russell revealed four innovations that IGMI envisions for the Margaret mine. Some were tried in "futuristic" mines in the 80's without success, but advancements in technology now permit "the right kind of drilling and right kind of equipment."

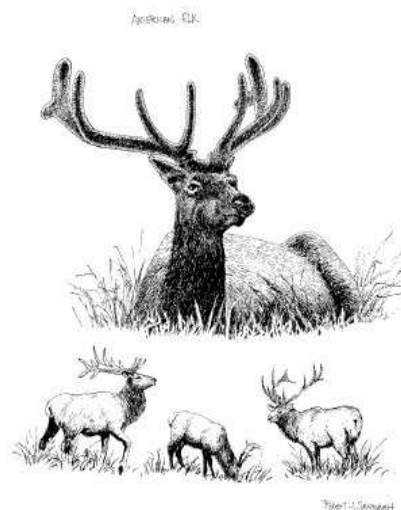
(1) The mine would be developed through "**directional drilling**" methods created in the oil industry—this would allow immediate ore processing instead of the 3 to 4 years usually needed to develop a conventional

block cave mine. The mine would be "drilled" with blasting from below that would push ore up to higher levels to be removed.

(2) **Huge conveyance "trucks"** many times bigger than those used in current underground mines would need to be developed and built to take the ore to huge conveyance belts (not hoists) that would lift the ore to the surface. Fluidized ore would be piped to a process mill about 7 miles away on private land or possibly on site underground.

(3) Instead of using ore crushed to sand-sized particles like processes used in conventional Pyro smelters which heat the ore, **a nitric acid leaching process (Hydromet)** would use .5 inch and smaller particles. A similar process was tried by another company, R.A. Hanson, in Nevada without complete success in the late 90's because it could not control all the variables. However, IGMI has patents pending on a process, using different reactants, that in the lab allows 70—85% copper extraction. Deleterious gases are mainly nitrogen, which can be recycled back into the process. Nitrogen and other toxic metal concentrations in depleted ore would not exceed government standards. After copper and other metal extraction, the rocks would be "washed" under pressure with different solutions to remove surface contaminants and would be centrifuged to remove moisture. This would be a gravity leach process where material is moved through enormous silos. Water use in this process would be reduced by a factor of 10 from the 10,000 gallons per minute in a conventional flotation processor. A lot of water would be re-used to reduce the amount needed from the environment. Sulfuric acid, a by-product of processing all sulfide copper ores, would be concentrated and sold to industry. The larger-sized ore particles also mean less production of polluting dust.

(Continued on Page 11)



Mt. St. Helens Mine *(Continued from Page 10)*

(4) The larger surface area of each piece of depleted ore would allow “normal” oxidation so contaminants like sulfuric acid, cadmium, arsenic, etc., would be released at the rate of the surrounding mine rock. Also, the surface of each piece of ore would be clean. This means that 70% of the depleted ore could be “mixed with a little cement” and put back into the mine to prevent surface subsidence, a big problem in block cave underground mines. The risk of acid mine drainage would also be reduced. Some larger particles would be sold as gravel. The rest would be put into a waste pile somewhere, but a smaller one than those produced by other large-volume ore mines.

Russell’s Conclusions

According to Russell, these techniques will meet the technological challenges of mining large volume lower grade deposits, developing environmentally acceptable mines, improving metal recoveries from ores, producing less mining waste, and using more environmentally friendly processing techniques.

Russell concluded his prepared remarks by saying that the proposed Margaret site mine offers the solution to a number of challenges: finding an ore body to demonstrate new mining techniques; government and industry jointly creating new mining laws; producing high-paying jobs in Washington State; increasing state and federal tax and royalty revenue; becoming environmentalists; making a chance for Washington State to make a difference.

An aside from the author: A little math leads to the conclusion that the proposed mine would produce copper worth \$980,000 per day, on the low side. This is \$357.7 million per year.

Generating Energy on the Lower Columbia

By Charlotte Persons

Suddenly in the last two years our local newspapers have been full of articles about new sources of electrical power planned for our area. Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) terminals have been proposed for five sites between Portland and the mouth of the Columbia. New power plants in Longview and Clatskanie were to be fueled by natural gas. (Now the Clatskanie plant is asking to be re-permitted as a coal-gasification plant, and the Longview plant may not be built—both are

affected by the increase in gas prices and proposed hikes in transportation charges.) Finally, there is a coal-gasification plant proposed for Kalama.

Right now, about two-thirds of the Northwest’s power needs are met with hydropower, and power companies in our area are not in need of additional sources. Most of the proposed plants say they plan to sell power directly to industries or outside our region. Our area has been chosen for these plants because of our excellent transportation system. All of these proposals depend on the transportation of fossil fuels from outside our area: LNG on tankers from Alaska and Indonesia; coal on trains from Eastern Washington, Montana and Colorado; and natural gas in huge pipes from Alaska.

The other reason for choosing our area is that more populated areas have successfully fought off proposed new plants because of LNG terminals’ risk of catastrophic accidents and gas- and coal-fired plants’ pollution. Don’t be fooled by claims that coal-gasification plants are the cleanest form of carbon-based energy. They are indeed better for all of the pollutants regulated by the federal government. However, they emit huge amounts of one pollutant that is not regulated at all—carbon! This gas is the foremost contributor to global warming and ocean acidification, but the U.S. did not sign the Kyoto accord to reduce carbon emissions.



Photograph of LNG Terminal, Courtesy of International LNG

There are two actions all of us can take. One is to attend public meetings and write letters about each new proposed plant; watch local newspapers and the WHAS web site for updates. The other is to support Initiative 937, described in more detail in Margaret Green’s article on page 6, which would increase renewable sources of energy from the current 1% to 15% by the year 2020. With more renewable energy, there will be no need for these dangerous, polluting, and expensive new fossil-fuel based plants.



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The *Willapa Whistler* is the bi-monthly publication of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Articles, information, wildlife sightings and black-and-white artwork are welcomed. The deadline for inclusion of material in the *Whistler* is the 15th of each even-numbered month. Complimentary copies are sent to organizations and prospective members. All WHAS activities and programs are open to the public. The *Willapa Whistler* is printed on recycled paper using soy based ink.

The Mission of the Willapa Hills Audubon Society is to support ecologically responsible ways of life, to help maintain biologically diverse habitats, and to promote environmental understanding and enjoyment of nature.

It's Time to Elect WHAS Officers—Your Ballot is Enclosed. Please Vote!

WHAS Annual Dinner—June 3

See Page 1 for Details

Programs—Dr. Eugene Kozloff

See Page 1 for Details

Field Trips

See Page 3 for Details

May 13 - Mount St. Helens Birding Hike

June 3 - Native Plant Salvage and Nature Walk at South Nemah

July 1 - Hiking in the Cascade Mountains

Audubon Wenas Campout May 26-29