



Idaho Watersheds Project
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SPRING 1994 NEWSLETTER

NEW IWP BROCHURE

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find two copies of the new IWP brochure. The design work for this brochure has been donated by Oliver, Russell & Associates in Boise. Thanks go to Russ Stoddard and his excellent staff including Jason Monroe for this important help. The photographs were donated by Pete Kopschke of Outback Images in Boise and IWP Board member Lynne Stone of Ketchum. In addition, half of the printing cost was donated by Joslyn & Morris in Boise. Thank you all. Please let us know if you think the brochure can be improved in any way or if you find it satisfactory in its present design. For those of you who have already contributed, you are considered members of the IWP unless you inform us otherwise. All memberships will expire 12 months from your original contribution, and you will be notified then. For those of you who have not contributed, please join if at all possible! We will not delete names from the mailing list since our goal is to keep as many interested people informed of our activities as we can afford to. Please give copies of the brochures to individuals who you think might join our efforts. If you need more brochures please call. Contributions of any size are always appreciated.

FUNDRAISING GOAL SET BY BOARD

The Board of the IWP has approved a fundraising goal of \$ 15,000 by October 1, 1994 to enable the IWP to apply for as much as 15,000 acres of riparian school endowment land by the September 30 deadline. Please call if you can help us achieve this goal.

IDAHO'S GOVERNOR ANDRUS VETOES HB 912 !

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Governor's veto message to the Legislature. His action allows us to pursue important leases this year without resorting to legal action to overthrow what was a manifestly unconstitutional bill. Thanks to the dozens of supporters who called the Governor about this bill !

IWP PREVAILS IN INITIAL COURT RULINGS

In IWP's complaint to overturn the Land Board decision of February 8th, Fifth District Judge James May has supported the contentions of the IWP in initial court rulings regarding enlargements of the record. He denied efforts by counsel for the Land Board seeking to prevent material Jon Marvel, IWP President, had submitted to the Board from being included as part of the record. It is IWP's feeling that the State's attorney is more interested in blocking a fair hearing on the merits of our case than in allowing justice to prevail. We believe this is because of the poor case the Land Board has left its attorney to protect. A decision at the District Court level will come sometime this summer. IWP believes the decision will be appealed to the Idaho Supreme Court regardless of the outcome. We are grateful for the exceptional legal work performed pro-bono for IWP by our attorney Debra Kronenberg of Ketchum.

OREGON GROUPS SEEK TO LEASE OREGON SCHOOL LANDS

The Oregon Natural Desert Association headquartered in Bend, Oregon and Rest The West of Portland will be seeking to acquire expiring leases to over 20,000 acres of school lands adjacent to the Idaho border in Malheur County. This effort will depend on Oregon's issuance of rules for the leasing of these lands Up to now there have been no rules in Oregon, but the preferred alternative of the Division of Lands guarantees access by anyone to the process of leasing school lands. IWP strongly supports the efforts of all citizens and groups seeking to change the status quo domination of arid school lands by public lands ranchers and the efforts in Oregon are outstanding! The effort in Oregon is helped significantly because the Land Board there is actually interested in supporting alternative uses of school lands. IWP will consider applying for lands in Owyhee County which may complement the Oregon groups goals.

DALE DUNN ANALYZES LAKE CREEK FOR IWP

Dale Dunn of Boise, a retired BLM official, has provided exceptional help to IWP by traveling to the Lake Creek section applied for by IWP with Jon Marvel and Lynne Stone on April 22, 1994 and producing a professional analysis of the condition of the mile of Lake Creek we seek to lease. Documented by photographs of the damaged and degraded riparian zone throughout the school section, this report has been delivered by Dale to J.D. Williams, the State Auditor. In addition, Jon Marvel has, in person, handed a copy with photographs to Idaho Attorney-General EchoHawk on May 10, 1994. When IWP receives the lease to this section, as we expect, it will serve as an excellent example of riparian recovery after being fenced to prevent livestock abuse.

EXPIRING AND VACANT LEASE INVENTORY CONTINUES

The inventory of expiring grazing leases on school lands is continuing. In addition, IWP has received from the Department of Lands the complete list of unleased school lands. These lands are available to lease at any time as there is no conflict and the endowment funds are not presently receiving any income from these lands. Among these lands may be streamsheds which IWP can control without controversy, and by doing so, establish the important precedent of holding leases before the next round of lease renewals in September. IWP will be finalizing inspection tours in the next two weeks for Bingham County (late June) and Owyhee County (early June). All area members and supporters will be notified so that interested persons can join our look at lands we may apply for in September. Each tour will probably take two days. Additionally a tour of Clark County lands is proposed which will require another two days later this summer. There is 70,000 acres of school lands up for renewal in Clark County alone, 40,000 acres in Owyhee County, and 19,000 acres in Bingham County.

IWP MEETS WITH GOOSE CREEK RANCHER, CARL AUSTIN OF OAKLEY

Jon Marvel traveled to Goose Creek in Cassia County in March 1994 at the invitation of Carl Austin, a rancher who owns over 1000 acres and leases over 1500 acres of school endowment lands expiring in 1994. Mr. Austin acquired his ranch two years ago.

Since then he has embarked on a major effort to recover the severely damaged riparian areas on the ranch. He has completely fenced all of Goose Creek on his land and is in the process of doing so on the state land lease. He also has removed his ranching activities from the Wild Rose Association which is notorious for its members' arrogant attitude toward environmental regulation on the Goose Creek allotment. IWP had Mr. Austin's leases high on our 1994 leasing list because of its extensive riparian areas. However, because of the exceptional efforts being made by the Austins, IWP has agreed not to conflict his lease. The press release jointly issued by IWP and Carl Austin on March 22, 1994 was conveniently ignored by newspapers across Idaho with the exception of a small notice in the Ag-Weekly in Twin Falls.

IWP CARRIES MESSAGE TO CONFERENCES/FORUM

On April 25, 1994 Jon Marvel spoke about state land leasing at the first public policy forum at Boise State University on a panel which included sheep rancher, Brad Little and Neil Rimbey of the University of Idaho. Jon also participated in a workshop on state leases at the Desert Conference XVI at Oregon's Malheur Wildlife Refuge on April 30, 1994. On May 21 he'll be part of a public lands panel on ranching at the Idaho Conservation League Wild Idaho ! Conference at Redfish Lake. IWP Board member Linn Kincannon will moderate.

IWP INFLUENCE GROWS

The interest in problems with public lands ranching is growing, and the influence of IWP has been evident in the Idaho Land Board decision of May 10, 1994 to terminate a lease for 8000 acres in Washington County held by a rancher who refused to sign a management plan. The lease termination became final May 13.

Because you **never** know what's in the water.



It may be a cow pie when it hits the ground, but by the time it washes into a nearby stream, it's the source of Giardia, E. Coli and other microscopic critters that can travel straight to your drinking cup.

