

FRIENDS OF DOUGLAS-FIR NATIONAL MONUMENT

Get out and enjoy the Monument!



I wanted to use one of my favorite pictures of flowers in this July Dispatch, because it reminds me of fireworks, so I started to write about visiting the flowers of Iron Mountain and Cone Peak. But then I remembered that I had written about the flowers last July, so I changed the focus. I didn't want to suggest that there was nothing else to do or see in the proposed Monument.

Really, there is an excess of riches this time of year, especially with the recent rains. There will be flowers in lots of places, not just in the high meadows, including beargrass and lilies along several trails.



Beargrass on the trail to Coffin Mountain



Lillies on the trail to Cone Peak

You could hike the McKenzie River Trail to see the Blue Pool where the McKenzie reappears after traveling underground for a while, or hike many trails, including the Gate Creek Trail, to see the old growth there.



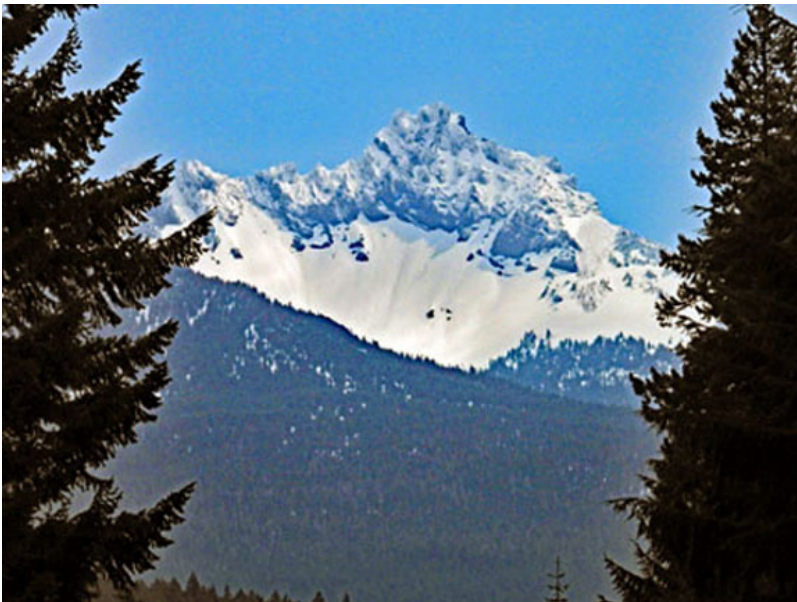
Blue Pool where the Mckenzie reappears



Browder Ridge old growth along Gate Creek Tr.

Or you could hike up to any highpoint in the proposed Monument and count the peaks on the horizon. Hike up to Trappers Butte and look south across an undeclared roadless area to the Three Pyramids. Or hike to the ridge between Quartzville Creek and Crabtre Creek and look east to Mt. Jefferson and Three-Fingered Jack.





Or, if you don't want to hike, or before you hike, you can drive up one of the scenic byways, that is, any one of the major highways that bisect the Monument. Of course, look at the trees, large and small, along the highways, but maybe try to see the mountains from the road as well. The most elusive, when viewed from the Monument, is probably Three-Fingered Jack, which shows between the trees as you drive up Highway 20.

Written by Milo Mecham, President

Thanks for the photos (hint, hint)



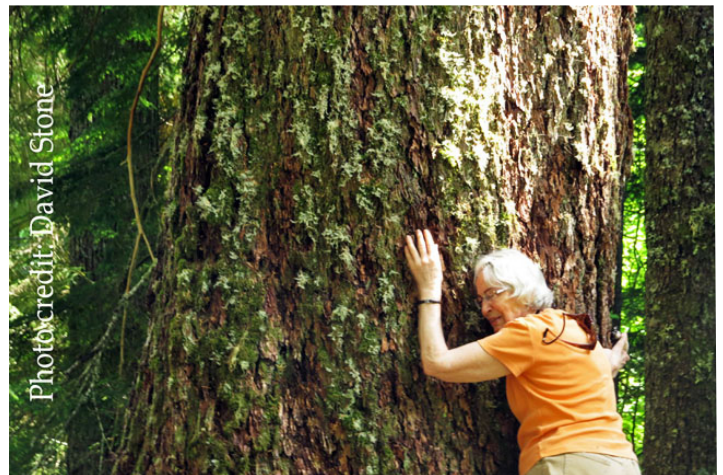
We were pleased and grateful to receive an old post card photograph of what it labels as "OREGON'S LARGEST FIR TREE." The photo was sent to us by Brenda Salmans of Council Bluffs, IA. It came from a collection of Homer Williamson, Brenda's great grandfather. There is no way of telling when or where in Oregon the picture was taken, but it is clear (to me) that it is a Douglas-fir, and thus it was a very generous donation to the Friends of Douglas-fir National Monument's collection of donated photos.

We depend for our arguments in support of the creation of proposed Douglas-fir National Monument on photos of the beauty and wonder of the area within the proposed Monument. We try to fill our web pages and our Case Statement (discussed below) with pictures, because that is the best way we know to get our point across: the nation deserves a national monument recognizing the diversity of the Douglas-fir ecosystem, and the area we have selected for recommendation is eminently suitable for selection as the Monument.

The photos we used have been given or lent to us by many friends of the Friends. The pictures used in the first article in this Dispatch came from five different photographers: Stephen Sharnoff, Dave Stone, me (Milo Mecham) and two others who donated their photos without requesting documentation of their donation. As a side note, most of the photos in this Dispatch are appearing for the first time, in honor of the new photo from Brenda Salmans.

As one of the photographers, and as one who has the pleasure of going through the photos we have, I am both grateful and disappointed. Grateful because we have so many great photos; disappointed because there are so many photos of parts of the proposed Monument that we don't have, and so many alternative views of the photos we have that we could have, but don't. This is where the hint becomes explicit. If you take me up on our invitation to visit the proposed Monument, take your camera and take pictures, and then maybe sent them to us: mechammilo@gmail.com . To be usable, photos should be as high a quality as possible, although it does not need to be large in terms of dimensions.

For example, we don't have a picture of someone standing and spanning one of the large trees like (perhaps) Homer Williamson, above. We maybe come close, as you can see in these photos by David Tvedt and Dave Stone, but not quite the same.



We promise, if you send us your photos of the proposed National Monument, we will treasure them, and if they are used, and you want, or don't tell us not to, we will credit you, and identify whomever might be hugging one of the trees in the monument or otherwise enjoying the Monument. Please remember to tell us where the photo was taken.

Milo Mecham, President

We continue to work, monitor and prepare

It has been the Board's evaluation that there is no real prospect of gaining the creation of the Douglas-fir National Monument until the nation has undergone a change in Congress and Presidential administration, so we are biding our time. That does not mean that we are just waiting for that eventuality, however.

Worse than simply waiting for positive developments, we have to defend the elements of the proposed Monument while we wait. The Forest Service is taking steps to enlarge the cutting of timber within the area of the proposed Monument, and we continue to monitor and comment on those proposals. Elsewhere in Oregon, the BLM is proposing to increase logging on the O&C lands, which threatens some mature and old growth stands. We continue to monitor that. In Congress the Republicans have made several attempts to pass a law ending the Roadless Rule. Thanks to your and our attention, Oregon's Senators have worked in opposition to these attempts. Meanwhile, the attempt by the Trump administration to repeal the Roadless Rule is being held by the OMB for unknown reasons. We continue to monitor that and will send out an ALERT if there is need and time.

The Board's interim strategy is to do more than monitor and respond. Our plan is to improve our message and expand the number of friends and supporters. Toward that end, we have revisited and revised the Case Statement for the Monument. This document explains why a Douglas-fir National Monument is appropriate within the watersheds of the Santiam, Calapooia and McKenzie Rivers. In addition to the pictures I mentioned before, it contains a list of the trees, plants and animals that are indigenous to the area of the Monument, and a lot more information to support our argument.

You can download an electronic copy of our Case Statement at our web site: <https://www.douglasfirnationalmonument.org/Case%20Statement%202026.pdf> We also continue to make changes to the other parts of our web site <https://www.douglasfirnationalmonument.org/> If you are kind enough to send us pictures and we can fit them in, we will add them to the web site.



The trail goes ever on.

Milo Mecham