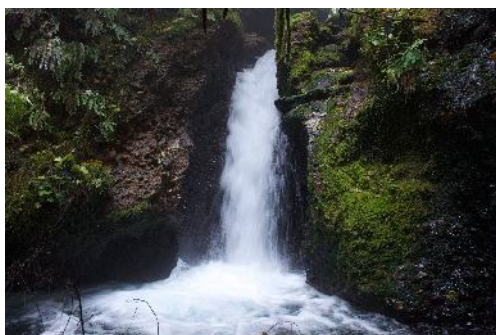




MGRC Update for Fall 2010

Middle Green River Coalition is an organization that is dedicated to protecting the best of the last wild places in Southeast King County



Waterfall on Icy Creek

MGRC Public Meeting and Board Meeting November 1st, 2010

Want to learn more about our organization and the work we are doing to protect open space and quality of life in the watershed? We are having an informal informational meeting and board meeting.

When: 6:30— 9pm

Where: Black Diamond Library
24707 Roberts Drive
Black Diamond, 98010
360-886-1105

Green River Gorge Greenway Council Proposal

Middle Green River Coalition is a 10 year old non-profit dedicated to preserving the "Last of the Best Wild Places in King County" within the Middle Green River watershed. Our mission is to protect and enhance open space in the Middle Green River watershed to ensure long term habitat health and passive recreation opportunities.

MGRC recently finalized two years of research and the subsequent development of a management structure for the Green River Gorge Mountains to Valley Greenway. The structure will be called the Green River Gorge Greenway Council. MGRC, through a National Parks Service Rivers and Trails Technical Assistance grant researched other



Green River Gorge
Greenway Council

successful organizations such as Nisqually River Council, the Mountains to Sound Greenway Foundation, Yakima Greenway Foundation, Cowiche Canyon Conservancy, and the Cedar River Council to come up with a the best fit for the organizations goals in the Greenway.

As a result the council will be primarily agency driven as agencies look toward coordinating efforts on everyday issues such as maintenance and enforcement and the loftier goals of coordinated trails and conservation efforts.

Middle Green River Coalition will serve as the public connection to the council with the MGRC President and Executive Director serving on the council. They will address issues such as conservation, education, and recreation in the Greenway and coordinating efforts with the agencies.

We see this as an exciting time for one of the gems of southeast King County, the Green River Gorge. For years the Green River Gorge has had champions that have come and gone who have worked hard to preserve the Green River Gorge and the water that flows through it. The Green River Gorge Greenway Council will create an organization tasked with continuing the legacy of individuals and agencies who spearheaded the conservation efforts and carry that forward with a lasting legacy of advocacy for the Greater Green River Gorge Mountains to Valley Greenway.



Kayaker at Kanaskat State Park

MGRC Needs Your Help

Your participation will allow the organization to grow and to expand it's work coordinating on existing activities in the Greenway that include native plant restoration, invasive plant removal, forest stewardship, river and stream stewardship, and stewardship planning. Additionally the we will be able to coordinate providing education platforms for local school districts, clubs, nature lovers, etc. Also will be working with other groups to offer outdoor events such as hiking, bird watching, horseback riding, mt. biking, and other activities and educational opportunities in the Greenway. Another focus of the organization will be to work with local business leaders to develop a plan on how the Greenway can benefit local businesses by developing local and regional tourism to the area.

Be the Change you want to see!

Check us out at: www.mgrc.org
e-mail: mgrc@mgrc.org
Phone: 206-902-8305



Water Lily on Bass Lake



Come Discover the Green River Gorge

The unique twelve mile Green River Gorge lies between Kanaskat State Park at the base of the Cascade Foothills and Flaming Geyser State Park where the Gorge opens up into the Green River Valley. There is truly something for everyone!

Flaming Geyser State Park



Flaming Geyser is a 480 acre park located where the Green River Gorge opens up into the fertile Green River Valley. Its surrounded by steep forested hillsides and exposed sandstone. It is an amphitheater of canyon, meadows, and forest. The park is named after a flame that comes out of the ground from an old methane seep. River rafters and kayakers finish their day running the whitewater of the Green River Gorge. **Activities:** Day use, hiking, model airplane flying, picnicking, salmon viewing, special events at the lodge, volleyball, and children's play area. It is also a great location for volunteer groups looking for outdoor projects.

Black Diamond Bridge Site



Also known as the Kummer Mine site is an undeveloped section of the State Park that lies just west of highway 169. An old mining road branches off a dirt road on the rim and descends steeply to a flat area at the river's edge lined with large Cedar trees. On the way down you can see reminders of it's mining days. Across the river is a wall of white sandstone. Up stream is the steel beams of highway 169. Downstream the steep gorge begins to open up as it makes its final journey to the Green River Valley. Currently it is undeveloped and difficult at this time to access. There are plans in the future to link it via the Green River Gorge Rim trail.

Icy Creek



Icy Creek is a display of the unique geology and hydrology of the southern rim of the Gorge. At the rim the large springs appear from beneath side hills and beds of ferns. Then the creek drops rapidly for 300 feet down to the river. A road goes down to the confluence where Icy Creek meets the Green River. At the bottom Icy Creek tumbles out of the gorge and passes a cliff wall dripping with a myriad of springs over undulating Maidenhair ferns before flowing into the river. In the fall this is a great place to view returning Chinook and Coho salmon.

Hanging Gardens



Is also undeveloped except for a hiking trail that leads from a red gate along side the Enumclaw/Franklin rd. The trail follows the fence that secures Black Diamond' watershed. Then it descends through mature forest. On both sides the trail are bleeding hearts, trillium, and giant ferns. As you approach the bottom the view begins to open up and 150 white sandstone cliffs line the north side of the river as it makes a wide bend before heading downstream. Here cliff swallows make their homes and can be seen darting through the air over the river. Plants perch in grooves in the sandstone thus the name hanging Gardens.

Kanaskat



Kanaskat-Palmer State Park is a 320-acre camping park on a small, low plateau in a natural forest setting. The park has two miles of shorelines on the Green River where the river enters starts its journey through the Green River Gorge. The shoreline is natural lined with forest cover along most of it and the beach is made up of rocks of every size. Boat and raft launching is by hand only. It is one of the main launch points for rafters and kayakers running the Green River Gorge. The Gorge is for expert-level enthusiasts only. Shoreline activities include nature appreciation, mt. biking, hiking, fishing and picnicking.

For more information about these areas visit our website at www.mgrc.org or the State Parks website at: <http://www.parks.wa.gov>

MGRC Needs Volunteers

This is an exciting time for our organization and a dynamic time for our communities. We will see incredible growth in the next 10 years. Your help will ensure that we protect some of our most cherished places for today and the future!

Want to make a difference?:

We need help with the following listed below

- Website redesign and management.
- Accounting
- Business expertise
- Volunteer Coordinators
- Event Coordinators
- Newsletter editor
- Writing articles for Newsletters
- Networking for the Green River Gorge Greenway
- Public Outreach
- Environmental Education
- Plant and animal inventory
- Scientific expertise—biologists, hydrologists, geologists

Leading hikes, fishing outings, horseback rides, and Mountain bike rides, etc

- GPS Trail inventory and map design
- WTA trained Trail Crew Leaders
- “Keeping the Green Clean” Adopt a section of the river and packing out trash
- Trail Maintenance
- Restoration Projects with State Parks and King County
- Salmon Flinging and stream restoration with Mid Sound Fisheries
- Your ideas and passions!!

For more information you can visit our website at: www.mgrc.org

A Ribbon of Wilderness in Our Midst



By Wolf Bauer

Recalling the high points in one's life becomes a growing pleasure with age. There are those that you cherish and those that others have recognized. Of those I own, the Green River Gorge experience overshadows all the others. In a long-term future, a preserved Gorge will be a legacy that my generation will, indelibly, have left behind. As a nice thought and treasure

The impact of the Gorge on my psyche remains undiminished. What was it about those first exploratory paddles into the hidden museum of nature? Was it its unbelievable isolation in the midst of a million people? Was it the antiquity of its ancient walls, hinting at massive faulting and erosion over millennia? Was it the sculptured images and fossilized imprints of ancient life forms from both above and below the seas? I think it was the realization that there are “Cathedrals of Nature” that inspire awe and humility.



Wolf Bauer an honorary board member of MGRC. He is the original author of the State Parks Green River Gorge Conservation plan adopted in 1968. He was also the first person to kayak the Green River Gorge. To learn more about Wolf Bauer visit our website.

MGRC Board Members

Greg Wingard — President

Lisa Parsons — Vice President

Open — Treasurer

Fran Troje — Secretary

Members at large: Bernie McKinney, John Ernster, Diane Dupuis, John Frausto, Jeremy Grisham, Lacey O'Grady

Honorary Board Member: Wolf Bauer

Public Relations

Lisa Parsons at mgrc@mgrc.org or 206-902-8305

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