A View of the Summit
Special Edition

CRAG
Winter 2015 Newsletter

Fighting For Your Natural Legacy
Dear Friends,

Over the past fourteen years of fighting to protect the Pacific Northwest's natural legacy we have gotten to know and work alongside many wonderful people. One of our earliest collaborators and inspirations was also one of the greatest advocates for Oregon's wild places, Kate McCarthy. Kate was born and raised in the shadow of Mt. Hood. She was instrumental in securing federal protection for the Columbia River Gorge. Kate relentlessly advocated for Oregon's land use system and the protection of farm and forestland in the Hood River Valley. She marshaled people to her cause and helped found two highly effective conservation groups that continue to protect our special places. Armed with her slide shows and endless passion, she won the fight against the development of overnight lodging at Mt. Hood Meadows. Most of all, Kate spent her days photographing, researching and advocating for the protection of Mt. Hood's alpine flanks.

We lost Kate this fall at 98 years old, after nearly four decades of fierce and inspirational advocacy. Kate was the conscience of Mt. Hood, and she will be deeply missed. Kate taught us to respect, treasure and protect our alpine gem and all the special places in Oregon. We will continue to carry the torch for Mt. Hood, because as she said “There is no right way to do the wrong thing.” We fight the good fight for Kate, for ourselves and for future generations.

Chris and I would be proud to consider ourselves part of Kate's legacy, inspired and guided by her relentless advocacy. And we strive to pass that passion, commitment, and drive on to the next generation of environmental advocates in our staff and volunteers at Crag. Together, we have made a big impact in our local communities in Oregon, Washington and Alaska. As you peruse the following pages, you'll see a few highlights of our work this past year. Our staff has the passion and skill to serve our community. To meet the challenges of today and tomorrow, I ask that you consider making an end-of-the-year donation that is greater than what you have given in the past. We all have a responsibility to leave a positive legacy for future generations, and your gift makes it all possible.

Sincerely,

Ralph Bloemers
Crag Law Center
Big Win for the White Salmon River!
After six years of legal battles, this summer Klickitat County repealed its controversial zoning proposal that threatened to greatly increase sprawl along the Wild & Scenic White Salmon River on the Washington side of the Columbia Gorge.

Beating Back the Coal Industry
Crag won a FOIA case against the Army Corps of Engineers, revealing the agency’s plans to limit public participation in reviewing a key permit for a Columbia River coal export terminal. We celebrated another victory when the Oregon Department of State Lands denied a key permit for the same facility.

Open Pit Gravel Mine Overturned
Crag overturned an approval of an open pit gravel mine in Sunny Valley, Oregon, protecting two important salmon-bearing tributaries to the Rogue River.

New Client
Crag began representing the Nez Perce Tribe’s interests in the clean up and restoration of the Portland Harbor Superfund site.

Victory in the Klamath Basin
Crag won a case against Fish & Wildlife Service for failing to develop conservation plans for the Klamath Wildlife Refuge Network, which provides habitat for millions of migrating birds every year.

Saving Old-Growth Rainforest in Southeast Alaska
3,500 acres of old-growth forest that provides habitat for coastal wolves, deer and goshawks.

Climate Trust Litigation
Crag represented two Oregon youth in their public trust case against the state government for failing to take meaningful action on climate change.

Protecting Subsistence Hunting Grounds in the Arctic Ocean
Crag prevailed in a challenge to an EPA permit for the discharge of pollution from offshore drilling in the subsistence hunting grounds of Alaska Natives.

Fun Times at Wild Shots!
Over 200 Crag clients and supporters joined together for a fun-filled evening to support Crag on October 24th.

Carrying On Kate's Legacy
Our community lost Kate McCarthy this year, but the fight goes on. Mike McCarthy, her son and peer-orchestrant in the Hood River Valley, is a long-time client and leader with our client the Hood River Valley Residents Committee. Mike learned from his mom that sometimes individuals have to step forward to protect what the community values. On behalf of the Hood River Valley Residents Committee and Mike McCarthy we have sued the Forest Service to enforce the Cooper Spur settlement that would protect the North side of Mt. Hood as Wilderness. Hood River and Clackamas Counties and Mt. Hood Meadows have joined in this legal action. Crag staff just helped the Residents Committee pass another bill through the United States Senate and it is headed to the House as we go to press. There is no better way to honor Kate than to continue fighting for her legacy. Thanks Mike for offering your pears to Crag supporters!
The Crag team does not shy away from the tough cases, the ones that will truly protect my children’s future... the cases that provide lasting protection for the wild places in Oregon and in the Pacific Northwest, up-and-down the Cascades... the places that we love and cherish. They bring their incredible talents, passion and commitment to work for us every day.

- JULIA OLSON
  Executive Director, Our Children’s Trust

I can tell you that nobody cares more, works harder, or does more with less than Crag Law Center. More importantly, they win. They win case after case for you, for me, and for our environment. We simply could not succeed without them.

- BRETT VANDENHEUVEL
  Executive Director, Columbia Riverkeeper

Crag taught me that the most effective advocates are passionate about their work and that working hard doing what you believe in can be incredibly rewarding.

- CHUCK BRUSHWOOD
  Fish and Wildlife Policy Analyst for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation - Former Crag Intern

FOUNDATION DONORS: Alice Tyler Perpetual Trust, Cooper Spur Wild & Free, Deer Creek Foundation, Jubitz Foundation, William and Emmy Lawrence Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, Lazar Foundation, Mazamas Conservation Committee, Mitzvah Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, McIntosh Foundation, Oak Foundation, Patagonia, Templeton Foundation.