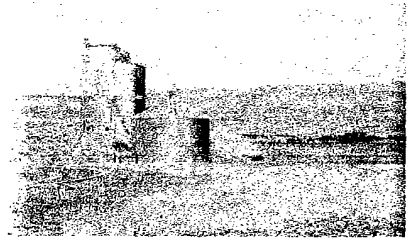


February 10, 2003
Grapeview, Washington

Mr. Rick Hanks, *National Monument Manager*
Bureau of Land Management (831) 372-6105
California Coastal National Monument
299 Foam Street
Monterey, California 93940
rhanks@ca.blm.gov



Dear Rick:

I've made the contact with the Environmental Protection Agency Estuary Program for the Lower Columbia here in Oregon and Washington. I have been working with them with a rather light touch for the past two years as a volunteer for the Army Corps of Engineers much further upriver along the dammed portions of the Columbia and even the lower reaches of the Snake River. And watching somewhat casually as a member of the Washington Water Trails Association, and as a customer of Alder Creek Canoe and Kayak, an outfitter where I purchased my two sea kayaks and all the gear and clothing that goes along with them.

Morro Bay is an easy site for a shared informational message about rocks, bays, estuaries, and even outfitted hikes, paddles, and fishing boat charters out of a much loved, albeit rather small, estuary in the national program. Here is material about the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, and about the present status of the Lower Columbia River Water Trail below Bonneville Dam to the Columbia Bar near Astoria. San Francisco Bay and Santa Monica Bay may be a bit more difficult, but both are worth pursuing as "partnerships."

There are "water trails" along several of the rivers of Oregon where enough land has been acquired in public ownership to make possible several days of travel. Usually with self-organized camping out and even outfitting support provided by local communities wishing to encourage this form of tourism, or by associations whose major purpose is the preservation of the river. The Willamette Riverkeeper organization will be in its third year of sponsoring a week long Paddle Oregon by the fall of 2003. And the Tualatin Riverkeeper organization is not too far behind, mostly with single day paddles.

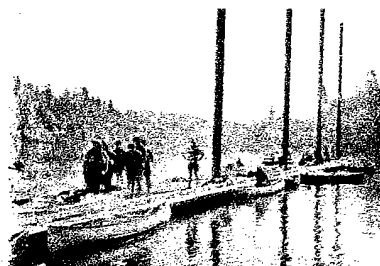
Do You Hear the River Calling?

Answer it. Join Willamette Riverkeeper's annual Paddle Oregon canoe and kayak event on the Willamette River in 2003. Paddle down one of the West's greatest rivers from Astoria, OR to Clatskanie State Park some 110 river miles.

Willamette Riverkeeper's 2002 PADDLE OREGON
September 9th-13th
Sea Kayak & Canoe Expedition

Over the course of five days you'll see fantastic scenery, learn about the river's history and ecology from experts, and have your paddling skills up to some of the best paddlers around.

All you need is your canoe or kayak and a thirst for outdoor adventure. Space is limited so contact us for a registration packet today!



*Bob
Burco*