

# THE BYWAY BEAT



SUMMER 2009

Official Newsletter of the Coulee Corridor

## THE BYWAY BEHIND THE SCENERY

Washington State Scenic Byways Program under WSDOT is working on a new strategic plan, Washington's Scenic and Recreational Highways System Plan Update. It is part of Washington's Transportation Plan looking 20 years to 2030. There is an expected population growth of 1.7 million people, an older population: 20% over 65 years old, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 25% below 1990 levels, and declining gas tax revenue along with innovative ways to move people and goods.

### Why have a plan?

- To ensure a shared goal for Washington's Scenic and Recreational Highways
- Raise awareness of needs
- Be strategic with limited resources
- Provide information to the legislature and meet state and federal planning requirements



### Partnership Opportunities:

- Strengthen partnerships among stakeholder agencies and organizations
- Strengthen ties between Corridor Management Plans, local comprehensive plans, and other transportation plans
- Strengthen ties to new 2009 legislation related to stewardship and adaptation planning/climate change (this last part causes some concern as we embrace VMT-vehicle miles traveled)

Washington's Scenic and Recreational Highways are 3000 miles of the state's total of 6300 miles. The goal for plan completion is early 2010. Issue papers and reports will be developed between now and then covering: Policies and Procedures, Needs and Performance Measures. These papers will form the basis for the plan.

There is good news for the Coulee Corridor Scenic Byway, as it is designated a National Scenic Byway, it is very unlikely that it would be touched if efforts were made to de-designate Scenic or Recreational Highways. We also have been assured that any actively supported Byway is safe.

On July 15, 2009, Coulee Corridor Consortium representatives (Tim Alling, Ken Caylor, and Harry

Hayter) traveled to Olympia to attend the first Steering Committee Meeting, there were many byway organizations represented at this meeting, in a strong showing of grassroots strength and concern for our Washington State Scenic Byways Program. At the end of the meeting, there was discussion between the Byways representatives to form a statewide "Scenic Byway Alliance," this organization would represent all Byways in Washington State and give byways a voice at the state level. Also, there is a push by Byway folks to move the Byway program to Tourism.

- Tim Alling, Chair CCC

### Consortium Officers

- Tim Alling ~ Chairman
- Ken Caylor ~ Vice Chairman
- Birdie Hensley ~ Secretary
- Deb Guttormsen ~ Treasurer

### Contact Information

P.O. Box 421  
Coulee City, WA 99115

### Coulee Corridor Coordinator

Corinne Isaak  
509.977.1207

### Down the Road

### All Meetings begin at Noon

#### August

eNewsletter

#### September 18

Michael's on the Lake  
Moses Lake

#### October 16

Breadline Cafe  
Omak

#### November 20

Banks Lake Brew  
Coulee City

Scenic and Recreational Highways Plan website...

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/LocalPrograms/ScenicByways/BywaysPlan.htm>



www.couleecorridor.com



# STATE PARKS ENVISIONS NEW VISITOR CENTER

Washington State Parks is in the final stages of completing conceptual plans for the Dry Falls Visitor Center site and a new visitor's center. The conceptual plans were developed around the belief that the Dry Falls Visitor Center should be a world-class facility to highlight the events and resulting landscape associated with the Ice Age floods. The Dry Falls Visitor Center, a major amenity of the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway, will become an even greater attraction through the newly created Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail that passes the site, originating in Montana and passing through Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and terminating at the Pacific Ocean.

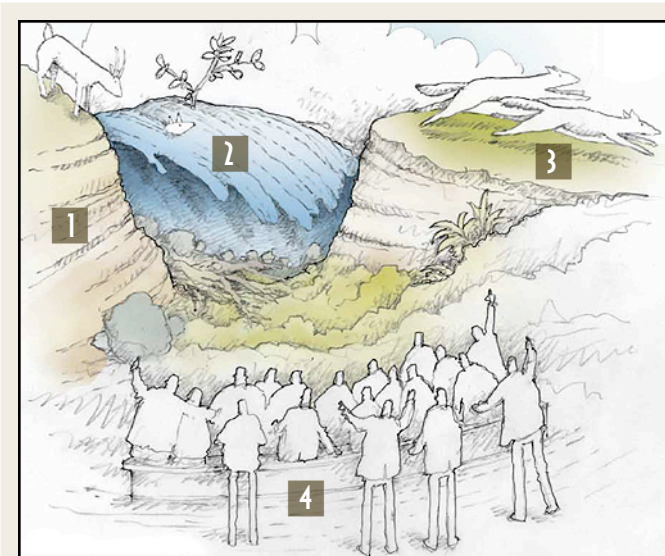
The newly planned Dry Falls Visitor Center is envisioned to be an exciting place for kids and adults to have memorable experiences and to have hands-on learning opportunities related to physics and geology. Project designers are proposing a 40-seat immersive theater (illustration below) with spectacular images, vivid storytelling, superb animation, and

dramatic musical scores, all to provide a visitor experience of being in an Ice Age flood event. Exhibit display galleries will tell stories of volcanic activity, basalt flows, and Ice Age floods, as well as cultural and natural history legacies of the floods and the regional landscape.

Although the proposed Visitor Center would be a visitor destination attraction, it would also promote/encourage visitors to experience the real Ice Age flood features at Sun Lakes-Dry Falls, Potholes Reservoir, and Steamboat Rock State Parks, as well as other regional locations.

Funds are needed to convert the conceptual plans into detailed design/construction plans and specifications and the ultimate site, building and interpretive displays/exhibits construction. Partnerships with the National Park Service, Ice Age Floods Institute and the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway are being explored by State Parks.

-Bill Fraser, State Parks



## Immersive Theater Illustration

- 1) Modeled rockwork & debris
- 2) Rear projection of flood images
- 3) Modeled animals appear from behind theatrical scrim
- 4) Bench seating for 40 visitors



**CCC Interpretive Panels Beautify the Byway...** Four new interpretive panels will make their debut this fall at the Lake Lenore Caves. During the last year, a CCC Committee together with State Parks have been working diligently creating informative panels that will add to the experience of the Caves. The panels will feature information on geology, history/culture and the landscape of the area. The panels will be set on basalt bases which add to their curbside appeal.

The committee and parks incorporated the newly-adopted Coulee Corridor Design Guidelines. In fact, these Guideline's colors and design will be used in every project along the byway in an effort to establish continuity and a sense of branding along our majestic byway.

This project was made possible through the grant funds the CCC received and the volunteer time from many members and partners who support the byway. A job well done for the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway. Remember to step on the brakes in late October and check them out!!

We'll be back along side the Byway in September, picking up litter as we continue the **Adopt-a-Highway** program. We would love to have you lend a hand! We'll supply the vests, hardhats and gloves. Contact Corinne Isaak for more details.



The **Coulee Corridor Consortium** is a 501 c 6, non-profit organization. Annual Memberships cost the following... Individual \$15 ~Family \$25 ~Business \$50. Funds raised are used to promote tourism along the byway. Let's collaborate in an effort to increase the knowledge of our history, recreational opportunities, scenery, and culture along the Coulee Corridor National Scenic Byway.