

March 2015: Madrone Wall Status Update

by **Keith K. Daellenbach, Secretary/Treasurer and Director, MWPC and Adam Baylor, Mazama Stewardship & Advocacy Manager**

Early advocacy efforts saved Madrone Wall from being blown up as an open pit rock quarry and logged of its uncommon stand of Pacific madrone and old growth Douglas fir. That was 18 years ago and Madrone Wall is still closed despite such efforts. But today climbers are working harder than ever to help open this beautiful crag again to public access. Here is what we've been working on in recent years:

First, the Madrone Wall Preservation Committee (MWPC), an all-volunteer nonprofit 501(c)(3) conservation organization, completed detailed engineering construction plans for an aggregate access road and parking lot after three years of pro-bono work from T.Y. Lin International engineering firm. Second, working with Clackamas County Parks, with your help we completed 800 hours of volunteer time at the site building trails and removing illegally dumped rubbish. Third, with support from the Mazamas, Access Fund, American Alpine Club, and CRAG Law Center, we are trying to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding with County Parks. Finally and most importantly, we are creating ways for you to get involved to save Madrone Wall with permanent park status and open it to public recreational access including rock climbing!

PARK CREATION AND MOU

In order to create a public park and re-gain access to Madrone Wall, Clackamas County Parks requires the resurfacing of the existing aggregate quarter mile access road and construction of a small gravel parking lot at the base of the Wall before the County will allow access and open a public park. To help find a way to accomplish this step, we

proposed accessing the support of the Oregon National Guard. MWPC is working with the 1249th Engineering Battalion to determine if there is a possible partnership that could move this effort forward. This would be a partnership between County Parks, the public owner of the land, and the Oregon National Guard. It conceivably would allow Oregon soldiers to train on road building using excavators, dozers, scrapers, and rollers for essentially no labor cost to the County. If this approach is approved, it will be a win-win-win: the County wins with essentially a zero-labor construction cost, the soldiers of the State of Oregon gain the experience of building a road and using construction equipment as a training activity on a meaningful and lasting project, and the public would have a new park in which to recreate.

To move park creation plans forward, County Parks stipulated that a Memorandum of Understanding is required between County Parks and MWPC. This MOU would define roles and responsibilities and support activities that MWPC would provide County Parks as a long-term "friends of" and stewardship organization. We wrote a draft MOU in May 2014 and submitted this to County Parks. We waited nine months for the County to provide feedback but have heard none.

That is why we are ramping up our efforts to work closely with Mazamas, Access Fund, and the American Alpine Club, all longtime allies in the effort to save Madrone Wall, in an attempt to kick-start this 18-year old effort to move forward with new discussions with elected County officials and County Parks.

GET INVOLVED AND SAVE MADRONE WALL

Mazamas and all climbers and hikers can look for ways to get involved in the coming year. For now, you can Like our



Pacific madrone at base of Madrone Wall.
Photo: Keith K. Daellenbach

Facebook Page, "Madrone Wall Preservation Committee," stay connected online, and refer to updates on our website www.savemadrone.org. We'll also send an Action Alert via email soon. We encourage you to contact decision makers in Clackamas County including the Board of County Commissioners (www.clackamas.us/bcc/) and County Parks (www.clackamas.us/parks/). We are grateful for, over the years, hundreds of you voiced your opinion to decision makers but we're at another crux and ask for your renewed support! It's been 18 years since the closure. Time to open the gate to a new public park protecting this amazing civic treasure. Please write and email Clackamas County officials today!

About the Author

Keith K. Daellenbach is an engineering manager at a local medical device company and has been a Mazama member since 1999. He has done numerous climbs including Liberty and Ptarmigan Ridges on Mt. Rainier, the north ridge of the Grand Teton, El Pico de Orizaba, and he led two first ascents of remote alpine peaks in the Alaska Coast Range mountains on the Juneau Icefield. He is founder and director of the all-volunteer, local non-profit Madrone Wall Preservation Committee focused on preserving and creating a park at the Clackamas County Madrone Wall site near Carver.