

Wet Planet Rafting & Kayaking

Organizer, 8th Annual White Salmon Riverfest, Symposium & Community Raft trip

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PRESS RELEASE – for immediate release

Great community tradition continues at 8TH ANNUAL WHITE SALMON RIVERFEST – July 10th in Husum, Washington.

In addition to warm weather, summer also brings the White Salmon Riverfest & Symposium to our community each year. Scheduled this summer for Wednesday July 10th, Husum will be bustling with activities all day long with something for everyone.

The event kicks off with the incredibly popular annual community float. This affordable, \$20 raft trip is designed for the local community to enjoy the river together. If you have not had the opportunity before, this fun even is a great way to go see the watershed and why the New York Times mentioned this river as one of 43 “must do’s” in the world for 2013 (1 of 4 in the US).

Reservations for the rafting trip can be made by phone 800.306.1673/509 493 8989 or online www.wetplanetwhitewater.com. Please note, the trip is especially for folks who live in the area, in the White Salmon valley or extended Gorge communities. “We care about the White Salmon River, and appreciate being able to take visitors and neighbors rafting and kayaking every day. It always surprises us how many folks in the area have never been out on the river, so we love creating this opportunity each year to share it in an affordable way our community members who don’t get a chance to get out on the river as much as we do” says Wet Planet owner Todd Collins, who is also on the Husum – BZ Community Council.

After the rafting trip, rafters and event attendees are invited to grab lunch by the newest eatery in Husum, Big Man’s Rotisserie. For the occasion, the Big Man’s grill will be stationed at the parking lot of the Husum Fire Hall, welcoming people to the afternoon’s Symposium.

After the community float, the White Salmon River Symposium agenda offers an exciting list of current and relevant topics that have been on many a river user’s mind ever since Condit Dam came out. “The landscape of the White Salmon River has changed, and we hope to provide information on current issues for river users and landowners that pertain to the river and its resources” says Jeanette Burkhardt, organizer of this year’s symposium.

The topics, presented by regional experts, include a “state of the river” overview; conservation resources available to landowners; the threat, identification and prevention of the spread of aquatic invasive species; watershed stewardship; fish resources: an update and what to expect. A moderated discussion will follow with a panel of river-related specialists, who will wrestle with the benefits and challenges of wood in the river. Additional sub-basin and river-related information will be provided by organizations at table displays. Washington State Dept. of Fish & Wildlife staff will hold two demonstrations on how to decontaminate a water craft (using a boat-washing station outside the fire hall) in order to prevent the introduction or spread of aquatic invasive species which could threaten the

economic and ecological vitality of the river. Raffle drawings will be held in between talks, and visitors will have opportunities to interact with presenters and panelists.

Following the symposium it is time to get out on the river again for the Social Paddle & Trash Bash. The Wednesday Evening Social Paddle, organized each week by Luke Maddox with the Kayak Shed, is joining forces with local raft guides led by Zoller's guide Ben Kofoed for a river clean-up. Paddlers are challenged to pick up as much trash as possible, and prizes will be given for the most and/or funniest river trash collected.

After the a great day of activities, the party will move to Husum Riverside B&B and Ice House Café. The river community will be able to grab a slice of pizza by Solstice, and a beverage at the bar. This will also be a great opportunity to watch OPB's documentary about the White Salmon River, "The White Salmon River Runs Free: Breaching the Condit Dam" created by Andy Maser. As of 8:30 PM, local band The Shed Shakers will be filling the dance floor.

For more information about the White Salmon Riverfest & Symposium, contact: jaco@wetplanetwhitewater.com, www.wetplanetwhitewater.com, or call 509 493 8989.