



Co-op Developments

A short monthly update about co-op development in the Pacific Northwest provided to you on or about the 20th of each month. Please share with your network!

Support Co-op Development in the PNW: Donate Today!

Fire Ravages the West Coast



Fire whipped through Oregon and Washington this month leaving a wake of devastation, including [Tontons Artisan Affections](#) which is also the home of South Oregon Nutritional Innovation Center ([SONIC](#)) which had been planning to convert to a community owned cooperative in the coming year. The communities of Talent and Phoenix Oregon were especially hit hard. [Breitenbush Hot Springs](#) (a worker cooperative and intentional community) has lost half of its structures. We are glad that no lives were lost and hope that

everyone in our cooperative community stays safe through these harrowing times. If you are able to help fund relief efforts, please do so at the following links:



[Welcoming Sascha and Wishing Miles Safe Travels](#)

We are sad to announce that Miles Nowlin will be leaving NWCDC in November to pursue a dual master's degree in Latin American Studies and Community and Regional Planning at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. But we are also very happy to announce that Sascha Fischel-Freeman will be taking over Miles duties.

Greetings Cooperators. With mixed emotions, I inform you that I am leaving NWCDC on Nov 1st to return to school. I will be heading to the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque this winter to pursue a dual masters degree in Latin American Studies and Community and Regional Planning. Over the last 3 and a half years working with the Center, I have had the great fortune of learning by doing, alongside so many passionate experts in the co-op world. I was introduced to the power of limited equity housing co-ops as a long-term fix to housing instability through my work with the ROC USA network, a group of 10 co-op development centers around the country. working tirelessly to protect manufactured homeowners and their communities. I had the great pleasure of being able to offer 5 housing communities the chance to purchase the land under their homes as cooperatives to improve, preserve, and protect their communities indefinitely. One of my largest take away from this experience is that housing co-op organizing on the ground level has profound potential to bring people together of different races, politics, languages, varying education, and abilities, to fight for a common cause — housing justice through collectivism. Thank you NWCDC staff for allowing me this opportunity, thanks ROC USA colleagues for your partnerships and guidance, and thank you ROC Northwest co-op members for keeping me humble, honest, and on my toes. See you all in orbit in the greater co-op odyssey.



-Miles Nowlin



We welcome Sascha Fischel-Freeman to NWCDC! His introduction to cooperatives came from the CECOSOLA cooperative network in Barquisimeto, Venezuela where he worked for four years. Later, he worked for the Shelton School District in Shelton, WA where he coordinated the district's program for homeless youth and families. As an employee of the district, he worked to implement restorative alternatives to zero tolerance discipline, and worked as an advocate for immigrant communities, other communities of color and youth experiencing homelessness. Sascha holds a bachelor's degree from The Evergreen State College focusing in community studies and youth development and a master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin in Cultural Studies in Education. He is excited to partner with communities around the state of Washington to develop and foster internal leadership and to develop systems of mutual support. Sascha is a bilingual, English-Spanish speaker.

Putting the Principles to the Test!

Last spring, NWCDC was approached by an instructional designer to work on an educational project for co-ops. We were recommended to her by former NWCDC president **Maura Schwarz** and Co-op Hall of Famer, **Rosemary Mahoney** with whom Amy has worked with on international projects. The result is an interactive learning guide on the Seven Principles of Cooperation. You can test your knowledge at our [website](#). Please share with your cooperative and the cooperative curious in your community. We would also appreciate any feedback on the course. A special thanks to Pioneer Utility Resources for the use of the "7" logo on our front page. This course was designed and developed by **Amy Warren**, instructional designer. Need an e-learning course for your organization? Contact Amy to find out how she can help. Email her at amywarren.id@gmail.com. View her LinkedIn profile [here](#).

Co-ops Get Out the Vote

Cooperatives are all about democracy. The word shows up in the definition of co-ops, in its values and in its principles. In 2016, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association create the [Co-ops Vote!](#) Campaign and this year, September 22nd has been declared "National Register to Vote" Day. Co-ops across the country are urged to help the members register to vote and cast their ballots on November 3rd.

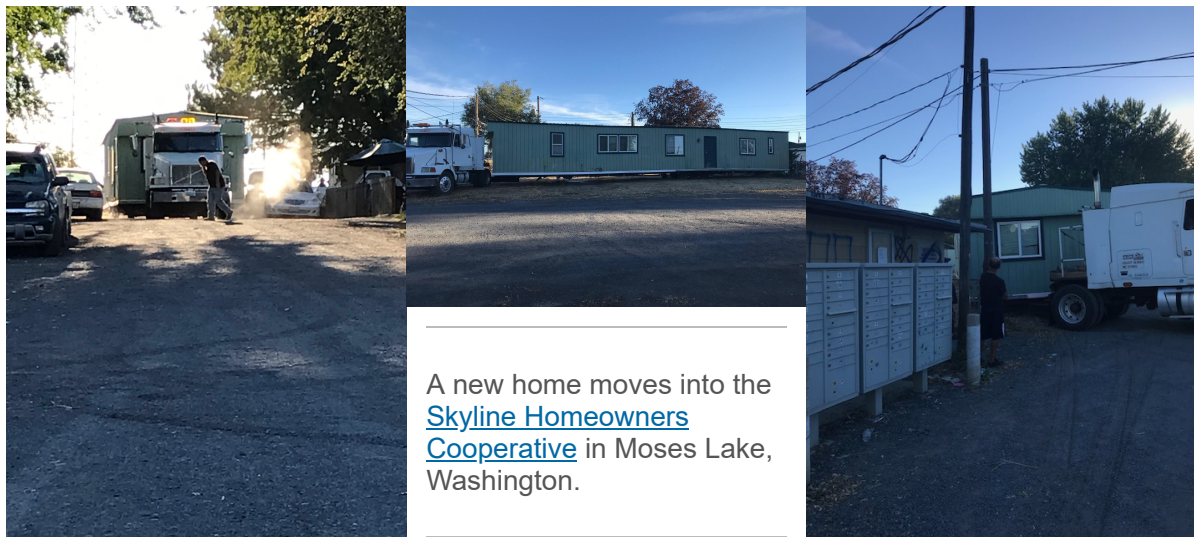


While your helping your fellow cooperators register, also help them fill out the census. The 2020 Census is vital for rural communities to be counted. [Respond today and be counted!](#)

ROC NW News

When Resident Owned Co-ops Expand

When most co-ops grow, it means adding new members, or opening a second location. In a Resident Owned Community, expansion is a little more complicated! Infill at ROCs is not an easy process, there are lots of permits, insurance, inspections before the home is moved in and after it's placed and hooked up to utilities - did we say paperwork?!? But, it so incredibly rewarding to know that there will be one more family enjoying affordable housing and more money coming into the co-op!



ROC Boards Practice Safe Board Meetings

The board of the [Ponderosa Homeowners Cooperative](#) in Moses Lake, WA takes advantage of summer warmth and evening shade to hold an in-person board meeting with social distancing



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