

**2007 Co-Op Conference  
L.L. Stub Stewart Volunteer Award Banquet  
Running Y Ranch Resort**

**Bill Gregory, Chair Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission**

Good morning everyone. It has been a pleasure to join all of you this weekend in beautiful Southern Oregon. It is near here, in Glendale Oregon, that I built a career and raised a family. The logging industry is and always will be a part of who I am. [Bill, some personal connection to the area and a little something about you here. If you give me some details I would be happy to write something.]

My friend Stub spent his 40 year association with Oregon State Parks as a volunteer. It is not just his name we honor today but it is the spirit of volunteerism to which he dedicated his life.

It is that spirit of volunteering that motivated me to come out of retirement for a second time and join the Commission. It was the motivation and inspiration of others that gave me the opportunity to make a difference.

That is what we are about isn't it? Creating opportunities? Opportunities to open the eyes of children to the outdoors; opportunities to give the inheritance of preserved and protected open space to those that come after us; opportunities for our aging population to participate with a purpose in our vision; opportunities for peoples of many cultures to enjoy and enhance the public lands of our great state.

Over the course of the past few days, we have heard a clear message – continue to do what you do, do what you do professionally, consistently and with passion and focus. Tell the story to those in your parks and in your communities, extending the invitation and the opportunity to not just hear the story but to become a part of it.

We have heard about what we should be doing and why we should be doing it. We have heard what others are doing and why they are doing it. And we have heard how we can do what we are doing better. Now it is time to take what we have heard and celebrate what we can do and how we can work together to connect to those around us in a very special and powerful way.

We can connect to **past generations** by providing purposeful opportunities to get involved. We can celebrate the experiences of those that are moving out of full time

careers yet still have so much more they want to give and now seek the opportunity to share their skills and talents to make a difference. We can honor those that need to rest and value their contributions by learning from them and letting them go.

We can connect to **present generations** by recognizing the multiplicity of the communities in which we live. We can be curious about the world around us and the eyes through which others see it. We can provide opportunities to learn from others and look closely at what we do and how we do it. We can build facilities where others can come and discover the world around them and where stories can be told.

We can connect to **future generations** by reaching the kids. We can develop world-class programs that engage and inspire our youth to develop their own curiosity about the world in which they live. We can open the doors and the windows to the natural, cultural and recreational resources that abound. We can passionately embrace the challenge of preserving and protecting our open spaces for generations to come.

We can continue to invest in our partnerships! We can, together, desire to do better. We can commit to telling the story – no, to LIVING the story that opens our minds and our hearts in a rich and robust way. It is living the story that Stub did so very well. He exemplified the characteristics recognized today with the Inspiration, Life Service, Leadership and Rising Star Awards!

Thank you for your hard work, generous contributions, diligence and passion. Together we can continue to tell the stories, create opportunities, and make connections.

[Bill takes his seat up front – Tim comes to the dais to begin the awards ceremony.]