



## Mountain West Outdoor Club Newsletter

April, 2021

Adopt-a-Trail, March 18, 2021

A big **thank you** to the following MWOC members who spent a morning making repairs on the Big Springs Loop Trail, #113. Special thanks to **Winnie Morrison** who provided home-made cookies for these volunteers and their supervisors, Matt and Bart, from Ridge to Rivers.

**Judy Farnsworth**, organizer

Dave Horsman  
Elnora Roderick  
Kay Smith  
Patti Campbell  
Mary Brown  
Cynthia Alleman  
Alvena Kinkade  
Claire Veseth  
Terrilyn Scott  
Katie Sewell  
Terry Stoll  
Kay Stoll  
Stu Rich



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Thank you to MWOC member, Steve Schaps, a retired Geophysicist, for writing and sharing this third in a series informative article about another popular club hiking area.

### **Avimor geology and groundwater (or lack thereof) and the long supply line to both Avimor and Hidden Springs by Suez**

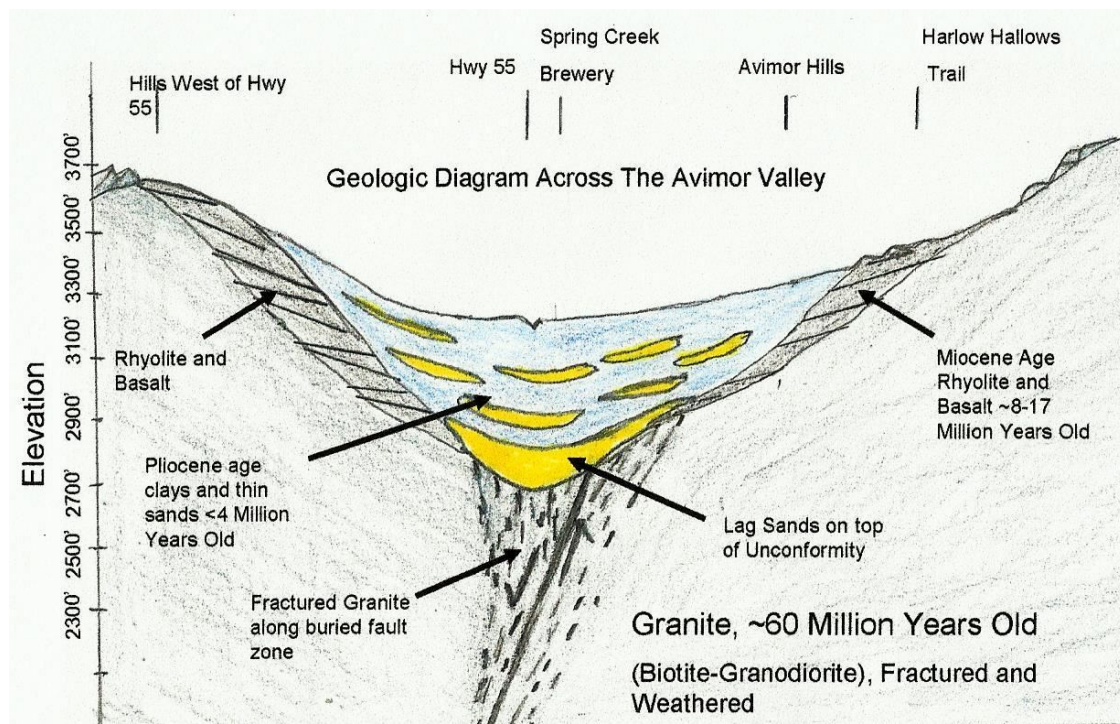
In the 2002-2005 time period before Avimor was developed a significant effort was made to explore for water to see if Avimor could be locally supplied instead of being connected to outside water systems. These initial efforts tested a variety of different areas and geologic concepts as did other wells drilled 5-10 miles further west in the Spring Valley development area. Many of these wells found groundwater but not enough to supply Avimor and future growth areas long-term.

Avimor sits in a valley with a limited drainage area and with limited water supplies above the bedrock. The bedrock at Avimor consists of Miocene age (~8-17 million year old) volcanic rocks (primarily Rhyolite and Basalt) and those rocks sit in turn sit above much older Cretaceous Granite (~60 Million Years Old). There are water resources in both the fractured and weathered Bedrock Granite and the much more recent valley-fill deposits consisting of thick lag sands sitting on the old erosional surface and more recent streambed sands above the lag sands but below the water table.

The Avimor Valley is primarily recharged by Spring Valley Creek which drains the area below Stack Rock but is limited to the North by the drainage divide with the South Fork of Willow Creek which you would drive over about 1.4 miles north of the fairgrounds. The bedrock in the Avimor Valley is about 200-400 feet deep and is localized along a fault zone that runs from the Beacon Light Area past Dry Creek Ranch and into the canyon below Avimor. This fault zone is buried by more recent sediments and is not seismically active or an earthquake hazard but it does localize and sometimes isolate the groundwater aquifers. It probably also increases fracture density and water production rates in the Granite basement rocks which can also serve as "hard rock" aquifers and have been used for local ranch water supplies in the foothills areas where no municipal supply connections exist. These wells are expensive to drill, risky, and generally low-rate because they lack the porosity and permeability of sandstone deposits.

To supply Avimor, Suez pumps water uphill from a well located on Floating Feather (right next to Eagle Middle School). Suez pumps the water from this well to it's Hidden Hollow water tank near the dry creek cemetery and up to hidden springs and then finally up Burnt Car Draw to Avimor. That's a lot of pumping and makes both Avimor and Hidden Springs dependent on just one single well. This is one of several reasons why Suez has tried to buy Eagle Water Company and connect its Floating Feather well to another Suez well at Redwood Creek Subdivision a couple miles further West.

If you would like to learn more about individual wells or local wells you can use the GIS Search engine on the Idaho Department of Water Resources website, [www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov). Click on "Wells" then click on "Find a Well" and zoom the map to your location. If you have questions about this study or would like to be emailed a list of the data used in this study, or geologic references email the author directly at [thewildwestguy@gmail.com](mailto:thewildwestguy@gmail.com).



## CLUB ACTIVITIES

**MONTHLY PICNICS** will resume on the first Monday of the month starting on **May 3**. Watch for an email update regarding details and protocols for that event.

**TUESDAY HIKES** Email announcements are sent each week with location and time. Hikes are of moderate difficulty, 4 to 6 miles, lasting approximately 2 to 2.5 hours. Starting time varies with time of year and weather conditions. If you have questions contact Pat Dailey, 208-272-0639. Tuesday hike shown below was led by Anne Schorzman on March 2. Thanks to Greg Farmer for photo.

**WEDNESDAY HIKES** begin at 10 AM winter, earlier in the summer. Hikes are fast-paced, of challenging difficulty, 5 or more miles and lasting 3 or more hours, depending on trail and weather conditions. Challenging difficulty means that you'll need to be in good hiking condition because of significant elevation gain and/or increased mileage. Watch for an



email announcement of meeting place and hike description. If you have questions, contact Scott Stolhand, 208-891-2214.

**THURSDAY HIKES** and other miscellaneous activities will be posted via email. If you have questions contact Liz McWhorter, 208-891-0426.



Shout out to **Ruth Garcia**, for again organizing Thursday Nordic skiing and snowshoeing at Bogus. Photo by Greg Farmer of Ruth, center, MWOC vice-president, Jim Wolfe and hike leader, Anne Schorzman skiing at Gold Fork.



Friends of the Owyhee is offering a monthly series of day trips (March to November) exploring the geology of that area. For more information click here:

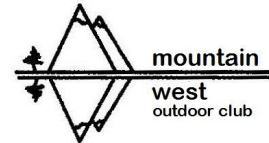
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## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**EMAILS** Local mid-week activities (hikes, paddles, bike-rides, etc.) are announced through Wild Apricot emails. If you have questions about sending or receiving e-mails, please contact Kay Stoll at [teksas2steppe@gmail.com](mailto:teksas2steppe@gmail.com) Group emailing is not to be used to advocate for any political issue, whether national or local. Messages that provide only factual information, such as the time and place of a meeting, or an issue of likely interest to members are welcome..

**MWOC ACTIVITIES** Planning a MWOC excursion? Or thinking of an excursion where you would like to invite like-minded souls? For publication in the newsletter send details to [clg83706@yahoo.com](mailto:clg83706@yahoo.com).

**MWOC WEBSITE** You don't have to login to visit most of the MWOC pages, including the calendar of events, news, and resources. The pages that require login are your own profile, membership directory, and Gallery. If you haven't already created a password for the website, click on Login at the top of the page, enter your email address, and click "Forgot password." You will receive an email message with instructions. Please address questions to [laura.jenski@gmail.com](mailto:laura.jenski@gmail.com).



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