



CLEARWATER DEFENDER

NEWS OF THE BIG WILD

A PUBLICATION OF
FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

25TH ANNIVERSARY
SPECIAL EDITION



Greg Freistadt Photo Credit

At approximately 260,000-acres, the Weitas Creek Roadless Area is the heart of Wild Clearwater Country. The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, HR 3334, would designate this magnificent landscape, and the remaining roadless base in the northern Rockies, as wilderness. Join us in advocating for this visionary legislation.

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FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

THE CLEARWATER DEFENDER

IS A PUBLICATION OF:

Friends of the Clearwater

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Friends of the Clearwater, a recognized nonprofit organization since 1987, defends the Clearwater Bioregion's wildlands and biodiversity through a Forest Watch program, litigation, grassroots public involvement, outreach, and education. The Wild Clearwater Country, the northern half of central Idaho's Big Wild, contains many unprotected roadless areas and wild rivers and provides crucial habitat for countless, rare, plant and animal species. Friends of the Clearwater strives to protect these areas, restore degraded habitats, preserve viable populations of native species, recognize national and international wildlife corridors, and bring an end to commodity extraction and industrialization on public lands.

Friends of the Clearwater is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions to Friends of the Clearwater are tax-deductible.

The Clearwater Defender welcomes artwork and articles pertaining to the protection of the Big Wild. Articles in the Clearwater Defender do not necessarily reflect the views of Friends of the Clearwater.

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**Former FOC Intern Sarah Spogen (at right)
Leading a Snowshoe Trip
FOC Photo Credit**

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Twenty-Five Years Steve Paulson

How to summarize the 25-years since FOC appealed the Lens Creek and Susi Too Timber sales?

That timber sale appeal, the first timber sale appeal in the region, resulted in front-page ink in the Lewiston Tribune for three days in a row, and aired on radio and TV. The name of the new environmental group, Friends of the Clearwater, was etched in hatred into the forefront of most local minds. Remember, in those days, quite literally, logging was king, Potlatch Forest Industries was the government, and almost everyone in Clearwater, Idaho, Benewah, and Shoshone Counties, and most in Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce Counties worked for timber. Remember, the Clearwater National Forest was shipping 175-MILLION board feet of logs every twelve months down-river. Potlatch was cutting about the same, and Bennett and the other private timber companies were hacking about the same numbers. Money was growing on trees, and pristine native habitat was disappearing, fast. Elk, fish, native plants, and predators were disappearing even faster.

So, how do we measure the effect of FOC in the past 25 years? One problem with this question is that no one has been keeping score. Do we count the board feet of timber still standing, or the board feet of timber appealed by FOC, or the board feet of only the appeals that we won? What about the sales that we lost, but delayed the Forest Service from initiating new sales? What about the secondary effects of sales that we won using scientific evidence which kept the Forest Service from offering further sales using those same tired arguments, like their assertion that logging near a stream will not effect water quality or Chinook salmon reproduction? What about the secondary effects of winning appeals like the Dworshak Extension Road, a road that would have connected the nearly-free-timber transportation costs around Dworshak Reservoir to ALL the roadless habitat in the middle reaches of the North Fork of the Clearwater River? Had this road been built, it is likely that ALL these pristine areas would have been logged before the Clinton moratorium on road building in RARE II roadless areas. Long live the bank monkeyflower!

Another example of a successful appeal that halted timber sales far beyond the value of timber being appealed was the Fish Bate Timber Sale. After our second-ever appeal victory, on this same cutting area, and in conjunction with several other local groups, the annual timber output on the Clearwater National Forest plummeted from 175-million board feet each year to a modest 25-million. Timber production on the Clearwater National Forest has never recovered to historical levels after this one appeal. This lower production level has lasted for over a decade. It appears the Forest Service wants to raise the level to about 50-million

board feet every year.

Another approach for measuring our success is counting the number of unprotected wilderness areas still remaining on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. Try to imagine the number of elk, moose, steelhead, bears, bank monkeyflowers, lions, wolves, goshawks, etc. that are still here, precisely because FOC was there to speak for their needs.

We could, if someone had kept score, measure our success by the number of people who have been empowered to work against the destruction of our natural heritage; to work as staff, to volunteer in the office or in the field, to write letters, to attend and speak at public meetings, to serve on the board of directors, to lobby in D.C., to donate money, to educate themselves on the issues, to raise their voices within the agencies or companies, or to simply start thinking about our natural heritage as more valuable than a clearcut.

But who is keeping score? The measure of success, with the greatest potential for exponential growth, is the quality of the community that has formed around FOC. FOC was born from seeds in the minds of a few like-minded people, who saw something of value being lost forever, and had the courage to stand, to speak out, and to act against the dominant destructive culture. These seeds continue into the present, expanded a thousand-fold. This is growth.

Editor's Note: Steve Paulson founded FOC in 1987. He is currently our longest standing Board member.



**Steve Paulson In The Backcountry
FOC File Photo**

Looking Back On Cove-Mallard
Guest Opinion
Natalie Shapiro

This summer marked the 20-year anniversary of the contentious Cove/Mallard timber sales. This monstrosity planned by the Nez Perce National Forest would have decimated the heart of the largest, wildest area left in the lower 48. But eight years after the logging began, it was cancelled. How did this miracle happen?

The Cove and Mallard roadless areas, about 70,000-acres in size, lie between the Gospel-Hump and Frank Church-River of No Return-Wilderness areas, and are a critical link for rare and reclusive species of wildlife and birds. The Record of Decision for the Cove/Mallard timber sales project was signed in 1990, and planned nine timber sales, 145-miles of new roads, and the removal of 82-million board feet of timber (at a cost of \$6-million to taxpayers). Friends of the Clearwater participated in the planning process, but the Forest Service ignored their concerns, and sold the first two sales in 1991 to Shearer Lumber Products of Elk City, Idaho.

That winter, local activists began organizing through Wild Rockies Earth First!, asking people to help defend Cove/Mallard through non-violent, direct action. In 1992, protesting began when the Ancient Forest Bus Brigade arrived with half a dozen activists. Things really got going in the summer of 1993, when hundreds of activists descended on to the Noble Timber Sale road, blocking road construction by sitting on the road, perching in tripod structures, or simply placing debris in the road. Dozens were arrested, and while the road-building still continued, activists slowed it down, created huge headaches for the Forest Service, and helped make the plight of Cove/Mallard (and roadless areas in general) a household word in the Northwest. Cove/Mallard had become the poster child for rampant forest mismanagement, and Americans were now hearing about it, thanks to all the media attention activists were generating.

There was also an incredible backlash against protesters: The Forest Service closed off areas around the logging - violators of the closures ended up in jail for a month or longer; dogs were brought in to sniff out activists; and jail sentences of up to two months were given to people arrested for road blockades. In 1994, the Idaho Legislature passed the "Earth First" law, which made it a felony to "solicit" or "conspire" to halt or impede logging. And a dozen activists who blockaded a logging road for a few hours were hit with \$1.2 million in punitive fines to the road building company. FOC founder and current board member Steve Paulson was severely beaten one night, when a drunk logger punched him in the face with spiked brass knuckles. Ironically, the logger only served seven

days in jail; the judge was sympathetic with the logger's struggle with alcoholism.

Other efforts to halt the sales were also in play: groundtruthing crews diligently collected field data documenting numerous violations of environmental laws, sending detailed packets of information to agencies, the media, and attorneys. While the agency ignored this information, it was an effective outreach and education tool, and also provided helpful information for lawsuits.

In 1993, the Idaho Sporting Congress filed a lawsuit in district court, stating the Forest Service had violated NEPA, NFMA, the ESA, and the Clean Water Act. The court granted ISC a preliminary injunction, delaying logging through most of 1994. In December 1994, the court ruled in favor of the Forest Service, lifting the injunction. And logging and road-building resumed, lasting through 1997. And the pressure on the Forest Service continued. By the late 1990s, public sentiment towards protecting roadless areas was strong, and the Forest Service was facing a roads nightmare, with over 350,000-miles of roads on the National Forests and a \$8.4-billion backlog of maintenance. Even they recognized that building more roads, when they couldn't maintain existing ones, was ludicrous.

In 1999, a new forest supervisor came to the Nez Perce National Forest and cancelled the remaining six timber sales, stating that the Cove/Mallard area was still an intact ecosystem and there were other priorities. And later that year, then President Clinton began the process that lead to the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Today, most of Cove-Mallard is still wild and roadless, thanks to the hard work of activists who effectively brought the plight of roadless areas to national attention and delayed the sales until they could be stopped.

Editor's Note: Natalie Shapiro is a former FOC Board member and good friend. She also participated in the Cove-Mallard campaign.



What Was Saved: Cove/Mallard Roadless Area

FOC File Photo

Reaching Out To You Brett Haverstick

I hope everybody got a chance to recreate in Wild Clearwater Country this summer! I must say, the more I get out and connect with this incredible place, the more inspiration I draw to protect it. Explore it. Know it. Defend it.

A big highlight this summer was working with the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, and helping facilitate the four-day *Weitas as Wilderness Broadwalk*. Approximately thirty women from around the country stayed at the Wilderness Gateway Campground and learned about the importance of the Weitas Creek roadless area, and why it's vital that we continue to advocate for wilderness designation for the entire 260,000-acre wildland. Mike Garrity of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies was able to explain to the Broads that the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA) is the vehicle to do it. And thanks to retired fish biologist and FOC board member Al Espinosa, the group learned why the Clearwater Basin Collaborative is not an inclusive process, nor is it the solution for gaining stronger protections for the remaining million-plus roadless acres in the Clearwater Basin.

The vast history and culture of the region was an important topic, as well. Historian, author, and long-time resident Linwood Laughy provided colorful interpretation throughout the weekend, including a guided hike along the Nez Perce and Lewis & Clark National Historic Trails. A highlight for everybody was climbing to the top of the lookout on Castle Butte, and taking in an unmatched panoramic view of the landscape.

Another important event this summer was the *Wolves Belong: Stop the Slaughter Rally* in Coeur d'Alene on August 30th. With approximately seventy-five people in attendance, folks discussed why states like Idaho are incapable of managing predators, including wolves, and why we need to permanently transfer management of these iconic species to a federal entity. The current system is broken, tax-payer dollars are being wasted, and science is being ignored.

August 30th marked the beginning of the 2012-2013 wolf hunt on public lands in Idaho. Last year, there were 379 wolves killed in Idaho. A total of 545 wolves were killed in Idaho and Montana, or approximately, 40% of the population. Keep in mind, these numbers do not reflect the number of wolves that were killed in response to livestock depredation, nor via aerial gunning, poaching, and poisoning efforts. Consider watching the brand new YouTube Video that shows footage of the rally:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Td9P-wZZa8I&list=UUD8GP2q9p2-DBpDbny2y_qQ&index=1&feature=plcp.

In conjunction with Wildlands CPR, we continue to monitor the response of wildlife to roads that were decommissioned on the Clearwater National Forest near Boulder Creek Campground. To date, we have recorded images of cougars, black bears, coyotes, moose, elk, and deer using the corridor. We have also seen an increase in plant reproduction (unfortunately invasive species, too). We are hoping to engage restoration ecology students at the University of Idaho in a field trip to the site in spring 2013. Stay tuned.

The autumn should be exciting, as well. We are nearing publication of the Kelly Creek (Hoodoo) roadless area booklet. Under the leadership of Dr. Fred Rabe, we have accumulated an extensive amount of information for the report, and hope to have it available for the public to enjoy by the end of the year.

And please circle your calendar for two upcoming dates. On Friday October 19, musician Dana Lyons and *The Great Coal Train Tour* is coming to Moscow. As part of the effort to educate citizens about the proposed shipment of coal across the Northwest, and eventually to China, FOC is proud to co-sponsor this event with local groups Wild Idaho Rising Tide, Palouse-group Sierra Club, Palouse-Great Old Broads for Wilderness, and Palouse Environmental Sustainability Coalition.

On Friday November 3, get ready to party at the FOC 25th Anniversary Annual Meeting & Gathering. We hope to see a jovial crowd in the Great Room of the 1912 Center from 6-10pm. As usual, there will be a delicious community potluck, an eclectic silent auction, an exciting awards ceremony, live music, Board elections, and unbeatable camaraderie. Let's make this a night to remember. It's been a heck of a twenty-five years!



Footloose Montana Demonstrating How Traps Work
FOC File Photo

Around the Clearwater: A Whirl of Activity

Gary Macfarlane

Forest Combination/Revision of Forest Plans

This must be a real administrative nightmare for Forest Service staff. The Forest Service is combining the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests, to be officially known as the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, while fast tracking the revision of these two forests' plans, presumably merging them into one plan. These forest plans will be revised under the new and awful forest planning regulations, regulations that make it very easy for the agency to be unaccountable to the public. Piling on the craziness, another so-called exclusive collaborative group will be formed to come up with the new forest plan. Any collaboration must include all American citizens equally. In other words, the Forest Service needs to simply follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)--which mandates an objective analysis of alternatives before decisions are made by reviewing an adequately broad range of alternatives--rather than trying to rig the process.

Special Rights: Tying the Hands of Citizens and State Wildlife Managers, the Proposed State Constitutional Amendment

In a nutty (business-as-usual) move, the state legislature passed an amendment to the State's constitution, which grants special rights for hunting, fishing and trapping. While none of these activities are in danger in Idaho, the proposed amendment's language is ambiguous enough to cause real concern that it could tie wildlife managers' hands in the future. For example, the finding that hunting, fishing and trapping are a preferred method of wildlife management could constrain other actions. Does this mean the Idaho Fish & Game will be legally obligated to adopt songbird hunting seasons, deermice trapping seasons, or Idaho giant salamander fishing seasons? Besides, there are no concomitant proposals to amend the constitution to guarantee rights to walk, kayak, or climb mountains in Idaho, nor should there be. Idahoans will continue to enjoy those activities, just as we will continue to fish for steelhead or hunt grouse. Amending the constitution is serious business and the legislature, true to form, is treating it as no big deal.

Other Issues

The Forest Service is trying to return to the bad old days and increase logging on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. A slew of so-called restoration projects

that are really timber sales have been coming. While it is nothing new for the agency to use doublespeak that would make Orwell proud by calling logging restoration, the number of these timber sales is increasing. They bring serious environmental problems with them.

Recently, Alliance for the Wild Rockies and Friends of the Clearwater filed suit against the Little Slate Timber Sale on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. Among other things, our suit points out that the Forest Service failed to properly consider impacts to an endangered bull trout population or lynx. Furthermore, the sale is adjacent to another giant timber sale, Clean Slate, which was recently completed by the Forest Service. The cumulative impacts on water quality and fish habitat were not properly addressed. The sale would also build several miles of road and log in a roadless area adjacent to the Gospel-Hump Wilderness!

A plethora of other timber sales is being prepared. We are following the progress of these through the National Environmental Policy Act.

A wet winter and spring, combined with a dry summer, made a fairly active fire season in the Clearwater region. Elsewhere, the fire year was even bigger, as evidenced by the huge fires in Colorado and New Mexico. Forest Service policy has been to suppress all fires this year, a foolish, top-down mandate that ignored important factors--fire-fighter safety, fiscal concerns, and ecological processes. By August, most of the big fires in the region's backcountry were being "fought" by monitoring or point-protection strategies. In other words, it was either too dangerous or too costly to fight the fires on every front, so the policy, as implemented on-the-ground since the beginning of August, translated into something a bit more rational. Local Forest Service managers apparently found a way around the bad policy. In any case, those big fires couldn't have been successfully fought.

One good thing that did emerge is that the Forest Service's hyperactive and expensive prescribed fire program in the Clearwater region was largely put on hold because of the policy. Natural fire burned a lot of acreage in order to meet "targets." Furthermore, some of the natural fires were burning in places where prescribed fire was going to be lit. A much more sensible approach, both ecologically and fiscally, to the schizophrenic fire fighting and fire lighting program of the Forest Service would be to allow most natural fires to burn in the backcountry.

Wilderness

Wilderness Watch and Friends of the Clearwater recently challenged in Federal Court a project, approved by the Forest Service, that would use helicopters in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. This is a prime example of

the growing problem of motorized use in the Wilderness. The Fred Burr Lake Dam in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness is a small dam on an existing lake that was built without motorized means. The project aims to replace a short walkway, currently built from a few lodgepole pine stringers near the site. Wilderness Watch and Friends of the Clearwater offered to carry the materials for the walkway to the site, proving there was no need for helicopters. Indeed, this could have been built on-site using native materials, without damaging wilderness character through motorized landings. The judge in the case preliminarily determined we would probably win on the merits of the case. Indeed, the Forest Service itself admitted a non-motorized alternative was "reasonable."

We are following several other proposals in wilderness, which could affect wilderness character, as well. The Forest Service no longer seems to understand that wilderness is about natural processes, not man-made structures.

With gold prices increasing, we have seen a plethora of mining proposals in the South Fork Clearwater, Slate Creek, and portions of the Lochsa and North Fork Clearwater. We are waiting to see if the Forest Service lives up to its obligations to protect these watersheds. Most of the proposals are small, but some, are fairly large.

Suction dredge mining is a destructive process that sucks up river bottoms, processes the material through a machine, and then spits out the material, minus the gold, back into the stream. It dislodges a lot of old sediment safely buried in riverbeds. This isn't good for aquatic life. There are two big issues associated with suction dredge mining in the Clearwater.

Someone has gone and staked "Mining claims" along the most popular places along the North Fork Clearwater, in an apparent attempt to discourage the public from using those areas on the national forest. The Forest Service has dealt with the issue by removing the misleading signs posted by the claimant. An interesting bit of history is that the North Fork Clearwater River was under an old waterpower withdrawal. When that withdrawal was lifted, the area came under a new set of laws, rather than the awful 1872 Mining Law. The new laws allow the public interest to be taken into account. As such, the Forest Service has requested a hearing and challenged the validity of those claims. Those claims compete with existing fishing and camping use and don't appear to be legitimate. If a public hearing is held, we will keep you updated.

Also, suction dredging on any Idaho river is not legal until the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State of Idaho come up with a water quality protection process. That has yet to be finalized. However, illegal dredging is occurring in the South Fork Clearwater. It is a sad state of affairs that no agency, federal or state, is enforcing our nation's clean water laws. There are legal options we are

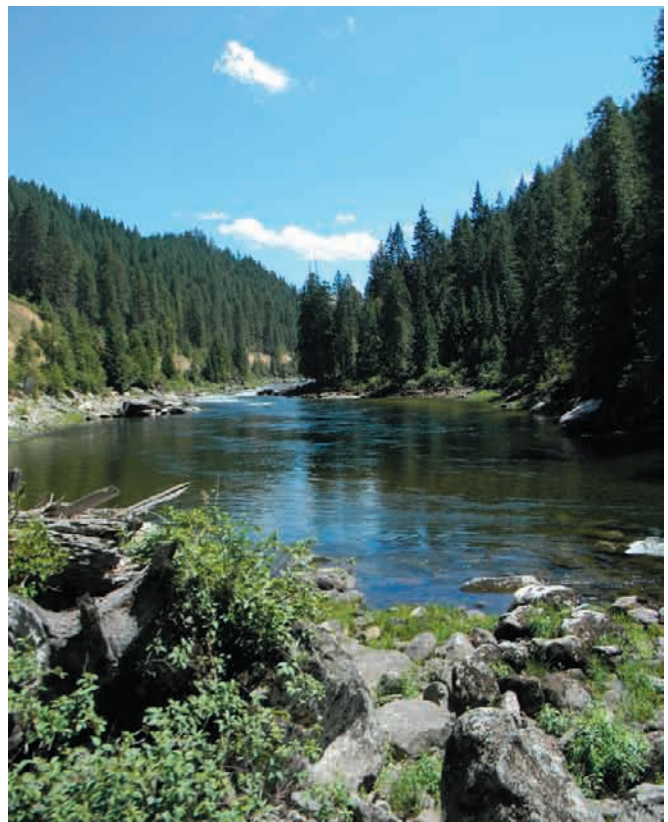
exploring, although they appear to be quite complex.

A decision on the Lochsa Land Exchange has been delayed, yet again, until next spring. Western Pacific Timber has hired Larry Craig and Mark Rey to work for them as lobbyists, suggesting that, perhaps, the company wishes to push for a legislative exchange. Legislative land exchanges tend to cheat the public and benefit special interests. Thankfully, they are also difficult to get passed. We are following this issue very closely.

There is good news to report regarding water quality protection. The Forest Service worked out a deal to avoid litigation with Friends of the Clearwater involving the Fenn and Red River Ranger Stations' sewage facilities. The government didn't want to lose in court, and is instead, willing to remedy the problems. They have committed to replacing the outdated sewer systems by a certain date, and take interim steps to control the problem prior to them being replaced.

We are pursuing other water quality issues, including a serious problem near Lawyer Creek, a tributary to the Clearwater River. Other issues involve the protection of fishery habitat in the Clearwater River.

Finally, we are awaiting the final travel plans for the Nez Perce National Forest and the St. Joe Ranger District. If inadequate, we will challenge both plans, just as we intend to do on the inadequate Clearwater National Forest Travel Plan.



N. Fork Clearwater Deserves Wild & Scenic Designation
FOC File Photo

Grassroots Power Chris Norden

Any grassroots, non-profit organization is about the people involved, of course. And yet, Friends of the Clearwater is about defending wild places, native ecosystems, and native plant and animal species, first and foremost. This may seem an odd mission, at a time, and in a society, where the interests and desires of human beings have been fetishized to the extent that a significant segment of the American electorate chooses not to believe in basic science, if the alternative is to admit that we have taken from Nature to the point that we have caused the mass extinction of thousands of species, and are now on the verge of burning the planet to a cinder, via atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases.

As we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Friends of the Clearwater, an unusually effective and durable grassroots environmental and wildlands defense organization based in the Inland Northwest/Northern Rockies, it's worth reminding ourselves that we do not "put people second" to Nature, wolves, or anything else. Rather, we argue that the interests and rights of future generations should matter as much as the wants and desires of the current generation. This is not selfishness, but rather a kind of conservatism that makes sense to any culture with enough wisdom to understand the connection between its own survival, and the survival of its land base and native biota. The currently fashionable version of the Solomonic compromise, whereby the baby is cut in half to accommodate two rival mothers, is the collaborative movement. If you are willing to let the baby be cut in half, you can claim to have saved the other half, and will be praised as a reasonable and civil person or organization. In our case, the baby in question is roadless public land, often inadequately protected low-elevation watersheds that are subject to intense pressure from motorized recreational users and industry. Some wise person has said of environmental activism that if everyone likes you, you're probably not doing your job effectively. Lacking a perfect world in which we enjoy full consensus regarding long-term sustainable use and stewardship of our public lands, this is probably an accurate observation.

The National Environmental Policy Act (1969) allows all citizens to be involved in public land management decisions, including rights to appeal if pending decisions are unwise, illegal, or made without full public input. FOC is committed to the proactive defense of core public land values, which is to say we are committed to defending the public interest, as well as public lands. We are the only group to have commented on virtually all Forest Service management proposals in the Basin,

ranging from timber sales and clearcuts, to ill-advised or illegal wilderness manipulations and development. As we celebrate our 25th Anniversary, we proudly remember some of the victories we've been instrumental in helping to achieve:

- **Cove-Mallard Campaign, 1992-98.** Coordinated appeals and on-site defense of a key wildlife corridor, the highest-quality low-elevation terrain in the Salmon River canyon, and crucial North-South transit for wildlife crossing the Salmon River.
- **N. Rocky Grey Wolves, 1995-present.** Helped keep gray wolves (reintroduced in central Idaho in 1995) on the Endangered Species list, currently conducting public education focused on predator ecology and ecosystem dynamics.
- **Watershed Protection, on going.** Legal victories, including use of the Clean Water Act and other laws, to halt or curtail logging and mining projects on South Fork Clearwater, Whisky Creek, Meadow Creek, Lolo Creek, and other biologically important roadless or sensitive watersheds.
- **Megaloads Campaign, 2010-present.** As part of a coalition to halt transit of massive oil processing equipment from Lewiston to Alberta, via US-12, along the Lochsa River and tangent to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, provided monitoring expertise, organized protests, administrative actions & appeals.



Citizens Defending The Lochsa River Corridor
FOC File Photo

• **Roadless Campaign, 2000-present.** Lobbying on Capitol Hill/D.C., helped organize strong turnouts at public meetings and advocated for written comments in support of keeping existing public roadless lands intact and roadless.

• **Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA), 1990s-present.** Leading sponsor of pending federal legislation permanently protecting 24 million acres of roadless lands across five northern Rocky states, notably emphasizing long-term health and sustainability of rural economies.

• **Citizen-Science Initiative, 1990s-present.** Providing opportunities for citizen involvement in on-the-ground monitoring of ecosystem health, endangered species advocacy, and restoration work, including our Coeur d'Alene salamander project, and other studies of unique wetlands and aquatic systems in the Clearwater Basin.

• **Road Decommissioning, 1990s-present.** Participating in road ripping efforts coordinated by Wildlands CPR, advocating for further decommissioning of degraded or unneeded roads on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests in order to restore wildlife/fish habitat.

• **Defender of 1964 Wilderness Act, 1980s-present.** Via administrative appeals, direct negotiations, lawsuits, and public education, we are actively resisting erosion of the Wilderness, as both a public value, and a coherent, consistently applied scientific concept.

Editor's Note: Chris Norden is a long-standing FOC Board member and professor at Lewis-Clark State College.



Keeping Wilderness Wild Is Essential
FOC File Photo



Defending Roadless Areas Is Core To Our Mission
Fred Rabe Photo Credit



Get Involved In Our Citizen-Science Program
Fred Rabe Photo Credit



Road Rippin' Is Paying Dividends
FOC File Photo



Rallying For Wolves In Coeur d'Alene
FOC File Photo

The next four pages highlight twenty-five years of working together to protect the wildest place in the Lower 48-Clearwater Country. All photo credits are FOC.



**Staff Member Gary Macfarlane
Meeting With Fellow Community Activists**



**Remember The Days of Larry Craig & Mark Rey
We'd Rather Not**



They Call Us Tree-Huggers For A Reason



A Previous Annual Meeting & Gathering



**Krisitn Ruether & Natalie Shapiro
Former Staff And Board Members, Respectively**



**Former Staff Member Michelle Hazen
Picking Huckleberries On Grandmother Mountain**



**Braden Pezeshki Chilling Out
In The Meadow Creek Roadless Area**



The FOC Dragon, Thanks Marc Lawrence!



**FOC Board Member Al Espinosa
Speaks For Bull Trout, Salmon & Steelhead**



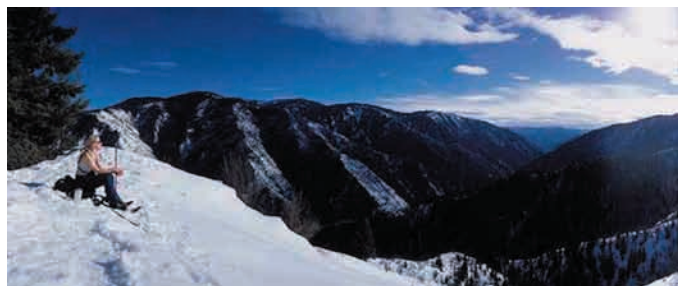
**Former Staff Member Larry McLaud
AKA, Lorenzo Trout**



**Lewis-Clark State College Students On A
Field Trip Up The Clearwater**



**Adrienne Boland
Coeur d'Alene Salamander Monitoring**



**Former Staff & Board Member, Current Advisory Board
Member Ashley Martens Overlooking The Lochsa River**



**FOC Member Gerry Snyder
The Lodgepole Wrangler**



**Former Staff Member Will Boyd
Truly Loves The North Fork Clearwater**



**FOC Advisory Board Member
& True Wilderness Champion
Stewart Brandborg**



**The Weitas Creek Roadless Area Is The Heart
Of Wild Clearwater Country**



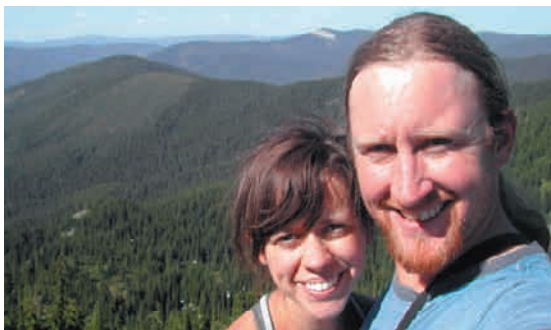
**Walkin' Jim Stoltz Loved Wilderness
Until The Day He Died**



**Carole King & Dean Stewart
Lobbying For NREPA In D.C.**



**FOC Member Fred Rabe Working To Make
49 Meadows A Designated Research Natural Area**



**Staff Member Brett Haverstick
With Ashley Lipscomb On Grandmother Mtn.**



**FOC Members Al Poplawsky & Rob Briggs
Standing Tall On Lookout Mountain**



**Barry Rosenberg Accepting
The Plank Award In 2009**



**Former FOC Board Member Jim Tarter Is Sorely Missed
And Will Always Be Part Of The Big Wild**



**Grassroots Resistance At The Port Of Lewiston
No Megaloads!**



**Exploring Native Palouse Habitat
On Paradise Ridge**



**Wildland Monitoring Is A Great Way
To Get Involved With FOC**



Just Letting It Fly On The Selway River



**Snowshoeing On Lolo Pass With
Washington State University Students**



**Hiking With University Of Idaho Students
In The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness**



Hope You Get The Message Tidwell



**FOC Board Member Jeanne McHale
Plays The Keys At Our Summer BBQ**

Taking The Public Out Of Public Lands
Guest Opinion
Kitty Benzar, Western Slope No-Fee Coalition

Imagine this. The Forest Service builds a campground or a picnic area in a scenic location on a National Forest, equips it with nice amenities – tables, fire rings, drinking water, electric hookups, flush toilets, showers – all constructed at taxpayer expense. Then they invite a private company to operate it for profit, charging whatever rates the market will bear, and they walk away.

Far fetched? No, it's business as usual. The Forest Service has been turning recreation facilities over to private management for years. Already, about half of all campgrounds and 80% of reservable campsites (i.e. the most popular ones) are under concessionaires, as well as an increasing number of day-use sites. The decision to privatize a facility is made without any public process whatsoever, as an internal administrative decision. Likewise, when a concessionaire wants to raise prices or take over a previously free site and start charging a fee for it, that is also done without any public process. Concessionaires are allowed to charge fees that the Forest Service is prohibited from charging (such as solely for parking, or access to trails) and they are not required to accept federal passes like the America the Beautiful Pass – in fact, they are allowed to establish and sell their own private passes for entry onto the federal land they control.

That's bad, but it's about to get worse. There is a move afoot to vastly expand the presence of concessionaires, allowing them to use private funds to "modernize" federal facilities and offer services like rv/boat/ohv storage, disc golf courses, wifi, campstores, and more on National Forests. In order to attract private investment, concessionaires would get longer permit terms (20-30 years, compared to the current 5 years) and the ability to buy and sell concession permits on the open market. The "improvements" they would add would remain the private property of the concessionaire and would be bought and sold along with the permit. This can be expected to drastically increase the value of concession permits, driving small players out until all the facilities would be run by just a few large companies – this has already happened in the National Parks.

This new initiative is coming from the American Recreation Coalition (ARC), the main lobbying group for commercial recreation interests. You may remember ARC as the proud inventor of Fee Demo in 1996. Their CEO and some of their member companies have held two closed-door meetings (June 6 and July 17) with the Forest Service to work out the details and select pilot projects. These were attended by the Obama administration's top Forest Service

official, Undersecretary of Agriculture Harris Sherman, and the Deputy Chief of the Forest Service, Leslie Weldon. Also in attendance were representatives of KOA, the RV Dealer's Association, and the American Hiking Society, as well as others, whose identity has not been publicly revealed. The ARC newsletter outlining their proposal, which includes a link to the power point they used, is posted here: <http://www.funoutdoors.com/node/view/2891#USDA>.

One of the justifications the ARC gave for Fee Demo back in the '90s was that it would allow the Forest Service to retain revenue from developed facilities like campgrounds, instead of sending it to the Treasury. Fee retention, they said then, would help the Forest Service cope with declining budgets. But instead of phasing out concessionaires and operating developed recreation sites with the fee revenue they bring in, the Forest Service has transferred even more public resources to the private sector. If the Forest Service follows this new ARC initiative, we will lose still more simple, basic, and affordable facilities, to be replaced with luxury destination camping "resorts." You can see exactly what the concessionaire industry has in mind for the future of our public lands at www.ParkPrivatization.com. It's the creation of the CEO of one of the largest and most influential of the concessionaires. Privatization is both their name and their game, and the concessionaire industry has become the tail that wags the Forest Service dog.

In truth, recreation fees were never about getting more revenue to the agency. They were about getting us accustomed to paying for access to nature, and then bringing in commercial interests to profit from it. *Please convey your opposition to privatization of Forest Service facilities to Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell at ttidwell@fs.fed.us. Insist that he put the public back into public lands.*

Editor's Note: Kittzy Benzar is the Executive Director of the Western Slope-No Fee Coalition. Learn more: <http://www.WesternSlopeNoFee.org>



**Recreation Fees Coming To A National Forest Near You
 Western Slope No-Fee Coalition Photo Credit**

Adios National Forests: Citizens No More Gary Macfarlane

The agenda to wrest public land management and control from US citizens, and place it in the hands of special interests, has been a long-standing threat. It wasn't long after the ink was dry on the laws creating the Forest Reserves, and Yellowstone itself, that there were efforts to take these places away. Commercial enterprises have long had undue influence over public lands. Concerned activists like Scott Silver of Wild Wilderness (see below), and Kitty Benzar of the Western No-Fee Coalition (see her article in this newsletter), have been pointing out the pitfalls of special interest influence. Indeed, Scott Silver recognized fifteen years ago particular threats to public land. Among these are included:

- Access to public lands is deliberately being manipulated for the benefit of campground associations, private concessionaires, manufacturers and users of motorized sports vehicles, and giant tourist and recreation corporations.
- Congressional budgetary cuts are intentionally creating a maintenance crisis for federally managed recreation lands and facilities.

The rescue of a badly decayed system of National Forests and recreational lands, through private corporate investment, is the planned outcome of this strategy. These warnings are all too true, and they're frightening. In any case, this phenomenon that has involved both Democratic and Republican administrations, has been made much easier by a trend to disabuse citizens of the notion they are citizens. The public land agencies, industry groups, even academia, label citizens as *consumers*, *stakeholders*, or *customers*. This has been a very effective way to marginalize and disempower citizens. Whether by design or not, this process of relabeling has aided the agenda that Scott Silver calls the "corporate take over of everything."

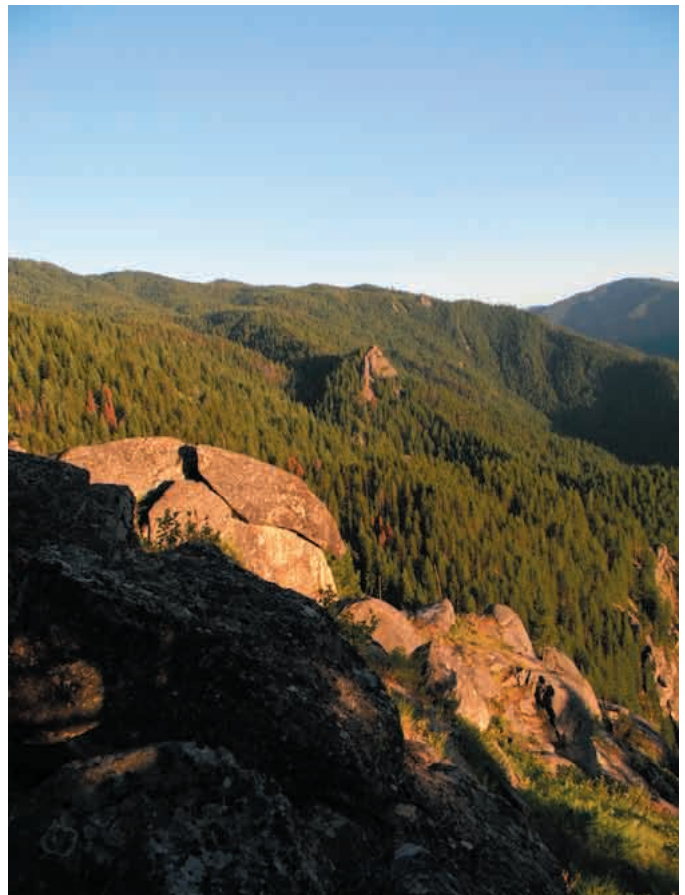
I'd like to address two ways language is used to change the way we think of ourselves and our fellow citizens. As almost everyone recognizes, language is powerful and can be used to influence public opinion. As an aside, the modernization of propaganda--or public relations as the proponents liked to call it--in the US is now about 100-years old.

The first time, as far as I am aware, that the Forest Service called citizens "customers", was in the 1990s. This was the same time that the Forest Service was being pushed by a new entity called the American Recreation Coalition, an industry front-group, whose goal is to privatize and commodify public lands. The group was trying to convince the Forest Service to charge money for recreation

activities on public land, in order to demonstrate the monetary "value" of recreation on the national forests. It was done precisely for the reasons Scott Silver noted above, and presents a direct threat to public ownership and control of public lands. Citizens are not customers. Referring to us as such is a cynical way aimed to alter the relationship between the Forest Service and the public.

The academic community is also involved in this deception, with its promotion of a "stakeholder" process, instead of direct democracy. Rather than involving all citizens, stakeholder processes create a hierarchy of citizens, where certain citizens are more equal than others. The citizens that have the time to be involved in these long, drawn out processes are deemed stakeholders; those that participate in the only legitimate public involvement process, namely, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)--through written or verbal comments--are not deemed stakeholders. In this way, the NEPA process becomes a pro-forma exercise and the concerns of ordinary citizens are largely discarded.

The established laws that mandate citizen involvement work. Sure, democracy is a messy and inefficient process. But the alternatives, as Churchill warned, are even worse.



Public Lands Need To Stay In Public Hands
FOC File Photo

A Report on Kelly Creek

Guest Opinion

Dr. Fred Rabe

The Hoodoo Roadless Area, 255,000-acres in size, is located approximately thirty air miles from Missoula, Montana. This high, hydrologic divide runs north and south for forty miles, with the Stateline Trail saddling the divide from Lolo Pass to Lookout Pass. The Kelly Creek watershed is in the southwestern portion of the roadless area, covering an immense amount of acreage, with Cayuse Creek being the dominant tributary. Moose Creek, another large tributary, enters Kelly Creek near the trailhead.

On a pleasant day in July, Ashley Lipscomb, Brett Haverstick, and I set off from the old Kelly Creek Work Center, later to be joined by FOC Board President Wes Bascom and former Board President Garrett Clevenger. Near the trailhead, the river is wide and shallow with riffles, runs, and glides predominating. As we progressed east, it became narrower and deeper, with shady, dark pools appearing. A mix of vegetation and water features provided a high degree of visual variety, with small islands in the channel adding to the heterogeneity of the watershed.

The first day we hiked 3 1/2 miles over a hilly trail to the confluence with Cayuse Creek. Much of the trail is high above the river, with few access sites for fishing. A packer's campsite near the river provided a resting spot that evening. Wes remarked that today was his birthday. Our gift was a piece of chocolate, with a match on top, while we sang "Happy Birthday To You" under a huge Douglas fir tree.

The next day some of us hiked a few miles to an access site for fishing. The water was much too high, so we opted to identify plants and dream of big trout sipping mayflies. Just think of the countless places this river has been – snowbanks, springs, Toboggan Creek, Monroe Creek, Cayuse Creek. For three days we saw only one person.

Kelly Creek is known for its Blue Ribbon trout fishery. Westslope-cutthroat range from 12-16 inches, with some reaching 20 inches or more. They're usually not fussy over your selection of flies. Mountain whitefish, rainbows, bull trout, and fall spawning kokanee also occur here, together with otters playing tag in deep pools.

Before 1970, the state used to allow the angler to catch fifteen fish without any size restriction on Kelly Creek. The westslope-cutthroat and bull trout began to decline though, with easy road access and increased angling pressure. In 1970, the Idaho Fish & Game Department revised fishing regulations to include barbless hooks, and a catch and release policy for these fish.

After these new regulations went into effect, Dr. Ted Bjorn and his students at the University of Idaho observed that cutthroat responded with a huge increase,

both in abundance, and in the proportion of older and larger adults.

Colbert Cushing, an avid fisherman and colleague, spent eighteen years infatuated with Kelly Creek. His book, *Kelly Creek Chronicles*, describes the stream's ecology, memorable fishing days spent there, and his experiences with friends over the years.

Hanson Meadows is nine miles from the trailhead, with a 630-foot rise in elevation. Chuck Pezeshki, in his book *Wild to the Last*, describes a different Kelly Creek at Hanson Meadows, "Wide, rambling, cutting through a glacial moraine with braided meanders and wandering through ceanothus and meadow grasses." The site is praised for its optimum fishing and hunting opportunities, and is aesthetically pleasing, with splendid views.

Proceed east and then north along the river, until arriving at the confluence with the Middle Fork of Kelly Creek, which you can follow until reaching the outlet stream of Kidd Lake. This medium-size lake straddling the Bitterroot Mountains is about 30-feet deep and contains a low density of westslope-cutthroat trout. Their large size may be due to reduced spawning sites in the lake, thus limiting the number of fish competing for food.

A short distance on the eastside of the Bitterroots and Stateline Trail is Cedar Log Lake in Montana. If you follow the trail thirty miles to the northwest you'll see more than twenty lakes on both sides of the divide. Hoodoo Lake and Hoodoo Pass form the northeast roadless area boundary.

We need cold, running water, moss-trimmed cedars, and clean-pebbled streambeds like Kelly Creek in order to satisfy our spiritual nature. Such an environment is non-existent where industrialized tourism exists. Let's make this lush river valley and these forested slopes part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.



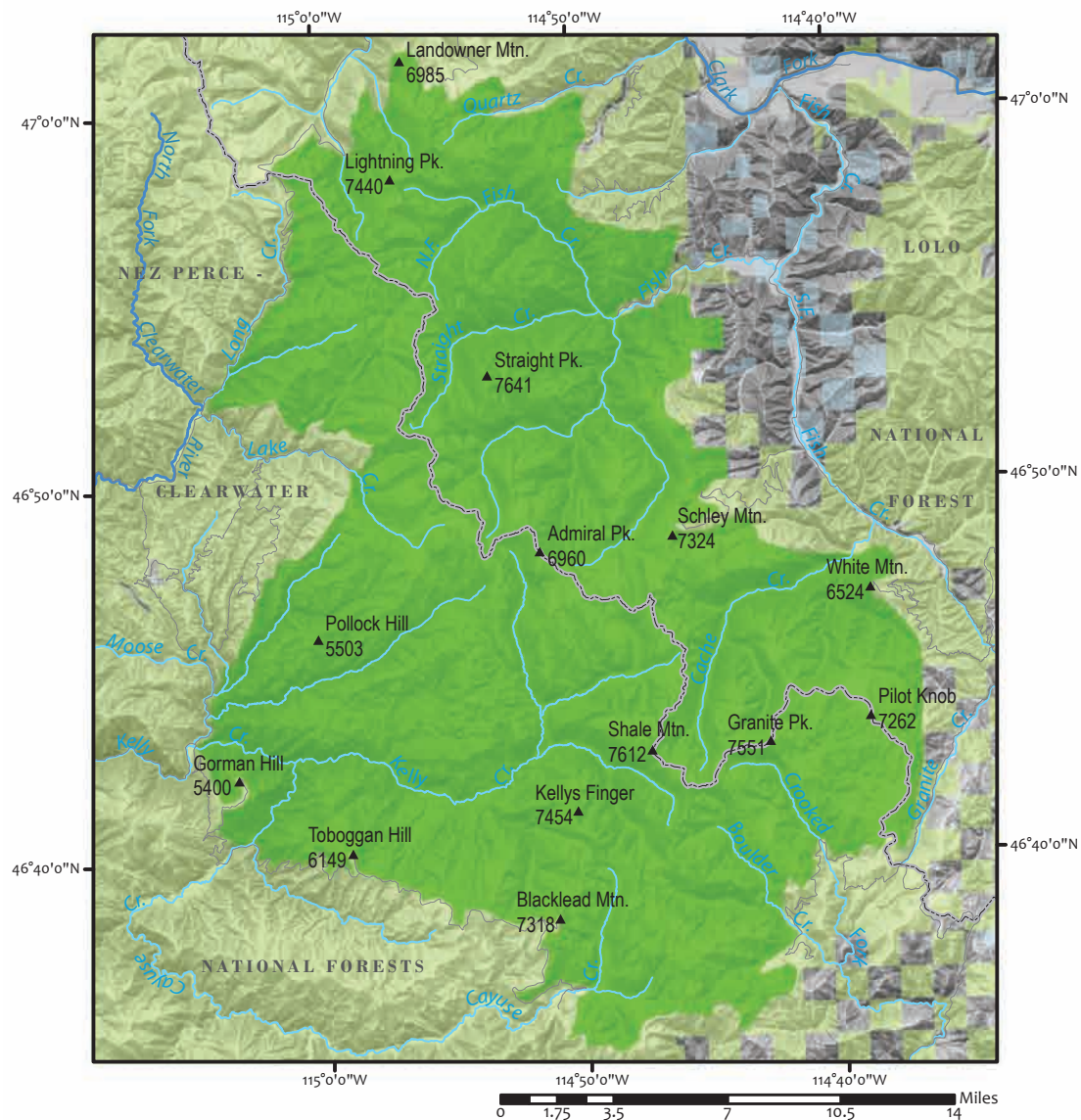
Celebrating Wes Bascom's Birthday In Kelly Creek
FOC File Photo

*We would like to thank
Lighthawk for donating a
flight to help with this project
and Alpha 1 Photography.*



Alpha 1 Photo Credit

KELLY CREEK - GREAT BURN



Projection: Idaho Transverse Mercator, 1927 National Elevation Datum
Shaded Relief compiled from 10m National Elevation Data
Stream, road, and ownership data acquired from the U.S. Forest Service.
Cartography by Jeremy Jenkins, for Friends of the Clearwater

Praise The Dead: The Ecological Value of Dead Trees

Guest Opinion

Geaorge Wuerthner

Dead. Death. These are words that we don't often use to describe anything positive. We hear phrases like the walking dead. Death warmed over. Nothing is certain but death and taxes. The Grateful Dead. These are words that do not engender smiles, except among Grateful Dead fans.

We bring these pejorative perspectives to our thinking about forests. In particular, some tend to view dead trees as a missed opportunity to make lumber. But this really represents an economic value, not a biological value. From an ecological perspective, dead trees are the biological capital critical to the long-term health of the forest ecosystem. It may seem counter-intuitive, but in many ways the health of a forest is measured more by its dead trees, than live ones. Dead trees are a necessary component of present forests and an investment in the future forest.

I had a good lesson in the value of dead trees last summer while hiking in Yellowstone. I was walking along a trail that passes through a forest dominated by even-aged lodgepole pine. Judging by the size of the trees, I would estimate the forest stand had its start in a stand-replacement blaze, perhaps 60-70 years before. Strewn along the forest floor were numerous large logs that had fallen since the last fire. Fallen logs are an important home for forest-dwelling ants. Pull apart any of those old pulpy rotted logs and you would find them loaded with ants. Nearly every log I pass along the trail had been clawed apart by a grizzly feasting on ants. It may be difficult to believe that something as small as ants could feed an animal as large as a grizzly. Yet, one study in British Columbia found that ants were a major part of the grizzly's diet in summer, especially in years when berry crops fail.

Who could have foreseen immediately after the forest had burned 60-years before that the dead trees created by the wildfire would someday be feeding grizzly bears? But dead trees are a biological legacy passed on to the next generation of forest dwellers, including future generations of ants and grizzly bears.

Dead trees have many other important roles to play in the forest ecosystem. It is obvious to many people that woodpeckers depend on dead trees for food and shelter. In fact, black-backed woodpeckers absolutely require forests that have burned. Yet, woodpeckers are just the tip of the iceberg, so to speak. In total 45% of all bird species depend on dead trees for some important part of their life cycle. Whether it's the wood duck that nests in a tree cavity, the eagle that constructs a nest in a broken top snag, or the nuthatch that forages for insects on the bark, dead trees and birds go together like peanut butter and jelly.

Birds aren't the only animals that depend on dead trees. Many bats roost in the flaky bark of old dead snags and/or in cavities. When a dead tree falls to the ground, the trunk is important habitat for many mammal species. For instance, one study in Wyoming found that without big dead trees, you don't have marten. Why? Marten are thin animals, and as a consequence, lose a lot of heat to the environment, especially when it's cold. They can't survive extended periods with temperatures below freezing without some shelter.

In frigid weather, marten dig out burrows in the pulpy interiors of large fallen trees to provide thermal protection. They may only need such trees once a winter, but if there are no dead fallen trees in its territory, there may not be any marten.

Many amphibians depend on dead trees. Several studies have documented the close association between abundance of dead fallen logs and salamanders. Eliminate dead trees by logging and you eliminate salamanders. Even fish depend on dead trees. As any fisherman can tell you, a log sticking out into the water is a sure place to find a trout lying in wait to grab insects. If you talk to fish biologists they will tell you there is no amount of fallen woody debris or logs in a stream that is too much. The more logs, the more fish.

Even lichens and fungi are dependent on dead trees. Some 40% of all lichen species in the Pacific Northwest are dependent on dead trees and many are dead tree



Praise The Dead, Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness

FOC File Photo

obligates, meaning they don't grow anywhere else.

Dead trees fill other physical roles, as well. As long as they are standing, they create "snow fences" that slows wind-driven snow. The snow that is trapped, melts in place, and helps to saturate the ground, providing additional moisture to regrowing trees. Dead trees that fall into streams stabilize and armor the bank, slowing water, and reducing erosion.

Dead trees create hiding cover and thermal cover for big game as well. I was once on a tour with a Forest Service District Ranger who wanted to conduct a post-fire logging operation. We were standing near the open, barren landscape of a recent clearcut that was adjacent to the newly burnt forest. I pointed out to him that the black snags still had value. He couldn't see anything but snags waiting to be turned into lumber. I said the snags were still valuable for big game hiding cover. He dismissed my idea out of hand. So I challenged him. I said I have a rifle and you have two minutes to get away from me. Where are you going to run? He didn't have to ponder the point very long.

Even more counter-intuitive is the fact that dead trees may reduce fire hazard. Once the small twigs and needles fall off in winter storms, their flammability is greatly reduced. By contrast, green trees, due to the flammable resins contained in their needles and bark, are actually more likely to burn than snags under conditions of extreme drought, high winds, and low humidity. Under such extreme fire-weather conditions, I have seen trees like subalpine fir explode into flames, as if they contained gasoline. Fine fuels are what drive fires, not large tree trunks. Anyone who has fiddled around trying to get a campfire going knows you gather small twigs, and fine fuels. You don't try light a twenty-inch log on fire.

Dead trees are the biological capital for the forest. Just as floods rejuvenate the river floodplain's plant communities with periodic deposits of sediment, episodic events like major beetle kill and wildfire are the only way a forest can recruit the massive amounts of dead wood required for a healthy forest ecosystem. Such infrequent, but periodic events, may provide the bulk of a forest's dead wood for a hundred years or more.

All of the above benefits of dead trees are reduced or eliminated by our common forest management practices. Sanitizing a forest by "thinning" to promote so-called "forest health", post-fire logging of burnt trees, or removal of beetle-killed trees, bankrupts the forest ecosystem. And even our mostly ineffective efforts to suppress wildfires and/or feeble attempts to halt beetle-kill, reduce the future production of dead wood, and leads to biological impoverishment of the forest ecosystem. Creation and recruitment of dead trees is not a loss, rather, it is an investment in future forests.

If you love birds, you have to love dead trees. If

you love fishing, you have to love dead trees. If you want grizzlies to persist for another hundred years, you have to love dead trees. More importantly, you have to love, or at least tolerate, ecological processes like beetle-kill or wildfire. These are the major factors that contribute dead trees to the forest.

So when you see fire-blackened trees, or the red needles associated with a beetle kill, try to view these events in a different light – praise the dead: the forests, the wildlife, the fish– all will be pleased by your change of heart.

Editor's Note: George Wuerthner is an ecologist, wild-land photographer, and author. He is a longtime FOC member.



**Biological Capital
FOC File Photo**

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE
FOUNDATIONS THAT HAVE
SUPPORTED US THIS PAST YEAR

- NEW-LAND FOUNDATION
- MAKI FOUNDATION
- LOOKOUT FOUNDATION
- FUND FOR WILD NATURE
- COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NEW JERSEY
- PATAGONIA



Thank You Great Old Broads For Wilderness For A Fantastic Broadwalk

FOC File Photo

FALL 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DANA LYONS COAL TRAIN TOUR

Friday October 19th 7-9pm

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, MOSCOW
LIVE MUSIC AND AN INFORMATIONAL SESSION
LEARN ABOUT THE PROPOSED NW COAL EXPORT TRAIN

25TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL MEETING & GATHERING

Friday November 2nd 6-10pm

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