



# CLEARWATER DEFENDER

## NEWS OF THE BIG WILD

A PUBLICATION OF  
FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

ISSUED QUARTERLY  
FALL 2015, NO.3

### **The Clearwater and beyond: Privatizing, commodifying & marketizing our National Forests**

**Gary Macfarlane**

Three pieces of proposed legislation—not yet introduced, but could be problematic—illustrate wrong-headed efforts to privatize and commodify national forests, and other public lands. The first is a draft bill to change the Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA), itself a bad bill, to a new and even more dangerous level. This draft is similar to a bill last year from Congressman Bishop (R-UT). Titles II and III of the draft have nothing to do with recreation access fees and Title III encourages selling off of national forest and public land campgrounds, and other infrastructure, to recreation corporations. In other words, to walk on the land you own, you may have to pay a private company, or even worse, your public land may be sold! A hearing was held on this bill on October 28. Comments could be sent to be sent to our Senators and Congressman: <http://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>

The second is a draft “wreckreation” bill from Senator Wyden (D-OR). Essentially, this bill turns public lands into economic engines for recreation, at the expense of everything else (except, of course, other kinds of economic revenue generation or development). The public good will be lost and corporations will have more control over decisions that affect recreation on public land if this bill passes. Sadly, some “big green” groups seem to support the thrust of this legislation. Comments on this draft can be sent to: <https://www.wyden.senate.gov/priorities/recreation-economy>

The third is Senator Risch (R-ID) has announced a hearing on the Lochsa Land Exchange, scheduled for Grangeville on Monday November 23. The Forest Service administrative process is dead, in part because the Idaho delegation asked the Forest Service to suspend the process. It is not a stretch to assume both the Idaho delegation, and the Forest Service, know any possible administrative exchange is truly dead because of local opposition. Nonetheless, Senator Risch, while declaring he has not made up his mind about any of this, may be using the legislative proposal offered by Western Pacific Timber (the company that wants to do the exchange), as a starting point. The only reasonable



**The picnic pavillion at the Wilderness Gateway  
Campground on the Nez Perce-Clearwater  
National Forests. Will this structure, and others on  
federal public lands, soon be owned by corporations?**

FOC File Photo

option is a purchase or federal condemnation of the cutover upper Lochsa Land. It is also interesting to note that Tim Blixeth, who was the major face for Western Pacific Timber, is currently in jail, and also embroiled in a lawsuit with other owners of the company. Comments on this draft can be sent to: <http://www.risch.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/> or to [Darren\\_Parker@risch.senate.gov](mailto:Darren_Parker@risch.senate.gov) or via US Mail to Senator Risch, 350 North 9th Street, Suite 302, Boise, ID 83702. Please write by December 11, 2015.

### **Logging and more logging**

The Forest Service recently released draft decisions on two large sales—Johnson Bar and Orogrande Community. We will object to both sales. Objections are like comments, since they occur before the Forest Service makes a final decision. The proposed Johnson Bar salvage sale would occur where a fire burned in 2014. Logging after a fire happens to be the worst time to log, in terms of environmental damage. There are serious watershed concerns. Orogrande Community would log in roadless land in the Crooked River drainage, which drains into the South Fork Clearwater. The Forest Service now claims that logging has no impact on roadless and/or wilderness character. This “logic” could open up the wilderness system to logging.

The final decision on the huge timber sale, Clear Creek, is coming. After reviewing the decision, and associated materials, we will consult with our attorneys on

**See huge timber sales page 6**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 1 NATIONAL FORESTS  
 PAGE 3 WELCOME ASHLEY  
 PAGE 4 BOARD PRESIDENT  
 PAGE 5 FALL INTERN  
 PAGE 7 BOOK REVIEW  
 PAGE 8 WILDFIRE MYTHS  
 PAGE 9 FILM TOUR  
 PAGE 11 FLOTILLA EXPERIENCE  
 PAGE 12 EVENT CALENDAR



Two hundred boats took to the water during the Free the Snake Flotilla.

Deb Alperin Photo Credit

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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 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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## What we lose if we don't act Ashley Lipscomb

I met my great uncle from Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, for the first time a few weekends ago. Two hours into the visit, he approached me with the usual tell-me-about-yourself questions. Employment came up. "Now, I don't think you will be offended by this, but are you some kind of tree hugger?" I fielded questions about my "tree hugger" status all weekend long, mostly in jest. I thought a gift membership to Friends of the Clearwater (FOC), compliments of his tree hugger niece, might reveal why I want to protect some of the wildest country in the lower 48 states. Kentucky is a long way from Clearwater country. Yet, it's still his public lands, too.

My connection with Clearwater country began with a classic backpacking trip along the Selway River Trail, towards the end of my education at the University of Idaho. After receiving my Bachelor's of Science in Resource Recreation and Tourism, I worked in laboratory settings, but instinctually knew my passion encompassed wildlands advocacy. For the past four years, I've volunteered and served on the board of directors for Friends of the Clearwater.

As the new Membership and Development Director for Friends of the Clearwater, my goals include diversifying the age and geographical demographics in our region, for organization resiliency. Missoulians only have an hour drive to Clearwater country. The North Fork of the Clearwater is overflowing with Washington state license plates. Lewiston, Idaho is a major gateway to wild Clearwater country. Our universities are booming with "Ecocritism" programs, schools of the environment, sustainability programs, and young people with skills and various interests. Investing time into our transient population ensures they carry Clearwater experiences wherever they go. Plans for regional house parties, coupled with our successful educational programming, will hopefully aid growth and giving.

With current staff expertise, Friends of the Clearwater will continue to construct mutually beneficial relationships with foundations. FOC offers regional wildland knowledge, displays effective participation in the public lands process, conducts educational programming, and applies appropriate litigation for best outcomes. I will focus on nurturing current foundation relations, and researching new foundations with like-minded goals for project funding, and a desire to see funds do the most good. Our 27-year history is filled with wildlands protection success. These examples tell our continued story, and desired future. The number one goal is to convey what we could lose if we don't act now.

While saying my last goodbyes to family members, my great uncle's twin brother mentioned his desire to take a motorcycle trip down Highway 12. I reassured him that if he decided to make the trip, there would be some trees still standing for their viewing pleasure! Maybe some quarterly newsletters on their coffee table would highlight wild Clearwater country, and provide some insight into the wildness of this special place.

**Editor's Note:** You can contact Ashley at [ashley@friendsoftheclearwater.org](mailto:ashley@friendsoftheclearwater.org).

## HELP KEEP IT WILD!

Please renew your membership, give a gift membership to a friend or loved one, or make a generous donation via PayPal at:

[www.friendsoftheclearwater.org/get-involved/](http://www.friendsoftheclearwater.org/get-involved/)

Or you can make a check payable to:  
Friends of the Clearwater  
PO Box 9241  
Moscow, Idaho 83843

**Thank you for your support!**



Welcome to the staff Ashley!  
FOC File Photo



**My humble and sincere gratitude**  
**Guest Opinion**  
**Jeanne McHale, FOC Board President**

As outgoing president of the FOC Board of Directors, I hope readers will indulge me if I get a little sentimental. It can be easy to take for granted what is precious, near and virtually a birthright to citizens of planet earth: wild country. Someplace that humans haven't tamed, maimed or dedicated to our comfort. Here in Idaho, we enjoy proximity to the largest contiguous wilderness in the lower forty-eight. That makes us lucky, but also gives us heavy responsibilities.

The hardworking staff of the Friends of the Clearwater are fierce and uncompromising defenders of the Wild Clearwater, its trees, plants, creatures and waters. The Board of Directors of FOC has the honor and pleasure of facilitating the work that Gary and Brett do. And we are excited to welcome our new Membership and Development Director Ashley Lipscomb! It has been a blast to be part of FOC's mission for the past six years, and to work with other board members and "Friends." Though being a board member might seem like a righteous but potentially boring kind of thing to do, honestly, I think I received more than I gave, and it was at times quite exciting.

It was great to be around for the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. It has been inspiring to be exposed to Gary's knowledge base and commitment. It has been a hoot to assist Brett with outreach events. It has been a thrill to work with committed, hard-working fellow board members who wrote letters, staffed events, cooked crepes, made financial decisions, voted, ate potluck, and shared the burden and passion of our staff. I am grateful to so many generous volunteers and donors who give time and money to help protect this gorgeous chunk of the earth. It has been challenging and life-changing to become intimate with issues such as wolves, dams, forest plans, roadless areas, fish habitat, megaloads, collaboration/capitulation, land giveaways - like I said, heavy responsibilities.

So as lame duck president with aspirations to soon become more than friends with the Wild Clearwater, in a boots-on-the-ground kind of way, I experience a range of emotions at this juncture. Happy and sad, certainly, but most of all, I want to express my humble and sincere gratitude for the thrill of serving the Friends of the Clearwater and our Big Wild.

**Editor's Note: Our staff would like to thank Jeanne for serving on our Board of Directors the past 6-years. Her knowledge, passion, and creativity are a great asset to our organization, and we look forward to working with her in a different capacity for years to come.**



**Thank you for your dedication and heartfelt work Jeanne!**

**Fritz Knorr Photo Credit**



**Jeanne speaking at one of our recent Annual Meetings**

**David Hall Photo Credit**



**Jeanne has always supported FOC through music, too!**

**David Hall Photo Credit**

## Happy to be interning with FOC

### Guest Opinion

#### Ava Isaacson

Hi FOC supporters, my name is Ava Isaacson. This fall I am an intern with FOC. Being a Latah County native, I am happy to be a part of this group and work to protect Idaho, my favorite state. I am attending the University of Idaho, where I got my Bachelor's in Environmental Science. Currently, I am pursuing a Master's of Natural Resource through the McCall Outdoor Science School. This winter I will be moving to McCall with my partner Alexander and our dog, Finnegan. We will be living in Valley County until I complete my Master's work at MOSS, where I intend to focus on environmental science professional development for County Extension Professionals. By doing this, I hope to spread the opportunity for environmental education into each county of Idaho, as there is currently a deficit in our state. My project at MOSS will be a continuation in the work I have been doing for my AmeriCorps position over the last year, as well as next year in a second term. Working at the 4-H Youth Development Office at the University of Idaho as a Natural Resource Facilitation Coach has given me many opportunities to expand my competency in education, as well as meeting many wonderfully passionate educators. The AmeriCorps position is hosted at the 4-H Office in cooperation with the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute, allowing me the pleasure of teaching at different events hosted by the amazing people that work there.

Being the daughter of a geologist, I spent a great deal of time hiking and camping as a child. My summers were enjoyed hiking in the Big Lost River Range in Southern Idaho, and camping at Challis Hot Springs. I truly believe that this early exposure to nature and recreation provided me with the respect and love I have for the environment. Currently I enjoy hiking, kayaking, downhill and cross country skiing, snowshoeing, swimming, backpacking, climbing and fly fishing. All of my adventures are preferably done in our 1985 Volkswagen Vanagon that has been converted into a little home, because as we all know, home is where you park it!

I first met Brett Haverstick this summer when I volunteered to help him with *Speak for Wolves* in West Yellowstone. The event was a hit-Brett's hard work really paid off. After the event we began discussing an internship opportunity. I was thrilled! The reason I wanted to intern with FOC is partially due to their passion and mission statement. I am an avid environmentalist that wants to see our public lands protected and managed in a way leads to greater preservation for wildlife, rivers, keystone species and the greater ecosystem. Humans are not excluded from nature and it is about time that agencies managed for this, as well a

change in public understanding. We have no right to dominate other species simply because we are able. This fall will be a great learning period working with Brett on community outreach, and Gary on ecosystem defense and policy. I am so grateful for the opportunity to work with FOC and the ability to refine and define my passions for preservation and ecosystem management.



**Thank you Ava for being so much fun to work with!**

**Alex Awbrey Photo Credit**



**Ava and other volunteers did a remarkable job with crowd control at the Free the Snake Flotilla.**

**Antone Holmquist Photo Credit**

## CLEARWATER COUNTRY REPORT

[friendsoftheclearwater.org/big-wild-bi-weekly](http://friendsoftheclearwater.org/big-wild-bi-weekly)

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### **Huge timber sales continued from page 6**

possible legal action. There is also a comment period on the Dutch Oven Timber Sale in the South Fork Clearwater. Other sales which present serious concerns include;

- a) Lowell WUI in roadless land next to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, and within the wild and scenic river corridor; the Forest Service may approve this without any public input,
- b) Lolo “Bugs” partially in roadless area land and within the Lolo Historic Trail Corridor; a document will be out for public input soon,
- c) Hungry Ridge within roadless land contiguous to the Gospel-Hump Wilderness,
- d) Northside Powell, which would reopen damaging roads the Forest Service previously contracted with the Nez Perce Tribe to close, and
- e) the recently approved lower Orogrande sale in critical bull trout habitat.

The above list includes only timber sales that present the most egregious environmental problems. The Forest Service is not meeting its commitments to the public regarding water quality and fish habitat, yet, it is rapidly expanding its logging program. The agency has proved, yet again, that multiple-use is farce, public service doesn’t count, and that corporate profits are all that really matters.

### **Wilderness Follies**

Friends of the Clearwater joined four other organizations in a legal challenge to the Forest Service’s approval to allow a mining company to use over 400 trips with vehicles and heavy equipment in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. The company does not have a proven valid mining claim; rather, this is merely assessment work to see if the claim is valid. We are all being ably represented by Bryan Hurlbutt of Advocates for the West and Roger Flynn of Western Mining Action Project.

The Forest Service recently issued a draft decision to allow the Idaho Fish and Game numerous helicopter landings to collar elk in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, something prohibited by the Wilderness Act. The real reason behind this is to kill more wolves. Friends of the Clearwater is joining with Wilderness Watch in objecting to this absurd proposal.

The Forest Service has also granted a special use permit to an existing pipeline in the Wilderness, without first asking the owner to move the line to private property. The agency is also decided an outfitter could graze pack stock through the winter in the Wilderness, which the current wilderness management plan does not allow. Lastly, the Forest Service is proposing to upgrade the old jeep trail to the Jumbo Mining District, which is excluded from the Gospel-Hump Wilderness. The understanding was this route would be kept in a primitive state. However, now there are numerous new cabins on the private land, and illegal motor-

ized use taking place in and around the Wilderness. An FOC member recorded many of the problems (below).



**Off-road vehicle abuse near the Gospel-Hump Wilderness**

Scott Nuismer Photo Credit

### **More Motors?**

Both the St. Joe and Nez Perce National Forest Travel Plans will be released with draft decisions (the objection phase) soon. FOC will be monitoring the draft decisions and most likely filing objections, assuming the draft decisions don’t keep crucial areas closed.

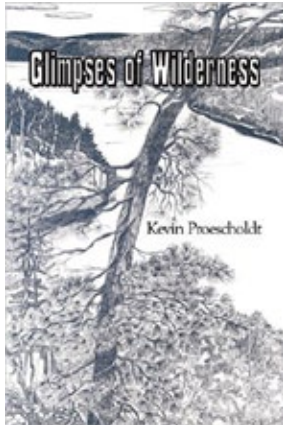
If you want to be involved in monitoring activities, or are interested in policy questions of the sort discussed in this article, please contact the FOC office at 208-882-9755.

Editor’s Note: The Forest Service recently withdrew the draft decision notice for a timber sale on the “A to Z Project” on the Colville National Forest after an objection was filed by Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Upper Columbia River Group-Sierra Club, Native Forest Council, Barry Rosenberg, and FOC.



**Off-road vehicle abuse in Meadow Creek**

FOC File Photo

**“Glimpses of Wilderness”****by Kevin Proescholdt****A Book Review by Gary Macfarlane**

My friend Kevin Proescholdt is one of the nation's premier wilderness advocates, and may be the best wilderness historian around. Indeed, his degree is in history; and he is a prolific author. His latest book, “Glimpses of Wilderness” consists of tightly written gems about his personal experiences in his beloved Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, and the contiguous wild canoe country in Quetico Provincial Park, La Verendrye Provincial Park, Voyageurs National Park, and surrounding roadless land. Few people realize this large contiguous roadless area is 2.8-million acres, almost as large as the roadless block that includes the Frank-Church-River of No Return and Gospel-Hump Wildernesses and adjacent unprotected roadless land.

Kevin Proescholdt weaves into the vignettes lessons about Wilderness—wildness, natural processes, solitude, primitive recreation, and nature on its own terms. His experiences are better teachers of these timeless concepts than anything else, except for one's own experiences in Wilderness. I loved his descriptions of the weather. I felt as if I were paddling and bobbing on a lake in the wind, or hearing the rain crash into the tent as lightning illuminated the sky.

The encounters with wildlife are particularly memorable, be they the antics of a beaver family, a cow and calf moose swimming a lake, the laughter of loons, or the howls of wolves. My personal favorite was the story of a snapping turtle, an ancient species found as far north as southeastern Canada. Kevin also relates experiences with his wife and two daughters, now grown, learning about the joys and dangers of wild country.

I encourage everyone to read his book, if for no other reason, than to obtain a firm grounding in real wild wilderness. It is a worthy addition to any library, and would be a great addition for students of almost any age to help them understand and appreciate wildness.

**We would like to thank the foundations that have supported us this year**

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**The new FOC fleece beanie: \$20 plus shipping.**  
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FOC File Photo

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## Smoky the Bear Myths

### Guest Opinion

### George Wuerthner

**Editor's Note: This article originally appeared on *The Wildlife News* blog in August 2015.**

As wildfires roll across the Pacific Northwest, many in the timber industry and beyond are hoping to capitalize on people's fears and ignorance of fire behavior to increase logging of our public forests. More fire fighters and more tree thinning will not prevent large fires - we need an entirely new paradigm for living with wildfire.

One of the persistent myths is that if we only "managed" (read "log") our forests we would eliminate or preclude large wildfires. If fuels were the driving force in wildfires, we would expect the largest blazes in the biomass rich Oregon Coast Range.

Large fires are driven by weather/climate including severe drought, low humidity, high temperatures, and most importantly, wind. Under these conditions wildfires cannot be stopped.

Only after the weather changes can fires be controlled, and often at this point, they are destined to self-extinguish. So much of the money spent on fire-fighting to suppress an active wildfire is often as effective as dropping dollar bills on the flames. It also puts fire-fighters' lives at risk.

Under severe fire conditions (and all large wildfires burn under such conditions), wind-blown fire brands jump over, around and through "fuel reduction projects".

Recent reviews of fuel reduction effectiveness have concluded that thinning usually fails to control blazes under severe fire weather conditions - yet, it is exactly these blazes that we seek to control.

In fact, some studies have found that thinning can exacerbate fire spread because they open the forest to rapid drying of fuels and allow greater wind penetration.

Often the areas with the densest forests tend to burn the least in major fires because wind can't penetrate and the heavy shade tends to keep fuels moister.

Another persistent myth is that dead trees from beetles or disease increase fire risk. Actually, the opposite is true. Fires consume fine fuels like needles, cones, and small branches - the main tree bole does not burn readily. Dead trees lack the fine fuels and, thus, are more resistant to burning.

Furthermore, large fires are the major source for dead trees critical to forest ecosystems. We need large wildfires to rejuvenate and sustain healthy forests.

Much of the current fire-fighting effort is directed towards saving homes. The best way to protect homes and

communities is not by logging the forest, but to keep people from building in the "fire plain", which is analogous to a river flood plain. For homes already constructed in the fire plain, reducing the flammability of the ignition zone (within 200-feet of the home) has proven highly effective.

We need to reevaluate fire policies. More firefighters, and more money spent on money-losing and ineffective thinning projects, will not make communities safer. It would be far more effective to assist homeowners in reducing the flammability of homes, than trying to fire-proof the forest. We must stop putting our fire fighter's lives at risk trying to stop fires that are beyond human control.

**Editor's Note: George Wuerthner is an ecologist and has published 38 books, including *Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy*.**



**Dead trees are critical to forest ecosystems.**

**FOC Photo Credit**



**Large wildfires create important habitat.**

**Ron Marquart Photo Credit**



## ***EXPOSED: USDA's Secret War on Wildlife*** **Brett Haverstick**

I called Brooks Fahy of Predator Defense this summer to see if he would be interested in working together to organize a statewide screening of his award-winning documentary, *EXPOSED: USDA's War on Wildlife*. He immediately answered yes, we settled on a date, and then began seeking other co-sponsors. The Kootenai Environmental Alliance, Advocates for the West, and Western Watersheds Project were interested. We settled on Coeur d'Alene, Moscow, Boise, and Pocatello for October screenings.

"EXPOSED" is a 30-minute film featuring three former federal agents, and a prominent Congressman who blow the whistle on a barbaric and wasteful wildlife management program located within the United States Department of Agriculture. Known as "Wildlife Services", the tax-payer funded agency is responsible for the brutal killing of millions of animals in the United States each year, largely at the behest of the livestock industry, and state fish and game agencies. Wildlife Services employees use traps, snares, poisons, explosives, and aerial gunners to "control" or "manage" predators, and other native wildlife.

Wildlife Services has used aerial gunners (killing animals from a helicopter) to kill dozens of wolves in the Lolo Zone of north-central Idaho. The Lolo Zone is made up of Idaho Fish & Game hunting units, and covers most of the roadless country in the North Fork Clearwater drainage, as well as both sides of the Highway 12 corridor between Lowell and Lolo Pass. This is some of the wildest country in the lower 48, and, yet, it's being managed as an elk farm in order to benefit a few outfitters operating on federal public lands owned by all Americans.

Wildlife Services kills thousands of species every year in Idaho, including gray wolves, coyotes, cougars, foxes, and beavers. A number of conservation groups, including FOC, are currently working to force the agency to go through the NEPA process, and produce an updated environmental analysis that follows public land laws, incorporates the best available science, and offers the public an opportunity to comment. This is a critical step in reigning in one of the darkest, and deadliest secretive agencies in the country.

Please take the time to watch *EXPOSED: USDA's Secret War on Wildlife*. Contact your Congressman or woman, and voice your distaste over this barbaric and wasteful agency. Learn more at: <http://www.predatordefense.org/USDA>. Make sure you see the film that Dr. Jane Goodall wants "millions of Americans to see."

**Editor's Note: A few hundred people attended the combined screenings in Idaho.**



**Thank you Brooks Fahy for coming to Idaho!**

**Photo Credit Predator Defense**

## **Support FOC through the 2015 Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse (AGMP)**

"The mission of the AGMP is to give residents of the Palouse a meaningful alternative to holiday gift giving and an opportunity to support local non-profits."

**\$5.00** Protect watersheds and water quality in the Clearwater Basin.

**\$10.00** Protect the Northern Rockies Fisher under the Endangered Species Act.

**\$15.00** Protect old growth forests from being logged in the Clearwater Basin.

**\$20.00** Permanently protect the remaining roadless wildlands in the Clearwater Basin.

**\$ your choice** Remove the wasteful lower four Snake River dams.

To learn more about this great gift-giving opportunity, please visit [www.friendsoftheclearwater.org/2015-alternative-giving-market-of-the-palouse/](http://www.friendsoftheclearwater.org/2015-alternative-giving-market-of-the-palouse/)

**Poetry by  
FOC member  
Robin Magnuson  
Damn the Dam Flotilla  
October 3, 2015**

A gathering here at Wawawai advocating breaching of  
Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River  
to free the water, to allow the water to be again a river  
improving odds of survival for migrating salmon  
and steelhead.

Well attended, this gathering, license plates in parking lot  
from Arizona, Utah, Oregon, Colorado, Vermont,  
Washington, Idaho.  
park ranger count of 100+ vessels on the water  
kayaks, row boats, paddleboards, canoes,  
power boats, 350+ people including

Men and women and children of the Nimiipuu,  
the Nez Perce Nation, descendants of the people  
who lived along this river when

Lewis and Clark and their crew floated by here  
in October 1805, in log canoes crafted for them  
up river by the Nez Perce, setting in motion  
two hundred ten years of progress

Signing and breaking treaties  
imposing a reservation on the people  
damming the river  
disrupting the diminishing fish runs

Making this gathering of these people on this day  
inevitable



*Free the Snake Flotilla & River Recreation Day*

Ben Moon / Whitney Hassett / Page Stephenson / Patagonia  
Photo Credit



**The slackwater made it slow going for this crew!**

Kevin Brackney Photo Credit



**FOC members Lynn & Vince Murray**

Marci Miller Photo Credit



**“Lonesome Larry” made a big splash!**

Idaho Rivers United Photo Credit



**Judy & Mary Jane Oatman of the Nez Perce Tribe**

Deb Alperin Photo Credits



**More than a good day for a good cause**  
**Guest Opinion**  
**FOC member, Diana Armstrong**

October 3 was a great day for a great cause. Carolyn Berman, Stephanie Miller, and I got to Wawawai Landing about 9:00 am and located Cindy and Robin Magnuson, who were loaning us their kayaks. Stephanie got the single kayak, and Carolyn and I, the tandem sea kayak. I'd never been in a kayak before. The day was perfect: calm and sunny, but not hot, and the river (it's a slave river), not going anywhere fast, so it was easy to feel comfortable, and look around.

The variety of floating craft, and kindred river activists, was endlessly captivating. The stiletto-style kayak of Mike Haseltine of Viola was beautiful. A salmon mascot stood at the prow of a canoe, while another woman stood on her standup paddleboard. A drone took panoramic shots.

Once we started for the dam, three miles away, Carolyn and I leaned into our strokes. To my child-like delight, we sliced through the water. Coming back, I expected resistance, an opposing current possibly, but it was the same; I saw how truly the river has been made a lake.

On shore there was salmon and fry bread, and general glee. No post-event feeling of despair, because the cause is critical, the time short, and the myths behind these dams entrenched. To me it felt like to breach was within reach. I had a great time. Free the Snake!

**Editor's Note: Watch the Patagonia video of the flotilla:**

<http://www.thecleanestline.com/2015/10/free-the-snake-flotilla-action.html?sf13945058=1#more>

A big thank you to the Moscow businesses that supported the Free the Snake Flotilla!

**Backcountry Lark**  
**Hyperspud Sports**  
**Moscow Brewing Co.**  
**Moscow Food Co-Op**  
**Palouse Ocularium**  
**Panhandle Artisan Bread Co.**

We would also like to thank Jenny Finau and the staff at the Belltower in Pullman for the fun at the post-flotilla party!

**Other Free the Snake Flotilla Sponsors!**

Save Our Wild Salmon, Idaho Rivers United, DamSense, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Snake River Waterkeeper, American Whitewater, Trout Unlimited-Spokane Falls, Patagonia, Atria, Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment, Palouse Environmental Sustainability Coalition, Eco Depot, Stoecker Ecological Services, Roast House, Fighting Goliath, Backbone Campaign, Snake River Resurrection

Snake River Resurrection is a coalition of citizens and organizations dedicated to the resurrection – a bringing back to life – of the lower Snake River by breaching the four lower Snake dams. The coalition and its website aim to give voice to Snake River salmon, steelhead, lamprey, historically intact habitats and riverine landscapes, river-based and riverside community economies, as well as Puget Sound's southern resident orcas and Columbia/Snake watershed bull trout, both of which depend upon Snake River salmon for survival. ADD YOUR VOICE to revival of the lower Snake by visiting [www.srresurrection.org](http://www.srresurrection.org) and signing on to the SRR e-list on its 'Get Involved' page.

**Editor's Note: FOC participates with this coalition.**

**"A River Lost:  
 The Life and Death of the Columbia"**  
**by Blaine Harden**  
**A Book Review by Brett Haverstick**

If you are looking for a good book to read this winter, I highly recommend, "A River Lost: The Life and Death of the Columbia" by award-winning journalist Blaine Harden. A native of the Pacific Northwest, and the son of a father who helped build Grand Coulee Dam, and others in the region, Mr. Harden writes about, what is in his opinion, the "destruction of the great river of the West." The author describes the once mighty Columbia as a "remote-controlled pool", a "bathtub river", a "machine river", and my favorite, a "wild and scenic atomic river."

Setting off on a barge from Lewiston, Idaho and traveling downstream along the lower Snake, and then the Columbia River, to to learn more about the men and women who operate the "most elaborately engineered electricity-irrigation-transportation machine", Mr. Harden encounters people who "pride themselves on self-reliance, yet depended on subsidies" and individuals who "distrusted the federal government" and "remain locked in their old habits of pride, denial, and dependence." Sound familiar?



On Saturday October 3, approximately three hundred fifty people gathered on the banks of the lower Snake River for a historic gathering of citizens to advocate for the return of a free-flowing river. Two hundred canoes, kayaks, rafts, stand up paddle-boards, and motorboats took to the water during the *Free the Snake Flotilla & River Recreation Day* to send a loud and clear message: **Free The Snake!**

Ben Moon / Whitney Hassett / Page Stephenson / Patagonia Photo Credit

## FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2016 LOLO PASS WINTER ADVENTURE W/PALOUSE GROUP-SIERRA CLUB

**February 5 - 7**

NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER NATIONAL FORESTS

SNOWSHOEING, X-COUNTRY SKIING, EVENING PROGRAM AT LOCHSA LODGE

Friends of the Clearwater  
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Moscow, Idaho 83843

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