



# CLEARWATER DEFENDER

## NEWS OF THE BIG WILD

A PUBLICATION OF  
FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

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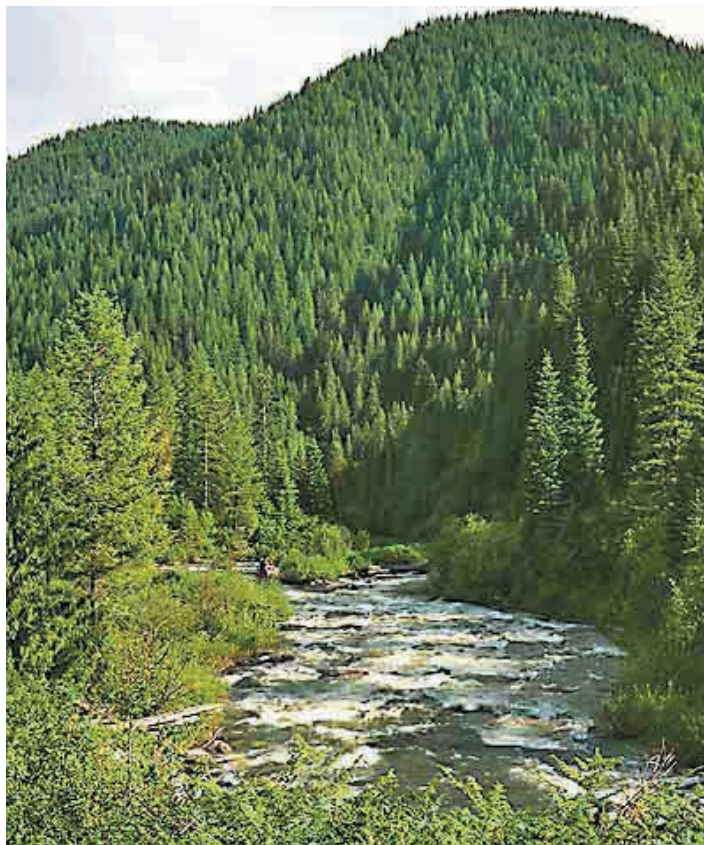
### Wolves 'R Us Sioux Westervelt Guest Opinion

Over the winter I bought forty-five dollars worth of protection for a wolf family from the Defenders of Wildlife Adopt-A-Wolf program as a Christmas gift for a friend's seven year-old son. He will get a plush wolf, a photograph, and a certificate, and I will have donated money to an organization that works to protect wolves wherever they are. I wish it were that easy to really protect a wolf family in the wild, but it's not. Only if the courts decide to re-enact endangered species status for the Northern Rocky Mountain grey wolf will we have a reprieve from hunting.

Defenders of Wildlife have maintained their agreement to compensate ranchers and farmers for livestock killed by wolves. Defenders and the National Wildlife Federation were two of the national organizations who helped ramrod the reintroduction of wolves back into Idaho in 1996, ignoring the fact that they were re-colonizing on their own. Had wolves been allowed to move in gradually, as they were doing, we wouldn't be having this mess we're in today. Re-introduction of endangered species is required by federal law and there are times when it is definitely necessary, but it wasn't necessary in the case of wolves in Montana and Idaho. Their return to suitable habitat was happening more slowly in the natural way of things with their migration down from Canada.

Hunting season began on wolves in the fall of 2009, and although it was scheduled to end in September, the season has been extended through March 2010. There is no scientific basis for extending the hunt. It's based on the fact that the "quota" wasn't met in popular hunting areas in north-central Idaho where wolves are accused of depleting the elk population.

In my opinion, it is cowardly to hunt any animal in winter when it is bogged down in snow, weak-



*View Inside Fish Creek*  
Chuck Pezeshki photo

**See Wolves page 4**



*Giant Cedars in Clearwater Country*  
Chuck Pezeshki photo

### Thank You Ashley!

A big thanks to former board member Ashley Martens who recently moved to Bozeman, Montana with her husband Noel Palmer and their children Oliver and Sadie. Besides serving on the FOC board, Ashley started FOC's education and outreach program, serving as the first director, and she ran the very popular and successful ancient cedar project. Best wishes for your new life in Bozeman. FOC will continue to benefit from Ashley's wisdom as she has moved to FOC's advisory board.



*Ashley (at right) please remember to visit!*  
Larry McLaud photo

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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) nonprofit 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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### A Good Time Steve Paulson

The 2009 Friends of the Clearwater Annual Membership Meeting is past history. A good educational, social, and motivational time was had by all.

The pot luck was one of the highlights of the evening, and could have been a stand-alone event in itself. The casseroles, breads, salads, fluids, drinks, and desserts provided for vegetarian, vegan, and omnivore gustatory delight. Sincere thanks to all the cooks who made that possible! Food is such an important aspect of our wildland-loving community. Mikey's Greek Gyros donated profits from the wine, beer and soft drink bar to FOC. Fritz Knorr and Jeanne MacHale entertained the crowd with piano, voice and trumpet.

One important function of the FOC annual meeting is for the membership to elect people who will serve on our Board of Directors. Newly elected to our board this year are Jeanne McHale, Diane Prorak, and Wes Bascom. Re-elected for two-year terms are Jim Tarter and Chris Norden. Tabitha Brown, Jill Johnson, Will Boyd, and Steve Paulson are continuing to serve terms as members of the FOC Board of Directors. Our Advisory Board consists of Chuck Pezeshki, Julian Matthews, Lynne Nelson, Stewart Brandborg, Larry McLaud, and Ashley Martens. If you are interested in being on the Board, please attend a few board meetings and make this wish known. In fact, anyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend these meetings. The requirements for being a board member are simple--regular attendance of quarterly meetings, a desire to actively preserve wild habitats, and a penchant for the mundane aspects of wildland preservation, e.g. funding, by-laws, statements, issue briefings, staff direction, and the freedom to initiate issues and programs.

Barry Rosenberg accepted the 2009 Macfarlane Award. The goal of this award is to recognize and honor people who have contributed significantly over the past several decades to the preservation of the wildlands and the native animals within our region. Barry has been an important advocate for our natural heritage for the past several decades, serving roles within the Selkirk Conservation Association, The Lands Council, and Kootenai Environmental Alliance. Barry added his signature to the carved Pacific Yew

"Macfarlane Plank," which has been signed by such wildland heroes as Gary Macfarlane, Stewart Brandborg, and Larry McLaud. Friends of the Clearwater gifted Barry and his wife Cathie with a Pendleton Blanket, "Spirit of the Salmon." Barry spoke about his motivations to protect wildlands and a few of his experiences. He also spoke about his experiences with the "Collaborative Process," a timely issue that FOC is presently struggling with. He expressed disappointment with the outcomes, which he characterized as being motivated by industry and biased by peer pressure. He described the process as "death by a thousand cuts."

Another important aspect of the annual meeting is the generation of funds to support the important work of habitat and native animal protection in our region. The 2009 annual meeting generated \$1,200 through donations and the silent auction.

Thanks to all who attended the Friends of the Clearwater 2009 Annual Membership Meeting.



*Meadow Creek Roadless Area*  
FOC File photo

*Wildlands Advocacy:*  
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[WWW.FRIENDSOFTHECLEARWATER.ORG](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFTHECLEARWATER.ORG)

**Wolves cont. from page 1**

ened by the cold, and trying to feed its young. But we can't expect anything different when the state is run by wolf-haters.

I am a little bitter about the attitudes toward wolves in Idaho--the irrational fear and hatred, and the belief in "big bad wolf" stories that are so prevalent. It is true that wolves kill other canines that happen into their territory. Wolves have killed domestic dogs, that is a sad reality. And yes, they prey on livestock when they get the chance. But there are ways to alleviate most predation with better livestock husbandry.

Wolf advocates have played by the rules--attended public hearings, written letters to anyone and everyone who was interested (or not, as the case may be), communicated tolerance to anyone who has power over decision-making. But it's kind of like sending a wish out into the Universe.

I want the human race to remember that all beings are equal under the sun, that we all have our place in the world and a crucial role to play in the balancing act of nature. I can talk about numbers and quotas and prices and statistics, but the bottom line is lives. Wolves are dying. It's like the body count in war--it makes as little sense. One of the reasons I am so incensed by wolf killing is that these are not solitary creatures. They have a pack structure and rely on one another for survival. In many cases they rebuild their pack when members are killed, but what will be the long-term effects of indiscriminate population reduction? We have another chance with wolves. Will we blow this one, too?

Trapping season began on November 15th 2009, as it does every year. I love winter, but there is a sense of depression and anxiety that creeps in when that date rolls around because I know animals are being tortured for sport and money. So-called "furbearers" are trapped in winter because their coats are most luxurious then, and there are fewer people and pets out in the woods.

Call me anthropomorphic, but the idea of being trapped is very disturbing to me, and if you've ever seen the eyes of a bobcat or coyote that is caught in a trap you'll understand. It is a senseless and cruel and cowardly way to catch any animal.

I'm grateful that wolves are not yet subjected to that "sport," but it's just a matter of time. If the numbers of wolves aren't sufficiently reduced by

shooting, rules will be changed to include trapping.

Even now, many wolves have been caught in traps for purposes of collaring and "study." Oh sure, the trap is padded and not supposed to break any bones, but the trauma of being caught and unable to break free is unthinkable. Trapped animals can also do great harm to themselves before the trapper returns.

Lest I wallow in despair and leave readers depressed, I do have some thoughts about hope. For one thing, if you have a chance to see "Lords of Nature," the documentary on wolves by Greenfire Films, you will see the most incredible footage of wolves in the chase. We are fortunate to have these beautiful, wild animals in our state, and with any luck some of us will get to see and hear them in their natural habitat.

We also have organizations such as Friends of the Clearwater, who partner with other groups and organizations to bring educational programs to the community. There is also the Nez Perce Tribe and the dedicated people at the Wolf Education Center in Winchester, Idaho where a new pack of wolves has been acquired. The Owyhee Pack is replacing the Sawtooth Pack, which has grown old and has just two of the original members remaining. The educational opportunities offered by the Center and these ambassador wolves are crucial for changing public attitudes, which is what we need to be working on.

Attitudes of the populace will evolve over time, but it is the young and innocent hearts of children where hope lies. Wolves do not attack humans. Let's be sure the children know the truth.



*Gray Wolf (Canis lupus)*  
Defenders of Wildlife photo

## Pot Mountain Biomonitoring Workshop

### Will Boyd

Friends of the Clearwater and University of Idaho Professor Emeritus, Dr. Fred Rabe, along with eleven folks from Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, headed to the North Fork Clearwater for the second annual Wild Biomonitoring Workshop this past August. The group assembled at Washington Creek campground on the overcast afternoon of August 8 to learn about and collect data from Larson Creek, in the **Pot Mountain Roadless Area (PMRA)**.

The overarching purpose of this workshop was to increase people's awareness of the diversity and natural history of the PMRA. This workshop was funded in part by the Mountaineers Foundation and the Palouse Group of the Sierra Club.

Pot Mountain Roadless Area is located approximately 36 air miles northeast of Orofino. The North Fork Clearwater forms this roundish-shaped wildland's southern, eastern, and western boundaries. Known for being one of the most challenging of the Clearwater's roadless areas to explore, the PMRA lies like a huge inverted bowl, with numerous steep streams descending rapidly to the North Fork below.

The most prominent topographic feature of the PMRA is Pot Mountain Ridge, which runs northeast to southwest and has seven major peaks ranging from 5600 feet to 7300 feet. Four small mountain lakes of ten acres or less adorn the rugged roadless area.

Participants performed a streamwalk data collection at the lower stretches of Larson Creek just before it dumps into the North Fork. Data collected included physical stream characteristics (abiotic) and macroinvertebrate data (biotic). This serves as a summary of collected data and a brief synthesis of the abiotic and biotic factors. All of these factors together paint a picture of Larson Creek and give ecologists a gauge with which to measure its health.

### Abiotic Factors

Physical characteristics include the width of the stream, rate of flow, stream depth, streambed composition, and cobble embeddedness, among oth-

ers. These factors were measured and then scored on a non-weighted scale (no one factor was given a higher value than others). A total of 210 points were possible for the measured stream. But it is crucial to understand that the high scores are not necessarily indicative of healthy streams and low scores are not necessarily indicative of poor streams. Rather, the scale indicates relative productivity.

The average stream width from the two reaches we measured was 26.3 feet, while the average depth was 5.9 inches with a width/depth ratio of 53.5. The average rate of stream flow was 13.9 meters/sec. It is



*Pot Mountain Roadless Area is 50,000 acres*  
Larry McLaud photo

worth noting that 75-80% of the stream substrate were boulders (greater than 30 cm or 12 inches). Canopy cover averaged 82%.

Bank vegetation and bank condition was optimal, with more than 90% of streambank covered by natural vegetation and no evidence of erosion or bank failure. Streamside cover was dominated by three species of woody vegetation, primarily thin-leaved alder (*Alnus incana*). This tree, although remaining in the understory, can grow quite large. Old growth stands of thin-leaved alder can be seen on various North Fork tributaries including Isabella Creek and others.

Subjective measurements of fish shelter availability, bank vegetation, riparian width and others were ranked according to scale as well. Participants scored lower Larson Creek at 153 points out of a possible 230. This measurement may seem low if we are solely considering ecosystem health, but remember this num-

## Around the Clearwater Basin

Gary Macfarlane

### Manipulating Wilderness

The Forest Service recently released its final decision on dealing with weeds in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and it was a doozie. It was long on ecological manipulation—herbicides could be sprayed on over 4,000 acres a year in the wilderness and exotic insect species could be introduced for “weed control” on tens of thousands of acres. As a result, wilderness as an “untrammled” or uncontrolled place will cease to exist.

The decision is short on sound prevention measures. The ones that were adopted, for the most part, will be voluntary. Wild wilderness will be sacrificed for something the agency admits it can’t do: eradicate weeds. Moreover, it appears the program will be in perpetuity rather than a short-term action. While nobody likes weeds in wilderness, the question of what we can do, if anything, once they are firmly established in wilderness (or almost any landscape) is a serious one.

The “cure”—extensive use of herbicides and introduction of exotic species for now and forever—may be far worse than the “disease” and may not do much at all. Look at the proliferation of weeds in private pastures in spite of dumping tons of herbicides over many years. Furthermore, science has shown the best way to deal with weeds is through prevention measures. We had suggested many prevention measures we felt should be mandatory to the Forest Service. None of them were adopted as mandatory measures.

Unfortunately, this will allow new weeds to gain a foothold because the Forest Service will be spending almost all of its energy on introducing exotic species and spraying herbicides rather than preventing new weeds from being established.

Friends of the Clearwater, Wilderness Watch, and the Alliance for the Wild Rockies challenged the plan through an administrative appeal because the plan lacked solid and measurable goals, seemed interminable, and downplayed prevention measures. We discussed various points of our appeal with the Forest Service in an effort to reach a resolution. No resolu-

tion was reached and the Regional Forester’s office denied our appeal. We are now reviewing potential legal options.

One of the biggest threats to wilderness and wildness may be that we think we know what is best for the wilderness. It would be wise to heed the advice of scientists questioning the efficacy of weed control measures (herbicides and bio-control) in a wildland setting. Even many conservationists and environmentalists misunderstand the concepts of Wilderness, believing the goal is to make it look like it did 200 years ago. Rather, Wilderness is a self-willed landscape, where processes like wind, rain, and fire define and change the character of the landscape.

Change is inevitable and wilderness will change. While we may not like all of the changes, it will be wild wilderness. In the case of weeds, prevention is the best long-term strategy. That requires that we use restraint in how we use wilderness and more agency attention to measures that prevent weed spread.

### Lochsa Land Exchange

The proposal has been delayed yet again. A draft environmental impact statement is expected now this summer. As reported in past issues of the Defender, this project has been a case study in bureaucratic bungling. However, a new Forest Supervisor has been appointed for the Clearwater and Nez Perce national forests. A new perspective may be forthcoming from the Forest Service, though overcoming bureaucratic inertia (and bungling) is very difficult.

For years, the Nez Perce Tribe, conservationists, and the Forest Service have sought to obtain in public ownership the Plum Creek checkerboard sections in the upper Lochsa. These sections are literally square mile parcels of land so the land ownership pattern resembles a checkerboard on a map. Simply put, it is difficult to manage such an area.

This is a crucial area in the heart of the Clearwater and forms an important corridor between the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness to the south and the wild country of the North Fork Clearwater to the north. Nonetheless, most of these square miles now owned by Tim Blixseth of Western Pacific Timber have been heavily logged and are in dire need of road removal and other restoration actions to restore the

watershed.

As a result, the Forest Service proposed a land exchange that would give important forested parcels of public land for the cutover upper Lochsa. The original proposal was and is a disaster.

Opponents of the proposed land exchange have agreed the upper Lochsa land should be in public ownership. It is the exchange that is a problem. A purchase option was, and still is, the best avenue for success.

Recently, Great Old Broads for Wilderness held a meeting on the land exchange topic, and invited Friends of the Clearwater, Friends of the Palouse Ranger District, and Dr. Jim Peek, a wildlife professor. All agreed that a purchase option was best. We will keep you updated as this issue progresses.

**Cottonwood Resource Management Plan**

Friends of the Clearwater and Alliance for the Wild Rockies protested the Cottonwood Resource Area’s Resource Management Plan many months ago to the Bureau of Land Management’s Director in Washington D.C. This is a formal process similar to a Forest Service appeal where a higher level official reviews a decision after citizens lodge formal concerns. BLM took a long time in deciding the protest. Finally, we got word that BLM upheld much of the decision but, in one key area, decided that we were right.

The Cottonwood Field Office of BLM must review its sheep grazing on BLM-administered public land in areas along the Salmon River in bighorn sheep habitat. Domestic sheep carry disease that is often fatal to wild bighorn sheep. This is an important victory for bighorn sheep.

Hats off also to Idaho-based Western Watershed Project and Advocates for the West, a non-profit legal firm who have been vigilant in preventing domestic sheep grazing on federal public lands in crucial bighorn areas along the Salmon River.

**Combining the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests?**

Will these two national forests in the heart of the upper Clearwater be combined? It sure looks that way. During the last several months of Tom Reilly’s tenure, before he retired last year, he was Supervi-

sor of the Clearwater National Forest and also Acting Supervisor of the Nez Perce National Forest.

A few months ago, the Forest Service appointed Rick Brazell to be the supervisor of both the Clearwater and Nez Perce national forests. Both forests have just started sharing personnel in various functions and have, for many years, shared fire duties in a combined fire zone.

If the two forests are formally combined, it would create a huge national forest that may be hard to manage. Spreading resource specialists over two national forests, where they previously were responsible for only one, can make it very difficult for Forest Service employees to adequately do their jobs. However, this seems to be the wave of the future and a result of both our nation’s lack of commitment to adequately funding our land management agencies and of improper funding priorities within the agencies themselves.

If the two forests are formally combined, it would be around four million acres in size. That is massive. We will keep you updated on this issue.



*Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness*  
Scott Silver photo

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**Quid Pro Quo Wilderness**  
**Janine Blaeloch**  
**Western Lands Project**  
**Guest Opinion**

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*“The idea of wilderness needs no defense. It only needs more defenders.”*

Edward Abbey’s words have never had more resonance than in the last decade, during which grassroots groups have watched with dismay as wilderness campaigns have become severely diluted by political pragmatism, driven by funding opportunities, and led by people barely willing to defend the wilderness idea.

Gone are the days when legislation simply addressed what would and would not be protected as Wilderness in a given area: we now live in the era of “Quid Pro Quo Wilderness,” a highly compromised, highly politicized approach wherein Wilderness is essentially “paid for” through the privatization and/or exploitation of other public lands and resources.

The quid pro quo trend first emerged around 2000. In the late 1990s, a Clinton Administration proposal to create a national monument at southeast Oregon’s Steens Mountain prompted anti-monument interests, including Steens ranchers, to enter into negotiations with conservationists over alternative approaches to protecting the area. The result was a bill without “wilderness” in the title and with a primary statement of purpose to “maintain the cultural, economic, ecological, and social health of the Steens Mountain area.”

The bill established both a Wilderness and a larger Cooperative Management and Protection Area (a new designation, which is one of the hallmarks of quid pro quo legislation). To acquire about 18,000 acres of inholdings on the mountain, the public gave Steens ranchers 104,000 acres of public land and cash bonuses totaling \$5 million. More insidious for the long term was the creation of the Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC), made up of ranchers, motorized recreationists, environmentalists, and others with an interest in the Steens, with the charge of overseeing management of the area and issuing recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

More quid pro quo legislation quickly emerged after the success of the Steens legislation. Here was a

model that conservation groups could sell to a wider constituency by showing their willingness to compromise, to “sit at the table” with their traditional rivals and abandon their former litigious and adversarial approach. Further motivation was provided when in 2001, the Pew Charitable Trusts launched a ten-year wilderness campaign and began distributing financial, logistical, and strategic support to groups in the quid pro quo mold.

The Campaign for America’s Wilderness, a subsidiary of Pew, urged environmental groups to embrace collaboration with opposing interests. In a paper issued in 2007, one CAW staffer said:

*“We have an opportunity to gain public recognition and support for working with communities; we can grow political power in rural states where environmental groups have been discredited or vilified in recent decades....”*

It was one thing to expand their constituency with new “messaging” about wilderness (it was reported in 2003 that the Pew Trusts were spending more than a million dollars a year on opinion surveys and media campaigns) but there was much more to the groups’ work with communities. They were learning that if they gave something up—more trees to be cut, more off-road vehicle areas, public land traded, sold, or given away—they could mollify anti-Wilderness interests, slap together so-called “win-win” deals, get members of Congress to sponsor their proposals, and put more wilderness acres on the



**Weitas Creek Roadless Area is 260,000 acres**  
**Fred Rabe photo**



scoreboard.

### **Quid pro quo accelerates**

In Nevada, three bills passed between 2002 and 2006 established more than a million acres of Wilderness. The tradeoffs included the privatization, permanent development, or conveyance out of the public domain, of more than 320,000 acres of public land and the facilitation of massive land and water developments, including a 400+-mile pipeline to pull water from northern Nevada to Las Vegas.

In Idaho, Republican congressman Mike Simpson's Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act proposed the outright giveaway of more than 5,000 acres of public land to local interests, much of it for second-home development. Idaho Conservation League and the Wilderness Society happily accepted this and other environmental compromises in the bill for the promise of wilderness designation.

In the same state, Senator Mike Crapo proposed outrageously lopsided land trades with ranchers in the Owyhees and an elaborate local-control apparatus as payment for wilderness designation there. Crapo's bill sought to ratify an agreement reached by a "consensus" group consisting of conservationists, ranchers, off-roaders, and others. (The group expressly barred the participation of Western Watersheds, the organization that has been the most relentless and successful in legal challenges against overgrazing and other environmental damage in the Owyhees).

Without a doubt, an impressive amount of acres was coming into the National Wilderness Preservation System. But numbers alone could not encompass what was happening. The quid pro quo campaign was growing ever more comfortable defending the giveaways and conceding huge amounts of ground, literally and figuratively, to the anti-wilderness crowd. Moreover, the wilderness provisions themselves were increasingly laden with special exceptions, allowances for intensive uses in Wilderness, and complex, site-specific language that diluted the integrity of the Wilderness Act. The essential natures of wilderness activism and protection had changed dramatically.

### **A brief respite**

Simpson's bill, which he touted as so finely

negotiated that it balanced "on a knife's edge," never managed to pass in both chambers of Congress, even with the Republicans in control. Crapo's bill was drastically altered before passage, with the mandated land trades and ranchers' fiefdoms eliminated. This was not the work of the conservation groups involved in negotiating the bills, however, but the work of Capital Hill staff, who proved to have a much better-defined bottom line regarding public land than the groups ostensibly pledged to preserve it.

After the gutting of the Owyhee bill, and with Simpson's bill continuing to languish, it began to seem as though quid pro quo had had its day. Now in the majority party, Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV), his House counterpart, had both spoken out against doling out public land to buy wilderness.

But even with the public-land-hating Republicans out of power, conservation groups continued to toil in their "stakeholder" meetings, forming so-called collaboratives to hone proposals they claimed would "resolve the wilderness issue" — and delivering to Congress, the Great Compromise Machine, bills already compromised to the nth degree. Their commitment to quid pro quo was turning out to be not just a temporary political coping mechanism, but a philosophy that drove their work.

In 2010, the latest incarnation of quid pro quo is a bill sponsored by Montana's new Democratic Senator Jon Tester, a conglomeration of three separate collaborative proposals. In exchange for wilderness designation in some areas, the bill actually establishes mandated (and greatly increased) logging levels on three national forests, including in roadless areas. Even with the largest amount of timber under contract to loggers in over a decade, but uncut due to plummeting demand, Tester cynically promises more "jobs in the woods" as the heart of his bill — and the title of this "wilderness" legislation is the "Forest Jobs and Recreation Act."

Daunting and discouraging as all this may be, none of this has occurred without a fight. Over the years, literally scores of grassroots groups have coalesced, formally and informally, to fight quid pro quo wilderness. In the West in particular, where the trend has been most pronounced, many of us have come together across both state and ecosystem boundaries to

**See Quid Pro page 10**

**Quid Pro cont. from page 9**

defend wilderness and the sanctity of public lands. In an open letter to the quid pro quo groups in 2006, 88 grassroots organizations called for a moratorium on this type of legislation. More recently, in the face of conservation groups' facilitating the divestiture of land belonging to all of us, we have formed a coalition called Voices for Public Lands whose central purpose is to remind the public and policymakers of the both tangible and intrinsic value of public land.

We in the grassroots will never have the resources available to the quid pro quo organizations—but that's always been the case, and it hasn't made us any more willing to acquiesce to their approach. We must not compromise in defending the wilderness and public lands we love.

*Janine Blaeloch is founder and director of the Western Lands Project, a grassroots organization working to keep public land public since 1997. She is also a long-time member of Friends of the Clearwater.*

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*A Mild Winter in the Clearwater Basin*  
FOC File photo

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**Pot Mountain cont. from page 5**

ber represents productivity and by definition the clear cold, first order streams in the North Fork roadless country are relatively unproductive (not contributing many nutrients to the system, short growing season, etc.).

**Biotic Factors**

A total of 29 macroinvertebrate species were collected in Larson Creek. Nineteen of these invertebrates were mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies. Of 68 organisms collected, the average tolerance value was 1.6. Tolerance values range from 1-10. Low numbers represent species more sensitive and less tolerant to stress.

The invertebrate community also exhibited high species diversity, an interaction of number of species and evenness. Evenness is the opposite of dominance where 1 or 2 species dominate the entire community versus more equal distribution of individuals among the species.

Functional feeding types (scrapers/shredders, predators and collectors) are another way to describe the invertebrate community. A small percent of scrapers were collected probably due to effective shading of Larson Creek. With more shading, less photosynthesis occurs and thus fewer scrapers (herbivores feeding mostly on algae). Shredders were also low in number explained by so little wood in the stream, most of it carried downstream by high water. Shredders depend upon wood as a detritus source; without it few shredders exist. Collectors (which collect small detritus in nets or vacuum it from stream bottom) and predators were the most common types. All of these feeding groups need to be present to fill important niches in the stream.

In a general sense, Larson Creek is not a productive ecosystem evidenced by only 68 individual macroinvertebrates collected. Streamwalk groups observed that diverse habitat did not occur since riffles were so extensive and few pools and runs existed. In addition, boulders covered most of the channel bottom. These large rocks provide less surface area for invertebrates to live in the stream. Other factors contributing to low production in Larson Creek were heavy shading, few nutrients in the water, and a short growing

season.

Even though Larson Creek is unproductive, it is still a very important and beautiful part of the Pot Mountain Roadless Area. The macroinvertebrate community is very special with its large number of species, even distribution of individuals and extremely low tolerance limit. Some are indicator species, species found in clean living space where habitat is not impacted and water free of silt or chemicals.

Methodology proposed by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality was used in the biomonitoring analysis of Larson Creek. The stream ranks 81 percent of the maximum, which means "full support" regarding water quality standards.



*Steelhead are Returning to Clearwater Country*  
Save Our Wild Salmon photo

*Volunteer and Intern Opportunities*

Wildlife Research

**Off-Road Vehicle Overuse Monitoring**

Document roadless area degradation

**Timber Sale Monitoring**

Find logging & road-building infractions

**Letter Writing**

Comment to officials, agencies, & editors

**Tabling at Community Events**

Reach & educate concerned citizens

**Research & Summary Writing**

Review Idaho & national mining laws

**Examine state & federal wildlife policies**

Fundraising & Marketing

**Media Relations**



*Weitas Creek meets North Fork of the Clearwater*  
Fred Rabe photo

## FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING & SUMMER 2010

*37th Annual Moscow Renaissance Fair*  
*featuring our yummy Huckleberry Crepes*  
*Saturday & Sunday May 1st & 2nd*  
*East City Park, Moscow, Idaho*  
*10:00 am til dusk*

*49 Meadows Roadless Workshop*  
*with UI Professor Emeritus Dr. Fred Rabe*  
*Saturday & Sunday June 26, 27 2010*  
*Little North Fork Clearwater River*  
*Meet at East City Mall 7:30 am*

*Bald Mountain Lake Roadless Workshop*  
*with UI Professor Emeritus Dr. Fred Rabe*  
*Saturday & Sunday August 14, 15 2010*  
*Weitas Creek Roadless Area*  
*Meet at East City Mall 7:30 am*

**Friends of the Clearwater**  
**P.O. Box 9241**  
**Moscow, Idaho 83843**

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