



CLEARWATER DEFENDER

NEWS OF THE BIG WILD

A PUBLICATION OF
FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

ISSUED QUARTERLY
SUMMER 2011, VOL. 8 NO.2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Page 1</i>	ROAD DECOMMISSIONING
<i>Page 3</i>	OUTREACH CORNER
<i>Page 5</i>	WEITAS AS WILDERNESS
<i>Page 6</i>	CLEARWATER ROUNDUP
<i>Page 8</i>	EXPAND THE SBW
<i>Page 9</i>	MEGAHO UPDATE
<i>Page 10</i>	WILD BOOK REVIEW
<i>Page 12</i>	EVENT CALENDAR

Monitoring Legacy Roads and Trails Restoration **Adam Switalski, Wildlands CPR** **Guest Opinion**

National Forest lands cover 20 million acres in Idaho and there are approximately 32,600 miles of forest roads administered by the agency in the state. These forest roads fragment habitat, contribute sediment to streams, which impair fisheries and water quality, and serve as vectors for invasive pests and plants. Decaying, unmanaged, under-maintained roads are a top threat to endangered salmon and clean drinking water for hundreds of communities in Idaho, as well as elk, grizzly bears and other wildlife that depend on large blocks of intact habitat to survive.

In 2008, Congress established the Legacy Roads and Trails Remediation Initiative (LRT) which appropriated funding to the Forest Service to restore clean drinking water and protect aquatic resources by reclaiming ecologically damaging, unneeded roads, and performing critical maintenance/restoring fish passage on needed roads. Some funds are also used to reduce trail impacts on water quality. To date, the Forest Service has received \$180 million to improve water quality and habitat across the country.

In the past three years Idaho has received \$11.4 million in LRT funds to help alleviate problems associated with roads and trails. With those funds the state has made good progress: it has improved or maintained 75 miles of needed roads, reclaimed 310 miles, improved 218 miles of fish passage through culvert upgrades, and maintained or improved 1158 miles of trails. For example, in 2008, the Clearwater National Forest and Nez Perce Tribe reclaimed 32.9 miles of unneeded roads in the Lochsa and Lolo watersheds to improve habitat conditions for westslope cutthroat and steelhead trout.

With millions of LRT dollars available each year to conduct watershed restoration work across national forest lands, developing a monitoring program is essential to provide feedback on the effectiveness of the work. However, monitoring is chronically underfunded within

See Restoration page 4



Wildlife Monitoring on the Clearwater
FOC File Photo



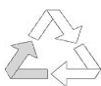
Glade Creek During Spring Run-Off
FOC File Photo

Running to Protect Wildlands (and running a long way at that)

FOC member Dana Johnson is not old enough to remember the walk-a-thons of the 1970s that raised money for charitable organizations. That fact has not dampened her generosity however. While I remember running in a charitable walk-a-thon in 1975, Dana is participating in a 50-mile run near Boise, Idaho this August and donating all proceeds to FOC. She is currently signing up people to pledge money for each mile she runs. If you are interested in donating or have friends that may be interested, please visit <http://www.causes.com/causes/561166>.

Dana's generosity doesn't end here. She is also an attorney who donates time to environmental groups in challenging ill-advised decisions by agencies like the US Forest Service. Thanks again Dana!

Printed on 100% post-consumer, recycled paper made without harmful chlorine bleaching agents. Please recycle this newsletter!



FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

THE CLEARWATER DEFENDER

IS A PUBLICATION OF:

Friends of the Clearwater

P.O. Box 9241, Moscow, Idaho 83843

208-882-9755

foc@friendsoftheclearwater.org

www.friendsoftheclearwater.org

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.

Board of Directors

Jill Johnson	Chris Norden
Wes Bascom	Steve Paulson
Jeanne McHale	Diane Prorak
Jim Tarter	Laura Earles

Advisory Board

Stewart Brandborg	Lynne Nelson
Ashley Martens	Chuck Pezeshki
Julian Matthews	Fred Rabe
Larry McLaud	

Staff Members

Ecosystem Defense Director: Gary Macfarlane
Education and Outreach Director: Brett Haverstick

Publication

Layout and Design: Brett Haverstick
Editor: Brett Haverstick, Gary Macfarlane
Copy Editor: Bill Bonney, Jim Tarter

Reaching Out To You Brett Haverstick

By the time the 37th annual Moscow Renaissance Fair wrapped up, the outreach department was exhausted and needed a breather. What a busy spring! We would like to thank Lenah Nazer for serving as our Renaissance Fair coordinator and extend gratitude to the other volunteers that made this year's booth a joy to work in. Ideas for next year include a new banner to go on the outside of the booth, and possibly a bear mascot that walks around the park selling crepes and cider. Who wants to be the bear?

On June 8th we began the next phase of our watershed restoration project with Wildlands CPR in the Little Boulder Creek area. With the timber sale completed and the road(s) decommissioned, it was time to set up the wild-life monitoring cameras and compare last year's activity with this year's. Within a matter of weeks we have already recorded mountain lion and black bear utilizing the newly restored area! And thanks to FOC volunteer Zack Johnson, we will be sending someone out twice a month to check on the camera and download the new data. If you want to get out and see how this all works, let us know and we can put you in touch with Zack.

By now you may be well aware of the 2011 Weitas as Wilderness campaign, and why this magnificent roadless area is considered the heart of the Clearwater. We have been enjoying reading all the letters to the editor appearing in the local newspapers and encourage you to write one if you have not had the time to yet. Every letter helps.

If you want to experience Weitas, please circle **June 29 – 31** on your calendar for a quiet and relaxing weekend of camping, hiking and historical interpretation. With support from Fred Rabe and the Palouse group-Sierra Club, all participants will receive a free Weitas Creek roadless area field guide, which contains maps, pictures and descriptive information about the landscape and why it deserves Congressional protection. Palouse broadbands-Great Old Broads for Wilderness is co-sponsoring the trip.

On Wednesday **August 24th** from 5 – 8pm we will be hosting a family-friendly barbeque in Moscow's East City Park. Bring a dish if you like or feast on the complimentary hot dogs, salads, and juicy watermelon that we will provide. We can also play some volleyball, throw some horseshoes and possibly toss the frisbee. The BBQ is pet-friendly and don't be shy about bringing some friends.

Join us on Saturday **September 10th** as we hike to the top of Lookout Mountain and take in panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. Located northeast of Grandmother Mountain, this 6,000 feet peak provides snow pack and stream run-off for the Little North Fork

Clearwater River. The hike is not difficult and you can walk at your own pace. Call our office for carpooling details and let's stretch the legs one more time.

Lastly, Friends of the Clearwater has been nominated recipient of the Moscow Food Co-Op's Dime in Time program for the month of August. All customers that bring in a tote-bag or reusable shopping bag for their purchases will receive a 10 cents refund and be given the option of donating it to our organization. All proceeds from this program will help us with upgrading our web site. A big thanks to the Co-op for selecting us!



The Lochsa RNA Workshop Was Wet And Wild
FOC File Photo

Birding With Terry Gray

After countless years of leading groups on birding outings across Latah County, Terry Gray is taking a break to focus on a couple of individual projects. FOC enjoyed getting out with Terry and the Palouse Audubon Society this year and can't compliment our field guide enough for his tremendous knowledge and ability to identify anything and everything flying across the sky! See his pictures:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/terryandchristine/>.



A Loyal And Fearless Birder
FOC File Photo

Restoration cont. from page 1

the Forest Service. Wildlands CPR has partnered with Friends of the Clearwater (FOC) and several other conservation groups and universities in the region to conduct ecological monitoring of LRT-funded projects focusing on the ecological response of reclaiming old forest roads. Specifically, we are conducting surveys to determine how quickly vegetation recovers along the former roadbed, and recording wildlife use along reclaimed roads to gauge how effectively road reclamation work is benefiting wildlife.

FOC and their volunteers have assisted in collecting data for the last several years leading to our increased knowledge of how black bears use removed roads. We have found that bears used recontoured roads significantly more than open, gated, or abandoned roads. On reclaimed roads, motorized access is curtailed and bears benefit from increased habitat security. Also, the early successional plants that quickly recolonize reclaimed roads, in addition to reducing erosion, provide food and hiding cover for wildlife—both of which are typically absent on open roads. Our results suggest that reclaiming roads by recontour is the most effective road mitigation strategy to improve black bear habitat and may greatly improve the likelihood of grizzly bear expansion in the region.

In addition to monitoring the ecological response of road reclamation, we will be conducting hands-on restoration. This fall we will be looking for volunteers to help plant trees on reclaimed roads on the Clearwater National Forest near Lolo Pass. Planting trees will help speed up the native plant revegetation process and help deter noxious weed spread. Please contact FOC if you are interested in seeing road reclamation first-hand and can help monitor or plant trees on reclaimed roads on the Clearwater.



The Hike To Set Up The Camera
FOC File Photo



Mountain Lion Caught on Camera
FOC File Photo

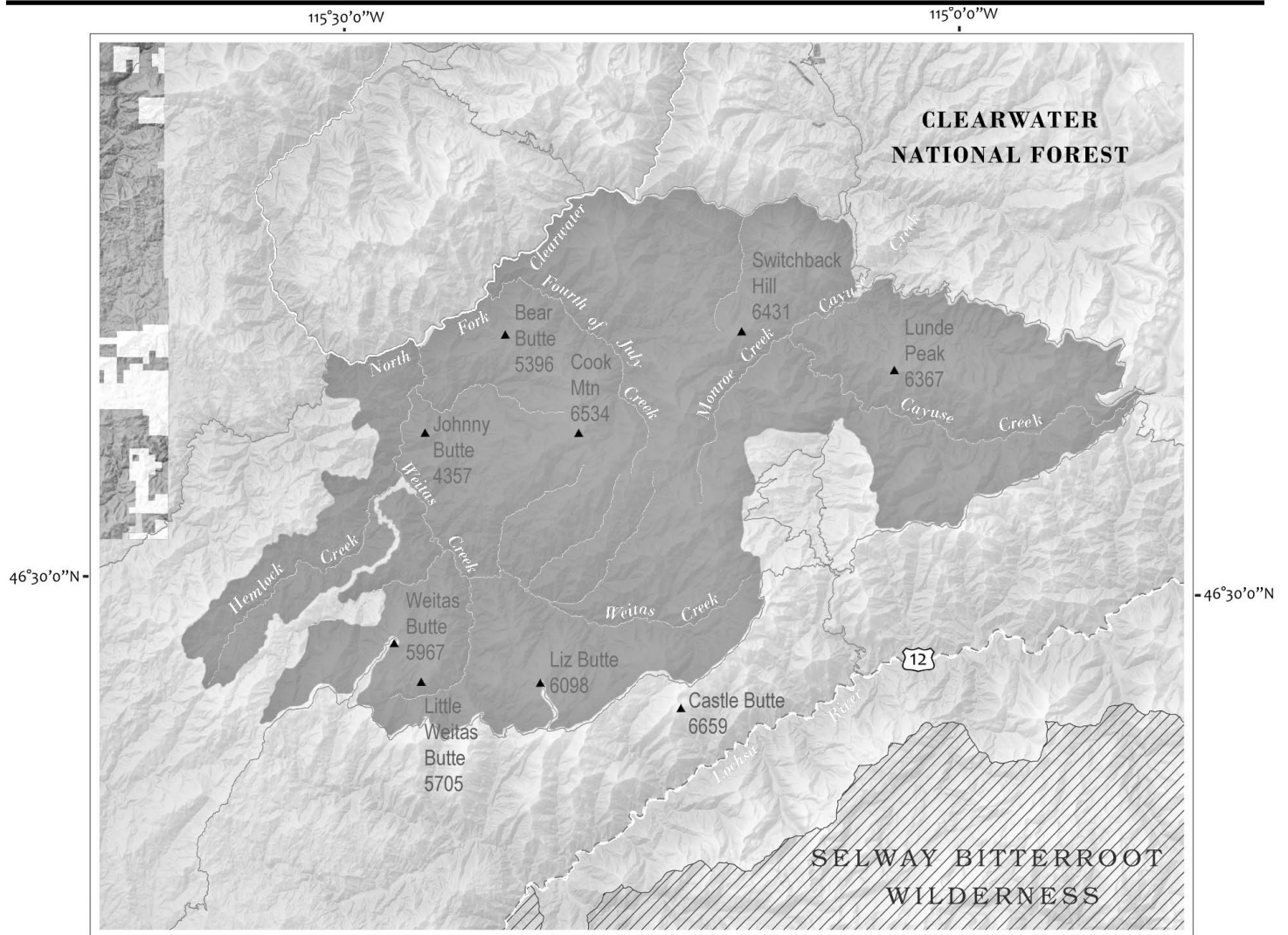


Black Bear Just Passing By
FOC File Photo

WILD CLEARWATER COUNTRY SHOW

Listen Every Wednesday

from 4 - 5 pm at 92.5 FM
Radio Free Moscow or
Stream It Live On The Web At
<http://www.krfp.org>



WEITAS CREEK

115°30'0"W

115°0'0"W

0 2 4 8 12 16 Miles

-  Roadless area and proposed wilderness
-  National forest
-  Wilderness
-  State land
-  Privately owned land
-  Peak
-  River
-  Stream or creek
-  Forest Service road
-  U.S. highway

As part of the **Weitas as Wilderness** campaign, we are inviting folks to join us for a relaxing weekend field trip into this magnificent roadless landscape on **July 29 - 31**. Circle your calendar and come on out for some hiking, camping, and historical interpretation! All participants receive a free Weitas as Wilderness workbook. **Call (208) 882-9755 for carpooling information.** Hope to see you!

Note: The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act would designate the entire roadless area as Wilderness.

Around the Clearwater Basin

Gary Macfarlane

Summer arrived in the Clearwater in a flash as winter hopped directly into summer. The rivers were flowing high with an above normal snowpack wilting under clear, sunny skies. The Selway reached over 7 feet.

As of press time, the Clearwater National Forest office had not released its travel plan. We are waiting (and waiting and waiting . . .).

Wolves are on the chopping block. The legally and scientifically sound ruling from Judge Molloy last year that wolves must be put back onto the Endangered Species list at least until Wyoming produces an acceptable wolf management plan was overturned by Congress in an unrelated spending bill. This provision, which affected the wolves in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Utah, was tacked on to a must-pass bill because there are simply not enough votes in Congress to remove wolves from the endangered species list as a stand-alone measure. However, there is a question whether Congress acted legally. In order to overturn judicial decisions, Congress has to amend or change the underlying statute upon which the legal decision was based. That didn't happen in this case. Friends of the Clearwater joined Alliance for the Wild Rockies and Wild Earth Guardians in challenging this decision based upon constitutional separation of powers. Western Watersheds Project and the Center for Biological Diversity also challenged this decision. The hearing for this case was scheduled for July 26 in front of Judge Molloy, just after press time.

In a shocking and irresponsible move, the Idaho Fish and Game proposed no limits throughout much of Idaho on the number of wolves that can be killed during hunting or trapping seasons. Hunts could begin later this summer, trapping could begin in December. Other measures have been undertaken to kill wolves too, though the results have not been as deadly as the Fish and Game had hoped. The Idaho Fish and Game commission will make its decision on the wolf-killing programs on July 27 and 28 in meetings set for Salmon, Idaho.

In other wildlife news, the US Fish and Wildlife Service denied a petition filed by Defenders of Wildlife, Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of the Bitterroot, and Friends of the Clearwater to list the fisher as a threatened species. We are reviewing our options on this issue.

The Lochsa Land Exchange has been slowed down by Idaho County Commissioners. They submitted a proposal to the Forest Service during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a new alternative that will be evaluated in a supplement draft environmental impact

statement. What is disconcerting about this situation is that citizens were told many months ago the pool of land proposed for exchange had already been decided. Even before the draft had been released, citizens had asked the Forest Service to look at other potential lands in Idaho that were truly scattered parcels but were told that neither the company, Western Pacific, nor the Forest Service wanted to consider other areas because the process needed to move along.

Friends of the Clearwater filed a 60-day notice that we may sue the Forest Service for violations of the Clean Water Act due to the inadequate water treatment systems at the Fenn Ranger Station on the Selway River and the Red River Ranger Station. Wastewater that hadn't been properly treated has been entering the Selway and Red Rivers. There were 2,700 permit violations alone at the Red River Ranger station between 2005 and 2010, most of them water-quality related. We are awaiting the government's response to this issue.

Friends of the Clearwater was joined by Alliance for the Wild Rockies and the Lands Council in challenging two ill-advised timber sales. The first is Robo Elk, the second is Lochsa Thinning. Both have serious problems. The Forest Service agreed to make important changes on both projects.

The Army Corps of Engineers sought comments on the proposal to expand the docks at the Port (!?) of Lewiston. This proposal could have serious negative impacts on salmon recovery. It could also increase damage to the wild and scenic river corridor by aiding the effort to turn the Middle Fork and Lochsa Rivers, which Highway 12 parallels, into an industrial zone. Friends of the Clearwater filed comments and is following this issue.

Finally, if you are interested in doing field monitoring of off-road vehicles, timber sales, or prescribed fires between now and the fall, please call the FOC office at 208-882-9755. There are opportunities to have expenses covered for some of that monitoring.

Contact us at
foc@friendsoftheclearwater.org
to receive the Big Wild Bi-Weekly.
News. Happenings. Updates.

Editorial Note: Listed below are two excellent principles or codes that deal with public lands. Friends of the Clearwater helped develop the Voices for Public Lands Principles and is part of that coalition. The Code of Ethics for backcountry recreation makes important distinctions between frontcountry and backcountry use of public lands.

**Code Of Responsible Recreation For
America's Backcountry
By Swan View Coalition And Others**

The wild is being driven out of America's backcountry by ultra-marathon foot races, biking, and other frontcountry sports run amok. We therefore offer the following code of conduct:

Responsible backcountry recreation remains rooted in quality, not quantity.

It is measured by depth of appreciation, not by fastest speed or longest distance.

It minimizes haste, hardware, competition, and intrusion.

It engages people in conservation through mindful practice of minimal impact.

It saves the backcountry for traditional, contemplative recreation that can't be had in the frontcountry.

Conservation of fish, wildlife and America's backcountry requires people acting more responsibly, not more people pursuing cheap thrills and extreme sports.

**Voices For Public Lands
Declaration Of Principles**

Federally administered public lands are the birth-right of all Americans. Public lands comprise one-third of the land base of the United States, encompassing crucial watersheds, fish and wildlife habitat, and undeveloped open spaces offering inspiration and renewal to the human spirit. The life-sustaining and life-enhancing benefits provided by public lands contribute to the well-being of all Americans.

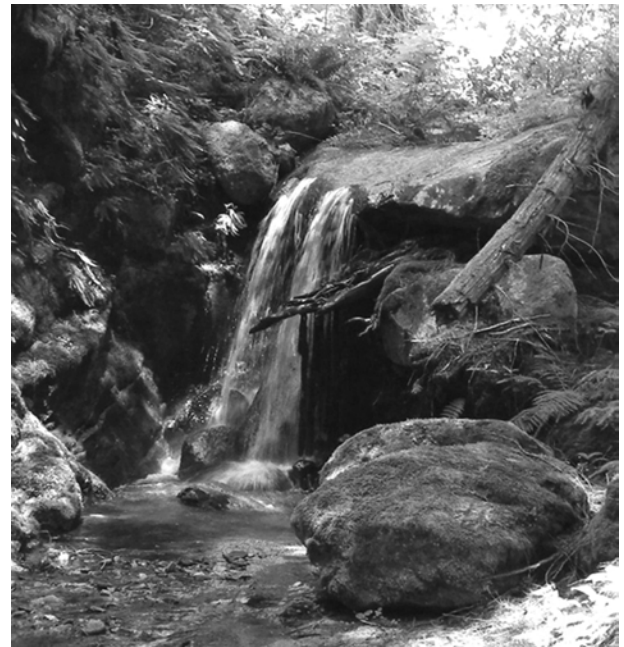
Public lands are a valued American tradition, held in trust for the permanent good of the people. Each new generation inherits a responsibility to protect the public values and benefits these lands hold and pass this legacy on for future generations to experience and enjoy.

Our laws recognize the importance of preserving

See Principles page 11



Tis the Season For Beargrass
FOC File Photo



Cold, Clear, Cascading Water
FOC File Photo

Let's Expand The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Chris Norden

It's easy to get tunnel vision when you're heading to a favorite wilderness destination, especially when it's big and juicy like the Selway River has been this spring and early summer. Zooming past the Fenn Ranger Station, you begin to imagine your beach camp, wading in the high cold water, and watching the river flow from your hammock, as dippers, osprey, and various other waterfowl cruise the river, yielding to a sky full of bats and stars as the evening finally comes.

But wait! As activists and advocates for wilderness and wildlands in Idaho and the Northern Rockies, it behooves us to look around us as we're heading to our favorite protected spots. Why? Because the only thing better than a big wilderness is....that's right! A bigger wilderness!! And some of the prime additions to existing protected wilderness areas tend to be—logically enough—roadless or almost roadless acreage located on the periphery of those same wilderness areas.

A great case in point would be the numerous new wilderness areas designated on the periphery of Olympic National Park in the early 1980's, including the Buckhorn, Colonel Bob, Wonder Mountain, and Brothers Wildernesses. In much the same way that current "collaborative" collusions between soft environmental groups, industry, motorized users, and the Feds look to the edges of a protected wildland core for habitat to sacrifice, we are wise to look there too, but for habitat to care for, champion, and protect.

So what exactly is between Lowell, at the Selway/Clearwater confluence, to the west, and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness boundary to the east? Between the Fenn Ranger Station and O'Hara campground to the west and Selway Falls to the east? Between the Lochsa to the north and the Selway to the south? Is any of it ripe to be considered as additions to the existing Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness? The answer to these questions is lots and lots of high quality winter range, valuable forage for elk and other ungulates, and important steelhead and salmon spawning grounds.

And yes, it certainly is ripe for upgraded protection status.

Particularly on the north face of the lower Selway, the land rising steeply upward to your left as you head upstream toward the falls, is a ridgeline—Coolwater Ridge—and two major watersheds—Rackcliff and Gedney Creeks—all of which are effectively roadless, save for two deteriorating, low-quality roads, which can and should be decommissioned. The closure (or conversion to non-motorized trails) of Coolwater Ridge Road to the west, and Fog Mountain Road to the east, would "fill in" the land between the Selway and the Lochsa, thereby creating a valuable biological reservoir for wintering elk, as well as helping to protect important archaeological resources along the Lochsa-Selway divide. This area is part of a broader package of new wilderness proposals included in the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, though given the current right-wing tilt in the US House, we would be wise to advocate for its protection independently, particularly as the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests combine in an effort to reduce their staffs and budgets.

Talk about a win-win situation: close Coolwater Ridge and Fog Mountain roads; exclude motors from the East Boyd-Glover Roundtop National Recreation Trail; boost elk, salmon and steelhead numbers; take pressure off the Forest Service's maintenance backlog; and save taxpayers money, while adding about 90,000 acres to the western edge of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. What's not to like about all that?



Rackcliff-Gedney Additions To The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness

FOC File Photo



Exxon "Test-Run" Blocks A Public Turnout
FOC File Photo



Hacking The Corridor For Big Oil
Borg Hendrickson Photo

**Speedy Recovery Wishes
to Richard Walker!**
**former Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness
Manager**

Become a Monthly Donor

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

Your Dollars Keep It Wild



Antone Holmquist Photo

Megaho: The Saga **Brett Haverstick**

Retired Judge Duff McKee recently ruled that none of the concerns offered by the interveners during the US 12 Exxon/Imperial Oil contested case hearing warranted the prevention of permits being issued. Not a huge surprise when you consider that McKee's job was to manage the daily kangaroo court proceedings, and in the end defend the transportation department. Advocates for the West recently filed an appeal of McKee's recommendation. McKee now has 21 days to respond. At that point the final recommendation will go to Idaho Transportation Department Director Brian Ness.

Advocates for the West has filed an amended complaint in the Idaho Rivers United lawsuit against the Forest Service. The complaint charges that the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) failed to enforce its easement between the agency and the state of Idaho, therefore negating its responsibility to protect the federal scenic byways program. US 12 was designated the Northwest Passage Scenic Byway in the 1990's. The FHA has 60 days to respond to the complaint.

The Idaho Transportation Department has decided that US 95 is a safe and feasible route for the 60 "reduced-in-size" mega-loads being constructed at the Port of Lewiston. The decision to issue permits was a lock, when considering the fact that the mega-loads were being cut in half weeks before the permits to travel US 95 were issued. The author got a chance to ask ITD's Alan Frew about this peculiarity and was told that Exxon/Imperial Oil are taking a huge risk and they made that decision on their own. Right, Alan. Just like Exxon showed up at the Port in 2010 with dozens of mega-loads, hundreds on back-order, and no guarantees they could get permits to transport them.

The biggest news of course is the recent ruling by Montana District Judge Dayton against the Montana Transportation Department for approving a flawed environmental assessment of the potential impacts of the Kearsarge Module Transportation Project. Judge Dayton has granted a preliminary injunction, therefore halting the issue of any new permits that would allow further construction of turnouts or highway modifications along the route. As we go to print, Exxon/Imperial Oil officials are contemplating their next move. The case could eventually be appealed to the Montana Supreme Court.

The threats to the Lochsa and the communities that live in the valley are far from over, but this is a step in the right direction. Keep fighting everybody!

Predatory Bureaucracy
By Michael Robinson

Michael Robinson does a masterful job researching, detailing, and explaining how the US federal government has worked on behalf of the ranching and agriculture industry for over a century to exterminate all things wild across the Western landscape. The pages are filled with stories of the ruthless and barbaric pursuit of wolves, grizzly bears, coyotes, cougars, and other wildlife from Mexico to Montana.

The book also describes the history of the Endangered Species Act, the political fire-power it took to get the legislation signed into law, and the battles that were fought over getting wolves re-introduced into Yellowstone National Park and the Idaho backcountry. Robinson also delves into the struggling recovery efforts of the Mexican gray wolf.

The history of predator control programs eerily continues today as the US Bureau of Biological Survey has morphed into the US Wildlife Services, with aerial gunning tactics, hunting, and trapping initiatives being carried out on behalf of special interest groups. Not for the light-hearted, this book will turn you into a pro-wolf activist if you are not one already.

Reviewed by Brett Haverstick



Wolf Hunts Could Begin in August
US Fish & Wildlife Service Photo

Wild Places Preserved:
The Story of Bob Marshall in Idaho
By AnneMarie Moore and Dennis Baird

Many years ago I remember reading an account by Howie Wolke and Dave Foreman, detailed in “The Big Wild,” how Bob Marshall had saved what is now the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. This story was recounted in other writings of the two. The book by Dennis Baird and AnneMarie Moore recounts the history of Bob Marshall in Idaho by using letters from Bob Marshall, reports from various people including Bob Marshall, and accounts from others to bring to life the story of Bob Marshall’s involvement in Idaho. The appendices include rare documents and some commentary from the authors about their perceptions of wilderness policy, including concepts that are still controversial within the conservation community today.

Bob was instrumental in establishing what became the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Local opposition was present then, just like it is today. Boosters in Salmon, Idaho were pushing for a road all the way to Riggins down the Salmon River! However, like now, there was also local support for protecting these areas. For example, a teacher in Elk City in the 1950s supported adding Meadow Creek to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Bob Marshall estimated in the 1920s that nearly 18,000,000 million acres of wilderness in one big chunk existed from the headwaters of the St. Joe down to the peaks of the Sawtooths. Also, it was originally proposed by the Forest Service that the Selway-Bitterroot be named after Bob Marshall just after he died. One of Marshall’s last accomplishments was the creation of regulations that administratively would classify wilderness areas.

The book includes the famous humorous accounts of Bob and a grizzly near Graves Peak, in what is now the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, his statistical analysis of the number of times loggers cussed (a lot) and the time he got “forked” for reaching across the table. I encourage anyone interested in history to read this book.

Reviewed by Gary Macfarlane

Believe It or Not
 You Can “Like” Us On
Facebook

Principles cont. from page 7

our public land heritage. Yet even with protective laws in place, these lands are under constant assault by those seeking to exploit them for private financial gain, others who would barter them for political favor, and yet others who are opposed to the very concept of public land. Too often, deference is given to select special interests to the detriment of broader public values and needs.

A disturbing trend is afoot to privatize our public lands outright or, more insidiously, to commodify and sell their unique values and benefits to a public increasingly viewed as customers rather than citizens. These trends threaten the very ideas of public space, shared values, democratic principles, and a public commons—as well as the integrity of the functioning natural systems upon which all life depends. This drive to quantify and monetize all values in our society obscures the enduring, intrinsic value of our public land.

Citizen advocacy is critical to preserving our public land heritage. Public lands will only be protected through a unified and committed public land movement. In that spirit we, the undersigned, present the following principles for public lands:

Principles for Public Lands

1. Our public lands are a public good that must be protected in perpetuity for the benefit of each new generation.
2. Public lands must remain in public ownership, overseen by the federal government on behalf of, and with the input of, all citizens.
3. Protecting public lands requires strong and enforceable laws. Efforts to circumvent the protections in existing environmental laws must be resisted.
4. The public has a right to know how our shared lands are being managed, and to participate in open, transparent planning and decision-making.
5. Control of public lands must never be ceded to local interests, advisory boards, panels, or groups, but should remain with the federal government and, by extension, the public at large.
6. Precedence shall be given to ecological and other public purposes. The biological health of public lands, waters, and wildlife have intrinsic value and should be given the highest priority in public land management.
7. Public use shall take precedence over commercial use.

In situations where access is restricted or allocated, the needs of the self-guided public shall take precedence over the wants of commercial service providers. The potential for revenue generation or other commercial outputs must never unduly influence management decisions.

8. Public lands are not a form of currency to be bartered for political favors. They are not to be sold for revenue generation or for administrative cost reduction. Protecting one area must not be accomplished by supporting degradation of another. In these regards, public lands are non-fungible.

9. Citizens and visitors alike should not be charged a fee merely for walking, riding or floating upon public lands and waters. Enterprises engaged in commerce should, at a minimum, be required to pay full cost recovery for anything they do upon, and pay fair market value for anything they remove from, public lands and waters.

10. Nearly 20 percent of public lands are congressionally designated as Wilderness. The wilderness character of all designated Wilderness should be preserved and not diminished in any way.

11. Legislation to designate new wilderness should fully reflect and uphold the spirit, intent, and provisions of the 1964 Wilderness Act, and contain no special exceptions that would lessen the protective provisions of the Wilderness Act.

12. Congress must appropriate adequate funding to the federal land management agencies, both to ensure that the agencies are able to carry out their obligations and to forestall any real or perceived need for private funding of public land management.



Solitude Along The Selway River Trail
FOC File Photo



Views Into Wild Clearwater Country From Lookout Mountain

FOC File Photo

FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER CALENDAR OF EVENTS SUMMER 2011

WEITAS AS WILDERNESS FIELD TRIP
JULY 29 - 31

CAMPING, HIKING, HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION
BRING PERSONAL GEAR & FOOD
EXPLORE THE HEART OF THE CLEARWATER

HOT SUMMER DAYS BARBEQUE
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 24 5-8PM
EAST CITY PARK, MOSCOW
FOOD & DRINK PROVIDED
HORSESHOES, VOLLEYBALL, FRISBEE
FAMILY FRIENDLY

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN HIKE
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10
HIKE TO THE SUMMIT
PACK A LUNCH
EXPERIENCE THE LITTLE NORTH FORK
CALL FOR CARPOOLING

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

**Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit #470
Moscow, ID**