



# CLEARWATER DEFENDER

## NEWS OF THE BIG WILD

A PUBLICATION OF  
FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

ISSUED QUARTERLY  
SUMMER 2012, NO.2



**The Wild and Scenic Lochsa River**  
**Gerry Snyder Photo**

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### **Sometimes The People Win** **Guest Opinion**

**Borg Hendrickson & Linwood Laughy**

In January, 2009, Idaho's governor welcomed ExxonMobil Corporation to Idaho and pledged the state's full support for the conversion of Highway 12 into an industrial truck route for the transport of giant mining equipment manufactured in Asia bound for the tar sands of Alberta. The governor, the Idaho Transportation Department and the state legislature kept that pledge, while the U.S. Forest Service stood by wringing its hands in self-proclaimed helplessness. ExxonMobil poured millions of dollars into hardening turnouts beside the Clearwater and Lochsa Rivers, raising power lines, limbing hundreds of trees within a Wild and Scenic River Corridor, and mounting a major public relations campaign across the state. The largest, most powerful corporation in the world forgot just one detail in their highly touted 700-page transportation plan. They failed to understand the importance of place in the hearts and minds of many Northwest residents.

ExxonMobil's subsidiary, Imperial Oil, first landed what became known as "megaloads"—equipment as tall as a 3-story building, wider than both fog lines of Highway 12 and 2/3rds the length of a football field— at the Port of Lewiston on October 14, 2010. These loads, Imperial said, were "non-reducible" and Highways 12 and 200 were the only possible route by which they could be transported to Canada. However, within the next 18 months of public protests, contested case hearings, court proceedings, and even hurried changes in Idaho state regulations and statutes, the only Imperial Oil load that would ever manage to cross Idaho on Highway 12 began its journey on April 11, 2011. It crossed into Montana after 23 days en route, an average of 7.5 miles per day, and 13 months later remains parked 7 miles into Montana under 24 hour guard. The 33 "non-reducible" modules remaining at Lewiston were later disassembled and transported on Highway 95 to Interstate 90—meeting citizen resistance every night as they passed through Moscow. The last of those modules did not leave Lewiston until April 2012.

In a similar effort, ConocoPhillips landed four giant loads of oil refining equipment at the Port of Lewiston in the spring of 2010. And due again to citizen resistance,

**See Highway 12 page 4**



**Volunteers Rockin' Our 2012 Renaissance Fair Booth**  
FOC File Photo

## **We Need A Laptop Computer For Outreach Events**

**If you know anyone that would like to make a  
generous in-kind, tax-deductible donation,  
please notify us.  
Thanks very much!**



**Jim Tarter Tribute Hike on Moscow Mountain**  
Fritz Knorr Photo Credit

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## **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.

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



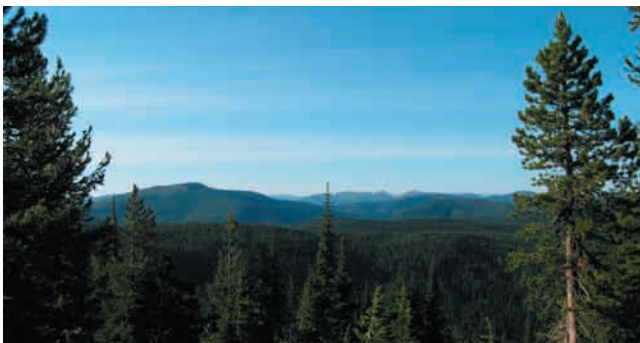
### **Reaching Out To You** **Brett Haverstick**

We are proud to announce Friends of the Clearwater is working with Great Old Broads for Wilderness to have a “Broadwalk” from August 2 – 6 on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. With the help of Cindy Magnuson and Ashley Lipscomb of the Palouse-broadbands, we are planning a four-day outdoor forum with the Broads national office to celebrate and educate people on the rugged beauty and wildness of Clearwater Country.

Broadwalks are signature wilderness advocacy events organized by the Great Old Broads for Wilderness. They are intended to provide their membership and the general public with first-hand experiences and knowledge about the threats facing a particular roadless area or region. The “Weitas Wilderness Broadwalk” will focus on the intrinsic values of the 260,000-acre Weitas Creek Roadless Area, and why we need to garner stronger protections for this irreplaceable landscape and the roadless areas adjacent to it. The North Fork Clearwater drainage has approximately one million acres of vast roadless landscapes. Both the Clearwater Basin Collaborative and the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act will be important topics for discussion.

This year’s Broadwalk will be at Wilderness Gateway Campground on US 12. Because Broad members will be visiting from around the country, we have reserved five campsites. You do not, however, need to camp overnight to participate in the event. You can just spend the day(s) with us if you prefer. If you do want to camp with us, then we will work out a price for you.

The four-day adventure will feature a service project with the Forest Service, interpretive programming, hiking, swimming, and hot springing. We have hired someone to cook breakfast and dinner at the campground, as well as supply food for a sack-lunch. You are more than welcomed to eat with us; food costs will be determined soon. We are also working on live entertainment for one of the evening programs. Hope you can join us for this wildland extravaganza. This one is not to be missed!



**Views from 12 Mile Saddle, Weitas Creek Roadless Area**  
**FOC File Photo**



**Giant Palouse Earthworm Found On Paradise Ridge**  
**Brian Stephens Photo Credit**

This spring Friends of the Clearwater member Cass Davis discovered a peculiar looking worm while walking along a road on Paradise Ridge. However, this particular earthworm looked different to Cass. So he picked it up, took it home with him, put it in a jar, and contacted soil scientist Dr. Jodi Johnson-Maynard with the University of Idaho. It appears that Cass was right! Scientists feel confident that the 11-inch worm is in fact a Giant Palouse Earthworm, and are now waiting for DNA analysis to confirm it.

Please join us on Tuesday July 10 for the Palouse Prairie & Earthworms outing on Paradise Ridge to discuss the historical context of the giant earthworm and the remnant population that may exist on the ridge. The after-work field trip will also focus on the endangered Palouse ecosystem and efforts to protect what’s left of it.

After a big turnout last year, we are planning another late-summer barbeque at East City Park in Moscow on Friday August 24. The cookout will begin at 5pm, underneath the picnic pavilion on the east side of the park. We will cook up hot dogs and veggie burgers and provide a juicy watermelon. Feel free to bring a hot and/or cold salad and something to drink. The event is family and pet friendly.

On Saturday September 8 we will welcome back university students with a hike to the top of Fish Butte. Located off of US 12, Fish Butte is part of the Fish-Hungry Creek Roadless Area and offers excellent panoramic views of this still-wild drainage. Fish Creek provides the most important spawning tributary for steelhead in the state of Idaho. Spring chinook and cutthroat trout also spawn among the gravel-beds. The hike is approximately eight miles round-trip. A carpool will be organized.

Lastly, we would like to thank Lida Saskova and Buffalo Girls Productions for working with us all winter to redesign our web site. As we go to press, the site is on the verge of being completed. The web address is the same <http://www.friendsoftheclearwater.org>. Check it out!

## Highway 12 cont. from page 1

the first two loads did not leave Lewiston until February 1, 2011 and took 65 days to reach their destination in Billings, Montana. After sitting on the dock for nearly a full year, the other two loads departed Lewiston on April 30, 2011 and took 96 days to reach Billings.

For the past several months the Idaho Transportation Department has reported no new interest in megaload travel on Highway 12.

Friends of the Clearwater worked with a great team of northwest and national organizations in a coordinated effort, including Idaho Rivers United, Wild Idaho Rising Tide, All Against the Haul, Idaho and Montana Sierra Clubs, the Montana Environmental Information Center, National Wildlife Federation, Fighting Goliath, the Nez Perce Tribe and the Missoula County Commissioners. The non-profit legal firm of Advocates for the West ably represented Idaho interveners. Together we managed to do what most people suspected was impossible — protecting the Clearwater Valley against an onslaught of corporate and state power. Sometimes the people win, and this was such a time.

Yet “win” may well be only one battle in a still-to-come war. Idaho Rivers United recently filed suit in federal court against the U.S. Forest Service and the Federal Highway Administration to force these two agencies to comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 and prevent further megaload transports through the Clearwater/Lochsa Wild and Scenic River Corridor. Meanwhile, megaload opponents who worked so effectively at halting the Highway 12 megaloads continue their vigilance and are ready for further action if necessary.

With renewed appreciation for a special place, this will be a great summer to enjoy a trip or two on Highway 12 along the Clearwater and Lochsa Rivers.



**The Nez Perce Tribe Is With Us Every Step Of The Way**  
FOC File Photo



**Some Well Deserved Recognition For Moscow Protestors**  
City of Moscow Photo



**Thank You Fighting Goliath, IRU & Advocates for the West**  
Tom Hansen Photo



**Cheers to All That Are Working To Protect US 12**  
Lida Saskova Photo

And where would we be without those great folks from Montana. Thanks to everyone on the other side of the Bitterroot Divide for helping us protect a place we all love and cherish!



### **Around the Clearwater: Strange Doings** **Gary Macfarlane**

In the 1970s, Congress passed several landmark pieces of conservation legislation. The 1976 National Forest Management Act was one of the most important of those laws. It required that the Forest Service prepare plans, normally every 10 years, but not more than every 15 years, for each national forest. In 1982, regulations on how those plans were to be prepared were released. Since the 1990s, the Forest Service has made several attempts to weaken those regulations and make the agency less accountable to citizens. Recently, the Forest Service released the latest iteration of forest planning regulations. Like every other attempt, the regulations are less accountable than the current regulations. They also set up special interest "collaboration" committees that have undue influence on choosing national forest plans.

As an aside, the older regulations do not guarantee that a good forest plan will be produced. The Idaho Panhandle National Forest offices prepared a draft revised forest plan recently. This draft plan, prepared under the 1982 regulations, was worse and less accountable than the existing 1987 Idaho Panhandle National Forests Plan.

Some conservation groups, including Friends of the Clearwater, are scrutinizing the new regulations to see if they comply with the 1976 National Forest Management Act. In the interim, the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests are on the fast track to revise the two national forest plans under the new and not improved regulations. We will keep you updated as this issue progresses.

Speaking of the planning regulations, recently Friends of the Clearwater met with the national ecosystem management and planning staff of the Forest Service. The Forest Supervisor told us that there is plenty of money for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests to revise the forest plan. The Forest Service has hired a consultant, a recently retired Forest Service employee, to head the revision team. There also seems to be plenty of money for the Forest Service to create a sort of redundant agency via the Clearwater Basin Collaborative. Your tax dollars are at work.

However, the Forest Service does not have money to keep popular campgrounds open along Highway 12. Instead, the agency plans on privatizing the campgrounds. It doesn't have enough money to meet its obligations under the 1987 Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests Plans to monitor key species, water quality or fish habitat. There is not enough money to ensure wilderness character is maintained. In other words, the Forest Service priorities are wrong: money only exists to privatize public resources. This is the sad legacy of a toxic political ideology that

seeks to rob the public and benefit special interests.

Friends of the Clearwater and allies appealed the travel plan decision on the Clearwater National Forest. Our appeal was not upheld. We have an attorney who is reviewing legal arguments and we anticipate going to court.

Clean water issues are moving to the forefront. There are serious problems on Lawyer Creek, a tributary to the Clearwater River, involving dumps and other activities. We have attorneys involved in those issues. We submitted comments to the EPA and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality on suction dredging permits. Depending on whether closed really means closed, most of the Clearwater streams would be closed to suction dredging. If this holds, a major threat will have been avoided. We are also working with attorneys in resolving our suit against the Forest Service for failing to meet the Clean Water Act on the sewage facilities for the Fenn and Red River Ranger Stations.

Lastly, the US House passed a bill that would essentially repeal the Wilderness Act. Turn to page 6-7 to read about it. Also, please visit our website at [www.friendsoftheclearwater.org](http://www.friendsoftheclearwater.org) or [www.wildernesswatch.org](http://www.wildernesswatch.org) for more information on what you can do. The Wilderness Watch website also has an excellent analysis of this horrible legislation. Together, we can turn back this serious threat.



**The New Forest Planning Rules Turn Back The Clock**  
**Jeremy Jenkins Photo**

Contact us at

[foc@friendsoftheclearwater.org](mailto:foc@friendsoftheclearwater.org)

to receive the Big Wild Bi-Weekly.

***Issues. Happenings. Updates.***

## Adios National Forests: Repealing the Wilderness Act and Perceptions of Political Expediency

Gary Macfarlane

*Little Wilderness will be the battle ground upon which the future of Big Wilderness will eventually be determined. When we treat Big Wilderness like Little Wilderness and Little Wilderness like Parks and Parks like playgrounds... the battle for the wild will have been lost.*

- Scott Silver, Executive Director Wild Wilderness

In 1964, the Wilderness Act passed the House of Representatives with only one dissenting vote. The bill went through eight years of debate, beginning in 1956, and finally achieved as close to a complete political consensus as there has ever been in these United (?) States.

In the House, HR 4089, a law that would, in essence, repeal the Wilderness Act, passed on April 17, 2012 with only two dissenting republicans. Over thirty democrats supported the bill. This is further evidence of the near complete meltdown of the concept of public service by most politicians in Washington, D.C. Just as bad, the Senate has a companion version to the House bill, S 2066, though written somewhat differently, would accomplish the same goal of repealing the Wilderness Act. Both Idaho Senators are co-sponsors of this awful legislation.

As George Nickas of Wilderness Watch eloquently notes, these bills undercut the foundational underpinnings of the Wilderness Act and its definition of Wilderness, "as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man...retaining its primeval character and influence...which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions." Howard Zahniser, the author of the Wilderness Act, described these words as "the definitive meaning of the concept of wilderness, its essence, its essential character." These bills give hunting, fishing, shooting, and fish and wildlife management top priority in Wilderness, rather than protecting the wilderness character and wilderness values, as is currently the case. Both bills would allow endless, extensive habitat manipulations in Wilderness under the guise of "wildlife conservation" or for providing hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting experiences. It would allow the construction of roads to facilitate such uses, and would allow the construction of dams, buildings, or other structures within Wildernesses.

In other words, aerial gunning for wolves, non-commercial logging and road building for elk habitat improvement, and other injuries in the Selway-Bitterroot, Gospel Hump and Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness would be legal. The House version is so unclear it might even allow motorized recreation access for those



Scott Silver In The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness  
FOC File Photo

participating in what the legislation terms "sporting" activities like fishing, hunting and shooting. Why is this craziness happening?

With some exceptions, the conservation community, while almost universally opposed to this bill, is missing the boat. History suggests this is due to a lack of understanding of what Wilderness is all about and/or perception of political expediency.

For decades, too many conservationists have believed wilderness is solely an area for non-motorized recreation in a non-developed/backcountry setting. This shows a profound lack of understanding, and a self-centered approach to wildland conservation. As a consequence, the opposition to this bill from many conservationists has focused only on the possibility that motorized equipment could be used by recreationists to access wilderness for "sporting" purposes or that wilderness would be open to commercial resource extraction. The signal this sends is if those provisions are out of the bill (which they apparently are out in the Senate version), then all is well. This approach fails to realize that the agencies would have free reign to manipulate and develop wilderness (including non-commercial logging, "temporary" road building for agency access), which would be an end to wilderness even if recreationists did not have access to motorized vehicles or corporations the permission to extract resources. In essence, Wilderness would be little different than the weak Idaho Roadless Rule. It seems Scott Silver's quote is unfortunately coming true. The horrible Idaho Roadless Rule can be seen as a precursor to this bad legislation.

Over the past couple of decades, individual wildernesses have been compromised by the legislation that established them. Rather than holding the politicians to their word through the agreements reached in the Wilderness Act of 1964, some conservationists have traded additional wilderness acreage for the integrity of the system.

This gives cover to radical politicians who want to do away with Wilderness altogether. It seems the ultimate in double-dealing for a politician to initiate collaboration, supposedly involving wilderness designation, and then try to work a backdoor deal to end the Wilderness Act. Why some conservationists would persist in such an effort could only have to do with pathological cognitive dissonance.

It hasn't always been this way. In the past, even politicians who were wilderness opponents recognized the agreements made in passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act. While they were generally opposed to adding new areas, they were not actively trying to repeal the Wilderness Act itself.

Howard Zahniser, the Wilderness Act's author noted, "The purpose of the Wilderness Act is to preserve the wilderness character of the areas to be included in the wilderness system, not to establish any particular use." The groups supporting the Wilderness Act repeal legislation—the Safari Club, NRA and some state fish and game agencies—are selfish to the point of wanting to turn wilderness into game farms. Sadly, too many politicians, and maybe even some conservation organizations, seem to support the idea that wilderness is only for a particular use.

### **Defeat Attempt to Repeal the Wilderness Act!**

#### *Deceptively Named Sportsmen's Heritage Act (HR 4089) and Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act (S 2066) Would Essentially Repeal the 1964 Wilderness Act*

On April 17, 2012, the U.S. House of Representatives passed HR 4089, the deceptively named Sportsmen's Heritage Act, supposedly "to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting." The bill is a thinly disguised measure to gut the 1964 Wilderness Act and protections for every unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Senate version of this bill, S 2066, has not had a hearing yet. While the language in that bill is a bit different, the disastrous result would be similar. Both of Idaho's Senators are sponsors of the Senate version, S 2066.

HR 4089 would give hunting, fishing, shooting, and fish and wildlife management top priority in Wilderness, rather than protecting the wilderness character and wilderness values, as is currently the case. This bill would allow endless, extensive habitat manipulations in Wilderness under the guise of "wildlife conservation" or for providing hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting experiences. It would allow the construction of roads to facilitate such uses, and would allow the construction of dams, buildings, or other structures within Wildernesses (S 2066 has similar provisions to the above).

Specifically, section 104(e)(1) strips away the Wilderness Act's prohibitions on the use of motorized and mechanized vehicles, motorboats and aircraft, other motorized equipment, and structures and installations or any activity related to hunting, angling, recreational shooting, or wildlife conservation. For example, this would allow for any hunter, angler, or recreational shooter to drive their ATV in Wilderness as long as they were engaged in one of these activities. While the sponsors of the bill have stated this isn't the law's intent, an amendment to the bill to make certain this wasn't the result was opposed by the bill's supporters and defeated in a House vote. (S 2066 does exempt recreational use of vehicles in Wilderness, but no consolation can be taken from that fact because of the other disastrous provisions).

Section 104(e)(2) would waive "any requirements imposed by the Wilderness Act" for federal public land managers or state wildlife managers for any activity undertaken in the guise of wildlife management (S 2066 has similar provisions). In addition to allowing the construction of roads and unlimited use of motor vehicles and aircraft, this provision would allow any sort of wildlife habitat manipulation that managers desire to do. Logging could be allowed, for example, to create more forage for elk (under S 2066, it would be non-commercial logging). Lakes and streams could be poisoned, and exotic fishes could be planted to provide more angling opportunities. Predator control, including aerial gunning for wolves in the Selway-Bitterroot, Gospel Hump and Frank Church-River of No Return Wildernesses would be allowed. So would trapping and poisoning. There is literally no limit to what managers could do in Wilderness in the name of wildlife management.

If all this isn't enough, the non-partisan Congressional Research Service points out that because Section 104(c) of the bill bars application of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), none of these activities will need to undergo any environmental review for their impacts on wilderness values, wildlife, or threatened and endangered species.

The bill is backed by the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, Safari Club International, and a coalition of hunting and gun-rights organizations, including the National Rifle Association. These groups are trying to rush this bill, as passed by the House, to the Senate floor for a vote. It is imperative that you contact your senators now and urge them to oppose both HR 4089 and S 2066!

**HR 4089 and S 2066 must be blocked in the U.S. Senate!**

**See Attempt page 11**



### **The Irreplaceable Pot Mountain** **Keri Stark, FOC Intern**

I have had the great fortune to be a part of Friends of the Clearwater as a Media Communications intern this spring. My project was to create narratives of the roadless areas and of native species in the Clearwater basin for our new website. I synthesized technical surveys, read descriptive nature writing, and absorbed a wealth of information from Gary Macfarlane and Brett Haverstick. I'm excited and proud to contribute to the work of this organization; being a part of FOC and learning a great deal about the Clearwater have instilled an affinity for this incredible and irreplaceable land we are responsible for protecting. I hope readers will enjoy the writing and be inspired to explore the Big Wild!

The Pot Mountain Roadless Area spans 51,100 acres, thirty-six air miles from Orofino, Idaho. Seven major peaks punctuate the skyline; the area's namesake, Pot Mountain, crests at 7,130 feet. Four cool, crisp mountain lakes dot the high elevations. Rushing streams race from the ridges down to the valley—Chateau Falls plunges sixty feet—where the North Fork of the Clearwater creates a southeast boundary. Together with intriguing rock formations, the steep terrain is a vast diversity of vegetation. Two-thirds falls within a cedar-hemlock-pine ecosystem flush with western red cedar, Douglas fir, grand fir, and interspersed with slender copses of birch. The higher elevations largely support the remaining third: dense stands of mountain hemlock, subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce. Most of the timber is relatively young, telling the story of extensive fires in the early 1900s that scorched the land and created sweeping brush fields, particularly on south facing slopes. Under the moist, shady bowers of the generative trees, the lightly-treading explorer might find Idaho kittentail, Constance's bittercress, and spacious monkey-flower—species endemic to Idaho—or light hookeria, clustered lady's slipper, Bank monkeyflower, and deer fern, all sensitive plant species in this region.

Thanks to diverse habitats, Pot Mountain supports a spectacular array of wildlife. 16,000 acres of vital big-game winter range augments elk, mule deer, black bear, and Rocky Mountain goat populations, as well as a plethora of species common to the rest of the forest. Of the rare species, northern goshawk, marten, fisher, wolverine, lynx, and bull trout have been documented. Where there is prey there are essential predators, demonstrated by the multiple unconfirmed sightings of grizzly bear.

The rugged and furrowed slopes of this roadless area provide wildlife protection from human activities but also allow the thoughtful explorer a sense of soli-



**Pot Mountain Is A Great Summer Destination**  
**FOC File Photo**

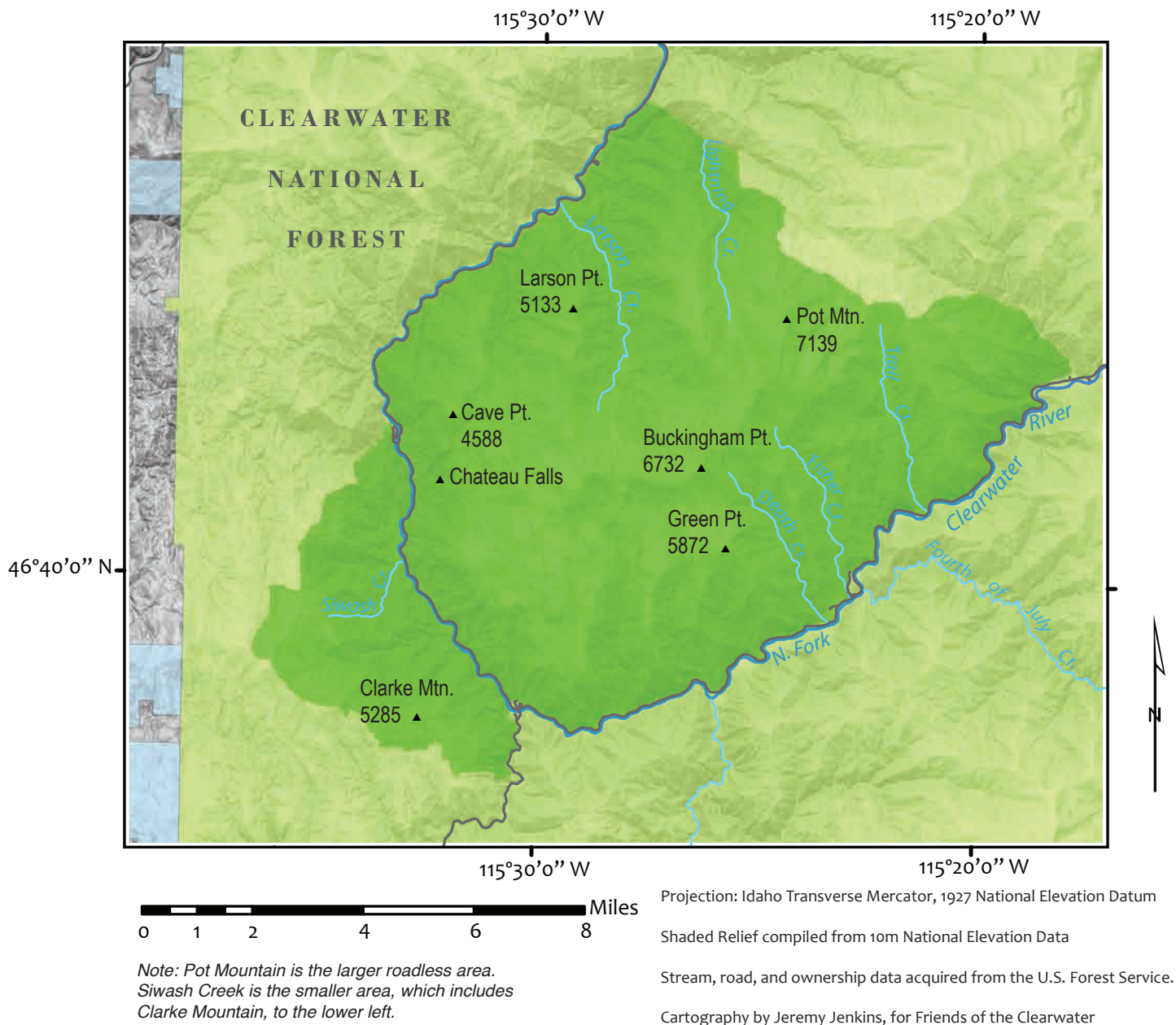
tude amidst steep ridges and dense vegetation. Hiking, primitive camping, backpacking, photography, horseback riding, hunting, and lake fishing for cutthroat trout draws visitors to this stunning country. Of the more than two-dozen cultural heritage sights recorded here, five speak to the indigenous importance of the land, including Native American campsites, a vision quest site, and a major trail that still exists along a currently used path.

Logging and roading adjacent to the area has created severe environmental damage. Swaths of clearcuts leave the steep slopes highly susceptible to erosion and mudslides. The Clearwater National Forest Travel Plan (2012) allows for motorized use in the area: off-road vehicles and motorized travel damages vegetation, displaces wildlife, and accelerates erosion. The removal of a few dirt logging roads would combine Kelly Creek/Great Burn, Bighorn-Weitas, Mallard-Larkins, Pot Mountain, and the Upper North Fork Roadless Areas into 900,000 acres of potential wilderness. As an integral part of the northern Rockies Bioregion extending from the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem to the Yukon River country in northwest Canada, Pot Mountain is an impressive and crucial candidate for wilderness protection.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK KERI STARK,  
CASSIE STOKHOLM, OLEVA LIERMAN,  
AND JEREMY JENKINS FOR INTERNING  
WITH US THIS SPRING. WE WISH ALL OF  
YOU THE BEST OF LUCK IN YOUR FUTURE  
ENDEAVORS. STAY IN TOUCH!



# POT MOUNTAIN & SIWASH CREEK



## In Memoriam

Doug Christensen, an Idaho conservation icon, passed away earlier this year at 87. Doug and his wife Ann have been giants in the effort to keep Idaho wildlands wild. Both he and his wife have received numerous awards from Idaho environmental organizations for their years of on-the-ground activism on behalf of wildlands and wildlife.

Doug and Ann were always very generous. They contributed significant time and money to the conservation of wild salmon, wolves, rivers, and land. As individuals, and together, they were tireless in these endeavors. Doug was well known in the Stanley/Wood River Valley region.

He was persistent in his efforts to convince others to support conservation of wildlands and wildlife.

When some in the conservation community felt that the seriously flawed Central Idaho Economic and Development Act (CIEDRA) was worth supporting, Doug challenged that view and believed we could do better. It is interesting to note that because of opposition like his to the bad provisions in the original bill—including public land giveaways and provisions that weaken wilderness—the bill has improved every time it has been introduced.

Doug's wisdom, experience, and leadership will be missed. Our thoughts go to Ann and other members of his family. People of his caliber are rare.

### Wolf Conservation Hijacked Guest Opinion

Wendy Keefover, Wild Earth Guardians

In April 2011, Senators Jon Tester (D-MT) and Max Baucus (D-MT) and Representative Mike Simpson (R-ID) attached a legislative “rider” to a budget bill that delisted Northern Rockies wolves from the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Days later, Congress passed the bill and President Obama signed it into law. Lobbyists pushing the rider primarily represented the livestock industry or gun clubs and hunting organizations. The rider represented the first time Congress stripped protections from a species safeguarded by Endangered Species Act (ESA). The premature removal of gray wolves from the endangered species list was not informed by biology but powered by mythology and influenced by special interest money. This extraordinary Congressional action appeased a tiny vocal minority, against the interests of the great majority of the American public.

The American West, and indeed the planet, suffers from a lack of apex carnivores. In July 2011, twenty-three biologists issued an admonition in *Science* with the publication of their article, “Trophic Downgrading of Planet Earth.” Authors forewarn that events not previously imagined such as changes in fire regimes, exotic species invasions, carbon sequestration, and other calamities, will befall earth’s ecosystems as a result of the loss of apex consumers.

Wolves, once welcomed and restored with verve in the Northern Rocky Mountains, are now killed by the hundreds by well-armed hunters. Idaho and Montana issued over 62,000 hunting tags on a wolf population that totaled less than 1,300 individuals. In 2011-12, hunters have so far killed more than 540 wolves. Wyoming is poised to join these states with even more draconian wolf-killing plans. These states have and will again set hunting quotas that are unsustainable and are based upon uncertain population data. Killing wolves not only causes direct mortalities on those individuals, but also creates social disruption in wolf packs, which can cause packs to disband, leading to the loss of yearling animals and pups.

The claims behind all this wolf killing is misplaced. While empirical data show that wolves kill only miniscule numbers of domestic livestock and generally prey upon only the weakest native ungulates, belief systems sway important decision makers. Northern Rocky Mountain wolves go untolerated and unprotected, yet, without wolves, ecosystems are impoverished, the public is deprived of prized wildlife viewing, and decades of federal investments in wolf restoration are at risk.

### Wolves Killed by Sportsmen in Idaho and Montana, 2011-2012 Season

(data: August 30, 2011- May 15, 2012; Idaho Fish & Game & Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks)

	Hunted	Trapped	Total
<b>Idaho</b>	254	124	378
<b>Montana</b>	166	0	166
<b>Totals</b>	420	124	544



Trapping Sign Along the Selway River Trail  
FOC File Photo

**Do wolves kill vast numbers of livestock?** No. Wolves have killed less than one percent of the cattle or sheep inventories in the Northern Rockies. Even in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming where most wolves live (and before the commencement of wolf hunting in 2011-2012) and even using unverified livestock loss data, wolves killed less than one percent of the cattle (0.07 percent) and sheep (0.22 percent) inventories in those states. Verified livestock losses are even lower. The biggest source of mortality to livestock actually comes from disease, illness, birthing problems and weather, but not from native carnivores such as wolves.

**Do wolves kill too many elk?** No. Human hunters have much greater negative effects on elk populations. In fact, the level of human off-take of elk populations is considered far exceed the levels of mortality that would otherwise occur naturally. Further, human hunters generally kill prime-age, breeding animals, whereas wolves prey upon older, non-breeding elk. Wolves do hold elk populations at levels that mediate starvation, weather, and other stochastic events.



**How can we restore wolves?** Wolves' stewardship must revert back to federal protections under the ESA. Second, wolves need more protected refuges such as the designation of more national parks. Third, livestock producers can produce "risk maps" to anticipate where livestock conflicts may occur and prevent future problems. Producers can also employ a host of non-lethal livestock protections such as birthing livestock in buildings or pens, using guard animals and scaring devices. Fourth, on public lands, livestock grazing should be retired through voluntary grazing permit buyout. This practice allows the government or third parties to compensate ranchers to permanently retire their grazing permits on public lands, saving taxpayers millions of dollars in grazing subsidies. Finally, wolf policy should privilege wildlife watchers who spend millions of dollars each year to view wolves, as compared to the \$1 million dollars that hunters and trappers spent to buy wolf tags in Idaho and Montana.

Apex carnivores are critical to our planet. Predation creates life. When wolves kill their prey, they create rich, abundant, diverse, healthy and varied life forces in their systems. Unfortunately, politics, not biology, drive wolf "management." May a new time arrive when decision makers see the beauty and necessity of conserving large, connected, intricate systems for wolves and all species. May a time come when decision makers "hear" the majority who appreciate the wonder of wolves and the magic of their work. May wolves return to their historic home and our children and grandchildren hear their howls as they stand in wild Wilderness.

Wendy Keefover, Carnivore Conservation Director for Wild Earth Guardians, recently released the report, *North-ern Rocky Mountain Wolves: A Public Policy Process Failure: How Two Special Interest Groups Hijacked Wolf Conservation in America*, [http://www.wildearthguardians.org/site/PageServer?pagename=publications\\_reports](http://www.wildearthguardians.org/site/PageServer?pagename=publications_reports).



**Recent Protest In Front of Idaho Fish & Game  
FOC File Photo**

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### **What You Can Do**

Write or call Senator Reid, the Senate Majority Leader, and Senator Bingaman, the Chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Ask Senators Reid and Bingaman to oppose HR 4089 and S 2066 at every step of the way and to never let them pass the Senate. Send a copy to your U.S. Senators and Representative, too.

Senator Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-3542

Senator Jeff Bingaman  
Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-5521  
Email Senator Bingaman: [senator\\_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov](mailto:senator_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov)

### **Talking Points**

1. OPPOSE HR 4089 and S 2066. Both laws gut the Wilderness Act and strip protection from every single unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System across the country.
2. Massive human manipulations of fish, wildlife, and habitat like those allowed by HR 4089 and S 2066 should not be allowed in our precious Wildernesses or they will cease to be Wildernesses.
3. HR 4089 and 2066 would allow agencies to build roads and use motor vehicles in Wilderness and construct dams, buildings, and other structures with any connection to fish and wildlife.
4. Environmental review under NEPA must not be waived by HR 4089.

*Thanks to Wilderness Watch for providing the bulk of this alert. Wilderness Watch has also prepared an excellent analysis of HR 4089, much of which is also applicable to S 2066: [http://www.wildernesswatch.org/pdf/HR\\_4089\\_Analysis--WW.pdf](http://www.wildernesswatch.org/pdf/HR_4089_Analysis--WW.pdf).*



The Selway River Trail with University of Idaho Students  
FOC File Photo

## SUMMER 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PALOUSE PRAIRIE & EARTHWORMS  
**Tuesday July 10 5-8pm**  
PARADISE RIDGE, MOSCOW  
HIKING, EXPLORING, LEARNING  
CALL FOR CARPOOLING

WEITAS WILDERNESS BROADWALK  
**Thursday August 2 - Monday 6**  
WILDERNESS GATEWAY  
CALL THE GREAT OLD BROADS  
TO LEARN MORE (970) 385-9577

HOT SUMMER DAYS BARBEQUE  
**Friday August 24 5 - 8pm**  
EAST CITY PARK, MOSCOW  
FOOD & DRINK PROVIDED  
FAMILY FRIENDLY

FISH BUTTE HIKE  
**Saturday September 8**  
FISH & HUNGERY ROADLESS AREA  
PACK A LUNCH  
CALL FOR CARPOOLING

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

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