



# CLEARWATER DEFENDER

## NEWS OF THE BIG WILD

A PUBLICATION OF  
FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

ISSUED QUARTERLY  
WINTER 2014, NO.3

### **Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project and a United Struggle for Forest Protection** Guest Opinion, Karen Coulter

The genesis of Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project and Friends of the Clearwater are similar. In the late 1980's and early 1990's many grassroots forest defense groups and biodiversity projects were organized across the country to defend the wild from the unacceptable compromises of the national environmental organizations, including the RARE II compromise that sacrificed protection of about 85% of the existing roadless areas. This defacto Wilderness is needed to ensure the viability of many keystone species, including the grizzly bear, gray wolf, Canada lynx, and California wolverine, and large far-roaming ungulates such as bison and moose.

Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project was created in 1991 to protect and restore native biodiversity and ecological integrity to the Blue Mountains region of eastern Oregon. Instead of adhering to our original plan to directly seek petition for species uplisting, we quickly got immersed in fighting timber sales, toxic herbicide use, predator eradication, and more recently, geothermal leasing and livestock grazing on public lands.

The backbone of our work to stop or significantly modify timber sales has always been field-surveying the majority of commercial logging sale units for each sale, which means covering thousands of acres each summer with dedicated volunteers.

We have stopped tens of thousands of acres of logging across four National Forests (the Umatilla, Malheur, Ochoco, and Deschutes) and have significantly modified many more thousands of acres of logging (e.g., cancelling logging along streams, on steep slopes, in moist mixed conifers, etc.). Our volunteer internship program has grown to the highest number in one field season—45 in 2014. We have stopped all herbicide use on the Malheur National Forest since 2002, stopped a biocide spraying plan across six National Forests that would have killed many species of moths and butterflies, and have worked across movement boundaries with other groups, fighting corporate capitalism's exploitation of nature, communities, and culture.

Like Friends of the Clearwater, we seek an end to commodity extraction and industrialization on native/pub-



**Thank you Karen for decades of outstanding  
forest protection work**

**FOC File Photo**

lic lands. Both organizations engage in forest monitoring, grassroots public involvement, outreach, and litigation.

However we have lost a lot of the national momentum of united forest defense networks and public outcry that we had in the 1990's. With the isolation of groups from each other, the Forest Service/timber industry propaganda that all logging is restoration and that wildfire is "catastrophic" and must be reduced has gained control of the public narrative. The Forest Service-initiated local collaborating groups are good examples of this. They have largely shifted away from initial commitments to work toward common ground with environmentalists through a full consensus process. Now they cynically abandon such democracy by no longer incorporating forest activists' concerns and goals and not respecting prior collective zones of agreement. In eastern Oregon the majority of the collaborative groups are now siding with the Forest Service and timber industry in promoting the logging of large trees, logging in many areas never logged before (e.g., Wild and Scenic River corridors, "undeveloped" lands, riparian zones, and potentially roadless areas) and from supporting heavy logging to virtual clearcuts under the guise of fire-risk reduction.

We feel it is time to distance ourselves from the logging agenda of the collaborative groups that have jettisoned ecological protections. We hope to join Friends of the Clearwater in forming a new national network of biocentric forest protection groups to share information and act in solidarity with each other to better protect precious wildlands together.

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### Meet Julian Matthews!



**David Hall Photo Credit**

I am an enrolled Nez Perce Tribal member and have lived in Pullman, WA for the last 20 years. I currently work at the Nez Perce Tribe Nimiipuu Health in Lapwai, Idaho. Being a tribal member, I continue the tradition of hunting, fishing and gathering the various medicines and roots used in traditional ceremonial practices that are located within the Treaty area that includes the Clearwater, Nez Perce, Panhandle and other forests. I have always respected the FOC, as the members and the board have an admirable commitment to protect the areas that fall within the Treaty area and beyond. I believe that it is critical to protect the National Forests and other lands from any exploitation or misuse by the government or private industry. I am happy to be on the board once again and serve the people, and also hopefully involve some tribal aspects into the mix.

**Editor's Note: Julian recently co-founded the group Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment. Like them on facebook!**

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## FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

THE CLEARWATER DEFENDER  
IS A PUBLICATION OF:

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

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

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

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## A look back at Wilderness 50

### Brett Haverstick

What a wild few months it has been! We want to thank all the individuals that graciously donated their photography for our photo exhibit this autumn at the Moscow Food Co-op. The exhibit featured photos from the Selway-Bitterroot and Frank Church-River of No Return Wildernesses. The photography was well received due to its colorful arrangement and mixture of landscapes, native flora and fauna. We'd like to extend special appreciation to the Co-op and Sandi Klingler for their help in making it all possible.

The 3-day *Wilderness 50* celebration at the Wilderness Gateway Campground near the Lochsa River was well attended and offered thought-stimulating conversation about the multitude of threats facing the National Wilderness Preservation System. The focus was on making wildlife management more compatible with wilderness values (and the law!), keeping Wilderness untrammelled in a changing climate, allowing more natural fires to burn in Wilderness and challenging agencies to improve wilderness stewardship throughout the system. A huge thanks to the Forest Service, Wilderness Watch, Palouse-Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Friends of the Bitterroot and others for making the event a success. It may be time to get the annual wild Rockies rendezvous up and running again!

Approximately, 1,200 people attended the National Wilderness Conference in New Mexico this October. We'd like to acknowledge all the organizers for their monumental efforts in putting the event together. We'd also like to recognize the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance (NMWA) for their contributions. Extra thank you to NMWA Board member Doug Chinn for giving FOC staff a warm home to stay during the conference!

Listening to author Terry Tempest Williams speak at the conference was a true highlight. Speaking to her in person afterwards, was even more rewarding! In a way that only she can, Terry touched people's hearts, while also challenging everyone to dedicate themselves to Wilderness, public lands and our collective future. Listen for yourself at <http://www.wilderness50th.org/conference.php?useraction=conf-presenters>.

Echoing some of the sentiments of Terry Tempest Williams at the conference was wilderness champion Howie Wolke. Howie shared the malaise in the conservation movement being caused by a cadre of regional and national conservation organizations willing to concede public lands, and sometimes undercut grassroots groups working to protect wild country. To his credit, Howie spoke to the elephant-in-the-room with confidence, grace and urgency. Watch Howie at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cv6xWqoU8vo>.

Lastly, we'd like to highlight the continuing efforts of, perhaps, our greatest champion for Wilderness and wild

places today, Wilderness Act advocate Stewart Brandborg. Despite not being given a genuine opportunity to be a keynote speaker in New Mexico, "Brandy" attended numerous events in the northern Rockies this autumn and challenged all of us to, "Get a hold of all those birds running for Congress and ask them what's in their hearts? Ask them are you going to fight for Wilderness? Do you know what the legacy of Wilderness is in the country?" See it for yourself at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O\\_s6ApF1PWg&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_s6ApF1PWg&feature=youtu.be)



**Big Wild Photo Exhibit at the Moscow Food Co-Op**  
FOC File Photo



**Dana Lyons performing at Wilderness Gateway**  
FOC File Photo



**George Nickas and Dave Foreman speaking at the National Wilderness Conference**  
FOC File Photo

**If you get the chance, watch the new documentary**  
***Wrenched.***

<http://wrenched-themovie.com>



The 2014 Annual Meeting & Gathering  
FOC File Photo

### **The list of local businesses and individuals that supported us through this year's silent auction!**

Read It Again Books, North Idaho Athletic Club, Julene Ewert, Hyperspud Sports, Gnosh, Teresa Baker, Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre, Palouse Bicycle Collective, Howard Hughes Video, Tye-Dye Everything, Paradise Creek Bicycles, Nourish, Northwest River Supplies, Mikey's Greek Gyros, Backcountry Lark, One World Cafe, Sanja Roje, Tom Peterson, Donal Wilkinson, Palouse Ocularium, Allegra Print & Imaging, Hodgins Drug Store, Camas Prairie Winery, Wild@Art, Antone Holmquist, Bonnie & Alan Schonefeld, Mike & Deb Alperin, Dick Walker, Lori Batina, Fred Rabe, Moscow Brewery, Landgrove Coffee, Belinda Rhodes, Bob Hoffman, Brused Books, Kim Barnes, Robert Wrigley, Vince & Lynn Murray, Laurene Sorensen, Cass Davis, Erika Greenwell, Alison Meyer, Kelly Kingsland, Russell Poe, Landgrove Coffee, Deadbeat Records, Molly Klingler, Sioux Westervelt, Julian Matthews and students from Washington State University.

*We apologize if we left anyone out!*



Thank you for another great silent auction  
FOC File Photo



Tom Peterson playing at the Annual Meeting  
David Hall Photo Credit

We want to thank FOC member Tom Peterson for playing music and entertaining the crowd at our 2014 Annual Meeting & Gathering. Tom is very generous with his time and has played at a number of FOC events over the years. Besides being a talented musician, Tom volunteers in other ways, too. Most recently, he worked with us to create a new audio archive for our weekly radio show, *Wild Clearwater Country*. You can listen every Wednesday 4-5pm pacific at [www.krfp.org](http://www.krfp.org) (live stream) or you can download shows on our website at [www.friendsoftheclearwater.org](http://www.friendsoftheclearwater.org). Look for the *Newsroom* tab on the top of our website and then scroll half-way down on that page until you see a link. Listening to our show is a great way to stay in tune with issues we are working on. Thanks for everything Tom!



1964 WILDERNESS ACT 2014  
CELEBRATING AMERICA'S WILDERNESS LEGACY



**Editor's Note: Above is the official 50th Anniversary Wilderness Act poster by Monte Dolack.  
Close-out sale: \$10 plus shipping!  
[www.friendsoftheclearwater.org](http://www.friendsoftheclearwater.org)**



## Why we need public lands

### Guest Opinion, George Wuerthner

We in the United States are extremely rich. Not because many of us have two cars, a two car garage and a three bedroom house to boot, but because we have a rich endowment of public land. This is particularly true in the West. Our public lands are part of our Nation's patrimony and social heritage. Like public education, public lands are a great equalizer that is a foundation for democracy.

I am especially supportive of public lands having grown up in New Jersey where, as a boy, I had to experience nature in private forests where I sometimes was chased for "trespassing." Once, as a teenager, I was given a summons for trespassing when caught sleeping behind a dune on a private beach at the Jersey shore. That anyone could own access to the ocean seemed wrong, and still does, but in New Jersey, much of its famed ocean front is privately owned.

When I moved to Montana to attend college at the University of Montana, I could not believe how much land was open and available to anyone for hiking, fishing, camping, hunting, bird watching, and so forth. I became a fervent advocate of public ownership. Even though I sometimes disagree with the policies guiding public lands, I would never agree to give them up.

Besides the foundation for the freedom to roam, increasingly our public lands are seen as economic engines for western communities that are transitioning from resource exploitation to a knowledge-based economy. Increasingly entrepreneurs, professionals and highly-skilled workers are migrating with their feet to communities where there is an abundance of public lands. Even if one doesn't set foot on public land, it has value to people who may just enjoy the vista of a forested mountainside or a herd of elk grazing a mountain grassland.

The economic evidence is overwhelming. Compared to the rest of the country, western states with an abundance of public lands saw their economies grow by 152 percent compared to 78 percent for the rest of the country. And property values tend to be higher in parts of the West with abundant access to public lands.

These "economic" indicators are only part of the story, however. Public lands produce many valuable "products" for society. They serve as fountainheads for clean water. They are a repository for biodiversity and where ecological processes like wildfire, floods, and other natural phenomenon can exist with a minimum of interference from humans. And often overlooked as an essential value, they are sources of great beauty that we can enjoy.

Public lands have great value for humans, but per-

haps even more importantly, they are critical habitat for many wildlife species that just can't or won't be tolerated elsewhere. Whether we are talking about grizzly bears, wolves, lynx, fisher, sage grouse, spotted owls, or bull trout, public lands are often their last sanctuary.

These lands are important not only for human recreation, but they are in effect the soul of the Nation. Public lands are where many of us experience a spiritual connection to Nature.

In essence a Nation is rich in proportion to the lands it holds as common property.

Public lands will become even more important in the future as our Nation's population continues to grow. The old quip by Will Rogers, "buy land they ain't making more of it," applies equally well to our current situation. If anything, we need to acquire even more land to place in the public domain.



**Federal public lands are our common wealth**  
Roger Inghram Photo Credit

## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

IDAHO GIVES  
MAKI FOUNDATION  
HORN FOUNDATION  
LOOKOUT FOUNDATION  
NEW LAND FOUNDATION  
CLIF BAR FAMILY FOUNDATION  
NORCROSS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION  
ROBERT L. CROWELL CHARITABLE FUND &  
JOHN & MERRILL CROWELL FAMILY FUND  
OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
OF NEW JERSEY

## **Around the Clearwater** **Gary Macfarlane**

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### **The Revision of the Forests Plans: Many Voices for Accountable Stewardship**

A big thanks to all the Friends of the Clearwater (FOC) members and supporters who wrote in on the scoping process for the plan revision for the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests. The Forest Service received about 10,000 comments! Forest plans are supposed to be updated every 10 years, but not more than 15 years. As many people know, forest plans for each of these two national forests were completed in 1987 and have not been updated since. The Clearwater National Forest Plan was challenged by conservationists in court. As a result, in 1993, the Forest Service committed to manage over 500,000 acres of roadless land as recommended wilderness and improve protection for water quality.

Thanks also to the many organizations who supported the *Citizens Conservation Biology Alternative* that FOC forwarded to the Forest Service. Also, the Idaho and Montana Chapters of the Sierra Club, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, the Center for Biological Diversity and WildEarth Guardians are to be commended for informing their membership about the revision of the two forest plans and the opportunity to comment. Locally, the Ecology & Conservation Biology Club at the University of Idaho co-sponsored a public meeting with FOC that helped generate input. All of this grassroots organizing was responsible for the considerable amount of public input.

As reported earlier, the initial proposal by the Forest Service was far worse than the old plans, especially in terms of watershed, water quality and wildlife habitat protection. This new initial proposal lacks any agency accountability. The two options for Wilderness leave out crucial habitat including Weitas Creek, Pot Mountain, Fish and Hungry Creeks, Cove-Mallard and areas adjacent to the Gospel Hump and Selway-Bitterroot Wildernesses. They also remove the unique Fish Lake out of the Kelly Creek/Great Burn recommended wilderness. This area harbors a rare adfluvial (lives in a lake but spawns in a stream) population of bull trout. That population is vulnerable to extinction because the Forest Service has not closed the area to motorized use even though it was recommended in the 1987 plan for Wilderness.

We expect the Forest Service to release a draft plan with alternatives next year. There will be one last opportunity for public comment, perhaps the most important one, at that time. We will ask again that citizens write to the Forest Service on this crucial issue.

Speaking of the Forest Service, Rick Brazell, the supervisor for the administratively combined Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests is retiring. A new supervisor has been selected, Cheryl Probert. FOC has asked to meet the new supervisor and we await a meeting date. At the same time, the Forest Service locally has a new forest planner and needs to replace three district rangers. The North Fork District Ranger, Kathy Rodriguez, is retiring. She was diligent in her job and concerned about wildlife habitat and water quality. The Lochsa District Ranger has moved to a Forest Service job in Oregon and the Palouse District Ranger has moved on as well.

### **A Return to the Bad Old Days of Cut and Run?**

One thing the new supervisor needs to address is the proposed massive increase in the logging program on the two national forests. Massive timber sales that will have adverse impacts on watersheds, wildlife and fish habitat have been proposed in Clear Creek, Lolo Creek, and Mill Creek/Hungry Ridge, among others. Of recent note, the proposed Johnson Bar salvage sale is located where a fire burned this summer. The worst time to log, in terms of environmental damage, is after a fire. Further, the Forest Service is also proposing another sale to log inside the Rackcliff-Gedney Roadless Area, an area contiguous to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, which should be added to that Wilderness, instead. This is near the confluence of the Selway and Lochsa Rivers. While this proposed sale wouldn't destroy a lot of roadless country, it is potential incremental destruction of wild country that concerns us. Both sales would log within the wild and scenic rivers corridors for the Lochsa, Selway and Middle Fork Clearwater Rivers. Environmental documents for the two projects will be out for public input sometime next year.

### **A Chance for River and Salmon Recovery?**

Sometimes challenges create unique opportunities. The four-year effort to keep the Lochsa and Middle Fork Clearwater Rivers free from megaloads that threatened to turn it into an industrial corridor (though not over) has produced a working network. This includes the Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho Rivers United, Fighting Goliath, Advocates for the West, Save Our Wild Salmon, the Sierra Club and Earthjustice. We have a new opportunity to restore sanity to the Clearwater and Snake River watersheds in both economic and ecological facets. There are serious economic questions in keeping the lower four Snake River dams, not the least of which is increasing sediment deposition behind dams, which is very expensive to remove.

In fact, FOC joined with the Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho Rivers United, the Sierra Club, Pacific Federation of Fishermen's Associations, Institute of Fisheries Resources, Washington Wildlife Federation, to challenge the plan from the Walla Walla District of the Army Corps of Engineers, to do an economically expensive dredging operation to keep Lewiston, Idaho a seaport. This challenge occurred in November of 2014. Earthjustice ably represents the conservation organizations. The Nez Perce Tribe is being represented by their own fine legal team.

What makes this even more interesting is that this process led to a review of the economic analysis done to justify the lower Snake River dams. A former Army Corps engineer, along with other retired colleagues, reviewed the economic information and found serious problems. The agency, due to budget constraints, may be forced to prioritize the most productive water transportation systems in the country and it appears the lower Snake dams do not pencil out in any respect.



**UI Ecology & Conservation Biology Club  
co-sponsored our forest revision event**  
FOC File Photo

### **Wild Critters and their Habitat**

The wolverine has many friends. The disappointing ruling by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) not to protect the species—based upon politics and not science—is being challenged in court by many organizations. Earthjustice is representing several organizations, including FOC, in the effort. Earlier issues of the *Clearwater Defender* reported how the USFWS was preparing to protect the species, due to science, until political pressure from state fish and game agencies got in the way. Since the law requires that the best science be used to make decisions on whether a species should be protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), we feel we have a very good case. Indeed, a group of scientists convened earlier in 2014, at the request of the USFWS, and determined that threats to the species warranted its protection under the ESA.

Kristin Ruether of Western Watersheds Project and Laird Lucas of Advocates for the West are representing Western Watersheds Project, Center for Biological Diversity, WildEarth Guardians and FOC in an effort to rein-in the rogue federal agency, Wildlife Services (what a euphemism), which kills wildlife like bears, cougars, badgers and coyotes. (NOTE: Kristin was FOC's first Forest Watch Director and has been an excellent conservation attorney for several years).

Also, the Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the Wild Swan, Friends of the Bitterroot, Western Watersheds Project and FOC are waiting on the Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to list the rare fisher under the Endangered Species Act. We expect a finding from the Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) toward the end of next year. While the delay is not ideal, a legal challenge in court would take just as long, if not longer, to force a decision from the USFWS.

### **Will the Lochsa Land Exchange Rise from the Dead?**

Newspaper articles have recently reported on a court case between some of the main players in Western Pacific Timber, the company that bought the upper Lochsa "checkerboard" lands from Plum Creek. As discussed in previous editions of our newsletter, this land ownership pattern located in the middle of a national forest is the result of the railroads not living up to their agreements with the federal government that date back many decades. By all rights, the land should have been returned to the American public many decades ago.

However, the proposed land exchange is not a desirable way to return the land into public ownership, in part, because it proposes to trade these cutover lands in the upper Lochsa for prime national forest land at lower elevations. A purchase at a fair price is the only long-term feasible option. The Forest Service dropped the administrative exchange process at the request of the Idaho delegation, who wanted to pursue a legislative exchange. Legislative exchanges are even more controversial than administrative ones, as they often give special favors to politically connected special interests.

In any case, the media has reported that the Idaho delegation has put the exchange on the back burner. Given the recent controversy within Western Pacific Timber, it remains to be seen whether the Idaho delegation will pursue the exchange with great vigor, drop the idea altogether, or continue on the uncertain and slowly moving present course. We will keep you updated.





Thank you for another great year in working together to protect Clearwater Country!

Antone Holmquist Photo Credit

## FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER CALENDAR OF EVENTS WINTER 2015

2015 FOC BENEFIT CONCERT

**Saturday February 7, 7-10 pm**

GREAT ROOM 1912 CENTER, 412 E. THIRD STREET MOSCOW  
MUSIC, RAFFLE PRIZES, CASH BAR, SNACKS

LOLO PASS WINTER ADVENTURE W/PALOUSE-SIERRA CLUB

**Saturday February 21**

NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER NATIONAL FORESTS  
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING, SNOWSHOEING, INTERPRETATION