



CLEARWATER DEFENDER

NEWS OF THE BIG WILD

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Guest Opinion: Writers on the Range

ORVs: No Right Way to Do the Wrong Thing

By George Wuerthner, 1-23-08

Right now various National Forests and BLM districts are beginning to put together travel management plans. Most of these plans are focused on corralling the growing abuse of our public lands by thrillcraft—ATVs, dirt bikes, dune buggies, swamp buggies, jet skis, snowmobiles, and other associated toys used by neotenuous adults. Many citizens are agonizing over which parts of our public domain should be designated legalized abusement parks, and which lands should be protected from such abuse. The underlying assumption of all these travel management plans is that some level of abuse and vandalism of our public domain by thrillcraft owners is inevitable.

I do not accept the premise that abuse of our lands is something that we must tolerate as inevitable. It is our land. It is our children's land, and their children's land. We have a responsibility to pass these lands on to the next generation in better condition than we found them. And we have a collective responsibility to protect our national heritage against the thrillcraft menace.

The real problem isn't the machines. It's not even the people. Many otherwise decent people ride thrillcraft, but when they straddle one of these machines they become participants in a dysfunctional culture. It is a culture

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Friends of the Clearwater Annual Meeting Roundup

By Chris Norden, Friends of the Clearwater Secretary

A festive but purposeful atmosphere contributed to the success of our recent Annual Membership Meeting, held at the 1912 Center in Moscow, Idaho on Friday, November 9, 2007. New this year were printed programs, formal place settings, and homemade table decorations (thanks to all who helped with the set-up!), and live music was provided by Fritz Knorr and Jeanne McHale, on trumpet and piano respectively, plus voices.

The evening's fundraising was a resounding success. Thanks to many generous donors we raised about \$2000! Special thanks to Bill Bonney, for his donation of a motorcycle. (Yes, it was a street bike. Whew!) The traditional potluck dinner was outstanding, as usual. We love wild nature, and we can cook up a storm too, what's not to like! Beer and wine was provided by Louise from Mikey's Gyros. Louise is co-owner and manager of Mikey's, and exactly the kind of business

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Friends of the Clearwater, a recognized non-profit organization since 1987, defends the Idaho Clearwater Bioregion's wild lands 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 to bring an end to commodity extraction and industrialization on our public lands.

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

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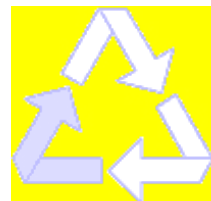
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that sees our public land as nothing more than a giant sandbox. Thrillcraft culture represents a lack of respect for other people's property and the quality of their outdoor experience. What people do on their own property is not my concern, but when they ride their machines on public lands it becomes a societal issue. Our public lands are as close as our society has to shared "sacred" ground.

The operation of any thrillcraft has a disproportional impact upon the landscape, wildlife and other people. Thrillcraft pollute the air and water. They compact soils. They damage wetlands and riparian areas. They spread weeds. They displace wildlife. The noise, speed and general disregard for other people by thrillcraft owners displace other non-motorized users of our public lands. Increasingly they threaten archeological treasures. How can any of this be considered "responsible" use?

You hear a lot about "responsible" ORV use and "a few bad apples" from thrillcraft promoters themselves, as well as some government bureaucrats. But these are misleading terms to say the least. What is responsible about tearing up the land? It's like suggesting we ought to promote "responsible wife abuse" or "responsible child abuse." There is no level of violence to our lands that is acceptable. Working with agencies to create designated routes or play areas is just helping to legalize public vandalism. There is no way to use these machines in a responsible manner except to leave them parked in a driveway.

I find it extremely ironic we would arrest someone as a vandal who had spray painted a Forest Service sign—a human made artifact that is easily repaired—but we assume it is perfectly legal right now for someone to tear up miles of our public lands for fun that may take decades or centuries to heal if at all—with no consequences? Where is the parity?

Most people would never allow thrillcraft to run across their lawns. They would not tolerate such noise in their neighborhoods. They

would not accept being run off their sidewalks and pathways in their towns by motorized hoodlums racing along at unsafe speeds. Would we allow thrillcraft to do wheelies in the Arlington National Cemetery, or crawl up the Lincoln Memorial? I think not. And I see no reason to permit similar antics on the rest of our public lands.

Some proponents try to brand those fighting the thrillcraft invasion as "elitist." But what could be more elitist than imposing noise, pollution, and just general havoc upon others? You don't need a machine to have fun or to access the public lands. A pair of sneakers and a willingness to make a little personal effort is all that one needs to enjoy our wonderful public spaces. This is not about excluding people. It's about excluding their hurtful machines.

We Americans need to stand up against this ill-treatment of our common heritage. To me the burning of an American Flag is nothing compared to the deliberate destruction of our public lands for kicks. It's time for true American patriots to stand up and be willing to call these activities for what they are—vandalism or worse. If these motorheads want to run around in circles in their own backyards, have at it, but they have no place on the public lands.

It's time to ban all recreational use of thrillcraft from the public domain. I personally can not understand how anyone can make deals about thrillcraft abuse. Why is it wrong or bad to operate these machines in one place and not another. Isn't the damage equally as bad? If it's not acceptable on some of our public lands, it's really not acceptable on any public lands. We need to get beyond the idea that we need to "compromise" on abuse. There is no compromise on some things.

To those who think we have to accept thrillcraft because they are "traditional" activities, I remind them that the same arguments were once made about segregation,

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beating up your wife, about smoking in public places and many other behaviors and cultural “traditions” that were once commonplace. Society now views these things as wrong, and has outlawed them.

There is no right way to do the wrong thing. Running thrillcraft on our public lands is wrong. It’s not good for the land. It’s not good for the air and water. It’s not good for wildlife. It’s not good for other people. It’s not even good for the people doing it. It’s time to ban these machines, not legitimize the continued destruction of our sacred public commons.

NREPA Gets a Hearing: An Interview with Ecosystem-Defense Director Gary Macfarlane

By Will McWilliams, Outreach Intern, Friends of the Clearwater

The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, or NREPA, if passed would be the first bio-regional protection offered to wild-land in the lower 48 states. The act is critical to several animal species’ survival, with genetics and climate change playing a central role in the act.

NREPA would protect 9.5 million acres of public land in Idaho, almost 7 million acres in Montana, 5 million acres in Wyoming, 750,000 acres in eastern Oregon and 500,000 acres in Washington. Three national parks currently lacking wilderness, Yellowstone, Glacier and Grand Teton, would also have wilderness designated in them in this bill.

Gary Macfarlane, Ecosystem-defense Director for Friends of the Clearwater, and board president of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, said that the Northern Rockies are the last bio-region that is relatively intact in the lower 48 states. According to Macfarlane, a bio-region is more or less a collection of separate ecosystems that have similar ecology and geology.

“It’s a place that tends to have similarities

ecologically and watershed-wise,” Macfarlane said.

In January Macfarlane was asked to travel to Washington, D.C., to speak in front of Congress about NREPA.

“I have an overall familiarity with the landscape,” Macfarlane said. “I was involved in helping to go through and update the bill.”

Macfarlane said that it was science based approach to developing NREPA. Scientific data was used when creating this bill.

One of the things he had to do before he spoke in front of congress was research on fire ecology.

“I read up on fire ecology because fear of forest fires is one of the concerns people have that do not want this land protected,” Macfarlane said.

Macfarlane said that in the past, efforts at protecting public land have been fragmented area-by-area proposals, rather than looking at the larger bio-region or ecosystem.

Macfarlane notes that the Clearwater really is a crucial place, and that it’s the largest of the ecosystems in the Northern Rockies.

“The Clearwater is unique because it has lower elevation forests and contains unique species that are expected to be around the coast, and we have them here in the Clearwater,” Macfarlane said. “It’s the only place you’ll find wolverines, grizzlies, pacific dogwood and bull trout (in the lower 48 states).”

Two of the major reasons Macfarlane said that NREPA is needed are healthy genetic interchange and a changing climate.

What the bill does for climate change is that it provides the best avenue for wildlife and plant species to adapt to climate change. Macfarlane said that wilderness bills in the past have (mainly) focused on the higher elevation areas.

“If you only protect the high elevation, it will be harder for species on the lower elevation,” Macfarlane said. “It will prevent travel for smaller species.”

In protecting both the higher and lower elevations Macfarlane argues that a connected eleva-

Continued on next page

tion gradient exists where species will be less impeded upon when migrating from lower to higher elevations or from higher to lower elevations.

“This bill protects numerous segments of streams and rivers under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act,” Macfarlane said.

The bill would prevent dam building on the streams affected and would allow species to migrate up and down rivers.

“This will help global warming because the fish will have (the ability) to migrate as water temperatures increase,” Macfarlane said. “This will give the species corridors to travel through.”

The bill would also aid in reducing the effects of climate change through preserved connectivity.

Genetics also plays a central role in the bill. Macfarlane said that the rule of ecology, that “everything is hooked to everything else,” plays a central role in the genetic liability of species.

“We’ve learned that wildlife may need some genetic interchange,” Macfarlane said.

Macfarlane described the effect of genetic interchange as the “rule of 500.”

“Genetics have played a bigger role in biological and ecological research in recent years,”

Macfarlane said. “Generally there is going to have to be at least 500 of a species (breeding) for the species to prevent in-breeding depression and to have enough (genetic) diversity.”

According to Macfarlane the bill looks at wilderness in context to landscape ecology.

“It does restoration, wildland recovery. It

recovers larger swaths of land instead of just smaller scale roads,” Macfarlane said.

The bill, H.R. 1975, would allow for the recovery of over 6,000 miles of damaged or unused roads which would be restored to roadless conditions. The bill would in turn create more than 2,300 jobs while saving tax payers \$245 million over a ten-year period through managing the land as

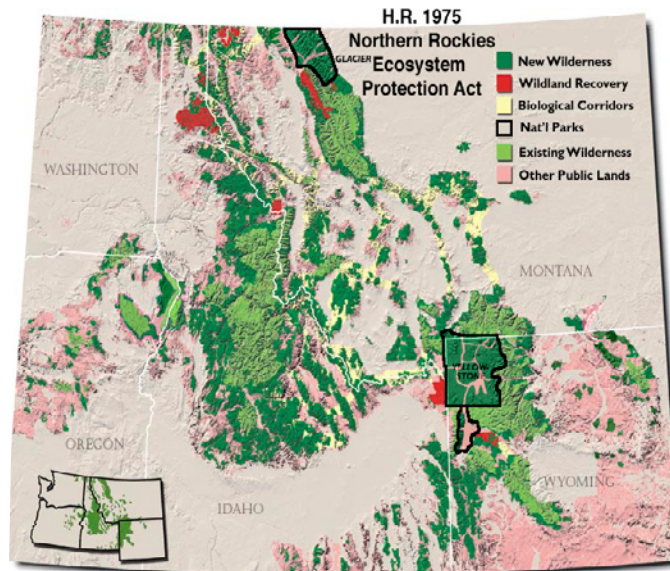
wilderness and restoring the Northern Rockies habitats to their natural state.

One reason that people need to protect public land, Macfarlane said, is because people benefit by protecting part of the natural world.

“People don’t live in isolation and if we completely alter our planet, then people’s lives may be in jeopardy,” Macfarlane said.

According to Macfarlane, what needs to happen next is people need to continue to ask their representatives to support the legislation.

“We’re going to need more support from the



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Senate and the House of Representatives,” Macfarlane said.

This recent hearing was the first step on the road towards eventual passage, and it is a significant step.

“People told us we could not do it, but we have had a hearing already,” Macfarlane said.

For more information on NREPA and to find out what can be done to help, visit the Alliance for the Wild Rockies website at www.wildrockiesalliance.org, or the Friends of the Clearwater website at www.friendsoftheclearwater.org.

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supporter we appreciate so much and love to partner with!

Two new board members were installed by voice vote of the assembled members during the meeting. Kirstin Eidenbach is a law student at University of Idaho with interests in environmental law and policy, and James Holt is a Nez Perce tribe member with considerable natural resource management experience. James is also a student at University of Idaho. Huge thanks to outgoing board members Jeanne-Amie Clothiaux, Greg Gollberg, and Lynne Nelson. Two additional people have accepted positions on the board since the annual meeting: Craig Watt of Moscow, and Pamela Scheinost of Nez Perce, Idaho.

The biggest excitement of the evening was the presentation of the Second Annual Macfarlane award to Stewart Brandborg of Dillon, Montana. Brandy was head of the Wilderness Society at the time of the 1964 Wilderness Act, and played an important role in the passage of the bill. The 1964 Wilderness Act remains the single most important piece of legislation for protecting wild country and wildland ecosystems. Its emphasis on the concept of wild places teaches us humility, and recognizes that we don't always have all the answers, especially

when it comes to ecosystem complexity. That complexity is expressed both structurally and in terms of dynamics and interrelationships between species and physical elements of the system.

In addition to the beautifully hand-sewn, carved and finished award itself, a slab of genuine Idaho wood which each honoree signs and holds for one year, Brandy also received a Pendleton blanket, which was presented to him by Nez Perce board members Julian Matthews and James Holt. Hope it's keeping you nice and warm, Brandy! Brandy's acceptance speech was a classic, and included praise of FOC's sense of community, overall effectiveness and cohesiveness as a grassroots activist organization. He stressed the importance of relationships and caring for one another as keys to establishing and maintaining a strong and effective activist community. Amen, Brother Brandborg!

In a word, this year's Annual Meeting was Big Fun for the Big Wild. If you didn't make it this year, plan on coming to the next one, which will be in early November 2008, probably just a few days after election day. Who knows, there may even be something to celebrate, like a president who supports the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Act. None of the candidates have yet come out for NREPA, but once they realize what a good and far-sighted piece of legislation it is, some of them very well may. Any FOC members in Idaho or other states who are delegates to your state conventions, please consider introducing a pro-NREPA plank in your state platform! Our Latah County caucus was huge, largely thanks to lots of young and first-time participants, precisely the kind of new energy which can help get NREPA recognized and foregrounded as the wise and transformative legislation that it is.

Conservation Groups Challenge Federal Wolf-killing Rule

EarthJustice News Release

Missoula, Montana--Conservation groups are fighting a Bush administration plan that would allow the states of Idaho, Wyoming and Montana to kill half of the Rocky Mountain wolf population, including shooting wolves from the air, while they are still protected under the Endangered Species Act. In an effort to bar states from aerial gunning and other state-sponsored killing of wolves, seven conservation groups filed a suit in federal district court today to stop the implementation of the rule.

The new rule lowers the bar for wolf killing when a state determines that wolves may be having some impact on populations of elk, deer, or other wild ungulates. The Bush Administration says the rule change is necessary because the previous standard required states to show that wolves are the primary cause of a decline in wild ungulate numbers. That threshold has proven impossible to meet because nearly all elk herds in Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana are above population objectives, and wolves have never been determined to have primarily caused a population decline.

Today's action will allow the states to kill all but 600 of the approximately 1,500 wolves in the region. The rule applies to wolves in central Idaho and the Greater Yellowstone area – descendants of the roughly 60 wolves that were reintroduced to those regions in 1995 and 1996. "This is a giant step backward. There is absolutely no reason to begin a wholesale slaughter of the region's wolves," said Suzanne Stone, Northern Rockies wolf conservation



Gray wolf, courtesy Wolf Education Research Center

specialist for Defenders of Wildlife. "Yet that is exactly what the federal government is willing to allow the states to do: wipe out hundreds of the wolves our nation has worked so hard to recover."

"In this rule, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is either downplaying the threats to wolves, or it has forgotten all the trigger-happy statements made by Wyoming and Idaho officials who want to kill as many wolves as possible, as soon as possible," says Louisa Willcox of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The rule remains in effect only until the administration removes wolves from the list of endangered species, an action that is expected to come next month. Nonetheless, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service adopted the rule in response to the state of Wyoming, which insisted

that states have the right to kill wolves affecting elk herds in any way even if a federal court overturns wolf delisting in the Northern Rockies. "Deer and elk populations are thriving in this region. There's absolutely no reason to begin slaughtering wolves, other than to please a handful of special interests," said Sierra Club representative Melanie Stein. "This is another example of

politics trumping science in the Bush administration. Federal and state agencies are tripping over each other, and our wildlife are suffering as a result."

Michael Robinson of the Center for Biological Diversity noted that the rule might allow wolves to be killed for their beneficial effect of dispersing elk from sensitive streamsid es even

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when the elk population as a whole continues to rise. Robinson continued that “the rule harkens back to a period in which wolves’ natural role of maintaining the balance of nature is seen as a problem.”

“This rule is nothing less than a declaration of war on wolves in Idaho, Wyoming and Montana,” said John Grandy, Ph.D., senior vice president of The Humane Society of the United States. “After decades of progress, the Service is abandoning all that we have achieved for wolf conservation and returning to the short-sighted persecution and extermination policies of the past.”

Earthjustice represents Defenders of Wildlife, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, The Humane Society of the United States, Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance, and Friends of the Clearwater in the lawsuit.

Forest Service Gets Sneaky with Clearwater National Forest Travel Plan

By Gary Macfarlane, Ecosystem Defense Director

At long last, Clearwater National Forest officials have begun the analysis of off-road vehicles on the Clearwater National Forest similar and parallel to the process happening in the Nez Perce National Forest. Friends of the Clearwater members should have received information in the mail or via e-mail about this process.

The 1987 Clearwater Forest Plan requires that such analyses be done and that decisions be made, as do regulations dating back to the 1970s. However, the foot-dragging of the Forest Service has delayed any significant action until now and a decision is still over a year away. In the meantime, trails that were only

used by foot or stock travel in the past are not closed to motor vehicles in spite of conflicts.

The Clearwater National Forest officials are analyzing snowmobile use as well in this process. This is a positive and necessary step. However, almost the entire forest is proposed to be open to snowmobiles.

Snowmobiles may pose significant problems for species like wolverines. Noted wolverine researcher, Jeff Copeland, has shown that wolverines and their young are vulnerable to human disturbance in mid-February through early May. This is the same time when snowmobile use occurs in high elevation denning habitat. Indeed, Copeland notes, “Technological advances in over-snow vehicles and increased interest in winter recreation has likely displaced wolverines from potential denning habitat and will continue to threaten what may be a limited resource.” The Clearwater National Forest contains important wolverine habitat along the Bitterroot Crest and other high elevation areas like Pot Mountain, Mallard-Larkins, the high ridge between Weitas and Cayuse Creeks, the Lochsa/North Fork divide and the Selway/Lochsa Divide.

Big game winter range also appears to be open in the Forest Service proposal. Ironically, the Forest Service was asked by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to close snowmobiling in the North Fork Clearwater recently, even on the main road (#250) along the river, to protect wintering elk. The Forest Service closed the area but does not propose such closures in the travel plan.

Yet, the story is even more confusing. While the Clearwater National Forest is doing travel planning, it has also proposed a new all-terrain-vehicle (ATV) trail. Such a proposal should be part of the larger process. However, the apparent motive is to speed up the construction of this ATV trail without waiting for the process to be completed. Yet again, the non-motorized public is being treated as second-class citizens by the Forest Service who has refused to close sensitive trails to motorized use in the interim but are apparently willing to open new ATV trails,

Continued on next page

including a section reportedly in an area closed to ATVs now!

Another odd occurrence is that the general travel plan initial comment period was re-opened by the Forest Service. Apparently not enough advocates of motorized use commented to suit the Forest Service. The new comment period, which ended on Feb. 29, coincided with the end of the initial comment period for the ATV trail. Coincidence? Not likely.

There will be one more opportunity for the public to speak about the overall plan. There may also be another opportunity to speak about the proposed ATV trail which should be within the plan but is not. Visit www.friendsoftheclearwater.org for more information.



Damaging off-road vehicle use on Scurvy Mountain, Weitas Creek Roadless Area, Clearwater National Forest, John Silva

Roadlessness: A floor not a ceiling

By Will Boyd, Education Director Friends of the Clearwater

Just last month a contingent of citizens from the Clearwater headed Back East to testify on behalf of the Wild Clearwater Country and Idaho's Roadless Areas. The group, including Kelly Emo, a carpenter from Deary, James Holt, an FOC board member and enrolled Nez Perce tribal member, and Will and Liz Boyd, FOC's Education Director and better half, joined five other Idahoans to advocate for a return to sanity and an end to the Idaho State Petition which would substantially undercut protection for the best wildlife habitat in the Clearwater and its remarkable roadless areas.

The group commented at the initial public meeting on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed Idaho Roadless Rule, held at the USDA Building in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 14. Individuals from the group also testified before the Roadless Area Conservation National Advisory Committee (RACNAC), a soup of strange bedfellows including individuals from Arch Coal, the Blue Ribbon Coalition, Intermountain Forest Association, a county commissioner from Southern Idaho, the Center for Biological Diversity and Trout Unlimited, among others.

FOCers spoke for strong protection of the roadless areas in Idaho and specifically the Clearwater's roadless areas, asking for this state process to be abandoned, as it excludes the vast majority of the national forests' citizen owners, who have already spoken for complete protection.

For those who have been following roadless area issues in Idaho for the past decade or more, this state process comes as a direct assault on a federal process that to date has garnered over 2.2 million comments in favor of complete protection of the nation's nearly 60 million acres of inventoried roadless areas.

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The people have spoken, so why are we back here again! Assuredly, I agree! Just as we all prefer a loop hike or backpack to a back-track, we must progress, rather than revisit a clearcut (pun intended) issue and decision culminating in the 2001 Roadless Rule!



Jerry Randolph, McCall; Will & Owen Boyd, Moscow; James Holt, Moscow; Kelly Emo, Deary; Gary Lane, Riggins; & Coby Tigert, Soda Springs

Let us not slap Bill too jovially on the back, however. We all know that the Roadless Rule has its problems. As evidence, note that over 700 acres in Idaho's roadless areas were proposed to be on the chopping block last year, utilizing loopholes in the bill as well as language from the Horizontal Forests Revenge Act (HFRA) to justify these projects. These proposals, including the Dixie Airstrip Project, which would have logged roadless country adjacent to the Gospel Hump Wilderness, are chock full of goodies from the Bush school of policy literature including "forest health," and "wildfire protection." Thanks to an appeal from Friends of the Clearwater this project was withdrawn late last year.

On the subject of creative vocabulary, my new favorite term is "stewardship roads." Lt. Gov. Jim Risch came up with that one all on his own. The folks who visited DC last month got to hear this term several times, as the Lt. Gov. introduced both the public comment session on

Jan. 14 and the RACNAC meeting on Jan. 16. And for all those good folks that came out to testify in Orofino, Lewiston, and Grangeville for the premiere of the Idaho Roadless Area Destruction miniseries, which has been airing all over the state this winter, you heard it as well via videotape. I liked the theme music. Maybe next they'll start using the word "Operation" to describe "forest health" projects and the "imminent threats" facing our incredibly healthy, wild, wonderful, thank God we still have 'em, roadless areas.

I digress. Please see Steve Paulson's excellent article on Idaho Roadless areas in this issue to learn more and take action.

FOCers were fortunate enough to be able to do some very pro-active work during their stint on "the Hill" as well. The work involves a proposal that never mentions terms such as "stewardship roads" or "healthy forests." In fact this bill uses some wonderful phrases like corridors and connectivity, landscape scale, bio-regional approach, and more. If you haven't guessed already we are talking about House of Representatives bill 1975 (HR 1975) the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA)!

With eight new co-sponsors in 2008 and a Congressional hearing late last year, NREPA is off to a great start in 2008, but we need your help---right now! In order to get the bill to mark up and a full vote this session people need to contact these representatives on the House Natural Resources Committee and ask them to please co-sponsor HR 1975.

You do not have to live in these districts to send a letter, email, or to make a phone call, but if you do happen to live or know someone who lives in any of these representatives' districts a letter and phone call can make an especially strong impact.

Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement: New threat to Idaho's Roadless Wildlife Habitat

By Steve Paulson, Board Member, Friends of
the Clearwater

Idaho's wild backcountry is a natural treasure, owned by all Americans. Presently, these pristine, high-functioning habitats are protected from development.

The state of Idaho and the Bush Administration have different plans for our roadless wildlife habitat. The state has submitted a petition to the Bush administration that opens the door to resource extraction of these critical areas. This new, back-door approach to managing our roadless wildlife habitat will diminish the value of over two-thirds of our backcountry heritage. The US Forest Service will soon make the decision on Idaho's plan. They are accepting written comments on the Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) until April 7th. Please make time to comment on this important issue. Just say no!

The specific details of this proposal can be found on <http://www.friendsoftheclearwater.org/node/462>. This site contains a link to make your comment, possible text for your comment, as well as links to other information.

The Forest Service hearings for this DEIS were held in our Clearwater area during the last week of January. Friends of the Clearwater supporters overwhelmed this testimony with strong opposition to the Plan. People braved blizzard conditions, black ice, and blowing snowstorms to attend these mid-winter hearings, proving, once again, that Friends of the Clearwater has a strong grass-roots base of support. These people spoke eloquently, intelligently, and with spirit. FOC organized bus transportation to the Orofino hearing. The mu-

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sic and camaraderie of this bus-trip proved that these are also a fun-loving people.

FOC Board of Directors and staff are humbled by this support and express our deepest gratitude to these fine, brave, intelligent and inspirational people.

In a nutshell, the US Forest Service is considering the state's plan for development of two-thirds of what is left of our roadless wildlife habitat (9.3 million acres). This change from the status quo, which is the protections provided by the 2001 Moratorium on road building, will re-classify these wild-lands into four new Orwellian doublespeak categories or “Management Themes”. Arranged in order of ascending destruction, they are: (1) Wild Land Recreation, (2) Primitive, (3) Backcountry /Restoration and (4) General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland.

1,378, 600 acres would maintain nearly the same protections that all roadless areas within Idaho presently receive, and that all roadless areas in other states will continue to

See DEIS, Page 12

receive, and would be called, “Wild Land Recreation.”

The new category of “Primitive,” in the words of the DEIS, “would remain *relatively* undisturbed.” The Primitive Management Theme would only allow development justified under certain exceptions by the DEIS. One example of these exceptions is “to perform hazardous fuel treatment...” FOC has seen this justification used to log millions of board feet of timber on



the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests, in the last year alone.

Spawned out Snake River salmon, Chuck Pezeshki

The DEIS Management Theme, “Backcountry /Restoration” will open the door to convert 5,246,100 acres of wild life habitat into road-bearing tree farms, and other types of development that will qualify under the broadly defined and industry-friendly exceptions. Even though “restoration” is used in the title of this Management Theme, it contains little that most people would consider restorative for rare animals, forests, or waters.

As another incentive to develop these areas, this plan utilizes fear of wild fire as an excuse to build roads and log. This is another justification that has been used to log millions of board feet of timber, in the last year alone. Although we all agree that the safety of homes and communities is of paramount importance, every one of these backcountry areas is miles from human communities. The Roadless Area Conservation DEIS is not about homes and communities; it’s about

the backcountry. We need to prioritize projects that actually protect human safety, not open the backcountry to special interests.

At the far end of the spectrum, 609,500 acres of wild lands would be highly impacted by this plan, and would be called “General Forest, Rangeland, and Grassland.” The most grievous part of this new category involves turning large sections of pristine wildlife habitat in southern Idaho into Superfund cleanup sites. “General Forest, Rangeland, and Grassland” is a term that this plan uses for open-pit (and another closely related mining technique called Mountain Top Removal) phosphate mines, which will leave these areas denuded and toxic, forever.

Presently, there are 18 open-pit phosphate mines in southeastern Idaho. Presently, there are 17 Superfund cleanup sights in old phosphate mines in southeastern Idaho. Obviously, this plan is not about forest health, as the Bush Administration asserts.

The State’s plan does define one other “Management Theme”, “Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance”. This category includes 68,600 acres of already protected areas, Pilot Knob, the Nimiipuu and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and the Mallard Larkins Pioneer Area.

The Roadless Area Conservation DEIS does give lip service to maintaining the status quo, by including the 2001 Roadless Rule as the “No Action” Alternative. The 2001 Roadless Rule refers to the present moratorium on development within the boundaries of these critical areas. This alternative provides a better choice than the DEIS’s proposed action (the Idaho plan), but has little chance of being considered fairly. In addition, the 2001 Rule was designed to provide interim protection to these critical roadless wild life habitat areas.

A better alternative, and one not even considered by the DEIS, is the permanent protection of these important wild life habitat areas. The U.S. House of Representatives is presently considering H.R. 1975, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act. This bill gives permanent protec-

tion to all remaining pristine roadless habitat larger than 5000 acres within the northern Rockies ecosystem, and provides for the rehabilitation of wild life habitat that has already been impacted by the resource extractive industries.

We cannot allow the federal government and developers to open the door to spoiling Idaho's special places. Let's keep Idaho's backcountry areas as they are; unspoiled, pristine, peaceful, undeveloped, natural, and world-class wildlife habitat. Besides providing habitat for fish and wildlife, these areas provide a supply of clean drinking water and places to recharge and recreate for the rapidly growing human population. In these times of rapid change, we need to think ahead to guard those quiet, special places where we escape the noise and crowds of everyday life.

For more information and to make comments visit www.friendsoftheclearwater.org.

J. Stephen Griles did the crime but doesn't want to do the time, Part 2

By Bill Berkowitz

Derrick Crandall's rising star

"In the late 70s, Derrick Crandall was a relative unknown, working for the snowmobile industry and lobbying for snowmobile access in Yellowstone," Scott Silver told Media Transparency in an e-mail interview. In 1981, he became the first President of the American Recreation Coalition, a 'wise-use' organization created two years earlier in response to the gas-crisis of 1979. "The purpose of the ARC was to lobby in support of fuel for motorized recreation," Silver pointed out. When Ronald Reagan took office in January 1981, Crandall's profile was elevated as he became one of the most influential lobbyist in the nation working

on Outdoor Recreation issues.

Crandall's stock rose further when he was chosen to serve on Reagan's President's Commission on Americans Outdoors from 1985-1987 -- a commission that Silver said "basically set a new direction for outdoor management policy and was intended to bring about the commercialization, privatization and motorization of recreational opportunities on America's public lands; the corporate takeover of nature and the Disneyfication of the wild."

During this time then vice president George Herbert Walker Bush and Crandall became close friends: "Crandall took Bush on camping trips in motor homes provided by ARC's sister organization, the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association -- the same organization that outfitted George W. Bush and Dick Cheney with motor homes for their 2000 election campaign," Silver added.

Over the course of the past two and a half decades the American Recreation Coalition evolved from being a shill for the petroleum industry to being the most powerful, influential and successful outside force now shaping recreation policy on federally managed public lands, including the national parks. When National Park management policies came under fire last year and efforts were made to make the parks friendlier to motorized recreation, including more snowmobiles in Yellowstone, the ARC led the charge.

Serving the interests of the motorized recreation industry, other commercial recreation entities and the tourism industry, the ARC seeks to radically transform the management of public lands and to turn outdoor recreation into a chain of products, goods and services. The long tradition of people using public lands to adventure on their own and to interact with the natural world is being replaced by land managers and their recreation industry "partners" who sell pre-packaged experiences; experiences compared to a those that can be had at Disneyland.

Griles looking to pay his debt to society by working with ARC and Disney

According to Dan Berman, "Griles' legal team

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has suggested that half of the community service would be with 'Wonderful Outdoor World' (www.funoutdoors.com) in the position of national counselor and strategic planning coordinator. In that post, Griles would develop public and private partnerships among federal land agencies, the Disney Company and the American Recreation Coalition, as well as raise money and conduct outreach to the government and media. The other half of his community service would focus on 'Operation Coaches and Warriors,' to assist injured veterans of the Iraq war."

"While he may have made some mistakes ... we're always willing to help people get back on the right side of life," Derrick added.

In a February 2006 story titled "Who's Ruining Our National Parks?" Vanity Fair contributing editor Michael Shnayerson pointed out that Crandall's ARC "calls itself the voice of a \$250 billion industry, from snowmobilers to Jet Skiers, mountain bikers to equestrians. Top Interior politicals, including Gale Norton and Assistant Secretary Lynn Scarlett, regularly attend ARC's annual meetings to receive awards and give talks about opening up the parks."

"Wonderful Outdoor World is an ARC/Disney co-production," Scott Silver told Media Transparency. "The idea is to create a new constituency that will speak in support of ARC's concept of a Disneyfied Great Outdoors." To accomplish their goals, ARC and Disney have "created a frame for this constituency," claiming that it is "obese, inner-city kids who are addicted to videos and who, unless turned into wildness consumers, will surely succumb to diabetes."

"This frame has been very effective," Silver pointed out. "Simply stated, the ARC and Disney have no use of the traditional conservationist or traditional outdoorsman frame/mindset. They are in the business of selling consumable, commodified recreation. Traditionalists are not consumers and so the industry has set about to reinvent the entire concept of outdoor recreation. The industry seeks to make public lands more like theme parks saying that theme parks and

structured/Disneyfied recreation is what these kids crave."

For more than two decades, J. Steven Griles "served as a representative of extractive industry, while for the past 25 years, the American Recreation Coalition has worked behind the scenes to turn outdoor recreation into an extractive industry," Silver pointed out.

The ARC's Crandall is first and foremost a longtime anti-environment activist, Silver said. "He's testified before congress a number of times in support of drilling the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; he's been on the board of directors of such 'wise-use' organizations as the Coalition for Vehicle Choice, the Foundation for Clean Air Progress, and the Sports Utility Vehicle Owners of America; he has long fought against efforts to raise gas-mileage (CAFE) standards; and has maintained that global warming is either a fraud or should not be taken seriously."

According to Silver "Griles is a convicted felon and an enemy of public lands, while Crandall is a powerful lobbyist and an enemy of public lands. It is revealing that Griles has



J. Steven Griles, now doing the time in Petersburg, VA, photo courtesy USDOJ

asked the sentencing judge to allow him to work for Crandall instead of going to prison. It is also revealing that Crandall, while making no longterm promises to Griles, made this same request of the judge.”

“What is most difficult for me to believe is that the specific ARC programs and initiatives upon which Griles would be working are not generally understood to be components within the ARC’s ongoing, anti-environmental agenda,” Silver added. “Those pleading on Griles’ behalf -- Congresswoman Cubin, Former Interior

Secretaries Norton and Hodel, long-time motorized recreation lobbyist Horn and others -- know more about the ARC and its programs than does the general public. Will Griles and his anti-environmental partners have the last laugh?”

Editors Note: After pleading guilty, Stephen Griles was sentenced to 10 months in prison and fined \$30,000 for his role in the scandal. As of press time, he is finishing his sentence in Petersburg, Federal Correctional Institution, a low security facility. Judge Ellen Huvelle remarked that the federal government let Griles off easy in the guilty plea.

Friends of the Clearwater Job Opening

For the position of Education & Outreach Director (EOD)

Application due: March 15, 2008

Find complete position description online at www.friendsoftheclearwater.org

Materials to be submitted:

Current CV
2 letters of reference
Cover letter

Friends of the Clearwater

Friends of the Clearwater, a recognized non-profit organization since 1987, defends the Idaho 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 to bring an end to commodity extraction and industrialization on our public lands.

Position Abstract:

The successful applicant will work side by side with Friends of the Clearwater’s Ecosystem Defense Director to educate the public about, grow grassroots support for, and protect the Wild Clearwater Country. This place, the public wildlands of the Clearwater River Watershed are found within the Clearwater National Forest, Nez Perce National Forest, the southern portion of the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, and scattered lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The EOD advocates for the Clearwater through coordination of educational events, citizen science programs, action campaigns, and other duties as assigned.

Start Date: April 15 (flexible)

Will work side by side with current Ecosystem Defense Director for 4 weeks to make for smooth and effective transition.

Salary & Benefits

\$24,960 annual salary (\$12/hour, 40 hours/ wk)
Full insurance coverage
4 weeks paid vacation
Flexible hours

Please send all **materials to be submitted** electronically as **pdf** or **rtf** files to:
foc@friendsoftheclearwater.org

**Friends of the Clearwater
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Sheep Creek, Chuck Pezeshki

FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Spring 2008

Spring Events

March 4: Clearwater Issues Potluck, 6:30 p.m.; FOC office (116 East 3rd St.)

March 19: Jim Peek; wolf presentation, by Palouse Audubon, 1912 Building, 7:30 p.m.

March 22: Hike to Rocky Bluff, meet at Rosauers, 7:00 a.m.

May 3-4: Moscow Renaissance Fair

May 6: Citizen Science Potluck, 6:30 p.m. location TBA

Americorps Position with FOC!

Full-time Americorps Position (11 month)

Start date March 10 (flexible)

If you love Wild Country and enjoy working with people visit www.friendsoftheclearwater for complete application guidelines and position descriptions! Benefits include \$5000 education award, insurance, monthly stipend and loan for bearance. Please contact FOC with any questions.